



LEITH

NEIGHBOURHOOD  
PARTNERSHIP



**Local Community Plan  
2009 - 2011**





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## Welcome

*It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the first Local Community Plan of the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership.*

*The Local Community Plan sets out the vision and priorities of the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership. This vision and its attendant priorities were agreed by the partners following consultation with the wider community. The Leith Neighbourhood Partnership brings together key representatives including local councillors, community councillors, City Council Officials, housing associations, voluntary organisations, local Police, the Fire and Rescue service, Lothian Health and Forth Ports plc to work in partnership in the organisation and delivery of services to the local community.*

*In working together the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership provides the platform where views can be discussed and through partnership working solutions can be found that address the needs of the wide and vibrant community of Leith.*

*This Community Plan is intended to be a working document setting out the priorities of Leith Neighbourhood Partnership. It is the document against which the progress and achievements of the Partnership will be judged.*

*I hope in reading the Leith Local Community Plan you will share our vision and share our journey to delivering that vision.*



**Councillor Rob Munn**  
**Convener**  
**Leith Neighbourhood Partnership**



### Membership of Leith Neighbourhood Partnership

Cllr. Rob Munn (Convener)	Leith Ward
Cllr. Gordon Munro	Leith Ward
Cllr. Marjorie Thomas	Leith Ward
Cllr. Angela Blacklock	Leith Walk Ward
Cllr. Deirdre Brock	Leith Walk Ward
Cllr. Maggie Chapman (Vice-Convener)	Leith Walk Ward
Cllr. Louise Lang	Leith Walk Ward
Stewart Blaik	Leith Central Community Council
Graham Chapman	Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council
Margaret Moffett	Leith Links Community Council
Insp. Stephen Paul (Inps. Robert Deas from September 2009)	Lothian & Borders Police
Keith Dargo	Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service
Willy Barr	Voluntary Organisations in Leith Together
David White	Lothian NHS
Mohanjit Singh (Keith Anderson from May 2009)	Port of Leith Housing Association
Michaela Sullivan	Forth Ports plc.
<b>Advisors:</b>	
Peter Strong	Services for Communities
Christine Mackay	Children and Families
John Inman	Planning

## About the Leith Area

For many centuries Leith was Scotland's premier port. In 1833 Leith was established as an independent Burgh with its own council and in 1920 it became part of the City of Edinburgh Council. Leith fell into decline following the closure of many of the traditional heavy industries and by the mid 1980s ship building had come to an end in the area. Today Leith retains a strong sense of community, history and local identity, while embracing a substantial development and an increasingly diverse ethnicity.

Significant developments in recent years include:

- Relocation of the Scottish Executive, now known as the Scottish Government, to Victoria Quay in 1996.
- The Waterfront development and regeneration of North Leith to include new housing, shops and businesses. The Ocean Terminal shopping and leisure complex and Royal Yacht Britannia have attracted many new visitors to Leith and a flourishing café and restaurant culture has developed in the Shore area.
- The Leith Docks Development Plan of 2005 sets out a long term vision for the regeneration of the docks over the next 15 years. Forth Ports Plc is the area's biggest landowner with 400 acres of land available for development across Edinburgh's waterfront.
- The Edinburgh Tram Project will improve transport links for Leith Walk and the new housing areas. Social and employment benefits will be brought to Leith by direct connection via tram to the City Centre and other areas in Edinburgh.



### Population:

According to the 2001 census there is a total population of 43,854 living within 23,639 households. Age demographics show that the largest majority of the population is of working age. People of retirement age make up about 12% of the population and children, under 16 years old, around 8%.

### Housing:

Overall Leith has poorer measures of material living standards with a higher number of people living in households which are overcrowded or without central heating. There are pockets of lower housing standards within Pilrig, Bonnington, Leith Links and Newhaven which crosses into the ward. Social housing makes up only 16% of total tenure type. 69% of housing is owner-occupied. Port of Leith Housing Association is the area's biggest social landlord with over 2000 properties in the area.

