

Local Child Poverty Action Report Year 4 (21/22)

Midlothian Council and NHS Lothian



August 2022

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Introduction

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 places a duty on Local Authorities and NHS Boards to jointly develop and publish an annual Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR). This progress report provides an update on actions taken locally to reduce child poverty in Midlothian in the year 2021-22.

Governance

The Child Poverty Working Group reports to the Improving Opportunities in Midlothian thematic group within Midlothian Community Planning structure. The working group is led jointly by Midlothian Council and NHS Lothian, working alongside key services such as Housing, Education, Social Security Scotland, DWP and Third Sector partners. Steps have been taken this year to review the membership of the working group and to improve the strategic direction, ownership and embedding of actions to address child poverty in Midlothian. We have been supported by the Improvement Service to review and improve our governance and reporting structures and will continue to work with them and national partners over the coming year as we further develop our strategy and respond to the cost-of-living crisis.

Midlothian Community Planning Partnership outcomes for 2019-22 are focused on:

- Reducing the economic circumstances gap
- Reducing the gap in learning outcomes
- Reducing the gap in health outcomes
- Reducing Midlothian carbon emissions to net zero by 2030

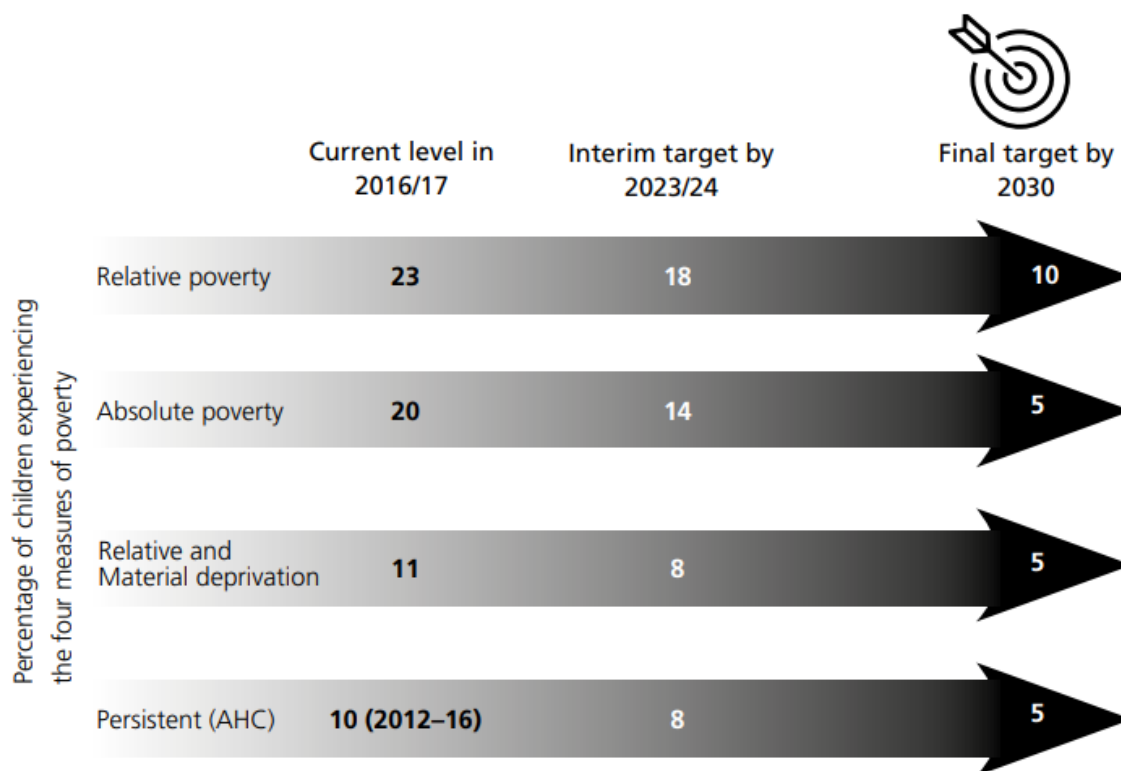
Working towards these outcomes through the actions contained in our Service Plans allows us to focus on actions to address child poverty. Developing strategic engagement with areas such as procurement, housing, transport, revenues and economic development continue to be viewed as crucial to further developing this work.

Our vision

In Midlothian we are supporting work towards achieving the Scottish Government targets to eradicate child poverty and by 2030 to have made significant progress that results in:

- less than 10% of our children living in relative poverty
- less than 5% of our children living in absolute poverty
- less than 5% of families unable to afford the basic necessities of life
- less than 5% of our children living in persistent poverty

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets out interim targets for Scotland to reach by 2023/24 if the ambitious 2030 targets are to be achieved. The image below displays interim and final targets alongside levels of child poverty at development of the 2017 Act.



