

Midlothian

A Great Place to Grow







# Single Midlothian Plan Annual Report 2022/23



'a great green place to grow'

## Introduction

Welcome to the annual report for the Single Midlothian Plan 2022 – 2023. The Single Midlothian Plan outlines how we will meet the needs of our local communities and brings together all the priorities for Midlothian into one place. It shows how the Public, Private and Voluntary sectors and local communities will work together to make improvements in people's lives, by improving outcomes with individuals and communities, promoting preventative approaches that reduce demand for public services, and working with communities to increase their influence in decision making.

Our outcomes for the next 5 years are:

- Individuals and communities have improved health and learning outcomes
- No child or household living in poverty
- Significant progress is made towards net zero carbon emissions by 2030

The purpose of this annual report is to provide our communities an update on our progress towards our actions in the Single Midlothian Plan. This report shows the actions for each outcome with targets and updates on progress.

We have met our target (100% completed)
 We were close to achieving our target (75% or above) or are making progress to meet our target in the next Single Midlothian Plan
 We have not been able to meet our target (less than 75% achieved)

#### **Our Vision**

By working together as a Community Planning Partnership, individuals and communities will be able to lead healthier, safer, greener and successful 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.

## Story So Far Year 2020

#### **Health and Social Care**

During 2020, comprehensive COVID response and remobilisation plans were put in place. The COVID-19 response saw the Red Cross Welfare Call support over 2700 people estimated to have moderate or severe frailty.

Staff from across multiple services and the Third Sector have co-located in '**No.11**' in Dalkeith, allowing for a new trauma informed, collaborative way of working with and supporting individuals, particularly those with multiple complex needs.

The Housing First programme commenced in July 2020 aiming to provide secure council tenancies per annum targeted at hard to reach and vulnerable homeless households.

#### **Community Safety and Justice**

The Midlothian Community Safety and Justice Partnership are delighted to present the five year Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan (CJOIP). In 2022 the Scottish Government published the 'National Strategy for Community Justice' (2022). The strategy highlights four 'National Aims' and thirteen 'National Indicators' that are essential in improving the community justice landscape across a national and local context. Our new CJOIP is therefore firmly placed to effectively address the expectations of the new national framework.

Midlothian's CJOIP has been developed with our range of statutory and voluntary partners, meaning the actions contained within the new plan are truly collaborative. Our 'Strategic Strength and Needs Assessment' considered national and local data and acts to underpin the new CJOIP through an analytical evidence base, which ultimately shapes our targeted actions. We gave consideration to all elements of Community Justice and believe that we have evidenced how we intend to address the priority actions that contribute to the wider complex Justice System.

Core to our partnership working over the next 5 years will be the themes of prevention and desistence. The new plan intends on leading in innovative approaches to reduce stigmatisation of Justice, ensuring the systems in which we operate are truly trauma informed and people are supported to fulfil their full potential. Further, the plan outlines new and alternative approaches in supporting people affected by crime; through actively involving lived and living experiences; providing a contribution to knowledge and working with our young people.

Public consultation, restorative justice, public protection and accessible services are themes that will require ongoing consideration throughout the life span of this CJOIP. Partnership working and integrated approaches will form the foundations to these approaches, allowing the partnership to ensure people have access to timely, trauma-informed and person centred services across Midlothian

#### GIRFEC

In 2020 the Care Inspectorate completed a joint Children's Services Inspection in Midlothian with the following grades awarded;

• Leadership and Direction – GOOD

- Impact on Families GOOD
- Impact on Children and Young People GOOD
- Improvement in the safety, wellbeing and life chances of vulnerable children and young people GOOD

Midlothian Resilience Art Project was a collaboration between Educational Psychology Service, Children's Services, Communities and Lifelong Learning along with the Health and Social Care Partnership aimed to build resilience among young people by getting them to explore how they coped during COVID. Art and written work from more than 150 pupils across Midlothian was displayed in Dalkeith Country Park, across other Council buildings and online.

#### IOM

As part of the Covid response, partners worked together and mobilised quickly to provide support to local people. CLLE co-ordinated the community response through community councils and community groups who used a large number of volunteers in local communities to provide food, help with prescriptions and befriending opportunities. A link officer for each Community Council was appointed to provide ongoing support throughout the pandemic. Community groups were supported to carry out risk assessments and set up processes and procedures. CLLE redeployed staff to collect prescriptions, co-ordinate and deliver food parcels, packed lunches and vouchers, support learning hubs for children and young people and undertook garden visits and keep in touch activities for our most vulnerable learners. As restrictions eased, sessions were run by CLLE and MVA on supporting groups to restart following Covid including risk assessing activities.

#### Sustainable Growth

Penicuik Heritage Regeneration Project– Townscape Heritage (TH) and Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) created heritage walking tours in Penicuik town centre and secured funding for the enhancement and refurbishment of Penicuik Town Hall including stonework and roof works, installation of solar panels, a new heating system and publicly available Wi-Fi internet access.

The Council approved its Climate Change Strategy in September 2020.

#### Year 2021

#### **Health and Social Care**

The Health and Social Care Partnership lead the COVID vaccination programme which included Evergreen (1st and 2nd COVID doses), 12-15 years old, 3rd dose for people who are immunosuppressed and the Booster programme. By end of March 2022, 59,099 adults in Midlothian had received a booster, including 94.1% of adults over 70 years or age.

Staff from across mental health, substance misuse, Justice and Third Sector are co-located in 'No.11' in Dalkeith. Funding was secured through redesign of urgent care, in order to implement the Mental Health and Resilience Service (MHARS).

Hospital at Home capacity increased and is now working alongside Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) and the Scottish Government to further increase capacity by March 2023 and augment the current model.

The Welfare Rights Team supported a total of 1022 people and an additional 89 phone enquiries where advice was provided.

Midlothian HSCP commenced work on Improving the Cancer Journey (ICJ) and the uptake rate increased to over 90%.

#### GIRFEC

During 2021-22, over 500 children and young people received support from additional early mental health support provision as a result of Community Framework and Midlothian Early Action Partnership (MEAP) funding. The Community Supports Framework funding stream awarded funding to various community partners to deliver the following additional earlier, community-level mental health supports. MEAP commissioned a mapping of our mental health system, which was completed in April 2021, providing insights on how we can improve our early response to better support children and young people experiencing poor mental health (click here for the link to report).

Working towards a trauma informed workforce, 466 members of staff were trained across all services and organisations that support children and young people in Midlothian, between April 2021 and March 2022.

During 2021 – 2022, additional support was provided to children and young people affected by domestic abuse, parental alcohol or drug misuse. This was funded through the Midlothian and East Lothian Drug and Alcohol Partnership (MELDAP), who co-ordinates the design, delivery and evaluation of drug and alcohol services across East Lothian and Midlothian. Children and young people were also supported to address their own alcohol and drug use and/or to minimise the impact of other's alcohol and drug use on their lives.

The Positive Approaches to Risk programme was well received by practitioners, providing knowledge and understanding of areas practitioners reported feeling they had limited understanding and/or experience of. A range of training programmes were delivered across Midlothian, through excellent local partnership working. This included Young people's Sexual Health training programmes; Relationship, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) training for practitioners working with Primary aged children; LGBT+ Awareness Training; and Relationships, sexual health and parenthood training for practitioners working with young people with additional needs.

During 21/22, our focus was on evaluating the impact of the Parent's involved in their children's learning (PICL) approach which was embedded in many Early Learning and Childcare settings and adopted by colleagues in health and the third sector. The evaluation of the approach found that "PICL has a constructive impact on the wellbeing of families with early year's children". It is an approach that is "succeeding to support key aspects of the parent-child relationship". This is the case especially for parents' representations of their children's behaviours.

Another success to highlight during 2021 - 2022 was the implementation of the increase in Early Learning and childcare funding to 1140 hours per annum.

The Midlothian House Project, which supports young people leaving care to live independently, proved very successful during 2021 – 2022. Work continued on the Corporate Parenting Plan actions and the Corporate Parent Strategy lead worked with the Care Inspectorate strategic lead, to ensure our future plan is the best it can be

#### IOM

Child Poverty Working Group has completed Year 3 Report. The governance to form a strategic child poverty group has been secured to drive a more strategic approach to poverty across the Council and CPP.

Youth volunteering is improving in relation to opportunities available and work with schools and recovery targets are approaching pre-pandemic levels.