## Health:

Leith is below average compared with the rest of Scotland and includes key areas of deprivation in the city. It has a higher level of risk associated with poor health. For example, admissions for alcohol, prescriptions for anxiety, depression and psychosis.

## Employment:

Leith has a slightly higher rate of people excluded from the world of work. Compared with the rest of Scotland, there is a higher proportion of working age population who are unemployed or not involved in the labour market due to ill health or disability.

## Education, skills and Training:

Leith has slightly lower levels of people within education, moving into further education and performing well at school.

## Ethnicity:

According to the 2001 Census 9.6% of the population in the combined Leith and Leith Walk wards are of the following non-white ethnicity – Pakistan/South Asian (3.2%), Indian (2.2%), Chinese (1.8%) and other (3.3%). Although there is no statistical data available, Leith is becoming an increasingly multi-cultural area where Chinese, Bengali, Hindi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Urdu, Hebrew, Arabic, Polish, Portuguese, Czech and Turkish are among just some of the languages spoken.

Sources: Community Planning Area Profiles (Ward 12 Leith Walk, Ward 13 Leith); Mowat, Sue, Port of Leith, its History and its People, Forth Ports in association with John Donald 1994; 2001 Census



## What is a Local Community Plan?

Local Community Plans aim to improve the quality of life for people living in local communities, by developing programmes of activities and initiatives which develop and deliver better services. When developing this plan the partners have recognised the need to help progress the Scottish Government national priorities and Edinburgh wide plans and strategies. This plan provides the opportunity to make sense of these plans and make them more appropriate to local priorities and needs.



Drawing by Liam Paterson, aged 10 years

## Our Vision

In the Year 2022, Leith will be a place where:

- There is a vibrant community offering diverse opportunities for all people to take part in public life.
- People are valued, healthy and feel in control of their own destiny.
- Local services and amenities are of a high standard and responsive to people's diverse needs.
- The environment is safe, clean, attractive and social housing is on target to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard set for 2015.
- The people of Leith can fully enjoy the benefits of Edinburgh's economic growth and quality of life.

In 15 years we would like to see this vision become a reality. Our priorities and programme of activities over the next 3 years will help to achieve these. When developing this vision we have listened carefully to local peoples' views, ideas and concerns and taken these on board.

## Our Priorities for 2007 to 2011

Leith Neighbourhood Partnership has agreed to the following priorities for action to help achieve our vision:

1. Access to affordable housing
2. A cleaner and more attractive environment.
3. Improve Community Safety.
4. Facilities for children and young people.
5. A healthier community.

The vision and priorities outlined above can only be achieved through working in partnership and the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership recognises that community members are also an important partner. We have a commitment to ensure that communities can be active in this process and will ensure that it is inclusive of all communities of interest and equalities groups.

There are four key principles which underpin the way we'll work. If we are strong on participation and accountability we will ensure that these are built into any activities and initiatives developed.

- Civic Responsibility
- Equalities
- Environment Sustainability
- Social Inclusion

The individual public and voluntary sector organisations within the Neighbourhood Partnership will still continue to deliver their day to day services and business. Together we can provide more focus and concentrate on those outcomes which can only be tackled in partnership and improved through joint working.



## Consultation

The effective engagement of local people is critical to the development of neighbourhood planning. It is only by listening to the experiences of local people that we can find solutions which will make a lasting difference. Leith Neighbourhood Partnership puts listening to local people at the heart of their work. Community Councillors represent local people as full members of the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership and Registered Tenants' Association

representatives as well as other relevant community groups take part in Action Groups.

In June 2007 around 70 delegates, including community representatives, community councillors, voluntary organisations and elected members got together to identify the priorities for the Leith area. The delegates met in thematic workshops (Housing and the Built Environment, Health and Wellbeing, Financial Inclusion and Employment Opportunities, Children &



Families and Community Engagement) and the priorities identified have been used to inform this plan.

Several reports which involved the participation of local people have also been used. Those are, Services for Communities Neighbourhood Research, The Young Edinburgh Viewfinder 3 Report, A City for All Ages – Edinburgh's Joint Plan for Older People 2007 – 2010, Leith Central Community Council's Local Issues Survey, Hillside Local Community Survey and young people's Your Views postcard survey. The outcomes to be worked towards over the next three years for each of the Community priorities were identified by the appropriate Action Groups.

