

Members' Library Service Request Form

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Originator	Paolo Vestri
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Document Title	Review of 2021-2023 East Lothian Poverty Plan

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REPORT TO: MEMBERS LIBRARY SERVICE

MEETING DATE: November 2022

BY: Head of Communities & Partnerships

SUBJECT: Review of 2021-2023 East Lothian Poverty Plan

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present elected members with the review of the 2021-2023 East Lothian Poverty Plan 2021-2023

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to note this review and that a further report recommending a new Poverty Plan will be presented to Council in Spring 2024.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The East Lothian Poverty Plan 2021-2023 was approved by Council in October 2021. The Plan which incorporated East Lothian's Child Poverty Action Plan was closely aligned to, and sits alongside, other plans and strategies that contribute to the aim of tackling poverty and breaking the cycle of poverty; including the Children's and Young People's Service Plan, the Local Housing Strategy and the Education Improvement Plan.

- 3.2 It is important to note that as well as specific actions targeted at reducing poverty much of the Council's mainstream expenditure supports low-income households and people in need, including:

- Adult Wellbeing Services
- Children's Services
- Homelessness Service
- East Lothian Works
- Contract for advice services with the East Lothian Advice Consortium
- Free School Meals

- Clothing Grants
 - Pupil Maintenance
 - Financial Inclusion Service
- 3.3 The Poverty Plan which was based on a Prevention and Early Intervention approach, followed by taking mitigating action to alleviate the impact of poverty has seven objectives.
- **Working and Free From in Work Poverty** - create more jobs and more better paid jobs in East Lothian to reduce unemployment and in-work poverty; employability work through East Lothian Works
 - **Financially Included** – people have access to income maximisation and money advice
 - Having a **decent, affordable, warm and dry home** – affordable housing; tackling fuel poverty; reduce homelessness
 - **Educated** – reduce the poverty related attainment gap and raise the attainment and achievement of our children and young people
 - **Healthy and Well** – people in East Lothian are enjoying healthier lives and health inequalities are eliminated
 - **Resilient individuals and communities** and **Connected public services** – engaging with people with lived experience; Area Plans; transport issues; digital inclusion
 - **Empowered and Responsible** – citizens and communities are empowered to influence policy and the Council and partners take responsibility to reduce poverty.
- 3.4 The Plan included a detailed Action Plan with 49 actions to deliver these objectives.
- 3.5 Delivery of the Plan was delegated by the Council to the East Lothian Partnership and a multi-agency Poverty Working Group was established to drive the plan and monitor progress. The Working Group includes members from the Council services that have responsibility for delivering the seven outcomes, NHS Lothian and other partners including representatives of Volunteer Centre East Lothian, East Lothian Friendly Food Network and East Lothian Financial Inclusion Network.
- 3.6 The Plan was a two-year Plan running from the end of 2021 to end of 2023. The Working Group has reviewed progress with the Plan and its 49 actions. The review of the plan includes:
- a summary of the Poverty Plan
 - a summary of the East Lothian poverty profile data

- a focus on the additional work carried out in 2022 and 2023 to provide people with support through the 'cost of living crisis', including the £785,000 provided by the Council, (50% of Local Authority COVID Economic Recovery funding) for a Cost of Living Assistance fund in 2022/23
 - a summary of key poverty related performance indicators
 - an analysis of progress with the 49 actions in the Action Plan.
- 3.7 Appendix 1 provides a more detailed summary of progress with the 49 actions. A small number of actions have been completed and a small number have yet to be started. There has been good progress with a majority of the actions. However, many of these are ongoing actions that will continue into 2024 and future years.
- 3.8 Consultation has begun on the priorities for the next Poverty Plan, with particular emphasis and consideration being given to learning from and taking on board the experience of people with lived experience.
- 3.9 A draft of the 2024 Poverty Plan will be brought for approval to a future meeting of the Council.

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 2021-2023 Poverty Plan was the subject of an Integrated Impact Assessment and several actions were added to the Plan to take account of the outcome of the assessment. The subject of this report does not require an Integrated Impact Assessment.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Review of 2021-2023 East Lothian Poverty Plan

7.2 Appendix 1: Update on Poverty Plan actions

7.3 [East Lothian Council Poverty plan 2021-2023 | East Lothian Council](#)

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DATE	15 th January 2024

East Lothian Poverty Action Plan 2021-2023

- Complete – no further action needed (In progress – work will be completed in 2023)
- In progress – work will continue in future (In progress – work is developing on its own schedule)
- Not started – this work has been deprioritised or delayed, but will happen in 2024 onwards

1) Working and free from in-work poverty				
	Objective	Lead service/ partner	New / Further Actions 2021-2023	2022 update
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	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. The renewal of the Economic Development Strategy and supporting Tourism Strategy will be initiated following the completion of the Regional Prosperity Fund.	<p>Consultants have been appointed to prepare the new economic strategy. They have been carrying out stakeholder/ community consultations and will present a draft strategy before the end of 2023.</p> <p>Job opportunities and quality jobs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring the developable land includes business space for employment opportunities Using Fair Work requirements to strongly incentivise real living wage Emphasising the business benefits of fair wages for recruitment and retention of staff Future strategy will include commitment to increasing the social value of financial growth. <p>The strategy will also have a focus on Community Wealth Building</p>
1.2*	East Lothian should become a 'Living Wage' local	East Lothian Council / NHS Lothian	The Council will apply for Living Wage Accreditation in 2021 and seek to follow the	The council has uplifted wages to meet the Real Living Wage (£10.90 per hour) and is applying for Scottish Living Wage accreditation.

