



# Child Poverty: Taking Action in East Lothian

**Child Poverty Action Report 2019**

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## **Foreword**

The East Lothian Community Planning Partnership has been dedicated to alleviate the short and long-term impacts of poverty. In 2016 the East Lothian Poverty Commission was set up and produced a comprehensive report and recommendations to tackle poverty in East Lothian. As a result of this report the East Lothian Partnership Plan 2017-2027 has actions on poverty threaded throughout focussed on drivers of poverty: employability, housing, income maximisation and supporting our residents to take control of their lives. The plan also acknowledges the significant challenge of reducing child poverty.

It is clear that public sector and community and voluntary organisations in East Lothian are doing incredible work already to ameliorate some of the worst excesses of poverty in our area. And we have a responsibility to continue to improve what we do. We are committed to ensuring that local public sector decisions and resources target the causes of poverty as all the available evidence tells us that this will make the greatest difference to the life chances of children. But there must be a caution that some of the levers for change exist far from East Lothian. Recent reports from the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights and the ongoing work of the Poverty and Inequality Commission in Scotland are reminders of the scale of the challenge set by the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017. The Act makes stark the fact that the life chances of children brought up in poverty in Scotland are markedly worse than those of children living elsewhere in Western Europe. It is incumbent on local partners to play a part in changing this story. Our local partnerships must use all our assets and talents efficiently, effectively and wisely. But to make a significant improvement, our decisions and policies about child poverty will need to be inventive and aspirational too. This first Local Child Poverty Action Report for East Lothian provides an overview of our current work and signals our priorities for the next few years.

Angela Leith, Chief Executive East Lothian Council

Professor Alison McCallum, Director of Public Health and Health Policy

*'Poverty means not being able to heat your home, pay your rent, or buy the essentials for your children. It means waking up every day facing insecurity, uncertainty, and impossible decisions about money. It means facing marginalisation- and even discrimination- because of your financial circumstances. The constant stress it causes can lead to problems that deprive people of the chance to play an equal part in society'.*

## 1. What do we mean by child poverty?

Child poverty means growing up in families without the resources to 'obtain the type of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities' which are the norm in 21st century Scotland. A child is considered to be living in poverty when they are living in a family with an income below 60% of the UK's average after adjusting for family size. For example:

- A couple with two children living in poverty has less than £413 per week after housing costs to pay for food, bills, childcare, transport, household items, clothes and other expenses like school trips or children's activities.
- A lone parent family with two children (aged 5 and 14) is living in poverty if they are living on less than £306 per week (after housing costs have been deducted).

## 2. Poverty as a Human Rights Issue

The **East Lothian Poverty Commission** was established in February 2016. Their work brought the impact of poverty on individual and family lives into the spotlight. At this time, Universal Credit was being rolled out across the county and examples of extreme hardship were presented as part of their findings. Importantly, their work was heavily influenced and informed by people's lived experience of poverty. These real life stories served to bring an understanding of a more modern experience of poverty and how living in, or close to poverty, curtailed the choices and sense of worth of individuals and families.



The Commission highlighted poverty as a human rights issue. Everybody, including children have a right to an adequate standard of living that enables them to take part in family and community life. Children and Young People in Tranent have worked with the Children's

Parliament as part of the *Children as Human Rights Defenders* project which is designed and delivered with children for children across Scotland. The programme explored children's views on what rights they feel need to be defended in Scotland and what support is required from adults to ensure children can be both empowered and protected in their role as human rights defenders. As part of this work, children highlighted the impact that poverty had on their lives and the lives of their families, linking back to the individual rights outlined in the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child.

## United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

**Right Number 26: Children have the right to government help if they are poor or in need**

**Right number 27: Children have the right to a decent home, food and clothes.**

**Right number 31: Children have the right to play and relax**

**Right number 12: Children have the right to be listened to and taken seriously**

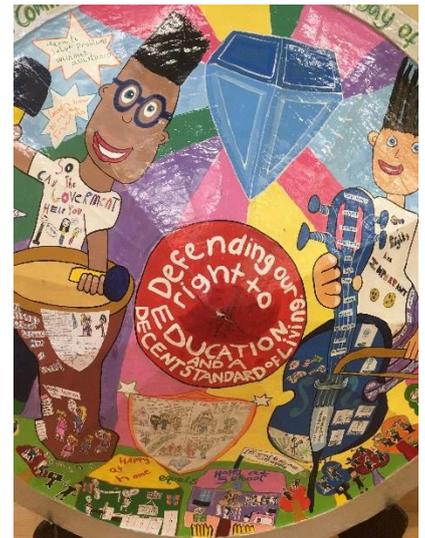


Figure 1 Human Rights Defender Shield

At a recent event 'Unfeart Tranent! A Children's Human Rights Town' children developed their vision for what Tranent town could be. The children put messages about poverty and access to food at the heart of what they want.

### Welcome to Tranent. A Town where.....



- People have access to food and clothes and a roof over their head
- Where no one goes hungry
- Children have the right to play in fun, clean, safe and beautiful places.

### 3. The Impact of Child Poverty

Living in poverty is known to have a long term negative impact on children's wellbeing and their future life chances. The East Lothian Poverty Commission highlighted the impact of poverty on individuals and families. The stress of poverty on adults within families, often compounds other family pressures with poor mental and physical health seen as both a cause and consequence of poverty.

Children living in poverty are more likely to:

- Have poor physical health
- Experience mental health problems
- Have low sense of wellbeing
- Underachieve at school
- Have employment difficulties in adult life
- Experience social deprivation
- Feel unsafe
- Experience stigma and bullying at school.

### 4. Child Poverty in East Lothian

In East Lothian child poverty levels vary across the county and often within ward areas. Child poverty can often be hidden as parents strive to do the best they can for their children. On average, 1 in 5 children in East Lothian are living in poverty after housing costs are taken into account, in some areas this rises to 1 in 4. East Lothian is forecast to grow at one of the fastest rates of all 32 local authorities in Scotland. The number of 0-15 year olds is projected to increase by 27.5% between 2012 and 2037<sup>1</sup>.

The risk of poverty exists for many more people than are actually in poverty at any one point in time. Some people are more likely than others to fall into poverty than others. In terms of child poverty there are a number of groups in East Lothian who are particularly vulnerable to poverty.

- Gypsy traveller children are extremely vulnerable to living in poverty and can be difficult to support through traditional approaches to service delivery. East Lothian has a shared site with Midlothian Council and work is underway to identify improvements to provision of play space at the site, following work to improve the condition of the overall site.
- There is a close correlation between women's poverty and child poverty with factors including the gender pay gap and greater reliance on social security having an impact.

