

EAST LoTHIAN CHILD POVERTY ACTION REPORT 2022-23

A joint report from East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian.

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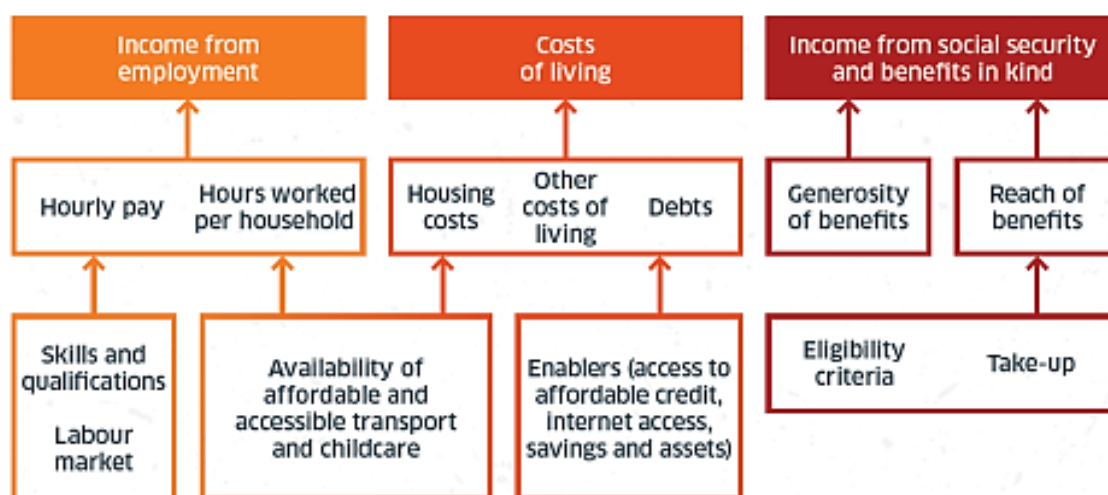
Previous East Lothian Child Poverty Action Reports (CPARs) are available [here](#).

Introduction

This is the fourth Local Child Poverty Action Report for East Lothian and covers activity from 1st April 2022-31st March 2023. It has been developed in partnership between East Lothian Council (ELC) and NHS Lothian. It contains contributions and updates from partners across East Lothian who are working together to tackle child poverty.

This report does not seek to evidence all the work being undertaken across the county but instead focuses on the activity that addresses the key drivers of child poverty reduction as set out in the national tackling child poverty delivery plan¹.

- Income from employment
- Costs of living
- Income from social security and benefits in kind



It also includes ongoing work to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, work to support households with the cost of living crisis and rising fuel prices, and future plans for tackling child poverty.

Strategic context

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 was introduced to drive forward and monitor action to reduce the number of children and their families living in poverty across Scotland. Under the Act Local Authorities and NHS Boards have a statutory duty to jointly develop and publish an annual Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPARs) that sets out activity undertaken and planned to reduce child poverty in their local areas. This LCPAR 2022-23 presents an update of the actions taken to prevent and mitigate the impact of and reduce child poverty in East Lothian.

Within the Community Planning structure, the Poverty Working group has held responsibility and oversight of the actions within the poverty plan that are related to child poverty which sit within other strategic plans.

The Poverty Plan combines actions which specifically address child poverty with poverty in the general population. The plan sits alongside and is aligned to other council and partnership plans and strategies

¹ [Best Start, Bright Futures: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-2026 \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/best-start-bright-futures/tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2022-2026/pages/1-1-introduction-to-the-plan/)

that include a focus on and actions that will contribute to the aim of tackling poverty and breaking the cycle of poverty. These include the Equality Plan (2021-2025), the local Housing Strategy, the Education Improvement Plan, the Developing Young Workforce Plan and the Integration Joint Board's Strategic Plan.

The Poverty Working Group continue to:

- Identify intelligence to inform the poverty profile.
- Co-ordinate the work to identify gaps and develop solutions to prevent and mitigate the impact of poverty in East Lothian.
- Co-ordinate the child poverty short life working group to drive the development of the child poverty self-assessment and the new poverty plan.
- Complete the Child Poverty Action report and ensure publication and dissemination.
- Ensure the voices of lived experience inform the work of the group and wider policy areas.
- Monitor the progress of actions and in the poverty plan and support and direct implementation as appropriate.
- Ensure core messages in relation to poverty are communicated across policy areas and multi-agency partners and networks throughout East Lothian.
- Draft the new 2024 – 2029 Poverty Plan considering progress with the 2021-2023 Plan.

National Child Poverty Targets

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets out ambitious targets to radically reduce child poverty in Scotland, and ensure that future generations are similarly protected. Four statutory targets were set for 2030, with four interim targets set out for 2023. They are as follows:

After household costs...	2023 interim targets	2030 targets	East Lothian levels 2021-22
Children living in families in relative poverty	18%	10%	21.1%
Children living in families in absolute poverty	14%	5%	12.4%
Children living in families living in combined low income and material deprivation ²	8%	5%	-
Children living in families in persistent poverty ³	8%	5%	-

In 2021-22 Relative Child Poverty after housing costs increased in East Lothian from 18.9% in 2020-21 to 21.1% (Scottish average is 24%). Figures for 2022-23 were not available at time of publishing.

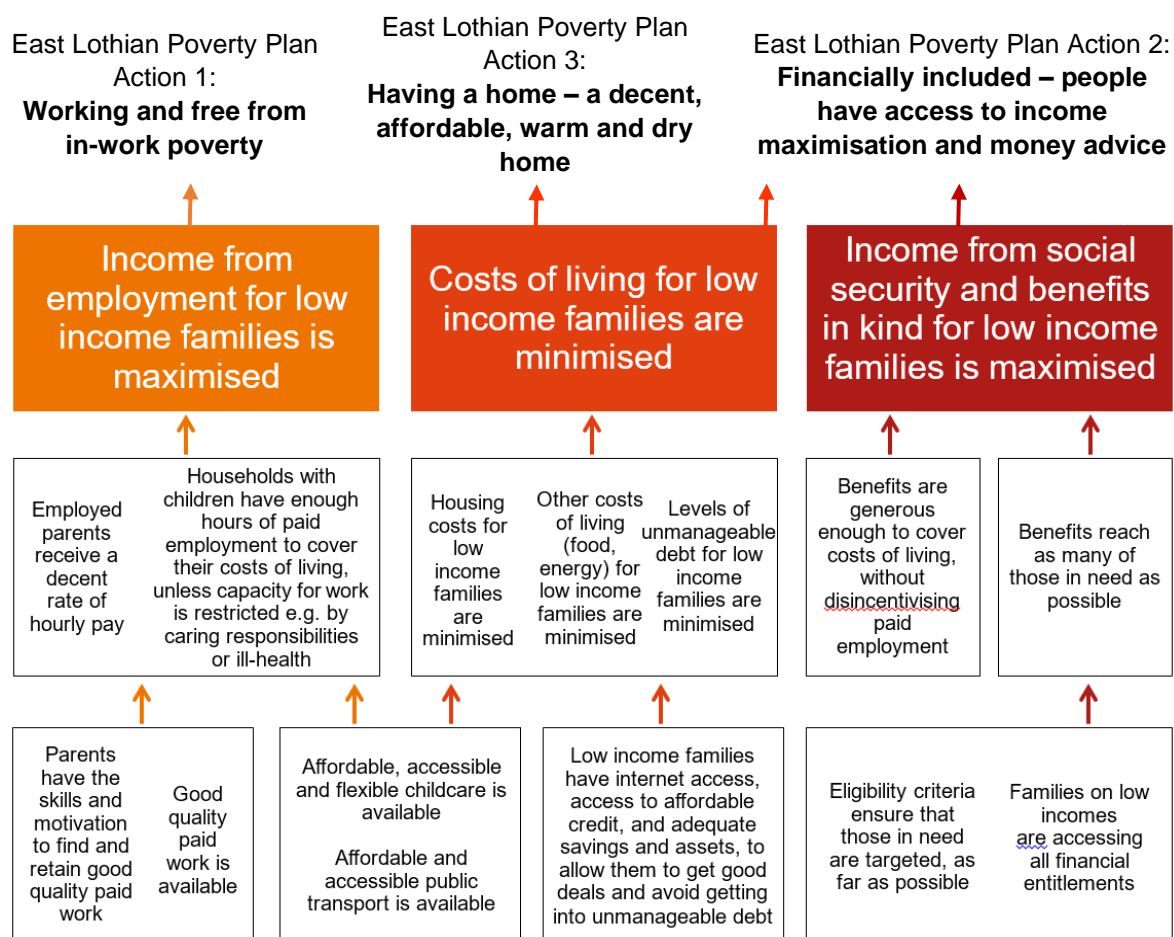
² The Scottish Household Survey children in families with limited resources measure is a rough approximation of the official material deprivation measure. This uses three years' worth of data to get local authority breakdowns. The 2020 survey was affected by the pandemic restrictions, and so this measure will not be updated until the 2023 data become available.

³ The persistent poverty data comes from the Understanding Society longitudinal study which cannot be broken down to a sub-Scotland level.

Drivers of child poverty

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act and associated delivery plans set out three key drivers of poverty reduction that need to be addressed if we are to effect change for children and families in East Lothian. These are:

- Income from employment
- Costs of living
- Income from social security and benefits in kind



Cost of Living

We know that COVID-19 had a significant impact on families across Scotland. Particularly, for those on low incomes. The ongoing cost of living crisis continues, and the full impact is not yet known. Evidence shows that:

- Low income households are feeling the ongoing cost of living crisis more acutely. They are entering this crisis with less resources and tools at their disposal.
- Increasing income through paid employment is an important tool. However, while hourly pay appears to be increasing, barriers to increasing working hours such as access to childcare and family commitments, exist for many. Importantly, many people struggle to find work that matches their skills, which may pay better.

- For many families, the real value of benefits is sharply eroded by high inflation which has had a huge impact on families during this reporting period. In 2023-24 we hope to see a better picture for families as most elements of Universal Credit are uprated with other benefits at 10.1%.

“I’ve been eating toddler portions to make sure my kids have enough. The kids laugh but I don’t. Nothing is easy and nothing is spared, even the bath water has to last for all of us.”

Member of the Working for Change Collective

Priority families

Across Scotland, there are some families who have a higher-than-average risk of poverty and may require targeted or specific support to address their needs. These are:

- Lone parent families
- Minority ethnic families
- Families with a disabled adult or child
- Families with a mother aged under 25
- Families with a child under one
- Larger families (3+ children)

Nationally, the priority family types identified continue to be at highest risk of child poverty, whichever measure of poverty is used. Future policies must continue to focus on reaching families in poverty. Locally, there is a need for a holistic approach that addresses individual needs while recognising the structural barriers, to avoid perpetuating patterns of exclusion.

Families often belong to more than one priority group. For example, among children in relative poverty: 46% of children in lone parent families also have a disabled person at home; 44% of children in a family with a younger mother are also in a lone parent household; 42% of children in a 3+ child family are also in a family in which someone is disabled ⁴.

What do we know about poverty in East Lothian?

The following section uses a number of data sources to establish what the picture of poverty in East Lothian looks like. This includes children living in poverty (after housing costs), poverty by ward, levels of food insecurity, and help with the cost of the school day. A poverty profile for East Lothian will be published in early 2024 which will help to inform the CPAR going forward.

