
Strategic Assessment

West Lothian Community Planning Partnership

Many thanks to all partners who supplied data and other information for this document. Acknowledgements to all members of the core Strategic assessment planning group for their data gathering, analysis and advice throughout the process.

September 2012

INTRODUCTION

This is the first Strategic Assessment undertaken by West Lothian Community Planning Partnership¹, and is one of only a few to have been written in Scotland. It is accepted that, particularly with a background of fiscal austerity as well as review and change at a national level, evidence-based community planning of this type is likely to become the norm and will strongly influence the strategic direction of partnerships and the targeting of resources.

This assessment will form the basis of the refreshed Community Plan² and new Single Outcome Agreement³ and aims to allow the CPP to undertake evidence-based prioritisation and planning and better align service delivery and financial strategy. It will also take the changes in the National Performance Framework into account – a new outcome for older people new indicators for early years and some changes to existing indicators and outcomes.

This document assesses current trends across community planning themes, emerging issues and priority areas of concern for West Lothian. It also acts as a forecasting tool, which can later form the basis of a Community Planning Partnership corporate risk register.

Partnership working is well established in West Lothian through a number of thematic partnerships, and programmes of change are also embedded in West Lothian driven in part by the Christie Commission which in June 2011 outlined recommendations for the future delivery of public services in Scotland. Notwithstanding the positive steps already taken, if we adopt these principles locally there is an opportunity to revolutionise planning and service delivery as a partnership in West Lothian. The immediate focus for the CPP should be on tackling inequalities.

Christie Commission priorities are:

- ∞ A necessary shift to prevention – historically preventative measures have not been prioritised, and estimates are that as much as 40% of all spending on public services is directed towards negative outcomes. Shifting resources upstream should eradicate duplication and waste, reduce demand longer term and reduce inequalities. West Lothian is already comparatively advanced in the 'Preventative Interventions' agenda.

¹ CPP

² 'Towards 2020'

³ SOA

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- ∞ Greater integration of local public services – partnership working – from daily service delivery to integrated strategic planning. West Lothian has strong thematic partnerships, but more work is required by the CPP to join up work across these themes.
- ∞ Greater workforce investment. This is a key priority in West Lothian Council's 'Better Outcomes' agenda.
- ∞ Focus on improving performance – through greater transparency and innovation including better use of digital technology – and focus on outcomes. A number of digital initiatives are in place in West Lothian, and all projects/strategies are required to be outcome-focused.
- ∞ Services must be designed with and for people and communities. We must work with them to understand their needs, support self-reliance and build resilience.

Reforming the delivery of public services is more than a matter of fiscal necessity - we also have to implement reforms that tackle fundamental inequalities, focus on prevention and improve the quality of public services to better meet the needs of the people and the communities they seek to support.

As a result of the Christie Commission, Justice Reforms and change funds around Reducing Reoffending, Health and Social Care and Early Years were born.

The Justice Change Portfolio is born of a shared commitment between the Scottish Government and its partners to create a safer and stronger Scotland, a commitment that relies on the justice system being efficient and effective in meeting the needs of the people it serves.

There is room to improve in process, efficiency, re-offending and public confidence; and this will be delivered through the following workstreams: Police reform, Reassuring the public, Reducing crime, Reducing re-offending and Making justice work. Work is already well underway in developing and implementing a Reducing Re-offending strategy which gives West Lothian the opportunity to address local priorities¹.

¹ Linked to this, Criminal Justice Social Work (CJSW) funding formulae are being reviewed and the impacts should be known during 2012-13, though early analysis looks like this may be a positive change. CJSW also has to implement a new risk assessment and case management framework with increased associated administration and uncertain additional impact.

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The other Change funds developed by the Scottish Government are in line with a move to prevention and allow devolved responsibility to local partnerships to address local needs. In addition to the Reducing Re-offending fund there are Health & Social Care and Early Years funds – the first allocation of the latter was released in late 2011 and entitled the ‘Families and Communities fund’, and the former covers ‘Reshaping care for older people’. Work is well underway with these too.

Police and Fire Reform is part of the Justice reforms highlighted above, and will result in a single Police force for Scotland – the Police Service of Scotland – incorporating all forces, the Scottish Police Services Authority (SPSA) and Scottish Crime & Drug Enforcement Agency (SCDEA) and a single Fire and Rescue service. This is all due to happen by 2014, with a new non-emergency 101 number to be delivered within the same timescale. There is a greater emphasis on local delivery for both services, placing governance and accountability at a local level. There are potential challenges in terms of resource levels, but this drive towards local partnership delivery is positive, as long as partnerships, prevention and early intervention remain at the forefront of service delivery. There is, however, a risk to this approach being altered depending on leadership.

There will be limited change for the West Lothian partnership structure as there is already the governance, but we may need to improve consultation on strategic products and there are potential concerns about the local strategic drivers for Police and Fire Service rather than for the *Partnership*. West Lothian is a pathfinder on this and this will ideally give us the opportunity to address these potential challenges.

Longer-term change may be in the form of *Scottish Independence*. Autumn 2014 has been recently marked as the date for this with discussion underway about the ‘devo-max’¹ option in addition to the Yes/No options. There has been significant media coverage of this, with no one particularly clear about the wider impact, nor the impact on Community Planning, but this is anticipated to become clearer in the coming years.

Challenges

- ∞ Comparatively short Political life cycle for projects that work towards long term change.
- ∞ Making sustainable change so the end of funding does not adversely affect services or communities
- ∞ Providing for current ‘crisis’ care and demand, *and* focusing on prevention
- ∞ Enhancing work with young people at risk of offending, but have not yet offended

¹ Refers to significant new powers for Holyrood, short of independence.

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- ∞ Ensuring Police Reform does not inhibit partnership work, particularly in Reducing Reoffending

Opportunities

- ∞ Extend already effective interventions and enhance work supporting each life stage transition.
- ∞ Increased integration
- ∞ Opportunity to shift services upstream

METHODOLOGY

Data is gathered from a variety of sources across the community planning themes – from community planning partners for calendar years 2009-2011¹ and open source research. On occasions where this is not possible, any available recent data has been used.

The assessment has been divided into

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| I. Scene-setting | Introduction to West Lothian |
| II. Core Theme | Inequality |
| III. Analysis | Wealthier & Fairer |
| | Smarter |
| | Greener |
| | Healthier |
| | Safer & Stronger |

Forecasting will occur throughout the document and is an important tool within the strategic process, allowing us to identify and assesses the impact of internal and external factors that may affect the partnership in the coming years. It allows future challenges and opportunities to be incorporated into the priority-setting process, and for the partnership to take measures to counter the challenge posed by these forecasts or exploit the opportunities afforded by them.

¹ Wherever available, otherwise data is collected by Fiscal year April-March

SCENE-SETTING

West Lothian has undergone significant change over the last ten years in demography, physical environment and its economy. These changes have presented opportunities and challenges for West Lothian's communities and the organisations that deliver services in the area.

