

# Child Poverty Action Report: East Lothian

2020-21

2021-22

This is the third Local Child Poverty Action Report for East Lothian. The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 places a duty on the Council and NHS Lothian to jointly publish an annual Child Poverty Action Report that sets out how child poverty will be tackled in East Lothian.

This combined report for Years 3 and 4 covers activity from June 2020 to June 2022 and includes the ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic and cost of living crisis which has seen work extending between reporting years. This combined approach recognises the fact that much of the work of the partnership is ongoing.

It describes the work to address child poverty carried out by East Lothian Council, NHS Lothian, the East Lothian Partnership and the Third Sector, and our plans for 2021-2023.

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## Introduction

Covid-19 has had a significant impact on our lives and communities. Its effects have hit the most vulnerable in our communities the hardest. There has been significant loss, of lives, of income, and of connection with friends and family.

Throughout the crisis partners across East Lothian have seen ever higher referrals. Our figures show a difficult situation for many families, however the full impact of the virus on society, people's health, the economy and on inequality will not be known for some time.

Compounding these challenges is a cost of living crisis which will see families making increasingly tough financial choices. The insecurity that many people were facing before the pandemic has turned into a long-time crisis, with significant life changes needed to survive the ongoing rises in cost of living.

Many families are being pushed further towards the threshold of poverty who may never have experienced this level of hardship before.

East Lothian Council, NHS Lothian and our partners are meeting this need through targeted support for those most at risk. Throughout the pandemic and ever since, partners across East Lothian have demonstrated how much support can be mobilised as we have done our very best to respond to a changing situation.

The cost of living crisis has placed further strain on individuals and families across the county. We are intent on managing the short-term crisis without losing sight of our long-term goals to eradicate child poverty in our region.

## Poverty in East Lothian

A child is considered to be living in poverty when they are living in a household with an income below 60% of the UK's median average after adjusting for household size. This is the key measure used by the UK and Scottish Governments. Another definition of child poverty is 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.<sup>1</sup>

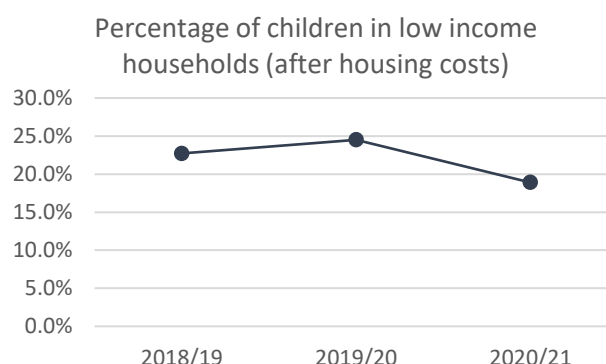
Experiencing poverty in childhood can undermine the health, wellbeing and educational attainment of children. Child poverty can often be hidden as parents strive to do the best they can for their children. Poverty impacts the decisions that parents can make on behalf of their children, and parents living in poverty are much more likely to be facing a range of issues other than material deprivation which may affect their parenting. These include lack of access to jobs and services, low levels of education and qualifications, social isolation, mental and physical ill health and domestic violence.<sup>2</sup>

In East Lothian child poverty levels vary across the county and often within ward areas. One key indicator of this is the inequality in life expectancy, which can range from 74.3 years in the most deprived areas to as high as 83.1 years in the least deprived.<sup>3</sup>

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2020 shows that East Lothian remains relatively less deprived than other Scottish local authorities, with the majority of East Lothian falling into the least deprived of the SIMD (26 of the 132 data zones in East Lothian are in the least deprived quintile<sup>4</sup>). This is a conservative estimate and many families live in private lets/rented accommodation in higher decile areas, living in hidden poverty and surviving by working multiple jobs.

The number of children and young people aged 0-15 in low income households after housing costs decreased from **24.5%** (or 4,808) in 2019/20 to **18.9%** (or 3,640) in 2020/21 (from 22.7% or 4,392 in 2018/19).

Whilst this 5.6% decrease is a positive sign that interventions including the Scottish Child Payment and Best Start Grants have had a positive impact, wider trends show a mixed picture.



The number of children in P1-P7 registered for free school meals increased from 11.1% in 2019 to 13.4% in 2020 and 13.7% in 2021. See the [East Lothian Data](#) section of this report for the breakdown of these figures by ward.

In 2016, East Lothian Foodbank distributed emergency food provision to 3,417 people including 1,268 children. In 2021, this support has increased to 7,496 people including 2,837 children. Between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 East Lothian Foodbank distributed emergency food to 8,198 people including 3,115 children.

<sup>1</sup> Peter Townsend, 1979. *Poverty in the United Kingdom*. Harmondsworth: Penguin.

<sup>2</sup> Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2007. The relationship between parenting and poverty. [Online](#).

<sup>3</sup> Females 78.8 to 87.6, Males 74.3 to 83.1. See Health Data page 35 for more detail.

<sup>4</sup> (Quintile 1:8, Q2:40, Q3:29, Q4:29, Q5:26)

The East Lothian Food Friendly Network brings together the network of food banks, community kitchens and pantries with the East Lothian Partnership and others to share good practice and collaborate to achieve long term food security in East Lothian. The Network's [Good Food Charter](#) was designed to bring communities and organisations together to create a thriving, food-resilient county.

Areas with the highest deprivation are located in Tranent, Wallyford & Macmerry; Preston Seton Gosford; and Musselburgh. Most of East Lothian's most deprived data zones are in the west and most of the least deprived data zones are in the east of the county. 70% of Musselburgh's data zones (19) and 65% of Tranent's (17) are amongst the 50% most deprived data zones within East Lothian, compared to 6% of North Berwick's (1). These areas of deprivation require focused intervention, particularly given the impact of stigma for children and families experiencing poverty in affluent areas.

### Universal Credit claimants

Universal Credit levels provide a useful indicator of the levels of employment and in-work poverty across the UK. In East Lothian the Universal Credit claimants increased by 46.8% from 5,842 in February 2020 to 8,577 in August 2022. Across Scotland the increase was 80.5%.

The number of households in East Lothian on Universal Credit with Child Entitlement rose by 33.9% between February 2020 and February 2022 from **2,460** to **3,293**. Across Scotland the increase was 69.5%.

The claimant count peaked in July 2020 at 9,777. North Berwick Coastal ward had the highest percentage increase in Universal Credit claimants at 95.5%.

We estimate that following the March 2020 lockdown over 60% of the increase in Universal Credit claimants was accounted for by people who were previously self-employed, who were applying for benefits because they were not able to work through lockdown.

### Income maximisation

Maximising income for families is a key objective for the East Lothian Partnership's 2020 and 2021-23 Poverty Plans. More money in families' pockets and better financial security improves outcomes in every direction.

**Scottish Child Payment:** from 9 November to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, 815 applications were received in East Lothian. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, 2,075 applications were authorised in East Lothian (out of 2,500 applications received).

**Best Start Grants and Best Start Foods:** in its first year of applications (10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019) 1,290 payments were made in East Lothian (out of 1,940 applications received), 2% of the total applications received in Scotland. In 2020-2021, 2,460 East Lothian were made (out of 3,690 applications received), 2% of the total applications received in Scotland.<sup>5</sup>



2,075 payments made  
Scottish Child Payment



2,460 payments made  
Best Start Grants and  
Best Start Foods

<sup>5</sup> Scottish Government. [Social Security Scotland statistics: publications.](#)

## Population trends

Unlike the population trends faced by other areas of Scotland, East Lothian's population is set to increase by 8.5% (or 8,979 people) by 2030. The population groups expected to see the highest rise are in the 65+ age group (increasing 33.7% from 21,170 in 2018, to 28,309 in 2030). The 25 to 40 group is expected to increase by 8.5% (from 18,874 in 2018, to 20,471 in 2030). Children and young people numbers are expected to decrease by 2.1% (from 19,350 in 2018, to 18,939 in 2030).

East Lothian will see an increase in the health and care needs of its older residents, and an increase in the number of families with young children. There is a risk of higher populations masking the reality of child poverty and we will continue to work closely with our partners to accurately assess the real life levels of poverty in the county.

## Priority families

Any family can face the risk of poverty. However, some groups are at a higher risk than others. In terms of child poverty there are a number of groups in East Lothian who are particularly vulnerable.

- Gypsy/Traveller children and their families: the one official site at Whitecraig for Gypsy/Traveller communities was shared by Midlothian/East Lothian council. During Covid this site was closed, and Gypsy/Traveller children and their families are at higher risk of not receiving the income support and welfare assistance that they are entitled to. We are working with third sector partners to target information, advice and services at Gypsy/Traveller residents.
- Lone parent families: there is strong evidence for the correlation between lone-parent families and poverty. In 2019, there were an estimated 144,000 lone-parent families with dependent children in Scotland, which is 25% of all families with dependent children.<sup>6</sup> We are working to target information to maximise income as well as signposting to support services operating across the county.
- 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.
- Care experienced young people: Children living in poverty are more likely to come into care than their more affluent peers. Poverty undermines parenting and exacerbates the factors like substance misuse that are associated with maltreatment. East Lothian Council are working to #KeepThePromise and in December 2020 agreed funding to sustain the East Lothian Champions Board. The Board helps to create transformational change to the lives of care experienced young people by ensuring their perspectives, experiences and challenges are considered and actioned in our decision-making. Currently two care experienced young people are employed to work with the Board.
- Families with a disabled family member (adult or child) are more likely to experience poverty. East Lothian Council are again working to maximise income as well as signposting to support services operating across the county.

