

# Leith Conference

## Summary of Partnership Working & Key Developments

This summary includes some examples of partnership working delivered as part of the Locality Improvement Plan and Small Area Plan for Leith.

Examples of some key place developments for the area are also included.

October 2019

## **North East Locality Improvement Plan/ Small Area Plan for Leith**

The North East Locality Improvement Plan sets out the priorities and actions for partners over a five-year period (2017-2022) and aim to improve the quality of life for people living in the North East of the city. The Plan is a legal requirement of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and provides a framework for partners to work together alongside the community to address the issues of most importance locally, to target poverty and inequality.

In developing the Plan, partners spoke to over 2,200 individuals and groups and asked them what mattered to them the most, what would make their area a better place to live and the actions needed to achieve this. Priorities have been identified under five themes: Place making; Children, young people and families; Economy and employability; Health and wellbeing; and Community safety. In addition, the plan sets out actions for Small Areas where the community experiences higher levels of inequality and a poorer quality of life. In Leith, the communities identified in the Small Area Plan sit within the Leith ward and lie close to the main arterial routes of Great Junction Street and Constitution Street.

Local people in the North East Locality told partners that they wanted an area where:

- **all young people reach their full potential**
- **people have more opportunities for work and affordable leisure facilities**
- **people feel part of their community**
- **the most vulnerable are supported and protected**
- **loneliness and isolation are reduced**
- **the impact on children living in poverty will be reduced**
- **there is a vibrant and thriving community that is strong, clean, green, safe and healthy**

Partners have worked with the community to develop the Plan, to strengthen partnership working, build local relationships and to deliver actions which address the key priorities.

Here are some examples of the work that has been delivered in Leith:

## 1. Place

**Parks & Green Space** - There have been a number of improvement works delivered across the parks and outdoor spaces in Leith over the last few years supporting local people's access to quality green space. The most significant of which was the completion of the new play park on Leith Links in partnership with Lothian & Greenspace Trust in the summer of this year. Over £280K was invested in renewing all of the play equipment, soft surfacing, and installing an outdoor gym. The park was designed following a consultation programme with local children, young people and residents to ensure the changes delivered met local need. Other park improvements have included new play equipment, footpaths, bins, signage and planting across a range of sites including Henderson Street, Pilrig, Redbraes and Hopetoun Gardens. Partnership work with local Friends of Parks groups continues to be central to development work.

**Leith Chooses** – Participatory budgeting (PB) is one way in which local people can have a direct say in how local money is spent. Leith Chooses is a PB process which is in its tenth year and involves local people in Leith deciding how the council's Community Grants Fund (£44K) is spent to support the delivery of a range of initiatives by community organisations. A number of partners are involved in the ongoing development and delivery of the process and include representation from the three local Community Councils; local Councillors; Council staff; and representatives from a range of local voluntary organisations. Leith Chooses hold an annual event where local people vote on the projects they want to see funded, with last year's event involving 30 organisations and attracting more than 1,000 visitors on the day. This year's process has just launched and is inviting applications from local community groups for up to £5K to deliver small, one-off projects focussed on the themes of fighting hunger and/or loneliness. Forms and guidance notes can be found at: <http://www.leithchooses.net/tag/2019>

## 2. Children, young people & families

**Leith YouthTalk** - YouthTalk is a programme which has engaged 250 young people from the Leith area in conversations about what they think is good in Leith and what would make Leith an even better place to live, play and learn. The initiative has been developed in partnership with the council working alongside NHS Lothian, the police and with local youth work organisations all listening to young people talk about what matters to them and how they would like to see their area developed in the future. As a result of these conversations, young people have identified a range of important areas for improvement including;

- Reducing young people's access to alcohol and increasing health awareness
- Making parks and green spaces feel safer
- Increasing young people's online safety
- Increasing young people's access to sports and fitness activities and weekend activities

A new Youth Talk Action Group has been established to work with young people to bring about positive changes in relation to these identified areas and to support partners to address the highlighted issues.

**Every Contact Counts** – There are a range of agencies and organisations working to support children, young people and families mental health and wellbeing in Leith and the North East of Edinburgh. A new way of working is currently being developed which will see partners working more closely together to improve our support for people. Our approach will:

- Be solution-focussed and strengths based
- Actively listen to families, enabling them to access resources to make changes
- Give people time to develop relationships
- Have a consistent, reliable, non-judgemental, flexible, responsive and connected workforce

**The project will:**

- Map services and build strong partnerships to co-ordinate referrals and ensure that children and young people have access to support quickly and locally
- Deliver supports in community settings or in family's homes
- Work closely with referrers and partner agencies to target families experiencing disadvantage and who are less likely to access a traditional CAMHS service (Children & Adolescent Mental Health Service)
- Work with children, young people and families to identify and define what is important to them, the factors that impact on their wellbeing and take the lead in identifying and implementing solutions

### **3. Economy & Employability**

**Next Step** [Next Step](#) offers a dedicated, one-to-one support service helping local people return to work, up-skill and to support them to achieve better working lives. The service started in April 2019 and has already positively engaged with almost 400 residents across Edinburgh. The Service has been delivered in partnership with [Community Renewal Trust](#), [Citizens Advice Edinburgh](#), [Cre8te Digital Skills](#), [One Parent Families Scotland](#) and [Bruce Robertson Training](#), and operates from over 11 locations citywide including the Citizens Advice Bureau in Dalmeny Street and Leith Jobcentre. The service has been so busy in the Leith area that they are currently looking for new premises.

