

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 16 November 2021

BY: Executive Director for Place

SUBJECT: East Lothian Poverty Plan 2021-2023

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present the East Lothian Poverty Plan 2021-2023 for approval by East Lothian Council.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is asked to:

- 2.1 Note the result of the public consultation on the Draft Poverty Plan.
- 2.2 Approve the East Lothian Poverty Plan 2021-2023 (Appendix 1).
- 2.3 Note the Poverty Plan incorporates the Child Poverty Plan with actions as identified in the Poverty Plan Action Plan and that these will be reported on in the annual Child Poverty Action Plan Report.
- 2.4 Note that a further report on poverty data and indicators will come to a future meeting of East Lothian Council and the East Lothian Partnership Governance Group with key Poverty Plan indicators and targets.
- 2.5 Agree to continue with a multi-agency Poverty Working Group and to establish a new East Lothian Poverty Partnership which will report to East Lothian Council and the East Lothian Partnership Governance Group.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The draft East Lothian Poverty Plan 2021-2023 was prepared by the multi-agency Poverty Working Group which 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.

- 3.2 The draft Poverty Plan was based around seven themes and contained 49 actions that were drawn from the report of the East Lothian Poverty Commission.
- 3.3 The online consultation on the draft Plan went live on 8 August and concluded on 26 September. It was publicised on the home page of the Council website, through a press release and social media content and via emails sent to a wide range of stakeholders including Community Councils, Area Partnerships, Tenants and Residents Associations, members of Volunteer Centre East Lothian (VCEL), the East Lothian Friendly Food Network, the East Lothian Financial Inclusion Network and MSPs. The draft Plan and consultation was also the subject of two articles in the East Lothian Courier.
- 3.4 The draft Plan was also on the agenda of partnership and network group meetings in August and September including:
- East Lothian Partnership Governance Group
 - Children’s Strategic Partnership
 - Community Justice Partnership
 - Connected Economy Group
 - VCEL Health & Social Care Forum
 - Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership
 - East Lothian Friendly Food Network
 - East Lothian Financial Inclusion Network
 - East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel Executive
 - Communities Recovery and Renewal Group
- 3.5 Thirty individuals and six organisations responded to the survey. Whilst the number of responses to the online consultation was possibly lower than hoped for, it should be noted that organisations took the opportunity to comment on the draft Plan at these meetings. In addition, the views of people with lived experience – care experienced young people and people attending lunch clubs organised by the Pennypit Trust – were recorded and presented as evidence to the consultation.
- 3.6 A full report on the results of the consultation, including the comments made by respondents to the online consultation and people with lived experience has been lodged in the Council’s Members’ Library Service.
- 3.7 The consultation showed that there is a consensus supporting the proposed themes and actions detailed in the draft Plan. The quantitative results from the online survey and the partnership and network meetings that discussed the draft Plan showed overwhelming support for the outcomes and proposed actions.
- 3.8 The consultation showed that there is growing concern at the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on poverty in East Lothian, with

growing demand for support from food banks and pantries and other community based support organisations. The intervention by the Scottish Government, including the increase in provision of free school meals, the 'hardship' payments, and Self-Isolation Support Grants, the UK Government's Furlough Scheme and £20 per week boost to Universal Credit, and local community interventions supported by the Council have all played a massive part in supporting people through the last 18 months. However, the rise in unemployment and Universal Credit claimants, the ending of Furlough, the withdrawal of the £20 Universal Credit supplement¹ and the rise in food and fuel prices all contribute to increases in poverty levels and the fear that poverty will continue to rise over the next period.

3.9 The common theme of responses to the consultation is that there is a growing urgency that concerted action is needed to tackle the impact of the rise in poverty as a result of the pandemic and other factors such as price inflation and withdrawal of the £20 Universal Credit boost. The carry-forward of just over £1m of funding to support people impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and, in particular people facing financial insecurity, will help to mitigate some of the increase in poverty in East Lothian.

3.10 The draft Poverty Plan has been amended to take account of the responses to the consultation. The amendments include:

- Slightly amended wording for two of the outcomes
- Clarification that the Plan includes the Child Poverty Plan with the addition of reference to the drivers of child poverty, and identification of around 20 actions that are specifically aimed at tackling and mitigating the impact of child poverty
- Clarification that the Plan takes an early intervention and prevention approach to tackling the causes and impact of poverty
- The addition of quotes from people with lived experience to show the impact of poverty on people's lives and reflect the need for concerted action
- Amendments to the Action Plan; several actions being moved to a different Outcome, and the addition of some detail and several new actions.

3.11 The 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 contribute to the aim of tackling poverty and breaking the

¹ The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has estimated that the end to the £20 Universal Credit boost will leave 450,000 families in Scotland £1,040 poorer per year, and has called on the Scottish Government to take immediate steps to avoid missing its target of bringing relative child poverty below 18% by 2024, including doubling the Scottish child payment to £20 per week for every eligible child under six.

cycle of poverty; including the Children's and Young People's Service Plan, the Local Housing Strategy and the Education Improvement Plan.

