

ESOL Recommendations New Scots Strategy (Edinburgh)

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Why ESOL Matters in Edinburgh

New Scots Edinburgh

Advocate	Recognise	Deliver	Provide
Advocate for further, and consistent, support to support orgs and communities supporting New Scots.	Recognise the good work, and best practice, to date.	Deliver a range of actions that increases the success of integration in communities	Provide support to statutory, third sector and communities working in the New Scots space.

ESOL Need – Key Stats

The 2022 census shows that 31,803 people in the City of Edinburgh require ESOL support.

The gap between the employment rate of all working age people in Scotland and those from minority ethnic groups currently stands at 11% (figures are not available at local authority level).

Edinburgh's changing demographics (over 30% of children in local authority education are from ethnic minority backgrounds) would suggest that the gap is likely to be wider in the City.

Goal: Estimate unmet demand, identify ESOL access barriers & draw recommendations

ESOL Strategic Group

Led By Capital
City Partnership

EVOC, DWP,
CEC, UoE, The
Welcoming,
ELREC &
Edinburgh
College

Timeframe
Aug 24 –
April 25

ESOL Providers
Network

ESOL Strategic Group Research Model

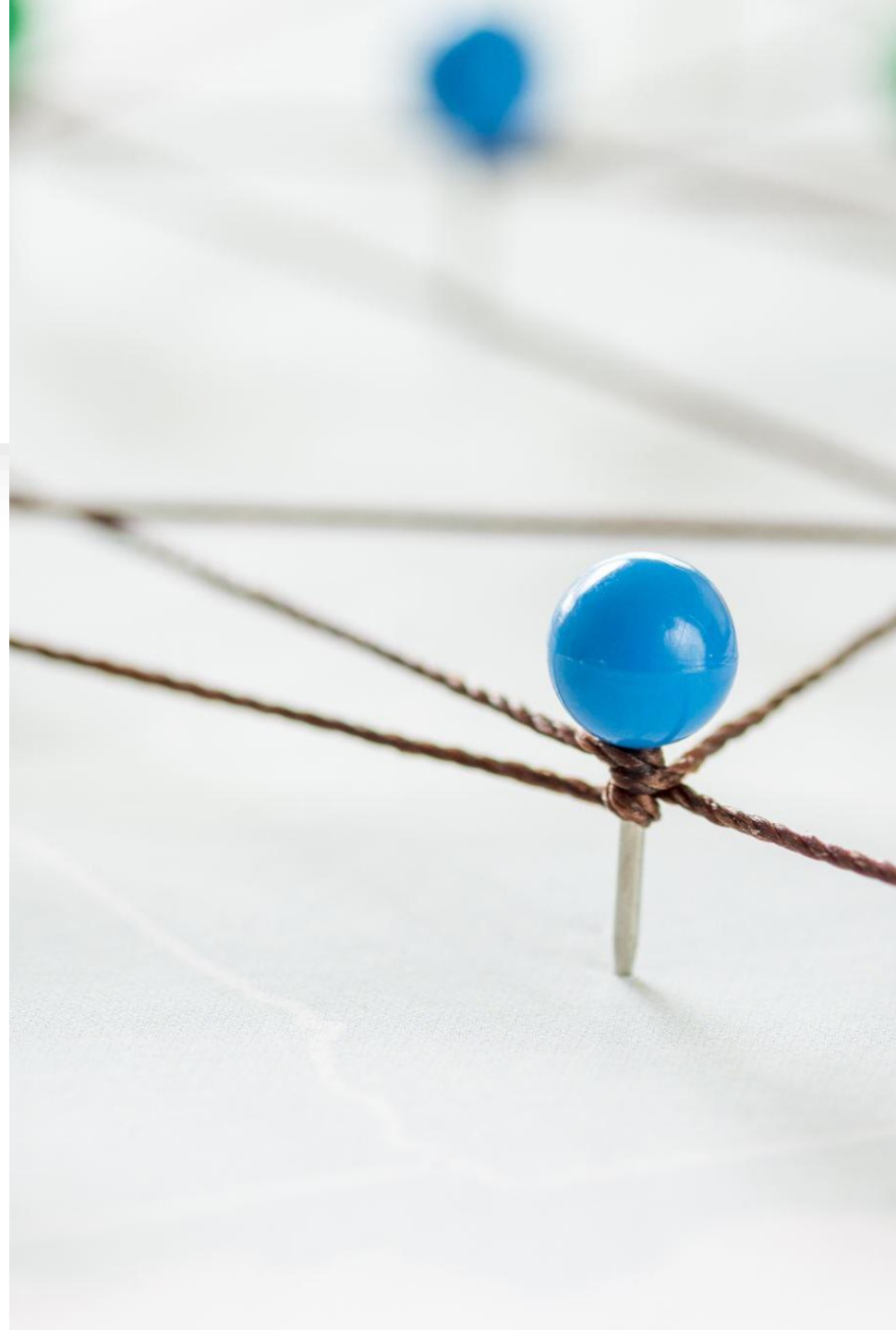
CCP - Mapping exercise to identify the current ESOL provision in the city