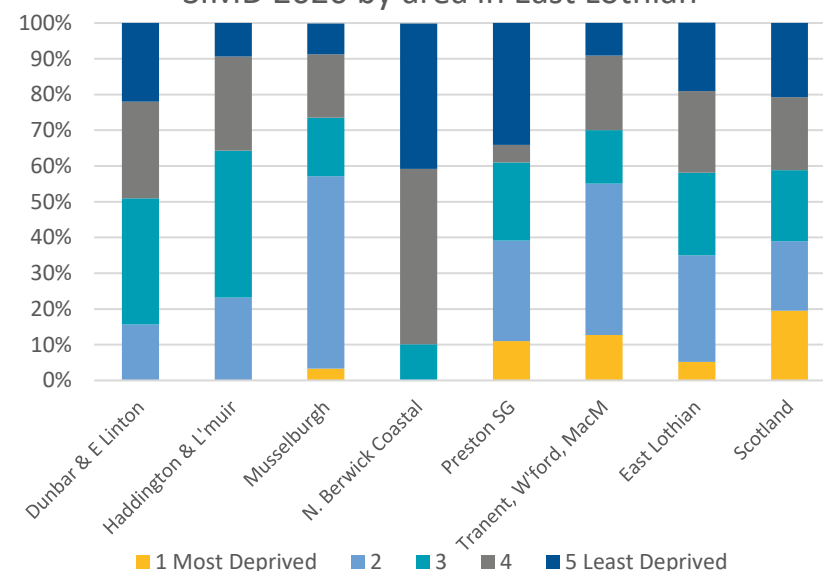
⁴[Supporting documents - Tackling child poverty priority families overview - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/supporting-documents/tackling-child-poverty-priority-families-overview)

East Lothian poverty summary:

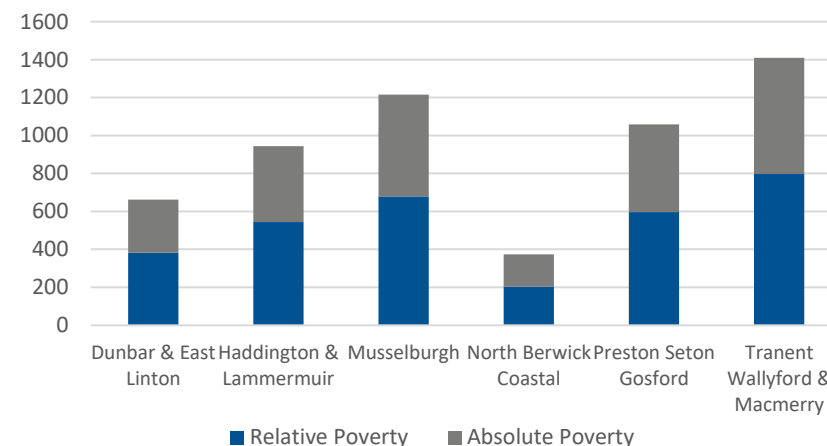
- East Lothian is made up of 132 data zones across 6 wards. 8 of these data zones fall within the most deprived (quintile) 20% of areas in the whole of Scotland.
- These 8 data zones are in 3 wards which lie to the west of the county: Tranent Wallyford & Macmerrie (TWM), Preston Seton & Gosford (PSG), and Musselburgh.
- Within these 8 data zones are **5.2%** of East Lothian's population, with **12.7% of the TWM ward** residing within this quintile.
- 26 data zones are in the least deprived quintile. **19.1%** of East Lothian's population, and **40.7% of North Berwick's** population are within this quintile.
- 16.1% of East Lothian's children (0 to 15 year olds) in 2021/22 were living in low income households. The Scottish average was 20.8%.
- In 2022/23 the number of children in absolute low income families in East Lothian increased by 10.7% from the previous year to 3229, the 4th highest increase in Scotland.
- Scottish Welfare Fund: In 2022/23 **1,445 Community Care Grants** were awarded with an associated spend of **£913,781.00** – an average of **£632.37** per claimant.

2,912 Crisis Grant applications were awarded with associated spend was **£343,186.00** – an average of **£117.85** per claimant. Crisis Grant applications increased by **42.62%** when compared to the previous year.

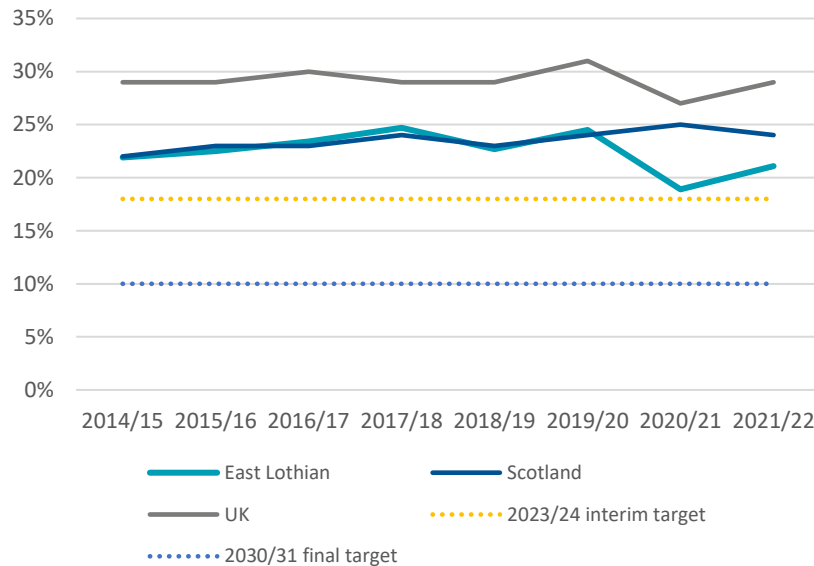
SIMD 2020 by area in East Lothian



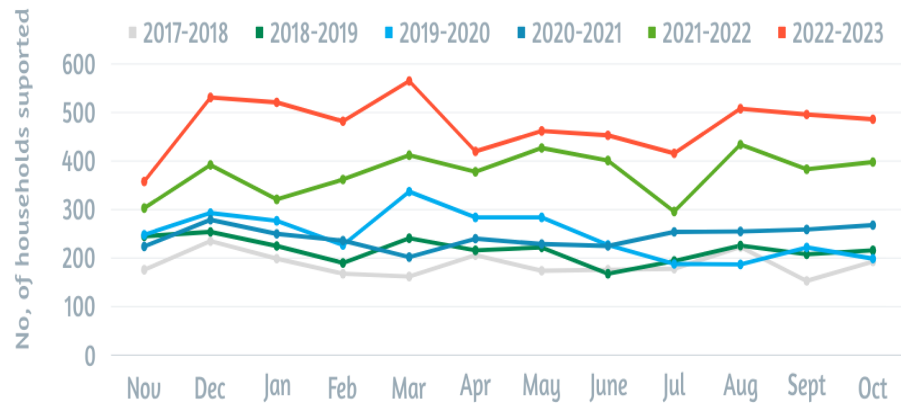
Number of 0 to 15 year olds in Low Income Families 2021/22 by ward



Child Poverty (After Housing Costs)



East Lothian Foodbank usage figures:



- During the period 2022/23, there were **689** applications in East Lothian that were assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness. There were 1098 people associated with these applications: **785 adults and 313 children**.

There has been an increase in homelessness assessments in the last reporting period. However, there has been a notable reduction in the number of children in temporary accommodation. This figure has reduced from 181 (snapshot at 31 March 2022) to 143 (snapshot at 31 March 2023).

- During 2022/23 **East Lothian Foodbank** supported **5,719** households in East Lothian with emergency essentials (food and toiletries). A total of **13,656** people were fed (25% higher than the previous year). Of those fed **4,877 (36%) were under the age of 16**.

This includes multiple referrals to the same households showing persistent emergency need. There were 1758 unique households referred to the foodbank. Of the households supported 48% were referred for the first time and 47% of the households only needed support once.

- Scottish Child Payment:** to 30th June 2023, **4,835** applications have been authorised with a value of **£6,087,705**. **5,480 children** are actively benefitting from these payments.
- Best Start Grants and Best Start Foods:** from 10 December 2018 to 30 June 2023, **5,115** payments have been authorised in East Lothian, out of 7,530 applications received. The value of these payments is **£2,057,538**.
- The Scottish Government Pupil Census 2022 reported that **11.9% of S1-S6** pupils were registered for free school meals. **18.6% of P1-P7** pupils were registered for free school meals.

East Lothian Partnership's work to mitigate the impact of poverty is set out in its [Poverty Plan 2021-2023](#). A summary of all actions that cover employment, financial inclusion, education, housing, health and community is included in Appendix 2. Our activity to support income from employment, social security, and help with the cost of living is summarised below.

Cost of living

Cost of living supported is publicised via the Poverty Working Group and East Lothian Financial Inclusion Network, as well as through Volunteer Centre East Lothian and the East Lothian Food Friendly Network. These channels help us to increase uptake of schemes and reach our most vulnerable residents. They also feed into the development and implementation of our policies.

A £758,000 Cost of Living Assistance fund was allocated to support low income households during the Cost of Living crisis and spent across 2021-2023. This was broken down as follows:

- £420,000 Scottish Welfare Fund boost
- £90,000 for ELC Children's Services to provide cash support for families via supermarket vouchers. A further £30,000 was allocated to this fund via MELDAP.
- £75,000 for ELC Adult Services, boosting their Section 12 emergency payments, support for Carers of East Lothian, terminal illness, and anti-poverty work through VCEL.
- £112,000 for food initiatives, distributed as:
 - £27,000 Fareshare Hub
 - £30,000 East Lothian Foodbank
 - £55,000 Pantry support and hot meal provision (see Warm spaces with Friendly Faces information below)
- £1,500 for printing additional Cost of Living leaflets, which was updated and expanded in 2021 and 2022 to cover all financial and wider support available for residents affected by fuel poverty and the cost of living crisis.
- £13,500 East and Midlothian Women's Aid; Cost of Living grants have been paid since 25th November, benefitting 56 East Lothian women. Key benefits for recipients include:
 - Ability to pay fuel bills
 - They didn't have to use the foodbank
 - They were able to purchase essential items like children's clothes and shoes
 - Relieved the stress of expenses required to move
 - General winter help and support

Community Windpower Fuel Fund

The Community Windpower Energy Fund was established to distribute up to £1,000,000 fuel support to households experiencing fuel poverty because of rising energy costs.

The funds were distributed by Advice Scotland, supported by East Lothian Council and other partners. The fund was based on a set of eligibility criteria that prioritised the most vulnerable in our communities. Fuel grants were available to any resident struggling with fuel costs or fuel debt, and who received a means tested benefit (including Pension Credit, Universal Credit, Income Related JSA, Income Related ESA, and Housing Benefit).



1,428

Successful applicants



£559

Average amount paid per application

The situation of the household was also considered, with higher payments for people with an illness or disability, and adjustments based on the size of the household.

An easy online application portal was created, and community partners were able to register to support applicants with submitting their application. This helped people to submit evidence – for example, of their Universal Credit status.

East Lothian Council was a trusted referral partner which meant our services could refer households for a fuel payment who would not have been eligible because they do not receive benefits, but who were experiencing fuel poverty. This ensured that whilst the fund was targeted at people who receive means tested benefits, other households could apply and be successful.

1,428 applicants were successful, with average awards of £559 and a regional total of £798,535.94.

Outside of the Community Windpower fund further fuel support was available, including Fuel Banks accessed through Musselburgh CAB and East Lothian Foodbank.



£798,535.94

Total amount distributed

Warm spaces with friendly faces

East Lothian Council's Connected Communities team coordinated a range of responses across East Lothian. This included:

£55,000 of LACER funding was made available to venues, pantries and clubs across East Lothian to provide a Warm Space with a Friendly Face – activities and a hot drink or meal extended their hours and activities to support people who were struggling to heat their home and were in need of a welcoming and warm space.

“Everybody in the community comes together and just helps out. We’ve got young carers, family support workers. This is the best bit of their week. It’s their big night out.”

Dunbar Dinners (intergenerational school dinner)



Maximising income from employment

Work offers a sustainable route out of poverty for many and has a strong role to play in a balanced approach to tackling poverty, reducing inequalities and improving health. Through our employability service East Lothian Works, ELC provides opportunities and integrated support for people in East Lothian to enter and progress in work.

Parental Employability

In 2022-23 the Parental Employability Support Fund (PESF) supported:

- 3 cohorts of parents undertook 37 placements based in school settings, resulting in 14 job outcomes. Roles included classroom assistants, kitchen assistants, and early years roles.
- Financial gain of £173,478.95 through an integrated benefits check that all parents can access as part of the service.