3.12 Thirty of the 49 actions in the Poverty Plan are specifically targeted at, or will have a significant impact on, reducing child poverty. These will be reported on in the Annual Child Poverty Action Plan report that has to be jointly prepared by the Council and NHS Lothian.

3.13 There is a large amount of data that can be used to measure poverty. These are just some of the latest statistics that give a sense of the scale poverty in East Lothian.

- In 2020, 78.3% of people in East Lothian aged 16-64 were in employment, higher than the 75.9% for Scotland; but East Lothian has a smaller percentage of full-time workers, and a greater percentage of part-time workers when compared to Scotland
- In February 2020 (pre-COVID-19 lockdown), 5,842 people in East Lothian claimed Universal Credit. By July 2020, 9,777 people were claiming Universal Credit – a rise of 67%
- By August 2021 the Universal Credit claimant count had fallen to 9,244 – a rise of 58% since Feb 2020
- The number of Universal Credit claimants seeking work increased by 105% between February and May 2020 from 1,668 to 3,426
- By August 2021 this number had fallen back to 2,623 – a 57% increase since February 2020
- The number of East Lothian residents on Furlough as a result of COVID-19 reached 8,200 in July 2020. By August 2021, the number of East Lothian residents still on furlough had fallen to 1,800
- DWP records show that in 2019/20, 3,184 East Lothian children aged 0-15 (16.2%) were living in Relative Poverty (defined as living in a family whose income, including contributions from earnings, state support and pensions is below 60% of Before Housing Costs)
- Data from End Child Poverty (released in October 2020) showed that in 2019/20, 4,608 East Lothian children aged 0-15 (24.5%) were living in Relative Poverty After Housing Costs are taken into account
- East Lothian Council received a total of 3,945 Scottish Welfare Fund Crisis Grant applications during 2019/20, up 13% from the previous year. There were a total of 3,967 applications in 2020/21
- The number of referrals to the East Lothian Foodbank increased from 2,485 in 2019/20 to 3,078 in 2020/21. Low income accounted for 58% of referrals in 2020/21, compared to 41% in the previous year.

3.14 Around 20 of the 50 indicators in the Council Plan Top 50 performance Indicators can be used to track progress in tackling and reducing poverty

including two indicators that are set out in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 as national child poverty measures of child poverty with medium (2023) and longer term (2030) targets.

- **Relative Poverty** – living in a household whose income is less than 60% of median net household income for the year; 2023 target = less than 18%, 2030 target = less than 10%
- **Combined low income and material deprivation** – living in a household whose income is less than 70% of median net household income and experiences material deprivation; 2023 target = less than 8%; 2030 target = less than 5%

3.15 These key national measures and targets will have been significantly impacted by COVID-19 so the next set of data for them will certainly show increases in poverty levels and moving away from rather than towards meeting the 2023 targets.

3.16 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 will include the development of new equality and poverty indicators and targets. Further work is also being undertaken to identify relevant local data that can be used to supplement the data we get from national sources.

3.17 A report on the conclusion of this work with recommendations on a set of poverty indicators and targets for the Poverty Plan will come to the Council and East Lothian Partnership Governance Group.

3.18 In order to continue with the partnership approach to deliver the Poverty Plan it is proposed that the multi-agency Working Group continue but that it should have a reduced membership based on the services that have responsibility for delivering the seven outcomes and representatives of Volunteer Centre East Lothian, East Lothian Friendly Food Network and East Lothian Financial Inclusion Network.

3.19 In addition, it is proposed that a new East Lothian Poverty Partnership be formed with representatives from the Council (including elected members), NHS, and voluntary and community sectors to review progress with delivering the Poverty Plan and ensuring that concerted action is being taken to reduce poverty in East Lothian. The Partnership will also be charged with ensuring that the views of people with lived experience are heard and taken into account by the Council and East Lothian Partnership.

3.20 The Working Group and Poverty Partnership will report into the East Lothian Partnership Governance Group and Council as appropriate.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The East Lothian 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

- 5.1 The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and several actions have been added to the Plan to take account of the outcome of the assessment.

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 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: East Lothian Poverty Plan 2021-2023

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DATE	11 th October 2021

East Lothian Poverty Plan 2021-2023

‘Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life.’

Nelson Mandela

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 Child Poverty Action Plan.

Most of the actions in these plans have 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; at the height of the pandemic (July 2020) over 7,500 East Lothian resident were 'furloughed' from the job.

Although the full impact of the pandemic on the economy, society, people's health, 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. In addition, the rise in food and fuel prices and utility bills in late 2021 will have significant impacts on increasing numbers in poverty or just above poverty thresholds.

The Plan sits alongside, and 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 covering Health and Social Care services.