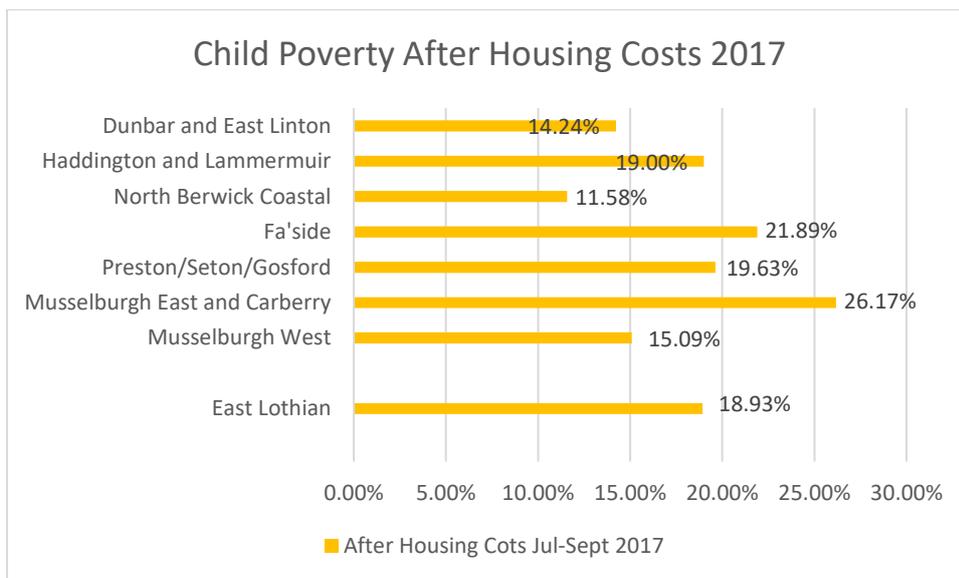
"I had no energy to walk the kids to school and it was hard to focus at work. For the school October holiday club I had no money to give the kids for snack. They went and asked other children for something and I felt awful."

"Financial poverty can be like the tide, flowing in and out of people lives, at times causing severe damage to all it touches. One of the biggest casualties of financial poverty includes the ability of families to provide nutritious healthy meals for themselves and their children."

Parents, Prestonpans

<sup>1</sup> From East Lothian by Numbers ([https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/23533/east\\_lothian\\_profile\\_summary](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/23533/east_lothian_profile_summary))

- Across the UK 92 percent of lone parents are women and lone parents are particularly vulnerable to falling into poverty. 6% of families in East Lothian are single parent families.
- Families with a disabled family member (adult or child) are also more likely to experience poverty.
- Care experienced young people: Children living in poverty are more likely to come into care than their affluent peers. Poverty undermines parenting and exacerbates the factors like substance misuse that are associated with maltreatment.



Other indicators of the level of child poverty include:

- In November 2018, East Lothian Foodbank delivered 245 food parcels, feeding 185 children. In 2018, their food parcels fed 2,014 children.
- In 2018, 9.5% of P4-S6 children were entitled to a free school meal.
- In 2018, 9.3% of P1-P7 children were entitled to a clothing grant.
- The number of children living in poverty has risen significantly since the introduction of universal credit.

More detailed information about poverty levels in East Lothian can be found in appendix 2.

## 5. Challenges in East Lothian

East Lothian's children experience relatively less poverty than other local authority areas across Scotland. However, there are a number of elements which present the challenge to local services to ask is they are doing enough or will be doing enough to prevent reducing or mitigate against child poverty:

- East Lothian is the fastest growing Scottish local authority with over 10,000 new homes to be built over the next decade. This will mean a growing number of children and young people who will need to access good quality public services.
- East Lothian overall performs well when compared to other local authority areas in terms of poverty. As new family homes are built across the county and the population rises, we need to insure that we continue to count the number of children living in poverty (as percentages are likely to decrease).
- Demand for children's services increased by 8% in 2018/2019. As resources are continually stretched we need to continue our focus on prevention and early intervention for families, reducing the demand for crisis services.
- It is hard to measure levels of in work poverty and to take account of underemployment in employment data.
- East Lothian's private rented sector remains in short supply with rent levels above the average.
- Skills Development Scotland predict an increase in the number of jobs at lower pay levels increasing the possibility of in work poverty.
- Increasing pressure on budgets requires all partners to focus on key priorities and services are squeezed. Short term funding and unpredictability of future funding sources, particularly from the EU, are of concern.

## 6. Strategic Commitment to Reducing Poverty and Inequality

The East Lothian Poverty Commission reported its findings in 2017 to East Lothian Council and the East Lothian Community Planning Partnership. Their report 'Challenging perceptions. Overcoming Poverty' outlined a series of recommendations across nine key areas which urged local government to do more to tackle poverty and empower local communities to tackle poverty in their communities also.

The Council and the East Lothian Partnership fully endorsed the findings and recommendations of the Commission and the Commission's work continues to impact on the work of all partners.

**East Lothian Partnership** is a group of organisations from across public, private, third and community sectors, working in partnership to improve outcomes for people in East Lothian. To help achieve this, the [East Lothian Plan 2017-27](#) sets out the strategic actions and direction of work we want to prioritise over the next few years, and has been heavily influenced by the Poverty

East Lothian Partnership

Commission’s work. The Partnerships overall commitment is to work in partnership to achieve an even more prosperous, safe and sustainable East Lothian, with a dynamic and thriving economy that enables our people and communities to flourish.

Our focus of the Partnerships is on:

- Reducing inequalities across our area
- Tackling poverty
- Working to prevent problems - and acting quickly when problems start

**The East Lothian Council Plan** reflects these themes also and sets a clear commitment to reducing poverty and inequality. The overarching objective of ‘*reducing inequalities within and across our communities*’ that was adopted in 2014 remains the overarching objective of the new Council Plan. The Plan sets out the following strategic goals which will make the biggest impact in delivering these key themes and objectives.

- Reduce unemployment and improve the employability of East Lothian’s workforce.
- Reduce the attainment gap and raise the attainment and achievement of our children and young people.
- Improve the life chances of the most vulnerable people in our society.
- Extend community engagement and decision making and increase community and individual resilience.

The following diagram shows some of the key strands and plans in plan which contribute to our focus on reducing child poverty.



## 7. East Lothian Area Partnerships focus on Poverty and Inequality



Figure 2 Local Area Partnership map

There are six Area Partnerships in East Lothian which are the local voice of community planning and each has a delegated budget from East Lothian Council to deliver improvements in their area. Each of the six Area Partnerships is chaired by a volunteer member of the local community and supported by an Area Manager who is employed by East Lothian Council.

Each Area Partnership has an Area Plan which provides a profile of the main features of the local area and their priorities for improvement.

This helps to focus the allocated budget on the priorities which local people have identified, to help reduce inequalities in their community. Over the past two years the Partnerships have worked hard to increase awareness and understanding of poverty and take action to reduce poverty in their local communities.

### 7.1 Musselburgh Area Partnership focus on Reducing Inequality

Musselburgh Area Partnership invited the Poverty Commission to present their findings to them and subsequently challenged themselves to identify ways to reduce poverty in their community.

Musselburgh Area Partnership distributed £65,000 to a total of fourteen projects through a digital participatory budgeting programme in early 2019. The PB exercise invited projects which aim to reduce poverty and inequality to take part in the exercise. The following are some examples of the projects which will make a difference to children and families living in poverty.