Two thirds of West Lothian's 428km² are predominantly used for agriculture, with a tenth taken up by urban development. In the east-central band is a large shale oil field, whilst the area in the west is dominated by Scotland's central coalfield. Both these natural resources were greatly exploited in the 19th and early 20th centuries and contributed to the development of a number of West Lothian's communities. The rapid development of these 'boom' communities meant the loss of these industries was felt heavily, and this legacy has resulted in some small but prominent concentrations of deprivation¹. Currently the main sectors are public services, retail and distribution, hotels and restaurants, manufacturing, construction and finance and IT; with opportunities for growth in other priority industries.

Results from the most recent Citizen's Panel² Quality of Life (QoL) survey show that overall levels of satisfaction with West Lothian as a place to live are high, remaining at a consistent 87% between 2007 and 2010. 80% of respondents said they were satisfied or very satisfied with their neighbourhood. Perceptions of the change in West Lothian over the last few years are also positive, with ²/₃ of respondents stating that West Lothian has improved. Within the wider 'happiness index', the first subjective wellbeing survey on this scale in the UK³, West Lothian residents rated themselves as 7.53 (on an 11 point scale) compared to 7.48 in Scotland and 7.41 in the UK.

The most important priorities for the respondents of the QoL survey 2010 were Health / Safety / Support family and friends.

The most important services are Health facilities / Education / Roads. The panel are impressed with Fire & Rescue Service / Health / Refuse Collection. Lowest satisfaction with Transport (60% satisfied, 17% dissatisfied) and Street cleaning (57% satisfied, 21% dissatisfied). To monitor in terms of satisfaction – Open Spaces and Public Transport. Lighting and flood prevention got positive responses, however road and pavements did not (roads =

¹ Relates to a lack of a particular resource which is needed for a basic standard of life There are many different types including income, employment, social etc. Identifying these helps services identify the most disadvantages areas/communities so resources/funding are allocated appropriately.

² 2010

³ ONS July 2012

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40% satisfaction for major roads and 27% for minor roads – this is extremely location-dependent).

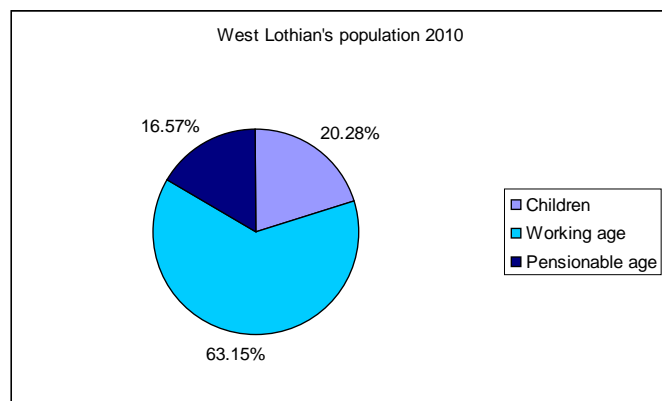
87% were satisfied with West Lothian as place to live, 2% dissatisfied. No change. Drop in neighbourhood satisfaction (Fauldhouse & Breich Valley). Increase in people believing that West Lothian has improved (66% 2010 vs 47% in 2007).

About 50% were happy with communities: feeling involved, influencing decisions, helping each other, volunteering and that people of different ethnic backgrounds have a good relationship. This still means 1 in 2 do not feel involved, do not feel they can influence decisions, do not feel the community helps each other or that there is a good relationship between people of different ethnic backgrounds.

Demographics

West Lothian has a population of about 172,080¹, accounting for 3.3% of Scotland's total population, and is one of the fastest growing and youngest in the country, with an average age of 38 compared with 40 across Scotland.

The split of the population in 2010 shows a high proportion of working age people in West Lothian. There is a higher proportion of this group and Children than in Scotland, with a lower pensionable age group.



Between 2009 and 2010 West Lothian experienced a 3.0% decrease in the number of births²– this was far greater than the 0.4% decrease in the Scottish rate. Although fertility in West Lothian decreased from 2009-2010³, the rate remains higher than Scotland as a whole⁴.

In certain areas of Scotland rising birth rates from migrant populations are sustaining the birth rate – meaning birth rates from non-migrant populations may be much lower than they first appear.

59% of West Lothian's population surveyed were married a living with a spouse and 28% were single/never been married or in a civil partnership. The married living with a spouse

¹ Based on 2010 mid-year projections from the National Records of Scotland

² 2,168 births in 2010

³ 63.1 births/1,000 women 15-44years in 2009, to 61.9 in 2010

⁴ 56.5 births/1,000 women 15-44years in 2010.

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population was 8% higher than Scotland, and the latter was 4% lower than Scotland. 6% were widowed, 5% divorced and 2% separated, and these are all broadly similar to national %. None of the figures show those who are not married, but are long-term cohabiting with a partner which may mean the “married etc” figure may be slightly higher than in reality. This is likely to increase further if the Scottish Government approve same-sex marriages in Scotland.

In 2010/11 there were 8300 National Insurance Registrations from overseas nationals in West Lothian, compared to 145,300 in Scotland – 5.7% of all registrations nationally. From 2004/05 there was a sharp rise in the number of registrations peaking in 2007/08; for the last three years this rate has been decreasing slightly. Nationally there has been a shift from Pakistani and Indian registrations to Polish and other Eastern European registrations following the expansion of the European Union.

On average in 2008-10 there was a small net inflow of 398 people into West Lothian per year, with the 16-29 year old age group accounting for the largest group of in-migrants and out-migrants in West Lothian.

The most recent data on religion in West Lothian is from the 2001 Census, which is too historical to use here. Updated figures will be available in 2013 when the results of the 2011 Census are released. Most religious tensions within West Lothian occur between Catholic and Protestant communities, particularly in the west of the county, but there is limited other intelligence or information on this particular protected characteristic.

There is extremely limited data on the LGBT population, however the Office for National Statistics (ONS) works on the basis of 6% of population identifying as LGB – around 10300 people in West Lothian. Scottish Trans Alliance suggests 1 in 10,000 people identify as transsexual, but the figure will be higher, and is unknown for people who identify under the transgender umbrella as a whole. Other sources of information suggest that much of the LGBT population move away from West Lothian due to the higher LGBT community and ‘scene’ in areas out with West Lothian.

Forecast¹

In recent years, West Lothian has been one of the fastest growing parts of Scotland and is predicted to continue this trend². By 2035 the population of West Lothian is projected³ to be 205,345, an increase of 19.3% compared to the 2010 population⁴. The population of Scotland

¹ From National Records of Scotland updated 14.06.2012.

² From the Local Development Plan.

³ Open to influence by a number of factors including the rate of house building amongst others.

⁴ From the General Register Office Scotland (GROS)

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is projected to increase by 10.2% over the same period, comparatively slower growth than in West Lothian.

The population aged under 16 in West Lothian is also projected to increase by 13.3% over the 25 year period, however the biggest area of growth is in the older population, with growth in people of pensionable age anticipated to be biggest in West Lothian (52%), with particular increases in the over 75s. Although West Lothian's older population is growing faster than the average for Scotland, it is from a low base: the predicted proportion of over 65s in West Lothian in 2033, at 22%, will remain below the Scottish average of 25%. Despite this, from 2008-2033, the number of 65-74 year olds will increase by 80% in West Lothian, compared to 48% in Scotland and the number of over 75s will increase by 151% in West Lothian compared to 84% in Scotland.

