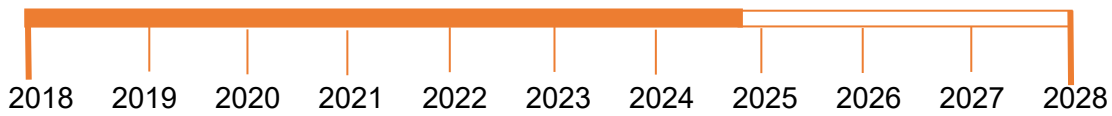


Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership

Local Outcome Improvement Plan



Annual Report
April 2023-March 2024



Foreword

By Councillor Cammy Day, the Leader of the City of Edinburgh Council and Chair of the Edinburgh Partnership Board

To follow

Introduction

Under Sections 8 and 12 of the [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#), Community Planning Partnerships are required to publish annual reports which describe progress made towards ambitions in their [Local Outcome Improvement Plan](#) (LOIP).

Edinburgh is widely recognised as an affluent and growing city, but it also experiences significant levels of inequality, with some communities among the most deprived in Scotland. Addressing these disparities is the primary focus of all members of the Edinburgh Partnership. This challenge is not only central to the LOIP but also aligns with the priorities outlined in strategic partnerships and agency plans across the city. Importantly, these issues cannot be effectively addressed by any single partner or partnership alone, necessitating coordinated efforts.

Three Priority Workstreams

The drivers of poverty and inequality in Edinburgh are deeply entrenched and multifaceted, requiring sustained partnership efforts and investment to address. Through collaboration with partners and informed by community input, the Edinburgh Partnership has identified three priority workstreams that demand additional action and leadership, beyond the individual strategic plans and priorities of each member.

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

- 1. Enough money to live on:** The goal is to ensure that all residents have enough money to live on. Currently, around 15% of Edinburgh's population is living in poverty, including 21% of children. The LOIP outlines actions aimed at increasing income through better access to benefits, financial advice, and support services, as well as efforts to tackle in-work poverty.
- 2. Access to work, learning and training opportunities:** Access to quality employment, education, and training opportunities is vital for reducing inequality. Unemployment in Edinburgh stands at approximately 3%, with higher rates in the most deprived areas. The LOIP focuses on creating pathways to employment, particularly for young people, those with disabilities, and other disadvantaged groups. It also aims to enhance lifelong learning opportunities to support career progression and adaptability.
- 3. A good place to live:** The population of Edinburgh has grown by 7.6% since 2012 and is also ageing, with 20.1% over the age of 65, surpassing those under 15. Life expectancy in Edinburgh, while higher than the Scottish average, remains unevenly distributed, with lower rates in deprived areas.

Despite general satisfaction with neighbourhoods, significant disparities persist, particularly in the most deprived areas. The LOIP 3 actions are focused on targeted, data-driven interventions in areas like Liberton and Craigmillar, incorporating these demographic shifts and emphasising inclusive, community-driven responses.

This report outlines the current delivery landscape, provides updates on the three priority areas, and sets out the way forward for the coming year. It details the progress achieved in these areas over the past year and identifies key challenges facing all partners and the City. The report offers an evidence-based review of the actions taken and their impact, while also highlighting areas where further work is needed. The Edinburgh Partnership remains dedicated to these priorities, recognising that addressing poverty and inequality is crucial to making Edinburgh a city where all residents can thrive. By maintaining focused action and strong collaboration, we will continue to work towards the outcomes established in the LOIP, contributing to a fairer and more inclusive Edinburgh.

Delivery Landscape

Edinburgh faces several significant challenges that impact community planning, particularly in housing and social services. The city's diverse population experiences considerable disparities in income, housing, and access to essential services. Rising costs of living and increasing demand for affordable housing have exacerbated these issues. Over the past year, house prices in Edinburgh have risen by approximately 6%, with the average house price now at £312,000, placing further strain on affordability for many residents. This situation is part of a broader housing emergency marked by a sharp increase in homelessness—Edinburgh saw 3,815 homeless assessments in 2022-23, with projections indicating this number will exceed 3,870 in 2023-24. Additionally, the average time spent in temporary accommodation has surged to 402 days, a 386% increase since 2012-13, reflecting the growing pressures on the housing system.