- Summer Holiday Play scheme Provision for Wallyford & Whitecraig** – a free programme of extracurricular summer activities including lunch for primary school aged children. To engage families through stimulating activities, directly addressing the importance of play and attachment. Run in local community centres.
- Putting Money in Your Pocket** – to help people to maximise their household income through benefit uptake, accessing affordable credit and switching to cheaper contracts .
- Campie Cares** – to help families reduce the cost of the school day and learn without worrying about money. To give children financial help towards

Figure 3 Participatory Budgeting poster

attending one school trip and P7 camp. Help run free family events to offer help to protect against poverty.

- **Summer Community Cafe at First Step** – providing a community cafe for all to enjoy that is free. The cafe will provide a breakfast and warm lunch to people through the summer holidays and will be a chance for people of all ages to socialise and eat healthily.
- **Musselburgh Community Kitchen** – to provide a sociable environment to learn new cooking skills which are affordable and healthy, for all ages and abilities.
- **Play on Pedals & Big Read Project** – highlighting that reading to young children sets them up to succeed and riding a bike improves physical fitness, a child’s learning development and mental health.
- **Musselburgh Kindness Fund** – to provide social workers, family workers, health workers and community staff with access to small amounts of funds to support families in crisis with items like power cards, telephone credits, essential items such as nappies and vouchers for public transport.

## 7.2 Projects Reducing Inequality in other Area Partnerships:

### Fa’side Fridge



Figure 4 Fa'side Fridge picture

The Fa’side Fridge project provides a friendly, safe and non-judgemental social space where parents, carers and families can meet for tea and a chat whilst accessing healthy food and advice relevant to their needs. The project offers the opportunity to try new foods and to obtain advice on healthy food choices, cookery skills and nutrition, in order to encourage healthy affordable eating for the whole family.

The project is being delivered in an innovative partnership between East Lothian Foodbank, Home Start East Lothian, Fundamental Foods, Roots and Fruits, The Fa’side Area Partnership and Sanderson’s Wynd Primary School.

## Red Boxes in Secondary Schools

Developed by the East Lothian Food Bank and funded through our local Area Partnership's schools across East Lothian received 'Red Boxes' filled with a variety of sanitary products and related items such as clean underwear, shower gels and fresh tights. The products were free to those who needed them in the schools.



Figure 5 Red Box contents

## Prestonpans Holiday Lunch Club



Figure 6 The Wee Pans Lunch Club

*"We know that 'The Wee Pans Lunch Club' initiative has been a life saver for some of Prestonpans young families. The children really enjoyed coming together and having proper meals in a fun social environment. They also liked getting involved in food preparation and trying new things. It's been a great success and the parents are pleased that the children were gaining both nutritionally and socially, and also had structure to their days during the holiday period."*

*'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.'*

East Lothian Parent

## 8. Working in Partnership to Reduce Poverty: Examples

### 8.1 Expansion of 1140 Early Learning and Childcare – Joining the Dots

East Lothian Council is working to deliver the expansion of early learning and childcare hours from 600 hours to 1140 hours by August 2020. Over the past 18 months, a number of trials sites have offered parents extended hours. The feedback from parents has been very positive about the financial and wider benefits to health and wellbeing, for example:

*'Less financial strain, more financial benefit which also helped alleviate stress.'*

*'More time to engage in college work through the day rather than late evenings.'*

***'It presented an opportunity to change working patterns - additional hours enabled weekend shift work to be replaced by week day shifts; this in turn enable more quality family time during the weekend.'***

East Lothian Works is working with key employability partners to develop local opportunities to return to education or training or find suitable employment while parents access the increased childcare hours. There is also a focus on developing new routes into early learning and childcare as a valued career choice. The Council is working closely with Edinburgh College to develop new and flexible routes to Early Learning and Childcare, including modern apprenticeships, local training centres and work experience opportunities.

## **8.2 East Lothian Financial Inclusion Service**

'A single parent family with 3 dependent children and 1 non dependant presented for assistance to the Financial Inclusion Service. I assisted the client in applying for Universal Credit after her Income support stopped. We also made an application for council tax reduction as the customer was in arrears with her council tax.

At our initial appointment I was able to do a benefit check for the customer to give her an indication of what she would receive. One of her children receives Disability living allowance and she is his full time carer. I wanted to ensure that these circumstances were reported correctly in her Universal Credit as this would affect the amount of money she would receive. We were also able to request with UC that the customer wanted her rent paid direct to the landlord and that she would also like her UC paid twice monthly as she was able to budget better with her payments this way.

The client was also under pressure from our rent income team as she had missed rent payments I was able to contact them and advise that we are in the process of sorting out her income and we agreed that customer did not have to make a payment until she received her first award of UC.

While the client was waiting on her first payment of UC she was able to apply for an advance payment of her UC. I was able to give advice on this and what to expect her repayments to be depending on how much of an advance she took. I was also able to assist the client in apply for Personal Independent payments for her non dependant son. He was previously on disability living allowance but this stopped and she was unable to complete another form. I assisted her in calling for a new form for him and completing the form.

Once Council tax reduction was applied we were able to set up an arrangement for the client to start paying this. I also supported the client in calling Stirling Park to make an arrangement to pay back previous council tax that was outstanding.

Due to some arrears the customer had on her rent account our rent income team are able to recover payments for the arrears from her Universal credit and they can set this at 20% deduction. We were able to negotiate this to 10% making sure that the customer didn't suffer any financial difficulties while trying to pay back debts. The support for this client is still ongoing until we hear back if her son has been awarded Personal Independent payment. We want to ensure that he does receive this as this will also affect the client's Universal credit as there will no longer be a non-dependant deduction. We also want to make sure that the non-dependant is receiving the correct benefits he is entitled to.

## 9. Developing the Child Poverty Action Report

Established in 2015 the Children's Strategic Partnership (CSP) is focused on our partnership commitment to every child and young person in East Lothian. The Partnership has taken the lead on developing the Child Poverty Action Report for East Lothian.

In June 2018 the Children's Strategic Partnership hosted a workshop event 'Child Poverty: Taking Action in East Lothian' to bring together key organisations and individuals who work towards reducing child poverty and its impact in East Lothian. Over 15 organisations and services were represented at this event. The feedback from this event has been used to inform the development of the Child Poverty Action Report.

In Spring 2019, The East Lothian Partnership held its Spring Forum event bringing community and voluntary sector organisations together to focus on the theme of 'Health Inequality and Wellbeing'. Following a presentation on Health Inequality, 15 organisations and individuals took part in a workshop considering the draft Child Poverty Action Plan.

The East Lothian Report mirrors the Scottish Government's 'Every Child, Every Chance' report and highlights actions against the key policy drivers of:

- Income from work and earnings
- Costs of Living
- Income from social security and benefits

In addition to these, the Partnership has also focused on:

- Increasing understanding of the impact of child poverty
- Ensuring child poverty is considered as part of the decision making process
- Working in partnership at all levels to continue our focus on reducing poverty and inequality.

## 10. Action to Address Child Poverty in 2019/20 and beyond

The development of the Child Poverty Action Report provides the opportunity to ask what more we can do to reduce child poverty in East Lothian. The framework presented in section 7 above, identifies core work streams that we can ensure that reducing inequality is at the core of what we can do. Together with partners we continue to work to maximise our resources and ability to do more to prevent and reduce poverty and mitigate against its impact. The Action Plan presented in Appendix 2 incorporates actions that we will take forward over the coming year, but also actions which will take longer to develop and implement.

