



Local Outcomes Improvement Plan
(LOIP) annual report

2017/18

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Introduction

Welcome to the West Lothian Community Planning Partnership's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) annual report for 2017/18.

The LOIP is a ten-year plan which sets out the eight priority outcomes for West Lothian and how we will work as a partnership to improve these and make sure that West Lothian is the best place possible to live, work and do business in – for everyone. The key theme of the LOIP is 'Tackling Inequalities'. It is important that the CPP focuses its collective energy on where partners' efforts can add most value, with particular emphasis on reducing the inequalities that exist in our communities.

The CPP's eight local outcomes are aligned to four key 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 |

This annual report highlights progress in achieving the CPP's ambitions throughout 2017/18, using key performance data, good practice examples of CPP activities and stories from our service users to demonstrate how we are working together to improve local outcomes.

The CPP is also developing regeneration plans in the areas within the bottom 20% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. These will be the CPP's Locality Plans required under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The CPP Board has approved the format and template of these plans but at the time of

writing this report, none of these had been finalised and published. Therefore, rather than producing a separate locality plan annual report for 2017/18, an update on the regeneration planning process is provided within this report. A separate annual report will be provided from 2018/19.

This report also highlights the ways in which the CPP has been involving our communities in service design and delivery and outlines some of the development activity that the CPP will be taking forward from 2018/19 to ensure the partnership is working as effectively as it can be.

A Quick Note on Performance Information

A suite of performance indicators (PIs) have been identified to allow the CPP to measure progress in achieving our eight outcomes. These PIs are regularly monitored and scrutinised by the Community Planning Steering Group and CPP Board. This annual report includes a selection of these PIs to illustrate how we are doing. 2017/18 data is provided where available; however sometimes there is a lag in data availability. Where 2017/18 data hasn't yet been published, the latest data available is included.

Targets have been identified for each of the LOIP 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 indicator is on target or otherwise. Please note that the targets indicated are the in-year targets (i.e. where 2017/18 data is provided, the target included in the table is that which was set for 2017/18).

How are we doing?



Health and Wellbeing

Estimated %
of children
with a healthy
weight in P1

76.3%

(2016/17)
Target: 79%



Slight reduction on the previous year (77%) and equivalent to national average of 76.1%.

% of children
in poverty

22%

(2017/18)
Target: 22%



Slightly above the Scottish average (21%) but has reduced from 23% in the previous period.

Proportion of
newborn babies
exclusively
breast fed at
first visit

34.1%

(2016/17)
Target: 36%



Focus in West Lothian will shift to reducing the drop off rate from initiation of breastfeeding at birth to the First Visit (day 11-14). West Lothian is 17/32 of partnerships and compares to rate of 33% for all participating Boards.

Premature
mortality rate
(European Age
Standardised
Rate per
100,000
population <75)



411

(2016/17)
Target: 411

Premature mortality is stabilising at the target level. This continues to be below the Scotland rate of 440.

Proportion of
last 6 months
of life spent
at home or in
a community
setting



88%

(2016/17)
Target: 89%

Consistent with Scottish average of 88% and demonstrates an increasing trend towards more care at home.

First STEPS to Health & Wellbeing

First STEPS to Health & Well-Being supports people with long term conditions to self-manage and increase their functional capacity. The project is committed to reducing health inequality by targeting deprived communities and individuals with the aim of promoting and supporting initiatives to improve the health of the community as a whole. It also aims to improve the management of long term conditions and mild to moderate mental health issues, thereby reducing their long-term effects. The capacity of STEPs has steadily grown to be able to address needs of those who are not used to using physical activity to improve health and positively manage their long term condition.

Supporting self-care is vital if we are to improve health outcomes, slow disease progression and ensure better management of long term conditions. Promoting the

health and wellbeing benefits of an active lifestyle and encouraging professionals to promote self-help techniques and alternatives to prescribing and other service dependencies promotes independence and positive self-management, improves health and well-being and will contribute effectively to control of health and social care costs.

In 2017/18, 15,367 referrals from GP practices engaged with Xcite. A recent evaluation suggests that the West Lothian First STEPS to Health & Well-Being project can improve both the physical and mental health of patients referred over the 12 weeks of their participation. The programme is also achieving a good retention rate of those continuing to exercise after the initial programme is completed (current retention rate for all referral types is above 41%, above the target of 20%).

Case study

Gordon, Whitburn, West Lothian, Age 72 years – Health Referral Journey



Gordon has had various health issues such as a stroke, mild aortic stenosis and in 2014 was diagnosed with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). He attended his local pulmonary rehabilitation class at Bathgate Primary Care Centre and on completion was referred to Xcite First Referral programme, which also included the Whitburn Keep Going Maintenance Class. On his first visit to the maintenance class in March 2014, Gordon used his mobile scooter to get him to the venue as he was unable to walk the distance from his home. Over the course of the following 3 months Gordon attended the class regularly, as well as attending

Xcite Whitburn for a Start Up in the Gym. Once his referral 12 week funded period was complete Gordon felt he was getting so much benefit from attending the activities that he decided to take out an annual membership with Xcite.

