

**Priority C: Early Years and Young People**

**Reason for selection of this priority**

The focus on youth is covered throughout the plan with particular focus on employment, educational indicators and health. This priority covers a diverse range of related activities that are not specifically covered by the other priorities but are often central to ensuring that the wider factors that can affect a persons ability to take up employment or establish the building blocks for healthy development from a young age can be addressed.

Particular focus is around young parenting and related early years support and youth related challenges around anti-social behaviour, low aspirations, financial management or activities around for example child protection, the continued development of adults working with children and young people.

Again closely linked to the other identified themes.

Example issue identified	Example of action proposed
Early Years support	Focused on educating young people around key issues of teenage pregnancies, sexual health and particularly on a child's early years and parenting classes.
Lifeskills and general youth related issues	A broad view of issues affecting young people from financial skills, through anti-social behaviour and wider engagement. Working with Credit Unions, development of new projects, i.e. Heatherbank Youth Hub and options for drop in facilities.

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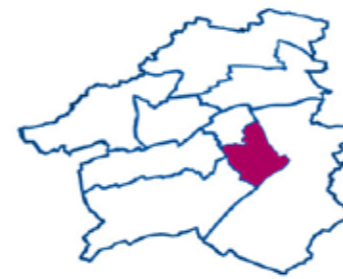
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# SUMMARY LOCALITY PLAN

## Livingston South Ward 2008 – 2011

### 1. Introduction

The West Lothian Community Planning Partnership (CPP) has committed itself to 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 complementary, co-ordinated approach to service delivery.

The CPP brings together statutory, voluntary and private sector organisations who work together to plan and deliver services that can't be delivered by any partner on their own. The CPP has agreed to a Single Outcome Agreements (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 Challenges at local level
- Engage with and involve communities in identifying and addressing local priorities
- Provide a Focus for Action on local priorities
- Encourage integrated service delivery by Council Services and Community Planning partners

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

### 2. Livingston South Ward

The ward includes the communities of Bellsquarry, Dedridge, Howden, Ladywell and Murieston. In relation to population size Livingston South is the largest ward in West Lothian with nearly 25,000 people. Young people aged between 0 and 15 years old make up twenty four percent of the population, the largest proportion in West Lothian.

One distinctive aspect to the ward is that it is home to three high schools (Inveralmond Community HS, James Young HS and St Margaret's Academy) covering over 3000 pupils. In addition some local young people attend West Calder HS just outside the ward. It is also home to other educational resources including West Lothian College, Howden Park Centre and Cedarbank. This further emphasises the importance of young people to the area, including those from outside the ward who attend the secondary schools in the area.

The ward is also home to a number of major employers. The recent extension of the Centre has enhanced retail opportunities, along with Livingston Designer Outlet and various retail parks. Added to this West Lothian Council's HQ, the new Civic Centre, St John's Hospital, Alba Centre, Kirkton Campus and others are all located in the ward.

Livingston South is a diverse ward with areas of relative affluence and other areas affected by lower levels of employment, education and health.



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### 3. Information on Locality Planning Structure

In the Livingston South ward a steering group meeting was held in April 2008 attended by managers and staff from services across the Community Planning Partnership. After reviewing work in the area and examining local statistics, the steering group identified the core priorities for the locality. These were Employability, Healthy Lifestyles, Early Years and Young People. This steering group will meet regularly (twice a year) to evaluate progress in relation to these priorities.

These local priorities will be validated through developing an ongoing approach to community engagement work and discussions with relevant senior officers.

To drive forward actions under the priorities it was decided the most appropriate mechanism for doing this was to develop geographically themed action groups - one in Ladywell/Howden and another in Dedridge/Murieston. These action groups will progress the overlapping priorities in their geographic area and report to the steering group. An active multi-agency group was already meeting regularly in Dedridge and will continue to provide the basis of the action group. Partners working in Ladywell/Howden are keen to see this model replicated in their area. This model provides a tailored approach to the north and south of the ward allowing local workers (particularly the schools and voluntary organisations) to be more embedded in a group which focuses on a smaller community. However, it is accepted that there will be areas of work that require a wider or joint approach so flexibility will be built in to allow working across the ward, or across wards if this was the best way of approaching particular issues, for example to avoid duplication when agency representatives are the same.

Partners from throughout Livingston South contributed to the development of the plan. Services operating in Ladywell and Howden were consulted individually while partners in Dedridge/Murieston attended an interagency meeting and completed a mapping exercise to establish the pattern of current activity and identify possible gaps in provision.

As noted above the core priorities have a particular focus on young people and the action plans are set out under the three headings below:

- Employability
- Healthy Lifestyles; and
- Early Years and Young People

Although primarily youth focused some of the targeted work will also address these issues as they affect the wider population. The plan sets out actions currently in place and proposed new activities identified at this stage. It is anticipated that further actions and activities will be identified as the action plan is rolled out and the community is engaged in developing these and identifying new ones.

### 4. Reporting / Review / Governance

This locality plan will be presented to community planning partners in the ward and the Livingston South 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 or partnership groups, where activity can be reviewed and new activity created.

There are several priorities which feature strongly across a number of plans. For each of these an existing or new West Lothian wide group will monitor the totality of interventions, consider the 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

A key strand is employability. The highlighted importance of educational facilities and young people within the ward means that much of the focus will be on educational attainment. In particular raising the career aspirations of young people leaving school and supporting individuals who face barriers finding and sustaining employment. A priority for action will be young people requiring More Choices More Chances (MCMC) to help them get a job, a place at college or a training course to increase the percentage of young leavers going onto positive destinations. Low income levels has been identified as an issue in particular areas, reinforcing the links between employability and a range of complex issues which will also be targeted.

The wide range of employers and services located within the ward provide opportunities for partner services and organisations to work with employers and the key groups to offer meaningful opportunities to local residents. An example of this would be through West Lothian Connected being located in the Centre it has enabled Job Centre Plus, Access2Employment and others to work with employers and local people. Particular engagement and training has taken place recently with the major retailers setting up in the new Centre development.

Example issues identified	Example of action proposed
Statistics show education and skills levels are an issue in parts of the ward.	Develop joined up support for young people outside school. Includes follow up work on the Crofthead Youth Drop In pilot, promote use of IT facilities at Lanthorn and potential of re-developed Forestbank Community Centre.
Continued support needed to increase the number of school leavers entering positive destinations.	Build on existing activities in local schools and look at sharing best practice approaches, i.e. Teen Options. Career Advice, Drop In and work with school coordinators to identify needs.

#### Priority B: Healthy Lifestyles

##### Reason for selection of this priority:

Evidence from professionals working in Livingston South reinforced by statistics on health, defined in terms of mortality, disability benefits, alcohol and drug misuse and use of certain prescription drugs, has highlighted the need to improve health in the ward. It is particularly important to address the underlying issues from early years, through youth to adulthood. The early years and youth aspect is particularly important given the demographic profile - 24% of the wards population are under 16. Therefore, many of the activities focus on young people, however many of the benefits will impact families and wider communities. Actions will build on existing work through increased access to support across the ward. Some of the activities related to health are about increasing awareness of a broad range of health related issues and hopefully changing attitudes: encouraging healthy lifestyles, stress awareness, exercise and healthy eating.

There is a strong correlation between health and employability so key elements of the work with health matters needs to be joined up with work around employment, income deprivation and educational attainment. For example work on alcohol and drug misuse may be part of addressing low attainment and benefit dependency.

Example issue identified	Example of action proposed
Targeting support at an early age can help development of a healthy lifestyle throughout life	Actions are focused around Schools and Young people accessing breakfast clubs, walking to school, dental health, healthy respect roadshows and drug and alcohol awareness and other activities.
Statistics show health is below average on parts of the ward	More general community focussed approach to healthy lifestyles through encouraging Food Co-op's, walking groups, stress awareness etc.

