

# Fairer East Ren: Transition Delivery Plans 2021-2022

Delivering the outcomes of the East Renfrewshire Community Plan

# Background

- Fairer East Ren is the Local Outcome Improvement Plan for East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership.
- Fairer East Ren identifies how partners will work together to reduce socio-economic inequality and this is set out in a number of themed delivery plans:
  - Child poverty in East Renfrewshire is reduced (Local Child Poverty Action Report)
  - Residents have the right skills, learning opportunities and confidence to secure and sustain work
  - Residents' mental health and wellbeing is improved
  - Residents are safe and socially connected within their communities
- The partners have reviewed these plans in early 2021 to consider the impact of COVID-19. The relevant thematic groups have considered the strategic and intermediate outcomes, progress indicators and critical activities from our previous plans and updated them accordingly.
- This document sets out the most relevant outcomes, indicators and activities for 2021-2022.
- There is a further Fairer East Ren outcome relating to transport which remains unchanged, although it should be noted that there is a new activity relating to Community Transport within the Mental Health and Wellbeing outcome.
- A further review will take place later in 2021 with a view to developing three year plans for the period 2022-2025.

# Child poverty in East Renfrewshire is reduced (Local Child Poverty Action Report)

Responsible Delivery Partnership : Child Poverty Oversight Group , Chairs  
Caroline Innes (ERC) and Julie Murray (HSCP)

Whilst East Renfrewshire has one of the lowest levels of child poverty in Scotland, there are still around 3,000 of our children and young people living in low income families; that is 16% of all children and young people living in the area.

East Renfrewshire has the highest proportion of children in any local authority in Scotland; one in every five people in the area is aged 0-15 years. Migration has a large impact on the population of East Renfrewshire and especially the child population; in 2018/19 nearly 500 more children (0-14) migrated into the area than left

Child poverty can be reduced by supporting parents to increase their income from employment and/or from social security, whilst also reducing their costs of living.

Just over 1 in 10 (14%) of households in East Renfrewshire are 'workless' meaning there is no individual over the age of 16 in the household who is employed. Over a third of children in East Renfrewshire come from 'mixed households'. This means a household contains at least one person aged 16 to 64, where at least one person aged 16 and over is in employment and at least one other is either unemployed or inactive.

Those *living* in East Renfrewshire receive the highest average weekly pay in Scotland; the average weekly full time pay is £815 and the average weekly part time pay £257. However, those *working* in East Renfrewshire receive the lowest average weekly pay in Scotland; the average weekly full time pay is £487 and the average weekly part time pay is £165. Further, around a third (31%) of employees over 18 earn less than the living wage in East Renfrewshire which is double the Scottish average.

East Renfrewshire residents are less likely than the Scottish average to receive income from social security and benefits. 7% of all primary pupils from P4 to P7 are registered for free school meals, which is lower than the Scottish average of 21%. 7% of secondary pupils are registered for free school meals, again this is lower than the Scottish average of 17%.

The costs of living in East Renfrewshire are higher than average, particularly in relation to housing costs. The average property price in 2021 is £250,935 which is the second highest in Scotland. The average weekly local authority rent is £76.86.

We recognise the lower than average levels of poverty in the area but we understand that we have not yet seen the full impact of Covid-19 and therefore we need to continue to work together as a Community Planning Partnership to tackle poverty, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable group including lone parents, young parents and larger families.

There are currently around 2,400 lone parents with one or more children and it is projected that this will increase. There are fewer young mothers in East Renfrewshire than the Scottish average; 7% of all births in East Renfrewshire were to mothers under the age of 25, compared to 17% nationally.

East Renfrewshire's approach to child poverty is linked closely with the priority outcomes of employability and promoting positive mental health and wellbeing as outlined in the other Fairer East Ren plans to follow.

## 1.1 Child poverty in East Renfrewshire is reduced

### Population Outcome

The outcome we want is...

All children in East Renfrewshire experience a stable and secure childhood and succeed

### Intermediate Outcome

We will know we are making good steps along the way WHEN...

Child poverty is reduced

### Our contribution

So what we need to achieve is ...

Improved income from employment for parents

Enhanced gains for families from income maximisation and social security

Reduced costs of living

### Critical Activities

By...

