

East Lothian Community Planning Partnership



Local Outcome
Improvement Plan
2026-36



Working together to promote
healthy, safe communities
and reduce poverty

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Foreword

As Chair of the East Lothian Community Planning Partnership, I am delighted to present our East Lothian Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) for 2026–2036.

This Plan sets out a shared ambition for how we, as partners across the public and voluntary sectors, will design and deliver services that make a meaningful and lasting difference to the lives of the people and communities of East Lothian. The plan represents over a year of engagement, collaboration and transformation, and we are proud that more than 25,000 people have helped shape the themes and actions within it.

Community planning within the context of public sector reform and the population health framework focuses on creating collaborative, people-centred systems that improve wellbeing, reduce inequalities, and strengthen local outcomes. By aligning services and bringing together sectors, we can shift from reactive service delivery to preventative, holistic approaches rooted in local priorities.

East Lothian is Scotland's second fastest-growing local authority, and while this growth brings real potential, it also arrives during a period of significant budget pressures for all partners.

More than ever, our collective ability to work together effectively, to intervene early, and to focus our support on those experiencing poverty and inequality is essential if we are to ensure that growth is managed sustainably and that the consequences of poverty and inequality which affect us all are addressed.

Critical to the success of the plan and ultimately, for the Partnership it was critical that the plan wasn't developed for communities but with them. The LOIP 2026–2036 is anchored by the priorities communities and partners have identified and which they believe will have the greatest impact over the next decade.

This new plan builds on firm foundations and effective partnership working over the previous decade. Over the past nine years, we have achieved over 48% of our targets — including delivering more affordable homes, increasing adult and youth employment, and reducing deliberate fires and missing-person incidents. But progress over the past decades also highlights that we must go further and faster if we are going to meet the needs of our communities. The creation of our new strategic group, *Living Well*, dedicated to improving health, wellbeing and reducing social isolation, is just one example of our renewed commitment.

As a partnership, we remain firmly dedicated to continuous improvement and to working alongside our communities to deliver the best possible outcomes for everyone in East Lothian. I am confident that in partnership with our communities we can shape a confident, fair and thriving future for our county.



Laurence Rockey | Chair of East Lothian Community Planning Partnership
& Chief Executive | East Lothian Council

Our Vision

Working together to reduce poverty, inequality and improve the wellbeing of people living in East Lothian.

Our Strategic Themes

Living Well

The Partnership is committed to supporting communities to maximise their health and wellbeing.

Our priority areas:

- Wellbeing
- Staying Connected
- Healthy and Active Places and Spaces

Keeping Safe

The Partnership is committed to supporting residents to keep themselves and their communities safe.

Our priority areas:

- Online and Phone Safety
- Safer Communities
- Gender Based Violence and Abuse
- Substance Use
- Climate Resilience and Adaptation

Money Matters

The Partnership believes everyone in East Lothian deserves to live a life free from poverty.

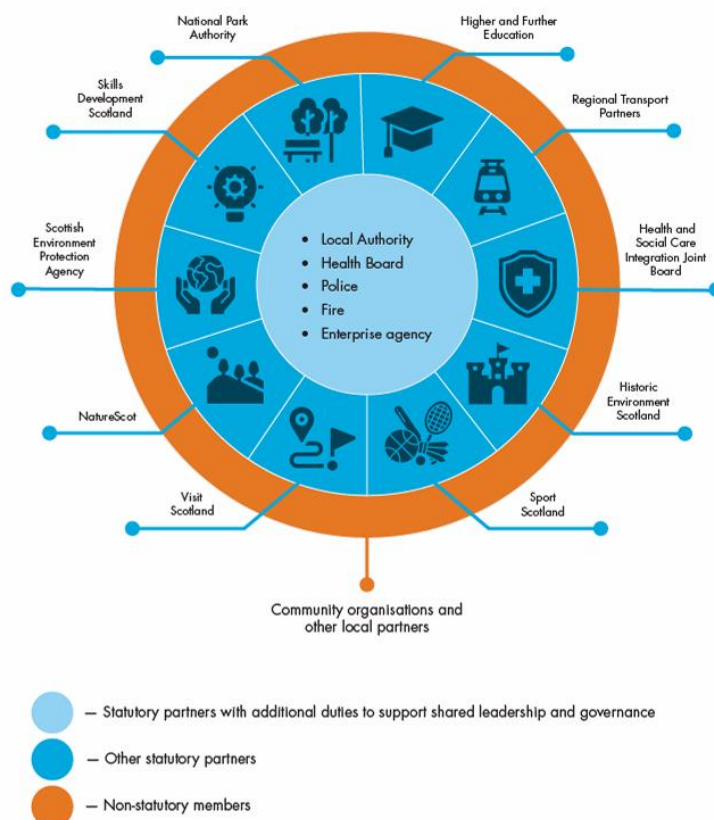
Our priority areas:

- Good Quality Jobs that Pay Fairly
- Enough Money from Benefits
- A good life with Access to the Essentials
- Climate Change Ready
- Stigma and Trauma Informed, with Lived Experience

About Us

East Lothian Community Planning Partnership (CPP) is a group of organisations from across the public, private, third and community sectors. We work together to make life better for the people of East Lothian. Our **Local Outcome Improvement Plan** focuses on where partners' collective efforts and resources can add the most value to our local communities, with particular emphasis on reducing inequality.

Structure of Community Planning Partnerships



Our focus is embedded in prevention, early intervention and reducing inequalities (inequity). The East Lothian CPP will work to the following definitions of Prevention, Early Intervention and Inequity, further detail in Appendix 4.

