

# Policy and Sustainability Committee

10am, Tuesday, 22 October 2024

## End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report

Executive/routine  
Wards

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that Committee:
  - 1.1.1 Agrees the fourth annual progress report against Council and partnership actions in response to the findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission
  - 1.1.2 Notes the priority actions for development with partners during 2025
  - 1.1.3 Notes that this report, in line with statutory requirements, has been prepared in collaboration with NHS and Edinburgh Partnership colleagues, and that the report will be considered by the Edinburgh Partnership in December 2024.

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## End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report provides the fourth annual overview on progress made by the Council and partners in response to the calls to action made by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission. In doing so, the report meets the Council's statutory duty to publish a joint report with NHS Lothian on local actions to address child poverty, and provides a refreshed framework of priorities for action by the Council and partners during 2025.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 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. This report was considered by Policy and Sustainability Committee in [October 2020](#).
- 3.2 In [December 2020](#) the Policy and Sustainability Committee approved an End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan in response to the Commission's findings. During the same month, [Edinburgh Partnership](#) agreed a report on partnership actions arising from the Commission's findings for incorporation in the Edinburgh Community Plan.
- 3.3 These plans agreed an annual cycle of progress reporting against actions to end poverty in the city, aligned to the statutory duties held by the Council and NHS Lothian to produce an annual report on actions to reduce child poverty.
- 3.4 To meet this requirement, a single annual progress report is produced by Council and NHS Lothian officers for scrutiny by Council, appropriate NHS Lothian Boards, and the Edinburgh Partnership.
- 3.5 This is the third annual edition of these reports, following previous reports in [October 2021](#), [November 2022](#), and [October 2023](#).

## 4. Main report

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### Poverty in Edinburgh

- 4.1 The latest available data shows that an estimated 17% of people in Edinburgh were living in poverty in the period to 2023, including 20% of all children. In line with national patterns these data indicate that poverty rates have remained relatively unchanged in recent years.
- 4.2 The report shows that to meet the headline targets set by Scottish Government and the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, will require 36,000 people, including 8,600 children to be lifted out of poverty over the 7 years from 2023-30 in Edinburgh alone.
- 4.3 Evidence in the report shows that local and national actions have likely been successful in preventing child poverty rates from rising in recent years, but that a challenging macro-economic and policy environment lies ahead. Poverty rates across the UK are projected to rise by 1% in the period to 2030.

### Progress during 2024

- 4.4 Notwithstanding this challenging context, over the past 12 months, local partners have collaborated across the framework of actions outlined in the End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan. The report provides a comprehensive overview of these actions. Key examples of progress delivered in the past year include:
  - 4.4.1 Almost £24m generated for low income people in Edinburgh through money and welfare advice services delivered or commissioned by the Council and its partners. This represents a 20% increase on the total generated in the previous year.
  - 4.4.2 5,000 people supported through Council funded employability programmes, a 19% increase over the previous year's total.
  - 4.4.3 Three successful applications to Scottish Government funding programmes (Child Poverty Accelerator Fund, and Cash First Funds) to support tests of change projects on child and food poverty.
  - 4.4.4 Six new projects delivered through the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund to provide bespoke, holistic support to reduce the need for crisis interventions
  - 4.4.5 Projects delivered in projects in Murrayburn, Dumbryden and Hailesland that have helped over 900 homes become more energy efficient
  - 4.4.6 Creation of the new Regenerative Futures Fund, a third sector led programme bringing £15m of new investment to help end poverty in Edinburgh over the next decade
- 4.5 These actions have been supported in part by the decision of Council to allocate an additional £500,000 investment in actions to address poverty in the 2024/25 Council Budget. This investment is helping to:

- 4.5.1 Provide additional money and welfare advisor capacity embedded in food banks, food pantries, and other community settings
- 4.5.2 Deliver pilot programmes for improved triage systems in money advice providers to help maximise advisor capacity and promote easy access to support
- 4.5.3 Provide additional capacity for translation services for money advice providers to improve accessibility of support for people for whom English is a second language
- 4.5.4 Provide additional capacity to the Council's Welfare and Benefits team to make direct crisis payments to people in need
- 4.5.5 Develop pilot programmes – working with partners such as Smart Data Foundry – for new data driven innovation approaches to identify areas and individuals who may benefit from targeted financial inclusion support as a means to maximise benefits uptake.

### **Priorities for 2025**

- 4.6 In September 2024, the Edinburgh Partnership agreed to the development of a new roadmap to accelerate and improve the city wide actions needed to prevent poverty in Edinburgh. This roadmap provides a focus on five areas of improvement to form the basis of priority work by the Council and partners during 2025. These areas include:
  - 4.6.1 Improving core services
  - 4.6.2 Maximising incomes
  - 4.6.3 Economic inclusion
  - 4.6.4 Health and wellbeing, and
  - 4.6.5 Area based anti-poverty alliances
- 4.7 Initial scoping for these workstreams is currently underway by officers across partnership agencies, with a report providing 12 month improvement plans for the programme planned for discussion in December 2024.
- 4.8 This work will be taken forward in alignment with Council service improvement plans, the Edinburgh Partnership Transformation and Improvement Programme, and with the findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission 2024 Interim Review process currently underway.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 Subject to approval by Committee, this report will be referred for further consideration and approval by Edinburgh Partnership and NHS Strategic Boards. On final approval by all agencies the report will be submitted to Scottish

Government in line with statutory duties under the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

## 5.2 Further next steps include

5.2.1 Further development of Poverty prevention workstreams outlined above for consideration by Edinburgh Partnership in December 2024, with further reports and updates to Council to follow as required.

5.2.2 Continuation of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission Interim Review process (see update provided in Appendix 3 to this paper).

5.2.3 Continued updates on key Council workstreams referenced throughout this report to executive committees as appropriate.

## 6. Financial impact

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6.1 All actions in this report are taken forward by Council services within agreed budgets. Any adjustments needed to the contents of this report following agreement of the Council's 2025/26 budget will be reported to and considered by committee as appropriate.

## 7. Equality and Poverty Impact

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7.1 This report sets out a framework of actions being undertaken by the Council and partners to reduce poverty in Edinburgh. In doing so, specific plans and actions in the report are developed with integrated impact assessments carried out by services, and in line with the Equality and Diversity Framework. Towards this, the report highlights specific analysis and actions taken to address the needs of priority equalities groups in the city.

## 8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

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8.1 This report does not itself contain any direct environmental or climate related implications. Elements of the framework – including housing, transport, and place making actions – which have clear climate impacts are subject to integrated impact assessments with details scrutinised through relevant executive committees. In doing so, this report and the framework it describes is in line with the Council Business Plan, and the Council's statutory duties relating to climate emissions and biodiversity.

## 9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

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9.1 This report is developed in response to the findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission and its two year enquiry with communities across Edinburgh into solutions to poverty in the city. The report and its actions are further informed by Policy and Sustainability Committee – 22 October 2024

ongoing engagement and co-design of services with community sector partners, and citizen led groups such as End Poverty Edinburgh, and the Whole Family Equality Project.

- 9.2 Actions in this report are delivered in line with the Council Business Plan and corporate risk management frameworks. The report draws together actions and decisions made by executive committees across a range of topics. Appendix 2 to this paper provides an overview of key committee papers discussed during 2024 and with direct relevance to actions in this report.

## **10. Background reading/external references**

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- 10.1 Edinburgh Poverty Commission Final Report – Policy and Sustainability Committee, October 2020.
- 10.2 Poverty Prevention update – Edinburgh Partnership, September 2024

## **11. Appendices**

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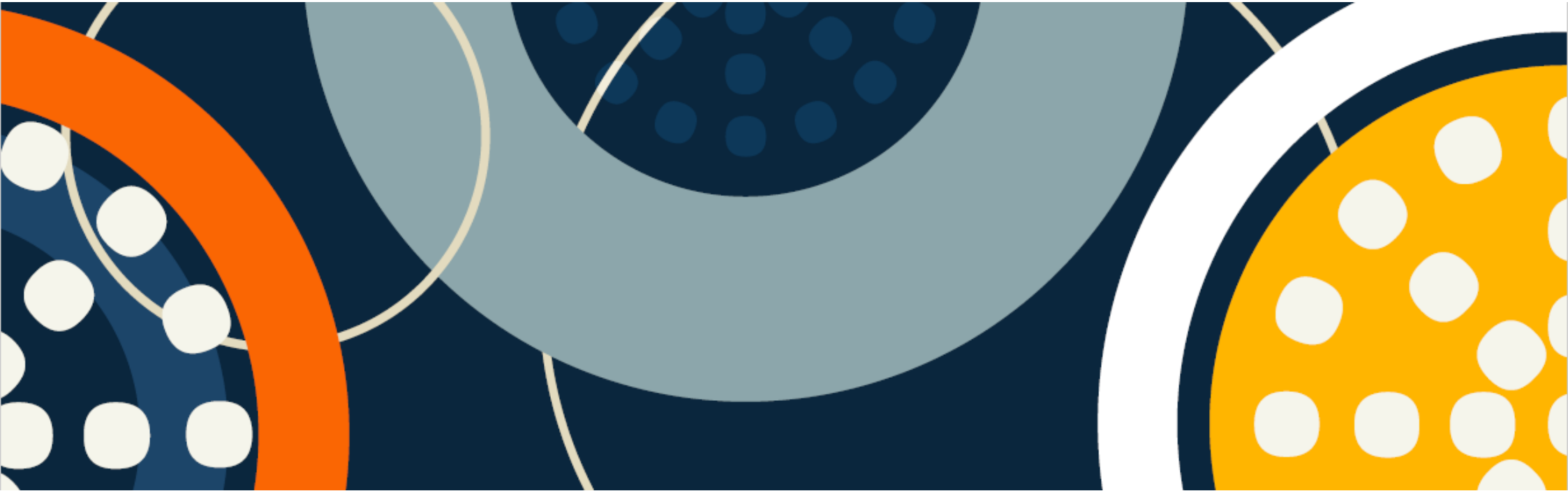
Appendix 1: End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report 2023

Appendix 2: Council scrutiny of end poverty actions

Appendix 3: Edinburgh Poverty Commission Interim Review Progress update

# End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report

2024



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# Foreword

This is the fourth annual report since the Edinburgh Partnership and City of Edinburgh Council made their public commitment to take all local actions possible to end poverty in this city by 2030.

These remain challenging times for the 80,000 people in our city who are living on incomes below the UK poverty threshold, and we are more motivated than ever to create the conditions and provide support to help them stay afloat.

As city partners we have taken steps to help put more money directly into the pockets of people who need it most. The city's money and welfare advice services have delivered £24m of financial gains for Edinburgh citizens (a 20% increase on previous years).

We have helped people maximise their earnings from employment, by supporting almost 5,000 people into work or learning – a 19% increase on last year's figure.

We built more new Council homes in 2023/24 than the previous two years combined, and we are delivering on our Housing Emergency Action Plan to address the biggest driver of poverty and destitution in Edinburgh.

While doing all this, we are also building the foundations for longer term prevention of poverty. We have supported the launch of the new Regenerative Futures Fund, a UK first programme seeking to bring £15m of investment to help communities shape solutions to poverty in this city. We are delivering six Whole Family Wellbeing Fund projects to support the whole system transformational change needed to reduce the need for crisis intervention and move towards prevention and early intervention. We are using a range of intelligence, including insights from the recent Lothian Public Health Survey, as well as working with partners – such as the Smart Data Foundry – to establish new data driven innovation methods to improve the targeting of our work to end poverty.

The actions described in this report are the right things for us to do, and as the data and case studies here demonstrate, they represent real progress and real improvements to the lives of people who are struggling to get by in this city. We are proud of those improvements, but we know that they come at a time when the risk of severe poverty in Edinburgh is rising, and when one in five children still grow up in poverty in Scotland's most affluent city.

It is because of that knowledge that we are committed to developing a new roadmap of actions to improve and accelerate the system changes needed to prevent poverty in Edinburgh.

This builds on recommendations in the NHS Lothian Director of Public Health 2022 Annual Report, and the NHS Lothian Strengthened Approach to Prevention. Both documents highlight the need to focus on children and young people's health and wellbeing as part of a wider prevention and early intervention approach to address inequalities in the building blocks for a healthy life, including tackling poverty as a driver of these inequalities.

Our work to address poverty will be supported by the continued work of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission and the End Poverty Edinburgh Citizen's group, who are currently undertaking their independent review of the city's, and national government's response to their 2020 calls to action.

We know 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 and continuing that path of improvement through the priority actions set out in this report. We hope that you will work with us to help deliver our vision of a city where no one's life needs to be scarred by the experience of long-term poverty.

**Councillor Cammy Day**  
Council Leader, City of Edinburgh  
Council & Chair, Edinburgh  
Partnership

**Dona Milne**  
Director of Public Health and Health  
Policy  
NHS Lothian

# Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of progress made in the past year by the City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian, and Edinburgh Partnership to meet the calls to action set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, including specific actions to address child poverty.

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 Scottish Government Child poverty targets.

## Poverty in Edinburgh

The latest available data shows that an estimated **17% of people in Edinburgh were living in poverty in the period to 2023, including 20% of all children**. In line with national patterns these data indicate that poverty rates have remained relatively unchanged in recent years.

The report shows that to meet the headline targets set by Scottish Government and the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, we will require **36,000 people, including 8,600 children to be lifted out of poverty over the 7 years from 2023-30 in Edinburgh alone**.

Evidence in the report shows that local and national actions have likely been successful in preventing child poverty rates from rising in recent years, but that a challenging macro-economic and policy environment lies ahead. Poverty rates across the UK are projected to **rise by 1% by 2030**.

