

**REPORT TO:** East Lothian Council

**MEETING DATE:** 22 June 2021

**BY:** Executive Director for Place

**SUBJECT:** Draft 2021-2023 East Lothian Poverty Plan

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To provide Council with the opportunity to comment and review the Draft 2021-2023 East Lothian Poverty Plan prior to public consultation.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Council is asked to review and comment on the Draft 2021-2023 East Lothian Poverty Plan prior to public consultation and to note that the final draft of the Plan will be presented for approval to the Council in October 2021.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In October 2015, the Council agreed to establish the East Lothian Poverty Commission, to bring a new perspective and greater understanding of the problem of poverty and the cycle of deprivation in East Lothian. The establishment of the Poverty Commission supported the Council and East Lothian Partnership to meet the objective of reducing inequalities across and within our communities. The Commission was chaired by Annette Bruton, Principal of Edinburgh College.
- 3.2 The Council provided secretariat, administrative, research and policy support to the Commission but the Commission set its own agenda and produced its own recommendations.
- 3.3 The Commission began its work in January 2016 and over the course of the following months they:

- Defined the scope of their work including developing an understanding of the changing face of poverty in the current economic context and understanding more about inequality and human rights
  - Heard evidence from a range of national and local experts on a range of topics related to poverty including education, employment, the economy, housing and fuel poverty, health inequality, financial inclusion, criminal justice, mental health and wellbeing.
  - Listened to those with lived experience of poverty through face to face meetings, online discussions and written feedback. They also maintained a Facebook page to engage with members of the public through social media.
  - Reviewed written evidence and reports about poverty from national and local organisations including the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Carnegie Trust and Citizens Advice Scotland.
  - Held engagement events with practitioners and stakeholders to gather their ideas and feedback on the Commission's recommendations.
- 3.4 In October 2016, the Commissioners shared their draft report in an event for stakeholders giving them the opportunity to comment on the draft report and recommendations. This feedback from the event was incorporated into the final report from the Commission.
- 3.5 The final report of the Commission included 56 recommendations based around eight themes:
- Having a home
  - Financially included
  - Secure and Protected
  - Educated
  - Working your way out of Poverty
  - Healthy and Well
  - Connected to the Community
  - Empowered and responsible
- 3.6 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 introduced the requirement for each Council and NHS Board to produce a Child Poverty Action Report (CPAR). 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.
- 3.7 The Children's Strategic Partnership leads on developing and monitoring progress with the CPAR on behalf of the East Lothian Partnership. The second report on East Lothian's Child Poverty Action Plan 2020 was

reported to the Children's Strategic Partnership in June and has been lodged in the Members' Library.

- 3.8 The 2020 report provides an update on progress with implementing the Action Plan and includes 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 during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3.9 The pandemic is known to be having a disproportionate impact on people who are disadvantaged including children and young people. However, the full impact of the virus on society, people's health, the economy and inequality will not be known for some time. 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.
- 3.10 In March 2020 the East Lothian Partnership established a multi-agency Poverty Working Group with the following remit:
- To review progress with the Poverty Plan (recommendations from Poverty Commission)
  - To review the Child Poverty Action Plan and agree 2020 report
  - For both, to take account of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the experience of people living in poverty/ being negatively impacted by the pandemic
  - Merge the two plans into a single East Lothian Poverty Plan (which includes a Child Poverty Plan) 2021-2023; taking into account the impact of COVID.
- 3.11 The group includes representatives from key council services including Education and Children's Services, Connected Communities, Revenues and Benefits, the Health & Social Care Partnership, NHS Lothian and the third sector including Voluntary Centre East Lothian and the two East Lothian CABx.
- 3.12 The working group reviewed the two action plans and mapped progress against each of the actions. This showed that many actions had been fully achieved and significant progress made against most of the other actions.
- 3.13 The group has developed a draft East Lothian Poverty Plan for 2021-2023. This is based around seven themes that were drawn from the Poverty Commission's report and the Child Poverty Action Plan.
- In Work and not in Poverty
  - Financially Included

- Having a Home
- Educated
- Healthy and Well
- Connected
- Empowered and Responsible

3.14 The draft Plan includes 49 objectives/actions with a short description of the work already being undertaken by the Council and partners and further actions that should be prioritised over the next two years.

3.15 The draft Poverty Plan incorporates East Lothian's Child Poverty Action Plan as we cannot tackle and eradicate child poverty unless we tackle poverty and inequality. It is closely aligned to, and sits alongside, other plans and strategies that include a focus on and actions that will contribute to the aim of tackling poverty and breaking the cycle of poverty. These include the draft of the new Equality Plan 2021-2025 which has six key themes:

- Access to services
- Housing
- Education
- Hate crime and violence against women and girls
- Inclusive communities
- Equality in the Workplace

3.16 Other plans that are aligned to the Poverty Plan include the 2020-2023 Children and Young Peoples Services Plan, the Local Housing Strategy, the Education Improvement Plan, Developing the Young Workforce and the IJB's strategic plan.

3.17 Throughout 2020/21 supporting individuals and communities that faced financial and food insecurity and growing levels of poverty as a result of the COVID pandemic lockdown was a key priority for the council

3.18 Additional funding was made available from the Scottish Government to extend Free School Meal provision over the summer, mid-term, Christmas and Easter holidays. Also £100 hardship payments during these periods were made for every child in receipt of Free School Meals.

3.19 The Council also received several one-off funding allocations from the Scottish Government during 2020/21 to support people isolating under Test and Protect, and families and households who were vulnerable for other reasons and maybe not able to access food supplies or experiencing financial insecurity related to, or exacerbated by, COVID-19.

3.20 The additional funding received by the council was used in innovative ways to have maximum effect in supporting vulnerable people and people in poverty.

- The majority of the new funding was allocated through East Lothian's six Area Partnerships to support the massive community effort to provide meals, food and other supplies to people who were shielding

and an increasing number of people who were facing severe financial difficulty because of the economic impact of the pandemic. Examples of how this funding has been used include: creating food pantries in each area; supporting several Community Kitchens; the provision of meals, or soup and sandwich to hundreds of families and pensioners throughout 2020/21; and establishing the Fareshare Hub which provides food supplies for over a dozen community food initiatives across East Lothian.

- A new Coronavirus Fuel Poverty Fund was created to help households struggling to afford to heat their homes and keep the lights turned on. Almost 600 payments of £100 were made to people who needed help with their gas or electricity charges.
- £75,000 was allocated to augment the Discretionary Housing Payment Fund to assist tenants with rent arrears who may be eligible for a DHP award or a top up of an existing award and have experienced new/ increased rent arrears in 2020/21.
- Children's Services was allocated funding to support families and young people through Section 22 and Section 29 Social Work payments, supplementing income and cost of temporary accommodation for Looked After Young People.
- £30,000 was allocated to Adult Social Work, to support vulnerable clients in financial difficulty. The funding was distributed via third sector partners including Carers of East Lothian as well as through the Community Justice and S12 Social Work payments.

