

achieving positive outcomes



local outcomes
improvement
plan

annual report 2016/17

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Introduction

Achieving Positive Outcomes is the West Lothian Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP). This ten-year plan sets out the eight priority outcomes for West Lothian and how we will work as a partnership to achieve these.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 has given CPPs a clear statutory purpose focused on improving outcomes, reducing inequalities and community participation. The Act requires the CPP to produce two types of plan which describe our local priorities and how we plan to improve on these – the LOIP and locality plans. The CPP adopted its existing Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) as its LOIP in May 2016 and will continue to keep this document under review to ensure our priorities remain relevant to our communities. The CPP is also in the process of developing locality plans in the areas experiencing poorest outcomes in West Lothian.

This annual report highlights progress made towards achieving the CPP's ambitions in 2016/17. The first part of the report includes a mix of high-level performance information and some good practice examples demonstrating how we are working together to achieve our eight LOIP outcomes. The second part outlines how we are taking community planning forward in West Lothian, particularly focusing on our locality planning process, how the CPP has participated with communities to enable them to shape and influence community planning and how the CPP is working to tackle inequalities.

How Are We Doing?

The CPP has identified eight priority outcomes, aligned to four themes:

Health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed• Older people are able to live independently in the community with an improved quality of life• We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities• Our economy is diverse and dynamic and West Lothian is an attractive place for doing business
Safer Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities• People most at risk are protected and supported to achieve improved life chances
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment

A set of performance indicators (PIs) have been identified to allow the CPP to measure progress in achieving these outcomes. These PIs are regularly monitored and scrutinised by the Community Planning Steering Group and CPP Board. This report highlights a number of these PIs to illustrate how we are doing in relation to achieving our outcomes. 2016/17 data is provided where available; however where this data hasn't yet been published, the latest data available is included.

Targets have been identified for each of the PIs to give a clear sense of what we are aiming for and to allow the CPP to assess whether we are making as much progress as we should be. The targets are set to be achievable and realistic. This report indicates whether the targets have been met, based on the latest available data. Please note that the targets indicated are the in-year targets (i.e. where 2016 data is provided, the target included in the table is that which was set for 2016).



Health and Wellbeing

Indicator	Latest Data	Target Set	Trend
Estimated % of children with a healthy weight in P1	77% (2015/16)	80%	A slight improvement on 76.1% in 2014/15.
Proportion of last 6 months of life spent in a home or community setting	88% (2016/17)	90%	Consistent with the Scottish average and demonstrates an increasing trend towards more care at home.
Rate of emergency admissions for adults (crude rate per 100,000 population)	11,775 (2016/17)	11,460	The rate remains lower than the Scottish average of 12,037
Premature mortality rate (European Age Standardised Rate per 100,000 population)	402 (2015/16)	411	Premature mortality is showing a decrease over time and is lower than the Scottish rate of 441
Estimated % of children in poverty (after housing costs)	23% (Oct-Dec 2015)	22%	Slight increase on 2013/14 (21%), rate is now similar to the Scottish average.

Mitigating the Effects of Child Poverty

2016/17 saw a great deal of successful partnership activity to address the impact of child poverty. Opportunities to engage with advice and support to claim entitlement to benefits and tax credits have been offered to families during pregnancy and after birth. Citizens Advice Bureau West Lothian engaged with 399 women through the successful Prevention and Intervention Money Advice Project (PIMAP) partnership project (with NHS Lothian and West Lothian Council), resulting in total income maximised by £751,637. The Advice Shop provided further opportunity for new parents to access advice through partnership work with registration services, offering a referral for a full financial health check at the time of registering birth – resulting in a total of 74 referrals and financial gain worth £111,283.

A number of actions have been taken to increase awareness of Free School Meal, School Clothing Grant and Educational Maintenance Allowance

(EMA) entitlement. All parents were directly contacted by text informing them of the benefits, universal application forms were circulated to all parents/carers to replace targeted renewal, we reduced the length of the EMA application form and Advice Shop staff are now used as approved verifiers of receipt of a qualifying benefit.

The Advice Shop and Education services also worked together to develop a meaningful and practical poverty awareness training session aimed at all probationary teaching staff within West Lothian. Training was delivered to 40 primary school probationary teachers and feedback gathered from the session indicated that 60% of attendees agreed that the information was useful and pertinent and 65% agreed they would be able to apply the knowledge learned in their job. The feedback from this pilot session will be used to inform future delivery as a programme of poverty awareness training for all frontline CPP staff.

Support to Eligible 2 year olds and their Parents/Carers

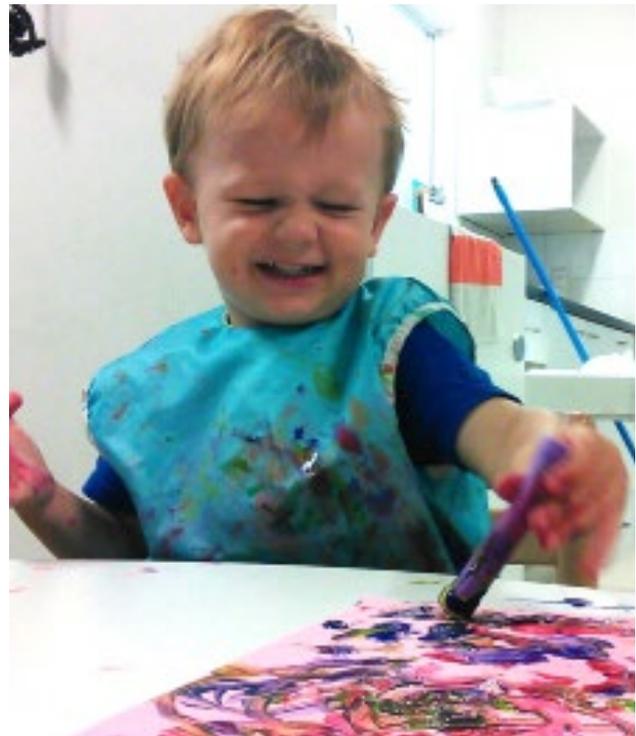
The Early Intervention Family Centre service embarked on delivering this legislative initiative to our Looked After 2 year old Children in the summer of 2013. This service has rolled out further in line with the extended criteria of low income families qualifying for a service. The attendance and sustainability of children and their care givers engaged in this service has grown year on year.

The aim of the group is to provide quality childcare and education for two year olds who are looked after either at home, with kinship carers or foster carers and for those children who have primary carers receiving benefits or on low income.

The objectives of the group are to provide a child focused, stable environment which will build the children's confidence and resilience. The group enhances the children's social and emotional wellbeing and helps prepare their readiness to learn for the move onto mainstream nursery when they are three years old.

The Eligible 2 service offers support to children and their families. Adult group-work opportunities have been afforded to the parents/carers with engagement in 'What About Me' and 'Triple P'. A spin off group has been developed alongside the Family Placement team aimed at foster carers with children under the age of 2 years, to provide an environment where carers and children can spend time together and share play experiences while providing support for carers in a safe environment.

The Vulnerable pregnancy service was implemented by Sure Start in 2016 to support early intervention in the antenatal period where vulnerability and risk is identified. The service considers referrals where there are concerns about parental substance and alcohol misuse; parental mental illness; older siblings who are or have previously been looked after and accommodated;



parental learning disabilities; current or historical domestic abuse and where there are other risk factors. In 2016-201, 31 referrals were received for in-depth assessment from partner agencies, including health and statutory social work services.