37 PESF placements

14 job outcomes

Young people supported into employment

- The Kickstart Scheme was a government programme that provided funding for employers to create new job roles for young people receiving Universal Credit. 45 Kickstart placements were funded in East Lothian, 36 externally and 9 internally (at ELC). 21 of these placements were funded beyond the initial 6 months.
- Young Persons Guarantee – 83 Employer Recruitment Incentives (ERIs) previously given to businesses to support employers to take on young people.
- Workforce for the Future funded 24 placements including 11 Modern Apprenticeships and 6 Graduate Interns. These placements were across different council departments including Housing, Business Administration, Human Resources, Revenues, Waste Services, Fleet Maintenance and Countryside Rangers.



£173,478.95

Additional income for
parents involved in PESF



45 Kickstart
placements

36 external, 9 internal
placements

Long term unemployment

- No One Left Behind is the Scottish Government strategy creating a collective approach to delivering an employability system which is flexible and responsive. It aims to help members of society who face challenging barriers to finding and maintaining employment and support them to reach their true potential. A small grants programme ran from April 2022 – March 2023. There were 5 grants awarded for the year based on labour market intelligence and identified gaps in provision in East Lothian.

In 2022/23 the small grants programme supported:

- 119 participants
- 46 qualifications
- 12 work placements
- 26 people into Further Education/Higher Education/Training/ 4 MAs
- 38 Job outcomes/ 10 Volunteering

- A further 4 placements supporting people over the age of 25 who were long term unemployed were provided.

East Lothian Works **funded employability providers** who supported 723 people, with 214 (30%) job starts. This equated to

- 55% increase in number of people supported by ELW (compared to 21/22)
- 135 qualifications gained
- 29 people moving into education
- 38 People starting work experience
- 50 people starting training
- 15 starting volunteering
- 120 were in a job funded by ELW

Skills and Training

- Skills for Work partnership between EL Works and Edinburgh College offers units in Early Learning & Childcare, a popular choice for parents returning to the workforce. Between Sept 2021 and June 2022, 54 qualifications were achieved at Level 4 & 5. Between September 2022 and January 2023, 40 learners enrolled.
- ICT and Data Skills pathway was developed to deliver ICT and Data Skills from beginner to SCQF Level 6. Community based learning was provided with wrap around support. Of 23 registrations 14 learners have attended, with 10 achieving qualifications at Level 4, and 3 job outcomes.
- ESOL learning provided new support for Ukrainian Displaced People, with 35 learners engaging and the Partnership offering employability support.
- Justice system and employability – EL Works commissioned Heavy Sounds, Access to Industry, Skills Development Scotland and other partners to create opportunities for people who have an active involvement with justice social work (CPOs, supervision), people are referred to tailored employability options when leaving the service. Work is underway to ensure apprenticeship and other employability opportunities with NHS Lothian are accessible and available to residents of East Lothian via the Local Employability Partnership.

Income from social security and benefits is maximised



£5,164,016.45

Financial gains achieved
through Finance and
Advice Services



2,717 clients

Supported through our
Finance and Advice
Services

East Lothian Financial Inclusion Service

East Lothian Financial Inclusion Service offers free, impartial and confidential advice and support to all East Lothian residents. Financial Inclusion Officers can:

- Carry out a benefit health check to let you know what benefits or financial support you may be entitled to and help you apply.
- Check you are getting the right amount of benefit.
- Provide help if you have been sanctioned by The Department for Work & Pensions
- Help you to appeal a decision if you've recently had a benefit claim turned down.
- Provide advice about flexible options available if you're claiming Universal Credit (UC), such as switching to twice-monthly payments or having your rent paid direct to your landlord.
- Provide help if you're regularly using a foodbank or relying on crisis grants.
- Offer a Macmillan cancer support service to support the financial needs of East Lothian residents and their families affected by cancer.
- Provide employment advice and practical support to help people understand the implications on their household income of taking up employment or training opportunities.

In 2022-2023 the Financial Inclusion team supported:

- 1369 new clients.
- 1468 benefit checks £2,391,023.45 client income gains.

Where household composition was known:

- 6% of households supported were single parent households.
- 5% of households were two parent households.
- 1% of applications were from a young person living with adults.

Scottish Welfare Fund

In 2022/23 programme funding from the Scottish Government was £580,974 but the fund was increased to £951,974 by securing £350k from the Covid Action Fund Reserve mid-year. In addition, £21k under-spend was carried forward from financial year 2021/22 and a further top-up of £40,909 was received from the Scottish Government in February 2023.

Pressure on the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) has grown significantly in recent years and has continued throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and most recently the cost of living crisis.

- In relation to volume, the Crisis Grants in particular have seen a significant spike in 2022/23, with a 42.62% increase in the number of applications received from 4,404 in 2021/22 to 6,281 in 2022.23.
- In relation to value, the Community Care Grants absorb the majority of the overall SWF budget with £913,781.00 of the £1,256,967.00 total spend in 2022/23 being awarded in CCG payments.

"...I would like to say that she has been extremely kind and very understanding to my circumstances, she explained things very well to me which made sense and told me about new funding to support people like myself with financial problems with their fuel costs. I believe she is a great asset to the council."

Council Tenant

East Lothian Advice Consortium

East Lothian Council contracts the East Lothian Advice Consortium (ELAC) to provide a wide range of advice and financial support services to East Lothian residents. ELAC is composed of Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) Haddington and CAB Musselburgh. In 2022-23, ELAC achieved:

- A total of £2,772,993 confirmed financial gains secured for 830 CAB clients.
- 1,348 clients were helped with benefits/income maximisation advice.
- 320 (221) people had their income increased by a total of £1,800,620 (£1,466,354).
- £3,694,913 (£4,104,355) total debt handled for 475 client contacts in this year.

Of the clients whose caring responsibility was known:

- 28% had child(ren) without a disability
- 5% had child(ren) with a disability

In addition to benefitting the local economy, it is recognised that the support from CAB together with the financial gains and increased income enhances the individual's wellbeing and can reduce dependency on health and other statutory services.

The past year has provided challenges for East Lothian Council's Financial Inclusion team and Citizen's Advice Bureaus. Both services continue to be operating on a hybrid basis with phone and online appointment, and face to face services beginning to restart. Whilst all services are aiming to offer a mix of appointments, phone and online appointments have been welcomed by some for their convenience and privacy. This has been particularly noted for our rural communities where access to services can be a considerable barrier.

"The service I received was absolutely amazing. S has been totally supporting and helped massively to calm me down as going bankrupt was something I never ever thought would happen but I was sinking fast. S helped me realise that this happens to lots of people and that I wasn't a bad person for going through this. Amazing service. Thank you to all."

ELAC client

Capacity Building for staff and volunteers

Volunteer Centre East Lothian (VCEL) organised CPAG training for third sector staff who are most likely to be able to support clients through a benefits application. This training was subsidised by East Lothian Council and VCEL.

Musselburgh CAB organised CPAG training in October 2022 which focused on Adult Disability Payment (ADP) and the changes needed for clients migrating from Personal Independence Payment (PIP). The training provided an understanding of the main rules and helped organisations to identify people who may be entitled to ADP.

The course also looked at how the roll-out of ADP in Scotland would impact people who already get PIP. This was essential training given the evidence regarding families with an adult or child with a disability being more at risk of poverty.

Social Security Scotland Social Security Scotland have hosted several workshops and presentations and provide ongoing training and information sessions about the Local Delivery service they offer and benefits they administer. As well as sessions for partner organisations they have run sessions for the

public in numerous accessible settings to promote and support applications and attend drop in/pop up events across East Lothian.

Welfare Advice in Health Settings

The **Welfare Hospital Advice Service** within the **Royal Hospital for Children and Young People** was set up to provide income maximisation support for families experiencing financial hardship across the Lothians and compliments the welfare advice services in adult hospitals in each local authority. Having a hospital-based service promotes access for those families who may struggle to engage with community based services and/or who may find they are experiencing financial difficulties as a result of their child's illness or hospital stay.

From 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 154 new families received support from the service, 10.5% (or 12 families) of those were from East Lothian.

The service 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. This not only supports vulnerable families at a time when they may be experiencing additional stress with a child in hospital, but also supports the work of clinical staff and lessens the burden on them potentially freeing up time.

In addition to benefit application and income maximisation work, links have also been made with local authority housing staff, housing associations, grant organisations and clothing charities. Referral numbers are increasing, and the cases being referred are incredibly complex which requires a significant amount of time and expertise to resolve multiple issues.

CAB Musselburgh

From February 2022 a hospital welfare advice service has been delivered in East Lothian Community Hospital by CAB Musselburgh. This service is open to patients, visitors and staff at the hospital, benefiting local families. It is funded by Lothian Health Charity until 2025 with the aim of reducing inequalities and providing a responsive onsite service to the most vulnerable who may face barriers to accessing services in the community because of their own or family members stay in hospital, or because of working hours.

Mapping Financial Inclusion pathways in healthcare settings

There has been a delay in progressing the financial inclusion pathway work with the NHS community midwifery, health visiting and Family Nurse Partnership teams due to staff changes in the NHS Lothian Partnership and Place team. However, the first stage of mapping the services has been completed to better understand the current income maximisation service provision in East Lothian.

The findings of this exercise will inform ongoing work by the Partnership and Place team to strengthen financial wellbeing pathways across maternal and early years health services to increase identification of, and support to, those most in need. A report was produced which details:

- What the financial inclusion services across East Lothian are providing and at what level
- Any gaps in the provision of financial inclusion services
- Challenges faced by services and any predicted risks

The exercise concluded that capacity is the main challenge faced by services and the increasing demand caused by austerity and the cost of living crisis are increasingly complex and challenging to respond to. The following recommendations were made:

1. Improve communication between services through an accessible portal (with public access) with all relevant and up to date information)
2. Training for front line staff and services on benefit entitlement, welfare services as well as poverty awareness raising to reduce stigma
3. Early intervention is key. Improve financial literacy through parent and adult budgeting advice and for children and young people through the school curriculum

To reduce the burden of increased demand, capacity building for key workers, staff and volunteers in statutory and community services is key as a form of early intervention and prevention. They have existing relationships with the community and can identify and raise the issue at an earlier stage if upskilled to do so with the potential for preventing problems worsening and people requiring crisis support or having to access specialist services. A tiered approach to training should be considered.

This will be presented at ELFIN to support the recommendations to be actioned. Work will progress with strengthening the income maximisation pathways and streamlining the referral process from maternal and child health services in the community.

Benefits Campaign

From the 8th September to 9th October 2022 East Lothian Council ran a benefits awareness and take-up campaign. This aimed to raise awareness and provide information about the benefits and financial support available and increase access to income maximisation and benefit checks.

This universal campaign which provided information about the financial support available was supported by a dedicated advisor at Haddington CAB who took people through a benefits check as well as signposting to any further support required. The 1.2FTE staff dedicated to working on the campaign took referrals from a variety of sources including council services, third sector organisations, clients self-referring, phone and email enquiries etc.

Resources were created to signpost to all financial support available. Information was promoted via newspaper, radio, social media, direct

message, and printed format. In particular, the campaign targeted take-up of benefits which are under-subscribed, including pension credit, council tax reduction, and benefits for children and families.

£16.5k of the cost of living assistance created by the council was allocated to the campaign. 64 clients had financial gains from the campaign totalling £124,763.03. This equates to an average of just under £2k per client and £7.50 gained for every £1 spent on the campaign.

As part of preparation for the campaign a series of group sessions were held for people with lived experience of the benefits system who asked us to use more inclusive language, identified the



£124,763.03

Financial gains for clients



64

New clients accessing financial support

“We’re not having the time of our life out here on benefits.”

Workshop participant

platforms we should use to reach out to people through, and the barriers people face in maximising their income. These contributions were vital in shaping the campaign.

A short life working group contributed to the planning of the campaign and tied in key services including Financial Inclusion, Communications and Housing.

Building from the campaign East Lothian Council has:

- Broadened our financial and wider support services information through an expanded [Cost of Living leaflet](#). This has been distributed widely through community partners;
- Invested in benefits training for frontline community partners, delivered by VCEL;
- Widened our cash-first approach which was advocated for by the groups we consulted with.

