



# THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

## UPDATE on LOIP 1 '*Enough Money to Live on*', in the context of the End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report 2023

### 1. Executive Summary

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- 1.1 The [End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report 2023](#) was recently presented to City of Edinburgh Council (CEC)'s Policy and Sustainability Committee, and subsequently to the Edinburgh Children's Partnership. The report consolidates the wide range of actions being taken across Edinburgh into four categories of work to **reduce the cost of living; make it easier to find help; maximise support from social safety nets and increase income from work and opportunity to progress.**
- 1.2 The report was welcomed, however there was a request for an update to be brought back to committee on progress against the recommendations from the [Review of Welfare Rights and Debt Advice in Edinburgh](#), including an update in relation to access to CEC Advice Services. Other areas identified for further exploration included opportunities for closer links between poverty and environmental sustainability, particularly in the context of employment; pupil attendance rates; and digital inclusion. The need to demonstrate progress from longer term poverty prevention work, including for example some of the work within LOIP 3, was also acknowledged.
- 1.3 The ongoing impact of a shortage of housing that is affordable to those on low incomes, as well as a shortage of childcare provision within the city have been identified as areas where further action is still required. Following presentation of the annual poverty report to the CEC's Poverty and Prevention Board, a recommendation was made that a special meeting of the Edinburgh Partnership Board is held to consider early years provision in the city.
- 1.4 There is a commitment to reconvene the Edinburgh Poverty Commission in 2024 for a review of progress against their calls to action, which will include reviewing progress in relation to the issues highlighted above.
- 1.5 This LOIP 1 update report, provided in recognition of the requests following discussions on the Poverty Annual Progress Report, provides information in three parts:
  - An update on the delivery of LOIP 1 actions, including the implementation of recommendations from the Review of Welfare Rights and Debt Advice in Edinburgh.

- An update on additional resources that have been secured to deliver further poverty-reduction work in Edinburgh, and how these will be integrated with existing programmes of work and provisional governance arrangements.
- A reflection on the need for additional work in the areas of housing and childcare provision, in order to more fully address poverty in the city.

## 2. Recommendations

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### 2.1 The Board is recommended to:

i. **Note:**

- Progress against the LOIP 1 actions, including the implementation of recommendations from the commissioned review of welfare rights and debt advice in Edinburgh.
- Note the additional resources that have been secured to deliver further poverty-reduction work in Edinburgh.

ii. **Agree:**

- For this progress update to be presented back to CEC Poverty and Sustainability Committee.
- The provisional proposal for how additional poverty-reduction work will be integrated with existing programmes of work, acknowledging that provisional changes in governance still need to be confirmed at the LOIP 1 Strategy Group.
- To hold a special meeting of the Board in February to consider access to childcare provision in the city with a focus on early years provision.

iii. **Discuss:**

- Further actions that could be taken by the Partnership to support the provision of additional housing that is affordable to those living on low incomes.

## 3. Background

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3.1 An independent review of welfare rights and debt advice services in Edinburgh was commissioned by the Edinburgh Partnership, with the [review report](#), including 24 recommendations, published in September 2022. In January 2023 the LOIP 1 Strategy Group was established, and a Logic Model (Appendix 1) and Action Plan (Appendix 2) developed, to oversee the work needed to deliver against the review recommendations and other related areas of work, including actions on access to affordable credit.

3.2 The Strategy Group have met quarterly to oversee progress, explore opportunities to secure additional resources and re-prioritise actions when limited resources meant it was not possible to progress all actions in line with the



originally agreed timescales. Additional resource to support the delivery of the agreed LOIP 1 actions has recently been secured, and an update on progress to date is provided in Section 4 of this report.

- 3.3 More recently, the Scottish Government made available two additional sources of funding, in the form of new [Cash-First funding](#), as part of their plan [Towards Ending the Need for Food Banks in Scotland](#), as well as [Child Poverty Practice Accelerator funding](#). Edinburgh has been successful in partnership bids to both funds, attracting an additional £275,000 for partnership work to address poverty in the city in 2023/24 and 2024/25 (£195,000 from the Cash First programme and £80,000 from the Accelerator programme).
- 3.4 There is a need to ensure this funding is integrated with existing programmes of work and governance mechanisms for the implementation of the [Welfare Rights & Debt Advice Services Review in Edinburgh](#) and the [Ending Poverty Related Hunger in Edinburgh](#) strategy, as well actions to address poverty set out within the Edinburgh Children's Services Plan. An update on the work that will be delivered with this additional funding and the proposed governance mechanism is provided in Section 5 of this report.