The service's aim is to provide robust assessment, which will inform future multi-agency planning for the unborn baby and parents; with the objective being improved and timely care planning for the unborn baby. By 24 weeks gestation a robust and holistic assessment will inform decisions in terms of whether multi-agency child protection measures are necessary; whether the mother requires intensive parenting support through outreach services; or if under the age of 25, referred onto the Young Mum's Initiative, also run by Sure Start.

Child Healthy Lifestyle Programme

In 2016, Enterprising Bathgate worked with partners, Xcite Bathgate, to deliver a programme of child healthy lifestyle classes involving St Mary's and Balbardie Primary Schools. The concept behind the classes is based around the NHS Lothian Get Going Programme. The aim is to provide a mix of Education and Physical Activity delivered by Get Going coaches and Exercise Referral Instructors. The most important factor is creating an environment that is both educational and fun which the pupils will hopefully take into their adult life. The pilot scheme proved to be extremely popular

and the board of Enterprising Bathgate agreed to offer the programme to all the primary schools in Bathgate. The sessions are designed to fit in with schools timetables and will start in April 2017. Xcite Bathgate's expertise in preparing the programme has proved to be invaluable and their instructors create fun informative session much appreciated by the pupils and staff alike.

"We had lots of fun with Xcite especially during team games like Castles or Dodgeball. We also learned lots about healthy eating, our portion sizes and what Red, Amber and Green foods are."
St Mary's Primary School



"Xcite is delighted to be working with Bathgate Enterprise to deliver this innovative project to the local primary school children. Bringing Healthy Lifestyle education through Physical Activity and Games works so well."
Xcite Bathgate



West Lothian Play Strategy

The Play Strategy and its associated Action Plan were published towards the end of 2016. With the introduction of the strategy, the CPP aims to improve and widen quality play opportunities for all our children and young people and to establish links between local and national policies relating to play and take action within each service responsible for children young people and their families.

A key part of the process of creating the strategy

and action plan was a range of development work to increase partners' knowledge and confidence in relation to current play theories and practice. This ensured a better understanding of their commitment and facilitated buy-in by agencies and staff. Key partners involved in the production of the Strategy and Plan were Council's Health Improvement Team, Family and Community Development West Lothian, NHS Lothian, Surestart and Education.

Frailty Programme

The population of frail elderly people is expected to increase over the next 10 years in conjunction with the projected increase in the older age population. This will increase demand across the whole primary, secondary and social care system. The Frailty Programme aims to design and implement a care pathway that will improve outcomes for older people in West Lothian by providing joined-up services across health and social care. The frailty programme consists of four main areas of improvement that join up like puzzle pieces to form the overall Frailty Service: Rapid Access Clinic & REACT Hub; Inpatient Redesign; Intermediate Care; and Older people's Mental Health.

This programme aims to facilitate care in the most

appropriate setting be that in hospital, at home or through our community services. Wherever possible people will have their care delivered within the community and when admission to hospital is required then this will be managed proactively to facilitate recovery and discharge home as soon as possible.

In addition to ensuring rapid access and assessment for those with acute illness the programme also includes a focus on mental health and for those with new diagnosis of dementia to ensure their support needs are met.

Health Referral Journey

Jimmy, Blackburn, Age 70 years

Jimmy was diagnosed with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) in 2011. Over the course of the following year he had been hospitalised due to this condition. He was referred to a local pulmonary rehab group for Education and Exercise to help manage his COPD and on completion was referred to Xcite's exercise referral programme. On his first referral Jimmy was offered a Gym programme which he failed to uptake as his confidence and self-esteem were low, so he decided to purchase some gym equipment for his home. As an inactive person the use of this didn't last very long and this resulted in a relapse of his health. Once again Jimmy attended the local pulmonary rehab group. On completion of this course he attended a talk by an Xcite Health & Wellbeing consultant who encouraged attendance to a group exercise class called Xcite 'Keep Going'! These classes were offered to people suffering from various Long Term health conditions who have already had some form of Rehabilitation.

Jimmy attended the Whitburn class once a week and this is where he feels his "life took a turn for

the better". He felt that meeting people, forming friendships, seeing an improvement in his health and no more hospital admissions gave him the confidence to continue and now attends an amazing four classes a week at various venues. Jimmy's Practice Nurse said that his attendance to these classes has maintained his improved health and family members have seen an improvement in his mood and overall wellbeing. Sadly Jimmy recently lost his wife and he says "having these classes to attend and my class friends for support have helped me get through such a difficult time".

Xcite Health & Wellbeing team said "Jimmy has done really well and it is great to see an improvement in his overall health and wellbeing. These classes are designed to encourage continued participation for people who have already started the journey of improving their health and our aim is to not only provide physical activity but also a social environment where people can come together".



Home Safety Visits

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service are now targeting and prioritising their Home Safety Visits to those most vulnerable and in need within the West Lothian area. One of the main people at risk of fire within our community are our elderly population. However, our elderly are just not at risk from fire but from other possible risks within the home. The Fire Service are therefore now giving advice on slips, trips and falls when visiting this type of household and if required will refer the house holder to other services to help them to stay mobile and safe within their own homes. Over the last year the service have referred many elderly householders to other services for valuable assistance.

Advice Support for Carers

Working in partnership, fortnightly sessions are held at Carers of West Lothian (COWL) premises to support carers and families to access advice. Working with trusted partners enable the Advice Shop to have a wider reach in the community. COWL workers know their clients and support them to access the service. The appointments are arranged in a setting where they feel comfortable and secure. There is a dedicated advisor assigned to this session who attends open days and coffee mornings and has become the 'kent face' of the advice service. In the past year, the service has engaged with over 100 carers and have assisted with unclaimed benefits of £70,000. To give an example of a positive outcome of the service, one Carer was assisted in claiming benefits in her own right and felt this allowed her to be able to afford to get out and about socially and mix with other carers and friends which took her mind off caring for a few hours.

West Lothian College/Braid House

College lecturer Lindsay Dunbar and groups of students from Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy worked with staff at Braid House to organise a series of visits and sessions to provide some hair and beauty treatments for older adults attending the centre. The feedback from staff and participants was very positive:

"Many thanks to you and your students for attending Braid House Day Care Centre over the last two weeks. It has been apparent from all our clients' comments that both the beauty and hairdressing sessions have been very much appreciated. It made them feel very special and relaxed and they all had a fantastic experience chatting with the students."

"We believe the success of our sessions was largely due to all the students who were friendly and welcoming in their approach. The confidence they portrayed whilst interacting made our clients feel at ease. Braid House would be very open to welcome West Lothian College students again and be a key part of their development programme."



Economic

Indicator	Latest Data	Target Set	Trend
% working age adults in work	75.5% (2016) <i>Based on estimated 87,900 residents in employment</i>	75%	Employment rate has increased from 73.3% in 2015
% adults in receipt of key out of work benefits	10.8% (November 2016)	11%	The rate has decreased very slightly (from 10.9% in previous quarter) and is below the Scottish average (11.1%)
% school leavers entering positive destinations	92.7% (2015/16)	94%	Slightly below target; however since 2010/11 positive destinations have increased by 3.7%
Total number of jobs in West Lothian	77,500 (2015/16)	75,000	A reduction of 700 on 2014; however is still above target
Total value (£) of tourism to the local economy	£171.17 million (2016)	£178 million	Slightly below target but shows an increase on the 2015 value (£168.56 million), mainly as a result of growth

School Holiday Lunch and Activity Clubs

School holiday lunch and activity clubs have been introduced in West Lothian. This provision is in line with research showing that pupils experience a learning loss during the summer holidays – most significantly in pupils from low socio-economic backgrounds. The aim of the provision is to deliver nutritious meals and holiday activities to those most in need of this support during the school holidays. In summer 2016, direct provision was made at Knightsridge, Murrayfield, St Joseph's, Whitburn, St Mary's, Polbeth and St Ninian's Primary Schools. Provision was also made in partnership with existing community groups at Boghall and Riverside Primary Schools. Of those children who registered with school provisions, 41% of them received free school meals (of if in P1-3 school clothing grant). At Boghall Sunshine Club, 52% of those registered received free school meals.

