

South West Neighbourhood Partnership

Local Community Plan
2009 – 2011

DRAFT



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Contents

1. Welcome
2. About the South West Neighbourhood
3. What is a Local Community Plan?
4. Our Vision
5. Our Priorities
6. Consultation
7. Priorities
 - 1) Children and families – the best start for our younger members
 - 2) Making our neighbourhood safer
 - 3) Promoting employment and sustainable economic growth
 - 4) Improving transport in our area
 - 5) Physical regeneration and the built environment
 - 6) Improving health and wellbeing
8. Community Regeneration activities
9. Contacts

Membership of the South West Neighbourhood Partnership

Cllr Donald Wilson (Convener)	Sighthill/Gorgie Ward
Cllr Andrew Burns	Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart Ward
Cllr Gordon Buchan	Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart Ward
Cllr Joanna Coleman	Sighthill/Gorgie Ward
Cllr Nick Elliott-Cannon	Sighthill/Gorgie Ward
Cllr Jim Lowrie	Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart Ward
Cllr Eric Milligan	Sighthill/Gorgie Ward
Mr Tom Crombie	Craiglockhart Community Council
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Ms Irene McKay	Hutchison/Chesser Community Council
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Ms Ann Royden	Merchiston Community Council
Mr Keith Bell	Sighthill, Broomhouse and Parkhead Community Council
Ms Louisa Jeffrey	Stenhouse Community Council
Mr Andrew Devenport	Tollcross Community Council
Insp Andrew Gillhooley	Lothian & Borders Police
Mr Gordon Fisher	Lothian & Borders Fire & Rescue Service
Ms Carol Cawood	Prospect Community Housing
Mr David Gardner	CHAI
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Welcome

Welcome to the local community plan for the South West Neighbourhood. This plan is a significant development in the way that public service planning, development and delivery are changing. It establishes immediate priority areas and outcomes for us to achieve by 2011, within the context of a longer term vision for our community.

Our plan is the result of widespread consultation and input from people who live and work in the area and from organisations with a responsibility to deliver services locally. We have collected and analysed data and mapped existing conditions and future trends.

We are enthusiastic about the work that has been done so far and we would like to thank everyone who has helped shape this plan. We are committed long term to local community planning, to deeper and wider involvement, to reshaping local services, and to making a real difference in our community.

Not all local activities are contained within this plan. This plan focuses on those areas where combined action can produce greater results and real improvements. We have developed an action plan detailing how we will achieve these outcomes. Partners will also be producing service agreements detailing the level of services that are delivered within the South West Neighbourhood.

Together we have made a good start along the road to making the South West Neighbourhood a better place for everyone. If we keep working together, we will reach our goal. But that's not the end of the story. The Plan is not the final word on what happens between now and 2011. It will be constantly reviewed and refreshed and we want you to play a big part in this. The evolution of the plan over the next four years will be influenced by your views, your concerns and your priorities.

Councillor Donald Wilson
Convener
South West Neighbourhood Partnership

About the South West Neighbourhood

The South West Neighbourhood Partnership covers the Local Authority wards of Sighthill/Gorgie and Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart. It is densely populated and at the time of the last census had a population of 56,338. Just under 10% of the population is below 16, whilst approximately 13.5% of the population is aged over 65.

The Neighbourhood Partnership covers a very diverse area, comprising a range of housing types and tenures, as well as a mixture of commercial, light industrial, retail, leisure facilities and green spaces. It comprises both areas of relative affluence, with higher levels of educational attainment and employment levels, and areas with significant levels of social need, relating to higher than average unemployment and poverty.

The area contains pockets of deprivation which occur in the worst 5% overall in Scotland, as well as a number of areas that occur within the best 10% overall in Scotland, according to the Edinburgh Index, which measures deprivation across a number of indicators. These scores are important as actions in the Local Community Plan will reflect the need to work to ensure that quality of life, local amenities, access to employment and good health are available to all.