Encouraging more local businesses to become Real Living Wage accredited

Increasing support for in-work parents to remain active in the workplace, train and gain progression

Improving availability, access to and uptake of good quality in-work support programmes

Providing all PACE employability clients with financial inclusion support

Improving the knowledge of financial wellbeing within school leavers

Improving parental access to benefits and income maximisation information and advice, including new referral pathways

Reducing energy costs for vulnerable families

Increasing provision of affordable housing options to vulnerable groups

Reducing cost to families of school attendance and participation

Reducing cost to families of Early Learning and Childcare

Reducing cost to families of the pregnancy pathway.

### Critical Indicators

- Children living in poverty
- Real Living Wage employers in East Renfrewshire
- Working age unemployment level
- Children and young people participation level
- Free School Meal uptake at Primary School
- Access to financial wellbeing advice in East Renfrewshire
- Fuel poverty
- Uptake of funded early learning and childcare entitlement

# Inclusive Economic Recovery and Growth

Responsible Delivery Partnership: East Renfrewshire Local Economic Partnership (LEP) , Chair, Michael McKernan (ERC)

East Renfrewshire has a population of 95,500 and around 57,000 of these residents are of working age. Around 77% of working age residents are economically active.

However, over the past year we have seen a rise in unemployment, like the rest of the country. There are 1,600 working age people who are unemployed which is an increase of approximately 400 people compared to the previous year. 14.3% of households in East Renfrewshire are 'workless' meaning there is no individual over the age of 16 in the household who is employed.

Although there are comparatively high employment levels within the authority compared with Scotland as a whole, local socio-economic data shows that there are areas of higher unemployment in our most deprived areas. There continues to be a significant gap in employment rates and earnings between disabled and non-disabled residents, with around a 30 percentage point gap between disabled and nondisabled residents in 2020. The number of 16-64 year olds claiming out of work benefits has increased over the last year from 3.3% in April 2020 to 3.6% in April 2021, however as a broader span of claimants are required to look for work under Universal Credit than under Jobseeker's Allowance, this rise is expected.

Whilst it is acknowledged that employment remains the best route out of poverty, it is not a protection against poverty, for example, around one third of people working in East Renfrewshire continue to earn less than the living wage. This is double the Scottish average.

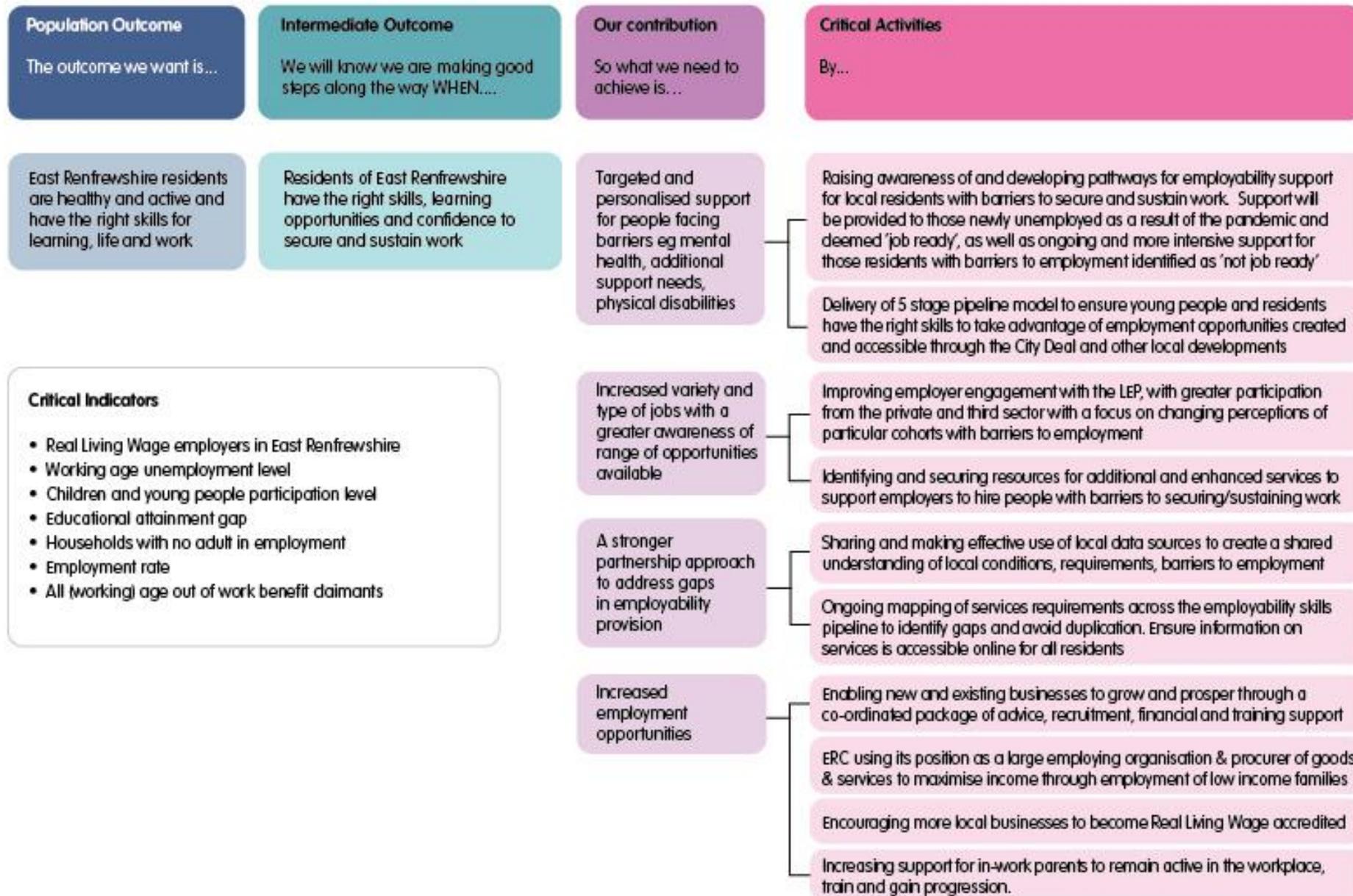
Almost 97% of 16-19 year olds are participating in education, employment or training, which compares well to the national figure of 91.8%. It is acknowledged, however that the participation rates will vary in different communities within the authority.