Week by week Gordons health improved so much so that he no longer used his mobile scooter but walked to and from the class. Gordon also started to attend other classes and was eventually attending up to 3 classes per week as well as his visits to the gym. Gordon is still active now four years on!

Gordon said:

“ I have enjoyed these classes not only for my health but socially, meeting some now great friends. I feel better physically and emotionally”. Xcite Health & Wellbeing team said “Gordon has done so well and it is great to see an improvement in his overall health & 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.”

Macmillan @ West Lothian Cancer Information and Support Service

The project aims to ensure that anyone affected by cancer has access within their local community to quality cancer information and emotional and practical support.

The project provides a comfortable and welcoming environment within five Information and Support hubs which offer informal support regarding the non-clinical aspects of living with cancer. Hubs are located within Bathgate, Blackburn, Strathbrock and Fauldhouse Partnership Centres and Carmondean Connected. The service is open to anyone affected by cancer, including people who are/have experienced cancer themselves, family members, carers, friends and professional workers.

The service is committed to high standards and has gained the Macmillan Quality in Information and Support Services (MQUISS) and the Macmillan Volunteering Quality Standard (MVQS). This is a tool designed to help staff assess and assure volunteer management and ensure best practice. In the past year, 9 new volunteers have been recruited and trained bringing the total number of volunteers to 20. They have attended 38 training opportunities and have donated over 1,500 hours of time to support the delivery of 330 drop-in sessions with 825 attendances. Volunteers made 376 referrals for other help and support; most of these were for benefits and money advice with the Advice Shop. Volunteers issued 2,193 information leaflets.

“

Enjoyed the session – being able to speak to other people with cancer is very helpful

Ageing Well Project

Ageing Well is a partnership project between Xcite, West Lothian Council and NHS Lothian, with classes run in partnership with organisations such as Alzheimer Scotland, OPAL and Craigshill Good Neighbour Network. The aim of the project is to improve, maintain and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing of older people in West Lothian and improve their quality of life through a programme of activities and services. The project offers free or low cost activities to ensure we create opportunities for those on low income to be active. In 2017/18, 33,456 visits were recorded to activities such as tea dances, buddy swimming, tai chi, walking football, social events, etc.

The project has strong partnership links in the community and will continue to strengthen these links in the next financial year, building new partnerships and offering new activities together to keep our older generation active in the community. The project has a bank of volunteers who assist the project with the activities, who have a wealth of knowledge and experience and play a huge role in the success of the project. The project continues to target those in need to try and reduce isolation, loneliness and increase opportunities to be active in the community.



Singing for health participant Janet says, "I attend the singing for health session as I love company and enjoy singing with all the other singers they are friendly and as I live alone I really benefit from the company. It lifts my spirits. I have met new friends at the group who are lovely singers"

West Lothian Bike Library

The West Lothian Bike Library (WLBL) is a Community Interest Company set up in 2017. WLBL builds on work initiated by West Lothian Council's Health Improvement Team, in partnership with community groups, to tackle health inequalities through improved access to cycling (and walking).

The WLBL has a number of projects ongoing, with multiple funding streams including the Scottish Government's Smarter Choices Smarter Places programme. Projects

include the SEStran Go Ebike scheme, Inclusive Cycling sessions using the WLBL fleet of adapted bikes, led cycle rides including a regular Bathgate Women's ride, and bespoke activities with schools, workplaces and members of the public including bike maintenance, bike refurbishment and bike sales at affordable prices.

The main objective of WLBL is to remove barriers to cycling and make cycling accessible to all, regardless of income or ability.

Case study

Pete is one of the people who have used the WLBL services. In 2015 Pete suffered a subarachnoid brain haemorrhage which left him paralysed on the left side of his body. Determined not to allow this to affect him too much he set himself a number of goals: to get walking, hill walking, running and cycling again. After speaking with the Health Improvement

Team and volunteers who ran the WLBL, he was encouraged to attend sessions to understand options available for all ability and inclusive cycling. Through working with the team, he was able to explore his options, test out and hire trikes and allowed him to build his confidence to get back into cycling.