Historically, areas of the South West such as Broomhouse, Sighthill and Wester Hailes have received significant amounts of funding aimed at reducing deprivation and regenerating communities. Others, such as Longstone, Slateford, Gorgie and Dalry, have missed out. New funding arrangements and the Neighbourhood Partnership structure mean that funding can be directed to the places it will do the most good, across the whole of the South West neighbourhood.

What amenities are available?

A large number and range of statutory educational facilities exist in the area, including twelve primary, four special and three secondary schools (plus further secondary schools just outwith the area that are accessed by local pupils). In addition the area is home to three libraries, ten community centres, and eight doctors surgeries.

The South West Neighbourhood boasts a diverse range of other facilities, including further and higher educational institutions, shopping, commercial, leisure, sporting and industrial land uses. The Water of Leith and Union Canal, focal points for walking and cycling activities which link the City's rural west to the urban centre of Edinburgh, cross through the South West Neighbourhood Partnership area.

The development of this plan has seen the gathering of good evidence which has been used to both support and determine the need for change. Data is referred to throughout the plan. Maps of the area and further information on the Sighthill/Gorgie and Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart Ward Profiles are available at:

www.edinburghnp.org.uk

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. However, this plan provides the opportunity to make sense of these plans and make them more appropriate to local priorities and needs.

Here is our vision for the South West area. In 15 years we would like to see this vision become a reality. Our priorities and programme of activities over the next four years will help to achieve this. When developing this vision we have listened carefully to local peoples' views, ideas and concerns and taken these on board. Community groups have also been consulted throughout the process and will continue to be consulted as we take the work forward.

Our Vision

In the Year 2024, the South West will be a place where:

- Our young people are supported, educated, entertained and engaged. Our families have access to support and services to help them raise our children to be responsible, involved and contributing members of the community.
- We feel safe from crime, disorder and danger.
- Our people have more and better employment opportunities, and the necessary skills to take full advantage of these opportunities.
- We have accessible, reliable public transport, and our roads and pathways are safe for vehicles and pedestrians.
- We live in well-designed, sustainable places, with the green spaces, amenities and facilities we need. Our environments of special character are protected and enhanced.
- Our community live longer, healthier lives, with awareness of and access to health services provided locally.
- Our local services are delivered effectively with the input of local people. Service providers work together and share knowledge.

Our Priorities for 2009 to 2011

The South West Neighbourhood Partnership has agreed to the following priorities for action to help achieve our vision:

- 1. Making our neighbourhood safer**
- 2. Family support – the best start for our younger members**
- 3. Physical regeneration and the built and natural environment**
- 4. Promoting employment and sustainable economic growth**
- 5. Improving transport services and infrastructure in our area**
- 6. Improving health and wellbeing**

The vision and priorities outlined above can only be achieved through working in partnership and the South West Neighbourhood Partnership recognises that community members are also an important partner in this. 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 in which we work. By committing to 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 better focus and concentrate on those outcomes which can only be tackled in partnership and improved through joint working.



Consultation

An essential part of the creation of the South West Neighbourhood Plan is community consultation and participation with its development. Only through community engagement will we be able to test, agree or change the planned action for the Neighbourhood Partnership. We believe by asking and listening to people that we can develop a plan that reflects the needs and desires of those who live, work, study and visit the city Centre. All our community engagement activities are underpinned by the National Standards for Community Engagement.

Detailed consultation work has been carried out to ensure we have captured the community's concerns and priorities for improvement.

CEC staff visited the Community Councils, giving information on the intention and design of the Local Community Plan, and gathering feedback. CEC staff also attended various community events, providing information on Neighbourhood Partnerships and collecting the community's views.

Public workshops conducted alongside the Neighbourhood Partnership Board identified the broad areas of interest, which roughly align with the strategic outcomes identified by the City of Edinburgh Council and the National Outcomes of the Scottish Government.

