



Community Planning Partnership Board

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

9 November 2021

A meeting of the **Community Planning Partnership Board** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Virtual Meeting Room** on **Monday 15 November 2021** at **10:00am**.

For Chief Executive

BUSINESS

Public Session

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest - Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration at the meeting, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest
3. Order of Business, including notice of urgent business and declarations of interest in any urgent business
4. Confirm Draft Minutes of Meeting of Community Planning Partnership Board held on Monday 30 August 2021 (herewith)
5. Health and Wellbeing Partnership Scoping Workshops - Report and Presentation by Ashley Goodfellow, Consultant in Public Health, NHS Lothian (herewith)
6. Refocusing the LOIP and CPP - Report by Susan Gordon, Community Planning Development Officer (herewith)
7. Business Support and Labour Market Update - Report by Jim Henderson, Business Development Manager (herewith)
8. CPP COVID-19 Dataset - Report by Susan Gordon, Community Planning

DATA LABEL: Public

Development Officer (herewith)

9. Date of Next Meeting -

Monday 21 February 2022

NOTE **For further information please contact Lorraine McGrorty on 01506 281609 or email lorraine.mcgrorty@westlothian.gov.uk**

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD
held within VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 30 AUGUST 2021.

Present –

Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan (Chair)	West Lothian Council
Councillor Tom Conn	West Lothian Council
Councillor Chris Horne	West Lothian Council
Councillor Andrew McGuire	West Lothian Council
Councillor Moira Shemilt	West Lothian Council
Elaine Cook (Depute Chief Executive)	West Lothian Council
Graeme Struthers	West Lothian Council
Elaine Nisbet (substituting for Donald Forrest)	West Lothian Council
Marjory Mackie	West Lothian Council
Alice Mitchell	West Lothian Council
Tim Ward	West Lothian Council
Beverley Akinlami	West Lothian Council
Fiona Williams (substituting for Alison White)	Integration Joint Board
Katie Dee	NHS Lothian
Chief Inspector Alun Williams	Police Scotland
Debra Forrester	Police Scotland
John Sives	Joint Forum of Community Councils
Jackie Galbraith	West Lothian College
Jim Stewart	Sustran
Dave McCallum	Skills Development Scotland
Jonathan Pryce	Scottish Government
Tim Dent	West Lothian Leisure

In Attendance –

Ashley Goodfellow	NHS Lothian
Susan Gordon	West Lothian Council
Laura Murray	West Lothian Council
Greg Stark	NHS Lothian
Pamela Roccio	West Lothian Council
Julie Whitelaw	West Lothian Council
Gillian Amos	NHS Lothian

Apologies –

Alan McCloskey	Voluntary Sector Gateway
Karen Morrison	NatureScot
Gill Jardine	Jobcentre Plus
Alison White	Integration Joint Board
Craig McCorrison	West Lothian Council
Donald Forrest	West Lothian Council
Lynne Cooper	Scottish Enterprise
David Sharp	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Graham Hope (Chief Executive)	West Lothian Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

John Sives declared that in addition to being Chair of the Joint Forum of Community Councils in West Lothian, he was also a trustee of Mind Mental Health Charity.

2. MINUTE

The Board confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 24th May 2021 subject to correcting Scottish Natural Heritage to NatureScot. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE STRATEGY

The Board considered a report on the West Lothian Gender Based Violence Strategy 2021-24 which it was invited to provide comment on.

It was recommended that the Board:-

- Note that the Chief Officers Group was due to approve the strategy on 9 September 2021.
- Note that comments were invited in advance of that meeting.
- Notes that the strategy and associated improvement plans would be taken forward by the West Lothian Gender Based Violence Committee.
- Note that a 'plan on a page' had been developed to make the plan more accessible.
- Note that the plan had been developed by and consultation with service users.

As suggested by the Board, Tim Ward would include consent in the sentence related to secondary school age children under the 'How will we know we have achieved them' section of the strategy. He would also ensure coercive control and psychological abuse were included in the strategy.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

4. WOMENS SAFETY IN PUBLIC PLACES AND SPACES

The Board considered a report on the work being undertaken by the council to conduct a consultation with women in West Lothian on Women's West Lothian Gender Based Violence Strategy 2021-24 which the Board was invited to provide comment on Women's Safety in public places and spaces and to seek support from the Board in taking forward the consultation and the review of good practice in the recording and analysing of incidents relating to violence against women in public places and spaces.

It was recommended that the Board:-

- a. Note that a consultation would be carried out asking women in West Lothian for their views on their safety in public places and

spaces

- b. Note and provide comment upon the terms of the draft consultation questions.
- c. Consider how best to promote and publicise the consultation to ensure maximum response rate.
- d. Consider how to support the recording of incidents of violence against women in public places and spaces.
- e. Consider what support could be provided in the review of good practice in terms of policy interventions to alleviate or prevent violence against women in public places and spaces.
- f. Consider any other actions which would support women's safety in public places and spaces.
- g. Agree that an event would be held to report back on the finding of the consultation, hear from external speakers and agree actions.

As a result of the discussions, the Head of Corporate would incorporate a question into the consultation on whether someone had suffered violence in an outdoor space and if so, whether they had reported it. She would also ensure that female students would be invited to take part in the consultation via schools.

The Chair welcomed the many offers from partners to promote and share the consultation with their customers and groups.

Decision

To note the terms of the report and agree that an event be held to report back on the findings of the consultation, hear from external speakers and agree actions.

5. MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION GROUP UPDATE

The Board received a report providing an update on the work of the West Lothian Mental Wellbeing & Suicide Prevention Group.

It was recommended that the Board:-

- (i) Note the publication of "Probable Suicides" by Public Health Scotland and the West Lothian context.
- (ii) Note plans for Suicide Prevention Day and future staff training.
- (iii) Note developments in the tiered approach to Mental Health Services.

Partners who wished to get involved with the Group were encouraged to

contact Greg Stark or Gillian Amos. A report would be brought back to the Board for partners to identify key staff who could receive training to support the aims of the Group.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6. COVID-19 DATA SET

The Board considered the Covid-19 sentinel dataset as at August 2021 which identified a handful of indicators in order to track the impact of Covid-19 on communities. The dataset was updated monthly and provided an early indication of changes to West Lothian society.

The Board heard that additional indicators focussed on Violence against Women, Child Protection, Anti-social Behaviour, Homelessness and fire crew resilience levels would be included in the dataset.

It was recommended that the Board note the dataset.

Decision

To note the Covid-19 dataset update.

7. DRAFT LOIP AND LOCALITY PLAN ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020/21

The Board considered a report inviting approval of the draft LOIP and Locality Plan Annual Report 2020/21.

It was recommended that the Board approve the draft LOIP and Locality Plan Annual Report 2020/21 and note that it would be published by the end of September required deadline.

Decision

To approve the recommendation.

8. COMMUNITY JUSTICE ANNUAL REPORT

The Board considered a report which provided an awareness of the annual report on the progress of the Community Justice Strategic Plan 2019-24. The Strategic Plan also acted as the Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan Annual Report which would be submitted to Community Justice Scotland in September 2021.

The Board was invited to:-

- A. Note the Annual Report for the Community Justice Strategic Plan 2019-24, including the Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan.

- B. Note that a report would be submitted to the Board each year on the annual report submitted to Community Justice Scotland.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

9. ANTI-POVERTY ACTION PLAN 20/21 & DRAFT ACTION PLAN 21/22

The Board considered a report informing (a) of progress made towards the aims of the West Lothian Anti-Poverty Strategy during the 2020/21 period and across the lifetime of the strategy so far and (b) planned activity to address key concerns and recover from the impact of Covid-19 during 21/22.

The Board as asked to:-

- I. Note the range of activity carried out in the 2020/21 period to mitigate the impact of poverty and deprivation in West Lothian.
- II. Approve the action plan for the 2021/22 period.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

10. COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2021-2024

The Board considered a report setting out the West Lothian Community Learning and Development (CLD) Partnership Plan for 2021-2024, which met the statutory requirement for all local authorities to have a three-year CLD Partnership Plan.

The CLD Youth Services Manager undertook to ensure West Lothian Leisure were recognised as a key partner in the plan moving forward. She would also ensure alternative wording to “health improvement projects” to reflect the move away from short term projects.

The Board was invited to note the CLD Partnership Plan 2021-2024.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The note the dates of future meetings of the Board; these being:-

- Monday 15 November 2021

- Monday 21 February 2020

Health and Wellbeing Partnership Scoping Workshops

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to update the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board on two workshops held by the Health and Wellbeing Partnership (HWP) to review the current position in relation to delivery of the national public health priorities in West Lothian.

2. Recommendations

The CPP Board is asked to:

- Note the information provided in the HWP workshop report and the themes and priority areas emerging from discussions
- Request a further report to the Board once the HWP has considered the output from the workshops in more detail and identified its shared priorities and actions.

3. Discussion

3.1 Health and Wellbeing Partnership

The HWP functions as the West Lothian CPP forum for health, prevention, and inequalities.

The key objectives of the HWP are to:

- a) Embed a preventative focus in the core work of the CPP and provide a platform for preventative efforts to be developed across the partnership.
- b) Ensure health inequalities and prevention is taken forward as a shared priority as part of a wider 'whole system' CPP approach to issues like poverty, housing, education, employment, and transport.

Activities to support the above objectives include working collaboratively to deliver on the six national public health priorities for Scotland at a local level. The national public health priorities are:

- A Scotland where we live in vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities
- A Scotland where we flourish in our early years
- A Scotland where we have good mental wellbeing
- A Scotland where we reduce the use of and harm from alcohol, tobacco and drugs

- A Scotland where we have a sustainable inclusive economy with equality of outcomes for all
- A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physical active

This is not necessarily about developing new services but working in different ways across the partnership to strengthen our approach to prevention, addressing the wider determinants that influence health and wellbeing, and reducing inequalities.

3.2 Workshops

In September 2021, the HWP undertook two scoping workshops with a range of partners including, West Lothian Council (economic development, regeneration, housing, planning, education, social policy, and the anti-poverty service), NHS Lothian (public health, strategic planning), West Lothian HSCP (strategic planning, general practice, nursing, mental health), Third Sector organisations, West Lothian College and West Lothian Leisure. The aim of the HWP scoping workshops was to review current progress on delivery of the six national public health priorities in West Lothian, in the context of Covid-19, identify good practice and gaps in our approach, and identify future, shared priorities for action.

A range of good practice was identified and currently being delivered in West Lothian. However, there were areas where our approach could be strengthened and better co-ordinated, as well as areas where new action is required. Overarching principles and emerging themes can be found in the workshop report in Appendix 1. It should be noted that these require further consideration by the HWP.

3.3 Next steps

The HWP will meet in November to explore workshop themes further and identify shared priorities for action, being cognisant of the forthcoming refresh of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

In addition to the establishment of a local public health team to support the work of the HWP and wider CPP, the Department of Public Health and Health Policy is establishing a health intelligence function that will support and inform the work of the partnership going forward. This includes the development of a health inequalities core data set and commissioning of a population health survey across the Lothian area.

4. Summary of Implications

Relevant LOIP outcome (s)	All
Relevant LOIP performance indicator (s)	All
Resources	This work has been undertaken within existing resources.
Link to prevention/community engagement	Workshops will inform the activity of the HWP which takes a preventive approach. Community engagement will be integral to HWP activities.
Impact on inequalities	Workshops will inform the activity of the HWP, with an overall aim of reducing health inequalities.
Key risks	None identified at present.

5. Consultations

Workshops were multiagency and multidisciplinary with approximately 30 attendees at each session. Further consultation with stakeholders will take place as the HWP action plan develops.

6. Conclusions

Two workshops have been held by the HWP to inform the development of shared priorities and actions. The Board is asked to note the workshop report and the emerging themes and priority areas from workshop discussions.

Report written by/contact details/date

Ashley Goodfellow, Consultant in Public Health

Ashley.Goodfellow2@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

5 November 2021

References

N/A

Appendices

Appendix1 – Health and Wellbeing Partnership Scoping Workshops Report

West Lothian Health and Wellbeing Partnership Scoping Workshops Report

Introduction

The West Lothian Health and Wellbeing Partnership (HWP) brings together partners from across the Community Planning Partnership to drive forward the health, inequalities, and prevention agenda at a strategic level. The HWP aims to embed a preventative focus in the core work of the Community Planning Partnership, providing a platform for preventative efforts to be developed and ensuring health inequalities and prevention is taken forward as a shared priority as part of a whole system approach to issues such as poverty, housing, education, employment, and transport. One of the strengths of the HWP lies in working together to affect positive and sustainable improvements to health, quality of life and life chances for the population of West Lothian. The HWP reports to the Community Planning Partnership Steering Group and Board and is chaired by the Consultant in Public Health – Partnership and Place.

In September 2021, the HWP undertook two scoping workshops with a range of partners including, West Lothian Council (economic development, regeneration, housing, planning, education, social policy, and the anti-poverty service), NHS Lothian (public health, strategic planning), West Lothian HSCP (strategic planning, general practice, nursing, mental health), Third Sector organisations, West Lothian College and West Lothian Leisure. The aim of the HWP scoping workshops was to review current progress on delivery of the six national public health priorities in West Lothian, in the context of Covid-19, identify what was working well/not so well, and identify future, shared priorities for action.

National Public Health Priorities

The national public health priorities, developed by a range of partners and stakeholders and agreed by the Scottish Government and local government, provide a focus for collective effort on the issues where concerted action could support improved population health and a reduction in health inequalities. The priorities are inter-related and interdependent, and require a sustained, collaborative, whole system approach. The six national public health priorities are:

1. A Scotland where we live in vibrant, health and safe places and communities

2 A Scotland where we flourish in our early years

3 A Scotland where we have good mental wellbeing

4 A Scotland where we reduce the use of and harm from alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs

5 A Scotland where we have a sustainable, inclusive economy with equality of outcomes for all

6 A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active

Workshops

Two scoping workshops were held on MS Teams in September 2021. Participants were organised into small groups, focussing on three national priorities at each session. Sessions were facilitated by members of the HWP, and participants had the opportunity to contribute to discussions on all six priority areas. Workshop scribes captured key points from discussions.

Participants were asked to consider the following:

- Where are we now – what activity is currently taking place in West Lothian to progress this priority area and how well is it working? What are the challenges and facilitators?
- Where are the gaps – what is missing from our approach?
- What are our shared priorities for action – what do we need to do to address the gaps and deliver on this priority area?

Feedback from the workshops was analysed by the West Lothian public health partnership and place team. A range of good practice was identified and currently being delivered in West Lothian. Examples included the robust and timeous partnership response to the Covid-19 pandemic and delivery of support to those in need, and the development of third sector networks in relation to food and mental health to ensure individuals get the right support, from the right service, at the right time.

There were, however, challenges and gaps identified that require further exploration. Some of these were specific to individual priorities, whilst others were crosscutting themes e.g., reduced budgets, short-term funding, capacity, and difficulty with delivering face to face support to client groups given Covid-19 mitigation measures.

Overarching principles

Following thematic analysis of workshop discussions, several overarching principles were identified which underpin the way in which the HWP progresses key priority areas. These were:

- Recognising the impact of Covid-19 on families and communities and the opportunities that recovery from the pandemic presents in terms of learning from our response and new ways of working
- Ensuring our work is data and evidence informed, and that communities and those with lived experience are involved in shaping our approach
- Taking a strategic approach across the Community Planning Partnership in areas such as mental health and wellbeing, trauma responsive practice and provision of welfare advice services
- Ensuring plans are outcomes focused, building on strengths and community assets
- Building the capacity of practitioners across services, making every contact count
- Collaboration, effective communication, and appropriate information sharing

Approaches and models to support these overarching principles include:



Key themes identified under each public health priority are outlined in Appendix 1.

Next Steps

Workshop attendees, and HWP members who were unable to attend the workshops, were invited to sense-check and feedback on the overarching principles and themes identified from workshop discussions. The HWP will meet in November to explore and distil these themes further and identify shared priorities for action.

It is acknowledged that some of the priority themes identified may already be progressing within existing Community Planning Partnership groups and structures. The HWP would wish to support these areas of work and not duplicate. Other priority areas will be new or require revisiting and reshaping. Partners will work together to develop action plans in relation to agreed shared priority areas and ensure these contribute to the overarching outcomes of the LOIP.

Appendix 1: Emerging areas for joint working

PHP 1: A Scotland where we live in vibrant, health and safe places and communities	PHP 4: A Scotland where we reduce the use of and harm from alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling youth homelessness • Place standard – town centre growth/prosperity, food and physical activity environment, outdoor spaces for children and young people • Gender based violence, women's safety, and promoting gender equality • Health and wellbeing in schools to support educational attainment and readiness to learn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a preventative approach to drug and alcohol use – both population wide and targeted • Diversionary activity • Challenge the stigma associated with substance use • Strengthen prevention approach to tobacco use and vaping • Revisit education programmes for children and young people
PHP 2: A Scotland where we flourish in our early years	PHP 5: A Scotland where we have a sustainable, inclusive economy with equality of outcomes for all
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting breastfeeding in low-income communities • Revisit the West Lothian Play Strategy • Enhance community support for new parents/carers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing local businesses and opportunities for work • Develop the local workforce, including growth in health and social care • Develop opportunities around youth employment, positive destinations, and local apprenticeships • Support upskilling and workplace progression to tackle in-work poverty • Develop our approach to Community Wealth Building and the role of Anchor Institutions, to support local communities and contribute to the sustainability agenda
PHP 3: A Scotland where we have good mental wellbeing	PHP 6: A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a strategic, prevention and early intervention approach to mental health and wellbeing for all life stages, including social prescribing, pathways, single point of referral, transitions, empowerment, and self-management • Develop a shared set of mental health and wellbeing outcomes • Building resilience through relationship-based care and community youth work (one trusted adult approach) • Deliver trauma informed practice and services • Building capacity across the workforce and communities to support mental health and wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use and promotion of Greenspace • Whole system's approach to reducing type 2 diabetes • Obesogenic environment and planning systems

West Lothian Public Health Partnership and Place Team

Ashley Goodfellow
Consultant in Public Health
15 November 2021

Building public health capacity at place

Aligned to West Lothian – Consultant led, skill mixed teams

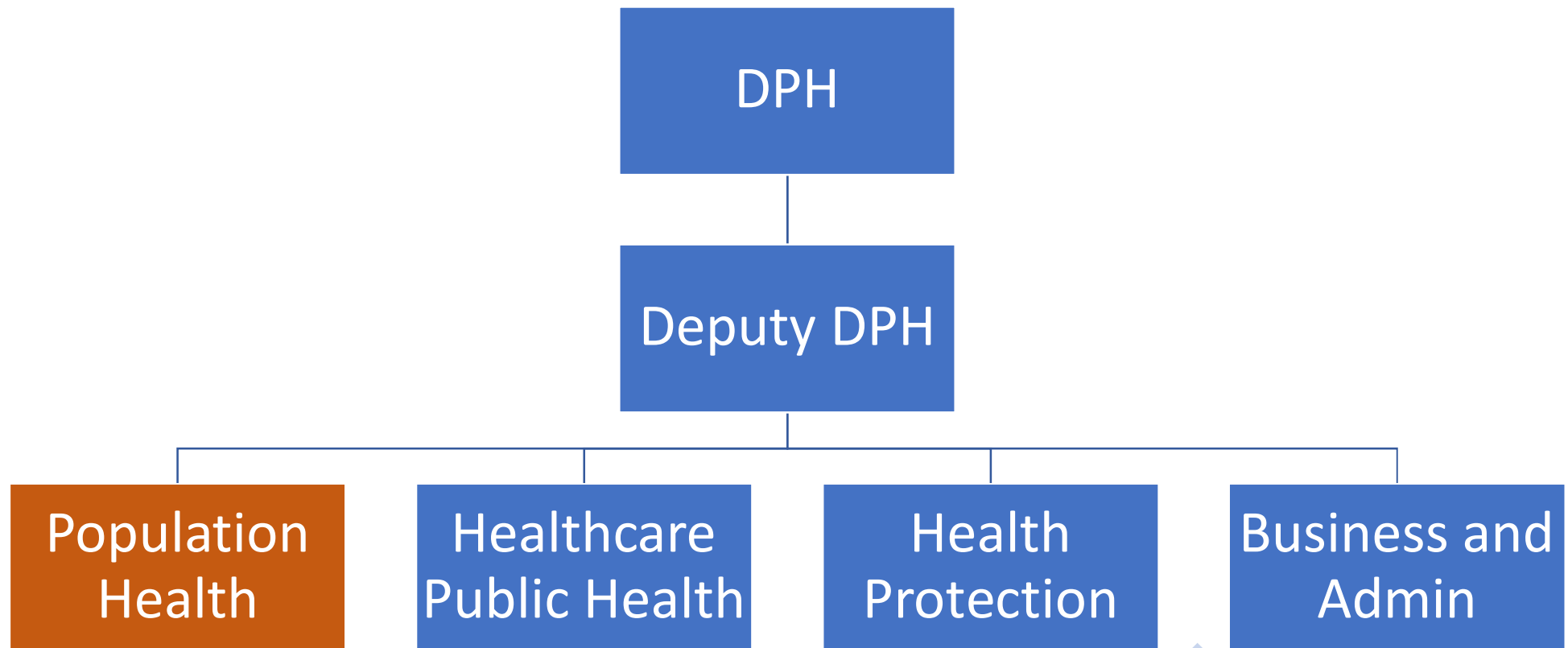
Aim – improve population health and tackle health inequalities through strategic and collaborative planning and action

How – prevention, addressing wider determinants of health, partnership working, intelligence led

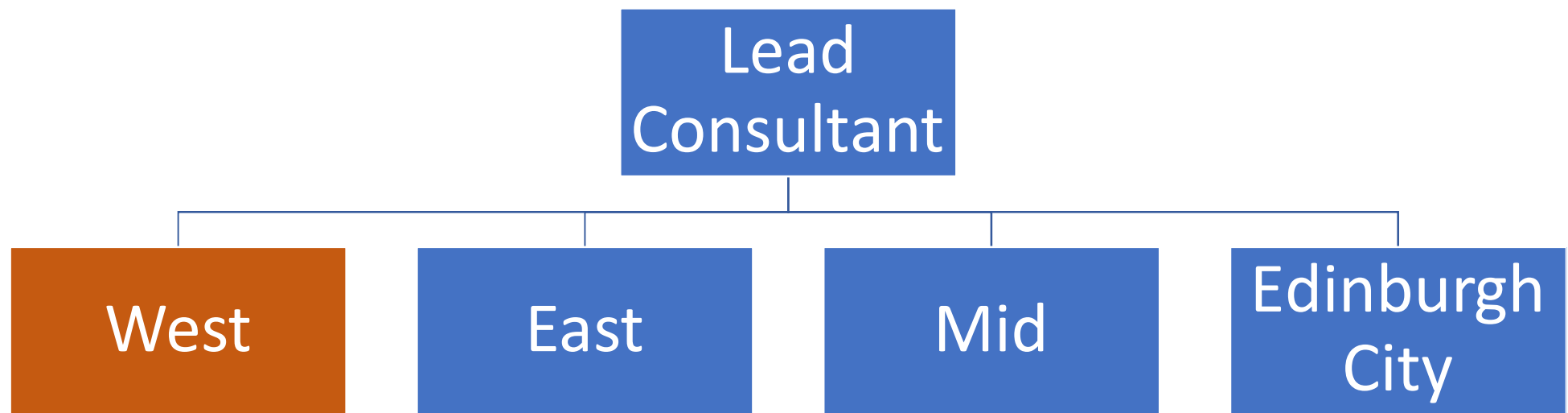
Our role – to support, influence, advise, lead and deliver

Integral part of the Community Planning system

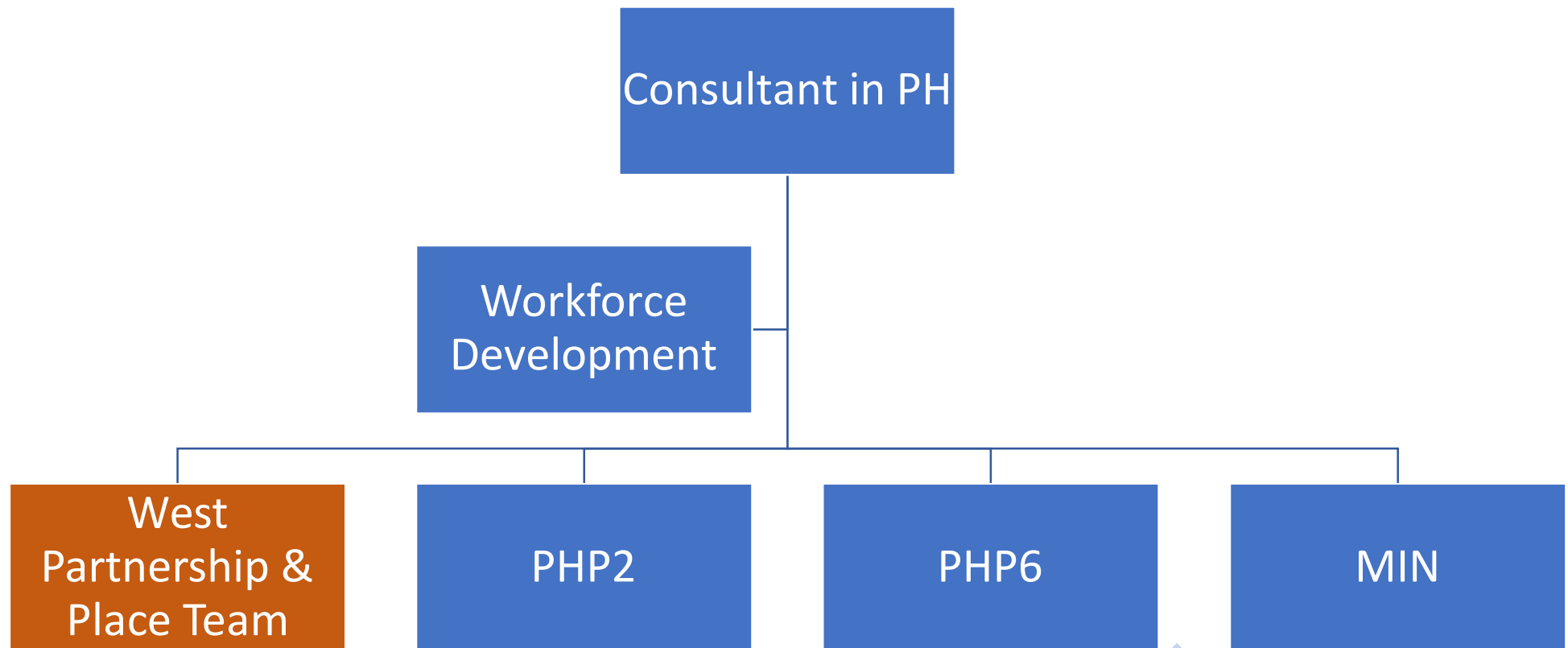
Directorate of Public Health and Health Policy