East Renfrewshire's Local Employability Partnership (LEP) has an important role ensure that the Inclusive Growth agenda is considered and mainstreamed across a wide range of Council and partner activities. Inclusive Growth means economic growth that combines increased prosperity with greater equality, creates opportunities for all, and distributes the benefits of increased prosperity fairly. This is done by promoting fair work and good-quality jobs; promoting equality and tackling inequality; and ensuring that success and opportunity is shared across the whole of East Renfrewshire.

We need to consider the importance of inclusive growth as a 'preventative' measure. If, for example, a development helps a vulnerable group or community to improve its skills and access to jobs, evidence shows that demands on a range of key services – social work, housing, criminal justice, health etc. – will be reduced.

East Renfrewshire's approach to employability is linked closely with the priority outcomes of tackling poverty and promoting positive mental health and wellbeing.

## 2.1 Residents of East Renfrewshire have the right skills, learning opportunities and confidence to secure and sustain work



## Community Wellbeing and Connectivity

Responsible Delivery Partnerships: East Renfrewshire Wellbeing Network ,  
Chair, Ruth Gallagher (Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire); East Renfrewshire  
Digital Inclusion Partnership (Chair tbc)

The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic over the last year have further highlighted the importance of good mental health and wellbeing for residents. Whilst lockdown has provided opportunities for many to help others in their community, for example, through volunteering, loneliness and isolation remain issues for many residents within our communities which has led us to identify social isolation as a priority area. Demographic changes projected in our population also emphasised the need to prepare for increased numbers of older people and increased numbers of single person households. During our engagement, residents also repeatedly highlighted the benefits and importance of a strong sense of community, social connections together with feeling safe.

These issues are high on the agenda at national level with a national mental health strategy in place and the Scottish Government's 'A Connected Scotland' plan which highlights the role of connected communities in tackling social isolation and loneliness. East Renfrewshire's outcome delivery approach will contribute to national efforts around mental health and social isolation.

This delivery plan is focused on an early intervention approach to promoting wellbeing, through self-help and community support. This is separate to the strategic approach in place to support people with specific mental health conditions through appropriate medical care and support services, which is a high priority in the HSCP Strategic Plan. Specific mental wellbeing supports for young people are a priority within the Integrated Children's Services Plan.