Pete said:

"in my opinion, the West Lothian Bike Library and West Lothian Health Improvement Team restored my belief and provided a platform for me to continue with my road to recovery. It has helped me to get out with my family and friends again, doing something I love. **"**

Read Pete's full story here: www.wlbikelibrary.co.uk/inclusive-cycling-petes-story/



Economic

% working age adults in work

77.8%

(2017)

Target: 75%



Increased from 75.3% in 2016, based on an estimated 90,400 West Lothian residents being in employment

% of 18-24 year olds claiming Jobseekers Allowance and Universal Credit

3%

(Q4 2017/18)

Target: 4%



West Lothian has historically had a higher level of youth unemployment than Scotland but youth jobless number and rate are now low and similar to national average

% school leavers entering positive destinations



93.9%

(2016/17)

Target: 94%

Increase from 92.7% in 2015/16. Latest results highest ever recorded in West Lothian.

Total number of jobs in West Lothian



77,500

(2016/17)

Target: 75,000

Small reduction between 2015 (78,000) and 2016, masks interesting changes- manufacturing, transport and storage, information and communication and business administration employment did increase in the year. The largest net reduction was experienced by construction.

Number of new homes completed annually in West Lothian



597

(2016/17)

Target: 500

Since the credit crunch there has been a gradual recovery in house building rates in West Lothian, however 2016/17 saw a reduction (from 884 completions in 2015/16) suggesting the recovery in the house building industry remains fragile.

Economic Growth Plan

The Economic Growth Plan (EGP) was a five year plan to provide £29.13 million of support to businesses and individuals in West Lothian following the closure of Vion Halls in 2013. Over 1,700 people had lost their job and unemployment was rising past 4.5% in the ward area, almost 50% higher than the Scottish average.

Support was delivered by Scottish Enterprise and West Lothian Council, to provide immediate support to help local people find work, assist local firms to create additional jobs and provide funding to help employers invest in training which develops staff skills. An Enterprise Sub Group, involving representatives from West Lothian Council, West Lothian College, Scottish Government, UK Government and Scottish Enterprise, provided the governance for the EGP. To date, Economic

Development has supported projects with a value of over £24.42 million. This targeted support has created more than 1,274 new jobs from completed projects. In addition, 450 ex-Vion staff were supported with English language training. Overall, over 1,700 individuals have been supported with training or employment. Scottish Enterprise has also helped create a further 1,600 jobs. As at May 2018, unemployment in both the ward area and across West Lothian was below 2%, lower than when Vion Halls was open.

Funding for the EGP ended in March 2018. The Enterprise Sub Group has been renamed the Jobs Task Force, which will continue to play a vital role in bringing together local partners to support growth in the West Lothian economy.

Holiday Lunch Clubs

Seven successful holiday lunch club provisions were held in 2017/18 in identified areas of need. The selected venues included: Addiewell and Uphall Station-Pumpherstons primary schools, Armadale, Forest Bank, Livingston Station, Stoneyburn and Winchburgh Community Centres.

These provisions offered a range of learning and fun holiday opportunities including, sports, arts and crafts, cookery, multi-media, team games and day trips away. The activities were planned in partnership with families and communities, with excellent support from young people and adult volunteers.

337 children participated and attendance was very good. Effective partnership working enabled children from Syrian refugee families to engage. 96.7% of participants rated the clubs as good to excellent, and 95.8% expressed interest in future lunch club provisions.

Opportunities for Family Learning and Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) activities will feature in the summer 2018 holiday lunch clubs.

Career Ready Programme

31 young people from Armadale Academy, Broxburn Academy and Whitburn Academy, The James Young High School, and Deans and Inveralmond Community High Schools took part in the Career Ready programme. Activities include mentoring, wrapped around a high quality paid internship, as well as masterclasses from business professionals and visits to a wide range of employers. 16 employers, including the council, are supporting the West Lothian programme, which aims to raise aspirations and bridge the gap between education and work by giving the young people access to real experience of the world of work.

Bathgate Academy and St Margaret's Academy will join the programme, with a further 48 young people beginning their first year of the programme in September 2018. A number of new employers will be supporting the programme in the new session, including the Fire Service.



After completing a four week internship with a local employer, one young person commented:

Career Ready has really helped me develop as a person, not just in the workplace. My internship made me look at the world in a different way – from the viewpoint of an engineer

West Lothian College, Mitsubishi and Malaysian Partnership

A group of eight HND Engineering students from West Lothian College took part in the British Council's Skills for Employability programme which enables young people to gain direct access to industry training and future employment opportunities.

The students spent time on the Mitsubishi premises, observing the operations and learning in depth the current processes and materials, allowing them to create training manuals and provide recommendations. The project aided Mitsubishi through having a new perspective from an outside source, looking at their procedures and combining theory with their experience in the factory. Four of the eight students travelled to Malaysia to share their experience and showcase the outcomes and benefits to delegates from across Malaysia. Mitsubishi are the third largest employer, and the largest engineering employer, in the West Lothian region which made them an excellent choice for partnership in this project.