Workshops were held during the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership meeting on 3 December 2008 to give the opportunity to local people to comment on the identified priorities and outcomes. Comments made have also been included in the plan. Community Councils have also been asked to comment on the draft plan.

## Community Engagement

Ensuring that the community voice is heard and taken into account in planning for services requires effective community engagement. Therefore, a Community Engagement Strategy has been developed to sit alongside the Leith Community Plan. The Strategy seeks to improve the existing communication / engagement structure in order to strengthen community involvement.



Consideration was given to how current methods of communication could be improved. This included asking members of the community what worked in the past. Recent reports were also used to identify gaps or issues which require to be addressed.

Priorities were identified as follows:

1. Review format and advertising of quarterly meetings in public with a view to increasing community participation.
2. Support and encourage Community Councils to increase capacity and widen representation of their local community.
3. Encourage and support communities to form Registered Tenants' Organisations.
4. Develop a joint Leith Neighbourhood Partnership and Community Councils annual information giving and consultation event at Leith Festival Gala.
5. Develop a Community Hub to support Community Groups, share information and provide a mechanism for consultation.



## Leith's Priority 1 – Access to affordable housing.

National Outcome 10 – We live in well-designed sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.

Throughout the City of Edinburgh, there is a major imbalance between those who need affordable housing and the supply of such housing. Currently there are 25,169 households registered on Edindex (Edinburgh's single housing register) but there were only around 3,800 social rented lets in 2007. In the same year over 5,500 people approached the Council for help because they were homeless or at risk of being homeless.

389 households presenting as homeless in 2007/08 gave their last address as being in the EH6 postcode area. 133 had been staying with friends or relatives who were no longer able to accommodate them. 82 had lost a tenancy with 63 of those from the private rented sector. Social-rented accommodation was found for 135 of the 389 homeless households.

Echoing the city-wide position, access to affordable housing was identified by Housing and Built Environment workshop as one of the main priorities for the Leith area. This item was deemed particularly relevant for several reasons;-

- a) Fort House, which provides 157 Council properties, is included in the City-wide Regeneration programme and is currently scheduled to be demolished in 2010. It is anticipated that the local communities directly affected by the above demolition will be involved in any consultation around the housing re-provision of the above site via a Master Planning process.
- b) The ongoing Waterfront development and in particular the creation of the new Waterfront Villages scheduled for construction from 2015.
- c) Port of Leith Housing Association's new build programme of affordable homes in the area and the relationship of this with the above.



In Leith Central Community Council's Local Issues Survey 45% said that housing was their main priority and 38% were concerned about the Waterfront development. In response to the survey, NEECAG Older People's Forum stated that there is a "need for more low cost housing for families and older people in new developments."

Some of the comments made by members of the public at the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership meeting on December 2008 are as follows:

"Young people recognise the Private Sector as a social housing agent because that's where they try to access accommodation"

"More expensive to house people in B&B temporary accommodation than in social housing"

"People moving from homelessness are faced with expensive options"

"People of all ages moving on from homelessness circumstances face great housing issues because of the high costs of housing"



The Yours Views Postcard Survey listed "Fort House", "Help with finding a house", "Better housing for all" and "Less homelessness" as themes for discussion.

Although house building and the availability of social housing is not within the strategic remit of the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership, this is an important issue for the Leith Community. For example, approval and delivery of new homes is controlled at a strategic level and as such may not be able to be significantly influenced by the Community Plan. Therefore, the Partnership will monitor the provision of housing and take the opportunity to influence this wherever possible.

The action the partnership will take is to [monitor the provision of quality affordable housing](#) through the Housing and Built Environment Action Group.