The Edinburgh Partnership Survey, undertaken in 2023, reveals a complex picture of resident experiences. While 91% of residents express satisfaction with their neighbourhoods and 94% with the city as a place to live, significant disparities exist, particularly in the 20% most deprived areas according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). In these areas, satisfaction is notably lower.

Poverty is the most significant factor affecting the quality of life for Edinburgh residents, particularly those living in the city's most disadvantaged areas. The Edinburgh Partnership Survey 2023 reveals that only 68% of residents in the 20% most deprived areas are satisfied with their neighbourhoods, compared to 95% in more affluent areas. Health outcomes are similarly affected, with only 27% of residents in these deprived areas rating their physical health as "very good," compared to 41% in other areas. Digital access also reflects these disparities: while most residents have internet-capable devices, only 85% of those in the most deprived areas do, and just 80% report having the necessary digital skills.

Furthermore, over a quarter of residents have struggled with paying household bills, using credit to cover expenses, or resorting to food banks in the past year—issues

that are particularly prevalent among the unemployed, with 53% of them using food banks and 59% having difficulty paying bills. While a strong sense of community exists, with 81% in deprived areas feeling a sense of belonging, only 21% of these residents feel they have control over their local environment, highlighting a gap in participation and empowerment in decision-making processes.

The city also faces critical challenges in land use and public asset management. Effective land use planning that supports sustainable development is essential, particularly in underserved areas. This includes addressing the need for community facilities and ensuring that existing assets are utilised to benefit all residents.

Access to affordable and high-quality childcare remains a significant concern, especially for working families in lower-income brackets. Edinburgh has some of the highest childcare costs in Scotland, creating barriers for parents seeking employment or educational opportunities. Expanding access to affordable childcare is vital for supporting families and reducing inequalities across the city.

In response to these challenges, the Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership launched a Transformation and Improvement Programme in September 2023. This programme is aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of community planning by improving the relationship with the public, voluntary and community sectors. A key focus of this programme is improving outcomes for efforts experiencing poverty with efforts set to continue into the next year.

