

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.

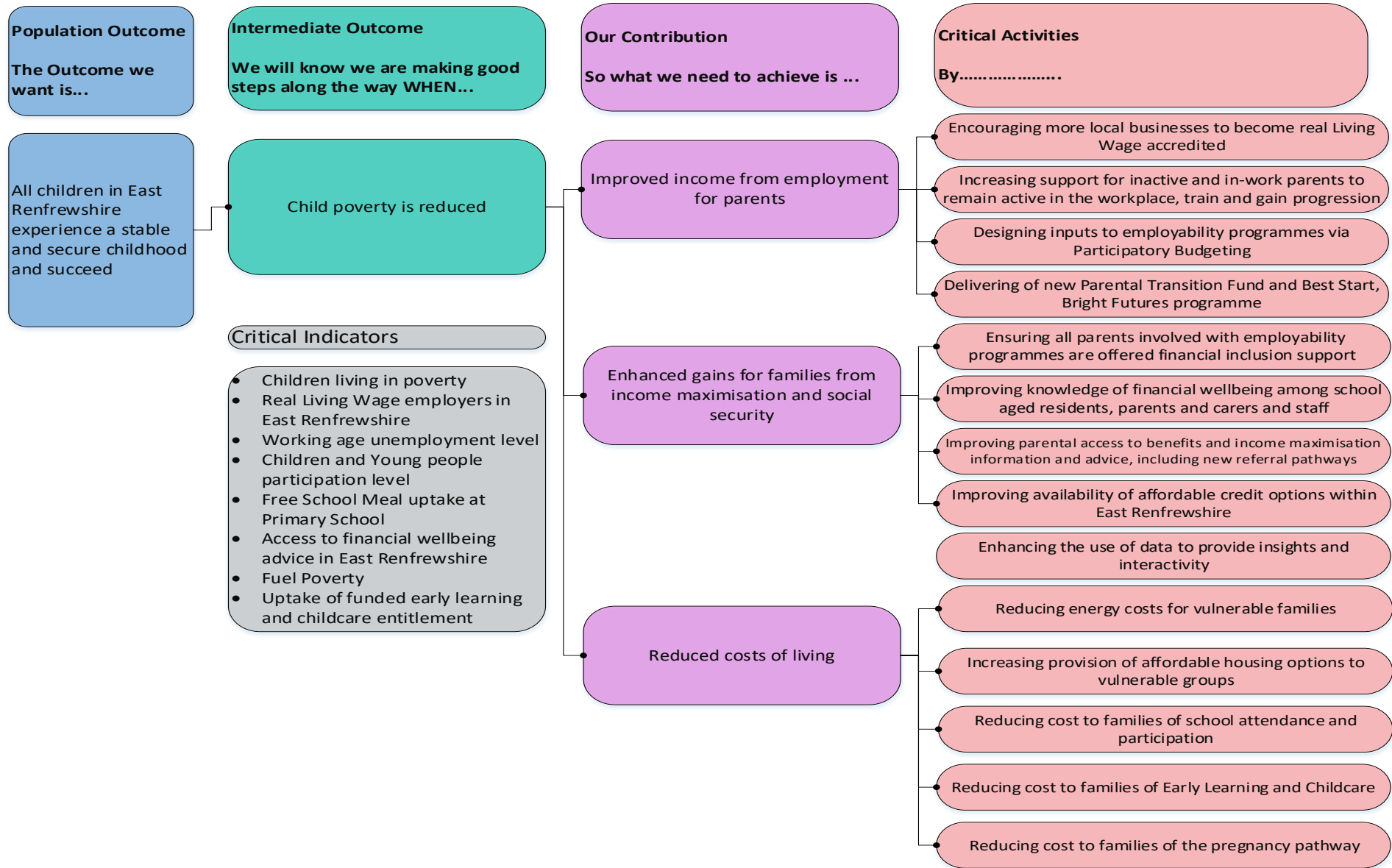
Those living in East Renfrewshire receive the highest average weekly pay in Scotland; the average weekly full time pay is £809 and the average weekly part time pay £308. However, those working in East Renfrewshire receive the lowest average weekly pay in Scotland; the average weekly full time pay is £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.

