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TO: MEMBERS OF THE EAST RENFREWSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING
PARTNERSHIP BOARD

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD

A meeting of the East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board will be held in the Hays and Maxton Rooms, Barrhead Foundry, Main Street, Barrhead on **Monday, 10 October 2022 at 9.30am.**

The agenda of business is as listed below.

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DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence.**
2. **Welcome and Introduction by Chair.**
3. **Minute of meeting of 30 August 2021 and matters arising (copy attached, pages 3 -10).**
4. **Chief Officer's Public Protection Group Report (copy attached, pages 11 - 16).**
5. **2021-2022 Annual Review – Community Plan End Year Report (copy attached, pages 17 - 56).**
6. **Fairer East Renfrewshire Delivery – Interim 2022/2023 Plan (copy attached, pages 57 - 68).**

7. **Information and Consultation Sessions: 2022/2023 Upcoming Sessions (copy attached, pages 69 -70).**
8. **Any Other Business**
9. **Date of Next Meeting**

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MINUTE
of
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minute of virtual meeting held at 10.00am on 30 August 2021.

Present:

Councillor Tony Buchanan (Chair)	Councillor Alan Lafferty
John Binning (Strathclyde Partnership For Transport)	David McCarrey (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)
Andy Cahill (East Renfrewshire Council)	Siobhan McColgan (East Renfrewshire Council)
Alan Coughtrie (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)	Michael McKernan (East Renfrewshire Council)
Donna Duffy (Police Scotland)	Lorraine McMillan (East Renfrewshire Council)
Stephen Frew (Scottish Enterprise)	Anthony McReavy (East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust)
Ruth Gallagher (Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire)	Julie Murray (Health & Social Care Partnership)
Michelle Grant (Police Scotland)	Louise Pringle (East Renfrewshire Council)
Neil Hastie (Scottish Government)	Mark Ratter (East Renfrewshire Council)
Gary I'anson (Police Scotland)	James Russell (Skills Development Scotland)
Anne Marie Kennedy (Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire)	Councillor Gordon Wallace
	Wendy Wilkinson (Scottish Government)
	Nathan Tyler (West College Scotland)

Councillor Buchanan in the Chair

Attending:

Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Jamie Reid, Strategic Insight and Communities Senior Manager; Claire Coburn, Strategic Services Lead Officer; Jennifer Graham, Committee Services Officer; and Liona Allison, Assistant Committee Services Officer.

Apologies:

Liz Connolly (West College Scotland); David Crawford (Department of Work and Pensions); Emilia Crighton and Mark White (NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde); Alan Gray (Police Scotland); Sharon Kelly (Skills Development Scotland); and Kate Rocks (Health and Social Care Partnership).

INTRODUCTION

1. Councillor Buchanan welcomed those attending and invited all present to contribute to the discussion and debate.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2. The Board considered the Minute of the meeting of 13 June 2019.

The Chief Executive referred to the Chief Officers' Public Protection Group Annual Report (Item 5 refers) which had been considered at the previous meeting, explaining that an up to date version of that report had not been available to be issued with the papers and discussed at this meeting. She therefore proposed that the report be issued to members separately in due course when it became available.

The Board agreed:-

- (a) to approve the minute of the meeting of 13 June 2019; and
- (b) that the Chief Officers' Public Protection Group Annual Report would be issued to members in due course.

ANNUAL REVIEW 2020/21

3. Councillor Buchanan invited Ms McMillan to introduce the report on Annual Review 2020/21.

Ms McMillan referred to the exceptional partnership working which had taken place over the last year and half indicating that this was an excellent example of community planning in action as every partner had contributed to the local response to Covid-19.

A video was shown providing a summary of community planning performance, highlighting that progress had been made in each priority area, including in relation to life expectancy; child poverty rates; school leaver destinations; and wages. Further information was provided on a number of initiatives which had been introduced including, support provided by Town Centre Recovery groups as restrictions were lifted; introduction of detached youth work supporting the mental health and wellbeing of young people; and establishment of a Wellbeing Network, Food Dignity Network, and Digital Inclusion Partnership. New activities introduced included employment support for those newly unemployed as a result of Covid; wellbeing support for those returning to the workplace; and digital engagement and increased digital preparation.

Thereafter, a number of partners provided case studies of work which had taken place over the last year.

Ms Gallagher reported on the establishment of a Digital Inclusion Partnership which aimed to deliver digital access for the most vulnerable in society including providing digital devices and the support required to use them; access to wifi; assistance with paying bills; and information support. She added that the Partnership, which consisted of members from various council departments, including Education and Economic Development; HSCP; and third sector organisations, had benefitted from Connecting Scotland funding and had been able to provide a number of chromebooks to vulnerable residents. The partnership also gave support to a team of volunteers tasked with helping people to get connected; teaching them to operate their devices as securely and safely as possible; and providing information on, amongst other things, how to access free wifi, and this support would continue for the remainder of 2021/22.

Mr Cahill provided information on the need for resilience as town centres and businesses had been particularly adversely affected during the pandemic. Many businesses closed, or required to change the way they operated and, even as restrictions were lifted, residents

remained concerned about safely accessing town centres and businesses. Town and Village Recovery groups were established to provide support and create resilience as restrictions changed throughout the pandemic. A wide range of partners were involved with these groups include the BIDS; Chambers of Commerce; Police Scotland; local business owners; residents; voluntary action; and community groups, and regular meetings had taken place to discuss the recovery process and to share information on the latest guidance. Town centres were opened safely, with actions being delivered by various partners, and a “Shop Local” initiative was introduced. He advised that, regardless of Covid, the groups would continue to operate as they had provided resilience and a collaborative approach within communities.

Mr McReavy provided information on the establishment of a mass vaccination centre which had involved collaboration with partners from the Army; NHS; East Renfrewshire Council; Community and Leisure Trust; voluntary organisations; and individual volunteers. Volunteers took on tasks which were out of the ordinary for them including involvement in holiday hubs; support for schools; and mass testing/vaccination, and the number of local volunteers often exceeded demand. Volunteering had brought out the best in colleagues and partners, with new, stronger relationships being built, and he praised the professionalism, commitment, flexibility and patience of the volunteers and partners.

Thereafter, Ms McMillan posed questions to the board in relation to what had gone well; what could have gone better; what lessons could be learned for the future; and whether the issues set out in the 2019 Community Plan had been achieved. Referring to the above case studies, she praised the partnership working, volunteering and community involvement which had taken place during the pandemic.

Referring to the national situation in terms of volunteering, including the expectations from the Ready Scotland Campaign, Ms Gallagher highlighted that many people had volunteered to assist in their local communities but a position could not always be found for them due to restrictions during the pandemic. She added that there was a need to ensure that those involved in the emergency response for the pandemic were involved in planning for future emergencies to ensure a streamlined approach.

Area Commander McCarrey reported that fire stations were made covid secure in the early stages of the pandemic and staff had been involved in partnership working throughout, including in delivering food parcels to local residents. He advised that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service could have a role in supporting older and isolated people in future by guiding them towards partner services for assistance. He added that the fire service had also been involved in giving advice to supermarkets about changes in fire evacuation procedures due to the introduction of one way systems, and providing support to staff when returning to offices and buildings following the easing of restrictions. He advised that the service was keen to connect with other partners and provide assistance as required.

Ms Murray highlighted that the pandemic was not over and the legacy for local communities would be significant, requiring additional provision of resources to vulnerable people for the foreseeable future, and ongoing assistance from local volunteers.

Referring to learning points for the future, Mr McReavy advised that responses to the pandemic from the UK and Scottish Governments had included providing funding for specific issues, but sometimes the need at a local level did not match the way the support was provided. As an example, he referred to funding which had been provided to support the “Get into Summer Campaign”, but this had been made available just after the schools in Scotland had finished for the summer break making it extremely difficult to progress.

Referring to the excellent examples of joint working which had been provided, Councillor Buchanan added that there was a need for resources to continue to be provided and harnessed in the best possible way to assist local communities in future and not just as a part of an emergency response. He stated that many people's priorities and wellbeing had changed as a result of the pandemic and that required to be taken into account in terms of supports levels and future service provision. Referring to the imminent ending of the furlough scheme, he stated that local people and businesses could be adversely affected by this change and may need additional financial support in the coming months.

Ms Pringle referred to funds which had become available across the council and from various partner agencies, including humanitarian funds, some of which were only available for use until the end of March 2022. Research had been commissioned on what the funding meant for local communities and how the community bid programme could help local groups get back to work. In addition, they aimed to engage with new groups of people, including those who had been asked to shield or were in a difficult financial position as a result of the pandemic, and further consideration regarding how they could be funded would be required in the longer term.

Councillor Wallace referred to the proposed centralisation of social care and how that could have adversely affected the pandemic response due to a loss of key local knowledge. On behalf of the residents of East Renfrewshire he requested that officers and councillors should oppose the centralisation of social care at a national level. Councillor Buchanan confirmed that CoSLA had requested an extension to the consultation period to give all interested parties sufficient time to respond to the proposed changes.

Having noted the information provided and comments made, the Board approved the Annual Review 2020/21.

WHERE ARE WE NOW

4. Councillor Buchanan invited the Partnership Development Officer to introduce the report on "Where Are We Now" – Fairer East Ren Transition Delivery Plans 2021/22.

The Partnership Development Officer referred to the five priority areas within the Fairer East Ren plan which had been due for review in 2020. Because of the pandemic a decision was taken to complete an interim plan for one year instead of carrying out a full review and some new activities and information had been included during the transition year.

She advised that many priorities had changed in the last 18 months and there was a need to consider whether the five priorities reflected the balance of recovery and renewal required following the pandemic. The Deputy Chief Executive reported that the Child Poverty Action Group had produced a report in June 2021, highlighting a number of positive measures which had taken place during the pandemic and providing insight into the support which was provided to children and families. She added that a lot of recent work had been reactive as a result of government funding; the needs of residents; and the introduction of restrictions, and there was now a need to look at whether or not a strategic change was required for the future. Discussions would continue with partners over the next 6 months and future considerations would include fuel poverty; child poverty; and the cost of the school day for families. It was hoped that useful data could be obtained in those areas to inform, amend and update strategies and policies.

Referring to the five themes, Ms McMillan added that a crucial area of development would be mental health and wellbeing as the effect of lockdown and restrictions on people's mental health had not yet been fully established. In response, Ms Paterson referred to partnership

NOT YET ENDORSED AS A CORRECT RECORD

working which had taken place between HSCP, education, CAMHS, third sector partners and GPs to tackle mental health and wellbeing in the community, some of which had already been extremely successful and would be built on for the future. Referring to the national ambition for all employers to be Living Wage employers in future, Mr Frew acknowledged that this may be a difficult ambition to achieve but working towards this goal was a priority and may help to reduce poverty. Mr Ratter added that mental wellbeing was interconnected with other outcomes including residents having the right skills, learning opportunities, and confidence to secure and sustain work. Going forward the close working relationships that had been built throughout the partnership would help to deliver these goals for residents.

Referring to the theme of “feeling safe”, Inspector Grant reported on Police Scotland’s key priorities in tackling adult mental health, poverty, and drug deaths and reported on a local initiative which had been introduced earlier this year, in liaison with youth workers and British Transport Police, to target youth disorder. She advised that this successful initiative was part of the Safer East Ren plan and Campus officers continued to work closely with Head Teachers on a variety of matters including anti-social behaviour. Police Scotland also maintained a close working relationship with Scottish Fire and Rescue; linked with partners and other agencies when called to domestic incidents; and had introduced the Herbert Protocol to safely locate missing persons with dementia/alzheimers. Thereafter, Detective Superintendent Duffy reported on Police Scotland’s focus on public health and how this could tie in with ongoing community planning work, including to ensure that adults with, amongst other things, mental health, gambling, poverty or addiction issues, who became known to the Police, received the appropriate assistance. She advised that domestic abuse reports had reduced, but they were unsure if this was as a result of people being unable to gain access to reporting mechanisms during the pandemic, and innovative ways to ensure anyone who wished to report domestic abuse could do so safely were being considered, including through providing training to housing officers. She summed up by asking that consideration be given to how partnership working on public health issues could be added to the community plans in future. The Deputy Chief Executive referred to a recent meeting which had taken place with representatives from Police Scotland, in the course of which discussions had taken place regarding how the public health approach could be built in to locality planning in future.

Area Commander McCarrey reported on a rise in accidental dwelling fires across the country; a reduction in unwanted fire alarms signals; and the need to revise the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service’s response model to reduce exposure of staff to risk. He advised that one of the service’s aims was to reduce the number of domestic fire occurrences by targeting specific groups of people, including those who were socially isolated; smokers; people with mobility issues; and people with chaotic lifestyles, in order to provide them with information which may assist in fire prevention. Thereafter, he reported on the establishment of the first Fire and Rescue mental health support group in Scotland, which was located in this area, and introduction of a local Youth Engagement Officer as part of the Community Action Team.

In response to a question about water safety in East Renfrewshire following a number of recent deaths throughout Scotland and the UK, Councillor Buchanan advised that safety messages had been issued by East Renfrewshire Council and partners in response to the recent tragedies. Referring to a partnership project which had been introduced in East Dunbartonshire providing skills and knowledge on water safety to local people, Area Commander McCarrey advised that this information would be shared with other areas for their use. Referring to free swimming lessons for children, which could help to reduce the number of drowning deaths, Councillor Wallace advised that no record was currently kept on the number of children who did not take up this offer, and he had been communicating with the Education Department and Leisure Trust to ascertain if this information could be provided in future.

Thereafter, having noted the discussion and comments made, the Board approved the “Where Are We Now” – Fairer East Ren Transition Delivery Plans 2021/22.

PRIORITIES FOR 2022 AND BEYOND

5. Councillor Buchanan invited the Strategic Insight and Communities Senior Manager to introduce the report on Priorities for 2022 and Beyond.

The Strategic Insight and Communities Senior Manager reported that this was a joint meeting between the Board and PAR (Performance and Review Committee) members providing an opportunity for leadership across the Community Planning Partnership to come together and consider what they want to achieve in the next few years. He advised that workshops had recently been held with community planning partners to consider action planning in the short to medium term but longer term planning was now required and would include consideration of the five outcomes referred to previously, and the CPP recovery and renewal themes of Community Wellbeing; Community Connectivity; and Community Wealth Building, which were pivotal to the Covid response. He added that a number of changes had been made to service provision following partners’ responses to the pandemic and consideration should now be given to any overlap within the themes; changed priorities; areas which remained important but were no longer critical; and how to continue with the stronger depth of joint working which had been achieved during the last 18 months. Further information was provided on the 3 themes and it was proposed that discussion should take place on future themes and how they related to the current ones.