Alongside this, long term trends show an increase in the severity of poverty in the city, with rates of very deep poverty and destitution **having risen by 23%** in Edinburgh between 2019 and 2022. Significant variations in poverty risk are also evident between population groups and local communities in Edinburgh, with the Lothian Public Health Survey showing higher rates of food insecurity and fuel poverty amongst younger adults, for example. Households with large families, disabled adults, or children, lone or young parents, and Black and

minority ethnic households all show continued heightened risk of poverty. At the same time, on a spatial/geographical level **child poverty rates in the city vary from over 30% in Leith to less than 10% in Morningside**.

## Actions to end poverty in Edinburgh

Over the past 12 months, local partners have collaborated across the framework of actions outlined in the **End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan**. These include actions across four headline themes

### 1. Increase income from work and opportunity to progress:

This includes actions this year to:

- Promote the **real Living Wage**, with the number of accredited employers in the city rising to **756** at a rate of increase well ahead of annual targets.
- Launch partner engagement on a new city-wide **Edinburgh Fair Work Charter** for employers and workers
- Support **4,948 people into work and learning, including over 1,284 young people** through Council funded employability programmes
- Provide targeted employability support for people from child poverty priority groups, including **1,900 people from ethnically diverse backgrounds**, and **1,500 people from families with a disabled child or adult**
- Continue to deliver and develop the **Discover! programme** for families with children at risk of poverty, including new term time programmes in addition to school holiday support
- Agree a **£10m package of investment** for organisations supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged young people and their families right across Edinburgh through the Connected Communities Fund

**2. Maximise support from social safety nets:** This includes actions this year that have:

- Helped over **20,000 low income people** in Edinburgh achieve total financial gains of almost **£24m** through money and welfare advice services
- Delivered specialist support programmes targeted at child poverty priority groups with money advice support embedded and referred through **early years' centres, schools, midwives, health visitors, hospitals, locality recovery hubs, community mental health and GP practices across the city**
- Invested **£500,000 of additional Council funds** to expand money and debt advice capacity, improve benefits uptake rates; and provide additional capacity for the Council's welfare and benefits programmes
- Delivered **£194m** for Edinburgh citizens through locally administered benefits such as housing benefit, DHP, and Council Tax Reduction
- Delivered **£2.4m in Crisis Grants** and **£1.8m in Community Care Grants** to people in need of support across Edinburgh
- Delivered early intervention support **to prevent 461 households from homelessness** and **supported 685 households to move on from temporary accommodation**
- Made three successful bids for **£360,000** of additional Scottish Government investment in child and food poverty innovations through the **Child Poverty Accelerator Fund** and **Cash First** programmes

**3. Reduce the cost of living:** This includes local actions this year that have:

- Launched and begun implementation of a new **Housing Emergency Action Plan** focused on reducing homelessness, improving access to housing and housing advice, improving the supply and quality of housing across the city, preventing harm and improving the experience of tenants in Council housing

- Completed **934 new affordable homes** in Edinburgh, including **177 new Council homes**, and **208 other social rented** homes
- Delivered projects in Murrayburn, Dumbryden and Hailesland that have seen over **900 homes made more energy efficient**. These projects are benefiting over 670 council tenants and 230 private residents with lower energy bills and reducing their energy consumption already
- Provided **subsidised childcare places** for working families in four areas of the city through Edinburgh's Affordable Childcare for Working Parents service

**4. Make it easier to find help:** This includes local actions this year to:

- Support creation of the new **Regenerative Futures Fund**, a third sector led programme bringing £15m of new investment to help end poverty in Edinburgh over the next decade
- Establish six new projects through the **Whole Family Wellbeing Fund** including those to improve access to childcare and youth work opportunities as well as providing access to more holistic early support to reduce the need for crisis interventions
- Continue to deliver place-based pilot projects for early intervention and integrated support underway in **Craigmillar, Liberton, and Craigroyston**
- Deliver pilots of a new **Lightning Reach** digital tool to help citizens and frontline workers find support available in the city
- Begin work with **Smart Data Foundry** on a pilot data driven innovation project to help identify areas and individuals who may benefit from targeted financial inclusion support
- Deliver **poverty, income maximisation, and homelessness prevention training** to housing officers, community centre staff, librarians, parent and family support workers, health visitors, police officers, midwives, family nurses and other workers.

**Priority Actions for 2025**

In September 2024, the Edinburgh Partnership agreed to the development of a new roadmap to accelerate and improve the city-wide actions needed to prevent poverty in Edinburgh.

Building on the End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan framework set out in this report, this roadmap will establish a new partnership wide programme for system change across five inter-related workstreams. Initial scoping and development of the programme will be considered by the Edinburgh Partnership in December 2024, with 12 month action plans for implementation throughout 2025.

### Workstream 1 **Improving Core services**

- Ensuring public services that deliver to those in greatest need are of the highest possible quality, joined up, and fit for purpose to provide a service experience that is humane, compassionate, and easy to navigate.

### Workstream 2 **Maximising incomes**

- Delivering strategic changes needed to improve access to high quality money, debt and welfare advice making sure citizens are able to access all the benefits they are entitled to, and manage financial pressures.

### Workstream 3 **Economic inclusion**

- Ensuring that economic opportunity in the city is available to those in greatest need and that employment is translated into income growth.

### Workstream 4 **Health and wellbeing**

- Ensuring the places where people live support them to be physically and mentally well, and targeting physical and mental health programmes in the areas and across the communities which need them most

### Workstream 5 **Area based poverty alliances**

- Assembling local partnerships across Edinburgh which bring together voluntary sector agencies with key public services with the aim of providing integrated support to those already in need, or those at risk of being in need.

## **EDINBURGH POVERTY COMMISSION INTERIM REVIEW**

The calls to action made by the **Edinburgh Poverty Commission** in 2020 provide a core reference point for all work conducted by partners to prevent and address the effects of poverty in Edinburgh.

2025 will mark the mid-point between the publication of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission's final report and the 2030 targets set out in its calls to action for the city. In advance of that threshold, in 2022 City of Edinburgh Council and the Edinburgh Partnership agreed that the members of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission would be invited to reconvene during 2024 to provide an interim review of progress made in the city towards 2030 targets.

All original independent members were invited to an inception and scoping session in June this year. At this session, the commission agreed that the review process would be conducted and led in partnership with members of the End Poverty Edinburgh citizen's group with a focus on three priorities:

- **Reviewing progress** made in the past four years, meeting those calls to action.
- **Reiterating and restating** the core principles and findings of the original commission, the evidence they were drawn from, and their continued relevance.
- **Refreshing the calls to action.** Considering new evidence and looking ahead to actions needed over the next five years.

The commission's main inquiry work began during Autumn 2024, with findings planned for publication during early 2025. In doing so, the review process and findings are intended to support the development of transformation and poverty prevention programmes currently underway across the City of Edinburgh Council and the Edinburgh Partnership.

# Introduction

In the Autumn of 2020, the Edinburgh Partnership and City of Edinburgh Council made a commitment to take 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 fourth annual report on progress towards meeting that challenge. The report sets out:

- An overview of the latest data and evidence on changing trends in poverty in Edinburgh
- A review of actions delivered in 2024 by the Council, NHS Lothian, and the Edinburgh Partnership across each of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission calls to action, as well as
- Planned priority actions for partners during the next 12 months

In doing so, and in line with the recommendations of the Commission, this report incorporates the statutory duty for all Councils and NHS boards to produce an annual Local Child Poverty Action Report.



## What do we mean when we say 'End Poverty'?

In making its calls to actions, the Edinburgh Poverty Commission<sup>1</sup> noted that:

*"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 Partnership and the City of Edinburgh Council have adopted four specific local targets for the actions set out in this report. They state that by 2030, Edinburgh should aim to be a city in which:

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

These local targets align with nationwide targets set out in the [Child Poverty \(Scotland\) Act 2017](#) such that:

- Fewer than 10% of children should be living in families in relative poverty by 2030.
- Fewer than 5% of children should be living in families in absolute poverty by 2030.
- Fewer than 5% of children should be living in families living in combined low income and material deprivation by 2030.
- Fewer than 5% of children should be living in families in persistent poverty by 2030.

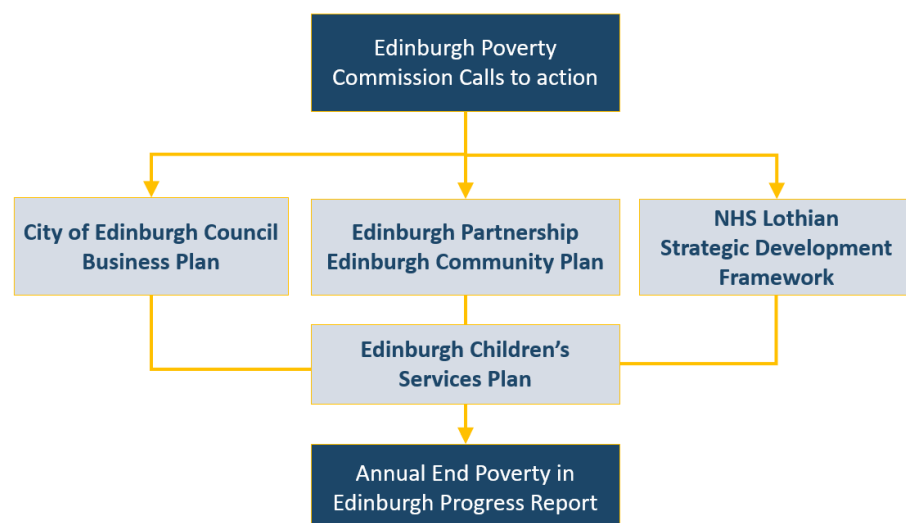


## Strategic context

These local targets and the actions needed to deliver them are embedded throughout the strategic plans and governance frameworks of the Edinburgh Partnership, the City of Edinburgh Council, and NHS Lothian. This report draws these end poverty actions together into a single plan, updated every year. The report aims to provide a single, comprehensive view of the steps being taken across the city in response to the challenge and calls to action set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission.

The report is developed by a multi-agency officer working group with support and contributions from a wide range of colleagues from the Council, NHS Lothian, third sector and other partners.

Before submission to Scottish Government, in line with the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act, the report is scrutinized by relevant committees of Edinburgh Partnership, City of Edinburgh Council, and NHS Lothian.



The **Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan for 2022-28** drives partnership-wide actions needed to end poverty, including actions to ensure people have enough money to live on, can access work, learning and training opportunities, and have a good place to live. This focus on poverty prevention and early intervention forms a key part of the partnership's current **Transformation and Improvement Plan** programme which aims to improve the impact of community planning in the city.

The **Edinburgh Children's Services Plan for 2023-26**, provides a focus on tackling child poverty and ensuring that all of Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and achieve their potential. The plan includes actions to

- reduce the costs needed for children, young people, and families to fully participate in the city,
- ensure all services and staff are aware of, and supported to participate in poverty prevention and awareness training,
- use a data driven, evidence-based approach to child poverty work
- make sure future children's service commissioning is informed by a poverty lens and a rights-based approach, and
- support a test of change, focusing on an identified population, designing and evaluating interventions related to poverty prevention and mitigation

The **Council Business Plan** guides the work of the City of Edinburgh Council over the period 2023 to 27. This plan incorporates the target to 'end poverty by 2030' as one of three headline priorities to drive budget and service decision making.

The **NHS Lothian Strategic Development Framework** (LSDF) sets out the role the NHS plays as an Anchor Institution in the region as being "*central to our contribution towards improving population health and wellbeing and tackling poverty and inequalities*". The LSDF also includes a focus on children and young people with workstreams focusing on improving maternal health and tackling poverty; infant and child health and wellbeing; adolescent health and wellbeing; and The Promise.for children, young people, and their families.

## CASE STUDY: EDINBURGH POVERTY NETWORK

The **Edinburgh Poverty Network** is an informal meeting series launched in 2021 and open to all organisations and projects working to end poverty in the city.

Virtual meetings are held monthly and take a themed approach focusing on areas of common challenge, and common interest. Meetings include presentations from local partners and Scotland wide specialists, alongside evidence from citizens highlighting lived experience of the issues under discussion.

The sessions 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.

Themes discussed during 2024 have included:

- The role of further education in helping to end poverty
- Poverty and wellbeing – featuring speakers from [Carnegie UK](#)
- Learning from Fife’s approach to tackling poverty
- Actions to end poverty-related hunger in Edinburgh
- Low pay and insecure work in the hospitality industry – featuring speakers from the [Poverty Alliance](#)
- Poverty and digital exclusion
- Affordable childcare and supporting parents into work, and
- Edinburgh’s Housing Strategy

If you would like to join a network session, or would like to suggest a topic for discussion, please contact us at [policyandinsight@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:policyandinsight@edinburgh.gov.uk) using the subject line ‘**Edinburgh Poverty Network**’

## CASE STUDY: MAKING BETTER USE OF FUNDING

Edinburgh’s network of statutory funders is working hard to improve the impact of public funds allocated to supporting people in or at risk of poverty.

This is being carried out through improvements to the collection and use of data to target interventions on priority groups, and through involving people with lived experience more directly in service design.

Third sector organisations who are funded to deliver employability and education outcomes are now asked to both target and collect data on the six priority family groups identified as being in high risk of poverty. This allows funders to identify and address gaps in service and improve targeting of resources – whether by family group, or geographical area.

At the same time, Employability and Lifelong Learning services (such as the Multiply programme) are tracked via Capital City Partnership’s Helix system. This is now beginning to give useful trend information to track the achievements of families that meet the priority group criteria and evaluate the impact of programmes.

Partners are also focused on ensuring that people with lived experience of poverty are part of design and decision-making processes.

