

## Members' Library Service Request Form

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Originator	Paolo Vestri
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Document Title	2020 Child Poverty Action Report

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**REPORT TO:** Members' Library Service

**MEETING DATE:**

**BY:** Head of Communities

**SUBJECT:** 2020 East Lothian Child Poverty Action Report

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To inform members of the 2020 East Lothian Child Poverty Action Report which outlines key activity to address child poverty in 2020.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the 2020 East Lothian Child Poverty Action Report and the work outlined within it to address child poverty.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Child poverty means growing up in families without the resources to 'obtain the type of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities' which are the norm in 21st century Scotland. A child is considered to be living in poverty when they are living in a family with an income below 60% of the UK's average after adjusting for family size. In East Lothian child poverty levels vary across the county and often within ward areas. Child poverty can often be hidden as parents strive to do the best they can for their children. Estimates suggest that 1 in 5 children in East Lothian are living in poverty after housing costs are taken into account, in some areas this rises to 1 in 4.
- 3.2 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 introduced the requirement for each Council and NHS Board to produce a Child Poverty Action Report (CPAR). The Children's Strategic Partnership was asked to develop the CPAR on behalf of the East Lothian Partnership. The CPAR is required to highlight activity already underway to tackle child poverty and to identify actions that will be taken over the next twelve months to prevent, reduce

or mitigate against the impact of child poverty. It should demonstrate step change in how we approach the reduction in child poverty.

- 3.3 The second East Lothian Child Poverty Action Report has been produced in unique circumstances. The world has been in the grip of the Coronavirus pandemic since January 2020. This report was due to be published in June 2020 but has been delayed as East Lothian Council, NHS Lothian and all our partners and East Lothian communities put all our energies into responding to the impact of the pandemic on society, public health and the economy. The update on the Action Plan provides a summary of how East Lothian Council, NHS Lothian and our partners in the East Lothian Partnership are continuing to take action to tackle the scourge of poverty.
- 3.4 The 2020 report is in effect a 'holding statement' of progress that has been made with the Child Poverty Action Plan since the previous report was published in June 2019.
- 3.5 The pandemic is known to be having a disproportionate impact of people who are disadvantaged. However, the full impact of the virus on society, people's health, the economy and inequality will not be known for some time. We have begun to plan to respond to the expected long term negative impacts of the virus through developing a new Poverty plan for East Lothian, which will incorporate a new Child Poverty Action Plan.
- 3.6 The third Child Poverty Action Plan report, which will be published later this year will provide a fuller assessment of the impact of the virus on East Lothian and our Child Poverty Plan and will set out a new Action Plan to take us through recovery into renewal from the virus.
- 3.7 The report provides some examples of the excellent work that supports the Plan and its goal of reducing child poverty. The main part of the report is the update of the Action Plan, which is structured around five key drivers and areas of focus:
- Income from work and earnings
  - Income from social security and benefits
  - Working in partnership at all levels to continue our focus on reducing poverty and inequality.
  - Costs of Living
  - Increasing understanding of the impact of child poverty and ensuring child poverty is considered as part of the decision making process

## **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 In East Lothian, the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and the Council Plan make a very strong and clear commitment to tackling poverty and reducing inequality. The East Lothian Poverty Commission shone a light

on the lived experience of poverty across the county and the Council and its partners have been working to deliver on all of the recommendations made by the Commission through their report. Activity and partnership working to prevent and reduce poverty are mainstreamed through all aspects of the Councils work and through some specific workstreams and targeted projects.

- 4.2 The report highlights key challenges in addressing child poverty across the county and priority actions have been identified to address these.

## **5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 This report is not subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment.

## **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Financial – none  
6.2 Personnel – none  
6.3 Other – none

## **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 2020 East Lothian Child Poverty Action Report

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<b>DATE</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2021



# Child Poverty: Taking Action in East Lothian

## Child Poverty Action Report 2020

### Introduction

This second East Lothian Child Poverty Action Report has been produced in unique circumstances. The world has been in the grip of the Coronavirus pandemic since January 2020. This report was due to be published in June 2020 but has been delayed as East Lothian Council, NHS Lothian and all our partners and East Lothian communities put all our energies into responding to the impact of the pandemic on society, public health and the economy. It is being published in April 2021, in order to provide a summary of how East Lothian Council, NHS Lothian and our partners in the East Lothian Partnership are continuing to take action to tackle the scourge of poverty. So this is in effect a 'holding statement' of progress that has been made with the Child Poverty Action Plan since the previous report was published in June 2019.

The pandemic is known to be having a disproportionate impact of people who are disadvantaged. However, the full impact of the virus on society, people's health, the economy and inequality will not be known for some time. We have begun to plan to respond to the expected long term negative impacts of the virus through developing a new Poverty Plan for East Lothian, which will incorporate a new Child Poverty Action Plan. The third Child Poverty Action Plan report, which will be published later in 2021 will provide a fuller assessment of the impact of the virus on East Lothian and our Child Poverty Plan, and will set out a new Action Plan to take us through recovery into renewal from the virus.