Opportunities

Improvement Service self-assessment

East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian have begun work to roll out the Improvement Service self-assessment toolkit. This has involved convening a short life working group made up of multi-agency partners and adapting the online survey for use across the county with a view to rolling this out later in 2023 so that the results can inform the East Lothian Poverty Plan.

There are several opportunities to develop new approaches based on the results of the self assessment but also learn from other areas who have been through the process. For example Midlothian have developed their own child poverty index. It was designed by the Scottish Borders and is a tactile index created to enable better insight into child poverty. It recognises that, while the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a good tool for identifying overall deprivation, it is not poverty specific or child focused. The CPI uses DWP Low Income families, Free School Meal, School Clothing Grant and Education Maintenance Allowance data to identify geographic areas where high levels of child poverty may be prevalent.

Gender budgeting

The cost of living crisis does not affect everyone equally and in East Lothian as across Scotland rising living costs, stagnant wage inflation and in-work poverty have affected women more because of structural inequality. Women are more likely to experience poverty throughout their lifetime, to have lower wages, savings and wealth in comparison to men.


Inadvertently, the policies we design often adversely impact women. As part of our next Poverty Plan we are working with the Scottish Women's Budget Group to make sure that all future actions have been properly considered through a gender lens (complementing work with the six priority families).

Children's Services Plan

The new East Lothian Children's Services Plan for 2023-2026 has recently been published with a renewed commitment to improving the lives of babies, children, young people and their families with a collective vision for all children and young people to be "happy healthy and heard."

The plan is underpinned by a number of national policy drivers that also have the common goal of reducing poverty and inequalities. The Plan is summarised below and can be read in full [online](#). Sub groups have been set up to drive the work and are formed around three main priorities which are:

- Whole family support
- Children's Rights
- Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing

VISION 		
East Lothian's children and young people are happy, healthy and heard		
PRINCIPLES 		
we will ensure every programme adheres to:		
Multi-agency	The voice of children and young people shapes direction	
Reduces inequalities	Focuses on prevention and early intervention	
AIM 	PROGRAMME	
Ensure the rights of every CYP in East Lothian are upheld by embedding UNCRC into daily practice and processes	UNCRC	
Deliver The Promise and the new Corporate Parenting plans to ensure families are supported to stay together at home	The Promise	
Ensure GIRFEC remains embedded in daily practice and information is shared proactively to aid prevention and early intervention	GIRFEC	
Work to increase community-based opportunities for East Lothian's CYP in safe spaces with trusted adults	Youth Vision	
Further develop our single point of access to ensure children and young people have timely access to appropriate mental health and wellbeing support and timely neurodevelopmental assessment	Single Point of Access	
Ensure East Lothian's CYP receive the appropriate needs based support whilst they are assessed for neurodevelopmental concerns	Neurodevelopmental Pathway	
Implement Trauma Informed Practice throughout the partnership workforce	Trauma Informed Practice	
Implement our whole family wellbeing approach to provide holistic support to families	Whole Family Wellbeing Fund	
Reduce the number of children, young people and families living in relative poverty	Poverty Action Plans	
Develop a partnership approach to test bespoke supports offered throughout pregnancy for women experiencing maternal complex social factors	Maternal Complex Social Factors	
Increase community-based opportunities for children and young people in safe spaces with trusted adults	Spatial Planning	
Children and Young People's Rights	Children and Young People's Mental Health	Whole Family Wellbeing

Community Wealth Building (CWB)

Work to develop a community wealth building approach is being progressed in East Lothian. STANTEC have been commissioned to support this progress with East Lothian Council and community planning partners. A diagnostic will be undertaken to understand how CWB is currently positioned in strategic activity across the county which will inform the East Lothian Local Economic strategy.

One of the outputs will be to develop a CWB charter which will outline the contribution and commitment by all the key anchor institutions in the area. NHS Lothian has committed to being an Anchor Institution with the identification of Anchors as one of the six pillars in the [Lothian Strategic Development Framework](#). Anchor organisations have the potential to reduce inequalities and provide a mechanism that can have an impact on the population's ability to sustain quality jobs, maintain a living income and contribute to a thriving, sustainable local economy, therefore have a significant impact on child poverty. Other partners across East Lothian will be invited to consider their role as an anchor organisation.

Closing the Poverty Related Attainment Gap

East Lothian Council's approaches ensure that we support our children and families to have the very best start in life and that they can go on to have fulfilling lives, better health and living longer.

We have a relentless focus on Inclusion, Achievement, Ambition and Progress for All and work together to Get it Right for Every Child and to ensure that all our children and young people are Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included.

To mitigate the impact of poverty, we have **equity principles** which means that we:

- recognise the impact that poverty can have on the wellbeing, attainment and achievement of children and young people and are **rigorous in our approaches to mitigate this**.
- are **ambitious** for all of our children and young people and it is our collective endeavour to **maximise on their school experiences and opportunities through our curriculum and coursing**.
- use **inclusive** approaches to **broaden the parameters of success** for children and young people.
- use **formative and summative assessment processes** to fully understand and support children / young people's progress and attainment.
- use **robust tracking and monitoring procedures** to allow for the **early identification** of children and young people who are at risk of underachieving, and put appropriate interventions in place.
- use **moderation** to inform our approaches to supporting attainment.
- **work collegiately** and with partners to provide support and help for children and young people where required.
- recognise the **positive impact that gaining qualifications and achievements** has on the wellbeing and life chances of children and young people and seek to **maximise** on these opportunities.

Through the Scottish Attainment Challenge, Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) is additional funding allocated directly to schools and targeted at closing the poverty-related attainment gap. The Scottish Government has committed to this funding from 2017/18 to 2025/26.

Schools will receive £1,225 in 2023/24 for each child in P1 to S3, or equivalent, who is registered for free school meals under national eligibility criteria.

East Lothian schools have done considerable work to reduce the cost of the school day, with updated guidance and a trauma-informed approach. Many schools have food and uniform banks, as well as access to free period products for all pupils.

Strategic Equity Funding is also provided to local authorities through the Scottish Attainment Challenge, to invest in approaches to close the poverty related attainment gap. Funding is based on Children in Low Income Families data. The allocation for East Lothian Council in 2022/23 is £200,009. To evaluate the impact of this funding, East Lothian Council has set stretch aims in relation to closing the poverty related attainment gap in key measures including the attainment of Curriculum for Excellence literacy and numeracy, school attendance and the attainment of National Qualifications.

Individual East Lothian schools work to mitigate the cost of the school day with initiatives such as breakfast clubs, pre-loved uniform, free period products and access to food banks. There is also guidance on equity and school trips which ensures that equity considerations are part of the booking approval system.

1140 Early Learning and Childcare

In line with our legislative duty, East Lothian Council delivers 1140 Early Learning and Childcare funded entitlement to all eligible children which has flexibility in how it is delivered to support more parents/carers to work, train or study, especially for those who need routes into sustainable employment and out of poverty.

We do this by offering a range of 38 week and 48 week models of attendance, along with partnering with funded providers (private nurseries and childminders) who can offer more fluid, flexibility in how parents/carers can access their funded entitlement to best meet their needs. We also regularly consult with parents/carers, both formally and informally, to ensure that the offers available are best matched

to the majority need, with special focus on those who require routes to sustainable employment. We actively monitor attendance and consult with families to adapt to the changing needs within our communities. Whilst attending nursery, children receive a hot meal, healthy snack and milk. These options and choices for accessing Early Learning and Childcare, provides parents/carers with the ability to build a package of childcare which supports them to access employment but also provides a consistently high quality experience for their children.

Cost of Living

Early Learning and Childcare in East Lothian is free at the point of use. Our nurseries do not charge any additional payments and families are able to access their funded entitlement of Early Learning & Childcare (EL&CC) hours with no expectation of additional charges. For example, we provide sun cream, tissues, snacks, etc at no additional cost to families. In private settings which we partner with to deliver the funded entitlement, parents/carers can choose to pay for additional hours, but this is not a stipulation of receiving a place. Families can access their funded entitlement in these settings and will not be asked for any mandatory payments e.g. a deposit.

Some settings who had been charging parents for snacks provided throughout the day; this has been rectified and parents were reimbursed. There are now no nurseries within East Lothian charging for food. This is all provided through the Scottish Government's Free School Meal scheme and the Milk and Healthy Snack scheme.

Other activities supporting children experiencing poverty in EL&CC settings (April 22 – March 23):

- Many nursery settings provide both clothes and food bank facilities to support families to access these without stigma.
- The cost of the nursery/school day remains a focus of senior management within nurseries, with a target of ensuring there is no financial barrier to accessing EL&CC or school for families.
- Free period products in schools and nurseries across East Lothian Council.
- Equity and Excellence Officers network to build relationships with third sector organisations, charities and other organisations which can be useful for signposting families who require support.

Challenges

Funding

Like many Local Authorities, East Lothian Council is facing significant funding challenges. The collective scale of financial risks and challenges at East Lothian is "at an unprecedented level" with an overspend of £16.154m before applying use of reserves and other mitigations for financial year 2022/23, including one-off costs to be funded from earmarked reserves of £3.496m.

Growing Population

East Lothian is one of a small number of Scottish local authorities with an increasing child population (a 17.1% forecasted increase to 2028/29 for P1 to S6 pupils based on the 2020-census roll). East Lothian also has a rapidly growing general population which is projected to increase by 7.2% (2018 based) by 2028. This is likely to be the second highest increase in the whole of Scotland. East Lothian is a desirable place for families to live and these projections reflect this. However, it is essential for the right supports and services to be put in place to meet the needs of a fast growing subsection of

the county's population. New housing settlements must also be integrated within the current communities, in a time of financial pressure this is a significant challenge for our services.

Free School Meals

Scottish Government's commitment to delivering universal Free School Meals by January 2022 is a welcome decision that will break down the stigma of accessing this useful resource. However, in East Lothian, many of our Primary School campuses do not have the capacity to deliver this extended offer, and capital grants to enhance facilities are not enough to meet school's needs. A range of responses have been needed to manage this challenge.

Governance

The work to tackle child poverty in East Lothian is overseen by a strategic group with multi-agency representation from:

- NHS Lothian
- East Lothian Council (ELC) Financial Inclusion Team
- East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership
- ELC Housing Team
- ELC Education (including East Lothian Works, ELC's employability service)
- ELC Children's Services
- ELC Community Justice
- ELC Economic Development
- Social Security Scotland
- East Lothian Foodbank
- East Lothian Food Friendly Network
- East Lothian Financial Inclusion Network
- East Lothian's Citizens Advice Bureaus
- Volunteer Centre East Lothian (TSI)

This Poverty Working Group reports directly to the East Lothian Partnership Governance Group. Poverty Plan updates have been considered by the Governance Group, which is East Lothian's Community Planning Partnership.

East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian are committed to work together to reduce poverty and its impact on local families. This LCPAR has been approved and signed off by:

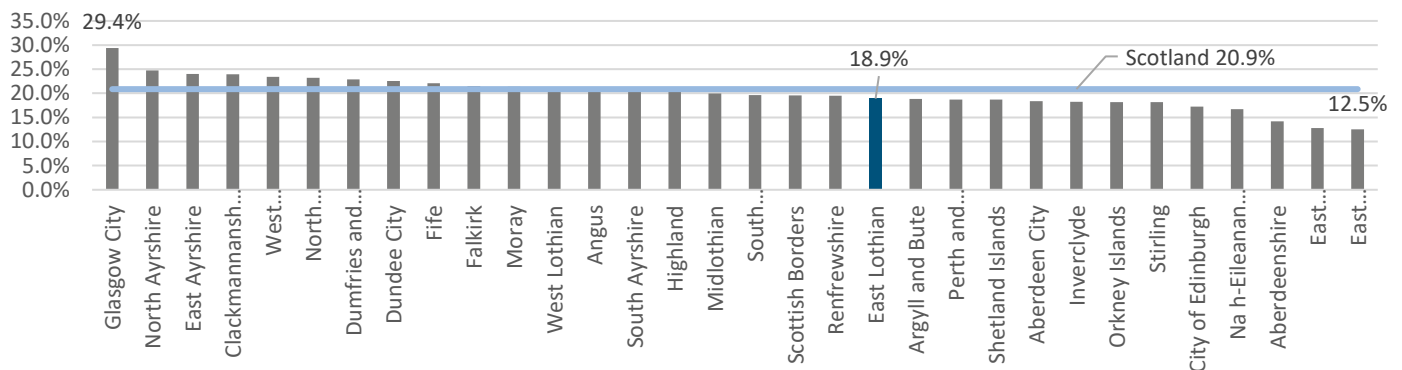
Lesley Brown on behalf of East Lothian Council
Executive Director for Education and Children's Services, East Lothian Council

Dona Milne on behalf of NHS Lothian Board
Director of Public Health, NHS Lothian

Annex 1 – Child Poverty Data

East Lothian Council is developing a new poverty data profile which will help all partners involved in tackling poverty to better understand trends and distribution across the county and within specific populations, communities, and ward areas. This profile draws on new census data and is expected to be published in spring 2024. The following data has been drawn together to support partners in understanding poverty trends in the meantime.