#### Sustainable Growth

#### **Climate Emergency**

Continued work on biodiversity measures, including assistance with development of a Tiny Forest site of 600 trees at Bonnyrigg Primary School. Work has commenced on creating hubs for information on Climate Emergency and sharing best practice.

#### **Economic Development**

The Business Gateway service continues to be digitally delivered with 2 FTE Advisers. 8 clients were supported through Social Enterprise and expanded their initial ideas and set up as Community Interest Companies and continue to access Adviser support as they develop their social enterprises.

The Locate in Midlothian website continues to be a valuable tool for employability opportunities and employment support.

#### Housing

Midlothian Council's Rapid Rehousing Plan (RRTP) was submitted to the Scottish Government on 30th June 2021.

During this reporting period, 99 households were assessed as homeless which was a positive decrease of 22%. 790 households have been provided with advice and assistance compared to 515 for 2020/21. During 2021/2022 48 temporary properties have been successfully flipped to permanent tenancies. The service has also progressed the delivery of 22 housing first cases.

## How we work together:



Health and Social Care	Community Safety & Justice	Getting it Right for Every Child	Improving Opportunities	Sustainable Growth
Groups:	Groups:	Groups:	Groups:	Groups:
MELDAP (Midlothian and East Lothian Drug and Alcohol Partnership) Older People Mental Health Learning Disability Physical Disability Carers Palliative Care	Community Safety Delivery Community Justice Tactical & Coordination Anti Social Behaviour and Offending MIDSAFE Road Safety Youth Justice MELDAP Violence against women Public Protection Committee Offender Management	Additional Support Needs Early Years & Childcare Vulnerable Children & Young People Mental Health & Wellbeing Public Protection Committee Parenting & Family Support Group Voluntary Sector Youth & Children	Child Poverty Employability & Learning Midlothian Financial Inclusion Network Developing Midlothian's Young Workforce Youth Partners Health Improvement Partnership Voluntary Sector Social Enterprise Action Midlothian Federation of Community Councils	Economy Biodiversity Tourism Penicuik TSI Access Forum Housing Strategy & Homeless Review Housing Associations Fair Trade Green Network Small and Large businesses Edinburgh Science Zone Easter Bush Borders Railway Edinburgh and South East City Region Deal National Planning Framework No. 4 Midlothian Community Planning Climate Emergency Group

## **Headline Achievements 2022**



#### Health

Ageing Well programme delivering over **50 activities** each week

There are currently **19 active volunteers** placed within the community hospital

Fancy a Blether has continued to develop

**GIRFEC** 

Increased the number of children and young people receiving support from community-based services



Between April 2022 and March 2023, **608 children and young people engaged with MEAP Tests of Change** to improve mental health

Confirmation of **£100,000 funding** for the development of a Single Point of Access (SPA) for mental health support



#### **Safety & Justice**

#### Scottish Social Services Council Award winner for 'Excellence in Justice Services'

Spring Women's service increased to 1.5 days a week

Edinburgh College media students developed awareness films



### **Sustainable Growth**

Climate Emergency:

Incorporated biodiversity work on school curriculum

#### Economic Development:

**Employer Surgeries** led by Midlothian's Economic Development providing tailored support to employers

Development of Social Enterprise Conversation sessions

IOM



Shared Prosperity Inestment Plan secured over **£3.5million** for Midlothian

**262 qualifications for adults** secured through the CLLE programme

#### Housing:

Opened our **new hostel** accommodation at Jarnac Court, 22 rooms for temporary accommodation for our homeless customers

# Strategic Poverty Short Life Working Group in partnership with Midlothian Council's Elected Members Cost of Living Task Force



#### **Cost of School Day**

Good progress made on innovative solutions to reducing the cost of the school day in Midlothian schools

#### Funding



Supported local people by providing funding and resources to establish Central Dalkeith and Woodburn Pantry



#### Two Test and Try Pilots

Free reheatable foods delivered by British RedCross

Free laundry wash n dry clothes pilot



Increased promotion of the services available from Capital Credit Union to support local people



Joint work with Social Security Scotland to increase the range of benefits taken up

#### Cash First 16 Trusted Partners:

- 2367 instances of support
- 87% of payments for food and fuel
- Melville Housing Association – 766 instances of support
- British RedCross 329 instances of support
- Gorebridge Community Cares – 266 of support



# Adult, Health and Social Care



#### Summary

The Health and Social Care Partnership continues to experience system pressures across all services. All services continue to work with a wide range of partners to support local care options where appropriate. Workforce continues to be a challenge and in line with national recruitment difficulties.

Going forward into Single Midlothian Plan 2023-2027 significant planning and revision has taken place to ensure the HSPC offers are not the routine operational work of delegated services and aim to dress cross cutting system wide issues to maximise the contribution of the Community Planning partners. As a result, the HSCP will take a more targeted approach to the SMP in 2023-27 to drive transformation across the 4 years of the new plan.

#### Successes

**Unpaid Carers:** VOCAL lead on and commissioned the British Red Cross to deliver a Carers Community Connector role which aims to reach-out to groups and individuals who may not yet see themselves as carers, or access any specific carer support, training, or advice. Work in H2 saw taking forward advertising for a new Carer Dementia Advisor post with Alzheimer Scotland. This post will offer support carers and connect them to a range of support delivered by Alzheimer Scotland as well as the network of carer support in Midlothian.

Active Older People: Ageing Well's programme has continued to grow, delivering over 50 activities each week and over the past 6 months reintroduced: Sunday Walks, additional badminton session, seated exercise and gentle circuit class. There are currently 54 groups and 17 different activities offered in Midlothian supported by 53 active volunteers with 2430 volunteer hours given.

**Learning Disability:** Work has started at the development at 83 High Street, Bonnyrigg, and is due to be completed summer 2024. Work at Teviot Court is now complete, and Primrose Lodge is now vacant again.

**Community Connection:** Fancy a Blether has continued to develop, investment in Connect and Connect Online services continues and across the summer the British Red Cross Local Area Coordination Service delivered pop up events.

**Weight Management:** The participant numbers in programs have increased due to a combination of activities and dietetics services continue to be national leaders in the use of the Near Me platform, with 'Let's Prevent Diabetes' widely recognised as a national success story.

**Volunteering at Midlothian Community Hospital:** There are currently 19 active volunteers placed within the community hospital, 12 new volunteers have been placed in the reporting period and 7 have stopped volunteering during this period.

**0-5 Vaccinations:** In Midlothian by the time children are 5 years old the government target of 95% has been reached for all vaccines bar the 4:1 and MMR2 (92.7% (n=22) and 92% (n=24) respectively) and by the time children are 6 years old the government target of 95% has been exceeded for all vaccines.

**Substance Use and Recovery**: Activities to improve geographical access to substance use recovery support have improved. There are now six SMART Recovery Groups in Midlothian and the number of licensed groups in operation is now sitting at 3 and will be increase to 4 in the coming months.

**Physical Disability Team and Good Conversations**: The Investment in leadership is improving the way in which the Physical Disabilities service can support people who are waiting for services.

#### Challenges

**Unpaid Carers:** Despite staffing challenges, our partners have continued to work collaboratively and benefit from close working relationships across health, social care and the Third Sector. Future plans include the utilisation of Carers Act resource for community partners. Work will continue in the SMP 2023-27 to collaboratively develop and grow a Midlothian Care and Support Community Co-operative that facilitates personalised support for carers, identifies local assets, and enhances local economic value

Active Older People: A number of our older walk leaders have had to retire due to ill health and recruiting new volunteers has been challenging. Volunteers have traditionally been recruited from the walk groups themselves, but this has not been successful in H1. Future plans include a volunteer recruitment drive once the Walk and Mobility Coordinator post has been filled.

**Trauma Informed Workforce:** There have not been any new people trained in Trauma Informed Practice at level 1 or 2 in this last performance period. This is largely due to staffing changes and an extended recruitment period for the trauma development worker who started in post during January 2023.

**Community Connection:** 1:1 volunteer support for physical activity has not yet been established as this is connected to the review of Sport and Leisure, which has yet to conclude. It is hoped that this will commence in the next 6 months.

**Weight Management**: The service continues to work to increase the 'opt in' rate to services and supports after referral, and to find new and effective ways to maximise engagement. It is proving challenging to deliver support at the right time for women experiencing post-partum diabetes. Immediate changes include a reduction in the frequency of programmes, alongside maximisation of group numbers per venue capacity to improve the group experience.