A full discussion took place in the course of which it was highlighted that the key to any future themes should be “community” as this was at the heart of the partnership arrangements. It was also highlighted that there was a need to tackle serious underlying issues including adult mental health; drug deaths; and poverty, as they could have a serious impact on any future progress. In addition, Mr Russell, referring to the forthcoming COP 26 event which was taking place in Glasgow in November, proposed that community sustainability should be included within the themes going forward as this was a very important issue for all communities and residents. Councillor Wallace emphasised the importance of providing a living wage for all and the need to offer diverse training and employment opportunities for young people. Mr Binning referred to increased challenges for transport as more people than before the pandemic were using cars due to being uneasy about travelling on public transport. He added that there was a need for more flexible travel models to be introduced and referred to the introduction of free bus travel for under 25s from January 2022 which would assist with access to education, training and employment.

The Strategic Insight and Communities Senior Manager summed up by proposing that the themes should be refined and amended in the coming months to ensure they focussed on key priorities for local communities.

Having heard Councillor Buchanan refer to the difficulties which had been overcome in the last 18 months through joint working and improved support for communities, the Board noted:-

- (a) the timeline for renewing the Fairer East Ren Plans for the period 2022-2025; and
- (b) the thematic framework and relevant thematic group work to develop the Fairer East Ren Plans; and
- (c) otherwise, the information provided and comments made.

AOB – PARTNERSHIP WORKING

6. Councillor Buchanan took this opportunity to thank all of the community planning partners and their respective organisations for the excellent joint working which had taken place during the pandemic, and for their input to the Board meeting today.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7. It was reported that the next meeting of the Board would be held on a date to be confirmed following consultation with partners.

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Chief Officer's Public Protection Group Report

Report by Chief ExecutiveAnnual Report from Chief Officers Public Protection Group 2021/2022**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. This report provides the Community Planning Partnership with an overview of the work of the Chief Officers Public Protection Group 2021/2022.

REPORT**PURPOSE OF THE CHIEF OFFICERS PUBLIC PROTECTION GROUP**

2. The Chief Officers Public Protection Group provides strategic leadership, scrutiny and the oversight of quality assurance and improvement of public protection arrangements within East Renfrewshire. This is achieved by providing strategic direction on priorities concerning risk and clear expectations for partnership arrangements on the safe delivery of services that keep people and their communities safe. It ensures that partnership working within East Renfrewshire meets with national standards around risk management and in addition considers how effective the local planning arrangements are within services and the partnership in managing risk.
3. The core business of the group is as follows:
 - Child Protection
 - Adult Protection
 - Violence against Women and Girls
 - Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) & Offender Management (specifically sex offenders and high risk violent offenders)

MEMBERSHIP AND FUNCTION

4. The group is chaired by the Chief Executive of East Renfrewshire Council and has the following core members:
 - Chief Executive East Renfrewshire Council
 - Chief Officer Health & Social Care Partnership
 - Nurse Director NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
 - Divisional Commander of Police Scotland G Division (East Renfrewshire)
 - Chief Social Work Officer and East Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee Chair
 - East Renfrewshire Adult Protection Committee Independent Chair
5. In addition there are associate members that may be called upon by the core group to attend when needed. These include; the Lead Officers for Public Protection (child, adult, MAPPA and violence against women / girls), as well as the Lead Officer for Prevent, the locality Reporter (SCRA) and the Director of Education. The group meets bi-annually in May and November.

6. A summary of the functions of Chief Officers Public Protection Group are as follows:
 - Provide leadership and accountability across all public protection arrangements within East Renfrewshire.
 - Coordinate strategic developments within public protection.
 - Approve annual plans, scrutinise self-evaluation of public protection activity and approve associated improvement plans.
 - Review and direct improvements on performance and audit.
 - Provide direction to chairs and members of Child Protection Committee, Adult Protection Committee and Violence against Women / Girls on local priorities.
 - Approve and consider the learning from Significant Case Reviews and be provided with assurance that the improvements and actions required are in place across the local authority.

7. Public Protection arrangements require agencies and partnerships to work together strategically, operationally, and effectively and this is supported through robust planning and quality assurance processes. Partners are required to provide significant commitment and contributions through the Child Protection Committee, Adult Protection Committee, MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group and Violence against Women / Girls, by contributing to the development of strategic plans and measures that identify and mitigate risk as well as promoting best practice. Alongside these statutory plans the Chief Officers are provided with regular data, quality assurance and improvement activity that assures that people and communities are kept safe from harm.

COVID-19

8. The impact of Covid-19 has resulted in increased risk and harm and as such increased, demand and complexity of needs in relation to our work in the protection of vulnerable adults and children.

9. Chief Officers Public Protection Group held extra-ordinary meetings during the restricted periods of the pandemic. This was to ensure ongoing oversight of the emerging trends in public protection, allowing timeous responses as needs arose.

10. There has been regular public protection data submitted to SOLACE, initially weekly, then fortnightly and currently four weekly. The Chief Officers Public Protection Group have received a summary of this data to ensure that we were able to be responsive to any fluctuations in our public protection activity.

SUMMARY OF AREAS OF ACTIVITY 2021/2022

11. During this time the group considered a range of national priorities and assured oversight of the implementation of local practice, by providing high level scrutiny and strategic leadership in response to performance information, self-evaluation activity and learning in each of the public protection areas:

Child Protection

- Oversight and scrutiny of child protection activity via the Child Protection Committee, its subgroups and the CPC Business / Improvement plan. This includes regular updates in relation to audit activity and data;

- Oversight and endorsement of the Public Protection Development Programme which delivers training across the partnership;

- Continued support of the implementation of the Signs of Safety approach, which focusses on relationship based practice as well as keeping the child and their network at the centre of all assessments and plans; and,
- Ensuring that concerns in relation to children are easily reported by the public through the Council's website.

Adult Protection

- Oversight and scrutiny of Adult Protection Committee, its subgroups and improvement activity.
- Successful test of change and development of a permanent dedicated Adult Support and Protection Team, ensuring continuity and focus on the most at need.
- Review of existing Adult Support and Protection procedures and the production and implementation of new procedures. Our newly developed Adult Support and Protection procedures help us to reflect on the work we do to address risk from the point of contact through to investigation, case conference and protection planning.
- Strengthened channels of communication and partnership working between partners, providers, care homes and others involved in adult support and protection.
- Developed a shared awareness of the complexity and multifaceted nature of risk, particularly in relation to violence against women, which has improved our joint working and understanding of the roles of other services and partners.
- Developed Adult Support and Protection Quality Assurance framework, to help ensure consistent and high quality standards are in place in relation to all aspects of Adult Support and Protection practice.
- Large Scale Investigation with respect to two care homes. These were particularly challenging pieces of work including the closure of one care home against the backdrop of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic.

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

- Oversight of activity and performance of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements;
- The justice service has prioritised contact with those offenders who are subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements requirements to ensure that Risk Management plans and statutory functions are adhered to.
- The nationally accredited sex offender treatment programme, Moving Forward Making Changes (MFMC) has been delivered on 2:1 basis due to Covid-19 restrictions.

- Throughout the COVID-19 restrictions, The North Strathclyde MAPPA Strategic and Operational Groups have continued to function to provide both oversight and support to address any issues

Violence against Women and Girls

- Oversight and scrutiny of the Violence Against Women & Girls Partnership, subgroups and improvement activity, including data, audit and self- evaluation;
- Implementation of the Domestic Abuse Pathway;
- Implementation of MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference);
- Implementation of Routine Sensitive Enquiry and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Training;
- Implementation of Safe and Together;
- Aligned improvement planning with the Community Justice Partnership;
- Improving Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Interventions for Victims of Domestic Abuse;
- Completion of quality standards self-evaluation and data in respect of the national Equally Safe Performance Framework.
- Implementation of Equally Safe in Practice Pilot
- Completion of quality assurance audit of Routine Sensitive Enquiry in Alcohol and Drug Services and Adult Mental Health,

EXTERNAL VALIDATION

Child Protection

12. We have just received our inspection report for the Joint Inspection of Services for Children at Risk of Harm. This has highlighted practice as being 'outstanding and sector leading' with a grade of 'excellent' for the impact on children and young people. The inspection covered most of the pandemic and restricted periods. It is a testament to the relationship based practice and commitment of our staff and partners to keeping children and young people safe.

Adult Protection

13. The Large Scale Investigations were particularly challenging pieces of work, undertaken in local care homes against the backdrop of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic. The dedication and hard work of the social work team, the wider Health and Social Care Partnership and partner organisations lead to documented positive outcomes. The dedication and hard work of the social work team, the wider Health and Social Care Partnership and partner organisations lead to documented positive outcomes. The Large Scale Investigation Team were put forward for an award under the "working together" category at the 2021 Scottish Social Services Awards. The team were

delighted to be shortlisted and to then subsequently go on to receive this prestigious award.

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

14. Work is progressing at the national level on the revision of Moving Forward Making Changes to Moving Forward 2 Change (MF2C). A recent project scoping update highlighted that this work is currently nearing the end of the re-design process and in the early stages of the pilot and evaluation stage. This will continue to be monitored closely by East Renfrewshire Justice as the programme nears the anticipated submission for accreditation in 2023.

Violence Against Women and Girls

15. Independent observation of the East Renfrewshire Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference completed by Safe Lives. The report and findings highlighted a range of strengths and best practice and strategic oversight. This reflects the commitment of all agencies to share information and keep victims of domestic abuse and their children safe and improve outcomes.

DISCUSSION POINTS

16. It is recommended that the CPP Board:
 - i. Discuss the high level public protection activity outlined within the report and identify any areas for improvement to the Chief Officer Public Protection group on public protection partnership arrangements within East Renfrewshire.
 - ii. Agree the East Renfrewshire Chief Officer Public Protection Group continues to provide annual updates to the CPP concerning public protection scrutiny and improvement activity that provides assurance that people and communities are being kept safe.

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Community Planning and Fairer East
Ren: Annual Report 2021-2022

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Executive Summary

The following report summarises where key progress has been made under the Community Planning and Fairer East Ren outcomes, and identifies areas where ongoing attention and action is required.

Outcome 1: Early Years and Vulnerable Young People

There has been no change to performance on these indicators this year. Three indicators have remained the same: male life expectancy at birth, female life expectancy at birth and child poverty. Where data is available, East Renfrewshire indicators generally remain favourable against the national average.

Fairer East Ren outcome: Child poverty in East Renfrewshire is reduced

There has been positive progress in relation to the number of Real Living Wage employers; the unemployment rate; children and young people participation rate; and uptake of funded early learning and childcare. There has been a slight decrease in the number of families requiring financial wellbeing advice over the past year, but demand remains significantly higher than the pre-pandemic level.

Outcome 2: Learning, Life and Work

There has been an increase in the number of school leavers entering a positive destination, and this remains comparatively high against the national average. However, there has been a decline in the percentage of the population who are economically active, and this compares unfavourably to the national level.

Fairer East Ren: Residents have the right skills, learning opportunities and confidence to secure and sustain work

There has been an increase in the percentage of workless households and a decrease in the percentage of working age in employment; both of which are likely to mean more socioeconomic disadvantage. However, there has been an increase in S4 pupil achievement and a reduction in 16–19-year-old unemployment so this provides a positive prospect for the future.

Outcome 3: Economy and Environment

Three indicators show positive progress whilst three others show negative progress in relation to this outcome. The past year has seen an increase in qualifications; increased business survival rates; and reduced carbon dioxide emissions; and all of these compare favourably to the national levels. However, we have seen a reduction in the percentage of population of working age; a reduction in the satisfaction with East Renfrewshire as a place to live and a reduction in median earnings.

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

There are currently no measures in place to monitor progress in this area.

Outcome 4: Safe, Supportive Communities

The past year has seen a reduction in the number of crimes and a reduction in the number of dwelling fires. Both levels compare favourably to the national average.

Fairer East Ren: Residents' mental health and wellbeing is improved

There has been a decline in the percentage of adults who have a strong sense of belonging to their community and who have someone they can rely on for help since the last measure (2 years ago).

Outcome 5: Older people and people with Long Term Conditions

Male life expectancy at 75 years has remained steady over the past year, while female life expectancy, at 75 years, has increased since last estimate. Both are higher than the national average.

Fairer East Ren: Residents are safe and more socially connected with their communities

The number of 'Confidence at Home' packages (designed to keep residents safe from predatory fraudsters) has increased. However, less positively, we have seen an increase in domestic abuse and also public nuisance calls over the past year.

Introduction

The East Renfrewshire Community Plan sets out how local services work together to create stronger and fairer communities together with the people of East Renfrewshire.

The Community Plan (2018-28) reflects residents' top priorities and serves as the main strategic document for the East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP). The Plan also includes Fairer East Ren – our Local Outcomes Improvement Plan - as required by the Community Empowerment Act. Fairer East Ren focuses on reducing inequality of outcome across groups and communities.

This is the fourth annual report on progress made towards the outcomes and shows some of the improvements that have been achieved. The report is structured around our five strategic priorities. For each priority, there is key performance data and progress updates on partnership delivery against Fairer East Ren outcomes.

While East Renfrewshire has much to celebrate in terms of life expectancy and longevity, educational attainment and average household incomes; the cost-of-living crisis is beginning to take its toll with uptake rates for benefits, Scottish Welfare Fund and Money Advice support rising. The pandemic has had a lasting impact in terms of wellbeing, isolation and employment meaning it's more important than ever to have a Community Planning Partnership approach to reducing socio-economic inequality in East Renfrewshire.

This report demonstrates the commitment of the CPP towards achieving the vision of making East Renfrewshire:

an attractive and thriving place to grow up, work, visit, raise a family and enjoy later life

It reflects actions taken in 2021-22, building on the significant partnership working carried out in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. It focuses on recovery and renewal, building back better in line with our vision.

About East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP)

These are our community planning partners:

- East Renfrewshire Council
- NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Scottish Enterprise
- Department for Work and Pensions
- East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust
- East Renfrewshire Integration joint board (Health and Social Care Partnership)
- Skills Development Scotland
- Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
- Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire
- West College Scotland

Our Community Planning Priorities


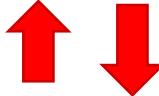

The Community Plan is structured around five strategic priorities:

1. Early Years and Vulnerable Young People
2. Learning, Life and Work
3. Economy and Environment
4. Safe, Supportive Communities
5. Older People and People with Long Term Conditions




The five Fairer East Ren outcomes below are focused on tackling inequality. These outcomes were determined following extensive community engagement and informed by our local socioeconomic data and evidence of local need.