Child Poverty (After Housing Costs) 2020/21



The table below shows that **lone parent households** account for over 40% of children in low income families for both absolute and relative poverty.

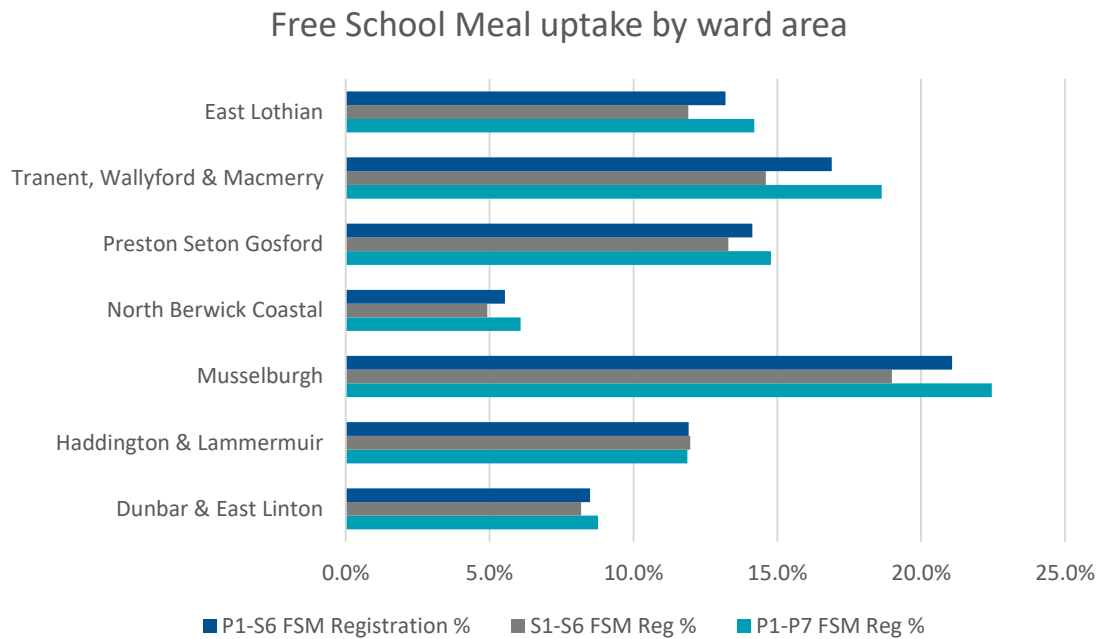
0 to 15 Year olds in Low income lone parent families (2020/21)						
Ward	(Absolute)			(Relative)		
	All Families	Lone Parents	%	All Families	Lone Parents	%
East Lothian	2017	826	41.0%	2485	1076	43.3%
Scotland	118693	53051	44.7%	146076	66935	45.8%

The table below shows the distribution by ward of **children and young people** in low income families.

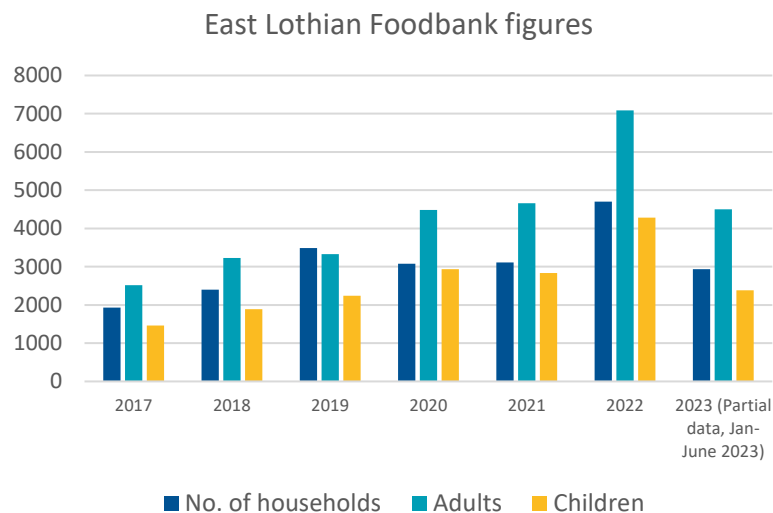
% of 0 to 15 year olds in Low Income Families 2020/21 by ward					
Ward	Relative Poverty	Absolute Poverty	0 to 15 population 2020	% of 0 to 15 population (Relative)	% of 0 to 15 population (Absolute)
Dunbar & East Linton	300	246	3003	10.0%	8.2%
Haddington & Lammermuir	371	293	3488	10.6%	8.4%
Musselburgh	508	406	3153	16.1%	12.9%
North Berwick Coastal	172	153	2484	6.9%	6.2%

Preston Seton Gosford	506	398	3050	16.6%	13.0%
Tranent Wallyford & Macmerry	630	523	4523	13.9%	11.6%
East Lothian	2485	2017	19701	12.6%	10.2%
Scotland	146076	118693	916783	15.9%	12.9%

The graph below shows Free School Meal uptake by age group and ward area for 2022-23.



The graph below shows East Lothian Foodbank's figures, with partial figures for 2023, broken down by household age.



Scottish Welfare Fund

Community Care Grant	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
CCG Applications	2,192	2,211	1,574	1,325
CCG No. Awards	1,445	1,458	1,202	926
CCG Award Rate	65.92%	65.94%	76.37%	69.89%
CCG Total Award	£913,781.00	£710,279.00	£582,632.00	£343,745.00
CCG Average Award	£632.37	£487.16	£484.72	£371.21

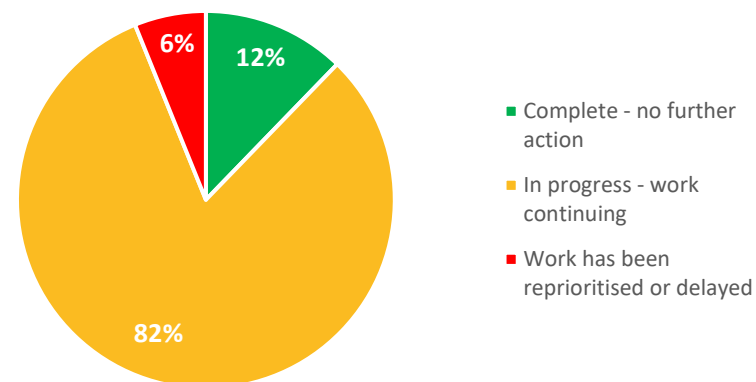
Crisis grant	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
CG Applications	6,281	4,404	3,815	3,788
CG No. Awards	2,912	2,315	2,612	2,060
CG Award Rate	46.36%	52.57%	68.47%	54.38%
CG Total Award	£343,186.37	£264,485.00	£270,062.00	£193,904.00
CG Average Award	£117.85	£114.25	£103.39	£94.13

Annex 2 – East Lothian Poverty Plan 2021-2023

East Lothian Poverty Plan 2021-2023 incorporates East Lothian Partnership's actions to tackle child poverty. The actions marked with an asterisk (*) directly relate to tackling child poverty or mitigating its impact. Other actions will have a positive indirect impact on child poverty levels by improving the community around the child.

As part of the review of the Plan, we have found that across 94% of the 49 actions in the plan, progress has been made, with 12% of actions complete. 82% of actions will continue in future because they remain an ongoing essential element of our early intervention and prevention approach. 6% of actions have been delayed or their delivery has been impacted by Covid and cost of living responses. The full update is given below.

Fig.5 Percentage of actions complete



■	Complete – no further action needed
■	In progress – work will continue in future
■	Not started – this work has been deprioritised or delayed, but will happen in 2024 onwards

Working and free from in-work poverty				
	Objective	Lead service/ partner	New / Further Actions 2021-2023	2022-23 update
1.1	East Lothian Council and East Lothian Partnership should attract good quality jobs into the area, providing	Connected Economy Group	The East Lothian Partnership's Connected Economy Group is focussed on economic recovery from the pandemic using the Recovery Investment Fund and has several	Consultants have been appointed to prepare the new economic strategy. They have been carrying out stakeholder/ community consultations and will present a draft strategy before the end of 2023. Job opportunities and quality jobs:

	opportunities for career progression and in work training to ensure longer-term benefit for both employees and the local economy.		workstreams aimed at increasing good quality job opportunities and supporting people into work and back into work. The renewal of the Economic Development Strategy and supporting Tourism Strategy will be initiated following the completion of the Regional Prosperity Fund.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring the developable land includes business space for employment opportunities Using Fair Work requirements to strongly incentivise real living wage Emphasising the business benefits of fair wages for recruitment and retention of staff Future strategy will include commitment to increasing the social value of financial growth. <p>The strategy will also have a focus on Community Wealth Building</p>
1.2*	East Lothian should become a 'Living Wage' local authority area and East Lothian public sector partners should lead this process by achieving Scottish Living Wage Accreditation.	East Lothian Council / NHS Lothian	<p>The Council will apply for Living Wage Accreditation in 2021 and seek to follow the Scottish Government's lead in Fair Work in employment and procurement practices, such as: Statutory Guidance - Addressing Fair Work Practices, including the Living Wage, in procurement; Best Practice Guidance</p> <p>NHS Lothian will continue to explore how to achieve Living Wage Accreditation.</p>	<p>The council has uplifted wages to meet the Real Living Wage (£10.90 per hour) and is applying for Scottish Living Wage accreditation.</p> <p>Fair Work Practices has embedded in council contracts and in the Procurement Strategy.</p> <p>NHS Lothian has achieved real Living Wage Accreditation and as an anchor institution is supporting other public bodies to become accredited.</p>
1.3*	The council will develop a range of options for childcare for working parents	ELC – Education service	Continue to work with the private and voluntary sector providers to develop innovative ways to deliver	Scottish Government funding allowed Additional summer childcare provision to be provided in 2021 and 2022.

	and carers including parent led childcare opportunities, social enterprises and other models which support parents to return to or sustain employment/ education.		Early Learning and Childcare services to meet the needs of our diverse communities and to put in place plans to meet any further requirements to extend Early Learning and Childcare.	<p>In 2021 a universal offer was available for families to help children and young people transition from lockdowns and social disruption.</p> <p>In 2022 all provision was targeted at children from low income households and additional support needs. This offer included food to reduce holiday hunger levels.</p> <p>Reduced funding announced in late June 2023 only allowed a reduced programme to be provide in summer 2023. There are a number of challenges that need to be addressed to ensure that provision meets demand, including recruitment & retention of workforce and to ensure there are flexible options to suit different requirements.</p>
1.4*	Develop programmes to tackle child poverty through parental employability programmes to support parents to return to work, upskill and progress in work.	East Lothian's Local Employability Partnership	Continue to develop opportunities for eligible parents through the Scottish Government's Tackling Child Poverty funding. This includes paid work experience opportunities, training and skills development and wrap around employability support.	<p>PESF paid work experience – 3 cohorts in schools since March 2022 with a total of 37 placements. To date 14 job outcomes.</p> <p>Further placements in ELC and a Hospitality paid work experience programme due to start January 2023.</p> <p>Income Max service offered to all parents engaging through PESF – financial gain in 22/23 = £173,478.95</p> <p>Delay of Scottish Government grant for 23/24 has impacted on planned delivery in Q1.</p> <p>Tackling Child Poverty funding when received will be used to upscale existing projects such as paid work experience, to reach more parents. This will include parents in 6 priority groups and other low income parents such as kinship carers.</p> <p>A new paid work experience programme for parents is now underway (Oct 23) with 64 parents undertaking a variety of placements in schools</p>

