

**Priority C: Health Improvement**

**Reason for selection of this priority**

Hospital admissions for alcohol and drug misuse are the highest in West Lothian, considerably higher than the West Lothian and Scottish average. GPs in the ward, health practitioners and agencies working in the area are increasingly finding the individuals are presenting with serious drug and alcohol issues. This issue is not age specific as trends are increasingly showing that young people are being identified by youth workers as having substance misuse issues from a early age.

In addition to substance misuse, poor diets are a common health issue for residents in the ward. Lack of exercise also contributes to the poor health and low life expectancy in the area. This issue is magnified by the lack of availability of fresh fruit and vegetables for residents.

Example issue identified	Example actions
High levels of drug and alcohol misuse	Engagement with residents to raised awareness of the dangers of alcohol misuse
	Targeted support to be provided for young people through existing youth drop ins, West Lothian Drug and Alcohol service workers to attend Polbeth Youth drop in monthly.
	Development of diversionary activities i.e. walking groups and volunteering programmes.
Availability of fresh fruit and vegetables	Explore the possibility of developing further food co-ops in the area
	Support to food development in Fauldhouse



# SUMMARY LOCALITY PLAN

## Fauldhouse and Breich Valley 2008 – 2011

### 1. Introduction

The West Lothian Community Planning Partnership is developing and delivering locality plans in each of the nine multi-member wards. Locality planning is about planning and developing services at a local level, allowing services to be targeted in the most appropriate way and providing a more joined up approach to service delivery.

The West Lothian Community Planning Partnership (CPP) brings together statutory, voluntary and private sector organisations who work together to plan and deliver services that can't be delivered as well by any partner on its own. The CPP has agreed a Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) which is an improvement plan for West Lothian based on jointly agreed outcomes that sets out targets against key priority areas.

**The objectives of locality plans are to:**

- support delivery of Single Outcome Agreement at a local level
- involve communities in identifying and addressing local priorities
- provide a focus for action on local priorities;
- encourage joined up service delivery by council services and community planning partners

This plan has a particular focus on areas of deprivation; targeting key issues in local areas to improve the quality of life and reduce inequalities.

### 2. Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley

This ward includes the communities of Addiewell, Breich, Fauldhouse, Longridge, Polbeth, Stoneyburn and West Calder. **Addiewell** is a small rural village with a population of 1,513 residents. From December 2008, Addiewell is set to become the home of HMP Addiewell, Scotland's second private prison. In addition to the prison a new early years centre will open in Addiewell at the end of 2008. The early years centre brings the opportunity to improve and support parenting in the area. **Breich** is a small community located along the A71. The estimated population of Breich and surrounding rural area is 745 residents. **Fauldhouse** is the largest village in the ward with a population of 4,895 residents. In Autumn 2009 the village will benefit from the completion of the new Fauldhouse Partnership centre. The centre will improve local delivery of services for Fauldhouse residents.

**Customers with special requirements**

Information is available in Braille, tape, large print and community languages. Please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service on 0131 242 8181.

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**Longridge**, the highest village in West Lothian, has an estimated population of 884 residents. In 2009 the village will see the rebuilding of Longridge's community centre after it was destroyed by fire in 2007.

**Polbeth**, a small rural community with a population of 2,464 residents, is home to only secondary school in the ward, West Calder High School.

**Stoneyburn** is a small rural community with a population of 2,030 residents. The wee croft in Stoneyburn provides a focal point for young people in the village.

**West Calder** is located along the A71 corridor to the west of Livingston. The area has a vibrant town centre with an array of shops, cafes and businesses. West Calder community centre provides a small fitness centre for West Calder and surrounding areas. The population of the village and surrounding area is 2,474.

### 3. Locality Planning Structure

In April 2008, a steering group for locality planning in the Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley ward was formed to agree the priorities for the ward, which locality planning would address.