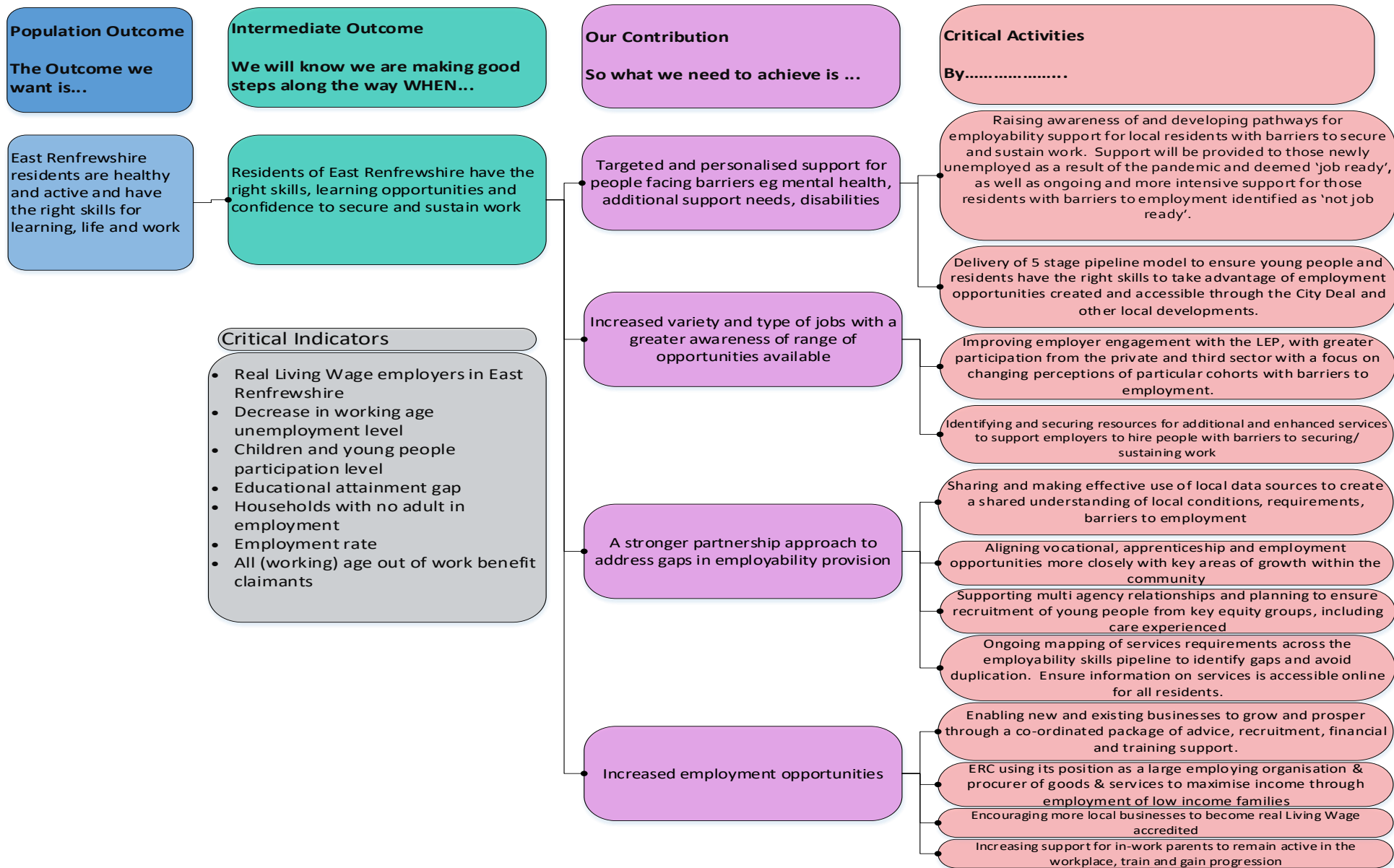
97% of 16–19-year-olds are participating in education, employment or training; this compares favourably to the Scottish average of 92%. It is acknowledged however that the participation rates will vary in different communities within the authority.