The Board members representing Community Councils then undertook to refine the key service areas in consultation with their membership and the wider community. Further workshops and business meetings refined the initial findings, contributing to the outcomes and actions detailed in this Plan.

Additional research was done among specialist interest groups, for example on health, working with families and the built environment.

The Health Inequalities Group chaired by the NHS Community Health Promotion officer were consulted on the health and family priorities, and gave additional health-related advice on other priorities as well. Strong links have been formed with this multi-agency group, who will assist with taking forward the health outcomes and actions contained in the Local Community Plan.

Staff from CEC Children & Families worked closely with partner agencies to align their own Service Plan with the Local Community Plan and contribute their expertise to the relevant areas of work.

The South West Housing Area Board contributed to the work done on the built environment and housing matters, including tenancy issues. Walkabouts in the local area with community representatives and service partners helped to identify specific issues and activities.

The Partnership and Information Manager conducted desk research in conjunction with other service provider partners, establishing what existing data was available as a baseline for assessment of the Partnership's work and utilising the findings of the Edinburgh Index and the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation to target

specific geographies. The Edinburgh Index measures deprivation across Edinburgh using five indicators over nearly 4,000 Census Output Areas. This enables very detailed breakdowns of information across the city. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2006 identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across Scotland (SIMD).

From these findings, more detailed priorities emerged and were reviewed by the group in a series of iterations until the core priorities, outcomes and actions were established and agreed.

The results of our consultation showed that the community's key priorities are:

1. Family support – the best start for our younger members
2. Making our neighbourhood safer
3. Physical regeneration and the built environment
4. Promoting employment and sustainable economic growth
5. Improving transport in our area
6. Improving health and wellbeing

The intention is that this Local Community Plan will continue to be a living document, and will be regularly reviewed and adapted to ensure it continues to meet the community's needs. Continued community engagement will be key to ensure that our Plan remains relevant and effective in achieving our shared goals.

The views of Black and minority ethnic groups and the disabled are currently less well represented, and a goal for the coming year is to ensure these groups have the opportunity to have their say. We are working with Score Scotland and other community groups to improve our engagement activities with these audiences.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to the Plan and ask that you continue to work with us throughout the Plan's life, bringing forward your own views and information to help us improve our area.

Priority 1 – Family support: the best start for our younger members

The Partnership believes that providing better life chances for our young people is key to the longer term success of our community.

The Children & Families South West Integrated Strategic Plan, developed in close consultation with members of the South West Neighbourhood Partnership, shares the goal of providing the best start for our children and young people. Joint actions undertaken with our other service partners will help to achieve the outcome identified below. Initially, this work will focus on a target area selected on the basis of priority need as defined by the Edinburgh Index, with the intention of further developing the activities involved as results are shown.

The City of Edinburgh Council is committed to improving educational attainment through More Choices, More Chances, the Closing the Gap strategy and other initiatives. The Child Protection Action Plan, led by CEC Children & Families, addresses performance improvements in managing child protection and looked after children. The joint initiative No Offence, between CEC and Lothian & Borders Police, aims to address youth offending, along with the Youth Justice Strategy and Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy.

Partnership members identify parenting needs as inextricably linked with school attainment and positive destinations, and this may be reflected in the final action plan. Community support for parents, intergenerational activities, and support specifically for young families may all contribute to this goal.

<p style="text-align: center;">Local Outcome</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Increased number of young people moving on to positive destinations after school</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key Action</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Helping our young people attain better results in school and move successfully into work, training or further education</p> <p style="text-align: center;">National Outcomes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens</p>

Measuring our success:

- Destinations after school (further education, training or work)
- School attainment levels
- Youth offending levels

Priority 2 - Making our neighbourhood safer

Antisocial behaviour is a problem for all communities. Local neighbourhoods within Fountainbridge and Craiglockhart experience crime levels that are slightly higher than the Scottish average. This is based on types of crime that affect a local neighbourhood: crimes of violence; drug offences; domestic house breaking; minor assault; and vandalism. Local neighbourhoods within Broomhouse and Sighthill experience crime levels that are significantly higher than the Scottish average.