### ***The Impact of Child Poverty***

All areas of a child's life are adversely affected when they live in poverty, including health, education and friendships. Families living on a low-income experience more stress, which in turn affects relationships and family dynamics.

Children living in poverty are more likely to:

- Have poorer physical health
- Experience mental health and wellbeing problems
- Underachieve at school
- Be excluded from school
- Have fewer opportunities
- Experience social deprivation
- Feel unsafe
- Experience stigma and bullying at school

## Child Poverty - Taking Action in East Lothian

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In East Lothian child poverty levels vary across the county and often within ward areas. Child poverty can often be hidden as parents strive to do the best they can for their children. On average, 1 in 5 children in East Lothian are living in poverty after housing costs are taken into account, in some areas this rises to 1 in 4. Higher levels of deprivation are concentrated in the western part of East Lothian (around Musselburgh, Wallyford, Tranent and Prestonpans), although there are also pockets of deprivation in Haddington and Dunbar.

The risk of poverty exists for all. However, some population groups can be at an increased risk of poverty. In terms of child poverty there are a number of groups in East Lothian who are particularly vulnerable to poverty.

- Gypsy traveller children are extremely vulnerable to living in poverty and can be difficult to support through traditional approaches to service delivery. East Lothian has a shared site with Midlothian Council and work is underway to identify improvements to provision of play space at the site, following work to improve the condition of the overall site.
- There is a close correlation between women's poverty and child poverty with factors including the gender pay gap and greater reliance on social security having an impact.
- Across the UK 92 percent of lone parents are women and lone parents are particularly vulnerable to falling into poverty. 6% of families in East Lothian are single parent families.
- Families with a disabled family member (adult or child) are also more likely to experience poverty.
- Care experienced young people: Children living in poverty are more likely to come into care than their affluent peers. Poverty undermines parenting and exacerbates the factors like substance misuse that are associated with maltreatment.

While we do have statistics to help provide estimates, these are just estimates and we are aware that other families may be struggling or experiencing poverty that might be hidden.

The full impact of COVID on our economy and on levels of poverty will not be known for some time. The 'furlough' scheme and the vast injection of short term emergency funding to mitigate the worst effects of lockdown and economic downturn has masked the full negative impact of the virus. The worst case scenario is a substantial increase in poverty and child poverty.

Unemployment and claimants for Universal Credit more than doubled in the second quarter of 2020. The number of people claiming Free School Meals increased by 20% from February 2020 to February 2021. We know that referrals to and people using Foodbanks increased substantially during 2020 despite the substantial increase in funding for other initiatives to mitigate against food poverty.

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### **Challenges in East Lothian**

The challenges facing East Lothian, although amplified by COVID, not have changed over the last year. East Lothian's children experience relatively less poverty than other local authority areas across Scotland. However, there are a number of elements which present the challenge to local services to ask is they are doing enough or will be doing enough to prevent reducing or mitigate against child poverty:

- East Lothian is one of the fastest growing Scottish local authorities with over 10,000 new homes to be built over the next decade. This will mean a growing number of children and young people who will need to access good quality public services.
- East Lothian overall performs well when compared to other local authority areas in terms of poverty. As new family homes are built across the county and the population rises, we need to insure that we continue to count the number of children living in poverty (as percentages are likely to decrease).
- Demand for children's services increased in 2019 and 2020. As resources are continually stretched we need to continue our focus on prevention and early intervention for families, reducing the demand for crisis services.
- It is hard to measure levels of in work poverty and to take account of underemployment in employment data.
- East Lothian's private rented sector remains in short supply with rent levels above the average.
- Skills Development Scotland predict an increase in the number of jobs at lower pay levels increasing the possibility of in work poverty.
- Increasing pressure on budgets requires all partners to focus on key priorities and services are squeezed. Short term funding and unpredictability of future funding sources are of concern.

### **Strategic Commitment to Reducing Poverty and Inequality**

East Lothian Council adopted an overarching objective of '*reducing inequalities within and across our communities*' in 2014. This objective was incorporated into the East Lothian Community Planning Partnership's Local Outcome Improvement Plan, the East Lothian Plan 2017-27. The Partnership's overall commitment is to '*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 focus of the Partnership is on reducing inequalities across the area, tackling poverty, and working to prevent problems.

The 2017-2022 Council Plan sets out the following strategic goals to make the biggest impact in delivering the plan's objectives including reducing inequalities:

- Reduce unemployment and improve the employability of east Lothian's workforce
- Reduce the attainment gap and raise the attainment and achievement of our children and young people



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- Improve the life chances of the most vulnerable people in our society
- Extend community engagement and decision making and increase community and individual resilience.