Complete – no further action

In progress – work will continue in future

Not started – further work needed/ delayed

	authority area and East Lothian public sector partners should lead this process by achieving Scottish Living Wage Accreditation.		<p>Scottish Government’s lead in Fair Work in employment and procurement practices, such as: Statutory Guidance - Addressing Fair Work Practices, including the Living Wage, in procurement; Best Practice Guidance</p> <p>NHS Lothian will continue to explore how to achieve Living Wage Accreditation.</p>	<p>Fair Work Practices has embedded in council contracts and in the Procurement Strategy.</p> <p>NHS Lothian has achieved real Living Wage Accreditation and as an anchor institution is supporting other public bodies to become accredited.</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	<p>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.</p>	<p>Scottish Government funding allowed Additional summer childcare provision to be provided in 2021 and 2022.</p> <p>In 2021 a universal offer was available for families to help children and young people transition from lockdowns and social disruption.</p> <p>In 2022 all provision was targeted at children from low income households and additional support needs. This offer included food to reduce holiday hunger levels.</p> <p>Reduced funding announced in late June 2023 only allowed a reduced programme to be provide in summer 2023. There are a number of challenges that need to be addressed to ensure that provision meets demand, including recruitment & retention of workforce and to ensure there are flexible options to suit different requirements.</p>
1.4*	Develop programmes to tackle child poverty	East Lothian’s Local	<p>Continue to develop opportunities for eligible parents through the Scottish</p>	<p>PESF paid work experience – 3 cohorts in schools since March 2022 with a total of 37 placements. To date 14 job outcomes.</p>

	through parental employability programmes to support parents to return to work, upskill and progress in work.	Employability Partnership	Government's Tackling Child Poverty funding. This includes paid work experience opportunities, training and skills development and wrap around employability support.	<p>Further placements in ELC and a Hospitality paid work experience programme due to start January 2023.</p> <p>Income Max service offered to all parents engaging through PESF – financial gain in 22/23 = £173,478.95</p> <p>Delay of Scottish Government grant for 23/24 has impacted on planned delivery in Q1.</p> <p>Tackling Child Poverty funding when received will be used to upscale existing projects such as paid work experience, to reach more parents. This will include parents in 6 priority groups and other low income parents such as kinship carers.</p> <p>A new paid work experience programme for parents is now underway (Oct 23) with 64 parents undertaking a variety of placements in schools and nursery settings, including classroom assistants, catering staff and business administration.</p> <p>The small grants programme, managed by East Lothian Works, awarded 3 grants from August 23 – March 24 to run programmes for eligible parents. Grants included Edinburgh College to deliver further qualifications in Early Learning & Childcare (aligned to paid work experience) and Enable to deliver specialist provision to parents with a disability (or a child with a disability). Delay in receiving the grant letter (end of Q1) has impacted on delivery for remainder of year.</p> <p>The Income Maximisation service continues to be offered to all parents engaging with East Lothian Works.</p> <p>Partnership work ongoing to develop Early Learning & Childcare pathways for parents wishing to work in this sector.</p>
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1.5*	<p>Implement Developing Scotland's Young Workforce plan for East Lothian.</p> <p>Implement No One Left Behind Delivery Plan for East Lothian</p> <p>Implement UK Shared Prosperity Fund - People and Skills Objectives</p> <p>Work with the business community and other partners to provide more support for skills development, focusing on young people and adults further from the labour market.</p>	East Lothian's Local Employability Partnership	<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 Employer Recruitment Incentives (ERIs) to businesses across East Lothian to support employment of young people and adults with barriers to progress into and sustain employment.</p> <p>East Lothian's Local Employability Partnership to prepare for next phase of No One Left Behind funding</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</p>	<p>Foundation Apprenticeships: expanded to deliver 5 frameworks from Aug 23 with over 100 pupils across EL participating to achieve level 6 qualification with industry experience.</p> <p>DYW Coordinators creating meaningful links between industry & education.</p> <p>Yr 1 pilot of Aspire programme across 2 high schools. Partnership with ELW/College and schools to increase school attendance and engagement. Families supported to access income maximisation, family learning and employability support.</p> <p>2022/23 Outcomes for post school young people & adults</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELW funded providers supported 723 people, with 214 job starts (30%) • 55% increase in number of people supported by ELW (compared to 21/22) • 135 qualifications gained • 29 people moving into education • 38 People starting work experience • 50 people starting training • 15 starting volunteering • 120 were in a job funded by ELW <p>New Winter and Summer Leaver programmes developed and delivered across all EL high schools. ELW and SDS delivering an 'Opportunities Hub' for young people who are leaving/left school, delivering employability support sessions aimed at supporting them onto a positive destination.</p> <p>Employability + programme is an employability programme for pupils with Additional Support Needs (ASN). The programme has expanded</p>
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Complete – no further action