The College won the Excellent Employer Engagement in Colleges Herald Award for this partnership project. The College are exploring opportunities in Malaysia for future partnerships both in industry and education, and believe this project can be replicated for future cohorts of students with further employers.





“

I was interested to learn that there are numerous examples of how poverty can manifest itself, to different people, at different times in their lives. Poverty affects everyone, in some form, at some point in their life

Supporting Households on Low Incomes

As part of the Better Off: Anti-Poverty Strategy, it was agreed to increase the awareness and confidence of front-line staff in understanding what poverty is, how it affects individuals and households and increasing confidence and knowledge to spot and refer those who may be affected to support and advice.

The Supporting Low Income Homes programme was a range of workshops to be delivered between October 2017 and February 2018. It is made up of 4 workshops and 476 staff from across West Lothian public, voluntary and third sector partners participated in workshops on:

1

Poverty
Awareness

2

Child
Poverty

3

Disability &
Poverty

4

Welfare
Reform &
Poverty

Analysis of feedback from the workshops has shown that there was a significant shift in perceptions of what poverty is and that nearly all participants agreed that they could use what they had learned in their work to support families.



Safer Communities

Serious Assault
Crime Rate
per 10,000
population

6.4

(2017/18)
Continuous
improvement



This is a notable reduction from the previous year's figure (8.3) which could be attributed to a more coordinated Night Time Economy policing plan with better allocation of resources to problematic areas.

Antisocial
Behaviour
Incidents per
10,000 population

584.1

(2017/18)
Continuous
improvement



An increase from the previous year's figure (571.6). This can be attributed to an increase in communications incidents classed as ASB, reflecting a societal trend involving increased access to technology and social media. A number of partnership initiatives are underway to address ASB.

Number of
deliberate
secondary fires
per 10,000
population



35.3

(2017/18)
Continuous
improvement

There was an increase of 64 incidents from 2016/17 (10% increase). Customary spikes were evident around April/May with the better weather starting and school holidays and also in November around bonfire season.

% residents
who feel they
can influence
decision



40%

(2016)
Target: 46%

There has been a decrease in positive perceptions about the ability to influence decisions (from 46% in 2013), despite ongoing efforts to engage with communities. The later part of this report highlights the work the CPP is doing to ensure our communities feel more meaningfully involved in community planning.

% young people
under the age
of 22 who were
previously looked
after who go
on to receive
a custodial
sentence



3.5%

(2017/18)
Target: 7%

Strong level of improvement on previous years and a good ongoing trend is felt to be the consequence of strong partnership working and one of the impacts of the long standing whole system approach in West Lothian.

% looked after
children who
report they feel
safer as a result
of intervention or
support

95%

(2017/18)
Target: 80%



An increase from 88% the previous year (but from a smaller sample size)

% of women who
report they feel
safer as a result
of intervention by
the Domestic and
Sexual Assault Team

100%

(Q4 2017/18)
Target: 100%



In 2017/18 all women who used the court advocacy service reported feeling safer (99 women) so performance remains at 100%.

Operation Pinpoint

In response to a number of calls being received across the area in relation to antisocial behaviour, the Local Policing Team sought to work in partnership to identify hotspot areas and use proactive tactics to reduce offending. The team carried out retrospective interrogation of their police and partner systems and identified three hotspot areas that had been experiencing antisocial behaviour over an extended period: Whitburn, Bathgate and Blackburn.

In each area, the Local Policing Team carried out a period of activity with partners from the local authority, including daily partnership advice surgeries, litter pick-ups with high school students, warrant arrests and intelligence interventions. This activity has resulted in a significant reduction in antisocial behaviour to these hotspot areas. Further detail on Operation Pinpoint in Blackburn is included under the Locality Planning section of this report.

1st Step Bikes

The Linlithgow Local Policing Team recognised an opportunity to collaborate with a local community group, 1st Step, to support those locally with additions. The project aimed to be Linlithgow's first community bike refurbishing project. The project supports those struggling with addiction who are often at risk from offending or becoming victims of crime.

The facility, based at Police Scotland's garages in Linlithgow, provides purpose for members who are trying to leave the cycle of addiction and also adds value by refurbishing bikes which will be given back to the community for use. The project has strengthened relationships with this community and volunteer group whilst adding value to the individual's daily life.

No Knives Better Lives

No Knives Better Lives is a national initiative delivered at a local level by Police Scotland and partner agencies. It is a preventative initiative that specifically addresses the issue of knife carrying but is informed by and complimentary to wider policy priorities and interventions that aim to prevent offending and antisocial behaviour.

Local community officers have delivered training to over 200 first year pupils as a pilot scheme. Following positive feedback from this there are further events scheduled throughout the division to deliver the presentation up to third year level. 15 officers in West Lothian and 10 individuals from partner agencies are now trained to deliver No Knives Better Lives. Due to the success within the school community, there are now plans to extend the training to HMP Addiewell.