The 2017-2021 Council Plan's strategic goals 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*

The East Lothian Plan (our Local Outcome Improvement Plan) has three themes and eight outcomes which also support the aim of reducing poverty:

Prosperous

- *East Lothian people are working, are free from in-work poverty and are able to develop and improve their work skills*
- *Local businesses are thriving and the business base is expanding*
- *People and businesses in East Lothian have better access to digital infrastructure and the digital skills they need*

Community-minded

- *East Lothian has strong, resilient communities where people respect and support each other*
- *East Lothian people can live affordably and contribute to a thriving community life in a high-quality environment*

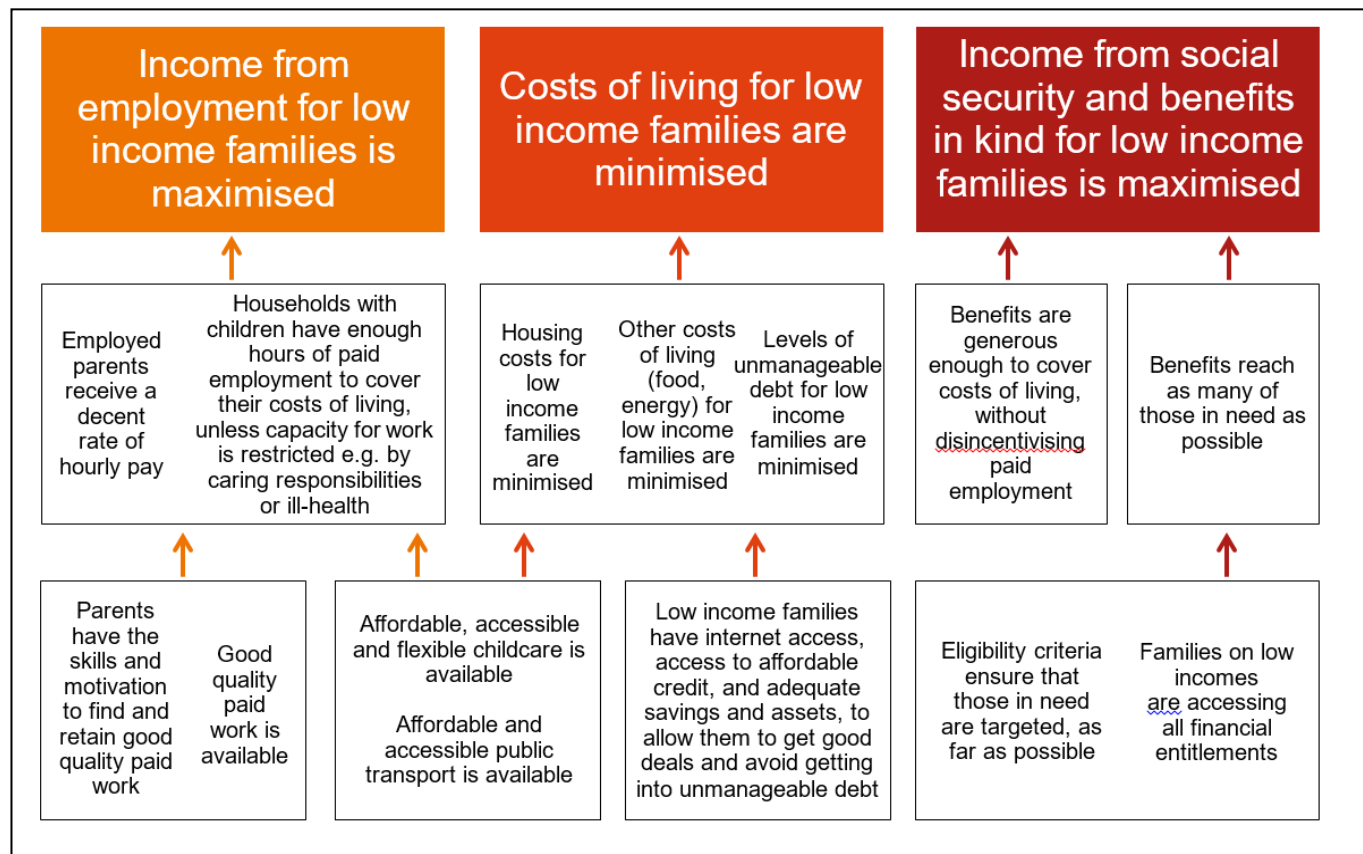
Fair

- *We tackle the causes and effects of poverty in East Lothian and we reduce the gap between the richest and poorest people*
- *People in East Lothian are enjoying healthier lives*

Poverty is always having no money, having to watch where my next meal is coming from; often giving to the kids and I go without

Pennypit Lunch Club parent

The East Lothian Poverty Plan 2021-23 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 drivers of the national Child Poverty Strategy are reflected in the East Lothian Poverty 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.***

Addressing Climate Change is a key driver and objective of the Council Plan and East Lothian Plan. Although not stated as a specific outcome of this Poverty Plan the need for a just and fair transition to a more sustainable economy and society is a theme running through the Plan. Several actions in the Plan, such as reducing fuel poverty, developing integrated travel solutions and tackling digital exclusion which will have a significant positive impact in addressing climate change and help East Lothian meet the net zero emission target.