In progress – work will continue in future

Not started – further work needed/ delayed

			<p>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>	<p>from 17 pupils in 21-22 to 40 pupils in 22-23. The programme runs for 12-20 weeks and focusses on developing employability skills and confidence.</p> <p>2022/23 small grants programme supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 119 participants 46 qualifications 12 work placements 26 into FE/HE/Training/ 4 MAs 38 Job outcomes/ 10 Volunteering <p>Small grants programme for 23/24 funded through UKSPF – People & Skills. 4 grants awarded to deliver to priority groups and in line with LEP KPIs</p> <p>Second round of small grants programme running from August 23 – March 24 – 7 additional grants awarded in line with LMI and LEP KPIs (included 3 for Tackling Child Poverty – see 1.4)</p> <p>Preparation underway for the next phase of NOLB (April 24) although delays in confirmation of funding levels and details of grant by Scottish Government are limited ability to plan and procure.</p> <p>In Q1 of 2023 – 24 ELW or ELW funded providers supported 363 people, with 57 job starts. This represents an 44% increase in the number of people supported compared with Q1 of 22-23 and a 50% increase in the number of people with a job start.</p>
1.6	Ensure adult learning opportunities	East Lothian Works / Connected	Implement the new Community Learning and Development Plan	Skills for Work – partnership between ELW and Edinburgh College offered units in Early Learning & Childcare. Sept 21 – June 22, 54

	incorporate the right provision to ensure people can continue to develop and expand their skills and improve access to Further Education	Communities/ Edinburgh College	<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 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>	<p>qualifications achieved at Level 4 & 5. 40 learners enrolled Sept 22- Jan 23.</p> <p>ICT and Data Skills – pathway developed to deliver ICT and Data Skills from beginner to SCQF Level 6. Community based learning with wrap around support. Currently at Stage 3 of pathway. Stage 4 started Jan 23.</p> <p>ESOL learning – support for Ukrainian Displaced People – 35 learners engaged. Partnership with SDS to deliver employability support.</p> <p>Justice system and employability – commissioning Heavy Sounds, Access to Industry, Skills Development Scotland and other partners to create opportunities for people who have an active involvement with justice social work (CPOs, supervision), when people leave the service they are referred to other employability options.</p> <p>Skills for Work – approx. 17 learners x 2 classes sustaining – expected to achieve units at level 4 & 5 in summer. Progression to college and/or employment in Early Years</p> <p>ICT & Data Skills – 7 learners working at level 5/6 in partnership with Edinburgh College</p> <p>ESOL – 27 learners undertaking SQA assessments June 2023.</p> <p>Ukraine Support – new key worker actively supporting 31 Ukrainians settled in East Lothian to find employment. May 23 – supported 10 so far into employment. ESOL conversation classes running for 6 months up to Nov 23 in Musselburgh and Dunbar. Open to all ESOL learners, particularly refugees with an emphasis on integration and informal language learning.</p> <p>UKSPF – Multiply funding – 4 contracts awarded to Edinburgh College and LEAD Scotland to deliver adult numeracy projects in East Lothian.</p>
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Complete – no further action

In progress – work will continue in future

Not started – further work needed/ delayed

				ELW developing programmes with partners including budgeting skills and parental engagement projects to improvement numeracy skills. In Q1 of 23-24 staff engaged with over 60 organisations, initiating potential programmes for remainder of financial year. 17 parents engaged in pilot numeracy programmes run in partnership with Multiply and schools to increase confidence and skills of parents.
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	All partners will support the implementation of the new Volunteering Strategy for East Lothian.	See volunteering update
1.8	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	Access to Industry and East Lothian Works	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>East Lothian Offender Recovery Service (ELORS) is delivered by Access to Industry supported 39 adults living within East Lothian (2021-22). The project was funded through the East Lothian Challenge Fund and One Partnership Funding. It supported unemployed and low-income people of working age with barriers to employment. The project focussed on adults with offending as their primary barrier to employment, which brought with it additional barriers including mental health, trauma and undiagnosed neurodiversity's, low attainment, and skills. This funding is continuing in 2023-24.</p> <p>Through NOLB Phase 2 Small Grants Programme, ELW funding Access to Industry to deliver ELORS – see 1.5 and 1.6</p> <p>Funding received through Small Grants Programme (funded by UKSPF) for 23/24</p>

Complete – no further action

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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>	East Lothian Armed Forces Covenant Group	<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>	<p>Connected Economy Group/ East Lothian Works promote armed forces leavers into employment opportunities.</p> <p>East and Midlothian Chambers of Commerce held a joint 'Business Breakfast' in February 2022 to encourage local employees to recruit armed forces leavers.</p> <p>Advertise East Lothian Council employment opportunities on Forces Families Portal, to actively recruit veterans to jobs.</p> <p>East Lothian Employee Recognition scheme was awarded Gold standard in July 2023.</p>
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Complete – no further action

In progress – work will continue in future

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2) Financially included – people have access to income maximisation and money advice