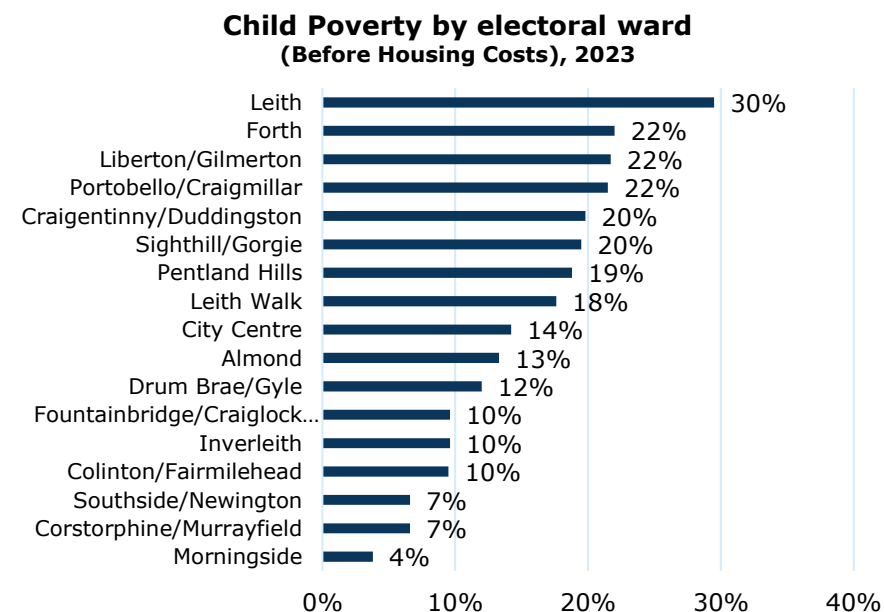
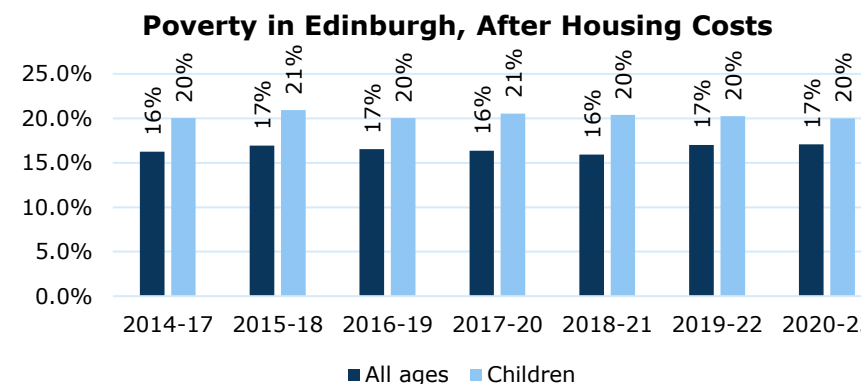
In one example, parents were invited to join scoring panels to look at grant applications for projects aimed at improving the employability of parents. They were offered training and recompensed for their time and their insight and experiences were central to appraisal and awarding of funding. A wide-ranging client feedback project has been undertaken (via focus groups and surveys) to ascertain how people want their services to be delivered and what support they require.

# Poverty in Edinburgh: What the data tells us

A full analysis of the latest data on poverty trends, including progress against key progress indicators and associated measures is provided in **Appendix 1** to this report.

In summary, the data shows that:

- An estimated **17% of people** in Edinburgh were living in poverty in the period to spring 2023, accounting for over 87,000 individuals<sup>ii</sup>.
- These included over 17,200 children, **or 20% of all children in the city**.
- **10%** of all residents (including 14% of all children) had been living in poverty for **three of the past four years**
- To meet the headline targets set by Scottish Government and the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, requires **36,000 people, including 8,600 children to be lifted out of poverty over the 7 years from 2023-30 in Edinburgh alone**.
- This comes within a challenging macro-economic and policy environment in which poverty rates across the UK are projected to **rise by 1% in the period to 2030<sup>iii</sup>**.
- Long term trends show an increase in the severity of poverty across the UK. Rates of very deep poverty and destitution **rose by 23%** in Edinburgh between 2019 and 2022<sup>iv</sup>
- Households in key priority groups show a heightened risk of poverty and destitution. Two thirds of all people in destitution have a long term **chronic health condition or disability**, while around 40% of all **lone parent or minority ethnic households** are in poverty.
- Child poverty rates vary significantly across areas Edinburgh, ranging from over **30% in Leith**, to less than **10% in Morningside<sup>v</sup>**.





## CASE STUDY: POLICE SCOTLAND, THE PILTON PROJECT

Clear, Hold, Build (CHB) is a partnership approach designed to reduce the number of Serious and Organised Crime Groups (SOC), crime levels and serious violence within communities in a sustainable way.

It is designed to tackle one or a combination of SOC related threats, including, but not limited to: criminal networks, priority locations, SOC vulnerabilities and priority individuals bringing together a range of partners, including the community itself.

Using data and evidence, West Pilton was chosen as a project site. Current priorities are child and adult criminal exploitation, quality of housing stock and the poor condition of the local environment.

**As an example of case:** police found that a young mother, living with her extended family, was dealing drugs at the behest of others. Her young son had been exposed to the dealing activity but there was no open case with social work, or any other services. On top of this, the family were facing eviction within days as their private let was being repossessed by the mortgage lender, through no fault of theirs.

Recognising the stress on the entire family and the clear child concern, immediate contact was made with social services and safeguarding put in place. A referral was then made with the family's consent to a local navigator service – NESSie, primarily to help with the housing. A relationship with this service has been established through The Pilton Project team and this enabled a direct referral and almost immediate support. Through this, the family were able to get additional time, the local authority is now processing their housing claim with full knowledge of their circumstance and the child can attend school locally without disruption.

Follow-up visits to the family by the team have developed a positive relationship and there is no evidence of a recurrence of drug dealing activity.'

## CASE STUDY: DEVELOPING AN ANTI-STIGMA CHARTER

**Capital City Partnership** are collaborating with the City of Edinburgh Council, the Making it Work for Families Project, and the End Poverty Edinburgh group to develop resources and build an **Anti-Stigma Charter** into training and learning for workers and organisations across in Edinburgh

Evidence shows that stigma about poverty can be wide-ranging, impacting peoples' health and wellbeing and creating inequalities.

This Anti-Stigma Charter is a commitment to eliminating poverty-related stigma across Scotland, promoting **dignity, equality, and inclusivity** for individuals and families.

The core principles of the Charter were developed with the insights of parents and young people with lived experience of poverty and stigma who are currently engaging with projects across Edinburgh and the wider City Region.

The Charter is designed for anyone working to support individuals and families, including practitioners, project staff, community and statutory organisations.

The training and learning will initially be rolled out to Edinburgh Council staff.

# Actions to End Poverty in Edinburgh

*“Poverty in Edinburgh is real, damaging and costly – but despite the powerful currents that threaten to drive us further off course, there is enough determination in the city to embrace the twin challenges of solving poverty and reducing carbon emissions over the next decade.”*

**Dr Jim McCormick, Chair of Edinburgh Poverty Commission**

Against a context of stubbornly low-income growth, high living costs, and a local housing emergency, the challenge of meeting Edinburgh’s poverty goals is clear.

This section sets out the actions needed to end poverty in Edinburgh, building on the original findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission and including:

- **Calls to action for UK and Scottish Governments**
- **A framework for local action, and**
- **Edinburgh’s priority actions for 2025**

## **Calls to action for national governments**

From implementation of core policies such as the Scottish Child Payment, as well as temporary policy introductions made during the Covid pandemic and cost of living crisis, the powerful impact that policy levers held by national governments can have on poverty levels across the country is clear.

It is for that reason that the Edinburgh Poverty Commission noted that, while city partners have many levers they can use to alleviate and prevent poverty in Edinburgh, the headline targets set for the city cannot be met without significant national policy intervention.

Ahead of the findings from the interim review of progress currently underway by the Commission, this report reiterates the calls to action for national

governments made by the Commission in its 2020 report. These calls have been repeated in recent years by local and national partners and include requests for:

- The **UK Government** to ensure that UK-wide social security systems provide an effective lifeline for people who are struggling to get by. This means actions such as ensuring Local Housing Allowances are set at levels that reflect the cost of housing in Edinburgh, and removal of UK social security features such as such as the five-week wait, the two-child cap, and the benefit cap, and
- **Scottish Government** funding to support delivery new social rented homes in Edinburgh and support Edinburgh’s Housing Emergency Action Plan. Almost one in three families in Edinburgh in poverty are pulled below the water line solely due to their housing costs. Helping to solve the city’s housing crisis will go a long way to delivering on the government’s own affordable housing ambitions for the country as a whole.

The delivery of these actions would have a profound impact on the targets noted above and provide a strong platform for local actions to concentrate on improving the life chances of people and communities in Edinburgh.

## **A framework for local delivery**

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

Partners in Edinburgh are committed to a framework of actions designed to respond to all the calls to action from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission.

Across all the plans and strategies noted earlier in this report, the actions of city partners are focused on four core themes:

5. **Increase income from work and opportunity to progress** - this includes actions to:
  - Promote fair work that provides dignity and security
  - Help people to access and progress in work, and
  - Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty.
6. **Maximise support from social safety nets** - this includes actions to:
  - Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other support
  - Deliver well targeted cash first and local crisis support programmes, and
  - Help prevent homelessness
7. **Reduce the cost of living** - this includes local actions to:
  - Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in
  - Provide targeted support for rising energy costs
  - Improve access to affordable childcare, and
  - Improve digital inclusion and access to affordable transport
8. **Make it easier to find help** - this includes local actions to:
  - Deliver integrated, 'no wrong door' approaches to service delivery and prevention of poverty
  - Provide the support people need, in the places they live and work, and
  - Deliver poverty awareness training programmes that addresses stigma and supports public sector workers to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do.



The next chapter in this report provides an overview of progress against delivery of actions in this framework during the 12 months to the end of September 2024.

### Edinburgh's Priority Actions for 2025

During 2024, and in advance of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission Interim Review currently underway, partners in Edinburgh have developed an outline SWOT analysis of Edinburgh's current local approaches and progress in preventing poverty in the city.

In summary, this analysis found that (as evidenced throughout this report):

- Partners can show demonstrable improvements in collaboration and joint working in recent years,
- There is clear evidence of the significant impact that local interventions are having on the lives of people in poverty in Edinburgh

- But the rate and scale of progress has not yet been sufficient to meet the targets for poverty reduction set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, or Scottish Government.

Following discussions in September 2024, the Edinburgh Partnership agreed that partners actions in 2025 should focus on the development of a **roadmap for partnership transformation** on five priority areas<sup>vi</sup>.

This roadmap will be developed in line with the emerging findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission Interim Review, and support and align to other key actions plans across the city (including Edinburgh’s Housing Emergency Action Plan).

The roadmap will focus on city wide, partnership actions to:

1. **Improve core service delivery** – ensuring public services that deliver to those in greatest need are of the highest possible quality (including housing, health and wellbeing, neighbourhood, community services and others), joined up, and fit for purpose to provide a service experience that is humane, compassionate, and easy to navigate
2. **Maximise incomes and minimise costs** – providing easy access to high quality money, debt and welfare advice making sure citizens are able to access all the benefits they are entitled to, reduce living costs, and manage financial pressures
3. **Improve economic inclusion** – ensuring that economic opportunity in the city is available to those in greatest need and that employment is translated into income growth
4. **Improve health and well-being**– Ensuring the places where people live support them to be physically and mentally well, and targeting physical and mental health programmes in the areas and across the communities which need them most

5. **Build and support area based anti-poverty alliances** - assembling local partnerships across Edinburgh which bring together voluntary sector agencies with key public services with the aim of providing integrated support to those already in need, or those at risk of being in need.

In support of these five priority workstreams, a series of cross-cutting enabling actions will be undertaken including:

- Development of a new **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, with a focus on children and families**, to support improved clarity of purpose and direction for strategic programmes
- A review of current approaches to third sector funding
- Action to develop a strong financial case for poverty prevention action to ensure that poverty reduction can be meaningfully incorporated within partner budget decision processes
- Development of data driven innovation support for poverty prevention programmes, including digital tools to help programmes identify early indicators that people may need help, and
- A framework for consistent and meaningful evaluation of the outcomes, impacts, costs, and benefits of poverty prevention programmes, designed to highlight what works and driving improvement.

Initial scoping work for this programme began in September 2024, with outline plans in development for consideration by the Edinburgh Partnership in December 2024.

## CASE STUDY: END POVERTY EDINBURGH CITIZEN GROUP

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**End Poverty Edinburgh** is a group of citizens with real experience of poverty in this city. The group was formed in 2020 during the latter stages of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission as a legacy group, tasked with holding the baton in the long-term movement to end poverty in Edinburgh, continuing to raise awareness of poverty, influence decision-making, and hold the city to account for the commitments it has made.

The group is supported by the Poverty Alliance and with funding secured through independent funders and Edinburgh's UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan.

During the past year End Poverty Edinburgh members have participated and made their voices heard in around 40 meetings, including regular meetings with **elected officials** – local and national, the monthly **Edinburgh Poverty Network** and **Menu for All Steering Group** and others.

End Poverty Edinburgh have provided media interviews on television and radio, contributed to written pieces online, and presented at various events to spread awareness and increase their reach. In doing so, the group have added two new members and will continue to expand membership going forward.

Key highlights for the group during the year have included:

- Planned, organised, and delivered citizen-led events including a second annual citizen's conference as part of **Challenge Poverty Week** in October 2024
- Hosted a public online hustings focussed on poverty for **UK General Election** in June 2024
- Participated in the design and establishment of the [Regenerative Futures Fund](#) programme, which aims to bring £15m of new investment to end poverty in Edinburgh
- Presented at the '**Tackling Food Insecurity: A Cash First Approach Journey**' event in March 2024
- Presented and supported discussions at a Council staff conference focused on '**Building a Prevention led Council**'
- Held regular meetings with the convenor of the City of Edinburgh Council **Homelessness, Housing and Fair work** Committee
- Appeared on BBC news – [How the cashless society is hurting the poorest](#) in May 2024
- Published **4 blog pieces** reflecting the lived experience of poverty in Edinburgh
- Provided a response to the Scottish Parliament's call for views on the **National Care Service** (Scotland) Bill (Stage 2)

For regular updates on **End Poverty Edinburgh** activity, please visit them at their [website](#), or follow them on [social media](#).

