

Single Midlothian Plan 2019-20

Report by Grace Vickers, Chief Executive

1 Purpose of Report

The Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board approved the attached annual plan, outcomes and indicators at its meeting of 23 April 2019. This report to Council seeks formal endorsement of the attached plan, outcomes and indicators, and their adoption as the strategic plan for Midlothian Council under which the service plans for Council services will operate.

2 Background

The Community Planning Partnership established under the Local Government Act 2003, and now strengthened legislatively by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, is required to submit a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan each year to the Scottish Government. This plan must set out what shared local outcomes the partners are pursuing within the outcomes framework established by the National Delivery Group for Community Planning led by Scottish Ministers and including COSLA, SOLACE, Accounts Commission and Improvement Service representation.

- 2.1** The Midlothian Community Planning Partnership Board, in which the Council is a leading partner, is now a statutory board, under the terms of the Community Empowerment Act 2015. New governance documents have been approved by all partners including the Council last year. The revised governance proposals extended elected member direct involvement in the partnership structures with all 3 parties represented at the CPP Board. The governance proposal confirms the links between statutory boards for adult health and social care (Integrated Joint Board, IJB) and community safety and justice (CSJPB) and the CPP Board, and notes elected member representation arrangements in these are set out in separate legislation. The revised governance arrangements also proposed nomination of elected members to join the three other thematic partnership groups: Getting It Right for Every Midlothian Child (GIRFEMC), with its statutory duty to deliver an integrated children and young people's plan; Improving Opportunities for the People of Midlothian, with a remit for addressing inequality, increasing employability and delivering the statutory duty to have a plan for learning and community development; and Sustainable Growth, which brings together physical development planning with economic development, housing and the environment.
- 2.2** Key requirements of the Act in respect of community planning are set out in appendix 1. The Council agreed in 2012/13 to adopt the Single Midlothian Plan (SMP) as its strategic plan, and to require services to have regard to the outcomes set out in this when creating their annual service plans.

2.3 Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) are required under the new Act to mobilise public sector assets, activities and resources, together with those of the voluntary and private sectors and local communities, to deliver a shared plan to improve outcomes in Midlothian. This document is now referred to in the Act as the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan. The Midlothian version of this, “The Single Midlothian Plan”, uses an evidence-based approach, underpinned by data, to drive improvement in meeting the differing needs of local populations and client groups. It includes performance commitments leading to demonstrable improvements in people’s lives; focuses upon reducing outcome gaps within populations and between areas; and promotes early intervention, co-production and preventative approaches aimed at reducing outcome inequalities. It also identifies priorities for interventions that include plans for prevention, integration and improvement to promote better partnership working and more effective use of public assets and resources.

2.4 The shared planning cycle of the partners is as follows:

- **Annual revision of the Midlothian Profile: March-April**
(a comprehensive data set of information about the area, updated annually by the community planning research and information group)
- **Revision of the Strategic Assessment: April–June**
(a business planning and risk assessment process undertaken by the thematic partnerships)
- **Public engagement processes: July – September**
(Citizens panel and stakeholder engagement led by the community engagement sub group of the partnership)
- **Drafting of budgets and one year priorities: October – December**
(Each partner agency is able to use the priorities to contribute to their budget setting processes)
- **Achieving formal approval of plans and budgets: January – March**

2.5 Local Priorities

As a final part of this planning cycle, the CPP as a whole (up to 130 delegates from public and private sector partner agencies, council, community councils and third sector representatives) meets annually in November to debate progress and identify forward priorities.

The CPP remains focussed on the following three priorities for the period 2019-22:

- Reducing the gap in learning outcomes
- Reducing the gap in health outcomes
- Reducing the gap in economic circumstances

It is clear that these new priorities build on work previously undertaken within Midlothian. They recognise the importance of learning and attainment from early years through to positive destinations, the criticality of addressing health inequalities as set out in the Midlothian Integrated Joint Board’s Integration Plan, and the significant negative impact of inequalities in economic circumstances and opportunity. Whilst developed locally they reflect the national priorities of addressing health inequality; closing the gap in learning and inclusive economic growth and the CPP has committed to working together to address these priorities. The young people of Midlothian, 550 of whom were involved in the preparation of the SMP in 2018/19, made clear that their first priority was safety. The CPP Board has asked that the GIRFEMC and Community Safety and Justice Boards collaborate in 2019-20 to investigate the nature of the concerns being expressed by children and young people and agree appropriate actions.