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)

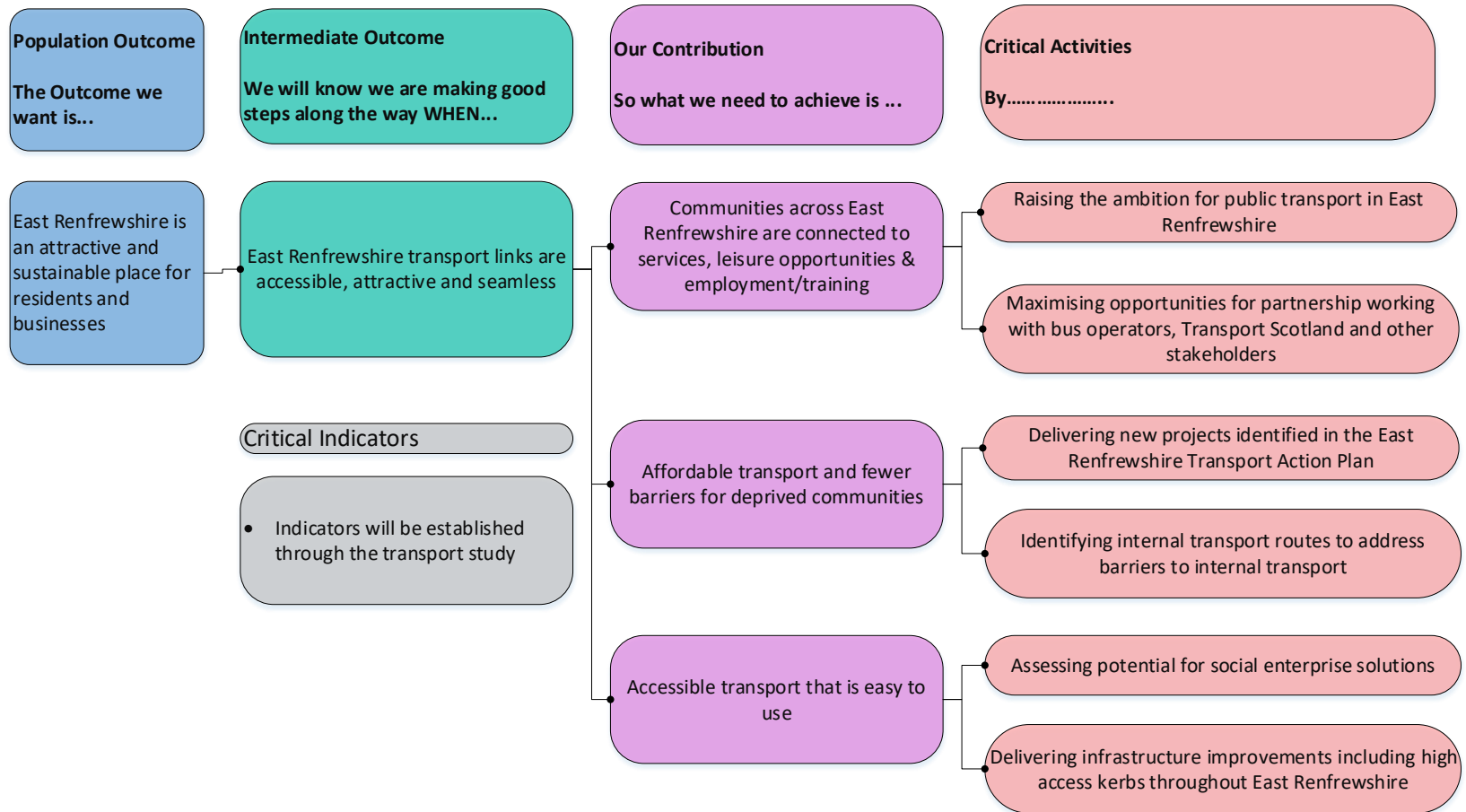
The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic over the past two years has further highlighted the importance of good mental health and wellbeing for residents. Whilst the lockdowns provided opportunities for many to help others in their community, for example, through volunteering, loneliness and isolation remain 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.