The Scottish Government has set out its priority families for targeted support and ensure that all actions deliver for the families at greatest risk of poverty.<sup>7</sup> Almost 90% of all children in poverty in Scotland live within these six priority family types:

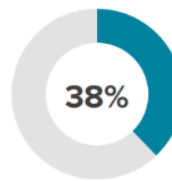
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<sup>6</sup> Public Health Scotland, 2020. Child poverty in Scotland: priority groups – lone-parent families. [Online](#).

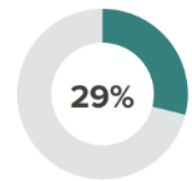
<sup>7</sup> Scottish Government, 2022. Best Start, Bright Futures: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan. [Online](#).

- Lone Parent families - 38% of children in relative poverty
- Families who has someone either child or parent with a disability - 29% of children in relative poverty
- Families with 3 or more Children - 32% of children in relative poverty
- Minority Ethnic - 38% of children in relative poverty
- Families with the youngest child is under 1 - 34% of children in relative poverty
- Mothers Aged under 25 - 55% of children in relative poverty

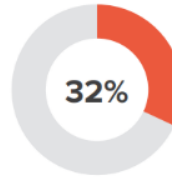
Lone Parents



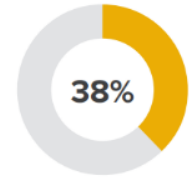
Disabled



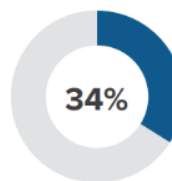
3+ Children



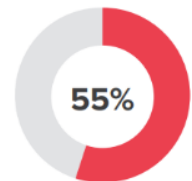
Minority Ethnic



Youngest Child Aged <1



Mothers Aged <25



## Our work in 2020/21

The key priority throughout 2020/21 has been supporting families and communities that faced financial and food insecurity and growing levels of poverty, and protecting families from the harshest impacts of Covid-19 and lockdowns.

Additional funding was made available from the Scottish Government to extend Free School Meal provision over the summer, mid-term, Christmas and Easter holidays and to make hardship payments during these periods for every child in receipt of Free School Meals.

The council also received several one-off funding allocations from the Scottish Government during 2020/21 to support people isolating under Test and Protect; families and households who were vulnerable for other reasons and maybe unable to access food supplies; those experiencing financial insecurity related to, or exacerbated by, Covid-19.

This additional funding was used in innovative ways to have maximum effect in supporting vulnerable people and people in poverty. For example:

- Funding was allocated through East Lothian's six Area Partnerships to support the massive community effort to provide meals, food and other supplies to people who were shielding and an increasing number of people who were facing severe financial difficulty because of the economic impact of the pandemic.

Examples of how this funding has been used include: creating food pantries in each area; supporting Community Kitchens and new Pantries; the provision of meals, or soup and sandwich to hundreds of families and pensioners; and establishing the Fareshare Hub which provides food supplies for over a dozen community food initiatives across East Lothian.

- Creation of a Coronavirus Fuel Poverty Fund that has helped households who are under intense financial hardship during these uncertain times and are struggling to afford to heat their homes and keep the lights turned on. Almost 600 one-off payments of £100 were paid to people who needed help with their gas or electricity bills in the 2020/21 winter.
- The Discretionary Housing Payment Fund received an additional allocation of funding to assist tenants with rent arrears who may be eligible for a DHP award or a top up of an existing award and experienced new/ increased rent arrears in 2020/21.
- Children's Services was allocated funding to support families and young people through emergency payments, and meeting the cost of temporary accommodation for Looked After Young People.
- Adult Social Work received additional funding, which was distributed via third sector partners including Carers of East Lothian as well as through Community Justice and emergency payments to support vulnerable clients in financial difficulty.

This additional funding enabled targeted support for families and households who were most severely impacted by the pandemic. As well as this additional financial support, our work around inclusion has continued to help families like Kirsty's\*, who are entitled to more than they were claiming.



## Financial Inclusion Service

### **“She helped me when everyone else said no.”**

Kirsty\* reached out to East Lothian Council’s Financial Inclusion Service when her son Dylan’s\* Scottish Child Disability Payment was turned down. Helen from the Financial Inclusion team felt that they were entitled to this benefit and helped Kirsty to fill in the form again.

Kirsty was successful in her new application but when she was put on the lower rate, Helen felt that she was entitled to more and helped Kirsty to appeal the decision.

Helen helped Kirsty to apply for other benefits that her family were entitled to, and to apply for back payments for the benefits that they should have been receiving by improving journal entries.

Kirsty has seen a big difference for her family. Dylan has flat feet and needs regular replacements of shoes and clothes because he gets through them so quickly. Dylan also overeats so having a lot of healthier options available is essential. Because of Dylan’s condition it is hard to go to places that are busy, so Kirsty has to go at times when it is quieter but more expensive.

The extra income that the Financial Inclusion team have helped Kirsty access make these adjustments more affordable.

Kirsty feels that with Helen she has an advocate, who helps her to keep on track of her family’s finances. Helen helped Kirsty when everyone else said no.

*\*names changed*

## Families affected by parental substance misuse

Circle is a third sector partner which provides whole family support to families in East Lothian, promoting health development and potential. They engage families who face exclusion due to social injustice, poverty and health inequalities and work with East Lothian Council’s Children’s Services team.

Circle has been working with families affected by parental substance use to provide intensive family support. Throughout lockdown Circle had adapted its processes, and in 2021 has been helping families to transition out of lockdown within the context of the rise in cost of living.

The main challenges that families supported by Circle face are poverty and issues related to mental health. Anxiety is a key barrier holding families back from engaging with support.

Circle has provided a flexible service to the families they support throughout the Covid-19 lockdown. This has included delivery of food, helping with rising energy costs, offering wellbeing packs, providing ‘walks and talks’, assisting with health appointments, helping obtain prescriptions, prioritising family time and activities, helping with routines and also with transitions e.g. back to school.

It also includes support to obtain school uniforms, to liaise with nurseries/schools, apply for places, to make requests for additional support, to prepare for child planning meetings. For other families, this has also included support and advocacy to participate in statutory meetings like children’s hearings and child protection reviews.

Many of the children that Circle supports have neuro diversity, so Circle’s work around food and preparation makes a huge difference.

Children benefit from the parenting work that Family Outreach Workers facilitate, as well as practical support to improve living conditions and increase access to resources. Around a third also have benefitted from direct one to one work. This included support to explore and to understand the difficulties they face. E.g. using drawing or playing to explore their experiences, their emotions, their perceptions of safety, their relationships and to develop strategies for expressing themselves, develop their sense of self-esteem and identity, as well coping skills. This has also included fun and interest based activities.

Circle helps families to increase socialisation. When families are faced with the choice between food and a trip, they will always choose food. These choices cut away at social capital and increases isolation. Circle helps families to access social support and trips or experiences and make sure that families have a voice in the activities that include them.

Circle's work benefits from a long term and strengths based approach that families choose to engage with. Circle helps families to engage with and overcome mistrust of services, allowing them to access wider support.

## Child Poverty Actions 2020

The East Lothian Poverty Commission was established in October 2015 to report on how the Council and East Lothian Partnership could reduce inequalities and poverty. The Commission's final report included 56 recommendations which were turned into the Poverty Action Plan 2017-2020.

Both the Council and the East Lothian Partnership adopted the Action Plan 2017-2020 and embedded a strong commitment to tackling poverty and inequality into their plans in order to 'tackle the causes and effects of poverty in East Lothian and reduce the gap between the richest and poorest people'.

The plan is structured around five key drivers and areas of focus:

1. Income from work and earnings
2. Income from social security and benefits
3. Working in partnership at all levels to continue our focus on reducing poverty and inequality
4. Costs of Living
5. Increasing understanding of the impact of child poverty and ensuring child poverty is considered as part of the decision making process

Actions **pertaining to child poverty** are listed below.

