West Lothian Council
Area Service

Volume 2, Issue 7

July 2012

In Touch...

Advice Shop & ABE Newsletter

Team Monthly Focus

Projects and Development

As part of the Anti-Poverty Strategy, the Advice Shop Projects and Development team are planning several events throughout 2012 to raise awareness of poverty and financial responsibility. Most recently, we worked with Council Employability and Regeneration services to deliver 'Just the Job', an employability event held in the Bathgate Partnership Centre at the beginning of July.

The aim of the event was to increase public awareness of various employability services and provide practical advice and assistance to jobseekers. Attendees were able to speak to Access 2 Employment advisors on the day and have their CV developed. An Advice Shop advisor was on hand to provide benefit checks including 'better off' calculations to make sure people would not be left financially worse off by taking a job, and 'income projection' checks which give an indication of benefit entitlement as wages and hours of work increase.

Following the success of the event, with over 100 people attending, 2 more dates have been agreed. Just the Job events will be delivered in Fauldhouse and Craigshill in Livingston during Money Week, 1st – 6th October this year.

Money Week is a 6 day series of events to inform and educate people about various money related issues. Planned events include a health fair highlighting how to save money whilst also looking after your health and a community film festival showcasing locally produced segments about poverty as well as a big Hollywood blockbuster. In addition to this, we will offer several workshops and 'clinics' with services such as help to reclaim PPI, advice on interview techniques, assistance for people looking to start their own business and the chance to find out more about how credit cards and loans really work.

To find out more about Money Week, or if you would like to be involved, please contact **Gillian Pearson (01506 283019) or Saima Akhtar (01506 282989).**

Work report for Overall Performance

April 2012—June 2012	
Extra Income Gained	£7,058,165
Debts Handled	£4,603,108
Reduced Kwh -Energy Advice	£246,104
Evictions Prevented	182

We have changed our reporting to quarterly.
The next 'In Touch' newsletter will be issued in October

Calendar of Events:

From Thursday July 19th—The Pensioner Income Maximisation Team will be joining forces with the Ability Centre staff in Livingston.to run sessions every second Thursday between 9.30am –12.30

Tuesday 24th July at the Bathgate Partnership Centre—Advice shop will deliver training to the Children and Families Social Work Team regarding benefits for families.

Saturday 4th August - Lanthorn fun day

13th August in Bathgate Partnership Centre. Re-Cycling Event—Don't Lose It... Re-use It ! This event will focus on helping people save money by reusing old things and 'going green'.

Saturday 25th August Craigshill gala day

Sunday 26th August community race forum event - Strathbrock Partnership Centre

Wednesday 29th August—lipreading taster course starting at Forestbank Community Centre

Fauldhouse community development trust summer fair – Sept time (tbc)

Monday 1st— Saturday 6th October 2012 Money Week——various events held at locations throughout West Lothian.

"I would like to thank all staff at the Advice Shop. I have used the service regularly over the past two years and have always been delighted with the service received"

Customer comment

"My father has cancer and didn't know who to turn to. I spoke with the Macmillan team and the help we got was second to none. Much appreciated for all the advice and support"

Customer Comment

CONTACT INFORMATION

About ABE & The Advice Shop

ABE's aim is to work with anyone over the age of 16

- who can set learning goals to improve literacy and numeracy skills
- who is experiencing hearing loss and wishes to learn lip-reading skills *or*
- whose first language isn't English and wants to improve language skills

We provide a free service with access to workshops, short courses and ongoing individual learning.
For up to date details of learning opportunities see www.abeonline.org.uk or our Facebook page (search for West Lothian Adult Basic Education).

Contact us on 01506 282936 or adultbasiceducation@westlothian.gov.uk

Principal Officer : Elaine Nisbet 01506 282936

The Advice Shop's aim is to tackle poverty, social exclusion and help disadvantaged people in West Lothian.

We are happy to deal with any enquiry and we particularly specialise in the following areas:

- Benefits
- Energy Advice
- Money Advice
- Housing/Homelessness

We hold sessions and road shows in various towns within West Lothian. We are also happy to provide information and talks to local groups.

Contact us on **01506 283000** or advice.shop@westlothian.gov.uk
Opening hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs 8.30am—5pm Friday 8.30am—4pm

Advice Shop Duty Managers
Monday- Joe Eley
Tuesday- Anne Stevenson
Wednesday - Nahid Hanif
Thursday - Denise Arbeiter
Friday- Joe Eley
Telephone: 01506 283000

Welfare Advice Manager
Alan Cunningham

Advice Shop & ABE

Bathgate Partnership Centre
Lindsay House
South Bridge Street
Bathgate
EH48 1TS