3.21 Just over £1m Scottish Government funding to support people facing financial insecurity and people adversely affected by the pandemic lockdown that came to the council in late 2020/21 has been carried forward into 2021/22. This COVID funding, which is non-recurring is being allocated in line with the guidance from the Scottish Government to address the need to continue to support individuals and families at financial risk due the impact of COVID.

3.22 It is proposed that consultation on the draft Poverty Plan, including hearing and reflecting the lived experience of people, including care experienced young people, will take place over the summer and early autumn. A revised and final draft of the Plan will then be brought to the Council and East Lothian Partnership Governance Group for approval in October/ November 2021.

## **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The draft Poverty Plan 2021-2023 includes actions that the Council and the East Lothian Partnership can put in place to contribute to reducing inequalities and breaking the cycle of poverty in East Lothian.

## 5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The draft Poverty Plan has yet not been impact assessed as it is a consultation document. A full Integrated Impact Assessment will be carried out, including evidence gathered from the consultation, before the final draft of the Plan comes back to Council for approval.

## 6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial – Just over £1m Scottish Government funding to support people facing financial insecurity and people adversely affected by the pandemic lockdown that came to the council in late 2020/21 has been carried forward into 2021/22. The draft 2021-2023 Poverty Plan contains a number of actions that may have resource implications. These will be contained within existing budgets. Any actions that required resources that cannot be contained within existing budgets will be considered as part of the budget planning process.

6.2 Personnel – none.

6.3 Other – none.

## 7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Appendix 1: Draft East Lothian Poverty Plan 2021-2023

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<b>DATE</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2021

## DRAFT 2021-2023 East Lothian Poverty Plan

### Vision and Objectives

East Lothian Council and East Lothian Partnership share the same vision of: ***An even more prosperous, safe and sustainable East Lothian, with a dynamic and thriving economy, that enables our people and communities to flourish.***

This vision is very relevant as we begin to try to 'Build Back Better' from the COVID pandemic. It is in line with the twenty 'Calls for Action' made in the Social Renewal Advisory Board's final report, 'If Not Now, When?' (January 2021), in particular, the call for action that public bodies should: ***Focus everyone and all activities on building more resilient, fairer, healthier and stronger communities and places.***

The Council's 2017-22 Council Plan and the Partnership's 2017-2027 East Lothian Plan share the overarching objective of: ***reducing inequalities within and across our communities.***

This objective was given prominence following the report of the East Lothian Poverty Commission in 2016, which highlighted the scourge of poverty on our society and the need to take concerted action to break the cycle of poverty. The Commission's report included around 50 recommendations that formed the basis of the 2017 East Lothian Poverty Plan and were also reflected in the 2019 Child Poverty Action Plan.

Both these action plans have substantially been completed but much still needs to be done since poverty has increased as a result of the COVID pandemic which has had devastating consequences on our economy, society, health. The following statistics provide a summary of the significant negative impact the pandemic has had on East Lothian – the number of East Lothian residents claiming Universal Credit doubled from February 2020 to May 2020 and at the height of the pandemic over 7,500 East Lothian resident were 'furloughed' from the job.

Although the full impact of the virus on society, people's health, the economy and inequality will not be known for some time we know that the pandemic is having a disproportionate impact on people who are disadvantaged and in poverty, including children and young people.

This new Draft 2021-2023 Poverty Plan has been drawn up to act as a key part of East Lothian’s building back better from the pandemic. It builds on the work of the Poverty Commission and the recommendations it made. It is only a two year plan as it is recognised that we will need to review progress within that timescale and may need to develop a new Plan with new priorities that reflect on and respond to the full impact of the pandemic. Over the next two years we will need to assess also the impact of the Scottish Government’s actions and additional funding to tackle child poverty such as the doubling of the Scottish Child Payment, the extension of Free School Meals and the development of wrap around care for children throughout the year and the introduction of the Minimum Income Guarantee.

The Draft 2021-2023 East Lothian Poverty Plan has seven key themes and objectives.





These themes are also aligned to the strategic goals set in the 2017-2021 Council Plan, which will support the aim of reducing poverty:

- *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*
- *Improve the life chances of the most vulnerable people in our society*
- *Extend community engagement and decision making and increase community and individual resilience*
- *Deliver transformational change and harness the opportunities that technology offers in the provision of services*

Addressing Climate Change and taking action to meet the zero emission target has not been included as a specific objective in the Plan but it is a key driver of the Council Plan and East Lothian Plan. Although not a specific objective of this Poverty Plan several of the actions in the Plan, such as reducing fuel poverty and tackling digital exclusion will have a significant positive impact in addressing climate change and help East Lothian meet the net zero emission target.

## **Tackling Poverty during the COVID Pandemic**

Throughout 2020/21 supporting individuals and communities that faced financial and food insecurity and growing levels of poverty was a key priority for the council and all our partners.

Additional funding was made available from the Scottish Government to extend Free School Meal provision over the Summer, mid-term, Christmas and Easter holidays and to make £100 hardship payments during these periods for every child in receipt of Free School Meals.

The council also received several one-off funding allocations from the Scottish Government during 2020/21 to support people isolating under Test and Protect and families, and households who were vulnerable for other reasons and maybe not able to access food supplies or experiencing financial insecurity related to, or exacerbated by, COVID-19. This additional funding was used in innovative ways to have maximum effect in supporting vulnerable people and people in poverty.

- The majority of the new funding was allocated through East Lothian's six Area Partnerships to support the massive community effort to provide meals, food and other supplies to people who were shielding and an increasing number of people who were

facing severe financial difficulty because of the economic impact of the pandemic. Examples of how this funding has been used include: creating food pantries in each area; supporting several Community Kitchens; the provision of meals, or soup and sandwich to hundreds of families and pensioners throughout 2020/21; and establishing the Fareshare Hub which provides food supplies for over a dozen community food initiatives across East Lothian.

- A new Coronavirus Fuel Poverty Fund was created to help households who are under intense financial hardship during these uncertain times and are struggling to afford to heat their homes and keep the lights turned on. Almost 600 one-off payments of £100 were paid to people who needed help with their gas or electricity bills.
- The Discretionary Housing Payment Fund received an additional allocation of funding to assist tenants with rent arrears who may be eligible for a DHP award or a top up of an existing award and have experienced new/ increased rent arrears in 2020/21.
- Children's Services was allocated funding to support families and young people through Section 22 and Section 29 Social Work payments, supplementing income and cost of temporary B&B accommodation for Looked After Young People.
- Adult Social Work received additional funding, which was distributed via third sector partners including Carers of East Lothian as well as through Community Justice and S12 payments to support vulnerable clients in financial difficulty.