The East Lothian Partnership's commitments and Council's strategic goals form the key elements of the Partnership's Poverty Plan and Child Poverty Action Plan.

In February 2020 the Partnership took the decision to re-establish its multi-agency Poverty working Group to review both the Poverty Plan and Child Poverty Action Plan to ensure they are fully aligned and focussed on the focussed joint working required to reduce inequalities and poverty. The COVID pandemic has increased the importance and significance of this work as the long term negative impacts on society, health and the economy become all too apparent. The Poverty Working Group is developing a new Poverty Plan for East Lothian, which will incorporate a new Child Poverty Action Plan, which will set out the priorities and actions for the next three years.

### ***The 2020 Child Poverty Action Report***

This 2020 Child Poverty Action Report provides some examples of the excellent work that has been taking place over the last 18 months in support of the current Child Poverty Action Plan. Following this, the main part of the report provide a detailed update of the Action Plan, structured around five key drivers and areas of focus:

1. Income from work and earnings
2. Income from social security and benefits
3. Working in partnership at all levels to continue our focus on reducing poverty and inequality.
4. Costs of Living
5. Increasing understanding of the impact of child poverty and ensuring child poverty is considered as part of the decision making process.

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### 1. Tackling Poverty in East Lothian

There are many initiatives, projects and examples of good day-to-day work that exemplify our approach to tackling child poverty. The Our Families project in Musselburgh East and the work to address food poverty in Fa'side that are set out below, are just two examples.

#### **Our Families Project – Musselburgh East**

At the end of November 2019 we were in a position to deliver on that priority through the establishment of the Our Families Project. The Our Families Project is a public and third sector partnership approach to working with families who are experiencing disadvantage in the Musselburgh East, Wallyford and Whitecraig areas. The team is focused on families with children aged between 0 and 12 years and working closely with Pinkie St Peters, Wallyford and Whitecraig primary schools. It is truly a collaborative multi-agency approach to addressing challenges and adversity within Musselburgh East. It will not only address poverty and employability but will support families to effect the changes they want to see in their lives using a systemic approach.

The Our Families Project provided us with the basis for our specification for the delivery of the Intensive Family Support Service to be developed through ESESCRD funding. Following the procurement process led by Capital City Partnership, Children 1<sup>st</sup> were awarded the contract and now lead on the implementation and delivery of Our Families. Being part of the City Region Deal Intensive Family Support Service (IFSS) brings not only the benefits of an enhanced staff team but also rigorous evaluation and shared learning across all 6 regional projects through a Community of Practice. Phase 1 of the City Deal IFSS brings £170k over 2 years directly into the Our Families Project. Due to covid restrictions delaying the process, the funding was not fully in place until July 2020 to enable us to recruit the full team.

By June 2020 the team consisted of: 1 Family Support Worker (ELC substantive post); 1 Early Years Family Support Worker (a Support from the Start post funded by the Musselburgh Area Partnership); 1 Family Project Worker (a Children 1<sup>st</sup> post funded by the Area Partnership; this staff member also has a development role within the team and the post is currently funded to March 2021); and, a 0.5 Team Leader (Children 1<sup>st</sup> post joint funded by the Area Partnership and IFSS funding).

An Income Maximisation Support Worker and a part-time Employability Support Worker were added to the team in September 2020.

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The team will work very closely with the three primary schools and have a physical presence in each on a regular basis and it is anticipated the majority of referrals will come through the schools. The Project team has to report to Capital City Partnership quarterly on the following:-

- Number of new families engaged:
- Number of individuals supported (adults and children)
- Number of individuals with improved money management skills
- Number of individuals no longer affected by debt as a barrier to social inclusion
- No entering FE/HE (adults)
- No. of job outcomes (adults)

In addition to these targets, the Oversight Group have identified a range of soft indicators specific to the project:-

- Children/young people living in a more stable environment
- Improved family relationships
- Children/young people report improved emotional health

Once restrictions are lifted the team will have opportunities to conduct home visits and hold money advice and employability surgeries within the 3 schools. Team members have a range of skills and experience which will also be used to support families through a groupwork programme working alongside, for example, Community Learning and Development and EL Works.

The project is funded to run initially until July 2022 with the prospect of a further 5 years funding through ESESCRD. An interim evaluation of impact will be completed by July 2021, measuring against both the wider City Region Deal targets and locally agreed outcomes.

### **Addressing Food Poverty in Fa'side - Fa'side Lunch Club and Fa'side Fridge**

Fa'side lunch club was started in 2017, originally as a pilot study, but quickly becoming established within the heart of the community. Aware of the pressures on families, particularly those on low income and experiencing high levels of poverty especially food insecurity, Fa'side Lunch club runs throughout the school holidays, to tackle holiday hunger and provide sporting opportunities, creative play and learning for children in Fa'side area. Each holiday term, the club supports more than 50 children from over 30 families.