1. Child poverty in East Renfrewshire is reduced
2. Residents have the right skills, learning opportunities and confidence to secure and sustain work
3. East Renfrewshire's transport links are accessible, attractive, and seamless
4. Residents' mental health and wellbeing is improved
5. Residents are safe and more socially connected with their communities

Data Summary

Community Plan indicators	Number of indicators increasing or decreasing <u>as intended</u> over the last year 	Number of indicators increasing or decreasing <u>against intended</u> direction of travel over the last year 	Number of indicators remaining the same or changing by less than 0.5% 	Number of indicators with no trend data available
Outcome 1: Early Years and Vulnerable Young People	0	0	3	2
Outcome 2: Learning, Life and Work	1	1	0	0
Outcome 3: Economy and Environment	3	3	0	0
Outcome 4: Safe, Supportive Communities	2	0	0	1
Outcome 5: Older people and people with Long Term conditions	1	0	1	0
TOTAL	7	3	4	3

Key:

East Renfrewshire's performance significantly exceeds Scottish level performance	
East Renfrewshire's performance is similar to the Scottish level performance	
East Renfrewshire's performance compares unfavourably to Scottish level performance	
No Scottish comparison data available	UNAVAILABLE
Not appropriate to compare	N/A

Benchmarking:

As well as comparing to Scotland, East Renfrewshire's performance is benchmarked with local authorities with similar demographic characteristics, referred to in this report as the "Family Group". These are:

- Aberdeen City
- Aberdeenshire
- City of Edinburgh
- East Dunbartonshire
- East Renfrewshire
- Orkney Islands
- Perth and Kinross
- Shetland Islands

Strategic Priority 1: Early Years and Vulnerable Young People



The outcome we want is...




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




Our steps along the way to achieving this are...

- Child poverty in East Renfrewshire is reduced*
- Parents provide a safe, healthy and nurturing environment for their families
- Children and young people are cared for, protected and their wellbeing is safeguarded

*Fairer East Ren outcome

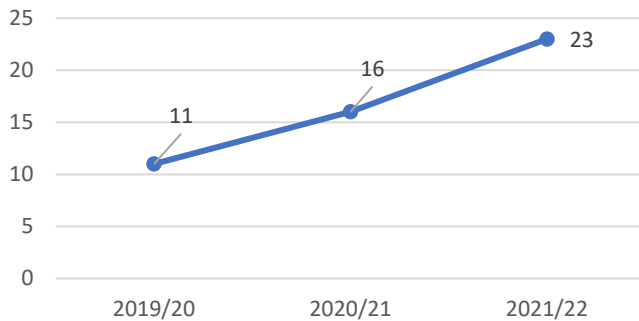
Community Plan Indicators

Early Years and Vulnerable Young People							
Indicator	Rationale for inclusion	Source	ERC Baseline	Aim to Maximise (↑) or Minimise (↓)	Direction of travel over the last year	ERC Performance against Scotland	Comments
Male life expectancy at birth	This indicator provides an estimate of the age a baby boy born in East Renfrewshire today can expect to live to, based on mortality rates at the time.	National Records of Scotland	80.5 (Year 2015-17)	↑	↔		Consistently above the national average
Female life expectancy at birth	Provides an estimate of the age a baby girl born in East Renfrewshire today can expect to live to, based on mortality rates at the time.	National Records of Scotland	83.7 (Year 2015-17)	↑	↔		Consistently above the national average
Healthy birthweight (singleton babies) *CPOP Indicator	Birth weight that is not within normal ranges (between 2.5 kg and 4 kg) has a strong association with poor health outcomes in infancy, childhood and across the whole life course, including long term conditions such as	NHS ISD	89.9% (Year 2015/16)	↑	No new data available		East Renfrewshire's rate of healthy birth weight is higher than the national average.

	diabetes and coronary heart disease.						
Children and Young People Dependency Ratio	This is the ratio of children and young people aged 0-15 to the working age population (age 16-64). Data is shown as the proportion of dependents per 100 working-age population.	National Records of Scotland population estimates data	33.9 (For every 100 people aged 16-64 there are 33.9 children and young people) (Year 2019)	N/A	No new data available	N/A	No new data available
Children living in poverty	The is the percentage of children living in relative poverty (as per Scottish Government definition) before housing costs are taken into consideration	End Child Poverty annual data	16% (2021 published data)				Delay with 2022 data publication

Fairer East Ren Progress

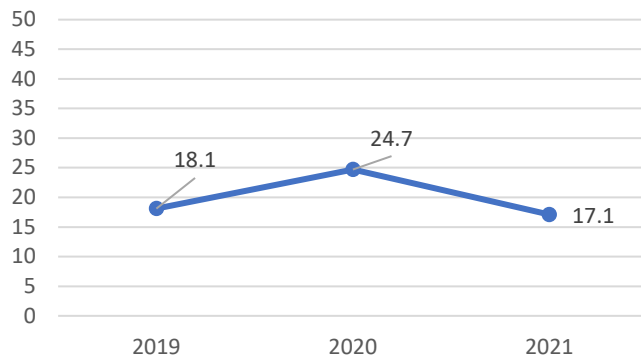
Real Living Wage employers in East Renfrewshire



Source: Number of real Living Wage accredited employers: Living Wage Scotland 2022.

East Renfrewshire Council, Business Gateway East Renfrewshire and Living Wage Scotland worked in partnership to promote Living Wage accreditation to employers based in East Renfrewshire. The Economic Development team will continue to promote and pay for this initiative in 2022/23.

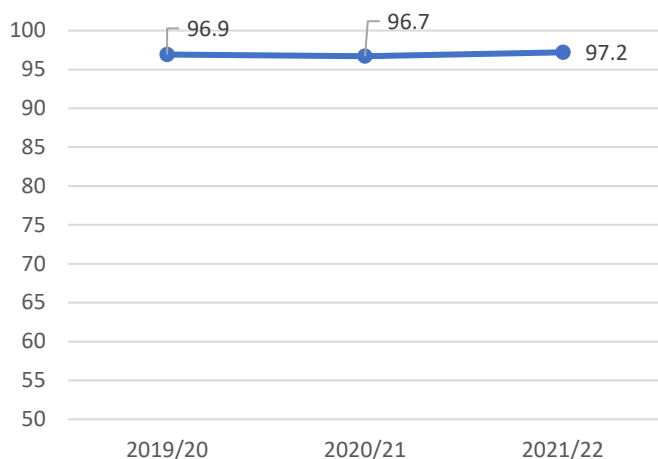
Working age unemployment level (%)



Source: %age of economically inactive residents who want a job: NOMIS Data source timeframe Jan-Dec.

17.1% represents 2,500 of the population of East Renfrewshire. 19.6% for the national level. There has been a slight decrease in the % of economically inactive residents who want a job. This is largely due to impacts of Covid on the local economy. Work EastRen and employability partners will continue to promote and engage with local residents who are seeking employment.

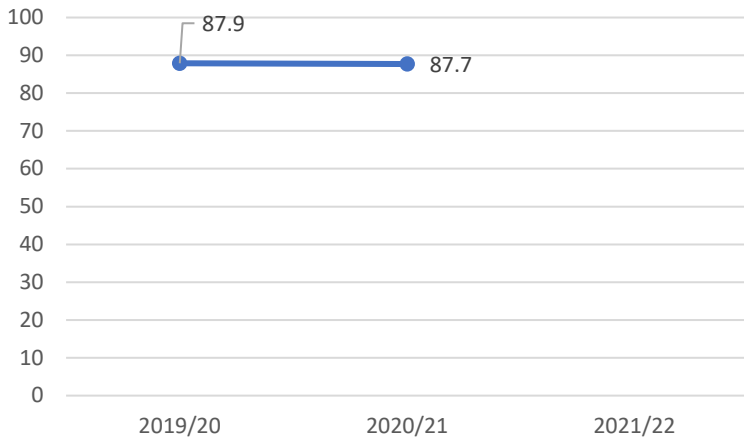
Children and young people participation level (%)



Source: %age of 16-19 year olds participating in learning, training or employment: SDS Annual Participation Measure Report .

East Renfrewshire continues to perform well against % age of 16-19 In year olds participating in learning, training or employment. The highest participation rate was in East Renfrewshire (97.2%) which increased by 0.4 pp from 2020.

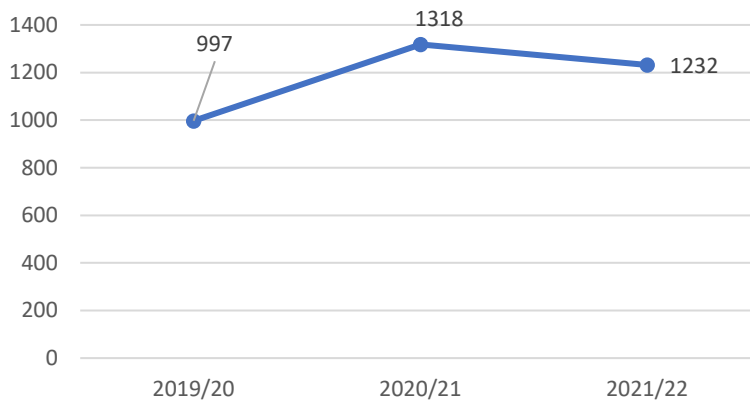
Free School Meal uptake at Primary School (%)



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there was no data collected for uptake of free school meals in 2021/22.

Source: %age uptake of free school meals at primary school (P1-P7): School Healthy Living Survey 2021.

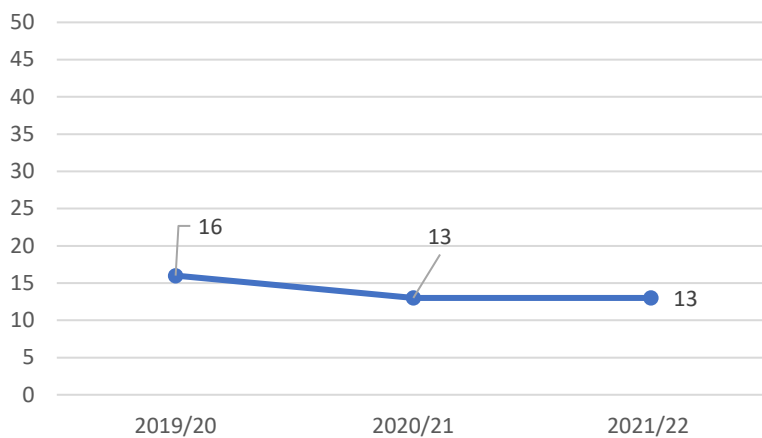
Access to financial wellbeing advice



We have seen a further increase in the number of families accessing financial wellbeing advice again this year.

Source: Number of families accessing MART financial wellbeing advice: Local data.

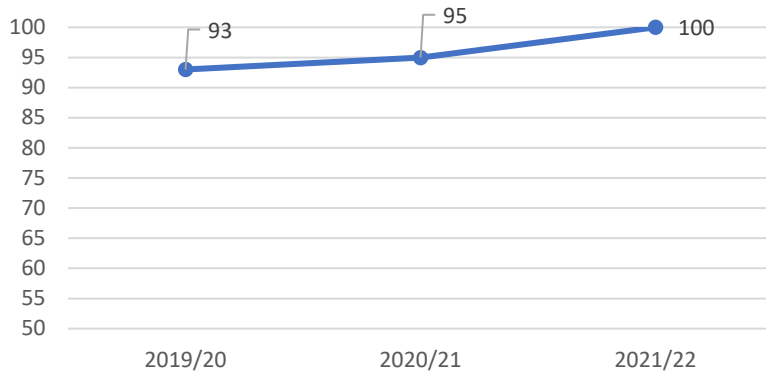
Fuel poverty (%)



The level of fuel poverty has remained static although we note that the lag in data publication means that this may not present a true, current reflection.

Source: Fuel poverty: Scottish House Condition Survey 2022 .

Uptake of funded early learning and childcare entitlement



All eligible 3 and 4 year olds are registered for their funded early learning and childcare place in 2021 which is a great achievement and should provide parents with affordable childcare options to enhance their employment opportunities.

Source: %age of 3 & 4 year olds registered for funded early learning and childcare Dec 2022: Scottish Government Schools.

Snapshot of success in 2021-22

- The Work EastRen team continue to deliver the Scottish Government funded **Parental Employability Support Fund (PESF)**. The PESF is collaboratively managed by Scottish and Local Government, providing dedicated support for low -income families. To date the Work EastRen team have registered **38 clients** with **16 moving into employment and 6 who have entered into further vocational training**. Those registered on the programme also have financial support with travel to work and interview clothing, as well as individual financial inclusion support.



- Between April 2021 and March 2022, the Money Advice and Rights Team (MART) worked with **1232 families with children and generated income of £852,000**. In total MART assisted 3420 clients and generated income of £5,600,000.
- East Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau provided assistance to **1141 families within the Child Poverty key groups**, including assistance for 248 families who experienced a family breakdown, 37 parents seeking maintenance from a non-resident parent, and 27 application for pregnancy and baby payments.
- We administered **Family Bridging payments** on behalf of Scottish Government and also provided additional ‘top-up’ payments from Humanitarian Support funding. **£948,000 of Family Bridging Payments were made during 2021/22** (during summer, autumn, winter and spring). These payments supported around **1,700 school pupils**. Free School Meal payments of £93,000 were also made, replacing the voucher scheme which had been used previously. Two “top up” payments were made during the Winter/Spring from Humanitarian funding, with an additional **£84,000 supporting pupils receiving Free School Meals** and a further **£78,000 supporting 500 pupils receiving Clothing Grants only**.
- Throughout 2021-22, we operated a **discretionary grant aimed at low-income households** affected by the pandemic. Approximately **£83,000 was paid to 390 households**, 186 of which were families with children.
- East Renfrewshire Council has employed an **Energy Cost Advisor** to provide holistic advice and support to households facing energy poverty. The support includes reviewing bills and tariffs; switching suppliers; applying for grants; wiping out debts from pre-pay meters; reducing customer’s payments; and helping people to get back on supply. The service started in October 2021 and the Energy Cost Advisor has helped **over 40 households saving them approximately £10,000**.



- East Renfrewshire Citizens’ Advice Bureau (ERCAB) worked in partnership with Barrhead Housing Association and East Renfrewshire Council to provide a **fuel support scheme** to help households with gas and electricity costs. Payments were made to households to support them with the weekly or monthly energy costs, and also as one-off payments to manage any energy debt. The scheme ran between June 2020 and March 2022 and during that time over **350 households have been supported**, with approximately **£100,000** being paid out.

- East Renfrewshire Citizen’s Advice Bureau (ERCAB) is one of six bureaux in the country participating in a Scottish Government pilot aimed at eradicating the need for foodbanks. As part of this pilot, ERCAB has been providing **shopping cards** in place of referrals to the Foodbank, whilst also providing access to emergency income, money advice and wider holistic support services. We have issued **£40,000 worth of vouchers to over 600 households with children; 1360 children reached in total.**
- 12 schools across the authority area have worked in partnership with the Education department since May 2021 to **audit the cost of the school day**. The revised policy places increased emphasis on the importance of reducing the cost of uniform to families and stipulates that all school uniforms must be able to be purchased within the total amount of the school clothing grant.
- During Summer 2021, we provided a range of **Get into Summer activities** which were planned and delivered in partnership between Education, Community Learning and Development, Culture and Leisure Trust, Social Work and East Renfrewshire Carers Centre. In total over **2200 children and young people** had first-hand experience of Get Into Summer activities. Many other family members, in particular parents and carers, will have benefitted through removing the need for them to provide childcare and lunch.
- The **Community Learning and Development (CLD)** team continued to **provide targeted building based support** to young people who were most isolated and vulnerable, including those with additional support needs, those from the LGBTi community, young parents and those who struggled to re-engage with formal education and learning.



