



Midlothian Council
Tuesday 29 March 2022

The Single Midlothian Plan Performance Report

Report by Dr Grace Vickers Chief Executive

Report for Noting

1 Recommendations

Council are recommended to note the excellent partnership working which has taken place during the pandemic; enabling local communities to be well supported. In addition the community planning partnership did, under challenging circumstances, progress the majority of indicators and actions in H1 (21) thus working towards improving overall outcomes in Midlothian.

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to draw to elected members' attention the performance report of Midlothian Community Planning Partnership. It is a statutory duty for the partnership to publish performance reports.

Date: 10th March 2022

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3 Background

- 3.1** Part 2 of the Community Empowerment Act 2015 sets out clear expectations for what the purpose of community planning is, and how it is to operate.
- 3.2** Statutory Guidance flowing from the 2015 Act makes clear that community planning is about “how public bodies work together and with the local community to plan for, resource and provide or secure the provision of services which improve local outcomes in a local authority area, with a view to reducing inequalities”.
- 3.3** Effective community planning brings together the collective talents and resources of local public services and communities to drive positive change locally. Local statutory community planning partners (The Council, Police, Fire, National Health Service and Scottish Enterprise) are expected to provide strong shared leadership for community planning, so that the CPP sets an ambitious vision for local communities and ensure that is delivered.

The voices of communities themselves, especially those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, are expected to be integral to successful community planning. Their needs and aspirations, and their own capacity to make change happen (with support where needed), should be reflected in the local priorities the CPP sets, in how community planning partners shape services and direct resources, and in how the CPP reviews progress made.

- 3.4** The Guidance further makes clear that “effective community planning focuses on where partners ‘collective efforts’, can add most value for their local communities, with particular emphasis on reducing inequalities”. The CPP is expected to have a clear and ambitious vision for its local area. Community planning should focus on a small number of local priorities where the CPP will add most value as a partnership – in particular by improving outcomes for its most vulnerable communities and moderating future demand for crisis services. The CPP should be clear about the improvements it wishes to make locally on these priorities, and be committed to prevention and early intervention as a way to contribute to these improvements.
- 3.5** Effective community planning is expected to be committed to achieving its ambitions and striving for continuous improvement. The CPP is expected to be committed to delivering on its ambitions for communities in its area. The Guidance states “CPP’s must understand how well they’re performing, and act nimbly wherever appropriate to improve performance. There should be genuine challenge and scrutiny in community planning, built on mutual trust, a shared and ambitious commitment to continuous improvement, and a culture that promotes and accepts challenge among partners”. The CPP is expected to be organised to provide a strong platform which supports and encourages vibrant strategic decision making and action locally. Finally “the CPP must be transparent in demonstrating to its communities the progress it is making to improve outcomes”.
- 3.6** The 2015 Act specifically requires CPPs to:
- Prepare and publish a local outcomes improvement plan (LOIP) which sets out the local outcomes which the CPP will prioritise for improvement.

- Identify smaller areas within the local authority area which experience the poorest outcomes, and prepare and publish locality plans to improve outcomes on agreed priorities for these communities (the outcomes prioritised for improvement in a locality plan may differ from those in the local outcomes improvement plan). In Midlothian these areas have been defined by the CPP as the areas of Mayfield/Easthouses, Gorebridge and Dalkeith Central/Woodburn communities. We are currently reviewing how we will work with communities going forward to address reduce inequalities and increase financial wellbeing.
 - Review and report publicly on progress towards their LOIP and locality plans, and keep the continued suitability of these plans under review.
- 3.7** The CPP Board has an established annual planning and performance cycle which culminates in approval of its annual performance reports.
- 3.8** The Council agreed in 2013 to adopt the partnership's shared plan as the strategic plan for the Council. This reduced the number of strategic planning documents in place at that time from 3 to 1 and committed the Council as a core partner to the shared goals of the CPP Board, chaired by the Council leader. All Council service plans are now expected to show connections to this strategic plan, known as the "Single Midlothian Plan", which meets the statutory requirement for a local outcomes improvement plan for Midlothian.
- 3.9** The Community Empowerment Act's statutory guidance requires CPP's to set 3 year outcomes and to show one year measurable actions towards these. The top priorities of the Single Midlothian Plan (SMP) for the period 2019-22 are to reduce the outcomes gaps in health, learning and economic circumstances. To reduce the impact of climate change has been added in 2019/20.
- 3.10** The SMP encompasses 5 themes of work, identified through public engagement as main areas in which the public expected partners to make improvements. These are summarised as Adult Health and Care, Community Safety, Sustainable Growth, Improving Opportunities and Getting it Right for every Child. Performance against the outcomes in each of these areas is set out in the attached report which has been approved by the Community Planning Partnership Board at its meeting on 18th November 2021 for H1 (21/22).

4. Next Steps

The Community Planning Partnership in Midlothian in 2022 is required to review its vision, revising for the next 10 years, consulting with the partners and local communities.

The Community Planning Partnership through its thematic leads are reviewing the three year outcomes currently and their one year actions for 22/23 in order to create an updated Single Midlothian Plan with less, more focused actions and indicators which will make the biggest impact through joint effort of the community planning partners.

5. Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

5.1 Resource

The planning cycle of the SMP provides information for resource planning processes, with annual priority actions being agreed in November each year with the explicit intention of influencing the budget setting of partners, including the Council, for the following financial year.

5.2 Digital

We have recently established an interactive scorecard for community planning to support performance reporting.

5.3 Risk

Failure to publicly report progress against the SMP is a breach of law. The Council is a core partner in the community planning partnership and has adopted the SMP as its corporate strategy, failure to report progress would therefore also impact negatively on the Council's performance management system.

5.4 Ensuring Equalities (if required a separate IIA must be completed)

The SMP is subject to an equality impact assessment process. Key Priorities established by the partnership focus on reducing inequalities.

- APPENDIX A – Report Implications**
APPENDIX B – Single Midlothian Plan Performance Reporting Scorecard H1
APPENDIX C – Single Midlothian Plan Performance Reporting Scorecard (H2)

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

All Single Midlothian Plan Priorities.

A.2 Key Drivers for Change

Key drivers addressed in this report:

- Holistic Working
- Hub and Spoke
- Modern
- Sustainable
- Transformational
- Preventative
- Asset-based
- Continuous Improvement
- One size fits one
- None of the above

A.3 Key Delivery Streams

Key delivery streams addressed in this report:

- One Council Working with you, for you
- Preventative and Sustainable
- Efficient and Modern
- Innovative and Ambitious
- None of the above

A.4 Delivering Best Value

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The core of community planning is partnership working practice, both between agencies in the public, private and voluntary sector and with the communities of place and interest that make up Midlothian. The publication of performance reports is an essential part of informing citizens, as well as demonstrating collective accountability amongst the partners.

The Midlothian Community Planning Partnership Conference, took place in November 2021, with a focus on People, Place, Planet and Wellbeing. The conference also considered the updated Midlothian Profile, Strategic Analysis and Citizen Panel survey results which will inform the Single Midlothian Plan for 22/23. The partnership will be actively engaging with communities in 22/23 to consider if and how we can develop Community Wealth Plans in Midlothian.

We will also be working with the Improvement Service, local communities and partners in 2022 to appraise the work and arrangements for community planning and areas for focussed attention going forward.

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Performance is tracked using the “Pentana” performance management software system. This system is used by over 50% of Scottish Local Councils. A scorecard has recently been developed for the Single Midlothian Plan and the indicator and actions are reflected in the new scorecard approach for H1 (21/22).

In H1 the performance for each thematic is illustrated below and in Appendix B.

Thematic Area	On target I/A	Off Target I/A	Highlighted Success
Health and Social Care Partnership	18	4	Strategic Planning 2022-25 – includes joint work with some CPP partners e.g. Housing Providers, third sector, Children and Families. Training restarted – Midway, Suicide Prevention and Trauma.
Community Safety and Justice	32	3	Stride
Getting it Right for Every Child	13	10	<p>The National Housing Project worked with 9 care experienced young people aged between 16 -19. Implemented a Family Group Decision Making service for children who are at risk of being accommodated.</p> <p>Developing a trauma informed workforce Midlothian’s Young People’s Advice Service (MYPAS) commissioned to increase community awareness of the Positive Approaches to Risk Taking Guidance.</p> <p>In 2021, children and young people in Midlothian benefited from extra Scottish Government funding to support their mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The Midlothian Children and Young People’s Mental Health Strategic Planning Group - a multi-agency group with members from the council, the NHS and the</p>

			local voluntary sector – oversees the funding and awarded a further £197,000 to add to the £270,000 allocated in 2020, all of it used to support local children and young people through the provision of services and activities that include: therapeutic family support, family counselling, anxiety management, supported play and personalised support for those with very high needs.
Improving Opportunities Midlothian	52	6	Financial Inclusion Work Numbers participating in learning across provisions.
Sustainable Growth (including climate change, economic growth and Housing)	84	17	Good Progress on creating climate hubs locally. Midlothian Council's Rapid Rehousing Plan. Business Support to pre start-ups and established businesses across Midlothian.

H2 (20/21) was a lighter touch approach to performance monitoring and instead focused on successes and challenges due to the impact of the response to the pandemic. A selection of the successes and challenges are presented in Appendix C.

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

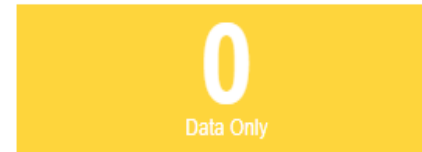
The CPP is committed to adopting a 'Preventive approach'. Preventive work takes place at a variety of levels including universal and targeted. Partnership work throughout 2020 and 2021 has focused on key preventative areas for work for example young people's mental health, community resilience and more recently in terms of climate change.

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

The theme of sustainable growth commits the CPP to achieving a balance between economic growth, environmental sustainability and meeting housing demand. This connects physical development planning and community planning ambitions. Given the scale of physical development taking place and planned, this theme presents a significant challenge to all partner agencies to ensure new and established communities connect, services, facilities and employment opportunities keep pace with population growth and the natural environment is protected and enhanced.

APPENDIX B – Single Midlothian Plan Performance Reporting Scorecard (H1)

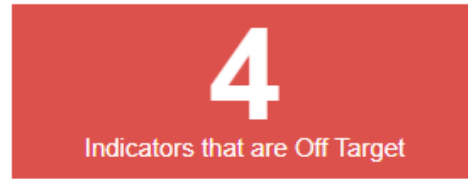
♥ SMP Key Priority Indicators-



SMP Key Priority Indicators Off Target						
...	Code & Title	Gauge	Value	Target	Last Update	History
🔊	● P.G.CSPC.3.5a Children & Young People's Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy ap...		No	Yes	H1 2021/22	
	● P.AHSC.5.2a Number of people on Unpaid Work Programme attending at least one ...		1	5	H1 2021/22	
	● P.AHSC.2.3a Number of people attending activity groups hosted by Midlothian Active...		1,820	5,000	H1 2021/22	
🔊	● P.G.CSPC.3.3a Annual percentage seen within 18 weeks for first treatment		48%	90%	2020/21	
🔊	● P.G.CSPC.3.1a Annual number of CAMHS referrals		520	580	2020/21	

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SMP Adult Health and Social Care



SMP Adult Health and Social Care INDICATORS Off Target

Code & Title	Gauge	Value	Target	Last Update	History
P.AHSC.5.2a Number of people on Unpaid Work Programme atten...		1	5	H1 2021/22	
P.AHSC.2.3b Number of people attending one to one sessions with...		107	475	H1 2021/22	
P.AHSC.2.3a Number of people attending activity groups hosted by...		1,820	5,000	H1 2021/22	
P.AHSC.4.2a Additional benefit income to Midlothian residents iden...		£40,191	£75,000	H1 2021/22	

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SMP Community Safety and Justice-

3
Indicators that are On Target

2
Indicators that are Off Target

29
Indicators that are Data Only

4
Indicators that have No Data Available

29
Actions that are On Target

1
Actions that are Off Target

SMP Community Safety and Justice INDICATORS Off Target

Code & Title	Gauge	Value	Target	Last Update	History
P.C.SJ.2.2a Increase the average weekly attendance at Horizons Cafe		0	80	H1 2021/22	History
P.C.SJ.6.1a All statutory partners engage in the self-evaluation process by attending ...		0%	70%	2020/21	

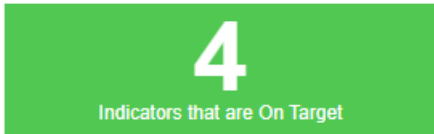
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SMP Community Safety and Justice ACTIONS Off Target

Code & Title	Progress	Status	Due Date	Type
P.C.SJ.7.6 Create / develop an automatic referral process to third sector support age...		80% Overdue	31 Oct 2021	Action

← 1 of 1 →

SMP Getting It Right For Every Midlothian Child-



SMP GIRFEMC INDICATORS Off Target

Code & Title	Gauge	Value	Target	Last Update	History
P.GIRFEMC.2.2a Pilot in place and involving all key stakeholders	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: red;"></div>	No	Yes	H1 2021/22	
P.GIRFEMC.2.2b Interim evaluation of pilot completed with recommendations to GIR...	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: red;"></div>	No	Yes	H1 2021/22	
P.GIRFEMC.3.1a Appropriate support is being provided, based on data in place that i...	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: red;"></div>	No	Yes	H1 2021/22	
P.GIRFEMC.3.2a Accurate data-set is consistently used in all schools to monitor, trac...	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: red;"></div>	No	Yes	H1 2021/22	
P.GIRFEMC.3.3a Strategic plan approved by GIRFEMC Board	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: red;"></div>	No	Yes	H1 2021/22	
P.GIRFEMC.3.4a Data sharing agreement in place	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: red;"></div>	No	Yes	H1 2021/22	
P.GIRFEMC.3.5a Strategy in place with identified actions	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: red;"></div>	No	Yes	H1 2021/22	
P.GIRFEMC.1.1b Number of children and young people reporting improved family rel...	<div style="width: 78%; background-color: red;"></div>	21	27	H1 2021/22	
P.GIRFEMC.1.1c Child/young person is at a reduced risk of harm as a result of pare...	<div style="width: 78%; background-color: red;"></div>	21	27	H1 2021/22	

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SMP GIRFEMC ACTIONS Off Target

Code & Title	Progress	Status	Due Date	Type
P.GIRFEMC.3.1 Create accurate data-set, to monitor and track CYP with additional s...	<div style="width: 10%; background-color: red;"></div>	10% Overdue	31 Aug 2021	Action

SMP Improving Opportunities for People In Midlothian-

34
Indicators that are On Target

5
Indicators that are Off Target

4
Indicators that are Data Only

11
Indicators that have No Data Available

18
Actions that are On Target

1
Actions that are Off Target

SMP IOM INDICATORS Off Target

Code & Title	Gauge	Value	Target	Last Update	History
P.IOFPIM.5.1a Map provision and produce Midlothian Digital Pathway with routes int...		0	1	H1 2021/22	
P.IOFPIM.1.1i Number of parents achieving increase in income through PESF		6	29	H1 2021/22	
P.IOFPIM.1.3a The Child Poverty Act sets out four statutory, income-based targets (a...		23.9%	10%	H1 2021/22	
P.IOFPIM.3.2c Number of Midlothian residents gaining positive outcome through acc...		7	20	H1 2021/22	
P.IOFPIM.2.3o Number of young people who volunteer with Transform Project		17	20	H1 2021/22	

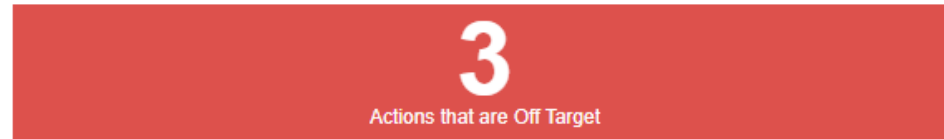
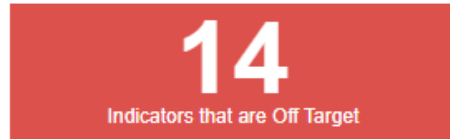
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SMP IOM ACTIONS Off Target

Code & Title	Progress	Status	Due Date	Type
P.IOFPIM.2.2 Increase number of Edinburgh College places made available to Midlot...		50% Overdue	31 Aug 2021	Action

← 1 of 1 →

SMP Sustainable Growth-



SMP Sustainable Growth INDICATORS Off Target

Code & Title	Gauge	Value	Target	Last Update	History
P.SG.12.4a Relevant partners work together to consider the action (to note this indic...		No	Yes	H1 2021/22	
P.SG.12.5a Work undertaken with car dealers to investigate how purchase of electric...		No	Yes	H1 2021/22	
P.SG.12.6a Relevant partners work together (to note this indicator forms part of a thr...		No	Yes	H1 2021/22	
P.SG.2.3a Sessions with 1-2-1 / group follow up support if requested in partnership w...		0	3	H1 2021/22	
P.SG.6.1a Review undertaken (to note this indicator forms part of a three year plan)		No	Yes	H1 2021/22	
P.SG.6.2a Methodologies considered (to note this indicator forms part of a three year...		No	Yes	H1 2021/22	
P.SG.6.3a Methodologies publicised (to note this indicator forms part of a three year ...		No	Yes	H1 2021/22	
P.SG.7.3a Engagement has taken place with local shop owners and service provider...		No	Yes	H1 2021/22	
P.SG.7.4a Engagement has taken place with local employers (to note this indicator f...		No	Yes	H1 2021/22	
P.SG.9.1a Work undertaken with Midlothian Energy to take forward the action (to not...		No	Yes	H1 2021/22	
P.SG.9.2a Work undertaken with Midlothian Energy to take forward the action (to not...		No	Yes	H1 2021/22	
P.SG.9.3a Work undertaken with Midlothian Energy to take forward the action (to not...		No	Yes	H1 2021/22	
P.SG.9.4a Work undertaken with Midlothian Energy to take forward the action (to not...		No	Yes	H1 2021/22	
P.SG.9.6a Assess capacity electricity grid capacity in Midlothian (to note this indicato...		No	Yes	H1 2021/22	

APPENDIX C – SINGLE MIDLOTHIAN PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORTING (H2)

Adult Health and Social Care H2

Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership is responsible for services that help adults live well and get support when they need it. Many voluntary sector and independent providers work with us to deliver the objectives of the Partnership, and while the Partnership is governed by the Integration Joint Board (IJB) it is also a thematic group of the Midlothian Community Planning Partnership.

Key developments during the year are noted below.

1. COVID-19 RESPONSE

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic brought many challenges and much disruption to the Health and Social Care Partnership, our partners and the communities it serves. There was increased anxiety and pressure on many service users, unpaid carers and staff. While challenges may have changed over 2020, they will continue into 2021.

As a Partnership, the top priority was the safety of patients, clients, communities and staff. In response to the situation it was important to be innovative and support clients effectively and safely during this time. Staff continued to see people face-to-face where this was clinically essential, but in order to reduce face-to-face contact, where feasible, teams made a number of changes to how they delivered services throughout the pandemic.

As well as managing changes to existing services, the Partnership also provided care and treatment to people who had contracted COVID-19 and their families. It also provided support to partner agencies around changed provision, infection control and other requirements, including the provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) and staff testing. In addition, COVID-19 related services had to be established, often at short notice as the pandemic escalated, such as the COVID-19 Testing and Assessment Hub at Midlothian Community Hospital. Many staff across the Partnership were redeployed to other roles, assisting in care homes and PPE centres.

2. UNPAID (FAMILY) CARERS

Work continued to support carers in partnership with local organisations, in particular VOCAL Midlothian but also Alzheimer's Scotland and others. While traditional respite options have been limited due to the pandemic, especially for older people, alternative support to carers is being progressed and additional funds were provided for Wee Breaks. Work progressed to re-commission carer support services in 2021. This involved a comprehensive community engagement programme. Contracts were awarded in March 2021.

3. MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND COMMUNITY JUSTICE SERVICES

In 2019 staff from across mental health, substance misuse, Justice and Third Sector co-located in 'No.11' in Dalkeith, allowing for a new trauma informed, collaborative way of working with and supporting individuals, particularly those with multiple complex needs. The service is part of the Scottish Government's Trauma Informed Workforce Pilot. There have already been some excellent examples of joint working to support vulnerable clients. Service delivery had to change during the pandemic.

4. IMPROVING SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

There is one internal and three externally contracted providers in Midlothian delivering **Care at Home** to older people. All care at home services have managed to continue their normal service delivery in recent months. COVID-19 has had an effect on the workforce as a number of staff were in the shielding group due to their own health conditions.

Extra Care Housing: As with many other areas, Midlothian faces many challenges in addressing the housing and care needs of an ageing population with increasingly complex requirements. Extra Care Housing is a model of accommodation and care that supports people to live in their own tenancy. Plans for the development of extra care housing complexes across three sites in Midlothian is ongoing with spring 2022 proposed for completion.

Care Homes: Midlothian has 10 older people's care homes, 2 of which are HSCP run with one being an intermediate care facility. The remaining 8 are privately run either by private companies, charitable organisations or independent family care homes. The HSCP continued to build on relationships across the sector to deliver support in line with the Scottish Government guidelines on enhanced professional, clinical, and care oversight of care homes (May 2020). A HSCP Assurance Group was established and is chaired by the Chief Nurse, meeting daily for a rundown on each Care Home to discuss any issues that have arisen and consider any support required.

5. FRAILITY

The increasing prevalence of frailty, as a result of our rapidly ageing population, is contributing to a health and care system that will be unsustainable in its current form. People with severe and moderate frailty (3,500 people) account for 4% of Midlothian's population and 31% of unscheduled activity in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh in 2019. Midlothian HSCP and the Midlothian GP Cluster continue to use the electronic frailty index (eFI) to inform strategic direction and service developments.

During the COVID-19 response 2,719 people estimated to have moderate or severe frailty were contacted and supported by the Red Cross Welfare Call service (issues identified including hearing aid battery replacements, social isolation, shopping, and prescriptions). In 2020-21 the Red Cross supported older people to access £201,000 of Attendance Allowance through their income maximisation work.

People living with moderate or severe frailty who were part of a dedicated GP service saw a reduction in subsequent admissions to hospital in 2020-21.

6. WORKFORCE

Midlothian HSCP has a workforce strategy with a focus on the training and development of the social care workforce. In addition, training opportunities are made available across the Community Planning Partnership (CPP), for example training on Good Conversations, health inequalities, health literacy, suicide prevention, and weight stigma. Midlothian continues to implement the Trauma Awareness Framework. Training was paused until September 2020 but courses are now being delivered with good representation from many areas of the CPP.

7. LEARNING DISABILITY, AUTISM AND COMPLEX NEEDS HOUSING

No Midlothian citizen with complex care needs is currently delayed in hospital and nobody lives away from the area, other than through their own choice or where there is an assessed need for them to be supported outside Midlothian.

Supporting independent living is a key priority for the Learning Disability Services. Work is ongoing to develop a range of housing options based on individual needs and to ensure individuals can access appropriate housing as their needs change. The model of proactive behavioural support services continues to be developed within Midlothian.

Day Services for people with Learning Disabilities have been impacted by COVID-19. Many continued to operate although with reduced capacity as a result of physical distancing and infection control requirements.

8. PRIMARY CARE

In early weeks of the crisis demand on **GP Practices** was quadruple that in previous years. All practices managed to remain open during the COVID-19 response but some changes occurred. For example, there was a significant change with the move to total-telephone-triage. There was also an increase in the use of Near-Me.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of **Anticipatory Care Plans** written for vulnerable patients.

Work to implement the Primary Care Improvement Plan continues to be progressed including planning around CTACs (**Community Treatment and Care Centres**). A number of CTAC staff assisted in the Covid Vaccination programme during 2020-21.

The Thistle Foundation (**Wellbeing Service**) and **VOCAL**, third sector organisations, continue to work with the Primary Care Team in GP Practices to offer supported self-management and carer support. **Primary Care Mental Health Nurses** are now in all 12 GP Practices in Midlothian. **Physiotherapy:** There is now a single point of access for community services, so long Covid rehabilitation will be managed through this. Based on scoping work, the decision was made not to have a separate team managing long covid, instead the patients will be directed to an existing

team depending on the predominant symptoms the patient experiences. However, this will continue to be reviewed. Near-Me continues to be an option when appropriate. There are currently a number of services for long Covid available depending on the needs of the person.

9. TECHNOLOGY ENABLED CARE

Midlothian HSCP has ambitions for digital transformation that will support integration. Work continues to progress with the third sector and digital organisations to collaboratively design the ideal service model for people living with frailty.

Work has progressed to consult and engage with people living with frailty to support ambitions to see how and where technology could support people. Work also continued on connecting health and social care data to help us understand the needs of the population and the effectiveness of services. There was also progress in the development of infrastructure to allow us share data between health and social care services.

10. PUBLIC HEALTH

Midlothian HSCP remains committed to tackling inequalities and investing in preventative work. Work to progress the CPP sponsored whole-system **Type 2 Diabetes Prevention** Strategy was progressed in August after a delay due to COVID-19. Health assessments and other support to people in homeless accommodation continued during the pandemic.

Some programmes such as **Ageing Well and Midlothian Active Choices** (MAC) could not operate as planned due to Covid restrictions, however some activity has restarted in line with infection control guidelines. The **Welfare Rights** Service continued to provide effective support to people receiving a service from the HSCP. 239 people with cancer received support from the MacMillan Welfare Rights Advisor and the wider team during 2020-21 and generated £4,226,848 of income for Midlothian residents.

11. PHYSICAL DISABILITY

Work continues to reshape services currently provided at the Astley Ainslie Hospital. In addition work restarted in September to review the pathway for people recovering from a stroke. Funding to improve our support for people living with a neurological condition was awarded to the HSCP in March 2021.

12. DEVELOPING A LOCAL APPROACH TO ACUTE SERVICES

In Midlothian, despite considerable efforts to strengthen community services and prevention, progress in reducing hospital-based activity was inconsistent (with the exception of the pandemic period). The challenge is to design and implement more radical change at a faster pace to ensure that our hospital services are able to provide high quality, timeous treatment when community-based alternatives are neither appropriate nor viable. Midlothian HSCP is committed to working with partners to **reduce both attendance at A&E and unplanned admissions** whilst also **facilitating earlier discharge**.

This work is supported by community based service change such as plans around rehabilitation, diabetes prevention and the reduction of crises through, for example, improved identification and support around Frailty (involving the third sector). In addition, the Partnership recognises that supporting people to stay out of hospital or to be discharged sooner will often be dependent on the ability of family carers to provide support. This means continually strengthening support systems to unpaid carers.

The development of a **Home First** Model in Midlothian is progressing where people are supported out of hospital early, with a greater emphasis on supporting people at home through investment in care at home, early intervention and prevention.

13. CANCER

Midlothian HSCP commenced work on Improving the Cancer Journey (ICJ) during 2021. ICJ is a partnership between Macmillan and the four Lothian Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCPs). Midlothian Council hosts the Programme on behalf of the four HSCPs.

The ICJ Programme aims to meet the non-clinical needs of people living with cancer; it will promote self-management and person-centred solutions in line with the policy direction set out by HSCPs and NHS Lothian. Progress was delayed but recruitment to key local posts was successfully concluded.

14. HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS

Midlothian HSCP and Housing Services continue to work together to support people affected by homelessness. The Housing First programme commenced in July 2020 aiming to provide secure council tenancies per annum targeted at hard to reach and vulnerable homeless households. Many of these households have previously spent lengthy periods living in emergency accommodation. A specialist support provider will offer intensive support to people in order to sustain their accommodation. The Health Inclusion Team continued to offer on-site support to people living in the homeless hostels following risk assessments.

Challenges

COVID-19

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic brought many challenges and much disruption to the Health and Social Care Partnership, its partners and the communities it serves. There was increased anxiety and pressure on many service users, unpaid carers and staff. While challenges may have changed over 2020, they will continue into 2021. Covid will continue to influence how the HSCP delivers core services, works with partners and communities and develops the workforce. In addition the Partnership will adapt to deliver Covid related services, such as vaccination clinics.

A growing and ageing population

We are the second smallest Local Authority in mainland Scotland but the fastest growing. This will continue to pose challenges for health and social care services whilst also changing some local communities. As people live for longer many more people will be living at home with frailty and/or dementia and/or multiple health conditions. An increasing number of people live on their own, and for some this will bring a risk of isolation.

Higher rates of long-term conditions

Managing long-term conditions is one of the biggest challenges facing health care services worldwide, with 60% of all deaths attributable to them. Older people are more susceptible to developing long-term conditions; most over 65s have two or more conditions and most over 75s have three or more conditions. People living in areas of multiple deprivation are at particular risk with, for example, a much greater likelihood of early death from heart failure. They are also likely to develop 2 or more conditions 10-15 years earlier than people living in affluent areas.

Higher rates of mental health needs

Many mental health problems are preventable, and almost all are treatable, so people can either fully recover or manage their conditions successfully and live fulfilling healthy lives as far as possible. The incidence of mental health issues in Midlothian, while similar to the rest of Scotland, is a concern. Living in poverty increases the likelihood of mental health problems but also mental health problems can lead to greater social exclusion and higher levels of poverty. People who have life-long mental illness are likely to die 15-20 years prematurely because of physical ill-health.

Our services are under pressure

People place a high value on being able to access effective health services when they need them. People expect to receive high quality care services when these are needed whether as a result of age, disability, sex, gender or long term health conditions. Yet there are a number of pressures on our services.

Financial pressures

Financial pressures on public services are well documented. There is no doubt that we need to do things differently: the traditional approach to delivering health and care services is no longer financially sustainable.

Workforce pressures

The Covid-19 pandemic has and will continue to influence the demand for, and deployment of, the health and care workforce for the foreseeable future. Mass vaccination programmes and other large scale recruitment programmes related to COVID 19 have increased pressure on already stretched resource. How the workforce interacts with people has also changed with an increased use of digital or telephone appointments. The Scottish Government has requested that IJBs develop a 3 year Workforce Plan no later than 31st March 2022.

Unpaid carers

Unpaid carers fulfil significant, valuable and wide-ranging roles within Midlothian communities, helping to keep people with care and support needs within our communities. During the pandemic many people have become carers for the first time, or seen changes to their caring role, resulting in them providing significantly more care for their elderly, sick or disabled family, friends and neighbours. Through this period Community services supporting carers have continued to offer a range of support, including digitally, and by telephone, though services supporting the person they provide support to may have been reduced, e.g. respite and day services, resulting in an impact on carers. It is essential that we work to reduce the significant pressure and impact of caring that carers report feeling, by continuing to explore innovative options to enable support to be given to both carers and the cared-for, and for there to be opportunities for breaks from caring leading to caring being more sustainable. We are constantly looking for ways to offer respite and support to reduce the stress and impact of caring.

Acute hospitals

Acute hospitals are under huge pressure due to unsustainable demand and financial restrictions. We need to invest in community based and work with carers alternatives that will minimise avoidable and inappropriate admissions and facilitate earlier discharge. By treating people closer to home, or in their own home we can support admission avoidance and improve patient outcomes.

Community Safety and Justice H2

On 1 April 2020 the Midlothian Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan 2020-2023 (CJOIP) was published. This sets out an ambitious programme for the next three years with the aim of making Midlothian communities safer and helping to prevent and reduce offending. The plan brought together statutory partners, third sectors partners, service users with lived experience of the justice system, elected members and Board members. Rich data was collected that formed the basis for joint actions, resulting in a service user and partner led CJOIP that is fit for the purpose of serving those involved in or affected by the justice system in Midlothian.

Our Communication and Engagement Strategy, for 2020-23 was developed in Spring 2020 which outlines the partnerships approach towards National Outcome 1 (Communities improve their understanding and participation in community justice) along with an ambitious performance framework of seventeen consultation and engagement actions that will be taken forward over the next three years.

The 2019/20 financial year saw a new approach taken to the delivery of unpaid work in Midlothian. Following the conclusion of a service review in 2018/19 the team worked alongside community groups and organisations to undertake a variety of projects that have sought to promote clients' engagement in their communities whilst making reparation (payback) to those communities who experience the highest levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. This has been a significant change in the practice of the team where in the past groups would often work alone in isolated rural locations and organisations knew little about the support the team could provide. This new approach has supported communities with initiatives including food and clothes banks, developing a community garden and community hub, gardening and maintenance work at a project for young people, creating a memory garden for a project supporting people with dementia and helping support the set-up of Midlothian's first early years outdoor nursery. Developing and maintaining the close working relationships with community groups allowed the Justice team to support these organisations and communities as they started to deal with the impact of COVID-19 in March 2020. The unpaid work team supported food banks during the pandemic providing hot food to the most vulnerable in the community. They also assisted by delivering hot food and food parcels and in supplying the food banks with transporting donated food from supermarkets.

This holistic approach continues with the No 11 Allocations Service. This visionary forum brings together Health, Substance Misuse, Social Work, Housing, and third sector agencies to develop bespoke packages of care/support/treatment to individuals who use No 11 recovery hub. This innovative forum further evolved to include voluntary through care provision for those returning to Midlothian having served a custodial sentence. With a signed information sharing agreement with the Scottish Prison Service, Midlothian is now aware of individuals returning to our communities. The forum has some excellent examples of holistic support being offered to services users. In-reach work in the prisons and then transitioning support to the community is now coordinated, person-centred and solution focused; involving Midlothian specific services, resources and agencies. The forum has also been invaluable on planning for early release prisoners coming out of custody during the Covid-19 crisis.

We continue to provide a rich evidence base of local information on community justice with regular analysis and information gathering carried out to enhance the CJ data landscape in Midlothian. In H2 this included an evaluation of No. 11 St. Andrew's Street, a research profile of substance misuse among young people in Midlothian, analysis of suicides and attempted suicides in Midlothian, and a consultation with men on community payback orders to inform future service delivery. All of which will be used to plan and improve service delivery of CJ services across Midlothian.

MIDSAFE money that was left over from the disbanded Community Safety Team has been awarded to Play Midlothian to fund a series of Out2Play sessions with specifics around educating parents and family relationships.

Challenges

The **Covid-19** crisis has challenged all services including Justice Social Work and Community Justice. Adapting service delivery will be a demanding and ever changing task in the months that come. The limited face to face contact has impacted on both service users and staff. Use of technology has been at the forefront of service delivery to provide consistency of contact giving some predictability in the pandemic. As stated previously the fact that we already had a regular multi-agency meeting (the No.11 Allocations Service) has helped us to plan for the release of prisoners during the crisis. It is important to note that progress in any of the priority areas of our CJOIP will have to be underpinned by an effective exit route from the current COVID-19 crisis.

All Justice service users are being risk rated and the level of contact individuals are having with their allocated social worker is based on this assessment. In relation to Unpaid Work, no service users were able to complete their hours between March and September, and December and April. Although delivered with limited capacity, phone contact throughout the period of lockdown has resulted in sustained working relationships, oversight, risk management and the ability to provide advice and support. Community Justice Scotland (CJS) provided an options and discussion paper relating to community justice system changes for post-pandemic working, to reduce custodial outcomes and sustain reductions in custody. To help alleviate the pressure on JSW services, the Cabinet Secretary for Justice announced before Parliament in January 2021 regulations to reduce unpaid work or other activity requirements in existing CPOs by 35%, with the exception of orders imposed for domestic abuse, sexual offences or stalking, and will apply to existing CPOs.

It is projected that **unemployment** will rise by 10%-20% in Midlothian as a result of COVID-19. This will cause even more challenge to individuals with experience in the justice system obtaining employment post prison sentence or post Community Payback Order. An action agreed in our three-year CJOIP is to implement the project Recruit with Conviction – a project that promotes safe, suitable and sustainable employment for people with convictions. Training is also taking place with locally based employers and awareness raising among Justice staff and those in the Justice system on the legislative changes within the Management of Offenders Act (Scotland) Act 2019 coming into force on 30 November 2020. An initial employer training event was held late 2020 and another planned for summer 2021 once employers have transitioned back to normal trading. In house training for LLL, Justice and Peer Support in May 2021 will ensure the legislative changes are known over both voluntary and statutory sectors. The overall aim remaining that this project will support access to employment for the 20% of adults who have criminal convictions.

GIRFEC H2

Mental Health - Community Mental Health Supports funding

Children and young people in Midlothian are to benefit again in 2021 from extra Scottish Government funding to support their mental health and wellbeing. The Midlothian Children and Young People's Mental Health Strategic Planning Group - a multi-agency group with members from the council, health and the third sector – is overseeing the funding and successfully awarded a further £197,000 in March 2021, to add to the £270,000 allocated in 2020, all of it going to support local children and young people through the provision of services and activities that will include: therapeutic family support, family counselling, anxiety management, supported play and personalised support for those with very high needs.

Mental Health - Midlothian Early Action Partnership

When the Midlothian Early Action Partnership (MEAP) activities resumed in June 2020, we adapted our approach to take into account the changed Midlothian context. More of our work was progressed using online methods and we have been more creative with our engagement techniques. The systems mapping exercise on mental health supports for children, young people and young adults commenced in August 2020 and will conclude in April 2021.

Other opportunities arose, as conversations led to a Test of Change commencing in September 2020, involving services and organisations across education, third sector, health and council, who have developed a systemic new way of working for the Penicuik area. This includes testing a new single referral and allocations pathway, offering training to teachers, support for staff, parents and young people as well as increasing therapeutic services to children and young people.

Vulnerable children and Young People's Subgroup

The following outlines the actions of the Getting it Right for Every Midlothian Child, Vulnerable Children and Young People's subgroup during 2020/21. The purpose of the subgroup is to ensure that the agreed actions and priorities are monitored and are on target. This is achieved through a series of lead officers and working groups that regularly meet to report on progress and agree new priorities when appropriate.

We need to acknowledge the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic which has been unprecedented in modern times and has brought many challenges. As a result of the pandemic some of the subgroup actions were delayed or amended to reflect Covid-19 guidelines and protocols. Initially, partners were concerned that a consequence of lockdown and having to limit service delivery would mean children, young people and their families would be exposed to increased vulnerabilities and adversity. The subgroup worked tirelessly to mitigate against this by re-shaping service delivery and responses quickly and effectively. Examples of this was the use of digital technology and linking with partners and/ or educational programmes to agree who could offer local support particularly in the work with young carers, the youth justice agenda, the 'positive approaches to risk' workshops, relationship, sexual health and parenthood and the wider corporate parenting actions.

Corporate Parenting Strategy and Champions Board

The Independent Care Review undertook a root and branch review of the care system in Scotland. This included hearing from over 5,500 care experienced infants, children, young people, adults and members of the paid and unpaid workforce in Scotland's 'care system'. Midlothian's young champions were heavily involved in the process and contributed towards the seven publications outlined below which set their vision for what needed to change.

1. The Promise and,
2. Pinky Promise for younger readers
3. The Plan

4. The Money, and,
5. Follow the Money
6. The Rules
7. Thank you

The Promise is Scotland's vehicle for achieving transformational change in the care system and making sure our most vulnerable children feel loved and have the childhood they deserve. The Promise has been a key driver for Midlothian's Champions Board during 2020 and involved two Corporate Parenting events which were dedicated to looking at the detail of the publications and its implication for Midlothian's most vulnerable children, young people and their families. These events included young people and a wide representation of corporate parents from across the partnership; NHS Lothian, Children's Services, Police Scotland, Housing, Communities and Lifelong Learning, Who Cares? Scotland, Education, Edinburgh College, Skills Development Scotland, Elected Members and senior management within Midlothian Council. The Promise will remain a priority going forward and the current Corporate Parenting Plan and Strategy is under review to ensure that any relevant actions are reflected. Future planning will ensure The Promise will remain at the forefront of any future planning to enable all partners and agencies to discuss and consider how to influence change within their respective roles or agencies to improve support to all children and young people who experience the care system.

Following adherence to Covid-19 guidelines, social distancing, risk assessment and cleaning procedures, the young champions were able to resume their physical meetings in October 2020. In addition to delivering their core groups, the young champions have been involved in consultation with others that include, Children's Hearing Scotland, Youth Justice and The Promise. The young champions have been working with 'Move On Scotland' to develop and embed peer mentoring and we are pleased to announce that two local young people have successfully completed the training. Work is ongoing to drive the champions work across schools and build on the success of the groups already established in two of our secondary school settings.

The young champions continue to influence and reshape policy for all care experience young people by providing feedback and the Champions Board continue to listen and be influenced by our care experienced young people and this will remain as key action within the plan. The Mind of My Own app continues to be a crucial tool in providing a voice to local children and young people for their own individual assessments and care plans. Its usage has reduced so further training is being offered and delivered to social work teams, foster carers, school teams, residential settings and young people in order to improve how this app is being used.

National House Project

The National House Project has worked with nine care experienced young people aged between 16 -19 in cohort 1 with cohort 2 planned to commence in August 2021 and cohort 3 in August 2022. Four young people from cohort 1 were already living in their own (temporary) accommodation. Midlothian Council has committed to provide six permanent homes which may include housing stock from its partner providers.

Connecting Scotland

The Midlothian partnership have been successful in securing national funds to ensure that our vulnerable children, young people and care leavers have the digital skills and tools to participate in any future training or job markets. This will be a key focus for 2021/22.

Positive Approaches to Risk

Midlothian Young People's Advice Service (MYPAS) was commissioned by Children's Services to continue to increase the community's awareness of the Positive Approaches to Risk Taking document by;

- Providing one official launch

- Four awareness raising sessions, one for each school cluster in Midlothian
- Delivery of issue focused workshops
- Evaluate and report to the GIRFEMC Board with future recommendations

Despite the Covid-19 challenges, the above activity has been achieved and an evaluation report has been prepared for the GIRFEMC Board. The report and its recommendations will be inform any future activity during 2021/22.

Permanence and Care Excellence (PACE)

Our partnership with Scottish Government, and the Centre of Excellence for Looked after Children (CELCIS) has now ended. However, in keeping with our journey of continuous improvement we have agreed to review our current permanence policy and timescales for achieving a secure, stable home for a child as well as consider the impact of the Independent Care Review recommendations, in particular the 'Promise' which is intended to deliver transformational change for care experienced children going forward.

Youth Justice Strategy

The Midlothian Youth Justice Strategy was signed off by the GIRFEC board on the 17th September 2020 and while the subgroup commits to identify one year priorities many of the youth justice actions are based over a 3-year period. Any proposed changes to the plan will take account of:

- The Promises from the Care Review
- The findings from Claire Lightowler's Rights Respecting paper, published earlier this year
- The soon to be published Youth Justice Standards along with views from young people, stakeholders and partners.

The Midlothian partnership is committed to the above and has created a youth justice strategy which is flexible and can incorporate any new promises from the Scottish Government. Currently the working groups are working on two new pilot schemes to target anti-social behaviour in the local communities. These are:

1. CRIB bus to be situated in Lasswade High School car park. The bus will provide support to young people who are not engaging in school and have been part of or are at risk of taking part in anti-social behaviour. The aim will be for the young people to attend activities in the bus which is fully staffed.
2. A partnership workshop to engage young people who have been, or are at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour. The workshop will provide mechanics and car part tasks and activities around car safety supported by police Scotland road safety officers.

Anti-social behaviour is believed to be more problematic following the return to full time education in the coming months. There is a direct link to non-school attendance and poor outcomes including youth offences so it is particularly important the partnership is engaged in this on-going piece of work. SCRA are about to publish their data which should highlight areas of success, any future challenges and future actions for the youth justice working group.

Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (Teenage Pregnancy)

Prior to Covid19, Midlothian Council and NHS Lothian worked together to deliver a workshop on teenage pregnancy and prevention. The plan was to examine teenage pregnancy in Midlothian using existing data and trends and to identify gaps and agree actions to address this via the partnership. However, this work stream was postponed because of the pandemic and the need to second NHS Lothian staff to the frontline. Instead, the working group took the opportunity to consider other areas in which the partnership could be effective in mitigating some of the other Covid-19 challenges that were identified. Namely, the closure of sexual health clinics, sexual health staff seconded to address Covid-19 demands, unable to access young people through schools, impact of lockdown on vulnerable young people. The impact was that,

1. Croft St YPs sexual health clinic re-opened in Aug 2020 – the only one at that point open across Lothian (outwith the main centre at Chalmers) – have managed to keep this open throughout lockdown (all of them!) ensuring clinical sexual health services for YP are available locally, as well as access to c:card
2. Online training for RSHP (primary school) – primary school teachers took part in ‘train the trainers’ RSHP training online, evaluated very positively
3. Condoms by post – uptake of this service in Midlothian high compared to other areas
4. Workers were able to support MYPAS in roll out of Positive risk-taking behaviour work – and will continue to support as the workshops progress
5. The working groups was able to begin finalising the guidance for schools on supporting young parents to remain in education (still to be launched).

Young Carers

Covid-19 restrictions has meant accessing or supporting young carers in education and/or out of school has been challenging. Mainly because the initiatives to increase social groups and group work were postponed due to lockdown measures. As an alternative, individual workers developed 1-2-1 relationships with young carers and maintained these throughout lockdown. Other examples of activity include the provision of a range of supports to respond to emergency referrals during lockdown or in some circumstances supports due to hospitalisation. These young carers were offered a school hub place or grant monies to access other activities or support families. Other successful schemes included the lunchtime ‘drop in’ at two secondary schools which provided young carers with a safe space and an opportunity to raise questions or concerns so that school champions and young carers staff could intervene as appropriate. The young carers ‘trials’ three Winter Parties using small numbers across different ages groups to gauge whether there was an appetite to engage in social events with peers or other young carers across Midlothian. These proved highly successful and the plan is to develop regular social groups. 32 young carers were supported over the Christmas period and received gifts through the Cask4Kids Mission Christmas appeal. The external funding sourced from the Carers Alliance, in place of the national young carers gathering, was used to fund the Winter Parties and facilitate activities for some of the 1-2-1 sessions a variety of informal awards. We have since secured another pot of funding from Creative Scotland from April 2021 for 1 year, to support the young carers to creatively explore what it means to be a young carer in Midlothian, and to tell their stories. These projects will be used in wider publicity and awareness raising across the county. We also supported seven young carers to apply for a Wee Breaks Young Carers Grant. This has enabled more young carers than before to experience short break opportunities for activities during the Pandemic.

Children with additional and Enduring Needs

A number of actions were proposed as part of our joint approach to working with children and young people with additional support needs. Some of these needed to be postponed during 2020/21 because we were highly aware of the impact of the Covid-219 pandemic on this population of vulnerable children and young people. However, the pandemic did provide an opportunity for services to be less bureaucratic and be more flexible in the use and distribution of Self Directed Support packages. As part of the Children and Families early intervention and prevention approach within the current Covid-19 climate, families who are eligible for Self Directed Support have been provided with a 3-months allocation of funds to be used more creatively. This small but significant change has meant there has been a reduction in families petitioning services because of financial crisis. Families tell us they feel more empowered and in control of the child’s care package.

Who Cares? Scotland

The organisation continue to provide advocacy and participation as well as be involved in the work of the Young Champions (Champs Group) and will prove regular reports as agreed in the action plan. Work was undertaken to strengthen the existing contractual arrangements with a view to reaching more care experienced children and young people.

Feedback form Children and Families

Though we have lots of examples of children and young people providing feedback and thus influencing the shape of services, this is an area we would like to improve on. The United Nation Convention on the Right of the Child (UNCRC) will provide an excellent opportunity to take a Council wide strategic approach as w plan for the future.

Them Subgroup are currently developing new 2021/22 actions based on the information contained in this report and the external drivers that can often inform and influence the activity. Notwithstanding the need to progress any Covid-19 recovery plan, the subgroup have already agreed to be more robust regards the use of data to inform planning going forward.

Challenges

The Getting it Right for Every Child Board faced many challenges and pressures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Key challenge going forward are the longer-term impact of Covid-19 on poverty, mental health, economic viability and the partnership workforce. These strands will dominate a lot of the work of the subgroups going forward as they begin to assess how to respond and manage at both an individual, community and strategic level in keeping with the national and local drivers.

Mental health - Midlothian Early Action Partnership

The Midlothian Early Action Partnership had to adapt plans in the context of a pandemic. Engagement with children, young people, young adults and families became significantly more challenging. More of our work was progressed using online methods and some of our plans had to be stopped, such as creating an ambassador programme for young people and establishing the youth work exchange network, for adults supporting children and young people.

The Midlothian Sure Start (MSS) Test of Change, which focuses on embedding trauma-informed practice within primary schools, was also severely impacted by the pandemic. Much of this work had to be adapted or paused in response to COVID-19. New ways to support and engage schools and children had to be found.

IOM H2

Partners have been working closely together (CLL, MVA, British Red Cross and Community Councils/resilience groups) to provide support to communities through assisting residents with prescription delivery, access to food and assistance with shopping. Third sector organisations were at the forefront of a community based response to addressing social isolation arising from the Pandemic. The CLL team have been a key partner in the delivery of the Midlothian Food and Key Essential Fund. Over £750k of vouchers and fuel support has been delivered to over 4,400 households. Dalkeith CAB have worked closely with Midlothian Council in the delivery of the Food and Key Essential Fund offering advice, support and follow up calls where requested for those needing support with managing finances and coping with the financial impacts of the Pandemic.

All partners have adapted their services to provide online engagement, support and delivery and CLLE have continued with some face to face activity for vulnerable young people, adults and families and those requiring employability, literacy, numeracy and ESOL support.

There has been a growth in Scottish Government funding for employability programmes as a result of Covid. Significant funding (over £1.5 million) has been secured by CLLE for programmes including: No One Left Behind, Modern Apprenticeships, Foundation Apprenticeships, third sector Kickstart partnership, Parental Employability Support Fund and the Young Persons Guarantee. Economic Development and CLLE are working closely together to respond to PACE funding to support those facing redundancy,

Partners developed and delivered a multi-agency co-ordinated response to the negative impacts of the Covid 19 Pandemic on youth participation levels and general unemployment levels, through the Employability and Learning Midlothian group and Action Plan. This work led to improved information sharing amongst partner agencies regarding new training and employment opportunities, a new on-line 'one stop shop' <https://locateinmidlothian.co.uk/> that provided support to businesses and to individuals seeking work, and promoting information and advice about benefits and other forms of financial support. The Employability Directory has been reviewed and is available online.

School Leaver Destination figures published in Feb 2021 were encouraging at 94.7%, ninth across all local authorities in Scotland despite challenging circumstances.

All IOM Partners developed new on-line / digital delivery mechanisms to sustain service delivery to thousands of Midlothian citizens.

Agreement was reached on a new Third Sector Compact, setting out values for partnership working between the Council and the Third Sector. Work has begun on a new Community Learning and Development Plan for Midlothian 2021-24.

Challenges

The IOM plan for 2020/21 had to be amended mid cycle to recognise that the ambitious plan in place had to be reviewed in recognition of the reduction in services across the partnership and the impact of Covid. The new agreed plan for 2021/22 is a Covid recovery plan.

We have now entered into the strategic planning phase for the new CLD partnership plan for 2021-24 and this will be consulted on and presented to council and the Community Planning Partnership in September. The new Plan will be challenging to produce in order to ensure that CLD activity across the partnership is adequate and efficient to meet our statutory duties under the Education Act (1980) and to identify and address unmet needs. It will also address existing and emerging staff development needs across the CLD sector with actions to respond to these

challenges. The first year of the action plan will focus on Covid recovery, in line with the IOM Plan, balancing the core priorities of developing skills for learning life and work, reducing poverty and health inequalities and focusing on the mental health and wellbeing of our communities. In the current climate, consultation will be particularly challenging especially with those who are not currently engaged in services but a range of online tools and contacts will be used by partners..

The rate of demographic growth in Midlothian will present challenges as we move forward and the IOM are focusing on key research and data to inform planning and progress.

The need to address digital inequalities has been recognised as a key priority both in the IOM and CLD Plan, and this has been discussed by the Community Planning Working Group to ensure that all CP partners and sub groups have actions around digital inclusion.

Finding solutions to delivering community learning and development activities, including youth work, in communities, specifically for vulnerable citizens, in light of community centre, library and other community facility access restrictions. Outdoor spaces will be used as much as possible and online and blended learning activities will continue.

Coordinating the new range of government funded employability and training programmes to be delivered in Midlothian, in order to avoid duplication and ensure maximum positive impact for Midlothian communities and citizens. This has been partly addressed through the emergence of the Covid Employability sub group and action plan but will require monitoring and development as the impacts of the Pandemic become clearer.

Ensuring Child Poverty Plan gets strategic buy in across the Council and CPP partners and all action to address poverty is co-ordinated and reported. A report is being prepared for Council recommending the allocation of a senior officer to lead on poverty, including child poverty, across the Council and ensure that all council services are actively tackling the poverty agenda.

Sustainable Growth H2

Midlothian Local Biodiversity Action Plan

The implementation continues of the Midlothian Local Biodiversity Action Plan that was adopted by the Council in February 2019. Council Planning Officers have been made aware of the document's actions and priorities and the document is a material consideration in their assessment of development proposals. A review was undertaken in February 2021 to assess and monitor progress with actions.

Penicuik Heritage Regeneration Project– Townscape Heritage (TH) and Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS)

Road resurfacing in Penicuik High Street and public realm works in the Penicuik TH/CARS project area finished in spring 2019. Subject to resource availability further public realm work will be undertaken during the remainder of the Penicuik TH/CARS which runs to 2023. The Project and the project architect is engaging with the local community and schools on Penicuik's history and heritage. A training provider was appointed and events took place with one secondary school, but the other events were postponed due to COVID-19. The work of story tellers appointed to work with local schools and community began on line, including Burns stories for Burns Night. The heritage online based walking tours in Penicuik town centre, created last year, are still available. The project to enhance and refurbishment Penicuik Town Hall stonework and roof, install solar panels and a new heating system and publicly available Wi-Fi internet access in the building begin in September 2020 and will complete in July 2021. The funding was secured from the Scottish Government Town Centre Capital Fund, the National Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Environment Scotland. Grant uptake for building grant restoration projects has increased. The roof and stone works on the projects only category A listed building, the historic Pilkington buildings on Bridge Street, will complete in early summer 2021.

Active Travel

The Council's Active Strategy was adopted in summer 2019 and walking and cycling maps have been updated and available on the Council's website. The funding for the IBike programme is changed. Active Travel promotion will continue, but be funded by the Scottish Government's funding programme "Smarter Choices". This programme is rolling out in Midlothian schools. The Council is pursuing various new active travel funding sources. Notably an electric bike trial project to connect Eskbank train station and Dalkeith town centre will be trialled.

Midlothian Council Climate Change Strategy

The Council approved its Climate Change Strategy in September 2020. This work has involved an audit of work being undertaken in the Council relating to sustainability and climate change and identification of actions. The Midlothian Community Planning Climate Emergency Group has been formed.

Work had initially focused in 2019/2020 on the Council's work on climate change, rather than finding out what climate change action is being undertaken by other community planning partners. Work commenced on establishing a Climate Emergency CPP group to help deliver Net Zero in Midlothian by 2030, in line with Midlothian Council's December 2019 Climate Emergency declaration. The Climate Emergency Group has just begun its work and will replace the Environment component of the Sustainable Development theme. The Group has identified climate emergency actions for 2021/2022.

Housing

Homelessness

Continued progress has been made in respect of the 4 strategic outcomes set out in Midlothian's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) 2020 – 2024:

- Ending use of Bed and breakfast accommodation was achieved by December 2020.

- The supply of permanent accommodation for homeless households continues to increase.
- Homeless households with support needs are supported to access and maintain permanent accommodation.
- Housing options and support are in place to prevent homelessness.

Examples of work to achieve these strategic outcomes are detailed below for information.

The Revised Housing Allocation Policy agreed by Council in December 2019 has been implemented. This places a renewed focus on addressing homelessness, with a significant increase in the proportion of lets to homeless and increased flexibility in the properties being allocated which will reduce waiting times.

Additional temporary accommodation services are progressing which will reduce reliance and cost of using bed and breakfast accommodation. The Mayfield Family Service became operational during April. This service delivers eight, fully furnished, self-contained flats to be used as emergency accommodation for households with either children or a pregnant person as a member of the household. This service provides an excellent standard of accommodation.

The Housing First programme will commence in July providing 20 secure council tenancies per annum targeted at hard to reach and vulnerable homeless households. Many of these households have previously spent lengthy periods living in emergency accommodation. A tender process was completed to appoint a specialist support provider as these household's will require intensive support in order to sustain their accommodation.

A service provider was appointed to manage the supported accommodation services and deliver a tenancy support service on 1st April 2020.

The use of shared temporary accommodation as an alternative to bed and breakfast will be available to single homeless applicants and couples. Each household will be provided with their own bedroom, while sharing kitchen, bathroom and living room areas. The accommodation provided will be more affordable for households who are in employment. For those not in employment access to education, training and employment opportunities will also be improved. A 0.5 FTE Temporary Accommodation Officer has been recruited to manage up to 20 properties per annum for a fixed term period to 2023/24. These will provide a more satisfactory temporary accommodation option for up to 40 households per annum. The first of these properties to be available by July 2020.

The National House Project, a collaborative service with Children's Services was established. This provides direct access to secure tenancies for looked after young people and thus preventing homelessness in accordance with the Housing theme, Corporate Parent Strategy.

Midlothian Council has a long-standing nominations agreement with East and Midlothian Women's Aid. The purpose of this agreement is to enable households fleeing domestic abuse to access secure accommodation quickly, without the need to present for homeless assistance. Removing the need for potentially lengthy placements in temporary accommodation. In previous years this agreement resulted in two households being housed. This agreement was recently revised. As a result of this review a minimum of four nominations will be made by East and Midlothian Women's Aid.

Meeting Housing Need

The council's Strategic Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) was submitted to the Scottish Government in December 2020. To address the need for affordable housing, the SHIP details potential sites for 2,602 new affordable homes to be built during 2021-26.

New council housing developments were completed at Loanhead Charpentier Avenue and Clerk Street, Loanhead, Kirkhill, Penicuik and Danderhall. The allocations were prioritised to local residents via Local Lettings Initiatives.

140 new affordable homes were delivered during 2019/20. 538 new homes are currently under construction across 15 sites.

460 permanent homes were provided to housing list applicants via the common housing register. 96% of new tenancies were sustained.

The Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2021-26 has been completed subject to Councillor approval at May 2021 Council. The LHS is at the heart of arrangements for housing and planning through its links with Development Plans and its strategic role in directing investment in housing and housing related services locally. It sets out a strategic vision for the delivery of housing and related services and the outcomes that it will seek to achieve.

Governance

The annual Assurance Statement was submitted to Scottish Housing Regulator demonstrating **Economic Recovery and Growth Covid Response**: All partners moved to deliver their services digitally and we found this improved our performance particularly in terms of client support as we had more client facing time than we had under the old model of face to face meetings at the business premises.

The Economic Development team has been processing grants throughout 2020/21, those that were not connected to non-domestic rates accounts, with support from teams across the Council. A supportive role was provided for our colleagues in Edinburgh processing the non-domestic rates grants, acting as a liaison between CEC and our local businesses. We have also supported some businesses to appeal a declined decision.

The Business Gateway service had continued delivery, albeit the requirement for the service changed from start-up and growth to business survival, this has led to a less directive and more coaching style to be deployed by the team when interacting with clients developing new skills in the team.

Locate in Midlothian: Website and social channels launched in June 2020, the website became instrumental during the Pandemic as we quickly created a jobs board and expanded that to include information on partner provision of employability support. The website and socials have been used to communicate good news stories and ensure that grants information reached as many of our local audience as possible.

We worked with local business and our local communities to celebrate St Andrew's Day promoting the Kindness Midlothian hashtag, participants each contributed a short video which was then released on Locate in Midlothian website and across all socials, our reach alone was just shy of £20k, and we had positive feedback from local businesses seeing a spike in website visitors as the video was shared globally.

Economic Development Strategy: An Addendum, Economic Renewal Strategy to The Council's Strategy for Growth 2020-25 was published in June 2020 in response to Covid19. The Strategy aims to mitigate the adverse economic impact on the local economy from Covid-19, protecting jobs and aiding business recovery utilising a place based partnership approach that can maximise on the opportunities developing from the pandemic.

Local Procurement Strategy: Refreshed strategy approved January 2021, Procurement and Economic development working together to ensure a joined up approach to increasing the local supplier base for access to our procurement opportunities and those of neighbouring authorities.

Midlothian Council Small Business Fund (MCSBF): £76K withdrawn from Business Loan Scotland, this will be directed to the new MCSBF for a £2k grant for growth and launch projects.

Midlothian Carbon Charter: Launched during Scotland's Climate Week in September 2020, due to the pandemic we have not been in a position to progress this with our local businesses but we expect to see take up during 2021/22 as the Business Gateway service offers energy audits via our partners at ZWS to every business we engage with.

Town centre Capital Fund: A total of seven applications were approved totalling awards of £910,000. 2 projects are complete, 3 are in the final administration phase and the Penicuik Town Hall project, the largest grant awardee has completed the installation of publicly accessible WIFI in the Town Hall. The major works will commence on site in October 2020 and will be completed prior to the September 2021 deadline.

On 21st September 2020 Midlothian Council accepted a further £331,000 from the Scottish Government £30 Million capital contribution into regeneration in 2020/21, part of the £230 million economic recovery stimulus package. Teams across the Council got involved in identifying projects for consideration and four projects are now in progress.

National PACE programme: Funding awarded to Midlothian Council to provide local one to one support to those at risk of, or having been made, redundant. This has been allocated to the Economic Development team and recruitment for 2 posts is in progress. The post holders will work closely with CLL employability team and also the Business Gateway advisers for self-employed support.

MBTAG (Midlothian & Borders Tourism Action Group): The South of Scotland Destination Alliance (SSDA) has now launched, this tourism intermediary will support the Scottish Borders & Dumfries and Galloway. The LEADER funded MBTAG closed in November 2020 with MBTAG's assets have been divided between SSDA & Midlothian Tourism Forum (MTF).

Midlothian Council supported MTF to recruit a freelancer to develop and coordinate activities and increase membership, the economic development team have supported the Committee as they re-establish the forum as the tourism intermediary for Midlothian, creating a joined up strategic approach between partners to support the industry as they recover from the impacts of the Pandemic.

Tyne Esk LEADER: Programme delayed due to Covid, capital projects set back because contractors could not access during Lockdown, revenue projects because staff could not get out and facilitate actions.

- Programme extended from end date of 31/3/21 to 31/12/21 with possible extension to 31/3/22.
- Successful completion of 12 of the 14 outstanding Tyne Esk LEADER projects
- Completion of monitoring & evaluation of Tyne Esk LEADER 2014-20 Programme and report produced.
- Report on rural recovery mechanisms for Tyne Esk LEADER following Covid & Brexit produced.

Monies made available from SG for Covid recovery spend with existing applicants. To be committed 21/22

Challenges

Midlothian Local Biodiversity Action Plan

The challenge will now be for partners to work together and commit to delivering actions of the local diversity plan. Communication, awareness of partners work and partnership working will be used to help deliver the document's identified actions.

Penicuik Heritage Regeneration Project

Getting building owners and shop owners/tenants interested in taking up grants for enhancement and improvement works does continue to be hard and challenging, particularly due to COVID 19, but also from preceding economic climate. A numbers of proposals are though being pursued and taken forward. No shop front enhancement proposals are, however, being taken forward. The project is very much aware of this and liaising with grant funders about attracting owners/tenants to enhance their shop fronts. The project has increasing grant rates for both building restoration and shop front projects to incentivise building owners to come forward to take up grants. The project is seeking to work with building owners to assist with the grant application process.

Active Travel

Work on the replacement of the Midlothian Local Transport Strategy is not going forward due to insufficient resource availability. The funding for the IBike programme is changed. Active Travel promotion will continue, but be funded by the Scottish Government's funding programme "Smarter Choices". This highlights the importance of funding in being able to undertake active travel work. Leaflets had been produced for residents moving into new housing at North West Penicuik to promote the town centre. This was an effort to help create good active travel habits in residents when moving into an area by promoting and highlighting local routes and bus routes. Funding and staffing resource has not been found for further leafleting across Midlothian. The Council continues to implement active projects and make funding bids for further projects in Midlothian. The importance of local active travel has been massively highlighted through the Covid-19 pandemic. Active travel is central to the success of implementation of The Scottish Government's 20 minute neighbourhood initiative.

Climate Change

Delivery of a wide range of Climate Emergency actions across all areas, to meet the Midlothian 2030 Net Zero carbon emissions is the biggest challenge. Achieving this will require bold decisions and commitment, both financially and from people, across communities and organisations.

Housing

There continues to be a significant demand placed on homeless and temporary accommodation services. The key challenge for 2021 will be the anticipated increase in homelessness as the financial and legal measures put in place to protect households during the Covid pandemic are withdrawn requiring a comprehensive preventative approach as set out in the Council's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and supplementary Prevention Strategy.

Economic Recovery and Growth

Tyne Esk Leader: Applicant claims slowed almost to a halt in Q2 & Q3 due to Covid – attention rerouted to safeguarding/diversification. This meant most of the year's claims came in Q4 applying considerable stress to staff who were dealing with Programme closure as well. This eased early January 2021 with word of the Programme extension to 31/3/21.

Covid Response: Increased workload on team due to the need to process grants throughout the year and facilitate enquiries for those applications being managed by CEC on Midlothian's behalf, further challenged due to long periods of staff absence however we were fortunate to be in receipt of support from other council teams to help with the grant processing.

Increased level of FOI's and complaints from businesses that disagreed with the eligibility criteria set by the Scottish Government, this often led to duplication due to complaint being repeated through different channels, eg senior management, local councillors and MSP's. The guidance was to refer these types of complaints directly to SG but inevitably they came back as dissatisfied with response if received, wider council support to respond supported the team.