

Dear Colleagues

I hope this find you all well. Following on from the recent Edinburgh Integrated Joint Board (EIJB) approval of our Edinburgh Wellbeing Pact report, I thought it would be helpful to provide this brief summary of recent developments and next steps. To read the full report to the EIJB please click this [link](#)

The pandemic provided a unique opportunity to harness the kindness and compassion shown by the people of Edinburgh. In a city with a vibrant third sector, we witnessed the growth of connections and a willingness to support those with the greatest need within society.

It was these experiences and collective efforts that highlighted the importance of creating a simple and straightforward narrative that all could support. During times of uncertainty and change, a clear vision, is one that people can actively relate and respond to which holds a cultural resonance' — if it 'rings bells' with people's beliefs, values, ethics, and commitments – can accelerate the mobilisation for change process.¹ The Edinburgh Wellbeing Pact's "More Good Days" is resonating across the city creating catalyst for change. Our Community Mobilisation Plans will continue to evolve and adapt to reflect the current and future context and policy direction.

New Developments

The **Edinburgh Community Resilience Programme** with Cyrenians and Queen Margaret University is a collaborative partnership designed to increase community resilience to support the health and wellbeing of Edinburgh's older people. The programme builds on previous expertise and research which considers community navigation, social prescribing approaches and the Making it Clear resilience framework. Participatory Action Research (PAR) will enhance a resilience focussed model of community support. It aims to gain a better understanding of how to construct a more efficient, effective, and sustainable community support and will do so by exploring the experiences and perspectives of both, older people and those embedded in community support. Recruitment for the posts will be commencing shortly.

Op Ready will focus on those whose current health status is impacting on them receiving the necessary surgical procedures. The last two years have severely impacted people who are awaiting surgery. Many individuals now struggle with their mobility which is affecting their mental health and emotional wellbeing, worsened by isolation and loneliness, and is preventing them from accessing much needed surgery. The project will be tailored to individuals and be available for those requiring knee or hip surgery referred by Acute Physicians.

Twenty-two **Capacity to Collaborate awards** ranging from £2,075 to £24,075, have been allocated demonstrating the commitment to continue collaborative practices or create new collaborations. The first series of **Capacity to Collaborate Conversations**, reflecting some of the themes that people were keen to collaborate around, are now being organised and venues finalised. These will be in person events and invites will be sent out next week.

C2C Conversation Focus	Date	Time
A Sporting Chance - Sport and Activity	23 June	1.00 to 3.30 pm
GameChanger – the second half – Place making and prevention	23 June	4.00 to 6.00 pm
Getting there - community transport	27 June	100 to 3.30 pm
Day opportunities for older people	29 June	9.30 to 12.00 noon
Building dementia friendly Edinburgh	30 June	12.00 – 2.30 pm

The **Community Taskforce Volunteer Programme** led by Volunteer Edinburgh has received funding for digital developments. The programme builds on the initiative that began during Covid 19 and will continue to provide short term, simple, practical support to individuals in the community who are in need and who do not have existing familial, statutory or third sector support. It will also support statutory partners, where appropriate, with volunteer support where it is not already in place and provide a meaningful volunteering opportunity, which is flexible for individuals who wish to contribute.

The **Fit and Active programme for People with Learning Disabilities** with Edinburgh Leisure will create opportunities for people with learning disabilities to be physically active and socially connected. This will provide support, motivation, and access for one hundred individuals to improve their health, wellbeing, and quality of life. The programme will link in with learning disabilities teams across the city.

Enliven Edinburgh is our addressing loneliness and isolation campaign. Initiatives funded under Enliven will be underway in the next couple of months. There is a fantastic range of activities and ways for people to connect. We will be producing a full report on the activities, reach and impact in September.

Our first Neighbourhood Recruitment event took place at Broomhouse Space hosted by WHALE on 6 May. This is an approach we are testing to reach out into communities to encourage people to apply and achieve employment with Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership. There will be a further five events across the city.

A key component of community mobilisation has been the **Learning by Doing Community Commissioning** process for the allocation of the Scottish Government’s Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund. This was led by Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations’ Council (EVOC) and supported by Volunteer Edinburgh (VE) and Edinburgh Social Enterprise (ESE) within the TSI and the Thrive Edinburgh Strategic Planning Team within Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership (EHSCP). The fund was targeted toward support for several priority groups and equalities groups, particularly those with lived experience, those who are experiencing health inequalities and minority ethnic communities. On 23 March, 121 projects’ funding was approved by the Thrive Edinburgh Adult Health and Social Care Programme Board. All allocations were made by EVOC in line with the Scottish Government deadline of 31 March 2022. An independent researcher will be interviewing participants to understand the lessons-learned from this experience

There are a number of new third sector led developments underway across the city, these are either well established programmes or new developments in response to new funding allocations. For example, the Thrive Edinburgh **City (E) Scaping** programme is incredibly active with more partners continuing to join this programme. It aims to create more green places across the city which promote health and wellbeing. Please look for the upcoming **Thrive in the Park** events during July and August, building on our successful Gathering at Saughton Park last Saturday.

The Edinburgh Pact and community mobilisation work undertaken in the last year has demonstrated how complicated and complex structures and processes are in our commissioning space. The creation of the **“More Good Days” Strategic Public Social Partnership** will be a better way of moving forwards with our shared narrative and allow us to make incremental changes and developments. Work with colleagues from procurement, commissioning and Health Improvement Scotland which has helped to shape the proposal. The PSP will enable us to be responsive and flexible to unallocated funding, as well as additional or new allocations received.

There are also a number of collaborations continuing to develop supported by the extension to the current Health Inequalities Grant Programme grants to 31 March 2025. This will ensure continuity for the organisations and signal their continued involvement in the community mobilisation efforts through the More Good Days PSP. This extension will also enable alignment with other funding streams which will provide greater opportunities for increased collaboration and consolidation.

It is also important to note that our focus on capacity to collaborate has enabled further funding from various sources to be unlocked. For example, the capacity to collaborate allocations for the NESSIE collaboration in the Northwest of the city will generate additional income from the Robertson Trust of £226,500 over a three-year period to support the collaborative intent.

The **Edinburgh Wellbeing Research into Action Community of Practice** is now seeking to generate income through grant awards, collaborating with citizens, practitioners and academics using a wide range of methodological approaches reflecting the ambitions which the Pact seeks to achieve.

Since the Community of Practice began in June 2021, two developments were funded through grants in partnership with the University of Edinburgh. The two projects **Communities in Motion and Active Citizenship** have now been completed and seminars to share the learning and consider next steps will be taking place in May and July this year. The Data Driven Innovation Steering Group set up to oversee the above two programmes is now focusing on the **Knowledge Management Systems** required to support access to up-to-date resources across the city including self-management and self-help.

The ongoing awareness of the importance of being agile in our responses to an ever-changing context is resulting in a more dynamic and fluid plan helping to build an increasing social movement across the city with a shared narrative of achieving **more good days for everyone**. It is with this spirit of curiosity, inquiry and collaboration that we will continue

I look forward to a summer of collaboration. Thank you for ongoing commitment and participation.

With best wishes



Dr Linda Irvine Fitzpatrick
SRO Edinburgh Wellbeing Pact and Community Mobilisation
21 May 2022