At Riverside Playscheme, 37% of those providing information received free school meals. In comparison, the West Lothian wide figure is 17.3%.

Average daily attendance was 175, although the total number provided for was significantly greater as many children did not attend each day. Total number of registrations at school provision was 187, with an additional 146 registered at the partnership provisions, a total of 333. West Lothian Council provision can be benchmarked against that of Glasgow City Council which opened two schools, received 140 registrations and provided 90 places. Feedback received on the holiday clubs was positive and the large majority said they would come back again if the provision ran again.

Nutritious meals and holiday activities were provided again in the October holiday and the next phase of the pilot in 2017/18 has been extended to include meals and activities in Community Education Centres as well as schools. Planning for summer 2017 will build on the lessons learned in implementing the pilot so far and will explore further opportunities.

‘Skilled to Go Programme’ for School leavers

A four week school leavers programme was jointly delivered by partners in West Lothian. This programme involved S4-S6 pupils that were planning to leave school in May 2017. Each secondary school was allocated a number of places. Pupils attended a local community centre each week to participate in a morning of workshops and activities which focused on developing employability skills, increasing confidence, and supporting the transition from school to work, training or college.

Examples of workshops delivered included: identifying personal strengths and skills, producing a CV, dressing and preparing for an interview, approaches to job search (including the use of social media), and mock interviews. Staff from Skills Development Scotland, the WLC Key Worker Service, StepsN2 Work, Economic Development, CLD and the Chamber of Commerce all supported the planning and delivery of this programme, and schools helped with the identification and transporting of pupils.

The feedback from the pupils who attended the programme for the duration was very positive and the involvement allowed them to establish relationships with a range of partners who can offer support post school.

Business Gateway

During 2016/17 West Lothian Business Gateway assisted 407 businesses to start-up, generating 626 additional local jobs. The team helped 559 businesses to recruit staff, find larger premises, gain quality accreditations and strengthen their security systems.

In 2016/17 there was further investment and growth in key sectors across West Lothian. A further 45 local firms were awarded over £2million in grant support to bring forward capital investment and create a further 300 new jobs.



West Lothian College/ West Lothian Council/ Jabil – Project Search

Project Search was a partnership programme between West Lothian College, West Lothian Council and a local employer, Jabil. The programme was designed for a group of eight young adults with additional learning support needs and provided learning and skills development (College), employability coaching (Council) and valuable work experience (Jabil).

Learners really enjoyed the Project Search course and praised in particular the level of support received from the whole team and variety of workplace experiences on offer at Jabil, where the workforce truly embraced them. The students enjoyed learning new skills and meeting new people, they made new friends, have grown in confidence, they rose to all the challenges, they learned what employers were looking for and they all made significant progress over the year with remarkable results in that so far seven of the eight have all secured full time paid jobs with a variety of employers in West Lothian.

Prior to the programme their chances of long term or sustainable employment would have been significantly reduced and this is the first time across Scotland that “Project Search” has been run with a Manufacturing employer. We are delighted to have a new employer from the retail sector committed to the next Project intake.

Fire Skills Courses

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service continue to deliver fire skills courses to young people within the West Lothian area to encourage them to be good citizens and to provide them with better opportunities for employability. This is achieved by using two different delivery processes, firstly through running a series of three day courses from a fire station within the West Lothian area.

Firefighters will work closely with young people over the three days. Normally about six young people will attend an individual course which will provide them with valuable skills and knowledge. At the end of each course the young people will be able to show members of their families and friends the skills and knowledge they have gained through a small passing out parade.

Secondly the service run a programme from Livingston Community Fire Station, formally known as Phoenix, now recently changed to the Fire Skills Modules to align it with similar courses being run throughout Scotland. The Fire Skills Modules involves young people attending the fire station on a weekly basis and working through a diverse technical and practical programme.

One-2-One Project

Adults who live with long term mental health conditions often find the benefits system difficult to navigate. The ongoing changes related to welfare reform and the difficulty customers can experience in engaging means they can end up in crisis.

The one-2-one project offers customers a dedicated advisor who will work with them over a period of time to maximise their income, secure their tenancy, work with them to manage their debt and come to sustainable arrangements and offer budgetary advice. They will provide extra support to ensure that the customer is able to make appointments and access further support to improve their personal circumstances.

The project started in October 2016 and is working

with 63 customers. In the short time that the project has been running, a total of £141,000 income has been generated.

SIMD Partnership Workshop

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the official tool for finding the most deprived areas in Scotland. A number of activities have taken place in West Lothian to ensure the CPP understands the local SIMD results published in August 2016 and uses the data to inform activities.

A partnership workshop was held in January 2017 to provide a more detailed overview of the SIMD picture as it applied to West Lothian; to explore the underlying issues which contribute to multiple deprivation within West Lothian; and to consider the implications of regeneration work and targeting of services. This was attended by around 50 participants drawn from across the CPP and was very well received.

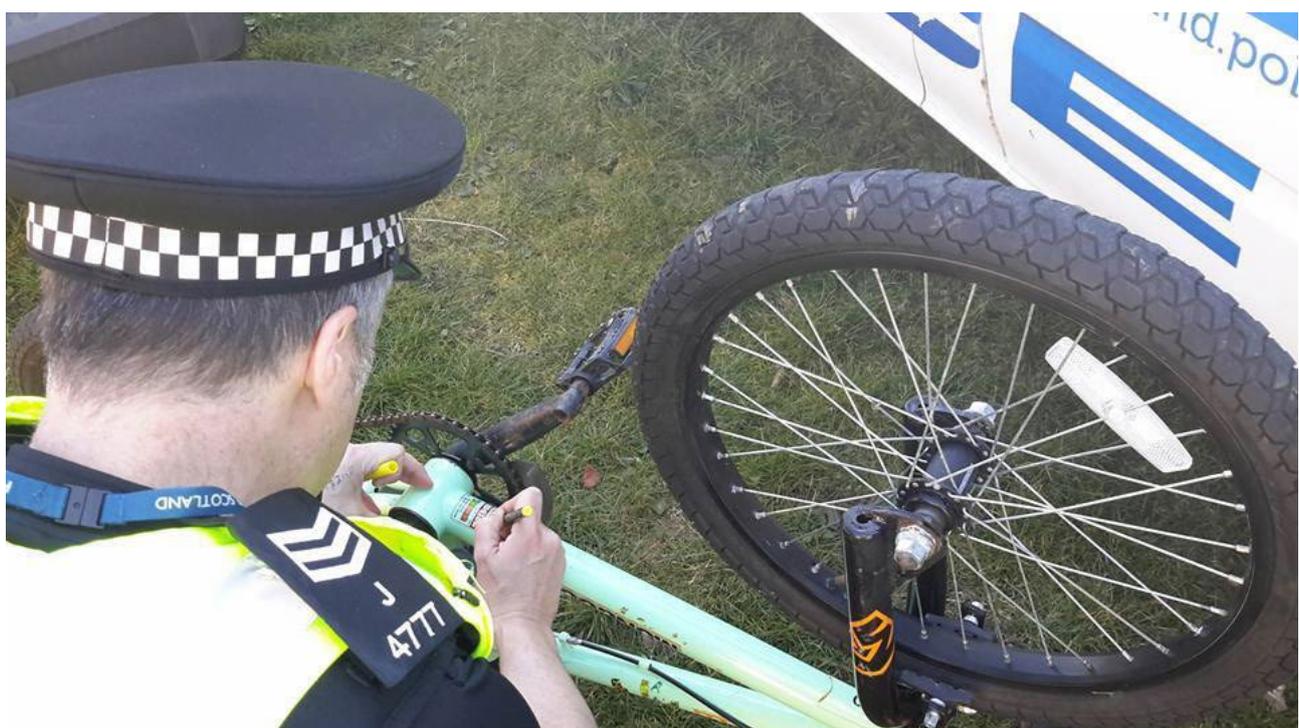
Workshop discussions focused on immediate practical initiatives which could make a difference, longer term significant policy initiatives which might address the causes of deprivation and what success would look like in ten years' time. The development of CPP locality plans will be the main vehicle for coordination of initiatives and progressing these proposed actions.