Surveys & focus group research with people in ESOL provision

Identify needs and barriers of people not in ESOL provision through focus groups

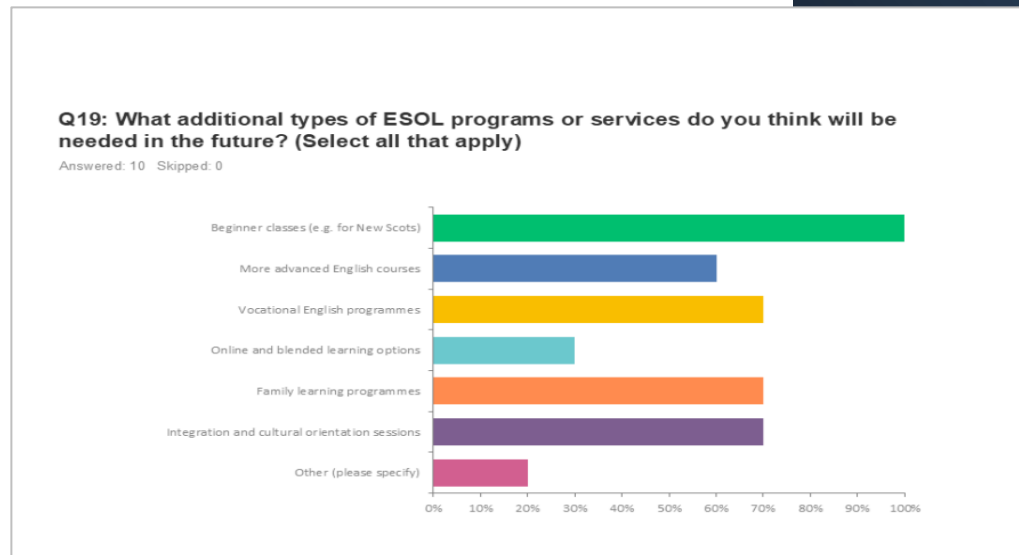
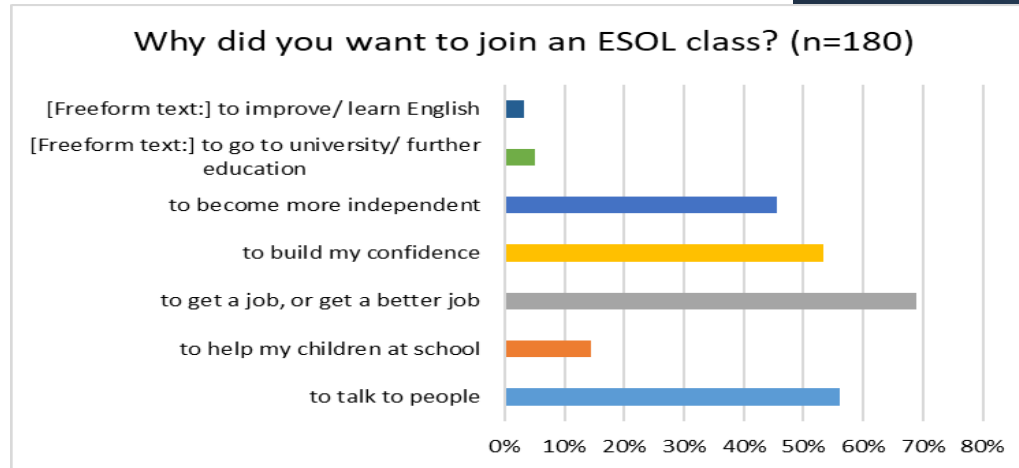
ESOL Teachers survey, and ESOL Providers survey

