



Single Midlothian Plan 2023-27



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Introduction

This is our local outcome improvement plan, which sets out the needs of our local communities and brings the key priorities for Midlothian into one place. It shows how the Public, Private, Voluntary sectors and local communities will undertake actions together to secure improvements. The plan focuses on reducing inequalities, promotes preventative approaches and it supports communities to increase their influence in decision making.

Our outcomes for the next 4 years are:

- **Individuals and communities have improved health and skills for learning, life and work**
- **No child or household living in poverty**
- **Significant progress is made towards net zero carbon emissions by 2030**

We use a range of qualitative and quantitative data and consult with people who use and provide our services to plan and deliver services. We meet throughout the year to work together in a shared planning cycle:

- Revision of the data in the Midlothian Profile: April - September
- Engagement with stakeholders and those with direct experience (Citizens Panel, direct experience panel, citizens assessors, youth engagement, stakeholder events, and CPP planning day): ongoing throughout the year
- An annual refresh of the 4 year plan will take place each year between March – June

Our Vision

By working together as a Community Planning Partnership, individuals and communities will be able to lead healthier, safer and greener lives by 2030. No child or household need live in poverty. Midlothian will be a Great Green Place to Grow by achieving our net zero carbon ambitions and supporting local people to strengthen the skills they need for learning, life and work.

Who we are

We are Midlothian Community Planning Partnership who work together to best use all of the available resources to improve people's lives. Key organisations, both statutory and Third Sector, work together with communities to plan services that will deliver better outcomes for people. Our Community Planning Partnership is led by the Community Planning Board. A number of organisations sit on the Board including:

- Police Scotland
- Edinburgh College
- East and Mid Lothian Chamber of Commerce
- NHS Lothian
- Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership
- Newbattle Abbey College
- Ministry of Defence
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Department Working Pensions
- Skills Development Scotland
- Sustran (South East Scotland Transport Partnership)
- Scotent (Scottish Enterprise)
- Third Sector Strategic Interface/Midlothian Voluntary Action
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Scottish Ambulance Service
- Midlothian Federation of Community Councils
- Representatives of Community Planning Working Group, Chief Officers' Group, Research, and Information Group and Faith Communities Partnership

Changes we have made

As we move to a four year Single Midlothian Plan our structure will now consist of 7 thematic priorities with key actions across the four years.

You will see in our actions table four squares, which will represent the year the action will be achieved by, as shown below:

Achieved in 2023-24	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Achieved in 2024-25	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Achieved in 2025-26	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Achieved in 2026-27	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Supporting all our communities

There is a gap in outcomes for people in different parts of Midlothian. Some areas have poorer levels of employment; lower wage rates; lower average life expectancy, greater concentrations of people who are elderly or disabled; poorer access to physical amenities such as shops, health care, public spaces and play facilities; lower than average qualifications and higher levels of crime.

In Midlothian there are 3 communities in the top 20% of most deprived areas in Scotland. These are Central Dalkeith/Woodburn; Mayfield/Easthouses and Gorebridge. People living in Danderhall, Bilston, Loanhead and the rural areas have to travel more to access a number of services. This is a key area for consideration to co-ordinate outreach services supporting access in these communities.

In 2023 and beyond we would like to take a more focused approach to reducing poverty and working with communities to increase community wealth, reflecting the wellbeing and circular economy principles using a place based model.

The newly formed community planning theme on reducing poverty will undertake a pilot using a place based model to create supports around reducing poverty and increasing community wealth. Specific communities will have tailored plans and our current pilot is the Living Well in Central Dalkeith and Woodburn Group in conjunction with the wider approach to [Shaping Places for Wellbeing](#).

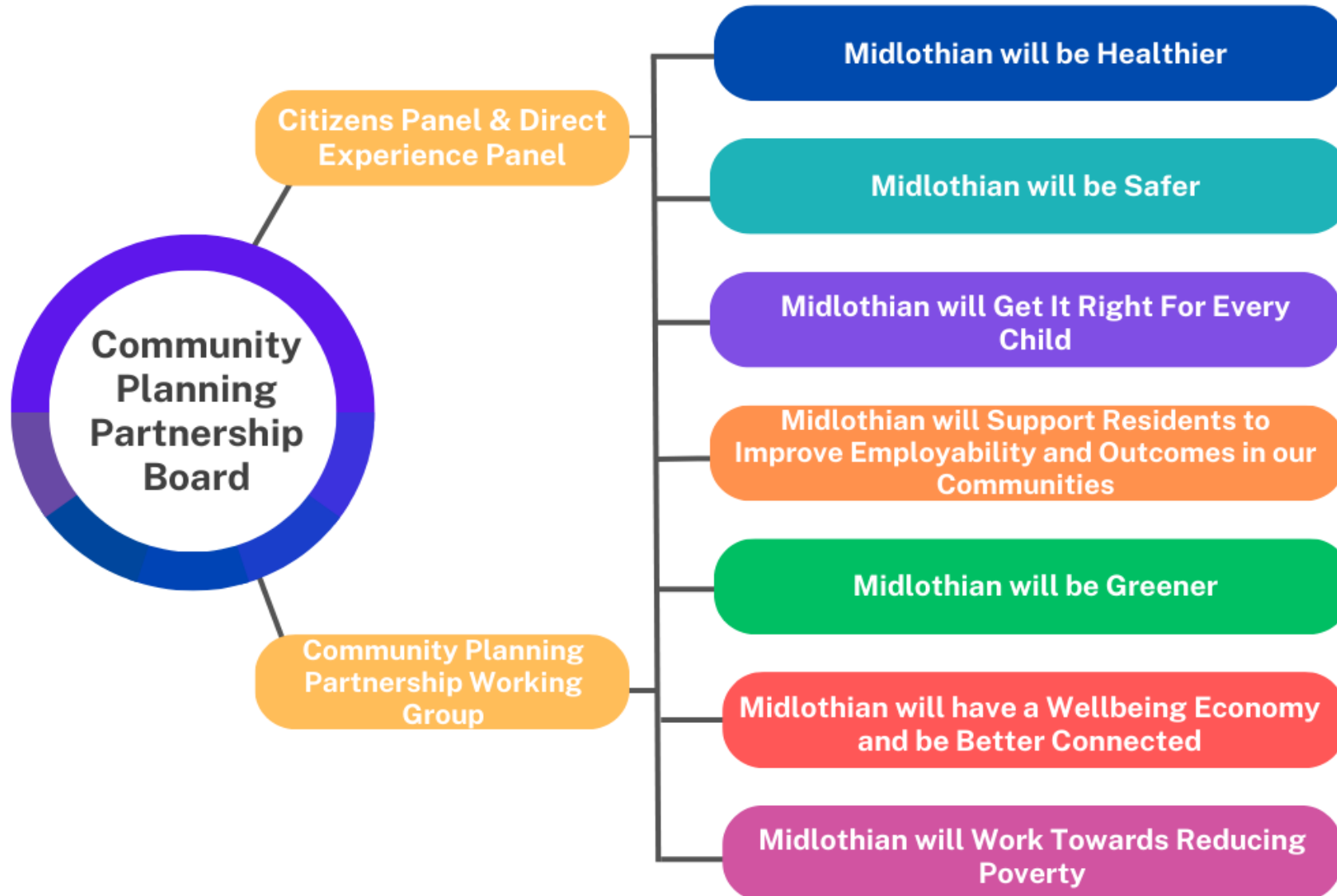
Following the release of the fourth national planning framework the review of Local Development Plan 2 (MLDP2) began, with climate emergency as a key focus. Consultations on MLDP2 will begin in May 2023 and will give local communities an opportunity to give views on the future use of land in Midlothian. When adopted, MLDP2 will set out how Midlothian will develop over the 10-year period 2026-2036.

[Local Place Plans](#) will allow community bodies to set out their own proposals for the development or use of land in their area, agree priorities, and work with others to make change happen. Midlothian Council is required to take into account Local Place Plans it receives and registers when preparing MLDP2. To allow this to happen, community bodies need to submit Local Place Plans to the Council by 31 October 2023.

The policies being taken forward create a number of opportunities for place based plans. The Community Planning Partnership will review and adapt their work annually as plans progress in order to address gaps and emerging priorities.

The Third Sector plays a vital role in fostering a sense of identity and belonging within communities. They provide essential resources, services and opportunities that enable individuals to actively participate and drive positive change within their communities.

How we work together:



Our Previous Achievements

Some previous partnership achievements from Single Midlothian Plan 2022-23 include:

- ageing well programme delivered over 50 activities each week
- volunteering at Midlothian Community Hospital increased by 125%
- the number of children and young people receiving support from community-based services increased
- incorporated biodiversity work on school curriculum
- secured £10,000 grant to the Midlothian Tourism Forum
- 1-1 support was offered for 22 Third Sector organisations
- annual participation measure for young people over 16 is 93.4% for Midlothian

In October 2022 the **Youth Community Planning Hackathon** was held at the Dalkeith Campus, providing a platform for 67 of Midlothian's youth to voice their views on Working Together Towards a Thriving and Greener Future. You will see their influence on the outcomes and actions contained in this plan.

In 2022 we further developed our cash first trusted partner model utilising the Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery **LACER funding** to support residents struggling with the cost of living crisis. Up to 31st March 2023, 2110 instances of support have been delivered through this model, 72% of these are first payments.

In February 2023 a coffee morning was held for Ukrainian and Afghan 'New Scots' at Penicuik Town Hall where approximately 30 people participated. Partners were in attendance to help those new to Midlothian with queries around education, employment, volunteering, benefits and health. Where possible flyers and information were printed in Ukrainian and other languages to improve communication and understanding of services available. Further events are planned for 2023/2024.

Policies that inform Community Planning

Our work is informed and governed by national and international policies. This plan aligns with the priorities of the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) and [The Promise](#) to safeguard and uphold the well-being and rights of children.