West Lothian's projected population change is different from most other comparator local authorities, and the Scottish average, in that most of this projected change is estimated to be through natural change – the birth rate being higher than the mortality rate - likely to be due to the historically high number of young people in West Lothian providing more people who are in the age bracket to have children. In the longer term, however, West Lothian will be faced with a growing elderly population.

Historically population growth has been greatest in Armadale, Bathgate, Broxburn and Livingston, with population decline evident in Polbeth and Whitburn and some of the smaller villages; future population growth will be concentrated in the core development areas.

The number of dwellings and households in West Lothian has also been increasing in recent years, and projected to change increase by 30% from 73,160 in 2010 to 95,160 in 2035. This compares to a 23% projected increase in Scotland as a whole over the same period.

Lone adult households and households headed by the over sixty age group (particularly the over 75 age group) are due to increase in West Lothian, whilst the number of larger households is due to decrease. The West Lothian projection follows the Scottish trend, but the trends are much more pronounced¹.

¹ From GRO(S) - In Scotland, the number of lone adult households is projected to increase by 49 per cent over the 25 year period. In West Lothian, the number of lone adult households is projected to increase by 70 per cent, and the number of larger households in West Lothian is projected to fall, with the number of households of 2 or more adults with children decreasing by 23 per cent over the 25 year period. The average household size is projected to decrease from 2.33 in 2010 to 2.12 in 2035. In West Lothian, households headed by 60-74 year olds are projected to increase in number by 42 per cent, and those headed by the 75+ age group are projected to increase in number by 144 per cent between the years 2010 and 2035.

Increases in life expectancy are also anticipated, though not necessarily a corresponding increase in *healthy* life expectancy. People with complex health conditions, including children born with disabilities, are also anticipated to live for longer due to advances in medical science.

Until the results from the 2011 Census are released it is difficult to access accurate data for the spread and nature of ethnic and other communities and plan services accordingly. We do know, however that there has been an increase in certain ethnic communities in West Lothian, and further migration avenues may be opened up in the future.

The *impact* of all these projections is comprehensive, but centre around an increase in demand for services which is likely to exceed available resources if services are not fundamentally redesigned; as the current economic climate seems to prevent increasing resources. Service areas which are anticipating an increase from demographic change alone are Housing, all older people's services, health and care providers, waste management and education (particularly early years and for children with complex needs).

Challenges

Projected demand for services is high

Language barriers to service delivery

Increased demand for English as an additional language

Increase in risk of falls and accidental fires within the home – an area where older people are over-represented

The Core Development Areas (CDAs) do, however, allow for significant scale of housing development alongside necessary support services. Development of the CDAs, guided by approved master plans and developer contributions to provide required infrastructure.

Opportunities

More sustainable housing and community design

Develop services and define priorities in order to respond to expected changes.

Better outcomes for older people (when combined with integration of health/social care and a shift towards anticipatory care)

Increase the voluntary sector capacity (older people)

Increase community diversity, understanding and cohesion

CORE THEME - INEQUALITIES

In the UK, the poorest half of the population holds just 9% of the wealth. The richest 10% are 100 times richer than the poorest 10%.

*“The demand for public services is set to increase dramatically over the medium term – partly because of demographic changes, but also because of our failure up to now to tackle the causes of disadvantage and vulnerability – inequalities that have widened in recent years.”
Christie Commission June 2011*

Overall, Scotland is not a poor country, however it suffers high levels of income inequality and historically has a poorer track record for improving this compared to the rest of the UK¹.

Poverty is more than just a lack of money or employment (indeed almost half of Scottish children living in poverty have a parent in work²): a vast range of poorer outcomes are linked to deprivation; the **spread** of wealth, health, education, employment, safety and well being and the **gap** between communities should be the core focus of the Community Planning Partnership.

Despite ‘reducing inequality’ featuring prominently in each of the Scottish Government’s national outcomes and the Single Outcome Agreements (SOA), the economy is the sole driver for Scotland’s purpose; and so inequality becomes synonymous with ‘income inequality’. The fact that the national objective is “Wealthier & Fairer” only serves to compound this.

The current focus on work as the main route out of poverty overlooks the issues facing the ‘working poor’ and those who do not or cannot work such as some people with health issues, children and pensioners. The circumstances you are born into are a central determinant of poverty and one which the child has no influence over. Age-related poverty is not just about pensioner poverty – it can happen as a result of different challenges and decisions someone makes at any life stage, any of which can be a key determinant of whether someone will be poor later in life.

In the Scottish government’s framework to tackle poverty and income inequality in Scotland – ‘Achieving our Potential’ – there is a commitment to promote equality and tackle discrimination by: “challenging stereotypes, building on public sector equality duties and supporting individuals so that all can meet their potential”. The report explicitly recognises that ‘people

¹ Equality Rights Commission reports 45 (released 2009) & 61 (released 2010)

² Joseph Rowntree foundation

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from minority ethnic backgrounds, disabled people and those with caring responsibilities, for example, can be at a particular disadvantage', however the supporting strategy has been criticised for using the terms 'equality' or 'inequality' inconsistently.

In West Lothian there is an Anti-Poverty strategy, the Local Housing strategy mentions inequality, there is a focus on Looked After Children (LAC) and community regeneration based on deprived areas and there is a Health Inequalities and Alliance, however we need to mainstream these issues and ensure that our SOA and Community Plan and strategies recognise this and do not simply seek to tackle income inequality or view poverty as a money issue alone. It may benefit communities to develop a single programme of work to tackle inequalities and the cause(s) and results of poverty.

More unequal societies are bad for almost everyone: rich as well as poor¹- nearly every modern social and health problem² are all more likely to occur in a less equal society. Our communities also have a role in fuelling poverty and inequality globally through out demand for cheap goods – those suffering the greatest impact from consumerism are often developing nations. On the basis that they met criteria for Impact and Severity (personal and societal) and Persistence (lifetime and generational), significant inequalities in Scotland³ were identified by work carried out by the Equality and Human Rights Commission as

- I. Poverty/low income⁴
- II. Access to services⁵
- III. Employment⁶
- IV. Education⁷
- V. Health⁸
- VI. Discrimination, social exclusion and lack of participation⁹
- VII. Targeted violence and safety (physical security)¹

¹ Wilkinson and Pickett (2009)

² Obesity, lack of community life, violence, drugs, mental illness and large prison populations

³ Equality Rights Commission reports 45 (released 2009) & 61 (released 2010)

⁴ Poverty, low income and economic inactivity have different effects on different people. There is recognition of both relative poverty (that is, the gap between the rich and poor) and absolute poverty (for example, having an income that is below a certain fixed amount)

⁵ This includes a wide range of services; equal access to advice and guidance; and voice and dignity when using services.

⁶ Includes access to and progression within the labour market, equal pay and tackling discrimination in the workplace.

⁷ Includes bullying and harassment in schools, segregation resulting from dividing children into mainstream/special and state/private schools and inequality of educational attainment.

⁸ Includes inequality in access to health advice and guidance, and inequality of health outcomes.

