



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Edinburgh Poverty Commission

Executive Summary

1. This paper provides an update on progress of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission in the period since its formal launch in November 2018.
2. The paper also presents a first summary of initial findings and recommendations developed by the Commission, based on its work to date. These findings and solutions are presented for discussion and to help build early consensus on the steps Edinburgh can take to solve poverty.
3. Contact: Chris Adams, Strategy Manager (City Strategies) Paula McLeay, Policy and Insight Senior Manager,
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Recommendations

It is recommended that the Edinburgh Partnership

- i. Note the work carried out to date by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission
- ii. Discuss the initial findings and solutions presented by the Commission
- iii. Identify which findings should be priority for the Edinburgh Partnership to address
- iv. Confirm how your organisation will engage on these emerging findings, and whether there any solutions your organisation can take forward ahead of final publication

1 Background

- 1.1 In June 2018 Edinburgh Partnership agreed to support the launch of a new Edinburgh Poverty Commission and recommendations proposed by the commission will be used to inform the implementation of the new Community Plan.
- 1.2 Edinburgh Poverty Commission was launched in November 2018, chaired by Jim McCormick of Joseph Rowntree Foundation and made up of 12 people with experience of tackling poverty and its effects, including citizens who have direct experience of living in poverty in Edinburgh.

2 Main Report

Progress to date

- 2.1 Throughout 2019 commission's process of inquiry is structured around three phases of work - considering aspects of poverty in Edinburgh relating to the themes of 'Pockets', 'Prospects', and 'Places'. Each phase includes visits to community projects in all parts of the city, evidence gathered from citizens on their experience of poverty, evidence gathered from support services, and commissioned research into the reality of poverty in this city and what solutions work best.
- 2.2 Following a final session of the year in November 2019, the Commission will publish its recommendations on the actions the city should take forward to solve poverty in Edinburgh. These will include actions for the public sector, the third sector, businesses, and communities across the city. Final recommendations will be published by the Commission by March 2020.
- 2.3 As at mid September 2019, the full Commission has:
 - 2.3.1 **Met 4 times in full session** to hear and deliberate on evidence from citizens, service providers, community groups, and researchers, covering the first two inquiry phases described above – Pockets, and Prospects
 - 2.3.2 **Made 18 additional visits** to meet and hear from community groups, citizen groups, public and third sector organisations, and other stakeholders
 - 2.3.3 **Launched 3 public calls for evidence**, hosted on the Consultation Hub, and analysed the results of some 70 submissions received through these calls so far
 - 2.3.4 Heard from and visited over **50 organisations** across the city
 - 2.3.5 Published an early summary of its **Emerging Findings**, in May 2019
 - 2.3.6 **Commissioned new research** into the experience of citizens living on low income in Edinburgh, and attitudes to poverty across all parts of the city. This research is being carried out by the Poverty Alliance, and incorporates focus groups and one to one interviews with citizens. The full cost of this research is covered by funding provided to the Commission by Scottish Government.
 - 2.3.7 Developed new branding and communications toolkit for the commission, and launched a new **independent website** at <https://edinburghpovertycommission.org.uk/>
- 2.4 The Commission has now completed the first two phases of its work, covering topics such as benefits, debt, working conditions, living costs, employment, learning, and care. As the work of the commission moves on to its next phase, it



will continue to gather evidence and pursue discussions raised in this first phases of inquiry as well as hearing evidence on the themes and topics it has not yet considered. Key elements to be considered during Autumn 2019, include housing, homeless, transport, and community building in Edinburgh.

- 2.5 Even before the full inquiry is complete, however, the Commission has been able to develop some first interim thoughts on the actions Edinburgh should consider taking. Appendix 1 to this paper sets out these interim recommendations, describing what the Commission have learned about poverty in Edinburgh, and their responses to the evidence heard so far.
- 2.6 Final recommendations from the Commission will not be presented until the end of its inquiry, so these represent very early outputs from its work. They are presented now for sharing and discussion with partners, to help gather more input, and to help form consensus on the steps Edinburgh should take to solve poverty.

Resourcing the Commission

- 2.7 Secretariat support for Edinburgh Poverty Commission is led by City of Edinburgh Council which provides project management functions for the Commission, with colleagues across the Edinburgh Partnership providing additional support and contributions as the project requires.
- 2.8 All costs for the Commission are covered by a budget of £76,000. This is made up of £16,000 of funding provided by Edinburgh Partnership to cover running costs, and £60,000 provided by Scottish Government to cover the cost of research and citizen engagement activities.
- 2.9 In addition to that funding, the project has recently secured additional research support from Joseph Rowntree Foundation covering the period to March 2020.
- 2.10 Throughout its work the project has also been dependent upon the time of its 12 commission members and their commitment and investment in the inquiry process. As at September 2019, this has equated to well over 400 hours of volunteer time from our independent commission members.

♦ Sustainability	1	2	3	4	5
♦ Equality	1	2	3	4	5
♦ Community Engagement	1	2	3	4	5
♦ Prevention	1	2	3	4	5
♦ Joint Resourcing	1	2	3	4	5

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Solving poverty in Edinburgh – interim findings

September 2019

Summary

Interim findings and solutions

This paper provides interim findings and solutions from the work of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission so far this year. They represent the first expression of a vision and way forward to end poverty in Edinburgh, built from eight months of inquiry with citizens, service providers, and third sector organisations across the city. They are presented now for comment, feedback and discussion with key stakeholders. Over the next few months the commission will continue its programme of inquiry, working towards publication of final recommendations in March 2020.