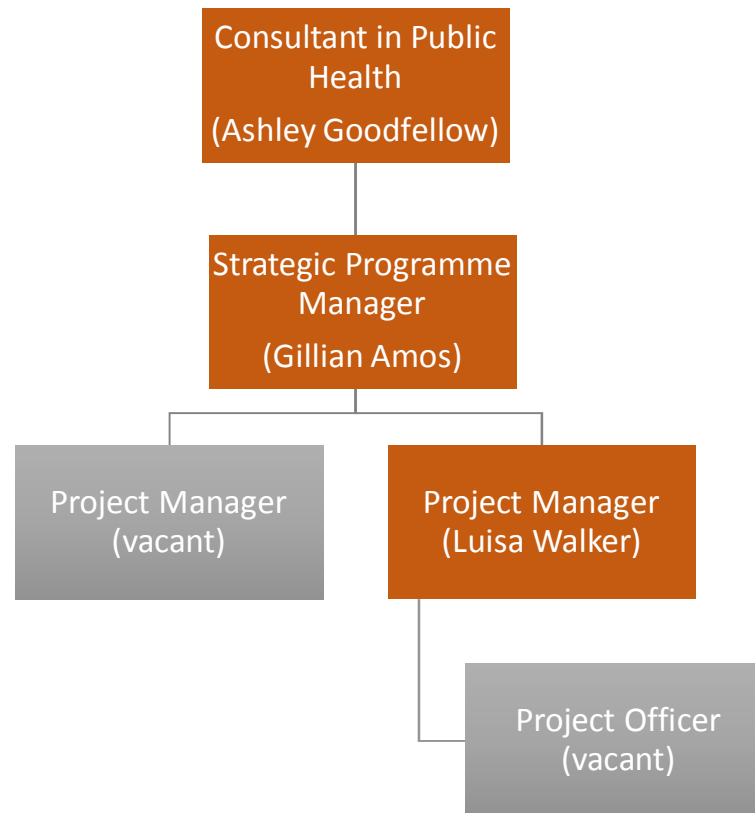
Population Health Team



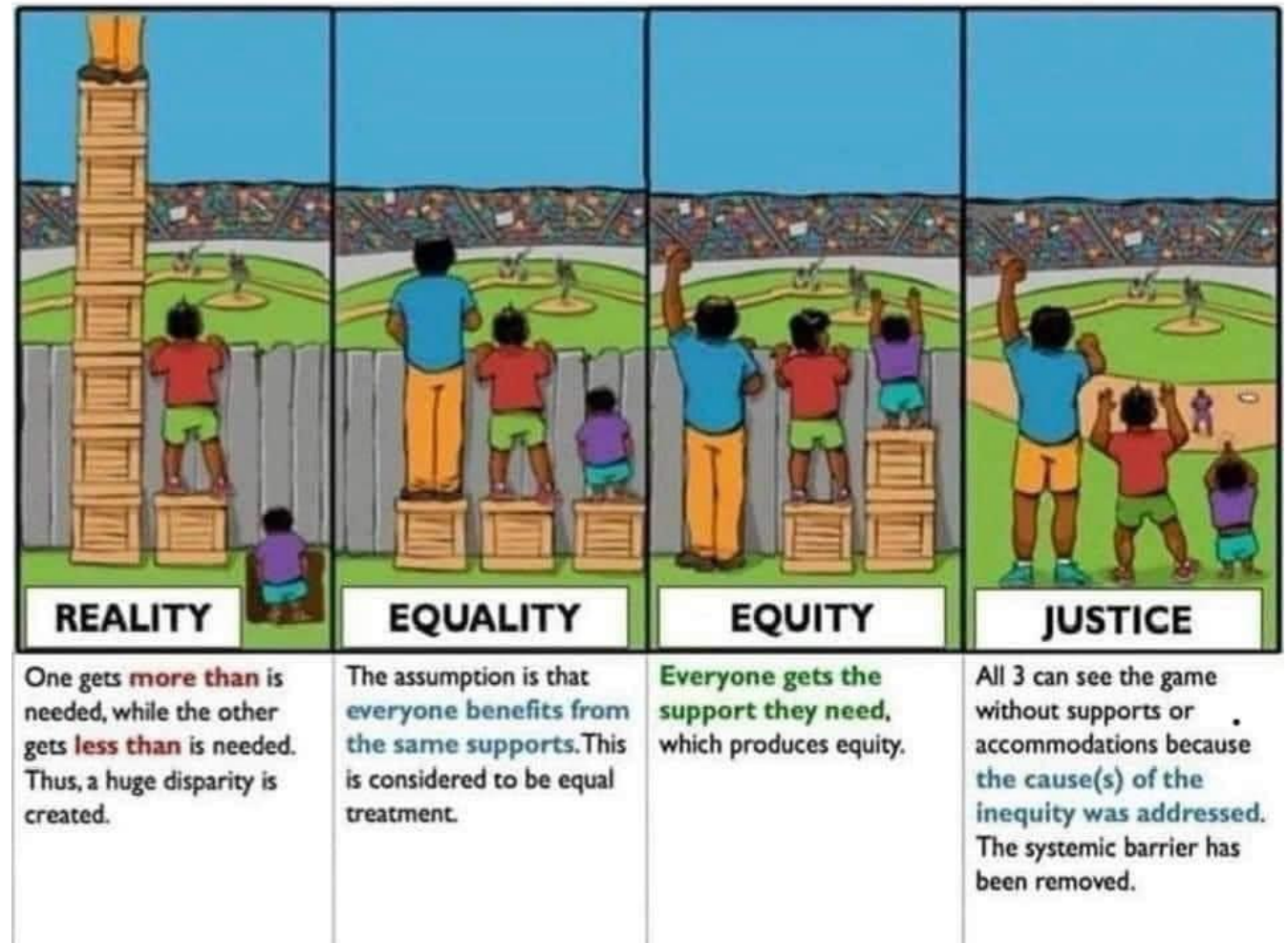
West portfolio



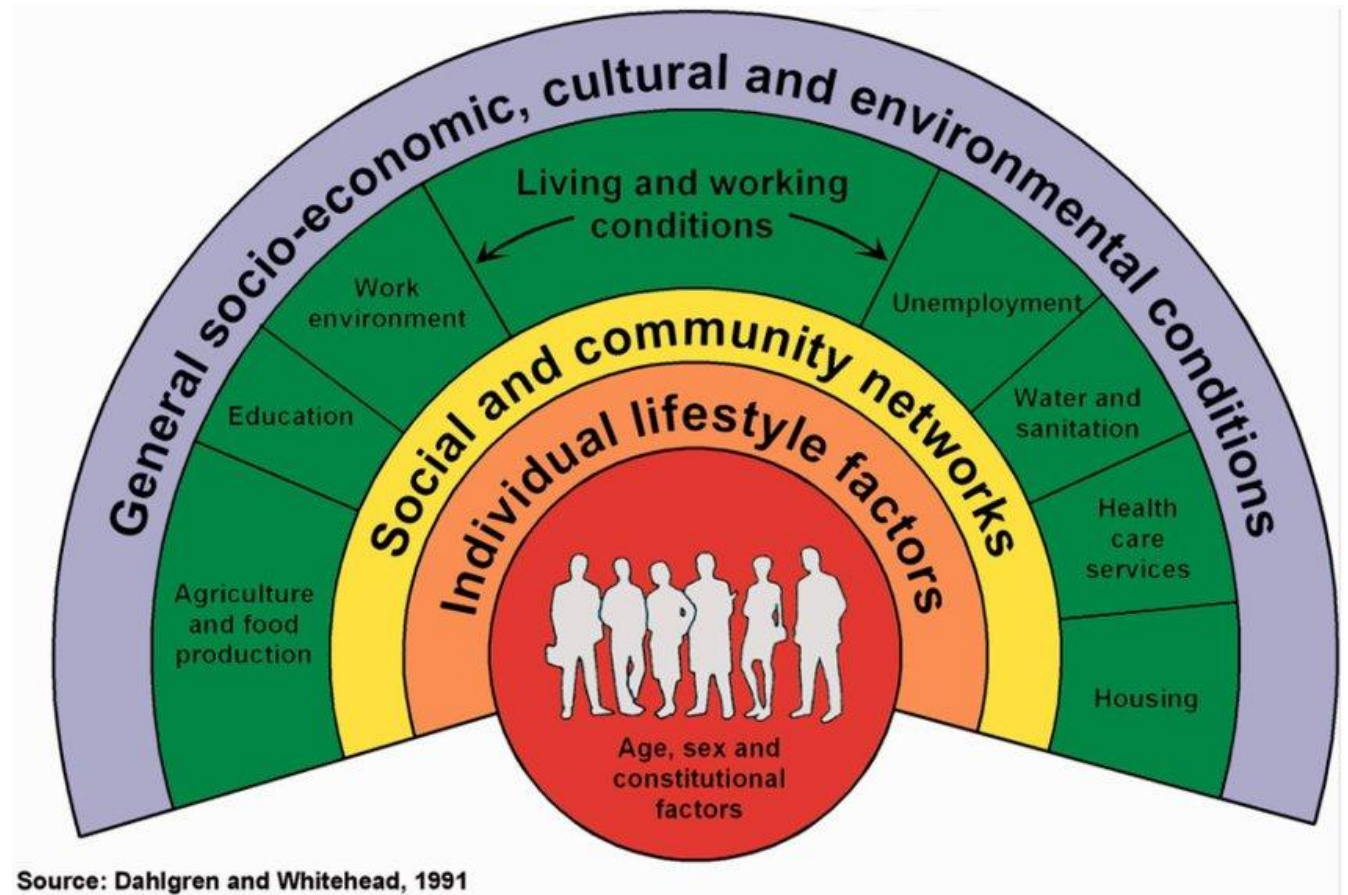
West Lothian Partnership and Place Team



Our approach



Our approach



National Public Health Priorities

A Scotland where we live in vibrant, health and safe places and communities

A Scotland where we flourish in our early years

A Scotland where we have good mental wellbeing

A Scotland where we reduce the use of and harm from alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs

A Scotland where we have a sustainable, inclusive economy with equality of outcomes for all

A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active

Local priorities



Build public health capacity at place



Develop workplans with community planning partners and communities



Data driven – inequalities dataset and population health survey



Embed Anchor Institution approach

Progress and opportunities

- HWB Partnership – scoping workshops
- LOIP refresh
- Forthcoming refresh of JSNA
- Antipoverty work
- Children's Services Plan
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Enhanced Covid response
- Alcohol and Drugs Partnership
- Gender-based violence and community safety
- Community justice

Reflections

- Place based working provides opportunities to do things differently
- Whole systems working – joining the dots
- Community Wealth Building and Anchor Institutions – economic and social benefits, climate sustainability
- Focus on inequalities and life course approach
- Upstream working – prevention better than cure
- Small team so where can we best focus our efforts and add value

Refocusing the LOIP and CPP

1. Purpose of Report

To update the CPP Board on the status of the review of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) and to advise the Board on work being carried out at a national level which highlights the contribution that CPP's have made throughout COVID-19 and the role of CPP's in recovery and renewal going forward.

2. Recommendations

The CPP Board is asked to:

- Note progress to date with the new LOIP;
- Note that work to recommence the review of the LOIP will be taken forward.
- Note the work at national level on the role of Community Planning Partnership's in recovery and renewal and consider this from a West Lothian perspective.

3. Discussion

Background

The CPP Board agreed to review the LOIP in 2019. It was agreed that the LOIP should not replicate outcomes or actions that are already being taken forward by other partnership plans/strategies but that the LOIP should focus on the 'big ticket' issues that can only be tackled by working in partnership. A robust review process was carried out throughout 2019, involving desktop research, discussion with partners and community engagement.

Three 'focus areas' were identified – Sustainable Places, Improved Health and Wellbeing and Skills and Jobs. Clear priority areas were identified within these focus areas and were translated into five outcomes. These are set out in the table on the following page, along with further detail on what each outcome was to focus on. Four Guiding Principles were also identified, which were to underpin the LOIP and inform the CPP's approach to working together and designing and delivering services. A draft LOIP Delivery Plan was also developed which provided more detail on the short, medium and long-term actions required to achieve the five long-term outcomes.

A draft LOIP and LOIP Delivery Plan were presented to the Board in early March 2020. The Board agreed that a period of consultation would be carried out and that a final draft LOIP would then be brought back to the Board.

The pandemic hit shortly after this and all LOIP review activity was put on hold as the Community Planning team and partners focused on other priorities. The consultation had not yet commenced.

Focus Area	Outcome	Specific Focus in Draft LOIP
Sustainable Places	<p>Everyone has access to appropriate, affordable and sustainable housing which meets their needs</p> <p>Everyone who lives, works and delivers services in West Lothian builds a sustainable, nature rich, net zero carbon community</p>	<p>Housing meets the needs of communities (affordable, right kind of housing); local people are aware of all housing options and support available; there is joined up and consistent support and advice available to prevent homelessness; we take a joined up, collaborative and participative approach to designing places (placemaking approaches)</p> <p>Developing a partnership approach to achieving net zero carbon; improved engagement with communities, business and third sector – take on a leadership role; nature-based solutions, carbon off-setting and energy generation</p>
Improved Health & Wellbeing	<p>Everyone experiences improved mental wellbeing</p> <p>We have reduced the negative impact of too much alcohol in West Lothian</p>	<p>Preventative approach to improving population level mental wellbeing (whole systems approach); shared understanding of mental wellbeing; engaging with the third sector and building community resilience</p> <p>Improved links between ADP/CPP to develop preventative agenda around alcohol; improved understanding of the impact of alcohol; change in culture around alcohol consumption; demand/availability of alcohol</p>
Skills & Jobs	<p>West Lothian delivers sustainable, inclusive and diverse economic growth enabling businesses to create good quality jobs that everyone can access</p>	<p>Attracting good quality jobs to the area, reducing the skills gap (focus on qualifications/training for young people as well as upskilling/retraining the existing workforce) and in-work poverty</p>
Guiding Principles: Prevention, Tackling Inequalities, Inclusiveness, Community Resilience and Empowerment		

COVID-19 Response and Recovery

COVID-19 has since had a huge impact on the CPP and our communities. A Health & Wellbeing/Anti-Poverty working group was set up in May 2020 involving members of the Anti-Poverty Task Force and the Health and Wellbeing Partnership. The group identified 5 themes for COVID recovery, informed through discussion with partners and a community survey. These were approved at the CPP Board in September 2020:

- Income and employment;
- Economy and business;
- Physical and mental health and wellbeing;
- Housing and homelessness issues;

- Develop/strengthen partnership working between public, third sector and business

These themes do align well with the priorities and outcomes in the draft LOIP; however COVID-19 has had a significant impact on communities and the LOIP will need to be refocused to reflect this and to factor in recovery. The specific actions previously identified to help address priority issues may look a lot different, as will the timescales for implementing actions.

Proposal for the New LOIP

It is important that the LOIP is informed by a full understanding and analysis on the impact of COVID-19 on the CPP and communities, and that it aligns with other recovery plans. The LOIP should demonstrate the added value that can be delivered by the CPP over and above individual partner recovery plans and should contribute to longer term recovery planning. It is important to avoid duplication and better align partnership plans. The LOIP should fill any gaps identified and focus on the partnership activities that are not already being delivered.

It is intended that the significant work already carried out to develop the draft LOIP and LOIP Delivery Plan should be built on, rather than develop a new LOIP from scratch. The work that was developed by the CPP in relation to COVID recovery will also be used to help refocus the LOIP as this highlights where key areas of partnership work are required in relation to dealing with impact of COVID-19. Resuming the development of the LOIP will involve discussions with key partners and officers in relation to the existing focus areas and outcomes to assess if these should remain and if so, with the same focus or by taking a different approach. These discussions will also help to identify if new areas or issues have emerged that need to be drawn in to the LOIP. This will also be driven by data and intelligence to ensure that any change or new areas of focus are supported by a robust evidence base and that ultimately the new LOIP reflects an up to date understanding of local needs and opportunities.

The Steering Group agreed that work should resume on refocusing and reviewing the LOIP at their meeting on 2 November 2021.

Progress and Potential of CPP's

There have been a number of developments in relation to Community Planning Partnerships and COVID recovery and renewal over the past few weeks at national level.

The Community Planning Improvement Board (CPIB) published a report on the role that CPP's have played during COVID-19, which highlights the significant contribution that CPP's have made over the last 19 months, and considers the future role of CPP's in longer term recovery.

It is important that CPP's build on this momentum and identify new opportunities for collaborative working, and provide the 'added-value' that CPP's are in the unique position of delivering.

As well as highlighting the strengths, innovative approaches and the valuable role CPP's have played, the report also outlines a number of considerations and assumptions that can be drawn from the work of CPPs throughout the pandemic which signifies the pivotal role CPP's have in local recovery. The report also draws out areas of focus for Community Planning to meet future expectations. These are;

- **Re-Focusing Priorities:** aligning and refocussing priorities and targets in Local Outcomes Improvement Plans and locality plans to play into longer term recovery plans
- **Involving and empowering communities:** strengthening relationships with communities and embracing the value that volunteers, community bodies and third sector organisations can play in recovery and renewal efforts
- **Relationships, structures and bureaucracy:** Building on the expansion and strengthened quality of partnership working and relationships that have driven cohesive action for at-risk communities during the crisis and promoting delivery models which emphasise empowerment

The report is attached in Appendix 1. The CPIB have written to the Chair of each CPP to share this research and highlight their intention to work in partnership with CPP's to ensure national work is informed by local priorities.

Given that work will be undertaken to review and refocus the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, now is an opportune time to consider the CPP's role going forward.

4. Summary of Implications

Relevant LOIP outcome (s)	ALL
Relevant LOIP performance indicator (s)	ALL
Resources	The new LOIP will be developed within existing resources
Link to prevention/community engagement	The new LOIP will be informed by robust community engagement and will have a focus on preventative activity that can only be achieved in partnership
Impact on inequalities	The LOIP's key focus will be to tackle inequalities
Key risks	N/A

5. Consultations

It is intended that once the development of the new LOIP is picked up again, there will be a further period of engagement with partners and communities to ensure the LOIP reflects an up to date understanding of local needs and opportunities.

6. Conclusions

Activity to develop a new LOIP has been put on hold since March 2020. In the meantime, there has been a great deal of activity across the partnership to both respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and to look at how the CPP may plan for recovery. The Community Planning Steering Group agreed that work to resume the review of the LOIP should be taken forward, which will involve a process of engaging with partners and officers to examine and review the current focus areas, identify any new areas as a result of COVID and build in the work that has been undertaken over the last 18 months in relation to recovery.

Report written by/contact details/date

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References

N/A

Appendices

CPIB Community Planning Progress and Potential Report

Community Planning Improvement Board
COMMUNITY PLANNING: PROGRESS AND POTENTIAL
May 2021

Introduction

This report sets out:

- *A brief assessment of how and how far Community Planning in Scotland has strengthened in recent years*
- *How Community Planning has reached a new level in co-ordinating and supporting local responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic*
- *How Community Planning is ideally placed to perform a pivotal role in driving local recovery and renewal interventions in the coming years*
- *What CPPs and their partners need to focus on to do this effectively.*

Evolution of Community Planning Following Statutory Reforms Pre-Covid

1. New statutory reforms to Community Planning, in Part 2 of the [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#) and accompanying [Statutory Guidance](#), came into force in December 2016. These provisions introduced a statutory basis for Community Planning; built on public sector partners working together and with community bodies to improve outcomes – especially with a view to tackling inequalities of outcome – on locally identified priorities.
2. This statutory purpose is critical. The success of Community Planning is defined by the impact that partners make for their communities by working together; not by structures, procedures or how Board meetings are conducted. The Act also applies statutory duties on CPPs and named public sector organisations to ensure Community Planning fulfils this purpose effectively.
3. The Community Planning Improvement Board (CPIB), through its relationship with key Community Planning stakeholders, has played an instrumental role in building a strong evidence base around where Community Planning and CP partners are working well together and achieving positive outcomes for their communities, and also on the nature of issues and barriers to progress and where improvement support is needed to drive change.

How Community Planning Has Progressed since the Act

4. We have gradually gained a picture of how much stronger Community Planning has become in light of these duties
5. A summary of this progress is provided in [Annexe A](#). In addition to evidence produced through the work of the CPIB, this also reflects:
 - 27 Best Value Audit Reports (BVARs) of local authorities, which the Accounts Commission has published since June 2017
 - a 2018 impact report by Audit Scotland, which summarised national and local progress against improvement recommendations in previous audit reports on Community Planning
6. This evidence points to steady and continuing improvement in Community Planning. However, based on this considerably more progress would be needed to meet fully the expectations of the 2015 Act and statutory guidance.

How Community Planning Has Responded to the Pandemic

7. Community Planning has come into its own during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Based on self-reported feedback from CPPs (see [Annexe B](#)), Community Planning has played a critical role in supporting emergency response efforts. Existing relationships, infrastructure and ways of working have been fundamental within local emergency and resilience planning structures, supporting rapid and co-ordinated community led responses and joined up planning and delivery by key partners.
8. ***Mobilising Communities.*** In many cases, communities responded much more quickly than the public sector and organised themselves to deliver assistance on vulnerable people in a matter of days. Community Planning provided essential support via recruiting, co-ordinating and supporting volunteers and community groups; and establishing online community hubs offering support and guidance and signposting to further resources. The community led response has enabled a more rapid and targeted delivery of support to those most in need, despite challenges (volume of volunteers and capacity to support community groups). This is valuable learning for CPPs in why and how they support empowerment in future.
9. ***Using and refocusing existing partnership infrastructure and relationships.*** Partnerships developed prior to the pandemic facilitated a smooth transition to emergency operations (e.g. one Community Planning Manager noted many of the members of a local Emergency Management Team were members of the area's CPP and had already build familiarity and trust). Existing partnerships have been used and refocussed across a range of social and economic recovery themes, drawing in new partners including business and the private sector. Thematic partnerships worked well at the start of the pandemic, springing into action despite the fact that the local CPP Board was effectively out of action at this point.
10. CPPs have also brought together partner recovery plans and identified areas where partners could join efforts. Many CPPs have looked to alter the way they operate to become more flexible and adaptable, recognising the fluidity of current and evolving pressures. This is particularly evident in relation to locality planning.
11. ***Using the knowledge and expertise of the Third Sector Interface (TSI).*** Many CPPs drew heavily on the knowledge, connections and expertise of TSIs to mobilise communities, co-ordinate volunteers and to provide support. Some reflected that there had been a strengthening of the relationship with the TSI and a greater parity of esteem as a result of the pandemic response.
12. ***Co-ordinating and connecting local and national responses.*** CPPs have played a key role in co-ordinating and connecting local and national responses. This was particularly important given the volume and frequency of new guidelines from the Scottish and UK Governments, the speed with which national guidelines were altered, and the need to ensure communities, community groups and partner organisations all had access to the latest guidance and support.
13. ***Reviewing and resetting existing LOIPs.*** Many CPPs have taken stock with communities to ensure alignment with other local recovery plans, and ensure priorities within their Local Outcome Improvement Plan best reflect circumstances for their area and communities in light of the Pandemic. A number of issues will have come into starker relief – such as exacerbated inequalities, the need for social and economic recovery and renewal, the importance of

community resilience. As a result, many CPPs are likely to refresh their LOIP in order to update their local priorities, the extent of progress required or the way these are addressed.

Looking Ahead: A Pivotal Role for Community Planning

14. Community planning and the close local partnership working it embodies are ideally placed to underpin recovery and renewal efforts across Scotland. The same collective responses by local public and third sector partners that have supported community efforts and helped people at risk during the Pandemic will continue to be vital as energies shift to recovery.
15. We cannot adequately safeguard the wellbeing and life chances of our vulnerable communities now and in future if we return to traditional models of service delivery built on silo-based, service-specific interventions. Local partners need to work together and with communities to understand what matters most to people and then shape comprehensive, holistic and seamless interventions that make a particular positive difference for those of our fellow citizens who need that support most. Recognition of this is already driving national policy on recovery from Covid and more widely (e.g. Scottish Government responses to the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery¹ and Social Renewal Advisory Board²; its Climate Change Plan³).
16. Community Planning provides an ideal space in which public services, other partners and communities themselves can contribute meaningfully to these national priorities and others. What is more, through Community Planning these partners can do so in ways that reflect local needs and circumstances, empower communities and front-line staff, and forge holistic approaches that connect and add value across a range of outcomes for a local area.

Areas of Focus for Community Planning to Meet Future Expectations

17. **Re-Focusing Priorities:** CPPs should now be planning and organising for economic and social renewal in light of the Pandemic, with continued particular emphasis on safeguarding wellbeing and tackling inequalities, already established by the LOIP. Approaches shaped to the distinctive needs of Place and communities of interest will feature prominently in this. In many cases, CPPs will now or shortly be considering how they align and refocus priorities and targets in LOIPs and locality plans to play into longer term recovery efforts.
18. **Involving & empowering communities:** CPPs will want to strengthen relationships with communities. In many cases this will involve embedding recent and current positive actions in listening and responding to communities' needs. In particular, CPPs should work to secure trust of communities. Partnerships that were well embedded within their local communities were more easily able to respond and had already earned the buy-in and trust of the local community. The example of North Ayrshire (also taken forward elsewhere in Scotland) on embedding Kindness into the work of local public services has supported effective locality-based interventions.

¹ [Economic Recovery Implementation Plan](#), Scottish Government (August 2020)

² [Social Renewal Advisory Board: Initial Response](#), Scottish Government (March 2021)

³ [Securing a Green Recovery on a Path to Net Zero: Climate Change Plan 2018–2032 - Update](#), Scottish Government (December 2020)

20. CPPs will want to embrace the significant value that volunteers and organisations in all sectors can play in recovery and renewal efforts, and help overcome challenges facing all sectors. Recent experience has also demonstrated the value of Third Sector Interfaces as a strategic partner for CPPs that are committed to strengthening relationships with communities and to economic and social renewal; and the value of working with the private sector and local businesses
21. More specifically, the Pandemic has highlighted issues exist around digital inclusion for households and communities, including accessibility for them of information and support through IT and the extent of local broadband provision.
22. ***Relationships, structures and bureaucracy.*** CPPs and partners will want to build on the expansion and strengthened quality of partnership working that have driven cohesive action for at-risk communities during the crisis. This includes embedding the improved communication, awareness and trust between partners and sectors – including the third sector which has responded rapidly and decisively to the crisis and local private sector which could offer longer term gains in partnership working. CPPs and partners can apply learning from delivery models using locality-based, multidisciplinary teams. These models, with trust placed in front-line staff and communities to go ahead and get things done, can continue to facilitate nimble (and often community-led) action to respond to local needs and priorities as part of longer term Community Planning. They can also continue to identify gaps and minimise duplication in delivery across partners and community groups, by co-ordinating local communications and support activity.
23. The recent joint statement by the outgoing Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government and COSLA President on progress with the Local Governance Review set out the importance of strengthening local democracy through the community, functional and fiscal empowerment of all Scotland's communities and public services. Discussions with Local Authorities and other partners are now proceeding at Official level on their place-based proposals for alternative governance arrangements. Following the parliamentary elections, the Review may continue to provide opportunities for CPPs and partners to propose new powers, where these can assist delivery of local priorities or empowerment for local communities. CPP partners might for instance consider where there might be opportunities to improve how local partnership arrangements like Local Resilience Partnerships, Children's Services Partnerships, Integration Joint Boards and CPPs themselves work and align their activity, to add collective value and minimise duplication of effort. The involvement of Community Councils has also been an important aspect of this work so far.
24. They can also reflect on where there might be scope to use Community Planning as a golden thread that connects local with regional and national ambitions. Many national priorities (including on economic recovery, social renewal and Climate Change targets) rely on the same qualities of partnership working and community engagement that Community Planning embodies. So Community Planning can be highly valuable in pursuing national priorities at local level, whether through CPPs incorporating these within these own priorities or by Community Planning providing a space that hosts and supports this wider partnership work.
25. CPPs can build on significant progress made in data sharing between partners during the Pandemic, particularly in relation to data protection requirements inhibiting partners' ability to share intelligence to allow help to be directed to vulnerable households. CPPs have identified some aspects of data sharing and collection that might be revisited (e.g. for Public Health

Scotland and Local Authorities in sharing Test and Protect data concerning households who are required to isolate; frequency, coordination and timescales for Scottish Government requests for data).

26. ***Influencing evolving national policy and advocating role of community planning.*** Recent experiences have brought to life the enhanced impact that Community Planning can make in facilitating close partnership working in practice. At the same time, the importance of close partnership working across agencies and sectors and with communities is increasingly driving national policy priorities. As well as social, economic and environmental renewal, this is playing through in work to [Keep the Promise](#) for care-experienced children and young people, the recent [Independent Review of Adult Social Care](#) that is built on a collaborative, enabling and preventative approach, and much more.
27. These developments create a valuable symbiosis, where the ways of working embodied within Community Planning can drive our pursuit of many of Scotland's national, regional and local ambitions in ways that embrace the skills and capacities of many players and build action in holistic ways that cut across specific policy priorities and reflect specific local circumstances.
28. This symbiosis demonstrates the value of Scottish Government recognising the power of local partnership working through Community Planning through which public sector bodies can discharge responsibilities for delivering major policy priorities, especially whole-system approaches for improving outcomes or enhancing the wellbeing and life chances of at-risk communities. CPPs and Community Planning partners should be offered, and should in turn seize, opportunities to contribute actively to evolving Scottish Government policy.
29. Many CPPs value the direct connection that Location Directors can make to the wider work of Scottish Government. As focus switches to recovery and renewal, the involvement of Location Directors to Community Planning is likely to become still more valuable and there is scope to reflect on how this can work best for all parties.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS MADE IN STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PLANNING FOLLOWING REFORMS IN COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (S) ACT 2015 (PRE-COVID)

Summary of findings drawn from CPIB work, Accounts Commission BVARs and Audit Scotland Impact report

Community Empowerment

- + Councils are increasingly showing **leadership** around the Community Empowerment agenda, including in partnership with others.
- + There are several examples of **community-led action plans**.
- + There is extensive use of Charrettes and other **community engagement activity** across many CPPs.
- *Practices in some councils still seem to be focused on **consultation and engagement, not empowerment**.*
- *Many communities do not feel that their **voices are actively influencing** decision-making by public bodies*
- ***Challenges** in implementing CPPs' commitment to **Community Engagement** because of factors such as: *lack of capacity within communities; Resource constraints for partners; the range and complexity of communities CPPs are seeking to reach**

Planning for Improvement

- + LOIPs are **evidence-based** and clearly focused on **prevention and reducing inequality-related negative life outcomes**.
- + CPPs have been effective in using **City Region and Growth Deals** to support CPP strategic objectives, particularly for addressing economic disadvantage; and in aligning **Children's Services Planning** with their wider work.
- + Councils and partners are increasingly making more effective **use of data and intelligence** on community needs when setting priorities and targeting resources.
- *Some CPPs have made slower progress than others in **developing locality plans**.*
- *A continued **lack of alignment between national policy objectives and local improvement priorities** within CPPs, with national priorities often 'trumping' local partnership priorities when difficult choices have to be made.*
- *Challenges in **integrating community planning priorities with other significant programmes of change** such as health and social care integration and Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs).*

Delivering on Plans

- + Many examples of (often innovative) projects and programmes that are making a **real difference in communities**.
- + There appears to be an increasing focus on CP partners working together to **tackle inequalities caused by poverty and disadvantage** within many communities, with efforts being made to 'join-up' activity in this area with wider national and local work.
- + Positive examples of CPP partners **strategically aligning their resources** (especially staff time and activity) around shared priorities.
- + Positive **operational joint working** in key areas such as community safety and working to improve outcomes for vulnerable young people.

- LOIPs often not yet backed up by **practical change delivery programmes** with agreed actions, allocated resources and clear measures of success.
- Difficulties in **pooling resources** (especially money) from organisations towards agreed priorities where internal priorities outcompete shared priorities.
- Difficulties encountered in **integrating** corporate and single-agency **delivery and planning models** with new locality/community-based planning arrangements (although a number of councils have been reviewing their locality delivery and governance arrangements in light of the 2015 Act).
- Limited evidence of CPPs **learning** from each other and **sharing innovation**.

Partnership Working

- + Most councils work well with their partners; **widespread support and commitment** to community planning among councils and partners.
- + Community planning continues to be seen as an **important vehicle for co-ordinating multi-agency work** in areas of shared interest; increasingly seen as useful for engaging jointly with communities to improve outcomes at local level.
- + Generally councils make good use of council-wide, locality and specific interest group **consultation arrangements**, using a wide range of consultation methods.
- The culture and behaviour within CPPs often still fails to demonstrate effective **collaborative leadership**, with councils still being seen as the lead agency for driving and managing community planning.
- Difficulties in establishing **robust CPP governance arrangements** through which partners can and do truly hold each other to account for their performance.
- The level and quality of **third sector involvement** still varies considerably. In some areas, the TSI is finding it difficult to engage with the plethora of planning and delivery groups in place to support Community Planning.