Strategic Priority 2: Learning, Life and Work



The outcome we want is...



East Renfrewshire residents are healthy and active and have the skills for learning, life and work

Our steps along the way to achieving this are...

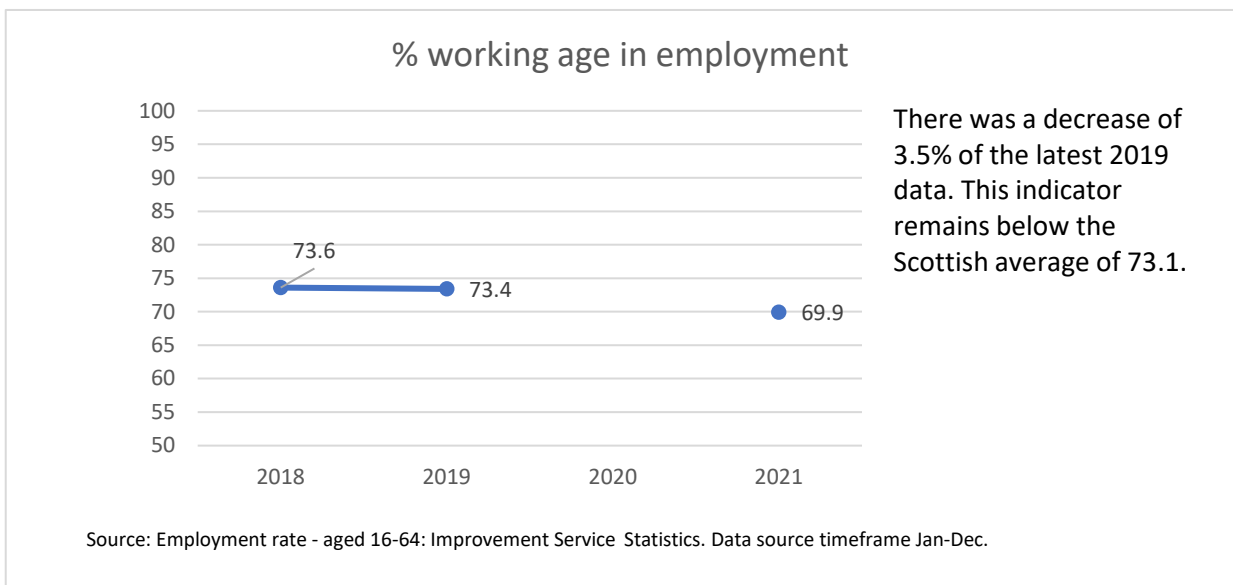
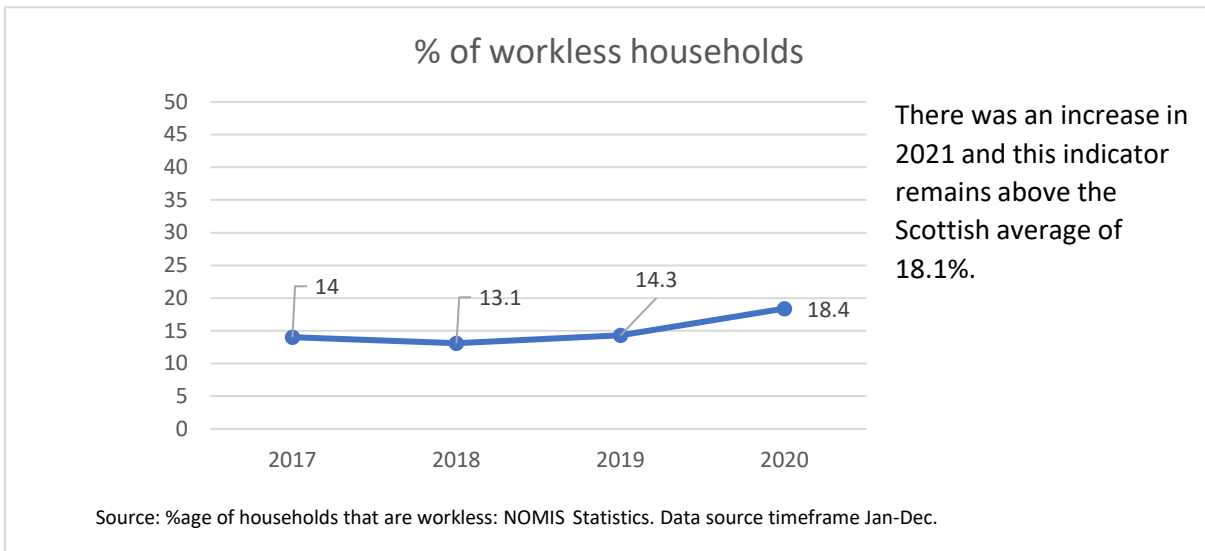
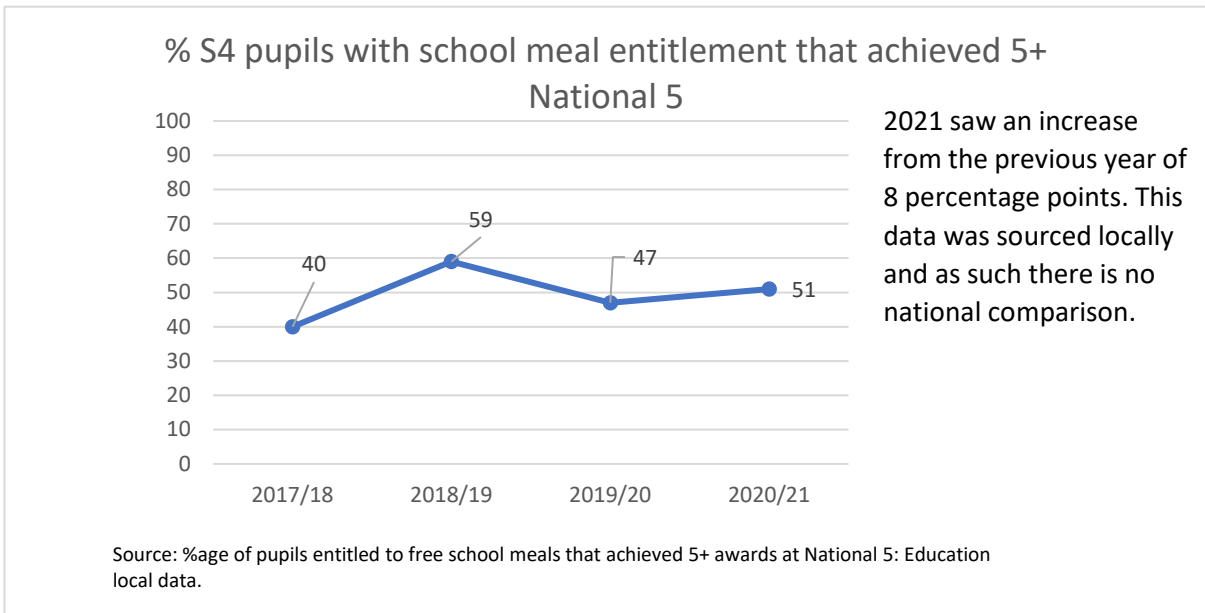
- Residents have the right skills, learning opportunities and confidence to secure and sustain work*
- Children and young people are included
- Children and young people raise their educational attainment and develop the skills they need
- Residents are as healthy and active as possible

*Fairer East Ren outcome

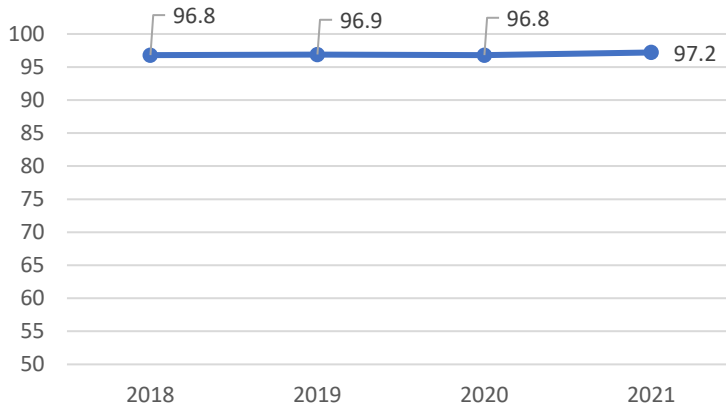
Community Plan Indicators

Learning, Life and Work							
Indicator	Rationale for inclusion	Source	ERC Baseline	Aim to Maximise (↑) or Minimise (↓)	Direction of travel over the last year	ERC Performance against Scotland	Comments
% of School Leavers in a Positive Destination *CPOP Indicator	To help raise attainment and support school improvement, information is gathered annually on the attainment and destinations of school leavers across Scotland. East Renfrewshire generally has high levels of positive School Leaver Destinations. This will now be tracked rather than setting targets against this.	Scottish Government	96.6% (Year 2016/17)	↑	↑		2021 saw an increase of 1.2 percentage points and compares favourably with the Scottish average of 95.5%.
% of East Renfrewshire's population who are economically active	Proportion of 16-64 year olds in employment or actively seeking employment. East Renfrewshire requires an active working age population to provide the goods and services demanded by our residents.	NOMIS, Annual Population Survey	75.9% (Year 2018)	↑	↓		In 2021 there was a decrease of 4.1 percentage points from the previous year and 3.7 percentage points lower than the Scottish average of 76.2%. These numbers are estimates based on a sample survey (Annual Population Survey data). True values will lie between + or - 3% of the quoted figure.

Fairer East Ren progress



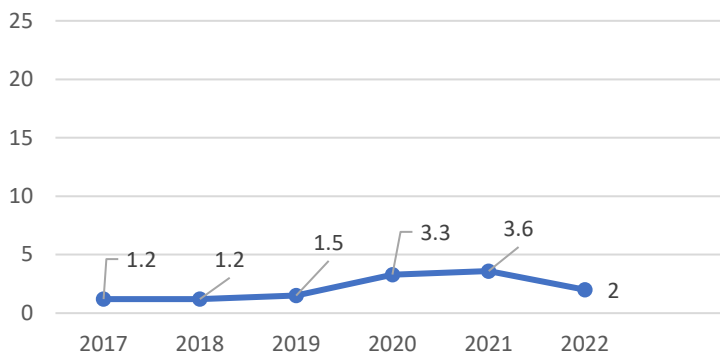
% 16-19 year olds participating in education, employment or training



There was an increase of 0.4% in the last year. This indicator remains above the Scottish average of 92.1.

Source: Annual Participation Measure: Skills Development Scotland (SDS). Data source timeframe Jan-Dec.

% 16-19 year olds claiming out of work benefits



There has been a decrease in the last year of 1.6 percentage points, and is below the Scottish average of 3.8%.

Source: 16-19 year old Claimant Count: Skills Development Scotland (SDS). Data source timeframe Jan-Dec.

Snapshot of success in 2021-22

- The Work EastRen team, Local Employability Partnership and employability partners have continued to work in partnership to promote and deliver sustainable pathways into employment for local residents.



- Employability partners have been able to access the **Young Person's Guarantee and No One Left Behind** funding to deliver a wider range of services aimed at getting **16–24-year-olds into vocational training/sustainable employment**. Activity has included childcare, modern apprenticeships, care experienced young people, additional support needs and Positive Pathways programme. We have supported more than 190 young people through a range of provisions offered internally and through our third sector providers locally. 43 young people have started employment, 26 have started Modern Apprenticeships and 15 have entered further educations.

- The Work EastRen team also delivered **employability support to those at risk from redundancy** via the Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE) programme. The PACE Client Adviser supported 15 people who had been made redundant during Covid, with 9 progressing to further employment. Training courses were also delivered to help those with **criminal convictions** into employment; this supported 5 clients and this support is ongoing. The Work EastRen team has continued to provide specialised **employability support to the Syrian community**. The Refugee Client Advisor worked with a caseload of 20 clients from Syria supporting them with a range of training, volunteering and employment opportunities.



- **DYW (Developing the Young Workforce) School Co-ordinators** continue to co-ordinate work related and work-based learning; collaborate with employers to develop the curriculum offer and progress the development of learner pathways, establish employers and school partnerships. An employer networking brunch took place with the aim to ensure every school will have an effective and sustainable partnership with at least one employer, and to strengthen links between education and employers.

- Membership of the Local Employability Partnership groups has been extended to include **East Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce, Business Gateway East Renfrewshire, and Include Me 2**. Through the **Young Persons Guarantee** funding, Include Me 2 provide dedicated and specialised **employability support for those residents with additional support needs**. The programme provides a range of individual and small group approaches to help develop the skills, confidence, awareness and understanding to reach a positive destination in the young person's employment journey.

- Significant resources have been awarded by the Scottish Government's **No One Left Behind and Young Person's Guarantee Programme** and in particular, **employer recruitment incentives (ERI)**. Individuals (including graduates) are **eligible for ERI support if they are unemployed** (or on a paid work experience programme) and if they meet certain criteria. We have supported **15 employment recruitment incentives** aimed at young people with a range of local employers. Employment has included: hairdressing, green keeping, child minding,

administration, social media, floor laying, heating engineering, support working for a third sector organisation and welding. In addition, **a further 6 'all age' ERIs** were supported.

- Funding was also secured to help deliver the **Kickstart programme** via DWP, **creating new jobs for 16-24 year olds on Universal Credit** who are **at risk of long term unemployment**. Young people can enter a work placement with an employer and the UK Government pays them 6 months minimum wage. We supported 38 Kickstart placements during 2020/21.
- **The Council's Economic Development team** continues to promote its grants and loans programme to local businesses, while the **Business Gateway team** continues to support new and existing business in ER. The Economic Development team has been responsible for the processing and payment of various **Covid business grant programmes** since March 2020. To date the team has processed **over £22m in grant payments**.
- The Council's Economic Development team, Business Gateway East Renfrewshire and local employability partners continue to encourage local employers to adopt **Fair Work practices**. Business development grant applications to the Council requires applicants to demonstrate how they have adopted Fair Work practices. **The Work EastRen team does not advertise or put forward clients for any zero hour contracts** and works with clients to **access living wage jobs**. The Council's Economic Development and Business Gateway teams offered funding to help employers pay their staff the real Living Wage.
- Through the **Parental Employability Support Fund (PESF)**, the Council has been allocated Scottish Government budget to **support parents in employment and at risk of in-work poverty**. In partnership with **DWP, Skills Development Scotland** and the **Third Sector** interface, the Council developed a model exclusively focusing on providing in-work support. This **will address all barriers to work** including lack of skills, experience, health support, money advice and childcare access. To date the team have registered 38 clients with 16 moving into employment and 6 who have entered into further vocational training.
- The CLD team delivered a range of wider accreditation opportunities for our young people including; **Duke of Edinburgh, Junior Awards Scheme for Schools (ASDAN), Dynamic Youth Awards and SQA Personal Development**.