The Plan is based on a Prevention and Early Intervention approach to tackling poverty and the causes of poverty. The main causes of poverty are unemployment and low wages – in-work poverty. So the first two outcomes of the Plan, ‘Working and free from in-work poverty’ and, ‘Financially included’ are aimed at preventing poverty. Reducing unemployment, tackling in-work poverty through ensuring the real living wage and stable employment contracts is key to reducing the number of people in poverty. If people are not able to work and have to rely on state benefits then the next priority is to ensure they are not financially excluded and can access the benefits to which they are entitled.

I lost my job and my bills and rent have run up so much that I will be paying them off for years and I've had to sell things to keep food on the table
Care experienced young person

Other measures in the Plan are clearly based on early intervention to support people who fall into poverty or to mitigate the impact of poverty, these include tackling fuel poverty, reducing the poverty related attainment gap, supporting parents through provision of Early Learning and Childcare, providing affordable, warm homes and tackling health inequalities.

Tackling Poverty During the COVID Pandemic

Throughout 2020 and 2021 supporting individuals and communities that faced financial and food insecurity and growing levels of poverty has been a key priority for the council and all the Community Planning 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 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. For example:

- 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 Community Kitchens and new Pantries; the provision of meals, or soup and sandwich to hundreds of families and pensioners; and establishing the Fareshare Hub which provides food supplies for over a dozen community food initiatives across East Lothian.

PSG Lunch Club has been a lifeline for my family and the staff are just the best. I'm getting emotional typing this just now.

Pennypit Lunch Club parent

- 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 in the 2020/21 winter.
- 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 experienced new/ increased rent arrears in 2020/21.

- Children's Services was allocated funding to support families and young people through emergency payments, and meeting the the cost of temporary 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 emergency payments to support vulnerable clients in financial difficulty.

Additional funding, carried forward from the end of the 2020/21 financial year into 2021/22 has been allocated to continue to support these initiatives through to March 2022.

Developing the Poverty Plan

The East Lothian Poverty Plan 2021-2023 has been developed by a multi-agency Working Group, which was established in March 2020 to review progress with the existing Poverty and Child Poverty Actions Plans and to produce a new Poverty Plan. 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'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 the particular emphasis was put on seeking the views of people with lived experience during the consultation on the draft plan. This approach has been embedded in the Plan by the inclusion of actions under the Empowered and Responsible theme to ensure that the views of people with lived experience are taken into account as the Plan is implemented and progress is monitored.

Poverty is not inevitable. Nor is it just about finances. It can be about an inability to fully participate in society because of a lack of opportunity. Poverty can be debilitating. It can strip confidence, self-worth and passion. And yet the people I have met through the Commission are strong, passionate individuals, with a drive to do the best for themselves and their families.

Member of the Poverty Commission

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.

This Poverty Plan 2021-2023 has been drawn up to act as a key part of East Lothian's building back better from the pandemic. 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, and respond to, the full impact of the pandemic. Also, we will need to assess the impact of the commitments made in the Scottish Government's Programme for Government and additional funding to tackle 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. The proposal to introduce a Minimum Income Guarantee could have a major impact on reducing poverty but will not be an 'immediate fix' as it will take several years to pilot, test and then roll out.

The Action Plan

Extensive provision of emergency food is a response to dealing with hunger caused by poverty, but it doesn't offer a long term solution to eliminating poverty
East Lothian Foodbank

The East Lothian Poverty Plan 2021-2023 is based around seven key outcomes.



The Action Plan sets out 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 these eight outcomes.

The 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.

Thirty actions which have a specific impact on tackling Child Poverty are highlighted with an * and will be reported on separately in the annual Child Poverty Action Plan Report.

Poverty means having to watch your spending. Juggling money and deciding what is a priority. Like if you need food shopping but kids need new clothes and shoes
Pennypit Lunch Club parent

Around 20 of the 50 indicators in the Council Plan Top 50 performance Indicators can be used to track progress in tackling and reducing poverty including two indicators that are set out in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 as national child poverty measures of child poverty with medium (2023) and longer term (2030) targets.

- **Relative Poverty** – living in a household whose income is less than 60% of median net household income for the year; 2023 target = less than 18%, 2030 target = less than 10%
- **Combined low income and material deprivation** – living in a household whose income is less than 70% of median net household income and experiences material deprivation; 2023 target = less than 8%; 2030 target = less than 5%

These key national measures and targets will have been significantly impacted by COVID so the next set of data for them will certainly show increases in poverty levels and moving away from rather than towards meeting the 2023 targets.

The council is reviewing its performance indicators to take account of the impact of the pandemic. This work will include the development of new equality and poverty indicators and targets. Further work is also being undertaken to identify relevant local data that can be used to supplement the data we get from national sources. A new set of poverty indicators will be established to measure progress with the Poverty Plan.