2.6 The three “approaches” - Preventive intervention; Changing access; Capacity building and co-production

At the beginning of 2012-13 Midlothian Council initiated a project to consider how it should reshape its values and its operating systems. This project, known as the “Future Models of Service Delivery”, was the subject of public engagement alongside the CPP’s engagement processes, seeking views on partnership priorities. The recommendations from this were approved by the Council in January 2013. Agreement was reached by all partners to adopt, as far as possible in their context, the same three principles as appropriate ways for local public services to develop. These three ways are:

Preventive intervention

The term prevention refers to the ways in which public services, including the voluntary sector (and citizens), can act now to prevent increased need for public services in future by helping people to retain their independence in the face of age, ill health, disability or other challenges; or to achieve self-supporting life circumstances requiring much reduced future public support by overcoming difficulties associated with poverty, unemployment, addiction or exposure to crime and related issues.

Building communities’ capacity to manage their own affairs and co-production of public services with service users and communities

Working with communities of place, interest or need to plan, develop and maintain public services; potentially transferring some public assets to community ownership or management; co-designing with service users and their families.

Shifting where and how the public can access services

For example: making access local through shared public buildings; changing working hours; moving to online, digital or telephone access; delivering a variety of services through community owned buildings.

2.7 Area targeting

At the 2013 annual planning event the CPP agreed to add a further dimension to how it sets priorities. For many years there has been a significant statistical gap between the outcomes for residents living in parts of the County and the average outcomes for Midlothian and Scotland as a whole.

These areas have been identified nationally by Scottish Government by use of 7 sets of statistical data about living circumstances known as the Scottish Indicators of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). The national approach is to recognise that areas which fall into the top 20% of SIMD (i.e. most deprived) and require a particular focus to reduce the gap between the outcomes for people in these communities and the Scottish averages. In Midlothian there are three communities within which there are concentrations of statistics which place parts of these areas in the top 20% of SIMD.

These communities are:

Dalkeith Central/Woodburn, Mayfield/Easthouses, and Gorebridge. New small areas have also emerged in the 2016 SIMD in Bonnyrigg and Loanhead.

The CPP has therefore decided to set a clear shared target of closing the gap between the outcomes experienced in these parts of Midlothian and the average outcomes experienced by residents across the County. It is also recognised that there are areas of relative disadvantage in other communities across Midlothian and so closing the outcomes gap for residents affected across all areas of the county is also important.

This decision means that partners will work together to give priority to actions in these three geographies, developing ideas in partnership with local people and the community agencies they lead.

Indicators of performance must now consider the outcomes gaps between local geographies and between Midlothian and Scotland averages

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

The Single Midlothian Plan for 2019-20 comprises outcome indicators agreed with Community Planning partners. The designated members of the CPP Board are now required by law under the Community Empowerment Act 2015 Section 9 (3) to provide joint resourcing of actions to improve agreed outcomes, and to jointly resource the CPP processes to enable community participation in decision making. In particular 5 core partners (Council, NHS, Fire, Police and Scottish Enterprise) must co-facilitate the arrangements for community planning.

The Council has already agreed to align its planning, both operational and financial, with the priorities in the Single Midlothian Plan; and service plans have been constructed to support the priorities set in the plan, within the resource constraints affecting the Council.

The Council has also piloted mechanisms for sharing of resource decisions with its communities by developing and piloting the process of participatory budgeting as previously reported to Council in November 2015, June 2017 and October 2018. A pilot in the Dalkeith/Danderhall ward is planned in 2019-20 to develop a mechanism for citizen participation in the allocation of budgets formerly held by elected members for small capital works.

3.2 Risk

By ensuring that appropriate, measurable outcome indicators are in the Plan, the Partnership is in a better position to ensure it is working effectively towards improving quality of life in Midlothian.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☒ Community safety
- ☒ Adult health, care and housing
- ☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☒ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☒ Sustainable growth
- ☒ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

The CPP has chosen to focus on three priorities:

- Reducing the gap in learning outcomes
- Reducing the gap in health outcomes
- Reducing the gap in economic circumstances

This does not describe all the outcomes across the 5 strands of CPP activity, which are set out in the attached plan, but reflects the consensus on top priorities for improvement arrived at by partners through the annual planning cycle.