This session was followed up by a series of briefings to relevant services and partnership groupings, including the Anti-Poverty Board and Anti-Poverty Development Group, More Choices, More Chances Team and Community Learning and Development Steering Board. Discussion at the CPP Board on the positive change in SIMD data for Boghall also led to further analysis on the most effective interventions that can be deployed to tackle area based deprivation, which has been reported to partners.



Safer Communities

Indicator	Latest Data	Target Set	Trend
Number of antisocial behaviour incidents	10,336 (2016/17)	Continuous improvement	
Number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents	49 (2016)	49	Reduction on the 2015 rate (59)
Number of deliberate secondary fires per 10,000 population	31.7 (2016/17)	Continuous improvement	Reduction of 43 incidents compared to 2015/16 (7%)
Number of accidental dwelling fires per 10,000 population	6.7 (2016/17)	Continuous improvement	Continually reduced in last 5 years
% of Early and Effective Intervention cases 8 to 15 years who do not reoffend within 12 months of initial referral	87.1% (2016/17)	95%	A further positive year for EEI 2016/17 was also the highest number of referrals to date at 177
One year reconviction rate	25.7% (2016/17)	23%	West Lothian performs better than the Scotland average of 28.3% and has a well-established partnership approach to reducing reoffending which is seen as influential
% young people under the age of 22 who were previously looked after who go on to receive a custodial sentence	4.6% (2016/17)	7%	Strong level of improvement which reflects strong partnership working and one of the impacts of the long standing whole systems approach in West Lothian.



Partnership Community Engagement Operations

Operation Pinpoint

Antisocial behaviour is an intricate issue that exhibits its effects on communities with widespread implications for individuals, families and neighbourhoods. In 2016, the Police together with partners from across the Community Safety Partnership and Waste Services launched Operation Pinpoint, a week-long initiative held in Armadale aimed at improving public safety, promoting crime prevention and enhancing community pride within the local area.

Young adults from the Police Scotland Youth Volunteer scheme widely distributed information packs to local residents, providing Crime Prevention leaflets, Community Safety information and signposting them to the work already being undertaken in the local area. Throughout the campaign, there was an increased police and multi-agency presence in the area with enforcement activity together with daily police surgeries, crime prevention advice shops, engaging with young people in parks, schools, clubs, etc, and the

promotion of the Community Safety Partnership priorities, which relate to drugs, violence, antisocial behaviour (including deliberate fire setting), financial harm and road safety. Environmental audits were also carried out and vast amounts of litter and waste removed with the help of local residents, improving the look of the area as well as deterring antisocial behaviour and violence. The event concluded with a Fun Day for residents where Police offered advice, bike marking and the Police Scotland Youth volunteers assisted at various stalls.

The outcome of Operation Pinpoint resulted in decreased recording of antisocial behaviour after the initiative. By working intelligently with partners to tackle the harm caused by antisocial behaviour and prevent criminality through education, early and effective intervention and enforcement we continue to deliver Operation Pinpoint and other initiatives across West Lothian to improve the quality of life for our local communities.

Preventing the sale and supply of alcohol to children and young people:

Operation Alcohol – Know the Law

The sale and supply of alcohol to children and young people can have significant health consequences for the individual as well as widespread implications for their families and our local communities in West Lothian.

In October 2016 Police Licensing officers and representatives from the West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service (WLDAS) delivered an educational seminar ‘Alcohol – Know the Law’ to licensees at the West Lothian Civic Centre. This event raised awareness of the harm caused by alcohol, in particular the sale of alcohol to persons under the age of 18 and provided best practice advice on Challenge 25 and other legislative requirements.

In addition, Police Scotland Youth Volunteers delivered information leaflets to the public across West Lothian detailing the laws surrounding age purchase and the associated penalties as well as signposting substance misuse support agencies.

Police Scotland also continue the test purchase of alcohol across West Lothian to raise the awareness of the issue of underage sales within the licensed trade, whilst reducing the instances of underage sales. Across West Lothian Police Scotland will continue to work intelligently with partners to ensure all opportunities are taken to prevent the irresponsible sale, supply and consumption of alcohol.

Road Safety

West Lothian's Road Safety Plan and the Community Safety Strategy identify the need for a road casualty reduction programme utilising accident investigation and prevention (AIP) techniques. Research has found that local safety schemes which tackle proven casualty problems represent very good value for money and make a significant contribution to casualty reduction.

West Lothian's current casualty reduction programme commenced in 2007/08 and since then, a total of 79 schemes have been completed. It is

too early to fully assess the effects of all of these schemes; however full monitoring (more than 36 months of after data) has been carried out for the schemes introduced in 2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11 2011/12 and 2012/13 and initial monitoring (less than 36 months of after data) has been carried out on schemes introduced from 2013/14 and 2014/15.

The results continue to be very encouraging and indicate an overall reduction in accidents at treated sites of approximately 54% giving a first year rate of return of 422%.

Year	Number of schemes	Accident reduction at schemes	First year rate of return
2007/08 (full monitoring)	9	38%	863%
2008/09 (full monitoring)	12	54%	323%
2009/10 (full monitoring)	13	40%	468%
2010/11 (full monitoring)	11	41%	647%
2011/12 (full monitoring)	7	58%	241%
2012/13 (full monitoring)	5	68%	449%
2013/14 (initial results)	4	83%	326%
2014/15 (initial results)	4	50%	61%
2007-2015 Overall	65	54%	422%

Community Justice – A New Approach to Making Communities Safer

Community Justice is about delivering services for people who offend and widening our vision about ways to make our communities safer and more law-abiding places. The CPP is now responsible for local planning, management and delivery of a range of community justice services focused on reducing reoffending and creating safer communities.

Partners in the CPP will each bring to the table a wealth of knowledge about the needs and hopes of West Lothian's communities and also brings a range of resources that can be coordinated to provide the most benefit for everyone. The third sector and local communities are a vital part of this process. In West Lothian, we will be building on an already well-established partnership approaches to the delivery of justice services.

The CPP has developed a [Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan \(CJOIP\)](#), with input from community justice partners and the community, setting out the outcomes and actions to be achieved over 2017/18. Further information on how the CPP involved communities in the development of this plan can be found in the 'Community Participation' section of this report. The governance arrangements for community justice have also been changed and the CPP's Safer Communities Strategic Planning Group now has the strategic lead on this activity, with a number of tasks delegated to the Reducing Reoffending Sub-Committee. The existing West Lothian Reducing Reoffending Strategic Plan has also been refreshed, with the intention that a full Community Justice Strategic Plan will be developed in 2017/18 for 2018 onwards.