Next Step work primarily with participants providing a free, high-quality and person-centred service for those who are short-term unemployed, low-income employed and those experiencing in-work difficulties. The aim of this support and advocacy available is to transform people's lives through better work. Next Step operate a "no wrong door" approach in all locations and welcome all enquiries.

**Youth Employability** [The Citadel](#) are funded to provide the North & Leith Hub for youth employability services – formerly known as Activity Agreements. In addition to a 'Careers Café' drop-in service, they offer 1-2-1 support to young people who are looking for information and advice to progress into college, training or employment. They work closely with local high schools, Skills Development Scotland and other third sector providers to plan pathways for young people with additional barriers to employment. Over the summer they ran a summer programme to work with young people who had left school but hadn't yet secured a college place or other positive destination. In 2018/19 they worked with almost

40 young people with 18 moving into positive destinations which included Edinburgh College courses, further training, modern apprenticeships and employment.

#### **4. Community Safety**

**Targeted “Week of Action”** - A targeted community safety initiative was undertaken by a range of partners including Police Scotland, Housing services, Environmental Wardens and local voluntary organisations in March of this year. The work focussed on Cables Wynd House and the surrounding areas and activities included: the delivery of a consultation survey with residents on community safety priorities; a mass clean-up of the area with litter picking, grass cutting & deep cleaning of the communal stairways; action taken on abandoned vehicles, dog fouling & drugs/ alcohol; daily information & advice surgeries for residents; a programme of youthwork activities for local young people with local groups (Bethany, The Citadel, and Destiny Angels); and community gardening initiatives with Inspiring Leith.

**Action on Alcohol** – The North East Action on Alcohol Group is a partnership group which was set up to address and prevent alcohol-related harm as this had been identified as a priority by local people in Leith. This group of practitioners has mainly facilitated partnership work in areas related to Alcohol Licensing, Alcohol Brief Interventions and anti-stigma trainings. Since Leith YouthTalk brought to light the strong feelings that young people have about alcohol-related harm in the area, the group is co-designing an event with young people and people in recovery, which will be held during Alcohol Awareness Week in November for Licensing Board members and local councillors. The aim will be to have an open discussion about the issues related to alcohol-related harm in the area and come up with potential solutions that could be taken forward in partnership, using an engagement tool that the NE Public Health team developed this year.

#### **5. Health & Well Being**

**Connect Here** - “Connect Here” is a pharmacy-based initiative which aims to build on a successful model of engagement with local residents in the Leith Walk area. The initiative involves four local pharmacies hosting popup information stalls run by a range of third sector organisations including Local Opportunities for Older People (LOOPs), Care and Repair and Home Energy Scotland. Each organisation provides the pharmacy staff with information about their services so that the staff team are familiar with the benefits each organisation has to offer so that they can more easily link local people in to the range of opportunities, activities, support and services available. The pop ups also allow people who are in the shop to become familiar with what services are on offer locally through access to the display of information materials and to volunteers staffing the information stations. Connect Here is under further development and is now moving out into pop ups appearing in other local pharmacies, medical centres, and libraries. A third edition of the online City

Connect Here Directory will be made available in October 2019, which is another development from the work.

**GameChanger Partnership** - Gamechanger is an innovative partnership led by Hibernian FC and NHS Lothian to capture the power, passion and economic strength associated with football, and to make use of the physical, cultural and professional assets of Hibernian FC in order to deliver improved health and social care outcomes for people in the local community. Active coproduction with over 100 organisations and individuals has resulted in a wide range of initiatives and a programme including:



- **Health & fitness** From September 2016 weekly fitness classes take place every Tuesday evening in the stadium., approximately 65 people attend weekly.
- **Wellbeing centre** A wellbeing centre opened within the Hibs stadium in January 2018. Over 70 partner organisations are now able to make use of this space to host community events, training and multi-professional forums for adults.
- **Choose Life** In June 2019, over 200 people took part in the third GameChanger Choose Life Football Tournament. As with the previous years, the tournament winners were invited to participate at a home match half time penalty shoot-out on the Easter Road pitch. 19 community stalls were sited in the concourses, and over 200 community members invited to the match as Gamechanger guests.
- **Cyrenians weekly lunch club** Starting in July 2017, a weekly lunch club has provided a free nutritious two-course meal for people of all ages, also providing opportunities for those interested in learning cooking and volunteering to support meal preparation. The lunch club aims to build a sense of community, allowing relationships to be created and improved self-esteem and confidence amongst those who attend. There are around 50-70 attendees each week, with over 3,500 meals cooked to date.
- **Christmas Cheer** Gamechanger's Christmas campaign takes place annually at Easter Road and involves the stadium opening its doors to the local community to provide a free festive lunch and entertainment for people. Food is donated by Tesco and prepared by Hibernian FC catering staff, the numbers participating have grown from 50 in in 2016 to over 200 in 2018.

## Examples of Key Place Developments for Leith

### Housing Development

*The Council has been involved in delivering and supporting a number of new affordable housing developments in Leith in recent years. Further details provided below:*

**Leith Fort** – the Leith Fort development was delivered in partnership with Port of Leith Housing Association (PoLHA). The Council and PoLHA worked together to design 94 homes across the site, 64 for mid market rent, owned and managed by PoLHA and 32 homes for social rent, owned and managed by the Council. The community were able to get involved in the regeneration project throughout the demolition, the design stages, archaeology open days on the site and street naming. Some of the street names on the new development were suggested as part of this consultation. The development has won a number of awards since its completion in 2018.



**Coatfield Lane** – the Coatfield Lane project is a local redevelopment project which is at a very early stage. The community have shown a lot of interest in the redevelopment of the area and many local people gave their views at the planning consultation in 2018. Like Leith Fort, the site is an area of archaeological interest and archaeological investigations will take place as part of the redevelopment project. The results of these investigations will help the architects to complete the final design. The local community will be receiving more information about the next steps at Coatfield Lane, including the demolition of the existing buildings, over the next few weeks.

**Shrubhill** - is a large, mixed tenure development currently under construction, located off Leith Walk. There will be a range of homes available at the development, including social rented homes through Port of Leith Housing Association, homes for private rent and sale, and homes for mid-market rent through the National Housing Trust initiative. The development includes large landscape gardens, underground parking and an on-site gym. The first block completed in February 2019 is pictured below:



**Powderhall** - The Council have hosted a number of consultation events to allow the public, local interest groups and stakeholders to express their ideas about the area and its redevelopment. It is envisaged that the housing led development will incorporate:

- affordable and mixed tenure housing on the former Waste Transfer Site
- the creation of a hub providing flexible workspaces and community space, if grant funding is approved, for the renovation of the 'B' listed Stables block that fronts onto Broughton Road
- a new nursery school on the former bowling greens, nearby the existing primary school, with affordable older persons housing above.
- the opportunity to enhance and improve green space across the wider site





## **Travel /Transport Development**

**Active Travel Projects** – The following active travel projects have been taken forward throughout Leith and the surrounding areas:

- Leith programme- Leith Walk from Foot of the Walk to Macdonald Rd - approx. £4.5m
- Leith to Portobello route- Duncan Place - Links Gardens to Portobello including a widened segregated path across Leith Links, new bridge over Seafield Place and widened footway/cycleway on Seafield Rd - approx. £1.5m
- Restalrig Path surfacing and lighting - Seafield Pl to Easter Rd via Lochend Rd - approx. £0.5m
- Various upgrades to the North Edinburgh Path Network including surfacing, drainage works and entry points upgraded e.g. Victoria Park
- Future active travel improvements are planned which link in with Tram to Newhaven

**Trams to Newhaven** – Construction work for the project is set to get underway way in mid-November 2019 with Edinburgh Trams timetabled to take their first passengers in Spring 2023. The full construction programme is available on the project website [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/tramstonewhaven](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/tramstonewhaven). Trams to Newhaven will connect Leith and Newhaven to the current end of the Edinburgh tram line at York Place with 8 new stops and will deliver residents and businesses access to a high capacity light rail system which will sit alongside the existing bus service. In addition, there will be improved cycling, walking and public realm infrastructure along the route, with design reflecting feedback received as part of extensive engagement with residents during 2019. The project is being paid for through future tram fares and a dividend from Lothian buses, and won't put pressure on existing Council services. Expected passenger numbers for the first year of service is almost 16 million, double that of the current Airport to York Place line.

**Transport Links** - Additional works to improve the roads network have been carried out across Leith ahead of the start of the Tram project. These works have included resurfacing of Duncan Place, Bonnington Road, Pilrig Street, Easter Road Links Gardens, Hermitage Place, Annandale Street and Broughton Road. These works are intended to improve the roads surrounding the tram works which will inevitably receive displaced traffic. The amount of investment is in the region of £1.8m and will future proof the routes from an increase in traffic levels.