Source: Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017

To help Scotland achieve these aims we have focused actions in Midlothian on the three drivers of child poverty:

Driver 1	Increasing income from employment
Driver 2	Reducing the costs of living
Driver 3	Increasing uptake of social security and benefits in kind

Midlothian profile

Child Poverty rates

Local Authority	Percentage of children in poverty 2014-15	Number of children in poverty 2014-15	Percentage of children in poverty 2020-21	Number of children in poverty 2020-21	Percentage point change 2015-21
Midlothian	21.8%	3562	20.0%	3539	-1.8%
East Lothian	21.9%	4130	18.9%	3640	-3.0%
West Lothian	21.3%	7499	21.1%	7263	-0.2%
City of Edinburgh	18.6%	13948	17.2%	13358	-1.4%
Scottish Borders	20.9%	3985	19.5%	3592	-1.3%
Scotland	22%	0.2 m	21%	0.2 m	-1.0%

Source: End Child Poverty local child poverty estimates - <https://endchildpoverty.org.uk/child-poverty/>

The above data is produced by End Child Poverty and is an estimate of children living in poverty, below 60% median income after housing costs. This calculation gives a more accurate measure of how much families have to live on than before-housing-cost data and is the measure used to establish progress towards meeting Scotland's statutory child poverty targets.

Notes on how the data should be interpreted

- The figures are based on the Department for Work and Pensions Children in low-income families: local area statistics which estimates the poverty rate before housing costs. A statistical model is used to estimate child poverty after housing costs which draws on household survey data alongside local area statistics on private rent levels.
- Local estimates of poverty are subject to small statistical fluctuations from year-to-year. Users are advised to treat annual variations in the data with a degree of caution and instead focus on the longer-term trend.
- These statistics are calibrated to regional 3-year averages from Households below Average Income for the financial years 2018/19 to 2020/21. **Caution should be used in interpreting HBAI statistics for 2020/21 due to sampling issues related to the pandemic. The data for individual local authorities and parliamentary constituencies are subject to small statistical fluctuations year-on-year and should be considered within the context of the regional or the longer-term local trend."**

Source: End Child Poverty press release, 12th June 2022

SIMD 2020

The most recent SIMD data, published in 2020, shows that Midlothian has three datazones in the most deprived 10% nationally, of which all are located in the Dalkeith Ward. Ten datazones fall within the most deprived 20% nationally, a reduction from eleven in 2016. In addition to Dalkeith, these are found in the wards of Midlothian East, Midlothian West and Midlothian South.

Midlothian datazones in the most deprived 10% nationally			
Datzone reference	Intermediate Zone	Population	Ward
S01011010	Dalkeith - 01	578	Dalkeith
S01011011	Dalkeith - 02	802	Dalkeith
S01011012	Dalkeith - 03	688	Dalkeith

Midlothian datazones in the most deprived 20% nationally			
Datzone reference	Intermediate Zone	Population	Ward
S01010965	Straiton - 04	529	Midlothian West
S01011010	Dalkeith - 01	578	Dalkeith
S01011011	Dalkeith - 02	802	Dalkeith
S01011012	Dalkeith - 03	688	Dalkeith
S01011022	Easthouses - 02	593	Midlothian East
S01011024	Easthouses - 04	793	Midlothian East
S01011026	Mayfield - 02	527	Midlothian East
S01011027	Mayfield - 03	946	Midlothian East
S01011038	North Gorebridge - 02	1005	Midlothian South
S01011044	Gorebridge & Middleton - 05	658	Midlothian South

Poverty Profile – Local Authority level data on child poverty

Code	PI	Baseline	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Data Source
			Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	
CP.01	HMRC - % Children in low-income families	18.6%	12%	N/A	15%	16%	16%	14%	HMRC, Personal Tax Credits: Children in low-income families local measure
CP.02	End Child Poverty - Estimates of children in poverty	21%	21.1%	23.4%	23.8%	22.5%	23.9%	20%	End Child Poverty, Children in poverty estimates
CP.03	% Households managing well financially	45%	60%	56%	60%	58%	N/A	N/A	Scottish Government, Scottish Household Survey - Local Authority tables
CP.04	% Children in working households	66.6%	61.2%	72.1%	72.4%	74.1%	61.9%	N/A	ONS, Workless households for regions across the UK
CP.05	% Employees (18+) earning less than the Living Wage	17.5%	17.2%	13.8%	16%	15.1%	N/A	15.4%	ONS, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings - Scotland analysis
CP.06	Underemployment of 16+ population (%)	4%	10%	7%	7%	8%	N/A	N/A	Regional employment patterns in Scotland
CP.07	Adults with no savings	15%	N/A	20%	N/A	23%	N/A	N/A	Scottish Government, Scottish Household Survey - Local Authority tables

