You are invited to have your say on East Lothian Partnership’s plans for tackling poverty in the county. This consultation is a key opportunity to ensure your experience is heard within the Poverty Plan.

We will be consulting on the Plan’s 4 key outcomes:

- **Good jobs that pay fairly**, where we support people to gain the skills and training needed to find and maintain work, in flexible jobs that pay fairly.
- **Enough money from benefits**, our social security system should provide people with a fair income, but millions of pounds go unclaimed each year. We will support people to claim the income that they are entitled to.
- **Cost of living support**, daily essentials can be a financial burden that drives people into poverty. We will provide advice and support to those who are struggling with high living costs.
- **Climate change ready**, climate change will impact vulnerable and low income communities the hardest. We will take preventative action to protect and support these communities.

The way we will work will promote these outcomes.

- Making sure that poverty is **everybody’s business**, and that actions to tackle poverty are part of every service plan. We will make sure that those making budget decisions understand how poverty affects people in East Lothian.
- Working in a way that is **stigma- and trauma-informed**. We have heard very clearly that stigma is preventing people from reaching out for support. We will make sure that our services are approachable, discreet and offer dignity and choice. We will help our workforce understand the impact of trauma and poverty.
- Working effectively as a **partnership**, we will build on our existing strong partnership in East Lothian. We will share data, resources and knowledge more effectively, and work towards a collective vision for East Lothian.

This will be underpinned by specific **improvements we need to make** to our current ways of working. These include actions around our housing, transport, childcare, and economy. It will require changes in the ways we work with people with lived experience of poverty, how we evaluate our projects, share our data and shape our places. It will also shape how we deliver our services, communicate about our work, and advocate for East Lothian residents.

**How to get involved**

- **Online consultation** Have Your Say: East Lothian’s Poverty Plan (communitychoices.scot)
  - Respond to the key outcomes and themes of the plan by answering our survey questions in “debate” section
  - Comment directly on the plan using the “comments” section. **Open to 15th May 2024**.

- **In person at our session with VoiceAbility:** Wednesday 5th June 2024 10-12 at John Muir House in Haddington.
  - Focus group looking at the issues that matter most to you, and actions that services need to take.
  - Teas, coffees and refreshments will be provided. Event address: John Muir House, Haddington, EH41 3HA.

Please feel free to share with anyone that you think might be interested.

For any questions please contact Lucy lhigginson@eastlothian.gov.uk