East Lothian Poverty Action Plan 2021-2023

1. Working and Free From In-Work Poverty				
	Objective	Lead service/ partner	Progress to date	New / Further Actions 2021-2023
1.1	East Lothian Council and East Lothian Partnership should 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 renewal of the Economic Development Strategy and supporting Tourism Strategy 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 achieving Scottish Living Wage Accreditation.	East Lothian Council / NHS Lothian	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.	The Council will apply for Living Wage Accreditation in 2021 and seek to follow the Scottish Government's lead in Fair Work in employment and procurement practices, such as: Statutory Guidance - Addressing Fair Work Practices, including the

			<p>The council is working with Living Wage Scotland to get 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>	<p>Living Wage, in procurement; Best Practice Guidance</p> <p>NHS Lothian will continue to explore how to achieve Living Wage Accreditation.</p>
1.3*	The council will 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	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. The statutory implementation date was delayed until August 2021 due to the pandemic. The council is now providing 1140 hours Early learning and Childcare to all eligible children.	Continue to work with the private and voluntary sector providers to develop innovative ways to deliver Early Learning and Childcare services to meet the needs of our diverse communities and to put in place plans to meet any further requirements to extend Early Learning and Childcare.
1.4*	The council and its partners should develop a focused project to improve skills, confidence and opportunities for parents funding to allow	East Lothian's Local	Working with Wallyford Pilot project – employability support for parents ran over two years in partnership with Wallyford Primary. Outcomes included parents moving into work and to FE.	Continue roll out of the Parental Employment Support Fund (PESF), Working With Wallyford pilot and

	<p>them to return to work or education and lead to better long term outcomes for their young families.</p>	<p>Employability Partnership</p>	<p>Plans developed to roll out to other schools were suspended due to COVID-19.</p> <p>Implementation of the Parental Employability Support Fund (PESF) with funding from Tackling Child Poverty Fund to support parents into work and to progress in work was 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.</p> <p>Paid Work Experience was opened up to all ages and for part-time positions to increase accessibility for parents.</p>	<p>other initiatives to support parents into training and work.</p> <p>Edinburgh College to develop and deliver short skills boost courses for childcare, Health and Social Care and hospitality with guaranteed interviews.</p>
1.5*	<p>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.</p>	<p>East Lothian's Local Employability Partnership</p>	<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>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 to put in place support to care experienced young people before, during and after the job application process (e.g. offer automatic interviews for Modern Apprenticeships)</p>

			<p>Foundation Apprenticeships contracts have been awarded to East Lothian Works including two frameworks which are now embedded in schools.</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 & Social Care Partnership.</p> <p>East Lothian Works is delivering Kickstart as a Gateway Organisation (to private and 3rd 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>East Lothian's Local Employability Partnership 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 Employer Recruitment Initiatives / wage subsidies, Modern Apprenticeship opportunities and extend Kickstart opportunities and targeted support for young people with additional barriers, including care experienced and those with disabilities.</p> <p>Edinburgh College to develop new courses to enable increased access by 16-25 year olds and schools college partnership courses aligned to the Pupil Equity Fund.</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 / Connected Communities	East Lothian Works continues to deliver Adult Literacy & Numeracy, Employability with integrated literacies and ESOL provision, including ESOL for the Syrian	<p>Implement the new Community Learning and Development Plan</p> <p>Continue to provide access to lifelong learning opportunities, including accredited courses for adults across</p>

	and improve access to Further Education	/ Edinburgh College	<p>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 & Childcare and Health & Social Care. Further discussions with college to develop offer based on skills gaps/ job opportunities.</p>	<p>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 develop appropriate skills for changing labour market.</p> <p>Edinburgh College to increase access for East Lothian residents living in areas of multiple deprivation.</p> <p>Edinburgh college and the students association will work with students facing financial hardship – by delivering bursaries, discretionary funds, digital devices loans and food and travel security projects.</p> <p>Edinburgh College to widen access to individuals affected by poverty and inequality - new access course level provision, outreach into East Lothian for skills boost courses through outreach centres.</p>
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>	All partners will support the implementation of the new Volunteering Strategy for East Lothian.

1.8	<p>Deliver the East Lothian Offender Recovery Service (ELORS – Access to Industry) interventions for people with convictions who are seeking entry into Employment, Training or Education</p>	<p>Access to Industry and East Lothian Works</p>	<p>East Lothian Offender Recovery Service (ELORS – Access to Industry) 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).</p> <p>East Lothian Works provides funding to Access to Industry for this project. They also receive match funding through the One Council Partnership Fund.</p>	<p>Continue to deliver the East Lothian Offender Recovery Service (ELORS – Access to Industry) programme to support people with convictions to get into employment, training or education and deliver alternative opportunities for people with convictions further along the Skills Pipeline</p>
1.9	<p>Armed forces leavers are aware of and access, education and employment services in East Lothian</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>	<p>East Lothian Armed Forces Covenant Group</p>	<p>This has been identified as a priority action for the Armed Forces Covenant Group for development over 2021/22</p>	<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 East Lothian</p> <p>Work with the education sector, local businesses, and voluntary sector to skill match and promote education and employment opportunities in East Lothian</p>