⁹ Includes limited opportunities for participation in society and community (including digital exclusion), the impact of negative attitudes, and a lack of awareness of the needs and abilities of specific groups.

A report from the New Economics Foundation explored the determinants of economic inequality, with the starting point (i.e. the situation you're born into), early life opportunities, and social mobility important. A 2007 Barnardos report² identified five groups that are more at risk of suffering from poverty than others:

- I. *Lone parents* – linked to high worklessness and low out of work benefits. Social exclusion and cost of childcare are frequently mentioned barriers.
- II. *Large families* – cost of providing for children. Unemployment due to childcare costs are frequently mentioned.
- III. *Parents or children with disabilities* – cost of living is more expensive than for families where no-one has a disability (around £100 per week extra).
- IV. *Black and minority ethnic groups* – particularly in Pakistani and Bangladeshi households (whether in employment or unemployed). Education and worklessness are key drivers.
- V. *Working families* – those in low-paid jobs (the gender pay gap is particularly important³), headed by young people, ethnic minorities and those that include a disabled adult.
- VI. *Other vulnerable groups* e.g. asylum seekers, workless households, young people living independently, children living in poor housing.

Due to the impact of the recession and the anticipated impact of welfare reform, older people and younger people of working age may also begin to be included in this group. A recent report⁴ also evidenced the discrimination and unequal outcomes faced by the Gypsy and Travelling people community, particularly with health and social care.

¹ Includes domestic abuse, targeted violence and other violations of physical security including sectarianism and other kinds of targeted victimisation based on visible or perceived difference(s).

² "It Doesn't Happen Here" http://www.barnardos.org.uk/resources/research_and_publications/it-doesnt-happen-here--the-reality-of-child-poverty-in-the-uk/publication-view.jsp?pid=PUB-1462

³ Low paid workers in Scotland are twice as likely to be women than men – Scotland Futures Forum, Poverty & Inequality 2009

<http://www.scotlandfutureforum.org/assets/files/Poverty%20Conference%20report.pdf>

⁴ http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_EqualOpportunitiesCommittee/Reports/eor-12-03w.pdf

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Throughout the strategic assessment process, the correlation between deprivation and poorer outcomes across all areas of analysis, and the need to tackle these inequalities and the cause(s) of these inequalities became apparent. These are often self-perpetuating¹ as well as generational cycles which need to be broken; with multiple poorer outcomes across the spectrum i.e. people are more likely to be income and health and employment deprived rather than just one. These are often all interlinked with causal factors difficult to determine, and often the effects of poverty are also the causes of poverty, resulting in a cycle which is complex to break.

Almost 15,000 people in West Lothian (9% of the county's population) live within some of the most deprived areas in Scotland - 19 out of the 211 datazones in West Lothian are in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland². In addition to this there will be pockets of deprivation in other areas which are *not* within a geographically recognised area of deprivation³. Around 27,500 people are experiencing income deprivation⁴ and there almost 20,000 socially rented households in West Lothian; with around 3% with more than 13% weeks rent arrears. 28% of private sector housing has urgent disrepair and although this is lower than other local authorities, there are still 14,000 households living in poor quality housing.

In West Lothian the proportion of children in families dependent on out of work benefits or child tax credit is 47% - worse than the Scottish average for this measure of child poverty. Conversely, a relatively low proportion of children live in 'income deprived' areas, though an estimated 11% of children in West Lothian are living in severe poverty – joint 4th nationally, and equating to around 3,800 children⁵.

There is a higher rate of Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA) for West Lothian adults than the UK average, but better than national average for those classed as income/employment deprived. Unemployment in young people is also fairly high.

Smarter | Wealthier

¹ The poorest are also typically marginalised from society and have little representation or voice in public and political debates, making it even harder to escape poverty.

² Deprivation in Scotland is measured by a range of factors including wage levels and unemployment benefit claimants and the Government's Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) maps the concentrations of disadvantage within Scotland, by ranking areas in order of multiple deprivation². It is also worth noting that for West Lothian, SIMD does not accurately identify all areas of deprivation - if an area has some streets that are affluent and some that are deprived, this will average out and show as an area of limited deprivation. As West Lothian's datazones tend to be more mixed in terms of deprivation, than for example, Glasgow's, as the area does not have many large estates of single tenure. Therefore whilst the SIMD results give us one indication of deprivation, the figures must be used alongside other data to provide a balanced picture.

³ Still some significant work to be done to identify these areas.

⁴ http://www.sns.gov.uk/Reports/Report.aspx?ReportId=1&MetaIndicatorCode=CSGPC_pertotal#Meta

⁵ Note that there is much debate nationally about the best measure of poverty, some poverty indicators show child poverty to be below the Scottish and UK levels.

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Nationally, the population of pupils classed on a sliding scale from 'most deprived' (1) to 'least deprived' (10) is fairly evenly spread, however in West Lothian, 44% are within the most deprived¹, and only 38% in the least deprived² and the remaining 18% in the middle.

Attainment is heavily dependent on levels of deprivation, with S2 pupils in poorer areas half as likely to perform well.

Looked After Children (LAC) tend to have poorer outcomes compared to non-LAC, educational attainment is likely to be affected by the various reasons that led to the child becoming looked after, for example familial issues. Although educational attainment for LAC has improved in recent years – in 2010/11 70.6% achieved English/Maths Standard Grade aged 16-17 years in 2005/06 compared to 65% in 2005/06 – it remains far below that for non-LAC who achieved 94% for the same indicator in 2010/11.

Over the last three years there has been a rise in the % of Primary School uptake of clothing grants – from 18% in 2008/09 to 25% in 2010/11, with a similar increased seen in Secondary Schools – 14.4% to 19.44%, respectively.

In 2011, 41% of West Lothian pupils (984) are classed as being from a Minority Ethnic background³, 34% (838) as White-Other⁴ and 25% (608) were not known/did not disclose). Nationally these figures were 52%, 30% and 18%, respectively. Since 2009 the percentage of pupils in primary, secondary and special schools where English is not their home language has increased from 2.89% to 3.63%. The main three languages after English (in 2011) were Polish, Urdu and Punjabi (the same three prevalent languages after English nationally).

The proportion of young people not in education, employment or training and the proportion of school leavers in positive and sustained destinations are both poorer than the average for Scotland, though similar to comparator Local Authority areas. Qualification levels among West Lothian's population are lower than the Scottish average and average earnings are also lower, though the latter is limited by the type of employment opportunities within West Lothian. Both qualification and wage levels (resident and workforce) have improved relative to Scotland over the last five years, but still remain below the averages.

¹ 1-4 on the scale

² Between 7 & 10

³ All categories other than White-Scottish / White Other British and White Other (Gypsy/Traveller/Irish/Polish)

⁴ White-Gypsy/Traveller/Irish/Polish

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The Scottish Survey of Adult Literacies in 2009 found that one of the key factors linked to lower literacy capabilities is poverty, with adults living in 15% of the most deprived areas in Scotland more likely to have literacy capabilities at the lower end of the scale.