The modern face of poverty in Edinburgh

The evidence we have gathered so far tells us that poverty is not a marginal issue in Edinburgh. It affects a sizeable proportion of the population – 80,000 people including almost one in five of all children – and there is much evidence to suggest its scale and impacts are growing larger over time.

The picture emerging is one in which the modern face of poverty in Edinburgh is not restricted solely to one of destitution and homelessness. **The majority of people in poverty in this city are of working age, probably in employment, probably living in rental accommodation in a family with children.**

Very often these families will be affected by **illness, by disabilities, and by mental health problems** brought about either as a cause of or as a result of the poverty they experience. Such families **live in every area of the city, in every type of neighbourhood and community.** The majority of people in poverty in Edinburgh do not live in those areas commonly considered as ‘poor’ or ‘deprived’.



It feels like the system is especially designed to prevent people from helping themselves and taking an active role in shaping their lives.”

#EdinPovertyCommission contributor



The cost of renting privately in Edinburgh ... is now beyond the reach of most people on low incomes even if they are working full-time.”

#EdinPovertyCommission contributor

Responding to the evidence

From the evidence we have heard so far, **Edinburgh Poverty Commission** believes that:

- People want to have control of their lives and contribute to a city where we look after each other
- Edinburgh wants to be a compassionate city that looks after everyone who lives here
- It is not right that so many people feel that the city does not care about their wellbeing, feel exhausted by the impossible decisions life on a low income demands, and feel trapped in a system that does not help them to thrive
- Poverty in Edinburgh is neither acceptable nor inevitable, and the city has many of the tools and influence it needs to end poverty
- There is no credible solution to poverty in Edinburgh that is not led by and delivered with the people those solutions are designed to support
- All people in Edinburgh, regardless of their income or assets, have the right to be treated with respect and compassion in every aspect of their lives, especially when seeking support from public agencies, or jobs from employers.

The commission further believes that **solving poverty in Edinburgh means** aiming for a future in which, by 2030:

- No-one in Edinburgh feels stigmatised because of their income or assets
- No-one in Edinburgh is destitute, having to do without the basic essentials they need to eat, keep clean and stay warm and dry.
- Fewer than one in ten people are in poverty at any given time
- No-one spends more than 2 years in poverty during their lifetime

“

Having to choose between heating a home or eating ... being left with very little money after the bills are paid... being made to feel inadequate and unable to provide the basics.”

#EdinPovertyCommission contributor

“

Cuts in benefits are forcing some people into limited lives of just surviving.”

#EdinPovertyCommission contributor

Game changers

Our inquiry so far suggests three categories of **Game Changers** through which the solutions to poverty in this city can be found.

- **Material Game Changers** - Ensuring people have more money in their pockets is the single most effective thing we can do to end poverty. We need strong solutions that are about reducing costs as well as boosting incomes.
- **Relational Game Changers** - We want people to thrive not just survive at a few pounds above the poverty line. We need solutions that remove the barriers that reduce people's ability to contribute and shape the lives they want
- **Strategic Game Changers** - Taking significant steps to tackle poverty needs a long term perspective, and investment in change. Delivering the change required needs a supportive environment of bodies (public, private, and third sector) confident enough and empowered to take appropriate risks.

Solutions to poverty in Edinburgh

Building on these principles, our work so far suggests that the following actions that should be taken to solve poverty in Edinburgh:

- **Maximise incomes, lower costs:** Edinburgh citizens are missing out on estimated £80m of unclaimed DWP benefits every year. A new approach is needed to deliver streamlined, accessible, and high impact welfare, benefits, and employment support.
- **Fair work and fair wages:** Edinburgh's employers in all sectors should pay wages at a level people can live on in this city, and should offer consistent and predictable hours and pay for all workers.
- **Affordable transport:** Edinburgh should ensure place based investment and development removes the need for costly travel to access services and support. Availability of free transport should be the norm for services targeted at people experiencing poverty
- **Family friendly:** Family and working parent friendly hours should be the norm for all services which aim to support people in poverty. Service hours should be explicitly built on an understanding of the needs and preferences of end users.
- **Early years:** Edinburgh should focus on ensuring the availability of holistic early years provision that provides modern flexible childcare and education that supports families in employment and on low incomes
- **Culture and understanding.** A change in culture is needed to tackle stigma and improve understanding of poverty and its impacts among support service providers. Such common understanding is critical to ensuring that people in poverty can rely on being treated with respect and compassion by the support services they rely on.

- **A new relationship with citizens:** A new approach is needed to change the relationship between citizens and service providers in Edinburgh. Citizens experiencing poverty must be involved in the planning, design and development of the support services they rely on.
- **Safe and welcoming:** All support services used by people in poverty should be located in places where the user feels safe and welcomed, and in places that are recognised and valued by the community they serve.
- **Trusted relationships:** Services relied upon by people experiencing poverty should be accessed through trusted community brokers with a single point of contact, not by referral and signposting to multiple agencies and locations.
- **Relationship based commissioning:** Change is needed in commissioning of services by the public sector in Edinburgh. We need a shift towards a new model of commissioning which puts priority on long term relationships between services and the people who rely on them, on building community capacity and citizen empowerment.
- **Flexibility in contracting is key.** Funding for services should be commissioned and delivered through monitoring and payment frameworks designed to support positive impacts for individual people, not to comply to rigid, often counter-productive criteria.
- **Innovation.** More of the same approaches used in the past will not be enough to solve poverty in Edinburgh. A commitment is needed to support innovation and experimentation in new ways to implement the solutions outlined in this paper.