16 Days of Action

A series of multi-agency events involving West Lothian Council, Police Scotland and West Lothian Women's Aid were held in November/December 2017 as part of the 16 days of action campaign to tackle gender-based violence in our society. This included training sessions, information stalls and school activities aimed at raising awareness of violence against women and girls.

Local police together with Women's Aid colleagues delivered inputs to health professionals that would help them to identify potential victims of domestic abuse to keep them safe from further harm. The campaign was well received and culminated in a march in Livingston with over 100 participants all invested in the cause of reducing harm caused by gender based violence.

DASAT

West Lothian Domestic and Sexual Assault Team (DASAT) offer a unique integrated public service, housed within local government, working in close partnership with key partners Police Scotland, Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), Social Work, Housing and Education, NHS Lothian, West Lothian Women's Aid and other third sector partners.

It is the only service in Scotland that integrates services for domestic abuse and sexual assault. The DASAT is a responsive, evidence-based public service that intervenes early, reduces violence, increases resilience, and promotes recovery. In 2017/18 it supported a total of 1,466 women and children: 100% of women and children asked, reported feeling safer as a result of intervention.

How Are We Doing?



Environment

CO2 emissions per capita

5.8
tonnes per capita

Target:
7.5 tonnes per capita



A reduction from 6.1 in 2015. Emissions continue to decrease; however West Lothian is now behind Scotland's emissions figure of 4.7.

% household waste recycled


48.5%
(2016)*
Target: 50%



Tonnage of household waste collected increased between 2015 and 2016 (from 47.4%).

Energy generated from renewables and low carbon technology

MWh of heat produced



8,751
MWh
(2017/18)
Target: 12,000 MWh

kWh of electricity produced


242,170
KWh
(2017/18)
Target: 330,000 kWh

Significant progress has been made on our low carbon heat and electricity generation; however the targets were not met in 2017/18 due to changes in the scope of projects/delays with installation

% of WLC housing stock compliant with Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing


66.7%
(2017/18)
Target: 53%

Levels of compliance have increased from 47.4% to 66.7%

*The final 2017 data is to be verified by SEPA and will be available on the following link end September 2018:
<https://www.environment.gov.scot/data/data-analysis/household-waste/>

Bikeability

Local Police Scotland officers worked in partnership with Education by delivering a programme of training and education around cycling and road safety. The programme culminates in a final assessment where children are taken onto public roads to demonstrate their ability to stay safe through road awareness, as well as their ability to use the cycle to a set standard.

The programme has been so well received that a number of other local primary schools want to become involved. Schools who have taken part have identified an increase in the number of children cycling to school, reducing morning and finishing vehicle congestion. This activity has therefore met both community safety and environment objectives.

Partnership Working in the Environment

Working in partnership is key to realising the Open Space Strategy and ensuring West Lothian's parks and greenspaces are accessible, well looked after, safe and attractive places to be. As parks and open spaces have many stakeholders and can help address wide-ranging issues from antisocial behaviour to flooding, from health and wellbeing to biodiversity, all our open space projects involve partnership working.

Some of our current partners for projects across West Lothian include: WLC Community Regeneration, Woodland Trust Scotland, Buglife, Burgh Beautiful, Central Scotland Green Network Trust, Fauldhouse Community Development Trust, Almond Housing and Community Action Blackburn.

Our Play team work with schools and local residents in the design and refurbishment of playparks across West Lothian. They also work closely with West Lothian Youth

Action Project to ensure playpark safety and the reduction of antisocial behaviour in/around playparks. Our Cemeteries team work with many groups including Armadale War Memorial Group, Royal British Legion, Korean War Memorial Trust, BID groups and community councils in the creation and upkeep of war memorials across the region.

The Cemeteries team also work in partnership with SANDS and the Multi-Agency Infant Loss Group to provide information and support for bereaved parents with child burials. SANDS have also provided bespoke benches for baby burial grounds within our cemeteries.

The Open Space team are working with colleagues in Planning, Education, Arts Services, Flood Risk Management and Parks and Woodlands to refresh the Open Space Strategy for 2020-25.

Case study

Almondvale Park



Almondvale Park has been our largest open space improvement project to date and involved many partners. We essentially created a new, linear park in the centre of Livingston including wildflower meadows, playpark, murals, paths, lighting, benches and picnic tables, bike parking, a new pedestrian/bike crossing and new section of National Cycle Route 75, vegetation thinning, creating viewing platforms over the river, a signposted walk/run and wildlife interpretation. The £1.2million budget was made up from Capital funding, developer contributions, an Arts grant and an additional 50% funding from the Sustrans Community Links Programme. The project spanned many years. Internal partners included NETS Land and Countryside, Construction Services, Roads, Arts Services, Flood Risk Management and Planning. External partners included Sustrans, ParkRun,

West Lothian Youth Action Project, Livingston Art Association and Dedridge Environment Ecology Project. Local stakeholders were involved in all stages of the process, from planning and prioritising improvements to participating in public arts workshops.