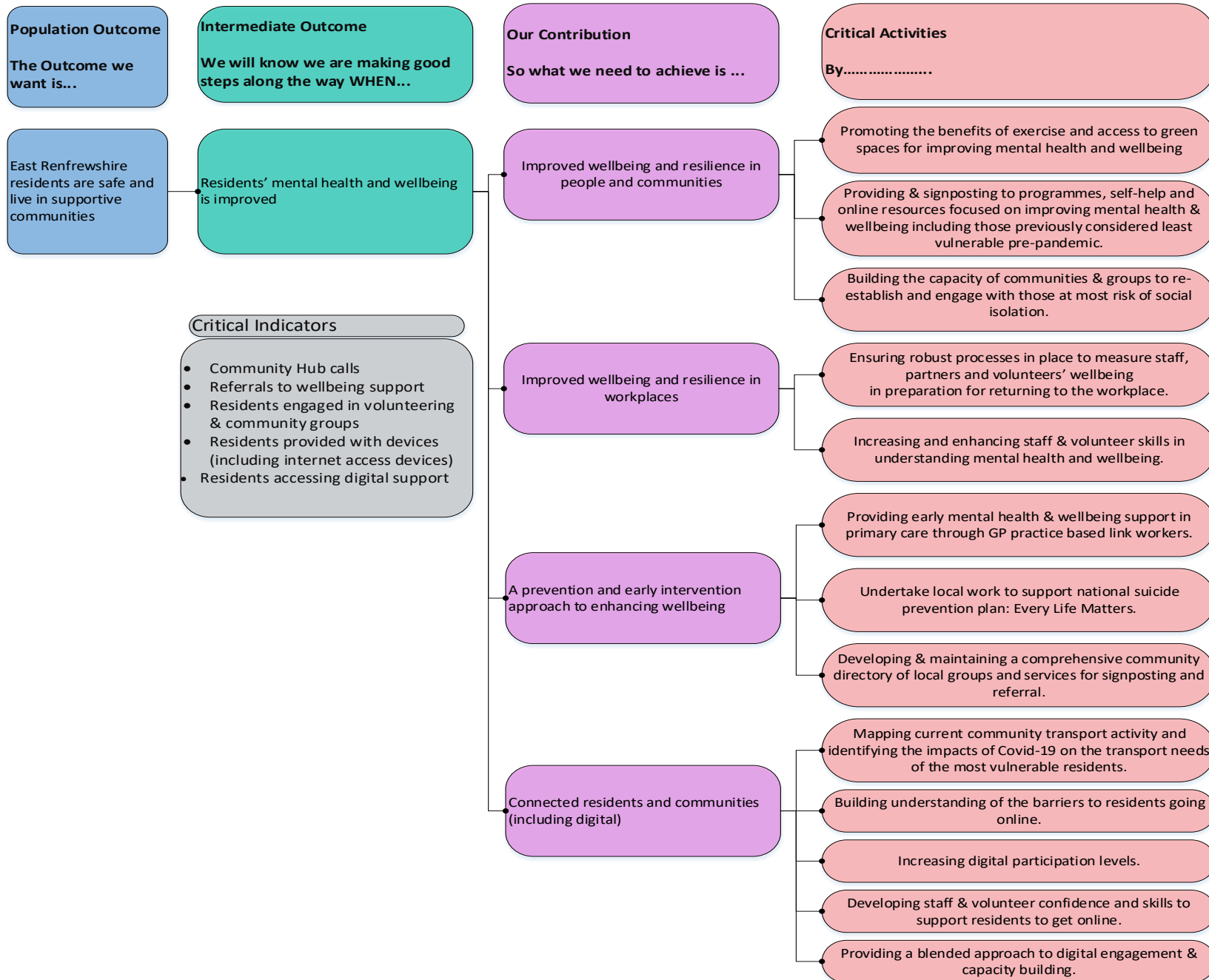
Demographic changes projected in our population emphasise the need to prepare for increased numbers of older people and increased numbers of single person households. During our engagement, residents also repeatedly highlighted the benefits and importance of a strong sense of community, social connections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