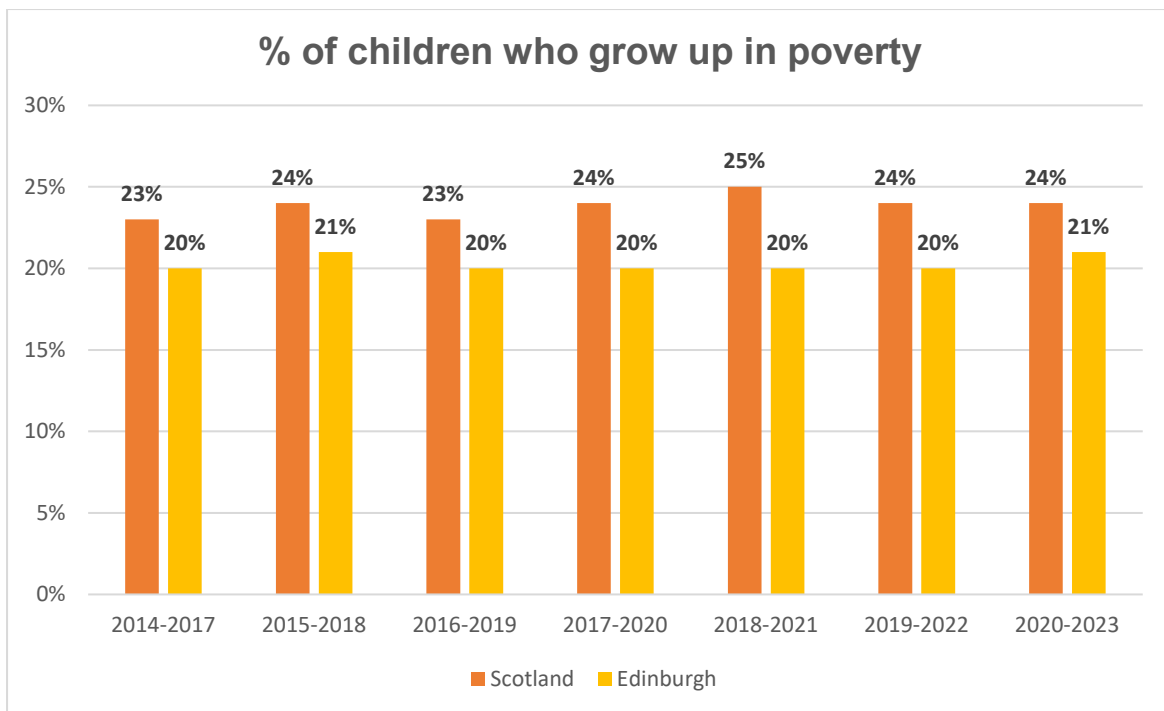
Priorty1: Enough money to live on

Lead: Edinburgh Advice Partnership

Partners include: Edinburgh Health & Social Care Partnership, City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian, Citizen Advice Edinburgh, CHAI, GIC, The Action Group, Edinburgh Food Project, Capital City Partnership, DWP, SSS, EVOC, Home Energy Scotland and Changeworks.

What do we know?

Data shows that poverty rates in Edinburgh are high with one in five children living in poverty.



Poverty in Edinburgh affects around 15% of the population, including 21% of children. These figures have remained steady in recent years, despite challenges such as the pandemic and the cost of living crisis. Certain groups, including women, families with children, minority ethnic groups, and disabled individuals, face a higher risk of poverty, with rates often more than double the citywide average.

Poverty can significantly impact health, education, employment, discrimination, and vulnerability to crime. There is a growing number of people seeking support for mental health issues, often linked to loneliness, social isolation, and financial, employment, and housing concerns.

Inequalities and poverty not only affect individuals but also hinder the delivery of key services. According to a recent JRF report, the lack of essential resources increases pressure on primary schools and GP surgeries, diverting resources and adding to workloads. This research underscores the impact of financial hardship on staff, particularly GPs and other community health professionals, and highlights the importance of integrating welfare rights and debt services into health settings.

How are we doing?

This priority theme remains on track, but broader factors, such as economic conditions, policy changes, and social inequalities within the community, directly impact this work.

Evidence from 2022 indicates that approximately 10,000 families in Edinburgh were regularly skipping meals due to financial difficulties. There has also been a noticeable increase in the number of people seeking assistance for rent arrears and problem debt. The city shows significant spatial inequalities, with child poverty rates in some areas being up to five times higher than in more affluent parts of Edinburgh

LOIP KPI	2017-2020	2018-2021	2019-2022	2020-2023	Source
Percentage of people living on incomes below the poverty threshold	16%	16%	17%	15%	CEC estimates
Percentage of children living in families on incomes below the poverty threshold	20%	20%	20%	21%	End Child Poverty Coalition
Percentage of people living in destitution	-	4%	-	-	JRF/Heriot Watt University

Service providers in both the third and public sectors continue to support individuals, generating substantial financial gains annually in Edinburgh. A recent needs assessment by NHS Lothian Public Health (August 2024) estimates that 48,000 to 55,000 individuals could benefit from welfare rights advice, while 26,000 to 66,000 may require debt advice. It is important to note that these estimates should be used cautiously as this information is based on a snapshot of time. However, can be used to show the extent of possible demand.

The demand for support is likely to grow due to limited resources, reduced workforce capacity, and an increase in complex cases, including rising debt levels, particularly among households with a child or adult who has a disability, and in-work poverty. Prioritising the most vulnerable remains essential in addressing these challenges

Key achievements

In recent efforts, two key funding streams from the Scottish Government have been secured. The Child Poverty Accelerator Fund (CPAF) supports a pilot programme aimed at expanding the city's successful 'Discover!' initiative to cover the school term. This programme, which already provides vital assistance to low-income families during school holidays, including food support, family activities, learning support, and income maximisation, is now being extended. Additional pilots are focused on income maximisation, particularly targeting debt prevention and access to appropriate money advice. Collaborating with organisations such as the City of Edinburgh Council, The Action Group, Family Advice and Information Resource, and Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living, these efforts also address early years' debt prevention for families with a disabled child or adult.

The Cash First Funding initiative seeks to improve access to emergency financial assistance through a cash-first approach. This initiative is complemented by money advice and holistic support services designed to prevent future financial hardship. A project manager oversees the implementation, and a mapping exercise has been

commissioned to guide the process. The Menu for All Network, established to deliver the Ending Poverty-Related Hunger in Edinburgh strategy, has been launched and has already hosted two learning events to support this initiative.