The following actions represent **additional** focused action which will support the reduction in child poverty which we aim to take forward in 2019/20.

### 10.1 Income from work and earnings

- East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian working to achieve Living Wage Employer Accreditation.

- Deliver the 'Disadvantaged Families Service' alongside the 'Our Families' project developing better outcomes for our most vulnerable families.
- Continue to work with Intowork and CAB to ensure that the transition from benefits to work for disabled people increasing incomes for families.
- Continue to offer a range of Employability Programmes through East Lothian Works (arising from the East Lothian Economic Development Strategy Action Plan).

## **10.2 Costs of Living**

- Roll out of the 1140 Hours of Early Learning and Childcare offering a flexible and affordable access to childcare across the county.
- Roll out of the 'Period Poverty' Action Plan with particular actions for new mothers in need of sanitary products immediately post birth.
- Expand eligibility for Clothing Grants.
- Increase provision of holiday clubs to prevent hunger, learning loss and isolation during school holidays.
- Continue to offer Free Active Schools Place to children and expand the programme to consider other 'hidden' costs of participation.

## **10.3 Income from social security and benefits**

- Develop a new Financial Inclusion Pathway for pregnant women and families in East Lothian.
- Increase awareness of and uptake of the Healthy Start/ Best Start grant for families in East Lothian.
- Continuation of the Financial Inclusion Service trialled in 2018, continuing to support people to manage and mitigate the impact of Universal Credit.

## **1.4 Increasing understanding of the impact of child poverty**

- Roll out of the Cost of the School Day/ 1 in 5 Training to a range of audiences including schools, parent councils and sports clubs.
- Review and relaunch of the 'Understanding Poverty' and 'Child Poverty' E-learning module targeted at all staff and available to community groups.
- Information briefings for Elected Members on the Child Poverty (e.g. elected members briefing held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019).
- Development and Support for Poverty Champions in Schools and Local Area Partnerships.

## **10.5 Ensuring child poverty is considered as part of the decision making process**

- Implementation of the revised Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) which has a clear focus on poverty and those vulnerable to falling into poverty, including a particular focus on care experienced young people and linked the UNCRC.
- Further focus on human rights within our Integrated Impact Assessment process.

- Training and awareness raising for Senior Management, Elected Members and all staff to use the new IIA process with opportunities to raise awareness of child poverty and the UNCRC.
- Improved use of 'East Lothian by Numbers: Deprivation and Inequality' as a statistical profile of East Lothian giving services easy access to data on a range of indicators of poverty.

#### **10.6 Working in partnership at all levels to continue our focus on reducing poverty and inequality**

- Include a focus on Child Poverty at the East Lothian Community Planning Partnership Community Event on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2019.
- Develop the East Lothian Food Friends Network, supporting those increasing access to affordable food.
- Revision of 'Community benefits' procurement process to ensure benefits are targeted in ways which support environmental and social benefits for communities.
- Continue to work in partnership to support the roll out of new social security arrangements where appropriate.
- Work with partners to identify issues affecting children, particularly those from minority communities in East Lothian.

### **11. Monitoring and Evaluating Our Progress**

The Children's Strategic Partnership will monitor the implementation of the Child Poverty Action Report. Progress will be reported in June each year in line with the required reporting schedule set out by the Scottish Government. Appendix 2 of this report outlines the current measures and actions that will be taken forward over the coming 12 months.

### **12. Further Information**

For more information about the Child Poverty Plan or any of the activity outlined in the plan, please email [policy@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:policy@eastlothian.gov.uk) or call 01620 82 7134.



## Child Poverty - Taking Action in East Lothian

### DRAFT Child Poverty Action Report (09-05-2019)

#### Key Drivers:

- Income from work and earnings
- Costs of Living
- Income from social security and benefits

#### Additional Focus on:

- Increasing understanding of the impact of child poverty
- Ensuring child poverty is considered as part of the decision making process
- Working in partnership at all levels to continue our focus on reducing poverty and inequality.

1.	Income From Work and Earnings	Who action is carried out by	How impact has/ will be assessed See appendix 4 for detail	Group(s) the action is intended to reduce poverty amongst	Resources allocated	Timescales for action	Reporting channel
1.1	Develop more sustainable employment and training pathways for all in East Lothian	Connected Economy Group	East Lothian Council Plan Indicators: 1, 2,  East Lothian Plan indicators: 1,2,3 & 4	Working aged adults (16+) potential to target <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lone parents</li> <li>○ 3 + children</li> <li>○ Minority ethnic parents</li> <li>○ Mother &lt;25</li> </ul>	East Lothian Economic Development Strategy Action Plan  Delivery through East Lothian Works and other local and regional delivery partners	2019-2020	ELP Governance Group  Connected Economy Group

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<b>1.2</b>	Deliver the 'Disadvantaged Families Service' in Musselburgh East alongside the 'Our Families' Project	City Region Deal Project	To be confirmed	Families with multiple vulnerabilities	EU Structural Funding as part of City Deal	April 2020	City Region Deal
<b>1.3</b>	Continue to deliver adult employability programmes including e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NOWEL Programme</li> <li>• Paid Work Experience</li> <li>• Adult Employability Programme</li> <li>• Modern Apprenticeships</li> </ul>	East Lothian Works & Partners including NHS Lothian	East Lothian Council Plan Indicator: 4	Working aged adults (16+) potential to target <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lone parents</li> <li>○ 3+ children</li> <li>○ Minority ethnic parents</li> <li>○ Mother &lt;25</li> </ul>	Mainstream budgets	2019-2020	Connected Economy Group
<b>1.4</b>	Develop and deliver models to inspire positive career choices including the 'Kidzania Model'	East Lothian Works	Feedback from participants in the programme	All children	Mainstream budgets	September 2019	Connected Economy Group
<b>1.5</b>	Continue partnership with Edinburgh College to deliver locally based	East Lothian Works Edinburgh College	Number of participants	n/a	Mainstream budgets	2019-2020	Children Strategic Partnership

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	courses in early learning and childcare						
<b>1.6</b>	East Lothian Council to work towards achieving Living Wage accreditation	Corporate Policy and Improvement/ HR/ Procurement	Accreditation achieved	All Staff	Mainstream budgets	April 2020	East Lothian Council
<b>1.7</b>	NHS Lothian to work towards achieving Living Wage accreditation	NHS Lothian	Accreditation achieved	All staff	Mainstream budgets	April 2020	NHS Lothian
<b>2.</b>	<b>Income from Social Security and Benefits</b>	<b>Who action is carried out by</b>	<b>How impact has/ will be assessed</b>	<b>Group(s) the action is intended to reduce poverty amongst</b>	<b>Resources allocated</b>	<b>Timescales for action</b>	<b>Reporting Channel</b>
<b>2.1</b>	Scope the development of a new Midwife lead Financial Inclusion Pathway for pregnant women and families	NHS Lothian	East Lothian Plan Indicator: 23 & 24	All groups	This project is in development with resource requirements being identified and scoped	September 2019	Children Strategic Partnership
<b>2.3</b>	Develop a new specification for the Advice and Rights Services across East Lothian to ensure appropriate access to income maximisation, and debt and money advice.	Advice Services working group	East Lothian Plan Indicator: 23 & 24	All groups	Mainstream budgets	New contract from January 2020	East Lothian Council