Next steps

This document sets out our first emerging thoughts on the steps needed to end poverty in Edinburgh. At this point in our inquiry we know that these do not present a complete solution, and that there is no model of change to poverty in this city that does not include critical issues not covered here, including:

- Housing availability, cost, and homelessness
- Cost of transport and service accessibility
- Experiences of criminal justice, and
- Community led approaches to lifting people out of poverty

Over the next few months we will continue our research programme to focus on these issues, and the levers for change available in the city. In advance of publication of our final recommendations in March 2020, this phase will introduce new ideas not only around *what* needs to change, but also about *how* that change can be delivered in a city like Edinburgh.

Solving poverty in Edinburgh – interim findings

1. Introduction

This paper presents an overview of interim findings and solutions arising from the work of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission so far this year.

The paper provides:

1. An overview of the **purpose and work undertaken** by the Commission to date
2. A summary of the **evidence and findings** heard by the commission during its first two phases of inquiry
3. A proposed model to guide **the response of the city** to these findings, including a vision of what it would mean to solve poverty in Edinburgh
4. An outline set of **solutions for the city** to implement.

“There is no interest in the well-being of low income families. Food banks are keeping people fed.”



“Unaffordable and inflexible childcare leads parents to being stuck in low paid work.”

#EdinPovertyCommission contributor

2. Edinburgh Poverty Commission

Edinburgh Poverty Commission is an independent group working together to define the steps we all need to take to end poverty in Edinburgh.

The Commission was launched in November 2018 and aims to:

- Better understand the forces which drive almost one in four children in Edinburgh into poverty
- Listen to and learn from the voices of citizens in Edinburgh who are struggling to get by
- Build on what works well, but challenge the city to do better, and
- Design the changes we can make as a city to end poverty in Edinburgh.

The commission is chaired by Jim McCormick of Joseph Rowntree Foundation and made up of 12 people with experience of tackling poverty and its effects, including citizens who have direct experience of living in poverty in Edinburgh.

The work of the Commission is supported by the **Edinburgh Partnership**, and **The City of Edinburgh Council**, both of which bodies have committed to acting on the final recommendations made by the Commission. It is also supported with funding for research activity provided by the **Scottish Government**.

Process of inquiry

Throughout 2019 commission’s process of inquiry is structured around three phases of work - on **pockets**, **prospects**, and **places**. Each phase includes visits to community projects in all part sof the city, evidence gathered from citizens on their experience of poverty, evidence gathered from support services, and commissioned research into the reality of poverty in this city and what solutions work best.

Following a final session of the year in November 2019, the Commission will publish its recommendations on the actions the city should take forward to solve poverty in Edinburgh. These will include actions for the public sector, the third sector, businesses, and communities across the city. Final recommendations will be published by the Commission by March 2020.



Edinburgh Poverty Commission



As at mid September 2019, the full Commission has:

- **Met 4 times in full session** to hear and deliberate on evidence from citizens, service providers, community groups, and researchers, covering the first two inquiry phases described above – **Pockets, and Prospects**
- **Made 18 additional visits** to meet and hear from community groups, citizen groups, public and third sector organisations, and other stakeholders
- **Launched 3 public calls for evidence**, hosted on the Consultation Hub, and analysed the results of some **70 submissions** received through these calls so far
- Heard from and visited over **50 organisations** across the city
- Launched a programme of engagement with staff across all parts of City of Edinburgh Council
- Published an early summary of its Emerging Findings, in May 2019
- Commissioned new research into the experience of citizens living on low income in Edinburgh, and attitudes to poverty across all parts of the city. This research is being carried out by the Poverty Alliance, and incorporates focus groups and one to one interviews with citizens. The full cost of this research is covered by funding provided to the Commission by Scottish Government.
- Developed new branding and communications toolkit for the commission, and launched an independent website.

The Commission has now completed the first two phases of its work, covering topics such as benefits, debt, working conditions, living costs, employment, learning, and care. As the work of the commission moves on to its next phase, it will continue to gather evidence and pursue discussions raised in this first phases of inquiry as well as hearing evidence on the themes and topics it has not yet considered. Key elements to be considered during Autumn 2019, include housing, homeless, transport, and community building in Edinburgh.

Even before the full inquiry is complete, however, the Commission has been able to develop some first interim thoughts on the actions Edinburgh should consider taking. Final recommendations from the Commission will not be presented until the end of our inquiry, so these represent very early outputs from our work. They are presented now as questions we would like the city to consider, to help us gather more input, and to provoke more discussion to help us form a forward plan on the steps Edinburgh should take to reduce, prevent, and mitigate against poverty.

This paper sets out these interim recommendations, describing what we have learned about poverty in Edinburgh, and our responses to the evidence heard so far.

3. The modern face of poverty in Edinburgh

What we know

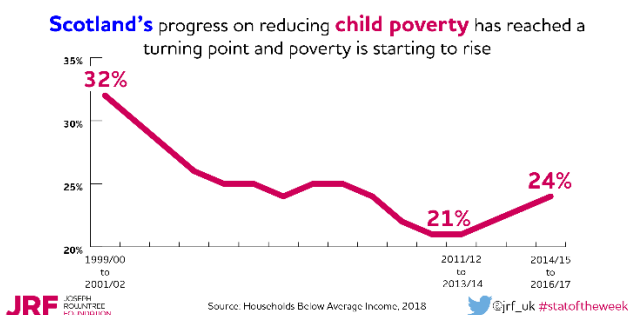
Edinburgh aspires to be a compassionate city that looks after all the people who live here. But we know that too many people in Edinburgh do not feel that compassion or that sense of care, and that

far too many people's lives are not touched by any of the prosperity and quality of life the city is known for.