Over 600 people attended the opening event, which comprised activities by NETS Land and Countryside, Health Improvement Team, Sustrans, Woodland Trust Scotland, The Conservation Volunteers, Forth Rivers Trust and Kompan play company. Sustrans have carried out monitoring and evaluation surveys, which have shown that park visits (especially walking and cycling) have doubled since park improvements have been implemented.

There have been 134 parkruns in the park to date, with an average of 300 people attending each Saturday morning. Lothians and Fife Green Network Partnership held a walking tour in the park for other organisations and Local Authorities. The park project was cited as an example of good practice in a recent report by the Town and Country Planning Association, which was also picked up by BBC Radio Scotland, and the project won a COSLA Bronze award for Local Matters in 2017.

The strength of the project is in the number and diversity of people who have been involved in its development.

How Are We Doing?

Energy Efficiency Upgrade at the Lanthorn



The council has completed energy efficiency upgrade works to the Lanthorn Centre having successfully been awarded funding from Scotland's Energy Efficiency Programmes (SEEP) to support the council's own capital budget to complete the project. The work has seen the centre receive improved levels of insulation to the walls and roof, providing a more

comfortable experience for users of the centre whilst reducing the carbon footprint of the building as well as improving the appearance of the building. Early monitoring of the project shows reduced energy consumption of the property as well as improved comfort levels and air quality within the centre.

Energy Efficiency Advice



A successful collaboration between the Housing Strategy and Development team and the Advice Shop has seen an advisor employed within the Advice Shop to perform home visits to council tenants and home owners included in the council's External Wall Insulation programme. The advisor provides energy efficiency advice as well as benefit and income maximisation checks in order to help maximise the benefit of

the energy efficiency measures for project participants. Early results of the programme have yielded approximately a £150 saving per household in energy bills as well as approximately £140,000 through benefit checks and income maximisation measures for all houses included in the programme over the five streets receiving this support.

CPP 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 regeneration areas, based on the datazones in the bottom 20% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. It was agreed that these would be adopted as the CPP's locality plans.

13 individual plans are being developed in the following areas: **Addiewell, Armadale, Bathgate, Blackburn, Bridgend, Craigshill, Dedridge, Fauldhouse, Knightsridge, Ladywell, Polbeth, Stoneyburn and Whitburn.**

The process to develop the plans has been the same in every area:

- establishing local steering groups, involving local community organisations and local partners
- mapping of assets
- engagement and consultation
- determining themes and priorities
- drafting the action plan, including specific actions and interventions

A significant period of community engagement has been carried out with the wider community in each area, using two methods: H-Diagrams and the Place Standard tool. This engagement has provided a good understanding of

local community assets, needs and circumstances, ensuring that we create plans which are shaped by the community and reflect their views. Input from partners has brought local knowledge, experience and resource. It is hoped that partners will also have the potential to reshape their services to meet the needs of the community based on the local information we gather. Asset mapping and engagement is a continuous process.

Plans are to be community-led and bottom-up. Developing knowledge, capacity and assets within the community is key to the regeneration planning process. The regeneration steering groups are supporting development of local infrastructure via key community organisations as vehicles which can enable community responses to community needs.

The regeneration plans aim to tackle local issues on the ground to improve the daily lives and life chances of people living in our most disadvantaged communities, and to target specific interventions to address deprivation and economic exclusion. The plans also link to the LOIP and it is important to ensure that local priorities/projects shape CPP processes and priorities and help to address wider CPP issues. Links are also being established with other CPP strategies and strategic groups to help influence and tailor mainstream provision.

Where we're at

The CPP Board has approved the format and template of regeneration plans. First drafts of the plans have been developed for each area, outlining the key themes, priorities and initial actions. Final plans will be published as they are ready in 2018/19. Significant and varied initial activity is

already happening in most regeneration areas. Some actions are short-term, 'quick hits' or about further research to build the evidence base. Some examples are highlighted on the next page.

Blackburn:

Various environmental and community safety issues were raised through the steering group's engagement (including dog fouling, graffiti, litter, deliberate fire setting, off-road bikes, park maintenance, poor street lighting, youth antisocial behaviour). The Community Safety Partnership also identified Blackburn as an area for Operation Pinpoint and it was suggested that the operation should be community-led this time, rather than led by Police Scotland.