Code	PI	Baseline	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Data Source
			Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	
CP.08	P4-P7 pupils registered for free school meals	20.3%	17.8%	16.2%	15.3%	14.9%	15.5%	N/A	Scottish Government, Healthy Living Survey
CP.09	Employment in "lower paid" occupations	27%				27%	31%	9%	ONS, Annual Population Survey
CP.10	Median full-time gross weekly earnings	6.2%				6.2%	8.2%	7.4%	ONS, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings
CP.11	Jobs density	0.62		0.62	0.63	0.62	N/A	N/A	ONS, Jobs density dataset
CP.12	% Adults reporting a limiting long-term physical or mental health problem - household with children	11%	5.7%	7.8%	13.4%	18.3%	N/A	N/A	Scottish Government, Scottish Surveys Core Questions
CP.13	% Single parent households	7%	8%	9%	5%	4%	N/A	N/A	Scottish Government, Scottish Household Survey
CP.14	% Large family households	7%	6%	5%	5%	5%	N/A	N/A	Scottish Government, Scottish Household Survey
CP.15	Children (under 16) - Population estimates	19.1%	19.1%	19.1%	19.3%	19.4%	19.4%	N/A	NRS, Mid-year Population Estimates
CP.16	Children (under 16) by SIMD16 quintile	11%				11%	N/A	N/A	SIMD16

Code	PI	Baseline	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Data Source
			Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	
CP.17	First time mothers aged 19 yrs and under (% of all first-time mothers)	16%	11%	10%	8%	5%	N/A	N/A	ISD, Age of First Time Mothers
CP.18	Non-white minority ethnic - % of total population				2.8%	3%	2.4%	N/A	Scottish Government, Scottish Survey Core Questions

The information contained in this profile continues to be reviewed and development of an updated poverty profile is highlighted as an action for 2022/23.

Mitigating the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic

Food, Fuel and Financial Insecurity

Throughout 2021-22 we have continued action to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and work is underway to support families impacted by the cost-of-living crisis.

Scottish Government flexible funding to tackle financial insecurity over Winter 2021-22 enabled our Winter Flexible Fund partners to provide over 850 instances of support to Midlothian residents. 76% of the funding supported residents with food and fuel costs, including dealing with fuel poverty. Other costs included provision of white goods, petrol, outdoor clothing for school camp, a bed, bedding, warm clothing and job-related expenses.

2089 families benefited from a £40 additional payment to the Child Bridging Payment to support with the increased cost of living and Midlothian residents on low incomes accessing the Scottish Welfare Fund were able to get funding to support with food, heating and unexpected costs to cover an emergency.

Midlothian Financial Inclusion Network hosted an energy advice and discussion event in January 2022 with speakers from Changeworks, Home Energy Scotland and Dalkeith CAB. A leaflet detailing local and national energy funds and support services was developed and work will be undertaken to keep this up to date to assist people through the cost-of-living crisis.

Research was commissioned by Midlothian Financial Inclusion Network to gain a better understanding of how and where people can access affordable food in Midlothian, with oversight from a Steering Group comprising Council, Health, Third Sector and community partners. Drawing on the findings of the research report, partners are working to identify priority actions to improve access to affordable food for Midlothian residents. This work will continue to develop throughout 2022-23, with engagement events helping to ensure that local needs are being met.

Cost of the School Day

Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) is additional funding allocated directly to schools and targeted at closing the poverty-related attainment gap. The Scottish Government has committed to this funding as part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) programme from 2017/18 up until 2025/26. The PEF national guidance supports schools to make use of PEF to mitigate the impact of poverty on learning and access to all educational opportunities.