Whilst being clear about the focus on the council's contribution to these three key outcomes, Council service plans will also demonstrate links to the wider set of shared outcomes and statutory requirements.

3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The Plan outlines how the Community Planning Partnership will deliver our priorities for Midlothian and therefore contribute to the achievement of the 15 national outcomes outlined by Scottish Government.

Performance management reports are produced every six months, and enable the contributions of partners to be seen. The Board and the Council have agreed to focus on the three key priorities set out earlier in this report, and a dashboard of performance indicators has been developed to give the Board an overview of performance on these three areas specifically.

3.6 Localising Access / sharing decision making

The CPP has established an area targeting model to take forward co-decision making with local community agencies and partners as required by the Community Empowerment Act 2015. The remit of the priority areas partnership group is:

“To ensure the engagement of all relevant stakeholders and to oversee the development and implementation of local co-produced action plans to reduce the identified outcome gaps for residents in Dalkeith/Woodburn, Mayfield/Easthouses and Gorebridge”.

Recognising that access to high quality, rapidly responding, locally accessible services that prevent escalation of issues for residents is core to success in closing the outcomes gap.

3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Consultation/engagement on proposed priorities took place during the period June to September through community planning strategic groups, their sub groups on specific topic areas, citizens' panel, on line and in stakeholder meetings, and at the annual community planning day in November 2018

3.8 Ensuring Equalities

Equalities issues are key and a separate section of the plan identifies the proposed specific improvement actions by partners for 2019-20. Each theme has also considered the implications of their work through an impact assessment

3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

The necessary processes are in place to examine progress in agreeing the plan to ensure any requirements for a Strategic Environment Assessment are met.

3.10 IT Issues

There are no specific IT issues

4 Summary

This report presents the updated Single Midlothian Plan, some minor changes in the document will still be made prior to publication to improve layout. As in the past 2 years, a short summary version will also be published for wider use in public engagement.

5 Recommendations

It is recommended that Council:

- i notes the legal requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 as set out in appendix 1;
- ii Approves and endorses the Single Midlothian Plan 2019-20 (appendix 2) as the strategic document for Council service planning.

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Background Papers:

Community Empowerment Act extract

Single Midlothian Plan summary

Appendix 1 - Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (as amended) – Extracts setting out planning requirements

4. Community Planning

- (1) Each local authority and the persons listed in schedule 1 must carry out planning for the area of the local authority for the purpose mentioned in subsection (2) (“community planning”).
- (2) The purpose is improvement in the achievement of outcomes resulting from, or contributed to by, the provision of services delivered by or on behalf of the local authority or the persons listed in schedule 1.
- (3) in carrying out community planning, the local authority and the persons listed in schedule 1 must—
 - a) Participate with each other, and
 - b) Participate with any community body (as mentioned in paragraph (c) of subsection (6)) in such a way as to enable that body to participate in community planning to the extent mentioned in that paragraph.
- (4) Outcomes of the type mentioned in subsection (2) (“local outcomes”) must be consistent with the national outcomes determined under section 1(1) or revised under section 2(5)(c).
- (5) In carrying out the functions conferred on them by this Part in relation to the area of a local authority—
 - a) The local authority for the area and the persons listed in schedule 1 are collectively referred to in this Part as a “community planning partnership”, and
 - b) The authority and each such person is referred to in this Part as a “community planning partner”.
- (6) Each community planning partnership must—
 - a) consider which community bodies are likely to be able to contribute to community planning having regard in particular to which of those bodies represent the interests of persons who experience inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage,
 - b) make all reasonable efforts to secure the participation of those community bodies in community planning, and
 - c) to the extent (if any) that those community bodies wish to participate in community planning, take such steps as are reasonable to enable the community bodies to participate in community planning to that extent.
- ...
- (9) In this section, “community bodies”, in relation to a community planning partnership, means bodies, whether or not formally constituted, established for purposes which consist of or include that of promoting or improving the interests of any communities (however described) resident or otherwise present in the area of the local authority for which the community planning partnership is carrying out community planning.

5. Socio-economic inequalities

In carrying out functions conferred by this Part, a community planning partnership must act with a view to reducing inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage unless the partnership considers that it would be inappropriate to do so.

6. Local outcomes improvement plan

- (1) Each community planning partnership must prepare and publish a local outcomes improvement plan.
- (2) A local outcomes improvement plan is a plan setting out—
 - a) local outcomes to which priority is to be given by the community planning partnership with a view to improving the achievement of the outcomes,
 - b) a description of the proposed improvement in the achievement of the outcomes,
 - c) the period within which the proposed improvement is to be achieved, and
 - d) a description of the needs and circumstances of persons residing in the area of the local authority to which the plan relates.
- (3) In preparing a local outcomes improvement plan, a community planning partnership must consult—
 - a) Such community bodies as it considers appropriate, and
 - b) Such other persons as it considers appropriate.
- (4) Before publishing a local outcomes improvement plan, the community planning partnership must take account of —
 - a) any representations received by it by virtue of subsection (3), and
 - b) the needs and circumstances of persons residing in the area of the local authority to which the plan relates.

...

9. Localities: comparison of outcomes

- (1) Each community planning partnership must, for the purposes of this Part, divide the area of the local authority into smaller areas.
- (2) The smaller areas mentioned in subsection (1) (“localities”) must be of such type or description as may be specified by the Scottish Ministers by regulations.
- (3) Having carried out the duty under subsection (1), the community planning partnership must identify each locality in which persons residing there experience significantly poorer outcomes which result from socio-economic disadvantage than—
 - a) those experienced by persons residing in other localities within the area of the local authority, or
 - b) those experienced generally by persons residing in Scotland.
- (4) In carrying out the duty under subsection (3), a community planning partnership must take account of the needs and circumstances of persons residing in the area of the local authority.
- (5) Regulations under subsection (2) may specify areas of a type or description subject to any conditions specified in the regulations.

- (6) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations specify that localities within the area of a local authority must each be of the same type or description as may be specified in regulations under subsection (2).
- (7) In this section, references to the area of a local authority mean, in relation to a community planning partnership, the area of the local authority for which the partnership is carrying out community planning.

10. Locality plan

- (1) Each community planning partnership must prepare and publish a locality plan for each locality identified by it by virtue of section 9(3).
- (2) A community planning partnership may prepare and publish a locality plan for any other locality within the area of the local authority for which it is carrying out community planning.
- (3) A locality plan is a plan setting out for the purposes of the locality to which the plan relates--
 - a) local outcomes to which priority is to be given by the community planning partnership with a view to improving the achievement of the outcomes in the locality,
 - b) a description of the proposed improvement in the achievement of the outcomes, and
 - c) the period within which the proposed improvement is to be achieved.
- (4) In preparing a locality plan, a community planning partnership must consult—
 - a) such community bodies as it considers appropriate, and
 - b) such other persons as it considers appropriate.

...

13. Governance

- (1) For the area of each local authority, each person mentioned in subsection (2) must—
 - a) facilitate community planning,
 - b) take reasonable steps to ensure that the community planning partnership carries out its functions under this Part efficiently and effectively.
 - (2) The persons are—
 - a) the local authority,
 - b) the Health Board constituted under section 2(1)(a) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 whose area includes, or is the same as, the area of the local authority
- ...
- d) the chief constable of the Police Service of Scotland,
 - e) the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service,
 - f) Scottish Enterprise.

14. Community planning partners: duties

- (1) Despite the duties imposed on community planning partners by this Part, a community planning partnership may agree—
 - a) that a particular community planning partner need not comply with a duty in relation to a particular local outcome, or

- b) that a particular community planning partner need comply with a duty in relation to a particular local outcome only to such extent as may be so agreed.
- (2) Each community planning partner must co-operate with the other community planning partners in carrying out community planning.
 - (3) Each community planning partner must, in relation to a community planning partnership, contribute such funds, staff and other resources as the community planning partnership considers appropriate--
 - a) with a view to improving, or contributing to an improvement in, the achievement of each local outcome referred to in section 6(2)(a), and
 - b) for the purpose of securing the participation of the community bodies mentioned in section 4(6)(a) in community planning.
 - (4) Each community planning partner must provide such information to the community planning partnership about the local outcomes referred to in section 6(2)(a) as the community planning partnership may request.
 - (5) Each community planning partner must, in carrying out its functions, take account of the local outcomes improvement plan published under section 6 or, as the case may be, section 7(5).