Prevention

Invest to stop problems happening in the first place.

Early intervention

Focusing on early detection of a problem to support early intervention and support or reducing the level of harm.

Inequity

Identify where inequities exist, understand what drives them, and take targeted action to reduce them.

East Lothian Community Planning Partnership Structure

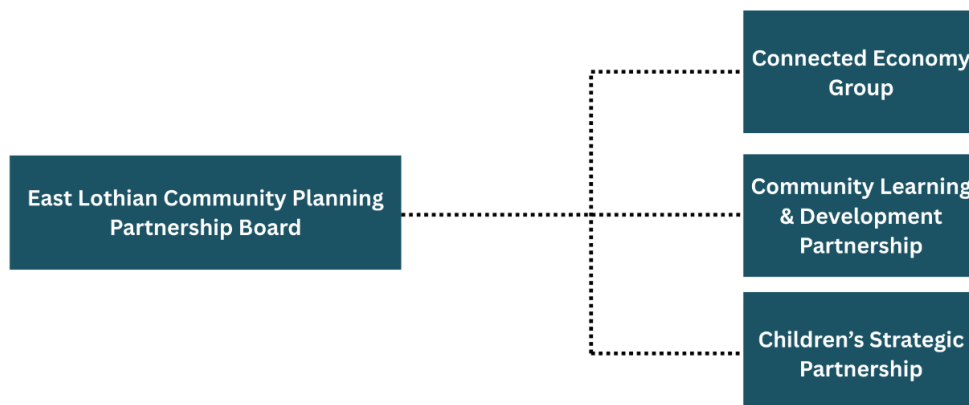
Our governance structure includes a Board, an action focused Officers Group and three strategic groups.



CPP Members:	
Area Partnerships	Queen Margaret University
Association of East Lothian Community Councils	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
East Lothian Council	Skills Development Scotland
East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel	Scottish Enterprise
Edinburgh College	Transport Scotland
Health and Social Care Partnership	Volunteer Centre East Lothian
Police Scotland	

Reporting function

The East Lothian Community Planning Partnership has reporting and oversight function for the following groups:



The sub groups under Connected Economy and Childrens Strategic Partnership are highlighted in Appendix 7 (pg 19).

Improvement Plan

Since December 2024 the East Lothian Community Planning Partnership has been undertaking a development and improvement journey. Working with the Improvement Service, all partners took part in a self-assessment and workshops where we produced an Improvement Plan.¹

The areas of improvement identified, and progress so far includes

- A review of how ***Elected Members and community representatives*** engage with the leadership of the partnership.
 - Leaders of the three political parties have joined the Board
 - Inclusion of our local community planning partners in the Board; Area Partnerships, Association of East Lothian Community Councils and East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel
- Improving awareness and transparency of community planning and its ***governance and accountability***.
 - Updating our community planning webpages² and producing a monthly 1-page email bulletin
- Strengthening the monitoring and reporting to show the ***impact the partnership was making***.
 - Producing easy to read and plain English versions of documents and guides.
- Developing the CPP's approaches to ***community engagement*** to ensure the views of the wider community influence the work of the partnership.
 - Engagement Plan and process for the new LOIP with 25,000 voices represented
 - Work on a new CPP Community Engagement and Participation Strategy for August 2026

A short life working group of Board members will continue to lead on areas of improvement and partnership working, identified through the self-assessment process.

¹ Appendix 3

² <https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/community-planning>

Establishing a Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP)

The East Lothian LOIP is required by Section 6 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015¹.

The Act requires Community Planning Partnerships (CPP's) to produce a Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) setting out:

- A demonstration of clear, evidence-based and robust strong understanding of local needs, circumstances and aspirations of its local communities
- Translate that understanding of local needs, circumstances and aspirations into a genuine plan which reflects the CPP's priorities for improving outcomes and tackling inequalities in their area.
- Clearly and specifically state what will be different for communities as long-term outcomes in 10 years; and the contributory outcomes, indicators and targets by which progress towards these will be demonstrated over the short (1 year) and medium (3 years) terms.
- What steps will be undertaken over the medium term, either in the LOIP or in publicly accessible supporting documentation detailing how they are deploying resources, promoting prevention, reducing inequalities and building community capacity.

Scotland's National Performance Framework ³ (NPF) is Scotland's wellbeing framework and sets the vision for the kind of Scotland we all want to live in. This framework is currently under reform in 2026, but has strong links with our LOIP.⁴

The East Lothian CPP will be working over the next 6 months to finalise the data collection methods, measurement and performance management of this plan. This will ensure we are continuing improvement and can report annually on our progress to the Board, partners and communities.

³ <https://www.gov.scot/collections/national-performance-framework/?via=https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/>

⁴ Appendix 6

Strategic Needs Assessment

A Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) is used to gather evidence about the current and future needs of our population. An SNA⁵ was carried out in 2023-2024 and provided an analysis of the key trends, challenges and opportunities faced by East Lothian.

Key Issues Highlighted in the 2024 Strategic Needs Assessment



Our population is predicted to grow by 1,000 per year for next 20 years, which will put pressure on services



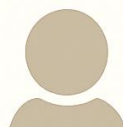
All partners are facing extreme budget pressures



We acknowledge the urgency of the climate emergency



Lack of affordable housing and high cost of private housing



Persistent poverty related attainment gap

The Children's Services Plan 2026-2029 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Health and Social Care Partnership Joint Strategic Needs Assessment add to the wider context of community need.