	Objectives and Actions	Lead	New or Further Actions 2021-2023	2023 update
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>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>The 3-yr contract with East Lothian Advice Consortium has been extended for 2 years at the current rate of funding (to March 2025). This will be monitored against the rising pressure of the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>In 2020-21, 2351 clients accessed the service, with 1313 being new clients. £3,299,264 was secured for 689 CABx clients. People had their income increased from benefits by a total of £2.27m.</p> <p>In 2021-22, 1880 clients accessed the service, with 982 being new clients. £2,362,465 was secured for 489 clients. 221 people had their income increased by a total of £1,466,354.</p> <p>In 2022-23 2,724 clients accessed the service, with 1,660 being new clients. £2,772,993 was secured for 830 clients. 320 people had their income increased by a total of £1,800,620.</p> <p>In September-October 2022 East Lothian Council ran a general awareness and benefits uptake campaign. As well as universal awareness this was targeted at under-claimed benefits including Pension Credit and Best Start grants.</p> <p>Support was provided for a further month by Haddington CAB. 64 new clients accessed £124,763 financial gains particularly around PIP and ADP.</p> <p>A new project launched in Oct 2022 by East Lothian Foodbank in partnership with Musselburgh CAB enables those referred to the</p>

Complete – no further action

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Not started – further work needed/ delayed

			<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>	<p>foodbank to access a money advice service with the aim of maximising their income and move on from their reliance on emergency food. Financial gains of £150,00 as of end of Sept 2023. Project funding in place until Oct 2025.</p> <p>The community link service is monitored by a cross-partnership steering group that is working to improve monitoring, evaluation and community links. Key challenges include inconsistent provision across the county with different organisations offering different levels of service. Key opportunities include social prescribing and increasing face to face appointments available post-Covid.</p> <p>Between April-December 2022, 2907 LINK appointments were delivered with 606 onward referrals. All three services highlight mental health as a leading reason for referral.</p> <p>The hospital welfare advice project was set up in February 2023 to offer support at the point of need in East Lothian Community Hospital for patients, visitors and staff. This is targeted at reducing inequalities. It is run by CAB Musselburgh and supported by NHS Lothian Partnership & Place team.</p>
2.2*	<p>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</p>	<p>Revenues Service / Financial Inclusion service</p>	<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</p>	<p>The Council's Financial Inclusion team are continuing to enhance joint working for financial inclusion, with current focus on promoting the uptake of new Social Security Scotland benefits (Adult Disability Payments).</p> <p>Community outreach has been targeted around specific campaigns and funding including the Community Windpower Fuel Fund.</p>

Complete – no further action

In progress – work will continue in future

Not started – further work needed/ delayed

	local residents in financial insecurity or facing hardship			
2.3*	Maximise the uptake of new Scottish Security benefits	East Lothian Financial Inclusion Network	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	<p>Social Security Scotland are continuing to promote their service, with sessions at East Lothian Works and awareness sessions at VCEL every Tuesday in September 2022.</p> <p>Social Security Scotland are a member of the East Lothian Financial Inclusion Network and Poverty Working Group.</p>
2.4*	Develop financial inclusion pathways from healthcare services, and increase uptake of Healthy Start/ Best Start grants	NHS Lothian	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.	<p>NHS Lothian conducted a mapping exercise has been completed to get a picture of income maximisation services, any gaps or challenges with the current approach to linking patients with financial services. This information will be used to improve the identification of those most in need. Through improved referrals and information sharing between NHS Lothian and their partners this in turn will seek to improve the support they receive.</p> <p>NHS Partnership and Place Team have reviewed current provision of income maximisation services in East Lothian to better understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What services across East Lothian are providing • Any gaps in the provision of financial inclusion services • The challenges faced by services <p>The findings of this review will support ongoing work from the team to strengthen financial wellbeing pathways across midwifery, health visiting and Family Nurse Partnerships and improve the early</p>

				<p>identification and support for people most in need. It has also been shared with the East Lothian Financial Inclusion Network.</p> <p>A new welfare advice service has been located in the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People (RHCYP) in Edinburgh. This service will benefit some East Lothian families who attend the site.</p>
2.5*	Provide access to food for people who are facing food insecurity and address the causes of food insecurity	East Lothian Friendly Food Network	<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 facing food insecurity</p> <p>Develop and implement an East Lothian Food Growing Strategy</p>	<p>The Good Food Charter provides a route for services to interlink, and actions for all. Funding from Nourish Scotland has been secured to build sustainable food places, and increase the Friendly Food Network's capacity.</p> <p>East Lothian Council has been exploring cash first approaches as the option of choice for food security. This approach was adopted to reduce pressure on the Foodbank and to provide a dignified access to food. In 2022/23 ELC supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £100 top up of the Scottish Welfare Fund, paid directly into applicants bank accounts • £100 direct debit payment into bank accounts for those who were ineligible for a SWF payment but who would have been referred to the foodbank. <p>Shopping vouchers have been distributed offering a variety of choice to clients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Services benefitting families linked in with the service • Adult Services supplementing Section 12 payments, support for carers, and support for people living with cancer. • Shopping vouchers distributed as part of the provision of period products via third sector organisations, allowing clients to choose their own bulk products.