[All Learners in Scotland Matter](#) report (May 2023) presents the findings of the national discussion on education in Scotland. It places children and young people at the heart of Scottish education and underlines the importance of valuing collaborative partnerships with all those working in, or connected to, the education system

The [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#) empowers communities in making decisions about public services, giving clear statutory purpose focused on improving outcomes and reducing inequalities. Community Planning Partnerships are responsible for producing the following:

- Local Outcomes Improvement Plans, which cover the whole council area, Midlothian's is known as the Single Midlothian Plan and is this document.
- Locality Plans, which cover smaller areas within the Community Planning Partnership area that will benefit most from improvement.

The [Climate Change \(Emissions Reduction Targets\) \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#), sets targets to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net zero by 2045. The elected members of Scottish Parliament and of Midlothian Council have declared a "Climate Emergency" and that this must be addressed by collective action to reduce carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions.

[Equality Act 2010](#) legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society. It sets out the different ways in which it's unlawful to treat someone.

The [Armed Forces Covenant](#) is a promise by the nation ensuring that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, are treated fairly. This has now been enshrined in law through the Armed Forces Act 2021. Councillor Pauline Winchester is the Armed Forces Champion and will act as an advocate for those serving, their families and veterans.

The [Learning and Development in the Community Plan 2021-24](#) sets out the commitment of partners to meet the duties of the Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013.

The **Midlothian Compact** creates the foundation for positive working relationships between the Third Sector and Midlothian Council to support better outcomes for communities [Midlothian Compact 2020-2025 \(PDF\) |](#)



[Local Police Plan](#) for Midlothian forms a core strand of the work of the community safety and justice partnership arm of community planning in Midlothian. Beyond this, the police service in Midlothian is integrated with, and contributes significantly to the wider work of the partnership.

Getting Involved with Community Planning

People of all ages have a rewarding opportunity to input on issues that matter to their neighbourhood, bringing about real change to help improve the quality of life and wellbeing.

There are also additional opportunities for young people to get involved in Community Planning through Midlothian Youth Platform ([Midlothian Youth Platform \(MYP\) | Midlothian Council](#)).

In 2023 we are creating a variety of new ways of connecting with those that have direct experience of the issues the plan aims to improve and live in Midlothian. To find out more on how to get involved, or to register your interest, email Community.Planning@midlothian.gov.uk or keep a watch on our [webpage](#) and social media channels for workshops, conferences, and other events.

Midlothian Will Be Healthier



Who we are, What we do and Why

We bring together 60 services, parts of Midlothian Council and NHS Lothian to help everyone in Midlothian live well and get the right support when they need it.

To achieve this, we must make progress towards the aims of Midlothian IJB Strategic Commissioning Plan, with Community Planning Partners, and contribute to the strategic aims of both NHS Lothian and Midlothian Council.

From the public consultation on [Midlothian Integration joint Board Strategic Commissioning Plan for 2022-25](#) people told us they wanted to work together to improve outcomes, live healthier lives, for longer, and in the place of their choosing.

The Midlothian Citizens Panel and feedback from the Community Planning Conference in November 2022 found that people were most interested in seeing support:

- for a growing and aging population
- for vulnerable people
- to improve mental wellness and wellbeing

The Midlothian Citizens Panel and Community Planning Partnership Conference have helped us consider where we can accelerate progress in key priority areas and many of our services are already transforming to improve outcomes, often in partnership with the organisations in the Community Planning Partnership. For example, the Midlothian HSCP Mental Health and Substance Use Service provides a wide range of support that is embedded in our communities, works closely with a range of community partners, and is nationally recognised as an example of excellence.

What the Data tells us

Outcome 1: Midlothian Care and Support Community Cooperative

The [Scottish Health and Care Experience \(HACE\) Survey](#) told us:

- 19% described themselves as having carer responsibilities
- 60% of people felt they had a good balance between caring and other things in their life
- 40% felt they had a say in the services provided to the person they care for

The 2021 VOCAL survey told us what matters most to people who undertake a caring role:

- 17% of carers feel they had no say in the services provided for the person they look after. This was greater for those caring for someone due to substance use (31%) or visual impairment (26%) and those caring for people aged 16-25 (26%)
- 38% did not feel services were well coordinated and described additional stress caused by having to interact with several agencies to get support
- 24% told us there were no services available to provide care whilst they take a break

- 39% told us there was nobody else to provide care, and 27% reported that the person they care for won't accept care from others
- carers would like to see more services in their local communities at a time that suits them and was provided in one place (33%)
- helped understand legal rights and entitlements (40%)
- assisted carers to work with statutory agencies like health, social care, or education (36%)

Outcome 2: Falls Prevention and Support

In Midlothian the rate of falls is 6.5 per 1000 population and is one of the top ten reasons for hospital admissions in Midlothian. The rate of falls for people in Midlothian over the age of 85 is 86.1 per 1000 population, higher than the national rate of 72 per 1000 population, and Lothian rate of 78.9 per 1000 population.

Staying well is particularly important in reducing the risk of falling for older people and the evidence tells us that multifactorial risk assessment can reduce falls by 24%.

Outcome 3: Digital Self-Management Platform

Research by [The Health Foundation](#) suggests self-management may reduce visits to health services by up to 80%. With a population of 94,680, there is potential to see real change in Midlothian by improving the range of available self-management options and tools. A digital self-management platform can support people to access information, exercises, and activities easily, set personal goals, measure progress, and take control of their own health and wellbeing.

Outcome 4: Early Identification and Support for People Living with Frailty

In Midlothian, the number of people who are living with frailty is estimated to be 15%, or 7,935 people, around half of people aged over 85. As frailty increases, people are more likely to stay in hospital for longer, will see their GP more often and the costs for medication will increase. The annual average cost for medication is £255 per person, but this is nearly 4 times higher for people living with frailty (£916 per person).

What the consultation told us

Outcome 1: Midlothian Care and Support Community Cooperative

Consultation from Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnerships Carers Strategy indicated carers felt that bring together a range of information and support made things simpler and they are more likely to connect with services if there was a 'warm' hand over. Carers described their relationship with Third Sector organisations as 'consistent' and were given 'time to be listened to', however public sector services were often described as 'short-term' and 'multiple'.

Consultation in 2022 on a Midlothian Care and Support Community Co-operative told us carers wanted:

- hubs or access points in the community
- central points of contact
- information tailored to the needs of the carer

- better linkages between services and have sources of information and contacts for community services and equipment
- a focus on maximising resources in local communities
- services to be offered in different, flexible ways
- better outreach

Outcome 2: Falls Prevention and Support

People told us preventing ill or worsening health for as long as possible is important and want to avoid hospital stays and to return home as soon as they are ready. Establishing a community approach to identify and support people at risk of falling in Midlothian would allow for recommendations in the upcoming NHS Lothian Falls Prevention and Management Strategy to be carry out.

Outcome 3: Digital Self-Management Platform

The Midlothian Citizens Panel told us it was important to equip people with the information and skills they needed to better understand their own health and wellbeing needs, increase the number of people who use technology, and improve visibility and accessibility of services.

Outcome 4: Early Identification and Support for People Living with Frailty

Supporting a growing and ageing population, more ways to support the most vulnerable and have more pretention and early intervention approaches are high priorities for the people of Midlothian. People told us that they wanted to see more person-centred approaches, receive care as close to home as possible, and only go into hospital when this was the only way to provide the care they require.

What will be achieved and how will Midlothian's future look different?

By working with all our community partners, we will help more people in Midlothian live healthier lives for longer.

A **Midlothian Care and Support Community Cooperative** will provide carers with an increased range of resources and advice through a community-based support network, allowing more flexible support, more choice, and more control for carers in decisions that affect them and the person they care for.

Improving **Falls Prevention and Support** will support more people remaining independent for longer. By reaching people at risk of falls earlier, providing appropriate information and support this will reduce pressure on both hospital and community services.

Evidence suggests that a **Digital Self-Management Platform** would result in people gaining the support they need earlier. More people will have easy access to information and support without having to wait for services.

Early Identification and Support for People Living with Frailty means more people will receive the right support at the right time. We know that by providing timely support it is possible to delay or prevent people becoming frail.

Our Shared Outcomes & Actions


Outcome 1: Midlothian Care and Support Community Cooperative

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
<p>Explore and define the demand for and the benefit of a Midlothian Care and Support Co-operative by January 2024 through a process of co-design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete feasibility study • Establish delivery model • Sign off implementation plan for service 	<p>Baseline: not established Target: established</p>		<p>Midlothian HSCP, Planning Officer, Carers / Midlothian HSCP, Service Manager, Disabilities</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integration Manager 2. Service Manager Disabilities 3. Carer Planning Officer 4. Project Steering Group 5. Community Planning Partners
<p>Support the implementation and growth of the Midlothian Care and Support Co-operative across 2025</p>	<p>This work is developmental: appropriate targets will be developed following the scoping stage</p>		<p>Midlothian HSCP, Planning Officer, Carers / Midlothian HSCP, Service Manager, Disabilities</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integration Manager 2. Service Manager Disabilities 3. Carer Planning Officer 4. Project Steering Group 5. Community Planning Partners
<p>Complete an evaluation of delivery and impact to inform future development</p>	<p>This work is developmental: appropriate targets will be developed following the scoping stage</p>		<p>Midlothian HSCP, Planning Officer, Carers / Midlothian HSCP, Service Manager, Disabilities</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integration Manager: 2. Service Manager Disabilities 3. Carer Planning Officer 4. Project Steering Group 5. Project Staff 6. Community Planning Partners
<p>Develop and support a sustainable model across 2026-27</p>	<p>This work is developmental: appropriate targets will be developed following the scoping stage</p>		<p>Midlothian HSCP, Planning Officer, Carers / Midlothian HSCP, Service</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integration Manager 2. Service Manager Disabilities 3. Carer Planning Officer: Delivery 4. Project Steering Group 5. Project Staff



Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
			Manager, Disabilities	6. Community Planning Partners

Outcome 2: Falls Prevention and Support

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
<p>To develop a community approach to improving whole population knowledge and information about falls, identify people at risk of falls as early as possible and create whole system opportunities for prevention and support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the future Midlothian Falls Pathway Establish an emergency falls phone line Implementation of multi-factorial falls assessments Establish urgent falls referral routes and processes Design falls prevention and management training Deliver falls prevention and management training to 100 people at risk of falling 	<p>Baseline: not defined Target: pathway defined</p> <p>Baseline: not in operation Target: in operation</p> <p>Baseline: not in operation Target: in operation</p> <p>Baseline: not defined Target: referral routes and processes defined</p> <p>Baseline: not designed Target: training designed</p> <p>Baseline: 3 Target: 50</p>		<p>Midlothian HSCP, Programme Manager, Frailty</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Integration Manager Chief AHP Frailty Programme: HSCP Services Community Planning Partners:
Evaluate progress and develop an improvement plan to inform required progress in relation to	This work is developmental: appropriate targets will be		Midlothian HSCP, Programme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Integration Manager Chief AHP Frailty Programme


Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> available data intelligence proactive identification and engagement with people at risk of falls access to service offers and supports cross- system preventative approaches promoting self-management developing new accessible programmes to support prevention available and/or embedded technology 	developed following the scoping stage		Manager, Frailty	4. HSCP Services 5. Community Planning Partners
Embed the Midlothian Integrated Falls Pathway aligned to national and local strategy.	This work is developmental: appropriate targets will be developed following the scoping stage		Midlothian HSCP, Programme Manager, Frailty	1. Integration Manager 2. Chief AHP: 3. Frailty Programme 4. HSCP Services 5. Community Planning Partners


Outcome 3: Digital Self-Management

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
Collaboratively develop a minimum viable Digital Self-Management product in 2023-24	Baseline: not developed Target: developed		Midlothian HSCP, Programme Manager, Frailty / Midlothian HSCP, Clinical lead Occupational Therapist/Physical Disabilities Team Lead	1. Integration Manager 2. Chief AHP 3. Frailty Programme 4. HSCP Services 5. Community Planning Partners
Using insight from the early development and testing, continue to build and connect the	This work is developmental:		Midlothian HSCP, Programme	1. Integration Manager 2. Chief AHP

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
range of resources available in 2024-2025	appropriate targets will be developed following the scoping stage		Manager, Frailty / Midlothian HSCP, Clinical lead Occupational Therapist/Physical Disabilities Team Lead	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Frailty Programme HSCP Services Community Planning Partners
Upscale engagement and use of platform in 2026-27	This work is developmental: appropriate targets will be developed following the scoping stage		Midlothian HSCP, Programme Manager, Frailty / Midlothian HSCP, Clinical lead Occupational Therapist/Physical Disabilities Team Lead	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Integration Manager Chief AHP Frailty Programme HSCP Services Community Planning Partners
Further develop functionality based on evaluation and feedback	This work is developmental: appropriate targets will be developed following the scoping stage		Midlothian HSCP, Programme Manager, Frailty / Midlothian HSCP, Clinical lead Occupational Therapist/Physical Disabilities Team Lead	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Integration Manager Chief AHP Frailty Programme HSCP Services Community Planning Partners

Outcome 4: Early Identification and Support for People Living with Frailty

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
<p>To develop a community approach to improve the early identification of people living with frailty to support people to live healthy lives for longer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide training for 	Baseline: 3		Midlothian HSCP, Programme Manager, Frailty	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Integration Manager Chief AHP Frailty Programme HSCP Services Community Planning Partners

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
people/staff/volunteers within the Community Planning Partners on the signs of Frailty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the identification of people living with frailty using an Electronic Frailty Index (EFI) • Increase the number of people living with frailty who have a completed holistic assessment 	Target: 25 Baseline: 2022-23 = 0 Target: 2023-24 = 350 Baseline: 2022-23 = 0 Target: 2023-24 = 200			
Expand the use of Rockwood Frailty Index to identify the most vulnerable people living with frailty in the community and connect them with support to live healthy lives for longer.	This work is developmental: appropriate targets will be developed following the scoping stage		Midlothian HSCP, Programme Manager, Frailty	1. Integration Manager 2. Chief AHP 3. Frailty Programme 4. HSCP Services 5. Community Planning Partners

Midlothian Will Be Safer



Who we are, What we do and Why

We aim to address the underlying causes of offending behaviour, working with a range of individuals and organisations within community justice. The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 supported a redesign of the community justice system, transferring the responsibilities for reducing offending and reoffending to local Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs). A National Strategy for Community Justice (2022) and National Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework (2023) were published by the Scottish Government to outline the new model.

In Midlothian the following partners make up Community Safety & Justice Partnership:

Police Scotland	VAWG	
Health Boards	SOLD Network	
Skills Development Scotland	Scottish Prison Service	
Thriving Survivors	Families Outside	
Public Protection Office (East & Midlothian)	Integrated Joint Boards for Health & Social Care	
Woman's Aid East & Midlothian	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service	
Department of Work & Pension	Local	Authorities

Participation, engagement and consultation between statutory partners; non-statutory partners; Third Sector organisations; people in communities; survivors and witnesses of crime; people that have an offending history and families of people with an offending history on their views on ways to reduce offending and re-offending will be reflected in our Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP). The initial process has identified themes that will be prevalent within the national landscape, which include factors of uncertainty such as the needs of people alongside availability of resources. These are themes that will require consideration throughout the life span of this CJOIP.

What the data tells us

- crime in Midlothian has decreased and currently sits at 13% below the 5 year average
- crime of dishonesty, for example theft, makes up 39% however this is a decrease of 17% over the past 5 years
- non-sexual violent crime has seen an increase of 20% from previous years
- there is a growing trend of sexual crime observed in Midlothian, specifically involving technology in which the number of crimes of communicating indecently, and threatening to or disclosing intimate images, have jointly increased to 39 in 2021/22 from a three-year average of 25
- reconviction rates for Community Payback Orders are decreasing across Edinburgh and Midlothian, with most recent data showing the reconviction rate at 26.7%

What the consultation told us

The Citizens Panel, Community Planning Partnership Conference and our range of partnership consultations helped identify what was important to our communities. These consultations told us:

- communities want more support for young people to desist from anti-social/criminal behaviours
- communities want more support services for individuals affected by childhood adversity and trauma
- communities want more support services for mental health and substance use
- communities want to have a better understanding of Restorative Justice
- there is a need for Community Justice to raise awareness of Community Payback within our communities




What will be achieved and how will Midlothian's future look different?

We want to tackle inequalities and marginalised populations through trauma and survivor focussed objectives. The plan has been developed with our range of partners, giving consideration to all elements of Community Justice and tackling issues that often comes with significant societal stigmatisation limiting the core foundations of prevention and desistence within our communities. The new plan will lead in innovative approaches to reduce stigmatisation of Justice and criminological factors, ensuring systems are trauma informed and support people to reach their full potential. The intended outcome is that people can live in Midlothian free of fear and harm. The plan outlines new and alternative approaches in supporting people affected by crime or involved in the Justice System. We will work collaboratively with partner agencies and those with lived experience to: benefit from a specialist knowledge base; contribute to knowledge and understanding; work more effectively with our young people.

Our Shared Outcomes & Actions

Outcome: Midlothian communities will be safer

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
Partnership delivery of restorative café programme to support the development of Restorative Justice delivery in Midlothian.	2x inputs delivered	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	Midlothian Community Safety & Justice Partnership	Venues to hold events Partnership working with Thriving Survivors
Conduct a bi-annual public consultation with the community to gather views and perspectives on Safety & Justice within Midlothian	Bi-annual consultation: 2024, 2026 & 2028	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	Midlothian Community Safety & Justice Partnership	Survey Monkey Venues to hold events Service user groups
Complete an annual project with Edinburgh College media department and students with a focus on Community Justice and the wider partnership.	Project delivered	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	Midlothian Community Safety & Justice Partnership	Partnership working with Edinburgh College
Support the implementation of Equally Safe Policy	Implementation of Equally Safe Strategy	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	All Thematic Groups	Oversight and Governance of Equally Safe Strategic Leadership Group
Support the facilitation of Public Protection Office (PPO) Training Briefs to support and promote the prevention agenda.	2x training inputs delivered to the Public Protection Office per year.	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	Midlothian Community Safety & Justice Partnership	Provided by Public Protection Office
Promote and support individuals in the justice system to access timely and person-centred support services for mental health and substance use.	Partnership to form a booklet directory to be shared within Midlothian Police custody units to signpost to support services in Midlothian.	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	Midlothian Community Safety & Justice Partnership	N/A
Ensure buildings are trauma informed and meet the needs of those accessing a range of supports	Conduct annual survey with people accessing support services at No11	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	Midlothian Community Safety & Justice Partnership	Survey Monkey

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
within, and that their voice shapes joint service delivery.	to measure collaborative working.			
Engage with further and higher education establishments on a range of projects that promote the work of community justice	Facilitate 2x lectures to Napier University Undergraduate Criminology students to raise awareness of Community Justice		Midlothian Community Safety & Justice Partnership	Provided by Napier University
Raise public awareness of the work and responsibilities of public protection among the general public	Facilitate podcasts with professionals within the justice system and health to raise public awareness of their roles and remits.		Midlothian Community Safety & Justice Partnership	Technology to conduct podcasts
Set out our view of including Boys and Men describing the essential features for services based on the Equally Safe gender framework.	Consult with boys via group work approach that is multi-dimensional in both informing and learning from young people.		Midlothian Community Safety & Justice Partnership	N/A

Midlothian will Get It Right for Every Child



Who we are, What we do and Why

We oversee the effective delivery of the Integrated Children's Services Plan which is built around a set of core principles that guide everything we do together.

Our vision for children and young people in Midlothian is to have the best possible start in life and live safe, healthy, active, happy and independent lives.

Based on the national [Getting it right for every child wellbeing framework](#) we have developed a set of priority actions that we believe will make a significant contribution towards achieving the wellbeing outcomes.

The Community Planning Partnership (CPP) are fully committed to realising the children's rights approach to all of our work and ensuring that we embed the principles of the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

There is a range of national strategies and plans that pertain to improving the lives of children, young people, and their families in Midlothian.

- **Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014** aims to improve the lives of children and young people in Scotland by providing a range of measures to promote their welfare, safety and rights.
- **United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)** commit Scotland and the UK to protect the rights of children and young people and promoted in all areas of their life.
- **The Promise** is that Scotland's children and young people will grow up loved, safe and respected. Scotland must bring about the change demanded by the Independent Care Review, which was built on what children and young people had to say. The five underpinning Foundations of The Promise are:
 1. **Voice** of the children must be heard at all stages
 2. **Family** - what all families need to thrive
 3. **Care** that builds childhoods for children who Scotland has responsibility
 4. **People** with a relentless focus on the importance of relationships
 5. **Scaffolding**, the structure is there to support children and families when needed.
- **The Scottish Government's Best Start, Bright Futures** is a plan for all of Scotland that sets out how we will work together to deliver on the national mission to tackle child poverty.
- **The Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Action Plan** outlines the Scottish Government's approach to improving mental health and wellbeing for children and young people.
- **The Scottish Attainment Challenge** aims to close the attainment gap between children from disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers.
- **The Youth Employment Strategy** aims to increase employment opportunities for young people in Scotland, by providing support and training to help them enter the labour market.

What the data tells us

26% of Midlothian residents are aged between 0-22 years of age and is expected to continue, projected to increase by 6% over the next decade (Midlothian Council, 2019).

The Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing cost-of-living crisis continue to impact families with an estimated 20% of Midlothian's children and young people living in low-income households, affecting 3,539 children and young people, in 2020/21.

Physical and mental health

[Scotland's Wellbeing: The Impact of COVID-19](#), outlines key findings on the harmful impacts the pandemic had on children and young people. Social and language development in young children was particularly impacted as Early Learning Education could not be replicated in remote learning. Increasing numbers of younger people are overweight, which is the main modifiable risk factor for type 2 diabetes.

Children and Young People in Need

- 171 children and young people are in Care (Looked After), with 61 children and young people in Kinship Care (Snapshot at 31/03/22)
- over 200 children and young people identify as Young Carers (1%)
- 38 children and young people (0.2%) are on Child Protection Register (Snapshot at 31/03/22)
- 110 households with children presented as homeless in 2022/23 in Midlothian
- 227 children and young people currently live in temporary accommodation

Education

Most of Midlothian's students are white Scottish, whilst 19.1% are black or another minority, 6.2% of students speak another language other than English at home. While there have been improvements in reading, writing and numeracy outcomes at primary level, secondary school attainment rates in Midlothian are falling slightly below the national average. In 2022, 40% of Midlothian's students required additional support, which is an increase of 13% since 2018. 331 children and young people with disabilities and/or long term conditions attend Schools in Midlothian.

What the consultations told us

At our Youth Community Planning Hackathon young people told us to:

- focus on well being
- increase the voice and influence of children and young people
- provide more accessible information on support, activities and places for young people
- provide more activities for children and young people

Other consultations included the Midlothian's Champions Board and the National Lottery funded Midlothian Early Action Partnership. Within education, focus groups allow students to voice their views on national issues and what they want to change.

What will be achieved and how will Midlothian's future look different?

These actions are designed to ensure the rights of every child and young person in Midlothian will be upheld, as UNCRC is fully embedded into daily practice and processes. With a robust commissioning process in place, we will work together more effectively to ensure the services are in place, providing children, young people and families with the support they need. Midlothian's children and young people will have more timely access to appropriate emotional, mental health, and wellbeing support. Through holistic whole-family wellbeing support, children, young people and families will experience improved outcomes. Families will be supported in a way that demonstrably improves outcomes for mothers and babies. Less families will be living in relative poverty.

All professionals will be appropriately trained and equipped to deliver services in a trauma-informed way, so that more children and young people feel safe. Children and young people will receive the appropriate needs-based support whilst they are assessed for neurodevelopmental concerns. Children and young people with Additional Support Needs transition into adult services in a planned, safe, and seamless manner. Children and young people will be able to safely and easily make use of facilities and activities across the Midlothian. Young people will have access to more positive physical environments.

Our Shared Outcomes & Actions

Outcome: Midlothian children and young people are healthy, active and nurtured

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
Develop a single point of access to efficiently allocate mental health and wellbeing supports	Single point of access and support is in place and operational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	GIRFEC	Partner's staff time & resource
Implement a neurodevelopmental pathway in line with the SG service specification, linking with the single point of access	Neurodevelopmental pathway is in place and operational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	GIRFEC	Partner's staff time & resource

Outcome: Midlothian children and young people are achieving and responsible

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
Implement our whole family wellbeing approach and effectively utilise the whole family wellbeing fund	Whole family wellbeing approach is established and fully embedded	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	GIRFEC	Family well being funding
Implement and deliver on the actions set out in the Local Poverty Action Plan	Local Poverty Action Plan actions are delivered and outcomes achieved	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	GIRFEC	Partner's staff time & resource
Develop robust joint commissioning processes and oversight	Joint commissioning processes in place and operational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	GIRFEC	Partner's staff time & resource

Outcome: Midlothian children and young people are respected and included

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
Develop an Additional Support Needs (ASN) Transitions Framework to support local services and processes	ASN Transitions Framework in place and operational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	GIRFEC	Partner's staff time & resource
Consistently demonstrate Trauma Informed Practice throughout the partnership workforce	Trauma Informed Practice consistently demonstrated and evidenced	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	GIRFEC	Partner's staff time & resource
Collectively demonstrate UNCRC is implemented across all partnership programmes	UNCRC adherence is consistently demonstrated and evidenced across the Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	GIRFEC	Partner's staff time & resource

Outcome: Midlothian children and young people are safe and nurtured

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
Delivery of The Promise and the Corporate Parenting plans within Midlothian	Actions identified in The Promise and Corporate Parenting plans are completed and contributions towards the desired outcomes are evidenced	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	GIRFEC	Partner's staff time & resource
Apply a partnership approach to test targeted support during pregnancy and early years to reduce inequalities	Targeted support during pregnancy and early years delivered. taking a Partnership approach	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	GIRFEC	Partner's staff time & resource
Develop strengthened information sharing between partners to effectively support prevention and early intervention measures	Processes in place to enable strengthened information sharing between partners	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	GIRFEC	Partner's staff time & resource
Develop and deliver a partnership approach to Spatial Planning that ensures Midlothian is a place where children enjoy growing up in	Partnership approach to Spatial Planning developed and delivered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	GIRFEC	Partner's staff time & resource

**Midlothian will support
residents to improve
employability and
outcomes in our
communities**



Who we are, What we do and Why

Our vision is to reduce the gaps in learning, economic circumstances and poverty. We will do this by supporting individuals of all ages to access lifelong learning and employability opportunities. We will work together to build resilient communities. To be successful in achieving this we will need to engage and work with communities to provide opportunities for local people to shape services and secure investment in the Third Sector.

The [Community Learning and Development Partners Strategic Plan 2021-24](#) aims to build skills for learning, life and work and supporting communities to improve outcomes through community development approaches.

The [No One Left Behind plan](#) 2022-25 is aimed to address the needs of Midlothian residents seeking employability support. It sets out how the Council and partners will work together to offer a range of targeted programmes and support for all.

Poverty and in-work poverty continues to increase due to the rise in the cost of living, particularly food and energy costs. This means that more individuals and families are struggling to support themselves and provide for their basic needs.

Although some employers are experiencing recruitment challenges, there is still a significant number of people experiencing barriers to employment who require support. In addition there are significant number of people in low paid employment who require support to secure a better paid job.

Financial contraction in the public sector will mean that we will have to secure investment in the Third Sector to deliver better outcomes working with communities.

What the data tells us

- unemployment is at a record low of 3.1% in Scotland and in Midlothian 81.5% of people aged 16 to 64 are economically active, however employers are having difficulty recruiting
- economic inactivity in Midlothian is 17.4%, lower than the Scottish average of 22.8% with almost a quarter of this is due to long-term sickness.
- Midlothian job density is 0.64%, which is below the Scottish average of 0.81%, suggesting job opportunities are relatively scarce within Midlothian
- the outlook for households remains challenging as Real Household Disposable Income is forecast to fall by 5.7% over 2023 to 2024
- positive destinations for young people leaving school remain above the Scottish average at 93.4% (92.4% Scotland). Young people in Midlothian often move directly into employment or training, such as Modern Apprenticeships, rather than into further or higher education
- the number of adults with qualification levels at NVQ 1 to 4 is above the Scottish average and the number of people with no qualifications is reducing and is now below the Scottish average.
- in Midlothian 8.3% of workers are very low paid in comparison to Edinburgh and West Lothian,

evidence suggests that wages have slipped back further since 2019

- Midlothian residents earn an average of £622.90 per week, which is less than the Scottish average (£640.30).
- Men in Midlothian earn £10.30 less than other men in Scotland (£675.10) and women in Midlothian earn £58.40 less than Midlothian men per week (2022)
- volunteering activity is increasing in Midlothian following Covid particularly among young people but the cost of living crisis and funding reductions are having an impact on both existing and potential volunteers

What the consultation told us

The top priorities identified by the Citizens Panel and young people for increasing skills and capacity were:

- develop learning hubs for people of all ages to make learning accessible
- increase the number of people who are able to use digital technology
- support people into work
- ensure a bigger say for citizens
- communities are better connected by creating opportunities for local people to build skills for learning, life and work

The Community Planning Conference also highlighted the need for:

- innovation, arts and learning hubs
- increased digital connectivity
- schemes to help the creation of jobs in new sectors including opportunities to train and work at same time e.g. apprenticeships for all ages

What will be achieved and how will Midlothian's future look different?

As a Community Planning Partnership, we will work together to ensure that young people, adults and families are supported to move out of poverty and provide employability support, digital skills and devices, access to qualifications and opportunities to ensure good mental health and wellbeing.

We will work together with local communities to build strong, cohesive places where people feel a sense of pride and belonging and can build networks to support each other.

We want individuals of all ages in communities of geography and interest to shape the future direction of all services in Midlothian by giving them a voice and influence to ensure that services meet their needs and aspirations.

Our Shared Outcomes & Actions





Outcome: Improve employability outcomes for Midlothian residents

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
<p>Target employability support to those in the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority families highlighted in Child Poverty Action Report • People with longer term health conditions • Young people under age of 25 • Those aged over 50 • Those in low paid or insecure work 	<p>Midlothian residents earn above the national average (NOMIS – tracking only) Baseline: Midlothian full time workers gross weekly pay (£622.90) is below Scottish average (£640.30)</p> <p>No One Left Behind all age provision 22/23 baseline: 361 23/24 target: 110 Child Poverty (was PES) 22/23 baseline: 263 including LTU 23/24 target PES (including grants and LTU) - 320 Fair Start: 22/23 baseline: 216 23/24 target: 289 UKSP: baseline – new measure 23/24 target: 130 24/25 target: 121</p>		Local Employability Partnership	No one left behind funding from Scottish Government
Anchor organisations create pathways into better paid, secure and local employment	2 tests of change are completed and impact evaluated – years 1 and 2 target		Community Planning Partnership thematic Group	Staff time and resource
Identify opportunities to establish collaborative practices between NHS Lothian, Midlothian Council and colleges that support HSCP and LEP members to create more opportunities for local people to enter HSC work	1 opportunity identified years 2-4		Community Planning Partnership thematic Group	Staff time and resource


Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
Anchor organisations deploy their influence and resources to support fairer work and create opportunities through procurement and community benefits	Value of Community Benefits secured by anchor organisations New measure – no baseline		Community Planning Partnership thematic Group	Staff time and resource
Sustain level of Modern Apprenticeships (MA) / Foundation Apprenticeships (FA)	70% completing or moving into positive destination New measure Baseline completion rates : MA 85%; FA 57.3%		Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability	Skills Development Scotland funding Staff time
Focus on labour market gaps and new opportunities to create learning and employability pathways into new and growing occupations (green technologies, data driven innovation, health and social care and childhood practices)	Labour market analysis (SDS) data reviewed twice year to identify priorities		Business Gateway Edinburgh College	Staff and partners time
Identify and develop links with employers, colleges / universities and social enterprises	1 new partnership opportunity offered each year to address gaps		Local Employability Partnership	Staff and partners time
Maintain school leaver destinations (SLDR) and annual participation measures (APM) at 1% above Scottish average through partnership supported transitions and direct individual support	Baseline 2021/22 - Positive destinations (SLDR): Midlothian (95.5%) Scotland (95.7%) APM Midlothian (93.4%) Scotland (92.4%)		Skills Development Scotland, Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability, LEP partners Children, young people and partnerships Directorate CLLE	Staff and partners time

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
Curriculum review of schools education with partners	New measure – actions identified year 1, implement recommendations years 2-4	   	Skills Development Scotland, Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability, LEP partners Children, young people and partnerships Directorate CLLE	Curriculum review Group
Support young people to build skills for life and work through CLLE provision	Target 3200 young people supported each year	   	Skills Development Scotland, Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability, LEP partners Children, young people and partnerships Directorate CLLE	Staff and partners time CLLE
Identify key priorities, develop and deliver action plan	% priorities delivered	   	Poverty & Skills and communities thematic groups	Staff and partners time




Outcome: Local people will have increased opportunities to influence decisions through work with public sector, Third Sector and community capacity building



Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
Create opportunities for those with direct experience to co-create and continually enhance employability services	1 for each anchor organisation annually Baseline: Midlothian score card shows satisfaction rates on 12 standards with all above 50% but only 1 above 85% Target: 12 above 85% by year 4		Local Employability Partnership	Staff and volunteers time
Use Customer Charter for Employment Support Services and Employability Shared Measurement Framework to benchmark services and identify improvements Twice yearly meetings of service users forum using customer charter to ensure employability services reflect the needs of the users and the wider population	Minimum 8 service users engaged in Forum		Local Employability Partnership/ Community Planning Partnership Development Officer	Staff and volunteers time
Create and support volunteering programmes that engage local people in community capacity building activities	Number of volunteering opportunities created through UKSP New measure: 22/23 target – 910 23/24 target – 392 Number of people engaged in community capacity activities through UKSP 22/23 target – 135 23/24 target – 110		Skills and community capacity thematic group, UKSP	Staff and partners time
Maximise opportunities for volunteering to be promoted and celebrated through partnership working	Number of people attending volunteer recruitment fair Baseline 2022/23: 26 VIO and 140 visitors Target 2023/24: 20 VIO and 100 + visitors		Skills and community capacity thematic group, UKSP	Staff and partners time

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
	<p>Number of nominations to Volunteer Awards Baseline 2022/23: 44 nominations Target 2023/24: 40 nominations</p> <p>Number of organisations advertising volunteer vacancies with THIRD SECTOR INTERFACE Baseline 2022/23: 59 Target 2023/24: 60</p> <p>Number of THIRD SECTOR INTERFACE registrations for Saltire Awards Baseline 2022/23: 248 Target 2023/24: 250</p> <p>Number of THIRD SECTOR INTERFACE Saltire Awards achieved Baseline 2022/23: 223 Target 2023/24: 228</p>			
Support Third Sector organisations to manage their organisations effectively and access funding	<p>Number of THIRD SECTOR INTERFACE training courses Baseline 2022/23: 10 Target 2023/24: 10</p> <p>Number of THIRD SECTOR INTERFACE funding events Baseline 2022/23: 4 (due to UKSPF) Target 2023/24: 2</p> <p>Number of organisations receiving 1-2-1 support from THIRD SECTOR INTERFACE Baseline 2022/23: 56 Target 2023/24: 30</p>	<div> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> </div>	Skills and community capacity thematic group Third Sector Interface	Staff and partners time

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
Work in partnership with local communities and organisations to coordinate outreach services in areas where residents have to travel to access services (Loanhead, Bilston, Danderhall and rural areas)	<p>Number of coordinated partnership outreach sessions. New measure 1 per year in identified areas</p> <p>Number of people attending outreach sessions – new measure to establish baseline</p>		Skills and community capacity thematic group & poverty thematic group	Staff and partners time

Outcome: Improve the breadth, quality and impact of informal and formal lifelong learning including access to qualifications

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
Further develop adult learning and capacity building opportunities for local residents to remain active and involved in their local communities	<p>Number of people participating in CLLE adult and family learning programmes Baseline 22/23: 1,581 Target 23/24 – 1,600</p>		Skills and community capacity thematic group	Staff and partners time
Review paid adult learning programmes to identify priorities and gaps and produce action plan	<p>Review completed and priorities and actions identified by 2024</p> <p>% of recommendations implemented in years 2-4</p>		Skills and community capacity thematic group	Staff and partners time
Increase opportunities for Midlothian residents to be digitally included	<p>Number of Midlothian residents accessing Data Skills Gateway (Data Education in Colleges)</p> <p>Baseline 2020: 186 Target 2024: 204 Target 2025: 224 Target 2026: 246</p> <p>Number of Midlothian learners participating in digital skills via anchor organisations and THIRD SECTOR INTERFACE</p>		<p>Digital Steering Group</p> <p>Skills and community capacity thematic group</p>	Staff and partners time

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
	Review targets annually CLLE Baseline 22/23: 57 CLLE Target 23/24: 70 Midlothian Volunteer Action Connect Online baseline -74 learners, 22 volunteers Target: 74 learners, 22 volunteers			
Sustain qualification levels for adults at National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) at all levels	Maintain above Scottish average at NVQ levels 1-4 and below average for those with no qualifications (Nomis – tracking only) Baseline 2022/23: NVQ4 = 51.7% (Scotland 50%) NVQ3 = 68.2% (Scotland 64.8%) NVQ3 = 85.3% (Scotland 79.6%) NVQ1 = 89.1% (Scotland 86.4%) No Qualifications = 4.4% (Scotland 7.8%)		Skills and community capacity thematic group	Staff and partners time
Deliver CLD Plan on annual basis and prepare annual report on performance and impact	Report published Number of 3 year plan actions on target Baseline 21/22: 20 on target, 13 requiring some action, 1 requiring focused attention		Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability with Third Sector Interface	Staff and partners time

Outcome: Enhance the impact of Police Scotland's priorities to support communities through the work of the Police Scotland Local Authority Liaison Officer

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
The Police Scotland Local Authority Liaison	New post no baseline		Police Scotland Local	Staff and



Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
<p>Officer will act as a single point of contact to support partnership working on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting vulnerable people in a physical and digital world • Reducing violent crime and antisocial behaviour • Tackling acquisitive crime • Tackling serious and organised crime • Improving road safety 	<p>Number of requests for support</p> <p>Number of partnership projects undertaken</p>		<p>Authority Liason Officer</p>	<p>Partners Time</p>

Midlothian Will Be Greener



Who we are, What we do and Why

The Climate Emergency Group's and Community Planning Partnership vision is significant progress is made towards net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Our values are to get to net zero equitably, taking into account different people and communities capacities and abilities to get there.