In parallel, the Affordable Credit Action Plan has made progress in raising awareness of illegal money lending. Edinburgh Partnership has formally joined the Scottish Illegal Money Lending Unit's (SIMLU) Loan Shark Charter, reinforcing its commitment to combatting this issue. Training sessions on illegal money lending, delivered by SIMLU, have continued, engaging at least 16 different organisations and agencies across various sectors.

The Money Counts Training programme has been enhanced to better equip participants with the skills to deliver financial support in a more compassionate and effective manner. The updated curriculum now includes a cash-first approach, which prioritises providing immediate financial assistance to those in need. Additionally, the training emphasises trauma-informed care, ensuring that service providers are sensitive to the emotional and psychological challenges faced by individuals in financial distress. This approach also focuses on reducing stigma, promoting dignity, and fostering a supportive environment for those seeking help. A total of 13 training sessions have been delivered through Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership, City of Edinburgh Council, and Community Help & Advice Initiative, reaching 203 front-line staff from 47 different organisations within the public sector, third sector, and housing associations.

Challenges

Resources

Securing sustainable funding for welfare rights and debt advice services remains a significant challenge for the third sector. Funding continues to be short-term, with many allocations not adjusted for inflation, leading to a reduction in real terms. Additionally, there is ongoing uncertainty regarding the continuation of funding streams, such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) has allocated an additional £150,000 for 2023/24 to the Edinburgh Health and Social Partnership for grants. This funding will be used to pilot a triage system in collaboration with CAE and CHAI, as well as to enhance welfare rights and debt advice provision in food banks. However, the funding for the network coordinator for the Edinburgh Advice Network (EAN) is only secured until March 2025.

The demographic changes in Edinburgh's population, particularly in relation to ethnicity, have increased the demand for translators and interpreters. This need has not yet been fully accounted for in service delivery costs.

Workforce

The advice sector continues to struggle with workforce capacity and staff retention. The recruitment and training of new advisors also take considerable time, leading to a short-term reduction in service delivery. Additionally, there is an ongoing review and restructure of CEC's The Advice Shop, which may further impact service provision.

Need for Welfare Rights and Debt Advice

The recent needs assessment highlights a high level of unmet demand for welfare rights and debt advice, with significant levels of crisis support still required across the city.

LOIP 1 Case study

To ensure that service design aligns with people's needs and is accessible when and where required this case study highlights the significance of targeted outreach conducted as part of LOIP 1, in which a GP referred a couple with significant health issues to a project for assistance with Adult Disability Payment (ADP) applications. The wife successfully secured the enhanced rate for both Daily Living and Mobility components, leading to further support for her husband in applying for ADP, State Pension, Carer's Allowance, and Council Tax Reduction. Their total financial gain so far is £23,012.96.

Previously, the couple relied solely on their early workplace pensions, having left employment due to their health. A benefits check revealed that, while they weren't eligible for Universal Credit, they could access other benefits once the wife received ADP.

The wife is also receiving support from the City of Edinburgh Council's Health & Social Care department for a care package and home adaptations. The GP Surgery Project, which facilitated these applications, is well-regarded, and the couple's patient records were used with their consent to aid in the process.

Initially, the couple was anxious about claiming benefits, as they had never done so before. They required significant support, including face-to-face meetings, to navigate the process. Despite missed appointments and a waiting list due to high demand, they have now accessed the support they need.

Priority 2: Access to work, learning and training

Lead: Capital City Partnership

Partners include: City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian, Edinburgh College, Edinburgh University, Department of Work and Pensions, Skills Development Scotland, Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce

What do we know?

Worklessness remains the single most important predictor of poverty. However, work alone is not necessarily enough to prevent poverty. The aim is to provide additional targeted services to help residents access the work, learning, and training opportunities they need to maintain a good quality of life.

Despite some improvement in the cost of living crisis, Edinburgh continues to experience persistent unemployment and low-income employment. Unlike other areas of Scotland, the city has not experienced a significant reduction in the number of people claiming out-of-work benefits. As of July 2024, there are 9,730 people claiming out-of-work Universal Credit in Edinburgh, representing a 55% increase compared to July 2019..