The Partnership agrees that managing antisocial behaviour and improving people's feelings of safety in the community needs joint working to be successful. The goal of safer communities is shared by the major service providers and several shared service projects are already well established, for example the teams of Police who work in conjunction with local Council offices and regularly attend Community Councils.

The geography and urban design of parts of the South West area can affect people's feelings of safety, in particular the underpasses on Calder Road. The Partnership acknowledges that resolving the safety concerns around the Calder underpasses is a long term project which will require significant input from our partners in City Development. However it believes that as a major community concern, a managed approach with short, medium and longer term outcomes should be adopted.

The high levels of regeneration in the South West area, particularly at Napier University and Sighthill, provide an opportunity to ensure community safety measures are designed into the built environment from the earliest stages.

<p>Local Outcome Reduce crime and the fear of crime</p> <p>Key Action Improve safety in and around the underpasses on Calder Road</p> <p>National Outcome We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger</p>

Measuring our success:

- Reduced crime levels
- Reduced fear of crime (the Edinburgh Household Survey)
- Levels of usage



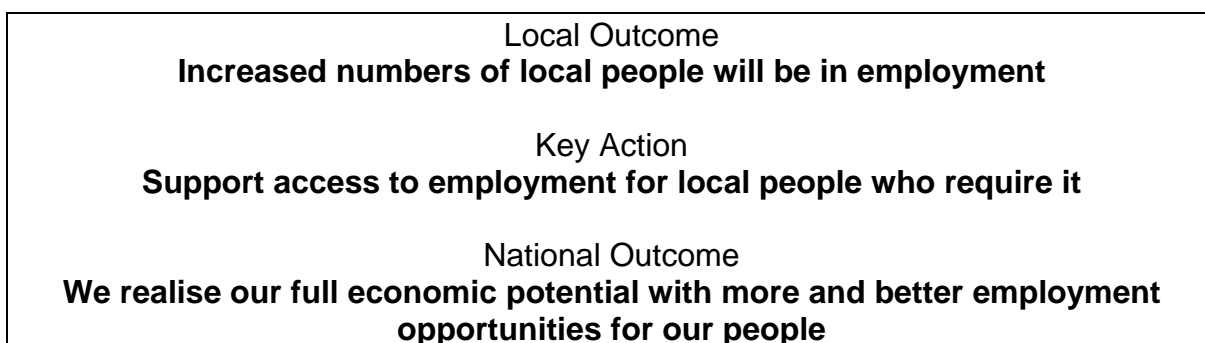
Priority 3 - Promoting employment and sustainable economic growth

Rates of employment vary across the South West Partnership area. Based upon the Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation, Fountainbridge and Craiglockhart has a lower than average rate of people excluded from the world of work. Compared to the rest of Scotland, there is a lower proportion of the working age population who are unemployed or are not involved in the labour market due to ill health or disability.

However, drilling down into these figures using the more detailed Edinburgh Index shows that, for example, 20.2% of working age people in parts of Fountainbridge are excluded from work, compared to 9.6% across Edinburgh as a whole.

The Neighbourhood Partnership has previously identified a goal of improving the rate of positive destinations for our young people leaving school (please see Priority 1: Family Support). They further hope to ensure that all members of the community have access to employment opportunities as and when they require it.

The Edinburgh Partnership has been awarded funding from the European Social Fund to provide access to employment projects in Edinburgh in 2009/10. The South West Neighbourhood Partnership will work with local providers to ensure that this city-wide programme is effectively delivered at a local level.