2. Financially Included – people have access to income maximisation and money advice

	Objectives and Actions	Lead	Progress to date	New or Further Actions 2021-2023
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 / 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>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>The Macmillan Improving the Cancer Journey service in East Lothian was launched in summer 2021</p>	<p>Continue to work in partnership with East Lothian Advice Consortium (ELAC) and other advice agencies 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 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 development of the East Lothian Financial Inclusion Network</p> <p>Develop a more proactive / outreach approach to providing access to advice services</p>

2.2*	Develop the role and remit of the Council's Financial Inclusion service to enhance joint working with other Council services and third sector organisations to provide benefits advice and the Scottish Welfare Fund to local residents in financial insecurity or facing hardship	Revenues Service / Financial Inclusion service	<p>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 service, Macmillan Welfare Rights service, Into Work Employability Welfare Rights service and Financial Inclusion service.</p> <p>Additional funding in 2020 and 2021, including the new winter Fuel Poverty payments, has allowed the Scottish Welfare Fund, to increase the number of people it has assisted</p>	The Financial Inclusion service will support the development of more proactive / outreach approach to providing access to advice services and referrals to the Scottish Welfare Fund
2.3*	Maximise the uptake of new Scottish Security benefits	East Lothian Financial Inclusion Network	Social Security Scotland development team has met with various council and other services and the East Lothian Financial Inclusion Network to share information about their new services and model of working.	The East Lothian Financial Inclusion Network in conjunction with the key public and community sector partners will promote awareness of, and maximise the uptake of new social security benefits as they are rolled out
2.4*	Develop financial inclusion pathways from healthcare services, and increase uptake of Healthy Start/ Best Start grants	NHS Lothian	<p>Midwifery and Health Visiting services were developing a financial inclusion pathway but progress was delayed due to ongoing COVID pressures.</p> <p>Discussions being held with ELHSCP to explore a possible pilot along with a Primary Care financial pathway.</p>	NHS Lothian will develop a financial inclusion pathway for midwifery and Health Visiting services and increase the uptake of Healthy Start/ Best Start grants by, for example, including information when parents register children for a nursery place.

2.5*	Provide access to food for people who are facing food insecurity and address the cases of food insecurity	East Lothian Friendly Food Network	<p>COVID has increased local reliance on community food provisions such as east Lothian Food Bank and other Food and Basics Banks, Fundamental Foods, Our Community Kitchen, and new Food Pantries and Larders</p> <p>Significant support has been provided by statutory bodies, voluntary and community effort to provide emergency food to people during the pandemic.</p> <p>The Fareshare HUB was established in 2020 to support local community food initiatives.</p> <p>NHS Health Improvement Fund has prioritised Improved Nutrition & 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 Love Life in Musselburgh project is promoting health food and eating in Musselburgh</p> <p>Funding has been provided to support the development of the East Lothian Friendly Food Network</p>	<p>Continue to support the East Lothian Friendly Food 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> <p>Promote and abide by the principles set out in the East Lothian Friendly Food Network's Food Charter</p> <p>Explore 'cash first' options to providing support to people acing food insecurity</p> <p>Develop and implement an East Lothian Food Growing Strategy</p>
2.6*	Financial education should be included in the curriculum from an early age to ensure that young people, including care	Education and Children's / Community	This is already covered in the curriculum within maths and numeracy. Some schools also organise a 'Money Week'	Increase financial education and 'life skills' as part of the curriculum

	experienced young people have the financial capability they need for the future.	Housing / Connected Communities	<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 Dunbar, North Berwick Kindness Co-operative and The Bridges Project in Musselburgh</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 management and budgeting for foster carers, kinship carers and residential workers</p>
2.7	Employees should have access to advice services when needed e.g. information about Macmillan Support for those who are affected by cancer	Financial Inclusion Service/ 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	Policy, Improvement and Partnerships/ Education services	Options for delivery of new schemes to provide period products, including a pilot scheme have been put in place	Continue to Implement the preferred scheme to deliver access to period products and promotes choice in Schools and the community

3. Having a Home – a decent, affordable, warm and dry home

	Objectives and Actions	Lead	Progress to date	New or Further Actions 2021-2023
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. 438 'social houses' have been built in the last three years</p> <p>2018/19: ELC: 20; RSL: 83; Other: 34 2019/20: ELC:104; RSL: 28; Other: 34 2020/1: 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 targets across all tenures (Housing Strategy & 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's Homelessness Action Plan was published in 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.</p> <p>Sustainable Housing On Release for Everyone (SHORE) Procedures in place and dedicated staff recruited. Data sharing agreements between the</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 Prevention Review Recommendations for at risk groups; specifically, young people leaving care, people subjected to domestic abuse, people leaving</p>

			<p>Scottish Prison Service and ELC complete. Process for delivery of SHORE running between Housing, Justice Social Work and Edinburgh prison.</p>	<p>prison, people with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), people leaving hospital without suitable accommodation and people leaving the armed forces.</p> <p>Implement Sustainable Housing On Release for Everyone (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>East Lothian Council commissioned Changeworks to complete a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy 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 supports building owners, homeowners and landlords to improve their buildings and heating systems to reach the required energy ratings.</p>	<p>Implement the Scheme of Assistance and Below Tolerable Standards Strategy.</p> <p>Deliver a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy when it becomes a Statutory Duty by 2023.</p>