	Driver	Who action is carried out by	How impact has/ will be assessed	Activity / Progress to November 2020	Timescales for further action
<b>1.</b>	<b>Income From Work and Earnings</b>				
<b>1.1</b>	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	<b>Workforce for the Future</b> policy - draft paper written – covers MAs, GAs, Traineeships and PWE. Will align with Kickstart Programme (UK Govt) and Young Person's Guarantee (SG).  Post school Employability Action Plan being developed with ELC Web Team to show pathways and provision in EL.	March 2021
<b>1.2</b>	Deliver the 'Disadvantaged Families	City Region Deal Project	To be confirmed	The Musselburgh Family Focus service is now known as 'Our Families – Musselburgh East' and the team which includes posts	Report on outcomes for 1 <sup>st</sup>

	Service' in Musselburgh East alongside the 'Our Families' Project			<p>funded through the Edinburgh and South East Scotland Region Deal is now in place. The service includes family wellbeing and support, money advice, and employability support. The team is working within the 3 local primary schools of Pinkie St Peters, Wallyford and Whitecraig.</p> <p>A multi-agency Oversight Group provides governance and will report on outcomes for 1<sup>st</sup> year in July 2021.</p>	year in July 2021
<b>1.3a</b>	Develop new programmes to tackle in-work poverty	East Lothian Works and partners		<b>Parental Employability Support Fund</b> – funding from SG Tackling Child Poverty Fund to alleviate in-work poverty. Funding is split 65% parents in work and 35% out of work. Aim is to support parents to move into work, increasing training opportunities and hourly wage. Programme being developed to provide targeted paid work experience and training for parents to upskill. Funding until March 2022.	Ongoing
<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	<p>East Lothian version – Jobs Kingdom Live, organised by ELW. May 2019 – over 2 days; c1300 P5 pupils attended event at QMU. All primary schools in East Lothian represented.</p> <p>Consideration to be given to further activity post COVID</p>	To be confirmed
<b>1.5</b>	Continue partnership with Edinburgh College to deliver locally based courses in early learning and childcare	<p>East Lothian Works</p> <p>Edinburgh College</p>	Number of participants	<p>18/19– 43 achieved L4 SQA units</p> <p>19/20 – tbc</p> <p>Development of courses to now include Level 5 course in EL&amp;C and from Jan 2021 a Level 6 unit. Outcomes include moving on to f/t college courses, paid work and volunteering</p> <p>Impacted significantly by COVID and led to drop off as learners struggled to engage online</p>	Completed/ Ongoing

				A new Classrooms Assistant course is being developed	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Income from Social Security and Benefits</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	<p>Midwifery service and Health Visiting service are keen to develop this but progress has been delayed due to ongoing COVID pressures. Discussions to be held with ELHSCP to see if possible to pilot along with their potential Primary Care financial pathway.</p> <p>NHS Lothian has funded a Welfare Advice Service (provided through Community Heal and Advice Initiative) based at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children which started operating in Jan 2020</p>	Completed/ Ongoing
<b>2.2</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	Corporate Policy and Improvement	East Lothian Plan Indicator: 23 & 24	A new contract was awarded to East Lothian Advice Consortium to run from April 2020 for three years with the option of extension	Completed/ Ongoing
<b>2.5</b>	Increase uptake of Healthy Start/ Best Start grant	NHS Lothian	East Lothian Plan Indicator: 23 & 24	<p>Briefing on the Best Start foods at the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EL Friendly Food Network</li> <li>○ Private Nursery meeting</li> <li>○ ELFIN</li> <li>○ Support from the Start groups</li> </ul> <p>Potential to include information about the Best Start Foods when registering your child for a nursery place.</p>	Ongoing

				There was communication with both Midwives and Health visitors and Social Security Scotland did presentations for the services pre-covid. Further engagement with the services has not taken place due to COVID but further awareness raising and promotion of the new grants will take place over the coming year	
<b>2.7</b>	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	East Lothian Plan Indicator 2	Into Work Employability Welfare Rights Officer located within ELC Financial Inclusion team one day per week to assist with into work welfare related advice and support.	Ongoing
<b>3.</b>	<b>Working in partnership at all levels to continue our focus on reducing poverty and inequality</b>				
<b>3.1</b>	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	New Poverty Working Group has been established with a remit to current Poverty Plan and Child Poverty Action Plan and develop a new combined Plan	April 2021
<b>4.</b>	<b>Cost of Living</b>				
<b>4.1</b>	Implement the 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare for East Lothian	East Lothian Council Education Service	East Lothian Plan Indicator 23	Due to Covid-19 the Scottish Government suspended the requirement for Local Authorities to provide 1140 hours of early learning and childcare by August 2020, with no alternative date for implementation given. Whilst this has delayed universal roll out across East Lothian, settings where 1140 hours had been available prior to lockdown is, where safe and practical to do so,	August 2021

				being reinstated. For all other settings 1140 hours will be introduced in a phased for the start of the academic year August 2021.	
<b>4.2</b>	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	The Access to Leisure scheme has been updated to reflect the changes to Universal Credit.	Completed/ Obgoing2019-2020
<b>4.3</b>	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	Free access to activities for young people in receipt of a free school meal or clothing grant and care experienced young people has been rolled out across programmes.	Completed/ Ongoing
<b>4.4</b>	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	Support from the Strat groups continue to operate across the county but Support from the Start Officer so clarification required on future of Support from the Start	September 2021
<b>4.5</b>	Raise awareness and understanding of the impact of Child Poverty by delivering the 1 in 5 training to head	ELC Education, Corporate Policy & NHS Lothian	Number of Training sessions delivered	Sessions delivered to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Learning and Development as part of the Capacity Building calendar:</li> <li>EL Children's Social Work</li> </ul>	Ongoing

	teachers, teachers and school based staff		Number of participants  Actions arising from the training – longer term impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Probationary Teachers session (20<sup>th</sup> Nov) – trialling online version which will be added to the CLD Training programme.</li> </ul> <p>Has been offered to all Primary and Secondary schools and PTAs. But no take up to-date. Further communications to be issued in early 2021.</p>	
<b>4.6</b>	<p>Work with Parent Council's and PTA's to raise awareness of the impact of poverty and 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>	ELC Education and NHS Lothian	<p>Number of Training sessions delivered</p> <p>Number of participants</p> <p>Reduction in cost of school day for all parents</p> <p>Equity for all parents and pupils</p>	<p>COVID has restricted opportunity to work with Parent Councils and PTAs</p> <p>To revisit when restrictions are lifted.</p> <p>Parent Councils briefed and provided with Cost of School Day support materials and a request to include annually on agenda when considering fundraising calendar, collaborate and co-ordinate with school</p>	<p>October 2021</p> <p>Revisited annually via ELAPCM usually May/June when planning taking place</p>
<b>4.7</b>	Deliver the recommendations of the Food Poverty and Holiday Hunger Group including the improvement and expansion of holiday	ELC Education and NHS Lothian in partnership with voluntary	<p>Number of weeks of lunch club provision in each area</p> <p>Number of free breakfast club</p>	<p>£30k allocated in 2019/2020 and 2020/21</p> <p>East Lothian Friendly Food Network established to foster better peer support for those working locally to increase access to affordable food.</p>	2019-2020



	hunger provision across the county	sector organisations	places available in each area	<p>The Food Poverty group have now disbanded and there has been an increase in the number of holiday clubs and the places available at holiday clubs. There has been an increase in breakfast club provisions with some schools working with the pupils to run these.</p> <p>The Food Friendly Network (the network should have their own action in the next version of the poverty plan) has a growing number of members and we have developed a range of resources to inform the development of work including a food map.</p>	
4.12	<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>Products distributed across public buildings in East Lothian</li> <li>Funding given to local voluntary sector organisations to reduce period poverty</li> <li>Targeted groups included young mothers, those with new babies, families with children</li> </ul> <p>There are red box type schemes in each secondary school and starter packs (with period products and information leaflets) have been sent to every primary school. A wide range of community buildings (libraries, ELC receptions, GPs, hospitals) have been supplied with products and a number of 3<sup>rd</sup> sector groups were allocated money to allow them to buy period related products for people who use their services.</p>	Completed/ Ongoing
5.	<b>Increasing Understanding of Child Poverty and ensuring child poverty is considered as part of the decision making process</b>				
5.1	Review and relaunch of the 'Understanding Poverty' E-learning module targeted at all	Corporate Policy	Number of Participants	East Lothian Council has produced a Poverty Awareness e-learning training module which is available to all Council staff and on the e-learning community platform.	Completed/ Ongoing

	staff and available to community groups				
<b>5.2</b>	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	Elected Member briefings held in 2019 on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child poverty action report</li> <li>• Period Poverty</li> </ul> Further briefings will be held in 2022	Completed/ Ongoing
<b>5.3</b>	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	Poverty Champions have been appointed in Area Partnerships but not in schools  Further work required post COVID to develop Poverty Champions role in schools	Completed/ Ongoing  December 2021
<b>5.4</b>	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	Engagement took place with the Children's Parliament on the implementation of the UNCRC but then put on hold awaiting outcome of consultation on new legislation  Further work required to respond to and take account of new duties arising from UNCRC legislation	To be confirmed
<b>5.5</b>	Revise the ELC Integrated Impact Assessment Process to include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care Experienced Young People</li> <li>• Fairer Scotland Duty</li> <li>• Human Rights considerations</li> </ul>	Corporate Policy	Number of IIA's published	New Integrated Impact Assessment in place with greater focus on those vulnerable to falling into poverty including children and care experienced young people  Further work required to explore potential for use of common IIA process or training with NHS Lothian	Completed/ Ongoing

## Our work in 2021/22

Our focus in 2020/21 was on helping children through lockdown and the transition to the post-Covid “new normal”. In 2021/22 our focus includes the ongoing response to Covid, as well as the growing impact of the cost of living crisis on families and vulnerable households.

In March 2020 the East Lothian Partnership established a multi-agency Poverty Working Group to review progress of the previous Poverty Action Plan (pages 10-17) and develop a new Plan which takes into account the impact of Covid. The group includes representatives from key council services alongside NHS Lothian, the Health & Social Care Partnership, Volunteer Centre East Lothian and food banks, reviewed progress of the 2017-2020 Poverty Action Plan.