# End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan: Progress during 2024

## End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan

- Promote fair work that provides dignity and security
- Help people to access and progress in work
- Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty

**Increase income from work and opportunity to progress**

**Maximise support from social safety nets**

- Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other support
- Deliver well targeted cash first and local crisis support programmes
- Help prevent homelessness

- Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in
- Provide targeted support for rising energy costs
- Improve access to affordable childcare
- Improve digital inclusion and access to affordable transport

**Reduce the cost of living**

**Make it easier to find help**

- Deliver integrated, 'no wrong door' approaches to service delivery and prevention of poverty
- Provide the support people need, in the places they live and work
- Deliver poverty awareness training programmes that address stigma

## A: Increasing incomes from work and opportunities to progress

Action	Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025
<p>Promoting fair work that provides dignity and security</p>	<p>The <b>Edinburgh Living Wage Action Group</b> in 2024 have continued their work to promote fair work and the take up of Living Wage Accreditation among city employers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As of September 2024, a total of <b>756 Edinburgh businesses</b> are accredited real Living Wage employers,</li> <li>• During the first five months of financial year 2023/24, the city has recorded <b>44 new living wage accreditations</b>, ahead of the city's target of 100 new accreditations per annum. As a direct result of these new accreditations a total of <b>360 workers</b> have already received a pay rise this financial year alone so far</li> <li>• In June 2024, the group represented the city at the second <b>national Living Wage Places conference</b> held in Newcastle</li> <li>• In November 2024, the group will be celebrating <b>Living Wage Week 2024</b> with series of news releases and publications to thank accredited businesses for their commitment to providing decent incomes for workers in Edinburgh.</li> <li>• In addition to living wage, there are now <b>13 Living Hours accredited employers</b> in Edinburgh.</li> </ul> <p>In support of this work, in 2024 the City of Edinburgh Council also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reported that a total of <b>96% of all regulated suppliers pay a real Living Wage</b>, with <b>45% being fully accredited real Living Wage employers<sup>vii</sup></b>. Work is underway to reach out to non-accredited suppliers to encourage and support them to commit to living wage accreditation.</li> <li>• Began stakeholder engagement for a new <b>Edinburgh Fair Work Charter</b> to provide guidance and support for employers and policy makers in the city. This charter builds on work developed for implementation on the Forth Green Freeports site, with an aim to develop a single framework and support network for businesses and workers across the city.</li> <li>• Began formal scoping and audit work to support development of new <b>Community Wealth Building</b> approaches in Edinburgh, including actions to further promote fair work and just labour markets.</li> </ul> <p>NHS Lothian is also an accredited Living Wage Employer. This includes directly employed staff as well as third party, including sub-contractor, staff who work regularly on our sites or premises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anchors metrics submitted to Scottish Government for 22/23 showed that 100% of newly awarded contracts were with suppliers that were Real Living Wage Accredited (or committed to paying the Real Living Wage) (data not yet available for 23/24)</li> </ul>

Action	Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025																																			
<b>Helping people to access and progress in work</b>	<p>While Edinburgh continues to have a strong labour market, there are still many people in low-income employment which does not lift them out of poverty. Our focus has therefore not only been on supporting people into employment but supporting them into well-paid employment and working with people to progress in employment.</p> <p>During the last year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council funded programmes provided employability and skills support for <b>4,948 people, including 1,284 young people</b></li> <li>• The <b>Edinburgh Guarantee</b> continued to support all ages; a new, improved website is under development to support both employers and residents; and became the Single Point of Contact for employability referrals from the Department of Work and Pensions as of 1 April 2024, as well as the customer facing ‘front door’ for all jobseekers with barriers to employment.</li> <li>• We increased our focus on child poverty and affordable childcare, with the majority of commissioning focused on small, grassroots charities who are close to their communities and are already offering family support. We have offered them support to increase their knowledge and awareness of employability and training around money advice, immigration, trauma-informed practice and childcare funding has resulted in 60% increase in families from the six priority groups accessing employability support:</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Priority family group</th> <th>2022/23 Engagements</th> <th>2023/24 Engagements</th> <th>2023/24 Job Outcomes</th> <th>2023/24 Education Outcomes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Lone Parents</td> <td>696</td> <td>1206</td> <td>112</td> <td>63</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parents under 25</td> <td>87</td> <td>138</td> <td>14</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Families with a child under one</td> <td>46</td> <td>69</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Large families (3+children)</td> <td>157</td> <td>269</td> <td>22</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Families where there is a disabled adult or child</td> <td>1085</td> <td>1520</td> <td>177</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Minority ethnic families</td> <td>1206</td> <td>1931</td> <td>264</td> <td>128</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council’s Parental Employability Support (PES) team launched a discretionary transition fund which supports parents from the six priority family groups to overcome barriers to employment, helping with costs including training, short-term childcare, PVGs, digital equipment, driving lessons and creche facilities. Since the fund was established in September 2023 to 31 March 2024, it has paid out £47,000 to 42 parents.</li> <li>• Capital City Partnership’s Whole Family Equality Project continues to support over 230 parents a year from ethnically diverse backgrounds. The project has brought together ethnic minority-led and focused employability organisations to create an action plan</li> </ul>	Priority family group	2022/23 Engagements	2023/24 Engagements	2023/24 Job Outcomes	2023/24 Education Outcomes	Lone Parents	696	1206	112	63	Parents under 25	87	138	14	8	Families with a child under one	46	69	7	8	Large families (3+children)	157	269	22	20	Families where there is a disabled adult or child	1085	1520	177	95	Minority ethnic families	1206	1931	264	128
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Action	Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025
	<p>around closing the race employment gap. Research shows that language continues to be a barrier to employment and so, through the New Scots Strategy, a strategic framework is in development, to improve access and better understand the level of need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>All in Edinburgh</b>, continues to support over 800 people with long-term health conditions and disability each year, and over this year, we supported providers to enhance their work with parents with a disability. However, there are still many people who cannot work due to ill health and disability, and work is continuing with colleagues in health to ensure that people are getting the support they need.</li> <li>• 1,284 young people who live in families experiencing <b>generational poverty</b>, have been supported in their journey to work, education, training or volunteering. A review has also been carried out on the provision for young people who are at risk of, or are, leaving school with no place in education, training or work and an additional 7 workers have been engaged to support their families with their own employment issues.</li> <li>• Capital City Partnership are collaborating with The City of Edinburgh Council, the Making it Work for Families Project, and End Poverty Edinburgh to develop resources and integrate an <b>Anti-Stigma Charter</b> into training and learning.</li> <li>• NHS Lothian Modern Apprenticeship programme is supporting 118 people across its Apprenticeship schemes, this includes 18 new Graduate Apprenticeships and 52 Modern Apprenticeships.</li> </ul> <p><b>Priorities for the next 12 months</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch our new <b>Network of Employment Support and Training grants</b> informed by extensive stakeholder engagement to ensure that the needs of people living in poverty (both out of work and in low income employment) can be met.</li> <li>• Capital City Partnership's <b>Whole Family Equality Project</b> will work with employers to ensure that their workplaces are inclusive and flexible, welcoming places for people from ethnic minority backgrounds.</li> <li>• A new service will support young people with <b>additional support needs</b> and their families to increase their income and move towards sustainable employment</li> <li>• In collaboration with industry revisit our skills provision, ensuring that people have the expertise to apply for new <b>higher skilled jobs</b> in data and the green economy</li> <li>• Ensure that people with <b>long-term health conditions</b> are effectively sign-posted into employability support through better links with primary care</li> <li>• LEP NHS Lothian work placement pilots: testing a new approach to supported work placements across NHS Lothian. The four Lothian LEPs are funding 26 week placements across the Lothian health and care system. LEP keyworkers are also supporting individuals during the placements who have been identified by the NHS Lothian Workforce Development Team. The Workforce Development Team is supporting an accessible application process, tailored job placements, bespoke induction, in-placement training opportunities and support to apply for jobs within NHS Lothian at the end of the placement period.</li> <li>• NHS Lothian has a 3-year Employability Strategy (2024-2027) which sets out a range of priority actions to engage, support and actively encourage people, in particular young people, to think about careers in health.</li> </ul>

**Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty**

**Edinburgh Learns for Life strategy** aims to raise attainment and achievement for everyone by providing learning that matches each persons' interests and aspirations and closing the poverty related attainment gap to give every young person the chance to have opportunities to progress. Key to delivering this ambition are actions to build an education workforce which is knowledgeable and skilled in addressing the adverse impacts of poverty and inequalities, from early years onwards.

Data gathered during 2023-24 shows that:

- **Attendance** levels at school remain challenging: 10% of pupils in primary schools and 20% of secondary pupils had low levels of attendance (less than 85%); the provisional figure for overall attendance as at end of May 2024 is 94%, with the figure for Scotland at 93%.
- **Attainment** at primary school level continues to increase, but the gap between pupils in the least deprived areas in the city and the total has increased slightly for literacy
- **Positive destinations** from school was 95% across all pupils and the gap between the total and the most deprived areas was fairly stable at 1.5%

Actions over this year have continued to build the foundations needed to shift the entrenched, adverse impacts of poverty by changing culture, building knowledge, understanding and effective practice, and reshaping the way that services are delivered. Actions include:

- Continuing to develop our **early years** support, increasing the number of available places for Terrific 2s, implementing an application system that identifies children who are eligible for places; and making our services more flexible to support parents and carers with their own employment
- Delivering a range of ways of **improving attendance** through the new Education Wellbeing Team and the appointment of Pupil Support Officers to address barriers through early intervention.
- Continuing to reduce the cost of school day and updating guidance for schools which includes removing financial barriers for families and reducing stigma.
- Continuing to develop **Discover!** during school holidays and **Discover More – Chill n Chat!**, which works with parents and carers during term time connecting them with free opportunities, services and advice. Many parents and carers attending Discover More - Chill n Chat experience in work poverty and cannot attend Discover during school holidays. Free food is provided at each session.
- Introducing the new approvals process for overseas school trips, where a panel considers applications through the lens of poverty and inequality as well as environmental sustainability and curricular relevance.
- Supporting **care experienced young people** through the We Matter Team, strengthened this year with a Principal Teacher for Care Experience and two Pupil Support Officers, funded by the CORRA foundation; and staff training to improve the culture within schools through our Communities that Care partnership with Who Cares? Scotland, to build knowledge and understanding.
- Ongoing delivery of our **professional learning programme**, “Leadership for Equity”, to groups of senior and middle leaders and teachers, with 51% of school leaders completing the training, exceeding the target of 40%; and participation by over 1,600 teachers in the **Teachers’ Charter**, core professional learning for educators, support staff and early years practitioners.

Action	Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing to expand learning options for young people to <b>improve their outcomes</b> – this year we had 72 young people in S3 and S4, who had missed out on education, accessing flexible curriculums, and 35 young people from S3 and S4 access learning through our Virtual Learning Environment; all of our secondary schools have been working with Edinburgh College and Industry partners in developing vocational curriculum offers for 2024-25.</li> <li>• Over 30,000 children and young people benefitted from opportunities from the <b>Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning</b> service. This includes free music lessons, participation in bands and orchestras, free Active Schools programmes, free or low-cost youth work and other family learning and outdoor opportunities. <b>Screen Education Edinburgh</b> specialises in developing learners from areas of deprivation and low-income backgrounds, those with disabilities, and from diverse backgrounds. <b>Community Sports Hubs</b> use sport to engage young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system and helping them find a different pathway.</li> <li>• <b>Connected Communities Edinburgh</b> Grants Programme for 2024-27 aims to address poverty and enhance equalities through three workstreams - health and wellbeing, learning outcomes and youthwork, with organisations able to apply for 3-year funding.</li> </ul> <p><b>Priorities for next year include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to develop staff skills and professional learning, continue implementation of the Wider Achievement Framework for schools, and develop city wide youth and children’s work opportunities based on need</li> <li>• Continue to improve our use of data to track attainment, attendance and achievement and respond effectively</li> <li>• Review and revise procurement and policies for school uniforms</li> <li>• Secure further funding to develop Discover More – Chill n Chat! to widen the opportunities and engagement to term time for parents and carers experiencing in work poverty and who and cannot attend the holiday programmes.</li> <li>• Develop Multiply (UK Shared Prosperity Funded) offering adults on low income or not in work support with numeracy and literacies to help improve their employability and confidence.</li> <li>• Develop Health and Wellbeing provision to further focus on wellbeing linked to poverty such as physical activity, childhood obesity and mental health.</li> </ul>

## B: Maximising support from social safety nets

Action	Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025
<p><b>Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other income support</b></p>	<p>During the last year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice service providers across the third and public sector provided advice and support to <b>20,373</b> individuals, with <b>£23,824,024</b> financial gains for people across Edinburgh. This does not include the impact of income maximisation services within Housing Associations and employability projects.</li> <li>• The Council <b>invested £500,000 to reduce child poverty</b>, providing £150,000 in additional money and debt advice services; £200,000 to support poverty prevention, including data analytics tools to improve benefits uptake, and information toolkits to help frontline workers find the support their clients need; and £150,000 to provide immediate support to households in financial need through additional capacity for the Council's welfare and benefits team.</li> <li>• The Council has reviewed its advice services and has worked with partners to <b>better align advice services</b> across Edinburgh, including the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Social Security Scotland (SSS), housing providers and NHS Lothian.</li> <li>• The <b>Edinburgh Advice Network</b> was launched to support a joined up approach to advice services across the city, and to establish better partnership engagement sessions, with regular meetings and opportunities to share resources and training. A co-ordinator has been recruited and will be in post for one year.</li> <li>• We have continued <b>to raise awareness of illegal money lending</b> through the Affordable Credit Action Plan; and the Edinburgh Partnership has formally joined the Scottish Illegal Money Lending Unit's (SIMLU) Loan Shark Charter. Training sessions on illegal money lending, delivered by SIMLU, have continued, engaging at least 16 different organisations and agencies across various sectors.</li> <li>• NHS Lothian Charity has a small hardship fund distributed via the Income Maximisation services provided in hospital settings. Funds are used to support patients and their families with food, travel, clothing whilst in hospital care</li> </ul> <p><b>Priorities for next year</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivering a targeted outreach programme of communication and support activities to <b>promote uptake of benefits entitlements</b>.</li> <li>• Continue to respond to the recommendations of the Review of Welfare Rights and Debt Advice Services in Edinburgh, including the work of the Edinburgh Advice Network</li> <li>• Further developing the city's <b>cash first approach</b> through collaboration between all money and welfare advice as part of the work funded by Scottish Government's Tackling Child Poverty Cash First Fund</li> <li>• Work towards <b>greater parity between the statutory and third sector</b> – pay, security via longer term funding, pensions supported by job evaluation; and introduce Advisor and Support Worker roles to maximise use of limited pool of trained staff.</li> <li>• Reviewing the city's <b>Preventing Problem Debt</b> action plan</li> </ul>