A recent client survey commissioned by the Joined up for Jobs network has told us that people are continuing to face significant barriers to work, particularly the availability of affordable childcare, health issues, high housing costs and access to language support for those that do not speak English.

We also have a renewed focus on ensuring that people have the skills for the jobs of the future. We know that people will require their skills updating as we move to a green economy and there has been a particular emphasis on digital/data skills and retrofit. There is real opportunity here for inclusive growth and supporting people to move out of poverty through higher skilled, higher paid roles.

How are we doing?

Edinburgh's labour market is relatively buoyant (economic activity is 84% as opposed to 77% in Scotland as a whole) but there remain areas in our City where there are high levels of both unemployment and inactivity due to poor health. In the past year we have focussed on supporting these communities and those with more barriers to work. A series of community job fairs have been successful, and our employability provision has been co-located with food banks, welfare advice and English classes.

In the past year we've focused on engaging with low-income families, particularly lone parents and those from black and minority ethnic communities as they are most likely to be experiencing poverty.

LOIP KPI	Jan-Dec 2019	Jan-Dec 2020	Jan-Dec 2021	Jan-Dec 2022	Jan-Dec 2023	Source
Number of households with no adult in employment	15.1%	16%	11.5%	15.1%	Data due October	NOMIS
Employment rate	75.1%	75.7%	78%	80.6%	80.2%	NOMIS
LOIP KPI	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Source
Percentage of young adults (16-19-year olds) participating in education, training or employment	92%	92%	92%	95%	Figures due in August	SDS

An enhanced focus on reducing child poverty by supporting parents into work has resulted in job and education outcomes across the Scottish Government's six priority family groups (Lone parents, parents with a child under one, households where someone has a disability, parents from an ethnic minority, large families, and families where the mother is under 25). This has resulted in 596 parents gaining employment and 322 furthering their education.

Employer engagement continues to be central to our efforts to improve the labour market. This year 71 employers received an incentive to support their training of a new recruit from a disadvantaged background and 21 people benefited from a 6-month paid work placement experience many of which led to a sustainable job. We held six community job fairs making direct introductions to 39 employers with live vacancies.

We know that fair work, particularly through higher waged employment is a route out of poverty. There are now over 720 accredited Real Living Wage employers in Edinburgh and 70% of people supported by the Joined up for Jobs network go into jobs that pay at least the Real Living Wage.

Key achievements

The Local Employment Partnership continues to work to offer support to refugees and displaced people. We commissioned specific programmes for New Scots and in 23/24 and almost 2000 parents from an ethnic minority background were given support to access work, education and training.

Outcomes for young people leaving school have improved and now 95% of young people are in a positive destination after six months. We have revised our support for those young people who need extra support to gain a foothold in education, training and work and created a new geographical service linked with school clusters. There is also a range of employability supports available to them focused on areas such as sports, creative industries and construction.

We know that fair work is a route out of poverty; a 'Fair Work Charter' for Edinburgh is under development which will encourage and support employers to assess their delivery of the Fair Work Principles. The views of employers, employees and other stakeholders are being collated to help us achieve our goal of becoming a Fair Work City.

Challenges

Workforce recruitment

Edinburgh faces a complex and evolving landscape in workforce recruitment, particularly as it strives to address the needs of historically disadvantaged communities. Employers continue to grapple with recruitment challenges, which demand innovative and collaborative responses. There is a pressing need to upskill the workforce and attract individuals to better-paid positions. Promoting fair work and highlighting its numerous benefits remain central to this effort.

New Scots support

As a city, Edinburgh has consistently welcomed displaced individuals, recognising the significant contribution they make to the local economy and society. Although the influx of new residents presents resource challenges, it also brings an abundance of talent and skills that the city desperately needs. To fully harness this potential, particular emphasis will be placed on enhancing language skills throughout 2024 and 2025.

Embedding mental health support

Mental health support is becoming increasingly important as more people report that confidence and mental health issues are barriers to employment. The Edinburgh Partnership must play a crucial role in developing and implementing solutions that address the scale of this challenge, ensuring that interventions are comprehensive and effective.

Single Point of Contact

To simplify access to employability services, the Edinburgh Guarantee has introduced a 'Single Point of Contact'. This initiative streamlines the referral process, making it easier for both organisations and individuals to navigate the complex array of support services available.