This process showed that most of the actions in the Plan have been completed but much still needs to be done. Poverty has increased as a result of the Covid pandemic and cost of living crisis, which combined have had devastating consequences on our economy, society and health.

A key priority for the East Lothian Partnership has been ensuring that families and other households in East Lothian have the maximum income that they are entitled to. Our actions to improve household incomes is in line with Scottish Government priorities to maximise the support available for families to live dignified lives and meet their basic needs.<sup>8</sup>



East Lothian Council will run a benefits campaign in autumn 2022 to help parents and other groups to maximise their income and ensure they are receiving the correct support from their community.

As well as a social media campaign with updated resources for people to easily access their benefit entitlements, East Lothian Council will provide updated online training for practitioners across the county to ensure consistent understanding of the income support available.

NHS Lothian are presently working with Midwifery and Health Visiting services to map the current approach to linking patients with financial inclusion services. This information will be used to improve the identification of those most in need. Through improved referrals and information sharing between NHS Lothian and their partners this in turn will seek to improve the support they receive.

This and other measures described below are part of East Lothian Partnership’s commitment to improving family income and taking an early intervention approach to child poverty.

### Parental Employability Support

The Parental Employability Support Fund (PESF) is carried out by East Lothian Works as part of our commitment to provide the opportunities and integrated support parents need to enter, sustain and progress in work, which is one of the three key priorities for the Scottish Government set out in *Best Start, Bright Futures*.

PESF offers employability support tailored to the needs of each individual, and can include help to seek and sustain employment, provide support in job searching, applying for jobs by completing

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<sup>8</sup> Scottish Government. [Best Start, Bright Futures: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-2026](#).

applications and CVs, interview prep, access to work experience placements, exploring and applying for college/university/other courses and any issues which arise.

Parents from the 6 target groups (page 5) are eligible for this which also includes Income Maximisation advice which is offered to all PESF participants and has seen significant improvements in household income, directly benefitting children and young people. In 2021-22 financial gains through PESF totalled £33,907.76 for 49 parents.

As well as general support, PESF is tailored to individual's needs and can help access important work and life skills including driving lessons.

As well as the financial benefits through regular earning and increased benefits income, this employability programme has a positive impact on families in many other ways. For parents who have been out of the workplace for a long time, PESF provides a supported and phased return to the workplace, building confidence and new skills that allow them to flourish.

Participants in the programme have reported improved self-esteem through workplace and placement success. Improvements in financial security and fulfilment in their career have had a positive impact on individual and family wellbeing for many participants.

Work offers a sustainable way out of poverty and as well as material poverty can improve a family's integration and interaction with their community. Access to fair and flexible work opportunities is a key outcome in East Lothian Council's Poverty Plan, where households are working and free from in-work poverty.

### **Welfare advice at the Edinburgh Royal Hospital for Children and Young People**

In January 2022, NHS Lothian Public Health took over the funding of the welfare advice service located in the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People (RHCYP). This service was established in January 2020 by the Scottish Government's Healthier Wealthier Children Fund to support families living in poverty across Lothian. It offers free, independent, confidential and non-judgemental advice across the hospital (inpatient and outpatient) and includes support on issues such as income maximisation, benefit entitlement, debt, employment and housing.

From 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022, a total of £189,352.54 has been granted to families with low incomes through direct financial payments as well as non-financial support including suitable housing, food bank vouchers and Young Scot Cards. These Lothian-wide figures include families from East Lothian who have attended the RHCYP site.

Providing a hospital-based welfare service aims to reduce access barriers for families who may not have engaged with community services or who have recently become burdened with financial difficulties as a result of their child's ill health or hospital stay. Following the positive impact of this service within the RHCYP, NHS Lothian Public Health has sought funding to promote welfare advice services in other hospital sites across Lothian, including the East Lothian Community Hospital.

It is expected that the new East Lothian Community Hospital welfare advice service will provide support for both patients and staff. The main focus of the service is promoting income maximisation with the aim of reducing the burden of poverty across East Lothian, particularly in the current climate with the rising cost of living and cost of the school day.

These and many other initiatives, projects and examples of good day-to day work exemplify our approach to tackling child poverty as a partnership. Our priorities in 2021 were not only to help families to financially survive and then recover, but to create opportunities for connection and socialisation that children had lost during the pandemic.

The Get into Summer and Pupil Equity Funding projects show some of the work the East Lothian Partnership have done to lessen the impact of Covid restrictions on children and young people. This includes their mental health, social isolation, and attainment.

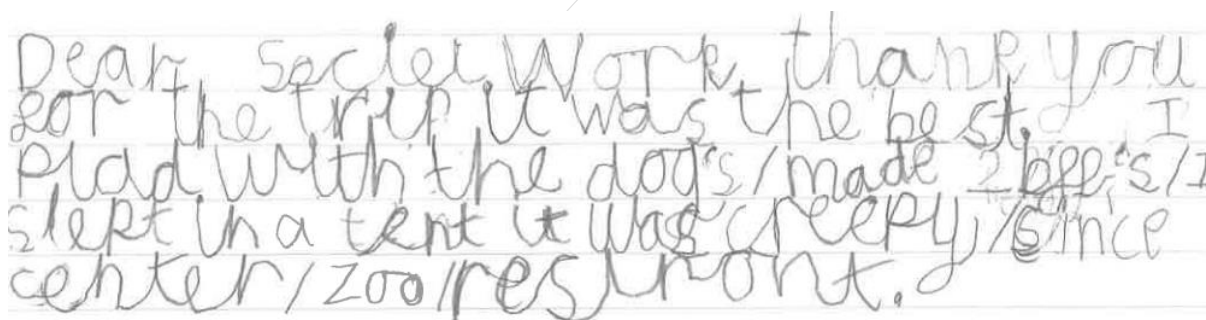
### Get into Summer – summer holiday provision

As part of the national programme of summer holiday provision, East Lothian Council and our partners in the third sector delivered a wide range of activities across communities. Some activities had universal provision and some were targeted at our priority families.

We surveyed young people to inform decisions on what activities to offer, with free swimming consequently being made available to all. Rugby and football were supported in all large communities; football was extended into our more rural communities and small local projects provided other sports such as water sports, gymnastics, tennis, walking and rambling.

Other activities included additional pop-up play sessions extending into rural communities, pop-up library and arts which focused on science and computing, music and theatre.

A particular success was East Lothian Council's Social Work department offering a 'Small grant personal budget scheme'. Social workers worked with priority families to access funding of up to £500 to co-create their summer of fun. Examples of these grants included annual memberships (Historic Scotland, Zoos), driving lessons for parents/older children, trips and short breaks to visit relatives, equipment and summer clothing costs, flying lessons and horse-riding lessons, amongst many other fun activities.



The estimated reach of Get into Summer was over 4,000 children and young people. Of those approximately 40% would fall into East Lothian Council's priority family groups.

Free swims reached approximately 28,000 children and young people.

This project will be repeated in summer 2022 as part of the Scottish Government's summer holiday provision, with adaptations to specifically target children and young people who are experiencing poverty. As well as provision of free school meals over the summer holiday, activities and fun summer memories will again be created for families.

## Pupil Equity Funding in East Lothian

Staff across schools and educational settings in East Lothian have shown great resolve in managing the long-term challenges of Covid-19. The impact of lockdown has been felt very differently by children. It has been particularly challenging for those children who are vulnerable or have additional support needs.

As children across Scotland returned to classrooms in March 2021, some have found it difficult to engage with learning. Attainment gaps have widened within classrooms, concentration levels have been impacted, and the lack of interaction during the 2020 lockdowns has significantly impacted pupil mental health, with pupils reporting higher anxiety as they return to classrooms.<sup>9</sup>

Sanderson's Wynd Primary School in Tranent has been using its Pupil Equity Funding to adapt its learning environment in the face of these challenges.

Sanderson's Wynd has a mixed demographic with 40.6% of pupils living in Quintile 1 of the SIMD. 33% of the school population have a recognised additional support need.

In 2016 a Nurture Room was created in response to the level of distressed behaviour being seen across the school, and the negative impact this was having on learning and teaching. Some children made progress with the Nurture Room approach and the smaller groups setting, but others continued to show distressed behaviour even within a smaller group environment.

Through classroom observations, looking at the data and the needs of the children within the school, there needed to be a whole school intervention focusing on developing positive, motivated and resilient learners who have more confidence, self-belief and high aspirations for themselves.

The Senior Leadership Team and staff felt that following a whole school Nurturing approach would have the greatest impact on the learners. All staff (teaching and support staff) undertook learning, supported by the school's Educational Psychologist, to gain a knowledge and understanding of the Nurture Principles and how to apply these in the classroom setting.

### Outcome/Impact:

- The majority of children are now being very well supported within their classrooms using the Nurture principles and CIRCLE document as guidance. The school's Quality Improvement Officer and Educational Psychologist have validated the school's self-evaluation that improvements have been made in this area.
- The quality of learning and teaching has improved due to less distressed behaviour being evident within the classrooms. Where distressed behaviour does occur, staff support the learners well, in line with Council and School policy. Staff feel supported by the Senior Leadership Team.
- Clear expectations and the predictability of how things will be managed and dealt with support our learners and staff
- Nurture sits at the heart of our school visions and values – this helps everyone feel heard, understood, supported and most importantly, loved.