Action	Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing a <b>commissioning specification</b> for Edinburgh Integration Joint Board grants, which fund around a third of advice services</li> <li>• Improve the quality and consistency of data to support more effective monitoring and evaluation</li> <li>• Continue work to investigate options for provision of catering in NHS Lothian sites in partnership with social enterprises. This is focused on working with local partners to utilise buildings, deliver a service and then reinvest profits for community benefit, whilst providing a catering offer for staff, patients and visitors</li> </ul>
<b>Deliver well targeted cash first and local crisis support programmes</b>	<p>The Council delivers direct cash and crisis support to low-income families in need in a range of ways and administers one-off funding from the Government to support people through the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>During 2024 the Edinburgh Partnership partners have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued to make it easier for people to access support by automating entitlements for <b>free school meals and clothing grant awards</b>. Over recent years these improvements have seen a significant increase in access to this support, with over 9,000 free school meal payments and nearly 8,400 clothing grant awards made in 2023/24</li> <li>• Delivered £162.4m in <b>housing benefit</b>, £24.4m in <b>Council Tax Reduction</b> and £6.9m in <b>Discretionary Housing Payment</b> funding to low income families in Edinburgh</li> <li>• Administered the <b>Scottish Welfare Fund</b> in Edinburgh, including 29,500 <b>Crisis Grant</b> applications to a total value of £2.399m, and 7,876 <b>Community Care Grants</b>, to a value of £1.784m</li> <li>• Worked with a range of partners including Edinburgh University to develop ways of identifying people at risk of poverty at an earlier stage, using existing administrative data</li> <li>• Explored resources to provide people with access to support and funding, including <a href="#">Lightning Reach</a>, a financial support portal, which is currently being piloted in one area of the city by the Family and Household Support service.</li> <li>• Been testing new approaches to ending poverty through successful bids for <b>Scottish Government funding through the Child Poverty Accelerator Fund, building on the successful Discover! programme</b></li> <li>• Worked with partners to develop a <b>Cash First approach to supporting people in a crisis</b>, using Scottish Government funding.</li> <li>• Continued to develop the <b>Menu for All network</b>, established to deliver the <a href="#">Ending Poverty-Related Hunger in Edinburgh strategy</a>, and led by Edinburgh Community Food.</li> </ul> <p>Priorities for next year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to develop ways to identify people at risk of poverty and ways to provide support at an early stage</li> <li>• Develop a way to ensure that accurate, up to date information on sources of support are readily available to staff, volunteers and citizens</li> </ul>

Action	Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue the Cash First project, including developing actions in response to the mapping of food crisis supports in the city and carrying out tests of using a cash first approach in a number of settings. Continue to develop and consolidate the Menu for All network</li> </ul>
<p><b>Help people to prevent homelessness and other crises</b></p>	<p>Homelessness and access to affordable housing continues to be the biggest and most visible driver of poverty in Edinburgh in 2024, as illustrated by the Council's declaration of a Housing Emergency in 2023. Reducing homelessness in the city is one of the key priorities in our <b>Housing Emergency Action Plan</b> and we are continuing to deliver our <b>Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan</b> with actions to prevent homelessness, ensure temporary accommodation meets the needs of the household, support people to access settled accommodation as quickly as possible and reduce rough sleeping.</p> <p>During the last year we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevented homelessness for <b>461 households</b>, supported <b>685 households</b> to move on from temporary accommodation, answered <b>4,511 Advice Line calls</b> and delivered <b>45 homelessness prevention training sessions</b>.</li> <li>Established the <b>Early Intervention Team</b> in December 2023, to reach out to all households who contact homelessness services who are not immediately roofless, offering a meeting to identify opportunities to prevent homelessness.</li> <li>Continued to change the mix of temporary accommodation stock to meet the needs of the household, including <b>an additional 60 beds in homeless accommodation</b> with support; and increasing the number of households accessing homeshare accommodation.</li> <li>In line with the Housing Emergency Action Plan, <b>increased the number of homes let to homeless households and reduced the number of void properties</b>. Allocation levels for social rent to homelessness households were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>747 (67%) of Council homes (target was a minimum of 70%)</li> <li>515 (53%) of RSL social rented homes (target was a minimum of 50%)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Awarded contracts for homelessness support services including <b>Housing First, Street Based Outreach</b> and a <b>Support Hub</b> for rough sleepers. The average number of rough sleepers in the city at the end of March 2024 was 45.</li> <li>Started a pilot to <b>support people experiencing homelessness to access employment</b>: an Encompass employability advisor started in February 2024 and is currently supporting 9 people regularly, focusing on creating and updating CVs, exploring different industries and education options and looking at community activities people can do to increase their confidence, employability and wellbeing.</li> <li>Continued to provide a hospital in-reach service to support inpatients identified as being homeless to register with primary care, engage with the housing system, and gain help with income maximisation</li> </ul>

Action	Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025
	<p>Priorities for 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the Council and partners in the city are prepared for the forthcoming homelessness prevention duties including the duty on public sector bodies such as health and social care and the police to 'ask and act' in relation to someone's housing and homeless situation alongside the continued development of homelessness prevention activity to intervene earlier.</li> </ul>

## C: Reducing the Cost of Living

Action	Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025
<p><b>Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in</b></p>	<p>The Council is the largest affordable housing developer in the city. Our <a href="#">Housing Emergency Action Plan</a> is wide ranging and includes actions aimed improving access to housing and housing advice, improving the supply and quality of housing across the city and preventing harm and improving the experience of tenants in Council housing.</p> <p>Actions and progress over the last year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increasing affordable housing:</b> working towards a 25,000 target - since 2017, around 9,700 new affordable homes have been approved (668 in 2023/24) and around 9,000 completed (934 in 2023/24); challenges include increasing costs and reduced funding. Despite the challenges posed by a 24% cut in Affordable Housing Supply Programme funding, a further 587 new affordable home approvals and 836 completions are projected in 2024/25.</li> <li>• <b>Funding for Affordable Homes:</b> with the support of <b>£8.7m</b> of UK Tariff funding and <b>£8.36m</b> of Scottish Government ULTRF funding, a total of <b>90</b> new homes were approved for purchase to provide settled accommodation for Ukrainian families.</li> <li>• <b>Managing stock:</b> the average time to re-let our properties was higher in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 (134 compared to 106 days), stemming from a backlog built up during the COVID pandemic. Actions to date reduced voids by a quarter by Summer 2024.</li> <li>• <b>Regulation of short term lets to increase access to housing:</b> the Edinburgh Short-term Let Control Area came into force in September 2022, allowing us to control the number of properties that change use from residential properties to short-term lets and we have implemented short term let regulation enforcement.</li> <li>• <b>Improving quality:</b> delivering digital tools to make it easier for tenants to report issues, request repairs and schedule appointments; for the service to track repairs through the Total Mobile system; and improvements to the environment of neighbourhoods. Health and safety improvements underway include lift and fire door replacement, CCTV upgrades and cladding replacement.</li> <li>• <b>Energy efficiency:</b> we are working to deliver a Whole House Retrofit (WHR) programme by 2028/29 to bring social housing across the city to the highest energy standards. This will reduce energy demand and tackle fuel poverty whilst also supporting climate justice. The</li> </ul>



MTIS project above has made over 900 homes more energy efficient, benefiting over 670 council tenants and 230 private residents with lower energy bills and reduced energy consumption.

**Priorities for 2025:**

- Continue dialogue with Scottish Government about the need for additional funding and to inform the introduction of rent control.
- Establish a strategic Housing Partnership, as part of the Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership structure, to ensure a citywide community planning focus on the housing and homelessness issues facing the city
- Consult with Council tenants on investment priorities to support the development of the 2025/26 Council's housing services budget
- Reduce the time to re-let our homes
- Continue to progress the WHR programme in both low rise and multi-storey blocks through strategic investment on area-based regeneration.

Action	Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025
<p><b>Provide targeted support for rising energy costs</b></p>	<p>Rising energy costs in recent years have increased the urgency of additional support to help households on low incomes in Edinburgh avoid having to face the choice of whether to heat their homes or feed their families. In the short term this has meant providing support with fuel costs. Over the longer term it means taking the steps needed to make properties more fuel efficient.</p> <p>Actions during the past year have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Energy Advice Service</b> secured savings for Council tenants of more than £206,000 in 2022/23 - around £428 for each household engaged</li> <li>• In autumn/winter 2023 <b>Home Energy Scotland</b> advisors attended 50 clinics at the mass vaccination site in Ocean Terminal. In total almost 2,000 people were supported, with around 10% requesting further, ongoing support. HES are seeking to expand their reach and presence at clinics in 2024, taking this good practice across South East Scotland.</li> <li>• The Council's <b>warm and welcoming</b> initiative was developed to support people through the winter months with a wide range of opportunities for local people to visit, connect with others and take part; easily accessible advice and information was available to provide additional support where needed.</li> </ul> <p>Work on all these initiatives will continue during 2025.</p>
<p><b>Improve access to affordable childcare</b></p>	<p>Access to affordable childcare can be key to families being able to escape from poverty particularly for women and lone parents, who want to work. However, the cost of childcare is rising and there are waiting lists for places.</p> <p>Actions to address this issue during the past year, and for continued delivery in 2025, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued delivery of the Council's <b>Early Years Expansion Plan</b>, working towards ensuring that support is flexible enough to meet the needs of families, and that there are enough places across providers to meet the demand.</li> </ul>



Action	Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edinburgh's new <b>Affordable Childcare for Working Parents</b> service launched on 1 August 2024 following a review. Four childcare providers are contracted to allow the Council to subsidise places for working parents experiencing poverty or where the cost of childcare pushes them into poverty. Parental Employability Support (PES) officers work with parents to assess their eligibility for the subsidy, offer support around a range of barriers that they may be facing, and link them in with the Council's Advice Shop to ensure they are accessing all financial support available to them.</li> <li>• Funding provision of <b>creche places</b> for parents engaged in training for employment</li> <li>• Funding the development of a <b>childcare information website for parents</b> along with an investigation into a flexible childcare booking system in response to feedback from parents that finding childcare is confusing and stressful</li> <li>• A parent-led childcare pilot funded through the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, to co-produce and sustain a model of parent-led out of school care provision across Edinburgh</li> </ul>

Action	Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025
<p><b>Improve digital inclusion and access to affordable transport</b></p>	<p>A lack of digital skills and access and access can have a huge negative impact on a person's life, affecting their ability to learn, apply for jobs, access training opportunities, and engage with many public services. The Council and partners offer a range of supports for people to get access and to develop the skills needed.</p> <p>Key actions over the last year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued work by the Edinburgh Partnership, led by People Know How, to develop a <b>charter on digital inclusion</b> to ensure equity of access for workforces and the public across Edinburgh</li> <li>Continued delivery of actions in the Council's <b>Digital and Smart City Strategy</b> on digital skills and inclusion</li> <li>As part of our work to introduce a wide range of services online, we are using evidence including the Accessible Housing Study to shape online forms and are providing support for people who need to develop digital literacy skills. Staff are available to support online application, with paper application still available where preferred.</li> <li>Through the <b>Empowered learning Programme</b> we have rolled out personal digital devices for every school pupil from P6 to S6 with 27,500 new iPads issued to pupils/teachers, refreshed iPads for up to 12,000 pupils/teachers and expanded connectivity through additional wireless access points in schools.</li> <li>Upgrading the People's Network Service across all libraries with 155 computers with improved connectivity and more reliable access; Wi-Fi printing has been introduced, widening access to printing facilities in libraries</li> <li>Providing the citywide Get Online Digital Skills Programme with volunteers supporting people to improve their digital skills on a 1-2-1 basis at their local library</li> </ul> <p>The cost and ease of transport across the city can also be a barrier to people's ability to hold down jobs and access educational opportunities. The Council continues to implement actions through the City Mobility Plan.</p> <p>Over the past year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The first review of the Plan</b> was published in February 2024. and states that we will build on recent investments to ensure that our public transport continues to be reliable, safe, affordable and convenient. A key finding of the review was that public transport remains comparatively more affordable in most cases than the other three comparator cities (Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow).</li> <li>Scottish Government schemes allow people under 22 to travel for free on bus services across Scotland. Whilst this scheme is welcomed, at present it does not extend to the tram network. The Council will continue to work with the Scottish Government on the Fair Fares Review to extend this scheme to include Light Rail.</li> </ul>