The blunt numbers are by now well-rehearsed – **80,000 people** in Edinburgh live in poverty, including almost **one in four** of all children, and there is a **life expectancy gap of over 21 years** between some affluent and less affluent areas of the city.

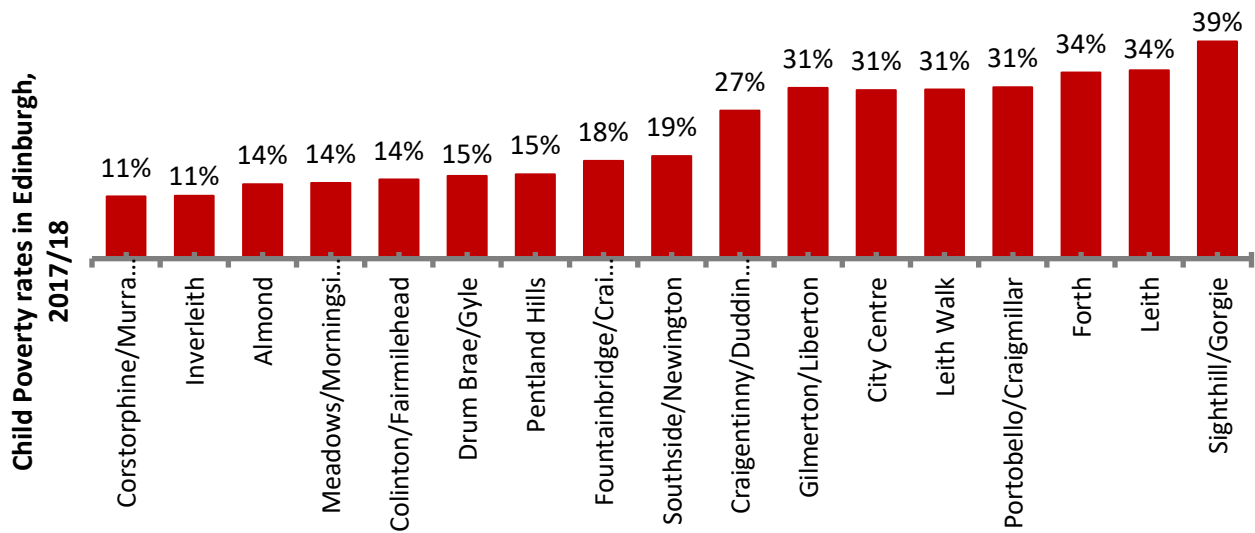
All of the evidence we have gathered tells us that the modern face of poverty in Edinburgh is not restricted to one of destitution and homelessness. **The majority of people in poverty in this city are of working age, probably in employment, probably living in rental accommodation in a family with children.**

Very often these families will be affected by **illness, by disabilities, and by mental health problems** brought about either as a cause of or as a result of the poverty they experience. **Such families live in every area of the city, in every type of neighbourhood and community.** The majority of people in poverty in Edinburgh do not live in those areas commonly stigmatised as being 'poor' or 'deprived'.



If no action is taken, Scottish Government estimates project Child Poverty Rates rising to 38% by 2030

Some parts of Edinburgh are already at that rate in 2019



Child Poverty Rates in parts of Edinburgh rank **amongst the highest in Scotland**

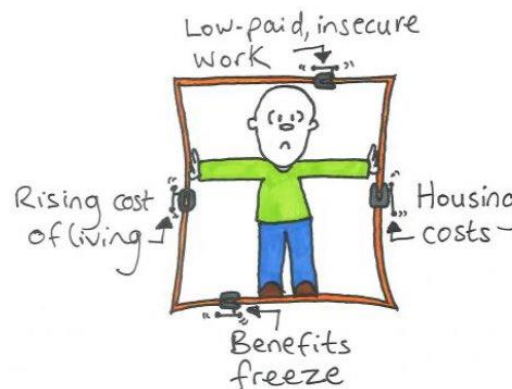
60% of people in poverty in Edinburgh live outside the city's most deprived areas

60% of all children in poverty grow up in a family where **at least one adult is in work**

40% grow up in a family **affected by disability**

Citizens voices

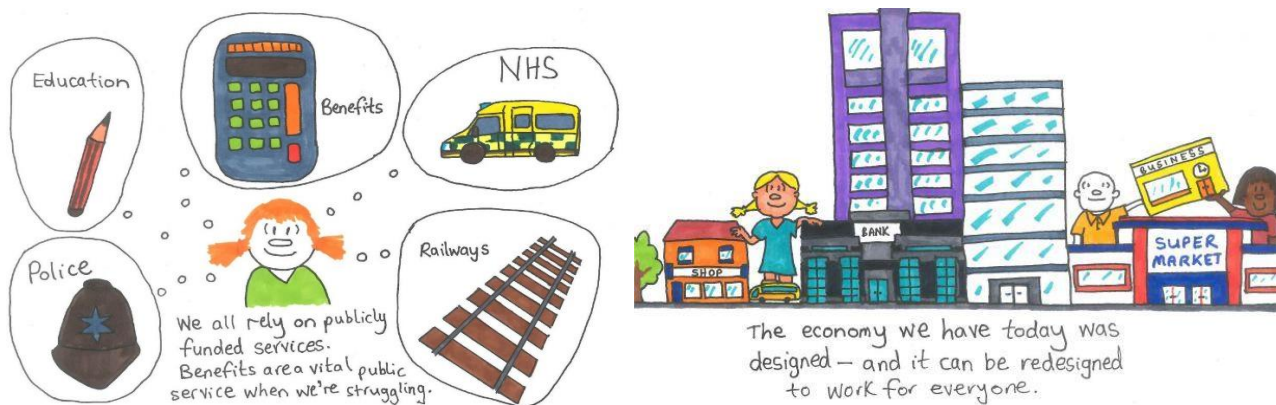
What is obvious, though, is that these numbers alone do not tell us the whole story. At the beginning of our inquiry we were clear that the most important part of our work was to listen to and respond to the real voices of citizens in Edinburgh who are experiencing poverty. From this work so far, the stories that have resonated most strongly have described a city full of:



- People who feel **trapped** in a system that does not care about them
- People **struggling** to find the support they need to help keep afloat
- The **frustration** felt by people working hard to hold down a job that pays barely enough to keep their family surviving, and never enough to prosper on
- People, particularly women and young people, who feel **exploited** in the city's labour market.
- The **shame** felt by people using foodbanks for the first time because they have nowhere else to go
- People who feel **exhausted and made unwell** by having to make the constant, impossible decisions brought by a life on a low income
- **Cruel and unfeeling** systems of support – too bureaucratic and complex to deliver help when it is needed, but very quick to remove it when situations allow
- The **fear** that rising housing costs are making ever larger parts of the city 'unliveable' for people on low incomes, even when they are in full time work
- The **impossibility** of managing a household budget when zero hour contracts mean that hours and pay from work are **volatile**, and fluctuate significantly from week to week
- The **isolation** felt by families living in temporary accommodation, disconnected from their friends and communities.

We see too that many of the patterns and experiences reported across Scotland, apply equally in its capital city. We see evidence that:

- Growth in work and wages alone is not enough to raise people out of poverty, if that work is based on hours and levels of incomes that are not enough to live on, or which are too unpredictable to manage
- Benefits freezes have been the largest single contributor to growth in poverty seen in recent years
- People in poverty face higher costs and higher rates of inflation, and poorer access to services than the rest of the population



The response of the city

Through our evidence sessions and visits during the past six months we have been inspired and encouraged by the groups and individuals we have met who are making a huge difference to the lives of people in Edinburgh who are looking for support.

All these projects, and many others, are evidence that poverty and the suffering it causes is not inevitable and there is much we can do, and are already doing, to break the locks that keep people in poverty. They also give us confidence that there is commitment and knowledge already in place across the city that are ready to take part in a long-term movement to end poverty in Edinburgh.

What is also clear, however, is that there is much progress still to be made. The testimony we have heard so far has shown examples of:

- A worrying **lack of real awareness and understanding** of the reality of life in poverty in Edinburgh among some service providers and decision makers
- Too much evidence of decisions being made **without the full participation, ownership, and participation** of the people affected most directly
- A lack of awareness among some service providers of the whole system within which they operate, resulting in **citizens in need being forced to navigate through separate/siloed services** that don't appear to share data or collaborate

- Continuing evidence of the **impact of austerity**, public sector budget cuts, and managerial responses to those pressures, affecting the levels and quality of support available for vulnerable people in the city
- An over-reliance on signposting and referral as a means to help, leaving vulnerable people feeling they are being **shifted from pillar to post** before getting the support they need
- The persistence of **myths and misunderstanding among citizens** relating to benefits eligibility, the rights of workers, and the responsibilities of employers
- Too many workers in sectors across the city who experience levels of pay, hours, and working conditions that are **insufficient to support a life without poverty**
- Too many citizens being moved from or **having to travel far out of their communities**, and support networks, to access the services they need.

4. Responding to the evidence

In response to the evidence we are gathering, the role of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission is to design a framework for change needed for the city to take the steps needed to end poverty in Edinburgh.

This framework should be built on an expression of core, shared principles and values that all citizens and stakeholders can buy into.

It should include specific recommendations, or game changers, to be taken forward and delivered by the city – including challenges and recommendations to be led by the public sector, the private sector, the third sector, and by communities.

It should also include recommendations for the legacy structures and changes needed to ensure long term delivery, scrutiny and continued development of the work begun by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission this year.

Across this framework, the Commission aims to deliver recommendations which are:

- **Authentic and Credible** – led by and reflecting the real voices of citizens experiencing poverty in Edinburgh, deliverable in the real world, and reflecting the powers and influence available to the city
- **Provocative and Positive** – bold, radical, and ambitious for real change, and willing to tell challenging, uncomfortable truths when necessary
- **Thoughtful and Clear** – reflective and creative in its response to evidence, and clear-sighted in its expression of the change needed and the owners of the actions needed to make that change
- **For the long term** – sustainable and deliverable and capable on maintaining the long term support and commitment - from different political parties, public and private

sector stakeholders, and different sections of public opinion - needed to make significant change.



Edinburgh Poverty Commission



What do we mean when we say ‘Solve Poverty’?

Poverty is often described as a complex problem with simple solutions. It is also often thought of as a perennial problem that is impossible to eradicate – after all, if we take a definition of poverty based on relative income levels, there will surely always be a proportion of the population who fall below any threshold we choose to draw?

From the work we have carried out so far, our attitude to poverty falls somewhere between these two perspectives. We believe that it is necessary for this city to set an ambitious goal. That goal is to solve poverty, not to accept that any level of poverty is in some way acceptable.