LOIP2 Case Study

We know that for many people their housing situation can impact their ability to find and sustain work. Access to Industry now have an embedded employability worker in the Council's Housing and Advice team to offer support to clients at risk of homelessness.

Donna was referred to the service in April 2024 to help support her re-entry into work since being made redundant in early 2023. With benefits not being enough to cover local rent rates set by private landlords, her tenancy was at risk and Donna descended further into debt each month to cover the cost of essentials. As a single parent to a young child with no family support, she was experiencing financial hardship and debt due to the spiraling cost of living and various costs associated with long standing legal issues. She regularly accessed the support of food banks. Paired with the financial hardship she was experiencing, Donna's continuous job searching was taking a toll on her mental health.

Donna met with her Access to Industry Caseworker on a regular basis and demonstrated a strong desire and motivation to find work. She took part in mock interviews that really boosted her confidence. She was signposted to Passion4Fusion, a community organization supporting BME families and attended wellbeing groups and creative activities. She reported this had been beneficial, helping her manage her mental health issues and remain resilient. Donna was also signposted to SmartWorks, who provided a free professional outfit fitting and a coaching session.

After months of relentless applications, Donna was delighted to receive a job offer in financial services. She continues to receive aftercare from Access to Industry to help her put in place the necessary arrangements for childcare and financial support in the lead up to her start date ensuring that her housing situation remains secure.

Priority 3: A good place to live

Lead: NHS Lothian, Public Health & Health Policy

Partners include: City of Edinburgh Council; Police Scotland; LAYC; EVOC; Fresh Start

What do we know?

Edinburgh's population is undergoing significant changes. Census data from 2022 indicates a 7.6% increase in the population since 2011. This demographic shift is also reflected in the growing diversity of the city, with 17.9% of Edinburgh's residents identifying as part of an ethnic minority in 2022.

The city's population is also ageing, a trend consistent with the broader Scottish demographic pattern. Currently, 15.3% of Edinburgh's population is under the age of 15, while 20.1% are over 65. This shift towards an older population poses challenges for service provision and community planning.

Life expectancy in Edinburgh remains higher than the Scottish average but reflects the national trend of stagnation. Inequality exacerbates disparities in life expectancy, with lower figures recorded in areas of the city facing higher levels of deprivation.

Despite these challenges, many Edinburgh residents continue to express positive feelings about their community, reporting a strong sense of belonging and feeling welcomed. However, significant issues of deprivation persist, particularly in the 20% most deprived areas, where residents report markedly worse experiences compared to those in less disadvantaged parts of the city.

These demographic insights are crucial for ensuring that Edinburgh remains a desirable place to live for all its residents. The Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) must address these changing demographics and collaborate with partners to develop responses that are inclusive, community-driven, and tailored to the diverse needs of the population.

How are we doing?

While the majority of Edinburgh residents report satisfaction with their neighbourhoods, there are areas where this is not the case. Recognising these disparities, LOIP 3 has adopted a targeted, test-of-change approach, utilising a whole-systems methodology in place-making efforts.

Progress continues in key test sites, including ongoing initiatives in Liberton and Craigmillar. This work is data-driven, focusing on what is known about these areas and identifying gaps in information. The gathered data has informed the development of recommendations and priorities for action.

LOIP KPI	2018	2019	2021	2022	Source
Satisfaction of neighbourhood as a place to live	96%	95%	97%	96%	SHS
Percent who feel safe when walking alone in local neighbourhood after dark	82%	81%	85%	81%	SHS
Percent who agree that in their local neighbourhood people from different backgrounds get on well together	71%	69%	72%	76%	SHS
Percent who agree that their local neighbourhood is somewhere local people take action to help improve the area	61%	61%	67%	72%	SHS
LOIP KPI	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Source
Number of new affordable home completions	1285	1251	800	TBC	CEC
Number of new affordable home approvals	1087	1041	1246	TBC	CEC
LOIP KPI	2017-2019	2018-2020	2019-2021	2020-2022	Source
Life expectancy (at birth)	Male - 78	Male - 78	Male – 78	Male – 78	NRS
	Female – 82	Female – 82	Female – 82	Female - 82	

A review of the delivery plan was conducted with input from the membership, enabling LOIP 3 to determine which actions are better suited for other initiatives and where the programme's activities should be concentrated. This review is particularly

relevant considering the proposed changes under the Transformation and Improvement programme led by the City of Edinburgh Council. Although still in the proposal stage, this programme has been incorporated into future planning for LOIP 3 and has influenced decisions on actions and areas of focus in the delivery plan. The evolving programme has also led to changes in membership as new teams and services are developed, which has proven to be a valuable adjustment.