Environment

Indicator	Latest Data	Target Set	Trend
CO ₂ emissions per capita	6.1 tonnes per capita (2015) <i>(2016 data likely to be available end June 2018)</i>	7.7 tonnes per capita	Significant overall decrease in carbon emissions (from 8.9 tonnes in 2002). West Lothian's emissions are now equal to the Scottish average
% household waste recycled	48.2% (2016)*	50%	Increased from 47.4% in 2015
Energy generated from renewables and low carbon technology (kWh of electricity produced)	227,890 kWh (2016/17)	330,000 kWh	2016/17 saw the first full year production for a number of systems, although faults at 2 sites have meant that the anticipated output not been achieved. These issues are now in the process of being resolved, and the addition of new installations mean that the 330,000kWh target should be achieved in 2017/18
Energy generated from renewables and low carbon technology (MWh of heat produced)	8,017 MWh (2016/17)	12,000 MWh	2016/17 includes biomass data for all 6 installations, although only 4 were operational for the full year. This issue, as well as changes to the biomass project and the fact that this was a milder year than average (therefore less heat was required) mean that the target has not been achieved. However, significant progress has been made in our low carbon heat generation, with a tenfold increase from 2015/16
% adults making one or more visits to the outdoors per week	50% (2015)		Increase from 48% in 2014, with a significant increase from 29% in 2012

*Note that this is a provisional figure, not sanctioned by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) as the verification process has still to be undertaken. Final published figures are expected to be published at end September 2017.

Young Scot: Co-designing Active Travel

SEStran commissioned Young Scot to deliver a study called X-Route encouraging young people to co-design their Regional Cycle Network. Through Young Scot's Co-design service young people at a local and regional level were engaged to collaborate and participate in the development of the service, in this case the active travel infrastructure, they would use. X-Route gave young people a platform to explore their perspectives on active travel and develop a series of ideas and recommendations to improve cross boundary active travel in their local area. The Vennie youth group from West Lothian suggested a series of glow in the dark paths would improve the perception of safety on their local path network in Livingston. Consequently, SEStran applied to the Scottish Road Research Board for funding to trial the development



and application of a 'star path' in West Lothian. Currently, sites are being discussed for trial with the hope of implementation by summer 2017. The young people will be actively involved in monitoring and determining the success of their suggested improvements to the network. The project combines improvements to active travel infrastructure through community-led design which addresses local urban problems whilst empowering the local community.



Open Space Strategy

West Lothian's Open Space Strategy provides a strategic vision for the provision, development, regeneration and management of open space in West Lothian. Since its inception in 2005, the council has invested circa £40m in support of the strategy, resulting in significant improvements across local, neighbourhood and district parks, the three Country Parks (Almondell, Beecraigs and Polkemmet), sports facilities, cemeteries and play facilities. The structure of the team has also been developed to provide a more focused and integrated approach that enhances and promotes a more joined up approach to open space issues.

One of the key principles underpinning the work undertaken is the wishes and opinions of communities. Two Open Space Officers actively engage with community groups and those with an interest in the open spaces and parks to gauge their opinions of what the communities using the facilities would like to see in their parks. The cycle of works is commenced through a comprehensive placemaking process. Community consultation informs and underpins the development of the designs at all stages until final sign off. Since the establishment of the open space strategy circa 50% of the Local, Neighbourhood and District Parks have seen capital improvements. The range and diversity of improvements has seen excellent progress in terms of the quality and availability of open spaces available and used by the communities of West Lothian all

which has a real impact of the council objectives and the quality of life experienced by West Lothian's communities.

The council's strategy stipulates that all communities should be within 500m of accessing play space, which has resulted in a comprehensive network of 280 play facilities in West Lothian. A Play Coordinator is responsible for the maintenance, safety and upgrading of play facilities to ensure they meet users' needs. On an annual basis circa £500k is directed towards the refurbishments of the play parks, resulting in between 6 and 8 play parks being fully refurbished. Local community groups, schools and other interested parties are comprehensively involved in the development of ideas on the plans to refurbish their local play facilities. Once consultation has taken place, initial designs are developed and fed back to the groups ahead of final designs and the procurement of the works. When combined with the inspection and maintenance regime adopted by the team, this ensures that West Lothian is leading the way in terms of delivery of play facilities to the community.

It is intended that a new Open Space Plan will be developed to provide the strategic framework for improvements from 2020 and will incorporate all aspects of open space including parks, play, community growing and allotments, woodlands, cemeteries, public art and sports facilities into a single plan.

Recycling and Waste

Over the past few years, Recycling & Waste Services have implemented a series of service changes to increase the level of participation in recycling and drive the journey towards becoming a zero waste society. There have been significant changes in the types of materials that have been collected by Waste Services over the last 10 years, from the original paper and card collections through to the

introduction of the alternate weekly service via the blue bin, the introduction of brown bin recycling and the start of the Food Waste Collection Service. The latest change enacted was the move to the 140l residual waste (grey) bin, to drive further materials into the recycling streams at the kerbside. The impact on these service introductions is highlighted in the table below:

Year	Change introduced	Recycling Rate
2000/2001	Baseline	4.0%
2004/2005	Original Blue Bin	17.9%
2005/2006	Brown Bin	27.0%
2008/2009	Full coverage of Blue & Brown Bins	41.8%
2013	Food Waste (design phase)	44.3%
2014	Food Waste (partial roll out)	45.4%
2015	Food Waste roll out completed	47.4%
2016	First impacts of the 140l residual collections (partial roll out)	48.2%*

*unverified at this time (figures due for release in September 2017 from SEPA)

The 140l project aims to deliver a landfill diversion of 19.68%, which equates to a 9.7% increase in recycling performance and a NET revenue saving of £238,000. The roll out of this project occurred from April 2016 through to December 2016 and the full impact will be realised in 2017.

In order to meet the challenge of obtaining buy in from the public to achieve this significant behaviour change the service ensured the outcomes of the project match to the Triple Bottom Line of Sustainability. This has been the cornerstone to all public messages. As the benefit derived from such a change in disposal habits affects people differently, the fact that the change proposed had clear social, economic and environmental benefits meant that anyone could derive a positive reason for participation from the project. Communication of such a complex change was also a significant challenge, especially when combined

with optimisation of all collection routes and the timescale for change being only 8 months from start to finish. Communication planning was vital to overcoming this challenge. Bulletin, leaflets, social media and the website were all co-ordinated with colleagues in Corporate Communications to ensure a consistent and relevant message was delivered to all stakeholders. The project team, and wider strategy team, undertook over 90 public drop-in sessions as well as attending gala days and other events to ensure that the public had the opportunity engage directly with staff to allay fears and trepidation in the service change.

This project, with the level of public participation experiences, is an excellent example of ensuring that we make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Cycle Patrols

Firefighters in the West Lothian area are now carrying out cycle patrols in targeted areas to engage with young people to try and reduce deliberate fire setting. This is a new initiative which has involved the service procuring cycles and then the firefighters going through cycle proficiency training within the West Lothian area. Firefighters can now be seen cycling and engaging with communities at various times throughout the year.

Bio-Diversity at Bankton Primary School

Pupils in P.7 and their teachers created an effective enterprise collaboration between the ‘Garden Groomers’ and the Souper Soup Kitchen to develop a range of interdisciplinary skills and healthy attitudes for life. Pupils plant vegetables in the school market garden as part of the Garden Groomers Team. These are nurtured, tended and cared for until ready for harvesting. Gardening skills are an integral part of this group and pupils learn skills for sustainable development.