Measuring our success:

- Better awareness of and access to employment assistance services
- More people in sustainable employment and/or training
- Positive destinations after school (further education, training or work)

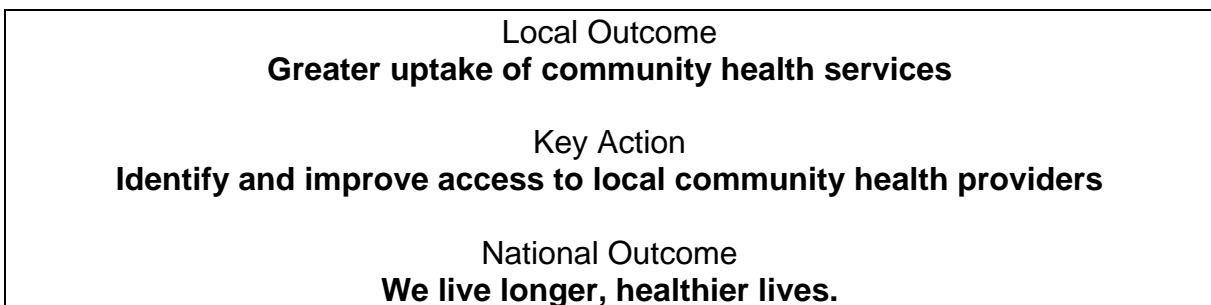
Priority 4 - Improving health and wellbeing

The Broomhouse and Sighthill areas within Sighthill and Gorgie contain health risks slightly higher than the average for Scotland. There is a higher level of risk associated with poor health (eg, admission rates for alcohol or drug taking or prescriptions for anxiety, depression or psychosis). However, the people within Fountainbridge and Craiglockhart are healthier than the Scottish average.

Some areas within the community are affected by the misuse of drugs and alcohol, and higher rates of smoking. Small pockets of deprivation exist within the ward figures: in parts of Dalry, for example, the rate of hospital admissions relating to alcohol misuse are double those of Edinburgh as a whole.

Establishing healthy habits early in life is agreed to be an important long term solution to health needs. Several local community groups are involved in promoting healthy lifestyles for various target audiences, for example young people or older people.

Provision of health services in the neighbourhood could be better publicised and more information provided on what is locally available. This includes locally-delivered services such as NHS services, medical services, CEC support services, home care, Health and Social Care services, and voluntary sector health support services.



Measuring our success:

- Better awareness of local health services and providers
- Information and advice on healthy lifestyles available to all
- Young people informed and engaged on healthy choices



Priority 5 - Physical regeneration and the built environment

The South West area is home to two key regeneration projects: Sighthill and the Calders.

Demolition of outdated public housing in Sighthill began in 2008 and the Scottish Government and CEC are committed to building the first new public housing in Edinburgh for 20 years.

Community representatives sit on the development group for Sighthill and are directly involved in the plans for the regeneration work. The Neighbourhood Partnership also feeds into this work. The Sighthill project is a major piece of work with an extended timeline. CEC is committed to ongoing community consultation on this project and has established mechanisms for ensuring this takes place.

The Calders project focuses on the high-rise blocks and will achieve significant physical improvements to these. Encouraging further community involvement, especially around the associated areas of environmental improvements, will help to ensure that the improvements to the buildings and surrounds meet the needs of the community.

More broadly, the Partnership believes better use could be made of development sites in the area. Large key sites such as the B&Q site at Longstone, the former Tesco at Dumbryden and others have the potential to be major assets for the community if taken by appropriate providers. Sites that lie empty for extended periods become magnets for vandalism and other anti-social behaviour, blighting the community. Sites involving multiple developments, such as Fountainbridge and Tollcross, bring their own challenges.

The Partnership wishes to address the use of these sites to ensure that unnecessary barriers to development are removed and that the sites are managed effectively throughout the development process.