The Group consists of individuals and representatives of Midlothian Community Councils, Community Groups, national government agencies, Third Sector organisations, Midlothian Council, local chamber of commerce, land owners and Midlothian Energy Ltd.

Scotland's national target is to be Net Zero by 2045 and in 2020 the Midlothian Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board agreed to a target of 'Reducing Midlothian Carbon emissions to net zero by 2030'. The Board set up a Climate Emergency Partnership to focus collective effort on meeting this 2030 net zero commitment. At the start of 2023, the CPP Board appointed a climate emergency champion to help raise the profile of climate emergency work and ensuring climate emergency actions and commitments are met.

[National Planning Framework 4 \(NPF4\)](#) was published on 13 February 2023 and sets out principles, regional priorities, national developments and national planning policy. It has a real focus and drive on the climate crisis, sustainability and biodiversity. While it contains policy on the wide range of matters that form part of the planning system, it places great emphasis and significance on:

- the climate and nature crises;
- biodiversity – its safeguarding and enhancement;
- sustainability and quality environments;
- location and quality of different types of development;
- living locally and the 20 minute neighbourhoods concept;
- community wealth building and a well-being economy;
- infrastructure and services; and
- renewable energy

NPF4 now forms part of the local development plan for Midlothian and will also be the strategic basis that future plans and applications will need to take into account.

What the data tells us

The biggest sources of carbon emissions in Midlothian are still domestic uses (30.5%) and transport (27.5%). Therefore, we will concentrate in reducing carbon emissions in the areas of domestic heating/power and transport to get to Net Zero.

Year 2020 CO² equivalent (greenhouse gas emissions) in Midlothian

Source	Year	Total (kt CO ₂ e)	% of Midlothian Total
Industry	2020	29.6	6.7
Commercial	2020	27.4	6.2

Source	Year	Total (kt CO ₂ e)	% of Midlothian Total
Public Sector	2020	17.6	3.9
Domestic (Use)	2020	135.2	30.5
Transport (All)	2020	122	27.5
Land use, land use change, and forestry (LULUCF)	2020	36.9	8.3
Agriculture	2020	58.9	13.3
Waste Management	2020	15.8	3.6
Total	2020	443.4	100%

Data Source: [UK Government – National Statistics](#)

The Scottish Government's [Biodiversity Strategy to 2045](#) highlights the scale and nature of Scotland's continued biodiversity crisis. The strategy document highlights that:

- natural capital has declined by over 15% since 1950
- only around 64% of Scotland's protected woodlands are in a favourable or recovering condition
- there has been a 24% decline in average abundance of 352 terrestrial and freshwater species since 1994 and a 14% decline in range for 2,970 terrestrial and freshwater species since 1970
- of 26 key species selected for assessment, four were classed as being at risk of severe genetic problems. Drought-sensitive plants (mosses and liverworts) have shown strong declines since 1990 and pollution-sensitive lichens have continued to decline since 1971

Midlothian's biodiversity and associated geodiversity are among a range of important factors that will contribute in helping to adapt to, and ameliorate, the effects of climate change.

What the consultation told us

Consultation feedback from Midlothian Citizens Panel, Community Planning Conference and Young People Hackathon was reviewed. Key points of feedback from the 2022 Youth Platform Community Planning Hackathon were:

- better recycling;
- less house building and more affordable housing;
- more active travel (cycling and paths);
- support for electric vehicles;
- more climate focused education at school and food growing at school; and
- protection of green spaces and more protection and planting of trees

Suggested action areas raised through the annual Community Planning Conference 2022 included:

- ensuring young people have a voice in the decision making process;
- empowering communities to take action through projects such as green energy and food growing; and improving information and support;
- partnership working;
- more local food growing;
- shift to a green economy;

- more local living; and
- green travel and reduced need to travel

From the Citizen's Panel survey:

- 94% of responses want communities better connected with good transport and active travel links, and improved network infrastructure and connectivity;
- 81% of responses would like improved greener travel options;
- 75% want to reduce carbon emissions from businesses and homes

The Citizens Panel also indicated actions should focus on implementing renewable energy and a green travel projects, and support for growth and employment opportunities in green jobs.

What will be achieved and how will Midlothian's future look different?

Our actions are designed to increase awareness, promote reflection and action on the key Climate Emergency issues of energy, food and travel. They will lead to a better understanding of carbon emissions and greater investment in greener travel, renewable heat, energy sources and heating efficiency in Midlothian. The actions will help inform and give people the opportunity to get involved to make a difference. Midlothian's future will be different through having more people aware and engaged in Climate Emergency issues, both consciously and subconsciously. This will make Midlothian more resilient to the effects of Climate Change and in addition help contribute more widely to Climate Change resilience.





Our Shared Outcomes & Actions

Outcome: Learning for Sustainability is increased













Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
Train Midlothian Council Ranger Service and Volunteers in river fly monitoring	Baseline N/A Two Council Rangers and 10 volunteers trained by 31 March 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Climate Emergency Group	None
Engage with Midlothian Council education service and encourage Midlothian schools to adopt fresh water sites, in the context of the Scottish Government's Learning for Sustainability Action Plan for Vision 2030+. Produce an education delivery package will be taken forward.	Baseline N/A 3 schools adopting fresh water sites by 31 March 2025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Climate Emergency Group	None
Consideration given to Midlothian Council having a Climate Adaptation Vision, signed off across Council departments with Councillor support. Could include alignment of Financing, Design, Delivery and Maintenance of the different infrastructures needed to support Council and national climate transformation objectives	Baseline N/A Introduction of an adaptation vision given consideration by 31 March 2025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Midlothian Council/Climate Emergency Group	None/Climate Emergency Group
Work with Midlothian Energy (MEL Ltd) on targeted education of low carbon heating and renewable energy solutions in Midlothian	Baseline N/A Delivery of actions by 31 March 2027	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Midlothian Council/Midlothian Energy Ltd (MEL)	Midlothian Council/Midlothian Energy Ltd (MEL)

Outcome: Sustainable Living is increased













Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
Establish a Midlothian Climate Hub - to act as an information and sign posting point for climate information and projects	Baseline N/A Midlothian Climate “Hub” established by 31 March 2025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Climate Emergency Group	Website Creation/Hosting
Produce and distribute electronic information on how to promote biodiversity in small scale spaces to householders, community groups, businesses and developers	Baseline N/A Information produced and distributed by 31 March 2025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Midlothian Council/ Climate Emergency Group	Desktop publishing/Website Hosting
Community/Social Enterprise food production in Midlothian (a Midlothian Growing Network) is mapped and a Midlothian Growing Network is hosted and promoted on an accessible website	Baseline N/A Information mapped and hosted by 31 March 2025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Climate Emergency Group	Compiling Information and web hosting
Identify current community scale Climate Change projects in Midlothian and have them hosted on an accessible website	Baseline N/A Information compiled by 31 March 2025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Climate Emergency Group	Compiling Information
Use Climate Emergency Group and Midlothian Climate Hub to help promote available active travel information and events e.g. Walk to School events, Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, Cycle to Work days, and wider walk and cycle promotion events	Baseline N/A Information circulated and 6 events promoted by 31 March 2025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Climate Emergency Group	None/ website hosting when hub established
Work with Sustrans, SEStran, and neighbouring local authorities to identify opportunities for bike/ebike hire projects and promote active travel	Baseline N/A Three opportunities by 31 March 2025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Midlothian Council/SEStran/Sustrans	Midlothian Council/SEStran/Sustrans
Work with public transport providers, community councils and ComoUK and others to increase the number and availability of bike storage spaces, mobility hubs, and encourage multi-modal journeys	Baseline N/A 3 bike storage areas are created by 31 March 2025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Midlothian Council	Midlothian Council
Engage with shared transport and car club providers to establish a shared transport scheme across Midlothian	Baseline N/A Shared Transport schemes are established by 31 March 2026	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Midlothian Council	Midlothian Council

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
The 2023-27 Single Midlothian Plan, in principle, will support and encourage climate and climate adaptation/resilience projects that come forward in its lifetime that help deliver its Vision	Baseline N/A	   	Midlothian Council Climate Emergency Group	Midlothian Council Climate Emergency Group

Outcome: Low Carbon/Renewable Energy Development and Home Energy Saving is Increased

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
Support and promote Changeworks household decarbonisation project in Midlothian – and Information on home energy savings and funding sources are signposted from a Midlothian Climate Hub	Baseline N/A Help promote Changeworks events in Midlothian by (and beyond) 31 March 2025	   	Climate Emergency Group/Midlothian Council Communications	Midlothian Council/ Climate Emergency Group Communications
Work with Midlothian Energy (MEL Ltd) on targeted provision of low carbon heating and renewable energy solutions in Midlothian	Baseline N/A Delivery of partner actions by 31 March 2027	   	Midlothian Council/Midlothian Energy Ltd (MEL)	Midlothian Council/Midlothian Energy Ltd (MEL)
Work with Midlothian Council on delivery of its Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES)	Baseline N/A Delivery of partner actions by 31 March 2027	   	Midlothian Council/Midlothian Energy Ltd (MEL)	Midlothian Council/Midlothian Energy Ltd (MEL)

Outcome: Carbon Storage is increased

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
Map areas of existing wildflower and meadow in Midlothian, encourage Midlothian Wildflowers, and seek to increase number of partners on wildflower meadows, hedgerows and roadside verges projects	Baseline N/A Information mapped and two new partners by 31 March 2024	   	Climate Emergency Champion & Midlothian Council	Mapping Capability
NatureScot to connect Midlothian Council with Peatland Action team to explore peatland issues and the potential for support on assessment and future project delivery	Baseline N/A Advice provided from NatureScot by 31 March 2024	   	Midlothian Council/ Climate Emergency Group	None
Engage with landowners of peatland on peatland matters identified by NatureScot	Baseline N/A Engagement undertaken by 31 March	   	Midlothian Council/ Climate Emergency	None/Midlothian Council