### 3.1 East Renfrewshire's transport links are accessible, attractive and seamless

#### Population Outcome

The outcome we want is...

#### Intermediate Outcome

We will know we are making good steps along the way WHEN....

#### Our contribution

So what we need to achieve is...

#### Critical Activities

By...

East Renfrewshire is an attractive and sustainable place for residents and businesses

East Renfrewshire's transport links are accessible, attractive and seamless

Communities across East Renfrewshire are connected to services, leisure opportunities & employment/training

Raising the ambition for public transport in East Renfrewshire

Maximising opportunities for partnership working with bus operators, Transport Scotland and other stakeholders

Affordable transport and fewer barriers for deprived communities

Delivering new projects identified in the East Renfrewshire Active Travel Plan

Identifying internal transport routes to address barriers to internal transport

#### Critical Indicators

- Indicators will be established through the transport study

Accessible transport that is easy to use

Assessing potential for social enterprise solutions

Delivering infrastructure improvements including high access kerbs throughout East Renfrewshire.

## 4.1 Residents' mental health and wellbeing is improved

### Population Outcome

The outcome we want is...

East Renfrewshire residents are safe and live in supportive communities

### Intermediate Outcome

We will know we are making good steps along the way WHEN...

Residents' mental health and wellbeing is improved

### Our contribution

So what we need to achieve is...

Improved wellbeing and resilience in people and communities

### Critical Activities

By...

### Critical Indicators

- Community Hub calls
- Referrals to wellbeing support
- Residents engaged in volunteering & community groups
- Residents provided with devices (including internet access devices)
- Residents accessing digital support

Promoting the benefits of exercise and access to green spaces for improving mental health and wellbeing

Providing and signposting to programmes, self-help and online resources focused on improving mental health and wellbeing including those previously considered least vulnerable pre-pandemic

Building the capacity of communities and groups to re-establish and engage with those at most risk of social isolation

Improved wellbeing and resilience in workplaces

Ensuring robust processes in place to measure staff, partners and volunteers' wellbeing in preparation for returning to the workplace

Increasing and enhancing staff and volunteer skills in understanding mental health and wellbeing

A prevention and early intervention approach to enhancing wellbeing

Providing early mental health and wellbeing support in primary care through GP practice based link workers

Undertaking local work to support national suicide prevention: Every Life Matters

Developing and maintaining a comprehensive community directory of local groups and services for signposting and referral

Connected residents and communities (including digital)

Mapping current community transport activity and identifying the impacts of Covid-19 on the transport needs of the most vulnerable residents

Building understanding of the barriers to residents going online

Increasing digital participation levels

Developing staff and volunteer confidence and skills to support residents to get online

Providing a blended approach to digital engagement & capacity building.

**Residents are safe and more socially connected within their communities**  
Responsible Delivery Partnership: Safe East Renfrewshire, Chair Murray  
Husband (ERC)

Loneliness and isolation are key issues for many within our communities and this has been particularly prevalent during Covid-19. All residents have faced restricted movements during lockdown and this has reduced the opportunity to engage with others, particularly for residents who have been shielding, those with restricted digital access and those with limited local supports.

Through previous engagement, we know the value resident place on the benefits and importance of a strong sense of community, social connections together with feeling safe. These issues are high on the agenda at national level with a national mental health strategy in place and the Scottish Government's 'A Connected Scotland' plan which highlights the role of connected communities in tackling social isolation and loneliness. We can anticipate the impact of Covid-19 will serve further emphasise the importance of this. East Renfrewshire's outcome delivery approach will contribute to national efforts around mental health and social isolation.