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<sup>9</sup> Scottish Government, 2021. Addressing the impact of COVID-19. [Online](#).

## Our plans for 2021-2023

The East Lothian Poverty Plan 2021-2023 has been designed as a key pillar of East Lothian's plan to build back better from the pandemic. It is a two year plan recognising the need to review progress within the timescale, and the possible need to develop and shift priorities in response to the full impact of the pandemic. The Plan includes our outcomes to tackle child poverty.

This timescale will allow us to assess the impact of the Scottish Government's commitments such as the doubling of the Scottish Child Payment, the extension of Free School Meals and the development of wrap around child care and the introduction of a Minimum Income Guarantee to poverty in East Lothian.

The Draft Plan was consulted on extensively during September and October 2021, including taking on the views of people with lived experience of poverty. The final version of the Plan was adopted by the Council and East Lothian Partnership in November 2021.

The Plan includes 49 actions based on seven key outcomes:

- Working and free from in-work poverty
- Financially included – people have access to income maximisation and money advice
- Having a home – a decent, affordable, warm and dry home
- Educated – reduce the attainment gap and raise the attainment and achievement of our children and young people
- Healthy and well – people in East Lothian are enjoying healthier lives and health inequalities are eliminated
- Resilient and well connected – resilient and well connected individuals and communities; connected public services taking a prevention and early intervention approach to tackling poverty
- Empowered and responsible – citizens and communities are empowered to influence policy and the council and partners take responsibility to reduce poverty

Tackling child poverty is a theme across all seven outcomes and all 49 actions will have a positive impact on families' situations. The following actions specifically relate to tackling child poverty. The complete plan is available [online](#).

## 1. Working and Free From In-Work Poverty

	Objective	Lead service/ partner	Progress to date	New / Further Actions 2021-2023
1.3	The council will develop a range of options for childcare for working parents and carers including parent led childcare opportunities, social enterprises and other models which support parents to return to or sustain employment/ education.	ELC – Education service	East Lothian Council was working towards implementing the commitment deliver 1140 hours of childcare for 3-5 year olds and eligible 2 year olds from August 2020. The statutory implementation date was delayed until August 2021 due to the pandemic. The council is now providing 1140 hours Early learning and Childcare to all eligible children.	Continue to work with the private and voluntary sector providers to develop innovative ways to deliver Early Learning and Childcare services to meet the needs of our diverse communities and to put in place plans to meet any further requirements to extend Early Learning and Childcare.
1.4	The council and its partners should develop a focused project to improve skills, confidence and opportunities for parents funding to allow them to return to work or education and lead to better long term outcomes for their young families.	East Lothian's Local Employability Partnership	<p>Working with Wallyford Pilot project – employability support for parents ran over two years in partnership with Wallyford Primary. Outcomes included parents moving into work and to FE. Plans developed to roll out to other schools were suspended due to COVID-19.</p> <p>Implementation of the Parental Employability Support Fund (PESF) with funding from Tackling Child Poverty Fund to support parents into work and to progress in work was delayed due to COVID-19 but started early 2021. Aim is to tackle in-work poverty through upskilling, career progression and increase in hours/ income.</p>	<p>Continue roll out of the Parental Employment Support Fund (PESF), Working With Wallyford pilot and other initiatives to support parents into training and work.</p> <p>Edinburgh College to develop and deliver short skills boost courses for childcare, Health and Social Care and hospitality with guaranteed interviews.</p>



			Paid Work Experience was opened up to all ages and for part-time positions to increase accessibility for parents.	
<b>2. Financially Included – people have access to income maximisation and money advice</b>				
	<b>Objectives and Actions</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Progress to date</b>	<b>New or Further Actions 2021-2023</b>
2.4	Develop financial inclusion pathways from healthcare services, and increase uptake of Healthy Start/ Best Start grants	NHS Lothian	<p>Midwifery and Health Visiting services were developing a financial inclusion pathway but progress was delayed due to ongoing COVID pressures.</p> <p>Discussions being held with ELHSCP to explore a possible pilot along with a Primary Care financial pathway.</p>	NHS Lothian will develop a financial inclusion pathway for midwifery and Health Visiting services and increase the uptake of Healthy Start/ Best Start grants by, for example, including information when parents register children for a nursery place.
2.6	Financial education should be included in the curriculum from an early age to ensure that young people, including care experienced young people have the financial capability they need for the future.	Education and Children's / Community Housing / Connected Communities	<p>This is already covered in the curriculum within maths and numeracy. Some schools also organise a 'Money Week'</p> <p>The Council is working with the Bridges Project who deliver life skills training including a tenancy qualification for young vulnerable people. This project is ongoing offering a range of practical skills development. Recently produced and vocational brochure for client group</p> <p>Life skills such as cookery classes are provided by several community projects e.g. via Fundamental Foods, The Ridge in Dunbar, North Berwick Kindness Co-</p>	<p>Increase financial education and 'life skills' as part of the curriculum</p> <p>Put in place a learning and development programme for foster carers/ Kinship carers and residential workers to ensure care experienced young people have the financial capability they need for the future.</p> <p>Instigate a programme of training around bank accounts, money management and budgeting for foster carers, kinship carers and residential workers</p>

			operative and The Bridges Project in Musselburgh	
2.8	Tackle 'period poverty' by ensuring access to a choice of period products for those who need them	Policy, Improvement and Partnerships/ Education services	Options for delivery of new schemes to provide period products, including a pilot scheme have been put in place	Continue to Implement the preferred scheme to deliver access to period products and promotes choice in Schools and the community

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

	Objectives and Actions	Lead	Progress to date	New or Further Actions 2021-2023
4.1	East Lothian Education service will develop clear policies to reduce inequality in schools, and develop a whole school approach to raising awareness of the impact of poverty on education and what education can do to mitigate poverty and break the cycle of poverty.	ELC – Education and Children's Service	<p>The Edinburgh guide to poverty has been disseminated to schools. Parent Councils received Cost of School Day support materials and were asked to consider these when planning their annual fundraising calendar with their school. There have been discussions about the introduction of a more generic uniform (with an associated schools badge) for schools in individual clusters.</p> <p>An 'Included, Engaged and Involved' policy is in place that seeks to ensure that all learners are engaged in learning, and have equal access to support them to attend and succeed.</p>	<p>Implement a monitoring / tracking tool for broad general education to help to identify and monitor the attainment gap and to prioritise key improvements required</p> <p>'Poverty, Equality and Inclusion Toolkit' for Early Years Services and related training is being developed. School Reviews and Service level Agreements include a focus on poverty and the use of SIMD and other data to demonstrate school commitment and progress to reducing inequalities in schools.</p>

				Raise awareness and understanding of the impact of Child Poverty by delivering the 1 in 5 training to Head Teachers, teachers and school based staff and deliver briefings and training sessions to Children's Services staff.
4.2	Schools need to develop a real understanding of the way in which poverty affects attainment and work to reduce the poverty related attainment gap	Education and Children's Service	<p>There is ongoing monitoring of attainment by SIMD, and other factors including exclusion rates.</p> <p>Equity and Excellence Officers in the Early Years team are working with eight primary schools and Olivebank to reduce poverty related attainment gap</p> <p>The <b>Raising Attainment Strategy</b>, which aims to provide a relentless strategic focus on raising attainment has four workstreams including <b>the Poverty Related Attainment Gap</b> workstream.</p>	<p>The framework for the implementation of the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) will continue to support schools to plan interventions that impact positively on outcomes for learners who are affected by poverty.</p> <p>Ensure the recommendations of the Poverty Related Attainment Gap Workstream support schools to reduce the poverty related attainment gap and evaluate the effectiveness of their PEF interventions.</p>
4.3	Expand efforts to address food insecurity and 'morning hunger' for children and young people to improve their overall well-being, their ability to engage and participate and ultimately achieve and attain	Education and Children's Service / Connected Communities	<p>£30,000 of 'Holiday Hunger/ food insecurity' funding has been baselined in the Council's Education budget and is distributed via Connected Communities'</p> <p>Significant developments in providing food for vulnerable children – including Free School Meals, payment of a Free Schools Meals allowance via BACS, and lunch clubs –</p>	Support the implementation and roll out and take of the Scottish Government's initiatives to tackle food insecurity among children and young people including extension of Free School Meal provision throughout the year and to additional age groups, introducing a new Healthy Milk Snack and providing wrap around care, including breakfast and

			have taken place through the COVID pandemic	after school provision for vulnerable children
4.4	Reduce the digital divide and digital exclusion among children and young people, including are experienced young people	ELC – Education and Children’s Service (Schools Digital Group) / Connected Communities	<p>The Education service and Schools Digital Group are developing an approach to the Senior Phase using IT to enhance and support delivery of the curriculum.</p> <p>There have been significant developments in digital learning and provision of chromebooks and other devices to pupils as a result of the pandemic</p> <p>Connecting Scotland initiative has provided children and families (including Care Experienced Young People) with free digital devices and wifi.</p>	<p>Schools will further develop how they use their existing digital resources to support wider engagement and development of digital skills to underpin the curriculum, and support children, young people and their families to engage with learning.</p> <p>Particular focus will be taken of the digital needs of care experienced young people</p>
4.5	Increase the number of residents from specific target groups accessing local sport and leisure facilities at reduced rates, including a review of peak time access for those with Leisure Cards	Active Schools & Enjoy Leisure	<p>The Access to Leisure scheme has been updated to reflect the changes to Universal Credit.</p> <p>Developments being planned include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Offering Free Active School activities to those entitled to Free School Meals and all Care Experienced Young People and exploring potential to expand this to include young carers</li> <li>2. Recycling sports equipment</li> <li>3. Establishing East Lothian Sports Club Membership Scheme</li> </ol>	<p>Design and promote encompassing “Reducing Barriers to Sport &amp; Activity” booklet</p> <p>Promote, monitor and evaluate impact of the developments of the Access to Leisure Scheme.</p> <p>Review the peak time access for the leisure card (currently can only be used from 9-4 Mon to Thurs).</p>

