

Edinburgh Poverty Commission

Phase 2 Call for Evidence: 'Prospects'

May 2019

Edinburgh Poverty Commission

Edinburgh Poverty Commission was launched in November 2018 and will be working throughout this year to define the steps the city needs to make to reduce, mitigate, and prevent poverty in Edinburgh.

The Commission is an independent group, chaired by Jim McCormick of Joseph Rowntree Foundation and made up of 12 people with experience of tackling poverty and its effects, including citizens who have direct experience of living in poverty in Edinburgh.

Throughout 2019 the Commission will focus on three themes relating to poverty in Edinburgh:

- **Phase 1: Pockets** – addressing the pressures that keep incomes low and living costs high for people in Edinburgh. This phase took place from January to April 2019.
- **Phase 2: Prospects** – exploring what we can do to improve the wellbeing and life chances of people in poverty. This phase takes place from May to August 2019.
- **Phase 3: Places** – defining steps the city can take to create well-designed, affordable, and sustainable places in Edinburgh. This phase will take place between September and November 2019.

After each of these phases the Commission will publish its findings so far, and give its first thoughts on the actions Edinburgh should consider to address the issues it has discussed. Following a further session in **November 2019**, the Commission will draw these findings together and publish its recommendations on the actions the city should take forward to solve poverty in Edinburgh. These will include actions for the public sector, the third sector, businesses, and communities across the city.

If you would like to know more about our work, or get involved, please visit our [website](#), or follow us on social media using #edinpovertycommission.

Call for evidence – Phase 2: 'Prospects'

In the first phase of our work we gathered evidence and heard people's experiences around the theme of 'Pockets' - the pressures that keep incomes low and living costs high for people in Edinburgh. **The findings we received from that work are now published and available for comment and feedback.**

In the second phase of our work, we want to focus on the theme of '**Prospects**' – **what we can do to improve the life chances of people who are struggling to get by in Edinburgh.**

We know that almost anyone can experience poverty at some point during their lives, and that the experience of poverty has significant impacts on people's health, well-being and opportunities. People in poverty are more likely to die sooner and to have fewer years free of ill-health or disability than more affluent families. We know that children who grow up in poverty have poorer mental and physical health than average. We also know that children from disadvantaged backgrounds achieve poorer results in school, and that people in poverty often face real challenges in accessing and maintaining well paid work.

To help us, we want to hear from individuals and organisations across the city who have experience of living with or supporting people facing these issues.

We want to hear your thoughts on how poverty affects people's lives and opportunities. We also want to hear about ways the city can do more to reduce those impacts, and improve life chances for people struggling to get by in Edinburgh.

So we are asking a number of questions.

On the phase 1 findings published so far:

- What are your comments on the evidence and first thoughts on actions included in the emerging findings document?

And on the topics for consideration during phase 2 of our work:

- How does living on a low income affect the health and wellbeing of people in Edinburgh?
- How does poverty affect the ability of children in Edinburgh to have a good start in life?
- What are the barriers that make it difficult for people in poverty to get a job, work more hours, or progress to better paid jobs?
- Can you provide evidence of what has been successful in helping people address these issues?

Submitting your evidence

You can submit your thoughts on these questions by contacting us, using the subject header 'Edinburgh Poverty Commission', at:

strategyandinsight@edinburgh.gov.uk

All submissions will be treated as confidential, with the evidence used to inform discussion and private sessions of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission.

Q1: What are your comments on the evidence and first thoughts on actions included in the phase 1 emerging findings document?

Q2: How does living on a low income affect the health and wellbeing of people in Edinburgh?

Q3: How does poverty affect the ability of children in Edinburgh to have a good start in life?

Q4: What are the barriers that make it difficult for people in poverty to get a job, work more hours, or progress to better paid jobs?

Q5: Can you provide evidence of what has been successful in helping people address these issues?

Monitoring questions (optional)

All responses to this engagement will be treated as confidential, so the following questions are optional but will help us understand who is responding to the call for evidence.

1. What is your name/organisation?

2. Future engagement

Thank you for taking part. We would like to contact you about the results of this work, and any further engagement in relation to the Edinburgh Poverty Commission. If you are happy for us to contact you in this way, please provide your email address below.

Future calls for evidence

This is the first of three calls for evidence the Edinburgh Poverty Commission will be making during 2019.

Future calls for evidence will focus on:

Places – due to be issued in August 2019

If printing this form, you can return it to any Edinburgh library or local office, or post it to:

Edinburgh Poverty Commission

2.1 – Waverley Court

4 East Market Street

Edinburgh

EH8 8BG

For more information and to keep up to date on our work, please visit our [website](#), follow us on twitter using #edinpovertycommission, or email us at strategyandinsight@edinburgh.gov.uk.

Thank you.