#### 4. Progress of LOIP 1 'Enough Money to Live on' actions

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- 4.1 The RAG-rated action plan for the LOIP 1 workstream is provided in Appendix 2. A summary of progress is as follows:
- 8 actions are completed: 2 (R1 & R2) of the 24 Review recommendations and 6 (AC2, AC3, AC4, AC8, AC10, AC11) of the 16 Affordable Credit Actions.
  - 6 actions are on-going, including work in relation to Money Counts training.
  - 11 actions are scheduled to commence in 2024/25.
  - 4 actions are currently rated 'red' and at risk of not being delivered, including the action to create a unified 'Advice for Edinburgh', which requires both resource to implement change but also senior leadership commitment to change from a range of organisations.
- 4.2 In light of resource constraints, the LOIP 1 Strategy Group agreed to re-prioritise the actions within the Action Plan to focus on 3 areas (6 actions) from the Review recommendations in the short term:
- Forming the Joined up for Advice network (R5) and the development of a Charter (R17) with some progress towards network resources (R19). The recruitment of a 0.6 whole-time-equivalent co-ordinator (funded by CEC) has now taken place, with someone due to start in post in the new year.
  - Improving consistency of data to allow for future strategic planning (R8, R9).

- Developing a commissioning specification for advice services to allow a formal commissioning process to replace the grant-making that is currently used by the EIJB to fund a third of service provision in the city (R11, R16).

## 5. Integrating additional poverty-reduction work into LOIP 1 governance

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- 5.1 The aim of the Cash First funding is to improve access to emergency financial assistance i.e. taking a cash-first approach and providing money advice and holistic support services alongside cash-first responses can help to prevent future hardship.
- 5.2 Edinburgh’s proposal for the use of this funding includes a mapping phase; followed by a test-of-change phase, including:
- Commissioning a comprehensive mapping of the full range of food support providers including current use of cash-first and the wider services and supports available.
  - Using this information to support service improvement and builds on the review of the welfare rights and debt advice services across Edinburgh carried out in 2022.
  - Using different approaches to getting people to engage in support beyond a cash payment for emergency support, to improve linkages between emergency financial assistance and income maximisation services.
  - Targeted pilots to improve access to financial assistance, for example supporting young families in temporary accommodation; working with Health Visitor in relation to infants under 12 months and with midwifery in to improve to prenatal support.
- 5.3 Edinburgh’s proposal for the use of the Scottish Government’s Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Fund focusses on:
- Improving access to and take up of income maximisation support and money advice for families with children who are living in poverty in Edinburgh by piloting a school term-time expansion of the city’s successful ‘Discover!’ programme – which currently provides support to low-income families during school holidays, including food support, family activities, support for learning, and income maximisation support.
- 5.4 The additional Scottish Government funding has prompted the opportunity to review the scope and governance of LOIP 1, in order to integrate the work that will be supported by new funding, as well as better integrating the existing work committed to as part of the Ending Poverty Related Hunger in Edinburgh Strategy (also known as ‘Menu for All’). There is a provisional proposal, still to be formally agreed at the LOIP 1 Strategy Group, that going forward the work of the following groups should report into the Strategy Group.



- Edinburgh Advice Partnership (previously the Income Maximisation and Poverty Group)
  - Menu for All Steering Group
  - Cash-First Project Group
  - Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Project Group
- 5.5 There will remain close links to the existing Edinburgh Poverty Coordination Group, which is responsible for the facilitation of information-sharing on work from all three LOIP priorities through the Edinburgh Poverty Network as well as the production of the End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report.
- 5.6 Existing members of the LOIP 1 Strategy Group are also linked to wider relevant work, including City of Edinburgh Council’s Family and Household Support Team and Parental Employability Team; as well as the Edinburgh Children’s Partnership’s Whole Family Wellbeing Fund Subgroup.
- 5.7 A visual representation of linkages between work described above is set out in Appendix 3.

## 6. Further action needed to address poverty in Edinburgh

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- 6.1 This paper has summarised a range of work that is currently underway in Edinburgh to ensure people have enough money to live on, however it is important to note that within the End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report the dual challenges of access to housing affordable to those on low incomes and access to affordable childcare remain significant.
- 6.2 It is acknowledged that there is already some Partnership work taking place in relation to these issues, including through the LOIP 2 and LOIP 3 workstreams. The views of Partners are however sought on whether additional Partnership work in these areas would be beneficial and should be prioritised in order to support further progress against poverty in the city.

## 7. Contact

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