Healthier

Research has shown that people who are most affected by societal inequalities related to factors such as low income, gender, social position, ethnic origin, geography, age and disability are more likely to have poorer physical and mental health than the general population. A major cause for concern is that inequalities in health status are increasing within Scotland thus the narrowing of this gap is now one of the main aims of the health improvement challenge. There are still significant pockets of deprivation within West Lothian and the impact on health includes above average rates of smoking and alcohol-related harm within these areas as well as reduced life expectancy and healthy life expectancy, early deaths and poor mental well being.

Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) deaths have strong links to deprivation, particularly for those <75 years old, though there has been a steady decline in recent years (particularly 2005 onwards). Historically West Lothian has had a higher rate than the national average, though in recent years this gap has narrowed, and in 2010 the West Lothian rate was lower than the national for the first time since 2004.

Scotland has one of the highest mortality rates from stroke/CVD in Western Europe, with this clearly correlated with deprivation, particularly for those <75 years – almost 4 times higher for those in the 10% most deprived areas compared to the least deprived areas. The national rate for <75 years continues to decrease.

In Scotland alone, up to 850,000 individuals may have a mental health problem at any one time. Mental Health problems cause considerable poor health in Scotland and can affect anyone, although individuals who are socially excluded or subject to inequalities are thought to be more susceptible.

Safer

The risk of property crime was higher for adults living in the 15% most deprived areas (21%) compared with those living in the rest of Scotland (17%). There was no difference between the risk of violent crime for adults living in the 15% most deprived areas compared with those living in the rest of Scotland (3% in both cases).

Offenders are thought to be some of the most disadvantaged groups in society. They are more likely than most people to have had family dysfunction and problematic adult

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relationships, poor literacy and numeracy resulting from dis-engaging from education, substance misuse and mental health issues. A lack of access to health services and poor accommodation also often feature.

Forecast

Prior to the economic downturn, the percentage of West Lothian households that were in poverty was relatively stable, however in the last few years, locally and nationally, this has begun to change.

Increasing deprivation and inequality - recent releases around the income domain indicate that there has been an increase in income and employment deprivation in the most deprived SIMD zones in West Lothian. The continuing economic downturn and political changes, mainly around welfare reform, have increased employment deprivation, financial hardship and homelessness, particularly in already deprived areas where there is less resilience. This has served to increase the inequality gap in West Lothian, Scotland and the UK.

Compared to some local authorities and the Scottish average the percentage of households in poverty is lower in West Lothian. West Lothian has similar poverty as the City of Edinburgh, Aberdeenshire and Highland and higher than Aberdeen City but lower than Fife, North Lanarkshire and City of Glasgow.

Challenges

- ∞ Breaking the cycle of deprivation
- ∞ Reducing inequality at a time when the gap is rapidly widening

Opportunities

- ∞ Take forward the inequalities agenda and embed it into everything the CPP does, further develop the anti-poverty plan and Families Included work which targets families with multiple issues, often spanning the generations.

WEALTHIER & FAIRER

“Enable businesses and people to increase their wealth and allow more people to share fairly in that wealth. This will generate more opportunities to work; make Scotland a more attractive place to live, work and invest; and ensure that the benefits of increased national prosperity are shared fairly across Scotland.” Scottish Government

Govt:

- Growing the economy – economic recovery / key sectors / employability / simplify planning
- Tackling climate change – climate change facts / energy / green jobs / sustainable transport
- Reforming public services – Reform agenda / efficient government / effective 3rd sector / better procurement

West Lothian’s economy has reacted positively to constant change over the last thirty years, moving from one that was dominated by manufacturing, to strong growth in service sectors including financial services, retail and wholesale distribution. This diverse economy is reflected in the fact that no single business sector now provides more than a quarter of employment.

West Lothian, in common with other areas, has experienced a recent downturn, due to the global recession, and unemployment has risen as a result, with unemployment in young people aged 16-24 years of particular concern. However, the working age population who are classed as ‘employment deprived’ is statistically significantly better than in Scotland.

Based on the 2010 Citizen’s Panel, 60-65% agree West Lothian feels successful, and is good for business. But there were very poor responses regarding finding a job – hard to find help / few job opportunities (particularly well paid ones) / hard to find a job (some of this is the current economic climate, but some may be communication too). 50% say they don’t have access to a range of learning opportunities and aren’t available (64%).

Some additional work is anticipated as a result of extending Outcome 16 – Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people’s needs - to all core community planning partners rather than just West Lothian Council.

The Future

The UK economy, is facing the toughest challenge ever experienced in a post war period. There has already been significant impact on the public sector and the financial austerity programme will necessitate fiscal constraint over the next five years. With public sector bodies having already made material budget reductions, it will become increasingly difficult to implement further efficiencies. The continued restraint on public sector finances has an organisational impact on public sector employment, largely managed to date through workforce planning and voluntary severance measures. Maintaining high levels of service, with reduced resources is going to remain a challenge for the foreseeable future.

Partnership working, moving resources upstream in conjunction with prevention and early intervention and becomes increasingly important in these times – in short, all qualities identified as important by the Christie Commission report published in June 2011 - and West Lothian must continue to build upon the progress already made in these areas.

The impact of the economic downturn has been vast and varied and includes decreased employment opportunities and a rise in unemployment, particularly for young people, with a subsequent increase in financial hardship and risk of homelessness, particularly when combined with welfare reform¹. This has also led to a rise in the state pension age which creates a further bottleneck within the jobs market and squeezes young people out, however an increase in overall skills of young people are likely to increase as more of them stay on into S5 and S6, and possibly enter Further and Higher Education. There has also been increased financial pressure on businesses. West Lothian's business and employment base is still overly dependent on large global companies and there is a risk of these large employers leaving the area, further perpetuating the downturn.

Commodity prices have risen globally, including oil and metal, resulting in higher motoring costs, increased road surfacing costs and increases in fuel, metal and jewellery thefts.

Impact is not limited to the employment or finance sector, and some studies are beginning to show a negative impact of the economic downturn on people's mental health and has been linked to rises in suicides in a number of countries. In times of economic hardship there is often an, arguably artificial distinction, made between necessary and 'nice to do', with creative arts and the 'green' agenda suffering – the sole focus is on getting the economy moving.

Challenges

¹ Changes to Incapacity benefit and disability living allowance, Child benefit, Employment Support Allowance (ESA), Consumer Price Indexation of benefits, Council tax benefit, Housing benefit. Increase in the demand for 1bed homes, Tax credit. It will result in the provision of universal credit

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- ∞ Tackling the possible increase in illegal use of vehicles that are not roadworthy and without insurance, as well as an increase in theft of fuel and metal theft.
- ∞ Improving infrastructure to enable the shift to more sustainable transport, in addition to safety measures required should there be an increase in the number of cyclists on the road.
- ∞ Limiting the impact of welfare reform which is anticipated to disproportionately affect particular sectors of the community¹.
- ∞ Tackling rising fuel poverty.
- ∞ Building capacity to attract new business and investment to West Lothian recognising that we are unlikely to regain Assisted Area Status.
- ∞ Ensuring West Lothian takes advantage of the national growth sectors, including renewable energy.
- ∞ Maximise the growth and employment potential of businesses start-ups and existing Small/Medium Enterprises
- ∞ Welfare Reform is designed to encourage people back to work, but arguably there are comparatively few employment opportunities.
- ∞ Mitigating the risk of reduced transport services to Edinburgh due to decreasing demand, which could make West Lothian a less attractive option to live when working out with, or will demand an increasing subsidy from the Council

West Lothian, along with a number of other local authorities are going to introduce the 'living wage' of £7.20ph which is designed to address levels of poverty and income inequality for some of the lowest paid workers. There is, however, an obvious cost implication to the local authority of funding this.

