

Summary: Community Plan (LOIP 2018–2028) Refresh Consultation, Thursday 26 February 2026

About the Community Plan

The Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP)— known as the Edinburgh Community Plan — is developed by the Edinburgh Partnership and provides the framework for supporting the delivery of partnership working to reduce poverty and inequality and improve wellbeing across the city. With two years remaining on the current plan, the Edinburgh Partnership is refreshing it for its final phase.

The Third Sector Interface and The Equality and Rights Network (EaRN) sought the views of the third sector on the proposed refresh actions, drawing on expertise from 30 organisations working directly with Edinburgh's communities. Participants took part in roundtable discussions exploring the actions associated with each — considering how well they align with current community needs, what may be missing, what impact they would like to see, any risks of adverse effects, and any other relevant factors.

The Three Priority Areas of the Community Plan (LOIP 2018-2028)

1. Enough money to live on

The actions proposed were broadly welcomed, though questions were asked about:

- Better coordination and fewer gaps between services. Making "affordable" housing genuinely affordable, strengthening rent controls, better housing standards alongside increased supply.
- Joining up income maximisation, welfare advice and financial literacy programmes, reducing duplication.
- The extent to which the NHS and Third Sector are involved.
- There was a call to move beyond managing the symptoms of poverty toward addressing its root causes, with a need for better data and clearer accountability.

2. Access to work, learning and training opportunities

Questions were asked about:

- Provision for people experiencing homelessness, those with disabilities or neurodivergent needs, and people with convictions.
- A shift from measuring school attendance to measuring meaningful outcomes and called for better integration of mental health support into schools and employability pathways.
- Addressing the housing-employment cycle that traps people (no house without a job, no job without a house) and avoiding placing people into endless training schemes without genuine job outcomes.
- Better recognising and utilising the expertise, value and existing provision within youth work, volunteering and third sector employability services.
- Meeting ambitions without adequate funding such as commitment to fair work practices.

3. A Good Place to Live

There was cautious optimism about ambitions here, alongside questions about:

- Whether actions will translate into real change given current resource pressures.
- How the Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships will work in practice and the extent to which community voices will genuinely shape them.
- More trauma-informed, preventative approaches with proper investment across community safety and justice, homelessness and community spaces.
- Strengthening victim voices, increasing support for prison leavers upon release, interconnection with addiction and the Edinburgh Alcohol and Drug Partnership.
- Broader calls for better consultation practices, baseline data, year-round reporting, recognising good work being done, and a more positive framing of the plan's ambitions.

What Happens Next

All feedback has been shared with the Chairs and Leads of the Strategic Partnerships whose responses will be tracked and communicated to the wider sector. Issues outside the refresh scope will be logged and directed appropriately — or carried forward into the next LOIP cycle (2028–2038), which begins development this year. It is hoped that greater clarity and better understanding of work being done in partnerships will be provided through responses.

The refreshed plan is due to be approved and launched in **June 2026**, with further opportunities to shape the next Community Plan to follow.