				<p>and nursery settings, including classroom assistants, catering staff and business administration.</p> <p>The small grants programme, managed by East Lothian Works, awarded 3 grants from August 23 – March 24 to run programmes for eligible parents. Grants included Edinburgh College to deliver further qualifications in Early Learning & Childcare (aligned to paid work experience) and Enable to deliver specialist provision to parents with a disability (or a child with a disability). Delay in receiving the grant letter (end of Q1) has impacted on delivery for remainder of year.</p> <p>The Income Maximisation service continues to be offered to all parents engaging with East Lothian Works.</p> <p>Partnership work ongoing to develop Early Learning & Childcare pathways for parents wishing to work in this sector.</p>
1.5*	<p>Implement Developing Scotland's Young Workforce plan for East Lothian.</p> <p>Implement No One Left Behind Delivery Plan for East Lothian</p> <p>Implement UK Shared Prosperity Fund - People and Skills Objectives</p> <p>Work with the business community</p>	East Lothian's Local Employability Partnership	<p>Develop suitable pathways for care experienced young people to access Modern Apprenticeships and appropriate support during and after the job application process.</p> <p>East Lothian Works to continue to deliver Employer Recruitment Incentives (ERIs) to businesses across East Lothian to support employment of young people and adults with barriers to</p>	<p>Foundation Apprenticeships: expanded to deliver 5 frameworks from Aug 23 with over 100 pupils across EL participating to achieve level 6 qualification with industry experience.</p> <p>DYW Coordinators creating meaningful links between industry & education.</p> <p>Yr 1 pilot of Aspire programme across 2 high schools. Partnership with ELW/College and schools to increase school attendance and engagement. Families supported to access income maximisation, family learning and employability support.</p> <p>2022/23 Outcomes for post school young people & adults</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ELW funded providers supported 723 people, with 214 job starts (30%)

	<p>and other partners to provide more support for skills development, focusing on young people and adults further from the labour market.</p>		<p>progress into and sustain employment.</p> <p>East Lothian's Local Employability Partnership to prepare for next phase of No One Left Behind funding</p> <p>Implement Young Person's Guarantee delivery plan for 2021-22 including expanding the number of Employer Recruitment Initiatives / wage subsidies, Modern Apprenticeship opportunities and extend Kickstart opportunities and targeted support for young people with additional barriers, including care experienced and those with disabilities.</p> <p>Edinburgh College to develop new courses to enable increased access by 16-25 year olds and schools college partnership courses aligned to the Pupil Equity Fund.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55% increase in number of people supported by ELW (compared to 21/22) • 135 qualifications gained • 29 people moving into education • 38 People starting work experience • 50 people starting training • 15 starting volunteering • 120 were in a job funded by ELW <p>New Winter and Summer Leaver programmes developed and delivered across all EL high schools. ELW and SDS delivering an 'Opportunities Hub' for young people who are leaving/left school, delivering employability support sessions aimed at supporting them onto a positive destination.</p> <p>Employability + programme is an employability programme for pupils with Additional Support Needs (ASN). The programme has expanded from 17 pupils in 21-22 to 40 pupils in 22-23. The programme runs for 12-20 weeks and focusses on developing employability skills and confidence.</p> <p>2022/23 small grants programme supported:</p> <p>119 participants 46 qualifications 12 work placements 26 into FE/HE/Training/ 4 MAs 38 Job outcomes/ 10 Volunteering</p> <p>Small grants programme for 23/24 funded through UKSPF – People & Skills. 4 grants awarded to deliver to priority groups and in line with LEP KPIs</p>
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				<p>Second round of small grants programme running from August 23 – March 24 – 7 additional grants awarded in line with LMI and LEP KPIs (included 3 for Tackling Child Poverty – see 1.4)</p> <p>Preparation underway for the next phase of NOLB (April 24) although delays in confirmation of funding levels and details of grant by Scottish Government are limited ability to plan and procure.</p> <p>In Q1 of 2023 – 24 ELW or ELW funded providers supported 363 people, with 57 job starts. This represents an 44% increase in the number of people supported compared with Q1 of 22-23 and a 50% increase in the number of people with a job start.</p>
1.6	Ensure adult learning opportunities incorporate the right provision to ensure people can continue to develop and expand their skills and improve access to Further Education	East Lothian Works / Connected Communities/ Edinburgh College	<p>Implement the new Community Learning and Development Plan</p> <p>Continue to provide access to lifelong learning opportunities, including accredited courses for adults across East Lothian to develop skills for the workplace, this includes developing the skills of parents to support their children with learning and for adults to develop appropriate skills for changing labour market.</p> <p>Edinburgh College to increase access for East Lothian</p>	<p>Skills for Work – partnership between ELW and Edinburgh College offered units in Early Learning & Childcare. Sept 21 – June 22, 54 qualifications achieved at Level 4 & 5. 40 learners enrolled Sept 22- Jan 23.</p> <p>ICT and Data Skills – pathway developed to deliver ICT and Data Skills from beginner to SCQF Level 6. Community based learning with wrap around support. Currently at Stage 3 of pathway. Stage 4 started Jan 23.</p> <p>ESOL learning – support for Ukrainian Displaced People – 35 learners engaged. Partnership with SDS to deliver employability support.</p> <p>Justice system and employability – commissioning Heavy Sounds, Access to Industry, Skills Development Scotland and other partners to create opportunities for people who have an active involvement with justice social work (CPOs, supervision), when people leave the service they are referred to other employability options.</p>

			<p>residents living in areas of multiple deprivation.</p> <p>Edinburgh college and the students association will work with students facing financial hardship – by delivering bursaries, discretionary funds, digital devices loans and food and travel security projects.</p> <p>Edinburgh College to widen access to individuals affected by poverty and inequality - new access course level provision, outreach into East Lothian for skills boost courses through outreach centres.</p>	<p>Skills for Work – approx. 17 learners x 2 classes sustaining – expected to achieve units at level 4 & 5 in summer. Progression to college and/or employment in Early Years</p> <p>ICT & Data Skills – 7 learners working at level 5/6 in partnership with Edinburgh College</p> <p>ESOL – 27 learners undertaking SQA assessments June 2023.</p> <p>Ukraine Support – new key worker actively supporting 31 Ukrainians settled in East Lothian to find employment. May 23 – supported 10 so far into employment. ESOL conversation classes running for 6 months up to Nov 23 in Musselburgh and Dunbar. Open to all ESOL learners, particularly refugees with an emphasis on integration and informal language learning.</p> <p>UKSPF – Multiply funding – 4 contracts awarded to Edinburgh College and LEAD Scotland to deliver adult numeracy projects in East Lothian. ELW developing programmes with partners including budgeting skills and parental engagement projects to improvement numeracy skills. In Q1 of 23-24 staff engaged with over 60 organisations, initiating potential programmes for remainder of financial year. 17 parents engaged in pilot numeracy programmes run in partnership with Multiply and schools to increase confidence and skills of parents.</p>
1.7	Support volunteering opportunities as a key way in which to build skills and networks for mutual benefit between	Volunteer Centre East Lothian / Connected Communities Service	All partners will support the implementation of the new Volunteering Strategy for East Lothian.	See volunteering update

	communities and individuals.			
1.8	Deliver the East Lothian Offender Recovery Service (ELORS – Access to Industry) interventions for people with convictions who are seeking entry into Employment, Training or Education	Access to Industry and East Lothian Works	Continue to deliver the East Lothian Offender Recovery Service (ELORS – Access to Industry) programme to support people with convictions to get into employment, training or education and deliver alternative opportunities for people with convictions further along the Skills Pipeline	<p>East Lothian Offender Recovery Service (ELORS) is delivered by Access to Industry supported 39 adults living within East Lothian (2021-22). The project was funded through the East Lothian Challenge Fund and One Partnership Funding. It supported unemployed and low-income people of working age with barriers to employment. The project focussed on adults with offending as their primary barrier to employment, which brought with it additional barriers including mental health, trauma and undiagnosed neurodiversity's, low attainment, and skills. This funding is continuing in 2023-24.</p> <p>Through NOLB Phase 2 Small Grants Programme, ELW funding Access to Industry to deliver ELORS – see 1.5 and 1.6</p> <p>Funding received through Small Grants Programme (funded by UKSPF) for 23/24</p>
1.9	<p>Armed forces leavers are aware of and access, education and employment services in East Lothian</p> <p>Improve recognition amongst local business and employers of transferable skills</p>	East Lothian Armed Forces Covenant Group	<p>Work with the Carer Transition Partnership (CTP) to encourage armed forces leavers to access education and employment support in East Lothian - Improved prospects of education, employment and volunteering for armed forces leavers coming to East Lothian</p> <p>Work with the education sector, local businesses, and voluntary sector to skill match</p>	<p>Connected Economy Group/ East Lothian Works promote armed forces leavers into employment opportunities.</p> <p>East and Midlothian Chambers of Commerce held a joint 'Business Breakfast' in February 2022 to encourage local employees to recruit armed forces leavers.</p> <p>Advertise East Lothian Council employment opportunities on Forces Families Portal, to actively recruit veterans to jobs.</p> <p>East Lothian Employee Recognition scheme was awarded Gold standard in July 2023.</p>

	Opportunities are available to armed forces leaver to retrain to secure alternative employment		and promote education and employment opportunities in East Lothian	
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Financially included – people have access to income maximisation and money advice

	Objectives and Actions	Lead	New or Further Actions 2021-2023	2022-23 update
2.1*	Enhance the impact of independent advice services by improved targeting of income maximisation checks for those who are most vulnerable at the point of need; including, where possible and appropriate, provision of debt and money advice	Communities & Partnerships / Revenues & Benefits services	<p>Continue to work in partnership with East Lothian Advice Consortium (ELAC) and other advice agencies to ensure that independent advice services continue to target income maximisation for those who are most vulnerable</p> <p>Monitor the development of the Community Link Worker service</p> <p>Develop an improved referral system between all services working in East Lothian to encourage closer working and early intervention</p> <p>Support vulnerable young people and families by developing better links and opportunities for coordination between social work and income maximisation services.</p>	<p>The 3-yr contract with East Lothian Advice Consortium has been extended for 2 years at the current rate of funding (to March 2025). This will be monitored against the rising pressure of the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>In 2020-21, 2351 clients accessed the service, with 1313 being new clients. £3,299,264 was secured for 689 CABx clients. People had their income increased from benefits by a total of £2.27m.</p> <p>In 2021-22, 1880 clients accessed the service, with 982 being new clients. £2,362,465 was secured for 489 clients. 221 people had their income increased by a total of £1,466,354.</p> <p>In 2022-23 2,724 clients accessed the service, with 1,660 being new clients. £2,772,993 was secured for 830 clients. 320 people had their income increased by a total of £1,800,620.</p> <p>In September-October 2022 East Lothian Council ran a general awareness and benefits uptake campaign. As well as universal awareness this was targeted at under-claimed benefits including Pension Credit and Best Start grants.</p> <p>Support was provided for a further month by Haddington CAB. 64 new clients accessed £124,763 financial gains particularly around PIP and ADP.</p> <p>A new project launched in Oct 2022 by East Lothian Foodbank in partnership with Musselburgh CAB enables those referred to the</p>

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

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

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

2.6*	Financial education should be included in the curriculum from an early age to ensure that young people, including care experienced young people have the financial capability they need for the future.	Education and Children's / Community Housing / Connected Communities	<p>Increase financial education and 'life skills' as part of the curriculum</p> <p>Put in place a learning and development programme for foster carers/ Kinship carers and residential workers to ensure care experienced young people have the financial capability they need for the future.</p>	<p>VCEL have hosted various community focused financial inclusion events, including sessions with local credit unions providing access to safe loans. They have also provided sessions with Social Security Scotland on their offer to families.</p> <p>The Financial Inclusion and Education services have been exploring new ways of working together, including initial information sessions for Equity School and Family Support Worker staff about how the support that FI team provides to families.</p>
2.7	Employees should have access to advice services when needed e.g. information about Macmillan Support for those who are affected by cancer	Financial Inclusion Service/ NHS Lothian	The Macmillan Improving the Cancer Journey service will offer tailored advice and support to people affected by cancer in relation to non-clinical issues including employment, housing and financial inclusion	The Council's Cost of Living leaflet has been updated on several occasions. It promotes a wide range of financial and social supports available. This information is also promoted on the website, and is available in print at public buildings, in food parcel provision, and through a range of other targeted provision.
2.8*	Tackle 'period poverty' by ensuring access to a choice of period products for those who need them	Policy, Improvement and Partnerships/ Education Service	Continue to Implement the preferred scheme to deliver access to period products and promotes choice in Schools and the community	<p>Period products are being delivered to people in East Lothian through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vouchers distributed through community partners • Bulk supply in libraries • Caught short provision in schools, public buildings and community buildings, and at Enjoy Leisure sites • Scottish Welfare Fund grant top up for all menstruating household members.