Opportunities

- ∞ Innovation will be rewarded if organisations can learn to 'do more with less', and begin programmes of change rather than series of short-term projects that finish once funding runs out.
- ∞ Move to a low carbon economy including, increasing car sharing and other forms of more sustainable transport – a healthier and lower carbon transport option.
- ∞ To increase awareness and act to prevent negative changes to mental wellbeing due to the economic downturn.
- ∞ To further develop the work with the MCMC group and skills partnership between West Lothian Education and West Lothian College and the private sector.

¹ Children and young people, lone parents, disabled people, women and the most deprived communities.

Inflation is assumed to reduce to 2% in 2013/14, with fuel and energy price increasing by 40%. This will impact upon the cost of public sector services, including pay costs, social care, public transport, energy and transport costs. This could also perpetuate a slow economy - cost of living increases outstrip income increases, and with a reduction in disposable income there is no investment in growing the economy from people spending.

Low Carbon Economy - Business

A low carbon economy is a priority for the Scottish Government, and is necessary in order to meet the challenging Climate Change targets – reducing emissions by 42% by 2020 and 80% by 2080. This covers businesses and homes in terms of waste, efficiency, energy, supply networks and transport; and will ensure sustainability and stability to cope with unpredictable commodity prices but also combat the wider health implications of high emissions.

Developing a climate change strategy for West Lothian is necessary to ensure contribution to Scotland's low carbon economy and meeting the ambitious Climate Change targets, and involving all CPP partners and private, public, third and community sectors is crucial. For example: focusing on skills development in West Lothian to service the anticipated growth in the renewables sector; considering the greener agenda in each planning and development discussion; or working with businesses to reduce waste, increase use of renewables and efficiencies. It is important that changes to current behaviour are driven by the Community Planning Partnership and this should be a key consideration across the partnership.

The community side of the low carbon economy will be covered more under 'Greener'.

Infrastructure

60% of Scotland's population and 54% of businesses are within one hour's travel time of West Lothian, making it an extremely well-connected county. Public transport East/West is relatively simple via trains and buses, particularly the development of the Bathgate-Airdrie rail line; however public transport North/South is more difficult and frequently highlighted as an area for improvement by West Lothian communities - 59% of the 2010 Citizens' Panel agreed public transport is easy to access, 38% believe it's affordable and 37% thought it was joined up.

For this reason, West Lothian communities are heavily dependent on car travel, particularly for those in the east of the county which impacts upon the progress West Lothian is making within the 'Greener' agenda – a low-carbon economy and climate change. Dependence on car travel also limits access for some communities; particularly for those in more deprived communities -

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people living in the 15% most deprived areas are least likely to have a car – which limits access to employment, services and other amenities.

There has been no real change in the % of residents with access to an hourly (or more frequent) bus service – 89.9% in 2010/11 to 90% in 2011/12. Based on current population projections it still means around 17000 people in West Lothian do not have this access¹.

Business²

The latest data for 2013 showed a net decrease in the total number of jobs in West Lothian of 2,900 between 2008 and 2010. This was anticipated given the recession's impact on the labour market in 2008 and 2009, as well as a number of major redundancies and recruitment freezes during the period. Other than a small number of rural areas, all Scottish local authorities have experienced significant job losses, and the scale of job losses in West Lothian between 2008 and 2010 (at 4%) is below that for Scotland (6%) and significantly below that experienced by our benchmark areas⁴. Due to West Lothian's location, there is ample opportunity for West Lothian residents to work in other areas, which is one reason why employment has been less severely affected in West Lothian compared to other more isolated areas.

The rate of VAT and PAYE registered businesses⁵ measures the overall level of business activity within the West Lothian area and provides a health check on the state of the local economy. Between 2009 and 2010, the total number of businesses in West Lothian increased marginally to 4,125, however the number of businesses/1,000 population actually fell slightly from 303 to 301 due to population growth during the same period, and West Lothian's rate is slightly below the national average.

The number of business starts⁶ increased initially from 2008/09 – 2009/10 – 2010/11, but there has been a small decrease in the number of starts in 2011/12. The four year average is 355.

In 2010 there were 36 new VAT & PAYE registrations in Scotland. This is fewer than in 2007, but is the highest number of registrations in the last couple of years, and similar to pre-recession levels.

¹ Unclear if this is due to geography or affordability, or a combination of the two.

² Increasing the base of VAT/PAYE businesses should be targeted and long term efforts to assist new and established businesses with growth potential and increase survival rates of new firms.

³ ONS business register and employment survey

⁴ For example, Midlothian and Falkirk lost 10% of their jobs-base and South Lanarkshire 12%.

⁵ ONS, Business Demography Dataset. This dataset was first introduced in 2008 (and included retrospect data for 2006 and 2007).

⁶ Supported through the Business Gateway.

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Note that there will be a number of businesses who are not VAT/PAYE registered, and these are not included in the figures – the VAT/PAYE registered businesses are assessed as having the biggest impact on a local economy.

In addition to business start-ups, business survival is an important measure – in West Lothian the average three-year survival rate is 65.6% (data from 2008-2010), with the 2010 rate below this at 64.4%. This is lower than the Scottish average, but similar to comparator local authorities.

As with other economic health check indicators, the economic down turn in 2008/9 has had an impact on local GVA¹. West Lothian's total GVA fell between 2008 and 2009 by an estimated -£72m (£3387m to £3315m). That is, the value of goods and services produced in West Lothian declined by this amount which equates to -2%.

West Lothian is not unique as every area within Scotland experienced a fall in total GVA, although West Lothian's reduction is a more significant fall than the Scottish reduction and that for Edinburgh of -1%, but comparable with other bench mark areas². West Lothian's GVA per head is slightly lower than for Scotland as a whole, but higher than for most non-city local authority areas.

Retail occupancy levels in West Lothian appear to be holding up well with averages of just over 90% for the last few years. The latest comparable figure for Scotland and the UK, as whole, showed occupancy levels of 88%, based on associated town management and local data company figures from May/June 2011.

Based on 2008 and 2009 data the Retail, Health and Manufacturing & Construction sectors account for 10-12% of the total West Lothian business base.

There are a number of areas that are key to Scotland's economic growth³ - West Lothian has a strong presence in the Creative industries, Food & Drink (manufacturing, distribution & logistics⁴) and Life Sciences. Retail is also strong, and though not included under the 'sustainable tourism' banner contributes to West Lothian's tourism and visitor offering. The

¹ ONS Regional Gross valued added (GVA) measures the total monetary value of an economy's output, and is expressed as a proportion of the total population. This is another trend indicator that will be highly dependent on the state of the global, UK and Scottish economic performance. The level of local GVA is also highly dependent on the sectoral mix of the local economy. For example, high value manufacturing and knowledge based sectors and construction tend to contribute higher levels of GVA than some service sectors.