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2.4	Continuation of the Financial Inclusion Service trialled in 2018.	ELC Revenues Service via the Welfare Rights Team	East Lothian Plan Indicator: 23 & 24	All groups	Mainstream budget	April 2020	East Lothian Council
2.5	Work with partners and across services support the delivery of any new social security arrangements as appropriate	Benefits and Customer Services	East Lothian Plan Indicator: 23 & 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lone parents</li> <li>- Disabled child or parent</li> <li>- 3+ children</li> <li>- Minority ethnic parents</li> <li>- Children under 1 year of age</li> <li>- Mother &lt;25</li> </ul>	Mainstream budget	2019 - 2020	East Lothian Council
2.6	Increase uptake of Healthy Start/ Best Start grant	NHS Lothian	East Lothian Plan Indicator: 23 & 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lone parents</li> <li>- 3+ children</li> <li>- Minority ethnic parents</li> <li>- Mother &lt;25</li> </ul>	Mainstream budgets and communication channels and networks	2019 - 2020	Children Strategic Partnership
2.7	Continuously work to identify ways to support employees to access advice services when needed e.g. information about Macmillan Support for those who are affected by cancer	East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian	New initiatives / interventions identified	East Lothian Council and NH Lothian staff	Mainstream budgets and communication channels and networks	2019-2020	East Lothian Council NHS Lothian

## Child Poverty - Taking Action in East Lothian

2.8	Continue to link return to work/ training candidates with welfare and benefits advice to ensure a good transition between benefits and work	East Lothian Works with Into Work and CAB's.	East Lothian Plan Indicator 2	This service is focused on those with barriers to returning to employment			East Lothian Works
<b>3.</b>	<b>Working in partnership at all levels to continue our focus on reducing poverty and inequality</b>	<b>Who action is carried out by</b>	<b>How impact has/ will be assessed</b>	<b>Group(s) the action is intended to reduce poverty amongst</b>	<b>Resources allocated</b>	<b>Timescales for action</b>	<b>Reporting Channel</b>
3.1	Review structures which progress work on different aspects of poverty to ensure a cohesive approach which harnesses collective knowledge and resources	Corporate Policy and Improvement & NHS Lothian	New structures established and operational	Not applicable	Officer Time	2019-2020	East Lothian Partnership
3.2	Continue to support local communities to take action on poverty and inequality through the work of the Area Partnerships and participatory budgeting	ELC Connected Communities – Area Managers	Examples of local activity to reduce poverty and inequality	All groups	Area Partnership Budgets	2019-2020	Area Partnerships

## Child Poverty - Taking Action in East Lothian

3.5	Development of a new approach to Community Benefits ensuring better alignment to reducing inequalities and tackling poverty	ELC Connected Communities and Procurement	To be developed	All groups	Officer time	November 2019	East Lothian Council
<b>4</b>	<b>Cost of Living</b>	<b>Who action is carried out by</b>	<b>How impact has/ will be assessed</b>	<b>Group(s) the action is intended to reduce poverty amongst</b>	<b>Resources allocated</b>	<b>Timescales for action</b>	<b>Reporting Channel</b>
4.1	Implement the 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare for East Lothian	East Lothian Council Education Service	East Lothian Plan Indicator 23	Lone Parents 3+ children Minority ethnic Mother <25	Mainstream budgets with additional funding from Scottish Government	Full roll out by 2020	Children Strategic Partnership
4.2	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	To be developed	All groups	Existing budgets	2019-2020	East Lothian Council

## Child Poverty - Taking Action in East Lothian

4.3	Continue to offer Free Active School activities to those entitled to Free School Meals and all Care Experienced Young People & explore potential to expand this to include young carers	Active Schools Business Unit	Number of free places allocated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lone Parents</li> <li>○ 3+ children</li> <li>○ Minority ethnic</li> <li>○ Mother &lt;25</li> <li>○ Care Experienced Young People</li> </ul>	Existing budgets	2019-2020	East Lothian Council
4.5	Support from the Start local initiatives to support the best start in life for children and young people	NHS Lothian, Support from the Start	Monitored on a project and cluster basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lone parents</li> <li>○ 3&gt; children</li> <li>○ Minority ethnic parents</li> <li>○ Mother &lt;25</li> </ul>	Existing budgets	2019-2020	ELP Governance Group
4.6	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	ELC Education, Corporate Policy & NHS Lothian	<p>Number of Training sessions delivered</p> <p>Number of participants</p> <p>Actions arising from the training – longer term impact</p>	All groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cost of the School Day Materials</li> <li>● Venues</li> <li>● Number of Training hours</li> </ul>	2019-2020	Children Strategic Partnership
4.7	Work with Parent Council's and PTA's to raise awareness of the impact of poverty and	ELC Education and NHS Lothian	Number of Training sessions delivered	All groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cost of the School Day Materials</li> <li>● Venues</li> </ul>	2019-2020	Children Strategic Partnership

## Child Poverty - Taking Action in East Lothian

	<p>the cost of the school day including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Considering the cost implications of fund raising activity</li> <li>- Consideration of the impact of other hidden costs of the school day</li> <li>- Taking an innovative approach to reducing the cost of the school day</li> </ul>		<p>Number of participants</p> <p>Actions arising from the training – longer term impact</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Training hours</li> </ul>		
<b>4.8</b>	<p>Deliver the recommendations of the Food Poverty and Holiday Hunger Group including the improvement and expansion of holiday hunger provision across the county</p>	<p>ELC Education and NHS Lothian in partnership with voluntary sector organisations</p>	<p>Number of weeks of lunch club provision in each area</p> <p>Number of free breakfast club places available in each area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lone Parents</li> <li>○ 3+ children</li> <li>○ Minority ethnic</li> <li>○ Mother &lt;25</li> </ul>	<p>Costed proposals are currently being developed.</p>	<p>2019-2020</p>	<p>Children Strategic Partnership</p>
<b>4.9</b>	<p>Increase the Supply of Affordable Housing as per the Local Housing Strategy</p>	<p>East Lothian Council Housing</p>	<p>East Lothian Plan Indicators: 19 &amp; 24</p>	<p>All groups</p>			<p>East Lothian Housing Partnership</p>

## Child Poverty - Taking Action in East Lothian

4.10	Continue to implement the Minimum Standard of Accommodation at the Gypsy Traveller site and work with residents to identify further improvements needed including the provision of play space (in line with the new Scottish Government Gypsy Traveller Strategy)	East Lothian and Midlothian Councils (it is a shared site)	Minimum standard of accommodation at Gypsy Traveller sites is met	Gypsy Traveller Children	To be confirmed once the Scottish Government Gypsy Traveller Strategy is published in Summer 2019	2019-2020	East Lothian Housing
4.11	Continue to work to prevent and reduce homelessness	East Lothian Council Housing	East Lothian Plan Indicators: 19 & 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Homeless</li> <li>○ Threatened with homelessness</li> </ul>		March 2024	East Lothian Housing Partnership
4.12	Reducing Fuel Poverty - Improve knowledge of the levels, extent and nature of fuel poverty and energy efficiency of housing - Continue to provide / facilitate services to maximise household income / reduce household debt	East Lothian Council Housing	East Lothian Plan Indicator: 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rural Communities</li> <li>○ Families with a disabled person</li> <li>○ Families on low incomes</li> </ul>	Mainstream budget	2019-2020	East Lothian Housing Partnership