EXAMPLES OF THE ROLE COMMUNITY PLANNING IS PLAYING IN COVID RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Mobilising Communities

Aberdeenshire: Early engagement with community groups in Buchan to understand what activities they were planning and how the various partners from the CPP could support those activities. An active network of community groups and CP partners evolved from this, which enabled swift and efficient communication, discussions on communities' needs, sharing of resources and support among partners. Also Local Voices (an online forum for households with income under £15k per year and at least one child) and Lived Experiences Online Forum (to tackle isolation and included weekly wellbeing calls) allowed residents to inform reshaping of local services and support around their needs and in the face of constraints imposed as a result of lockdown.

Angus: A lot of work with frontline staff has taken place, and the CPP wants to keep this level of empowerment and allow people to go ahead and get things done. Small pots of SG money available meaning people didn't have to go through massive processes. Many have taken a digital by default stance however, in Angus this has caused concern as through listening events local community people have expressed that they do not wish for this to become a permanent way of doing things. Many prefer face to face support and want this to be put back in place. Utilising our Community Councils and building their capacity is a key priority not just to support through COVID but to build on the work done through the Local Governance Review. We have a pilot projects underway to explore the long term sustainability and further develop local skills.

Argyll and Bute: Communities were supported and mobilised through the CPP in a variety of ways. Volunteer groups were supported with expenses and insurance. People who wanted to volunteer who were not currently part of an existing local group were given the opportunity to volunteer to support those who needed help. A supermarket pre-paid card scheme was set up for volunteer groups to purchase food for those shielding. Regular catch-ups were also held with community groups to answer questions and identify areas where the CPP / Council/ Care for People Partnership could address and respond to local issues.

Community groups also worked with Education and the wider Food team helping deliver free school meals and food parcels to those who were vulnerable. Examples of this included Arrochar Mountain Rescue Team and HM Coastguard, particularly on the islands.

Dumfries and Galloway: Over 2,000 volunteers have come forward during the pandemic. The Council, NHS, Health and Social Care Partnership and Third Sector Interface have been successfully working together through new Locality Hubs to make the best use of resources, with the new South of Scotland Enterprise, Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service contributing in both traditional and innovative ways. Food has been a key issue - currently, around 3,000 food parcels are going out on a weekly basis and during the peak of the pandemic last year there were about 7,000 food parcels being delivered; a new partnership approach combining tackling poverty and inequality has been developed to provide support for those most vulnerable people.

Dundee: Community led response supported by CP was effective, with the CPP key in helping identify gaps and build capacity. Faith in Community Dundee and TSI created an emergency food network with 23 different agencies providing emergency food. Using existing partnership contacts to coordinate and minimise duplication, they provided a quick, coherent local response. An information website was created by one group, with everyone's contributions.

East Lothian: Well over 1000 volunteers supporting shielding and vulnerable people.

East Renfrewshire: A key element of the community planning response, which compliments the council's humanitarian support is the coordinated community response via The Community Hub. This was led by the local third sector interface and was and still is the first point of contact for those looking for support (out with statutory support) and those offering their assistance. Weekly humanitarian planning meetings with council staff continue to ensure a collaborative approach with the third sector and communities that makes best use of the resources available. The Community Hub model will continue to develop and be key as we move towards recovery and their support offer will change accordingly.

Edinburgh: In April 2020, the Scottish Government launched the Ready Scotland volunteers appeal in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In Edinburgh, 5550 people signed up through Scotland Cares and were routed to Volunteer Edinburgh. Volunteer Edinburgh understood that it was important to "capture" these prospective volunteers (many of whom were new to volunteering) and to engage them to help meet an emerging support need from shielded and other vulnerable individuals.

Volunteer Edinburgh established the Community Taskforce Volunteers (CVTs) programme and developed from scratch, a robust, remote on-boarding process to enable the safe management and deployment of these volunteers. This process was developed with the expectation that the help of CTVs would be required beyond the immediate lockdown period and subject to funding, could potentially be developed to provide on-going ad-hoc support to people in need. There are currently 467 active CTVs. The CTV programme was set up to support people impacted by the pandemic. By providing easy access to reliable,

trained and insured volunteers who can respond to ad-hoc support requests, some of the most vulnerable people in Edinburgh have been helped, particularly those who had no familial or neighbour support.

As of 28 June 2021, 5740 deployments of CTV support have been delivered. This has included 1479 shopping tasks, 1210 dog walking tasks, 97 prescription collections/delivery, 128 gardening tasks, 65 waste/recycling tasks and a variety of other one-off, practical tasks. In addition to providing support directly to members of the public, Community Taskforce Volunteers have been able to support statutory sector partners. A successful partnership has been forged with NHSL Audiology to collect and deliver directly to patient's homes, repaired hearing aids. To date 492 hearing aids have been delivered. Engaging volunteers in this task has reduced the return time to patients by 6-9 days.

During winter 2020, Community Taskforce Volunteers were involved in supporting the Health and Social Care Partnership flu vaccination clinics across the city. 561 shifts were undertaken by CTVs, donating 2244 hours of volunteer time. Since the start of the COVID vaccination clinics Community Taskforce Volunteers have undertaken 1326 shifts to provide support in community clinics, equivalent to 5304 hours of support.

In South West Edinburgh, the GoBeyond network enablers, Space and Broomhouse Hub, Big Hearts Community Trust and Whale Arts, are starting a conversation with the people who live and work there, about the area adopting a people led strategy to create a 'Community Wealth Building Locality', based on Wellbeing Economics and a greener recovery. This will be supported by the community anchor organisations mentioned, as well as embedded into the distributive and creative network that GoBeyond can facilitate, to involve many local and smaller community groups and initiatives, and led by people in local communities. The conversation will also involve the City of Edinburgh Community Planning Partners, Business and Scottish Government, about what this might mean for their understanding of the locality and the opportunities to 'build back better' and to be part of the growing community wealth and wellbeing economy approach locally and internationally.

Falkirk: CP will play an important role in recovery, with focus on grassroots and community engagement.

Fife: Found that place-based, community led approaches worked well to deliver emergency services at the start of the pandemic and that they will be crucial again in the recovery process. Helping Hand scheme for volunteers established in Fife. During the course of the pandemic Helping Hand has been inundated with requests from organisations, staff, volunteers and local people looking to help in their community. Although this has been great, a challenge with this has been coordinating offers and requests for help and also ensuring that all volunteers have something to do. In addition, Ready Scotland has also been rolled out which has meant that Helping Hand has had to make some changes and adapt. Helping Hand has been a success and the partnership wants to build on the momentum and sense of community connection.

Inverclyde: Community planning partners, the third sector and communities worked together to develop a pipeline of support to help individuals with shopping, food, prescriptions, escorts, repairs, digital support, dog walking and many bespoke requests for support that come from the community during the pandemic. This included the establishment of a shielding helpline, humanitarian assistance centre and helpline for anyone requiring support regardless of their circumstances, a prescription collection service, the distribution of food parcels to support those in need, keep in contact and welfare calls to local people and the development of a resource pack containing information on how to access food and support services. There was a coordinated and consistent approach to communications between all partners within the public and third sector to ensure that the community were kept up to date at all times regarding the support that was available.

In addition, a social movement, 'Inverclyde cares' is being developed to promote kindness and compassion. It is a partnership between services and communities and creates opportunities for acts of kindness, building on the resilience and capacity that communities demonstrated to look after each during the first lockdown.

Midlothian: CPP board took on the role of community resilience coordination at the outset, meeting weekly initially to ensure immediate response systems were pulled together. This enabled swift creating local resilience hubs led by community councils, anchor community organisations supported by the Council CLD team and third sector front line staff, alongside adult health and care teams. Hundreds of local volunteers were enabled to direct their efforts to those most in need for food, medicine, social isolation, emergency repairs, banking and access to money. The initial collective response demonstrated how rules and boundaries could be adjusted swiftly in the face of the crisis. Resilience work was delegated to the partnership's "Care for people" multi agency group including community groups and third sector partners. This groups put systems of longer-term support in place and responded to the shielding groups' requirements. The CPP Board then turned its collective attention to the employment issue arising and a joint pledge was created and approved by the board committing all partners to co – working in practical ways to get Midlothian residents back into work.

The resulting joint working group under the Improving Opportunities theme of the CPP includes Colleges, DWP, and SSSA, Council, NHS, Third sector, employer's organisations, SDS and training providers. The shared action plan is now well underway, with initial successes including the retention of 100 pupils who had planned to leave for work (in the height of phase 1 lockdown) at the end of s4 in a vocational learning programme and remaining on the secondary school roll. A tripartite Kickstart programme has been created with 30 jobs in the council, 30 in the third sector and 30 in SME private sector employers.

North Ayrshire – Partner managed to set up Community Support Hubs really quickly – going live on 23rd March. Partners worked together with volunteers and staff redeployed from elsewhere. This was aligned to the locality model already in place. See [here](#) for more information on one of these Hubs, in the Three Towns locality area. As this separate [report](#)

describes, pre-existing work by North Ayrshire to drive a commitment to Kindness has supported accelerated impact from the work of the Three Towns Hub.

The Community Planning website was already well established as a central point for information. This was developed during the lockdown period with daily updates on what shops were open, who was providing deliveries, how partner services were operating and signposting to community support hubs. It was vital to quickly establish a reliable and responsive information service. Partners and communities supported this by providing updates and cascading the messaging.

The CPP also developed “Community Books” for each locality. Not just COVID focussed, it gives people information on all the links to information they may need in a crisis such as GP, Money Advice, etc. An online community centre was developed through Facebook. There were an overwhelming number of responses to volunteering.

North Lanarkshire: Communities responded very quickly at a locality level and mobilised resources and local knowledge to respond to immediate need. Community Support approaches were developed very quickly through partners working together to respond to national requirements and local need. Strategic group established to coordinate response (LA, NHS, and third sector interface), this has now evolved to become a Recovery and Renewal Group with direct link into Silver command and Resilience Partnership as required. Operational Locality Response (and later recovery) Teams were quickly established to support local community and voluntary sector response efforts and volunteering focusing on referral processes for community assistance, consistent messaging, guidance and protocols and funding coordination and support for community and voluntary sector organisations.

Outer Hebrides: In a region where communities are traditionally self-reliant, neighbours quickly formed groups, many before statutory responses had been established, to cover their immediate area and set up WhatsApp and Facebook groups. Resident associations, local trusts, churches, and community councils have been reaching out to support their immediate community e.g. prescription & food delivery. Some of these local groups have been willing to be part of the larger, more formal co-ordinated response. While up-take of support (e.g. food parcel delivery) has been high, older indigenous communities have been slower or more reticent to accept aid. The TSI and third sector have supported statutory agencies to identify those who are not known to, or held on defined lists by, public sector bodies to ensure their immediate needs are being met.

Perth and Kinross: Communities responded much more quickly than the public sector and organised themselves to deliver food/prescriptions/check in on vulnerable people in a matter of days. 1000 volunteers registered and 70+ community organisations working with them. PKC led on support for those identified as shielding or otherwise vulnerable to try to complement local activities. They are now in the process of redrafting a Volunteering Strategy to try and capitalise on this level of interest and involvement. Of the 1000 registered: 302 happy to volunteer long term, 126 happy to be involved in a wellbeing helpline, 160 happy to help with ongoing food distribution, and 136 (with PVG) happy to help with prescription delivery. Greater ability for council and partners to be more proactive

and less risk averse by placing more trust in communities. In recovery phase, resource will require a greater ask of partners and communities. Striving towards Trusted CP scheme. With emergency response powers enacted during lockdown, a community support webpage was created with information regarding funding, community groups, shielding, volunteering etc. A helpline and email were set up, staffed by people from community service.

2 Sisters Outbreak; The COVID-19 outbreak in Coupar Angus was a major incident during the pandemic where CPP partners came together to contain an outbreak of COVID-19. Within two weeks of the first positive test a total of 201 cases were recorded in Coupar Angus (174 from factory workers and 27 from close contacts). The factory was closed, and all workers had to self-isolate for a period of two weeks to contain the virus. The key challenges facing partner agencies were communications, food and welfare.

Communications - The workforce of over 700 permanent employees and around 300 agency staff were almost all foreign nationals, many of whom had limited English. 17 different languages in total were spoken across the affected group. Employees lived in communities across Tayside and in response partners, including the Council, PKAVS, NHS Tayside and partners from across Tayside so a range of approaches were required.:

By continuing to reinforce clear and simple messages and reassuring affected individuals and families we were able to reduce community transmission and prevent the need for a local lockdown.

Food and Welfare - Over 100 households in Perth and Kinross had door to door checks in the first 24 hours and these continued throughout the period. Each household received a food parcel and information on testing and welfare support in Polish, Romanian and Bulgarian. Within 48 hours of the outbreak, the Council and community volunteers had delivered over 700 food parcels and completed a doorstep welfare check to every affected household in Perth and Kinross. Colleagues in Angus and Dundee also completed welfare checks and delivered food parcels where necessary. Comprehensive information on restrictions was provided and crisis cash grants were given to people in serious financial difficulty.

Renfrewshire - Local interface engaged quickly with a volunteer data base set up. Extremely high number of volunteers have come forward and the hope is that the partnership engages with these people going forward. Many elderly volunteers have come forward however, concerns over whether they would be able to continue providing their help due to own health and shielding. In terms of empowerment, people have been able to just get on and do things, as they've been able to avoid the decision-making channels they have been using so far. Want to ensure groups that have worked well are sustained going forward. Neighbourhood hubs have been set up and are responding to the needs of people. As this has been successful, partnership is now exploring ways that this can be rolled out and become business as usual. See [here](#) for more information on Renfrewshire's Neighbourhood Hubs.

The effective partnership working that developed in response to the pandemic was highlighted in a recent report by the Carnegie Trust. The report highlighted the significant work that had been co-ordinated with all partners to ensure vulnerable people received support in relation to food, medicine, isolation: - 7 neighbourhood hubs were established in partnership with Renfrewshire HSCP, Renfrewshire Leisure and Engage Renfrewshire. Volunteering is integral to the approach being developed in Renfrewshire.

A local food network was established to support community food provision and regular resilience meetings were held with community partners to remove barriers and support activity. The hubs supported the Connecting Scotland programme, which provided digital devices and connectivity to those most vulnerable, and also provided cultural and creative, befriending and connection opportunities for local people.

Partners are now working together to embed this work into a more permanent model, with a key focus on continuing to develop partnership working at all levels across Renfrewshire's communities.

Scottish Borders: The Resilient Communities Team supplied community volunteers with appropriate PPE for doing the jobs they were doing.

Shetland Islands: Fantastic community response. CPP role was really to support the communities to respond in the way that fitted their own locality. Large numbers of volunteers which was coordinated through Red Cross and Third Sector response. Issues around data and connectivity. Communities don't have equal access to the internet which has been a real challenge. Shetland Islands are about to begin a round of community conversations working with community organisations listening to their experiences and how they think these new ways of working can be sustained.

South Ayrshire: There was a huge response from community groups to the pandemic in South Ayrshire. Groups such as St Meddans, Symington Village, Troon Harbour Group, Newlife Prestwick, Ballantrae Support Group and Coylton Community Support, plus many other others, helped to deliver frontline services such as food parcels, medication and phone calls to vulnerable/isolated people.

South Lanarkshire: The community response was phenomenal and led by local communities and organisations who mobilised quickly to support those in need. There were approximately 47 groups/organisations providing support to their communities. At a local level, the CPP took on a supporting role, through facilitation, building capacity, nurturing relationships/groups and problem solving. Work was undertaken to map community provision across the area. Gaps were quickly identified and areas where better collaboration between groups was required. Work was undertaken by Community Development Officers to develop local response networks and to forge links between the various community responders to ensure a more cohesive approach.

Along with the local responses and the recruitment of local volunteers, approximately 1,500 central volunteers came forward and were supported by VASlan (the local TSI) to identify local volunteer opportunities. In many of the areas the local private sector was also involved including a number of businesses offering their help, this included for example, vehicles (including LGV's), equipment and staff, such as drivers.

In response to the pandemic, a Community Wellbeing Helpline which provided support regarding any identified need was established and whilst this was delivered via the council, a partnership approach was taken, for example Scottish Fire and Rescue Services delivered prescriptions and community responders provided a range of supports to meet the needs of local people. Individual referral processes were agreed with each of the community response groups who supplied and delivered food, prescriptions and other interventions. Many communities, mostly in our rural area were well supported locally and did not use the Wellbeing Helpline.

Examples of support provided through the Helpline included help with money worries, power top ups, general wellbeing and mental health, getting online and finding a dog walker. As time went on, the helpline was expanded to support the delivery of other services that had ceased/were challenging to deliver as a result of the pandemic such as the supply of hearing aid batteries, sanitary provision and passing on information to new mothers on behalf of the NHS.

The council used food fund monies to support the community responders and is operating a temporary food hub to manage the logistics of food supply. There was strong support in three key areas: CPP support; Third Sector/Community delivery response; and Linking need with community responders.

West Lothian: A good example of community mobilisation and community planning on the ground is the West Lothian Community Food Hub. A range of third sector organisations were very quick to respond to getting emergency food to people in the early stages of the pandemic. They then came together to form a food hub managed by third sector organisations, with funding from the council. There are around 33 community food providers involved, who are working together to ensure that all vulnerable people that need access to food can get it. The day to day operation of the hub is being run by the foodbanks. A video has been developed to demonstrate the work of the food hub over the last few months –

<https://vimeo.com/453969458/b29097d9ff>

Close links with the TSI have been essential, as they have been responsible for coordinating the 1,200 volunteers who came forward.

Using and refocusing existing partnership infrastructure and relationships

Aberdeen: New partnerships have been formed. Oil companies have come forward and shown willingness to support and help. In October, an online event will take place with the business community in Aberdeen. A platform has been developed to give business a menu of options about how they might be able to support the partnership. This will help link businesses with longer term goals of the partnership e.g. apprenticeships, getting access to digital devices etc. and help create a new way of working. Aberdeen also developed a group for the council and HSCP to work together (not a part of the formal structure). Group has been meeting weekly to discuss resources for communities. This has been very helpful in terms of integrating resources around locality areas. There will be a review of locality planning structures, potential to integrate HSCP with CPP Aberdeen Locality group.

Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire & Moray: The Grampian Assistance Hub was launched to provide people across Grampian with a one-stop source of support and information on how to access social, practical and emotional support on Coronavirus (COVID-19). Set up by range of partners including all three local authorities, Police Scotland, NHS Grampian, Red Cross, volunteers and community groups.

Aberdeenshire: Council, NHS Grampian and other agencies set up a programme to deliver fresh food produce to some of the most disadvantaged rural households. They shared data to identify the households most in need. Achieved positive outcomes, supported by open and trusting working among partners.

Angus: In the early weeks of the outbreak, Angus Council set up an emergency response team, HAART (Humanitarian Assistance Angus Response Team) to coordinate efforts between the council's community team and VAA (Voluntary Action Angus) to deliver support to the community, particularly those who were shielding, and/or vulnerable. This included food parcels, prescriptions etc. This approach was so successful that the CPP have now used it to inform how community planning and partnership working are taken forward in the future. The pandemic has been a catalyst for change, with structures which didn't work well before being removed and the board, executive and wider partnership are now all working together. The change in structures has been positive, with everyone working well together. Interested in exploring the combining of structures further. A Task and Finish group has been formed to explore this using a demand management model; with wrapping around of services based on listening events and survey feedback. In addition, the mapping of customer pathways has begun which will feed into the planned service design sessions. The purpose of this will be to ensure everything is aligned. Also looking at utilising community councils and other existing groups to get message across about accessing services.

Argyll and Bute: Good relationships established through the CPP enabled quick work of partners to create the required initial response. In Argyll and Bute this included a Caring for People Partnership led by Public Health, Argyll and Bute Council (Community Planning and Development team), TSI and also included community response groups and SFRS as key partners.

This Caring for People Partnership were able to link with local groups to ensure prescriptions and food were delivered to those who needed assistance. The Fire Service were also able to assist with checking on those who were shielded where contact was not able to be made. More recently, some fire stations are now being offered as testing centres. Public Health worked closely with the Caring for People Partnership to develop the strategy for the delivery of prescriptions by volunteers.

In November 2020, the Building Back Better (Communities) Group initiated a consultation asking Covid-19 community response groups and the wider community to share their experiences of the pandemic, including the impacts and the positives that could be built upon or strengthened in the future. The Building Back Better (Communities) Group is a sub-group of Argyll and Bute Council's overall Recovery Framework, established to ensure that the role of the community in responding to the pandemic, the impacts and the strengths of this, are included as part of the learning and development to Build Back Better. The current membership has lead officers from the Third Sector Interface, Argyll & Bute Council and NHS Highland. Key themes addressed by this group include Income Maximisation, Food, Volunteers and Volunteering, Social Isolation and Mental Health, Resilient Communities, Young People and Communication. It is seen that the CPP is the main body for which to embed the work of the Building Back Better group.

Dumfries and Galloway: There was a regional Community Food Providers Network which met occasionally, as the CPP's Locality Plan is focused on food sharing. From the start of the lockdown this Network was strengthened with more regular meetings on Zoom – participants were Dumfries and Galloway Council, Community Health Development Practitioners within the NHS, Third Sector Interface and the Community Food Providers. The focus has been on delivering emergency food to individuals and families in need across the region :people financially at risk, short term isolators, including those who are advised to self-isolate via Test and Protect, marginalised groups and people who have experienced physical barriers to accessing food and other essentials.

Since the cessation of shielding support, Community Food Providers have continued to meet referrals for those people who have been identified as being at extreme risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and require continued support with food provisions. The Network has been involved in determining the allocation of Hardship Fund monies to the Groups; and the Council has continued to pay for Fareshare registrations from its Anti- Poverty Budget as a result of the Network's influence.

A new Community Planning COVID Recovery Group has been established, chaired by the TSI; and a COVID Recovery Plan, developed initially by the Local Resilience Partnership then developed into a wider approach, complementing the Economic Recovery Plan.

Dundee: Made use of existing partnerships in order to facilitate the emergency response. Indeed, many members of the Emergency Management Team were also existing members of the CPP in Dundee, allowing a smooth transition to emergency planning mode. Pre-existing relationships meant trust already existed between partners and so work could get started a lot quicker. Communication between partners has improved with the ability to draw together cohesive responses. CP was important in helping identify gaps and build capacity. Dundee learnt that partnerships which were well embedded within their local communities were more easily able to respond and also had already earned the buy-in of the local community. Without these pre-existing relationships, the response would have been much slower/less effective. Due to restrictions brought in by Covid, plus the fact that many members of the CPP were also Emergency Management Team members, the CP Board have not been able to meet frequently and certainly weren't available at the start of the crisis. However, the thematic partnerships were able to get up and running almost immediately and were self-sufficient enough to do vital work without the direction of the board.

East Lothian: Overall great partnership work happening with the help of good relationships between council and partners at both strategic and operational level. This contributed to good partnership working at local level. Built good working relationships at strategic level in last few years with Police. Since the pandemic, held weekly council management meetings to get updates and discuss key issues such as new restrictions. These helped cement good cooperation both at strategic and operational level.

East Renfrewshire: Community planning partners agreed to review operating structure to become more flexible and adaptable, as a direct response to the impacts of the pandemic. This video was produced to share and celebrate the early work of the partnership which was important when the number of formal meetings had very much reduced to allow a focus on action. When we did meet as a full partnership, this was online which worked well, with some partners feeling this format allowed for more open discussion.

Edinburgh: The Local Homelessness Resilience Group, a multi-agency group, comprising representation from the City of Edinburgh Council, Public Health and homeless support organisations (Streetwork, Cyrenians, Social Bite) was initially formed for the purpose of developing plans to support Edinburgh's homeless community during periods of adverse weather. At the outset of the pandemic, the membership of this established forum was widened and repurposed to focus on safeguarding this vulnerable community during the COVID lockdown period. During this period, in excess of 150 homeless persons were provided with accommodation, food and access to support. From a community planning perspective, this maximised the opportunities for housing stability, multi-agency effort centred on securing and accessing longer-term housing/repatriation (where appropriate), training and employment, immunisations and methadone programmes.

The Edinburgh Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) Delivery Group, incorporating No One Left Behind, were presented with an issue needing a partnership

response. The Hospitality industry in Edinburgh had been majorly impacted by COVID and was struggling to reopen and to recruit and retain staff. Absences due to COVID outbreaks were also a concern. In response, a short life working group was put in place under the LOIP Delivery Group to co-ordinate a collective response. This included:

- the Department of Work and Pensions creating 5 sector based work academies for 60 clients on Universal Credit to get the necessary skills and tickets to enter the industry;
- Edinburgh College adjusting their Skills Boost hospitality courses to respond to the higher level skills shortages;
- NHS Lothian working with Lothian buses to provide vaccination buses to reduce COVID absences in staff with a focus on those under 30;
- Skills Development Scotland providing PACE (redundancy support) to quickly retrain people made redundant to stop them becoming unemployed (this included extensive work with Edinburgh airport);
- University of Edinburgh promoting offers with students who were staying for the summer or returning early;
- the Chamber of Commerce surveying hospitality members to better understand the issues to respond from an evidence base. This led to increased recruitment into the industry and support for the City Centre recovery.

It was acknowledged early in the pandemic that waste build up at high rise flats would be an issue. With people stuck indoors for extended periods and increases in home deliveries there was a significantly higher risk of fire. To address this, Lothian Fire and Rescue Service met monthly with officers from the City of Edinburgh Council to agree additional actions that could be undertaken. This included communicating with and educating residents about the dangers and the Council increasing waste collection at identified premises.

Falkirk: More aware of different groups and developed trust between groups. Some partner relationships have been significantly strengthened. Working better together than previously and more aware of each other's strengths than before.

Fife: Challenging times have shown CPP in action; despite not always following formal procedures. There are nine thematic partnerships in Fife; they are all being encouraged to think about the way they work and what their priorities will be going forward.

Glasgow: As the emergency phase of the pandemic gave way to the recovery phase, Glasgow set up a Social Recovery Taskforce to ensure that issues such as poverty and inequality were tackled as part of the Covid recovery in Glasgow. The Taskforce brings together representatives from community planning partners, third sector and voluntary organisations, to look at how the city can rebuild and recover socially from coronavirus. From this a partnership was created between Glasgow Disability Alliance and Glasgow City Council to build on existing work and implement the recommendations of GDA's report.

Glasgow City Council were asked as part of SOLACE to hold Community Listening Events. This work has spurred a specific piece of Community Engagement to inform the SRT. They will also work in partnership with the Economic Recovery Taskforce.

Inverclyde: Inverclyde's Community Planning Partnership has developed a Covid-19 Partnership Recovery Plan to document partnership arrangements for recovery from the pandemic for Inverclyde. Three sub-groups have been established to focus on recovery activities across key areas and each recovery group has developed a detailed action plan. The three sub-groups are economic recovery, humanitarian recovery and education, sport and culture recovery. Progress is reported to every meeting of the Community Planning Partnership.

Midlothian: Working with partners such as the DWP, Edinburgh College and the Third Sector to improve employability in their area, with a specific focus on school leavers and those with barriers to employment. This focuses on large public-sector employers offering apprenticeships, training schemes and volunteering opportunities, whilst offering additional support to help others into employment in other organisations. Some highlights of what has been achieved working together so far include:

- 108 s4 pupils for the 6 Midlothian secondary schools who had planned to leave at 16 to seek work remained on the school roll and took up a programme of vocational learning / personal development managed by the Community learning service with support from schools, FE and SDS colleagues. this prevented them entering the labour market at a time of crisis /lockdown and involved around 80 of them taking Foundation apprenticeships as part of continuing learning and qualifications to make them more competitive in the labour market
- Partnership agreement signed between Council and Regional DYW board embedding DYW staff in the high schools working collaboratively with Community learning, SDS, College and employers to increase connections between schools and the labour market
- Shared Kickstart bid by Council and third sector to deliver 60 local places under this DWP funded programme , with the council, acting as the Gateway for 30 places in third sector and taking on 30 young people itself (at living wage rates)
- Partnership delivery of PACE service to 8 local businesses making redundancies involving SDS, Community learning, DWP and College
- Shared jobs page created on the Economic Development "locate in Midlothian" webpage <https://locateinmidlothian.co.uk/jobs/> which is being used by employers to advertise live vacancies, with links to DWP/SDS / City region deal/ Council / College and third sector Employability services
- The Employability Pledge signed up to by the CPP in June 2020.

North Ayrshire: Partners supported the community support hub work, financially, with local intelligence and relationships and with staff and volunteer time. Following a period of focusing partner work on immediate pandemic responses, we then recommenced our usual

meeting schedules, moving to on-line. A number of these meetings involve members of our community who may not have access to digital devices, sufficient data or the confidence or skills to participate. We have addressed these issues by providing devices/data to individuals via schemes such as Get Connected, as well as loaning out devices, and providing training.

North Lanarkshire – At an early stage of pandemic when focus was very much on response, action came from established relationships and a need for action rather than official CPP structures. As outlined above a Response, Recovery and Renewal Group was established to coordinate and support response efforts and then plan for recovery with the community and voluntary sector. Locality operational teams supported work across the 9 distinct areas of NL through local community and voluntary sector response efforts and volunteering focusing on referral processes for community assistance, consistent messaging, guidance and protocols and funding coordination and support for community and voluntary sector organisations. However, as we moved from initial reaction to more proactive and planned approaches we have started to reflect response and recovery across key partnership workstreams and structures and to use learning from uniform future partnership approaches. The pandemic highlighted 'Community Planning' in action and demonstrated that when we need to we can work differently, quickly and flexibly to act and respond to community need and to work with communities to make a difference.

Orkney Islands: Initial response to the crisis has been primarily Council led. However, now that the focus is moving towards recovery, several resilience groups have been set up. CPP now working closer together with council groups, relationships strengthened over time however, there is still room for improvement in terms of better aligning the work of partners. Delivery groups are still working on their usual priorities however, prioritising work and having increased focus on what needs to be done immediately. The recovery phase has seen huge engagement from the business community. Businesses supported to set up their own steering group and report directly to the board.