The group determined three priorities for the locality: employability, development challenges and health improvement. Priorities were identified based on statistical information, previous community engagement and the knowledge and expertise of professionals within the group.

These local priorities both recognise opportunity and tackle disadvantage and will be validated through further community engagement work and discussions with relevant senior officers.

Once these priorities were identified as themes, working groups of the relevant services across the Community Planning Partnership were established. These groups brought together the relevant services and organisations to plan and act collectively to address the local issues identified within their theme.

The full locality plan contains a community profile; section on community engagement; information on the locality planning structure; detailed action plans; Single Outcome Agreement challenges and outcomes; update on life stage outcome model pilots; and a reporting / review / governance section. The main part is the action plan which details current activities and proposed activities that contribute to achievement of the outcomes.

### 4. Reporting / Review / Governance

The locality plan will be presented to community planning partners in the ward and the Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley Local Area Committee (LAC) for validation.

Quarterly reports on locality planning activity will be provided to the LAC to allow progress to be monitored. One of these reports will be an annual report highlighting performance relating to the indicators identified in the plan. Prior to annual presentation of the plan to committee, the locality plan will be reviewed by the steering group and partnership groups. This may result in new priorities being identified.

There are several priorities which feature strongly across a number of locality plans. For each of these an existing or new West Lothian wide group will monitor progress and outcomes from each locality action plan and how this should influence provision across the CPP area. These groups will specifically include partners who may not be able to participate in each individual locality working group.

### 5. Priorities, Issues and Actions

A summary is given to the right of the priorities identified in this Locality Plan, and what activity has been developed in response to these.

#### Priority A: Employability

##### Reason for selection of this priority

The communities within the Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley consistently display high levels of benefit claimants, the second highest level of claimants in any West Lothian ward. Incapacity benefit makes up the majority of these claimants. High levels of incapacity benefit claimants reinforce the link between employability and a multitude of issues face some residents of the ward including poor health, low economic activity and low skill levels.

Example issue identified	Example actions
High levels of adults in receipt of benefit, agencies finding it challenging to engage with residents and the perception of public transport in the area.	Embarking on a door knocking campaign in Addiewell (phase 1) and Fauldhouse (phase 2). The campaign will be based around offering targeted employability advice and support to residents in both areas. The programme will run once a month for six months.
Agencies finding it increasingly difficult to get information on services available.	The development of an employability directory for the ward. The directory will be distributed by housing officers on initial registration of new clients and during their annual review.
Generations of long-term unemployment is resulting in young people having low aspirations. Whitburn Academy has the second highest rate of leavers entering unemployment on completion of school in 2006.	The development of a youth employability programme. The youth employability programme will, in part, be delivered by local businesses, will run through existing youth clubs in the ward and will be thematically based.
Business start ups are consistently at a lower level than they should be.	Targeted business start up activity in Fauldhouse, including running start up workshops locally.

#### Priority B: Development Challenges

##### Reason for selection of this priority

Over the next three years the Fauldhouse and Breich Valley ward will face significant development challenges. Windfarms, open casting, a private prison and one of West Lothian Council's core development areas all have the potential to have a considerable effect on the ward.

In December 2008 a 750-man prison will open in Addiewell, the second private prison in Scotland. The development brings a number of potential challenges to Addiewell and the surrounding area. Specific issues relating to policing, transport, health and housing have already been identified. As the majority of prisoners are expected to come from the Lanarkshires clear links between North and South Lanarkshire will need to be established to ensure effective implementation of the plan.

The locality plan will seek to minimise any potential negative issues and maximise potential benefits from the above developments.

Example issue identified	Example actions
HMP Addiewell	Develop and implement a strategy to look at the potential issues that might arise from HMP Addiewell. Clear links need to be established between West Lothian Council and North and South Lanarkshire Council to ensure a smooth transition for prison leavers and their families.
The potential construction of windfarms and open casting	The establishment of and support to the West Lothian Development Trust and the continued negotiations with developers for potential community benefit.