## D: Making it easier to find help

Action	Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025
<p><b>Deliver integrated, ‘no wrong door’ approaches to service delivery and prevention of poverty</b></p>	<p>A key call to action from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission was for <i>“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.”</i></p> <p>Towards this long-term challenge, actions delivered during this year have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Six projects have been funded through the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund</u> to support the whole system transformational change needed to reduce the need for crisis intervention and move towards prevention and early intervention:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>The Family Hub Collaborative</b> which will provide bespoke holistic whole-family support throughout the early years</li> <li>○ <b>The Parent Infant Partnership</b> focusing on the first 1,000 days of a child’s life, where the level of risk and need is high</li> <li>○ The <b>Edinburgh Family Support Partnership</b> will focus on providing families with early and preventative help in their local community</li> <li>○ The <b>Whole Family Wellbeing Hub</b> to support families with a child or young person with a disability</li> <li>○ <b>Youth Work and Mental Health Hubs</b> (Time to Talk) supporting and improving young people’s mental health and well-being</li> <li>○ <b>Parent-led affordable out of school childcare</b> to increase resilience and capacity within existing out of school care providers and deliver pilot parent-led out of school provision in one part of the City</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Continuing to deliver welfare advice services in the <b>Edinburgh acute hospitals</b>, making access easier for families who may struggle to engage with community based services, or who may find they are experiencing financial difficulties as a result of their child’s illness or hospital stay. The advisers also offer advice and support a range of issues in addition to benefits, including finance, immigration, employment, housing and debt These services are funded until the end of September 2025.</li> <li>• Implementing the new <b>Edinburgh Children’s Partnership Plan</b> which commits to informing service commissioning with a rights-based approach and a poverty lens, and ensuring that new commissioned work with children, young people and families should collect data (including on priority family groups) to help us to understand how well our services are reaching families most likely to be living in poverty.</li> </ul> <p>Priorities for next year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the actions above to drive significant public sector reform in Edinburgh to support early identification of families in need of support, and effective interventions that prevent harm and support improved outcomes for people and services.</li> </ul>

Action	Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025
<p>Provide the support people need, in the places they live and work</p>	<p>Actions carried out in 2024, and for further development in 2025, towards building a city in which people in all parts of Edinburgh have local, safe, welcoming community spaces within walking or pram-pushing distance where they access the right support for them include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have opened a new citizen space at <b>Tynecastle community wing</b> which provides new, convenient, and welcoming space for people to access Council services and receive advice locally</li> <li>• We are continuing to embed the <b>20-minute neighbourhood</b> approach and have a number of projects ongoing to deliver integrated and co-located services. The MacMillan Hub (incorporating a library, early years centre, skills hub, and art facility) and the new Maybury Primary School and Community Hub (with integrated health centre and GP surgery) which are due to open in Autumn 2024; and we are consultation on designs for both Dalry and Portobello town centers.</li> <li>• <b>Team Around the Learning Community pilots in Liberton and Craigmillar High Schools</b> continue aiming to identify children and families in need of support at an early stage and provide easy access to holistic support (e.g. family support, income maximisation, employability and housing), tailor learning to the needs and interests of the young person, and develop more effective and collaborative ways to use Pupil Equity Funding.</li> <li>• Work is ongoing in two areas as part <b>“A good place to live”</b> to improve the outcomes of the most vulnerable children, young people, and their families: in <b>Liberton</b>, the work is aligned with the Team Around the Learning Community (TALC), with progress made in better understanding the distinct populations in the “new” and “old” neighbourhoods, as well as the patterns of poverty and inequality in the area which will inform actions; while the focus of work in <b>Craigmillar</b> has been the engagement with children and young people, getting their insights on living in the area and using these to develop an action plan. Learning from this engagement with children and young people has been developed into a guide which will be rolled out citywide to support partners in similar initiatives.</li> </ul>
<p>Deliver poverty awareness training programmes that addresses stigma, and supports public sector workers public to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do</p>	<p>Building on the successful <b>1 in 5</b> child poverty awareness programme developed in Edinburgh schools, and the Money Counts Training for Council and partner agencies, work this year has focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reviewing, aligning and streamlining the range of <b>poverty and prevention-related training</b> offered to staff, including homelessness prevention and Money Counts Training for Council and partner agencies. Updating content to include taking a cash first approach, trauma informed and stigma.</li> <li>○ We have updated the <b>Money Counts Training programme</b> to include a cash-first approach, prioritises immediate financial assistance to those in need, taking a trauma-informed approach and reducing stigma; delivering 13 training sessions to 203 front-line staff from 47 different organisations across the city, including a bespoke session for the Care Experienced nursing team. Evaluation feedback showed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 93% felt that ‘the course was appropriate for my role and responsibilities’</li> <li>○ 89% felt that ‘the course has made me more aware of the causes and impact of poverty’</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Action	Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 81% felt that 'I feel more able to identify people experiencing money worries and poverty as a result of taking part in the course'</li> <li>○ 81% felt that 'I feel more confident to have a conversation with people about their money worries as a result of taking part in the course'</li> <li>○ 90% felt that 'I feel more informed about where to signpost people for more information and support around a range of money worries'.</li> </ul> <p>○ Working with people with lived experience and partners from Capital City Partnership to develop a short film to be used as part of staff training on people's experiences of living in poverty and seeking help</p> <p>Priorities for the next year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Through our successful bid for Scottish Government funding (CPAF round 2), we will test an approach to the development of easily accessible training and toolkits to challenge poverty related stigma among colleagues across the statutory and third sectors across the City of Edinburgh.</li> <li>○ Continue to review, develop, update and align training materials, and link to wider UNCRC work</li> <li>○ Prioritise training to support key frontline workers to support early intervention and prevention of poverty, focusing on uptake by key NHS teams, including those working in acute services</li> <li>○ Continue to explore opportunities for sharing resources and training capacity between the Council, NHS, Health and Social Care Partnership and third sector</li> </ul>

## CASE STUDY: TESTING INNOVATION – CASH FIRST APPROACHES TO END THE NEED FOR FOODBANKS

Partners made a successful bid to the Scottish Government for funding to work towards ending the need for foodbanks in Scotland.

Edinburgh's project, **Menu for All - Joining Food & Support Access Edinburgh**, aims to develop a clear overview of emergency food provision in the city, how the cash first approach is understood and being used by providers, and what actions need to be taken to embed the approach to help lift people out of poverty. A number of tests of change will also be done to look at how cash first might work best in practice.

### Progress to date includes:

- Recruitment of a co-ordinator, whose activities have been to visit providers and find out directly from them about current approaches and challenges
- The mapping of current provision was commissioned and is now complete, with findings and recommendations under development, for discussion with stakeholders.
- A number of tests of change are being developed to test cash first approaches in practice. These include improving and integrating systems that already exist, creating new referral pathways for support, offering a cash payment where appropriate to learn if these approaches together increase engagement in wraparound support; while the second test focuses on infant food security.

## CASE STUDY: TESTING INNOVATION – INCOME MAXIMISATION AND WRAP AROUND SUPPORT

Investment secured through the **Scottish Government Child Poverty Accelerator Fund (CPAF)** has been used to deliver test of change projects for income maximization outreach support in Edinburgh during 2024.

This funding, of £80,000, has been used to:

- Trial methods to promote and extend the **Discover! Programme** (Holiday programme for families living in poverty).
- Fund Screen Education Edinburgh to create an information video for Discover!
- Trial and launch **Chill and Chat services**. Four Chill and Chat hubs are currently being rolled out across the city, with activities being offered informed by families who attended Discover! These aim to improve family resilience and confidence and encourage take up and impact of the main Discover! Programme.
- Test ways of embedding **income maximisation advice workers within support services targeted at families with disabled adults or children**. This includes a trial of early intervention outreach work in midwifery and health visitor services and in early years settings.

# Appendix 1: Poverty in Edinburgh

The Edinburgh Poverty Commission set the city a challenge to end poverty in Edinburgh by 2030, and identified four specific targets which would define success against this goal. **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.

For most data points the latest official estimates relate to the period to Spring 2023. In line with Scottish Government guidance, where possible data are presented as three-year rolling averages to maximise reliability. As a result, it should be noted that the most current period for which data is available (2020-23) includes the period affected by the covid pandemic and the cost of living crisis, as well as temporary measures taken by governments to support household incomes during those periods.

For this analysis, 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, and evidence behind the recommended priorities for action.

## “THE POVERTY THRESHOLD”

Poverty in Scotland is usually measured in terms of ‘**relative poverty after housing costs**’. On this definition, people are considered to be ‘in poverty’ if their equivalised net disposable household income is below 60 percent of the UK median after tax and housing costs.

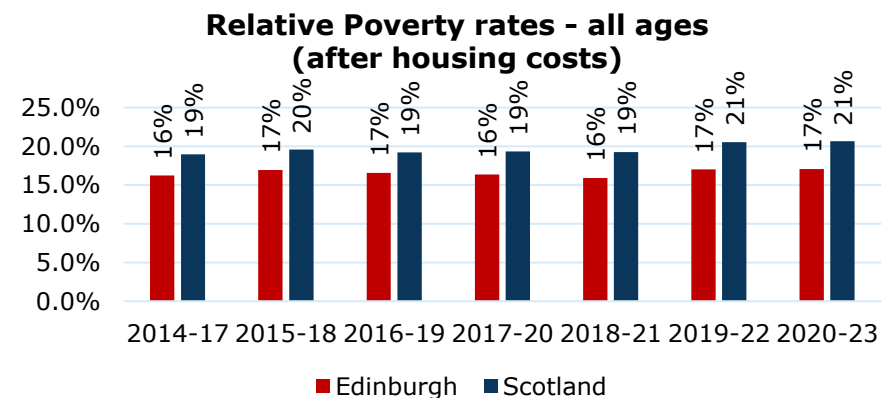
In Scotland in 2023 this meant that **a couple with 2 children** are in poverty if their household income after tax and housing costs falls below **£534 per week (£27,800 per annum)**, or **£191 pw for a single person with no children (£10,000 per annum)**.

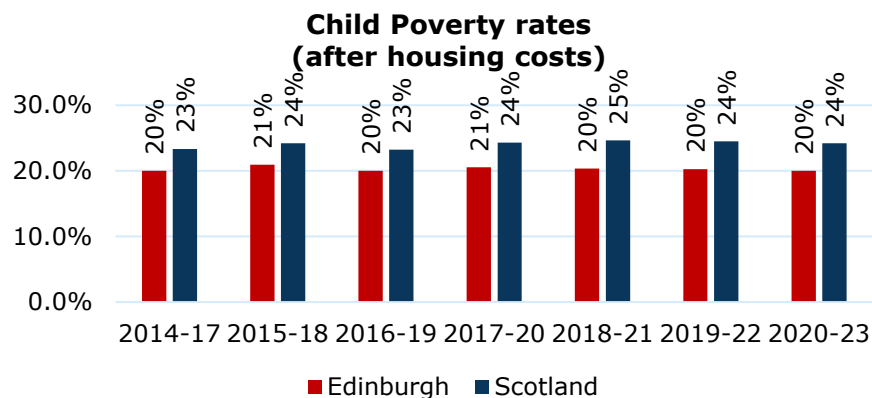
## Trends in headline poverty rates remain unchanged

An estimated **17% of people** in Edinburgh were living in poverty in the period to spring 2023, accounting for over 87,000 individuals<sup>viii</sup>. These included over 17,200 children, **or 20% of all children in the city**. 10% of all Edinburgh residents (including 14% of all children) had been living in poverty for three of the past four years.<sup>ix</sup>

These data show that headline poverty rates have remained relatively unchanged in recent years. All age poverty rates in Edinburgh have risen by 0.5 percentage points in the period since 2020, for instance, while child poverty rates have fallen by a similar amount. These are trends largely in line with Scotland wide averages.

Analysis by the Institute of Fiscal Studies notes that these trends are driven by general stagnation in household incomes and earnings from employment across the UK during the period covered by the pandemic and cost of living crisis, with incomes for the poorest households falling at a similar rate to those of middle income households<sup>x</sup>.





Despite these flat trend, Scottish Government analysis does suggest that policy interventions taken by local and national partners have likely been successful in preventing a further increase in child poverty in recent years.

This analysis indicates that in the absence of a package of local and national actions, child poverty rates in Scotland would be 4 percentage points higher than the actual rate recorded in 2021/22, rising to an expected 10 percentage points by 2024/25<sup>xi</sup>.

Of this impact, around 60% is attributed to the effect of the Scottish Child Payment with the remaining impact resulting from range of interventions including those delivered by local government and partners (including Free School Meals; School Clothing Grant; Council Tax Reduction; Discretionary Housing Payments; and employability services).

If applied to Edinburgh on a pro-rata basis, this modelling could mean that this policy package:

- **Helped keep 2,300 children out of poverty in 2022**
- **With around 1,000 of this impact attributable to actions delivered by local partners.**

## National and local 2030 targets will be challenging to meet

While the impact of key headline policies such as the Scottish Child Payment are expected to increase over time as roll out continues, the assessment of most commentators – including the Scottish Poverty and Inequality Commission<sup>xii</sup>, and Fraser of Allander Institute<sup>xiii</sup> – is that without significant additional action the Scottish Government is unlikely to meet the child poverty targets it set for 2030.

To meet the headline targets set by Scottish Government and the Edinburgh Poverty Commission will need:

- **A 14 percentage point reduction** in child poverty rates across Scotland as a whole over the 7 years from 2023-2030
- **A 10 percentage point reduction** in child poverty rates in Edinburgh over the same period, and
- **A 7 percentage point reduction** in all age poverty rates in Edinburgh

In broad numeric terms these imply a need for actions to lift at least:

- **36,000 people, including 8,600 children out of poverty over the 7 years from 2023-30 in Edinburgh alone.**

These are challenging targets to meet, particularly in a fiscal and macro-economic environment in which most forecasters project an upward pressure on poverty rates over the next few years.

Based on current policy assumptions, recent analysis by the Resolution Foundation projects relative poverty rates across the UK to **rise by 1 percentage point over the period 2024/25 to 2029/30**. Transposed to Edinburgh, this would equate to **an additional 5,000 people** falling into poverty<sup>xiv</sup>.



This outlook is driven by assumptions of:

- Slow productivity growth across the UK economy
- Slow growth in the real value of earnings from work
- Continued freezes to personal tax thresholds
- The cost of housing rising faster than earnings
- Continued freezes to Local Housing Allowances
- Continued roll out of 2 child limit policies, all of which result in
- Worse than average income growth trends for families with children and for poorer households.