The CPP Strategic Needs Assessment is detailed in Appendix 1.

Using the key issues highlighted in the SNA and the review of the LOIP 2017-2027, we planned the community engagement and development of the LOIP using a series of Integrated Impact Assessments⁶(IIA) and Children Rights and Wellbeing Assessments⁷ (CRWIA).

These considered the potential consequences of a proposed action, policy, or project on people, the environment, and organisations to support informed decision-making. A copy is available [here](#).

This process guided our approach to listening and engaging communities.

⁵ https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/35094/2024_strategic_needs_assessment

⁶ https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210602/equality_and_diversity/12014/integrated_impact_assessments

⁷ https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210602/equality_and_diversity/12014/integrated_impact_assessments/2

Listening to local communities

To co-produce this plan East Lothian Community Planning Partnership engaged with partners to gather over **24,599** people's experiences on the issues which are important in their local communities, to inform the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

- **9,592** children, young people and families' voices
- **15,007** community voices from the wider community
- Over **60** organisations contributed to this piece of work
- **140** plans, strategies and pieces of research and data

The engagement identified three key themes:

Safety, Health and Poverty



Climate resilience and adaptation, childcare, transport, and communities were also important themes

Some feedback from the engagement will not be addressed directly in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan, but it will be taken forward by partner agencies through pieces of work, as outlined in Appendix 4.

Living Well



We are committed to supporting communities to maximise their health and wellbeing.

Communities highlighted three priorities under this theme: **Wellbeing** so people stay mentally and physically healthy, **Staying Connected** to reduce isolation and build peer support, and ensuring we promote **Healthy and Active Places and Spaces**.

Strategic Group: Living Well

Lead Agencies: Volunteer Centre East Lothian

NHS Lothian



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Key Data and Trends:

Projected population growth of **37.6%** in the **65+** age group by 2047 and growth of **109.1%** in the **75+** age group by 2047 ([National Records of Scotland](#))

80% of what affects health is out with the health and social care system ([Scotland's Population Health Framework 25-35](#))

There were 14 suicides in East Lothian in 2024, but only 6 were known to Mental Health Services.

50% of neurodivergent children go on to develop anxiety and/or depression according to recent research with onset in primary school ([EPIC Think Learn](#)).

Health Visiting Team identified Mental Health as the top issue affecting families they support, which is also reflected by perinatal health services.

OECD report rural wellbeing report on isolation and distance penalty with **RSABI** reporting an increase in their provision for mental health support to farmers with pressures of 49%

1/3 students at **Queen Margaret University** identify as carers.

Over one fifth of East Lothian's population (22.4%) report that their daily activity is

impacted to some degree by a longer-term health issue or disability. ([HSCP JSNA](#))

92% of carers identified it affects their mental health, 69% affects their physical health and 70% caring affects their relationships ([Carers of East Lothian](#))

A higher proportion of takeaway, gambling and alcohol establishments in deprived areas ([Public Health National Observation](#))

62.7% of 16-24 young people feel loneliness some or all the time ([CSP JSNA](#))

Lancelot Commission 2020 report on dementia prevention, intervention and care identified twelve potential modifiable risk factors which include less education, hypertension, hearing impairment, smoking, obesity, depression, physical inactivity, diabetes, low social contact, excessive alcohol consumption, traumatic brain injury and air pollution. 40% on dementias could potentially be prevented or delayed through targeted interventions.

High neurodiversity waiting lists in East Lothian, for example Adult ADHD waiting list is 118 weeks for initial appointments (31st August 2025). ([Scottish Parliament Information Centre \(SPICe\) 2025](#))

In the Residents Survey (2024) road and pavement repairs was the top priority for improvements in their local area at 75%.

Community voices

Margaret, 82: *At first, I didn't think anything could change. Now, I'm joining a weekly group and planning ahead.*

*Many young carers report persistent stress, anxiety, and low mood. Some express feeling overwhelmed, mentally drained, or "numb" from long-term exposure to distressing home environments. Several describe overthinking, feeling guilt when not helping, and being affected by the emotional states of parents or siblings. **Young Carers***

*During the focus group session, I was also struck by the importance all contributors placed on being able to speak to someone about how they feel - this very much reflects the wider student population who are increasingly accessing mental health and well-being support whilst studying. **QMU***

I think if anyone was on a waiting list like myself I think they should give out other resources local to you that could help if you are struggle while waiting. The only reason I found out about resources to use was my doctor. I think there should be more leaflets on the situation or even posters on the toilet doors from the inside with a list of organisations from phone numbers to emails to get the support and help you need.

John, 74: *I used to feel invisible. With support, I've gained confidence and can speak to services without fear.*

Living Well: Wellbeing

Communities of East Lothian have opportunities to build and maintain physical and mental wellbeing throughout life, preventing illness wherever possible and supporting those living with long term conditions.

1 Year Actions

- Promote engagement of mental health support and wellbeing tools for communities.
- Develop innovative, preventative approaches to suicide.
- Promote consistent resources for adults who are on waiting lists to help them manage their health and wellbeing while they wait.

3 Year Actions

- Grow social prescribing models across East Lothian by learning from current projects and strengthening links with doctor practices and in/outpatient services.
- Develop the reach of information hubs⁸ to include rural communities and further education locations both in person and online to raise awareness of support and activities across East Lothian.
- Improve how people move between mental health services and support at different stages of life.
- Identify whole system approach to improve healthy weight levels, identifying areas of higher risk and creating long term strategies.

10 Year Impact

People in East Lothian can more easily access high-quality, activities, resources, and spaces that support their wellbeing including those waiting for services.

⁸ Information hubs bring together friendly faces from charities, the council and the NHS – all in one place, right on your doorstep.

Living Well: Staying Connected

East Lothian communities are connected to one another and to the places they live, creating community spaces where people share, learn, and grow together. Through shared indoor and outdoor community spaces/activities and thoughtful use of technology people are enabled to come together and access opportunities that strengthen wellbeing and connection.

1 Year Actions

- Promote and raise awareness of community activities across the partnership and to communities which encourage connection.
- Promote, raise awareness of and embed peer support for carers.

3 Year Actions

- Enhance indoor and outdoor community spaces and improve access for intergenerational support, connection, and projects.
- Increase training and awareness of good brain health to assist in supporting pre-diagnostic and mild cognitive impairment in dementia and opportunities to stay connected and encourage connection.

10 Year Impact

People of all ages, backgrounds, and circumstances in East Lothian have regular opportunities to connect with others in warm, welcoming indoor spaces and welcoming outdoor spaces. Spaces are accessible, inclusive, and inviting. As a result, individuals feel a sense of belonging, build friendships, and have strong social networks that reduce isolation and strengthen community resilience.

Living Well: Healthy and Active Places and Spaces

East Lothian communities enjoy welcoming, inclusive public places and spaces where everyone can participate and live well. Our place will support physical and mental wellbeing by making it easy to be active, enjoy green, safe, and friendly spaces, and benefit from surroundings that encourage and support good health.

1 Year Actions

- Identify options to act on making local places and services more supportive of good health; for example, the food environment through planning and other opportunities/levers.

3 Year Actions

- Take forward actions on making local places and services more supportive of good health.
- Explore and deliver options to enhance and improve growing and greenspace quality and access in priority areas.
- Enhance opportunities for individuals to walk wheel and cycle.
- Support the development of inclusive community physical activities for everyone with a focus on those who face additional challenges such as carers.

10 Year Impact

People in East Lothian have easy access to safe, welcoming, and well-maintained spaces that encourage regular physical activity and healthy lifestyle choices. These spaces support individuals to be active, connect with nature, and participate in community life-helping maintain good health, independence, and fulfilling lives.

Living Well: Governance

Strategic Group: *Living Well*

Lead Partners: *Volunteer Centre East Lothian
NHS Lothian*

Key Strategies: *Appendix 6.4, Pg 17*

Governance Structure and Subgroups

As Living Well will be a new strategic group, they will establish any subgroups required as they progress.

Membership of the new Living Well strategic group will include Mental Health Partners, Youth Vision Steering Group, CLD Partnership, Suicide Prevention Group, Children's Strategic Partnership Mental Health and Wellbeing Group, ELC - Education, Community Wellbeing Service and Children's Services, HSCP, Dementia Friendly EL, QMU/Edinburgh College Student Services, Health and Wellbeing subgroups of Area Partnerships.



Keeping Safe



We are committed to helping residents keep themselves and their communities safe.

Communities highlighted five priorities under this theme: **online and phone safety**; **safer communities** that are clean, welcoming and well-lit; **gender-based violence and abuse** and its harmful impact; **substance use**; and **climate resilience and adaptation**.

Strategic Group: Keeping Safe Group

Lead Partners: TBC



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Key Data and Trends:

In the **Residents Survey** Residents feeling safe walking alone after dark has dropped from 94% in 2019 to 72% in 2024.

The higher use of substances in areas with lower socioeconomic status (SIMD 20 areas) is a critical concern. It emphasises the importance of addressing health inequalities and providing targeted interventions and support to vulnerable populations. **MELDAP**

MSYP campaign in EL Schools 2nd most popular issue was safe places indoor and outdoor for young people. With gender-based violence being the 3rd most popular issue for campaigning.

Only 50% of communities with active resilience plan. **East Lothian Council**

Prestonpans ranked 2nd in Scotland for vulnerability within recent **Dynamic Coast Climate Vulnerability report**.

66% of women feel safe alone at night, vs 89% of Men. **Scottish Community Safety Network, 2020**

Coercive and controlling behaviours are so common, young people consider them normal. **SafeLives 2021**

LGBTQI are 3 times as likely to face discrimination and harassment, **Scottish Community Safety Network, 2020**

Transgender and gender non-conforming people are disproportionately affected by sexual violence victimisation, partner physical violence and homelessness, **Scottish Community Safety Network, 2020**

Minority Ethnic people are twice as likely to experience discrimination and harassment. **Scottish Community Safety Network, 2020**

Those identifying as religious feel 73.1% safe compared to 82.5% of non-religious people. **Scottish Community Safety Network, 2020**

Disabled people are 50% more worried about robbing and mugging, violent crime and sexual assault. **Scottish Community Safety Network, 2020**

Age affects community safety with children at higher risk of hospital admission for injury, teenagers with bullying, young adults being worried about violent crime and sexual assault and older people at higher risk of admission in hospital due to falls. **Scottish Community Safety Network, 2020**

Community voices

A place to go where we don't just have to walk the streets.

Haddington Youth Club

Adults need to take young people's safety seriously. Without feeling safe, without safety, we cannot feel respected, valued, included happy, heard, or healthy. **Youth Vision**

It's not just about young women getting support. It's about, stopping men from doing things, men and other people stopping them from doing the things that mean that women need support.

Your Vision: Support for young women

Issues with alleyways and street lighting.

**Families Together – Animation
Tranent Young People**

Feedback from a representative of an organisation working particularly with women from ethnic minority groups highlighted verbal intimidation and racist comments causing the women to avoid parks and civic spaces.

Open Space Strategy Feedback

Mum not physically abusive but mentally abusive—mind games and guilt trips.

He throws things, or blocks our bedroom door... makes me feel uncomfortable.

Young Carers

Keeping Safe: Online and Phone Safety

By understanding all the online and phone risks and working in a preventative approach, we can respond with care and knowledge. We can help create digital and online spaces where everyone feels safe, seen, and heard.

1 Year Actions

- Deliver workforce training on online harm, along with organised crime in relation to exploitation of young males, and financial scams targeting older people.
- Research resources to help young people, parents, and carers understand online risks linked to artificial intelligence, including deepfakes and identity cloning.

3 Year Actions

- Develop and enhance online/digital training in parenting programmes
- Develop online resources to help young people, parents, and carers understand AI-related online risks.

10 Year Impact

When awareness is raised, and training is in place, and people know where to go for help, everyone in our community can feel safe, supported, and respected online.

Keeping Safe: Safer Communities

Building stronger relationships between services, addressing issues early and activities that bring people together help to tackle community safety issues. Clean, well-lit spaces and places that welcome and respect everyone no matter their gender, identity, or background will help people feel safe, valued, and included.

1 Year Actions

- Strengthen a joint approach to contextual safeguarding by improving how concerns about risk are reported, shared, and acted on.
- Develop an East Lothian Charter to tackle racism reflecting Race Equality Framework for Scotland.

3 Year Actions

- Understand perceptions, and improve experiences, of safety through ensuring public outdoor spaces and routes feel safe and welcoming, to support lifelong wellbeing.
- Support adults who offend regularly by taking a person-centred approach and holding regular meetings between local services, health, housing, justice, fire, and police.
- Embed Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) within primary schools, secondary schools and across CLD Partners.

10 Year Impact

Communities will feel safer, have clean, well-lit spaces, respectful behaviour, and kindness for everyone. Residents will want to be actively involved in their community and green spaces.

Keeping Safe: Gender Based Violence and Abuse

Help should be kind, respectful, and easy to find whether in the community or online. We want our children and young people learning about respect and healthy relationships from an early age.

1 Year Actions

- Require mandatory Violence Against Women and Girls training for all partners working in early intervention and frontline services, with examples of good practice.
- Develop gender-based violence prevention in primary schools and youth work settings, focusing on healthy gender views and positive gender language.

3 Year Actions

- Increase understanding of Gender-Based Violence and Abuse for 16–25-year-olds through CLD partners, using evidence and lived experience.
- Use local data and partner knowledge to understand risks and gaps in Honor Based Violence and Abuse, working with partners across Edinburgh and Lothians.

10 Year Impact

Everyone, especially women and girls will feel safe, supported, and better understood. Children and young people will learn about respect and healthy relationships, helping to prevent harm before it happens. Services will be kind, trauma-informed, and easy to access, whether in the community or online. People from all cultures will feel included, and no one will be afraid to ask for help. Harmful ideas about gender and power will be challenged. People will have the right to live in a home where they feel safe.

Keeping Safe: Substance Use

Everyone affected by substance use feels safe, respected, and supported. With the right education, flexible and trauma informed services, and welcoming recovery spaces like recovery cafés, people will have real opportunities to heal, grow, and thrive no matter where they live or when they need help.

1 Year Actions

- Expand trauma-informed, substance-use-informed training beyond HSCP to all frontline services.
- Investigate positive risk-taking approaches used in Midlothian and identify best practice to inform East Lothian policies.

3 Year Actions

- Embed the *I am Me* programme across education and youth work settings.
- Embed positive approaches to managing risk within the wider Drugs and Alcohol strategy.

10 Year Impact

If the right support is in place including education, community support groups and trauma-informed services that are flexible and available during evenings and weekends then people will feel more able to ask for help without fear or judgement. Young people and adults will have better understanding of the risks, and those affected by substance use will have safe spaces to recover and connect. Services will meet people where they are, helping them feel respected, supported, and hopeful about their future.

Keeping Safe: Climate Resilience and Adaptation

We are all affected by climate change. Working with our communities we want to better understand, limit the impact, and identify effective solutions that protect and enhance nature, and seek to utilise nature-based solutions to help adapt to climate change.

1 Year Actions

- Support communities to lead, shape, and take ownership of their local Resilience Plans.
- Review the Community Safety Group membership and add partners working on climate resilience and adaptation.

3 Year Actions

- Deliver training and practical support within Resilience Plans for communities most affected by climate change, particularly those in areas of deprivation.
- Create an online space to help communities learn simple ways to reduce climate-related risks they face now and, in the future, such as flooding, drought, wildfires, pests, storms, and extreme heat or cold.

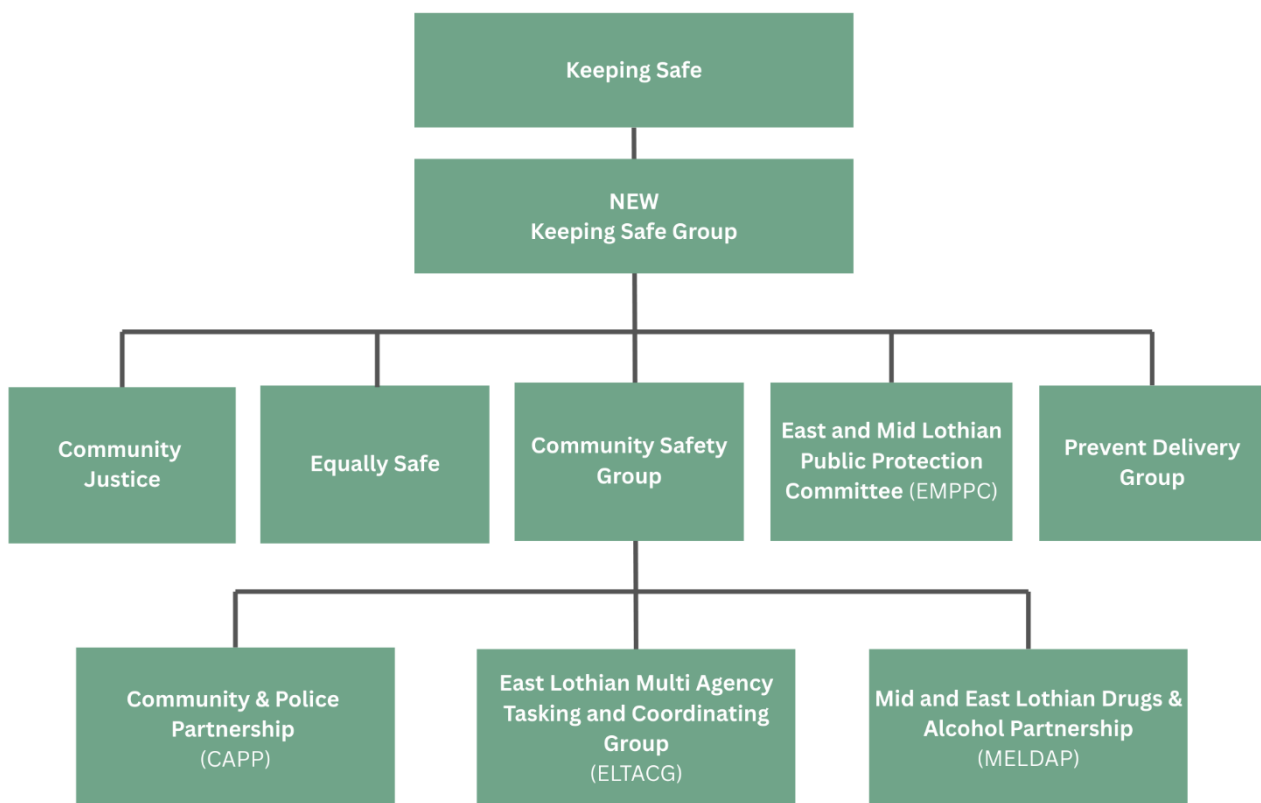
10 Year Impact

Together with communities we can co-create plans to build climate adaptation. Plans better equip communities by raising awareness and making communities feeling included and safe.

Keeping Safe: Governance

Strategic Group:	Keeping Safe Group
Lead Partners:	TBC
Key Strategies:	Appendix 6.4Error! Reference source not found. Pg 17

Governance Structure and Subgroups



Money Matters



We believe everyone in East Lothian deserves to live a life free from poverty.

East Lothian CPP's poverty plan focuses on five priorities; **good quality jobs that pay fairly** by promoting fairly paid jobs, strengthening our local economy and helping people gain the skills that employers need, **enough money from benefits** through reducing barriers to financial support, **a good life with access to the essentials** by improving information and support around cost of living, **climate change ready** by considering climate and poverty as connected challenges and **stigma-aware and trauma-informed** services informed by lived experience.

Strategic Group: Poverty Working Group

Lead Partners: East Lothian Council
NHS Lothian



Key Data/Trends:

22.1% of children (aged 0-15) are living in poverty after housing costs (compared to 23% nationally).

East Lothian Poverty Profile

9.1% of children live in absolute poverty (compared to 13.3% nationally).

East Lothian Poverty Profile

11,767 adults in East Lothian are claiming Universal Credit. 6,537 have no work requirements and 1,331 are seeking work.

Stat-Xplore (DWP)

There has been a 101% increase since March 2020 in number of people on Universal Credit in East Lothian (additional 5,929 people). This indicates that the level of in-work poverty has increased.

DWP 2026

70% of UK food bank users are on Universal Credit **Community Conversations EL Foodbank**

In 2024-25, East Lothian Foodbank supported 5,687 households made up of 13,385 people. This includes 4,639 children. **ELCPAR 2024-2025**

As of September 2025, there were 4,238 households on ELC's housing list-highlighting a high demand for affordable homes. **ELC, 2025** The Employment Rate in East Lothian is 82.2% (compared to 74.4%

in Scotland). **Annual Population Survey Oct 24- Sept 25**

Between January and September 2025 there were 428 households assessed as homeless. **Scottish Government, 2025**

In 2025 (September) the average time spent in temporary accommodation in East Lothian was 331 days (for cases closed). This is significantly above the Scottish average of 237 days. **Scottish Government, 2025**

Over half of respondents said cheaper bus or train fares (61%) and more recycling facilities (53%) would definitely encourage them to address their own impact on climate change. Only 25% said that more electric vehicle charging points would definitely encourage them to address their own impact on climate change. **Residents Survey 2024**

750 households receive the Child Winter Heating Assistance payments aimed at children with a disability in 2024-25. **East Lothian Poverty Profile**

7220 households received the Winter Heating Payment in 2024-25 (equivalent to £424,000). **Social Security Scotland**

545 households received the Scottish Child Payment in 2024-25. **East Lothian Poverty Profile**

Community voices

Constantly feeling cold, don't feed myself, prioritise kids, depressed and hungry and lonely. No one cares, nowhere to go, panicking, going to be excluded.

EL Foodbank Community Conversations

Affordable food stores, minimum wage, doesn't match increase in prices. Cost of baby basics, milk and nappies.

Olivebank

Not to be labelled or pigeonholed, to be seen as a person.

CAPPS Advocacy

Prevention is key – a lot of work could also be done with families not just with schools. Making sure the whole household is aware of different options.

Local Housing Strategy Engagement

Limited availability and high costs of childcare were barriers to work and wellbeing.

Thrive CIC

Partner with training providers to address skill gaps.

Dunbar Area Plan

Stressful as I became homeless in September 2024, didn't have a place to go until October. Now 2025 is here I am in supported accommodation receiving government funding ([Local Housing Allowance](#)) to pay the £350/week cost; however, I am going onto an HNC course which will strip me of my funding, and I won't have adequate money to pay for the accommodation.

Better insulation in houses, cheaper heating costs.

Police Young Volunteers

More access to fresh food shops not supermarkets which are affordable would be good.

**Place Standard Tool
HomeStart Family**

Some areas of East Lothian can be quite isolated, e.g. Macmerry has had significant cuts to buses, which are impacting people being able to easily and affordably travel.

Place Standard Tool Home Start East Lothian

Money Matters: Good Quality Jobs which Pay Fairly

Everyone deserves fair treatment at work and access to training and support to develop their skills and job prospects. As workforce needs evolve, we will support people through lifelong learning, developing core employability skills alongside technical expertise. Traditional skills remain the foundation for innovation; by connecting these with emerging industries, we can create opportunities for people to learn and adapt within their communities.

1 Year Actions

- Promote Real Living Wage accreditations to employers.
- Continue working with colleges and training providers to develop skills and understand future workforce needs, helping local industries find talent and connect with the East Lothian Partnership.
- The LEP will work with our CLD Partnership to plan for future workforce needs and create learning pathways that support new and changing job opportunities.

3 Year Actions

- Work with partners to create East Lothian actions and indicators that match the national ones set out in the upcoming CWB Bill (expected by April 2026).
- Review best practice pathway models in Social Care, Construction and Childcare, and identify where there is employment demand in key sectors, using the City Deal and IRES to support future growth and planning.

10 Year Impact

People will gain new skills, become more independent, and have access to a wider range of learning and training opportunities across different sectors. Targeted employability support will help reduce the number of households without paid work, support young people at risk of negative outcomes, and assist families with children living in poverty.

Money Matters: Enough Money from Benefits

By joining up services, partners can give households better advice and easier referrals, helping them understand the benefits system. We will focus support on communities with higher costs, such as parents and people with disabilities. How we communicate also matters, so we will use language that is consistent, accurate, and both stigma- and trauma-informed.

1 Year Actions

- Strengthen the Financial Inclusion subgroup of the Poverty Working Group (across statutory and third-sector partners) so we can share recruitment, align referrals, and agree a shared protocol.
- Create a mentoring or buddy system where established providers support new, short-term funded start-ups.
- Develop a 'Tell Us Once' model within council services to reduce barriers to financial support.

3 Year Actions

- Increase income-maximisation support for priority groups now and in the future, including people with disabilities, carers, families with children under 5, and lone parents.
- Develop a 'Tell Us Once' approach across the partnership, exploring consent-based information sharing.

10 Year Impact

By joining up services and raising awareness, support will be better tailored and delivered in places where communities already are. We will also use our data more effectively to help people move through services and access the benefits we can provide, supporting them with the cost of living.

Money Matters: A good life with access to Essentials

We believe that clearer housing, benefits, and financial systems will make it easier for people to get the support they need. We will also make sure young people - especially those with care experience - understand and know how to access housing and benefits support.

1 Year Actions

- Update Housing Education workshops around cost of running a household, skills, housing options available and leaving home transition with S4/5 in line with Local Housing Strategy 2024-29.
- Grow the East Lothian Food Friendly Network in line with member feedback at the East Lothian Food Summit, to support the charter and Fare Share distribution.

3 Year Actions

- Embed Housing Education workshops into the redesign of East Lothian Council and Partnership website and cost of living pages.
- Housing Education workshops are targeted to reach; care experienced, people with disabilities and low-income families.
- Co-develop with QMU a tool or app to reduce and redistribute food waste.

10 Year Impact

People will have good information about household costs, housing options and how to access support in East Lothian. Help will be available for those who need support with essential costs, especially care-experienced people, people with disabilities, and low-income families. This support will be delivered in a joined-up, stigma-free way.

Money Matters: Climate Change Ready

Taking action on climate change can also tackle poverty; so our climate work should focus on reducing inequality.

1 Year Actions

- East Lothian Partnerships will include climate alongside poverty considerations, supported by new impact assessments that increases capacity.

3 Year Actions

- Partners will commit to creating a climate risk register that considers future service delivery, the links between climate, poverty and social care, and the co-benefits of climate action.
- Establish a working group to assist in the development of an East Lothian-wide Climate Plan.

10 Year Impact

Taking a joint approach tackling climate change and poverty will create a fairer local economy and new opportunities for communities.

Money Matters: Stigma-aware and trauma-informed with lived experience

The way we run our services can make them harder to access. We will use your experiences to shape better services and train staff across the partnership.

1 Year Actions

- Create an easy-to-use language guide for all partners. This guide will support the Engagement and Participation Strategy and will be based on the Each and Every Child research and the National Trauma Transformation Programme.
- Partners include, review, and use Trauma-Informed training and practice - including culture and housing - in their workforce and volunteer development plans.

3 Year Actions

- Collect and keep a library of composite stories and case studies to show impact and help challenge stigma.
- Partners will create safe, reflective spaces where staff and volunteers can talk openly about the challenges they face when supporting people.

10 Year Impact

Support is easy to access, welcoming, and designed to meet people's needs. People feel able to influence how services are designed and delivered. Staff will receive the training and support they need to work in a trauma-informed and responsive way.

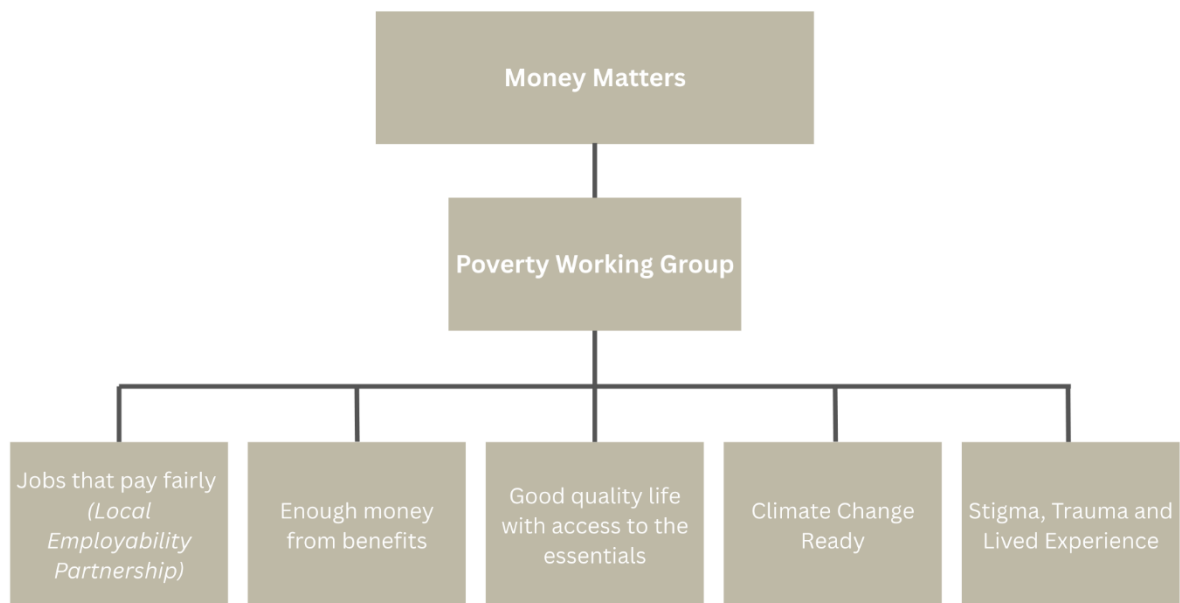
Money Matters: Governance

Strategic Group: *Poverty Working Group*

Lead Partners: *East Lothian Council*
NHS Lothian

Key Strategies: *Appendix 6.5,*
Pg 18

Governance Structure and Subgroups



Next Steps

The Local Outcome Improvement Plan is a living document that the Board will review annually and update every 3 years. Action is underway by strategic groups leading on our 3 key themes and we set out below our next steps.

Our strategic groups

- A new Living Well group has been established to support our activities around health, mental health and wellbeing.
- Actions under Money Matters will be developed by our existing Community Planning Partnership Poverty Working Group.
- Actions under Keeping Safe will be developed by our strategic groups, with a new Keeping Safe implementation group being established.

Logic Frameworks

Logic frameworks are being developed that set out:

- Our planned **inputs**,
- Key **partners** who will be involved,
- Year 1 and Year 3 **actions**,
- How we will **evaluate and monitor** these actions, and
- What the **long-term outcome** will be.

These will be handed over to strategic group leads to further develop monitoring and evaluation. This will be presented to the Board by the end of 2026.

Monitoring Dashboard and Reporting

- We are developing a new digital monitoring and reporting dashboard which will use baseline measures to track progress annually.
- The first Annual Review of the LOIP 2026-36 will be produced in September 2027.

Working Groups

- A short life working group of Board members will continue to work on improvements identified through the self-assessment process and report to the Board by the end of 2026.
- The existing Officers' Group will be redesigned to better reflect themes and sub-group Chairs. The Officers' Group which will be chaired by a Partner agency and will report directly into the Board.

Glossary

ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
CEG	Connected Economy Group
CLD	Community Learning and Development
CPP	Community Planning Partnership
CSP	Children’s Strategic Partnership
CRWIA	Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment
CWB	Community Wealth Building
ELC	East Lothian Council
ELTACG	East Lothian Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-Ordinating Group
EMPPC	East and Midlothian Public Protection Committee
HSCP	Health and Social Care Partnership
IIA	Integrated Impact Assessment
IJB	Integrated Joint Board
LDP	Local Development Plan
LEP	Local Employability Partnership
LOIP	Local Outcome Improvement Plan
MELDAP	Mid and East Lothian Drug and Alcohol Partnership
NHS	National Health Service
NPF	Scottish National Performance Framework
SDS	Skills Development Scotland
SG	Scottish Government
SNA	Strategic Needs Assessment
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VCEL	Volunteer Centre East Lothian

East Lothian Community Planning Partnership