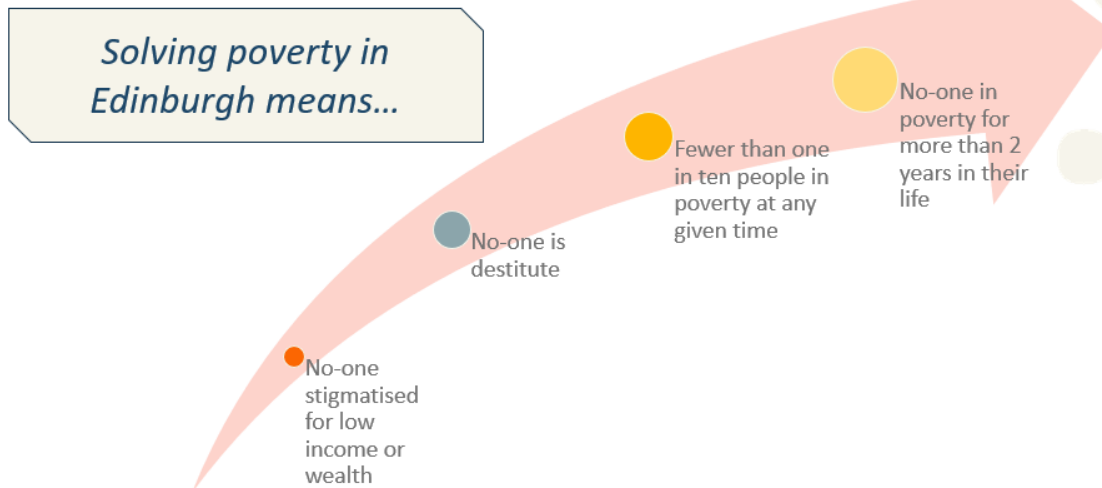
From this perspective, we can set a definition of ‘solving’ poverty that rests on a number of specific goals and expectations. These goals will be further developed as our inquiry continues, but at present include the following:

- That no one in Edinburgh feels stigmatised, abandoned, or treated with less respect by the city as a result of their income or their wealth
- That no one in a city as prosperous as Edinburgh lives in a state of destitution, having to do without the basic essentials they need to eat, keep clean and stay warm and dry
- That the number of people in Edinburgh, including children, who grow up on incomes below the standard statistical relative poverty threshold is reduced to 10% by 2030 (in line

with levels achieved in other developed countries, and in line with Scottish Government child poverty targets), and that

- The experience of poverty becomes a temporary factor, rather than a permanent way of life. That no person in Edinburgh spends more than 2 years in poverty during their life.

Edinburgh Poverty Commission



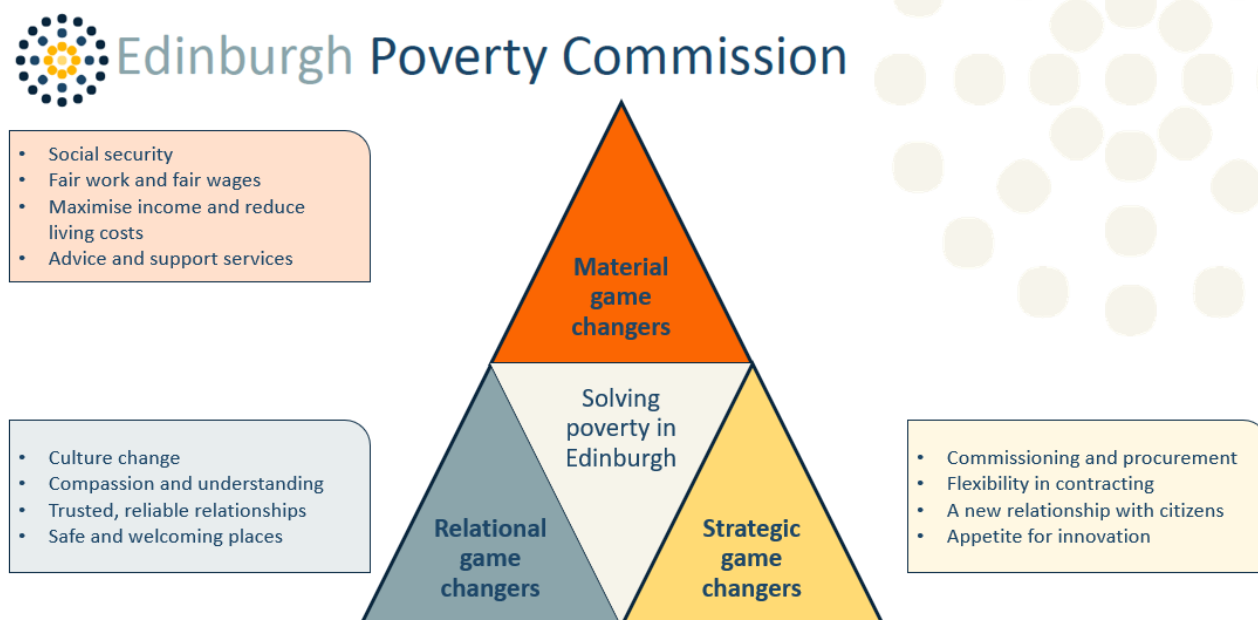
Common principles and values

From the evidence we have heard so far, Edinburgh Poverty Commission believes that:

- People want to have control of their lives and contribute to a city where we look after each other
- Edinburgh wants to be a compassionate city that looks after everyone who lives here
- It is not right that so many people feel that the city does not care about their wellbeing, feel exhausted by the impossible decisions life on a low income demands, and feel trapped in a system that does not help them to thrive
- Poverty in Edinburgh is neither acceptable nor inevitable, and the city has many of the tools and influence it needs to end poverty
- There is no credible solution to poverty in Edinburgh that is not led by and delivered with the people those solutions are designed to support
- All people in Edinburgh, regardless of their income or assets, have the right to be treated with respect and compassion in every aspect of their lives, especially when seeking support from public agencies, or jobs from employers.

Game changers

To take forward these principles, the Commission aims to identify the key solutions needed to end poverty in Edinburgh. Much more work is needed to develop the specific actions and owners needed, but our inquiry so far suggests three categories of Game Changers around which our recommendations will be structured – the **Material**, the **Relational**, and the **Strategic**.