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The club provides fresh, healthy meals under the direction of a qualified nutritionist, while children enjoy a range of activities ranging from sports & play to arts & crafts. The children get to enjoy a trip day at every club, with day trips to places such as East Links Family Park, Four Sisters Zoo and Ryze Trampoline Park. Going on an activity day is usually not financially possible for many families so providing this opportunity is extremely memorable. The lunch club also provides a daily food pantry, stocked with fresh food as well as non-perishables. There is also a clothes swap and a toiletry bank available for all the families.

The lunch club breaks down barriers which can often result in families not attending the club. We provide transport for children in outer villages to attend the club. The club has ongoing communication with various partners such as Home-start, and Headteachers to make sure families are supported. Having strong relationships with other agencies is extremely important to the lunch club. We regularly refer families to other services for support such as Home-start East Lothian, East Lothian Food Bank & Citizens Advice Bureau.

The Fa'side team is made up of core members and volunteers. Each member of the team brings a different experience, ideas, opinions, and perspective to the club. Diversity in our staff members unlocks new opportunities for the children and families to learn and benefit from. The club also provides volunteering opportunities for the parents and older children. We have been extremely lucky that parents have volunteered their time to help. We have been able to provide families with training opportunities such as Food hygiene, child protection and first aid qualifications. This valuable volunteering experience can create a pathway into future employment. These parents have lived experience of food insecurity and poverty. Their vital insight can help us improve the lunch club.

Fa'side lunch club has provided the opportunity to start new provisions such as Fa'side Fridge, Fa'side Cook Club and Saturday Kitchen.

***'My kids love the lunch club. We don't know what we would do without it. The help us with so much.'* (Parent)**



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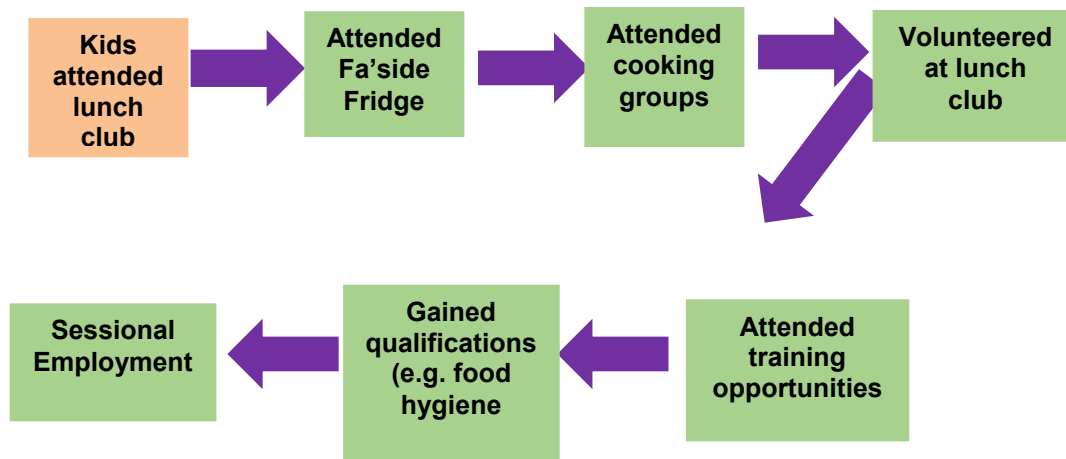
***"We love the lunch club and our best things we love are the trip day, it is so much fun we look forward to this so much. We also like to cook every day, and try loads of different foods" (Girl, 10)***

***"We appreciate the lunch club so much The boys love it, and to be honest, sometimes we wouldn't have anything to eat without it." (Parent)***

Fa'side fridge was started in 2018 to further support parents, families and carers to reduce isolation and improve engagement whilst tackling issues relating to the attainment gap and food insecurity. The project offers the opportunity to try new food, and gain advice on healthy eating and cooking affordable family meals from scratch, as well as educating them on growing their own vegetables at home and at the Home Start allotment.

The project is delivered in partnership with Fundamental foods, East Lothian Foodbank, Home Start East Lothian, Sandersons Wynd Primary School and Fa'side Area Partnership.

Below is a case study from a parent who started off attending Fa'side fridge and has gained valued confidence and experience over the years to progress to sessional employment.