### Measurement

- No. of Council houses and Housing Association Houses available for let.
- Number of new homes completed through the Affordable Housing Investment Programme (Registered Social Landlord's). Number of new homes approved through the Affordable Housing Investment Programme.
- Number of households assess as homeless or potentially homeless during the year (available on postcode basis and does not exactly fit Neighbourhood Partnership area.
- Progress in delivering the SHQS programmes by CEC, Port of Leith Housing Association and other Housing Associations with some stock in the area (deadline 2015)

## Leith's Priority 2 – A cleaner and more attractive environment.

National Outcome 12 - We value our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations

Street cleansing and the improvement of public spaces were identified as priorities in the Leith Community Plan 2004 and this is still a concern for Leith residents.

60% of young Leithers who took part in the Young Edinburgh Viewfinder survey stated that rubbish and litter was a common problem in Leith and 56% thought that making Edinburgh cleaner and more attractive would improve quality of life. Young people in the Hillside area also feel that litter and the environment was the worst thing about their area. The Services for Communities Neighbourhood Research also found that Leithers were less likely to be satisfied with the management of litter and rubbish in the streets and the street cleaning service compared with the citywide average. Early indications from the 2008 research show that this is still a concern for Leith.

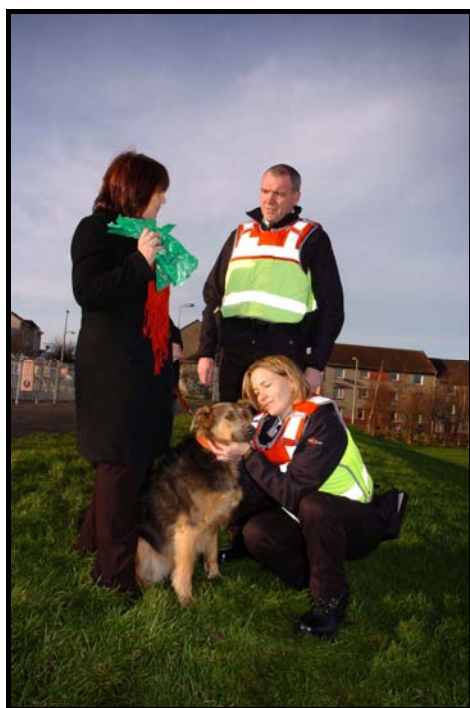
Some of the comments made by members of the public at the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership meeting on December 2008 are as follows:

“Combination of elements makes it more difficult to keep Leith streets clean”

“Public need help to understand how they use recycling”

“Traders taking over pavements”

The Your Views Postcard Survey listed “less litter” as a theme for discussion.



These concerns are reinforced by the Cleanliness Index Monitoring System (CIMS) which showed that the Leith and Leith Walk council wards were among the lowest scoring wards for street cleanliness with causes cited as fast food, smoking and confectionary litter. The City of Edinburgh Council agreed to redirect street cleansing resources to the Leith and Leith Walk wards when these concerns were raised by the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership in March 2008.

The community representatives, voluntary sector representatives and elected members who met at the June 2007 event also identified the need to improve the look of streets and public spaces. But they wanted a bit more than cleansing.

They wished consideration to be given as to how spaces were planned out and used. They recommended taking a more holistic approach, including taking into account lighting, street furniture, safety and leisure facilities within parks.

41% of the people who responded to Leith Central Community Council's Local Issues Survey said that a "clean, green Leith" was one of their main priorities. Comments from NEECAG Older People's Forum in response to the Survey agreed with the June workshop that more than cleansing is needed. Those comments were:

"State of pavements is very treacherous for those not so good on their feet and there are not enough pavement drops for wheelchairs"

"Problems with street furniture....are huge obstacles and dangerous for visually impaired / less able older residents."

The outcome the partnership will achieve is;

- [Improve the cleanliness and appearance of public spaces.](#)

### Measurements

- Services for Communities Neighbourhood Research.
- CIMS scores following inspection of a sample of streets and other relevant land.
- Parks and Open Spaces Audit



## Leith's Priority 3 – Improve Community Safety

National Outcome 9 – We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.

Several recent surveys within the Leith area highlight the problem of anti-social behaviour, either as a general concern or with various types of anti-social behaviour cited as a problem. Examples include night-time violence, noisy neighbours, vandalism, graffiti and drinking in public.