Local Child Poverty Action Plan Update 2021-22

Strategic Planning to address child poverty in Midlothian		
Action	Progress	Future plans
Review and develop governance and strategic leadership of policies and actions to address child poverty.	A Strategic Poverty Prevention Group (SPPG) has been agreed for 12 months initially to accelerate the focus on reducing poverty in Midlothian and remove barriers to taking forward actions identified by the Child Poverty Working Group. It is anticipated that this group will be established in Autumn 2022 by Senior Leaders in Midlothian Council and NHS Lothian.	At the Council meeting on 28 June 2022 the setting up of a cross party Cost of Living task force was approved. Work will be undertaken to ensure that the SPPG links closely with the task force and the child poverty working group.
Undertake a Child Poverty Self-assessment session with Midlothian Community Planning partners.	A self-assessment session, facilitated by the Improvement Service with input from national partners, is recommended to identify strengths and areas for improvement in relation to our work to tackle child poverty (particularly around development and delivery of our Local Child Poverty Action Plan and Report). Delivery of the session is anticipated once the new Strategic Poverty group/s are in place in Autumn 2022.	It is hoped that the session will bring partners together to identify priorities, establish governance, and develop ways of working together to tackle poverty across Midlothian. The outcomes of the session will inform the development of the Midlothian Child Poverty Action Plan and reporting.
Develop the Midlothian Child Poverty Action Plan.	Midlothian Child Poverty Leads have engaged with the Improvement Service and national partners through the Poverty Lead Peer Support Network and have met with the Improvement Service to discuss feedback on child poverty reporting. This has allowed the working group to establish identify areas for improvement. The Child Poverty Working Group have identified 3 priority areas for action that will be taken forward in the year 2022-23.	The longer-term Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan will be developed collaboratively between the Strategic Poverty Prevention Group and the Child Poverty Working group and will be informed by the Self-assessment session, Midlothian's poverty profile, and the voices of people with lived experience.
Listening to the voices of lived experience.	Feedback from Get Heard Scotland community conversations has been collated to identify common themes and areas for action. Further engagement with families with lived experience	In 2022 collaborative work between Communities & Lifelong Learning, Education, Third Sector and NHS Lothian will commence in Gorebridge, Penicuik and

Strategic Planning to address child poverty in Midlothian		
Action	Progress	Future plans
	of poverty is planned as part of our work to address the Cost of the School Day.	Dalkeith to address the cost of the school day for families living in these localities.
Midlothian Poverty Profile	The content of the Midlothian poverty profile is currently being reviewed by the Child Poverty Working Group to assess the availability and use of the data. Data from Public Health Scotland and local data will be used to inform an updated poverty profile for Midlothian to assist strategic planning.	Work will continue in 2022-23 to bring relevant partners and data together to develop a profile that can be used to inform poverty actions and monitor change.

Costs of living are reduced		
Action	Progress	Future plans
Advice and support for families to address utility costs and fuel efficiency - Changeworks (part of the Aim Hi project)	58 families were supported in the year 2021-22 resulting in total financial savings of £11,509 and carbon savings of 1,215kg. Savings were made up from energy advice, fuel billing savings, Fuel Bank vouchers and applications to the Home Heating Fund.	The Aim Hi project has been awarded extended funding from the Health Improvement Fund until March 2023. A project evaluation report to evidence the impact the project and assist future planning is in progress and will be delivered in September 2022.
Homelink Outreach Family Opportunities Coordinator recruited to support families to access benefits, housing, energy and debt advice to make real and sustainable changes.	In the year 2021-22 the following outcomes were achieved: 53 families supported to maximise their income 26 families supported to minimise their outgoings 12 families supported into training/employment opportunities 70% of families supported are single parent households 50% of families supported are in fuel poverty 100% of families referred to the service were offered a fuel assessment and referral to Changeworks for energy advice.	Received continuation funding for 3 years from the Midlothian Council Large Grants Programme for 2022-2025.

Income from employment is maximised		
Action	Progress	Future steps
Increase uptake of Good Time To Be 2 (GTTB2) ELC places	<p>238 children received a place</p> <p>Online application form now available to families to improve the accessibility of the application process. Continuing to develop links with key partners to encourage take up of the entitlement. Discretionary funding application route now embedded. This will need to be reviewed as the take up of families who are eligible under the financial criteria develops. Communication strategy in place and has helped increase the take up through social media advertising etc.</p>	<p>SG is currently developing a Data Sharing agreement following the agreement to introduce legislation to allow for the sharing DWP information with local authorities in order to support the take up of the two year old funding. Midlothian will be working with the Improvement Service to see how this data can be used and to maximise its potential. It is expected that the first lists of eligible families may be available to local authorities in April 2023. This will allow the Council to establish the eligible population as we are currently working to estimates. We hope that the lists can be used for other purposes such as increasing the take up of the best start grant etc. and can also support other data processes that are developing such as the sharing of information from the health visitor pathway</p>
Parental Employability Support	<p>181 parents have received/are receiving 1:1 intensive keyworker support at present through Midlothian Council from a PESF lead worker and four keyworkers within the Communities Lifelong Learning and Employability service (CLLE). A split of 72 employed/ 109 unemployed. This is steadily increasing due to publicity and word of mouth.</p> <p>19 courses/ groups have taken place over the 2021-2022 period ranging from LVG training, Paediatric first aid, REHIS, wellbeing, animal handling, cake decorating, additional support needs and first aid to name but a few.</p> <p>81 sector based and SQA qualification have been achieved through this period.</p>	<p>Four PESF keyworkers will continue to provide targeted flexible and "whole person" tailored pre-employment support pathways for all parents identified as being at most risk of experiencing poverty by providing pre-employment, holistic, 1:1 support around financial advice, income maximisation, careers guidance, literacy and numeracy, targeted employability support, transport, affordable childcare, health and wellbeing, managing anxiety, soft skills, SVQ qualifications and confidence building. Signposting to other local partnership agencies and organisations for support when appropriate.</p>