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

	Objectives and Actions	Lead	New or Further Actions 2021-2023	2022-23 updates
3.1*	Increase supply and range of affordable housing options	ELC – Housing Strategy and Development	<p>The Housing Strategy and house completion targets will be reviewed in 2021 to take account of the impact of COVID-19</p> <p>Implement the Wheelchair Accessible Housing targets across all tenures (Housing Strategy & Development / Planning) and increase the supply of accessible and adaptable provision, suitable for those with mental ill health, autism, and/or learning disabilities</p>	<p>East Lothian's Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) delivered a total of 995 new affordable homes during the previous LHS period (2018-2023). Of the 995 new affordable homes delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 643 were new build social rents. • 100 Open Market Acquisitions for social rent. • 229 were Mid-market rents. • 23 were low-cost ownerships. <p>In 2022, a new provision of core and cluster flats for individuals with mental health conditions was opened to replace previous bedsit provision. The new housing provision encompasses 8 individual flats alongside a staff base for 24/7 care and support provided by a specialist provider.</p> <p>The 2021 unmet need for wheelchair accessible housing in East Lothian was estimated to be 430 households. The LHS 2024-2029 sets out Wheelchair housing targets to meet the current unmet demand. The LHS 2024-2029 commits to 10% of the total supply of new affordable housing being wheelchair accessible, with a minimum of at least 100 units to be delivered over the five years.</p>

3.2*	Increase supply of appropriate temporary accommodation to reduce the reliance on B&B accommodation and provide improved long-term outcomes for those who find themselves homeless.	ELC – Community Housing/ Homelessness service / Housing Strategy & Development	<p>Implement the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and Housing First initiatives including specific gendered response for women subjected to domestic abuse with co-occurring mental ill health and/or substance misuse.</p> <p>Implement prevention guidance as per the Scottish Government’s Prevention Review Recommendations for at risk groups; specifically, young people leaving care, people subjected to domestic abuse, people leaving prison, people with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), people leaving hospital without suitable accommodation and people leaving the armed forces.</p> <p>Implement Sustainable Housing On Release for Everyone (SHORE) standards across all tenures for people leaving prison.</p>	<p>Progress of East Lothian’s RRTP has been delayed as resources were reprioritised to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic and the refugee crisis following the war in Ukraine. This has limited the number and success of actions delivered within the RRTP.</p> <p>Housing First for Women was implemented using a two-year funding grant- between April 2021 and March 2023. The project concluded with its funding in March 2023. An exit strategy to the project was developed to ensure the 10 women involved were best supported. An evaluation is due by the end of January 2024.</p> <p>Prevention Review Recommendations will be put into legislation via Housing 2023 after the summer recess. According to the latest updates, the Housing Bill, which will include new prevention duties, is expected in the later half of 2023. There has not been any more information/updates which confirms when this Bill will be published.</p> <p>Sustainable Housing On Release for Everyone SHORE standards were delayed locally until early 2023. Through commitments in the LHS 2024-2029, East Lothian Council Justice and Housing Services will continue to work closely together to implement SHORE as far as possible, taking into consideration any new pathways or requirements brought forward by the Scottish Government Prevention of Homelessness Duties legislation.</p> <p>ELC struggles to meet the Unsuitable Accommodation Order, due to lack of affordable housing and temporary accommodation and is frequently in breach of this legislative requirement.</p>
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3.3*	Increase the awareness and uptake of energy efficiency advice and improve tenant and owner understanding of energy efficiency across all tenures	Housing Strategy & Development / Estates	<p>Implement the Scheme of Assistance and Below Tolerable Standards Strategy.</p> <p>Deliver a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy when it becomes a Statutory Duty by 2023.</p>	<p>By late 2022 the level of demand for energy advice has exceeded the capacity of the Changeworks Energy Advice Service. The Council explored alternative funding options via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £45,000 Area Based Scheme funding; • £15,000 from Housing Strategy Development; • £19,578 from the Housing Revenue Account. <p>Scheme of Assistance and BTS Strategy to be implemented 2024.</p> <p>LHEES post was filled in May 2023 and the strategy is in development</p>
3.4*	Reduce Fuel Poverty	Community Housing and Housing Strategy & Development / Estates	<p>Improve knowledge of the levels, extent and nature of fuel poverty and energy efficiency of housing</p> <p>Continue to provide / facilitate services to maximise household income / reduce household debt and to target energy efficiency advice at households most at risk of fuel poverty</p> <p>Support measures to reduce the cost of fuel to households and communities where practical and continue to explore options around renewable energy (including solar PV installation), bulk buying, heat exchange, battery storage and cheaper preferred energy supplier for council housing.</p>	<p>See 3.3 above</p> <p>From October 2022 – March 2023 The Community Windpower Energy Fund provided almost £800,000 in fuel payments to East Lothian residents who are eligible for means-tested benefits.</p>

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

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

	Objectives and Actions	Lead	New or Further Actions 2021-2023	2022-23 update
4.1	East Lothian Education service will develop clear policies to reduce inequality in schools, and develop a whole school approach to raising awareness of the impact of poverty on education and what education can do to mitigate poverty and break the cycle of poverty.	ELC – Education and Children’s Service	<p>Implement a monitoring / tracking tool for broad general education and the senior phase to help to identify and monitor the attainment gap and to prioritise key improvements required linked to Strategic Equity Funding ‘Stretch Aims’.</p> <p>‘Poverty, Equality and Inclusion Toolkit’ for Early Years Services and related training is being developed. School Reviews and Service level Agreements include a focus on poverty and the use of SIMD and other data to demonstrate school commitment and progress to reducing inequalities in schools.</p> <p>Raise awareness and understanding of the impact of Child Poverty by delivering the 1 in 5 training to Head Teachers, teachers and school based staff and deliver briefings and training sessions to Children’s Services staff.</p>	<p>QIO Equity post recruited to – September 2022 – with a responsibility for coordination of equity work and interventions at a strategic and school level. This is in line with the attainment and health and wellbeing stretch aims associated with the Strategic Equity Fund which is part of the Scottish Government’s Attainment Challenge.</p> <p>EL schools and the Quality Improvement Team have used live attainment data from SEEMiS to monitor pupil progress from Primary 1 to S3. Schools use this to interrogate pupil progress data and to accurately identify where attainment gaps occur and the potential reasons for these. This informed the strategic allocation of resources to better meet the learning needs of identified pupils</p> <p>The 1 in 5 training has not yet happened but will likely go ahead this session.</p>
4.2	Schools need to develop a real understanding of the way in which poverty affects	Education and	The framework for the implementation of the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) will continue to support	New PEF guidance has been provided for schools, formalising PEF processes. Quality Improvement Officer for Equity’s role is in supporting and challenging

	attainment and work to reduce the poverty related attainment gap	Children's Service	<p>schools to plan interventions that impact positively on outcomes for learners who are affected by poverty. Guidance to support schools with PEF was produced.</p> <p>Ensure the recommendations of the Poverty Related Attainment Gap Workstream support schools to reduce the poverty related attainment gap and evaluate the effectiveness of their PEF interventions.</p>	<p>to use stretch aims and smart targets, so that all interventions are targeted.</p> <p>Monthly data trackers sent to schools, for real time understanding of where they're at against their data (including attendance) – seeing faster and more focused interventions, and more focused support from the Quality Improvement Officer.</p> <p>At the February 2023 in-set day all schools provided with equity focussed materials.</p> <p>East Lothian Equity Network has been established with four primaries and two secondary schools to explore effective interventions to address PRAG (these schools have the largest numbers of Quintile 1 pupils).</p>
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	Support the implementation and roll out and take of the Scottish Government's initiatives to tackle food insecurity among children and young people including extension of Free School Meal provision throughout the year and to additional age groups, introducing a new Healthy Milk Snack and providing wrap around care, including breakfast and after school provision for vulnerable children	<p>East Lothian Council facilitated a Scottish Government-funded initiative to provide targeted access to activities, childcare and food for children age 5-14 from low income families throughout the 2022 summer holiday period.</p> <p>Free School Meal provision was extended to all P1-P5 pupils in 2022-23 as part of the Scottish Government programme. In June 2022, 12.5% of P1-S6 pupils in East Lothian Council schools were registered for Free School Meals. Some schools have elected to use PEF for wraparound care of their targeted Q1 children, but this is not a universal approach.</p>

4.4	Reduce the digital divide and digital exclusion among children and young people, including care experienced young people	ELC – Education and Children’s Service (Schools Digital Group) / Connected Communities	<p>Schools will further develop how they use their existing digital resources to support wider engagement and development of digital skills to underpin the curriculum, and support children, young people and their families to engage with learning.</p> <p>Particular focus will be taken of the digital needs of care experienced young people</p>	<p>Work to enhance and support the curriculum using IT is ongoing with the Deputy Head Teachers group increasing its offer especially to pupils in Advanced Highers. The team are developing a new strategy for learning online which will see increases of devices in schools from 1:5 to 1:2, increasing equity and access to technology.</p> <p>During Covid 2000 Chromebooks were assigned to East Lothian. Since transitioning back to full time classroom learning these were unused and unneeded. East Lothian Council issued a recall and distributed to schools, giving autonomy to Heads for school use with a focus on ASN and SIMD.</p> <p>The digital team is managing classroom specification across the estate to ensure equitable distribution, including access to digital, art, music, and sporting equipment.</p>
4.5	Increase the number of residents from specific target groups accessing local sport and leisure facilities at reduced rates, including a review of peak time access for those with Leisure Cards	Active Schools & Enjoy Leisure	<p>Design and promote encompassing “Reducing Barriers to Sport & Activity” booklet</p> <p>Promote, monitor and evaluate impact of the developments of the Access to Leisure Scheme.</p> <p>Review the peak time access for the leisure card (currently can only be used from 9-4 Mon to Thurs).</p>	<p>Free Active School activities offered to those entitled to Free School Meals and all Care Experienced Young People; exploring potential to expand this to include young carers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Between 01/04/22 and 02/02/23 the Active Schools Promo Code for Young People registered for Free School meals, or Care experienced has been used to the value of £2983.80 - Between 01/04/22 and 02/02/23 the Active Schools Promo Code for Young People registered as Young Carers has been used to the value of £1030.00