## **Developing the Draft Poverty Plan**

The draft 2021-23 East Lothian Poverty Plan has been developed by a multi-agency Working Group. This group includes representatives from key council services, including Education and Children's Services, Connected Communities and Revenues and Benefits, the Health & Social Care Partnership, NHS Lothian and the third sector, including Voluntary Centre East Lothian and East Lothian's two Citizen Advice Bureaux.

The group was given the remit in March 2020 to review progress with the existing Poverty and Child Poverty Actions Plans and to produce a new Poverty Plan. The group's work was put on hold for a large part of 2020 as all efforts were concentrated on responding to the COVID pandemic. Monitoring reports on the two Action Plans produced in early 2021 showed that progress has been made against the vast majority of the actions set out in the plans, but the group also identified where further action is required to continue the work necessary to tackle inequality and poverty and deal with the consequences of the pandemic.

The East Lothian Poverty Commission's final report reflected the lived experience of people affected by, and living in, poverty. The Poverty Working Group has tried to continue this process and is committed to ensuring that the views of people with lived experience will be taken into account in the consultation on this draft Plan. Equally important, this approach has been embedded in the Draft Plan by the inclusion of actions under the Empowered and Responsible theme, to ensure that the view of 'experts by experience' are taken into account as the Plan is implemented and progress is monitored.

This commitment sits alongside commitments to ensure that 'experts by experience' will be integral to the development of Council policies. For example, in response to the Independent Care Review's report into the care system, East Lothian Council has given a commitment to **#KeepThePromise**. A new Promise Partnership Team will work with our Partners in Co-design Panel to ensure that the voice of care experienced young people is heard, that we understand what families need, and design services to meet those needs and respond flexibly and intensively when required to support families to stay together.

The Draft 2021-2023 Poverty Plan is aligned to other council and partnership plans and strategies that include a focus on, and actions that will contribute to, the aim of tackling poverty and breaking the cycle of poverty. These include the draft of the new Equality Plan 2021-2025, the Local Housing Strategy, the Education Improvement Plan, the Developing the Young Workforce plan and the Integration Joint Board's strategic plan.

Importantly, there is a close alignment with the 2020-2023 Children and Young People Service Plan, which has as one of its three themes: ***Reduce inequalities for our children and young people within and between our communities.***

The Draft 2021-23 Poverty Plan incorporates East Lothian's Child Poverty Action Plan ensuring there is a co-ordinated and strategic approach to tackling child poverty, as part of the plan to tackle and eradicate poverty and inequality in East Lothian.

## **The Action Plan**

The East Lothian Poverty Plan is set out as an Action Plan that shows the actions that will be undertaken and prioritised by East Lothian Council and its partners in the East Lothian Partnership to make real progress towards achieving the vision and objectives.

The draft Action Plan includes 49 objectives/ actions with a short description of the work already being undertaken by the council and partners in relation to each action and a final column that outlines further actions that should be prioritised over the next two years.

The council is reviewing all of its performance indicators to take account of the impact of the pandemic and the recovery plans to build back better. This work includes the development of new equality and poverty indicators and targets in line with the National performance Framework and the legally binding poverty targets set by the Scottish Parliament. These new indicators will be used to monitor the effectiveness of, and progress with, the Poverty Plan.

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## Draft East Lothian Poverty Action Plan 2021-2023

1. In Work and Not In Poverty				
	Objectives and Actions	Lead service/ partner	Progress to date	New or Further Actions 2021-2023
1.1	East Lothian should work to attract good quality jobs into the area, providing opportunities for career progression and in work training to ensure longer-term benefit for both employees and the local economy.	Connected Economy Group	<p>This is a priority within the Council Plan 2017-2022 and the East Lothian Plan 2017-2027 and is the focus of the Economic Development Strategy and the City Region Deal</p> <p>The City Deal Joint Committee have approved a consultation draft Regional Prosperity Framework (RPF) that will consolidate a cohesive regional partnership approach across a broad range of projects and policy areas. The RPF will articulate regional ambition to address pre-existing, current and future economic challenges. Consultation on the RPF will run from 14 June to 26 July 2021.</p>	<p>The East Lothian Partnership's Connected Economy Group is focussed on economic recovery from the pandemic using the Recovery Investment Fund and has several workstreams aimed at increasing good quality job opportunities and supporting people into work and back into work.</p> <p>The Economic Development Strategy and supporting Tourism Strategy renewal will be initiated following the completion of the Regional Prosperity Fund.</p>
1.2	East Lothian should become a 'Living Wage' local authority area and East Lothian public sector partners should lead this process by becoming achieving Scottish Living Wage Accreditation.	East Lothian Council / NHS Lothian	<p>Commitment to the Living Wage is written into the East Lothian Plan. East Lothian Council is not "Scottish Living Wage accredited" but has incorporated the Living Wage into its pay scales.</p> <p>The council is working with Living Wage Scotland to get accreditation.</p>	<p>The Council will apply for Living Wage Accreditation in 2021</p> <p>NHS Lothian will continue to explore how to achieve Living Wage Accreditation.</p>

			<p>The Council's Sustainable Procurement Strategy (Oct 2020) includes a commitment to Fair Employment and Fair Wages to be built into all relevant contracts</p> <p>Commitment to the living wage is important to the NHS Lothian and has been discussed at board level. At present NHS Lothian employees are all paid the living wage or higher. However NHS Lothian has not yet achieved accreditation due to supply chains and external providers.</p>	
1.3	Develop a range of options for childcare for working parents and carers including parent led childcare opportunities, social enterprises and other models which support parents to return to or sustain employment/ education.	ELC – Education service	<p>East Lothian Council was working towards implementing the commitment deliver 1140 hours of childcare for 3-5 year olds and eligible 2 year olds from August 2020. But implementation was postponed due to the pandemic</p> <p>The council's strategy is based on close working between the Council, private and voluntary sector providers to develop innovative ways to deliver the service to meet the needs of our diverse communities</p>	<p>1140 hours Early Learning and Childcare will be provided to all eligible children in August 2021</p> <p>The council will put in place plans to meet any further requirements to extend Early Learning and Childcare</p>
1.4	East Lothian Works should develop a focused project to improve skills, confidence and opportunities for parents funding to allow them to return to work or education and lead	East Lothian Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Working with Wallyford Pilot</b> project – employability support for parents ran over two years in partnership with Wallyford PS. Outcomes included parents moving into work and to FE. Plans developed to roll out to other schools were suspended due to COVID-19.</li> </ul>	<p>Continue roll out of PESF paid work experience and review/ develop Working with Wallyford project with other schools/ community groups.</p> <p>PESF will target: lone parents; disabled parents; 3+ children;</p>