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
	2025		Group	
Investigate undertaking a natural capital audit of Midlothian, in part to help determine which areas have the most carbon sequestration potential via nature restoration - this could include identification of projects for restoration of peatland, grassland and woodland habitats. The natural capital audit may prompt/support further related work, e.g. water flow/flooding	Baseline N/A Investigation undertaken by 31 March 2025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Midlothian Council/ Climate Emergency Group	None/Midlothian Council
Map areas of greenspace and tree canopy cover in Midlothian to identify missing links	Baseline N/A Mapping and identification work done by 31 March 2026 Information mapped and gaps identified by 31 March 2026	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Midlothian Council/ Climate Emergency Group	Mapping Capability

Midlothian Will Have a Wellbeing Economy and be Better Connected



Who we are, What we do and Why

We have the aim to create a connected, collaborative and ambitious economic culture in Midlothian. It will support the transition to a Wellbeing Economy for Scotland, as detailed in the Scottish Government National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET), with the vision:

‘To build an economy that will maximise Scotland’s economic, social and environmental wellbeing in the face of opportunities and challenges that Scotland faces now and in the future’

To develop a wellbeing economy we will use Community Wealth Building (CWB) which is based around five interconnected pillars that centres on People, Place and Planet. Community Wealth Building changes the way local economies function by redirecting wealth into local economies, creating opportunities for the benefit local people. We have embedded three of the pillars into our delivery over the past two years and will continue to build on this work:

- **Plural ownership of the economy:**

2022/23 Single Midlothian Plan actions included hosting virtual Community Social Enterprise conversations sessions in partnership with Midlothian Voluntary Action.

- **Fair employment and just labour markets:**

The Business Gateway Midlothian service supports employers to understand and implement the principles of the [Fair Work](#) and has introduced fully funded HR consultancy for employers to access.

- **Progressive procurement of goods and services:**

Following the Midlothian Local Procurement Strategy 2021, we now work closely with internal services including the procurement team to ensure local opportunities reach the local business base. The Business Gateway Midlothian service helps businesses access tenders on a national basis and signposts them to support provided by the Supplier Development Programme and our in-house procurement mentor.

Midlothian Council has been delivering on the Local Procurement Strategy since 2021 and by working with the Community Planning Partners build on this approach to ensure that procurement opportunities reach the local supply base.

The [Regional Prosperity Framework](#) (RPF) 2021 guides and integrates public, private and Third Sector decisions, actions, collaborations, strategies, policies and investments and sets out 3 key areas to support the rebuilding of the economy:

- people – to access fair work, to learn and develop new skills and to live happy and healthy lives
- places – that are sustainable, and attractive to live and work in and where enterprise thrives
- planet – meeting our needs in a way that will allow future generations to meet theirs, with a focus on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (sustainability).

The Economic Development priorities for the 2023/27 Single Midlothian Plan align to the social, environmental and economic aspirations of the wellbeing economy with people focussed outcomes that will also deliver local economic benefit.

What the data tells us

In 2022 the Business Index register listed 2,740 enterprises in Midlothian, an increase from 2,705 in 2021. This data does not include sole traders that do not employ or trade above the VAT threshold.

The number of self-employed remained at 4,400 in 2022, an average of 7.4% of Midlothian's economically active population compared to the Scotland average of 7.7%.

Those who are economically active increased by 2.3% to 48,000 (81.5%) of people aged 16 to 64, in 2022. Unemployment in Scotland was 3.1% in December 2022, the lowest since February 2019 when it was 3.0%.

Midlothian residents earn less on average than the Scottish average, with women having a bigger gap in earnings compared to men. In 2022 the weekly pay in Midlothian was £622.90, less than Scotland (£640.30) and Great Britain (£642.20).

The outlook for households remains challenging as Real Household Disposable Income is forecast to fall by 5.7% over 2023 to 2024.

What the consultation told us

Consultation feedback from Midlothian Citizens Panel, Community Planning Partnership Conference and Young People Hackathon was considered and reviewed. Key themes from the Citizen Panel & CPP Conference 2022 were:

- increased events and collaborative meetings
- targeted, tailored support to groups i.e. elderly, in work, young people
- breaking the generational poverty cycle – education/social enterprise
- increase the number of businesses offering good fair work opportunities
- change the funding package so that money generated in Midlothian stays there
- increase people's health and wellbeing
- encourage people who can work to work and reduce benefits

Key themes that emerged from the Young People Hackathon were:

- emphasis on well being
- more pupil voice
- attracting local businesses
- hospitality better pay
- distribute money evenly
- support people into work
- take young people seriously
- bigger say for young people
- living wage for all

What will be achieved and how will Midlothian's future look different?

A wellbeing economy aims to deliver increased economic opportunities for all, providing meaningful and fair work, better outcomes for young people, sustainable places, improved health outcomes, reduced poverty and environmental sustainability.

The Community Planning Partnership will work together to increase the wealth reaching the local economy, directing procurement opportunities to local suppliers and supporting businesses and social enterprises to access tenders through training.

We will support our local communities to develop community owned services where there are gaps in provision or needs are unmet, leading to improved health and wellbeing outcomes.

We will support individuals to develop income maximisation opportunities through enterprise support.

We will create a connected, collaborative and ambitious environment for people ensuring that the place principle is embedded in our work to create cohesive and empowered communities.

Our Shared Outcomes & Actions

Outcome: Develop a Midlothian Community Wealth Building Action Plan to guide future economic activity across the partnership

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
Work with Council services and local anchor organisations to develop a shared action plan to embed the CWB principles into our work with individuals, businesses and communities	No baseline Target: Action plan completed. Commence delivery on actions as they are identified.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Economic Development	Project Management: ED Service Manager. Project Team: Council Officers & Anchor Org Leads Project Administration: ED Officer.
Partnership delivery of actions identified in the CWB Action Plan against the 5 pillars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plural ownership of the economy Making financial power work for local places Fair employment and just labour markets Progressive procurement of goods and services Socially productive use of land and property 	No Baseline Target: Identify roles, responsibilities & measurements for tracking/reporting Partner delivery on collective actions	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Economic Development	Project Management: ED Service Manager. Project Team: Council Officers & Anchor Org Leads Project Administration: ED Officer.

Outcome: Increase economic opportunity to maximise income, empowering individuals and communities

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
Deliver sessions in community settings to raise awareness and understanding of Self Employment and Social Enterprise as career pathways	No baseline Target: 6 sessions per annum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Economic Development	
Referrals for continued to support from Business Gateway and Midlothian Voluntary Action	12 referrals to Business Gateway/Midlothian Voluntary Action for support	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Economic Development	Referrals: Council Services CP Partners invite to existing

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
				events/groups
Develop case studies to highlight success stories	6 case studies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Economic Development	Delivery: Economic Development Business Gateway Midlothian SEAM
1:1 support for self-employment and social enterprise development	No baseline Target: 1:1 - 18 per year	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Economic Development	Delivery: Economic Development Business Gateway Midlothian SEAM Referrals: Council Services CP Partners invite to existing events/groups
Create a dedicated space on Locate in Midlothian for Social Enterprise to include learning materials, tools, case studies and signposts to funding providers.	Space created	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Economic Development	Delivery: Economic Development Business Gateway Midlothian SEAM Referrals: Council Services CP Partners invite to existing events/groups

Outcome: Develop a culture of entrepreneurship, increasing business knowledge, for current and future generations

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
Creation of Enterprise Hubs in educational and community settings to reach and support students, pupils and those in our communities that aspire to be financially independent.	No baseline Target: Year one – establish hub in Edinburgh College. Year 2 – establish hub in area of SIMD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Economic Development	Delivery: Economic Development Business Gateway Midlothian Partner with colleges & schools and Development Trusts.
Outreach sessions for enterprise support in community	No baseline		Economic	Economic Development

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
and educational settings across Midlothian.	Target: sessions completed	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Development	Business Gateway Midlothian Space provision by Council services, CP Partners/Anchor organisations

Midlothian Will Work Towards Reducing Poverty



Who we are, What we do and Why

We will, as a partnership, work together to reduce all aspects of poverty using a data informed approach whilst learning from those with direct experience of poverty.

The number of local people finding themselves under financial pressure has increased due to the cost of living crisis. Supporting individuals and families to increase income, reduce outgoings and ensure they are receive all income supports has become even more vital.

During 2022/23 the Community Planning Partners created dedicated groups and designed new services to support communities through the cost of living crisis. The Strategic Poverty Prevention Group was set up with a focus on prevention and our elected members created a formal Council Cost of Living Crisis Task Force which focused on mitigation. The learning from both these groups have informed the action plan below.

What the data tells us

Due to the cost of living crisis households earning £40,000 or less will be feeling a more significant impact of the increased living costs. Going into the pandemic 3,539 children in Midlothian were living in poverty. The number of crisis grant applications and acceptances has almost doubled since 2013/14 with a rapid increase in 2021/22. The table below estimates that adults in Midlothian are facing the most challenges with keeping their homes warm, energy bills and affording balanced meals.

