



Challenging Perceptions: Overcoming Poverty

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

Nelson Mandela



East Lothian Poverty Commission

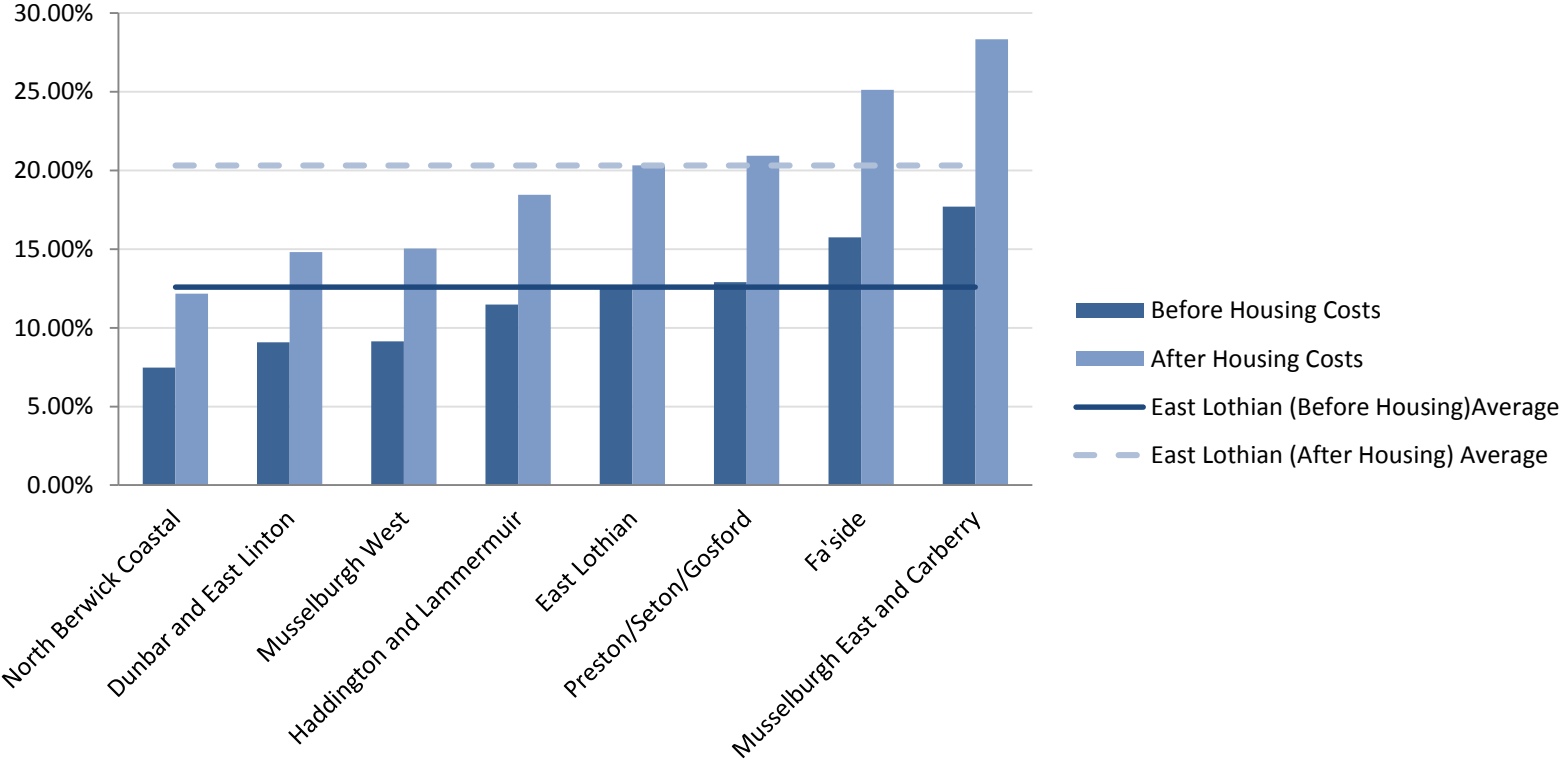
- East Lothian Council and its partners have a core objective to 'reduce inequality within and between our ward areas in East Lothian'.
- Recognised that it was an important time to consider what more could be done to tackle poverty and address inequality locally.
- Poverty Commission was established and asked to examine poverty in East Lothian.
- Focused on identifying key actions that local organisations working in partnership can undertake to help people to move out of poverty or lessen its impact.
- Voluntary members with a local connection and a range of experience, passion and expertise related to poverty.

Poverty is a reality in East Lothian



Percentage children in Poverty

Percentage of children in poverty, Oct-Dec 2015



‘East Lothian is a great place to live but a tough place to be poor’



Stigma is a reality

- “It takes courage to say that you are having difficulty. Getting a way of people being able to say what they are experiencing without creating barriers or stigmatising people isn’t always easy”.
- ‘I’m sometimes embarrassed to have people round to the house as its all second hand furniture and mixed up but that’s what we have.’

Challenging Perceptions: Overcoming Poverty

- Presents the findings of the Commission including evidence they heard and the recommendations made
- 56 recommendations with local, national and UK wide implications
- Strong focus on Poverty as a human rights issue
- Highlights personal experiences and the stigma of poverty that remains for many people
- Challenges everyone to do as much as they can to tackle poverty and its impact.

Recommendations

The report presents 56 recommendations and evidence based around the following themes:

- Having a home
- Financially included
- Secure and Protected
- Educated
- Working your way out of Poverty
- Healthy and Well
- Connected to the Community
- Empowered and responsible

What has happened so far?

- Council and ELP have endorsed the recommendations by the Commission
- Reducing Inequality remains central to the new Council Plan and Local Outcome Improvement Plan
- New online Poverty Awareness Training for all employees and available to community groups via the Community Learn Pro platform
- New resource guide for Early Years on Equality, Poverty and Inclusion which includes a self assessment guide to help organisations think through their service.
- A similar guide for Sports Clubs/PE focusing on making these more inclusive.
- Free active schools places for those in receipt of free school meals from the start of the 2017/18 academic year.
- School Summer clubs operating in various locations- many funded through Area Partnerships
- New arrangements with East Lothian foodbank to ensure families who have delays in their benefits can access emergency food.
- Area Partnerships to have a greater focus and understanding of poverty and inequality - e.g. most now have Poverty Champions

The logo for the East Lothian Poverty Commission is a solid olive-green square. Inside the square, the text "East Lothian" is written in a grey, sans-serif font at the top. Below it, the word "POVERTY" is written in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the word "COMMISSION" is written in a bold, grey, sans-serif font.

East Lothian
POVERTY
COMMISSION

- Read the report

http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/2436/challenging_perceptions_overcoming_poverty