When vegetables are ready for harvesting, some are sold to staff and parents. Others are used for ‘In the Soup!’. Through soup making and baking of carrot muffins, pupils make appropriate connections from ‘farm to fork’. They develop skills in food technology, including appropriate knife skills and use of kitchen utensils. They also learn positive food hygiene practices and how to prepare healthy food cheaply using vegetables grown in the school garden. Links are also made to maths as pupils learn to cost each portion of soup to sell in the school tuck shop during winter months. Literacy skills were integrated with ICT to produce a P7 Super Soup

recipe book. Healthy Eating is a challenging message to successfully convey in our learning community, but by focusing this enterprise and healthy eating project on P7 pupils, they are able to replicate their learning at home, ensuring development of skills for life. Being able to make nutritious meals cheaply was a positive message for pupils to share with their families. In Session 16/17 this was developed further through the Golden Gardeners who volunteered to give up their breaks, lunch and Golden Time to nurture plants and ensure sustainability. There have also been personal projects produced by P7 pupils on Bio Diversity. These projects are inter-disciplinary and embed science and scientific understanding in real-life situations.

Upgrading the Lanthorn Centre

The council has been awarded grant money from the Scotland Energy Efficiency Programme (SEEP) to support the upgrading work to the Lanthorn Community Centre in Dedridge, that will see the building be externally insulated and rendered whilst having a new roof with increased insulation. As well as reducing the carbon footprint from the Lanthorn Community Centre as it will take less energy to heat it; the project will provide an improved experience to visitors as it will be a warmer place to be. The upgrade works will also improve the outer appearance of the centre.

Photovoltaic (PV) Project

The council has agreed to fit solar photovoltaic (PV) panels to all council houses that do not have mains gas heating in Wilkieston, Breich, Newton and Westfield. Wilkieston, Breich and Newton are ongoing, with a number of roofs having to be replaced initially to allow the panels to be fitted and to last their lifetime without removal. Westfield will be included in the next tender. The tenants are all benefitting from the free electricity and the council will get significant costs back over their lifetime through the Feed-in-tariff, despite its reduction over the last few years. The environment will of course benefit through the reduced use of fossil fuels in the council houses. The council is also delighted to reduce the costs to the tenants and help reduce Fuel Poverty.

Taking Community Planning Forward in West Lothian

Locality Plans

CPPs are required to prepare and publish locality plans for the areas experiencing poorer outcomes, setting out a plan for how outcomes will be improved within that area.

In West Lothian, local regeneration plans were already being planned for eight regeneration areas based on the datazones in the bottom 20% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. These met all the requirements of locality plans and so it was agreed that these would be adopted as the CPP's locality plans.

Work commenced in the following areas in 2016/17: Blackburn, Bridgend, Livingston Central, Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley and Whitburn. Work has now also commenced in Craigshill and the remaining areas of Armadale and Bathgate will follow shortly in 2017.

Steering groups have been established in each live area as the vehicle for development and delivery of the locality plans. The groups are co-ordinated by Community Regeneration Officers and involve local partners and local community groups. It is anticipated that they will eventually be community led. A significant period of community engagement with the

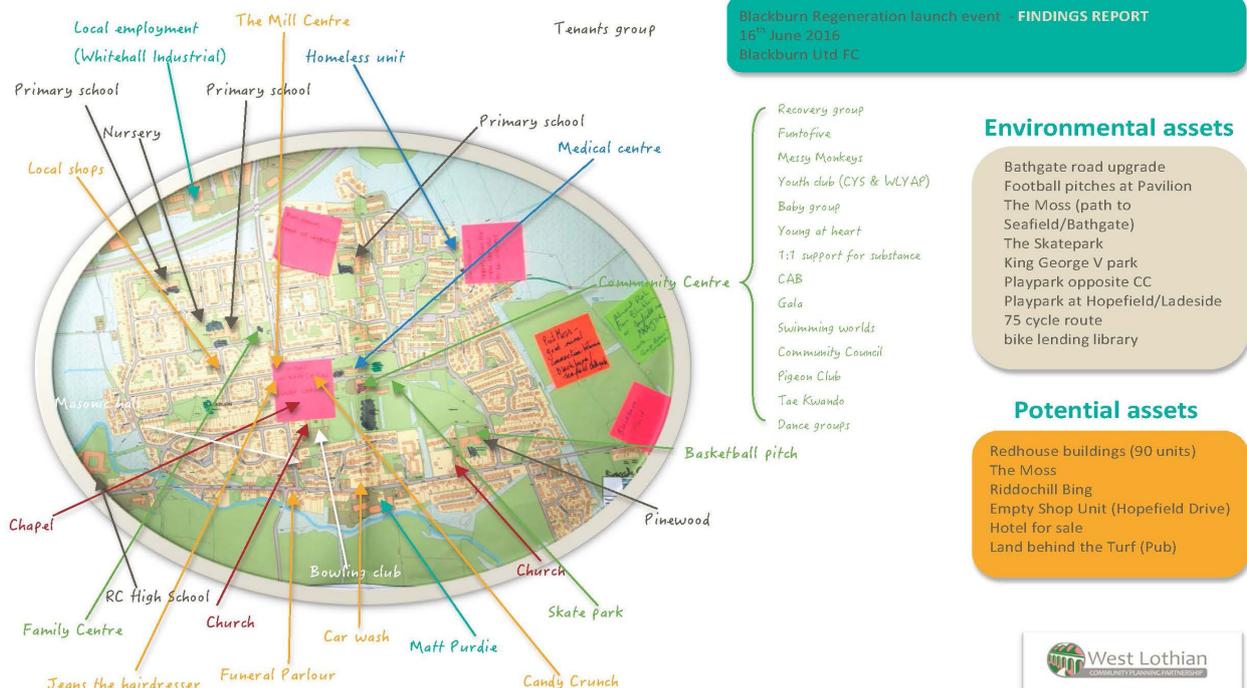
wider community will ensure that we gather a good understanding of local community assets, needs and circumstances and that we create plans which are shaped by the community and reflect their views.

The information gathered through this community engagement and from statistical analysis and asset mapping will be used to determine the local issues to be addressed and the key themes the plan will focus on. Once themes and issues have been identified, specific actions and interventions will be developed and delivered. Plans will be developed with communities by October 2017.

In West Lothian, two health and social care locality plans will also be developed by the Integration Joint Board – for the East and West. These localities provide a key mechanism for strong local, clinical, professional and community leadership and will ensure health and social care services are planned and led locally in a way that is engaged with the community and contributing to effective strategic commissioning. Work is underway to ensure that these plans align to and complement the development of the CPP's eight locality plans.

Blackburn Community Regeneration 2016

Mapping assets





Community Participation

The locality planning process outlined above is a good example of meaningfully involving communities in the design and delivery of activities and interventions in their local area. A number of other mechanisms are in place to support communities to actively participate in the CPP.

Charrettes

A charrette is an intensive community engagement and planning exercise held over a number of consecutive days in a local area. The ideas and projects generated during a charrette are then written up into an action plan. Two charrettes have been held in West Lothian, in Whitburn and Fauldhouse. This has enabled significant community involvement and led to the development of a master plan in these two regeneration areas – which will inform development of the locality plans for these areas.

The charrette in Fauldhouse (called Fauldhouse Focus) was held over four consecutive days in May 2016. Pre-charrette work, including workshops with local primary and secondary pupils, use of the Place Standard Tool and survey work, helped to shape the themes which were consulted on during the charrette. A number of events and workshops took place over the four days. Feedback sessions were then held to provide information to the local community on the progress already made on some projects, along with how some of the other suggestions could take shape, and to provide another opportunity for the community to have their

say on the options which will best shape the future of Fauldhouse. These discussions, conversations, surveys and workshops resulted in a community oriented action plan which identified potential projects for the area. The Fauldhouse Regeneration Plan Steering Group will take a lead role in delivering the action plan. The group has representation from West Lothian Council and partner organisations working in the area, as well as input from Fauldhouse CDT and other local community members.