Income from employment is maximised		
Action	Progress	Future steps
	38 parents have secured full time, part time employment, increased income or self-employment.	
Together for Positive Change Intensive Family Support Service - Barnardos	<p>19 families have entered into an action agreement, the majority are lone parents.</p> <p>8 participants are no longer affected by debt as a barrier to social inclusion and 8 participants achieved positive outcomes (Employment and Education).</p> <p>We have carried out financial health and benefit checks for all of our families, three of which we supported to claim for free school meals and school uniform clothing allowance and one application for PIP. We have been able to improve the financial circumstances for those families maximising their financial situation by helping them to manage their finances, planning and budgeting which in turn has increased household income and improve the quality of life for those families and created more financial security.</p> <p>We are supporting and maintaining 26 children to attend school on a regular basis and access an education and reach their full potential. For some of the young people, returning after the lockdown period was very challenging and in three cases it involved a phased return with them now attending full time.</p> <p>Often once we support a return to School or where we can improve regular attendance at School parents can begin to consider engaging with training and work or resume employment as the family situation is more stable.</p>	Increase the number of referrals and ensure that referrals continue to fit the revised criteria. Continue to have regular fortnightly allocation meetings to support this process.

Income from employment is maximised		
Action	Progress	Future steps
Income from social security and benefits in kind is maximised		
Action	Progress	Future plans
Income maximisation advice and support in Midlothian Sure Start centres – Aim Hi project	In the year 2021-22, a total of 582 advice contact sessions were provided to families, with advice provided on 1419 issues. Of these issues, 63% of enquiries related to benefits and 16% to housing issues. In addition to support to access benefits, clients received financial support to purchase essential items and to obtain repairs or move to more suitable accommodation. This made a crucial difference to the lives of the clients and their families. Over the year, 62 families who accessed the project were a total of £162,096 better off (increase of 109% from 2020-21).	The Aim Hi project has been awarded extended funding from the Health Improvement Fund until March 2023. A project evaluation report to evidence the impact the project and assist future planning is in progress and will be delivered in September 2022.
Midwife/Health Visitor referral pathway to welfare advice	Progress towards the implementation of an automated referral pathway from Midwifery, Family Nurse Partnership and Health Visiting services to Aim Hi was paused in 2021-22 due to uncertainty around future funding for Aim Hi and plans to review income maximisation services.	A sub-group of the Child Poverty Working Group has been established to take forward action to review income maximisation service access, funding and delivery across Midlothian. Implementation of automated referral pathways to welfare advice is recommended as part of this review and will be progressed during 2022-23.
Increase uptake of Best Start Grants and Best Start Food Payments	NHS Lothian are progressing work to ensure that NHS/HSCP staff and services have the knowledge and skills to support increased take-up of both Social Security Scotland’s package of five family benefits and Early Learning and Childcare places for eligible two-year-olds.	The Child Poverty Working Group in partnership with the locality Population Health Team, Social Security Scotland and Midlothian Early Years community planning sub-group will work to develop and deliver actions to improve uptake of Best Start grants, Best Start food payments and Good Time to be Two early learning and childcare places across Midlothian.