**Volunteering at Midlothian Community Hospital:** There has been a significant drop in interest in volunteering across all settings. The service will continue to promote the volunteering opportunities and will focus efforts on identifying new potential volunteers and those who can make a longer-term commitment to volunteering

**0-5 Vaccinations**: In line with national picture, staffing and workforce remains the most significant challenge. While Midlothian and NHS Lothian as a whole are performing well with regards to delivering the Pre-School Vaccination Programme there is acknowledgement from Public Health Scotland and Scottish Government that vaccination uptake for all vaccines is decreasing across Scotland and the UK as a whole.

**Substance Use and Recovery:** As with any new support group, the challenge is getting the offer right to maximise uptake from people in recovery, including those in the early stages of recovery. The nature of these groups means membership numbers can fluctuate and this may create instability. However, the support from a range of agencies, SMART Recovery and MELDAP continue to minimise these risks.

**Physical Disability Team and Good Conversations:** Future plans include supporting staff to feel confident in manage these conversations themselves rather than Team Lead doing all of this. Peer sessions will support this. There are still 2 staff, including Service Manager waiting to be trained in the Good Conversation approach. This is due to no further training offers in the reporting period.

#### Increase awareness of the caring role

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Increase awareness of the caring role	No of referrals to VOCAL	400	<ul> <li>This area of development progressed positively</li> <li>526 referrals</li> <li>Alzheimer Scotland are taking forward advertising for a new Carer Dementia Advisor post</li> <li>Carers Act funding was awarded to Grassy Riggs in Q3 to engage carers and deliver support through their services and by connection to other services</li> </ul>	

#### Increase the opportunities for older people to be physically active

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Continue the Ageing Well programme	Return to working operational capacity provision for Ageing Well, volunteering and participation by April 2023	20,000	<ul> <li>24,056</li> <li>The project currently delivers 53 activities per week over 16 different activities</li> <li>Work supported by 52 volunteers</li> </ul>	

#### Develop a greater range of Housing Options for people with Learning Disability and Autism

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Develop a greater range of Housing Options for people with Learning Disabilities and Autism	Completion of 8 units in Bonnyrigg	8	Designs complete and agreed. Await planning approval. Scheduled for completion in summer 2024	
	Completion of 4 units in Loanhead, for people with Profound and Multiple Learning Disability	4	Delay necessitated a renewed application for funding and new bid is in place to secure the necessary funding to renovate the building. Outcome of funding bid expected within the next quarter	
	Completion of 2 respite units in Loanhead	2	Delay necessitated a renewed application for funding and new bid is in place to secure the necessary funding to renovate the building. Outcome of funding bid expected within the next quarter	

#### Increase number of people who report feeling connected to others

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Continue to provide 1:1 befriending support, volunteer 1:1 support for physical activity, support day services to	% of people aged 65+ who report feeling connected to others all or most of the time	85%	<ul> <li>The 2022 Citizens Panel Survey did not include this question</li> <li>The HSCP has continued to develop its volunteering service, including Fancy a Blether</li> <li>The HSCP also continues to invest in Connect and Connect Online services, providing volunteer befriending and IT</li> </ul>	

offer creative ways to connect with clients who lack confidence and work with community-led groups	during the past 12 months	<ul> <li>upskilling to improve social connection</li> <li>1:1 volunteer support for physical activity has not yet been established</li> <li>During summer 2022, the British Red Cross Local Area Coordination Service delivered 22 pop up events in four</li> </ul>	
to reach out to people		communities of Midlothian over a 6 week period	

#### Increase the number of staff who are trauma informed

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Work with learning and development to support the delivery of training and the co- ordination of trauma informed practice within the Midway	The number of people who participated in Level 1 trauma training	400	359	
	The number of people who participated in Level 2 trauma training	40	107	

Increase the number of people participating in Get Moving with Counterweight and Let's Prevent (Pre-diabetes programme)

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Increase the number of people participating in Get Moving with Counterweight and Let's Prevent (Pre- diabetes programme)	The number of people participating in Get Moving with Counterweight	160	250	
	The number of people participating in Let's Prevent (Pre-diabetes programme)	84	63	

#### Increase opportunities for people to volunteer at Midlothian Community Hospital

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Increase opportunities for people to volunteer at Midlothian Community Hospital	A minimum of 6 volunteer posts filled	6	<ul> <li>19</li> <li>Conversations with front line staff have identified new volunteer roles and locations</li> <li>Clearly defined demand led role descriptions have been developed</li> <li>Targeted recruitment has taken place with work with Edinburgh University Psychology Department being particularly successful in identifying potential volunteers to support certain wards</li> </ul>	

#### Increasing uptake of 0 to 5yrs vaccinations

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Deliver core vaccination programmes for under 5s utilising Child Health Information to provide timely and accessible services, deliver flu and seasonal vaccination programmes and proactively support families who do not bring children for immunisation	Delivery of seasonal flu vaccination programmes with improved update (>57%)	>57%	<ul> <li>58.6%</li> <li>the 0-5yrs Immunisation Team has continued to deliver the routine core vaccination programme and has met or exceeded national targets</li> </ul>	

#### Improve geographical access to substance use recovery support

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Increase the number of SMART recovery groups in 2022-23 to improve outreach across Midlothian's communities	Increase the number of SMART recovery groups from 1 to 3 by March 2023	3	<ul> <li>Activities to improve geographical access to substance use recovery support have improved in the first half of the year</li> <li>As many as 6 groups run at one time across reporting period</li> </ul>	

Increase the number of staff in the Physical Disability Team supported to develop their skills in having Good Conversations with Disabled People

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Increase the number of staff in the Physical Disability Team supported to develop their skills in having Good Conversations with Disabled People	Hold 4 peer support sessions for staff in 2022-23	4	3	
	Over 55 of the cases audited through the case file audit system will have personal outcomes clearly identified	55	Performance Indicator no longer relevant. All of the cases audited have personal outcomes identified at the start of the assessment. An extra element has been added to our 'end involvement' form to identify if personal outcomes were achieved	

# Community Safety and Justice



#### Summary

The Midlothian Community Safety & Justice Partnership five year CJOIP tackles inequalities and marginalised populations which echoes a trauma and survivor focussed objectives. The plan has given consideration to all elements of Community Justice and tackles issues that often holds significant societal stigmatisation which limits the core foundations of prevention and desistence within our communities. Through innovative and alternative approaches the systems in which we manage will be trauma informed, supporting people affected by crime or that are involved with the Scottish Justice System through actively involving lived and living experiences; utilising specialist knowledge base; providing a contribution to knowledge; working with our young people.

We look forward to continuing to develop strong links in Midlothian and involve our communities actively in decision making, service development and design.

#### Successes

**The Midlothian Awareness and Consultation Restorative Cafe event:** Held on July 18, 2023, at St. John's & Kings Park Church in Dalkeith, UK. The event was attended by 12 individuals from different local organisations including members from the Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Social Work and the council. The cafe was hosted by Rachael Moss and Ashley Scotland from Thriving Survivors in partnership with the Midlothian Community Safety & Justice Partnership. The cafe was designed to raise awareness and encourage knowledge sharing and understanding of restorative justice within the Midlothian area, by providing a safe and supported space for people to ask questions, engage in meaningful dialogue, brainstorm ideas, and voice their needs regarding RJ. This event aimed to enhance awareness of Midlothian's local needs and challenges, foster collaboration and improve the accessibility and inclusivity of restorative justice in the area.

**Youth Community Restorative Circle Project:** The process began when a referral was received from the 12+ team in Midlothian relating to a number of high school students shoplifting within a local supermarket store, based in Dalkeith. Colleagues within Children and Families suggested it would be helpful if a restorative process could be adopted, to address the situation. The project was established to administer the first delivery model for restorative justice. This ensued in March 2023 and a Justice Practitioner from Midlothian Community Justice Team and a Restorative Justice Facilitator from Thriving Survivors co-facilitated the case, with the Community Safety and Justice Manager for Midlothian Community Justice, overseeing the case with supervisory responsibility.

**Edinburgh College Project:** This year welcomed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Justice Project with media students at Edinburgh College. A range of partners supported students in further learning on subjects including: RJ; Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWGs); Involuntary Celibates. The students then transferred the learning and developed short films to raise awareness of these important subjects. All films were showcased at the College and invitations were sent to key stakeholders, community groups and members of the public. Over 80 people attended from a range of organisations, communities and services. The project has now been included in the annual curriculum for the media course and the third project is predicted to be completed in Feb 2024.

Other successes in 2022-23 include:

- Scottish Social Services Council Award winner for 'Excellence in Justice Services' (2022)
- Published 'The voices of those who have harmed' (2022) A ground-breaking consultation exploring motivational factors of engaging in Restorative Justice for individuals that are in custody

for a sexual offence(s)

- Partnership working in the development, design and delivery provision for Restorative Justice in cases of sexual harm utilising a multi-modal and agency approach
- Community Justice project with Edinburgh College Media students in developing community awareness films on pertinent subjects including VAWG, Community Payback Orders; Restorative Justice
- Keynoted at both national and international events
- Development of the 'Justice Update Report' providing partners and wider agencies a summary of relevant reports, legislation and research within the field of Justice
- Increased third sector board and working group membership
- The growth of Spring Women's service to 1.5 days per week
- Developed and delivered 'Stride' service for men subject to Community Payback Orders in Midlothian
- Collaborative working with the VAWG Public Protection team to actively support 16 days of activism campaign and event

#### Challenges

The cost of living continues to raise concern within our communities with a predication that this coming winter will have significant impact on many. The partnership continues to engage with community planning partners on this matter. The partnership identifies the benefit in our multi-agency membership both at the CJ board and working group that ensures wider factors are supported within this context.

Factors of uncertainty including the impact of short term and reduced third sector funding has been a considerable challenge in meeting need within the partnership. The partnership have consistently advocated for an increase in third sector provision within Midlothian which has been challenging due to limited resource or funding opportunities. Although we have provided alternative solutions such as exchange of training and expertise between third sector groups, we acknowledge the ongoing challenge in meeting the needs of our communities without further funding opportunities to support effective partnership working..

#### Improve awareness with communities and businesses

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Stories about Community Payback Orders(CPOs) & Unpaid Work on social media	Increase the number of combined followers on Facebook and Twitter by 5%	5%	Total 539 on Twitter 215 on facebook	
Advertising campaign on the link between education/training, employment, health inequalities, substance misuse, housing, positive attitudes, relationships and (re)offending	Complete advertise campaign	n/a	Not complete – carrying forward to new CJOIP	
Second Chancers spin off with press – voices of unpaid work telling their story (film)	Complete film	n/a	Completed	
Rebrand CJ logo with Midlothian secondary school	Complete rebrand logo	n/a	Action condensed into Edinburgh College project which has now been completed.	
Launch ALISS database of services for Midlothian	<ul> <li>Positive feedback received from pupils ALISS publicised</li> <li>Number of Midlothian searches carried out on ALISS</li> </ul>	n/a	Completed	
Publish Community Justice Directory	Publish Community Justice Directory	n/a	Completed	

#### Improve support for people after a Community Payback Order

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Develop a volunteering pathway	25% justice social work clients involved in volunteering, training or employment at the point of completion of order	25%	Completed	
Develop an after care service	New process initiated for recording of telephone calls 6 weeks post completion - Attempt made to contact 100% of clients 6 weeks post CPO	100%	Action complete. After care service initiated with all individuals completing unpaid work given a six week post completion check-up.	

#### Improve access to Mental Health and Substance misuse services for people on a CPO

	Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
	Automating the referral	Referral process	80%	Action being carried forward	
	process to third sector	designed 80% of			
5	upport agencies with a	relevant individuals on			
1	ocus on males aged 18-	CPOs referred to			
2	.6	Number 11 Practitioners			
		Forum			

# Getting It Right For Every Child



#### Summary

The purpose of the Midlothian Community Planning Partnership's *Getting it Right for Every Child* (GIRFEC) Board is to provide strategic leadership and direction in relation to services for children and young people. Our vision is for children and young people in Midlothian to have the best possible start in life and to live safe, healthy, active, happy and independent lives.

By March 2023, our priority aims were to ensure that:

- More children and young people feel safe, healthy, mentally well and resilient.
- More children and young people receive timely and effective support when they need it, including those who are care experienced.
- Inequalities in formal and informal learning are reduced.

#### Successes

#### Priority 1: More children and young people are safe, healthy and resilient

The Midlothian Whole Family Wellbeing Service was developed during 2022-23 and is located at a Midlothian Primary School. This is funded through the Scottish Government, as part of The Promise funding, and Education Services. Working together to identify low school attendance, which can often be an indicator of other concerns within a family, allows us to provide holistic support to the family at earlier stage using multi-agency and partnership approaches.

Following on from the success of 2021-22, Midlothian and East Lothian Drug and Alcohol Partnership (MELDAP) continued to fund two Midlothian services, MYPAS (Midlothian Young People's Advice Service) and Children 1<sup>st</sup>, to deliver additional support to children and young people affected by domestic abuse, parental alcohol or drug misuse. A total of 142 children and young people received direct support. Several families were also supported through activities such as residential outdoor activity trips and summer activity programmes. A weekly 'Women's Supper' was also established, through partnership working between Children 1<sup>st</sup>, Women's Aid and Health in Mind.

During 2022-23 Midlothian partners were supported by the Improvement Service and national partners, to engage in a process of self-assessment to review governance, actions and reporting on child poverty. This process enabled us to align actions to support families across Midlothian and identify priority areas for improvement that will be led by the poverty and financial inclusion planning/working groups. Governance and funding is now in place to take forward a review of income maximisation support during 2023-24.

A key action for this priority was to identify positive physical environments for young people that promote wellbeing. For 2022/2023, the GIRFEC Board agreed that the Midlothian Early Action Partnership (MEAP) Youth-led Test of Change would be the focus for this priority action. MEAP is a Lottery-funded partnership comprising of Third Sector, Health, Council and young people via the Midlothian Youth Platform. MEAP undertakes Tests of Change to explore different ways to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, and to identify how the changes might re-allocate resources towards early action and system change.

Young people proposed a Test of Change for a youth wellbeing space: this idea involved co-designing an open space for young people that is timetabled with a mix of activities, individual support and opportunities to relax. In November 2022, MEAP secured a suitable venue for one year, based within a community-owned hub called 'One Dalkeith'. A small group of young people put in significant time and effort to create this youth space for young people across Midlothian. The Test of Change will conclude in December 2023.



One Youth space for young people in Dalkeith

An evaluation was undertaken on the *Positive Approaches to Risk* guidance in 2022, which included recommendations and areas for future development. The guidance was well received by practitioners, exploring areas they felt they had limited understanding and/or experience of. MYPAS was commissioned to deliver the next phase of the programme, which included delivering training and leading on the second edition of the guidance. Training sessions have been delivered in person to 30 Children's Services staff and to staff working in residential services. The training, which now includes the correlation between Self-harming and the Teenage Brain, has been delivered twice and feedback from these sessions are being used to develop both the chapter within the handbook and future training sessions. The training programme for 2023/24 is open to all universal staff and carers, with bespoke sessions for kinship and foster carers.

# Priority 2: More children and young people receive timely and effective mental health support when they need it

A key action for this priority was to build capacity within early intervention and prevention mental health supports and services, to better meet local need. Over 240 children and young people and 50 family members/carers accessed supports and services funded by the *Children and Young People's Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund* The numbers of beneficiaries are lower this year because the activities delivered focused on individual support sessions and activities, whereas last year there was greater focus on group activities and workshops. Beneficiaries have reported improvements to mental health and wellbeing, in confidence and resilience, and to school attendance and learning engagement following their participation in a range of activities including art and supported play therapy, family counselling and therapeutic support, and highly personalised creative development placements.

Between April 2022 and March 2023, 608 children and young people were engaged in *Midlothian Early Action Partnership (MEAP)* Tests of Change that explore different ways to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, and to identify how the changes might re-allocate resources towards early action and system change. MEAP is a Lottery-funded partnership comprising of Third Sector, Health, Council and young people via the Midlothian Youth Platform.

#### Priority 3: Inequalities in learning are reduced

The *Equity and Inclusion Strategy* and plan was developed, which focuses on supporting children with Additional Support Needs (ASN), improving education attendance and outcomes, developing nurturing approaches and improving opportunities for family learning. The Family Learning Strategy was finalised

followed detailed consultation. Our next step is to develop a strategic plan that builds understanding and opportunities that encourage family members to learn how to support their children's learning and development. The training of Early Years staff in 'Up UP and Away' (a resource to support children to achieve in language literacy and learning) has continued apace with further sessions booked for 2023.

Fantastic progress was made through multiagency working, to identify a safe and efficient process by which information on child development can be shared with educational settings in order for children to receive additional support when it has been recognised that this would be beneficial in helping them to achieve their developmental milestones. This work continues during 2023.

#### Challenges

During 2022 - 2023, we continued to see a significant impact from periods of staff absence and staff moving on from key roles across the Partnership. These changes and gaps in staffing meant that the progress in some areas was slower than anticipated.

Partners have seen increased complexity around family support needs, including poor mental health, domestic abuse and increased persistent financial pressures.

The target outlined in the GIRFEC action plan to fully establish a Single Point of Access by March 2023 has not been achieved. This is due to a combination of delayed funding and resource shortages, which has meant this action was not progressed during 22/23. Partners are committed to progressing work on this during 23/24. Establishing a Single Point of Access for mental health supports for children and young people has the potential to transform our mental health support system in Midlothian, ensuring children and young people receive more timely and effective support when they need it. Significant financial investment is required to ensure the longer-term operation of the Single Point of Access and the exact source of all of the funding required has yet to be identified.

When delivering the Positive Approaches to Risk programme, accessing rentable community space to deliver sessions was - and continues to be - a challenge. To ensure both a balance of accessibility in terms of staff numbers as well as fostering the appropriate environment for discussion, numbers are capped at 30 participants. This means that sessions sell out quickly. Understandably, school strikes have impacted attendance and a number of participants let us know in advance that they couldn't attend due to childcare.

While the process for sharing data across sectors has been agreed, the format of the templates and final sign off by Information Governance was delayed due to unforeseen staff absence. These two items will be progressed in earnest during 2023.

There has been a huge commitment to delivering training in Early Years settings and in the face of many challenges; this has taken priority over gathering data. Although data gathering tools were made available, it has become apparent that settings require support in the form of training and resources in order to complete this effectively and meaningfully. This 'data journey' is set to commence in August 2023.

#### More children and young people are safe, healthy and resilient

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Continue to support children and young people affected by domestic abuse, parental alcohol or drug misuse by supporting children and young people to address their own alcohol and drug use	Number of children and young people provided with support	55	162 young people engaged in ongoing support for drugs/alcohol related issues	
	Number of children and young people reporting improved family relationships	55	79 children supported with 60 reporting strong family relationships and/or had parents report this for them	
Deliver responsive and accessible income maximisation support to reduce the number of families that are living in poverty	Existing Income maximisation services are mapped and evaluation of impact is completed		Off Target due to a change in our approach. This involved a process of self-assessment to review governance, actions and reporting on child poverty. This process enabled us to align actions to support families across Midlothian and identify priority areas for improvement that will be led by the poverty and financial inclusion planning/working groups.	
	Delivery of income maximisation services are re-designed in Midlothian to meet the needs of the residents		As above	

	Increased income received through benefits claimed	As above	
Increase the proportion of children and young people who feel safe. We will do this by evaluating the work undertaken during 21/22 and developing the next stage of work, to commission and embed our Positive Approaches framework	Evaluation report completed	Completed	
	Work plan has been developed	Work plan developed and in place	
	Partners are commissioned and delivered commissioned work	MYPAS are leading on this work stream	
	Monitor through school wellbeing surveys	School wellbeing surveys have not been carried out yet; a pilot is being undertaken using one surevy on a small number of schools to test the effectiveness of this approach	
The Partnership will further embed the children's rights approach to all of our work, including rights relating to health and education, leisure and play, fair and equal treatment, protection	Actions identified and undertaken	On Target Actions are being identified and undertaken across the Partnership	

from exploitation and the right to be heard			
	Evidence gathered on our progress made in incorporating children's rights into our work	In progress. Partners are gathering evidence of how we are implementing UNCRC in our working practise	
Identify positive physical spaces for young people that promote wellbeing	Positive physical environments for young people identified	'One Youth' established	
	Actions taken to future- proof this positive physical environment for young people	Actions are being taken to future-proof this positive physical environment for young people throughout the Test of Change, which comes to an end in December 2023	
Establish a Whole Family Wellbeing Service in Midlothian, that provides preventative, needs- based support for families when they need it, and for as long as they need it	Develop a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary approach that draws in support across the partnership	The Family Wellbeing Service is now live	

More children and young people receive timely and effective mental health support when they need it

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Deliver quick and easy access to all levels of support for mental health and wellbeing by establishing a Single Point of Access to mental health and wellbeing supports and services	Blueprint for a Single Point of Access approved by GIRFEC Board		A combination of delayed funding and resource shortages has meant this action was not progressed during 22/23. The Partners are committed to commencing work on this during 23/24	
	Work commenced on establishing a Single Point of Access		A combination of delayed funding and resource shortages has meant this action was not progressed during 22/23. The Partners are committed to commencing work on this during 23/24.	
Build capacity within early intervention and prevention mental health supports and services to meet local need by further investing in community-based activities that support mental health and emotional wellbeing in children and young people	The number of children and young people who receive support from additional early MH support provision as a result of Community Framework and MEAP early action funding	300	848 children and young people accessed supports and services from additional early mental health and wellbeing support provision as a result of Community Framework and MEAP early action funding	
Increase the percentage of children and young people who	New process is implemented		Process in place	

receive a comprehensive assessment of their health needs within 4 weeks of becoming "looked after", to increase chances of timely and appropriate supports being put in place				
	Percentage of children and young people who receive a comprehensive assessment of their health needs within four weeks of becoming "looked after"	95%	80% Due to extraneous factors: 1) 5 school age children refused assessment (14%) 2) 2 ceased to be "looked After" within a short space of time before assessment was offered (6%)	

#### Inequalities in learning are reduced

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Develop a Midlothian Family Learning Strategy and plan that encourages family members to learn together, with a focus on intergenerational learning, and enables parents to learn how to support their children's learning/development Develop an Equity and Inclusion Strategy and plan, which focuses on actions to reduce educational inequalities through local and inclusive actions and	Midlothian Family Learning Strategy and plan is in place The Equity and Inclusion Strategy and plan is in place and implemented		The Family Learning Strategy is finalised followed detailed consultation. The plan will be developed during 2023/24 The Equity and Inclusion Strategy and plan is now in place, with activities in progress and continuing throughout 23/24.	
resources Develop a system of sharing information from the Child Health Reviews, which ensures that the partnership is able to identify and articulate how the educational experiences and health and wellbeing of children has been	System in place to share information on the health visiting pathway		The final actions have been delayed due to the unavailability of key education person leading on this. The final data templates are still to be agreed by education. DPIA to be concluded to ensure that information can be shared between health, the council and partners delivering funded ELC	

impacted by the pandemic				
Improve children's early language and communication skills through embedding the Circle Up, Up and Away approach in early learning and childcare provision and other early years support services	The number of Early Learning and Childcare establishments using the Up, Up and Away approach		41 settings are fully trained and using Up Up and Away. 19 settings due to have their second training in and 4 settings still to have training	
	The number of children that make over 30% progress on the early literacy assessment	50%	No specific data available. Gap identified and all settings will be taken on a 'data journey' from August 2023 implementing a modernisation programme which will included appropriate support and paperwork	
	Number of Practitioners (education, health, private/voluntary sector) trained in approach		Approximately 480 practitioners have been trained	
	Children that have been identified as at risk are assessed to have improved in their language and play development		No specific data available. Gap identified and all settings will be taken on a 'data journey' from August 2023 implementing a modernisation programme which will included appropriate support and paperwork	

# **Improving Opportunities**


# Summary

Significant progress has been made in supporting 367 young people/adults and 108 parents on No One Left Behind programmes. 36 parents have secured employment in this period, 8 have sustained employment, 3 moved into Modern Apprenticeships and 3 into self-employment.

The Long Term Unemployment project which ran for one year was extremely successful in supporting people out of work for more than 12 months back into employment. 22 paid work placements were provided across the Council and third sector partners with 15 people moving into sustained employment, a success rate of 68%.

IOM partners have proactively supported the strategic poverty and mitigation work through the trusted partner model, the wash and dry services and the recently launched reheatable foods pilot.

The in depth work undertaken with the improvement service on child poverty and with Nick Hopkins will set a clear direction for our work on poverty over the next 4 years.

262 qualifications have been secured for adults through the CLLE programme and 1,126 participants from 40% SIMD deprivation areas have participated in programmes.

Partnership working to produce and submit the Shared Prosperity Investment Plan has secured over £3.5million for Midlothian over 3 years with 17 projects being awarded funding of over £2million to deliver projects from climate change to employability.

Central Dalkeith and Woodburn have become a project town as part of the Shaping Places programme and the Living Well in Central Dalkeith and Woodburn group have agreed terms of reference and planned a community event for the 5th May.

#### **Edinburgh College**

Improved third sector access to Edinburgh College Midlothian Campus and a free breakfast club delivered to 150 students a week.

£2.2million secured by Edinburgh College to decarbonise the Midlothian Campus

Edinburgh College hosted UK World Skills competition with over 150 competitors and 600 visitors

#### Volunteer Midlothian

22/23 has been a year of rebuilding traditional volunteering without Covid restrictions. Volunteer Midlothian have once again been accessing places and people to promote the benefits of volunteering and have redeveloped promotional materials since moving office during the pandemic. In particular, access to young people through schools has expanded once again, as well as an increased awareness by individuals and referrers about the benefits of volunteering to the volunteer (increased confidence, structure, routine, skills, experience and improved employability). Our Scottish Government Saltire Awards statistics for Midlothian's young people have more than doubled in terms of the numbers of young volunteers registering and the number of certificates issued – proving more of Midlothian's young people are taking up volunteering and sustaining it. Furthermore, we have received 9 nominations for the prestigious Saltire Summit Award highlighting that young people are not only sustaining volunteering but going above and beyond! Volunteer Midlothian's Transform Supported and Supervised volunteering opportunities for young people have again been in popular demand, where we have had to operate waiting lists for young people keen to volunteer with our Intergenerational Activities. Additional funding enabling us to offer an extra weekly session (increasing to 3 sessions per week) helped reduce the waiting list for a period of time.

# Challenges

Challenges that were faced in 2022-23 included developing new group to replace IOM with more streamlined focus on skills, youth work, adult learning, employability and capacity building.

The group had a focus on retaining productive partnerships and work between Council, FE/HE and third sector at a time of diminishing resources and competing demands and priorities.

Less resources throughout 2022-23 presented a challenge in delivering the ambitions and targets of the CLD Plan, which will be reviewed and updated in 2023.

#### Volunteer Midlothian

Despite the successes and opportunity to engage even more people in volunteering, stricter and time intensive reporting requirements, as well as funding cuts, has a direct impact on our continued and future delivery. With uncertainty in Midlothian Councils' Third Sector Grants in the future, and tough competition for other funders, the future remains unsettled. We will continue to explore funding options and partnerships to sustain (and ideally further develop) our services. The current cost of living crisis is having a detrimental impact on both existing volunteers and potential volunteers. Volunteer Midlothian are aiming to address this issue by reinforcing that we will reimburse travel expenses for our volunteers (many existing volunteers are now claiming where the previously decided not to) and by providing refreshments at volunteering sessions.

# Deliver the actions in the Child Poverty Action Plan

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Deliver responsive and accessible income maximisation support to reduce the number of households that are living in poverty	Existing income maximisation services are mapped, baseline of income achieved is recorded and evaluation of impact is completed		Off Target Will be progressed under Child Poverty Strategic Group	
	Delivery of income maximisation services are re-designed to meet the needs of the residents		Off Target Will be progressed under Child Poverty Strategic Group	
	Those with lived experience of poverty are consulted		Nick Hopkins research has gathered the views of those with lived experience, report concluded and shared	
Reduce food insecurity and fuel poverty through co-ordinating services and working in partnership	Mapping of existing provision to establish a baseline		Off Target Mapping not concluded due to capacity	
	Implement new projects from Food and Health Alliance food insecurity recommendations	3	Not Available No longer applicable as group does not exist	
Support adults into employment through partnership working	Number of Midlothian residents gaining positive outcome	20	70 Midlothian residents registered with Fort Kinnaird Recruitment & Skills Centre with 5 progressing into employment. 11 clients registered with wider RSC's with 2 progressing into employment	

through accessing Regional Skills Centres			
Number securing employment through participation in employability programmes (Target: NOLB - ; PES - ; YPG - ; LTU – 20 places; IFS - 6)		Data Only PES has exceeded targets, LTU has resulted in 68% of participants securing employment following placement Referral process for IFS is changing with phase 2 of programme. NOLB successfully supported 367 young people and adults on employment journey	
Reduce the number of adults aged 16 to 64 economically inactive in Midlothian - Tracking Only	22.9%	On Target The latest available information (Oct 21 - Sept 2022) shows Midlothian is below the Scottish average of 22.8%	

# Participation measures for young people over 16 increased

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Ensure that transitional support is offered to young people in S4, 5, 6 who are at risk of leaving school without a destination	'Unknown's' on list average below 100	100	majority of the year this has been around 100 or under and is monitored weekly	
	Sustain Participation Measure at 1% above national average	1%	On Target APM is 93.4% for Midlothian which is above the national average of 92.4%	

Care experienced / young carers % positive destinations is monitored and maintained within national average	71%	On Target Latest figures 2021/22 show 88.00% of looked after children in a positive destination compared to 85.96% in Scotland. Some caution is needed due to the small number of children captured in this data for Midlothian	
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## Improve qualification levels for adults at levels Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQ) 3 and 4

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Improve qualification levels for adults at National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) levels 3 and 4	Track number of qualifications for adults through NOMIS		Data Only 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%)	
	Increase accredited adult learning opportunities	500	CLLE target of 750 qualifications exceeded, 1803 achieved.	

## CLD Partnership Plan aims to increase skills for learning life and work

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
CLD Partnership Plan aims to increase skills	CLD Strategic Plan Actions are on target		On Target	

for learning life and work	which will contribute to Covid-19 recovery and engagement	Year 1 CLLE engagement targets exceeded – target 4,000; 10.303 achieved	
	CLD Strategic Plan Actions are on target which will contribute to Improving social interaction, health, wellbeing and poverty	On Target	
	CLD Strategic Plan Actions are on target which will contribute to Pathways to learning, personal development and employment	On Target	
	CLD Strategic Plan Actions are on target which will contribute to Digital and resilient communities of the future	Off Target	
	CLD Strategic Plan Actions are on target which will contribute to Midlothian being carbon neutral by 2030	Off Target	
	CLD Strategic Plan Actions are on target which will contribute to Enhancing our workforce and volunteer skills	On Target	

## Increase opportunities for Midlothian residents to be digitally included

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Increase opportunities for Midlothian residents to be digitally included	Map provision and produce Midlothian Digital Pathway with routes into support networks		On Target	
	Number of digital opportunities offered		7 community based courses offered by CLLE including 2 qualifications	

Third Sector organisations and volunteers have improved skills, resources and knowledge to achieve positive change

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Deliver an annual Third Sector Interface training programme, of 10 training events	Number of training events delivered	10	13 online training events have been delivered	
Deliver one to one business support, information and training to around 300 third sector	Number of instances of assistance	300	On Target Midlothian Third Sector update currently has a subscription number of around 600, with links to funding, training, local and national news Currently we have offered 1-1 support for 22 organisations so far this year	

organisations and individuals per year			
Deliver the 1 year actions in the revised Midlothian Third Sector Compact (co- produce Council and third sector grants schemes)	Co-produce new Council grants scheme	On Target Grant scheme co-produced and launched in 21/22 and continued in 22/23. Midlothian Council and MVA co-produced on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund focus, application forms and guidance	

# Health inequalities for people in Midlothian are reduced

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Health inequalities for people in Midlothian are reduced	Review draft IOM plan of action for whole system approach to Type 2 Diabetes and agree priorities		No IOM plan, being progress by Mayfield whole system group To be considered as part of 4 year SMP planning	
	Support Midlothian organisations to develop a prevention confident staff by providing learning sessions to statutory and third sector partners	10	18 learning sessions run with 166 attendances (Good Conversations, Inequalities Bitesize sessions & Money Worries – no health without wealth)	
	80 staff from the HSPC, Council and Third	80	35 staff trained	

Sector trained in Good Conversations			
Increase awareness and action on health inequalities - 12 bitesize workshops to be delivered	12	5 workshops delivered April – June 2022. Delivery model under review following low participation numbers	

# Reduce the cost of the school day for families

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Reduce the cost of the school day for families	Support the implementation of COSD measures in Penicuik, Dalkeith and Gorebridge Area School Groups		On Target CPSD training delivered to Strathesk Primary staff resulting in increased awareness and actions being included in school improvement plan	
	Involve families in the development of local measures		Not Available No update yet but part of school development plans for action	
	Deliver poverty awareness-raising sessions across participating schools		Only completed in Penicuik	

# **Sustainable Growth**

**Climate Emergency, Economic Development and Housing** 



# Summary

**Climate Emergency**: The Actions identified in the 2022/2023 Single Midlothian Plan were intended to cover a three year period 2021/2024, and not all were expected to be delivered in the year 2022/2023.

**Housing**: Housing Services in partnership with our colleagues both internally and externally to the Council continue to deliver the actions set out in our Rapid Rehousing Plan (RRTP). Our Plan for 22/23 sets out a vision that by 2024: an increased number of homeless households will obtain permanent accommodation, no homeless household will be accommodated in bed and breakfast accommodation, and the average time taken for the Council to complete its homeless duty will have halved from 105 to 52 weeks.

**Economic Development**: The Business Gateway team continue to promote localised procurement with clients, encouraging registration with the Supplier Development Programme and Public Contract Scotland (PCS). We actively encourage businesses to register with The Supplier Development Programme which provides access to free training and support in all aspects of public sector tendering to improve the tender readiness of local suppliers. A Meet the Buyer event was held at Newtongrange Mining Museum on 29th March regarding Midlothian Council's upcoming building/roofing framework and was attended by ED, BG, Procurement and BMS. The event was attended by 24 people from businesses in the local area

## Successes Climate Emergency

The summary of success are:

- continued raising Climate Emergency on partners work agendas and the creation of a body of people working and interested in this area;
- work on biodiversity measures, including; incorporating further biodiversity work on school curriculum and engagement with Scottish Government; delivery of actions and priorities of the Midlothian Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2024 and primary school tree planting in Dalkeith Country Park;
- engagement with partners, e.g. arranged visit to Millerhill plant with MEL, presentation from Scottish Power Networks; and
- starting work on creating hubs for information on Climate Emergency and sharing best practice
- support for partners events on energy efficiency and domestic renewable energy technologies

## **Economic Development**

#### Stimulate interest in Social Enterprise as a business model:

Midlothian Council's Economic Development team developed these sessions to encourage and support the set-up of social enterprises in different areas of Midlothian, aligning to the Plural Economy pillar of Community Wealth Building.

The Social Enterprise Community Conversation events delivered in partnership with Midlothian Voluntary Action stimulated interest in social enterprise as a business structure, the Business Gateway team then provided 121 development support. Over the course of the 6 events we had a total of 23 attendees.

The first session brought together those interested in building a Social Enterprise in Penicuik with participants highlighting the need for a joined up "green" resource to focus on clothes, furniture and bike recycling solutions. Economic Development connected the enterprise with local landlord, Evolve, who provided space for the Social Enterprise at a reduced rate and this new enterprise has now taken on a unit.

Additional outcomes from these sessions include:

- An upcycling social enterprise emerging in Newtongrange with support from Newtongrange Development Trust.
- Emerging Fitness Academy social enterprise linking into a local business association.
- Established charity developing projects to increase revenue generation reducing reliance on funding.

#### **Employer Surgeries:**

Midlothian's Economic Development service led the sessions with colleagues from the Communities, Lifelong Learning & Employability service and partners' Capital City Partnership, Skills Development Scotland and The Department of Work & Pensions, to provide tailored support to employers.

The first employer surgery attendee, Richard Harris, owner of The Original Rosslyn Inn (TORI), shared his passion for showcasing hospitality as a career route and the challenges in recruiting hospitality staff in a post pandemic and Brexit environment.

Outcomes for TORI

- Access to free training software via Capital City Partnership.
- Hospitality Training Academy developed, one input delivered, 5 out of 6 candidates now employed in hospitality, 3 of those jobs are with TORI.
- Referral to Midlothian Tourism Forum, Richard is now an active steering group member.

All sessions were booked in advance for the full year and advertised by ourselves and our partners however the crisis point in the summer of 2022 with increasing energy costs redirected employer focus away from investing in new staff, thus we had no attendees booked for the last 4 of the 6 sessions.

#### MTF Roundtable Sessions:

Similar to the employer surgeries, we booked the dates for the full year at the outset and each event was marketed internally and through Midlothian Tourism Forum, after an early enthusiastic start bookings dropped in the summer and didn't return post September at which point tourism businesses were reporting concerns due to the increasing energy costs, similarly this redirected their focus away from new projects to maintaining stability.

### Housing

During H1 the number of households assessed as homeless or potentially homeless was 118 and the number of cases provided with Advice & Assistance was 205. We continue to promote this service to ensure early successful intervention when possible. We have successfully progressed the opening of our new hostel accommodation at Jarnac Court, this newly refurbished accommodation has 22 rooms for temporary accommodation for our homeless customers.

Over 50 new build homes have been handed over to our tenants. This provides vital turnover over of older properties and allows movement across our waiting list to applicants. We have received the delayed handover for our Newtongrange new build site street name is Arrol Place/Avenue providing 79 much needed accommodations. Wheatley Homes East, Register Social Landlord has asked for applicant's details from our waiting list, in order to shortlist for the 57 homes in Lyell Crescent, Penicuik. We are working alongside the health and social care partnership around the Extra Care housing facility in Dalkeith called Normandy Court, anticipated June 2023. We are also working with the planning department around our social housing requirements in the Shawfair area.

ONE housing management database is in the final testing phase, which is due to go live in May 2023. The system is like for like, however in time and with budget, the system has functionality for the service to provide a modern digital platform. When the two systems switch over, it is anticipated that the whole service will be without system for up to two weeks. During this time, we will have a minimum service, emergencies only.

The Service Level Agreement with Veterans Housing Scotland with agreed and established which states 2 Midlothian Council properties will be allocated each year to households on a permanent basis using a Scottish Secure Tenancy Agreement. The proposal will increase housing options for veteran households who may potentially be experiencing homelessness.

# Challenges Climate Emergency

The summary of major challenges are:

- being able to deliver the required actions to help hit Net Zero by 2030
- reviewing the range of extant carbon calculation methodologies and tools in use in government, academia and the private sector, and identifying one suitable, and publicising it
- working with housing developers to maximise opportunities for land and buildings are set aside in new developments for use by retail and other local service providers
- working with local shop owners and service providers to identify opportunities for new local premises and outlets to serve currently unmet need
- work to producing a directory highlighting Midlothian produce and how/where it can be obtained
- development of locally-owned Climate Emergency projects
- identify potential sites on Council and other partners land for renewable energy generation inc. solar, wind and ground-source heat pumps. Explore potential for community-owned schemes and joint ventures between public, private and community sectors
- working with car dealers, approve EV charger installers, Energy Saving Trust etc to establish a one stop shop' for EV buyers in Midlothian to improve uptake, make the process of buying an EV and establishing the charging infrastructure seamless and smooth

## **Economic Development**

#### **Employer Surgeries**

In Q1 we had two businesses attend these sessions however we had no bookings for the remaining quarters, employers reported that uncertainties, particularly the energy crisis were creating a reluctance to recruit for growth or new projects.

#### MTF Roundtable

Similar to the employer surgeries these sessions started off well in Q1 with no bookings for the remainder of the year. Many of the tourism businesses have not fully recovered from the financial impact of the Pandemic so when the energy price increases started to be felt, alongside lower visitor numbers reducing income, the pre summer optimism we saw at the April and June roundtables was understandably replaced with a drive to take stock and drive down costs.

## Housing

#### Homelessness

There continues to be a significant demand placed on homeless and temporary accommodation services. A key challenge going forward will be a potential increase in homelessness as the financial measures put in place to protect households during the Covid pandemic are now withdrawn, alongside the recent increase in energy, food and fuel costs, requiring a comprehensive preventative approach as set out in the Council's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.

In H2 officers were witnessing an increase in presentations due to the cost of living crisis. The impact is disproportionately felt by those who are already struggling to make ends meet. Our support and guidance is an important contribution to tackling poverty and supporting good health and wellbeing in Midlothian.

#### Changeworks

Changeworks have been commissioned to deliver a 'Warm and Well' service, targeted at Midlothian Council tenants, in or at risk of fuel poverty to assist them live affordably warm in their homes. The project is aligned to Local Housing Strategy 2021-26 and works closely with Midlothian Council, health professionals, and other front-line organisations to identify those in need of support.

#### War in Ukraine

The arrival of families fleeing the war in Ukraine is anticipated to have an impact on the level of demand for housing advice, homelessness and accommodation within Midlothian. Housing services are continuing to work with partners to assist those affected by this crisis.

#### **Traveller Site**

We are working jointly with East Lothian around the long term plans for the site. There has been some damage to the site and we are currently assessing the costs to make good.

## Sustainable Growth - Climate Change Actions

# Agree and implement a standard methodology and tool(s) for measuring and accounting for carbon emissions in Midlothian

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Review the range of extant carbon calculation methodologies and tools in use in government, academia and the private sector (to note this action forms part of a three year plan)	Review undertaken (to note this indicator forms part of a three year plan)		Complete View taken by Climate Emergency that there was no single agreed methodology to use and efforts would be better concentrated on delivering other actions	

## 20 minute neighbourhoods in Midlothian

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Promote the principles of the '20 minute neighbourhood' concept within all partner organisations, including layout and make up of new development for local services (to note this	Promotional work and awareness raising undertaken with relevant partners (to note this indicator forms part of a three year plan)		Complete Engagement and promotional work undertaken with partners. Will be taken forward in the next Midlothian Local Development Plan	

action forms part of a three year plan)			
Work with local shop owners and service providers to identify opportunities for new local premises and outlets to serve currently unmet need - work to producing a directory highlighting Midlothian produce and how/where it can be obtained	Engagement has taken place with local shop owners and service providers and directory is in production (to note this indicator forms part of a three year plan)	Complete and ongoing Estates and Economic Development sections of the Council involved in identifying locations for new local premises and maintaining a directory of Midlothian businesses.	

# Climate Emergency Awareness Raising and Community Engagement

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Promotion of Climate Emergency issues through a programme of engagement activities, including a sustained social media presence and investigation of setting Climate Emergency Hubs (to note this action forms part of a three year plan)	Promotion group established and is operational (to note this indicator forms part of a three year plan)		Complete Ongoing. Group members have undertaken engagement events and they have been promoted. Investigation of setting up a Climate Change Hub.	

Development of locally-owned Climate Emergency projects (to note this action forms part of a three year plan)	Work progressed to take forward development of locally- owned Climate Emergency projects (to note this indicator forms part of a three year plan)	Off Target Promotion work for homeowner renewable energy projects has occurred, but not, as envisaged, also for the development of community scale renewable energy projects	
Learn from other Climate Emergency related projects and Community Planning Partnerships on Best Practice on Net Zero and Housing to prompt action and involvement (to note this action forms part of a three year plan)	Relevant projects identified and understood (to note this indicator forms part of a three year plan)	Complete Ongoing. Climate Emergency Group members have inputted experience from other bodies/groups	
Work with Midlothian Council education services, and youth platforms, to engage young people in Climate Emergency matters	Climate Emergency group partners liaise with Midlothian Council Education service (to note this indicator forms part of a three year plan)	Complete Ongoing, and work done to promote this through the school curriculum and work with Scottish Government.	
Compile exemplars of Climate Emergency related projects, for wider circulation, that can prompt action and	List of exemplar projects is compiled (to note this indicator forms part of a three year plan)	Off Target Group meetings have occurred in order to work out how this can be done and actions identified. Examples are being pulled together. More need to be pulled together and distributed	

# **Development of Renewable Energy**

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Explore developing a plan for decarbonising the electricity and hot water output from the Millerhill Energy from waste plant (to note this action forms part of a three year plan)	Work undertaken with Midlothian Energy to take forward the action (to note this indicator forms part of a three year plan)		Complete View taken by members Climate Emergency that the action is for the plant operators and regulators, and developing the plan would not be an efficient (or possible) use of time of members of the Climate Emergency Group.	
Review electricity grid capacity across Midlothian and assess its ability to handle predicted growth in electric vehicles, electric heating etc. Identify bottlenecks and engage with relevant bodies to invest in upgrades	Assess capacity electricity grid capacity in Midlothian (to note this indicator forms part of a three year plan)		Complete Engagement undertaken with Scottish Power Energy Networks to understand electricity grid capacity issues in Midlothian	
Identify potential sites on Council and other partners land for renewable energy generation Inc. solar	Consideration given by partners to potential sites for renewable energy (to note this		Complete Ongoing. MEL Ltd is and will be looking at sites for renewable energy developments.	

and exploration of potential for community-owned schemes and joint ventures	indicator forms part of a three year plan)		
Work with schools on biodiversity projects in their local areas, including on establishment of B- line projects (to note this action forms part of a three year plan)	Climate Emergency group partners liaise with Midlothian Council Education service and other relevant bodies (to note this indicator forms part of a three year plan)	Complete Ongoing. Work done to promote this through the school curriculum and work with Scottish Government	
Take forward community driven citizen science projects and investigate potential locations and interested parties in taking forward a community woodland including "Tiny Forest" proposals, or managed open space	Promotion group established and is operational (to note this indicator forms part of a three year plan)	Ongoing. No group established for taking forward a community woodland. Tiny Forrest established at Bonnyrigg Primary school from in 2021/2022 actions. Tree planting facilitated in Dalkeith country park and on south west Midlothian border	
	Work progressed to take forward development of locally- owned Climate Emergency projects (to note this indicator forms part of a three year plan)		

Promote wildlife corridors that connect urban and rural areas and across local authority areas (to note this action forms part of a three year plan)	Climate Emergency group partners work with Midlothian Council, adjacent local authorities and relevant bodies (to note this indicator forms part of a three year plan)	Complete Ongoing. Council Planning service is key to delivery.	
Promote local food growing (to note this action forms part of a three year plan)	Climate Emergency group partners help take forward the Midlothian allotment and food growing strategy (to note this indicator forms part of a three year plan)	Off Target Implementation of Council Food Growing Strategy have been taken forward and sites searches being undertaken. More work needed.	
Take forward community driven citizen science projects and keep people connected to nature (to note this action forms part of a three year plan)	Climate Emergency group partners work with relevant community and other bodies (to note this indicator forms part of a three year plan)	Complete Ongoing. River Esk River Fly monitoring project and introduction of Climate Emergency Group and Council Ranger Service occurred	

# Place the Climate Emergency as the Central Theme of the Midlothian Local Development Plan no. 2

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Investigate possibilities for peer review of the climate	Climate Emergency Group members to work with Midlothian		Complete Action will be taken forward as part of the review of the Midlothian Local Development Plan.	

emergency credentials	Council (Planning) to
of the next Midlothian	take forward (to note
Local Development	this indicator forms part
Plan (to note this	of a three year plan)
action forms part of a	
three year plan)	

## Transport

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Work with car dealers, approved EV charger installers, Energy Saving Trust etc. to establish a 'one stop shop' for EV buyers in Midlothian to improve uptake, make the process of buying an EV and establishing the charging infrastructure seamless and smooth	Climate Emergency Group members to work with Midlothian Council (Planning) to take forward (to note this indicator forms part of a three year plan)		Off Target Action discussed by the Climate Emergency but not completed. Discussion had on whether the Group could have any real impact, given the comparatively rapid uptake of electric vehicles, and level of influence the Group could have on the matter	

# **Sustainable Growth - Economic Development Actions**

**Social Enterprise Development** 

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Work with communities to identify service gaps or community ideas suited to the social enterprise model and support the development of new models via Business Gateway and MVA	No of community events held	6	6 events held.	

# Employer Engagement Surgeries

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Access to employability initiatives, access to training opportunities for staff and Business Gateway support	No of sessions held	5	5 virtual events have been held.	

**Tourism Roundtable Events** 

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
MTF membership offer for businesses to share collectively, or individually, challenges and opportunities to access support at early stage		6	6 virtual events have been held	

# Sustainable Growth - Housing Actions

## Ensure households, including the private sector, are supported to access a wide range of housing advice

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Ensure households, including the private sector, are supported to access a wide range of housing advice	Number of advice and assistance cases	1,000	Since Jan 22 we have supported 1076 approaches for housing advice	

## Increasing the number of housing advice cases where homelessness was prevented

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Increasing the number of housing advice cases where homelessness was prevented	% of prevented cases	55%	41.2% Due to housing market pressure, demand for private rented sector or affordable housing is rising.	

Provide more social housing - taking account of local demand, including specialist housing - in partnership between the Council, Registered Social Landlords and private developers

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Provide more social housing - taking account of local demand, including specialist housing - in partnership between the Council, Registered Social Landlords and private developers	Number of new homes completed, including specialist housing	300	Off Target 177 Delays due to economic factors out with the control of Midlothian Councils	

## Increase the number of households accessing energy saving or fuel poverty advice and assistance schemes

Action	Indicator	Target	Progress	Our Progress at a Glance
Raise awareness of	Number of households	150	252	
energy saving or fuel	accessing advice			

poverty advice and	Midlothian Council tenants supported through the energy
assistance schemes	advice service include, 112 people reached with advice at
	light touch events (15 events), 117 completed cases
	between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023 and 23
	current cases (cases opened before 1st April 2023).