	to better long term outcomes for their young families.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Parental Employability Support Fund (PESF)</b> with funding from Tackling Child Poverty Fund to support parents into work and to progress in work. Implementation delayed due to COVID-19 but started early 2021. Aim is to tackle in-work poverty through upskilling, career progression and increase in hours/ income.</li> <li>• <b>Paid Work Experience (PWE)</b> was opened up to all ages and for p/t positions to increase accessibility for parents.</li> </ul>	<p>ethnic minority; youngest child &lt;1; and, mothers aged &lt;25years; kinship carers.</p> <p>Funding through PESF boost received from Scottish Government to offer pre-employment support to young parents, parents benefiting from 1140 and disabled parents Proposals being drawn up to start 2021.</p>
1.5	Implement Developing Scotland's Young Workforce plan for East Lothian and work with the business community and other partners to provide more support for skills development, focusing on those further from the labour market.	East Lothian Works	<p>The Developing Scotland's Young Workforce (DYP) Regional group has established closer working with schools and business including the establishment of a Partnership Group with representatives from both businesses and schools. All partners are actively collaborating to deliver the "Developing Scotland's Young Workforce" recommendations and outcomes,</p> <p>East Lothian Works, in partnership with the DYW Regional Group, have employed three DYW School Coordinators who will work across the six high schools.</p> <p>Foundation Apprenticeships contracts have been awarded to East Lothian Works including two frameworks which are now embedded in schools.</p>	<p>Implement the Workforce for the Future policy</p> <p>Develop suitable pathways for care experienced young people to access Modern Apprenticeships and appropriate support during and after the job application process.</p> <p>East Lothian Works to continue to deliver Kickstart as a Gateway Organisation and an employer and work with East Lothian Council Departments to explore if automatic interviews for Modern Apprenticeships can be offered to care experienced young people.</p> <p>East Lothian Works to put in place support to care experienced young</p>

			<p>East Lothian's Local Employability Partnership (LEP). Its focus is the implementation of No-one Left Behind and the Young Person's Guarantee. LEP includes partners from Skills Development Scotland, DWP, Edinburgh College, Health &amp; Social Care Partnership.</p> <p>East Lothian Works is delivering Kickstart as a Gateway Organisation (to private and 3<sup>rd</sup> sectors) and as an employer and is also delivering an Employer Recruitment Incentive (ERI) – grants to support young people and adults with multiple barriers to move into sustainable job opportunities.</p> <p>East Lothian Works developed the Workforce for the Future policy which outlines opportunities for East Lothian residents to access employability support and work based learning.</p>	<p>people before, during and after the job application process</p> <p>LEP to prepare for next phase of No One Left Behind funding (expected April 2022), including working with partners to look at labour market trends and skills gaps to develop appropriate provision</p> <p>Implement Young Person's Guarantee delivery plan for 2021-22 including expanding the number of ERIs / wage subsidies, MA opportunities and extended Kickstart opportunities and targeted support for young people with additional barriers, including care experienced and those with disabilities.</p>
1.6	Ensure adult learning opportunities incorporate the right provision to ensure people can continue to develop and expand their skills.	East Lothian Works and Connected Communities	<p>East Lothian Works continues to deliver Adult Literacy &amp; Numeracy, Employability with integrated literacies and ESOL provision, including ESOL for the Syrian Resettlement Programme. All provision was delivered remotely in 2020/21.</p> <p>Skills for Work – partnership with Edinburgh College to deliver community based SQA courses in Early Learning &amp; Childcare and Health &amp; Social Care. Further discussions</p>	<p>Develop the new Community Learning and Development Plan</p> <p>Continue to provide access to lifelong learning opportunities, including accredited courses for adults across East Lothian to develop skills for the workplace, this includes developing the skills of parents to support their children with learning and for adults to</p>



			with college to develop offer based on skills gaps/ job opportunities.	develop appropriate skills for changing labour market.
1.7	Support volunteering opportunities as a key way in which to build skills and networks for mutual benefit between communities and individuals.	Volunteer Centre East Lothian / Connected Communities Service	<p>A high proportion of young people in East Lothian participate in volunteering activity and skills enhancing activities such as Duke of Edinburgh Award and the Saltire Award</p> <p>Volunteer Centre East Lothian is developing a new Volunteering Strategy for East Lothian.</p>	Adopt and implement the new Volunteering Strategy for East Lothian.
1.8	Deliver the 'Intensive Family Support Service' in Musselburgh East alongside the 'Our Families' Project	City Region Deal Project	<p>The Musselburgh Family Focus service is now known as 'Our Families Project 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 three primary schools of Pinkie St Peters, Wallyford and Whitecraig.</p> <p>Education and Children's Service have reviewed delivery of family support across East Lothian to improve co-ordination and links with other relevant services</p>	Report on outcomes for 1 <sup>st</sup> year in summer 2021 and continue to develop the service
1.9	Deliver the East Lothian Offender Recovery Service (ELORS – Access to Industry) interventions for people with convictions who are seeking	Access to Industry and East Lothian Works	ELORS provides individual interventions for people with convictions who are seeking entry into Employment, Training and Education (as per the "No One Left Behind" national employability agenda).	Continue to deliver the ELORS programme to support people with convictions to get into employment, training or education and deliver alternative opportunities for people

	entry into Employment, Training or Education		East Lothian Works provides funding to Access to Industry for this project through the ESF Challenge Fund. They also receive match funding through the One Council Partnership Fund. People with convictions, requiring employability support are referred to A2i.	with convictions further along the Skills Pipeline
1.10	<p>Armed forces leavers are aware of and access, education and employment services in EL</p> <p>Improve recognition amongst local business and employers of transferable skills</p> <p>Opportunities are available to armed forces leaver to retrain to secure alternative employment</p>	East Lothian Armed Forces Covenant Group	This has been identified as a priority action for the AF Covenant Group for development over 2021/22	<p>Work with the Carer Transition Partnership (CTP) to encourage armed forces leavers to access education and employment support in East Lothian - Improved prospects of education, employment and volunteering for armed forces leavers coming to EL</p> <p>Work with the education sector, local businesses, and voluntary sector to skill match and promote education and employment opportunities in EL</p>