			4. Establishing Walk With School and Connected Community Access Funds.	
4.6	Support from the Start local initiatives to support the best start in life for children and young people	NHS Lothian, Support from the Start	Support from the Start groups continue to operate across the county. They are being supported by the Parenting and Family Support Co-ordinator	Continue to support 'Support from the Start' groups
4.7	Work with Parent Council's and PTA's to raise awareness of the impact of poverty and the cost of the school day.	Education/ NHS Lothian / Connected Communities	COVID has restricted opportunity to work with Parent Councils and PTAs  Parent Councils have been briefed and provided with Cost of School Day support materials and a request to include annually on the agenda when considering their in collaboration with school staff	Continue to raise awareness of the impact of poverty and the cost of the school day including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considering the cost implications of fund raising activity and the impact of other hidden costs of the school day</li> <li>• Taking innovative approaches to reducing the cost of the school day</li> <li>• Family and community-based learning and the CLD Plan</li> </ul>
4.8	Provide additional targeted support for those families at particular risk of hardship and vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people, including those with care experience, and their families, to engage better with education	Education and Children's Services	Six teachers and six family support workers have been recruited on a temporary basis.  The team will comprise the above posts and the Virtual Head Teacher, Principal Teacher GIRFEC, Children's Services Team Leader and the Parenting and Family Support Co-ordinator.	Establish an Inclusion and Wellbeing Support Team for the provision of additional targeted support for those families at particular risk of hardship.  This will involve interventions which will directly support individuals and families to engage effectively with learning, particularly in situations where vulnerability and deprivation are factors. This could include provision for children

				with additional support for learning such as additional or enhanced tutoring and mentoring programmes.
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## 5. Healthy and Well – people in East Lothian are enjoying healthier lives and health inequalities are eliminated

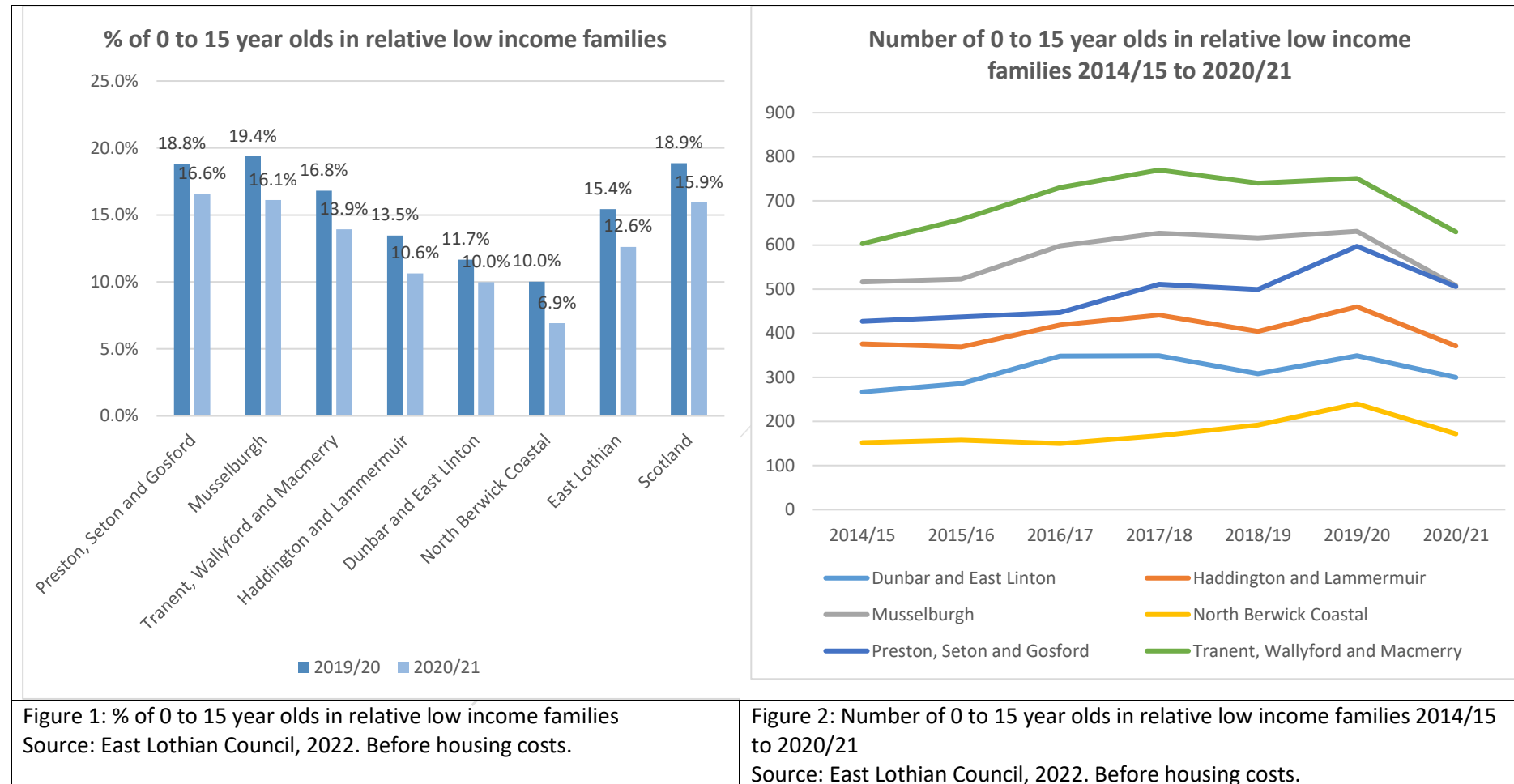
	Objectives and Actions	Lead	Progress to date	New or Further Actions 2021-2023
5.4	Improving children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.	East Lothian Children's Strategic Partnership	One of three priorities in the Children & Young People's Services Plan (2020–23) is "improving children and young people's mental health and wellbeing". This includes a range of actions related to workforce development, intervention and prevention and the development of community based support and services to support children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.	Implement the Children & Young People's Services Plan (2020–23) to improve children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.

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

	Objectives and Actions	Lead	Progress to date	New or Further Actions 2021-2023
6.2	Review delivery of family support across East Lothian to improve co-ordination and links with other relevant services	Children's Services	The Musselburgh Family Focus service is now known as 'Our Families Project and the team which includes posts funded through the Edinburgh and South East	Deliver the 'Intensive Family Support Service' in Musselburgh East alongside the 'Our Families' Project

			Scotland Region Deal is now in place. The service includes family wellbeing and support, money advice, and employability support. The team is working within three primary schools of Pinkie St Peters, Wallyford and Whitecraig.	Implement the re-design of inclusion and family support services and the closer links with other Children's services, Education and East Lothian Works
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## East Lothian Data





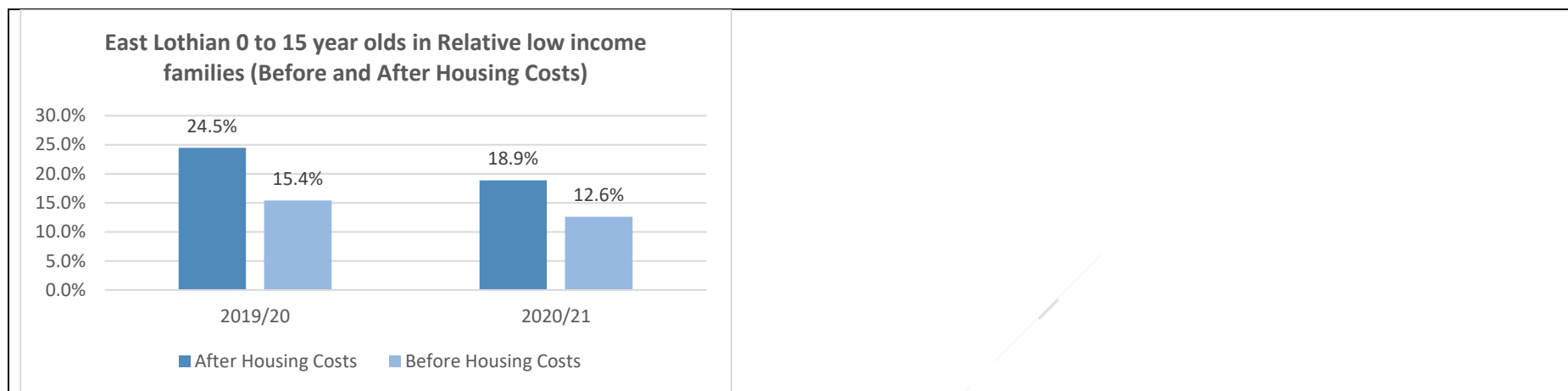


Figure 3: East Lothian 0 to 15 year olds in relative low income families (Before and after housing costs)  
Source: East Lothian Council 2022.