Strategic Priority 3: Economy and Environment



The outcome we want is...



East Renfrewshire is a thriving attractive and sustainable place for business and residents










Our steps along the way to achieving this are...

- East Renfrewshire's transport links are accessible, attractive and seamless*
- East Renfrewshire is a thriving place to invest and for businesses to grow
- East Renfrewshire is an attractive place to live with a good physical environment
- East Renfrewshire is a great place to visit
- East Renfrewshire is environmentally sustainable

*Fairer East Ren outcome

Community Plan Indicators

Economy and Environment							
Indicator	Rationale for inclusion	Source	ERC Baseline	Aim to Maximise (↑) or Minimise (↓)	Direction of travel over the last year	ERC Performance against Scotland	Comments
% of adult population with qualifications at NVQ level 4 (HND/Degree) and above	Gives an indication of how skilled our working age population is.	NOMIS, Annual Population Survey	54.6% (Year 2018)	↑	↑		The current rate of 63.6% is higher than the Scottish average of 50.1%. These numbers are estimates based on a sample survey (Annual Population Survey data). True values will lie between + or – 3.9% of the quoted figure.
% of population aged 16-64	East Renfrewshire relies on its working age population to contribute to the production of the local economy as well as providing vital services for our children, young people and older people.	NOMIS, Annual Population Survey	59.8% (Year 2018)	↑	↓		The working age population has slowly been decreasing over the last few years and the latest figure of 59.3% is lower than the Scottish average of 63.9%.
% of residents who are satisfied or very satisfied with East Renfrewshire	Gives a general sense as to how residents feel about living in the East Renfrewshire area.	Citizens Panel	94% (Year 2018)	↑	↓	N/A	Satisfaction remains high although a slight decrease may be as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. As the Citizens Panel survey is bespoke to East Renfrewshire,

as a place to live							there are no national comparisons available.
Business Survival Rates	A ratio of the number of businesses still trading after 3 years against the number of new business set up at the same time	Scottish Government	60.29 (Year 2014)				The 3-Year business survival rate for 2017 is 57.6, i.e. 57.6% of businesses that were 'born' in 2017 were still active in 2020.
Median Earnings for residents living in the East Renfrewshire area who are employed *CPOP Indicator	Provides a measure of median earnings for full-time workers who are resident in the area.	Office for National Statistics – Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings	£590.70 (Provisional figure for Year 2017/18)				The current median earnings has reduced to £809.40 but is still significantly higher than the Scottish average of £622.
Carbon Dioxide (CO2) Emissions per Resident *CPOP Indicator	In recent years, increasing emphasis has been placed on the role of regional bodies and local government in contributing to energy efficiency improvements, and reductions in carbon dioxide emissions.	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy	4.6 (Year 2015-16)				The number of CO2 emissions per resident has been decreasing steadily since 2015.

Snapshot of success 2021-22

Community Transport

The **Community Hub** established a **Vaccination Centre Volunteer Transport Network** to provide local residents with information on all available transport options for travel to and from local vaccination centres, including the offer of volunteer drivers providing a transport service. Although the service was not as busy as original estimates predicted, it did illustrate **a working model that could be pursued for future Community Transport provision.**

The Community Hub (including Talking Points) received **28 calls** regarding transport issues from residents seeking to attend activities in the area or to access community services. Almost one third of these calls were from Newton Mearns residents. After further consultation, a number of these calls resulted in residents organising their own transport. However, Alzheimer Scotland was able to provide transport solutions for their activities. The Hub has also signposted 17 calls to CTER for medical appointments and two calls for *Driving Miss Daisy* (a local social enterprise).



Following completion of two transport studies just before the outbreak of Covid-19 (including one on **community transport**), a Transport Delivery Plan was scheduled to be developed based on the key issues, recommendations and actions from the studies. As a reminder, some of the key issues which were identified were:

- Anticipated population growth and ageing population
- Reducing inequality
- Sustainability – to minimise car use
- Routes in and around the area

Due to the focus over the past year on the response to Covid-19, the Transport Delivery Plan has not yet been produced. Confidence in using particular modes of transport have been impacted and certain groups are faced with decisions based on risk of health. Disadvantaged and low income groups may not have any choice and will require to use the same modes – regardless of social distancing or fare increases due to falling passenger numbers. This may increase the gap between those that have options and those that don't.

Moving forward, the Plan will now need to take cognisance of a shifting landscape due to the pandemic and the changes that this will have on travel patterns – both short-term and long-term.

Climate Action

The CLD team secured funding which was distributed by Youthlink to provide support to young **Climate Change Ambassadors**. As a result, the 'Go Green' group has been formed to create a longer-term, embedded offer for climate action and sustainable education programmes through youth work.

Strategic Priority 4: Safe, Supportive Communities



The outcome we want is...



East Renfrewshire residents are safe and live in supportive communities

Our steps along the way to achieving this are...

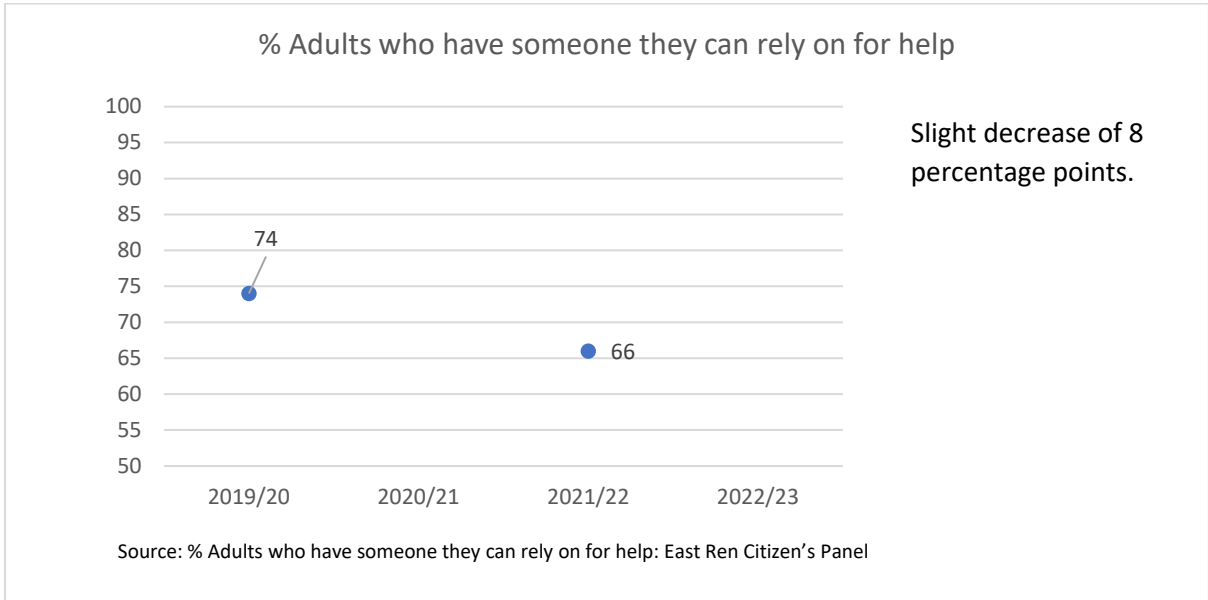
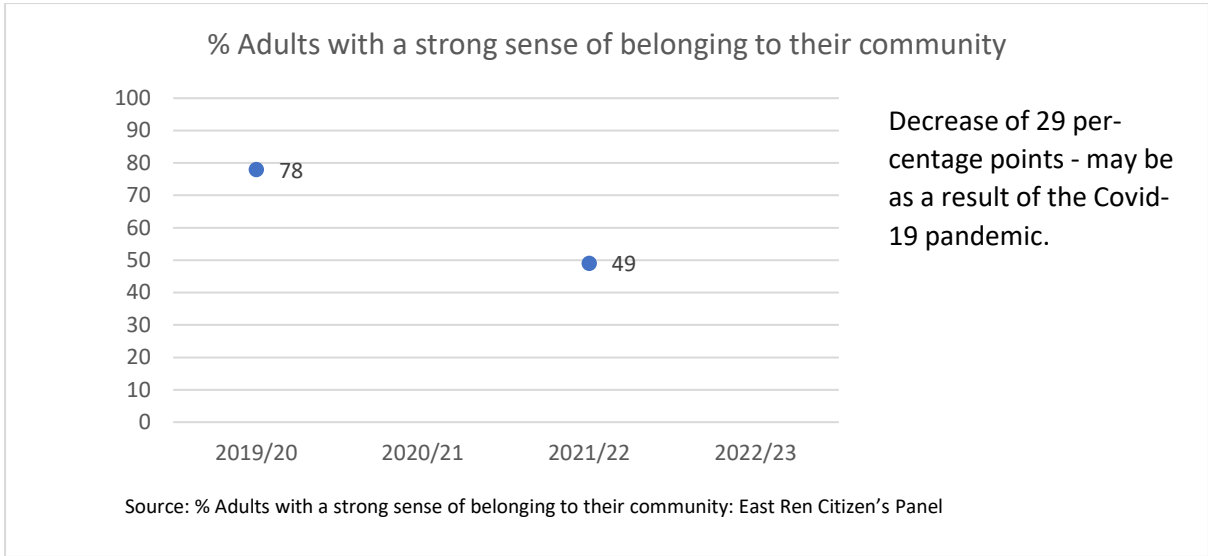
- Residents' mental health and wellbeing is improved*
- Residents live in safe communities with low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Residents are protected from harm and abuse and public protection is safeguarded
- Residents live in communities that are strong, self-sufficient and resilient
- Residents are protected from drug and alcohol related harm

*Fairer East Ren outcome

Community Plan Indicators

Safe, Supportive Communities							
Indicator	Rationale for inclusion	Source	ERC Baseline	Aim to Maximise (↑) or Minimise (↓)	Direction of travel over the last year	ERC Performance against Scotland	Comments
Number of crimes per 10,000 population *CPOP Indicator	Measure of crimes taking place in the area, indicating how safe the area is to live in.	Scottish Government (Police Scotland)	262 (Year 2017-18)	↓	↓		Decrease of 7 crimes per 10,000 population
Number of dwelling fires per 100,000 population *CPOP Indicator	Seeks to establish the number of deliberate fires and the work of Scottish Fire and Rescue within the CPP in reducing deliberate fires. Also supports the work of SFR education communities and making residents safer from the risks of accidental fires.	Scottish Fire and Rescue (data provided to the CPOP)	68 (Year 2016-17)	↓	↓		This figure has decreased from the previous year, having seen a significant spike in 2019/20.
% of residents who feel crime in ERC has increased over the last two years	Perception measure of rates of local crime from East Renfrewshire residents.	Citizens' Panel	29%	↓	No new data available	N/A	Bespoke to East Renfrewshire.

Fairer East Ren Progress



2020/21 data missing due to pandemic therefore not shown in chart

Snapshot of success 2021-22

While many of the groups and clubs which had positively impacted on residents' mental health and wellbeing pre-pandemic have still not been able to re-start face-to-face, there have still been some key successes to report.

- Nine **health walks** have been offered across East Renfrewshire, supported by 14 volunteers. Between October 2021 and March 2022, 19 new walk members registered, with an average of **70 regular walkers meeting every week**. Six **Strength & Balance classes also started** for people who were inactive during the pandemic but didn't yet feel able to start joining the walks. Twelve people attended each class every week with venues including Neilston Development Trust, Dunterlie Resource Centre in Barrhead and Mearns Kirk Helping Hands.
- **The Community Hub** responded to almost **850 calls** on its community helpline:
 - 154 calls about shopping assistance
 - 791 calls for general information about local activities and supports
 - 764 calls relating to social isolation resulting in a Community Hub Wellbeing call

More than 200 callers were signposted in the last year, which resulted in around 240 separate signpost interventions to more than 40 local organisations including community groups, the Council, the HSCP and Third Sector organisations. The most common request were residents seeking information on what local activities were available, what groups had re-started and how people could access them. As a result, the Community Hub's Pandemic Emergency Response directory has been re-designed to reflect **more community-based activities** rather than pandemic supports: <https://eastrencommunityhub.org.uk/>



- A new two year Scottish Government **fund to support adult mental health and wellbeing** was distributed within East Renfrewshire via Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire (VAER) in partnership with the local Integrated Joint Board, Community Planning Partnership and community organisations through its Wellbeing Network. **Over £230,000 was awarded to 17 local groups** in the first year. The second round of funding is due to open in the Summer of 2022.

- The **Community Link Service** continued to have a high demand with over **800 referrals** in the period April 2021 - March 2022. There are currently 10 workers (4 WTE), offering telephone appointments due to ongoing restrictions at the GP practices. Over two thirds of referrals are female, continuing previous trends, and the most common female age group seeking support are aged 26-35 followed by 36-55 years. The most common age group for men was 46-55 years. Reasons for needing support are similar to previous years, **anxiety and stress**, followed by **depression**. In 2021-22, family issues (including bereavement / loss) was also one of the top three reasons. The main interventions provided by link workers in the last year were: **mental health and emotional wellbeing support, liaising/signposting to other supports such as welfare advice, and counselling**.