<b>2. Financially Included</b>				
	<b>Objectives and Actions</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Progress to date</b>	<b>New or Further Actions 2021-2023</b>
2.1	Enhance the impact of independent advice services by improved targeting of income maximisation checks for those who are most vulnerable at the point of need; including, where possible and appropriate, provision of debt and money advice	Communities & Partnerships and Revenues & Benefits services	<p>The Council's contract with East Lothian Advice Consortium (ELAC) is based on targeting advice to those most in need. The outputs and outcomes of the service are monitored quarterly and annually.</p> <p>The new Community Link Worker service operating across all GP practices has been established</p> <p>The Macmillan Improving the Cancer Journey service will be available in East Lothian from summer 2021.</p> <p>Carers of East Lothian has a dedicated welfare rights worker to support carers with income maximisation. This post helps to reduce the financial impact of caring</p> <p>Musselburgh CAB has received funding from Citizens Advice Scotland to support the East Lothian Financial Inclusion Network</p>	<p>Continue to work in partnership with ELAC to ensure that independent advice services continue to target income maximisation for those who are most vulnerable</p> <p>Monitor the development of the Community Link Worker service</p> <p>Develop an improved referral system between all services working in East Lothian, including the Community Link Worker service to encourage closer working and early intervention</p> <p>Support vulnerable young people and families by developing better links and opportunities for coordination between social work and income maximisation services.</p> <p>Support the ongoing development of the East Lothian Financial Inclusion Network</p>

2.2	Develop the role and remit of the Council's Financial Inclusion team to enhance joint working with other Council services and third sector organisations to provide specialist benefits related advice to local residents in need of help or facing hardship	Revenues Service / Financial Inclusion Team	Financial Inclusion Adviser posts established on a permanent basis within the Council's Revenues Service in August 2020 and a full-time permanent Team Leader appointed to manage the wider Financial Inclusion Service in May 2021, which consists of dedicated Welfare Rights (WR) service, Macmillan WR service, Into Work Employability WR service and Financial Inclusion service.	Integrate ELC Adult Social Care Financial Assessments service within the Financial Inclusion team.
2.3	Maximise the uptake of new Scottish Security benefits	All services and partners	Social Security Scotland development team has met with various council and other services to share information about their new services and model of working.	Support the delivery of and publicise the new social security arrangements as appropriate
2.4	Develop financial inclusion pathways from healthcare services and increase uptake of Healthy Start/ Best Start grants	NHS Lothian	Midwifery and Health Visiting services were developing a financial inclusion pathway but progress was delayed due to ongoing COVID pressures.  Discussions being held with ELHSCP to explore a possible pilot along with a Primary Care financial pathway.	Develop a financial inclusion pathway for midwifery and Health Visiting services  Increase uptake of Healthy Start/ Best Start grants by, for example, including information when parents register children for a nursery place.
2.5	Address the causes of food poverty/ insecurity	Corporate Policy & Improvement / Connected Communities / NHS Lothian	COVID has increased local reliance on community food provisions such as food banks, Fundamental Foods, Our Community Kitchen, and new Food Pantries and Larders  Significant support has been provided by statutory bodies, voluntary and community	Continue to support the East Lothian Food Friendly Network and sustainable initiatives to increase access to food, cooking skills and facilitate social interaction with the aim of reducing reliance on emergency food.

			<p>effort to provide emergency food to people during the pandemic.</p> <p>The Fareshare HUB was established to support local community food initiatives. It also helps to reduce food waste.</p> <p>NHS Health Improvement Fund, administered by the East Lothian Health Improvement Alliance, has prioritised Improved Nutrition &amp; Reduced Nutritional Inequalities in Early Years and Children in East Lothian and has supported projects that use a community led health approach.</p> <p>The Council's Environmental Health Service and NHS Lothian have established the Long Life in Musselburgh project is promoting health food and eating in Musselburgh</p>	Develop an East Lothian Food Growing Strategy
2.6	Financial education should be included in the curriculum from an early age to ensure that young people, including care experienced young people have the financial capability they need for the future.	Education and Children's / Community Housing / Connected Communities	<p>This is already covered in the curriculum within maths and numeracy. Some schools also organise a 'Money Week'</p> <p>The Council is working with the Bridges Project who deliver life skills training including a tenancy qualification for young vulnerable people. This project is ongoing offering a range of practical skills development. Recently produced and vocational brochure for client group</p> <p>Life skills such as cookery classes are provided by several community projects e.g. via Fundamental Foods, The Ridge in</p>	<p>Increase financial education and 'life skills' as part of basic education in school</p> <p>Put in place a learning and development programme for foster carers/ Kinship carers and residential workers to ensure care experienced young people have the financial capability they need for the future.</p> <p>Instigate a programme of training around bank accounts, money</p>

			Dunbar, North Berwick Kindness Co-operative and The Bridges Project in Musselburgh	management and budgeting for foster carers, kinship carers and residential workers
2.7	Employees should have access to advice services when needed e.g. information about Macmillan Support for those who are affected by cancer	East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian	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.	The Macmillan Improving the Cancer Journey service will offer tailored advice and support to people affected by cancer in relation to non-clinical issues including employment, housing and financial inclusion
2.8	Tackle 'period poverty' by ensuring access to a choice of period products for those who need them	ELC CPI Policy Officers and Education services	Options for delivery of new schemes being explored and will be up and running by July 2021 (for communities) and August 2021 (for schools)	Set up schemes for community access to products that promote choice for schools access to products (Red Box schemes)

<b>3. Having a Home</b>				
	<b>Objectives and Actions</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Progress to date</b>	<b>New or Further Actions 2021-2023</b>
3.1	Increase supply and range of affordable housing options	ELC – Housing Strategy and Development	<p>Increasing the supply and range of affordable housing options and in particular the supply of socially rented stock are key components of the new Local Housing Strategy 2018-2023 which was approved by East Lothian Council</p> <p>Annual house completions achieved:</p> <p>2018/19: ELC: 20 / RSL: 83 / Other: 34            2019/20: ELC:104 / RSL: 28 / Others: 34            2020/2: ELC: 94 / RSL: 36 / Other: 5</p>	<p>The Housing Strategy and house completion targets will be reviewed in 2021 to take account of the impact of COVID-19</p> <p>Implement the Wheelchair Accessible Housing Standards across all tenures (Housing Strategy &amp; Development / Planning)</p> <p>Increase the supply of accessible and adaptable provision, suitable for those with mental ill health, autism, and/or learning disabilities to ensure they can remain in communities they are from.</p>
3.2	Increase supply of appropriate temporary accommodation to reduce the reliance on B&B accommodation and provide improved long-term outcomes for those who find themselves homeless.	ELC – Community Housing/ Homelessness service / Housing Strategy & Development	<p>The Council published a Homelessness Action Plan (Nov 2017).</p> <p>Annual Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan update to be prepared annually. 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>	<p>Implement the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan</p> <p>Implement Housing First initiatives including specific gendered response for women subjected to domestic abuse with co-occurring mental ill health and/or substance misuse.</p> <p>Implement prevention guidance as per the Scottish Government's</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> <p>SHORE Procedures in place and dedicated staff recruited. Data sharing agreements between the Scottish Prison Service and ELC complete. Process for delivery of SHORE running between Housing, Justice Social Work and Edinburgh prison.</p>	<p>Prevention Review Recommendations for at risk groups. Specifically, young people leaving care, people subjected to domestic abuse, people leaving prison, people with NRPF, people leaving hospital without suitable accommodation and people leaving the armed forces.</p> <p>Implement SHORE standards across all tenures for people leaving prison.</p>
3.3	Increase the awareness and uptake of energy efficiency advice and improve tenant and owner understanding of energy efficiency across all tenures	Housing Strategy & Development / Estates	<p>Energy efficiency advice and information is provided to households in all tenures via Changeworks.</p> <p>The Council's 'Scheme of Assistance' to help homeowners, private landlords and private tenants to repair, maintain, improve and adapt their properties was delayed due to limited resources.</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>Implement the Scheme of Assistance and Below Tolerable Standards Strategy– new proposed date October 2022</p> <p>Deliver LHEES when it becomes a Statutory Duty by 2023.</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.	
3.4	Reduce Fuel Poverty	Community Housing and Housing Strategy & Development / Estates	<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>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>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>Improve knowledge of the levels, extent and nature of fuel poverty and energy efficiency of housing</p> <p>Continue to provide / facilitate services to maximise household income / reduce household debt</p> <p>Continue to target energy efficiency advice at households most at risk of fuel poverty</p> <p>Reduce the cost of fuel to households and communities where practical via a range of measures</p>