² Fife/Clackmannanshire, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire

³ Creative industries, Financial and Business services, Food and Drink (manufacturing data only), Energy (including renewables), Life sciences and Sustainable tourism

⁴ This may change depending on the outcome for the Vion foods factory at Broxburn – this currently accounts for 50% of the sector employment.

strong financial sector in Edinburgh benefits commuters from West Lothian, though there is a limited presence in West Lothian. The energy sector (which includes renewables) also has a limited presence locally, with some growth potential, though development of supply chain linkages. Building a skills base in this area would also be advisable due to the importance the Scottish Government have placed on this sector.

Employment

The % of working age adults in work in West Lothian is lower than the baseline in 2008 – 73.3% now compared to 76.7% then. The impact of the recession, which has resulted in a doubling of Job Seekers Allowance unemployment, is one factor which has contributed to the drop in the % working age adults in work. Changes in the definition of working age due to changes in the pension age - which now includes women aged 60 to 64 years – have also contributed to this decrease. The majority of this group are not in work. West Lothian is close to the Scottish average for this indicator, and overall, the Scottish Government is seeking to narrow the gap between local authority areas with the highest and lowest employment rates.

The % of key benefits claimants¹ has been heavily affected by the economic slowdown with 12.7% key benefits claimants in 2008 and 13.9% in 2009, a net increase of 2,200. There has been a modest decrease however between 2009 and 2010 indicating some mild improvement.

The number of JobCentre Plus vacancies² decreased in 2009 as a result of the economic downturn experienced in late 2008 and reflected the contraction in growth and higher levels of redundancies experienced in West Lothian. The fall in the vacancy level tailed off in 2010 and numbers increased in 2011 as the West Lothian economy began to pick up. The monthly average vacancy figures do mask seasonal highs in vacancies, for example, the period preceding the Festive season. The monthly average in 2008 was 1420 compared to 844 in 2010 and 1133 in 2011.

The impact of the recession on young people is extensive – there has been a 76% increase in the number of young people unemployed in West Lothian with a three year average (2009-2011) of 1430. There is a considerable body of research to evidence that youth unemployment is now one of the most serious challenges facing the country. Unemployment has a negative effect on people irrespective of age, but has a particularly negative effect on young people with a permanent impact on employment and earnings potential. Evidence strongly indicates that when young people are unemployed they are more likely to be

¹ From DWP

² Estimated to be 1/3 of all jobs available in an area

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unemployed and welfare dependant later in life; with the average young unemployed person spending an extra two months per year out of work in their late twenties through the scarring effects of youth unemployment. These people are also likely to be paid less in later life; the average person earning £1800- £3000 less per year by their early thirties. Youth unemployment is also likely to impact negatively on an individual's mental and physical health and they are more liable to become involved in anti social activity. Collectively, all these factors will impact negatively on public sector finances, with more money being spent on social consequences.

Since 2009 there has been a reduction in the number of people supported by WLC Employability service and the number supported that report a successful outcome. 1715 supported in 2009 (46.5% reporting a successful outcome) and 1089 supported in 2011 (26% reported a successful outcome). This reflects the refocusing of the service to target clients with more significant barriers to employment.

Financial Security & Income

Successful local economies tend to have higher overall levels of pay¹ with residents being employed in a range of occupations including knowledge based sectors, technology based manufacturing, and professional services. These sectors also tend to provide graduate level employment opportunities.

The latest resident data for 2011 continues to show a substantial increase in the overall figure for West Lothian. The gap between West Lothian and the Scottish figure has narrowed notably - in 2009 West Lothian wage levels were 10% below the Scottish level. In 2010 the gap had closed to 6%. In 2011 the gap was 2.4%. The three year average for West Lothian is £454.30.

The West Lothian workforce data has seen similar rises from 2008 to 2011, with a three year average of £455.67. There has been a similar narrowing in the gap between West Lothian and Scottish averages – in 2009 West Lothian was 10% behind the Scottish level and in 2010 this narrowed to 5%.

The resident vs workforce data demonstrates a difference between earnings of those who work in West Lothian and those who reside in West Lothian but work elsewhere – earnings of the former remain low, and earnings of the latter are higher because of the comparatively better paid jobs out with West Lothian.

¹ Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)

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Those with lower incomes and living in socially rented housing and in receipt of benefits are more likely to be struggling financially¹. Apart from the richest tenth, the overall distribution of income has changed little over the last decade – the poorest tenth have 2% of total income².

From 05/06 – 09/10 the proportion of households in West Lothian that felt they were coping well financially increased from 46.9% to 48%, during the same period nationally this went from 47.2% to 48.7%. West Lothian households feel broadly the same regarding financial security in 2009/10 as the national feeling.

Fewer West Lothian households have savings compared to Scotland's households – 61.5% compared to 67.8% nationally in 2009/10, though both locally and nationally the number of savings over recent years has increased – 51.1% in 2005/06 in West Lothian and Scotland. As household income rises, the likelihood of having savings/investments also increases with the exception of those whose income is up to £1000 (slightly higher chance of having savings than those with £10001-20000 income). Single adults are less likely to have savings/investments than small families or a small adult.

60% do not have outstanding debts on credit/charge cards, and 38% do. Nationally, 64% have no outstanding debt on cards and 36% do. Families are most likely to carry this debt. House owners and those whose main income comes from earnings are most likely to have this debt. The same is true for loans. The % of people with a bank/building society account has remained relatively stable in the last couple of years – 90-92%.

Housing

The 248 homes in the first phase of the Council's programme to build new Council homes for rent were completed and let over the last couple of years. There was also a significant increase in the number of annual Housing Association partner completions in 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 due to increased and accelerated funding from the Scottish Government. From 2007 to 2011 there has been a cumulative increase in the number of affordable houses being built in West Lothian, with 832 as of April 2011. The relatively large increase in the private rented sector in West Lothian – 4% of stock in 2007 to 10% in 2011 – is also significant for the Local Housing Strategy, and there are now more than 7,000 registered properties in West Lothian.

The economic downturn has had a profound and unprecedented effect on the housing market. The reduced supply of mortgages, the lack of consumer confidence in the housing market and economic uncertainty has resulted in a significant slowdown in house sales and house

¹ From Scottish Household Survey 2011

² As footnote 1

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building, with almost a 50% drop between 2007 and 2008, and only 234 homes completed in 2011 (1026 completed on average per year pre-economic downturn).

Core Themes

- Meeting housing need and demand
- Housing options
- Independent living
- Improving communities
- House condition and sustainability
- Fuel poverty & climate change

There has been a year on year increase in the number of people receiving a housing support service in West Lothian, with an average of 10223 per year based on 2009-11 data. During the course of an average year around 7.5% of West Lothian's population received a housing service, and there have been small increases year on year (around 100 additional people per year).

Housing quality has a role to play within health, and West Lothian Council's housing stock was surveyed and deemed to be of above average quality, and this has increased steadily from 2006/07 to 2010/11 – 65.7% in 2010/11 42.4% is the 2009/10 Scottish average).