## Child Poverty - Taking Action in East Lothian

	<p>- Continue to target energy efficiency advice at households most at risk of fuel poverty</p> <p>- Reduce the cost of fuel to households and communities where practical via a range of measures</p> <p>(From Local Housing Strategy)</p>						
<b>4.13</b>	<p>Period Poverty –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue the Red Box scheme in all Secondary Schools</li> <li>Increase access to sanitary products in primary schools</li> <li>Implement plans for community access to sanitary products including products for new mother immediately post birth</li> </ul>	<p>ELC Education and Corporate Policy</p> <p>Partnership with the voluntary sector</p>	<p>Projects will be evaluated by the Scottish Government and at a local level e.g. the number of people accessing free products</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All those in need of sanitary products</li> <li>New mothers</li> </ul>	<p>Scottish Government Funding for Sanitary Products in Schools and communities</p>	<p>2019-2020</p>	<p>Children Strategic Partnership</p>

## Child Poverty - Taking Action in East Lothian

5.	Increasing Understanding of Child Poverty	Who action is carried out by	How impact has/ will be assessed	Group(s) the action is intended to reduce poverty amongst	Resources Allocated	Timescales for action	Reporting Channel
5.1	Review and relaunch of the 'Understanding Poverty' E-learning module targeted at all staff and available to community groups	Corporate Policy	Number of Participants	All employees	Officer time	October 2019	East Lothian Council
5.2	Keep Elected Members and senior officers informed of the progress with the Child Poverty Action Report	Corporate Policy	Increased understanding of poverty and its impact by elected members and senior officers	All Elected Members and senior employees	Officer Time	October 2019	East Lothian Council
5.3	Support for the role of Poverty Champions in Schools and Local Area Partnerships	NHS Lothian and ELC Corporate Policy and other relevant partners	Actions arising / changes happening as a result of this role	As per relevance at Area Partnership level/ cluster level	Officer Time	2019-2020	East Lothian Council
5.4	Work with the Children's Parliament and local groups including minority groups to identify new issues	NHS Lothian and East Lothian Council	Actions arising / changes happening as a result of this work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disabled Children</li> <li>• Ethnic Minority children</li> </ul>	Officer time	December 2019	Children Strategic Partnership

## Child Poverty - Taking Action in East Lothian

6.	Ensuring child poverty is considered as part of the decision making process	Who action is carried out by e.g. list of all those partners involved in action	How impact has/ will be assessed	Group(s) the action is intended to reduce poverty amongst e.g. who is service targeted at and who is using it?	Resources Allocated	Timescales for action	Reporting Channel
6.1	Revise the ELC Integrated Impact Assessment Process to include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care Experienced Young People</li> <li>• Include additional references to the Fairer Scotland Duty</li> <li>• Incorporation of Human Rights considerations including UNCRC and the PANEL principles</li> <li>• Explore potential for use of common IIA process or training with NHS Lothian</li> </ul>	Corporate Policy	Number of IIA's published	Care Experienced Young People  All Equality Groups	Officer Time	October 2019	East Lothian Council

Appendix 2 Measuring Actions and Outcomes: The East Lothian Plan 2017-2027: Outcome Indicators

THEME 1 – PROSPEROUS						
Themes and Outcomes		Proposed Indicators	Source	Baseline 2017/18	Target 2022	Lead Group/ Partner
<b>Outcome 1.1</b> East Lothian people are working, are free from in-work poverty and are able to develop and improve their work skills.	1	Job density – proportion of people of working age (16-64) in employment in East Lothian (including employed and self-employed) (2016 – 35,000 / 65,000)	Economic Development Strategy  NOMIS	0.55 (2016)	0.60	Connected Economy Group
	2	% earning less than the Living Wage	ONS – Annual survey of hours and earnings	19.1% (2017)	17%	Connected Economy Group
	3	Adult employment Rate	SLAED / NOMIS	75.5%	80%	Connected Economy Group
	4	Number of people participating in EL Works operated or funded employability programmes	SLAED	384	400	Connected Economy Group
THEME 2 – COMMUNITY-MINDED						
<b>Outcome 2.2</b> East Lothian People can live affordably and contribute to a thriving community life in a high-quality environment.	19	Number of affordable homes completions and Open Market Acquisitions	Local Housing Strategy	628 (2012-2017)	945 (2018-2023)	East Lothian Housing Partnership
	20	% of households in fuel poverty	Scottish House Conditions Survey	28% (2014-2016)	23% (2027 target)	East Lothian Housing Partnership
THEME 3 – FAIR						
<b>Outcome 3.1</b> We tackle the causes and effects of poverty in East Lothian and we reduce the gap between the richest and the poorest people.	23	% of children in families with limited resources	Scottish Government indicator	8% (2014-16)	6.5% (2023)	Children and Young People's Partnership
	24	% of children living in households with less than 60% of average income after housing costs	Scottish Government indicator	18.9% (Jul - Sept 2017)	16% (2023)	Children and Young People's Partnership
	25	% of children (in any domain) with a developmental or wellbeing concern at their 27-30 months assessment	Children and Young People's Partnership	15.7% (2017)	14% (2020)	Children and Young People's Partnership
	34	% of children in Primary 1 who are overweight or obese	Data collected by NHS	Clinical BMI – 16% Epidemiological thresholds – 22% (2016/17)	13% (2020)  18% (2020)	Children and Young People's Partnership

## Child Poverty - Taking Action in East Lothian

### Appendix 3 Local Child Poverty Action Report – Data on Child Poverty

This section of the Child Poverty Action Report sets out the statistical base from which we can understand the prevalence of poverty and child poverty in East Lothian. East Lothian is forecast to grow at one of the fastest rates of all 32 local authorities in Scotland. The number of 0-15 year olds is projected to increase by 27.5% between 2012 and 2037. As the population of the county grows, with significant private house building, it is important for us to look beyond the % of children living in poverty and identify the actual number of children living in poverty within each area. This will help us to identify what action we need to take to support those experiencing poverty within our communities.

For detailed information about East Lothian's communities, please view our [East Lothian by Numbers profiles](#).

#### 1. Poverty in East Lothian

Although East Lothian is generally considered to be an area of high employment and general affluence there is considerable variation in economic activity, unemployment and the financial position of households between and within East Lothian's wards.

East Lothian is made up of 132 data zones, 6 of which fall within the most deprived 20% of areas in the whole of Scotland.