			The council has negotiated a low energy tariff for East Lothian residents with People's Energy	
3.5	Continue the Tenancy Support Service and the Pre-tenancy Support offered by Housing services as part of their preventative approach.	ELC – Community Housing/ Housing Options Team	The Tenancy Support Service and Pre-tenancy support services are continuing. Pre-tenancy support is one of the themes of the Homelessness Action Plan (see 1.2 above)	
3.6	Ensure that all areas of East Lothian continue to be supported in tenant participation activity, giving residents a range of opportunities for local involvement that suit them.	ELC – Community Housing in partnership with ELTRP	In October 2017 the Council's tenant scrutiny framework won a Gold Standard award from the Tenants Information Service (TIS) and Scotland's Housing Network. The award recognises the level of customer participation, engagement, and influence	A new Tenants Participation Strategy has been developed in partnership with ELTRP.  Increase tenants awareness of rights in the Private Rented Sector (Licensing / Housing Strategy & Development / Housing Options Team)
3.7	Continue to implement the Minimum Standard of Accommodation at the Gypsy Traveller site and work with residents to identify further improvements needed in line with the new Scottish Government Gypsy Traveller Strategy	East Lothian and Midlothian Councils  (it is a shared site)	Improvement Plan for Gypsy / Travellers with a focus on existing accommodation and recommendations agreed in September 2020	Implement the Improvement Plan for Gypsy Travellers

## 4. Educated

	Objectives and Actions	Lead	Progress to date	New or Further Actions 2021-2023
4.1	East Lothian Education Authority should develop clear policies to reduce inequality in schools, and should develop a whole school approach to raising awareness of the impact of poverty on education and what education can do to mitigate the cycle of poverty.	ELC – Education and Children’s Service	<p>There have been presentations on the Poverty Commission report to HT/DHTs and on poverty at support staff and secondary teachers conferences. The Edinburgh guide to poverty has been disseminated to schools. Parent Councils received Cost of School Day support materials and asked to consider when planning annual fundraising calendar with school. There have been discussions about the introduction of a more generic uniform (with an associated schools badge) for schools in individual clusters.</p> <p>A monitoring / tracking tool for broad general education is being developed in East Lothian – this will help to identify and monitor the attainment gap. An ‘Included, Engaged and Involved’ policy is in place. ‘Poverty, Equality and Inclusion Toolkit’ for Early Years Services and related training is being developed. School Reviews include a focus on poverty and the use of SIMD data and other data to demonstrate school commitment to reducing inequalities in schools.</p>	<p>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</p> <p>Raise awareness and understanding of the impact of Child Poverty by delivering briefings and training sessions to children social work staff.</p>

4.2	Schools need to work towards reducing the attainment gap with a real understanding of the way in which poverty affects attainment.	Education and Children's Service	<p>There is ongoing monitoring of attainment by SIMD, and other factors including exclusion rates.</p> <p>A framework for the implementation of the Pupil Equity Fund is being developed</p> <p>Equity and Excellence Officers in the Early Years team are working with eight primary schools and Olivebank to reduce poverty related attainment gap</p> <p>The <b>Raising Attainment Strategy</b> aims to provide a <b>relentless strategic focus</b> on raising attainment, which coordinates best practice in East Lothian schools, the professional knowledge and experience of school and centrally based staff, national practice and international perspective and recommendations.</p> <p>The Strategy has four workstreams including <b>the Poverty Related Attainment Gap</b> workstream.</p> <p>Caring at a young age has been reported to have a significant impact on young people's attainment in schools. The service specification for young carers has a greater focus on working with education to raise the profile of young carers.</p>	Support <b>The Poverty Related Attainment Gap</b> workstream and the implementation of improvement methodology to reduce the poverty related attainment gap and support the development and evaluation of these interventions alongside PEF interventions.
4.3	Expand efforts to address food insecurity and morning hunger for children and young people	Education and Children's Service /	£30,000 of 'Holiday Hunger/ food insecurity' funding has been baselined in	Support the implementation and roll out and take of the Scottish Government's initiatives to tackle

	to improve their educational attainment and overall well-being.	Connected Communities	<p>the Council's Education budget and is distributed via Connected Communities'</p> <p>Significant developments in providing food for vulnerable children – including Free School Meals, payment of a Free Schools Meals allowance via BACS, and lunch clubs – have taken place through the COVID pandemic</p> <p>The Scottish Government's programme for government includes several initiatives and pledges that aim to reduce food insecurity among children and young people, including extension of Free School Meal provision throughout the year and to additional age groups, introducing a new Healthy Milk Snack and providing wrap around care including breakfast and after school provision for vulnerable children</p>	food insecurity among children and young people
4.4	Reduce the digital divide and digital exclusion among children and young people, including are experienced young people	ELC – Education and Children's Service (Schools Digital Group) / Connected Communities Service	<p>The Education service and Schools Digital Group are developing an approach to the Senior Phase across schools using IT to enhance / support delivery of the curriculum.</p> <p>There have been significant developments in digital learning and provision of tablets and other devices to pupils as a result of the pandemic</p> <p>Connecting Scotland initiative has provided children and families (including</p>	<p>Schools will consider how they can use their existing digital resources to support wider engagement and development of digital skills for families.</p> <p>Particular focus will be taken of digital needs of care experienced young people</p>