- **Material Game Changers** - Ensuring people have more money in their pockets is the single most effective thing we can do to end poverty. We need strong solutions that are about reducing costs as well as boosting incomes.
- **Relational Game Changers** - We want people to thrive not just survive at a few pounds above the poverty line. We need solutions that remove the barriers that reduce people's ability to contribute and shape the lives they want
- **Strategic Game Changers** - Taking significant steps to tackle poverty needs a long term perspective, and investment in change. Delivering the change required needs a supportive environment of bodies (public, private, and third sector) confident enough and empowered to take appropriate risks.

5. Solutions to Poverty in Edinburgh

Across this framework for change, our work so far suggests a number of clear solutions to poverty in Edinburgh. Over the next years, Edinburgh should focus its resources and efforts on the following solutions:

- **Maximise incomes, lower costs:** Edinburgh citizens are missing out on estimated £80m of unclaimed DWP benefits every year. A new approach is needed to deliver streamlined, accessible, and high impact welfare, benefits, and employment support.

- **Fair work and fair wages:** Edinburgh's employers in all sectors should pay wages at a level people can live on in this city, and should offer consistent and predictable hours and pay for all workers.
- **Affordable transport:** Edinburgh should ensure place based investment and development removes the need for costly travel to access services and support. Availability of free transport should be the norm for services targeted at people experiencing poverty
- **Family friendly:** Family and working parent friendly hours should be the norm for all services which aim to support people in poverty. Service hours should be explicitly built on an understanding of the needs and preferences of end users.
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- **Culture and understanding.** A change in culture is needed to tackle stigma and improve understanding of poverty and its impacts among support service providers. Such common understanding is critical to ensuring that people in poverty can rely on being treated with respect and compassion by the support services they rely on.
- **A new relationship with citizens:** A new approach is needed to change the relationship between citizens and service providers in Edinburgh. Citizens experiencing poverty must be involved in the planning, design and development of the support services they rely on.
- **Safe and welcoming:** All support services used by people in poverty should be located in places where the user feels safe and welcomed, and in places that are recognised and valued by the community they serve.
- **Trusted relationships:** Services relied upon by people experiencing poverty should be accessed through trusted community brokers with a single point of contact, not by referral and signposting to multiple agencies and locations.
- **Relationship based commissioning:** Change is needed in commissioning of services by the public sector in Edinburgh. We need a shift towards a new model of commissioning which puts priority on long term relationships between services and the people who rely on them, on building community capacity and citizen empowerment.
- **Flexibility in contracting is key.** Funding for services should be commissioned and delivered through monitoring and payment frameworks designed to support positive impacts for individual people, not to comply to rigid, often counter-productive criteria.
- **Innovation.** More of the same approaches used in the past will not be enough to solve poverty in Edinburgh. A commitment is needed to support innovation and experimentation in new ways to implement the solutions outlined in this paper.

6. Next steps

An incomplete model

At this point in our inquiry we know that these do not present a complete solution, and that there is no model of change to poverty in this city that does not include critical issues not covered here, including:

- Housing availability, cost, and homelessness
- Cost of transport and service accessibility
- Experiences of criminal justice, and
- Community led approaches to lifting people out of poverty

Over the next few months we will continue our research programme to focus on these issues. We will also focus on developing our thoughts on the levers for change across all these issues that are held by the city, considering not only *what* needs to change but also *how* that change can be delivered in a city like Edinburgh.

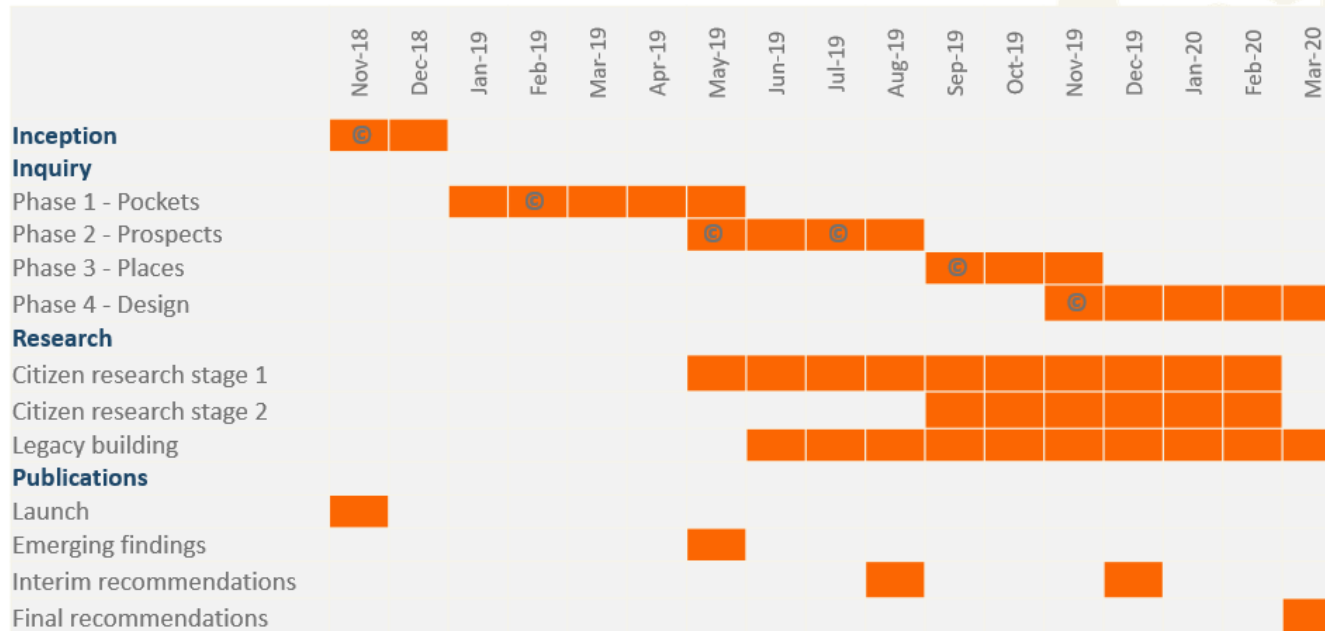
This phase will introduce new ideas and new issues to deepen our thinking ahead of publication of our final recommendations by March 2020.