Under these assumptions real household incomes the poorest fifth of households in the UK are projected to be 7% lower in 2030 than they were in 2022.

### The experience of poverty is becoming more severe over time

Research published by Joseph Rowntree Foundation in 2023<sup>xv</sup> demonstrated a long-term increase in the proportion of low-income households who are experiencing very deep poverty. Using an income-based definition, the researchers showed that **46% of low-income households were living in ‘very deep poverty’ in 2020**, compared to 27% in 1997.

At the same time, the biannual Destitution in the UK report published by Heriot Watt University finds a rapid increase over recent years in the number of UK households who are going without essentials such as shelter, food, heat, light, clothing, or basic toiletries<sup>xvi</sup>. The analysis estimates that **12,200 households experienced destitution in Edinburgh in 2022, a 23% increase over the period since 2019**<sup>xvii</sup>.

These trends show that headline poverty data can mask significant changes in the way that poverty impacts on people’s lives and wellbeing

and is confirmed by other local datasets showing large and increasing numbers of Edinburgh citizens regularly going without basic essentials such as food and shelter.

Data from NHS Lothian estimates that **12.6% of people across Edinburgh and Lothians experienced food insecurity in 2023** – meaning they worried they would run out of food because of a lack of money or resources. In Edinburgh, this rate would be the equivalent of almost **65,000 people**. These rates are even higher among people living in low income areas of the region, where **over a quarter of households** worry about running out of food for their families<sup>xviii</sup>.

The same data source found that **14.2%** of people in Edinburgh and the Lothians experienced a time when they were **unable to heat their home or cook food** because of a lack of money or resources in 2023. In Edinburgh, this rate would be the equivalent of **over 70,000 people**.

### Women and families in priority groups are at most risk of poverty in Edinburgh

More than 80% of all children in poverty in Scotland come from households in Scottish Government identified priority groups. Such households are at a far higher risk of poverty than the population at large.

**Child Poverty rates by priority group, Scotland**

	2020-23*
All children	24%
3 or more children in the household	38%
Disabled household member(s)	27%
Youngest child in the household is under 1 (2018-21 data)	34%
Minority ethnic household	43%
Single parent in the household	38%
Mother under 25 in household (2015-18 data)	55%

\*: unless otherwise stated. Some breakdowns are not available for every period.

As noted in previous reports, analysis also shows a **higher overall risk of poverty faced by women**. This arises partly through a close link to child poverty given the greater role women play as primary caregivers for children and also results from inequalities in the workplace and in earnings from work. Overall, the data show that women are more likely to be poor – particularly when they are lone parents or young mothers, more likely to experience ‘very deep’ poverty and food insecurity because of a lack of money, more likely to be in low paid, part time or insecure work, and more likely to reduce paid work to allow for caring responsibilities.

In addition to these analyses, data from the Destitution in the UK 2023 report further shows more detail on the distribution of destitution and very deep poverty by household type, showing that:

- single people aged between 25 and 44 remain the key group who experience destitution across the UK
- two thirds of people in destitution have a chronic health problem or disability
- Black, black Caribbean and African households account for over 12% of all people experiencing destitution, but only 4% of the population as a whole
- Migrant populations account for over 20% of all households experiencing destitution in Edinburgh.

**Spatial inequalities in poverty risk across Edinburgh are wide.**

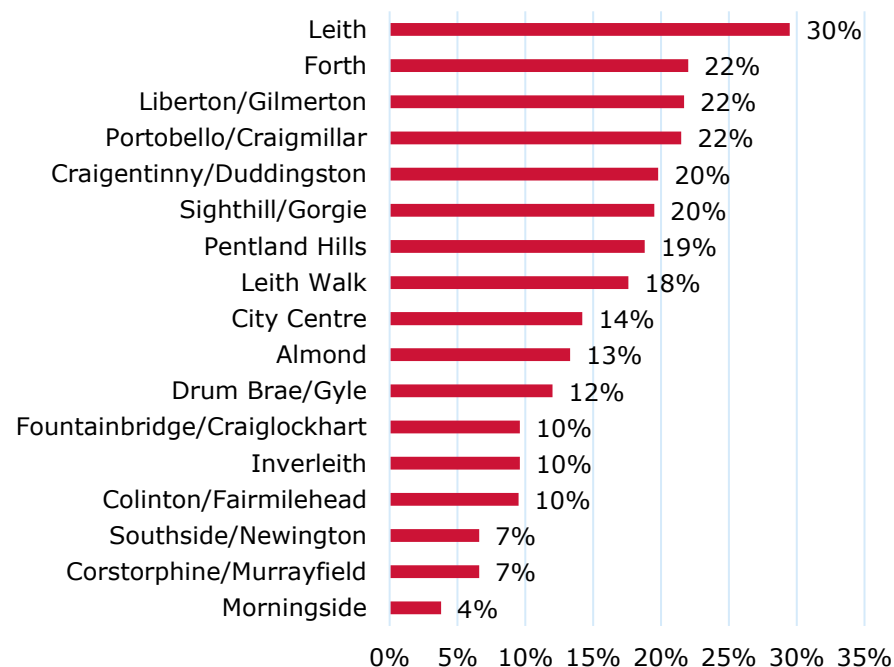
Data published in 2024 by DWP illustrates the wide inequalities in child poverty risk across small areas in Edinburgh. At electoral ward level, poverty rates in Leith are recorded at levels six times that estimated in Morningside<sup>xix</sup>.

This data, it should be noted, are presented on a ‘before housing costs’ basis and using a different methodology to the Scotland and Edinburgh

estimates shown above. As such they are likely to understate the preferred ‘after housing costs’ measure by around 5 percentage points in each ward on average.

Overall, these data show that evidence of poverty, often severe poverty, is found in all four of the cities’ localities, and in every electoral ward in the city. This evidence confirms at the local level findings across Scotland that show that even in the most affluent areas of Scotland, an average of 1 in 10 households experience poverty.

**Child Poverty by electoral ward (Before Housing Costs), 2023**



## Appendix 2: Key Progress Measures

<b>Table A1 Progress against headline Edinburgh Poverty Commission and Scottish Government Targets</b>			
<b>Edinburgh Poverty Commission Targets<sup>xx</sup></b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Latest data</b>	<b>Change</b>
1. Fewer than one in ten children and fewer than one in ten adults are living in relative poverty at any given time	<i>2017-20</i> 16% (all ages); 21% (children)	<i>2020-23</i> 17% (all ages); 20% (children)	+1% (all ages) -1% (children)
2. No one has to go without the basic essentials they need to eat, keep clean and safe, and stay warm and dry	<i>2019</i> 9,900 individuals	<i>2022</i> 12,200 individuals	+23%
3. No-one lives in persistent poverty.	<i>2016-20</i> (Scotland data only) 11% (all ages) 13% (children)	<i>2019-22</i> (Scotland data only) 10% (all ages) 14% (children)	-1% (all ages) +1% (children)
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	No data yet available
<b>Scottish Government Child Poverty 2030 Targets<sup>xxi</sup></b>			
Fewer than 5% of children should live in absolute poverty	<i>2017-20</i> 21% (Scotland data only)	<i>2020-23</i> 21% (Scotland data only)	Stable
Fewer than 5% of children should live in combined low income and material deprivation	<i>2016-20</i> 13% (Scotland data only)	<i>2020-23</i> 10% (Scotland data only)	-3%

**Table A2: Progress measures by EPC call to action<sup>xxii</sup>**

<b>Fair Work that provides enough to live on</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
Unemployed Edinburgh citizens <sup>xxiii</sup>	6,900	12,500	9,000	7,100	11,300
Universal Credit claimants <sup>xxiv</sup>	14,425	37,935	32,423	34,538	39,314
No. Living wage accredited employers in Edinburgh <sup>xxv</sup>	334	422	526	640	720
Edinburgh Employers Recruitment Incentive – uptake of places (all ages)	28	43	89	104	56
No One Left Behind Funding: number of young people who were supported	168	161	266	903	1,284
Number of people supported by City of Edinburgh Council funded employability programme	3,719	3,761	3,842	4,148	4,948
% of Council suppliers of new regulated tendered contracts that are committed to paying real living wage in delivering Council services	70%	79%	87%	82%	96%
<b>A decent home we can afford to live in</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
Total number of applicants on EdIndex register	23,998	20,564	21,013	23,550	25,226
Demand for social housing – number of active bidders	7,099	7,213	6,339	11,150	12,303
Average bid per property	203	201	140	185	242
Number of affordable homes approved	1,930	1,285	1,251	734	668

Number of affordable homes completed	1,443	1,087	1,041	1,215	934
Homes for social rent completed – total	648	252	247	451	385
Homes for social rent completed – local authority	208	92	70	54	177
Number of households assessed as homeless	3,355	1,929	2,399	3,287	3,434
Number of households who seek housing advice who do not go on to present as homeless	1,708	1,521	1,288	1,143	1,546
The number of households in temporary accommodation (at 31 March)	3,570	4,431	4,722	4,431	4,969
Percentage of households in unsuitable temporary accommodation (as at 31 March)	22%	25.1%	25.3%	25.7%	27.0%
<b>income security that provides a real lifeline</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
Council Advice Shop – number of individual welfare rights clients in year	3,800	5,752	7,265	3,075	3,709
Council Advice Shop - total financial gain	£ 11,497,227	£ 8,524,682	£ 6,971,968	£ 6,725,935	£ 7,634,849
Council tax reduction scheme – average caseload per year	32,467	35,282	32,946	31,327	31,080
Discretionary housing payments	7,427	8,205	7,806	7,766	7,682
Number of free school meals payments in school year	5,950	8,828	8,994	9,576	9,064
Number of clothing grant awards in school year	5,337	8,301	9,773	9,013	8,371

Scottish Welfare Fund – no. applications for Crisis Grants	16,367	35,923	32,616	31,647	29,500
SWF – no. applications for Community Care Grants	5,377	8,320	8,503	8,450	7,876
<b>Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects<sup>xxvi</sup></b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
% parents receiving funded Early Learning and Childcare through their preferred model of delivery.	-	-	74.1%	-	91.2%
Low attendance: % of Primary pupils whose attendance is less than 85%	-	10.6%	14.0%	11.2%	9.6%
Low attendance: % of Secondary students whose attendance is less than 85%	-	17.2%	19.1%	20.2%	19.7%
Literacy (all pupils) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level	-	73.8%	77.0%	77.3%	78.2%
Literacy (Lowest SIMD Quintile) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level	-	57.3%	62.5%	64.4%	65%
Numeracy (all pupils) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level	-	80.4%	83.0%	83.7%	84.1%
Numeracy (Lowest SIMD Quintile) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level	-	65.1%	71.4%	72.3%	73.0%

Attainment (all pupils) - The % of secondary school leavers achieving one or more qualifications at SCQF level 6 (Higher or equivalent)	71.1%	72.6%	68.4%	68.2%	
Attainment (Lowest SIMD Quintile) - The % of secondary school leavers achieving one or more qualifications at SCQF level 6 (Higher or equivalent)	51.1%	50.6%	44.9%	44.9%	
Positive destinations for school leavers - all pupils	92.5%	95.1%	96.1%	95.3%	
Positive destinations for school leavers - Lowest SIMD Quintile	88.9%	91.7%	94.7%	93.8%	
<b>Connections in a city that belongs to us</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
Proportion of people living in areas with low levels of public transport <sup>xxvii</sup>	10%	-	-	-	13%
No. CEC homes connected to fibre-to-the-property (FTTP) infrastructure <sup>xxviii</sup>	1,515 (7.7%)	8,917 (45%)	15,449 (83%)	-	19,880 (80%)
<b>Equality in our health and wellbeing<sup>xxix</sup></b>	<b>2017-2019</b>	<b>2018-2020</b>	<b>2019-2021</b>	<b>2020-2022</b>	
Average male life expectancy (years at birth)	78.4	78.2	78.0	77.8	
Average male healthy life expectancy (years at birth)	65.0	64.2	62.9	Not available	
Male HLE as a proportion of LE (%)	82.9%	82.2%	80.7%	Not available	
Average female life expectancy (years at birth)	82.5	82.4	82.4	82.2	
Average female healthy life expectancy (years at birth)	66.3	66.5	66.3	Not available	



Female HLE as a proportion of LE (%)	80.4%	80.7%	80.5%	Not available	
Inequalities in 0-74 years mortality rate (deaths per 100,000, EASR)- difference between the most and least deprived areas <sup>xxx</sup>	534.6	539.3	547.2	Not available	
	<b>2015-2019</b>	<b>2016-2020</b>	<b>2017-2021</b>	<b>2018-2022</b>	
Inequalities in Male life expectancy – difference in years between the most and least deprived areas	11.9	11.8	11.8	Not available	
Inequalities in Female life expectancy – difference in years between the most and least deprived areas	8.6	8.7	9.3	Not available	
	<b>2017-2019</b>	<b>2018-2020</b>	<b>2019-2021</b>	<b>2020-2022</b>	
Healthy Male Life Expectancy: percentage of life spent in good health	84.6%	82.2%	Not available	Not available	
Healthy Female Life Expectancy: percentage of life spent in good health	78.8%	80.7%	Not available	Not available	
	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
Child Development: difference in the % of 27-30 month reviews with any developmental concern between SIMD quintiles 1 and 5 <sup>xxxi</sup>	14.9	13.4	13.3	11.7	18.1
	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
Mental Health: difference in the % population prescribed drugs for mild to moderate mental health prescriptions between SIMD quintiles 1 and 5)	<b>9.8</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>9.3</b>	NA