			Care Experienced Young People) with free digital devices and wifi.	
4.5	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	<p>The Access to Leisure scheme has been updated to reflect the changes to Universal Credit.</p> <p>Developments being planned include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to offer Free Active School activities to those entitled to Free School Meals and all Care Experienced Young People &amp; explore potential to expand this to include young carers</li> <li>2. Establish ABU Kit Stop – Recycle sports equipment</li> <li>3. Establish EL Sports Club Membership Scheme</li> <li>4. Establish Walk With School and Connected Community Access Funds.</li> </ol>	<p>Design and promote encompassing “Reducing Barriers to Sport &amp; Activity” booklet, which will include details of 1, 2, 3 &amp; 4</p> <p>Promote, monitor and evaluate impact of 1, 2, 3 &amp; 4.</p> <p>Review the peak time access for the leisure card, which currently it can only be used from 9-4 Mon to Thurs.</p>
4.6	Support from the Start local initiatives to support the best start in life for children and young people	NHS Lothian, Support from the Start	Support from the Start groups continue to operate across the count. They are being supported by the Parenting and Family Support Co-ordinator	Continue to support ‘Support from the Start’ groups
4.7	Work with Parent Council’s and PTA’s to raise awareness of the impact of poverty and the cost of the school day.	ELC Education and NHS Lothian	<p>COVID has restricted opportunity to work with Parent Councils and PTAs</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Further work required post COVID to develop Poverty Champions role in schools and to raise awareness of the impact of poverty and the cost of the school day including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considering the cost implications of fund raising</li> </ul>

				<p>activity and the impact of other hidden costs of the school day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking an innovative approach to reducing the cost of the school day</li> <li>• Family and community-based learning and the CLD Plan</li> </ul>
4.8	<p>Provide additional targeted support for those families at particular risk of hardship and vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people, including those with care experience, and their families, to engage better with education</p>	<p>Education Children's Services</p>	<p>Posts currently being advertised for 6 teachers and 6 family support workers on a temporary basis.</p> <p>The team will comprise of the above posts and the Virtual Head teacher, Principal teacher GIRFEC, Children's Services Team Leader and the Parenting and Family Support Co-ordinator.</p>	<p>Establish an Inclusion and Wellbeing Support Team using short term COVID recovery funding for the provision of additional targeted support for those families at particular risk of hardship.</p> <p>This will involve interventions which will directly support individuals and families to engage effectively with remote learning, particularly in situations where vulnerability and deprivation are factors. This could include provision for children with additional support for learning such as additional or enhanced tutoring and mentoring programmes.</p>

## 5. Healthy and Well

	Objectives and Actions	Lead	Progress to date	New or Further Actions 2021-2023
5.1	Reduce health inequalities	NHS Lothian / Health & Social Care Partnership	<p>The IJB's Strategic Plan includes the golden thread 'equality and diversity, including tackling health inequalities and discrimination', as well as the following priority – 'we want to reduce inequalities, break the cycle and impact of deprivation and support and protect the vulnerable in our communities'.</p> <p>NHS Health Improvement Fund projects within East Lothian to target inequalities. These projects include physical activity for older and young people, improved nutrition in early years and children, Mental wellbeing in children and access to baby equipment and clothes. These projects have been further funded for 1 year until March 2022.</p>	<p>Work is about to commence on the next iteration of the IJB Strategic Plan (the current one runs up to 2022), this will also have a focus on health inequalities and will cross reference the East Lothian Poverty Plan.</p> <p>Tackling Type 2 diabetics – interagency whole systems approach as part of the obesity strategy. Looking at tackling structural influences such as poverty</p>
5.2	Support those with additional health needs or disabilities through person centred approaches and investment in modern technology which enable people to maintain their independence, self-esteem	Health & Social Care Partnership	<p>The person centred approach to delivering health and social care to enable people to maintain their independence, self-esteem and established social networks is a key part of the IJB's Strategic Plan. Specific projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get Connected East Lothian project - Strengthening the universal offer to</li> </ul>	<p>Continue to develop and implement self-directed support where personal budgets can be used to meet outcomes for children and young and their families.</p>



	and established social networks is important.		<p>children and young people with additional support needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try another way – Doing things differently; joint work with Social Work Scotland and n Control (Scotland) to test out the use of personal budgets in supporting children and families to stay together.</li> <li>• Individual budgets – 22 care leavers accessed a £500 personal budget to support them meet a personal aspiration.</li> <li>• Mental health personal budget – the 15+ team are currently testing a personal budget approach to supporting young people. 15 care leavers can apply for a budget of up to £300.</li> <li>• Telecare (TEC) – work ongoing around embedding TEC in the heart of the assessment and support planning process is fundamental to developing our (H&amp;SC) approach to maintain independence.</li> </ul>	
5.3	Improve access to adult mental health services	ELHSCP	<p>The CWIC (Care When it Counts) Mental Health multi-disciplinary team was established in April 2020 to enable individuals with mild to moderate mental health concerns to quickly access mental health support.</p> <p>CWIC Mental Health staff can signpost patients to sources of support, potentially</p>	The first stage of the review is due for completion summer 2021, with improvement actions implemented thereafter (any relevant actions can then be incorporated in the Poverty Plan).

			<p>including financial inclusion services. They can also refer patients to Community Link Workers who may advise regarding sources of support with money issues.</p> <p>A review of adult mental health services is currently underway with the aim of improving access to mental health services to ensure that people received 'the right care at the right time'. The review is due for completion summer 2021, with improvement actions implemented thereafter.</p> <p>The first stage of the review is due for completion summer 2021, with improvement actions implemented thereafter (any relevant actions can then be incorporated in the Poverty Plan).</p>	<p>CWIC Mental Health team will link into the Primary Care Financial Inclusion Pathway</p>
5.4	Improving children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.	East Lothian Children's Strategic Partnership	<p>One of three priorities in the Children &amp; Young People's Services Plan (2020–23) is "improving children and young people's mental health and wellbeing".</p> <p>A range of actions related to workforce development, intervention and prevention and the development of community based support and services to support children and young people's mental health and wellbeing are included on the Plan</p>	<p>Implement the Children &amp; Young People's Services Plan (2020–23) to improving children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.</p>

5.5	Tackle growing problem of social isolation	Connected Communities, VCEL, 3 <sup>rd</sup> sector organisations	<p>COVID has exacerbated social isolation for many and highlighted a long-standing issue. Many community groups have developed during the past few years offering befriending and a number of new community food initiatives have been established which address the dual issues of food insecurity and loneliness.</p> <p>Focus on digital inclusion also helps address social isolation by helping people stay connected.</p>	<p>Develop community based initiatives to reduce to social isolation</p> <p>Develop the 'Get Connected' model for children and young people experiencing social isolation.</p>
5.6	Improve the Cancer Journey for people affected by Cancer	NHS Lothian and Macmillan	<p>The Macmillan Improving the Cancer Journey service will be available in East Lothian from August 2021. This Link Worker service provides person-centred support focused on helping people affected by cancer to access information, advice, resources and services in order to manage non-clinical issues that are important in their lives.</p>	<p>Roll out the Macmillan Improving the Cancer Journey service in East Lothian from August 2021</p>