Key dates for the next period of our work include:

- September 26th – a full session meeting of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission covering the theme of ‘Places’
- October 7th to 11th – Challenge Poverty Week, including a series of events attended and organised by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission
- November 26th – The final scheduled full session meeting of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission
- January 2020 – publication of draft final recommendations for public consultation and feedback
- March 2020 – launch of final recommendations from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission.

Annex 1: Workplan

Work plan



Annex 2: Meetings and Visits so far

Category	Meeting	Venue
Edinburgh Poverty Commission Meeting	Edinburgh Poverty Commission - inception meeting	Foundation Scotland
Conference	Edinburgh College: Tackling Poverty Conference	Edinburgh College Granton Campus
Visit	Business in the Community Place Leadership Group	Virgin Money
Visit	Moredun Multis	Moredun Multis, Liberton,
Visit	Trongate Foodbank	6 Craigour Gardens, Moredun
Visit	Granton Information Centre advisors workshop	The Prentice Centre, 1 Granton Mains Ave, Edinburgh
Edinburgh Poverty Commission Meeting	Edinburgh Poverty Commission - Meeting 1	Gilmerton Community Centre
Conference	Homelessness Scotland report launch	Central Hall, 2 West Tollcross, Edinburgh
Conference	Edinburgh 1in5 project conference	The Faith Mission
Visit	Employability service providers workshop	Norton Park Conference Centre
Edinburgh Poverty Commission Meeting	Edinburgh Poverty Commission - Meeting 2	North Edinburgh Arts Centre
Visit	Granton Information Centre clients meeting	134-138 W Granton Rd, Edinburgh
Visit	Session with Social Care workers and clients	Thistle Foundation, Centre of Wellbeing, 13 Queen's Walk, Edinburgh
Visit	Session with Early Years Care providers	Craigetanny Early Years Centre
Visit	Session with Employability Skills clients	North Edinburgh Arts Centre
Visit	Visit to Cyrenians Community Cook Club	Easter Road Stadium, Edinburgh
Visit	Visit to Citadel Youth Centre parents drop in group	Citadel Youth Centre - 175 Commercial St, Edinburgh

Visit	Third sector forum group meeting	City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, 25 Nicolson Square
Visit	Visit to Muirhouse Medical Group	Muirhouse Medical Group, 1 Muirhouse Ave, Edinburgh
Edinburgh Poverty Commission Meeting	Interim findings deliberation session	Grassmarket Project
Visit	City of Edinburgh Council CLT discussion session 1	City of Edinburgh Council
Visit	City of Edinburgh Council CLT discussion session 2	City of Edinburgh Council
Conference	National Association of Welfare Rights Advisors	Annual Conference 2019, Edinburgh City Chambers

Annex 3: Contributors and Participants so far (exc CEC)

EVOC	Fresh Start	Presence In Action
ADVOCARD	Granton Information Centre	Collective
Bethany Christian Trust	Grassmarket Community Project	RNIB
Business in the Community Scotland	Joined Up 4 Jobs providers forum	Scotcash
Capital City Partnership	Liberton High School	Scottish Federation of Housing Associations
Carnegie UK Trust	LINK	Shelter Scotland
CHAI	Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living	Stepping Stones
Changeworks	Low Income Families Together (LIFT)	Support in Mind Stafford Centre
Community Help and Advice Initiative (CHAI)	Mind the Craic	The Junction, young people, health & wellbeing
Community Renewal	Moredun Multis Residents Group	The Ripple
Craigentiny Early Years Centre	Muirhouse Healthy Living Centre	Thistle Foundation
Crewe Medical Centre	NHS Lothian	Tron Kirk Foodbank
DWP	One in five: raising awareness of child poverty in Edinburgh	Tynecastle High School Equity Improvement Group
Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Programme Office	People Know How	Unite Hospitality
Edinburgh City Youth Cafe	Pilmenny Development Project	University of Edinburgh
Edinburgh College	Port of Leith Housing Association	University of Edinburgh Students Association
Edinburgh College Students Association	Poverty Alliance	
Edinburgh Tenants' Federation		
Foursquare Scotland (Stopover Hostel)		

Annex 4: Edinburgh Poverty Commission members

Jim McCormick, Joseph Rowntree Foundation - chair

Councillor Cammy Day, City of Edinburgh Council - vice chair

Celia Tennant, Inspiring Scotland

Zoe Ferguson, Edinburgh citizen

Craig Sanderson, Edinburgh citizen, former CEO Link Housing Association

Betty Stevenson, Edinburgh citizen

Chris Kilkenny, Edinburgh citizen

Stephen Kelly, Liberton High School

Diana Noel Paton, Edinburgh citizen, former CEO Thistle Foundation

Mary Alexander, Unite the Union

Sandy MacDonald, Aberdeen Standard Life

Carol Tannahill, Glasgow Centre for Public Health.