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*“Attending Fa’side fridge has had a huge impact on my mental well-being. It gave me the opportunity to meet other women in similar positions as myself and made me realise I was not alone. Since then I have made amazing new friends as well as progressing through volunteering and gaining qualifications which boosted my confidence and led me to employment. My children are proud of their mum which makes me so happy to hear!”*

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### 2. Update on the East Lothian Child Poverty Action Plan

The East Lothian Child Poverty Action Plan is structured around five key drivers and areas of focus:

1. Income from work and earnings
2. Income from social security and benefits
3. Working in partnership at all levels to continue our focus on reducing poverty and inequality.
4. Costs of Living
5. Increasing understanding of the impact of child poverty and ensuring child poverty is considered as part of the decision making process

	Driver	Who action is carried out by	How impact has/ will be assessed	Activity / Progress to November 2020	Timescales for further action
<b>1.</b>	<b>Income From Work and Earnings</b>				
1.1	Develop more sustainable employment and training pathways for all in East Lothian	Connected Economy Group	East Lothian Council Plan Indicators: 1, 2,  East Lothian Plan indicators: 1,2,3 & 4	<b>Workforce for the Future</b> policy - draft paper written – covers MAs, GAs, Traineeships and PWE. Will align with Kickstart Programme (UK Govt) and Young Person’s Guarantee (SG).  Post school Employability Action Plan being developed with ELC Web Team to show pathways and provision in EL.	March 2021
1.2	Deliver the ‘Disadvantaged Families Service’ in Musselburgh East alongside the ‘Our Families’ Project	City Region Deal Project	To be confirmed	The Musselburgh Family Focus service is now known as ‘Our Families – Musselburgh East’ and the team which includes posts funded through the Edinburgh and South East Scotland Region Deal is now in place. The service includes family wellbeing and support, money advice, and employability support. The team is working within the 3 local primary schools of Pinkie St Peters, Wallyford and Whitecraig.	Report on outcomes for 1 <sup>st</sup> year in July 2021

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				A multi-agency Oversight Group provides governance and will report on outcomes for 1 <sup>st</sup> year in July 2021.	
<b>1.3</b>	Continue to deliver adult employability programmes including e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NOEL Programme</li> <li>• Paid Work Experience</li> <li>• Adult Employability Programme</li> <li>• Modern Apprenticeships</li> </ul>	East Lothian Works & Partners including NHS Lothian	East Lothian Council Plan Indicator: 4	<p><b>NOEL, Paid Work Experience and Routes to Work</b> all running until March 2021. Remote learning continuing with adults where possible</p> <p><b>PWE</b> – 19/20 programme widened to include part time adults and new ELC departments. 2020/21 programme now started. Limited due to COVID-19.</p> <p><b>Next Steps Work Experience</b> new programme developed for those further away from labour market (Stage 2 on pipeline)</p> <p><b>No-one Left Behind</b> – 16+ employability service for those furthest from labour market.</p> <p><b>Kickstart</b> (UK Govt) – Awaiting confirmation of bid to be an Employer and Gateway Organisation</p> <p><b>Young Person’s Guarantee</b> – developing programme to support 16-24 into employment, training, education or volunteering. Funding initially from SG until March 2022</p>	Completed/ Ongoing
<b>1.3a</b>	Develop new programmes to tackle in-work poverty	East Lothian Works and partners		<p><b>Parental Employability Support Fund</b> – funding from SG Tackling Child Poverty Fund to alleviate in-work poverty. Funding is split 65% parents in work and 35% out of work. Aim is to support parents to move into work, increasing training opportunities and hourly wage. Programme being developed to provide targeted paid work experience and training for parents to upskill. Funding until March 2022.</p>	ongoing



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1.4	Develop and deliver models to inspire positive career choices including the 'Kidzania Model'	East Lothian Works	Feedback from participants in the programme	East Lothian version – Jobs Kingdom Live, organised by ELW. May 2019 – over 2 days; c1300 P5 pupils attended event at QMU. All primary schools in East Lothian represented.  Consideration to be given to further activity post COVID	To be confirmed
1.5	Continue partnership with Edinburgh College to deliver locally based courses in early learning and childcare	East Lothian Works  Edinburgh College	Number of participants	18/19– 43 achieved L4 SQA units 19/20 – tbc  Development of courses to now include Level 5 course in EL&C and from Jan 2021 a Level 6 unit. Outcomes include moving on to f/t college courses, paid work and volunteering  Impacted significantly by COVID and led to drop off as learners struggled to engage online  A new Classrooms Assistant course is being developed	Completed/ Ongoing
1.6	East Lothian Council to work towards achieving Living Wage accreditation	Corporate Policy and Improvement / HR/ Procurement		Work continuing to achieve the accreditation. All ELC staff (except Modern Apprentices are paid the Scottish Local Government Living Wage)  Sustainable Procurement Strategy approved by Council (Oct 2020) includes commitment to Fair Employment and Fair Wages to be built into all relevant contracts	April 2021
1.7	NHS Lothian to work towards achieving Living Wage accreditation	NHS Lothian	Accreditation achieved	This is being discussed at board level  At present anyone employed by the NHS will be paid the living wage or higher. Paper is being prepared to discuss at December Board meeting	April 2021