<p>Local Outcome</p> <p>Reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour associated with sites lying empty or derelict for sustained periods of time</p> <p>Key Action</p> <p>Support the appropriate development of vacant sites</p> <p>National Outcome</p> <p>We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations</p>

Measuring our success:

- Length of time sites remain vacant
- Use of greenspace where brownspace might be available
- Crime statistics around empty sites

Priority 6 - Improving transport in our area

By 2024, approximately 150,000 additional people are projected to live in the Edinburgh subregion, with 62,000 additional people living in Edinburgh itself. This growth creates demand for new infrastructure, particularly transport. Of the 310,000 people who work in Edinburgh, around 72,000 people commute into the city and this is expected to rise to 100,000 by 2014.

The CEC Corporate Plan includes the Strategic Outcome “The city has modern, effective transport arrangements”.

Many people in the South West area lack access to personal vehicles, making safe, reliable and accessible public transport an essential social need. Without it, access to health providers, community activities and friends and family can become constrained, leading to poor health, strain on finances, stress and social exclusion.

Community Transport is provided by The Dove Centre and is widely used by groups and individuals. Train stations are located at Wester Hailes, Longstone, Slateford and Haymarket, with an hourly service to the city centre. Recent changes to bus services, cancelling some services and restricting others, have caused concern in the community.

In 2008, the South West area is piloting Vanguard, a project designed to improve our roads maintenance.

The regeneration of Sighthill and the development of Napier University offers an opportunity to ensure effective transport planning is included in the earliest stages of design.

<p>Local Outcome</p> <p>Local people will more easily access shopping facilities</p> <p>Key Action</p> <p>Improve transport links to Hermiston Gait</p> <p>National Outcome</p> <p>We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.</p>
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Measuring our success:

- “Mobility gap” (the number and type of trips undertaken by an average individual compared to a disadvantaged user)
- More/better use of existing transport services
- Better use of safe walking and cycling routes
- Transport planning forms part of regeneration plans

The Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) and Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF)

The Scottish Government has tasked all public agencies to work in partnership and deliver more focused services to those in most need (the Single Outcome Agreement). The Government has made money available to help us do this and this funding is known as the Fairer Scotland Fund.

The Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF) replaces a number of previous funding streams, chief among these being the Community Regeneration Fund (CRF). While areas such as Wester Hailes and Sighthill received funding under the CRF, other areas of the South West such as Slateford, Gorgie and Dalry did not. The FSF is allocated using the Edinburgh Index, a detailed measure of deprivation across a number of indicators. Under the Edinburgh Index and the Neighbourhood Partnership structure, funding is available in these areas for the first time.

The Edinburgh Partnership is the city-wide body who hold the FSF and decide where it will be spent. The Edinburgh Partnership has agreed that the FSF money will be spent on 3 key areas of work. These are:

- Early intervention (providing support for vulnerable families, children and young people)
- Reducing health inequalities
- Improving employability

The FSF Progress Report of 30 September 2008 states that:

"The Strategic Partnerships' programmes of activity will focus on the same disadvantaged individuals, groups and areas as the Neighbourhood partnerships and the programmes will be informed by neighbourhood fund priorities as reflected in Local Community Plans".

The amount of FSF awarded to each partnership by the Edinburgh Partnership is based on the proportion of the population who fall within the worse 5% of levels of deprivation within Edinburgh.

The South West Neighbourhood Partnership area has been allocated £623,376 of Fairer Scotland Funding (FSF) for 2009/10 to help tackle levels of disadvantage in the area. This is less than the Community Regeneration Fund budget for previous years and the partnership is currently involved in a process of identifying the fairest and most effective way of allocating the FSF to support the three priorities.

The Local Community Plan focuses on identifying how partners can best work together to maximise our outcomes. This means that we want to find ways we can get more value for money for our main service budgets as well. By working more effectively we can fund more activities to help us achieve our outcomes.

Further Information and Comments

The South West Partnership is keen to hear from people who live, work and do business in the area. If you wish to make comments or discuss any of the services within the community plan, please contact your neighbourhood office.

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