Outer Hebrides: Partners in Uist, Barra and Harris collated information about support available for residents. Worked to make this available to as many people as possible and especially those who had no on-line access and who might be vulnerable but who were not necessarily on 'shielding lists' or known to public agencies. In Uist, for example, a Community Information & Services booklet was delivered to every household.

Perth & Kinross: Move to locality-based delivery model for services using multidisciplinary teams i.e. the potential to shift to 5 localities and 5 hubs would make delivering food parcels easier and more efficient than using 1 central model. Locality decision making worked very well; Council funding to support investment and delivery of locality action plan used to support local groups responding to COVID related issues. Given enough support and resource, locality decision making can be done efficiently and effectively. Devolved decision making and resource at a locality level comes with political and cultural issues. The need to respond quickly due to COVID allowed for less risk averse behaviour of information sharing between partners than before. Partners have also been flexible and responsive in redeploying staff to support the emergency response. For example, within the council,

when lockdown began, parking attendants were re-tasked to collect and deliver prescriptions, deliver food packages to the shielding & vulnerable, as well as deliver technology i.e. iPads (Connecting Scotland project). They have only recently gone back to their day jobs.

Scottish Borders: Looking at failings and where things haven't joined up but also looking at what has worked well will be key. During the pandemic, discovered people that were not receiving services prior to Covid-19 however, they are vulnerable groups and going forward this information needs to be captured as the CPP has a responsibility towards these people and ensuring that they are okay in the future. Challenge going forward is how to hold on to these people and ensure that they do not get lost along the way. Should this be local knowledge, stored in a database or picked up by community resilience teams? Even though the earlier response to the pandemic hasn't always gone through the CPPs, CPPs have a role in the resilience work. It is important to bring the right people to the table.

Shetland Islands: Specified partners were all heavily involved along with the TSI. The Resilience Partnership consists of the main CP partners so when Community Planning meetings were suspended the Resilience Partnership was still meeting most days. Management and Leadership Team (5 specified partners + public health) met regularly which was very focussed and provided leadership which has helped partnership working and resilience planning. Care for People Team had brought together people from across organisations in a way that had maybe been a gap before. Reflecting on whether there is a longer-term role as an executive group that can be linked to partnership planning. A project called "Anchor" which provides support to vulnerable households has been vital in providing support to those who were vulnerable or shielding in this crisis.

South Ayrshire: Officers South Ayrshire Council quickly established, coordinated and managed a comprehensive community resilience response. Whilst this was principally Council led, partners were involved in the response. CPP meetings took place during the pandemic, with a focus on COVID-19 response. For the Strategic Delivery Partnerships (SDPs), discussion took place on what each of the SDPs were doing in relation to their current position and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and if there were any areas of focus that need to change.

South Lanarkshire: In relation to the Community Planning Partnership Board, meetings were reconvened online in July 2020 and the Board considered a range of COVID-19 updates at that meeting. The Partnership's Progress Group started meeting again during May 2020 to share information/address challenges re the pandemic response. Before COVID the Board were in the midst of a governance review and have now agreed significant changes to how the Board operates and is structured. This includes working with communities to develop our new LOIP priorities and work has also started to support communities to develop new 'Community Partnerships' at a locality level. These structures will link directly with the CPP Board on a strategic level and with Neighbourhood Planning groups at a local level.

As a result of the local partnership activity, newly formed groups and some of the co-ordination groups continue to prepare for any future spike in the pandemic and to continue to assist in a post COVID future. Some of the partnership areas have been looking at more sustainable food provision which has included for example the establishment of community larders.

VASlan and the Third Sector Chief Officers Group have established a Business Continuity and Strategy Group to capture the key learning from the community responses and to build on this work for the future. The council has retained the Wellbeing Helpline and this continues to be supported by community responders. A local food network involving community food organisations in South Lanarkshire has been established with support from the council to respond to food insecurity. Whilst a partnership food network existed before the pandemic, the network has been reshaped as new organisations have emerged and new initiatives were developed to respond to new food insecurity challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the council has been regularly liaising with local food organisations to ensure food provision since March 2020, it is now supporting the development of the network by organising regular meetings and facilitating information sharing. The local food network aims at increasing collaboration between organisations and encouraging a partnership approach to tackle food insecurity.

West Dunbartonshire: There are five Delivery & Improvement Groups (DIGs) that operate within West Dunbartonshire; the flourishing DIG, the independent DIG, the nurtured DIG, the empowered DIG and the safe DIG. In normal times, the DIGs report back to Community Planning West Dunbartonshire, however as a result of the pandemic there have been no meetings of the CPWD for several months, but that hasn't stopped the DIGs from assisting both the emergency response and recovery. The various DIGs have worked with local partners to improve employability, support frail and vulnerable people, provide additional support to those experiencing abuse, and community justice.

West Lothian: Similar to other areas, the immediate response to the pandemic was largely council-led. West Lothian CPP Board did not meet formally in the initial months, but quarterly meetings began again in September. Although the Board did not meet formally, partners did have ongoing discussions that grew organically from the start of the pandemic, building on existing CPP structures. An Economic Recovery and Growth Plan was developed and an economic recovery group continues to meet weekly to allow partners to gather and share data and ensure joined up approaches, reducing duplication and maximising resources to support businesses and local people seeking employment or training opportunities. This has rationalised a number of different groups that had been meeting into one group. A Health & Wellbeing/Anti-Poverty working group was set up to gather evidence of activity in response to social needs related to COVID-19, to understand the COVID-19 policy landscape and also the potential policy and financial barriers and challenges. This process captured key activity during the first phase of the pandemic and helped to identify future needs which will support the CPP in planning for the future. A community survey was carried out to ask for feedback on initial emerging priorities and additional issues. The initial work has highlighted broad themes which were reported to the CPP Board and have assisted discussion on determining the role of the CPP in recovery.

Using the knowledge and expertise of the Third Sector Interface (TSI)

Aberdeenshire: There is a strong partnership approach to the Third Sector in Aberdeenshire with the TSI Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action, local third sector groups, Aberdeenshire Council and Rural Partnerships forming the Third Sector Strategy Group. In November 2020 they celebrated third sector week which included Covid response work in Aberdeenshire communities. Examples of this can be seen in these videos – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2GuwBfRRSgl&feature=youtu.be>, <https://youtu.be/vrvsFg0tmO8>, <https://youtu.be/CYaNlyhwzcl>

Angus: Demand for local TSI was so high that the council were looking into extra support for call handlers. This work is further developing under the Transforming Services work through which we have developed a charter and principles underpinning how we will continue to collaborate and share services – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rU7vb8iXuF8&feature=youtu.be>

Argyll and Bute: The CPP through the Caring for People Partnership built on the close relationship with the TSI with the use of the volunteer database and promotion of volunteering opportunities. The TSI's input was actively sought into plans and strategies and they were key, active members with a lead role in both the Care for People partnership meetings, Test and Protect meetings and Building Back Better (Communities).

Dumfries and Galloway: The TSI database of volunteers was key to be able to register and approve volunteers quickly and efficiently at the start of lockdown with the Council issuing identify cards; and the Engagement Officers have supported the creation of locality hubs, where local representatives of key public sector partners came together to co-ordinate activity. Support for digital connectivity has also been developed with the TSI, the Council and Enterprise Agency, with long term arrangements now being put in place for the TSI to lead this work.

East Renfrewshire: The local TSI (Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire) has played a key role in the local Humanitarian response to the pandemic, coordinating the community response (The Community Hub) from the outset and working at pace. They are now working closely with the local vaccination programme team to offer transport solutions to those in need working with a number of local providers and routing all requests via their established Community Hub number. The council have aligned staff to help establish and develop the Hub model.

Edinburgh: Recognising the disproportionate impact of the COVID pandemic on those struggling with the consequences of social inequality and poverty, during May 2020, the City of Edinburgh and Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council set up Locality Operational Groups (one in each of our 4 localities) and a Task Force to oversee its work. Brigading capability and capacity across public and voluntary sectors, each LOG has 6 voluntary sector members and 6 members from across the Council. The Groups sought, received, and reviewed referrals from agencies within their respective areas, with a focus on families and children and young people, who had not or did not currently meet the threshold for traditional support. The LOGs identified a lead agency to engage with appropriate support service(s), predominantly third sector partners, to ensure that vulnerable individuals and families received support. Since April 2020 over 250 referrals

have been dealt with. Information gathered about emerging needs is fed into the Task Force and this is then shared with the Children's Partnership to assist in planning. This allows key decision makers to have real time information about emerging challenges in communities. One example has been digital poverty issues and an increasing recognition of the need for a more joined up City approach to supporting families to have access to and support to manage digital devices.

The Beat Hunger campaign was developed as an innovative approach to tackle food inequality and poverty and to empower the most vulnerable citizens within the North East of the City to make positive life choices. The initiative was funded from the Police Scotland's Deputy Chief Constable's Local Partnership and Initiative fund with support from retail partners including Edinburgh Community Foods, Capital Wholesalers, Asda and Tesco. Working in partnership with Edinburgh North East Foodbank, phase 1 focused on distributing 'Beat Boxes' to the most vulnerable within the locality (83 boxes distributed). As context, each box provided fresh and long-life ingredients provided by retailers, along with cooking utensils, a bespoke community cookbook created by Michelin starred chef, Martin Wishart, and a suite of literature covering family, financial and mental health together reading materials and activity ideas for children. Predicated on referrals from partners including, Community Renewal, Dr Bell's Family Centre, Castleview Primary School, Edinburgh City Mission and the City of Edinburgh Council, phase 2 supported 28 vulnerable families over a 4 week period (112 boxes distributed). Recognising the school holidays as an acute period, phase 3 capitalised on Edinburgh Community Foods' provision of school holiday food support boxes, with the contents having been supplemented with literature on mental health support and online safety (350 boxes distributed). Recognising the imperative of community voices, feedback was sought and has been overwhelmingly positive.

It was through using the strength of the Edinburgh Partnership collective efforts that a quick and effective response was achieved to make a difference and gain further strategic traction around the Fair Work agenda.

Falkirk: Very good relationship established between council and TSI. Pandemic response set up by council with help of TSI. Started by doing some of same work i.e. directory of community groups, but then took up joint approach. Partnership work happened naturally, with help of grass root.

Inverclyde: Volunteering was a significant part of the response to the pandemic within Inverclyde. CVS Inverclyde in their role as the TSI co-ordinated the majority of the volunteer response locally. This included 'Volunteer Inverclyde', an initiative to link local people with volunteering opportunities arising from Covid-19. Working in partnership with the CVS Inverclyde (the local TSI organisation), we created a single point of contact for residents in need during the coronavirus pandemic. A phone line which was operational 7 days per week helped people to access provisions, support and advice. Through our unique partnership with CVSI, those individuals whose needs could be better met within the community were referred to the Volunteer Coordinator. Hosted by CVSI, the Volunteer Coordinator spoke with each person to identify their needs and sign post them to the relevant 3rd sector organisation(s). Where appropriate, the Volunteer Coordinator would arrange for a volunteer to deliver food parcels, purchase additional fresh items to supplement food parcels, collect prescriptions and support access to other emergency provisions. The partnership with CVSI and the support of the diverse local 3rd sector

provided the people of Inverclyde with a collaborative and holistic approach to support during difficult and unprecedented times.

North Ayrshire: There was a joint approach with the TSI to supporting local organisations. Fortnightly meetings took place between NAC officers with remits for funding, community development and social enterprise along with Third Sector colleagues. This was to share information about funding opportunities and organisations in need of help. We created a joint spreadsheet so we could track successful applications, and consequently identify gaps and opportunities. We also shared which organisations we were working with, to prevent duplication. NAC officers helped the TSI with outreach work to local organisations to establish need.

North Lanarkshire: TSI in NL has been a key and important partner throughout the pandemic. As outlined above a focused response and recovery partnership approach was established very early on with key CPP's (NHS, LA and TSI) to coordinate efforts to supporting community response. An action plan outlined key priorities and responsibility for delivery at any given time. The TSI was involved in managing the community assistance referral process, coordinating volunteer offers, communicating key messages and supporting work to engage the voluntary sector to understand and respond to their support needs. In terms of referrals the councils Financial Inclusion Team responded to and coordinated access to food requested through community assistance helpline while VANL supported and coordinated local approaches to accessing prescriptions, shopping, dog walking and befriending calls. They also worked with partners to develop protocols, support vol sector access to available funding and engage with the com and vol sector to assess and respond to their support needs.

Renfrewshire: Engage Renfrewshire, the TSI in Renfrewshire, worked together with Renfrewshire Council to identify the most appropriate third sector recipients for Scottish Government funding support for Covid-related activity. Council staff joined Engage's daily meeting during the early months of Covid to co-ordinate response and also share knowledge about local third sector activity. Engage Renfrewshire undertook all activities relating to the recruitment of volunteers to support Neighbourhood Hubs set up by community planning partners in Renfrewshire. Engage Renfrewshire has played a key role in the group supporting community food responses to the Covid crisis and has also periodically facilitated meetings for third sector groups to share their experience, needs and future plans during the pandemic. Engage Renfrewshire has also played a key role in ensuring that local third sector groups have been able to access digital devices through the Connecting Scotland programme.

South Ayrshire: The Council and TSI (Voluntary Action South Ayrshire VASA) worked closely together to provide support to communities through the creation of the South Ayrshire Lifeline. To help coordinate volunteering across South Ayrshire the Council worked in partnership with VASA to promote and react to volunteering requests during the pandemic. Officers worked alongside VASA to develop volunteering opportunities and training throughout the pandemic. This partnership has helped form positive relationships and Community Planning Partners have agreed to continue to develop this partnership approach to volunteering to help establish a sustainable South Ayrshire volunteering network.

South Lanarkshire - Council and TSI worked closely to mobilise and support communities. Along with the local responses and the recruitment of local volunteers, approximately 1,500 central volunteers came forward and were supported by VASlan to identify local volunteer opportunities.

They were instrumental in managing the volunteer experience throughout the pandemic and they developed a new volunteer registration portal which ensured that all volunteer information was captured. By using their in-house Salesforce platform, they ensured swift communication of any volunteering opportunities to all volunteers as they became available. Voluntary groups were able to benefit from the efficiency of this system with one local organisation, LEAP receiving over 60 notes of interest within one hour of “broadcasting” their need. VASlan’s links with voluntary groups within the four main areas of South Lanarkshire further assisted with sharing information and ensured new and emerging groups received the support needed to provide necessary services to the community. VASlan initiated a community response group directory via their website to provide contact details and the type of support services available and has worked with a range of specialist providers to adapt their services to encompass revised and safe methods of service delivery during the pandemic. They were also able to support various groups with funding that supported local initiatives around the provision of food and distribution, volunteer expenses, activity packs and sundry equipment to support their applications to national funding sources.

West Lothian: Good links with the TSI, who coordinated the 1,200 volunteers as well as information sharing through their online Resource Hub. The TSI is working closely with NHS Lothian to support a local vaccination programme. There has been a strong response from volunteers to help out with this.

Co-ordinating and connecting local and national responses.

Angus: As lots of new groups have been formed local people often get confused about who they should receive support from and CPP played a key role in providing better coordination of these groups. For example, in some cases local people can receive up to three or four different food packs from different groups. Funding streams should be coordinated. A new function is being put in place to coordinate funding and lead the work of the Angus Response to Covid (ARC) team. This will complement the service redesign the Community Planning Partnership is working through. This will reshape the way we set actions and activity with an initial 2 pilots underway focusing on Woman's services and an Angus Transport Network.

Argyll and Bute: Good relationships established through the CPP enabled quick work of partners to create the required initial response. In Argyll and Bute this included a Caring for People Partnership led by Public Health, Argyll and Bute Council (Community Planning and Development team), TSI and also included community response groups and SFRS as key partners. This Caring for People Partnership were able to link with local groups to ensure prescriptions and food were delivered to those who needed assistance. Some of the community response groups are also active members of Local Area Community Planning Groups and have fed in their experience and updates to these meetings. The CPP through its links to partners and communities has played a key role in the local response.

Dumfries and Galloway: External funding is being monitored to give an overview of the region; ensure there is no duplication in effort and that communities most in need receive the support required. National Policy developments and local data and developments are published in a weekly Bulletin for all Councillors, MPs and MSPs and shared with partners. Updates on COVID are given at every CPP Board meeting.

Glasgow: The support and co-ordination provided by the CPP is important. New groups do not always have the right capacity/knowledge. Similar issues encountered in other areas where people are getting multiple knocks on their doors offering help. Everything needs to be tied to local evidence and needs. Call for a reset in relationship with the Scottish Government and closer working together.

North Ayrshire: One of the main roles of the Community Planning Team was signposting to relevant information. This was done through the Community Planning website with links to COVID support. We also published North Ayrshire wide daily briefings and if the information was available, we would also provide daily locality updates.

North Lanarkshire: It would have been useful at the earlier stages if there was better coordination of funds and a better grasp of what money is coming in and when. I think the approaches improved as LA's developed their response plans and better coordination locally has been built into the recovery planning (i.e., what's coming in and how communities are supported to access support. Again there was a gap between how to engage with and support newly formed groups which are doing a good job at supporting communities but often struggle to understand procedures, language, governance etc. and how more established community structures were able to access and respond to support. At the earlier stages support and opportunities from SG for the com and vol sector was not always as clear as it could be resulting in more work locally to target support to less established groups. Community support should be looked at in a rounded way.

Perth & Kinross: Local Action Partnerships (LAPs) are given a budget to support the delivery of their Locality Action Plan. In March 2020 LAPs agreed to open their budgets to bids from local community groups and voluntary organisations who were responding to needs in their community as a result of COVID-19 and lockdown. From March until the end of September 2020 over 70 different funding bids were supported by LAPs, committing over £180,000 in financial support to a variety of different projects and initiatives.

- *FeldyRoo* received funding to deliver hot meals to vulnerable people who were socially isolated in the Aberfeldy and wider Breadalbane area. The group delivered over 40,000 meals during this period and has received national recognition for their outstanding work in supporting community members during lockdown.
- *Logos* received a small grant to fund a Zoom account so they could deliver their youth activity sessions virtually and prevent young people from becoming isolated. This small grant has had a big impact on young people who could continue using the service in the Strathearn and Strathallan area throughout lockdown.

Food Support in Perth involved numerous organisations in Perth providing support for the most vulnerable during the lockdown period. Groups worked in partnership to set up places to access food throughout Perth city and provided a delivery and check-in service.

Examples of specific activities include:

- Letham4All purchased a larger refrigeration unit to store donated food from local businesses to support families in need of free or discounted food.
- National Christian Outreach Centre delivered 500 hot meals to elderly and vulnerable people living in the Perth area each week for 10 weeks.
- Perth Welfare Society supported people using Zoom, in Urdu and Punjabi, to apply for financial support, such as Universal credit. The group worked with local takeaways to deliver hot meals to vulnerable people in Perth.

Renfrewshire: Renfrewshire community planning have worked together to connect local and national responses. Public and third sector partners have worked together to ensure that local groups were aware of Scottish Government funding and that this funding was accessed by groups in the best position to utilise it effectively. The local volunteering effort was also co-ordinated with the national recruitment of volunteers, to minimise duplication and make the recruitment process smoother for volunteers. A local Food Group was

established to connect national food provision with local community response. This provided local groups with supplies to maintain their own food provision and minimised duplication of provision and food wastage. A local panel was established to work with SCVO to deliver the national Connecting Scotland campaign to ensure that devices reached those most in need.

A Local Assistance Team was established in Renfrewshire to deliver national commitments to contact people isolating due to Covid. The Local Assistance Team connected with Neighbourhood Hubs to ensure that there was a response to needs that people raised during these calls. Renfrewshire Council hosted a site for asymptomatic testing in the Johnstone area. Local and national partners worked together to deliver an appropriate site at short notice and local communications resources were deployed to raise awareness and promote take up of testing.

Scottish Borders: Various funding streams available at the moment. Focus required on keeping track of where money has come from and what the funding will be used for to ensure groups aren't duplicating any work. Optimum position would be to join up efforts and maximise funding.

Shetland Islands: A key role was around the communication of information. Challenge around the national direction and how it fitted into the Shetland context in terms of capacity and proportionality.

South Lanarkshire: Shortly after the Wellbeing Helpline was established, the National Shielding Helpline was set up and much of the work of the team and the community responders then became focused on individuals and families who were shielding. The Wellbeing Helpline provided support regarding any identified need which included for example, provision of food, money worries, general wellbeing and mental health, getting online and finding a dog walker. Individual referral processes were agreed with each of the community response groups who supplied and delivered food, prescriptions and other interventions. The food fund monies were used to purchase ambient food for local community responders who were supporting their communities and other targeted groups such as homeless people and those living in sheltered housing accommodation.

Refreshing/resetting existing LOIPs.

Aberdeen: A short life working group has been formed to lead on the Socio-Economic Rescue Plan which was published in July 2020. While the plan is an immediate and dynamic response to the impact of Covid-19, it will inform the scheduled refresh of the LOIP in 2021. The plan aligns to the LOIP strategic themes of Economy, People and Place. Partners have been asked to prioritise their work around the Socio-Economic Rescue Plan to ensure activity across the partnership is coordinated. A [Route Map](#) for the refreshed LOIP has been published. In 2021, workshops will take place across the partnership and community to see the impact of the current situation on the LOIP and its priorities. Although priorities will likely remain the same, the workshops will give a better understanding of the data and highlight whether priorities remain valid for the future.

Angus: Angus Community Plan will not be refreshed as the priorities within it are still relevant. For example, a priority within the plan is around improving mental health. The action plans within the Community Plan are being reviewed to capture current and forecasted work to support the community's requirements now due to the pandemic. A full review will be carried out in 2022 which will include a review of the partnership, governance and participants.

Argyll and Bute: The LOIP in Argyll and Bute is due for renewal in 2023. The CPP agreed though to focus on 4 cross-cutting themes for the duration of the currently LOIP, in addition to the existing priorities. These 4 cross-cutting themes are Poverty, Social and Digital Isolation, Climate Change and Community Wealth Building.

Dumfries and Galloway: The eight Outcomes in the LOIP are discussed each year when the Annual Report is developed with stakeholders and presented to the Board in November. It has been recognised as a key document in guiding the response and recovery as it focussed on those people already experiencing inequality and has been reaffirmed by national and local research on the impact of COVID, including the Social Advisory Review Panel Report.

Dundee: Plan to review and update current outcomes, progress and targets.

East Lothian: The CPP is taking the lead in terms of economic recovery: drive economic development strategy, working with local communities, businesses etc.

East Renfrewshire: Partners agreed in September to focus on key priorities linked to local pandemic impacts focussing on inclusive growth and community wellbeing and connectivity with digital inclusion and tackling poverty being horizontal themes. The current LOIP – FairER plans require review early 2021. One option is to develop a 1-year transition plan to focus on Covid recovery with a three year plan thereafter. Partners will meet to consider this and appropriate governance arrangements early March.

Edinburgh: Edinburgh Partnership, through its LOIP Delivery Group, are in the process of reframing the LOIP to provide a renewed focus to address;

- the shift in strategic the context in the city over the last 12 months with recognition of the need for a strong post pandemic response to recovery which is fair, sustainable and delivers more resilient and healthy places to live; and
- opportunities to build on the strong foundation of collaborative working evidenced in Edinburgh between statutory, voluntary and communities' sectors during the pandemic response.

Significant within this is the reframing of the priority 'a good place to live' to focus on a public health led approach to place to help tackle poverty and reduce health inequalities.

Falkirk: Current LOIP requires review with plan to revise for January 2021. The board have asked to incorporate feedback from community groups, lessons learned and recovery. This is a challenging deadline given lost time for community engagement.

Fife: CPP was due to review progress on their LOIP in the coming year but in light of the Covid pandemic they have decided to pause that work and instead focus on five priority areas in the short term; tackling poverty and food insecurity; building community wealth through local economic development; promoting digital working and inclusion; supporting mental health and wellbeing; and addressing the climate emergency. The plan is to combine this with the refresh of the Council Recovery Plan. Aiming to adopt a 'sprint approach' where actions happens quickly and learning and experiences feed into the refreshed plan. 12 ambitions in the plan for Fife won't change however, some will be updated to reflect the learning and experiences from pandemic.

Glasgow: The Social Recovery Taskforce formed, enabled by the Community Planning Strategic Partnership as part of the council's renewal and recovery programme, brings together representatives from community planning partners, third sector and voluntary organisations, to look at how the city can rebuild and recover socially from coronavirus. They will also work in Partnership with Economic

Recovery Taskforce. The work of the group will be used as a vehicle for a refresh on the LOIP and it is anticipated that the work plan of the Social Recovery Taskforce will in turn become the new Community Plan (Glasgow's equivalent of a LOIP).

Inverclyde: A review of Inverclyde's Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017-22 was carried out in the autumn of 2020. This enabled an assessment to be made regarding whether the LOIP priorities were still the right ones for Inverclyde. The review concluded that population, inequalities and the environment, culture and heritage are still very much priorities for Inverclyde. In addition, the review concluded the "local economy" should be added as a new priority, given that this was a growing issue prior to the pandemic and has been exacerbated by the impact of Covid-19.

North Ayrshire: The LOIP is still considered fit for purpose. It is comprehensive in terms of supporting local communities. We are looking at refreshing the "Fair for All" strategy which is focused on reducing inequalities and Locality Partnership priorities.

North Lanarkshire: CPP was already reviewing LOIP priorities and approaches and this continued throughout the pandemic, however as we moved to recovery approaches effort has focused on ensuring that learning and principles from both local and national review of the impact of the pandemic on communities and opportunities for improved partnership approaches are embedded across partnership priorities and approaches. This work continues.

Perth & Kinross: Creating new overarching 'Perth & Kinross offer' with a series of programmes of delivery under the five Es (Equalities, Empowerment, Education, Economy, and Environment). This includes new focused LOIP to be developed by CPP. Key areas include locality working, improving how communities participate in decision making, mental wellbeing and resilience, climate change, poverty, employability and digital participation.

Renfrewshire: Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Executive Group has focused on the individual and collective response of partners to the pandemic and also how this impacts on community planning priorities agreed pre-Covid. A Community Impact Assessment has been carried out during autumn/winter 20/21 and this will feed in to a Social Renewal Plan in spring 2021. An economic recovery plan has also been developed to update the previous economic strategy in the light of Covid.

South Ayrshire: The strategic themes in our LOIP were considered, and discussion took place to identify if there are new areas emerging/that will emerge as a result of COVID-19 under the strategic themes. It was agreed that there should be a more

co-ordinated approach to the financial impact of the current health crisis with an emphasis on wider family which will be discussed through Children's Services. Financial Impact should also be a priority on its own as a major focus for the CPP – in order to reflect the wider community it was agreed that the strategic theme of '**Closing the Poverty-Related Outcomes Gaps for Children and Young People**' should be redefined as '**Closing the Poverty-Related Outcomes Gaps**' to reflect families and the wider community. Further information can be found in our [**2020 LOIP annual progress report**](#).

South Lanarkshire: Prior to the pandemic an update of the LOIP was planned for this reporting year. This work has started and will also include initial COVID recovery actions that were agreed by the Board. Some of the themes include: Planning with communities; digital connectivity; mental and physical health. The first stages of community conversations will begin in March 2021 to inform a full review of the LOIP. A pan-Lanarkshire Partnership Economic Recovery Group has also been established.

Shetland Islands: Looked at LOIP and feel that the priorities are right for the longer term. Will do impact analysis on targets and data sets to see the likely impact of COVID.

West Lothian: The CPP developed a new LOIP in 2019 and presented a draft to the CPP Board in early March 2020. This has been put on hold as the CPP reflects on the impact of COVID-19 on communities. Initial consideration has been given to possible changes to the draft LOIP to refocus on COVID priorities and this will be further informed through the work of the Health and Wellbeing/Anti-Poverty Working Group, the Economic Recovery Plan and the Anti-Poverty action plan. It is intended that this will be revisited in early 2021 to ensure that the new LOIP reflects a more robust understanding of the impact of COVID-19 and to ensure that it does not duplicate the activity of all the recovery plans.

Business support and labour market update

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to update the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board on the work of the Economic Development & Regeneration Service, with a particular focus on targeted business support and employability.

2. Recommendations

The CPP Board is asked to:

- To note the updates on the local labour market, the range of impacts made by the Business Gateway team, progress through the Jobs Task Force, and closer partnership working with Heriot-Watt University
- Request a further report on outcomes in mid-2022.

3. Discussion

This report focuses on the diverse and complementary areas of work by the Business Gateway team within the Economic Development & Regeneration Service.

3.1 Monitoring the local economy and labour market

The Board will be aware that headline unemployment doubled to 6,500 local residents out of work in August 2020, following the initial Covid lockdown. Also, at that time, more than 29,000 local jobs were being maintained through the furlough scheme.

Local unemployment has reduced to 4,680 local residents, a rate of 4.0%. In context, the Scotland rate is 4.6% and UK-wide is 5.0%. The bulk of current unemployment, almost 3,700 local residents is concentrated in people aged 25 and older.

Furlough is currently protecting approximately a further 2,700 local jobs across most sectors, with hospitality, tourism and food services understandably the most impacted.

Finally, there is evidence of emerging skills mismatches in the local and wider economy. Against a backdrop of rising unemployment, we are aware of sectors struggling to find candidates for vacant posts. This is principally in distribution, engineering, life sciences, technology and hospitality (restaurants).

For full details, please see Appendix 1 "ESES Claimant Count"

3.2 Scrutinise the work of Business Gateway

The Business Gateway team is part of the Economic Development & Regeneration Service. Business Gateway provides confidential and impartial support to residents looking to start-up in business, local firms, new and existing 3rd sector organisations and our major employers.

All engagement with Business Gateway is client-led. Support is provided to individual clients and business owners/decision makers. Business Gateway also work closely with the West Lothian Social Enterprise Network to ensure network members receive the business support they need.

The team's key outcomes include helping residents to start their own business, enabling local firms to grow in a sustainable and inclusive manner and providing a single point of contact for our strategic employers.

At the onset of the pandemic, the Business Gateway team moved seamlessly to remote working. Clients were supported via video calls, web-based platforms, emails and telephone. The team responded to client needs by providing extra support in the evenings and weekends. Economic challenge has always been considered as a driver of new start businesses. In the year to March 2021, more than 260 new businesses started trading with help from Council's Business Gateway advisers.

The vision and commitment of local people to start their own business, especially in such challenging circumstances, is remarkable. The advisers delivered the range of start-up services to clients remotely. In terms of productivity, over 260 starts were achieved from only 352 initial meetings. This shows a determination to progress on the part of the customers; and it shows enhanced customer focus on the part of the advisers. These new start firms have created over 315 new jobs. The main business sectors are personal, professional and local services. 20% of all early stage firms go on to take premises, employ staff and grow the scale of the business. New starts are worth over £9.55 million to the local economy every year.

The Business Gateway team includes advisers who deal with existing, growing and relocating firms to West Lothian. The advisers supported over 1,300 local firms in the year to March 2021. In previous years, that figure would have been closer to 450 firms. Our priority sectors include Life Sciences, Manufacturing, Engineering, Construction and enabling technologies. Of the 1,313 businesses who engaged with us, almost 900 were understandably focused solely on Covid issues.

It is testament to their resilience and entrepreneurialism that 425 firms were also exploring issues around premises, new markets, working capital, Research &

Development, export regulation, digital marketing and carbon reduction projects. Council's Business Gateway advisers support firms who have combined annual sales in excess of £1.41 Billion per annum. While these firms employ over 8,300 staff, it is only 11% of total jobs in West Lothian. However, these firms account for more than 30% of the annual gross value add (GVA) of the West Lothian economy.

3.2.1 West Lothian Council Discretionary Fund

Over January/February 2021, the Scottish Government awarded West Lothian Council a total of £3.51 million to provide grant support to businesses through a Discretionary Fund. We deployed the funds in a targeted and proportionate manner. There was a smaller award of £5,000 to the 515 businesses who had not received any other COVID-19 response funds. This cohort is characterised by sole traders and/or firms without premises.

In addition, there was a higher one-off award of £15,000 - £30,000 to 54 slightly larger firms. This cohort is characterised as firms who have suffered lost sales/cashflow/profits but who may not have been required to close/restrict their operations. They will help drive economic recovery in West Lothian. They represent some of our best sectors including aerospace, engineering, renewables, food & drink, technology, manufacturing, construction and software development. This cohort of firms prioritised for the higher level of grant has combined sales of £253 million per annum. They employ over 2,200 staff, the majority of who are local residents. These firms are committing to recovery based on a number of indicators including reskilling/upskilling, improved productivity, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion.

In the three months to the end of June 2021, the Business Gateway team helped 60 new businesses to start trading. Over the same timescale, the team engaged with 260 established firms. This included 38 social enterprises, in particular the West Lothian Community Food Hub and the West Lothian Mental Health Forum.

In summarising the work to date of the Business Gateway team, it is not all about sales and wider economic impacts. The advisers have the trust of local people, some of whom pre-Covid had stable and established businesses. Covid-19 has damaged the economic wellbeing of some local firms. The Business Gateway advisers try to find solutions in complex circumstances. This is sometimes when businesses cannot see a viable way forward. The Board is asked to note the Business Gateway team's empathy and compassion in dealing with our local firms.

3.3 Update on the Jobs Task Force (JTF)

The West Lothian Jobs Task Force (JTF) brings together key partners to support the development and inclusive growth of the West Lothian economy. This collaborative working is a key element in achieving its priority outcomes of new jobs, enhanced skills and more life chances.

West Lothian's labour market faces severe challenges from rising unemployment, skills shortages and the end of furlough. The financial resources provided to the JTF help it to stimulate demand in local firms through new-job grants. New resources will support grants for lower-skill jobs at fair wages, and so divert some residents from unemployment. Support also enables firms to address skills shortages by supporting their investment in training/upskilling. JTF retains its core focus of supporting higher-value jobs.

Since its launch in June 2018, the JTF has supported projects with a value of over £8.23 million. This targeted support has created 460 new jobs. In response to high levels of unemployment and unfilled job vacancies across key sectors, further funding has been allocated to the JTF.

On 22 June 2021, West Lothian Council Executive agreed a further £1 million to help create an extra 300 jobs in 2021/22. Working with Finance colleagues, this gives JTF a current budget of £5.91 million to support new jobs, retraining and upskilling. This funding will provide local businesses with an incentive to recruit an unemployed resident. Each grant will average £3,500 per job for 300 new jobs, with a typical starting salary of £21,000. A fair uplift above the real living wage of £9.50 per hour/£18,500+ per annum.

In addition, we will continue to support higher-value new jobs. Local firms in key sectors can apply for £7,500 per new job. This will help create a further 500 new jobs and safeguard 1,750 jobs.

In June 2021, the Jobs Task Force approved funding of £512,500 to be targeted at delivering the following 5 project areas: -

(i) 30 high-value jobs in key sectors

Working with schools, College and universities we will offer local firms a job grant averaging £10,000 per job. This is towards minimum starting salaries of £25-£30,000 for cyber graduates from West Lothian College; for under/unemployed STEM graduates of 2019 onwards; for low-carbon Champions; and life sciences graduate apprenticeships.

(ii) 15 Enhanced productivity projects

We will enable firms to commit to enhanced productivity through product/process improvement.

(iii) 15 SMART carbon-reduction projects

We will work with 15 local firms to begin step-change reductions in their carbon footprint. Each business will develop a plan for enhanced sustainability across their trading operations.

(iv) Support 150 local people with training

There is an emphasis on entry-level training in to sectors struggling to recruit currently, particularly healthcare. In addition, low-carbon will be supported through wall-insulation training. And the third element of the training is in leadership and business improvement.

(v) Divert 35 young people at risk of criminality

Early intervention designed to prevent some of our most at-risk young people from lifestyles which, without intervention, could lead to Young Offenders Institutions/Prison.

The Board is asked to note that that these project areas develop the medium/longer-term work of the JTF around opportunity, inclusion, progression and prevention.

3.4 Links with Heriot-Watt University

Economic Development & Regeneration and West Lothian College are prioritising closer working with Heriot-Watt University (HWU). Existing links built-up over the years, have enabled a strong photonics cluster of businesses on Kirkton Campus, Livingston. The cluster includes Alter Tech, Helia Photonics and Techcomp. All these firms were started by alumni from Heriot-Watt University.

To help address skills gaps/productivity issues in local firms, we will work with HWU on placing STEM graduates, as part of the Communities Renewal Fund project. In the medium-term, we can help firms address skills gaps by encouraging them to offer Graduate Apprenticeships. HWU offer a wide range of Honours Apprenticeships incl. BEng Electrical Engineering, BSc Data Science and MA IT Management.

A further update on progress will be provided at a future meeting of the Partnership.

See Appendix 2 – Graduate Apprenticeships

4. Summary of Implications

Relevant LOIP outcome (s)	All
Relevant LOIP performance indicator (s)	All
Resources	This work has been undertaken within existing resources.
Link to prevention/community engagement	Support for businesses and residents helps create capacity for economic growth and higher-value job opportunities for local residents. Good entry-level roles for our young people help them avoid negative outcomes.
Impact on inequalities	A diverse and resilient local economy helps create more opportunities, this contributes to reduced inequalities.
Key risks	None identified at present.

5. Consultations

There is close working across the range of key partner agencies to inform and develop better support for businesses and residents.

6. Conclusions

The Business Gateway team continues to deliver value-added services to clients, businesses and communities. Performance is very good and the team remains highly motivated to deliver quality business support.

Report written by/contact details/date

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15 November 2021

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N/A

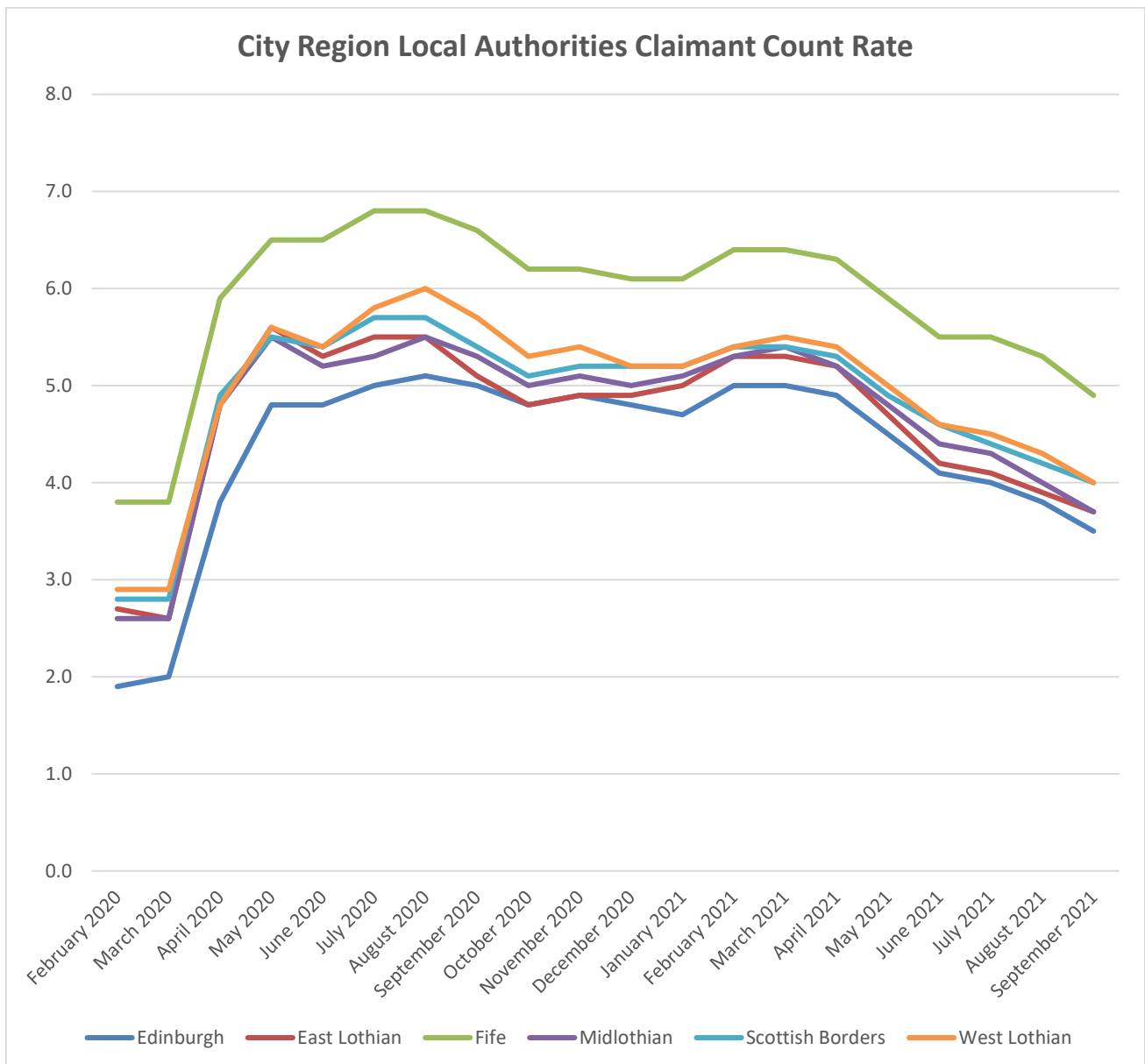
Appendices

Appendix1 – Labour market update

Appendix 2 – Graduate Apprenticeships

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count September 2021 Summary Update

Between February 2020 and September 2021:	Between August 2021 and September 2021:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK Claimant Count increased by 66% ↑ Scottish Claimant Count increased by 39% ↑ Edinburgh Claimant Count increased by 84% ↑ City Region Claimant Count increased by 50% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ UK Claimant Count decreased by 3% ↓ Scottish Claimant Count decreased 5% ↓ Edinburgh Claimant Count decreased by 6% ↓ City Region Claimant Count decreased by 6%



City Region Summary

1. In September 2021 the claimant count for the City Region was 36,465. Of these
 - a. 6,530 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 21,485 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 8,455 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in the Region is now 50% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In September 2021 there were 22,140 male claimants and 14,325 female claimants. This represents an increase of 49% for males and 51% for females.
4. The ward with the greatest claimant count is Forth in Edinburgh with 1,280 claimants in September 2021.
5. The ward with the lowest claimant count is North Berwick Coastal in East Lothian with 165 claimants in September 2021
6. In August 2021 there were 43,904 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in the Region.

Edinburgh Summary

1. In September 2021 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 13,080. Of these
 - a. 1,925 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 8,125 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 3,030 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Edinburgh is now 84% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In September 2021 there were 8,180 male claimants and 4,900 female claimants. This represents an increase of 84% for both males and females since February 2020.
4. The Edinburgh ward with the greatest claimant count is Forth with 1,280 claimants in September 2021 and a claimant rate of 6%.
5. The Edinburgh ward with the lowest claimant count is Corstorphine/Murrayfield with 265 claimants in September 2021.
6. In August 2021 there were 14,694 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Edinburgh

East Lothian Summary

1. In September 2021 the claimant count for East Lothian was 2,435. Of these
 - a. 445 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 1,410 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 580 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in East Lothian is now 38% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In September 2021 there were 1,415 male claimants and 1,020 female claimants. This represents an increase of 41% for males and 34% for females since February 2020.
4. The East Lothian ward with the largest claimant count is Musselburgh with 660 claimants in September 2021 and a claimant rate of 5.2%.
5. The East Lothian ward with the lowest claimant count is North Berwick Coastal with 165 claimants in September 2021.
6. In August 2021 there were 3,648 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in East Lothian.

Fife Summary

1. In September 2021 the claimant count for Fife was 11,465. Of these
 - a. 2,245 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 6,555 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 2,655 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Fife is now 31% higher than it was in February 2020.

3. In September 2021 there were 6,920 male claimants and 4,545 female claimants. This represents an increase of 26% for males and 38% for females since February 2020.
4. The Fife ward with the greatest claimant count is Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages with 1,080 claimants in September 2021 and a claimant rate of 9.8%.
5. The Fife ward with the lowest claimant count is St Andrews with 175 claimants in September 2021.
6. In August 2021 there were 12,838 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Fife.

Midlothian Summary

1. In September 2021 the claimant count for Midlothian was 2,105. Of these
 - a. 395 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 1,270 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 440 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Midlothian is now 43% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In September 2021 there were 1,275 male claimants and 825 female claimants. This represents an increase of 47% for males and 36% for females since February 2020.
4. The Midlothian ward with the largest claimant count is Dalkeith with 420 claimants in September 2021 and a claimant rate of 4.7%.
5. The Midlothian ward with the lowest claimant count is Midlothian West with 285 claimants in September 2021.
6. In August 2021 there were 3,368 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Midlothian.

Scottish Borders Summary

1. In September 2021 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 2,700. Of these
 - a. 540 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 1,410 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 750 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Scottish Borders is now 45% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In September 2021 there were 1,590 male claimants and 1,110 female claimants. This represents an increase of 42% for males and 50% for females since February 2020.
4. The Scottish Borders ward with the greatest claimant count is Galashiels and District with 540 claimants in September 2021 and a claimant rate of 5.5%.
5. The Scottish Borders ward with the lowest claimant count is Mid Berwickshire with 180 claimants in September 2021.
6. In August 2021 there were 3,290 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders.

West Lothian Summary

1. In September 2021 the claimant count for West Lothian was 4,680. Of these
 - a. 980 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 2,715 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 990 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in West Lothian is now 37% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In September 2021 there were 2,760 male claimants and 1,925 female claimants. This represents an increase of 40% for males and 32% for females since February 2020.
4. The West Lothian ward with the largest claimant count is Whitburn and Blackburn with 780 claimants in September 2021 and a claimant rate of 5.7%.
5. The West Lothian Ward with the lowest claimant count is Linlithgow with 200 claimants in September 2021.
6. In August 2021 there were 6,061 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in West Lothian

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count September 2021 Full Update

Introduction

On the 31st September 2021 the Job Retention Scheme, furlough, ended. From the last available data, it can be seen that as at the 31st August there were around 23,100 people still benefiting from the scheme within the city region. The Table below breaks this down by Local Authority.

	Female	Male	Total
East Lothian	900	800	1,800
Edinburgh	4,800	5,300	10,100
Fife	2,500	2,800	5,300
Midlothian	800	800	1,500
Scottish Borders	900	800	1,700
West Lothian	1,200	1,500	2,700

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-statistics-7-october-2021>

It will take some time before some (if any) of these clients start to show up in the claimant count data, and it will be impossible from NOMIS to determine if any clients who move onto a benefit in October had been on furlough the previous month.

Institute of Employment Studies

On the 12th October IES published a briefing note¹ in which they indicated that labour supply isn't keeping up with labour demand. Based on the UK as a whole, they reflected on the fact that unemployment has fallen back to 4.5% while vacancies have reached a new peak of 1.1 million. They found that there are now 1.45 unemployed people per vacancy – the lowest figure in at least half a century, making this likely to be the tightest labour market that we have seen in modern times.

They comment on economic activity overall (i.e. those either in work or looking/ available for work) which is now nearly one million (980,000) below pre-crisis trends. The IES estimate that approximately one third of this 'missing million' is explained by a smaller population, mainly due to lower migration, while two thirds is due to higher 'economic inactivity' – with 310,000 fewer older people in the labour market than we would have expected (especially older women), and 210,000 fewer young people (especially younger men). The fall in youth participation has been offset entirely by higher student numbers; but the fall in participation for older people has coincided with a large increase in the number of people out of work due to long-term ill health – which has reached its highest level since 2010, at 2.2 million – and more people retiring early. In total, 6.2

¹ https://www.employment-studies.co.uk/system/files/resources/files/IES%20briefing%20paper.1%20-%20Labour%20Market%20Statistics%20October%202021.pdf?utm_source=IES+emailing+list&utm_campaign=d7f9ea9ff5-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_05_14_03_45_COPY_04&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f11585705b-d7f9ea9ff5-364968444

million people are not looking or available for work due to caring, long-term ill health or being students – with 1.3 million of these saying that they want to work.

Fraser of Allender Reports

The FAI published a report at the end of September² which provides a commentary on quarter 3 economic data. In this they suggest that the Scottish economy is set to recover to pre-pandemic levels three months earlier than previously thought, predicting growth of 6.5% in 2021 and 4.8% in 2022. The economy is now predicted to get back to pre-pandemic levels in April 2022. The FAI director Mairi Spowage did raise a note of caution saying “...there are several reasons that growth could stall. If new public health restrictions need to be imposed, or if the end of the furlough scheme and the Universal Credit uplift lead to an easing off in consumer spending, or supply chain disruption and shortages continue, the recovery could flatten off or even go into reverse.”

Business Insights and Conditions Survey

On the 15th October the latest (publication number 28) Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) were released for Scotland³. The key findings from this report are as follows;

- In the period 20 September to 3 October 2021, the share of businesses 'currently trading' was estimated at 99.5% - up from 99.4% in the previous period and the highest rate since comparable estimates began in June 2020.
- All businesses in the Arts, Entertainment & Recreation and Accommodation & Food Services industry sectors were 'currently trading'.
- The share of the workforce on furlough leave was estimated at 4.8% in the period 6 September to 3 October 2021 - down from 5.9% in the previous period.
- In the latest period, the Arts, Entertainment & Recreation industry sector continued to have the highest share of the workforce on furlough leave - estimated at 15.8%.

Office for National Statistics

On the 12th October ONS released data that looked at the national UK labour market⁴. This reported that:

- The number of payroll employees showed another monthly increase, up 207,000 to a record 29.2 million in September 2021, returning to pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic (February 2020) levels.
- The number of job vacancies in July to September 2021 was a record high of 1,102,000, an increase of 318,000 from its pre-pandemic (January to March 2020) level; this was the second consecutive month that the three-month average has risen over one million. All industry sectors were above or equal to their January to March 2020 pre-pandemic levels in July to September 2021, with Accommodation and food service activities increasing the most, by nearly 50,000 (59%). The experimental single-month vacancy estimates recorded almost 1.2 million in September 2021, which is a record high.

² <https://fraserofallender.org/fraser-of-allender-institute-economic-commentary-2021-q3/>

³ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/bics-weighted-scotland-estimates-data-to-wave-40/>

⁴

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/uklabourmarket/october2021>

Overall Claimant Count

On the 12th October NOMIS released claimant count data for September. Looking in detail at the claimant count, it can be seen that whilst every area of the UK experienced an increase in the number of claimants, the peak claimant count was recorded at different times depending on the geography, the gender and the age of the claimant. In this issue of the claimant count report the tables will reflect this so that the 'peak' claimant count will reflect when the actual variable did peak rather than taking a figure for August 2020 to reflect all areas.

Table 1 looks at the 12 regions and countries of the UK and indicates

- claimant count February 2020
- the month that the peak claimant count was recorded
- what that was
- the percentage increase between February 2020 and this 'peak claimant count'
- claimant count September 2021
- the percentage fall between 'peak claimant count' and September 2021

From Table 1 it can be seen that the North West hit its highest claimant count very early in the pandemic and it had grown by 95% between February and May 2021. Compare this to the West Midlands where the peak claimant count didn't materialise until February 2021. The majority of regions and countries hit a peak in August 2020 and since then the claimant count has been falling, albeit in an irregular manner, but overall the trend has been down.

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

Area	February 2020 Count	Claimant Count Peak		Percentage Change	September 2021 Claimant Count	Percentage Change
		Month	Count			
United Kingdom	1,255,770	Aug 2020	2,688,110	114%	2,079,275	-23%
East	89,890	Aug 2020	213,715	138%	158,125	-26%
East Midlands	80,915	Aug 2020	170,220	110%	129,810	-24%
London	184,765	Sep 2020	478,165	159%	397,320	-17%
North East	75,560	Aug 2020	123,720	64%	95,440	-23%
North West	167,055	May 2020	326,490	95%	255,520	-22%
Northern Ireland	29,910	May 2020	63,860	114%	48,120	-25%
Scotland	114,605	Aug 2020	224,840	96%	159,095	-29%
South East	119,620	Aug 2020	300,975	152%	221,580	-26%
South West	75,595	Aug 2020	180,915	139%	122,625	-32%
Wales	60,375	Aug 2020	118,905	97%	86,075	-28%
West Midlands	141,095	Feb 2021	269,985	91%	223,045	-17%
Yorkshire & Humber	116,390	Nov 2020	219,515	89%	182,515	-17%

Source: NOMIS 12/10/2021

In London and the South East there had been a 159% and 152% increase in the claimant count respectively. Compare this to the North East where the claimant count 'only' increased by 64%. The claimant rate in London is, in September 2021, 3 percentage points higher than it was pre pandemic. For every other area of the UK the rate tends to be between 1 and 2 percentage points higher.

Table 2 looks specifically at the situation in Scotland and focuses on Scottish Local Authorities. Once again it is clear that different areas peaked at different times ranging from a May 2020 peak for East

Lothian and Argyll and Bute through to a February 2021 peak for Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. With the exception of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire most Scottish Local Authorities recorded their highest claimant counts around summer 2020. Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire are very likely to be charting a slightly different course due to the importance of the oil industry to the local economy there.

Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish LAs

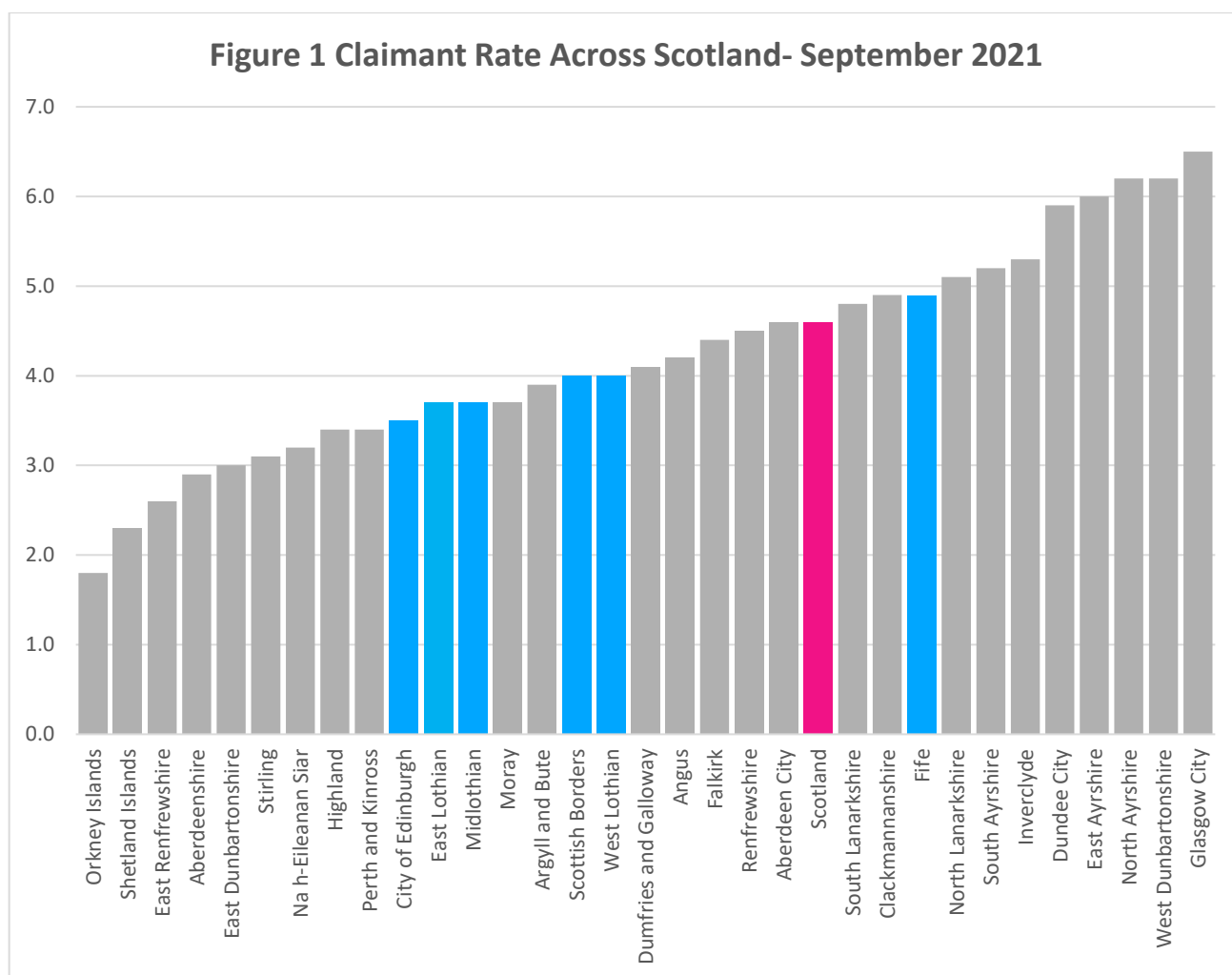
Area	Feb 2020	Peak Claimant Count		Percentage Change Feb 2020 to Peak	Sep 2021	Percentage Change Peak to Sep 2021
		Month	Count			
Aberdeen City	4,150	Feb-21	9,725	134%	7,225	-26%
Aberdeenshire	2,975	Feb-21	6,655	124%	4,715	-29%
Angus	2,040	Jul-20	3,960	94%	2,865	-28%
Argyll and Bute	1,530	May-20	3,290	115%	1,955	-41%
City of Edinburgh	7,105	Aug-20	18,840	165%	13,080	-31%
Clackmannanshire	1,390	Aug-20	2,255	62%	1,550	-31%
Dumfries and Galloway	2,950	May-20	5,115	73%	3,530	-31%
Dundee City	4,530	Aug-20	7,490	65%	5,800	-23%
East Ayrshire	3,685	Aug-20	6,280	70%	4,540	-28%
East Dunbartonshire	1,230	Aug-20	2,985	143%	1,940	-35%
East Lothian	1,765	May-20	3,680	108%	2,435	-34%
East Renfrewshire	950	Jul-20	2,415	154%	1,460	-40%
Falkirk	3,300	Jul-20	6,335	92%	4,440	-30%
Fife	8,765	Aug-20	15,840	81%	11,465	-28%
Glasgow City	20,055	Aug-20	38,205	91%	29,240	-23%
Highland	3,715	Jul-20	8,430	127%	4,805	-43%
Inverclyde	2,255	Jul-20	3,275	45%	2,530	-23%
Midlothian	1,470	Aug-20	3,145	114%	2,105	-33%
Moray	1,550	Aug-20	3,030	95%	2,140	-29%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	465	Aug-20	880	89%	495	-44%
North Ayrshire	4,600	Jul-20	7,290	58%	5,045	-31%
North Lanarkshire	8,230	Aug-20	15,870	93%	11,070	-30%
Orkney Islands	195	Aug-20	420	115%	245	-42%
Perth and Kinross	1,865	Aug-20	4,595	146%	3,115	-32%
Renfrewshire	4,025	Aug-20	7,780	93%	5,205	-33%
Scottish Borders	1,860	Jul-20	3,835	106%	2,700	-30%
Shetland Islands	265	Sep-20	545	106%	320	-41%
South Ayrshire	2,790	Aug-20	4,960	78%	3,450	-30%
South Lanarkshire	7,015	Aug-20	13,725	96%	9,590	-30%
Stirling	1,540	Jul-20	3,125	103%	1,875	-40%
West Dunbartonshire	2,930	Jul-20	4,865	66%	3,475	-29%
West Lothian	3,425	Aug-20	7,005	105%	4,680	-33%
Scotland	114,605	Aug-20	224,840	96%	159,095	-29%

Source: NOMIS 12/10/2021

The data highlights that whilst Scotland recorded a 96% increase in the claimant count, this varies from a 45% increase in Inverclyde through to a 165% increase in Edinburgh. Generally, those that recorded the higher increases have also recorded relatively large falls in the claimant count. For example, whilst Edinburgh recorded a 165% increase between February 2020 and August 2020, a fall of 31% has been recorded since then.

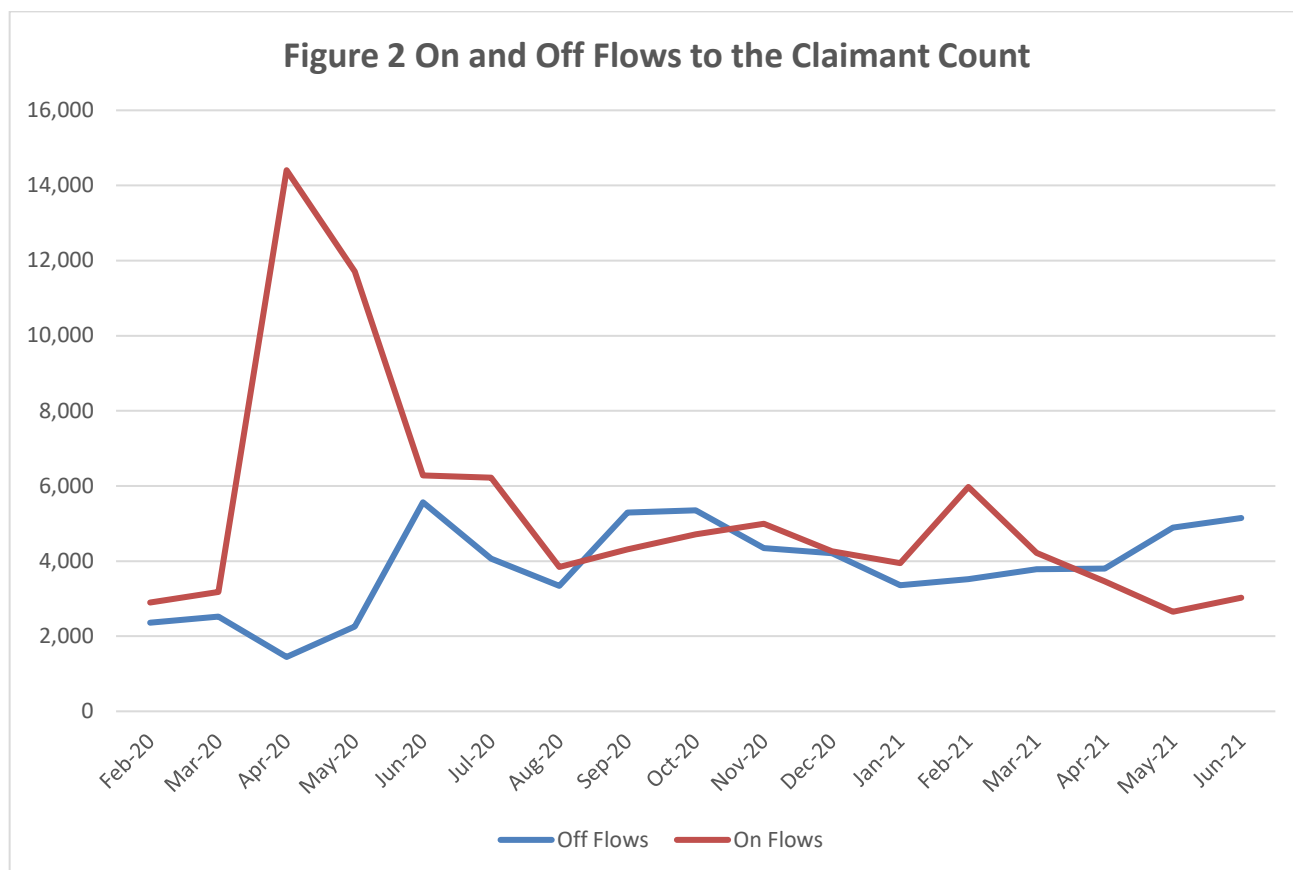
However examining the data further suggests that it isn't as simple as those that had the greatest increase in the claimant count have also recorded the greatest falls, and it can be seen that for some areas the claimant count has fallen faster than it had risen, suggesting that these areas may well return to a pre-pandemic situation sooner. Local Authorities where this is the case include Na h-Eileanan Siar, Highlands and Orkney.

Figure 1 below looks at the claimant rate by Local Authority across Scotland as a whole. From this it can be seen that, except for Fife, every Local Authority in the City Region has a rate that is lower than the Scottish average.



Source: NOMIS 12/10/2021

Figure 2 below looks at the on an off flow data for the claimant count in the City Region. It can be seen that there was an increase in the number of people moving onto the claimant count in the spring and early summer of 2020 and another in February 2021. Over the course of the pandemic there was a period towards the end of 2020 when more individuals were leaving the claimant count than were moving onto the benefit. This balance has returned this year and since April 2021 every month more people have been leaving the claimant count than moving onto it.



Source: Stat-xplore 14/10/2021

Gender Profile

Turning now to look at the gender profile of the claimants in the City Region. Table 3a and 3b look at the number of claimants of each gender as of February 2020, and compares this with the peak claimant month for each gender and for each LA- these are highlighted in yellow in the tables below.

Two points are worth highlighting. Firstly, in three LA areas the female claimant count recorded a higher percentage increase than that of males and this is reflected in Table 3a whilst Table 3b looks at the three LAs where the increase has been greater for male claimants. This difference could be due to differences in the type of jobs available in particular areas or if particular sectors – especially those that have been worst affected by the pandemic- are more likely to employ females than males. One additional point to make is that in some instance there is a difference in when the claimant count by gender peaks. It tends to be that across the region the number of female claimants don't peak until a month or two after the male claimant count has recorded a peak level. This difference is worth considering as it indicates that the position for female claimants continued to get worse after the claimant count for males had peaked.

The second point is that the percentage increase from February through to when the claimant count peaked wasn't followed by similar falls- ie largest increases didn't necessarily lead to the largest falls. For example, in Edinburgh whilst the claimant count for females increased by 14 percentage points more than it did for males at the height of the pandemic, it has so far only fallen by 4 percentage points more. In Scottish Borders whilst the claimant count for females increased by 11 percentage points more than for males, so far there is **no difference** in how the claimant count is falling. This could all be a result of lags, possibly linked to sectors reopening and it may just take the claimant count for females longer to return to the same position as it was pre-pandemic. However,

there is the concern that in these LA areas some of these women may be finding it more difficult to return to the labour market.

**Table 3a: Change in Gender Split Across the City Region
-LAs where Female Claimants Increased Most**

Date	Edinburgh		Scottish Borders		Fife	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
February 2020	2,665	4,435	740	1,120	3,290	5,475
July 2020	7,010	11,275	1,565	2,275	5,970	9,760
August 2020	7,315	11,530	1,585	2,240	6,070	9,770
September 2021	4,900	8,180	1,110	1,590	4,545	6,920
Increase	174%	160%	114%	103%	84%	78%
Decrease	-33%	-29%	-30%	-30%	-25%	-29%

Source: NOMIS 12/10/2021

Table 3b below looks at the other 3 LAs. In these cases, the male claimant count rose faster, but it has been balanced by the fact that the claimant rate for males then fell faster, maybe not by much, but by a difference that is noticeable.

Table 3b: Change in Gender Split Across the City Region- Male Claimants Fastest Rise

	Midlothian		East Lothian		West Lothian	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
February 2020	605	865	760	1,005	1,455	1,970
May 2020	1,190	1,970	1,505	2,180	2,590	4,050
July 2020	1,195	1,865	1,470	2,145	2,665	4,130
August 2020	1,220	1,920	1,510	2,125	2,785	4,225
March 2021	1,245	1,845	1,490	1,995	2,615	3,910
September 2021	825	1,275	1,020	1,415	1,925	2,760
Increase	106%	128%	99%	117%	91%	114%
Decrease	-34%	-35%	-32%	-35%	-31%	-35%

Source: NOMIS 12/10/2021

Age Profile

There has been some concern over how different age groups have been affected differently by the economic restrictions imposed to tackle covid. Initial statistics saw a significant increase in the number of younger claimants and as will be highlighted latter, an increase in claimants from areas that had relatively small claimant numbers prior to February 2020. The general conclusion is that the sectors worst affected (hospitality, retail, leisure, etc.) has a younger workforce and as these sectors closed many of the employees who happened to be young found that they became unemployed. The next set of tables look at this by broad age groups and again will focus on when the claimant count for these age groups peaked.

Previous tables had indicated that there had been differences in when the claimant count peaked, either by geography or by gender. Table 4 highlights that this is also the case in terms of age bands. The number of 16-24 year olds claiming peaked in July 2020 and this was the case across the region with the exception of West Lothian. For 25-49 year olds the peak in the claimant count was generally a month later in August 2020. Again, there is one exception and that is Scottish Borders that saw the highest recorded claimant count in July 2020. Compare this to the situation of those aged 50 or over. Overall, it is similar to that for the other age groups with peaks in 4 of the 5 LAs being recorded in July or August, However, there does appear to be a lag in Edinburgh where the

peak wasn't reached till November 2020 and in Midlothian where the claimant count for those aged 50 or over wasn't recorded till February 2021.

Table 4: Change in Claimants by Age Across the City Region (All)

16-24 Year Olds-All	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
Feb 2020	1,065	315	1,740	325	415	735	4,595
July 2020	3,290	795	3,555	695	885	1,550	10,770
Aug 2020	3,225	755	3,500	685	880	1,570	10,615
Sep 2021	1,925	445	2,245	395	540	980	6,530
Increase	209%	152%	104%	114%	113%	114%	134%
Decrease	-41%	-44%	-37%	-43%	-39%	-38%	-39%
25-49 Year Olds-All	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
Feb 2020	4,310	1,020	4,990	865	975	1,965	14,125
July 2020	11,250	1,995	8,715	1,735	1,960	3,840	29,495
Aug 2020	11,715	2,015	8,775	1,795	1,955	3,940	30,195
Sep 2021	8,125	1,410	6,555	1,270	1,410	2,715	21,485
Increase	172%	98%	76%	108%	101%	101%	114%
Decrease	-31%	-30%	-25%	-29%	-28%	-31%	-29%
50+ All	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
Feb 2020	1,730	430	2,030	280	470	725	5,665
May 2020	3,710	875	3,450	645	1,020	1,410	11,110
Aug 2020	3,900	865	3,565	665	995	1,495	11,485
Nov 2020	3,985	815	3,365	635	960	1,425	11,185
Feb 2021	4,115	885	3,505	675	965	1,395	11,540
Sep 2021	3,030	580	2,665	440	750	990	8,455
Increase	130%	101%	76%	141%	117%	106%	103%
Decrease	-24%	-33%	-25%	-35%	-26%	-34%	-26%

Source: NOMIS 12/10/2021

Looking at the increase and decrease statistics for nearly all Local Authorities the claimant count for 16-24 year olds increased the most of all age groups. There were two exceptions. In Midlothian whilst 16 -24 year old claimants increased by 114% between February 2020 and July 2020, claimants aged 50 or over increased by 141% between February 2020 and February 2021. In Scottish Borders 16-24 year old claimants increased by 113% between February 2020 and July 2020 compared to a 117% increase in the claimant count for those aged 50 or over.

In terms of falls, the claimant count across the region has fallen by 39% for 16-24 year olds since the peak, for 25-49 year olds it has fallen by 29% and for those over the age of 50 it has fallen by 26%. Again, there are differences depending on the Local Authority that is examined. For example, the number of 16-24 year old claimants in East Lothian has fallen by 44% compared to a 24% fall in the number of claimants aged over 50 in Edinburgh.

Tables 5 and 6 below look at the 6 Local Authorities and the City Region in terms of age and in these two tables it is broken down further by gender. This highlights gender differences in

- when the claimant count peaked
- the degree to which the claimant count increased
- the degree to which the claimant count has decreased

Table 5: Change in Claimants by Age Across the City Region (Male)

16-24 Year Olds-Male	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
Feb 2020	630	185	1,120	205	245	435	2,820
Jul 2020	1,910	475	2,215	425	510	940	6,475
Aug 2020	1,885	445	2,155	430	495	950	6,360
Sep 2021	1,225	265	1,370	235	320	575	3,990
Increase	203%	157%	98%	110%	108%	118%	130%
Decrease	-36%	-44%	-38%	-45%	-37%	-39%	-38%
25-49 Year Olds-Male	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
Feb 2020	2,680	575	3,105	495	580	1,115	8,550
May 2020	7,040	1,235	5,445	1,170	1,185	2,355	18,430
Jul 2020	7,000	1,195	5,445	1,050	1,175	2,365	18,230
Aug 2020	7,200	1,180	5,435	1,095	1,155	2,415	18,480
Sep 2021	5,050	820	3,955	765	815	1,605	13,010
Increase	169%	108%	75%	121%	104%	117%	116%
Decrease	-30%	-31%	-27%	-30%	-31%	-34%	-30%
50+ Male	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
Feb 2020	1,125	245	1,250	170	300	420	3,510
May 2020	2,350	510	2,110	400	615	845	6,830
Aug 2020	2,445	500	2,180	400	590	860	6,975
Feb 2021	2,545	500	2,105	405	555	810	6,920
Sep 2021	1,905	335	1,595	275	455	575	5,140
Increase	126%	108%	74%	138%	105%	105%	99%
Decrease	-25%	-34%	-27%	-32%	-26%	-33%	-26%

Source: NOMIS 12/10/2021

When Tables 5 and 6 are compared it can be seen that regardless of age, across the region the claimant count for males tended to peak in around the same month as that for females. The one age group where this was different was those aged 50 and over. The number of claimants in this group peaked in August 2020 for Males but continued to grow for females until the peak was reached in February 2021 – 7 months after the male group.

These differences become more widespread when we look at geographies. Of the 18 different groups (3 age bands and 6 Local Authorities) it can be seen that in 9 cases the claimant count for females peaked after that of males – essentially the number of out of work females continued to grow even when the situation for males was improving. In 7 cases both genders peaked at the same time and for 2 the male claimant count peaked after the female count.

Looking at the percentage increase and the percentage decrease, it can be seen that the claimant count for 16-24 year old females in Edinburgh increased by 221% between February and July 2020. This is the largest increase of any age group or gender in the city region. It has since fallen by 49% but still has some way to go before it is back to pre-pandemic levels. Generally, the claimant count for 16-24 year old females has been falling the fastest of all categories regardless of the local authority.

Table 6: Change in Claimants by Age Across the City Region (Female)

16-24 Year Olds-Female	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
Feb 2020	430	130	620	120	170	295	1,765
Jun 2020	1,265	305	1,220	270	340	575	3,975
Jul 2020	1,380	325	1,340	270	375	610	4,300
Aug 2020	1,340	310	1,345	260	385	620	4,260
Sep 2021	700	180	875	160	215	400	2,530
Increase	221%	150%	117%	125%	126%	110%	144%
Decrease	-49%	-45%	-35%	-41%	-44%	-35%	-41%
25-49 Year Olds-Female	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
Feb 2020	1,630	445	1,885	370	395	855	5,580
May 2020	4,215	860	3,130	695	770	1,480	11,150
Aug 2020	4,520	835	3,340	700	800	1,530	11,725
Sep 2020	4,460	790	3,230	700	745	1,435	11,360
Mar 2021	4,370	825	3,180	730	770	1,455	11,330
Sep 2021	3,075	590	2,600	505	595	1,110	8,475
Increase	174%	93%	77%	97%	103%	79%	110%
Decrease	-31%	-31%	-22%	-31%	-26%	-27%	-28%
50+ Female	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
Feb 2020	605	185	780	115	170	305	2,160
Aug 2020	1,455	360	1,380	260	405	635	4,495
Feb 2021	1,570	385	1,395	270	410	585	4,615
Sep 2021	1,125	245	1,070	165	300	415	3,320
Increase	160%	108%	79%	135%	138%	108%	114%
Decrease	-28%	-36%	-23%	-39%	-26%	-35%	-28%

Source: NOMIS 12/10/2021

The conclusion to draw from this is that there are differences in how different genders, ages and localities are recovering. These differences can be disguised in the overall statistics and by the fact that across the board the claimant count is falling, it is the differences in these rates of reduction that should be monitored as this will indicate if there are any groups or localities that are finding it harder to reengage with the labour market. This leads onto the next focus which is small localities represented by the ward data.

Ward Profile

As with the other data in this report, each of the following tables provides a claimant count for February 2020 to provide a pre pandemic baseline, a figure for September 2021 to illustrate what the current position is. Where it differs from previous reports is that for each ward there is also the figure for when the claimant count peaked- highlighted in yellow and italics. The final inclusion in these tables is the percentage increase and decrease in the claimant count and ward claimant rate, both pre-pandemic and now.

In Table 7 it can be seen that generally, in East Lothian, the claimant count peaked in the summer of 2020. The one area where this was not the case was Preston, Seton and Gosford. The wards with lower claimant rates pre-pandemic had the lowest claimant rates in the county in September 2021. North Berwick coastal recorded the largest percentage increase in the claimant count (+253%) but has also recorded a 45% fall between August 2020 and September 2021.

Table 7 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward

2017 electoral wards	Feb 20	May 20	Aug 20	Feb 21	Sep 21	Claimant Rate		% Increase	% Decrease
						Feb-20	Sep-21		
Dunbar and East Linton	200	460	425	385	275	2.3	3.1	130	-40
Haddington and Lammermuir	260	555	545	520	355	2.3	3.1	113	-36
Musselburgh	455	905	930	895	660	3.6	5.2	104	-29
North Berwick Coastal	85	290	300	255	165	1.2	2.2	253	-45
Preston, Seton and Gosford	310	605	605	630	415	2.8	3.7	103	-34
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerrie	450	865	825	795	570	3.2	4.0	92	-34

Source: NOMIS 12/10/2021

The Midlothian position is presented in Table 8. As with East Lothian, wards with a high claimant rate in February 2020 are still the wards with a high claimant rate in September 2021. Bonnyrigg stands out for two reasons. Firstly, the claimant count in this ward only peaked in March 2021, 6 months after the rest of the authority. Secondly whilst it is the ward that recorded the highest percentage increase, 164%, the level of decrease has not been as dramatic and two other wards have seen the claimant count fall faster than Bonnyrigg.

Table 8 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward

2017 electoral wards	Feb 20	May 20	Aug 20	Mar 21	Sep 21	Claimant Rate		% Increase	% Decrease
						Feb -20	Sep -21		
Bonnyrigg	180	435	455	475	310	1.6	2.7	164	-35
Dalkeith	295	645	590	605	420	3.4	4.7	119	-35
Midlothian East	255	575	570	545	395	2.6	4.0	125	-31
Midlothian South	300	565	565	535	390	3.4	4.3	88	-31
Midlothian West	210	480	490	475	285	2.2	3.0	133	-42
Penicuik	225	460	475	460	305	2.7	3.7	111	-36

Source: NOMIS 12/10/2021

In West Lothian the claimant count peaked in August 2020 with the exception of one ward - Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh- where it peaked a couple of months earlier in May 2020. One thing to note in West Lothian is that, with 2 exceptions, the claimant increase is consistent across the authority ranging from an 87% increase through to 120%. There are two 'outliers' which saw a rise of 148% and 134% and these are Linlithgow and Livingston North. As with other areas the wards where the claimant count was higher to start with tend to be those that recorded a lower percentage increase and have so far recorded a lower decrease.

Table 9 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward

2017 electoral wards	Feb 20	May 20	Aug 20	Sep 21	Claimant Rate		% Increase	% Decrease
					Feb-20	Sep-21		
Armadale and Blackridge	310	580	610	400	3.2	4.1	97	-34
Bathgate	470	915	945	625	3.0	4.0	101	-34
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	365	760	760	490	3.0	3.9	108	-36
East Livingston and East Calder	380	800	835	545	2.7	3.8	120	-35
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	405	730	765	540	4.0	5.3	89	-29
Linlithgow	135	305	335	200	1.3	2.0	148	-40
Livingston North	325	685	760	500	2.1	3.3	134	-34
Livingston South	450	835	900	600	2.9	3.8	100	-33
Whitburn and Blackburn	585	1,030	1,095	780	4.3	5.7	87	-29

Source: NOMIS 12/10/2021

Table 10 looks at the position in Fife. Firstly, it is clear that July and August last year was the period when the claimant count was at its highest in the Kingdom with the exception of St Andrews where it didn't peak until January 2021. Buckhaven, Methill and Wemyss villages is the ward that had the highest claimant rate pre pandemic and has the highest claimant rate in September. As with other areas where there was a high claimant rate to start with the increase was relatively low and the decrease since the claimant count peaked is relatively low. More positive is that for this ward the number of claimants has fallen by 240 since July 2020.

Table 10 Fife Claimant Count by Ward

2017 electoral wards	Feb 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Jan 21	Sep 21	Claimant Rate		% Increase	% Decrease
						Feb-20	Sep-21		
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	900	1,320	1,315	1,205	1,080	8.2	9.8	47	-18
Burntisland, Kinghorn and W. Kirkcaldy	380	650	645	575	465	4.2	5.3	71	-28
Cowdenbeath	610	1,110	1,080	1,000	815	4.5	5.9	82	-27
Cupar	210	440	445	375	275	2.5	3.2	112	-38
Dunfermline Central	395	725	745	655	535	3.4	4.6	89	-28
Dunfermline North	415	690	685	615	465	3.9	4.3	66	-33
Dunfermline South	450	885	880	765	640	3.0	4.2	97	-28
East Neuk and Landward	185	425	440	375	260	2.6	3.7	138	-41
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	370	665	665	595	495	3.9	5.2	80	-26
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	355	635	655	575	435	3.1	3.8	85	-34
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	350	690	700	640	485	3.5	5.0	100	-31
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	175	380	410	380	270	2.2	3.4	134	-34
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	230	510	540	480	320	2.2	3.0	135	-41
Kirkcaldy Central	580	1,000	1,000	920	825	6.6	9.5	72	-18
Kirkcaldy East	640	1,025	1,055	995	835	6.9	9.0	65	-21
Kirkcaldy North	390	685	670	590	490	4.0	5.0	76	-28
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	495	830	820	730	585	4.2	5.0	68	-30
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	685	1,150	1,145	1,065	890	5.9	7.6	68	-23
Rosyth	305	595	610	510	415	3.0	4.0	100	-32
St Andrews	105	250	250	255	175	0.7	1.2	143	-31
Tay Bridgehead	190	390	410	300	235	1.9	2.4	116	-43
West Fife and Coastal Villages	355	680	680	615	470	3.7	4.9	92	-31

Source: NOMIS 12/10/2021

Again Fife, through the St Andrews ward, indicates that the areas which had lower claimant count to start with, recorded the highest percentage increase. Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay has seen the claimant count fall by 41% since August 2020 and the actual claimant count is now, September 2021, 'only' 90 individuals higher than it was pre-pandemic.

Table 11 looks at the situation in Edinburgh. Forth ward is the area where the claimant rate is currently highest at 6.0% and there are currently 1,280 people claiming. On a positive note this is a fall of 26% since the claimant count peaked in this ward in March 2021. Edinburgh is slightly at odds with the other areas in so far as the wards reached peak claimant count at a range of different times. For example, 1 ward reached its highest claimant count in May 2020, for 10 of the wards it was August 2020, 1 peaked in November 2020 and for 5 wards the peak wasn't reached until 2021 – 3 in February and 2 in March.

Six of seventeen wards in the city recorded claimant count rises of over 200% - In the other 5 LAs only North Berwick Coastal recorded a claimant count increase over 200%. Whilst still higher than it was pre-pandemic 3 of these wards now have a claimant rate of below 2%. To put this in context across the whole City Region there is only one other ward with a claimant rate below 2%. Based on the Edinburgh data it would appear therefore that the areas that experienced the worst economic shock when the pandemic began have recovered fastest and are approaching more 'normal' levels. As seen elsewhere it is the areas where claimant counts were higher to start with that are looking more sluggish at recovering.

Table 11 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward

2017 electoral wards	Feb 20	May 20	Aug 20	Nov 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Sep 21	Claimant Rate		% Increase	% Decrease
								Feb-20	Sep-21		
Almond	495	1,130	1,160	1,090	1,120	1,115	785	2.2	3.5	134	-32
City Centre	490	1,145	1,245	1,265	1,270	1,255	920	1.8	3.4	159	-28
Colinton/Fairmilehead	175	480	515	500	515	515	340	1.1	2.2	194	-34
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	120	390	390	390	380	375	265	0.8	1.7	225	-32
Craighentenny/Duddingston	550	1,430	1,490	1,440	1,445	1,435	1,000	2.7	4.8	171	-33
Drum Brae/Gyle	225	660	660	695	690	685	460	1.5	3.0	209	-34
Forth	720	1,605	1,690	1,655	1,730	1,735	1,280	3.4	6.0	141	-26
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	205	565	610	590	585	635	440	1.2	2.5	210	-31
Inverleith	220	735	775	725	700	695	435	1.0	1.9	252	-44
Leith	630	1,370	1,405	1,370	1,370	1,405	955	3.5	5.2	123	-32
Leith Walk	550	1,495	1,605	1,515	1,520	1,520	1,070	2.0	3.8	192	-33
Liberton/Gilmerton	540	1,405	1,475	1,405	1,485	1,470	1,060	2.4	4.7	175	-29
Morningside	150	495	590	535	490	500	360	0.6	1.5	293	-39
Pentland Hills	625	1,295	1,365	1,330	1,380	1,345	1,020	3.0	4.8	121	-26
Portobello/Craigmillar	625	1,480	1,555	1,495	1,535	1,535	1,070	3.2	5.2	149	-31
Sighthill/Gorgie	550	1,395	1,500	1,440	1,480	1,495	1,080	2.2	4.2	173	-28
Southside/Newington	230	700	800	735	720	710	545	0.8	1.9	248	-32

Source: NOMIS 12/10/2021

Table 12 looks at Scottish Borders. The first point to make is that with maybe three exceptions generally the claimant count increase wasn't as high as in some other areas of the region and overall, the percentage falls have been around the 30-40% mark. Again, areas that recorded higher increases appear to be ones where the higher claimant count falls have also been recorded. One possible concern is that the claimant rate is still over 3.0% across the Scottish Borders even in areas where it was low pre-pandemic.

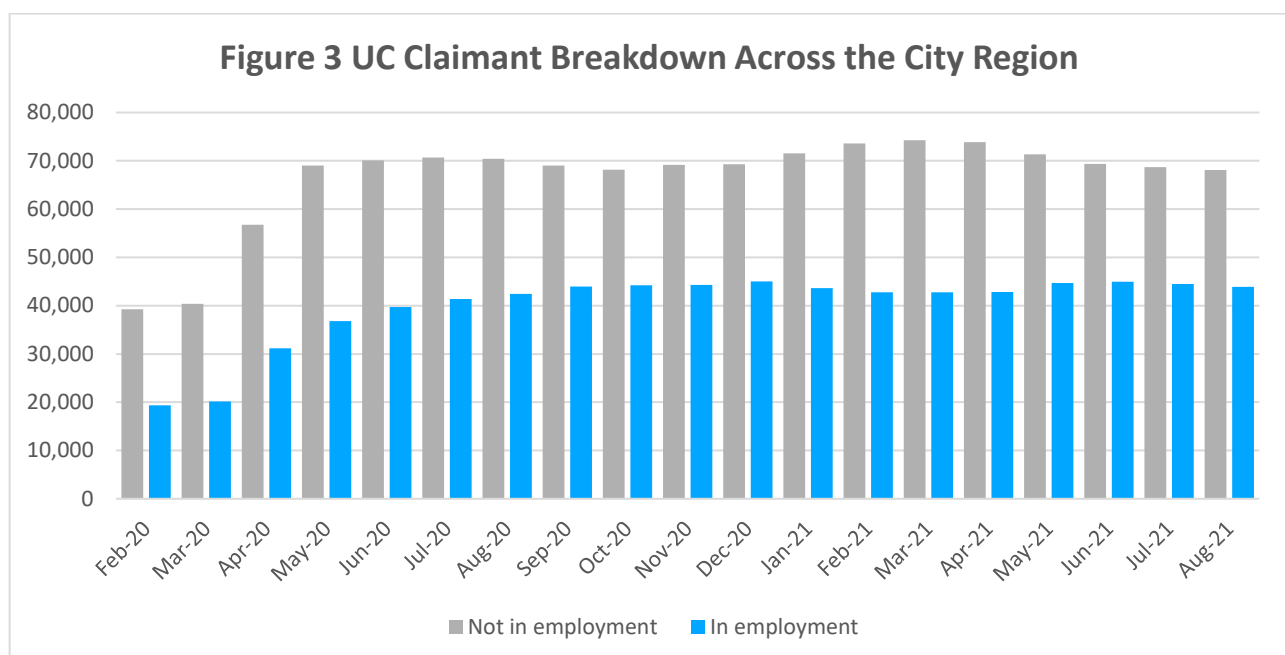
Table 12 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward

2017 electoral wards	Feb 20	May 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Mar 21	Sep-21	Claimant Rate		% Increase	% Decrease
							Feb -20	Sep-21		
East Berwickshire	160	345	340	330	315	205	2.7	3.4	116	-41
Galashiels and District	385	665	685	685	625	540	3.9	5.5	78	-21
Hawick and Denholm	235	390	400	400	420	310	4.3	5.8	79	-26
Hawick and Hermitage	180	330	335	340	340	235	3.6	4.7	89	-31
Jedburgh and District	130	290	305	300	315	235	2.5	4.5	135	-23
Kelso and District	140	295	300	300	270	205	2.4	3.6	114	-32
Leaderdale and Melrose	115	280	315	320	270	190	1.8	3.0	178	-41
Mid Berwickshire	140	300	290	300	290	180	2.3	3.0	114	-40
Selkirkshire	165	310	315	310	275	215	2.9	3.8	91	-32
Tweeddale East	105	270	280	275	250	195	1.6	3.1	167	-30
Tweeddale West	105	265	275	270	260	185	1.7	3.0	162	-33

Source: NOMIS 12/10/2021

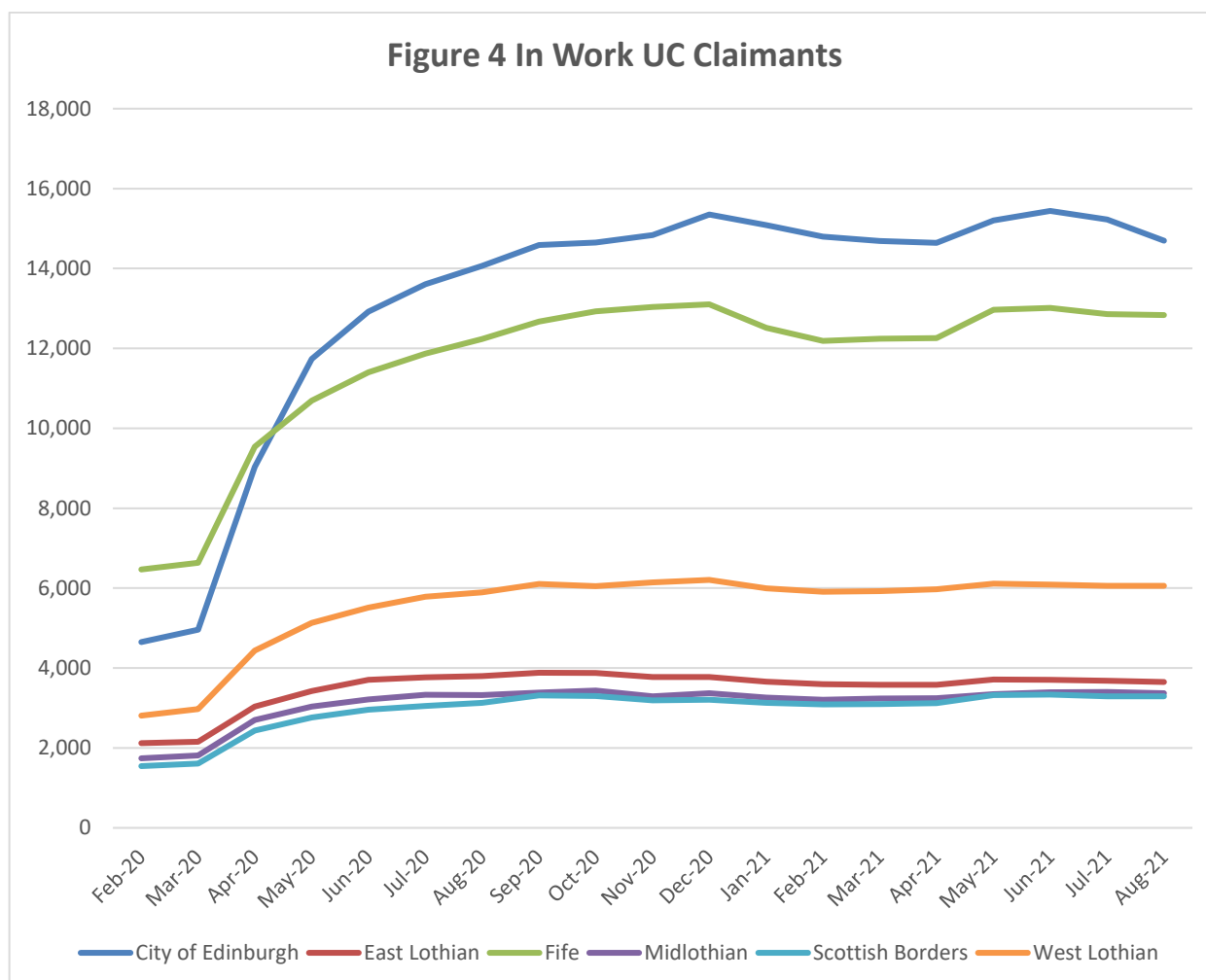
Universal Credit

Universal Credit makes up part of the claimant count looked at already in this report, however it also includes data on those who are in work but need support as their wages alone don't provide enough income. It is a benefit which was designed to replace a range of benefits including support for those on low income (income support) and benefit for those out of work (Job Seekers Allowance).



Source: StatXplore 14/10/2021

Figure 3 above looks at the increase across the region in the number of in-work and out of work universal credit claimants since February 2020. September data for UC claimants is available, however it isn't split into in and out of work categories, and as a result the August 2021 data is the most up to date that allows such a split.



Source: StatXplore 14/10/2021

Figure 4 above simply looks at those claiming UC who are in work. Whilst the more populous LAs will have higher claimant numbers, the key finding from this is that in each LA the number hasn't really gone down. It increased quickly at the start of the pandemic and then has generally risen month to month. For example, across the City Region there are now 6% more in work UC claimants than there were in July 2020 which is after the initial surge. This ranges from 8% difference in Edinburgh, Fife and Scottish Borders through 5% higher in West Lothian and 1% higher in Midlothian. East Lothian is the only LA where there has been a decrease in the in work universal credit claimants and a fall of 3% between July 2020 and August 2021 has been recorded.

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**UNLOCK THE POTENTIAL
OF YOUR WORKFORCE**

GRADUATE APPRENTICESHIPS

BE FUTURE MADE



“ As an employer we gain the benefit of a more knowledgeable, competent and motivated employee who can contribute to the business whilst studying and upskilling. It's a win-win in terms of benefit to both the employee and employer.

Jackie Archer
Head Of HR, Balfour Beatty.



UNLOCK THE POTENTIAL OF YOUR WORKFORCE

Most, if not all, sectors of the Scottish economy have been hit hard by the pandemic. As the focus turns to economic recovery, companies are beginning to look at ways to make the recovery period as short as possible.

Key areas undoubtedly include making sure that businesses continue to attract new talent *plus* identifying new ways to upskill and reskill existing employees – as cost effectively as possible.

Graduate Apprenticeships are a unique learning initiative creating degree qualified employees with key skills tailored to the needs of your business. They are ideal for both new talent and existing employees.

WHAT ARE GRADUATE APPRENTICESHIPS?

Graduate Apprenticeships (GAs) are aimed at anyone over the age of 16 who lives and works in Scotland. GAs enable employers to develop their workforce to meet the growing demands of business, allowing them to gain degree-level qualifications whilst remaining in paid employment.

The programmes have been created to address skills needs in wide range of growth sectors in the Scottish economy and they have been designed by working hand in hand with industry and employers. And importantly GAs are fully funded, meaning there are no additional fees for the business **OR** the employee (programmes are fully funded for those who meet the eligibility requirements).

THE BENEFITS OF GAS

Research has shown that GAs are proven to deliver tangible business benefits. Here are some of the key ways they can help an employer and the employee:

- **Cost effective** – the learning costs are fully funded meaning there are no additional costs to the employer or the employee. GAs are also an excellent way to recover the Apprenticeship Levy that your company may already be paying
- **Flexible learning** – we're providing learners with the flexibility to attend campus or access learning remotely
- **Boost business performance** – GAs can deliver real business benefits, including increased productivity, talent development and retention, improved service delivery and staff engagement
- **Meet your skills needs** – fill critical skills gaps with new or existing employees working toward a nationally recognised and accredited degree while developing skills tailored to the needs of your business
- **Diversify your workforce** – apprenticeships can support you to recruit and develop a diverse workforce
- **Reduce recruitment costs** – by accessing a new and sustainable talent pipeline of skills for your business
- **Fast-track your talent development** – recruit and develop high-calibre future leaders who are likely to want to remain with the organisation after graduating
- **Work-based learning** – approach ensures practical application in the business environment
- **Support young talent** – provide the first step towards a career in your industry.

HOW IT WORKS

GA is a combination of 80% work-based learning with 20% university learning. Work-based learning is basically agreed activities in the workplace that count towards the degree in terms of learning and assessment. The balance between work and study is about 4 to 1. But, importantly, because the two activities are integrated, the degree can be completed on the same timescale as a traditional undergraduate degree.

We've created additional flexibility for employers and students by making sure that all our programmes will remain accessible remotely. Learners will have the option to attend the campus (depending on any restrictions in place) or to access learning from their workplace or home.

Depending on the Graduate Apprentice's previous skills, qualifications and experience, they may qualify for flexible entry points on to the programme. The immersive nature of the apprenticeships means that candidates are adding value to their companies from day one by bringing academic knowledge back into the workplace.

WHAT GA PROGRAMMES ARE AVAILABLE AT HERIOT-WATT?

We currently offer the following courses:

- BEng (Hons) Engineering Design & Manufacture (Electronic or Mechanical)
- BEng (Hons) Instrumentation Measurement & Control
- BSc (Hons) Construction and the Built Environment
- BEng (Hons) Civil Engineering
- BSc (Hons) Data Science
- BSc (Hons) Software Development
- MA (Hons) IT Management for Business
- MA (Hons) Business Management
- MA (Hons) Business Management: Financial Services

WHY HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY?

We are a world-leading university with 5 campuses around the globe, educating leading professionals of tomorrow and generating pioneering research.

Our degrees are highly regarded for their professional relevance and we have an excellent record of preparing students for successful careers with employers like you.

We also offer a number of other added value services related to our GA programmes, including:

- Mentor skills training
- Maths diagnostics

WHAT TO DO NEXT

If you'd like to discuss any aspect of our GA programmes, including hiring a new employee or upskilling an existing employee, you can either:

Visit **WWW.HW.AC.UK/GA** and complete the Contact Form

OR

Email the team directly on **GA@HW.AC.UK**

A member of the team will get straight back to you.

WHAT DO EMPLOYERS THINK?

You don't just have to take our word for it. The Skills Development Scotland Employer Survey (2020) demonstrates how highly employers rate the benefits of GAs.

GRADUATE APPRENTICESHIPS

EMPLOYERS

100%

would take on a Graduate Apprentice again in the future



EMPLOYER BENEFITS



87%

"Improved workforce sustainability"



72%

"Filled skills gap"



70%

"Increased retention and loyalty"



65%

"Gained new thinking and ideas"



“ Our industry faces daily challenges, and we need a highly trained and motivated workforce to improve productivity and maintain quality on our projects. The graduate apprenticeship model offers us a way to grow and sustain our business, develop a talented workforce, and prevent future skills gaps.

David Lannigan
Senior Operations Manager, Morgan Sindall.



Thornton Tomasetti



“ Graduate Apprentices are a key part of our Early Talent strategy at CALA. We’ve seen first-hand through our partnership with Heriot Watt, the value in combining formal study with work-based learning, and how this can help to build the skills and knowledge that businesses like CALA need.

Rod Pearson

Head of People & Organisational Development, CALA Group.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

HOW DO I ADVERTISE A GA POSITION?

New GA roles can be advertised on www.apprenticeships.scot. We're happy to help with the wording for the job ad.

Once you have completed your recruitment process you should introduce your candidate to the University, and we will assess their suitability on a case by case basis. You may want to consider asking the university to assess your preferred candidate(s) before you make an offer.

WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

The exact entry requirements depend on each specific GA programme. Entry qualifications should be at SCQF level 6 or above. Foundation Apprenticeships are accepted in combination with other relevant qualifications. Employees may be able to gain advanced entry to the GA programme, depending on their prior learning, their previous work experience or if they have completed a Modern Apprenticeship (e.g. with HNC/HND qualification).

HOW IS THE GA DELIVERED?

We work with you to ensure that the learning experience of your apprentices develops them into the graduates you need. We will do this through an initial programme design and regular update meetings to ensure that your apprentices meet all of the required outcomes over the 4-year programme.

We help to devise projects and identify your desired outcomes for the mutual benefit of the individual and business while meeting the outcomes of the apprenticeship framework.

HOW CAN I AFFECT THE GA PROGRAMME CONTENT?

Each apprentice has an individual learning agreement (ILA) forming the basis of their learning. The ILA is individual to each apprentice and designed and discussed with both the apprentice and their employer. Formally the ILA is agreed each year but is reviewed quarterly to address any changes due to business requirements.

HOW DOES HERIOT-WATT SUPPORT THE APPRENTICE?

Heriot-Watt provides a Personal Tutor for each apprentice. You should also provide workplace mentors for your apprentices and we will provide training for mentors if required. This may also count towards CPD for your employees. The combination of Personal Tutor and Workplace Mentor provides the majority of the support for your apprentices throughout the programme, although apprentices can also get support from university staff and their colleagues in the workplace throughout.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE EMPLOYER?

Employers participating in the Graduate Apprenticeship programme must:

- consider whether a candidate has a reasonable chance of achieving the selected programme during the selection process – this includes not only the course content but the acquisition of wider graduate attributes. We will help with this
- provide agreed information to support the candidate's application to the degree course
- provide apprentices with suitable opportunities for the type of experience in the workplace that will support their learning and skills acquisition

- provide each apprentice with a nominated mentor who must be readily accessible by the apprentice and to the university
- liaise with the university on the content and practical activities in the apprentice's individual learning and training plan
- provide information that will support the individual apprentice and their assessment

WHICH COMPANIES CAN TAKE ON A GRADUATE APPRENTICE?

There is no restriction on the size of organisation, industry or location (in Scotland).

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR APPLYING?

The deadline for applications is in August, but please apply as soon as possible once you are certain you want to enter the programme, so that we can reserve a place for you.

PARTNER WITH US TODAY

VISIT **WWW.HW.AC.UK/GA**
EMAIL **GA@HW.AC.UK**

AND FOLLOW US ON



BE FUTURE MADE

CPP COVID-19 Dataset

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to present the latest data within the CPP COVID-19 sentinel dataset, for information.

2. Recommendations

The Board is asked to note the dataset.

3. Discussion

The CPP has developed a sentinel dataset, identifying a handful of indicators in order to track the impact of COVID-19 on communities. The dataset is updated monthly and provides an early indication of changes to West Lothian society. Work has been ongoing to review the indicators within the dataset to ensure that wider societal harms of COVID-19 are included. A number of additional indicators have been agreed and are now included in the dataset.

The indicators are listed below:

- Claimant Count
- Furloughed jobs data
- Key business status
- Food parcel distribution
- Scottish Welfare Fund grants
- Education Maintenance Allowance
- Free School Meals and Free Clothing Grant
- Rent Arrears
- Council Tax Arrears
- Gender Based Violence
- Child & Adult Protection
- Homelessness
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Fire Crew Resilience Levels
- **Delayed Discharge**

Appendix 1 provides the latest data for each of these indicators. Appendix 2 provides further contextual information.

The dataset was discussed at the CPP Steering Group on 2 November and a number of suggestions were made in relation to ensuring that the dataset is complete, in that the right measurements are used and it provides a rounded picture of the current

situation. It is important that the information included in the dataset is relevant, meaningful and attributable to COVID-19, allowing the partnership to understand and measure the impact that the pandemic has had, and is currently having on our communities. These changes have been incorporated into the dataset.

Work is ongoing to look at how we measure mental health and wellbeing - A key area of focus for the CPP. Further discussion has been had with West Lothian College around the data they hold and the potential to develop 'stories' to capture people's lived experience, giving a more rounded and powerful picture of the impact on our communities. There will also potentially be population level data available through an upcoming population health survey being carried out by NHS public health. Officers are linking in with public health on this.

4. Summary of Implications

Relevant LOIP outcome (s)	ALL
Relevant LOIP performance indicator (s)	ALL
Resources	N/A
Link to prevention/community engagement	The dataset will help the CPP to shape future activity which will have a focus on prevention
Impact on inequalities	The dataset will help the CPP identify areas of inequality in relation to the indicators that are included.
Key risks	N/A

5. Consultations

The CPP Steering Group were consulted in the development of the dataset. Partners have been involved in discussions around potential additional indicators for inclusion.

6. Conclusions

The COVID-19 dataset has been updated to reflect current data. Work is ongoing to ensure that wider societal harms are incorporated into the dataset. The Board are asked to note the updated dataset.

Report written by/contact details/date

Susan Gordon, Community Planning Development Officer, November 2021

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References N/A

Appendices

Appendix 1: COVID-19 Dataset – Latest Data

Appendix 2: COVID-19 Dataset Narrative

COVID-19 Sentinel Data Set

November 2021

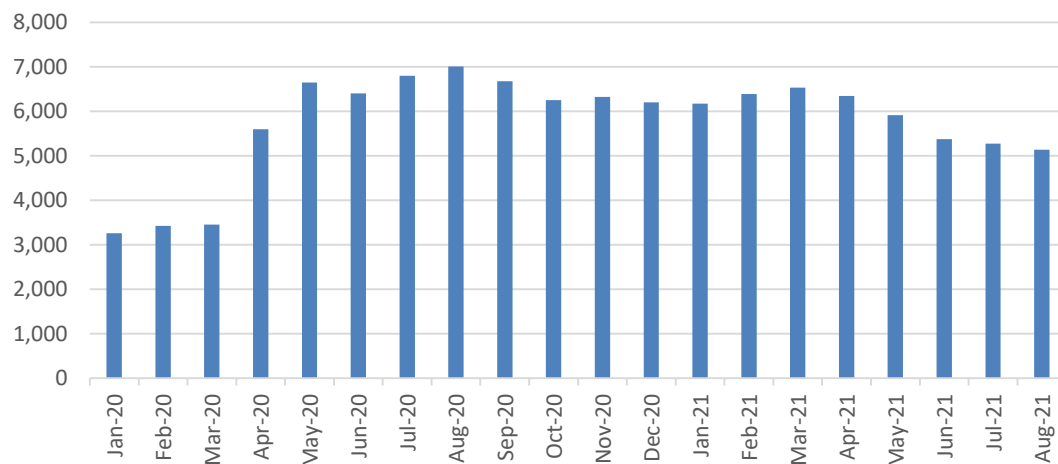


West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Claimant Count

	West Lothian claimant count	West Lothian Claimant Rate	Scotland claimant rate
Jun-20	6,405	5.5	6.1
Jul-20	6,800	5.8	6.3
Aug-20	7,005	6.0	6.4
Sep-20	6,675	5.7	6.2
Oct-20	6,255	5.3	5.9
Nov-20	6,325	5.4	6.0
Dec-20	6,200	5.3	5.9
Jan-21	6,175	5.3	5.9
Feb-21	6,385	5.4	6.1
Mar-21	6,530	5.6	6.1
Apr-21	6,345	5.4	5.9
May-21	5,915	5.0	5.5
Jun-21	5,490	4.7	5.2
Jul-21	5,270	4.5	5.0
Aug-21	5,135	4.4	4.9

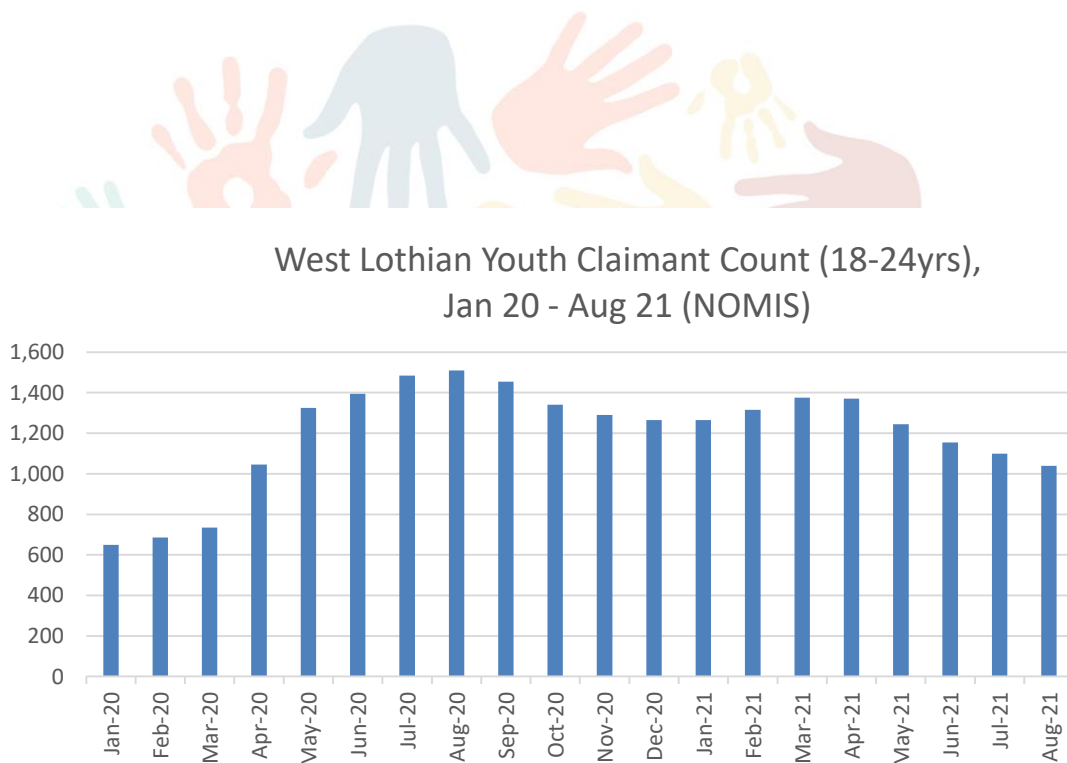
West Lothian Claimant Count, Jan 20 - Aug 21 (NOMIS)



Youth Unemployment

Youth Claimant Count (18-24)	West Lothian claimant count	West Lothian claimant rate	Scotland
Jun-20	1,395	9.9	9.1
Jul-20	1,485	10.6	9.7
Aug-20	1,510	10.7	9.6
Sep-20	1,455	10.3	9.1
Oct-20	1,340	9.5	8.6
Nov-20	1,290	9.2	8.4
Dec-20	1,265	9.0	8.3
Jan-21	1,265	9.0	8.2
Feb-21	1,315	9.4	8.4
Mar-21	1,375	9.9	8.7
Apr-21	1,370	9.9	8.5
May-21	1,245	9.0	7.9
Jun-21	1,170	8.4	7.4
Jul-21	1,100	7.9	7.1
Aug-21	1,040	7.5	6.9

Number of claimants aged 18 -24 in West Lothian



Furlough Scheme

Month	Total number of employments furloughed	Eligible employments	Take up Rate
June*	21,700	88,400	25%
July	26,000	88,400	29%
August	27,600	88,400	31%
September	6,800	88,400	8%
October	5,900	88,400	7%
November	7,700	88,400	9%
December	9,100	88,400	10%
January	12,400	88,000	14%
February	12,100	88,000	14%
March	11,000	85,700	13%
April	8,600	85,700	10%
May	5,500	83,900	7%
June	4,300	83,900	5%
July	3,500	83,900	4%

Note: July figures are provisional and may be revised due to late and amended claims.

SEISS

	Month	Total no. of claims made	Total potentially eligible population	Average value of claims	Take up Rate
WL SEISS 1 Claims to 31st Oct	June	4,400	6,000	2,800	73%
	July	4,600	6,000	2,800	76%
	August	4,600	6,000	2,800	76%
	September	3,800	6,000	2,500	64%
	October	4,100	6,000	2,500	69%
	November	4,600	6,000	2,800	77%
WL SEISS 2nd grant extension Claims received up to 31 Oct 2020	November - January	4,200	6,000	2,500	71%
WL SEISS 3rd grant extension Claims received up to 31 Jan 2021	February - April	4,000	6,000	2,800	67%
WL SEISS 4th grant extension Claims received up to 6 Jun 2021	May - September	3,700	6,000	2,800	62%
WL SEISS 5th Grant Extension Claims received up to 15 Aug 2021	July - September	1,600	6,000	2,300	26%

Food Support

May	3,830
June	4,137
July	4,097
August	3,516
September	3,021
October	3,759
November	4,044
December	4,828
January	4,620
February	4,553
March	4,374
April	4,218
May	3,951
June	3,939
July	3,533
August	3,793

Food support provided
weekly



West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Scottish Welfare Fund

Scottish Welfare Fund

	Crisis Grants		Community Care Grants	
01 March – 31 December 2020	10297	778,499.78	2348	830,742.04
01 January-31 March 2021	3605	371,431.43	732	312,963.81
01 April – 30 September 2021	5933	533706.42	1389	601,650.72



West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Self Isolation

Self Isolation Support Grant

Date	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sept-21	Oct-21
Self Isolation Applications	205	219	280	105	79	382	764	406	508	283
Granted	36	107	124	41	27	217	344	137	39	34
Refused	169	105	147	61	49	160	420	166	73	41
Outstanding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	103	396	207
Reconsideration	11	7	9	3	3	4	18	1	1	1
Awarded	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0
Refused	11	7	9	3	3	4	11	1	1	1
Applied for a Crisis Grant	45	20	34	16	16	16	36	23	48	19
Awarded a Crisis	24	13		9	11	9	24	15	35	15
Refused a crisis	21	7	10	7	5	7	12	8	13	4
Awaiting Decision	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Schools Support

Education Maintenance Allowance

Academic year	EMA payments
2019/20	701
2020/21	685
2021/22	482 (02/11)

Clothing Grants

Academic year	Children
2019/20	7035
2020/21	7921
2021/22	7123 (02/11)

Free School Meals

Academic year	Children
2019/20	5637
2020/21	6373 (FSM only)
2021/22	3389 (02/11)



Council Tax

Comparative cumulative percentage collection rates of the total amount due for the year at the end of each month.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept
2019/20 Cumulative Collection Rate	88.51%	92.91%	95.90%	11%	19.35%	27.83%	36.35%	44.84%	53.87%
2020/21 Cumulative Collection Rate	87.36%	92.07%	95.26%	11.55%	20.22%	28.83%	37.39%	45.99%	54.82%
Movement in 2020/21 to 2019/20	-1.15%	-0.84%	-0.64%	0.55%	0.87%	1%	1.04%	1.15%	0.95%

Council Tax Reduction Caseload

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept
2019/20 Council Tax Reduction Caseload	14,493	14,566	14,499	15,497	15,645	15,433	15,533	15,496	15,411
2020/21 Council Tax Reduction Caseload	15,199	15,173	15,117	15,104	14,998	15,000	14,748	14,570	14,387
Movement in caseload	706	607	618	-393	-647	-433	-785	-843	-1006

Rent Arrears

Current Arrears Overall (Mainstream + Temporary Accommodation)

	Total
November	£3,988,322
December	£3,300,988
January	£3,516,718
February	£3,677,837
March	£2,978,530
April	£3,156,370
May	£3,306,635
June	£3,488,182
July	£3,730,450
August	£3,917,470
September	£4,150,768
October	£4,252,776



Gender Based Violence

Measure	Q4 18/19	Q1 19/20	Q2 19/20	Q3 19/20	Q4 19/20	Q1 20/21	Q2 20/21	Q3 20/21	Q4 20/21	Q1 21/22
Number of DASAT referrals	381	373	443	400	383	403	488	401	481	535
Number of Police Incidents		593	568	558	571	738	768	551	578	662
Percentage of incidents becoming a crime							42% (323)	45% (247)	45% (261)	



Adult Protection

Adults at risk

	Adult Protection Referrals and Outcomes								
	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Total
Further AP Action	75	60	77	67	101	83	55	90	1,153
Further Non-AP Action	23	18	20	31	29	21	26	29	405
No Further Action	3	3	2	1	1	4	3	0	56
Not Known	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	9	17

Child Protection

Percentage of Children with Child Protection Plans receiving contact within timescale

	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21
%age	99.02	100	100	99.65	100	99.3	97.16	96.77	99.73	99.19	99.76

Percentage of Children with a Multi-Agency Plan receiving contact within the timescale

	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21
%age	81.5	83.11	82.93	82.35	81.83	81.8	81.51	82.2	84.76	83.44	84.5

Percentage of Children Eligible for Aftercare receiving contact within the timescale

	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21
%age	66.42	66.37	60.64	58.77	62.06	64.39	51.7	47.1	65.88	66.92	50.66



Homelessness

Number of homeless applications

	Q1 20/21	Q2 20/21	Q3 20/21	Q4 20/21	Q1 21/22	Total 20/21	Total 21/22
Homeless Presentations	362	383	294	425	330	1464	330

Average length of stay in temporary accommodation which has ended

Temporary accommodation average length of stay (days)	Q1 20/21	Q2 20/21	Q3 20/21	Q4 20/21	Q1 21/22	Total 20/21	Total 21/22
Total (ALL)	75.6	97.9	104.2	95.1	111.1	93	111.1



Anti-Social Behaviour

No. of ASB Incidents Reported to WLC, Safer Neighbourhood Team

Table 1

Year	Complaints Received Monthly				Total Number of Complaints
2021/22	April	May	June	July	1788
	483	401	456	448	

Table 2

Year	Complaints Received Monthly				Total Number of Complaints
2020/21	April	May	June	July	1803
	421	396	437	549	

Crew Resilience

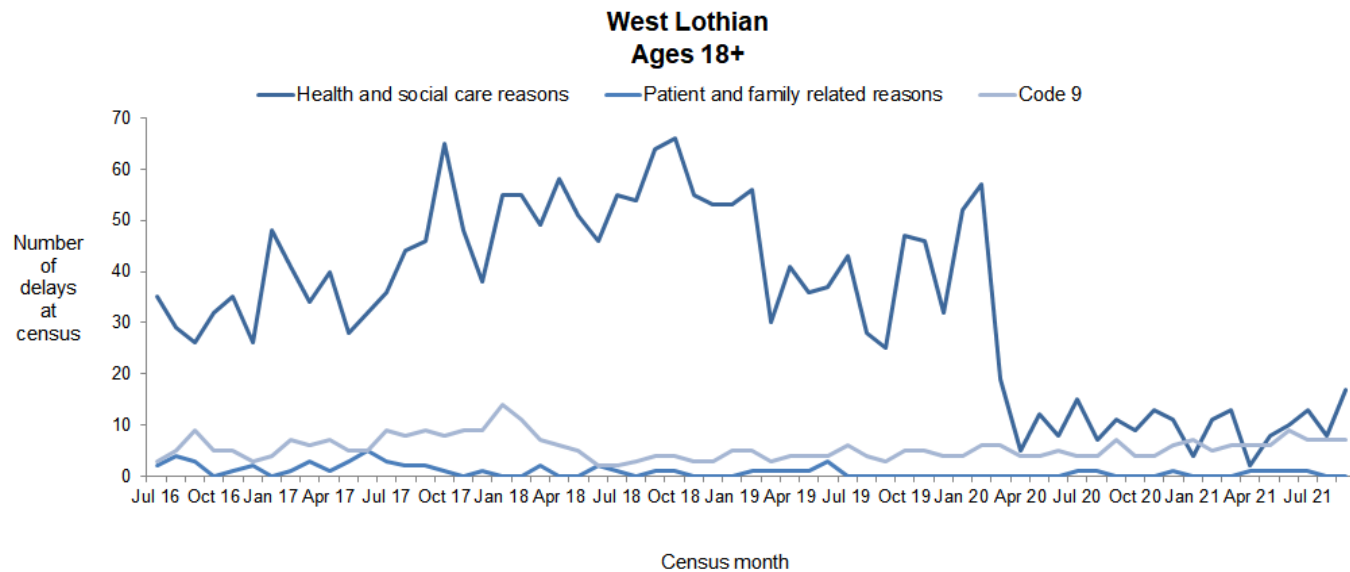
SFRS Crewing Resilience

Period Measured	Q4 19/20	Q1 20/21	Q2 20/21	Q3 20/21	Q4 20/21	Q1 21/22
Anticipated Crewing Levels	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Actual Crewing Levels	100%	98%	96%	97%	97%	96%

Delayed Discharge

Type of Delay	Reason for delay	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
All delays ²	Total delays at census point	9	15	20	21	15	24

Delayed Discharge Census by Delay Reason



West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

West Lothian COVID-19 sentinel dataset commentary

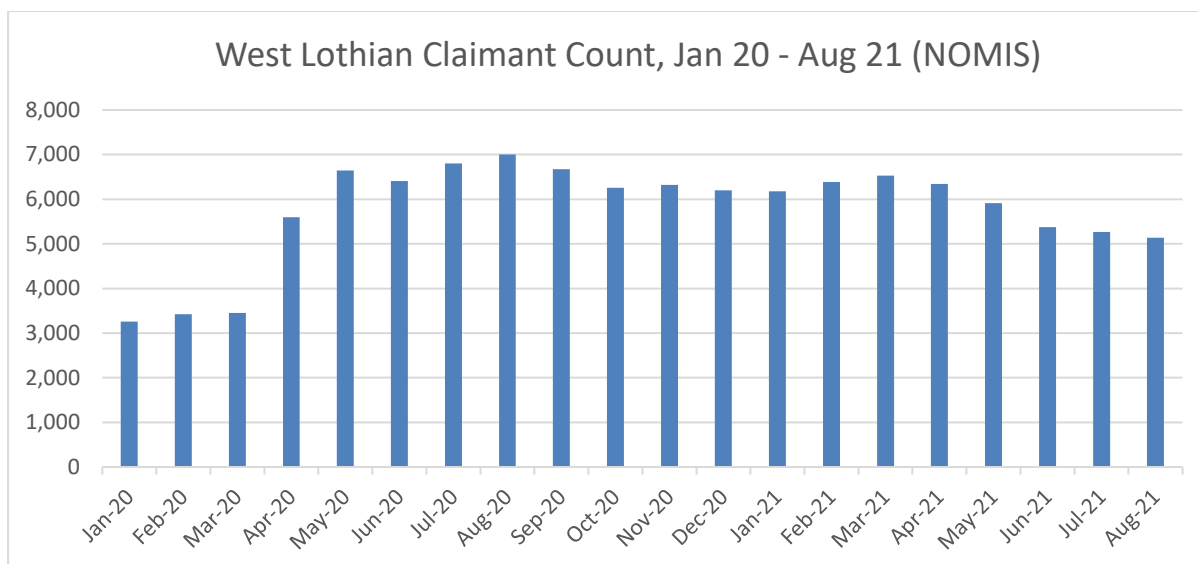
October 2021

Key Messages

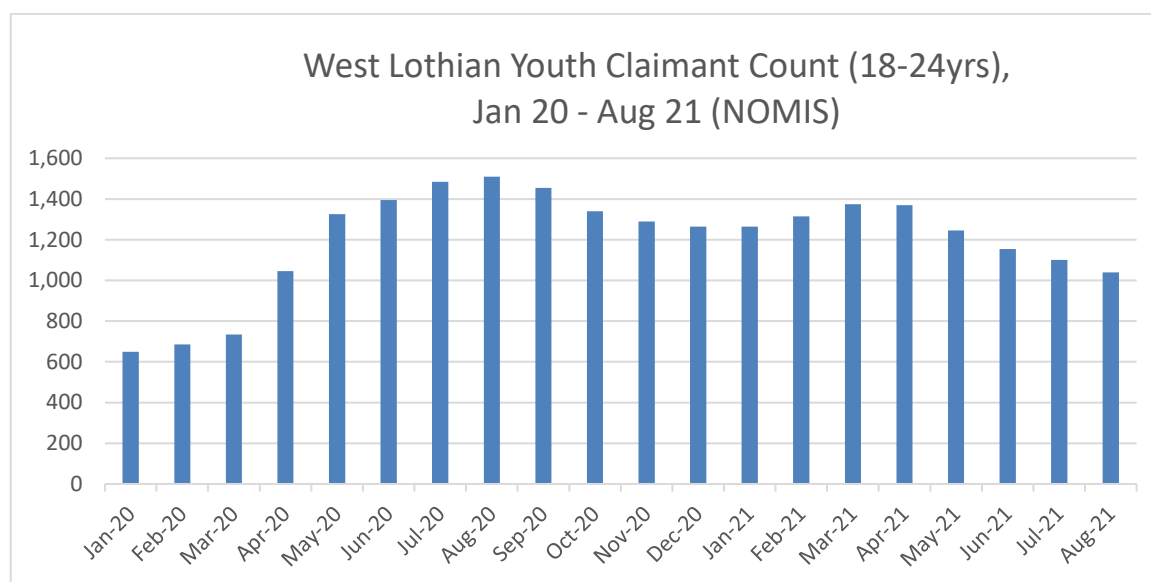
- Claimant count has decreased slightly to 4.4%. and remains at a lower rate than both Scotland and UK.
- Youth unemployment remains slightly higher than the Scottish average.
- There is uncertainty about the impact on the economy of the potential withdrawal of furlough and SEISS.
- There is concern about the proposed withdrawal of increased Universal Credit payments on the most vulnerable citizens in West Lothian.
- There have been changes implemented to the criteria for COVID self-isolation support grants. This will potentially reduce the numbers able to apply.
- Scottish Welfare Fund made payments to 10,696 people in 2020/21 up from 6,635 in 2019/20. The numbers continue to increase.

Claimant Count

The latest rate at 4.4% is slightly lower than July (4.5%) and indicates that the jobs furlough scheme has continued to insulate the labour market and a continued recovery in the jobs market following the last lockdown, particularly as both hospitality and retail have now returned to a more or less normal working situation, as Scotland has moved out of the COVID-19 levels system and is now beyond Level 0 restrictions. Since April 2021 the claimant rate has fallen consistently month to month; originally the month to month fall was more dramatic than it is now. The share of workers on furlough has also continued to fall. However, with a large share of jobs still supported, and the government furlough scheme closing at the end of September, there remains a high degree of uncertainty in the labour market and the impact this may have on the claimant count.



Youth claimant figures for West Lothian have seen a gradual reduction since March, returning to levels last seen around April last year. Claimant rates for 18-24 year olds still remain slightly higher than the Scottish average. Young people have borne the brunt of the Covid crisis over the last year, amid large-scale job losses in sectors such as hospitality and retail, however with the ending of lockdown restrictions we have now seen these sectors returning to work and an increase in job vacancies. It is worth noting that as of end of July there were still 360 individuals under the age of 25 still receiving furlough support. At the end of September with the end of furlough support, some may return to work, while others may be re-entering the jobs market and may need to claim UC support in the interim. We may therefore see an uptick in youth claimants over the coming few months.



It should be noted that many West Lothian residents work in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Job cuts in Edinburgh may have impacted the West Lothian claimant count numbers.

Universal Credit statistics for each of the 6 LAs for July 2021 which compares this to February 2020 (18 months), August 2020 (12 months) and to the previous month. Overall, the greatest increase has been

in the number claiming UC but still in work. This covers some differences ranging from a 227% increase in Edinburgh to a 73% increase in East Lothian. For West Lothian the overall increase is 116% since pre-first lockdown Feb 2020.

Whilst the number claiming and being out of work has fallen in all regions since August 2020, (in WL - 2% over 12 months), the same can't be said for those in work where almost universally the numbers have continued to grow. According to StatXplore in July there were 44,519 people in the City Region who were in work but were not receiving enough in wages and would qualify for in-work support through UC.

Will the improving labour market have an impact on these numbers? Arguably it hasn't yet and whilst this may be a lag, in that those in work take longer to come off of benefits than those out of work, it could also be that some of those that are out of work are getting jobs but are finding they are not paid enough to live on and are moving from one side of UC to the other.

Job Retention Furlough Scheme and Self-Employment Income Support

By August 2020, 27,600 West Lothian jobs had been protected by the furlough scheme. But gradual withdrawal of support meant that the number of jobs protected dropped significantly to 6,800 in September, and also potentially due to a number of people going back to work as lockdown restrictions eased. The drop in figures in September and October from the peak in July and August is attributable to the reduced percentage of CJRS payment support and expectation of furlough support ending 31 October. Take up increased from November 2020 (7,700) to 12,400 in January 2021 with a slight decrease in February (12,100).

Scotland moved out of the COVID-19 levels system in August and is now beyond Level 0 restrictions. We have seen a slow recovery in the jobs market, particularly as hospitality, retail, wholesale and logistics, and administrative and support service sectors have now returned to a more normal working situation. The share of workers on furlough has continued to fall. At the end of July, 4% of West Lothian workforce were furloughed compared to 5% of the Scottish workforce. However, with a large share of jobs still supported, and the government furlough scheme having closed at the end of September, there remains a high degree of uncertainty in the labour market for the coming few months. A further observation is that many people coming out of furlough support may not have been active in a job for up to 18 months, and may not be job ready. If these individuals do not return to a job, they will be re-entering the jobs market and likely to need access to reskilling / upskilling training. Job seekers may take differing routes through Employability, Advice Shop, CAB, College, or Third sector.

The Self-Employment Income Support Grant Scheme began on 13 May 2020 and has provided support to the self-employed in West Lothian. Original take up rate was substantial, with 73% initial take up to June '20 (4,400), peaking in July and August at 76% (4,600). The average value of grant claims for the first support scheme was £2,800 ending in November '20. SEISS was extended in the form of three further grants, each available for 3-month periods covering November 2020 to January 2021, February to April 2021, and a final period covering May to September 2021. There was a 71% take up rate for the second grant extension (with an average claim of £2,500), a 67% take up rate for the third grant extension (with an average claim of £2,800). The fourth grant extension, covering May to June saw a 62% take up rate with an average claim of £2,800. The fifth, and final extension covering July to September there has been a 26% take up rate so far (claims made up until 15th August) with an

average claim of £1,600 – notably a reduction by over half from the previous grant extension period. Note that in the run up to the end of furlough support, some self-employed may have become self-reliant again with the advent of Scotland moving out of the COVID-19 levels system and pick-up of the economy. Other self-employed individuals would need to consider the viability of their business going forward from the end of September, and possibly opted out of self-employment.

Total Employment

The economic development team has been monitoring key employers in West Lothian. These 207 businesses employ almost 21,000 people in the area. 103 companies provide no cause for concern; 66 businesses are at amber status and 28 businesses are showing cause for concern. There is no information on the other 10 companies. There has not been much change in the status of these companies over the last few months.

There are signs of business growth in the pharmaceuticals and life sciences sector.

PACE data

The PACE scheme means that Skills Development Scotland works with local economic development teams to support employees who face redundancy in companies with any number of employees. It is, however, difficult to monitor the economic wellbeing of smaller businesses as there is no system to identify their difficulties. It is possible that companies make redundancies below a level that instigates support so therefore not visible within PACE statistics. The West Lothian Business Gateway support team has identified some smaller companies that have made redundancies and is providing support to staff in these organisations. In addition, a local employability helpline via West Lothian Council's contact centre has been introduced. We are not seeing as many redundancies as other areas; however as noted above, job losses in surrounding areas may impact on job losses in West Lothian. The recent announcement on the cancellation of the UK Government's contract with local employer Valneva, has raised concerns for the potential loss of around 200 jobs. No formal HR1 notification for redundancy has been received, and Valneva continues to explore contract opportunities with the EU. There is now a local PACE contact in place and work is being carried out to review relevant redundancies in surrounding areas to report to the weekly economic recovery group.

Food Support

From May 2020 to the end of August 2021, the West Lothian Food Network has provided a total of 1,818,642 meals. The numbers accessing provision had shown a small decrease over the summer months. However, this is now increasing and is expected to continue to increase as a result of the end of furlough, the removal of the Universal Credit uplift and the continuing increasing cost of living. It is worth noting that the 'nature' of the need relating to food has changed. During lockdown periods the need arose from the fact that people could not access food however now over 80% of those accessing the food network were financially at risk on low income, unemployed and eligible for free school meals. The Food Network has experienced challenges in obtaining food most notably fresh produce. This reflects what is happening across the whole of the system with distribution challenges in moving produce into and across the country. There has been a reduction in the number of donations

to the Food Bank; Tesco and Trussell Trust have launched a nationwide campaign to support customers to donate whilst they are shopping in the lead up to Christmas.

Scottish Welfare Fund

Scottish Welfare Fund made payments to 10,696 people in 2020/21 up from 6,635 in 2019/20. This is just over a 60% increase and to date there has been no reduction in applications to the fund. Scottish Government funding has returned to pre-Covid levels however West Lothian Council has committed £1m to the fund for 2021/22 and £1m for 2022/23 to support the increasing levels of applications.

At the end of September 2021, there had been 3,653 applications to the Self-Isolation Support Grant Fund with 1,202 grants awarded. The numbers applying continue to increase with younger people applying who are in part-time, temporary jobs in the hospitality/retail sector. The criteria for the award will change in October: the application form, website and front-line staff have all been updated on this expected change.

There are currently 336 Self-Isolation Grants outstanding as at 02/11/21. We are not currently experiencing the reduction in applications expected as a result of the new SIG guidance from 13 October onwards. The new guidance only allows those that either test positive for COVID-19 or are a close contact but not yet fully vaccinated to apply for a grant. If they meet this initial qualifying criterion, their income and working arrangements still need to fall within guidance before a grant will be made.

Schools: Education Maintenance Allowance, Free School Meals and Clothing Grants

Applications have been received for Education Maintenance Allowance which is now available as an online application. Payments cannot commence until a learning agreement is in place between the school and pupil and this is usually agreed in the first weeks of the new term with payments backdated to the beginning of the term. As at the 2nd of November 2021, 482 pupils have received at least one payment of Education Maintenance Allowance. Some of the potential applications will not be eligible until January 2022.

The main reason for the reduced number in the report is because this is a snapshot as at 2 November 21. Education Grants are applied for and awarded up to the end of the academic year ie end of June 22. The previous years figures are not an 'as at' but reflect the total number of awards for the whole academic years 2019/20 and 2020/21. I must add however, that there is an expected decrease in the numbers this year due to the fact that we are starting from scratch in relation to the application process.

Over the autumn holiday, those pupils eligible for free school meals due to low income have been paid £15 per week for the holiday period. Those children also qualified for a £160 low income autumn pandemic payment. There will be a further low-income winter payment of £130 which will be paid prior to Christmas.

Pupils who are eligible for free school meals due to low income and, who are self-isolating, will be paid £3 per day in lieu of free school meals for the duration of the self-isolation period. There is an online

form to apply and this information has been cascaded to all schools and parents. Payments are underway.

The Scottish Government committed to increase the School Clothing Grant to £120 to commence in this academic year. West Lothian Council further committed to raise the school clothing grant to £150 for primary and £180 for secondary school pupils. Due to the changes in grant, there has been a delay in the commencement of processing of grants but these are now underway.

For the 20/21 Academic year, the council took the decision to transfer all cases over from the 19/20 academic year and automatically award both SCG's and FSM's therefore as well as all the new applications, at the equivalent point last year, the whole of the 19/20 case load for FSM's for P4 and above was sitting on SEEMiS records for 20/21 which was around 4000 records.

This year that has not happened and cases are added as they apply. As of 02/11/21 we have 3389 pupils from P5 upwards entitled to FSM's. Please note that no P4's are included in this 'as at' figure for Sept 21 because of the change to Universal Free School Meal entitlement changing from P1 to P3 to P1 to P4 in August 21 and 7123 pupils in receipt of a clothing grant.

To encourage applications, we have:

- Emailed all parents who received FSM's for their children in the 20/21 academic year and requested they apply by giving them the link to the form.
- Fortnightly FB and twitter posts are pushed out
- We have run reports from SEEMiS for those that were awarded SCG only, provided them with the qualifying conditions for FSM and encouraged them to apply if appropriate
- Sent follow up emails to those we have asked for information from if we don't get it within a short period of time
- We have also sent out a group call to encourage take up of FSM's

Low Income Pandemic Payment

Scottish Government has committed to pay households in receipt of Council Tax Reduction (or who are exempt) a one-off payment of £130. To be eligible, you need to have been in receipt of CTRS for at least one day during April 2021. There are approximately 17,000 who are eligible and work is underway to contact customers, obtain bank details and make payment prior to October 2021.

Rent and Council Tax Arrears

For HCBS the collection rate for the YTD as of week 31 remains excellent at 95.4%. HCBS has collected £36,284,032 in revenue vs a charge of £38,030,166. The current position is within forecast and targets for the service

The overall increased arrears in comparison to last year are as a result of Full Service Universal Credit being introduced in West Lothian from May 2018, along with other Welfare Benefit reforms and the current economic climate. At this time COVID impacts are being monitored for but the service has not yet identified this as a significant impact to Revenue.

In the same week last year HCBS ward had 2979 Universal Credit (UC) households. Since then the number of UC households has increased by 8.4%.

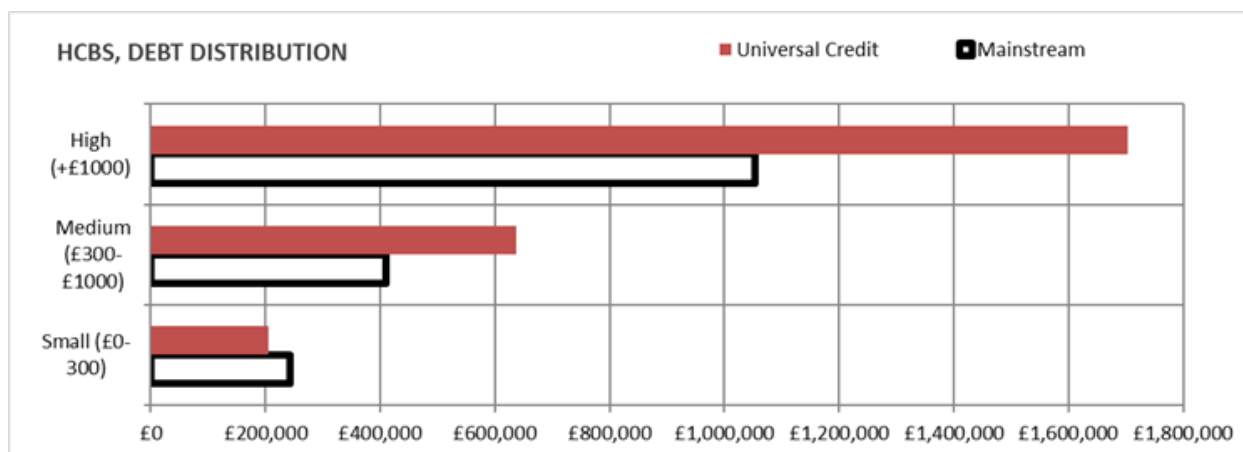
The number of tenancies in arrears has increased by 49 since last year. Small debt cases (£300 or less), account for 52.5% of households. Small debt is likely to be the natural movement of balances for customers on monthly payment cycles

There are 1158 serious arrears cases (+£1000 in arrears). These cases are 17.9% of all households in arrears in this area, containing 64.8% of the debt.

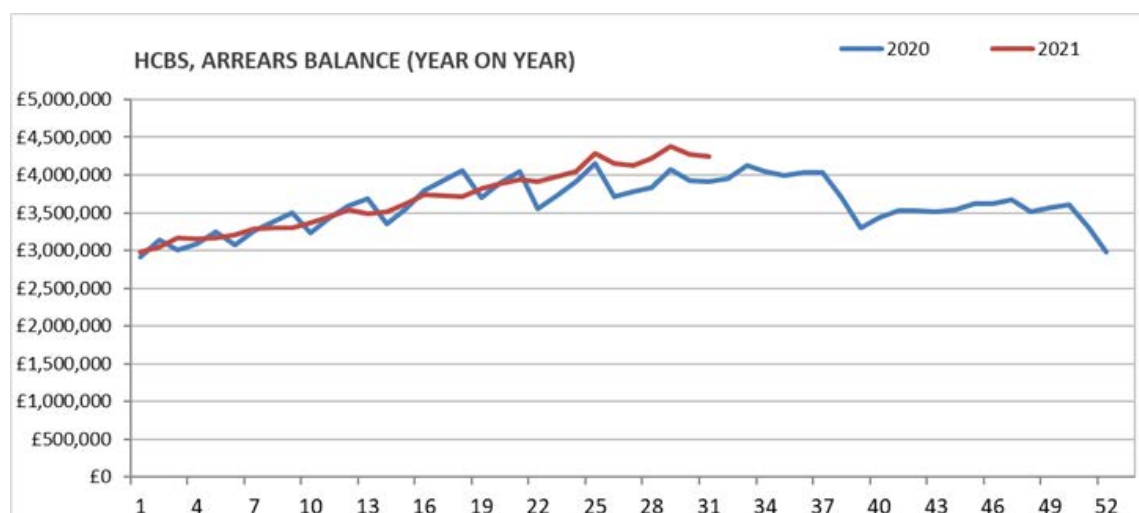
The arrears position for HCBS is £4,252,776. This is an increase of £345,588 on last year's position.

During the course of this year we plan to focus on the following:

- Making best use of resources by considering communicating more with customers through SMS, email and telephone
- Benchmarking with other local authorities to ensure we identify and consider implementing any best practice
- Performance Monitoring and Reporting will be reviewed and where appropriate streamlined to ensure information is meaningful and robust to assist with improving rent arrears due.
- Promote Alternative payment methods, particularly the Tenant's Self Service Portal



Arrears Banding	2020/21 (WK31)				2021/22 (WK31)			
	Mainstream		UC		Mainstream		UC	
	Balance	#	Balance	#	Balance	#	Balance	#
£0.01 to £99.99	£54,773	1160	£20,643	368	£47,720	1058	£24,961	442
£100.00 to £299.99	£208,400	1072	£137,586	682	£195,041	978	£181,038	907
£300.00 to £499.99	£156,967	409	£200,859	512	£147,947	390	£207,926	533
£500.00 to £749.99	£138,847	227	£228,960	374	£144,618	236	£239,305	394
£750.00 to £999.99	£122,370	141	£244,745	284	£118,337	136	£190,010	221
£1000.00 to £1999.99	£356,571	259	£681,845	484	£320,404	232	£592,077	424
£2000+	£509,533	157	£845,087	275	£732,915	193	£1,110,477	309
Group Total	£1,547,462	3425	£2,359,726	2979	£1,706,983	3223	£2,545,793	3230
Movement					(+) £159,521	(-) 202	(+) £186,067	(+) 251
Overall Total			£3,907,188	6404			£4,252,776	6453
Overall Movement							(+) £345,588	(+) 49



Housing has made no evictions since the start of lockdown, and as any eviction process can take many months there is a low likelihood of any evictions for the rest of the financial year. Maximum debt on accounts has increased largely due to the removal of eviction actions as persistent non-payers who would have been evicted have remained with larger than normal outstanding balances with the largest single balance as of week 26 at £14195.

The largest real debt driver continues to be the transition of customers from legacy Housing Benefit onto Universal Credit due to the break in benefits during the initial Universal Credit assessment period.

Council Tax income collection has increased in the first 4 months of the year compared to the same months in 2020/21 and is also tracking at a higher rate for the same months in 2019/20.

GBV

Domestic abuse incidents have increased largely when lockdown measures have eased, increases have shown in Quarters 1 and 2 of 2020-21 and in Quarter 1 of 2021-22. Incidents becoming a crime remains fairly static.

High levels of referral to DASAT have followed police incidents. 2021-22 saw a 15% increase on the previous year. Quarter 1 of 2021-22 saw the largest ever number of referrals to DASAT.

Child Protection

West Lothian remained a strong performer in terms of contacting those subject to child protection and multi-agency plans and also those in receipt of aftercare. This data is no longer requested by Scottish Government so it is recommended the Covid data set consists of;

Child Protection registration and de-registration

Registration for domestic abuse reasons

Number of Looked After Children

Numbers becoming looked after and accommodated.

Homelessness

The number of homeless applications has declined since the last quarter which is positive however the length of stay in temporary accommodation has increased. The reasons for this are: at the start of lockdown there was significant impacts on the amount of available lets due to restrictions in lettings and trades, lets were therefore significantly reduced meaning homeless applications ended up staying longer periods in temporary accommodation. We are still dealing with the impact of COVID and have significant backlogs of homeless applicants waiting for permanent housing. Prior to COVID we already had significant supply pressures however COVID has now exacerbated that.

Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents

The number of antisocial behaviour incidents reported to the Safer Neighbourhood Team during the financial year 2021 to-date is 1788 incidents compared to 1803 for the same reporting period last year. Despite the COVID-19 restrictions being in place during the 2020/21 reporting period, there were only 15 less incidents reported in 2021/22.

Whilst members of the community had restricted movements during lockdown periods and were confined to being home, this still caused some community tensions. For many reasons, some people in our communities found coping with the restrictions of the COVID-19 lockdown lowered their tolerance levels to cope with everyday living noise and neighbour activities. As a result, the Council received complaints that were low level, nuisance noise or normal household living noise that would not constitute as antisocial behaviour (ASB). Some examples include washing machines being switched on, children playing, people physically working out in their home to keep fit, watering plants and water splashing on windows etc.

Some, however, experienced genuine antisocial behaviour; usually in the form of noisy music, people partying and in breach of lockdown rules. Some of the more serious antisocial behaviour has required a multi-agency approach in order to prevent escalation of incidents. Where the antisocial behaviour was not subsiding, evidence was gained and ASBOs sought through the normal Legal process, which was still available as COVID-19 restrictions continued. As the COVID restrictions changed over the course of 2020, the risk assessment and safe operational processes were

developed to enable officers from the Council Safer Neighbourhood Team to be remobilised therefore enabling officers to undertake essential investigations to tackle ASB complaints and work with our community safety partners.

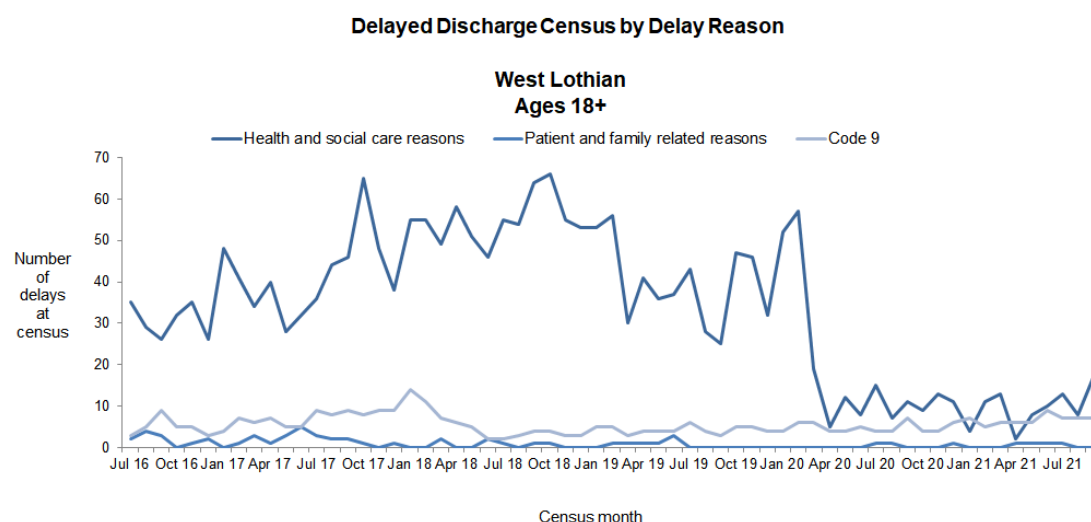
SFRS Crew Resilience Levels

The SFRS crew resilience levels indicator measures the impact on local resource availability within West Lothian and the SFRS's ability to maintain service delivery to the communities across West Lothian from both a prevention/protection and response perspective.

Our Community Fire stations were risk assessed, adapted and certified as COVID secure and our crews created protected groupings. These measures, along with the use of enhanced protocols and PPE allowed us to provide a normal response. To further support our staff, mental health and employee support strategies are also in place.

All of the measures implemented enhanced our resilience and supported our ability to respond accordingly meeting the demands of the local communities. Analysis over the previous 18-month period highlights the effectiveness of this approach, with a resource availability of 96% and above across the West Lothian area through the highest reported infection periods of the pandemic to date. When required, support from surrounding SFRS resources were allocated into the area to maintain our service delivery.

Delayed Discharge



The beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic saw a significant reduction in delayed discharges in West Lothian and across Scotland which was sustained for a significant period of time. From around June 2021, however, the number of people delayed in hospital when medically fit to leave has been rising again. This is in the main caused by insufficient care at home provision to meet demand and challenges in securing admission to care homes across West Lothian. Delayed discharges impact the flow of people through the entire health and social care system, and a weekly oversight group has been meeting since June 2021 to better understand the challenges and identify where improvements can be made.

Ongoing Work on the Dataset

Work is being carried out to ensure the dataset captures the wide range of societal harms of the pandemic. Any approved additional indicators will be incorporated into the dataset and will be measured and reported to the CPP going forward.