A significant amount of activities were also taken forward in 2016/17 as a result of the 2015 **Whitburn charrette**. Working partnerships are in place (with the Whitburn Regeneration Advisory Group and the Whitburn Town Centre Management Group) to develop the various actions and to pursue feasibility work and funding where appropriate. The local community council and Community Development Trust are heavily involved in rolling out this activity. Actions include reviewing the marketing and branding of the town, consultation around developing a heritage trail, green infrastructure planning, planning a community celebration event, engagement around the Whitburn Partnership Centre, a successful application to the Carnegie Trust UK ‘twin Town’ initiative, support for the Whitburn Traders Action Group and town centre enhancement projects and engagement with owners of vacant and derelict sites. The findings of the charrette will also inform development of the Whitburn locality plan.

Community Choices West Lothian

Participatory Budgeting (PB) or ‘Community Choices’ as it is being called in Scotland, is a democratic process in which community members help to decide on how to spend part of a public budget. PB promotes a shared sense of responsibilities between residents, service users and service providers and should lead to greater community empowerment and more efficient use of budgets and staff.

‘West Lothian Community Choices’ is the name that has been given to West Lothian’s PB approach. Planning for our PB pilot project, ‘Let’s Get it Right



for Autism’, began in 2016. The project aimed to improve the quality of life of individuals with autism living in West Lothian. The project, led by the council and local voluntary organisations, involved providing parents and carers of individuals with autism, and the wider community, the opportunity to decide how £10,000 of Autism Strategic Funding should be spent to improve the lives of those with autism.

To ensure that we got the scope of the project right, a short consultation exercise with parents, carers and other groups was carried out to gain information on what they felt are the issues that are important to enable those with autism to have a good quality of life. This was linked to the outcomes in West Lothian’s Autism Strategy. 342 individuals responded to the consultation and key themes were identified, particularly the need to support and encourage greater participation in social activities and opportunities. Groups were then invited to apply for funding for projects that would meet this need.

A launch event was held on Saturday 25 March 2017, where the groups, clubs and organisations who had applied for funding presented their ideas to the audience. The audience then voted for the projects they felt would offer the best opportunities for individuals with autism. Online voting was also held, with over 800 individuals getting involved.

Six projects were successful in receiving funding. This pilot project is currently being evaluated and lessons learned will inform West Lothian Community Choices going forward.

Feedback from the Lets Get it Right for Autism event was very positive, with 95% of people who completed an evaluation form at the launch event agreeing that the PB process was a good idea and 100% agreeing that it should be carried out in other areas. A number of comments were gathered, including:

“Great event and a fab opportunity to meet and share ideas with others”

“Should be annual event... We need to raise the profile of our autism community as much as possible”



West Lothian Community Choices has been developed as a wider, longer term approach to take forward PB in West Lothian and discussions have begun on how we ‘scale up’ or mainstream PB.

Engaging Communities Toolkit and Training

The CPP's Community Engagement Practitioners Network (CEPN) includes council and CPP staff and members of voluntary organisations that are involved in developing and delivering community engagement. The CEPN is responsible for taking forward the CPP's Community Engagement Plan to improve and embed community engagement across the CPP.

The CEPN has developed and delivered an Engaging Communities Toolkit as a practical resource to improve community engagement practice across West Lothian. In 2016, the CEPN also developed and delivered a programme of Engaging Communities Training sessions, linked to the Toolkit, to provide a range of information and tools relating to community engagement.

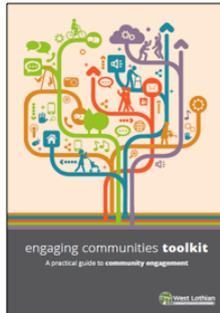
Five sessions were held as part of the Programme;

- Introduction to community engagement;
- Planning community engagement;
- Effective communication skills for engagement;
- Tools & methods for community engagement;
- Community engagement in practice.

42 individuals from the council, partner organisations and community groups went through the Engaging Communities Training, with most people attending one or more of the five courses available. An evaluation was carried out with participants on the courses overall. Prior to the training, 14% rated their knowledge of community engagement at level 5 prior to the training. This increased to 50% after the training. Comments included:

"I have much more detailed knowledge of the different types of engagement for planning future activities"

"I have used the community engagement toolkit to begin planning a significant bit of work for the coming year"



"I have taken the learning in relation to different approaches and applied this when considering how to engage with a range of people with different needs"

"I have a new enthusiasm for doing more consultation and engagement"

Equality Forums

The CPP supports a number of community equality forums which provide partners with a mechanism to gain an understanding of the diverse experiences and needs of our communities, including the Race Forum, Faith Group, Disability Forum, Women's Forum and the LGBT youth group, Glitter Cannons. Other local equalities-related groups the CPP works with include the Learning Disability Forum, Milan group, Youth Congress, Mental Health Service Users Forum and the Senior People's Forum. People within protected characteristic groups often experience poorer outcomes and it is therefore important to understand and take into consideration their specific needs, ensuring that tackling inequalities is at the heart of service design and delivery to secure real improvements to local outcomes.

Let's Eat Together was a successful partnership event organised by the Faith Group and the Race Forum in May 2016. The aim was to bring people of different faiths together around food, in order to share and learn about different beliefs and practices, make new connections, help develop strong links and positive relationships between people of different beliefs, and to build and strengthen partnerships with other groups. Over 70 guests from a range of faiths attended the event in West Lothian College and enjoyed food provided by the College's food cookery students as they networked with other guests. Speakers from the Faith Group, Race Forum and the Edinburgh Interfaith Association also discussed the importance of interfaith relations. 100% of guests completing the feedback form agreed or strongly agreed that the event was worth attending and that they took a lot from the session. Overall the event was very positively received:



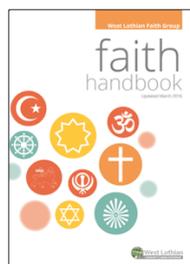
“Incredibly well organised event, informative and the people attending were also excellent and the right people to be able to meet and link in with”

“I really enjoyed meeting so many people who were interested in my background and am very happy to have been involved”

“Excellent venue and catering. Very good opportunity to meet people and talk. Everyone very friendly and open. Greatly appreciated the evening.”

The main purpose of the event was to allow people of different faiths to make new connections and build new partnerships. Many new contacts were made and some specific partnerships and areas of future working were discussed on the night. The forums were also able to develop their own membership.

The Faith Group’s **Faith Handbook** continues to be used across West Lothian. This aims to create a deeper understanding of the needs and influences of faith communities amongst local public service providers, local employers and the community and to enhance engagement with local faith groups. Evidence shows that the handbook has already been widely used across the CPP and the community (e.g. in West Lothian’s schools, libraries, HMP Addiewell, St John’s Hospital, local voluntary organisations) and has already positively increased knowledge and understanding



of particular social and personal needs of faith communities.

The handbook won a Bronze Award in the 2016 COSLA Awards under the category of Tackling Inequalities and Improving Health and is the first known local document of its kind in Scotland. It has been circulated to all local interfaith groups across Scotland by Interfaith Scotland as a good practice example to use in their own local areas.

Citizens Panel

The Citizens Panel was set up to help identify local people’s views on life in West Lothian. The Panel is refreshed every three years to ensure that it remains representative of the West Lothian population in terms of age, gender, tenure, ethnicity and multi-member ward. There are currently around 2500 members on the Panel. Quality of Life surveys are carried out with the Panel every three years, asking questions around a range of topics including the economy, community safety, health, travel and the environment. The latest survey was carried out in 2016 and, once analysed, the results will be published and shared widely so that partners and the community can use this local data to inform service design and delivery.

The Panel is also used regularly by partners to gather community views on specific issues and work is ongoing to review how to make the most effective use of the Panel in other ways, for example focus groups based around even more local issues.