A week of action was held, with the focus of activities influenced by the recent community engagement and local crime statistics. Key outputs included an Environmental Visual Audit carried out by the Change in Blackburn youth group with Fire, Police and council teams, a Family Fun event held on Easter Inch Moss and information stalls manned daily by partners in the Mill Centre. The event attracted good numbers throughout the week and there was significant participation from teenagers. By involving young people in key aspects

of the design, planning and delivery of the week of action in Blackburn, there was a positive impact on the instances and impact of antisocial behaviour in the village. Young people gained a greater understanding of the effect of antisocial behaviour in the community and they gained an awareness of the level of resource required to address it.

The Mill Centre is the central hub of the village and partners were able to promote their services to a few hundred local residents over the course of the week. Many messages were delivered on the key regeneration plan themes of health and wellbeing, community safety, play and recreation and care and maintenance.



Fauldhouse:

The engagement in Fauldhouse builds on the findings of the charrette in 2016. Fauldhouse Community Development Trust took the lead as a steering group partner on delivering a mining memorial to celebrate the heritage of the village. The project to date has included a community survey to ascertain support for the memorial, a visit to Newtongrange

Mining Museum, the museum working with the local primary schools, design of a memorial and a local vote (669 responses), a sculptor contracted, and £24k raised to create the memorial. The steering group see this as a 'quick hit' that shows the villagers that they do have a voice – 'you said, we delivered'.

“ I first became involved with the regeneration planning by taking part in the Fauldhouse Charrette organized by WLC and facilitated by the community planning and regeneration team. Further meetings took place and FCDT undertook to survey the community and gather opinions on various suggestions that had come out of the charrette.

The following projects received wide spread support from the community: a miner's tribute; community allotments; restoring lakes back to recreation areas after years of neglect; reopen East field training centre to become a community sports and recreation centre with football facilities. Support petitions were raised for these projects and received a very good response

This was reported back to the regeneration steering group and received their support, subsequently applications for funding were submitted to the village improvement fund and to FCDT and I am happy to report that all the above projects are in progress

This is a direct result of the work of community regeneration and community planning officers to involve the local community in the regeneration process.

At this time the Scottish Community Development Centre led by David Allan (SCDC) began a consultation to strengthen community-led approaches to regeneration of which I became a core member. The outcome of this work was presented to the CPP Board and was very well received. A working group is being set up to implement the recommendations.

This is tremendous news for our community to have participation in the planning process for the regeneration of our community and I am sure that there will be active participation from within the community. FCDT are ready to facilitate the dissemination of all information and obtain feedback via our newsletter and drop-in centre 'the Hub' ”

Dave Huddleston, Fauldhouse Community Development Trust

Aspiring West Lothian:

The idea was put to key community organisations in the regeneration areas to submit a consortium bid for Aspiring Communities funding for a project which would support the regeneration process and build community and organisational capacity. Five organisations signed up to the

consortium and submitted a bid for a full time development worker for each organisation plus some project costs. They were successful in securing £248,000. Development workers started in March 2018 and will be in post for 16 months.

Connected Neighbourhood Networks:

A further Aspiring Communities funded project started in early 2018 and is a partnership between Craigshill, Ladywell and Dedridge neighbourhood networks. The project aims to build links between the three organisations and help them to grow and develop new projects and provision in their communities. Three development workers and an admin assistant have been employed through the fund.

Next steps for regeneration plans in 2018/19 will be focused on building capacity and developing longer term actions through: greater community involvement/engagement, particularly from harder-to-reach groups; continually building the evidence base; building on early actions and activity based interventions; looking at where we want to be in five/ten years' time; more responsive CPP interventions; and development of sustainable, volunteer-based community projects to address community needs. Local indicators will also be developed to ensure we are measuring delivery of actions. These will be linked to the LOIP indicators.



In West Lothian, two health and social care locality plans will also be developed by the Integration Joint Board – for the East and West. Work is underway to ensure that these plans align to and complement the development of the regeneration plans.



Community Involvement

The regeneration planning process outlined above is a good example of meaningfully involving communities in the design and delivery of local services, activities and interventions. The CPP has a number of other mechanisms in place to enable and support communities to actively participate in community planning.

Supporting Communities

The CPP took part in the Scottish Community Development Centre's (SCDC's) Supporting Communities action learning programme throughout 2017/18, focused on improving community involvement in community planning. The aim of the process was to provide a safe space for people involved in community planning to reflect on current community involvement practice and identify areas that could be improved and related actions. A session was held in October 2017 to introduce the programme to CPP Board members and community representatives. Action learning 'clusters', based around the regeneration areas and involving regeneration officers, partners and community reps, were then set up and met over two rounds of meetings, facilitated by SCDC. Discussion at these sessions informed proposals to improve community involvement in community planning,

including actions around exploring a mechanism to enable communities and community organisations to be represented in the CPP structure and improving CPP communication to better communicate what community planning is and what impact it has, making better use of key community organisations as vehicles for communication. The findings were presented to the CPP Board and actions will be taken forward in 2018/19.