The Young Edinburgh Viewfinder survey found that young people in Leith are more likely to say that noisy neighbours, vandalism, graffiti and drugs are a problem in their neighbourhood compared with the rest of the city. 57% of young Leithers said that making the city safer was the most important thing to improve quality of life, but this figure rose to 64% in the most deprived areas of Leith. 56% thought that reducing crime was important in improving quality of life. The Hillside Community Survey identified the need to address anti-social behaviour and public drinking. Types of anti-social behaviour identified as causing concern at the June 2007 workshops were night-time violence and public drinking.

Older people are also concerned about community safety and the City for All Ages report noted a vision that “vulnerable older people are protected, safe and free from fear”. Alcohol and violence was a concern for 47% of the respondents to the Leith Central Community Council Local Issues Survey. NEECAG Leith Older People's Forum agreed that this was a concern. Older people also wanted more police on the beat and more CCTV cameras.



The Services for Communities Neighbourhood Research showed that levels of satisfaction with the way car crime was dealt with were the same as the citywide average. However, Leith residents were less satisfied with the way burglary was dealt with or the way anti-social behaviour issues were managed than the citywide average. Early indications from the 2008 research show that people still want to see an improvement in this area. The Children and Families Workshop, June 2007 identified the need to consolidate and develop proactive community policing.

The issues identified by members of the public at the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership meeting on 3 December 2008 are as follows:

- Young people can't afford facilities.
- Issues for adults around young people ("Anti-social behaviour is not always young people")
- Public drinking and drug taking.
- Night-time violence.
- Noisy neighbours
- Graffiti

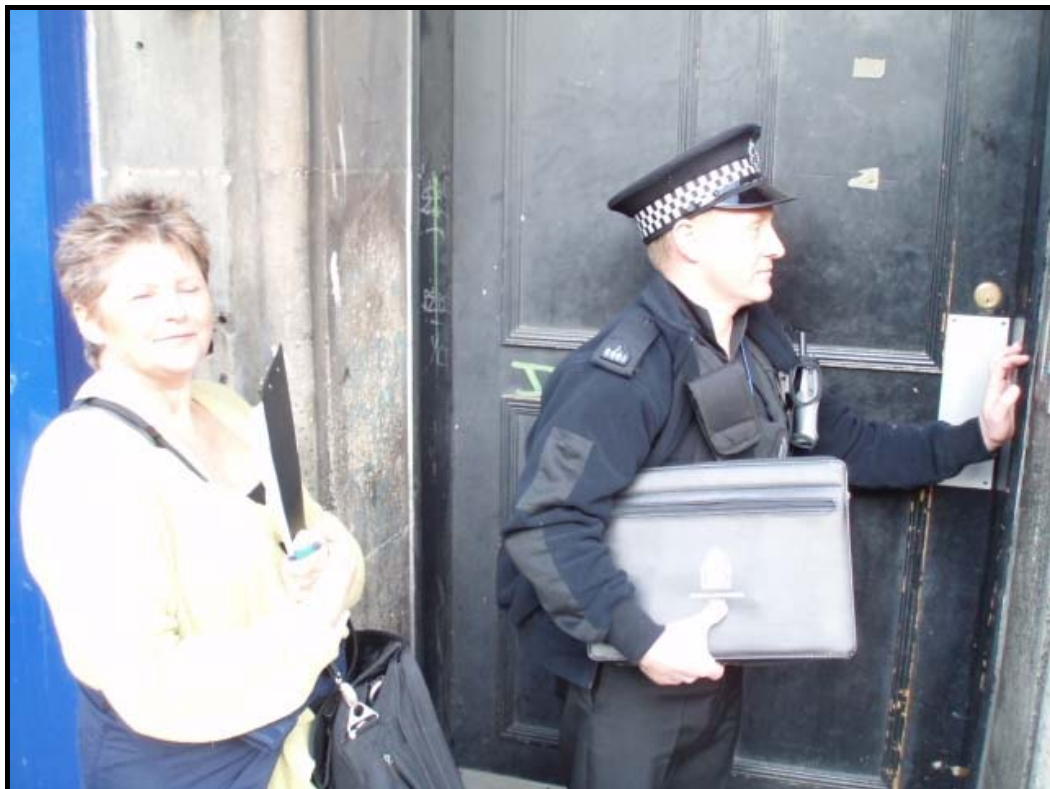
The Your Views Postcard Survey listed "less violence", "safer streets" and "more police on the streets" as themes for discussion.