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussions with enjoyleisure about expanding the access to leisure scheme. <p>Recycling sports equipment: each Secondary School and enjoyleisure sports centre has a collection point for the EL Kit Stop</p> <p>Establishing East Lothian Sports Club Membership Scheme – ongoing; in the final stages of preparing to launch EL Accreditation Scheme, Good To Go, which will help develop the Sports Club Membership Scheme</p> <p>Establishing Walk With School and Connected Community Access Funds. Funds established, though the referral form is being reviewed.</p> <p>ELC Scorecard is under review for 2023/24 to record more of the targeted work being progressed.</p>
4.6	Support from the Start local initiatives to support the best start in life for children and young people	NHS Lothian, Support from the Start	Continue to support 'Support from the Start' groups	<p>Support from the Start groups operate across the county and run activities based on local need, including nutrition groups, raising kids with confidence and other parenting groups. Increasingly working on intensive family support.</p> <p>Child Planning Framework – Locality Teams (CPF-LTs) have been established with the aim of having one in each locality by June 24.</p>
4.7	Work with Parent Council's and PTA's to raise awareness of the impact of poverty and the cost of the school day.	Education/ NHS Lothian / Connected Communities	Continue to raise awareness of the impact of poverty and the cost of the school day including:	Guidance has been developed to support equitable considerations around school visits. Schools use an EVOLVE process to ensure that learners are supported,

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering the cost implications of fund raising activity and the impact of other hidden costs of the school day • Taking innovative approaches to reducing the cost of the school day • Family and community-based learning and the CLD Plan 	<p>with reducing costs and providing best value core elements.</p> <p>Focus groups have been held in primary schools with children, parents and carers on the key findings on poverty and attainment.</p> <p>Engagement sessions around SEF have been held for school staff, third sector, Children's Services, around what the fund is for and what they're doing.</p>
4.8	Provide additional targeted support for those families at particular risk of hardship and vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people, including those with care experience, and their families, to engage better with education	Education and Children's Services	<p>Establish an Inclusion and Wellbeing Support Team for the provision of additional targeted support for those families at particular risk of hardship.</p> <p>This will involve interventions which will directly support individuals and families to engage effectively with learning, particularly in situations where vulnerability and deprivation are factors. This could include provision for children with additional support for learning such as additional or enhanced tutoring and mentoring programmes.</p>	<p>The Throughcare and Aftercare team have resurrected the mum's group for 8 care experienced young people. A crèche is provided and the focus will be led by the parents but guided by promoting parenting and offering activities which offer stimulation and the needs of the children. Employability workers will be invited along to one of the sessions too.</p> <p>Strategic Equity fund has funded 6 Principal Teachers of Equity at each Secondary School (excluding Rosehill). Monthly data sets related to attainment gap guide strategic interventions. Teams are working collaboratively to share good practice around identified priorities and school tracking systems.</p> <p>3 family support workers are working in 3 Primary Schools (Preston Tower, Musselburgh Burgh, Sandersons Wynd) supporting children and families affected by poverty with core objectives.</p>

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

	Objectives and Actions	Lead	New or Further Actions 2021-2023	2022-23 update
5.1*	Reduce health inequalities	NHS Lothian / Health & Social Care Partnership	<p>Work is about to commence on the next iteration of the IJB Strategic Plan (the current one runs up to 2022), this will also have a focus on health inequalities and will cross reference the East Lothian Poverty Plan.</p> <p>Tackling Type 2 diabetics – interagency whole systems approach as part of the obesity strategy will look at tackling structural influences such as poverty</p>	<p>Three of the IJB's objectives specifically address Health Inequalities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver New Models of Community Provision • Working Collaboratively with Communities • Focus on Prevention and Early Intervention <p>NHS Lothian Partnership & Place team are established and working collaboratively across the partnerships with a focus on supporting evidence-based practice to address inequalities.</p>
5.2	Support those with additional health needs or disabilities through person centred approaches and investment in modern technology which enable people to maintain their independence, self-esteem and established	Health & Social Care Partnership	<p>Continue to develop and implement self-directed support where personal budgets can be used to meet outcomes for children and young and their families including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telecare (TEC) – work ongoing around embedding TEC in the heart of the assessment and support planning process is fundamental to developing our 	<p>The Telecare Team (part of ELRS) provide a range of telecare equipment to support individuals including community alarms and pendants, devices to help detect a fall and environmental sensors to help protect the person in their own home such as fire safety. The team also train colleagues from other HSCP and Housing services to raise awareness and promotes a 'TEC first' approach.</p>

	social networks is important.		<p>(H&SC) approach to maintain independence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Try another way – Doing things differently; joint work with Social Work Scotland and In Control (Scotland) to test out the use of personal budgets in supporting children and families to stay together. 	
5.3	Improve access to adult mental health services	ELHSCP	<p>Implement the actions from the first stage of the review of Mental Health services.</p> <p>The Care When it Counts Mental Health team will link into the Primary Care Financial Inclusion Pathway</p>	<p>The CWIC MH Service moved from the Primary Care to the Mental Health Directorate during 2021/22. Demand for the CWIC MH Service increased significantly over the year, with no unused appointments from July 2021. The team grew by an additional 3.5 full time posts during the year, including the addition of an Occupational Therapy Assistant Practitioner to support community focused work.</p> <p>The additional staffing means that around 208 appointments can now be offered per week, compared to 140 per week the previous year (still allowing time for team meetings, supervision, and staff development).</p> <p>Individuals can be referred to the service by their GP or other professional, and a growing number contacted the service directly without the need for a referral – ‘self-referrals’ grew from 15% in 2020/21 to 28% in 2021/22.</p>
5.4*	Improving children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing.	East Lothian Children’s	Implement the Children & Young People’s Services Plan (2020–23) to	Single Point of Access has been established. It is tasked with reducing the waiting times and waiting lists for young people receiving help from resources such as CAMHS. Mental Health Strategic and Operational groups have now

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

Resilient and Well Connected; connected public services taking a prevention and early intervention approach to tackling poverty

	Objectives and Actions	Lead	New or Further Actions 2021-2023	2022-23 update
6.1	All sectors and communities work in partnership to take a prevention and early intervention approach to reduce poverty and tackle the causes of poverty	East Lothian Partnership/ Connected Communities/ VCEL	Review, refresh and implement Area Plans with a focus on reducing inequalities and poverty Implement the new Community and Development Plan	The Community Learning and Development Plan is published and in place; this is a living document adapting to any changes. Increasingly the focus of Connected Communities' work has been on cost of living crisis and alleviating poverty.
6.2*	Review delivery of family support across East Lothian to improve co-ordination and links with other relevant services	Children's Services	Deliver the 'Intensive Family Support Service' in Musselburgh East alongside the 'Our Families' Project Implement the re-design of inclusion and family support services and the closer links with other Children's services, Education and East Lothian Works	The new Whole Family Wellbeing Fund is a £579k project with two funding elements that straddles education/children's services. Fa'side, Tranent and Dunbar have been identified as the key focus of attention. For 23 months the team will focus on building sustainably, including a participation worker scoping what support is there, what the community needs. 4 community pathfinders will be signposting to existing services. The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund element 2 is being delivered by the Families Together East Lothian (FTEL) team who have supported 47 children in the period between March-Sep 2023. The 2 Participation Officers have now completed the 'Discovery' phase for Fa'side/Tranent and are now beginning the

				<p>'Discovery' phase in Dunbar. There are currently 4 Family Outreach Workers under element 2 and we are soon to be recruiting for 2 Community Pathfinders to support with data research and learning. We are working with the communities to gather Voice and continue to monitor and review our project plan regularly with support from Scottish Government and CELSIS.</p>
6.3	Address the Digital Divide	Connected Communities	<p>Increase access to wifi in public spaces including maximising the use of existing IT resources across the county.</p> <p>Review the Digital Inclusion Strategy.</p> <p>Explore introduction of non-commercial tariff for digital broadband to be available to all social housing tenants and develop access to WiFi and broadband.</p> <p>Edinburgh College to promote travel support and digital inclusion for East Lothian students at the College; increasing take up of travel bursaries increasing take up of digital device loan scheme, promoting sustainable travel options like lift share schemes.</p>	<p>Scotland's Tech Army has supported 5 community projects, 2 in Dunbar and 3 in Musselburgh.</p> <p>ECSA developed a new travel Hub for students on their website - Travel Hub ECSA.</p> <p>ECSA and Edinburgh College developed a lift share scheme for students to reduce travel costs - Edinburgh College staff & students community - part of the Liftshare network</p> <p>The College delivered comms and marketing campaign to encourage take up of the NEC and free bus travel.</p> <p>The College loaned around 100 digital devices to students from East Lothian.</p>
6.4	East Lothian will have well connected communities with increased use of sustainable transport	Roads Services	<p>Develop a more integrated travel solutions that better meet local need, particularly in more rural areas.</p> <p>The Council working in partnership with Sustran, Fife Council, Liftango, Via, Fuse and</p>	<p>Active travel including cycling and walking:</p> <p>Removing barriers – safety on cycling, more safe and appropriate routes. Mitigating cost (e.g. of bike/e-bike) and storage issues.</p>

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

Empowered and Responsible - citizens and communities are empowered to influence policy and the council and partners take responsibility to reduce poverty

	Objectives and Actions	Lead	New or Further Actions 2021-2023	2022-23 update
7.1*	Ensure people with lived experience of poverty and inequality have an input into the development and monitoring of policies and actions aiming to reduce poverty and inequality		People with lived experience will be actively engaged in the East Lothian Poverty Partnership, monitoring implementation of the Poverty Plan and development of the next Action Plan	<p>A new universally accessible digital platform is being piloted. Consul will have a specific project area focused on poverty and inequality. Ideas will be tested here, and people with lived experience will be able to comment and shape policy.</p> <p>The Working for Change Collective is a lived experience group with the tag line “Voices are heard, Action is taken, A response is given”, improving communication, accountability, and input of communities.</p> <p>A steering group has been established to ensure collaboration across the Council services.</p>
7.2	East Lothian Council and the East Lothian Partnership will continue their strong commitment to tackling poverty and inequality as a core ambition. Organisational leaders will promote the vision for a fairer and more equal East Lothian gaining full organisational	East Lothian Partnership	East Lothian Council and the East Lothian Partnership will continue their strong commitment to tackling poverty and inequality as a core ambition and provide leadership to ensure the Poverty Plan is implemented	The 2022-2027 Council Plan has Reducing poverty and inequalities as one of its three overarching objectives.

	buy in to achieving real change.			
7.3*	East Lothian Partnership partners should continue to use the Integrated Impact Assessment processes as a tool to understand the impact of decisions in relation to poverty	ELC – Corporate Policy & Improvement NHS Lothian ELHSCP	The Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) will be reviewed to ensure it incorporates the Children’s Rights Impact Assessment A training programme will be established to ensure staff are aware of, understand and effectively use the IIA process	The Council’s IIA has been reviewed and incorporates Human and Children’s Rights A training programme is to be developed
7.4	Commitment to Community Empowerment to enable further involvement of local communities including the development of Participatory Budgeting	East Lothian Partnership	The council will develop proposals to ensure it continues to meet the commitment that 1% of revenue budgets will be devoted to mainstreaming Participatory Budgeting	Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership ran a Participatory Budgeting exercise using a new online platform. Some Area Partnership funding streams have involved local communities in their voting, though work will continue on improving this process.
7.5	Ensure that all areas of East Lothian continue to be supported in tenant participation activity, giving residents a range of opportunities for local involvement that suit them.	ELC – Community Housing in partnership with ELTRP		A new Tenants Participation Strategy has been developed in partnership with ELTRP. Increase tenants awareness of rights in the Private Rented Sector (Licencing / Housing Strategy & Development / Housing Options Team)

7.6	Develop relevant poverty awareness and sensitivity training for all those working in service design and delivery and those involved in making funding decisions at local community level.	ELC – Corporate Policy & Improvement	Review and relaunch of the 'Understanding Poverty' E-learning module targeted at all staff and available to community groups	<p>This work has not progressed, some e-learning remains in place.</p> <p>A trauma-informed officer has been recruited and will develop our trauma informed approach, linking in with the service design around poverty.</p>
7.7	Ensure that the voices of those experiencing disadvantage are included within Area Partnerships so that they are informed by a sound understanding of poverty and inequality	ELC – Communities & Partnerships	The Council and its partners will continue to work toward building community capacity, leadership and resilience and responsibility to enable and empower local communities to take forward initiatives which mobilise community spirit to tackle poverty and inequality and make a positive difference in people's lives.	New Network for Change (collaboration between VCEL, NHS Lothian and East Lothian Council) provides a forum for statutory services, third sector partners, and people with lived experience to collaborate around tackling poverty measures.