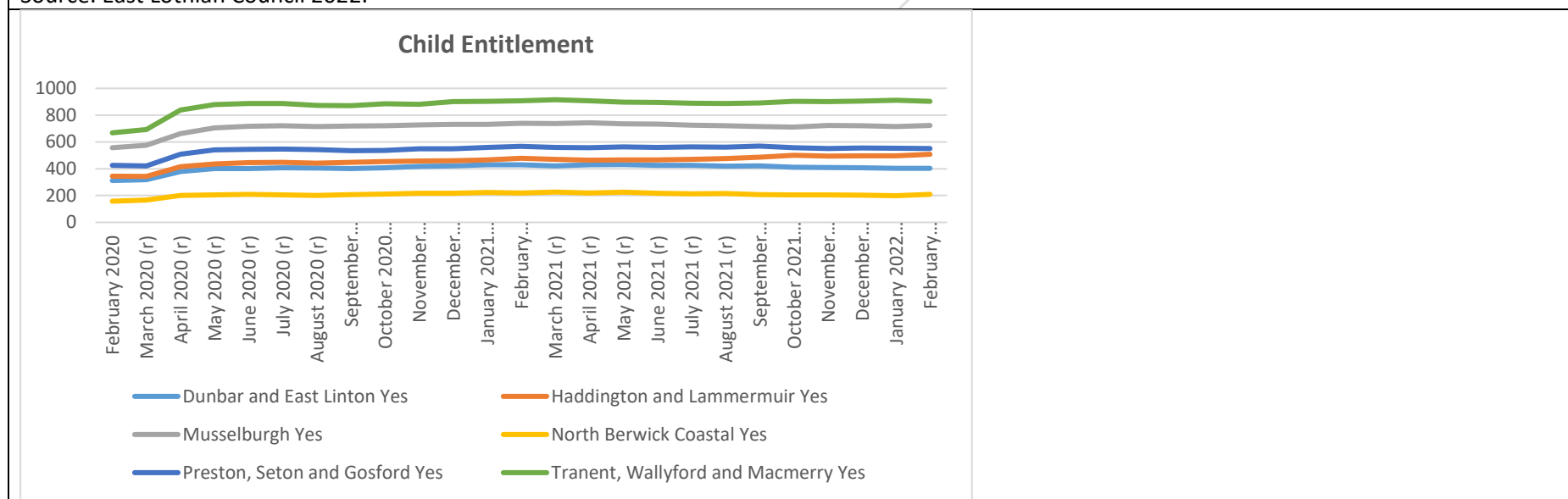


Figure 4: Universal Credit claimants with child entitlement by ward area  
Source: East Lothian Council, using DWP data

## Education data

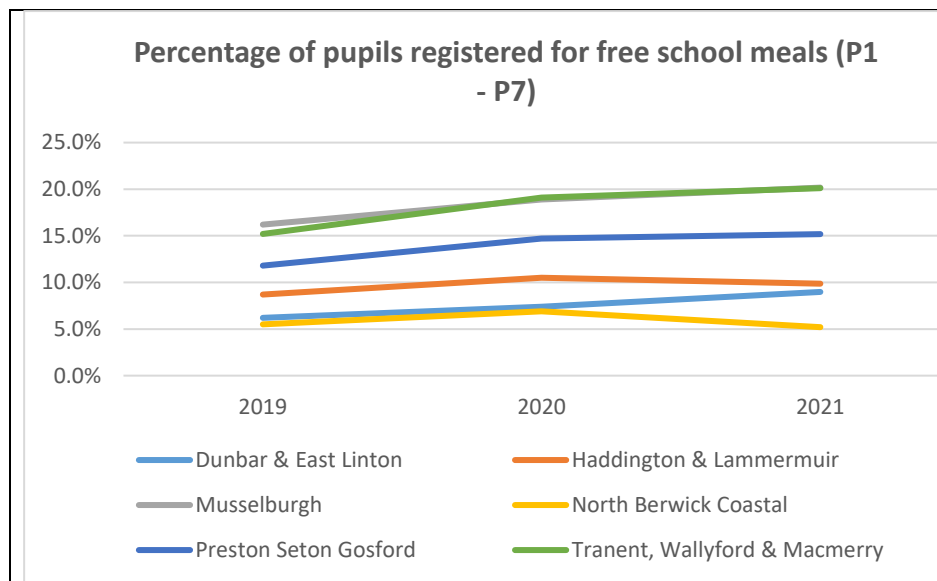


Figure 4: Percentage of pupils registered for free school meals (P1-P7)  
Source: East Lothian Council

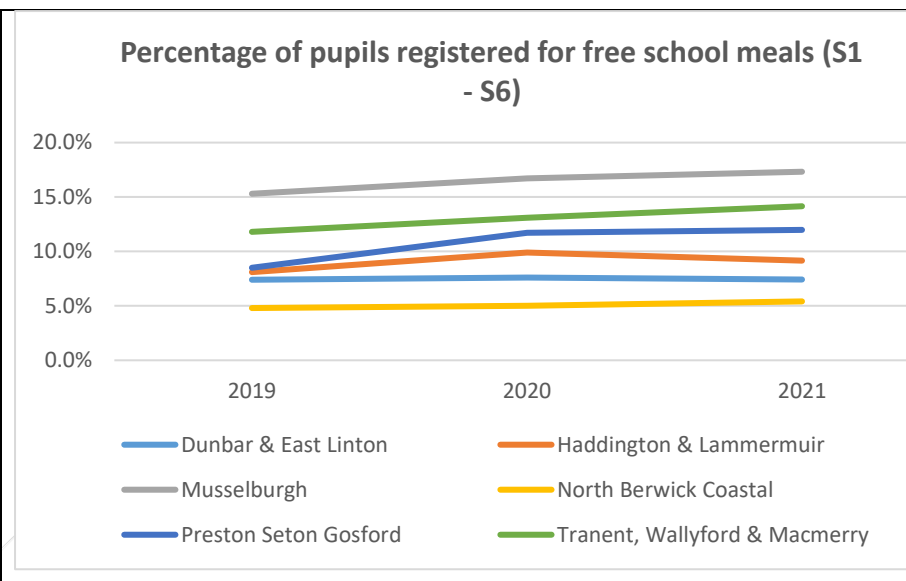
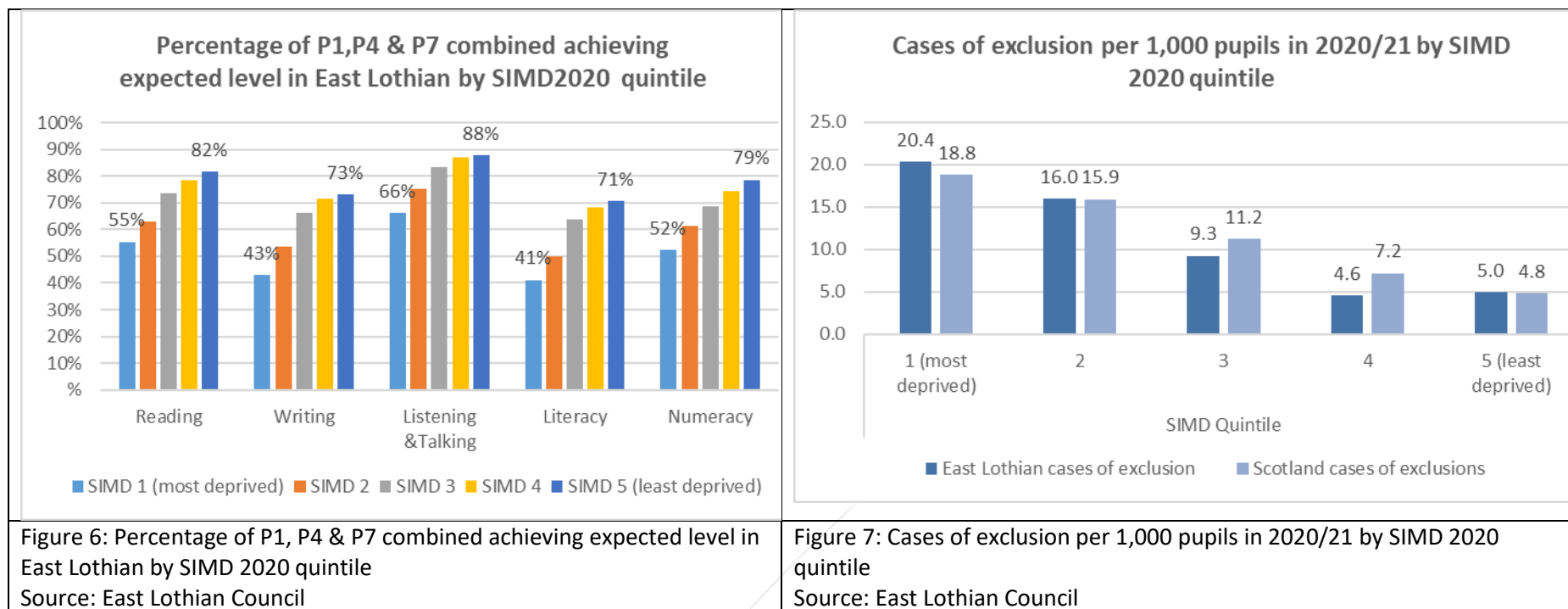