Complete – no further action

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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>Increase financial education and ‘life skills’ as part of the curriculum</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>VCEL have hosted various community focused financial inclusion events, including sessions with local credit unions providing access to safe loans. They have also provided sessions with Social Security Scotland on their offer to families.</p> <p>The Financial Inclusion and Education services have been exploring new ways of working together, including initial information sessions for Equity School and Family Support Worker staff about how the support that FI team provides to families.</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	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	The Council’s Cost of Living leaflet has been updated on several occasions. It promotes a wide range of financial and social supports available. This information is also promoted on the website, and is available in print at public buildings, in food parcel provision, and through a range of other targeted provision.
2.8*	Tackle ‘period poverty’ by ensuring access to a choice of period products for those who need them	Policy, Improvement and Partnerships/ Education Service	Continue to Implement the preferred scheme to deliver access to period products and promotes choice in Schools and the community	<p>Period products are being delivered to people in East Lothian through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vouchers distributed through community partners • Bulk supply in libraries • Caught short provision in schools, public buildings and community buildings, and at Enjoy Leisure sites • Scottish Welfare Fund grant top up for all menstruating household members.

Complete – no further action

In progress – work will continue in future

Not started – further work needed/ delayed

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

	Objectives and Actions	Lead	New or Further Actions 2021-2023	2022-23 updates
3.1*	Increase supply and range of affordable housing options	ELC – Housing Strategy and Development	<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) and increase the supply of accessible and adaptable provision, suitable for those with mental ill health, autism, and/or learning disabilities</p>	<p>East Lothian’s Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) delivered a total of 995 new affordable homes during the previous LHS period (2018-2023). Of the 995 new affordable homes delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 643 were new build social rents. • 100 Open Market Acquisitions for social rent. • 229 were Mid-market rents. • 23 were low-cost ownerships. <p>In 2022, a new provision of core and cluster flats for individuals with mental health conditions was opened to replace previous bedsit provision. The new housing provision encompasses 8 individual flats alongside a staff base for 24/7 care and support provided by a specialist provider.</p> <p>The 2021 unmet need for wheelchair accessible housing in East Lothian was estimated to be 430 households. The LHS 2024-2029 sets out Wheelchair housing targets to meet the current unmet demand. The LHS 2024-2029 commits to 10% of the total supply of new affordable housing being wheelchair accessible, with a minimum of at least 100 units to be delivered over the five years.</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>Implement the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and 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 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>	<p>Progress of East Lothian’s RRTP has been delayed as resources were reprioritised to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic and the refugee crisis following the war in Ukraine. This has limited the number and success of actions delivered within the RRTP.</p> <p>Housing First for Women was implemented using a two-year funding grant- between April 2021 and March 2023. The project concluded with its funding in March 2023. An exit strategy to the project was developed to ensure the 10 women involved were best supported. An evaluation is due by the end of January 2024.</p> <p>Prevention Review Recommendations will be put into legislation via Housing 2023 after the summer recess. According to the latest updates, the Housing Bill, which will include new prevention duties, is expected in the later half of 2023. There has not been any more information/updates which confirms when this Bill will be published.</p> <p>Sustainable Housing On Release for Everyone SHORE standards were delayed locally until early 2023. Through commitments in the LHS 2024-2029, East Lothian Council Justice and Housing Services will continue to work closely together to implement SHORE as far as possible, taking into consideration any new pathways or requirements brought forward by the Scottish Government Prevention of Homelessness Duties legislation.</p> <p>ELC struggles to meet the Unsuitable Accommodation Order, due to lack of affordable housing and temporary accommodation and is frequently in breach of this legislative requirement.</p>
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Complete – no further action

In progress – work will continue in future

Not started – further work needed/ delayed

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>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>	<p>By late 2022 the level of demand for energy advice has exceeded the capacity of the Changeworks Energy Advice Service. The Council explored alternative funding options via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £45,000 Area Based Scheme funding; • £15,000 from Housing Strategy Development; • £19,578 from the Housing Revenue Account. <p>Scheme of Assistance and BTS Strategy to be implemented 2024.</p> <p>LHEES post was filled in May 2023 and the strategy is in development</p>
3.4*	Reduce Fuel Poverty	Community Housing and Housing Strategy & Development / Estates	<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 and 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 and 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>	<p>See 3.3 above</p> <p>From October 2022 – March 2023 The Community Windpower Energy Fund provided almost £800,000 in fuel payments to East Lothian residents who are eligible for means-tested benefits.</p>

Complete – no further action

In progress – work will continue in future

Not started – further work needed/ delayed

3.5*	Take a preventative approach to homelessness	ELC – Community Housing/ Housing Options Team	Continue the Tenancy Support Service and the Pre-tenancy Support offered by Housing services as part of their preventative approach to homelessness	The Housing Options team have continued to implement a prevention approach to homelessness, achieving positive prevention outcomes for around 85% of households. The PRS deposit scheme has been relaunched.
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 (Shared site)	Implement the Improvement Plan for Gypsy Travellers	<p>A reduction in the number of tenants on site to zero, followed by extreme vandalism including fire raising, resulted in the site being closed. The LHS 2024-2029 commits to work with the Scottish Government to improve data and understanding of need and demand for a site in East Lothian.</p> <p>Despite the shared site being closed, there has been no increase in Roadside Encampments within East Lothian. This is likely due to the different needs of Gypsy/Travellers who stay on permanent sites and those who stop at encampments when they are travelling.</p> <p>To ensure those who stop at roadside encampments can access local facilities, and in line with Scottish Government policy, a formalised multi-agency policy on Roadside Encampments will be explored in 2023 between Housing, Infrastructure and Protective Services (Action LHS 2024-2029).</p>