- Some of the key emerging evidence around suicide in light of the pandemic indicates that there has been **no significant increase in deaths by suicide to date**. **Prevention and early intervention**, therefore, have an even more **significant role** and there continues to be a lot of activity around **staff awareness raising** and **social media promotion of available supports and services**. There are **172 staff** from statutory and third sector booked on to the current online wellbeing programme commissioned by the HSCP from Scottish Association for Mental Health. This programme includes sessions on supporting others with their mental health and suicide awareness.
- **Suicide prevention action planning** workshops are due to take place later this year and the East Renfrewshire action plan will be informed by the publication of the national strategy in September 2022. This work will require wide involvement across all front facing services, reflecting the message that suicide is “**everyone’s business**”. A working group will lead the work with the Mental Health and Recovery Planning group taking an oversight role and signing off the draft plan. Bereavement through suicide is also a key area which will be explored.
- The CLD team delivered a programme of detached youth work across East Renfrewshire, this resulted in **3437 contacts** with young people from April 2021 to March 2022.
- **VAER digital network sessions have helped us to understand the barriers that prevent residents going online**. Barriers include: cost (device & connectivity), safety, skills, literacy, and disabilities. Barriers are considered on an ongoing basis in all development work and communications, for example digital inclusion questions are to be embedded in Talking Points 'Good Conversations'.
- **A map showing free Wi-Fi access at ERCL venues** is on the **Community Hub website**. Libraries are replacing all public access PCs with new Windows 10 devices (including most up-to-date versions of Office) in Spring 2022. Code Clubs in libraries, aimed at primary school children, will be re-introduced in during 2022. Work is underway to migrate the public WiFi offer away from current Virgin Media managed service to WiFi Spark by the Summer 2022, enabling more joined- up public WiFi across more sites.
- **ER Citizens' Advice** is continuing to offer twice weekly **HERO (Help East Renfrewshire Online) appointments** to clients without access to computers, allowing them to apply for jobs under their claimant commitment, update their UC (Universal Credit) journal and adapt their skills. The appointments also allow clients to develop their CVs - clients are shown how to use Microsoft packages and how to edit these easily. Clients are becoming more computer literate through this and are now confident in checking their emails on their phones, logging onto their UC and updating their journals without assistance. It is hoped that the **re-introduction of HERO drop-in sessions at libraries** over the forthcoming months will **facilitate group learning**

- **Adult Learning Services** continue to support recipients of devices through the Connecting Scotland Programme and it is hoped that clients will be able to progress with their devices more quickly through face to face learning opportunities. Some residents, previously provided with a device from a partner service, now want a course to show them how to use it. As a result, a **new IT course** will shortly commence in the Foundry in Barrhead (where most of the current need is), **allowing people to bring their devices with them, learning together in a small group.**



- **ER Citizens' Advice** has been working with **Include Me 2** to provide **drop-in sessions** to local residents. Other organisations can also send clients along **for digital support.**
- The **Market Place in Newton Mearns** has been providing **one-to-one digital support** to residents and a total of **34 Cyber Resilience sessions** were provided to partner organisations by the end of March 2022.
- **Libraries have been providing support** to complete the **2022 Scotland's Census online** and **ER Citizens' Advice** have also been supporting clients with no access to computers or the skills on how to use them to complete the Census online.

Case Studies

Helen* –Remote IT Support Sessions (Care documents)

Helen had been given a brand new PC and, as a carer for her disabled daughter, she needed to set it up, print pro forma updates from her daughter's support team regarding her care and to type, save and print important documents herself. She also wanted to print PDF files of meeting minutes from a committee she's a member of.

Helen had more than a dozen one-to-one Support Sessions with the tutor over the phone, then video calls via WhatsApp and Zoom, to set up her PC, printer and speakers. Over the course of the sessions she learned how to:

- use Word Online to create, access and print her own documents
- reset her e-mail password to access her messages
- clear space on her phone to allow other apps to be downloaded onto it
- retrieve her contacts list and back up her photos on her phone
- install anti-virus software onto her PC
- use the Translate tool to keep in touch with Spanish and Swedish friends.

Following subsequent printer problems, the tutor helped her to un-install then re-install her printer.

June* - Remote IT Support Sessions (Post-Bereavement support)

June's mother passed away during the pandemic and, after many years of being her carer, she had been receiving bereavement counselling over Zoom on her phone, but wasn't too confident using Zoom plus the screen was very small.

June was also trying to get back into some hobbies to aid her recovery and mental health and was keen to use her new Chromebook laptop to look further into her family tree; access e-mail and Facebook to keep in touch with people; clear space on her phone to allow a software update; manage the music on her phone for walks in the park and gym sessions.

June had 12 one-to-one Support Sessions with the tutor over Zoom, through which she became more confident in using the technology, finding out information online and managing her devices herself. The tutor showed her a family history website and June later enrolled on a Genealogy course at college to help her with her research. She was even able to add details of her ancestors onto the Ancestry website to create her own family tree. She found a Mindfulness Walking session by searching online and subsequently attended the group in-person. June can now access Facebook and e-mail on her Chromebook and is now able to organise the storage space and music on her phone.

June:

"I had a bereavement in lockdown. I lost my mum after caring for her for some time. My confidence and self-esteem are low. I am trying to learn new things as well as maximising the use of things I already have and don't know how to use eg new Chromebook, Zoom, Facebook, musical and digital storage, Genealogy. [Tutor] has a wealth of knowledge. She has advised me on IT issues that I would never have been able to resolve on my own."

Heather* – Remote IT Support Session (Retirement form)

Heather was e-mailed an important form to be completed regarding her impending retirement but had been unable to retrieve what she had filled in so far, tick the check-boxes or add her signature to the form. Following a one-to-one Support Session with the tutor over Microsoft Teams, Heather learned how to locate her saved form, add ticks to the check-boxes, save the file correctly and attach it to an e-mail to send back.

Heather:

"An enormous thank you for today... you were absolutely marvellous!! There's no way I could have done that myself."

Strategic Priority 5: Older people and People with Long Term Conditions



The outcome we want is...

Older people and people with Long Term Conditions in East Renfrewshire are valued; their voices are heard and they enjoy full and positive lives

Our steps along the way to achieving this are...

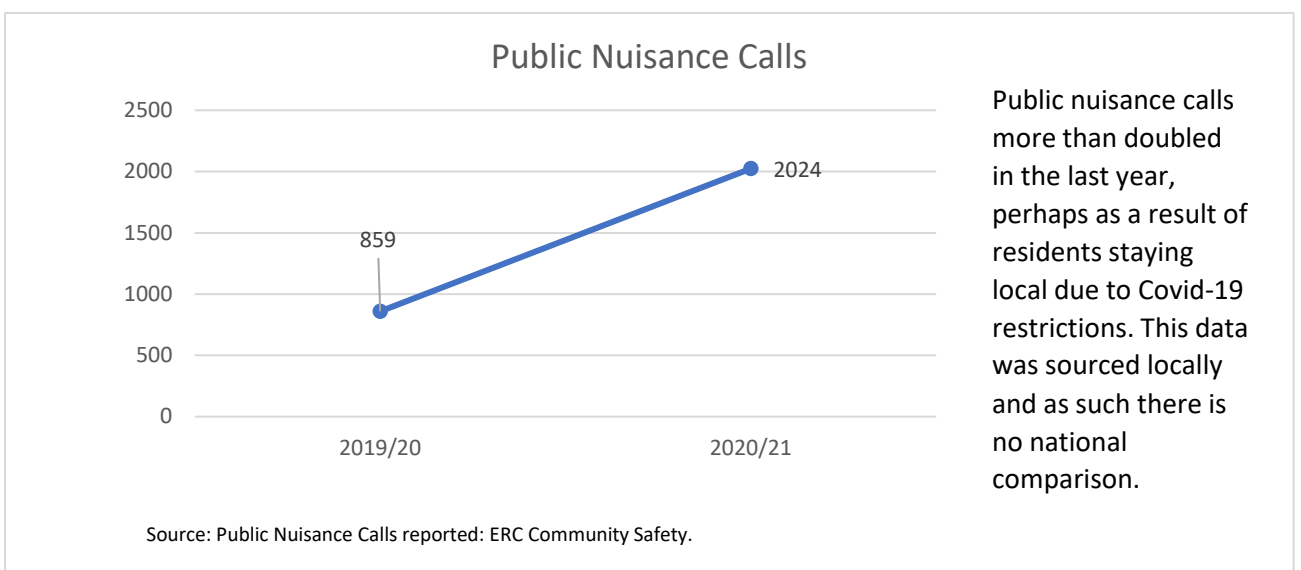
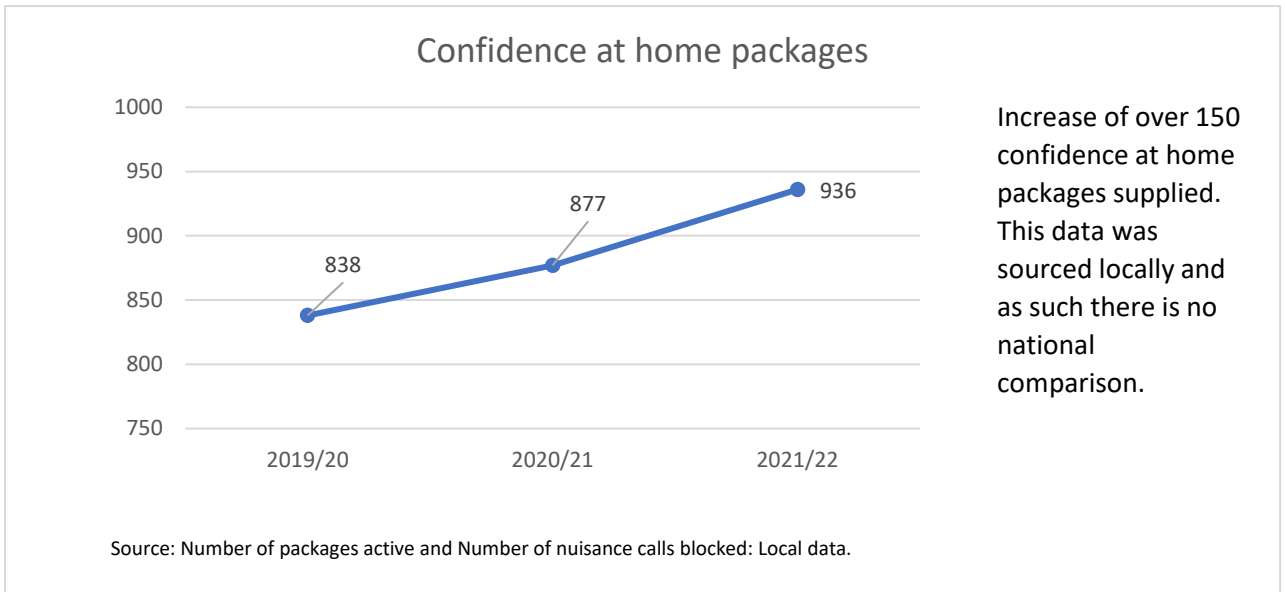
- Residents are safe and more socially connected within their communities*
- Older people and people with Long Term Conditions stay as healthy as possible
- Older people and people with Long Term Conditions live safely and independently in the community
- Carers are valued and can maintain their own health and wellbeing

*Fairer East Ren outcome

Community Plan indicators

Older People and People with Long Term Conditions							
Indicator	Rationale for inclusion	Source	ERC Baseline	Aim to Maximise (↑) or Minimise (↓)	Direction of travel over the last year	ERC Performance against Scotland	Comments
Older Age Dependency Ratio (Ratio of people aged 75+ to the working age population aged 16-64)	Ratio of older people 75+ to the working age population (16-64). A rise in this ration, coupled with the cost of care for older people, indicates that the CPP may have a greater challenge in providing care for its older population.	National Records of Scotland Population Estimates	15.8 (Year 2018)	N/A	N/A	N/A	No new data available
Male Life Expectancy at age 75 Years	Provides an estimate of how many further years a 75 year old male residing in East Renfrewshire today can expect to live. Based on mortality rates at the time.	National Records of Scotland	11.7 (Year 2015-17)	↑	↔	●	Male life expectancy at age 75 has remained steady. East Renfrewshire has a higher life expectancy rate than the Scottish average.
Female Life Expectancy at age 75 Years	Provides an estimate of how many further years a 75 year old female residing in East Renfrewshire today can expect to live. Based on mortality rates at the time.	National Records of Scotland	13.1 (Year 2015-17)	↑	↑	●	Female life expectancy at age 75 has increased by nearly a year since the last estimate and has been consistently higher than the Scottish average.

Fairer East Ren Progress



Snapshot of success 2021-22

- East Renfrewshire **Trading Standards** are now working with **Police Scotland** to **deter home maintenance fraudsters**. The multi-agency GRIP (Greater Results in Partnership) meetings continue to take place weekly to discuss the previous week's activity around crime and anti-social behaviour and to identify any emerging trends. **Community Safety** and **Youth Services** also meet with Police Scotland & British Transport Police weekly to discuss planning for events and staff resourcing over the upcoming weekend.



will be hosting three weekly community "Talking Points" where residents can either pop in or make an appointment.

- **Talking Points** continues to develop as the main point of contact for residents across East Renfrewshire around guidance and advice with all aspects of community supports. A founding member of the Community Hub, **Talking Points has distributed 30,000 postcards across the authority**, built links with over 70 organisations and developed an online referral system and new media outlets. Going forward, Talking Points
- We continue to strengthen the capacity of our services and action across the whole system to address the long-term effects of trauma and abuse experienced by women, children and young people. Monthly **Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment training** is delivered and is well attended with representation from Adult Social Work, NHS, Children and Families Social Work, Addictions, Housing, Education, Psychological Services, Fire and Rescue. Additional training is being delivered to Home Care Staff.
- **East Renfrewshire** is one of eight pilot sites in Scotland contributing to the national programme **Equally Safe at Work**. The pilot is progressing with the first e-learning module centred on gender being available and to date **120 staff have enrolled for the first module**.
- The Council also participated in the national campaign *16 Days of Action* to **end violence against women and girls** by developing a specific local programme of key messaging and campaign activity delivered throughout the 16 days.
- East Renfrewshire Women's Aid has continued to provide emotional and practical support to women, children and young people throughout the Covid-19 crisis. **Almost 1,230 women and children were supported** across the three core services, helpline and drop-in enquiries compared to 805 during the same period last year – an increase of 52%. Between April 2021 and March 2022, ER Women's Aid service reported **significant change and improvement for women** across all reported outcomes - 125 reviews were completed with **87% of women assessed noting improvement in progress in their outcomes overall**. Reduction in risk is reflected in the significant increases in the areas of safety with **91% improvement, health & wellbeing 82%, and empowerment & self-esteem 78%**.
- Domestic abuse referrals are expected to continue to increase longer term. Recovering from the social and economic effects of Covid-19 and mitigating the long-term effects of trauma and abuse experienced by women, children and young people will require continued action to strengthen the capacity of our services and action across the whole system to ensure their recovery needs are recognised and addressed.
- Almost **650 fire home safety visits** were carried out between April 2021 and March 2022.

- **Older residents** have attended two 'Digital Newbies' face-to-face sessions with two Digital Champions at the Museum in Barrhead to learn how they could better use their devices.