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>In 2020 the council negotiated a low energy tariff for East Lothian residents with People's Energy</p> <p>In winter 2020 and 2021 the Scottish Welfare Fund administered a new Fuel Poverty Fund to provide grants to assist people with fuel bills</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>Support measures to reduce the cost of fuel to households and communities where practical</p> <p>Continue to explore options around renewable energy (including solar PV installation), bulk buying, heat exchange, battery storage and cheaper preferred energy supplier for council housing.</p>
3.5*	Take a preventative approach to homelessness	ELC – Community Housing/ Housing Options Team	<p>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 3.2 above)</p>	<p>Continue the Tenancy Support Service and the Pre-tenancy Support offered by Housing services as part of their preventative approach to homelessness</p>

3.6*	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
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4. Educated – reduce the attainment gap and raise the attainment and achievement of our children and young people

	Objectives and Actions	Lead	Progress to date	New or Further Actions 2021-2023
4.1*	East Lothian Education service will develop clear policies to reduce inequality in schools, and develop a whole school approach to raising awareness of the impact of poverty on education and what education can do to mitigate poverty and break the cycle of poverty.	ELC – Education and Children’s Service	<p>The Edinburgh guide to poverty has been disseminated to schools. Parent Councils received Cost of School Day support materials and were asked to consider these when planning their annual fundraising calendar with their 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>An ‘Included, Engaged and Involved’ policy is in place that seeks to ensure that all learners are engaged in learning, and have equal access to support them to attend and succeed.</p>	<p>Implement a monitoring / tracking tool for broad general education to help to identify and monitor the attainment gap and to prioritise key improvements required</p> <p>‘Poverty, Equality and Inclusion Toolkit’ for Early Years Services and related training is being developed. School Reviews and Service level Agreements include a focus on poverty and the use of SIMD and other data to demonstrate school commitment and progress 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 and deliver briefings and training sessions to Children’s Services staff.</p>
4.2*	Schools need to develop a real understanding of the way in which poverty affects attainment and work to reduce	Education and Children’s Service	There is ongoing monitoring of attainment by SIMD, and other factors including exclusion rates.	The framework for the implementation of the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) will continue to support schools to plan interventions that impact positively on

	the poverty related attainment gap		<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 Raising Attainment Strategy, which aims to provide a relentless strategic focus on raising attainment has four workstreams including the Poverty Related Attainment Gap workstream.</p>	<p>outcomes for learners who are affected by poverty.</p> <p>Ensure the recommendations of the Poverty Related Attainment Gap Workstream support schools to reduce the poverty related attainment gap and evaluate the effectiveness of their PEF interventions.</p>
4.3*	Expand efforts to address food insecurity and 'morning hunger' for children and young people to improve their overall well-being, their ability to engage and participate and ultimately achieve and attain	Education and Children's Service / Connected Communities	<p>£30,000 of 'Holiday Hunger/ food insecurity' funding has been baselined in 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>	Support the implementation and roll out and take of the Scottish Government's initiatives to tackle 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
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	<p>The Education service and Schools Digital Group are developing an approach to the Senior Phase using IT to enhance and support delivery of the curriculum.</p> <p>There have been significant developments in digital learning and provision of chromebooks and other</p>	Schools will further develop how they use their existing digital resources to support wider engagement and development of digital skills to underpin the curriculum, and support children, young people and their families to engage with learning.

			<p>devices to pupils as a result of the pandemic</p> <p>Connecting Scotland initiative has provided children and families (including Care Experienced Young People) with free digital devices and wifi.</p>	<p>Particular focus will be taken of the digital needs of care experienced young people</p>
4.5*	<p>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</p>	<p>Active Schools & Enjoy Leisure</p>	<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"> 1. Offering Free Active School activities to those entitled to Free School Meals and all Care Experienced Young People and exploring potential to expand this to include young carers 2. Recycling sports equipment 3. Establishing East Lothian Sports Club Membership Scheme 4. Establishing Walk With School and Connected Community Access Funds. 	<p>Design and promote encompassing "Reducing Barriers to Sport & Activity" booklet</p> <p>Promote, monitor and evaluate impact of the developments of the Access to Leisure Scheme.</p> <p>Review the peak time access for the leisure card (currently can only be used from 9-4 Mon to Thurs).</p>
4.6*	<p>Support from the Start local initiatives to support the best start in life for children and young people</p>	<p>NHS Lothian, Support from the Start</p>	<p>Support from the Start groups continue to operate across the county. They are being supported by the Parenting and Family Support Co-ordinator</p>	<p>Continue to support 'Support from the Start' groups</p>
4.7*	<p>Work with Parent Council's and PTA's to raise awareness of the impact of poverty and the cost of the school day.</p>	<p>Education/ NHS Lothian / Connected Communities</p>	<p>COVID has restricted opportunity to work with Parent Councils and PTAs</p> <p>Parent Councils have been briefed and provided with Cost of School Day</p>	<p>Continue to raise awareness of the impact of poverty and the cost of the school day including:</p>