Estimated Impacted/ Experiencing in Midlothian out of 76,400 adults (population Midlothian)	
Cannot afford to keep home warm	17,000 to 21,000 adults
Quite/ very worried about energy bills	28,000 to 34,000 adults
Cannot afford to eat balanced meals	21,000 adults
Hungry due to lack of money in last month	8,000 adults
Missed priority payment over last three months	8,000 adults
Mental health/ health negatively affected	16,000 adults

(Estimated from the Resolution Foundation Living Standard Audit January 2023)

The tables below highlight the extent of child poverty across Midlothian and for different population groups in the UK:

Ward	%
Penicuik	14%
Bonnyrigg	11%
Dalkeith	35%
Midlothian East	23%
Midlothian South	26%
Midlothian West	11%

(Source: [Midlothian Profile 2022](#); based on data from 2019)

The two-child limit to Universal Credit affects larger families (those with three or more children) higher in Midlothian compared to the rest of Lothian, there are 34 per 100 in Midlothian (Source: DWP/HMRC).

Evidence suggests that that pay levels in Midlothian have deteriorated relative to the rest of Lothian and has the lowest job start payments approved by local authority from August 2020 to March 2022.

What the consultation told us

From our Citizens Panel survey in 2022:

- 92% want us to focus on reducing the number of people who struggle to pay for food and fuel
- 90% want us to ensure there is fair work for people and increase the number of businesses offering good fair work opportunities

It is important that we have strong links with economic development, employability and the wellbeing strand of Community Planning to not only support local people to secure jobs or better paid jobs but also to work with employers to support fair work.

In relation to poverty the Midlothian Youth Hackathon told us to:

- focus on better pay and support for everyone trying to gain employment
- improve transport links and better access to support available

Feedback from the Cost of Living workshop at the Community Planning Conference included:

- maintaining support services to those in need
- having actions around childcare and the cost of the school day across all sectors, including early years
- having local credit unions
- more recycling shops or free furniture recycling programmes
- measures to help heat homes and combat food prices, for example a food network similar to “Too Good To Go”

What the external review told us

People in Midlothian with direct experience of poverty told us they are not fully aware of the support and benefits available, and that when accessing or applying for support many feel it is an intrusive and judgmental process.

People would like us to focus on improving access to pantries in all communities and more information on cooking and recipes. They would like better, consistent communication on services available and how to access them. Communities would like to see ‘repair and reuse’ shops which up-cycle unwanted household items and more access to credit unions, including quick access loans.

Areas of further exploration in the future could include developing a standard referral system to make the process simpler and developing better information and support for those applying unsuccessfully to the Scottish Welfare Fund.

What will be achieved and how will Midlothian's future look different?

The partnership will work together to increase the number of employers offering fair work in Midlothian and support local people to be in a strong position to secure higher paid jobs. We can help local people maximise their income by ensuring they know where to access support and how to claim the financial support available to them.

We need to make sure that childcare and transport is meeting the needs of individuals and families to support them to be able to take up and retain employment opportunities.

The following data will be used to show if financial and living conditions in Midlothian are improving:

- **Working Population:** The economically active population was 48,000 (81.5%) of people aged 16 to 64, in 2022
- **Earnings:** In 2022 the weekly pay in Midlothian was £622.90, less than Scotland (£640.30) and Great Britain (£642.20)
- **Women's earnings:** Female full-time workers in Midlothian (by place of residence) earned on averages £16.50 less than the overall Midlothian full-time employee in 2022, the gap has reduced from the 2020 figure by £1.40, £49.00 less in 2019 and £31.10 less in 2018
- **Job Density** (rate of jobs in location to population aged 16-64) is 0.64% in Midlothian, which is below the Scottish average of 0.81%

The Living Well in Central Dalkeith and Woodburn pilot will be evaluated to understand what makes most difference when using a place based approach and share these lessons for future work across Midlothian.



Our Poverty Champion will challenge the group using the following questions to ensure we are making a difference in Midlothian:

- Are we really taking a whole system approach?
- How consistently are our approaches being delivered across Midlothian?
- Are front line staff able to direct people to the right support?
- Do communities have access to services and community supports at the right time and right place?
- Are we working collaboratively to influence other strategies including employability, housing, education, travel and childcare?

Our Shared Outcomes & Actions









Outcome: Poverty and child poverty is reduced through use of partnership levers and resources

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
A single Midlothian data profile produced including information from Hopkins report, Public Health Scotland and Education.	A poverty data profile produced	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	Poverty CP Thematic Group	Staff and External Partners time
Develop a range of ways to establish relationships and gather views of those with direct experience of poverty: online forum, citizen's panel, citizen assessors, focus groups and appraisal project.	New baseline Target – 20 residents on the Panel; 5 residents trained as citizen assessors 2 processes reviewed over the 4 years. 3 staff trained to support direct experience work Initial mapping completed and improvements identified Template for poverty data set produced and updated annually by CPP	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	Community Planning Development Officer	Staff and volunteers time
Agree strategy and action plan for reducing the cost of the school day through the child poverty action plan	Number of actions on target School, child and parent impact statements of the difference the actions have made Number of staff completed COSD training	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	Executive Director & Children, Young peoples and Partnership Directorate	Staff time
Prioritise access to Tenancy Support for tenants and housing applicants with children who are living in or at risk of living in poverty.	Number of tenants and applicants with children who access tenancy support.	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	Midlothian Council Housing	Staff time
Reduce the number of households with children in	Number of households with children in	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	Midlothian Council	Staff time & financial

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
Temporary Accommodation	temporary accommodation Baseline: March 2021 - 198, March 2022 – 170, March 2023 TBA		Housing	resources
Reduce the average time taken to close a homeless case	Average number of weeks to close a homeless case. 52 weeks		Midlothian Council Housing	Staff time & financial resources
Review local childcare needs against provisions available and implement recommendations	No baseline Review of local childcare needs completed		Poverty CP Thematic Group	External funding required, potentially parental employability support funding
Identify, influence and review Midlothian Council Service Plans to ensure reducing poverty is embedded into them – e.g. Housing, Travel and Transport.	3 plans reviewed over 4 years		Poverty CP Thematic Group	Staff time
Deliver the living well in Central Dalkeith and Woodburn placed based approach.	Evaluate improved outcomes completed		Poverty CP Thematic Group	Staff and volunteers time
Create joint strategic planning sessions with employability, childcare, jobcentre plus, economic development, transport leads to improve income from employability and ensure flexible, affordable childcare which supports employment. (Note: Local Employability Partnership leading on employment)	Target: 2 sessions per year No of recommendations implemented		Poverty CP Thematic Group	Staff time
Review local childcare needs against provisions available and implement recommendations	Childcare offers meet the needs of Midlothian families		Poverty CP Thematic Group	External funding required, potentially

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
				parental employability support funding

Outcome: Benefit income maximised for individuals and families and financial resilience is improved for low income households

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
Ensure equitable access to income maximisation and debt advice across Midlothian, including financial referral pathways	Review carried out and report with recommendations disseminated to key stakeholders Implementation plan developed and actioned	   	Child Poverty Working Group	Review commissioned and oversight group established.
Increase benefit claim rate amongst older people and disabled people/ people with long term conditions through targeted interventions and campaigns	Establish benefit baseline in Midlothian for appropriate benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Scotland Benefit uptake CAB related income maximisation 	   	Midlothian Council Communications Strategic and operational Poverty Partners (e.g. CAB, Welfare Rights etc.) Health and Social Care Partnership Child Poverty Co-ordinator (for parents)	Staff time and resources
Increase the uptake of children, young people and family benefits	Best Start Grants – baseline 790; target 830 Educational Maintenance Allowance – baseline 3.2%; target 8% Bus Passes – 11,486 (65.9%) baseline; target 70% Free school meals – baseline 22.5%; target 27%	   	Child Poverty Group	Tracking changes in the school's poverty profiles could be a potential measure for various outcomes.

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
	School Clothing Grants – baseline 17%; Scottish Child Payment			
Increase access to affordable credit and savings amongst lower income Midlothian residents through increasing local membership of Capital Credit Union	Increase the number of Capital Credit Union members from the 2022-23 figures Target – increase members by 5%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Poverty Thematic Group	Staff time
Review the changing needs of those experiencing debt and those accessing the Scottish Welfare Fund to consider additional supports or sign post to existing services better	1 review completed With recommendations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Poverty Thematic Group	Requires external funding
Increase poverty awareness amongst Midlothian based workers through training programmes	New measure Target – 4 training sessions per year	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Child Poverty Working Group	Staff and partners time

Outcome: The most significant impacts of poverty on individuals and families are reduced

Actions	Baseline and Target	Year	Managed by	Resources required
Exploring funding to increase access to affordable and nutritious food for low income Midlothian residents through extending the pantry network. Review action after 2 years	Target: Funding secured Baseline 3 pantries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Third Sector Interface/Midlothian Council	Volunteer and Staff Time
Maintain networks of trusted partners to provide a cash first and dignified support for food and fuel	Baseline – 2110 (2022/23) Target maintain levels of financial supports Collate impact statements and feedback	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Poverty Thematic Group	Secure funding on an individual organisational or Midlothian wide basis to sustain cash first approaches for 24/25 onwards

COMMUNICATING CLEARLY

We are happy to translate on request and provide information and publications in other formats, including Braille, tape or large print.

如有需要我們樂意提供翻譯本，和其他版本的資訊與刊物，包括盲人點字、錄音帶或大字體。

Zapewnimy tłumaczenie na żądanie oraz dostarczymy informacje i publikacje w innych formatach, w tym Braillem, na kasecie magnetofonowej lub dużym drukiem.

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Körler için kabartma yazılar, kaset ve büyük nüshalar da dahil olmak üzere, istenilen bilgileri sağlamak ve tercüme etmekten memnuniyet duyarız.

اگر آپ چاہیں تو ہم خوشی سے آپ کو ترجمہ فراہم کر سکتے ہیں اور معلومات اور دستاویزات دیگر شکلوں میں مثلاً بریل (ناپیدا افراد کے لیے ابھرے ہوئے حروف کی لکھائی) میں، ٹیپ پر یا بڑے حروف کی لکھائی میں فراہم کر سکتے ہیں۔

Contact 0131 270 7500 or email: enquiries@midlothian.gov.uk