Income from employment is maximised		
Action	Progress	Future steps
Work with Revenues and Integrated Service Support (ISS) to achieve aim of automation of free school meals and clothing grants	Midlothian Council proposal to introduce an 'apply once' system so that on contacting the council the person/family is assessed for all areas – free school meals, council tax reduction etc. This will involve data sharing agreements and redesign of systems.	Review 22/23
Embed welfare advice provision in NHS settings	In the year 2021-22, 93 new families across Lothian, Fife and the Scottish Borders received advice and support from the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People welfare advice project, realising financial gains of £189,352.54 (this figure shows totals for the first year of benefit awards only and client financial gains will increase over time from benefit awards beginning in this period). During this period, 12 families resident in Midlothian received new or further advice. Non-financial gains were also made including foodbank vouchers, Young Scot cards and housing support. A summary report is provided in Appendix 1.	The project within the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People has informed planning for the expansion of welfare advice services across Lothian hospitals including, amongst others, a new service to be introduced to Midlothian Community Hospital in late 2022. At the time of writing this report a procurement process is underway to establish the new services.
Children's Services GIRFEC income maximisation work	In September 2020 an income maximisation worker was commissioned via Penicuik CAB with a remit to work with families where children were either on the child protection register or subject to a Compulsory Supervision Orders at home. This post was extended throughout 2021/22. To date, this worker has supported 24 families with a total client financial gain of £234,330. The work has extended to signpost families on to other services for additional support i.e. fuel poverty, employment etc. We plan to commission this service for a further year.	Review the audit that was completed in January 2022 to evidence improved outcomes for the children within the families' school attainment.

Income from employment is maximised		
Action	Progress	Future steps
Children's Services Early Intervention income maximisation work	Funding has been approved to introduce an additional income maximisation worker with a remit for earlier intervention. This will initially be a one-year pilot commencing in September 2022 and the post will be based in Hawthorn Family Learning centre. The aim of this post is to improve the financial circumstances of the families supported by Hawthorn Children and Family Centre. The worker will support families with children with placements at Hawthorn Children and Family Centre and parents attending family group work at Hawthorn Children and Family Centre .	Children's Services Early Intervention income maximisation work to commence Sep 2022.
Income maximisation - Dalkeith CAB	<p>Client Financial Gain £3,062,381.96</p> <p>3 main areas of advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits • Foodbank/Charitable Support • Debt <p>49% of client seeking advice was women</p> <p>Most common ages ranges seeking advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45-59 years • 25-34 years <p>Points of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% of clients are council tenants • 20% home owners • 39% clients with disabilities 	Continue to provide further Income Maximisation Support and information sessions based within the community.

Income from employment is maximised		
Action	Progress	Future steps
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29% clients are married/cohabiting • 11011 – client contacts • Postcodes seeking most advice: EH19, EH22, EH32 • 32% clients with children 	
Income maximisation – Penicuik CAB	<p>Client Financial Gain £2.6 million</p> <p>15% increase in demand compared to 2020-21 and 33% compared to pre-pandemic levels.</p> <p>The main issues were benefits 49% (especially universal credit and PIP), debt, financial assistance with housing and utility advice.</p> <p>Top age range seeking advice was 45-59 years.</p> <p>64% of those seeking advice were women.</p> <p>Penicuik CAB has a freephone telephone advice line and receives enquiries from across all Midlothian postcodes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42% of all clients had children • 24% were single parents • 7% had a child under 1 year old • 37% were married/co-habiting • 47% living in Social Housing 	<p>Development of AIM HI project.</p> <p>Income maximisation for families on the at-risk register or subject to home supervision continued for another year.</p> <p>Development of income maximisation advice for families using Hawthorn Children and Families Centre.</p> <p>Outreach provision at Penicuik Hub (Food Fact Friends Foodbank)</p>

Income from employment is maximised		
Action	Progress	Future steps
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6% were homeless or in temporary accommodation • 10% were in private rented accommodation • 27% owner occupier 	

Child Poverty Working Group Priority Actions 2022-23

Child Poverty Working Group Priority Actions 2022-23	
Priority 1	Undertake a mapping and review of existing income maximisation services across Midlothian , including referral criteria and funding streams (building on the previous mapping done by MFIN). Gain understanding of user journeys through services, touchpoints and gaps in service provision.
Priority 2	Review and update the Midlothian Poverty Profile to ensure that we are accessing, gathering, analysing and using relevant data to inform actions to reduce poverty.
Priority 3	Support actions to address the Cost of the School Day by developing tailored support to schools that is informed and developed in collaboration with families with lived experience of poverty.