Consulting the community in the launch of our Community Justice approach in West Lothian

The roll-out of new arrangements for managing community justice created challenges for all CPPs, particularly looking at how we engage with all our communities. Services must be planned in conjunction with the communities we serve. Statutory partners are now required to produce a local plan for community justice and must engage and involve all relevant bodies in the planning, delivery and reporting of services and improved outcomes.

In autumn 2016, a number of West Lothian justice partners launched a survey to start to harness the communal knowledge and wisdom of our communities – from residents of our communities, from people who receive services, and from people who know our communities through delivering services within them. This was carried out from stalls in public venues, with the users of a range of services across the council area, and by an online survey, advertised as widely as possible. We had a total of 193 responses.

We asked people to respond to a range of scored questions, allowing future measurement of change in perceptions. We asked respondents which community justice priorities were most important to them; what issues we should be focusing on; what should be done at an earlier stage to prevent offending; what range of methods they would use to seek help and advice if they had concerns; what might make it difficult for them to access services; and what success would look like for them and their community. There were no surprises in the scored responses, which affirmed that our approaches to service delivery are focused appropriately. Many thoughtful wider points were made, including:

- The focal point for any planning should be improved quality of life, by reducing anxieties and promoting trust.
- A need to reduce barriers to improved life chances for individuals.

- For people who offend, how to promote positives - taking responsibility for their own actions and the effects on their victims - while giving them professional help to reduce the risk of them offending again.
- The need for continuity of support, and of informing those affected by crime about what is being done to make an improvement.

The results of this engagement informed development of the Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan. There is a clear challenge in making the community justice agenda relevant to the daily lives of West Lothian's population. The CPP will continue to develop the best forums to allow local agencies to directly share information and ask for the views and opinions of communities.

Tenant Participation

Housing, Customer and Building Services (HCBS) have continued to engage with communities through various tenant participation activities, such as tenants and residents groups, Homeless and Housing Networks, Good Neighbour Awards, Tenants News, Tenant Led Inspections, Focus Groups, local pop-up events and queue buster sessions alongside our tenants Facebook group. Our Facebook group was set up to form an innovative source of engagement with West Lothian Council tenants, and now has well over 200 members, with whom we communicate regularly on all aspects of service delivery relating to HCBS and wider council services.

Focus groups have also been held, relating to tenant satisfaction in several communities throughout West Lothian, including Armadale, Whitburn and Livingston. A total of 35 tenants took part, resulting in some useful and very positive feedback. Queue buster sessions were held in Armadale, Whitburn, Fauldhouse and Livingston to promote the use of the services new online self-service portal. This provides tenants with a new digital option for paying rent, booking and viewing



the progress of an active repair, updating some personal information and allowing tenants to view their current rent balance. During these sessions, the service engaged with over 500 customers, which has subsequently seen an increase in the amount of people accessing the portal.

The TP Team within the service have also been successful at the Tenants Information Service awards, an independent organisation working with landlords and tenants throughout Scotland. The award was received by members of the Tenant's Panel for "the Most Inspiring Scrutiny Group."

Raising Awareness of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 introduces new rights and duties to give communities more say on and be more involved in improving public services and gives new rights to owning and leasing land. The CPP has published a set of Frequently Asked Questions on the Act to raise awareness amongst local partners, third sector and community groups on the different parts, what this means in West Lothian and to direct community groups to the relevant contacts within the CPP. A Community Empowerment Act 'community roadshow' is also being planned and will be rolled out to community groups across West Lothian in 2017 in order to increase awareness of the new rights and duties.

Tackling Inequalities

Tackling inequalities is the core theme of the LOIP and is to be embedded into everything the CPP does. The CPP's locality plans will help us to reduce inequalities at a local level by focusing on the most deprived areas in West Lothian. As well as this geographic focus, the CPP is also working to reduce inequalities in terms of communities of interest by working with community equality forums to understand the diverse needs of our communities.

The CPP has an Anti-Poverty Strategy (Better Off) in place which aims to alleviate poverty and mitigate the impact of welfare reform through partnership working and targeted activity to help those most at risk of poverty. A range of key partners deliver an annual Anti-Poverty action plan. The 2016/17 action plan included goals around income maximisation and providing support for people looking for work; mitigating the impact of child poverty; facilitating access to affordable credit and support with problem debt; and ensuring people have access to appropriate support to sustain affordable housing.

A number of specific anti-poverty activities are highlighted throughout this report (for example holiday lunch clubs and raising awareness of



Betteroff
West Lothian Money Week

financial support amongst parents). Further activities include delivering a series of informative and networking sessions to promote information sharing and partnership between different services in West Lothian; targeting of events through Money Week 2016; and digital inclusion activity. In 2016, West Lothian Council became a Living Wage employer and signed up to the Poverty Alliance's 'Stick Your Labels' campaign, making the commitment to de-stigmatise poverty. All other local partners were encouraged to become Living Wage accredited organisations and to sign up to the campaign.

A Poverty Profile of West Lothian is also maintained in order to review the changes in key indicators that help to map the nature and scale of poverty in the local area. This is regularly updated to keep under review key trends in relation to child poverty, employment, low pay and in-work poverty, area based deprivation, etc.

Resources

The CPP's Resource Aligning Group (RAG) involves all key partners and is tasked with progressing activity to support the alignment of resources across the partnership, in order to target resources for better impact. An action plan is being progressed by the group. This includes aligning partners' budgets to priority outcomes; progressing participatory budgeting across West Lothian; developing a Funding Forum in order for the CPP to become more proactive in identifying and accessing available funds; and developing a CPP Property Asset Management Plan to map all CPP assets and develop arrangements for greater coordination and

delivery of property projects where benefits can be realised for service integration, collaboration and complimentary colocation.

Two partnership Scenario Planning events were held in 2016 to explore, debate and discuss 'living in West Lothian in 2030'. Participants were asked to consider three possible future scenarios and to consider opportunities and barriers that may exist. A number of actions were identified at the events, which have been incorporated into the RAG action plan. Regular scenario planning/horizon scanning activities will now be carried out by the CPP.

Moving Forwards

This annual report highlights the CPP's progress in achieving its ambitions over 2016/17. Positive progress can be seen across all of the CPP's priority outcomes, with good examples of partnership working leading to more positive outcomes for our communities. Rolling out the development of the community-led, bottom-up locality plans will allow the CPP to improve outcomes and tackle inequalities at a more local level. The CPP will continue to ensure community participation is at the heart of community planning, ensuring communities are meaningfully involved in service design and delivery. Tackling inequalities continues to be the theme of the LOIP and will underpin everything the CPP does.

The performance indicators that the CPP uses to measure progress in achieving our outcomes are kept under regular review to ensure these remain fit for purpose. Plans are also in place to carry out

some further engagement on our LOIP priority outcomes to ensure these remain relevant to our local communities.

The West Lothian CPP is a very self-aware partnership. The CPP Development Plan was informed by various CPP development sessions and the 2015 audit of the CPP and includes a number of actions. In 2016/17, a four short-life partnership work streams met to discuss how to take forward the CPP Development Plan, particularly in the current local and national context of community planning. A number of recommendations were made around governance, accountability and leadership; culture, approaches and behaviours; resources; and localities. Taking these forward in 2017 will ensure the CPP works to its full potential and continues to build on its positive progress in order to achieve positive outcomes and tackle inequalities within our communities.





**Community Planning and Regeneration Team
West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
Livingston
West Lothian
EH54 6FF**

Telephone: 01506 281086

email: community.planning@westlothian.gov.uk

www.westlothian.gov.uk/communityplanning