Shared the research with New Scots Strategy drafting group



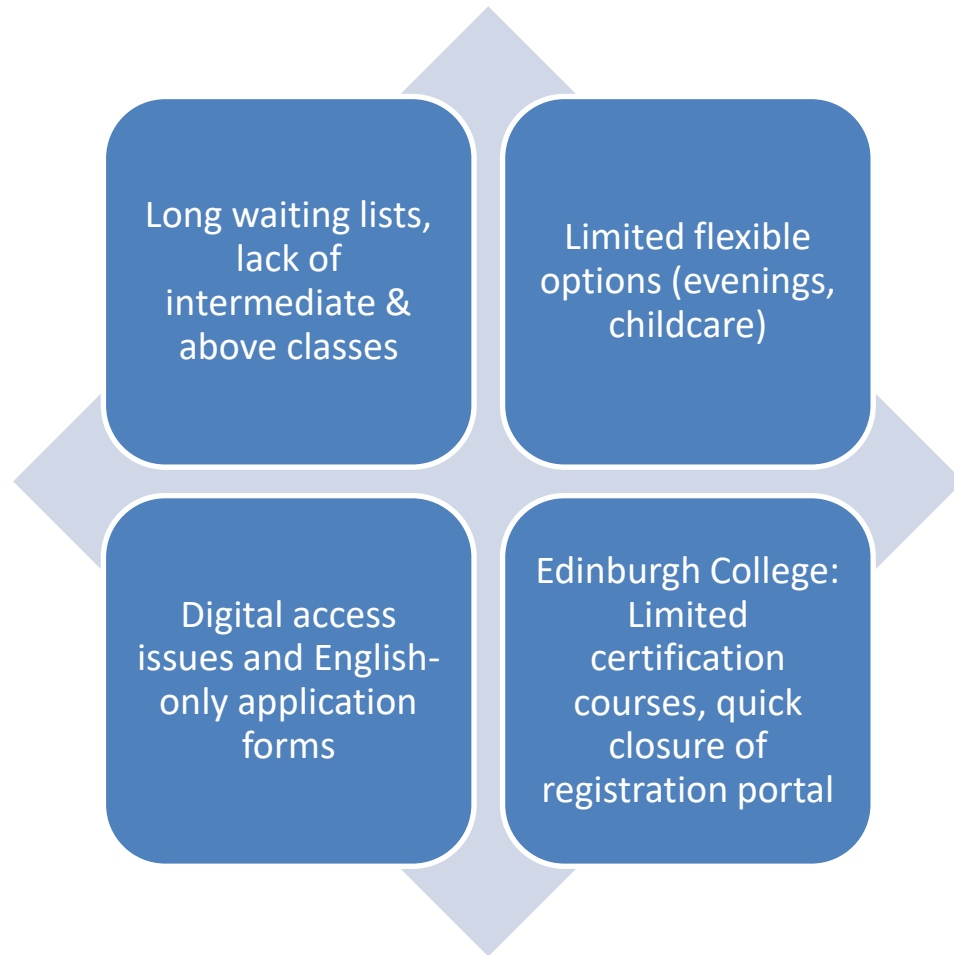
Key Findings

ESOL Identified as the 'Top Priority' for Employment — Findings from Focus Groups & Surveys"



Key Findings

Access to ESOL



Key Findings

Impact - Lack of ESOL Provision

- limits job opportunities and work progression
- Increases Social isolation
- Barrier to vocational education & education in general
- Hinders healthcare access and well-being
- Impacts accessing rights & benefits

The British Council estimates that around 360 hours of ESOL provision is needed for someone to improve by one level.

5 Key Considerations

New Scots Strategy drafting group

Substantially increased ESOL provision in all delivery formats in Edinburgh



Expand & Increase place based flexible ESOL classes (with childcare)



Revise certification requirements for education & employment



Enhance digital ESOL with digital skills training



Develop workplace-specific ESOL programs



Increase conversation cafes, mentoring, and provider partnerships

6. Conclusion

Addressing ESOL barriers is critical for integration



Supports employment, education, mental health and better health outcomes



Inclusive, accessible ESOL provision is essential for Edinburgh's diverse communities