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2.	Income from Social Security and Benefits				
2.1	Scope the development of a new Midwife lead Financial Inclusion Pathway for pregnant women and families	NHS Lothian	East Lothian Plan Indicator: 23 & 24	<p>Midwifery service and Health Visiting service are keen to develop this but progress has been delayed due to ongoing COVID pressures. Discussions to be held with ELHSCP to see if possible to pilot along with their potential Primary Care financial pathway.</p> <p>NHS Lothian has funded a Welfare Advice Service (provided through Community Heal and Advice Initiative) based at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children which started operating in Jan 2020</p>	Completed/ Ongoing
2.2	Develop a new specification for the Advice and Rights Services across East Lothian to ensure appropriate access to income maximisation, and debt and money advice	Corporate Policy and Improvement	East Lothian Plan Indicator: 23 & 24	A new contract was awarded to East Lothian Advice Consortium to run from April 2020 for three years with the option of extension	Completed/ Ongoing
2.3	Continuation of the Financial Inclusion Service trialled in 2018	ELC Revenues Service via the Financial Inclusion Team	East Lothian Plan Indicator: 23 & 24	Financial Inclusion Service became a permanent feature within the ELC Revenues Service on completion of a Service Review in August 2020. Recruitment due to take place to fill two Financial Inclusion Officer posts	February 2021

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2.4	Work with partners and across services to support the delivery of any new social security arrangements as appropriate	Customer Services	East Lothian Plan Indicator: 23 & 24	Social Security Scotland development team welcomed to a variety of settings to share information about their new services and model of working.	Ongoing
2.5	Increase uptake of Healthy Start/ Best Start grant	NHS Lothian	East Lothian Plan Indicator: 23 & 24	<p>Briefing on the Best Start foods at the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EL Friendly Food Network</li> <li>○ Private Nursery meeting</li> <li>○ ELFIN</li> <li>○ Support from the Start groups</li> </ul> <p>Potential to include information about the Best Start Foods when registering your child for a nursery place.</p> <p>There was communication with both Midwives and Health visitors and Social Security Scotland did presentations for the services pre-covid. Further engagement with the services has not taken place due to COVID but further awareness raising and promotion of the new grants will take place over the coming year</p>	Ongoing
2.6	Continuously work to identify ways to support employees to access advice services when needed e.g. information about Macmillan Support for those who are affected by cancer	East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian	New initiatives / interventions identified	Macmillan support – information about welfare related benefits issued to employees who hit sickness trigger points (for any reason, not just cancer diagnosis) advising they may be entitled to financial support and signposting to ELC Financial Inclusion team.	Ongoing

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2.7	Continue to link return to work/ training candidates with welfare and benefits advice to ensure a good transition between benefits and work	East Lothian Works with Into Work	East Lothian Plan Indicator 2	Into Work Employability Welfare Rights Officer located within ELC Financial Inclusion team one day per week to assist with into work welfare related advice and support.	Ongoing
<b>3.</b>	<b>Working in partnership at all levels to continue our focus on reducing poverty and inequality</b>				
3.1	Review structures which progress work on different aspects of poverty to ensure a cohesive approach which harnesses collective knowledge and resources	Corporate Policy and Improvement & NHS Lothian	New structures established and operational	New Poverty Working Group has been established with a remit to current Poverty Plan and Child Poverty Action Plan and develop a new combined Plan	April 2021
3.2	Continue to support local communities to take action on poverty and inequality through the work of the Area Partnerships and participatory budgeting	ELC Connected Communities – Area Managers	Examples of local activity to reduce poverty and inequality	<p>Local Outcome Improvement Plans for each Area Partnership have a focus on reducing inequalities and poverty.</p> <p>East Lothian Council has devolved significant budget spend (£1.85m) to the 6 Area Partnerships to make spending decisions. Aiming to meet the 1% target for PB/ devolved budget decision making.</p> <p>Participatory Budgeting pilots were run by Musselburgh and PSG Area Partnerships in Feb/ Mar 2018. Musselburgh AP also ran a PB project in 2018/19 with £50k of funding for community groups.</p>	Completed/ Ongoing

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3.3	Development of a new approach to Community Benefits ensuring better alignment to reducing inequalities and tackling poverty	ELC Connected Communities and Procurement	To be developed	The Council's Sustainable Procurement Policy incorporates Community Benefits	Completed/ Ongoing
<b>4.</b>	<b>Cost of Living</b>				
4.1	Implement the 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare for East Lothian	East Lothian Council Education Service	East Lothian Plan Indicator 23	Due to Covid-19 the Scottish Government suspended the requirement for Local Authorities to provide 1140 hours of early learning and childcare by August 2020, with no alternative date for implementation given. Whilst this has delayed universal roll out across East Lothian, settings where 1140 hours had been available prior to lockdown is, where safe and practical to do so, being reinstated. For all other settings 1140 hours will be introduced in a phased for the start of the academic year August 2021.	August 2021
4.2	Increase the number of residents from specific target groups accessing local sport and leisure facilities at reduced rates, including a review of peak time access for those with Leisure Cards	Active Schools & Enjoy Leisure	To be developed	The Access to Leisure scheme has been updated to reflect the changes to Universal Credit.	Completed/ Ongoing 2019-2020
4.3	Continue to offer Free Active School activities to those entitled to Free	Active Schools Business Unit	Number of free places allocated	Free access to activities for young people in receipt of a free school meal or clothing grant and care experienced young people has been rolled out across programmes.	Completed/ Ongoing