- The 6 most deprived datazones are located in Prestonpans, Tranent and Elphinstone.
- The most deprived datazone in East Lothian is located in Tranent.
- Higher levels of deprivation are concentrated in the western part of East Lothian (around Musselburgh, Wallyford, Tranent and Prestonpans), although there are also pockets of deprivation in Haddington and Dunbar.
- 12.6% of children were identified as living in poverty. This rose to 20.3% when housing costs were included. These figures were below both the Scottish average and neighbouring Council area figures.
- 89% of East Lothian residents think that their household is managing quite well or getting by alright financially.
- Only 1% of residents identified themselves as being in deep financial trouble.
- 59% think that it would be no problem for their household to find £250 to meet a sudden expense. This figure drops to 43% if they had to find £500 instead.
- 7% of East Lothian households are in extreme fuel poverty compared to 10% in Scotland.(from: [EL by numbers – deprivation and inequality, 2016](#))
- In 2018, 1129 pupils across East Lothian's primary and secondary schools were entitled to free school meals (PEF data, 2018)

## Child Poverty - Taking Action in East Lothian

### 2. Child Poverty in East Lothian

#### 2.1 Child Poverty by Ward

The percentage of children living in poverty in East Lothian varies across the Ward areas with concentrations of child poverty reflecting overall poverty levels. In the tables that follow you can begin to build a picture of child poverty in East Lothian.

Percentage of children in poverty <sup>2</sup>	BEFORE HOUSING COSTS		AFTER HOUSING COSTS		
	Local Authority and wards*	Oct-Dec 2015	Jul-Sept 2017	Oct-Dec 2015	Jul-Sept 2017
<b>East Lothian</b>		<b>12.58%</b>	<b>11.77%</b>	<b>20.32%</b>	<b>18.93%</b>
Musselburgh West		9.14%	9.29%	15.03%	15.09%
Musselburgh East and Carberry		17.69%	16.54%	28.33%	26.17%
Preston/Seton/Gosford		12.90%	12.22%	20.93%	19.63%
Fa'side		15.76%	13.71%	25.12%	21.89%
North Berwick Coastal		7.47%	7.04%	12.18%	11.58%
Haddington and Lammermuir		11.49%	11.82%	18.45%	19.00%
Dunbar and East Linton		9.07%	8.74%	14.81%	14.24%

<sup>2</sup> From End Child Poverty, 2018: <http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/poverty-in-your-area-2018/>

## Child Poverty - Taking Action in East Lothian

### 2.2. Child Poverty – vulnerable categories

<p><b>Lone parents</b> – it is known that poverty rates for children in lone parent households are almost double those for two parent households (36% compared to 19% across Scotland).</p> <p>(Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2018)</p>	<p>6% of families in East Lothian comprise of lone parents (compared to 5% across Scotland) (<a href="#">Scottish Household Survey 2016</a>)</p>
<p><b>Either a disabled child or parent</b> – it is known that children in households with a disabled person are more likely to be in poverty (30% compared to 20%).</p> <p>(Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2018)</p>	<p>1.4% of children in both primary and secondary schools in East Lothian are disabled.</p> <p>(ELC Education Department 2016/17)</p>
<p><b>3 or more children</b> (classed as large family). The definition of a large family household – contains two adults of any age and three or more children, or three or more adults of any age and one or more children.</p> <p>(Scottish Government, March 218)</p>	<p>In East Lothian 3% of families are classed as large compared to 5% across Scotland. (<a href="#">the Scottish Household Survey 2016</a>)</p>
<p><b>Minority ethnic parents</b></p>	<p>1.6% of East Lothian’s population identify as Asian and 0.8% identify as being Black (or Caribbean). (<a href="#">the Scottish Household Survey 2016</a>)</p>
<p><b>Children under 1 year of age</b> - it is suggested that the poverty rate is higher for younger children than for older children (28% for under 4s, compared to 21% and 22% for 5-12 and 13-19).</p> <p>(Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2018)</p>	<p>1.1% of East Lothian’s children are under 1 year old. Compared to 1% across Scotland. (<a href="#">National Record for Scotland, 2016</a>)</p>
<p><b>Mother under 25</b></p>	<p>18.2% of mothers in East Lothian are under 25 compared to 19.8% across Scotland. (<a href="#">National Record for Scotland, 2016</a>)</p>

## Child Poverty - Taking Action in East Lothian

### 2.3 Other Indicators of Child Poverty

#### Free School Meals & Clothing Grant

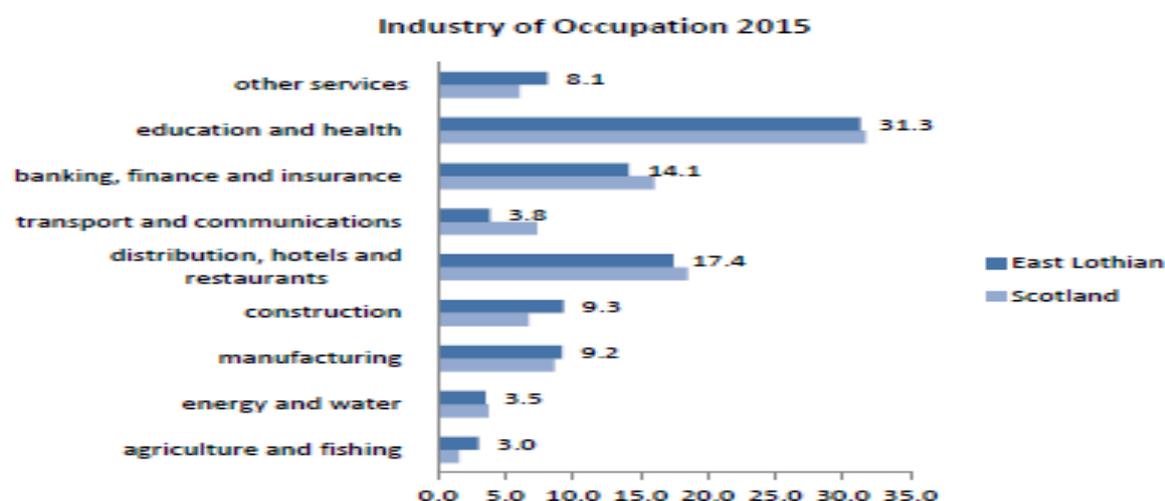
Feb 2019	Number of Pupils	% of School roll
Free School Meals	1,009	9.5% (of P4 to S6)
Clothing Grant	1,234	9.3% (P1 to P6)

### 3. Causes of Poverty in East Lothian

#### 3.1 Income from employment

East Lothian sees many people commuting out of the area for employment. We can see from the graph that, across East Lothian, a sizable amount of people are employed in these sectors suggesting a focus for income maximisation work. The Guidance also highlights that women are more likely to be over represented in low pay and part time work and Close the Gap (September 2018) state that poverty in Scotland has a “female face”.