			support materials and a request to include annually on the agenda when considering their in collaboration with school staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering the cost implications of fund raising activity and the impact of other hidden costs of the school day • Taking innovative approaches to reducing the cost of the school day • Family and community-based learning and the CLD Plan
4.8*	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	Education and Children's Services	<p>Six teachers and six family support workers have been recruited on a temporary basis.</p> <p>The team will comprise 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 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 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 – people in East Lothian are enjoying healthier lives and health inequalities are eliminated

	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 will look 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>	<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 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telecare (TEC) – work ongoing around embedding TEC in the

	and established social networks is important.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get Connected East Lothian project - Strengthening the universal offer to children and young people with additional support needs • Individual budgets – 22 care leavers accessed a £500 personal budget to support them meet a personal aspiration. • 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. 	<p>heart of the assessment and support planning process is fundamental to developing our (H&SC) approach to maintain independence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try another way – Doing things differently; joint work with Social Work Scotland and In Control (Scotland) to test out the use of personal budgets in supporting children and families to stay together.
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 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>Implement the actions from the first stage of the review of Mental Health services.</p> <p>The Care When it Counts 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	One of three priorities in the Children & Young People's Services Plan (2020–23) is "improving children and young people's mental health and wellbeing". This includes 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.	Implement the Children & Young People's Services Plan (2020–23) to improve children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.
5.5	Tackle the growing problem of social isolation	Connected Communities/ VCEL	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.	Support community based initiatives to reduce to social isolation Develop the 'Get Connected' model for children and young people experiencing social isolation.
5.6	Improve the Cancer Journey for people affected by Cancer	NHS Lothian and Macmillan	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.	Roll out the Macmillan Improving the Cancer Journey service in East Lothian from August 2021

6. Resilient and Well Connected – resilient and well connected individuals and communities; connected public services taking a prevention and early intervention approach to tackling poverty

	Objectives and Actions	Lead	Progress to date	New or Further Actions 2021-2023
6.1	<p>All sectors and communities work in partnership to take a prevention and early intervention approach to reduce poverty and tackle the causes of poverty</p> <p>Build on the experience of COVID to continue to support communities to be resilient and</p>	<p>East Lothian Partnership/ Connected Communities/ VCEL</p>	<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*	<p>Reviewed delivery of family support across East Lothian to improve co-ordination and links with other relevant services</p>	<p>Children's Services</p>	<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>Deliver the 'Intensive Family Support Service' in Musselburgh East alongside the 'Our Families' Project</p> <p>Implement the re-design of inclusion and family support services and the closer links with other Children's services, Education and East Lothian Works</p>

6.3	Address the Digital Divide	Connected Communities	<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>Review of digital capacity within community buildings; some network upgrades required.</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.</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> <p>Edinburgh College to promote travel support and digital inclusion for East Lothian students at the College; increasing take up of travel bursaries increasing take up of digital device loan scheme, promoting sustainable travel options like lift share schemes.</p>
6.4	East Lothian will have well connected communities with increased use of sustainable transport modes to access services and amenities.	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>The Council has bid into the Bus Partnership fund to develop appropriate bus journey time enhancement to</p>	<p>Develop a more integrated travel solutions that better meet local need, particularly in more rural areas.</p> <p>The Council working in partnership with Sustran, Fife Council, Liftango, Via, Fuse and Prentice coaches to explore opportunities for an integrated ticketing transport planning eco-system, developing the concept of door to door journeys across multi-transport modes.</p>

			encourage modal shift, improve bus penetration and increase bus patronage.	
6.5	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 and promote the Free Bus Travel scheme for under 22yr olds</p> <p>Support the Workforce Mobility Project</p>

7. Empowered and Responsible - citizens and communities are empowered to influence policy and the council and partners take responsibility to reduce poverty

	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>Within Children's Services this is being done through the Champions Board; a new Promise Implementation Officer; and, Partners in Redesign Panel</p>	People with lived experience will be actively engaged in the East Lothian Poverty Partnership, monitoring implementation of the Poverty 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 will promote the 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'.</p> <p>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</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

			implementation of the Poverty Action Plan	
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 Integrated Impact Assessment (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 2019/20) to the six Area Partnerships to make spending decisions. Several Participatory Budgeting pilots were run by Area Partnerships in Musselburgh and Preston Seton Gosford.	The council will develop proposals to ensure it continues to meet the commitment that 1% of revenue budgets will be devoted to mainstreaming Participatory Budgeting
7.5	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 (Liscencing / Housing Strategy & Development / Housing Options Team)

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
7.7	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	<p>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.</p> <p>The Connected Communities service was established in April 2020 to help strengthen links across community organisations, third sector, and council services.</p>	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.