<b>6. Connected</b>				
	<b>Objectives and Actions</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Progress to date</b>	<b>New or Further Actions 2021-2023</b>
6.1	All sectors and communities work in partnership to tackle poverty and the causes of poverty	East Lothian Partnership/ Connected Communities/ VCEL	<p>Area Partnership Locality Plans are being reviewed to take account of COVID impact and review local priorities with Area Plans.</p> <p>A new Community and Development Plan in development 2021 to assess COVID impacts and priority action to tackle issues identified. This will build on positive aspects of community spirit and resilience, volunteer efforts etc.</p>	<p>Review, refresh and implement Area Plans with a focus on reducing inequalities and poverty</p> <p>Implement the new Community and Development Plan</p>
6.2	Address the Digital Divide	Connected Communities  ELC Digital Strategy	<p>East Lothian Council is continuing to explore options (providers and cost) for further roll out of free wifi in town centres and public spaces. A joint bid with neighbouring authorities was made for funding from the UK Government's City Fibre Network funding.</p> <p>Scotland's Tech Army is working with the council and local businesses to support e-commerce, initially focussed on Dunbar)</p> <p>People Know How - digital inclusion support funded via One Council partnership fund to complement the Connecting Scotland initiative.</p>	<p>Increase access to wifi in public spaces including maximising the use of existing IT resources across the county.</p> <p>Review the Digital Inclusion Strategy taking account of the Connecting Scotland initiative and the SCVO Digital champions support</p> <p>Explore introduction of non-commercial tariff for digital broadband to be available to all social housing tenants and develop access to WiFi and broadband</p>

			Review of digital capacity within community buildings; some network upgrades required.	
6.3	Develop a more integrated travel solutions that better meet local need, particularly in more rural areas.	Roads Services	<p>The Council adopted the local Transport Strategy on 30th October 2018 – implementation is ongoing.</p> <p>The Council has introduced a trial journey hub at The Brunton to integrate modes, and is working with public transport partners to expand the concept into Wallyford park and ride.</p> <p>City Region Deal work stream: the Council has bid into the Bus Partnership fund to develop appropriate bus journey time enhancement to encourage modal shift, improve bus penetration and increase bus patronage.</p>	The Council working in partnership with Sestran, Fife Council, Liftango, Via, Fuse and Prentice coaches are exploring opportunities for an integrated ticketing transport planning ecosystem, developing the concept of door to door journeys across multi-transport modes.
6.4	Consider the potential of the development of a bus pass scheme allocating free travel passes to individuals who are returning to work or education or those who require it to support them to improve their life chances e.g. to access free childcare provision.	Transport services and East Lothian Works	<p>East Lothian Works is investigating the potential costs involved in supporting this recommendation</p> <p>Scottish Government plan a new national concessionary travel scheme which will provide free bus travel for u19s - currently out for consultation.</p> <p>City Deal Workstream: Workforce Mobility Project which aims to deliver sustainable interventions that reduce barriers in the region.</p>	<p>Implement and support the extension of national travel concessionary</p> <p>Support the Workforce Mobility Project</p>

## 7. Empowered and Responsible

	Objectives and Actions	Lead	Progress to date	New or Further Actions 2021-2023
7.1	Ensure people with lived experience of poverty and inequality have an input into the development and monitoring of policies and actions aiming to reduce poverty and inequality		<p>Commitment to engage with, listen to and take on board the views and experience of people with 'lived experience – experts by experience'</p> <p>Champions Board</p> <p>The Promise Implementation Officer</p> <p>Partners in redesign panel</p>	Involve experts by experience in the Poverty Working Group – monitoring implementation of the Plan and development of the next Action Plan
7.2	East Lothian Council and the East Lothian Partnership will continue their strong commitment to tackling poverty and inequality as a core ambition. Organisational leaders need to share and speak about their vision for a fairer and more equal East Lothian gaining full organisational buy in to achieving real change.	East Lothian Partnership	<p>The East Lothian Plan 2017-2027 (our Local Outcome Improvement Plan) adopted by the Partnership in September 2017 includes a commitment to reduce inequalities, 'especially in the light of the work of the East Lothian Poverty Commission'. The Plan's three themes – Prosperous, Community-minded and Fair – encompass commitments to reducing inequalities.</p> <p>The Plan also includes a specific poverty related outcome: <i>'We tackle the causes and effects of poverty in East Lothian and we reduce the gap between the richest and poorest people.'</i> One of the actions detailed as contributing to this outcome is implementation of the Poverty Action Plan</p>	East Lothian Council and the East Lothian Partnership will continue their strong commitment to tackling poverty and inequality as a core ambition and provide leadership to ensure the Poverty Plan is implemented

7.3	East Lothian Partnership partners should continue to use the Integrated Impact Assessment processes as a tool to understand the impact of decisions in relation to poverty	ELC – Corporate Policy & Improvement  NHS Lothian  ELHSCP	Integrated Impact Assessment, which incorporates the duty to assess socio economic impacts, is being used by East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian  It now includes Care Experienced Young People; Fairer Scotland Duty and Human Rights considerations	The IIA will be reviewed to ensure it incorporates the Children’s Rights Impact Assessment  A training programme will be established to ensure staff are aware of, understand and effectively use the IIA process
7.4	Commitment to Community Empowerment to enable further involvement of local communities including the development of Participatory Budgeting	East Lothian Partnership	East Lothian Council has devolved significant budget spend (£1.85m in 2017/18) to the six Area Partnerships to make spending decisions.  Participatory Budgeting pilots were run by Area Partnerships in Musselburgh and Preston Seton Gosford in 2018/19.	The council will consider how it continues to meet the commitment that 1% of revenue budgets will be devoted to PB
7.5	Ensure that the voices of those experiencing disadvantage are included within Area Partnerships so that they are informed by a sound understanding of poverty and inequality	ELC – Communities & Partnerships	East Lothian’s Area Partnerships are well established as vehicles to enable local people to work together to make decisions about funding to address their locally agreed priorities. Area Partnership members have a good understanding of inequalities in their area. Locality Plans are focused on reducing inequalities based on evidence of poverty and inequality from the ward profiles.  The Connected Communities service was established in April 2020 to help strengthen links across community organisations, third sector, and council services.	The Council and its partners will continue to work toward building community capacity, leadership and resilience and responsibility to enable and empower local communities to take forward initiatives which mobilise community spirit to tackle poverty and inequality and make a positive difference in people’s lives.

7.6	Develop relevant poverty awareness and sensitivity training for all those working in service design and delivery and those involved in making funding decisions at local community level.	ELC – Corporate Policy & Improvement	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.	Review and relaunch of the 'Understanding Poverty' E-learning module targeted at all staff and available to community groups
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