Key achievements

Craigmillar whole systems approach work:

The work in Craigmillar has progressed beyond the initial test site phase into a more action-oriented Phase 2. This phase exemplifies effective partnership working, aligning various agendas and maximising capacity across multiple services. A significant aspect of this phase has been the comprehensive engagement with children and young people, gathering their insights on living in the area. This engagement led to the creation of a 'how to' guide focused on effectively involving children and young people in discussions about 'healthy places.' This guide will be rolled out citywide, serving as a tool for partners in similar initiatives. The issues raised by the young participants have been incorporated into a coordinated action plan, with a unified response from a broad range of partners.

Data driven approach

In Liberton, the test site work has utilised data to enhance understanding of the area's key issues. Four central themes have been identified as focal points, shaping the development of an action plan that is both relevant and up-to-date. The data, combined with insights from previous workshops, has informed a responsive and targeted approach to addressing local challenges.

City of Edinburgh Council Planning links:

In parallel with local test site activities, ongoing discussions with the City of Edinburgh Council's planning teams are exploring how LOIP 3 can support major initiatives such as City Plan 2030 and the development of City Plan 2040. While specific actions have yet to be determined, valuable connections have been established, and discussions are moving forward productively.

Challenges

Continued challenges around current economic circumstances affecting all members of the Partnership. This impacts on capacity and the ability of partners to fully engage with the LOIP 3 work programme

The Edinburgh Partnership Transformation and Improvement programme of work is underway and is proposing changes to how place work is structured and delivered in the City. This will have an impact on how LOIP 3 functions and structures its activities

LOIP 3 Case Study

Work in the Liberton test site has been ongoing as part of the LOIP 3 delivery plan. Initially, workshops were held to bring together statutory and voluntary services to identify priorities and challenges in the area. These sessions provided valuable insights from those working on the ground.

However, it was recognised that a refreshed focus was needed to ensure the information and themes remained current. To address this, a session with key partners reviewed updated data and intelligence to identify any new priorities. This included:

- Current demographics
- Local primary care data
- Edinburgh Survey (locality level)
- Community Empowerment team insights
- CEC Team Around the Learning Community data (Liberton High School focus)
- EVOC engagement findings

This review led to the identification of new themes and updates to existing ones. Notably, the area shows a demographic split between 'new' and 'old' neighbourhoods, each with distinct populations, highlighting the need for integration and future-proofing strategies. The review also provided a more nuanced understanding of poverty and inequality in the area.

While not a large-scale project, the impact on the test site has been positive. This work exemplifies the effectiveness of a place-based approach and underscores the value of using highly localised, both qualitative and quantitative, data.

Way Forward

As the Transformation and Improvement Programme progresses, we will focus on enhancing collaboration across all levels of the Edinburgh Partnership. This approach includes reducing unnecessary bureaucracy, improving cross-sector communication, and strengthening ties with third-sector organisations. Simplifying governance structures and clearly defining roles and responsibilities will develop a more effective community planning model that supports poverty prevention efforts.

We will engage continuously with local communities, partners, and stakeholders to ensure an inclusive and effective approach. Co-producing the implementation plan will enable us to leverage the collective strengths and insights of everyone involved in the community planning process.

Building on recent progress, we will prioritise key areas identified in the Transformation and Improvement Programme to drive further improvements in community planning. The development of a roadmap for poverty prevention in the city will provide short-term focus, with delivery plans ensuring transparency and accountability within partnership groups. Implementing an integrated performance framework, informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and potentially guided by Marmot principles, will offer a consistent method for monitoring and evaluating our initiatives. This will enable data-driven decisions, targeted efforts, and accurate measurement of progress, ensuring that the Partnership remains aligned with broader goals of poverty prevention in Edinburgh.