- **Mearns Kirk Helping Hands (MKHH)** has **two young volunteer champions trained and supporting older people to use technology.** A volunteer is matched to an older person who is looking for one to one help with technology. Community visits are facilitated by MKHH staff. **Six older people have been supported on a one to one basis to date.**
- Since 1 April 2021 **ER Trading Standards** has installed **82 call blockers to protect older and vulnerable people** from scam phone calls. To date, more than **11,000 nuisance and scam phone calls have been blocked** and it is estimated that **18 scams have been prevented.** On average, 20 of these calls are received each month. Almost a quarter of all calls received were nuisance calls or scam calls and almost all were blocked by trueCall technology. It is also estimated that over the four-year life cycle of these units, they will have **blocked around 76,500 nuisance calls, prevented 124 scams, saved vulnerable households £366,500, led to a reduction of £340,400 in NHS, social care and police costs and an increase in wellbeing & quality of life valued at almost £367,000 - total benefits of over £1m.**

Multi-agency approach to prevent falls in the home

Brenda* is a 76-year-old woman who lives on her own. She has deteriorating breathing problems due to COPD and had recently been discharged from hospital with medical oxygen to use if required. Although independent, she had lost confidence with some of her daily activities such as showering, preparing meals and going out due to her fear of falls. As a result, she had become increasingly reliant on her daughter. Following a fall in her bathroom, Brenda managed to phone her daughter who called the emergency services as she was unable to assist her mother up from the floor and she had also sustained a minor injury to her lower leg.

The Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) responded and following full clinical assessment, treated the injury on scene. Brenda agreed to SAS making a referral to East Renfrewshire HSCP to request urgent follow-up by the Community Rehabilitation Team (CRT) for a falls multifactorial assessment and any additional supports which could be offered.

A home visit was carried out by the CRT the following day to assess Brenda when it was discovered that there were a number of factors contributing to her risk of falls. Over the next ten weeks, Rehabilitation Support staff helped Brenda to improve her function, strength, balance, mobility, independence and confidence by working through the rehabilitation programme devised between Brenda, the Physiotherapist and the Occupational Therapist. Dietetic advice was also provided to improve Brenda's nutrition. Equipment was provided to help her get in and out of bed, off and on the toilet and access her shower. A mobility aid was also provided to help Brenda move safely around her home independently and outdoors with family. A community alarm referral was made and Telecare was installed comprising of a wrist strap "red button" alarm to press for assistance if, for example, she had another fall. A referral was made to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for a home fire safety visit and advice was given to her daughter about the local Carer's Centre.

Brenda is independent with all her daily activities and she and her daughter know how to access advice about additional supports, if they require them, through Talking Points and the Initial Contact Team. She is going to start the local vitality exercise classes which run in the leisure centre with the help of her daughter, in order to continue with her strength and balance programme

* Names have been changed

Locality Planning in Auchenback, Barrhead, Neilston and Thornliebank



Our Community Planning Partnership (CPP) continues to work to reduce the inequalities experienced by residents in those areas where outcomes in health, employment, education and experience of crime can be disproportionately poorer when compared with other areas of East Renfrewshire. As a reminder, these areas are Auchenback; Dunterlie, Arthurlie & Dovecothall; Neilston and Thornliebank. The 'locality planning' approach which we use to address these inequalities considers residents' needs, priorities and aspirations and aims to improve them using resources across our CPP organisations and local community groups.

During the pandemic we continued to engage with residents in different ways. The Community Learning and Development (CLD) Team adopted a detached Community Engagement approach with its staff being out and around local communities, speaking to residents in outdoor spaces about their communities and the issues facing them. In addition to this, an online survey was promoted through the Council's social media platforms to residents living within the locality planning areas. The survey aimed to gather residents' views about their communities and identify local priorities in relation to renewal and recovery from Covid-19. The survey was completed by residents from across all four locality planning areas. When asked '*what topic(s) are important to you and your community?*', local residents identified the following key priorities:

<i>My community members feel safe in their locality</i>	37%
<i>My community has improved physical environments including greenspaces</i>	34%
<i>Increased & targeted services for young people</i>	34%

<i>My community is a thriving locality as a result of investment in people and the physical environment</i>	34%
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Residents also identified new and emerging priorities such as **loneliness and isolation, living costs and ongoing concerns in relation to Covid-19.**

Those who completed the survey were invited to come along to a virtual session where they could discuss these issues with members of the CLD team and other residents. The virtual session also allowed residents the opportunity to start discussing how communities can drive forward and refocus locality plans, work with services to influence change and make decisions that will have a positive impact on their communities.

Residents were keen to have face-to-face sessions and the recent changes in restrictions will now allow us to have more face-to-face engagement with communities and discussions from this will be reflected in the community planning process to drive services forward. Sessions have been planned to take place after the local elections and these will go partway to contributing to forward planning for the locality planning areas.

Some face-to-face delivery of community engagement has already taken place which has allowed us to work with local people to find out how they want to be involved, what the next steps should be and what their priorities for their communities are.

Next steps

With the recent local elections and incoming administration, and as we continue with our post-pandemic recovery and renewal, the 2021-22 Fairer East Ren Recovery Transition Delivery Plans will be rolled forward for 2022/ 2023. This will allow us to work together in partnership to review our strategic planning approach and develop ambitious, longer term delivery plans that allow East Renfrewshire to thrive and work to create a fairer future with all.



Report produced by Strategic Services Team, East Renfrewshire Council

Contact:

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Fairer East Ren: Transitional Delivery Plans 2022/2023

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.
- A requirement of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, is that a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) is produced to outline how community planning partners will work with communities to improve outcomes for individuals, families and communities and reduce socio-economic inequality.
- Fairer East Ren 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 reviewed these plans in early 2021 and agreed that a transitional Fairer East Ren Plan was required for 2021/2022 while communities and services were recovering from the impact of Covid-19. The relevant thematic groups considered the strategic and intermediate outcomes, progress indicators and critical activities from previous plans and updated them accordingly.
- As we continue with our post-pandemic recovery, and with a newly elected council administration, the 2021-22 Fairer East Ren Recovery Transition Delivery Plans will be rolled forward for 2022/ 2023. This will allow us to work together in partnership to review our strategic planning approach and develop ambitious, longer-term delivery plans to create a fairer future with all.
- This one-year plan ensures that critical activities to reduce socio- economic inequality continue in the interim.

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

Responsible Delivery Partnership: Child Poverty Oversight Group, Chairs Louise Pringle (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 are aged 0-15 years. Migration has had a large impact on the population of East Renfrewshire and especially the child population; in 2019/20 over 570 more children (0-14) migrated into the area, with none leaving, and in 2018/19 this figure was also nearly 500, meaning over 1000 more children have been added to the area in this two year period. 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; 6% of all births in East Renfrewshire were to mothers under the age of 25, compared to 16% nationally. Child poverty can be reduced by supporting parents to increase their income from employment and/or from social security, while also reducing their costs of living.

18.4% of households in East Renfrewshire are 'workless' meaning there is no individual over the age of 16 in the household who is employed, an increase of 4% from the previous year. About 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.

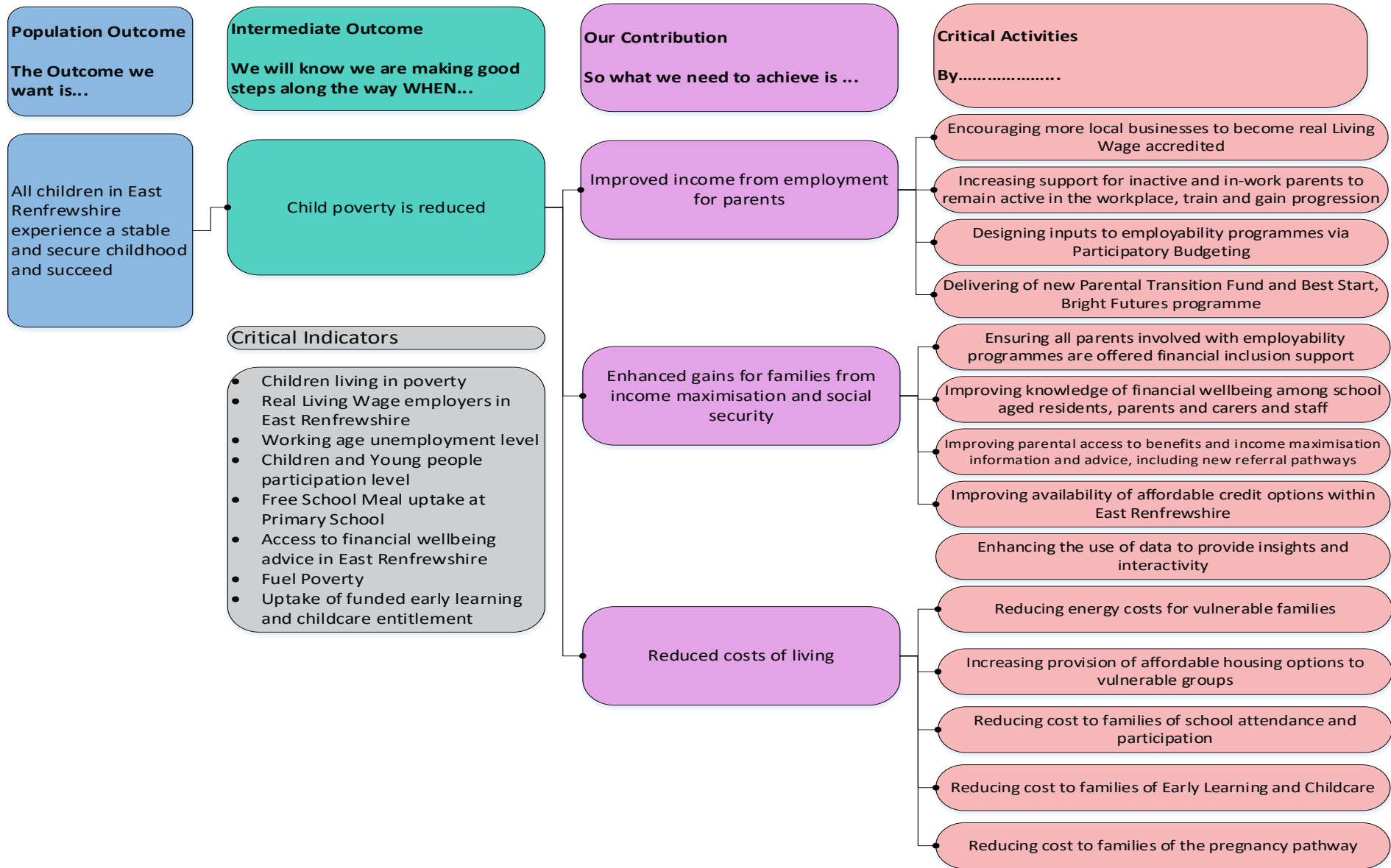
Those living in East Renfrewshire receive the highest average weekly pay in Scotland; the average weekly full time pay is £809 and the average weekly part time pay £308. However, those working in East Renfrewshire receive the lowest average weekly pay in Scotland; the average weekly full time pay is £626 and the average weekly part time pay is £225. 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. 7.5% of all primary pupils from P5 to P7 are registered for free school meals which is lower than the Scottish average of 21.3%. 7.7% of secondary pupils are registered for free school meals, again 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 East Renfrewshire in 2022 has increased by 9.2% since early 2021 to rise to £274,223. The average weekly local authority rent is £77.39.

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. The cost-of-living crisis is beginning to take its toll with uptake rates for benefits, the Scottish Welfare Fund and Money Advice support rising. 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



Inclusive Economic Recovery and Growth

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

In 2020, East Renfrewshire's population was 96,060 with around 57,000 (59.5%) of these residents of working age. Around 72% 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. On average, 2090 people in East Renfrewshire claimed Job Seekers Allowance or Universal Credit with a requirement to look for work between July 2020 and June 2021. 18.4 % 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 socioeconomic data shows that there are areas of higher unemployment in our most deprived areas. The number of 16–64-year-olds claiming out of work benefits increased during the pandemic, however we are seeing early indications that this rate is beginning to fall again in 2022.

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.

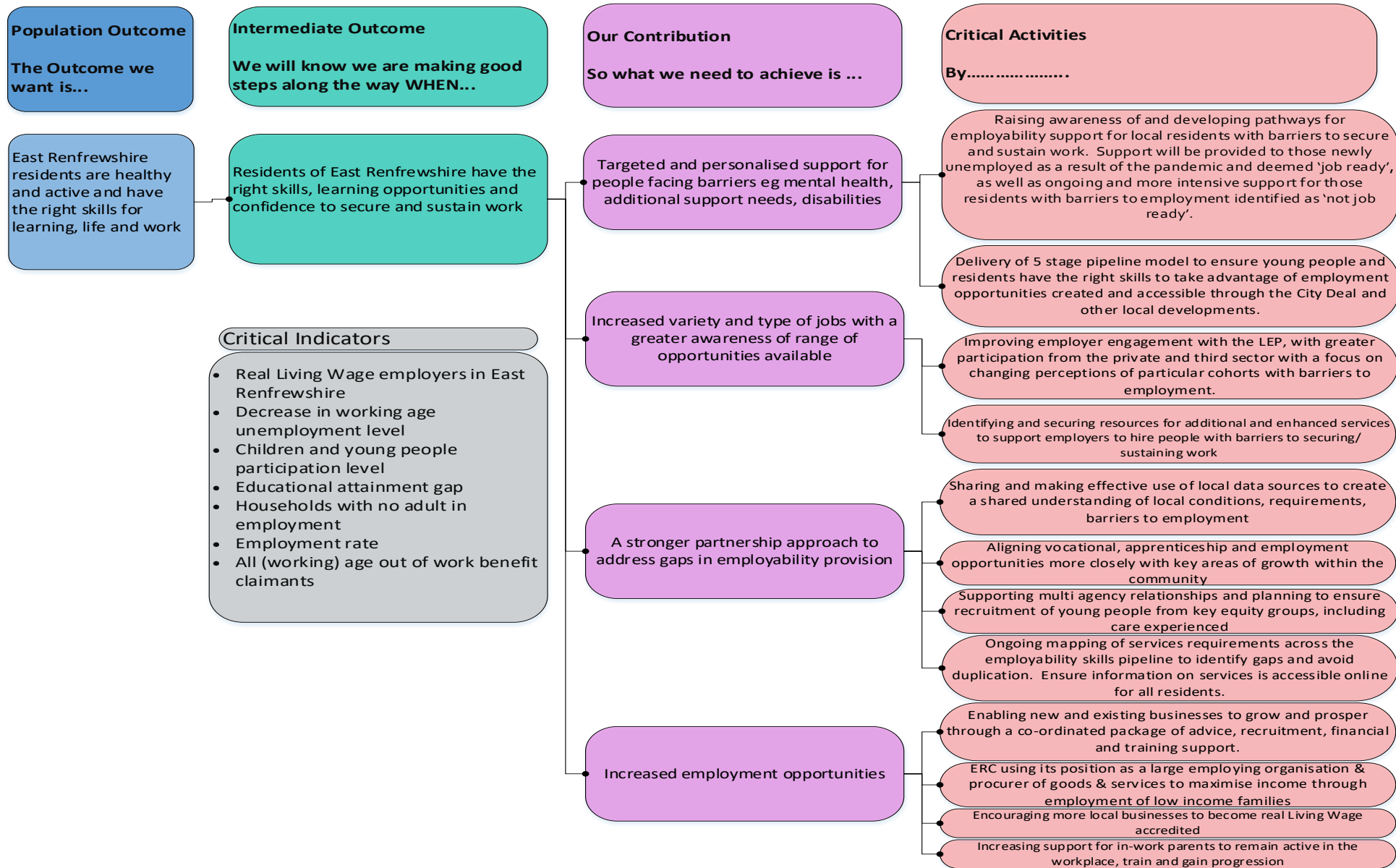
97% of 16–19-year-olds are participating in education, employment or training; this compares favourably to the Scottish average of 92%. It is acknowledged however that the participation rates will vary in different communities within the authority.