Complete – no further action

In progress – work will continue in future

Not started – further work needed/ delayed

4) Educated – reduce the attainment gap and raise the attainment and achievement of our children and young people				
	Objectives and Actions	Lead	New or Further Actions 2021-2023	2022 update
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>Implement a monitoring / tracking tool for broad general education and the senior phase to help to identify and monitor the attainment gap and to prioritise key improvements required linked to Strategic Equity Funding ‘Stretch Aims’.</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>	<p>QIO Equity post recruited to – September 2022 – with a responsibility for coordination of equity work and interventions at a strategic and school level. This is in line with the attainment and health and wellbeing stretch aims associated with the Strategic Equity Fund which is part of the Scottish Government’s Attainment Challenge.</p> <p>EL schools and the Quality Improvement Team have used live attainment data from SEEMiS to monitor pupil progress from Primary 1 to S3. Schools use this to interrogate pupil progress data and to accurately identify where attainment gaps occur and the potential reasons for these. This informed the strategic allocation of resources to better meet the learning needs of identified pupils</p> <p>The 1 in 5 training has not yet happened but will likely go ahead this session.</p>
4.2	Schools need to develop a real understanding of the way in	Education and	The framework for the implementation of the Pupil Equity	New PEF guidance has been provided for schools, formalising PEF processes. Quality Improvement

Complete – no further action

In progress – work will continue in future

Not started – further work needed/ delayed

	<p>which poverty affects attainment and work to reduce the poverty related attainment gap</p>	<p>Children’s Service</p>	<p>Fund (PEF) will continue to support schools to plan interventions that impact positively on outcomes for learners who are affected by poverty. Guidance to support schools with PEF was produced.</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>	<p>Officer for Equity’s role is in supporting and challenging to use stretch aims and smart targets, so that all interventions are targeted.</p> <p>Monthly data trackers sent to schools, for real time understanding of where they’re at against their data (including attendance) – seeing faster and more focused interventions, and more focused support from the Quality Improvement Officer.</p> <p>At the February 2023 in-set day all schools provided with equity focussed materials.</p> <p>East Lothian Equity Network has been established with four primaries and two secondary schools to explore effective interventions to address PRAG (these schools have the largest numbers of Quintile 1 pupils).</p>
<p>4.3</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Education and Children’s Service / Connected Communities</p>	<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</p>	<p>East Lothian Council facilitated a Scottish Government-funded initiative to provide targeted access to activities, childcare and food for children age 5-14 from low income families throughout the 2022 summer holiday period.</p> <p>Free School Meal provision was extended to all P1-P5 pupils in 2022-23 as part of the Scottish Government programme. In June 2022, 12.5% of P1-S6 pupils in East Lothian Council schools were registered for Free School Meals. Some schools have elected to use PEF for wraparound care of their targeted Q1 children, but this is not a universal approach.</p>

4.4	Reduce the digital divide and digital exclusion among children and young people, including care experienced young people	ELC – Education and Children’s Service (Schools Digital Group) / Connected Communities	<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> <p>Particular focus will be taken of the digital needs of care experienced young people</p>	<p>Work to enhance and support the curriculum using IT is ongoing with the Deputy Head Teachers group increasing its offer especially to pupils in Advanced Highers. The team are developing a new strategy for learning online which will see increases of devices in schools from 1:5 to 1:2, increasing equity and access to technology.</p> <p>During Covid 2000 Chromebooks were assigned to East Lothian. Since transitioning back to full time classroom learning these were unused and unneeded. East Lothian Council issued a recall and distributed to schools, giving autonomy to Heads for school use with a focus on ASN and SIMD.</p> <p>The digital team is managing classroom specification across the estate to ensure equitable distribution, including access to digital, art, music, and sporting equipment.</p>
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>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>	<p>Free Active School activities offered to those entitled to Free School Meals and all Care Experienced Young People; exploring potential to expand this to include young carers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Between 01/04/22 and 02/02/23 the Active Schools Promo Code for Young People registered for Free School meals, or Care experienced has been used to the value of £2983.80 - Between 01/04/22 and 02/02/23 the Active Schools Promo Code for Young People registered as Young Carers has been used to the value of £1030.00

Complete – no further action

In progress – work will continue in future

Not started – further work needed/ delayed

				<p>- Discussions with enjoyleisure about expanding the access to leisure scheme.</p> <p>Recycling sports equipment: each Secondary School and enjoyleisure sports centre has a collection point for the EL Kit Stop</p> <p>Establishing East Lothian Sports Club Membership Scheme – ongoing; in the final stages of preparing to launch EL Accreditation Scheme, Good To Go, which will help develop the Sports Club Membership Scheme</p> <p>Establishing Walk With School and Connected Community Access Funds. Funds established, though the referral form is being reviewed.</p> <p>ELC Scorecard is under review for 2023/24 to record more of the targeted work being progressed.</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	Continue to support 'Support from the Start' groups	<p>Support from the Start groups operate across the county and run activities based on local need, including nutrition groups, raising kids with confidence and other parenting groups. Increasingly working on intensive family support.</p> <p>Child Planning Framework – Locality Teams (CPF-LTs) have been established with the aim of having one in each locality by June 24.</p>
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.	Education/ NHS Lothian / Connected Communities	Continue to raise awareness of the impact of poverty and the cost of the school day including:	Guidance has been developed to support equitable considerations around school visits. Schools use an EVOLVE process to ensure that learners are supported,