Home Link Family Support – Family Opportunities Worker	
Priority Group(s):	Lone parents
Child Poverty Outcome(s)	Income from social security and benefits in kind
Description/Background	
<p>Single case study highlighting the outcomes for one family supported by the project.</p> <p>Home Link Family Support (HLFS) approached by a single parent of 2 primary aged children who is struggling to make ends meet and wants to return to work.</p> <p>HLFS help to identify the barriers to returning to work and other financial and housing issues and assign a Family Opportunities Worker (FOW) to support.</p>	
Key achievements/outcomes	
<p>HLFS supported the parent to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply to Connectivity Scotland for an iPad and access to data • Connected parent to CLLE to support the search for a job • Get Cash for Kids and other financial support • Get referral to Changeworks to help with fuel and meter issues • Get referral to CAB for Benefits check • Tackle housing situation resulting in a new, in-budget tenancy including a Discretionary Housing payment to help with deposit and rent. 	
Future plans	
<p>HLFS continue to give parental support in regard to son becoming involved in low level anti-social behaviour resulting in son joining Scouts and making a successful transition to secondary school.</p>	

Children’s Services Early Intervention – income maximisation	
Priority Group(s):	Lone parents, 3+ children, Mothers aged <25
Child Poverty Outcome(s)	Increasing uptake of social security and benefits in kind
Description/Background	
<p>Single case study highlighting the outcomes for one family supported by the project.</p> <p>Parent approached Children’s Services Early Intervention (CSEI) when they had been disallowed Child Tax Credit (CTC) and then Universal Credit (UC) for her third child, born as part of a multiple birth. The parent was referred to an Early Intervention Income Maximisation (EIIM) worker.</p>	
Key achievements/outcomes	
<p>The EIIM worker supported the parent to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request a Mandatory Reconsideration of the Universal Credit based on the multiple birth exception • Supported the parent to make this claim within the 5-year period of the initial claim • Supported the parent to appeal to HMRC regarding the disallowed Child Tax Credit <p>Both appeals were successful and the parent received a payment of approx. £15,000 arrears. The parent is now in receipt of on-going Child Tax Credit for the third child of £244.58/month. Parent was able to clear debts with these payments. Parent also reports improvements in mental health and life at home for the children. Parent now taking driving lessons and hopes this will lead to employment in the care profession.</p>	

Midlothian Council Parental Employability Support Service	
Priority Group(s):	All priority groups
Child Poverty Outcome(s)	Increasing income from employment
Description/Background	
<p>MC is 53 years old. He attended an online learning course with the adult team through CLLE and had signed up for 2 Highers and a Nat 5 but unfortunately this was too much too soon and he did not manage to achieve all of these. They then referred him to PES as this was an appropriate service to support him to build confidence, look at financial security and enhance his qualifications so he can secure employment. With the support of his keyworker he attended a 3 day first aid course which he really enjoyed.</p> <p>Barriers Identified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent spouse bereavement • Long term unemployed • Financial pressures • Low skilled • Confidence and self-belief <p>In December 2021, after chatting with his key worker, it was clear that he was keen to work following personal challenges which left him unemployed. They spoke about the Transferable Skills Academy in partnership with City Deal and felt this was a good fit and a way to get out and meet new people as well. He thoroughly enjoyed his time on the course and made the most of his time there. As a result of this he opened his mind to new opportunities and did not narrow his job opportunities due to his age which he had done previously. This in itself was a massive learning curve for him and he was enthusiastic about working and has applied for a few positions he would not have considered before. He secured a couple of interviews which he was proud of and is looking forward to the future. He enjoys learning and has been doing some online courses to improve his chances of employment and his enthusiasm is obvious.</p>	
Key achievements/outcomes –	
<p>PES supported the parent to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connected parent to Transferable Skills Academy course to achieve customer service award SQCF level 5 • Achieved Elementary food and hygiene certificate • Achieved First Aid certificate • Support with CV building, interview techniques and search for a job • Get referral to Changeworks to help with fuel and meter issues • Get referral to CAB for Benefits check • Building of Soft skills- team building, confidence building, work ethic, communication 	

Key priorities moving forward

He is currently on the Long Term Unemployed Programme (LTU) doing a 6 month paid placements in admin. He will continue to receive support via PES and LTU keyworkers to gain more qualifications and hopefully secure employment at the end of the placements.

Feedback or evidence

- Having never been in a position where I hadn't worked I didn't know where to start, I didn't know what I was doing and what was out there having worked since I left school and became unemployed due to a family situation. It gave me a regular contact and they helped me to look at the qualifications I had and what I could do to build on that and bring it up to date to increase my prospects.
- I felt because of my age it would be harder to find work but after going on the Transferable Skills Academy I realised that this was not the case and I could follow any path I wanted to. I was given the chance to re-think my priorities and looking for something with less of a commute. I had started my AAT course as I had previously enjoyed accountant work when I had left school.
- PES has helped me because I am now working towards gaining some current office experience that will help my employment prospects in the future. It has also given me a sense of purpose, not being stuck in the house, good for my mental health. This has been possible on a six month contract under the Long Term Unemployed scheme.