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	School Meals and all Care Experienced Young People & explore potential to expand this to include young carers				
4.4	Support from the Start local initiatives to support the best start in life for children and young people	NHS Lothian, Support from the Start	Monitored on a project and cluster basis	Support from the Strat groups continue to operate across the county but Support from the Start Officer so clarification required on future of Support from the Start	September 2021
4.5	Raise awareness and understanding of the impact of Child Poverty by delivering the 1 in 5 training to head teachers, teachers and school based staff	ELC Education, Corporate Policy & NHS Lothian	Number of Training sessions delivered  Number of participants  Actions arising from the training – longer term impact	Sessions delivered to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Learning and Development as part of the Capacity Building calendar:</li> <li>EL Children's Social Work</li> <li>Probationary Teachers session (20<sup>th</sup> Nov) – trialling online version which will be added to the CLD Training programme.</li> </ul> <p>Has been offered to all Primary and Secondary schools and PTAs. But no take up to-date. Further communications to be issued in early 2021.</p>	Ongoing
4.6	Work with Parent Council's and PTA's to raise awareness of the impact of poverty and the cost of the school day including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Considering the cost implications</li> </ul>	ELC Education and NHS Lothian	Number of Training sessions delivered  Number of participants	COVID has restricted opportunity to work with Parent Councils and PTAs  To revisit when restrictions are lifted.  Parent Councils briefed and provided with Cost of School Day support materials and a request to include annually on agenda when considering fundraising calendar, collaborate and co-ordinate with school	October 2021  Revisited annually via ELAPCM usually May/June

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	<p>of fund raising activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consideration of the impact of other hidden costs of the school day</li> <li>- Taking an innovative approach to reducing the cost of the school day</li> </ul>		<p>Reduction in cost of school day for all parents</p> <p>Equity for all parents and pupils</p>		when planning taking place
4.7	<p>Deliver the recommendations of the Food Poverty and Holiday Hunger Group including the improvement and expansion of holiday hunger provision across the county</p>	<p>ELC Education and NHS Lothian in partnership with voluntary sector organisations</p>	<p>Number of weeks of lunch club provision in each area</p> <p>Number of free breakfast club places available in each area</p>	<p>£30k allocated in 2019/2020 and 2020/21</p> <p>East Lothian Friendly Food Network established to foster better peer support for those working locally to increase access to affordable food.</p> <p>The Food Poverty group have now disbanded and there has been an increase in the number of holiday clubs and the places available at holiday clubs. There has been an increase in breakfast club provisions with some schools working with the pupils to run these.</p> <p>The Food Friendly Network (the network should have their own action in the next version of the poverty plan) has a growing number of members and we have developed a range of resources to inform the development of work including a food map.</p>	2019-2020
4.8	<p>Increase the Supply of Affordable Housing as per the Local Housing Strategy</p>	<p>East Lothian Council Strategy &amp; Development</p>	<p>East Lothian Plan Indicators: 19 &amp; 24</p>	<p>East Lothian Local Housing Strategy aims to deliver increase in affordable housing. In last three years the following new affordable houses have been delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2018/19 – 137 units</li> <li>• 2019/20 – 279 units</li> </ul>	2019-2023

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2020/21 – 62 units</li> </ul> <p>The Strategy and house completion targets will be reviewed in 2021 to take account of the impact of COVID-19</p>	
<b>4.9</b>	Continue to implement the Minimum Standard of Accommodation at the Gypsy Traveller site and work with residents to identify further improvements needed including the provision of play space (in line with the new Scottish Government Gypsy Traveller Strategy)	East Lothian and Midlothian Councils (it is a shared site)	Minimum standard of accommodation at Gypsy Traveller sites is met	<p>Develop Improvement Plan for Gypsy / Travellers with a focus on existing accommodation and implement recommendations</p> <p>Plan in place by Sep 2020 and recommendations implemented as per agreed timescales in Plan</p> <p>Funding identified via existing budget / Midlothian Council</p>	Completed/ ongoing
<b>4.10</b>	Continue to work to prevent and reduce homelessness	East Lothian Council Housing	East Lothian Plan Indicators: 19 & 24	<p>New Rapid Rehousing Strategy / Plan being developed</p> <p>The key aims of Rapid Rehousing are to end rough sleeping; transform the use of temporary accommodation; and contribute to ending homelessness across Scotland. Where homelessness cannot be prevented the approach refers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A settled, mainstream housing outcome as quickly as possible;</li> <li>Time spent in any form of temporary accommodation reduced to a minimum, with fewer transitions the better; and</li> <li>When temporary accommodation is needed, the optimum type is mainstream, furnished and within a community.</li> </ul>	March 2024