			<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 	<p>with reducing costs and providing best value core elements.</p> <p>Focus groups have been held in primary schools with children, parents and carers on the key findings on poverty and attainment.</p> <p>Engagement sessions around SEF have been held for school staff, third sector, Children’s Services, around what the fund is for and what they’re doing.</p>
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>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>	<p>The Throughcare and Aftercare team have resurrected the mum’s group for 8 care experienced young people. A crèche is provided and the focus will be led by the parents but guided by promoting parenting and offering activities which offer stimulation and the needs of the children. Employability workers will be invited along to one of the sessions too.</p> <p>Strategic Equity fund has funded 6 Principal Teachers of Equity at each Secondary School (excluding Rosehill). Monthly data sets related to attainment gap guide strategic interventions. Teams are working collaboratively to share good practice around identified priorities and school tracking systems.</p> <p>3 family support workers are working in 3 Primary Schools (Preston Tower, Musselburgh Burgh, Sandersons Wynd) supporting children and families affected by poverty with core objectives.</p>

5) Healthy and Well – people in East Lothian are enjoying healthier lives and health inequalities are eliminated

	Objectives and Actions	Lead	New or Further Actions 2021-2023	2023 update
5.1*	Reduce health inequalities	NHS Lothian / Health & Social Care Partnership	<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>	<p>Three of the IJB's objectives specifically address Health Inequalities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver New Models of Community Provision • Working Collaboratively with Communities • Focus on Prevention and Early Intervention <p>NHS Lothian Partnership & Place team are established and working collaboratively across the partnerships with a focus on supporting evidence-based practice to address inequalities.</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 and established social networks is important.	Health & Social Care Partnership	<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 heart of the assessment and support planning process is fundamental to developing our (H&SC) approach to maintain independence. 	<p>The Telecare Team (part of ELRS) provide a range of telecare equipment to support individuals including community alarms and pendants, devices to help detect a fall and environmental sensors to help protect the person in their own home such as fire safety. The team also train colleagues from other HSCP and Housing services to raise awareness and promotes a 'TEC first' approach.</p>

Complete – no further action

In progress – work will continue in future

Not started – further work needed/ delayed

			<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>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>	<p>The CWIC MH Service moved from the Primary Care to the Mental Health Directorate during 2021/22. Demand for the CWIC MH Service increased significantly over the year, with no unused appointments from July 2021. The team grew by an additional 3.5 full time posts during the year, including the addition of an Occupational Therapy Assistant Practitioner to support community focused work.</p> <p>The additional staffing means that around 208 appointments can now be offered per week, compared to 140 per week the previous year (still allowing time for team meetings, supervision, and staff development).</p> <p>Individuals can be referred to the service by their GP or other professional, and a growing number contacted the service directly without the need for a referral – ‘self-referrals’ grew from 15% in 2020/21 to 28% in 2021/22.</p>
5.4*	Improving children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing.	East Lothian Children’s Strategic Partnership	Implement the Children & Young People’s Services Plan (2020–23) to improve children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing.	Single Point of Access has been established. It is tasked with reducing the waiting times and waiting lists for young people receiving help from resources such as CAMHS. Mental Health Strategic and Operational groups have now both been established and are up and running. Partnership working with representation from ELC, NHS (CAMHS, school

Complete – no further action

In progress – work will continue in future

Not started – further work needed/ delayed

				nurses, health visitors), Third Sector, Public Health etc. The strategic group consider 'broader' issues such as funding, how the services plan to develop, considering how to engage with people who are not currently engaging with services but would benefit from them etc.
5.5	Tackle the growing problem of social isolation	Connected Communities/ VCEL	Support community based initiatives to reduce to social isolation Develop the 'Get Connected' model for children and young people experiencing social isolation.	Community initiatives and volunteering levels are beginning to recover from the pandemic. 25,329 people volunteered with Connected Communities in 2022-23 compared to 16,403 the previous year (numbers impacted by Covid).
5.6	Improve the Cancer Journey for people affected by Cancer	NHS Lothian and Macmillan	Roll out the Macmillan Improving the Cancer Journey service in East Lothian from August 2021	The Macmillan Improving the Cancer Journey service offers tailored advice and support to people affected by cancer in relation to non-clinical issues including employment, housing and financial inclusion. They aim to support 20 people each month. To date 185 people in East Lothian have used the service.

Complete – no further action

In progress – work will continue in future

Not started – further work needed/ delayed

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	New or Further Actions 2021-2023	
6.1	All sectors and communities work in partnership to take a prevention and early intervention approach to reduce poverty and tackle the causes of poverty	East Lothian Partnership/ Connected Communities/ VCEL	Review, refresh and implement Area Plans with a focus on reducing inequalities and poverty Implement the new Community and Development Plan	The Community Learning and Development Plan is published and in place; this is a living document adapting to any changes. Increasingly the focus of Connected Communities' work has been on cost of living crisis and alleviating poverty.
6.2*	Review delivery of family support across East Lothian to improve co-ordination and links with other relevant services	Children's Services	Deliver the 'Intensive Family Support Service' in Musselburgh East alongside the 'Our Families' Project Implement the re-design of inclusion and family support services and the closer links with other Children's services, Education and East Lothian Works	The new Whole Family Wellbeing Fund is a £579k project with two funding elements that straddles education/children's services. Fa'side, Tranent and Dunbar have been identified as the key focus of attention. For 23 months the team will focus on building sustainably, including a participation worker scoping what support is there, what the community needs. 4 community pathfinders will be signposting to existing services. The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund element 2 is being delivered by the Families Together East Lothian (FTEL) team who have supported 47 children in the period between March-Sep 2023. The 2 Participation Officers have now completed the 'Discovery' phase for Fa'side/Tranent and are now beginning the 'Discovery' phase in Dunbar. There are currently 4