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- <sup>i</sup> [‘A Just Capital – Actions to End Poverty in Edinburgh’](#) Edinburgh Poverty Commission, September 2020
- <sup>ii</sup> 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](#) – and the Scottish Government - <https://data.gov.scot/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](https://edinburghpovertycommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200930_Poverty_in_Edinburgh-Data_and_evidence.pdf)
- <sup>iii</sup> [The Living Standards Outlook 2024 • Resolution Foundation](#)
- <sup>iv</sup> [https://researchportal.hw.ac.uk/files/103278482/Technical\\_Report\\_Destitution\\_in\\_the\\_UK\\_2023\\_ProofedFinal2.pdf](https://researchportal.hw.ac.uk/files/103278482/Technical_Report_Destitution_in_the_UK_2023_ProofedFinal2.pdf)
- <sup>v</sup> [Children in low income families: local area statistics 2014 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- <sup>vi</sup> <https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s74160/Item%206.4%20-%20DRAFT%20EP%20Poverty%20Prevention.pdf>
- <sup>vii</sup> <https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s74856/7.11%20-%20Sustainable%20Procurement%20Strategy%20Annual%20Report%20-%202024%20-%20V2.pdf>
- <sup>viii</sup> 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](#) – and the Scottish Government - <https://data.gov.scot/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](https://edinburghpovertycommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200930_Poverty_in_Edinburgh-Data_and_evidence.pdf)
- <sup>ix</sup> <https://data.gov.scot/poverty>
- <sup>x</sup> [Living standards, poverty and inequality in the UK: 2024 | Institute for Fiscal Studies \(ifs.org.uk\)](#)
- <sup>xi</sup> [4. Results - Child poverty cumulative impact assessment: update - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- <sup>xii</sup> [https://povertyinequality.scot/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Child\\_Poverty\\_Delivery\\_Plan\\_progress\\_2023-2024\\_Scrutiny\\_by\\_the\\_Poverty\\_and\\_Inequality\\_Commission.pdf](https://povertyinequality.scot/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Child_Poverty_Delivery_Plan_progress_2023-2024_Scrutiny_by_the_Poverty_and_Inequality_Commission.pdf)
- <sup>xiii</sup> [Child poverty statistics update Scotland 2022/23 | FAI \(fraserofallander.org\)](#)
- <sup>xiv</sup> [The Living Standards Outlook 2024 • Resolution Foundation](#)
- <sup>xv</sup> [Poverty in Scotland 2023 | JRF](#)
- <sup>xvi</sup> [Destitution in the UK 2023 | Joseph Rowntree Foundation \(jrf.org.uk\)](#)

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<sup>xvii</sup> [https://researchportal.hw.ac.uk/files/103278482/Technical\\_Report\\_Destitution\\_in\\_the\\_UK\\_2023\\_ProofedFinal2.pdf](https://researchportal.hw.ac.uk/files/103278482/Technical_Report_Destitution_in_the_UK_2023_ProofedFinal2.pdf)

<sup>xviii</sup> [NHS Lothian Public Health Survey Results](#)

<sup>xix</sup> [Children in low income families: local area statistics 2014 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>xx</sup> Data relates to target 1) % of adults and children living in relative poverty after housing costs; 2) % of individuals in Edinburgh who are destitute; 3) % of individuals who have been living in relative poverty after housing costs for at least 3 years. 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](https://edinburghpovertycommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200930_Poverty_in_Edinburgh-Data_and_evidence.pdf)

<sup>xxi</sup> Definitions and data drawn from <https://data.gov.scot/poverty/>. The absolute poverty line is 60% of the inflation-adjusted UK median income in 2010/11. People are in absolute poverty if they live in a household whose equivalised income is below this amount. Absolute poverty is a measure of whether those in the lowest income households are seeing their incomes rise in real terms. Combined low income and child material deprivation is an additional way of measuring living standards. It is about households who cannot afford basic goods and activities that are seen as necessities in society.

<sup>xxii</sup> All data from All data from City of Edinburgh Council records unless listed below

<sup>xxiii</sup> Unemployment levels are from ONS Annual Population Survey, via [NOMIS](#)

<sup>xxiv</sup> Universal Credit claimant numbers (as at June) via [DWP](#)

<sup>xxv</sup> Data presented are as at March each year. Data in main document provides an update as at September 2023 when total accredited employers in Edinburgh had risen to 677.

<sup>xxvi</sup> Opportunities: school attendance, attainment, and destination rates via [Scottish Government School Education Statistics](#)

<sup>xxvii</sup> Figure for 2019-20 revised to use new methodology

<sup>xxviii</sup> Between 2021-22 and 2023-24, the stock list was revised to include dwellings which had been missed and so the total (denominator) increased.

<sup>xxix</sup> Data sources for health inequality data:

- [Life Expectancy in Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#). Note that 2022 data are based projections and treated as provisional.
- [Healthy Life Expectancy in Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#)
- Mortality rates calculated by NHS Lothian Public Health Intelligence using NRS deaths data held by Lothian Analytical Services
- 27-30 month review data based on CHSP-PS and extracted from PHS Discovery
- MH Prescriptions (% population prescribed drugs for anxiety/depression/psychosis) via [ScotPHO profiles tool](#).

<sup>xxx</sup> This measure- the absolute gap- describes the absolute difference between the extremes of deprivation (SIMD 1 and SIMD 5). These are different figures to those presented in the last report, based on SII, which due to technical issues could not be updated. More information about the absolute gap can be found in the Scottish Government's Long-term Monitoring of Health Inequalities report ([Annex 1: Technical Notes - Long-term Monitoring of Health Inequalities March 2023 report - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#))

<sup>xxxi</sup> Data source: [Early Child Development - 27-30 Month Review Statistics - Review by SIMD for Council Areas - Scottish Health and Social Care Open Data \(nhs.scot\)](#)

## Appendix 2: Council scrutiny of end poverty actions and plans

The priorities and actions needed to deliver Edinburgh's end poverty targets are embedded throughout the strategic plans and governance frameworks of the Council, the Edinburgh Partnership, and NHS Lothian. This report draws these end poverty actions together into a single plan, refreshed and updated every year. In doing so, the report aims to provide a single, comprehensive view on the steps being taken across the city in response to the challenge and calls to action set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission.

Within a Council context, actions described in this report are delivered and scrutinised through the work programmes of all Council services and all executive committees of the Council. Throughout the past 12 months, planning, development, delivery and scrutiny of these actions has been reviewed and conducted across more than 40 reports to the Council's 5 main executive committees.

These reports include:

- **Strategic planning and financial decision making** which drive forward the Council's end poverty targets – such as the Council Business Plan and Council Budget decision making processes
- **Broad based corporate strategies** which embed actions to promote fairness, inclusion and end poverty at the heart of the way the Council works and operates – such as the Council's equality and diversity framework, Performance and Planning Framework
- Reports on the **development and delivery of key services** for the end poverty framework described in this report
- Reports on the development of strategic **grants and funding programmes** helping to deliver end poverty actions – such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the Parental Employment Fund, the Connected Communities Edinburgh Fund, and others, and
- **Reports on progress** made by Council services in delivering the end poverty outcomes described in this report.

### City of Edinburgh Council

- [Council Budget Reports, February 2024](#)
- [Housing Revenue Account Reports, February 2024](#)
- [Edinburgh Integration Joint Board \(EIJB\) – Contract Real Living Wage Uplift, May 2024](#)
- [Forth Green Freeports full business case, August 2024](#)
- [Regenerative Futures Fund, September 2024](#)
- [Council Business Plan Progress, September 2024](#)
- [Public Performance Scorecard, September 2024](#)

### Policy and Sustainability Committee

- [Advice Shop Delivery update, January 2024](#)
- [Edinburgh Leisure and the real Living Wage, January 2024](#)

- [Equality and Diversity Framework update, March 2024](#)
- [Community Wealth Building policy duties, March 2024](#)
- [Edinburgh Partnership Survey 2023, March 2024](#)
- [Proactively maximising income, May 2024](#)
- [Food Overview: Council Programmes, Initiatives and Regulatory Functions, May 2024](#)
- [Provision of free period products, August 2024](#)
- [Our Strategic Workforce Plan, 2024-27, August 2024](#)

### **Housing Homelessness and Fair Work Committee**

- [Housing Emergency Action Plan, December 2023](#)
- [Strategic Housing Investment Plan, December 2023](#)
- [Edinburgh Fair Work Charter, December 2023](#)
- [Noone left behind – stage 1 provision 2024-27, December 2023](#)
- [Affordable Childcare for working parents, February 2024](#)
- [Parental Employability Support, February 2024](#)
- [Increasing Affordable Homes Delivery, February 2024](#)
- [Responding to the Housing Emergency Declaration, February 2024](#)
- [Empty Homes Annual Report, February 2024](#)
- [Employer recruitment incentives to support fair work, May 2024](#)
- [Housing Service Improvement Plan update, May 2024](#)
- [Discretionary Housing Payments, May 2024](#)
- [Affordable Housing Programme update, August 2024](#)
- [Edinburgh Living Annual Report, August 2024](#)
- [Edindex during the Housing Emergency, August 2024](#)
- [Network of employability support and training, August 2024](#)
- [UK Shared Prosperity Fund, August 2024](#)

### **Finance and Resources Committee**

- [Homelessness Services use of Temporary Accommodation, January 2024](#)
- [Sustainable Procurement Strategy Annual Report 2024, September 2024](#)

### **Culture and Communities Committee**

- [Third Party Cultural Grants Funding, February 2024](#)
- [Grants to third parties, February 2024](#)
- [Community Centre Strategy, May 2024](#)
- [Future Libraries, May 2024](#)

### **Transport and Environment Committee**

- [Accessibility Commission, January 2024](#)
- [City Mobility Plan 1<sup>st</sup> review, February 2024](#)

### **Education, Children and Families Committee**

- [Connected Communities Grant Programme, December 2023](#)
- [Literacy, January 2024](#)
- [Maximising Attendance, January 2024](#)
- [Teams Around the Learning Community, April 2024](#)
- [Single Parents Day, April 2024](#)

- [Edinburgh Community Learning and Development Partnership Plan, April 2024](#)
- [Chief Social Work Officer Report, April 2024](#)
- [Children's Services Improvement Plan, June 2024](#)
- [Education Standards & Quality Report 2023-24 and Education Improvement Plan 2024-27, September 2024](#)
- [Breakfast Club Provision, September 2024](#)

### **Edinburgh Partnership Board**

- [Edinburgh Children's Partnership Plan, March 2024](#)
- [Ending poverty related hunger, March 2024](#)
- [Transformation and Improvement Plan update, June 2024](#)
- [Transformation and Improvement Plan update, September 2024](#)
- [Poverty Prevention, September 2024](#)
- [Housing Partnership proposal, September 2024](#)
- [Local Outcome Improvement Plan annual update, September 2024](#)
- [Becoming a trauma informed partnership, September 2024](#)
- [UK Shared Prosperity Fund Annual Progress Report, September 2024](#)

## Appendix 3: Edinburgh Poverty Commission interim review progress update

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### Background

The calls to action made by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission in 2020 provide a core reference point for all work conducted by partners to prevent and address the effects of poverty in Edinburgh. Progress on actions to meet these calls to action are monitored through the Annual End Poverty in Edinburgh progress report discussed by the Partnership Board each year, as well as through the Edinburgh Local Outcome Improvement Plan Annual Report.

Building on this annual scrutiny, 2025 will mark the mid-point between the publication of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission's final report and the 2030 targets set out in its calls to action for the city. In advance of that threshold, in December 2022 the Edinburgh Partnership agreed that the members of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission would be invited to reconvene during 2024 to provide an interim review of progress made in the city towards 2030 targets.

In line with the original commission process, and to protect the independence of its findings, final decisions on the process and timing of this review are made by the commission chair, Dr Jim McCormick in collaboration with other independent members.

All original independent members were invited to an inception and scoping session in June this year. At this session, the commission agreed that the review process would be conducted and led in partnership with members of the End Poverty Edinburgh citizen's group with a focus on three priorities:

- **Reviewing progress** made in the past four years, adding independent insight and value to the annual reports and scrutiny conducted by partners, noting the areas where the commission's calls to action are being delivered, highlighting those areas where more work is needed, and considering new paths to meeting those calls to action.
- **Reiterating and restating** the core principles and findings of the original commission, the evidence they were drawn from, and their continued relevance.
- **Refreshing the calls to action.** In particular, this interim review provides an opportunity for the commission to consider new evidence and new issues that have come to light since its original work, and to consider any issues to which the original commission might, with the benefit of hindsight, have given more emphasis.

### Work programme

The Commission began its review during Autumn 2024, with a view to publication of findings during winter 2024/25. In doing so, the review process and findings are intended to support the development of transformation and poverty prevention programmes currently underway within the City of Edinburgh Council and the Edinburgh Partnership.



During its review process, it the commission are:

- Assessing evidence published by partners during 2020-24 including progress reports, new strategies, and budget commitments. Within this, a key element of evidence will be provided through the 2024 End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress report.
- Meeting and observing partnerships and delivery structures that have been developed in the city since the initial commission work was completed.
- Issuing a public online call for evidence and invitation for community sector organisations to provide face to face evidence to the commission
- Conducting a short series of roundtables and evidence gathering sessions with partners, citizens, statutory bodies, and community organisations across Edinburgh, including a specific focus on organisations that support people with protected characteristics
- Deliberating on the findings from these discussions in partnership with End Poverty Edinburgh and other citizen led groups, and
- Publishing and launching its findings at a public in person event.

Key dates and sessions already planned or underway by the Commission include participation in:

- Two September stakeholder engagement sessions for development of a new Edinburgh Housing Strategy
- An engagement workshop focused on poverty and youth work in Edinburgh
- A visit to Edinburgh Food Project Community Hub
- The Edinburgh Local Employability Partnership Summit
- The End Poverty Edinburgh Citizen's Group Annual Conference held in Challenge Poverty Week 2024
- An Edinburgh Poverty Network discussion session on the learning from the 2024 End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Report
- A special session of the Edinburgh Partnership Board
- Discussion sessions with City of Edinburgh Council Leadership Team
- An all party elected member engagement session.

This programme of work is in continual development, with more updates available on request.