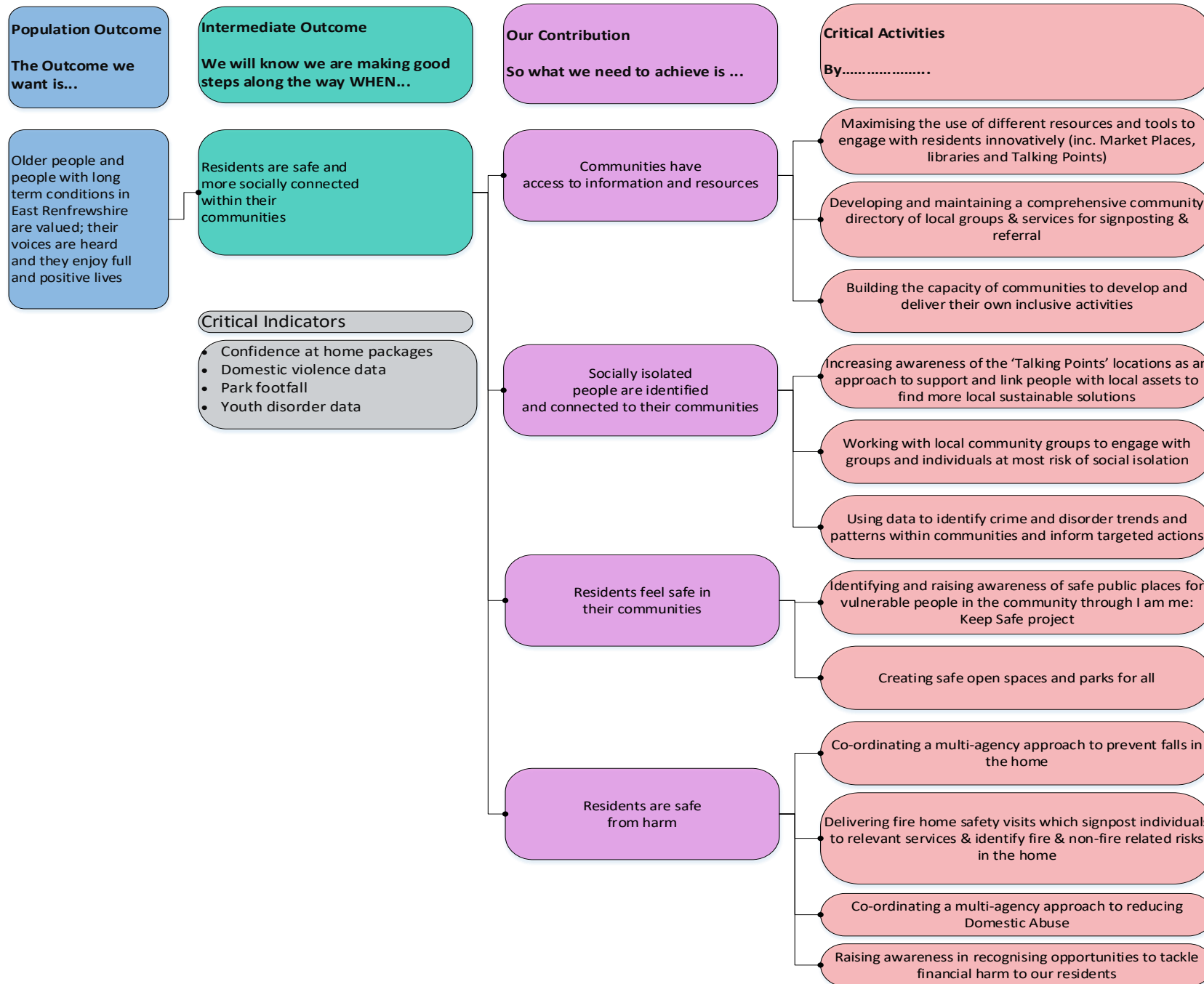
Loneliness and isolation are key issues for many within our communities and this has been particularly prevalent during Covid-19. All residents have faced restricted movements during lockdown and this has reduced the opportunity to engage with others, particularly for residents who have been shielding,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