CPP Board members have also been involved in a separate, national programme with SCDC and the Improvement Service to develop learning about community participation in community planning and have actively contributed to this process.

Citizens Panel

The West Lothian Citizens Panel is one mechanism to help identify local residents' views on various aspects of living in West Lothian. There are around 2,800 members of the Panel, who are representative of the population in terms of age, gender, tenure, ethnicity and multi-member ward. A Quality of Life Survey is carried out with the Citizens Panel every three years and asks a wide range of questions around issues such as West Lothian's economy, community safety, health, travel and the environment.

The latest survey was carried out in 2016 and opened up to non-Panel members in 2017. The results were presented to the CPP Board in April 2018 and a final report is now available, to be utilised by the council and partners to influence service developments. Respondents will also receive a newsletter providing feedback on the findings and what the CPP is currently doing in relation to specific topic areas. The CPP is also currently looking at how it can maximise the use of the Panel to encourage increased participation by members.

Anti-Poverty Refresh

The CPP has developed a new Anti-Poverty Strategy for 2018/19 to 2022/23, setting out the CPP's ambition to work collaboratively and take positive steps to address the financial pressures felt by our residents, ensuring that tackling poverty is at the centre of work within West Lothian. The new strategy is the result of careful consideration of the current landscape and the changing nature of poverty, combined with the voices of local communities, organisations and people with direct, lived experience of poverty. Over 450 individuals and more than 15 community groups and partner organisations participated in surveys and focussed discussions about poverty and inequality.

Additionally, over 45,000 comments received through the Transforming Your Council consultation were analysed to identify opinions, good ideas and suggestions. Further feedback was gathered from 456 professionals in customer facing roles through a programme of poverty awareness training. A panel of volunteer 'Experts by Experience' will also be recruited to provide additional scrutiny of anti-poverty activity in West Lothian. The panel will be made up of individuals with lived experience of living on a low income or struggling to make ends meet.

Raising Awareness of the Community Empowerment Act

The CPP has undertaken work to ensure that communities are aware of the new rights and duties included in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Frequently Asked Questions specific to West Lothian have been published and a 'Community Empowerment Roadshow' has been developed. A pilot session was held in Fauldhouse in August 2017 and more sessions are planned for 2018/19.

Officers also attended the newly formed Joint Forum for West Lothian Community Councils to provide information on various parts of the Act and information was shared with community councils through their new Knowledge Hub page. Voluntary Sector Gateway held a session with the Scottish Community Development Centre in February 2018 to raise awareness of the various parts of the Act among local third sector organisations.

Equalities

The CPP supports a number of equality forums to gain an understanding of the diverse experiences of our communities. The CPP provides specific support to the Race Forum and Faith Group and links in with the Disability Forum and Glitter Cannons (LGBT Young People). Some forums are engaged in positive policy discussion whereas others have focused attention on community engagement activity. In October 2017, the Race Forum held an event in Bathgate Partnership Centre, in partnership with the council and ELREC, to bring

members of the community together to celebrate Black History Month and to raise awareness of the forum and attract new members. The event involved a mixture of food, speeches, music and dancing and was very well attended by over 60 people, including Race Forum members, members of the community and local partner organisations (DWP, SFRS, Police Scotland), and was very positively received.

Developing the CPP

A CPP Development Day was held in March 2018 in West Lothian College to allow the members of the CPP Board, Community Planning Steering Group and other groups within the CPP landscape to come together and discuss how to improve the structure and working practices of the CPP. The session was facilitated by the Scottish Government and was very well attended by a wide range of partners. Good discussion was had on the vision for the CPP, in relation to how the Board and structure should operate, the role of the thematic groups and community involvement, and potential improvement actions to

address this. A number of specific actions were developed from these discussions and will be taken forward from 2018/19. It was intended that this development session would be the start of the conversation in relation to CPP development activity.

It is important to get the right structures in place to ensure we can effectively engage with partners and communities and deliver on the LOIP priorities. Further actions may be identified as we implement these structural and operational changes.

Moving Forward

This annual report highlights the West Lothian CPP's progress in achieving our ambitions over 2017/18. Positive progress can be seen across all of the CPP's priority outcomes, with good examples of partnership working leading to positive outcomes for our communities. We have seen good examples of community involvement in community planning, particularly through our regeneration planning process. However, we know that we need to improve our community involvement and have actions in place to achieve this going forward.

Taking forward the CPP development actions from 2018/19 will ensure the CPP has a fit for purpose structure in place and is working to its full potential, continuing to build on its positive progress in order to achieve positive outcomes and tackle inequalities within our communities.



West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP