

CLD Partnership Plan: 2024-2027

1. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

The East Lothian Partnership is strongly committed to supporting and delivering on the shared ambitions of our young people, adult learners, and communities. We are delighted to present this latest Community Learning and Development Partnership Plan (CLD Plan) which builds on our previous plan and actions across the partnerships. We recognise that the plan is being developed during a time of change, but we believe that it should help and support our shared ambitions for our young people, our adult learners and to support our communities. We are committed to ensuring that this new plan reflects the recommendations from the Independent Review of CLD which was published very recently in July 2024 which can be found [here](#) along with the outcomes from our recent CLD Progress Visit carried out by Education Scotland (May 2024). Furthermore, we have recognised that East Lothian’s approach to CLD requires review and improvement and to that end we are keen to ensure that our plan and our approaches to delivering on the actions drive sustained continuous improvement.

The newly reinstated East Lothian CLD Partnership (ELCLDP) has therefore taken the decision to produce a 1-year plan to ensure that we can fully address all the recommendations in these important reports. ELC will chair and lead the creation of the partnership and plan in year 1, with a view to rotating the role of chair within the partnership or seeking a community chair. This will be confirmed and agreed by the CLD Partnership through the Terms of Reference for the group. We are committed to full consultation and engagement on the plan and therefore we believe that we must take the time over the coming year to better understand the needs and aspirations of those in our communities, our partners and our workforce and ensure a joined-up approach to tackling the ambitious actions and recommendations to ensure CLD is fully embedded in all that we do.

The CLD plan seeks to be one which will evolve throughout this year, with members contributing to its shape, content, and outcomes. In addition, we will ensure that the data we collect to evidence the CLD plans impact, is clear and the outcomes are understood by our members, communities, and learners. The East Lothian Partnership, which is the CLD partnership governance reporting structure, is under review as is the East Lothian Plan. An updated CLD Plan covering the remainder of this planning period up to 2027 will be produced by September 2025.

The CLD Plan 2024 – 2025 initially focuses on East Lothian Council’s priorities and objectives. The identified priorities will require ongoing resourcing whilst acknowledging the significant financial challenges faced by the Council and partners.

We have two overarching priorities for this year:

1. Improved life chances for people of all ages, through learning, personal development, and active citizenship.
2. Stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential, and inclusive communities.

These align with the objectives in the current East Lothian Plan (LOIP) and the East Lothian Council Plan.

The following contextual elements have also influenced the changes:

- Ongoing recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic
- The cost-of-living crisis, economic uncertainty, and reductions in public sector funding
- Reducing external funding and the uncertainty of one year funding cycles
- Service restructuring and changes in leadership within East Lothian Council
- Significant growth across the county with increased population and heightened service demand (East Lothian is now the second fastest growing local authority in Scotland with larger populations of both children and older people).

In the face of such adversity, communities often rally together, and partners work with each other sharing resources to tackle challenges. East Lothian have strong and connected communities. Partners know each other well, there is mutual respect and a good understanding of the challenges; and are solution focused on the way forward. Our existing structures will allow our partners to come together and working in partnership find solutions and the opportunities that exist, whilst tackling these challenges together. We will work on the principles of equity and accountability across the partnership and partners.

2. WHY DO WE NEED A CLD PLAN?

In 2013 the Scottish Government introduced legislation for CLD, The Requirements for Community Learning & Development (Scotland) Regulations', which placed a legal requirement on local authorities to fulfil a lead role in the implementation of the strategic guidance including the publication of a 3-year CLD Plan in collaboration with other public sector providers and the third sector.

The Regulations set out the following policy goals:

- To ensure communities across Scotland – particularly those that are disadvantaged - have access to the CLD support they need.
- To strengthen coordination between the full range of CLD providers – ensuring that CPPs, local authorities and other providers of public services respond appropriately to the expectations set by the CLD Strategic Guidance
- To reinforce the role of communities and learners in the assessment, planning, and evaluation processes, enabling them to shape CLD provision.
- To make the role and contribution of CLD more visible

Community Learning and Development is widely understood to include:

- Community development (building the capacity of communities to meet their own needs, engaging with, and influencing decision makers)
- Youth work, family learning and other early intervention work with children, young people, and families
- Community based adult learning, including adult literacies, family learning and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- Learning for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the community, for example, people with disabilities, care leavers or offenders
- Volunteer development; and
- Learning support and guidance in the community

Community Learning and Development activity in East Lothian has a strong focus on early intervention, prevention and tackling inequalities and aligns with the outcomes within the East Lothian Partnership's East Lothian Plan 2017-27 (currently under review):

“We will work in partnership to achieve an even more prosperous, safe and sustainable East Lothian, with a dynamic and thriving economy that enables our people and communities to flourish”.

The current East Lothian Plan focuses on 3 main outcomes: Prosperous, Community Minded and Fair to create opportunities to play a full and active part in East Lothian's social and economic development.

The East Lothian Council Plan has been reprioritised with the new priorities being:

- Ensure the financial sustainability of the Council through the delivery of approved savings and transforming the way we deliver services.
- Target resources on statutory services and focus on the highest risks and those most in need.
- Deliver key infrastructure, economic development and environmentally sustainable projects within available Council resources and maximising external funding.

The plan continues to be a living document which evolves over time; it needs to be reviewed and refreshed regularly and as required to take into account future published plans and strategies at both national and local level, for example the Promise, UNCRC, the national Youth Work Strategy, Lifelong Learning Framework 2022–27 and Adult Learning Strategy 2021–2026.

3. REVIEW OF THE CLD PLAN 2021-2024

A significant amount of work has been undertaken to deliver the 2021-2024 Plan and progress made towards outcomes. A summary of some of this activity is included here.

Some of the Outcome Indicators included in the East Lothian Plan relate directly to the CLD Plan and an update on the progress of these, which was reported to the East Lothian Partnership Governance Group in April 2024, is also included below.

Indicators	Source	Baseline 2021/22	Target	Latest 2024
Number of people participating in East Lothian Works operated or funded employability programmes.	SLAED	384	450	836 for 23/24
% participation rate for 16–19-year-olds.	SDS	94.7% Scottish Ave: 91.8%	96%	94.6% Scottish Ave: 94.2%
Proportion of Community Councils with Local Community Resilience Plans.	East Lothian Council	25%	75%	60% (2022)
The number of successfully completed DofE awards	East Lothian Council	April 2021 – March 2022 Started 301 and completed 51 (16.9%) April 2022 – March 2023 Started 278 and completed 80 (28.77%)	10% increase per year	April 2023 – March 2024 Started 383 and completed 169 (44.1%)

4. IDENTIFYING NEED – WHAT DOES THE DATA TELL US?

(Data from draft Strategic Needs Assessment 2024). East Lothian includes 6 main towns and geographic clusters including a mix of urban and rural communities. There are 6 Area Partnerships which bring together local community representatives as the local voice of community planning.



East Lothian has experienced the highest population growth of all local authorities in Scotland over the past twenty years. Over the next twenty years, the Council area is expected to experience high rates of growth, greater than the City Region and Scotland. This will be primarily driven by the over 65 population.

Population projections (NRS 2021), by age-group, estimates that those aged:

- 0 to 15 and 45-64 will decrease by 1.8% and 2.8%, respectively, by 2028.
- 16-24 are expected to increase by 6.7% by 2028, compared to -0.9% in Scotland.
- 75+ are expected to have the largest increase in population, at 32%.
- 65 to 74 will also have a significant increase in population of 23.2%, highlighting East Lothian's ageing population.

The county's ageing population is expected to increase challenges for services. There will be a higher demand for accessible and adaptable homes. Likewise, Health and Social Care supports needs will increase and a sustaining workforce within this sector able to afford living in East Lothian will be crucial.

Workplace earnings are significantly lower than both resident earnings for East Lothian, and average workplace earnings for the other comparator areas. It is suggested that this is driven by high earners commuting to work in Edinburgh.

The last few years have seen significant increases in both food and fuel poverty because of the ‘cost of living crisis’. East Lothian Foodbank has reported that it has seen a 200% increase in the provision of emergency food parcels since 2017. The latest available national figures for fuel poverty (2017-2019) show that 24% of East Lothian households were estimated as being in fuel poverty, which was the same as the Scottish average. The 2024 Poverty Profile shows that on almost all measures East Lothian has lower levels of poverty than most other parts of Scotland. But the relative ‘affluence’ of East Lothian masks significant levels of poverty in some parts of the county. 8 (6%) of East Lothian’s 132 data zones were ranked in the 20% most deprived in Scotland whilst 26 (20%) were in the 20% least deprived in Scotland. Four of these data zones are in Tranent, three are in Prestonpans and one is in Musselburgh. The disparity between wards is evidenced across almost all the data that goes into developing the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Using the most used measure of child poverty – the percentage of children living in households with below 60% median income after housing costs – East Lothian was below the Scottish average in the last 2 years for which data was reported – 18.9% in 2020/21 and 21.2% in 2021/22 compared to the Scottish average of 24.5% in both years. But again, the child poverty statistics that are available at a ward level show clear and significant disparity between wards. For example, the percentage of children living in ‘relative’ poverty and ‘absolute’ poverty varies from 23.4% and 17.1% in the Musselburgh ward to 7.7% and 6.7% in the North Berwick Coastal ward.

There continues to be significant Partnership work ongoing to deliver and develop anti-poverty work. The 2024-2027 East Lothian Poverty Plan and collaboration and partnership working are essential for this work to be effective and make a difference to families and communities. There will always be differences in outcomes for people living in East Lothian, but we can aim to increase opportunities and reduce inequality.

The number of Universal Credit claimants in East Lothian increased from 5,842 (Feb 2020) to 9,821 (March 2024) – a 68.1% increase. Across Scotland the increase was 108.6%. In March 2024, 9% of East Lothian’s population was in Households receiving Universal Credit compared to the Scottish average of 9.7%.

The data consistently shows that Musselburgh, Tranent Wallyford & Macmerry wards have higher levels of poverty than other areas. A plethora of indicators can be used to measure/ compare the relative levels of poverty across East Lothian. The table below provides a general estimate of the proportion of poverty levels across East Lothian’s six wards based on various actual and proxy measures provided by SIMD 2020 and the other sources summarised in this profile.

Estimate of proportion of East Lothian's poverty across six wards

Musselburgh	24%
Tranent Wallyford & Macmerry	24%
Preston Seton Gosford	18%
Haddington & Lammermuir	16%
Dunbar & East Linton	10%
North Berwick Coastal	8%

5. CLD PRIORITIES 2024-25

When delivering the CLD Plan the focus will be on the strategic objectives set out in the Government's National Performance Framework for public services, which align with the East Lothian Plan outcomes and the new Council Plan priorities:

1. Improved life chances for people of all ages, through learning, personal development, and active citizenship.
2. Stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential, and inclusive communities.

This Action Plan covers the actions to be delivered by the CLD Partnership over the next 12 months.

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

Actions	Why	Who is lead/ing?	Target Date	Resources	Measurable Outcomes
1. Review the vision for CLD in East Lothian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Independent Review of CLD - The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013: Guidance for Local Authorities - CLDSC The competent practitioner framework 	Executive Director	31/8/25		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outcome of return visit from Education Scotland and level of engagement of partnership members.
2. Strengthen partnership and leadership of CLD through a process for co-ordination for the CLD provision including the CLD plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Education Authority has a requirement to Co-ordinate the provision of community learning and development with partners. CLD plans must be consistent with existing and emerging priorities for young people, adults and their families 	Executive Director	31/8/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connected Communities Team - Partnership Governance Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agree meeting frequency with Partnership members. - Once plan is published, we will then create T o R with members and agree how to progress the partnership, members contributions to the plan actions and outcomes.

Actions	Why	Who is lead/ing?	Target Date	Resources	Measurable Outcomes
	within schools, colleges, third sector organisations and communities across the local authority area.				
2a. Develop an approach for consultation, in partnership with learners and communities, to identify needs, strengths and opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is required to identify the Community Learning and Development needs of target individuals and groups within their local authority area. <p>The education authority is obliged to involve and consult certain representative persons in carrying out that process: persons representative of the target individuals and groups; and persons to be representative of persons providing community learning and development within the locality.</p>	CLD partnership	31/8/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connected Communities Team - Education authority - New Participation and Engagement Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreed approach from partners - Completed consultation and engagement exercise with partners, learners, communities and young people
2b. Continue to improve our systems for collecting and reporting data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a requirement to gather, analyse and use appropriate data and other relevant information to improve services and 	CLD partnership	31/8/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connected Communities Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreed data collection and reporting mechanisms and measurable targets for partnership plan.

Actions	Why	Who is lead/ing?	Target Date	Resources	Measurable Outcomes
	demonstrate positive impacts.			- Research for good practice through SEAC and ES	
2c. Improve how we share data to inform joint planning and evaluation with partners.	- There is a requirement to work well with partners to share key data and other information to assess need and support improvement.	CLD partnership	31/8/25		- Process for shared evaluation – not measurable outcome
2d. Develop and create a Safeguarding charter	- Increase awareness of Safeguarding practices and raise standards across partnership	Connected Communities Service Manager / CLD partnership		- Connected Communities Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Charter in place which includes an assurance mechanism. - Commitment from partners that all staff and volunteers will be trained etc. - Work with partners to consider an event or training session.
2e. Undertake an Equalities Impact Assessment and Children’s Right Impact Assessment within the development of the CLD plan	- Requirement within CLD regulations	CLD partnership	31/8/25		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completion of the plan and assessment. - Completed impact assessments and actions as required.
3. Increase the level of partnership working to support those that have been identified within SLDR and APM reporting as being in a negative destination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SLDR (School Leaver destinations) APM (Annual Participation Measure) - Improve connections with CLD colleagues and community-based partners 	ELW/SDS	31/8/25	- ELW/SDS and external partners	- Leaver cohort 2022-23 was 96.3% (National 95.9%). Whilst this is the initial measure, partnership support will be required for the follow up measure to identify those in negative destinations.

Actions	Why	Who is lead/ing?	Target Date	Resources	Measurable Outcomes
	to support the follow up activity and the ongoing tracking and monitoring of young people who are in a negative destination.				

Year One priorities (consultation with communities and learners still to be undertaken) – 1/9/24 to 31/8/25
Priorities will support the actions defined in the plan above and validate successful impact of the partnership.
Priorities align with outcomes in East Lothian Council plan.

Theme 1: Prosperous Outcome 1.1. East Lothian people are working, are free from in-work poverty and are able to develop and improve their work skills.

Actions	Why	Who is lead/ing?	Target Date	Resources	Measurable Outcome
School Leaver Destinations (SLDR).	This is one of the KPIs for ELW and also part of our Service Plan. Also forms part of the statutory requirements for the Local Authority.	ELW/Skills Development Scotland (SDS)	31/6/25	- ELW, SDS and a range of community-based partners.	Leaver cohort 2022-23 was 96.3% (National 95.9%). Whilst this is the initial measure, partnership support will be required for the follow up measure to identify those in negative destinations. *Financial year target
Annual Participation Measure (APM).	This is one of the KPIs for ELW and also part of our Service Plan. Also forms part of the statutory requirements for the Local Authority.	ELW/SDS	31/8/25	- ELW, SDS and a range of community-based partners.	For 2023 this was 96.1% (National 93.3%). ELC's stretch aim is 96.4% *Financial year target
SLAED Indicator: Number of people participating in EL Works operated or	This is one of the KPIs for ELW and also part of our Service Plan. Also forms part of the statutory	ELW	31/8/25	- ELW and external partners.	For 23/24 836 people participated 836 Target for 23/24 was 850 people *Financial year target

Actions	Why	Who is lead/ing?	Target Date	Resources	Measurable Outcomes
funded employability programmes.	requirements for the Local Authority.				
SLAED Indicator: Percentage of people involved in Council operated employability programmes progressed into employment.	This is one of the KPIs for ELW and also part of our Service Plan. Also forms part of the statutory requirements for the Local Authority.	ELW	31/8/25	- ELW and external partners.	22.1% (185 people) Target for 23/24 was 25% *Financial year target
ALN: Increase the no of learners participating in ALN Increase the no of learners achieving qualifications	This links to the Adult Learning Strategy for Scotland (2022-27)	ELW	31/8/25	- Staffing resource	*Target 23/24 is 60 - Achieved 64 - Target 24/25 is 65 *Target 23/24 is 8 - Achieved 4 - Target 24/25 is 8 *Based on academic year
ESOL: Number of learners achieving an SQA qualification. Number of learners progressing to the next level of qualification	This links to the Adult Learning Strategy for Scotland (2022-27), also links to the New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy 2024	ELW	31/8/25	- Staffing resource	*Target 23/24 is 23 - Achieved 25 - Target 24/25 is 23 *Target 23/24 is 30 - Achieved 26 - Target 24/25 is 26 *Based on academic year

Actions	Why	Who is lead/ing?	Target Date	Resources	Measurable Outcomes
<p>Skills for Work: Number of SQA qualifications achieved at Level 4 and 5</p> <p>Number of learners progressing into work or further education</p>	<p>This links to the Adult Learning Strategy for Scotland (2022-27)</p>	<p>ELW/Edinburgh College</p>	<p>31/8/25</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Edinburgh College to provide data - Edinburgh College team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Target 23/24 is 38 - Achieved 31 - Target 24/25 35 *Target 23/24 is 10 - Achieved 11 - Target 24/25 is 10 *Based on academic year
<p>Theme 2: Community minded 2.1 East Lothian has strong resilient communities where people respect and support each other</p>					
<p>Increase the number of completed DofE awards</p>	<p>Baseline figure 169 Target for 24/25 is 186</p> <p>Contributing to KPI 7b Number of young people completed nationally recognised awards through CLD activity and 7c Number of young people receiving sectional certificates towards above Awards.</p>	<p>Connected Communities</p>	<p>31/8/25</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - D of E staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10% increase in number of completed DofE awards
<p>Embed opportunity to undertake youth awards within our universal youth work provisions</p>	<p>KPI for CLD Activity 7a - Number of children receiving completed nationally recognised awards through / 7b - Number of young people receiving completed nationally recognised awards through CLD activity CLD activity. This would provide way</p>	<p>Connected Communities</p>	<p>31/8/25</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Casual Youth Workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awards available in 100% of ELCs youth clubs

Actions	Why	Who is lead/ing?	Target Date	Resources	Measurable Outcomes
	of measuring the learning and attainment within universal youth work provision.				
Embed the provision of specialist youth workers 1 to 1 support for young people in East Lothian	Identifying priority groups and target the most vulnerable and marginalised learners in schools, colleges and communities to engage with CLD services	Connected Communities	31/8/25	- Specialist Youth Workers	- Measurable increase in engagement, confidence, and well-being of identifiable young people
Review and then publish ELCs Youth Vision	CLD plans are consistent with existing and emerging priorities for young people, adults and their families within schools, colleges, third sector organisations and communities across the local authority area	Connected Communities	31/8/25		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with young people to review the content and priorities previously identified. - Define roles and responsibilities for all partners. - Create measurable impacts within the plan. - Launch the plan.
Increase the number of interactions to support community capacity building	Securing participation from communities requires commitment from the CPP and partners to strengthen the capacity of community bodies, wherever this is needed to build effective community involvement in decision-making, policy development and service provision. Community capacity building is especially important to secure the participation of	Connected Communities	31/8/25		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baseline - Community Capacity Building 2023/24: Actions 200 - Target increase 10% - Target for 2024/25 – Actions 220

Actions	Why	Who is lead/ing?	Target Date	Resources	Measurable Outcomes
	<p>those sections of the community which are otherwise less engaged than other sections in community planning. This includes in particular community bodies which represent the interests of persons who experience inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic or other disadvantage. Community planning partners should seek to maximise the impact of community learning and development by focusing activity on the most disadvantaged communities. CLDS standards council KPI 11 Number of community groups receiving capacity building support through CLD activity.</p>				

Actions	Why	Who is lead/ing?	Target Date	Resources	Measurable Outcomes
Theme 3: Fair 3.1 We tackle the causes and effects of poverty in East Lothian and we reduce the gap between the richest and the poorest people (for example Holiday hunger, bursaries)					
Actions	Why	Who is lead/ing?	Target Date	Resources	Measurable Outcomes
We will continue to support those in need in our communities through the Lunch clubs, Community Pantries and Festive provisions	Target resources on statutory services and focus on the highest risks and those most in need <i>*Current ELC plan priority *</i>	Connected Communities Service Manager	31/8/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Third Sector partners, VCEL/ELFFN - Local projects and pantries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased membership of ELFFN by 10 % - Baseline is 50

This report was approved by East Lothian Partnership governance group on 22nd October 2024.