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4.11	<p>Reducing Fuel Poverty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve knowledge of the levels, extent and nature of fuel poverty and energy efficiency of housing</li> <li>- Continue to provide / facilitate services to maximise household income / reduce household debt</li> <li>- Continue to target energy efficiency advice at households most at risk of fuel poverty</li> <li>- Reduce the cost of fuel to households and communities where practical via a range of measures (From Local Housing Strategy)</li> </ul>	<p>East Lothian Strategy &amp; Development</p>	<p>East Lothian Plan Indicator: 20</p>	<p>The Local Housing Strategy outlines a range of measures to reduce fuel poverty. The strategy has been adopted and targets set up to 2023.</p> <p>The Community Housing service and the Council's Transformation team are exploring options around renewable energy (including solar PV installation), bulk buying, heat exchange, battery storage and cheaper preferred energy supplier for council housing.</p> <p>During 2020 Changeworks have supported 109 cases which have now been closed, with positive outcomes. Changeworks provides advice and information on fuel poverty in all tenures. Contract monitoring allow data to be gathered.</p> <p>ELC commissioned Changeworks to complete a LHEES in the private rented sector. This has increased knowledge of fuel poverty and energy efficiency in the sector.</p> <p>From 2020, Energy Efficiency Scotland will support building owners, homeowners and landlords to improve their buildings and heating systems to reach the required energy ratings.</p>	<p>2019-2023</p>
4.12	<p>Period Poverty –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the Red Box scheme in all Secondary Schools</li> <li>• Increase access to sanitary products in primary schools</li> </ul>	<p>ELC Education and Corporate Policy</p> <p>Partnership with the voluntary sector</p>	<p>Projects will be evaluated by the Scottish Government and at a local level e.g. the number of people accessing free products</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Products distributed across public buildings in East Lothian</li> <li>• Funding given to local voluntary sector organisations to reduce period poverty</li> <li>• Targetted groups included young mothers, those with new babies, families with children</li> </ul> <p>There are red box type schemes in each secondary school and starter packs (with period products and information leaflets) have been sent to every primary school. A wide</p>	<p>Completed/ Ongoing</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement plans for community access to sanitary products including products for new mother immediately post birth</li> </ul>			range of community buildings (libraries, ELC receptions, GPs, hospitals) have been supplied with products and a number of 3 <sup>rd</sup> sector groups were allocated money to allow them to buy period related products for people who use their services.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Increasing Understanding of Child Poverty and ensuring child poverty is considered as part of the decision making process</b>				
<b>5.1</b>	Review and relaunch of the 'Understanding Poverty' E-learning module targeted at all staff and available to community groups	Corporate Policy	Number of Participants	East Lothian Council has produced a Poverty Awareness e-learning training module which is available to all Council staff and on the e-learning community platform.	Completed/ Ongoing
<b>5.2</b>	Keep Elected Members and senior officers informed of the progress with the Child Poverty Action Report	Corporate Policy	Increased understanding of poverty and its impact by elected members and senior officers	<p>Elected Member briefings held in 2019 on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child poverty action report</li> <li>Period Poverty</li> </ul> <p>Further briefings will be held in 2021</p>	Completed/ Ongoing
<b>5.3</b>	Support for the role of Poverty Champions in Schools and Local Area Partnerships	NHS Lothian and ELC Corporate Policy and other relevant partners	Actions arising / changes happening as a result of this role	<p>Poverty Champions have been appointed in Area Partnerships but not in schools</p> <p>Further work required post COVID to develop Poverty Champions role in schools</p>	Completed/ Ongoing  December 2021
<b>5.4</b>	Work with the Children's Parliament and local groups including minority	NHS Lothian and East Lothian Council	Actions arising / changes happening as a	Engagement took place with the Children's Parliament on the implementation of the UNCRC but then put on hold awaiting outcome of consultation on new legislation	To be confirmed

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	groups to identify new issues		result of this work	Further work required to respond to and take account of new duties arising from UNCRC legislation	
<b>5.5</b>	Revise the ELC Integrated Impact Assessment Process to include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care Experienced Young People</li> <li>• Fairer Scotland Duty</li> <li>• Human Rights considerations</li> </ul>	Corporate Policy	Number of IIA's published	New Integrated Impact Assessment in place with greater focus on those vulnerable to falling into poverty including children and care experienced young people  Further work required to explore potential for use of common IIA process or training with NHS Lothian	Completed/ Ongoing