Complete – no further action

In progress – work will continue in future

Not started – further work needed/ delayed

				<p>Family Outreach Workers under element 2 and we are soon to be recruiting for 2 Community Pathfinders to support with data research and learning. We are working with the communities to gather Voice and continue to monitor and review our project plan regularly with support from Scottish Government and CELSIS.</p>
6.3	Address the Digital Divide	Connected Communities	<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>	<p>Scotland’s Tech Army has supported 5 community projects, 2 in Dunbar and 3 in Musselburgh.</p> <p>ECSA developed a new travel Hub for students on their website - Travel Hub ECSA.</p> <p>ECSA and Edinburgh College developed a lift share scheme for students to reduce travel costs - Edinburgh College staff & students community - part of the Liftshare network</p> <p>The College delivered comms and marketing campaign to encourage take up of the NEC and free bus travel.</p> <p>The College loaned around 100 digital devices to students from East Lothian.</p>
6.4	East Lothian will have well connected communities with increased use of sustainable transport	Roads Services	<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 Sestran, Fife Council, Liftango, Via, Fuse and Prentice coaches to explore opportunities</p>	<p>Active travel including cycling and walking:</p> <p>Removing barriers – safety on cycling, more safe and appropriate routes. Mitigating cost (e.g. of bike/e-bike) and storage issues.</p> <p>Supporting access to bikes including Go E-bike in Musselburgh, electric bike stations provide useful</p>

Complete – no further action

In progress – work will continue in future

Not started – further work needed/ delayed

	modes to access services and amenities.		for an integrated ticketing transport planning eco-system, developing the concept of door to door journeys across multi-transport modes.	access and learning lessons around theft and vandalism. Future bikes may be held by community organisations who can make them available, or have a lease option.
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	Implement and support the extension of national travel concessionary and promote the Free Bus Travel scheme for under 22yr olds Support the Workforce Mobility Project	Free bus travel is provided to Young Persons (Under 22), to over 60s, and to those who have a disability and meet eligibility criteria. These benefits have been promoted via the Poverty Working Group. The bus network is volatile due to the current economic status and difficulty in recruiting staff. The pattern is the same across the whole of Scotland however, in East Lothian we have manage well and have all our network working at around 70% of pre-Covid timetables. The issue is the passenger numbers have not returned to pre-Covid figures. Scottish Government funding ended on 31 March 2023 with no funding likely after that. Routes will be assessed whether they are continuing or not. The Workforce Mobility Project is currently gathering data until mid-April. This will make the case for improvements, such as Demand Responsive Transport services, primarily supporting access to employment and study.

Complete – no further action

In progress – work will continue in future

Not started – further work needed/ delayed

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	New or Further Actions 2021-2023	2023 update
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		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	<p>A new universally accessible digital platform is being piloted. Consul will have a specific project area focused on poverty and inequality. Ideas will be tested here, and people with lived experience will be able to comment and shape policy.</p> <p>The Working for Change Collective is a lived experience group with the tag line “Voices are heard, Action is taken, A response is given”, improving communication, accountability, and input of communities.</p> <p>A steering group has been established to ensure collaboration across the Council services.</p>
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	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	The 2022-2027 Council Plan has Reducing poverty and inequalities as one of its three overarching objectives.

Complete – no further action

In progress – work will continue in future

Not started – further work needed/ delayed

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	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	The Council’s IIA has been reviewed and incorporates Human and Children’s Rights A training programme is to be developed
7.4	Commitment to Community Empowerment to enable further involvement of local communities including the development of Participatory Budgeting	East Lothian Partnership	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	Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership ran a Participatory Budgeting exercise using a new online platform. Some Area Partnership funding streams have involved local communities in their voting, though work will continue on improving this process.
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		A new Tenants Participation Strategy has been developed in partnership with ELTRP. Increase tenants awareness of rights in the Private Rented Sector (Licencing / Housing Strategy & Development / Housing Options Team)
7.6	Develop relevant poverty awareness and sensitivity training for all those working in service design	ELC – Corporate Policy & Improvement	Review and relaunch of the ‘Understanding Poverty’ E-learning module targeted at all staff and available to community groups	This work has not progressed, some e-learning remains in place.

Complete – no further action

In progress – work will continue in future

Not started – further work needed/ delayed

	and delivery and those involved in making funding decisions at local community level.			A trauma-informed officer has been recruited and will develop our trauma informed approach, linking in with the service design around poverty.
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	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.	New Network for Change (collaboration between VCEL, NHS Lothian and East Lothian Council) provides a forum for statutory services, third sector partners, and people with lived experience to collaborate around tackling poverty measures.