The outcome the partnership will achieve is;

- [Improve satisfaction with community safety.](#)

### Measurements

- Services for Communities Neighbourhood Research
- Tasking and Co-ordination Group Information



## **Leith's Priority 4**

### **Services and facilities for children and young people.**

National Outcome 4 – Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

The SfC Neighbourhood Research identified that Leith residents were satisfied with facilities for children up to the age of 12 but less satisfied with the facilities available to teenagers in the area. Hillside residents stated that the lack of facilities for young people were one of the worst things about the area. The June 2007 workshops identified the need to improve leisure opportunities for young people, particularly those in the 12 years to 17 years age group. Leith Central Community Council's Local Issues Survey shows that 41% of respondents would like more facilities for the young.

Young people themselves would like more local facilities. The Communities that Care survey completed in 2006 emphasised the need to create youth friendly spaces where young people would feel welcome and able to influence the services on offer. This was echoed in the Young Edinburgh View finder where local young people said they would like opportunities to attend sports and leisure activities and single sex groups. Young people in Hillside said that not having enough to do was one of the worst things about the area. They would like safer places to meet and opportunities to take part in sports, creative / artistic activities and social events.

Many young people took part in the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership meeting on 3 December 2008. Comments made are as follows:

- “Need something specific to our age.”
- “Got to pay for everything – need more free activities.”
- “More youth clubs!”
- “There is territorialism in organisations”
- “We would like to go to the Skate Park, but it is too expensive.”
- “Need support for young people when accessing services.”

The Your View Postcard Survey listed “more outdoor things to do”, “sport”, “more places to go” and “more youth clubs /drop-ins” as themes for discussion.



There is significant commitment to engaging and involving children and young people in the development of services. There is also a significant commitment to developing good youth work programmes that engage hard to reach young people thus diverting them away from problem or anti-social behaviour. This in turn will reduce nuisance calls to the police and contribute to community safety. Information about

existing services for young people needs to be improved so that local youngsters are aware of the range of services available.

Every child should grow up in a nurturing and caring environment and to meet this objective work will be developed locally to support the adult community – especially parents of young children as well as to improve facilities for babies and young children.

The outcomes the partnership will achieve are;

- Young people feel valued and the wider community see them as an asset.
- More families provide a nurturing and caring environment and are supported in accessing the services they need.

### Measurement

- Young Edinburgh Viewfinder
- Children and Families Department records.
- HM Inspectorate of Education Child Protection Inspection Score
- NHS Lothian statistics



## Leith's Priority 5 – A healthier community

National Outcome 6 – We live longer, healthier lives.

The population figures show the area has a high proportion of working age people (79% in 2007). The Health and Wellbeing Action Group has noted:

- Causes of death among younger people are likely to be disorders due to use of drugs and alcohol, accidents and assaults and suicides
- The number of people from EH6 seeking treatment for drugs misuse is nearly the highest in the city
- The percentages of people admitted to hospital for both alcohol and drug related conditions are high and in Leith Ward are as high as anywhere in the city.



Every child should get the best possible start in life, to grow up in a nurturing, caring environment, where attention is paid to their emotional development and their social needs. However, the 2004 Communities that Care research showed “there are influential risk factors in children’s lives that increase their chances of developing health and behavioural concerns as they grow older.”

The long term aims were to reduce four types of problem behaviour:

- School failure
- School age pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases
- Drug abuse
- Violence and crime

There were also concerns about the availability and level of consumption of alcohol by young people.