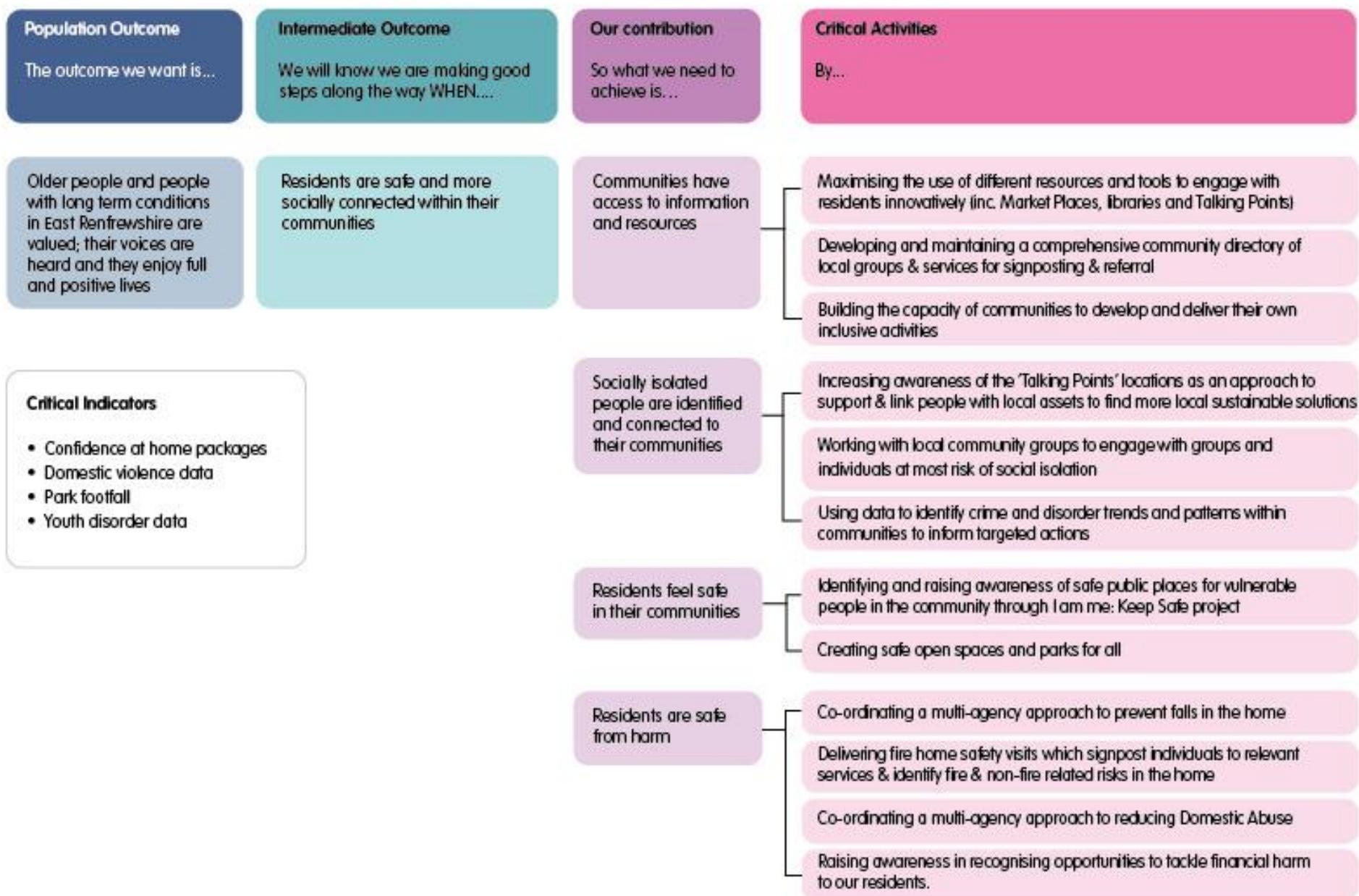
This delivery plan acknowledges a range of good work already underway by partners and opportunities for people to get more involved in their community and reduce isolation – including Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire's Community Hub and the HSCP's Talking Points.

East Renfrewshire population projections suggest increased numbers of older people and increased numbers of single person households going forward.

Work in Fire and Rescue, Police Scotland and Trading Standards and Prevention Services has highlighted the links between social isolation and safety. The Community Planning Partnership can work to identify those who are isolated and refer people on for support through joint working. This will allow action to help keep residents safe from harm, both at home and in their communities.

East Renfrewshire's approach to safety and social connections is linked closely with the priority outcomes of promoting positive mental health and wellbeing.

## 5.1 Residents are safe and more socially connected within their communities



The Community Planning Partners will oversee the progress towards a Fairer East Ren and will publish updates on our webpages at [eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/communityplanning](http://eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/communityplanning)

As we continue to deliver a Fairer East Ren we will create opportunities for working together with local people to ensure the plans meet their needs.