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 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 East Renfrewshire residents are healthy and active and have the right skills for learning, life and work



Community Wellbeing and Connectivity

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

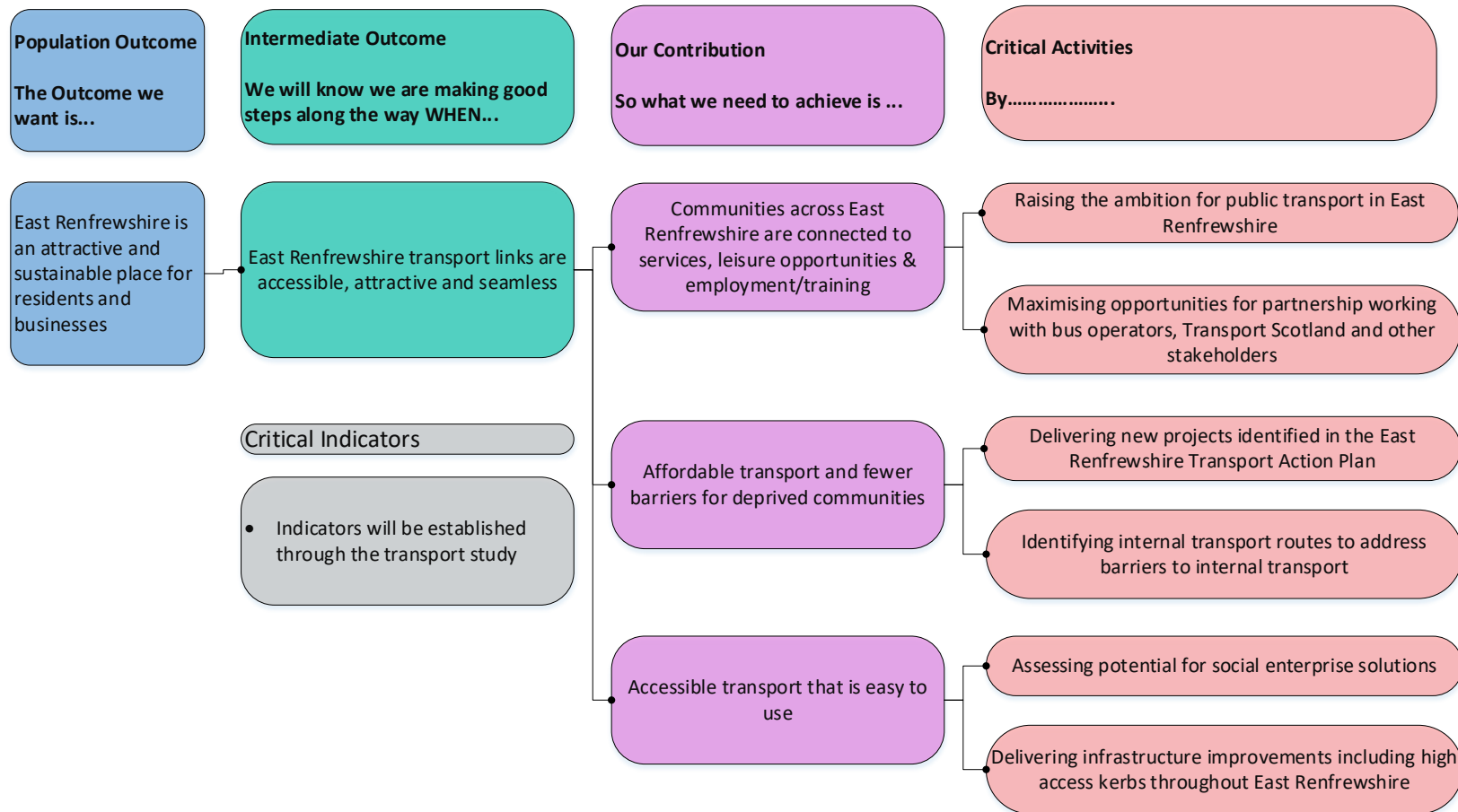
The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic over the past two years has further highlighted the importance of good mental health and wellbeing for residents. Whilst the lockdowns provided opportunities for many to help others in their community, for example, through volunteering, loneliness and isolation remain issues for many residents within our communities which has led us to identify social isolation as a priority area. [Humanitarian Research](#) carried out on behalf of the Council at the end of 2021 found that loneliness and mental health issues increased significantly during the pandemic. 23% of residents reported a fall in happiness with 11% reporting an increase in anxiety. One in three adults reported an increase in alcohol consumption.

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 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.

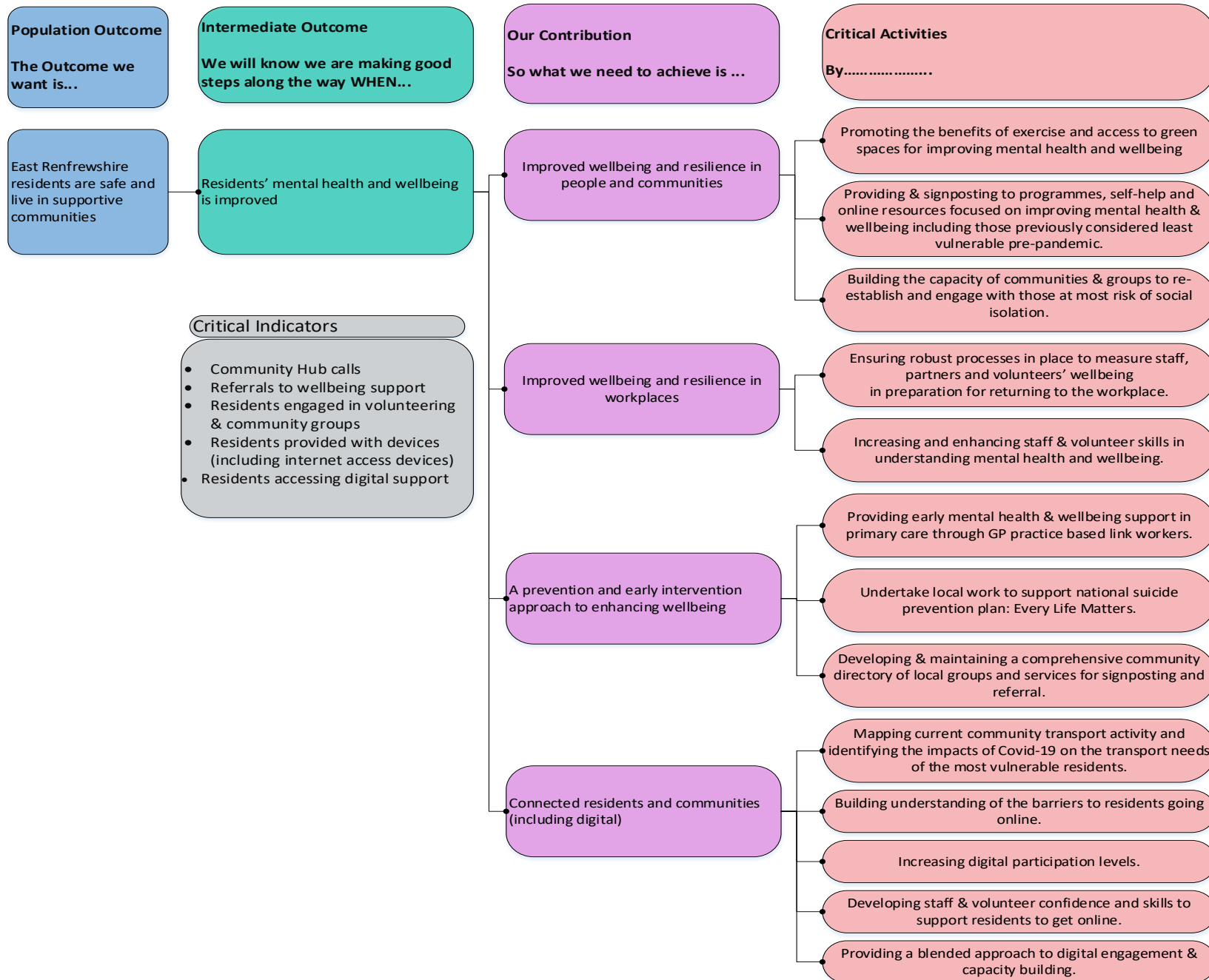
Demographic changes projected in our population emphasise the need to prepare for increased numbers of older people and increased numbers of single person households. During our engagement, residents also repeatedly highlighted the benefits and importance of a strong sense of community, social connections together with feeling safe. 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



4.1 Resident' mental health and wellbeing is improved



Residents are safe and more socially connected within their communities

Responsible Delivery Partnership: Safe East Renfrewshire, Chair Murray Husband (ERC)

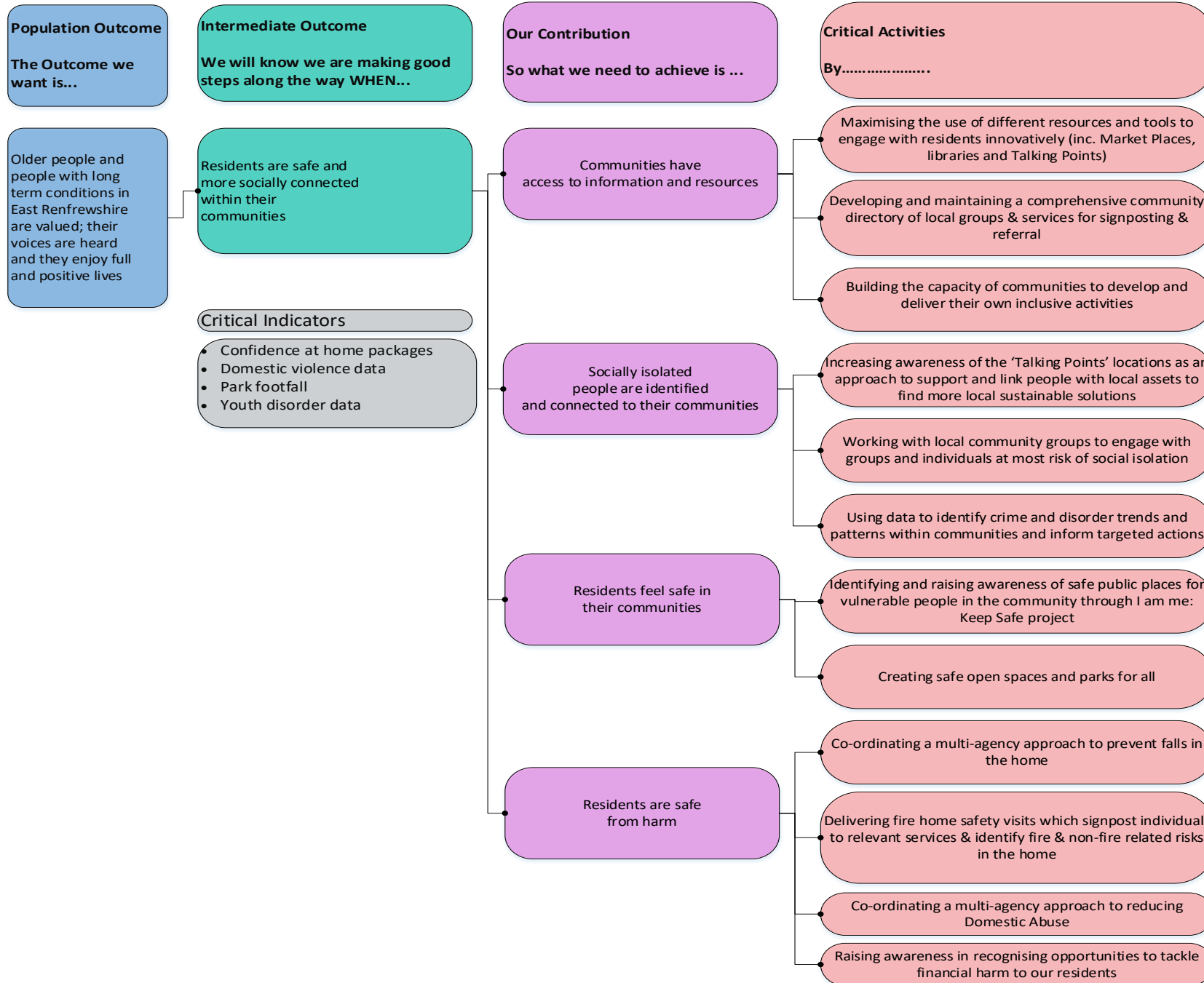
Loneliness and isolation are key issues for many within our communities and this has been particularly prevalent during Covid-19. All residents have faced restricted movements during lockdown and this has reduced the opportunity to engage with others, particularly for residents who have been shielding,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

Through previous engagement and our Humanitarian Research, we know the value residents 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. 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 <https://eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/community-planning-partnership>

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.

Information and Consultation Sessions (ICS) – Background and proposals for 2022

Background

Information and Consultation Sessions were introduced in East Renfrewshire Council in 2009. The sessions provide elected members with the opportunity to hear about and influence key partnership areas of work. Through the sessions, elected members have the opportunity to ask questions and explore issues that affect their constituents.

The sessions are held up to four times a year and take place prior to Council meetings on a Wednesday evening at 5.30pm. All elected members and Community Planning Partners are invited to attend.

A wide range of topics have been presented over the previous five years including sessions on Corporate Parenting by HSCP colleagues, East Renfrewshire Youth Voice and Grant-making Participatory Budgeting.

With the onset of the pandemic the sessions were put on hold, not least to allow elected members, officers and Community Planning Partners to prioritise and focus resources on the pandemic response. As we progress East Renfrewshire's post-pandemic recovery and renewal, and with a new administration, this is an opportune time to resume the Information and Consultation Sessions.

Proposed Sessions

Two sessions have been identified for the remainder of the calendar year. On the 26th October colleagues from East Renfrewshire's Citizen Advice Bureau and Money Advice and Rights Team will present on their plans to respond to the Cost of Living Crisis. On the 14th December we aim to do a session with Police Scotland colleagues and the Councils prevention team on fraud prevention.

Going Forward

A number of topic areas are being considered for 2023 and we welcome suggestions for future themes from partners

Please email any suggestions to: julie.breslin@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

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