Young people themselves have identified health is an issue for them. 24% of those who took part in the Young Edinburgh Viewfinder survey said their health worries them a lot these days. 84% thought eating healthy food was important and young people in Leith were less likely than other young people in Edinburgh to eat 5 portions of fruit and vegetables; eat breakfast; or drink at least 8 glasses of water every day. They are also less likely to engage in sporting events.

Some of the issues identified by members of the public at the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership meeting on December 2008 were the need for healthy free school meals and the need for more green spaces.

The Your Views Postcard Survey listed “mental health” and “health and wellbeing advice” as themes for discussion.

The outcomes the partnership will achieve are;

- Fewer people smoke, use drugs and misuse alcohol.
- More families provide a caring and nurturing environment and are supported in accessing the services they need.

## Measurement

### Smoking, use of drugs and misuse of alcohol

- ASH Tobacco Atlas re numbers of people smoking
- Alcohol related hospital admissions per 10,000 population
- Drug related hospital admissions per 10,000 population
- The failure rate of test purchasing to reduce the impact of illegal age-related sales (under 16s and under 18s)

### Health and wellbeing of children

- HM Inspectorate of Education child protection inspection score.
- NHS Lothian Statistics
- Children and Families Department Statistics



## Community Regeneration

The Leith Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA) 2005-2008 detailed a programme of action to tackle disadvantage within the former Council Wards of Newhaven and Harbour.

A steering group was established to take responsibility for the strategic oversight of the ROA development process. The 2004 Community Action Plan was used as a basis for their work as this identified key priorities based on local needs. These priorities were then refined, through further consultation to develop outcome areas for the Regeneration Programme, such as housing, community safety, financial inclusion, health, children and families.

In the financial year 2007 – 2008, £779,359 of Community Regeneration Funding (CRF) was spent in the regeneration areas. This was spread among a variety of projects.

The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 put Community Planning Partnerships in place as an over-arching partnership framework to improve the connection between national priorities and those at regional, local and neighbourhood levels. In 2005 the Strategic Programme Partnership helped small areas to make the transition to community planning and the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership was formed in 2007. The Partnership builds upon the regeneration work of the last few years, across a wider area, with the assistance of the following thematic action groups:

1. Housing and the Built Environment
2. Financial Inclusion and Employment Opportunities
3. Health and Wellbeing
4. Children, Young People and Families
5. Community Engagement

The Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF) replaced a number of funds, including CRF, on 1 April 2008. The purpose of the FSF is to help Community Planning Partnerships to regenerate disadvantaged communities, tackle poverty by helping vulnerable people and groups and overcome barriers to employment. Allocation of FSF budgets takes into account the Edinburgh Index and bases allocation on the 5% band of the areas in most need. The Leith Neighbourhood Partnership area has been allocated £496,985 for the 2009/10 financial year. Leith Neighbourhood Partnership established a FSF funding panel in August 2008 to make recommendations for FSF awards in the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership area.

Source: Leith Regeneration Outcome Agreement April 2005 – March 2008; The Edinburgh Partnership Final Proposal for the Investment of the Fairer Scotland Fund in Edinburgh

## Further Information and Comments

Leith Neighbourhood Partnership is keen to continually engage with, and involve people, who live or work within the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership area.

For more information and comments contact:

Loraine Duckworth, Partnership Development Officer  
North Edinburgh Local Office, 8 West Pilton Gardens, Edinburgh, EH4 4DP  
Phone - 0131 529 5269  
Email – [loraine.duckworth@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:loraine.duckworth@edinburgh.gov.uk)

The following documents are available:

- Leith Ward Profile
- Leith Walk Ward Profile
- Leith Action Plan (*Draft*)
- Services for Communities Neighbourhood Research
- Young Edinburgh – Viewfinder 3 report 2008
- A City for All Ages – Edinburgh’s Joint Plan for Older People 2007 - 2010
- Leith Community Engagement Strategy 2009 - 2011

These documents are available to download free of charge from our website at [www.edinburghnp.org.uk](http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk) or from the address below.

If you wish to make comments or discuss any of the services within the community plan, in the first instance please contact your neighbourhood office:



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