The employment types in East Lothian

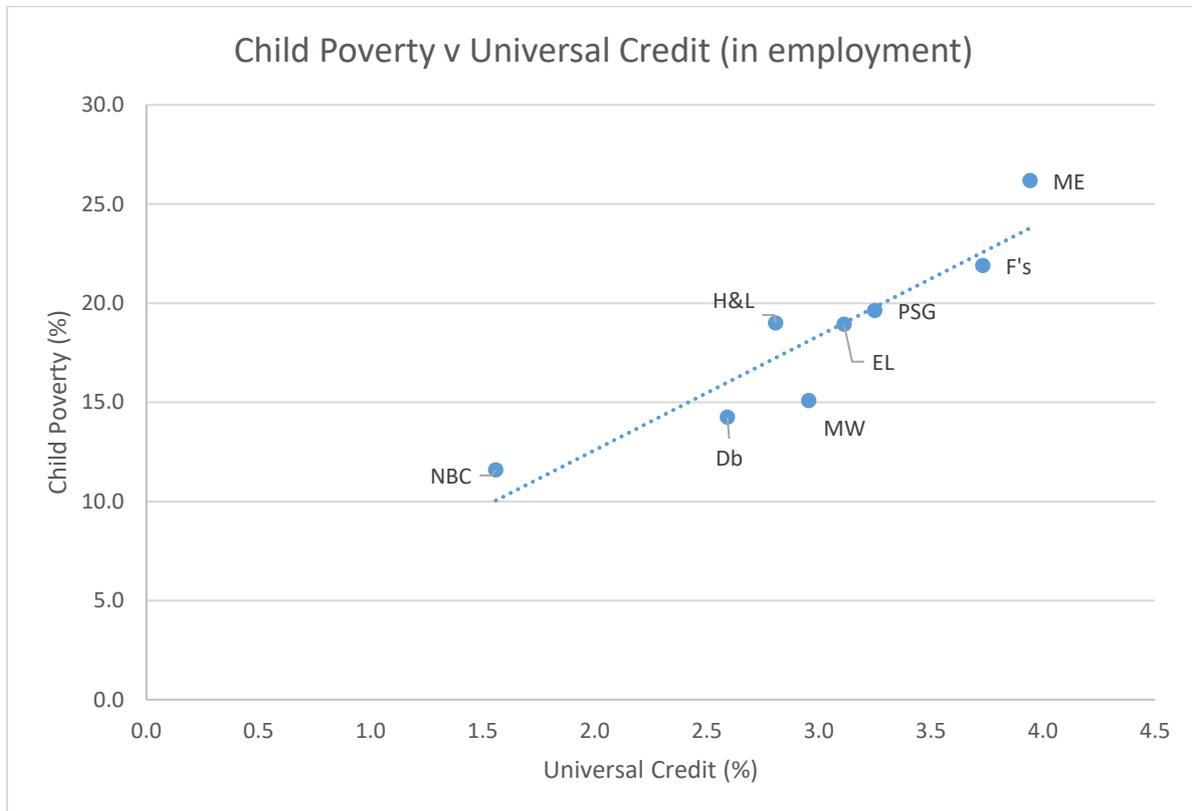


Industry of occupation, East Lothian and Scotland 2015 (from NOMIS 2016)

## Child Poverty - Taking Action in East Lothian

### 3.2 In Work Poverty

The following table highlights a significant number of families in East Lothian experiencing “in work” poverty who are having their incomes topped up with UC. The dotted line shows the close correlation between the Child Poverty rate and universal credit (in employment).

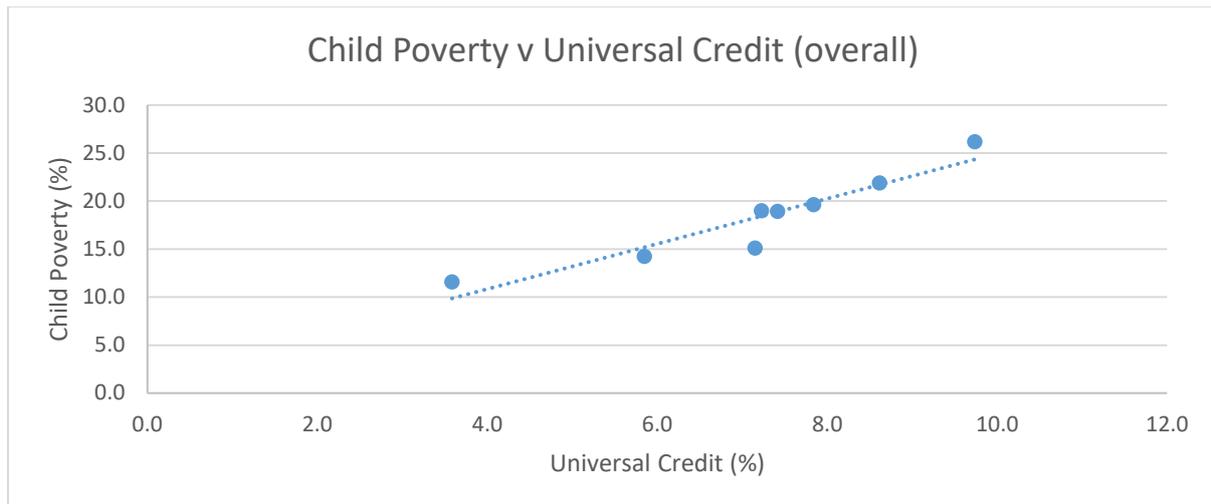


UC (March provisional 2018). Population (Mid Year 2016)

### 3.3 Income from social security and benefits in kind

The table below show that the introduction of Universal Credit has had a significant impact on a child’s experience of poverty in East Lothian. The thin blue dotted demonstrates the correlation between the % of families in receipt of Universal Credit and the % of children living in poverty.

## Child Poverty - Taking Action in East Lothian



(Universal Credit ([March provisional 2018](#)) and Population ([NRS Mid year 2016](#)))

Area Partnership Area	Universal Credit	UC in employment	Child Poverty
Dunbar & East Linton	5.8	2.6	14.2
Fa'side	8.6	3.7	21.9
Haddington & Lammermuir	7.2	2.8	19.0
Musselburgh East & Car berry	9.7	3.9	26.2
Musselburgh West	7.1	3.0	15.1
North Berwick Coastal	3.6	1.6	11.6
Preston Seton Gosford	7.8	3.2	19.6
East Lothian	7.4	3.1	18.9

(Universal Credit ([March provisional 2018](#)) and Population ([NRS Mid year 2016](#)))

## Child Poverty - Taking Action in East Lothian

### 4. East Lothian's Progress Against National Targets

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 establishes a set of national child poverty targets for 2030 with interim targets for 2023. The Act sets out four indicators or measures of child poverty with national medium (2023) and longer term (2030) targets for children living in Scotland.

The indicators and targets are:

Indicator	2023 Target	2030 Target	East Lothian 2014/16 baseline stats
<b>Relative Poverty</b> – living in a household whose income is less than 60% of median net household income for the year	Less than 18%	Less than 10%	18.9% (2017)
<b>Absolute Poverty</b> – living in a household whose income is less than 60% of median net household income for the year adjusted for inflation since April 2010	Less than 14%	Less than 5%	
<b>Persistent Poverty</b> – experiencing relative poverty in the last three years.	Less than 8%	Less than 5%	
<b>Combined low income and material deprivation</b> – living in a household whose income is less than 70% of median net household income and experiences material deprivation	Less than 8%	Less than 5%	8% (in 2014)

**For further statistics on issues relating to child poverty, see the following profiles:**

Children and Young People in East Lothian, A Statistical Profile

East Lothian by Numbers – Deprivation and Inequality

Both available from the [East Lothian by Numbers webpage](#)

**Child Poverty - Taking Action in East Lothian**