Figure 5: Percentage of pupils registered for free school meals (S1-S6)  
Source: East Lothian Council



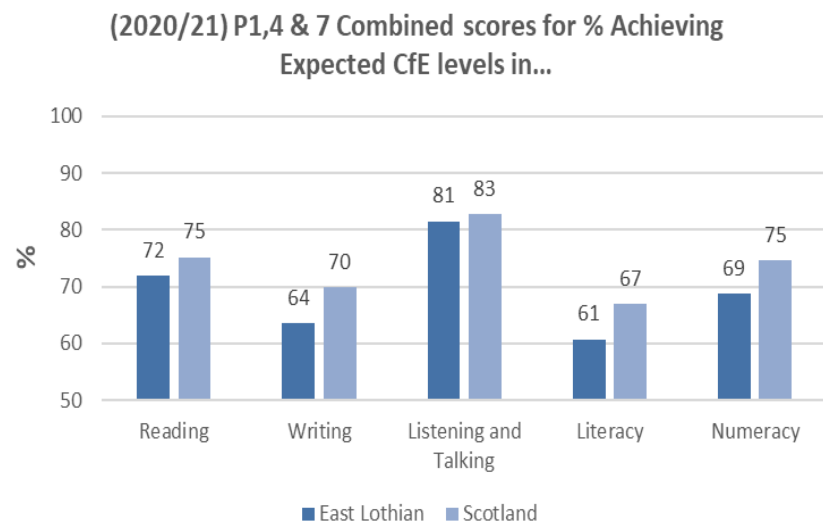


Figure 8: (2020/21) P1, 4 & 7 Combined scores for % achieving expected CfE levels in...  
Source: East Lothian Council

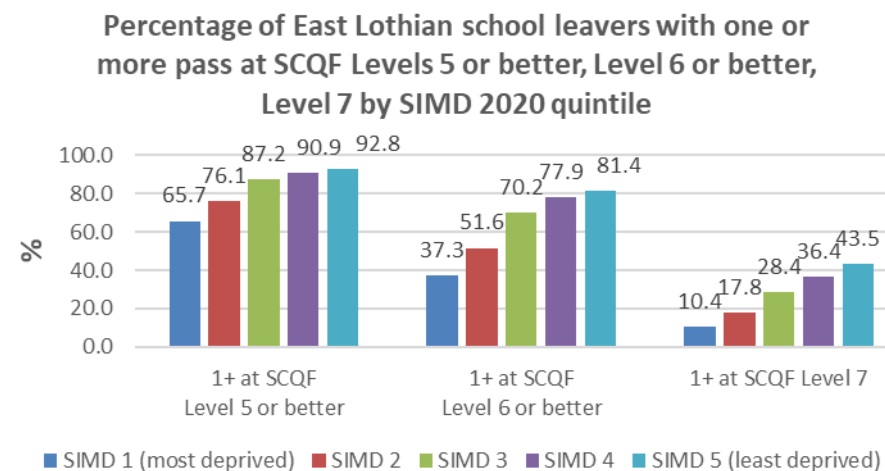
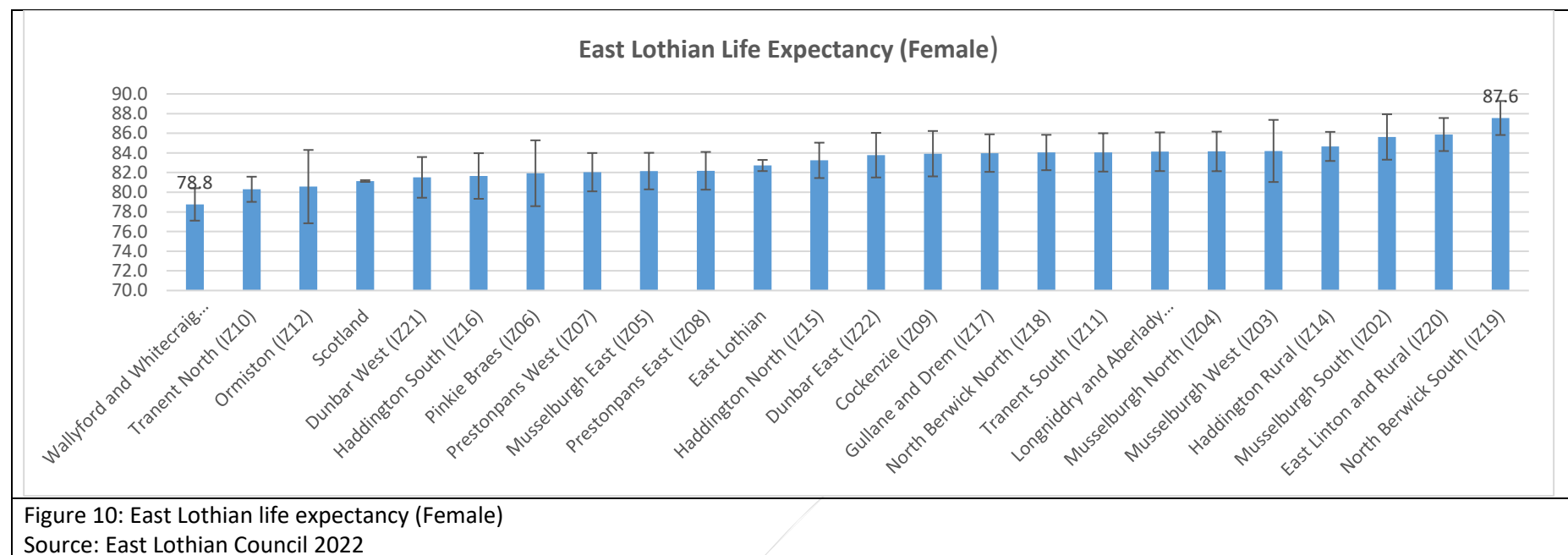
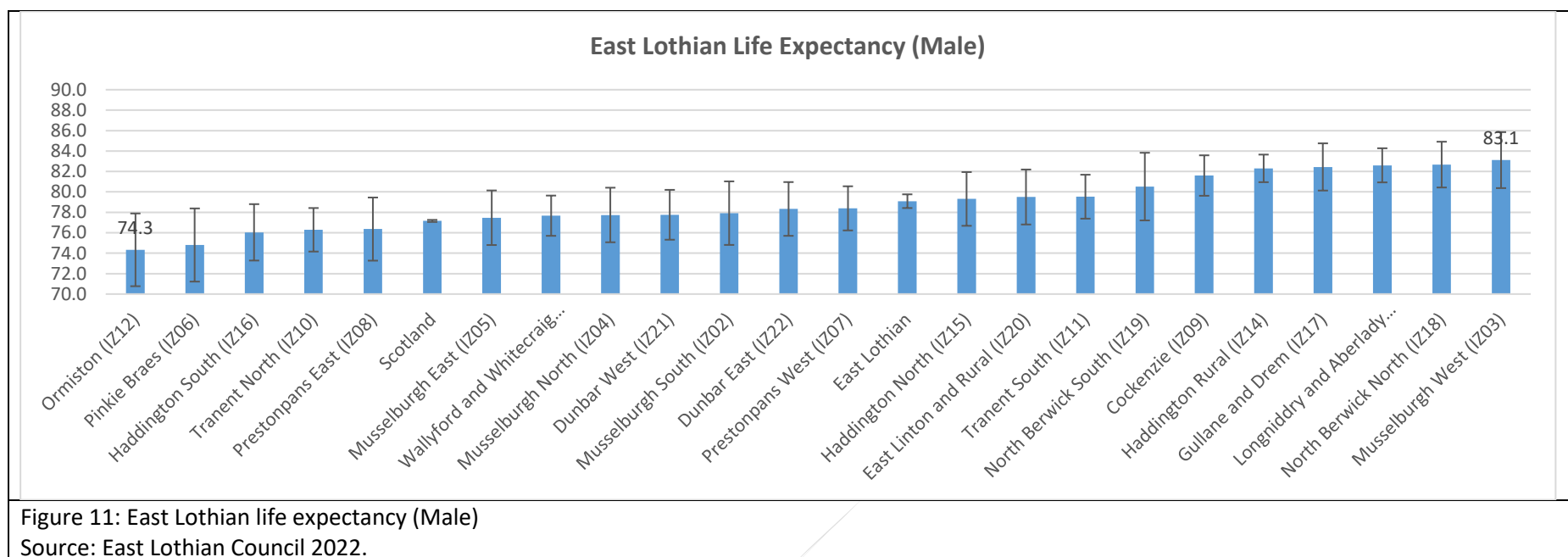


Figure 9: Percentage of East Lothian school leavers with one or more pass at SCQF Levels 5 or better, Level 6 or better, Level 7 by SIMD 2020 quintile  
Source: East Lothian Council

## Health data





If you have any questions about the content of this report please contact [policy@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:policy@eastlothian.gov.uk).