https://youtu.be/9Zp_u9leL7U

Appendix 1

NHS Lothian – Royal Hospital for Children and Young People Welfare Advice Service

2021-2022 summary report

In Lothian the Scottish Government Healthier Wealthier Children Fund (Jan 2020 – Jan 2022) was used to establish a hospital-based welfare advice service at the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People (RHCYP) in Edinburgh. Latterly, from January 2022, funding has been provided by NHS Lothian Public Health. The service benefits families experiencing poverty across the four local authority areas within Lothian and is available to any family attending or attached to the hospital. The service compliments the existing welfare advice provision within the adult hospitals.

Having a hospital-based service promotes access for those families who may struggle to engage with community based services and/or who may find they are experiencing financial difficulties as a result of their child's illness or hospital stay. The service offers free, independent, confidential and non-judgemental advice across the hospital (inpatient and outpatient) and includes support on issues such as income maximisation, benefit entitlement, debt, employment and housing. This not only supports vulnerable families at a time when they may be experiencing additional stress with a child in hospital, but also supports the work of clinical staff and lessens the burden on them potentially freeing up time.

NHS Lothian work in partnership with the Community Help and Advice Initiative (CHAI) to provide this service.

The intention had been for the welfare advice service to be fully embedded within the RHCYP and for the project worker to have a physical presence in the hospital. Unfortunately given the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions from March 2020, the welfare adviser has not been able to work from the hospital and has been operating remotely offering telephone-based support. The project worker's physical presence in the hospital has also been affected by the relocation of the hospital where desk space at the new site is extremely limited. This has impacted CHAI's ability to develop the project in the way it had initially been planned. Taking a flexible approach and utilising every opportunity to link with hospital staff however, has allowed the project to develop and every effort has been made to ensure the delivery of a successful welfare advice service.

NHS Lothian – Royal Hospital for Children and Young People Welfare Advice Service

From 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

Referrals (New)	93
Appointments	712
Financial gain	£189,352.54 <i>(this figure shows totals for the first year of benefit awards only so client financial gains will increase over time from benefit awards beginning in this period)</i>

93 new families across Lothian, Fife and the Scottish Borders received advice and support from the project during 2021-22 (this marks a significant increase from 2020-21 when the project worked with 32 new families) and to date financial gains of £189,352.54 have been recorded. This amount includes benefit awards and grant payments. The total first year of benefits awarded to service users in this period is £187,550.54. The grants paid to service users was £1802.00. During this period, 712 appointments were offered to families and various types of follow-up work completed. Non-financial gains included suitable alternative housing being attained for one family whilst others received foodbank vouchers and Young Scot Cards.

In addition to the 93 new families supported in this period there were also 69 instances of clients receiving ongoing support or families returning for further advice, the local authority breakdown is as follows:

Local Authority	Number of Referrals
Edinburgh	113
East Lothian	5
Midlothian	12
West Lothian	7
Fife	18
Scottish Borders	7
Total	162 (93 new + 69 ongoing or returning)

Links have been made with local authority housing staff, housing associations, grant organisations and clothing charities. It has become increasingly apparent that the cases being referred are incredibly complex and require a significant amount of time and expertise to resolve multiple issues.

The project worker continues to promote the service and build referrals pathways and contacts across the hospital. The adviser now attends regular multiagency meetings with RHCYP clinicians and as a result, more hospital departments and organisations based within the hospital are becoming aware of the service and referrals are increasing.

Further information

Aim Hi

<https://www.changeworks.org.uk/projects/aim-hi>

https://www.penicuikcab.org.uk/sites/penicuikcab.org.uk/files/pdfs/AIM%20HI%20leaflet_0.pdf

A Good Time to be 2

https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/851/early_learning_nurseries_and_childcare/135/early_learning_nurseries_and_childcare/3

Best Start Grants and Best Start Foods

[Best Start Grant - Social security - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Changeworks

[Home | Changeworks](#)

Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2017/6/pdfs/asp_20170006_en.pdf

End Child Poverty

<https://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/>

Home Link Family Support Family Opportunities

<https://www.homelinkfamilysupport.org/midlothian-family-opportunities-worker/>

Midlothian Sure Start

<http://www.midlothiansurestart.org.uk/>

Parental Employability Support

https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/1084/jobs_and_training/676/parental_employability_support

Poverty Alliance – Get Heard Scotland

<https://www.povertyalliance.org/get-involved/get-heard-scotland/>

SIMD

<https://simd.scot/#/simd2020>