Similar high quality should be reflected in the private rented sector, however 28% of private sector housing has urgent disrepair (14,000 properties). This is a lower level than most other Scottish Local Authorities, and the performance of private sector housing in terms of NHER (National Home Energy Rating) is also better than most Local Authority areas with 77% of private sector housing stock being in bands 6-10. Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) are also required to ensure all their homes meet the SHQS by 2015, and interim statistics published by the Scottish Housing Regulator show that 73.2% of RSL stock in West Lothian met the SHQS in 2010. Projections from the Scottish Housing Regulator indicate that 99.9% of RSL stock in West Lothian will meet SHQS in 2015.

In 2010/11 1935 households presented as *homeless*, an increase on 9% of the previous year. Typically around 1,800 homeless presentations are received each financial year. However, in 2010/11, due to the economic climate, there was an increase in the number of households presenting in 2010 compared to previous years (a level not seen since 2006). The % of lets to homeless applicants is higher than the Scottish rate – 67% compared to 42% nationally, particularly in the under 25-age group.

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Single people, particularly single males are an over represented group (56% are a single person) followed by single parents (27%), through these are mostly females. Couples, and couples with children, represent less than 10% each.

West Lothian has high numbers of young people presenting as homeless, compared to other local authority areas - 45% of homeless applications come from those aged 16-25 years. This figure, covering a rather narrow age group is only slightly less than the 53% of applications from the 26-59 year group.

Relationship breakdown¹ within the household is by far the biggest reason for homelessness, both locally and nationally, accounting for almost a quarter of homeless applications, and 43% is in a similar category - 'asked to leave'. Further to this, Domestic abuse counts for 9% and Termination of tenancy by a landlord accounts for 17%.

There is an increasing demand for affordable housing in West Lothian², with a shortfall in the provision of affordable housing, and one bedroom properties.

In 2003, the Scottish Parliament passed the Homelessness (Scotland) Act which, among other things, set the objective that by 31 December 2012 all homeless applications would be entitled to settled accommodation. This objective, which is one of the Scottish Government's 45 National Indicators, is generally referred to as the 2012 homelessness commitment. At present, those with a priority assessment are entitled to settled accommodation, while those assessed as non-priority are entitled to temporary accommodation, advice and assistance only. In April 2012 West Lothian Council took the decision to abolish the priority need test early, as have some other Local Authorities.

In 2010/11 West Lothian was ranked 6th of 32 Scottish Local Authorities, with 68.8% of priority unintentionally homeless households securing permanent accommodation, and has been consistently higher than the Scottish average. Since 2008/09 permanent accommodation has been secured for an increasing proportion of this priority population – 65.5% to 65.7% to 67.1% to 68.8% in 2011/12. There has been some team restructuring and a new preventative approach to homelessness³ adopted, resulting in an increase in positive permanent outcomes for people, a reduction in repeat homelessness, good sustainability of tenancies and an increase in the percentage presentations accepted as priority homeless from 78.9% in 08/09 to 89.8% in 2010/11. Since April 2012 this has been 100%. There also appears to be a slight

¹ There are various underlying reasons for the type of relationship breakdown including overcrowding, financial difficulty, unemployment, anti-social behaviour, domestic violence, substance misuse, mental ill health or physical impairment.

² Lothian Housing Needs and Demand Study Update 2008 and the SESPLAN Housing Needs and Demand Assessment

³ 'Housing Options'

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recovery in the number of households presenting as homeless with only 1726 presentations in 2011/12; however welfare reform is anticipated to impact negatively upon homelessness.

Compared to Scotland West Lothian has fewer houses in extreme fuel poverty – 4.2% locally compared to 7.5% nationally - though this could increase due rising costs, a number of recent extremely cold winters and other political reforms such as welfare reform. This is also unequally spread across the area, often based on deprivation.

SMARTER

“Expand opportunities for people in Scotland to succeed from nurture through to life long learning ensuring higher and more widely shared achievements. Lay the foundations for the future wellbeing and achievement of our children and young people, increase skill levels across the population and better channel the outputs of our universities and colleges into sustainable wealth creation, especially participation, productivity and economic growth.”
Scottish Government

Govt

- Early years – EY framework / Health inequality framework / Anti-poverty framework
- At school - CfE
- Skills – skills for Scotland

There have been significant improvements in the attainment, skills and positive destinations of West Lothian youngsters in recent years, however there are still improvements to be made – particularly for Looked After Children, children from more deprived areas and the increasing proportion of children with additional learning/support needs. Because of the poorer attainment historically, there will be a proportion of West Lothian’s adults who have fewer skills and a lower base attainment level who may have poorer employment outcomes.

The importance of early years in ensuring young people are ready to succeed and become effective contributors and responsible citizens cannot be overstated. Planned extensions to pre-school education will ensure young people enter school ready to succeed, however this learning begins at home with carers and families playing a significant role in developing play, motor and language skills ensuring young people are not disadvantaged before they even enter education. Focus on a parenting strategy should help drive this change.

Academic attainment is only one facet of skills, and equal emphasis should be placed on equipping young people for work/further study in terms of general life skills, inter-personal and financial management skills, for example.

Education and Cultural Services provides education to around 26100 pupils in 66 primary schools, 11 secondary schools and 6 schools for pupils with additional learning needs. Classes for pupils with additional learning needs exist at 3 primary schools and 2 secondary

schools. Pre-school education is provided at 5 early years centres, 10 nursery schools and 41 nursery classes. Wrap around care is provided at 14 nursery and primary schools.

The Future

The Scottish Government has implemented a new National Curriculum in Scottish Schools and from session 2013/14 onwards, the current National Qualifications will be phased out and replaced by new qualifications. Work is already underway and whilst there will be a process of implementation and continuous improvement; both of these are anticipated to deliver increased educational outcomes for attainment and positive destinations. There may also be a change in national policy on class sizes which could lead to poorer educational outcomes.

A project is currently underway to work with West Lothian employer to ascertain their current and future skills demands so schools and colleges can begin to build these skills in West Lothian's young people. There is an opportunity for skills to be built within this group in response to the national projected growth sectors – renewables and IT are two of these.

In 'Digital Scotland' the Scottish Government propose a co-ordinated and comprehensive approach to ensuring that Scotland is positioned to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the digital age. They believe it will help to build the solid infrastructure, skills and competitive base which is an essential element of the Economic Recovery Plan published in 2011. Locally, there are two examples of this - Neotopian¹ which increases the sense of community for LAC; and GLOW² which supports Curriculum for Excellence in delivering positive educational outcomes.

Challenges

- ∞ Data Security and cost considerations

Opportunities

- ∞ Further develop e-technology to deliver better outcomes
- ∞ Increase shared use of technology by partnerships and aid effective integration of services
- ∞ Flexible working options
- ∞ GIS use with staff re improving safety in lone working and improved operational efficiency due to route planning improvements
- ∞ Develop apps for communities to contact the Council

¹ Internet access and an intranet for all children looked after away from home

² National schools intranet and anytime/anywhere learning

Education

There has been little change in the subjects base that young people in West Lothian have – English, Maths, Biology, Chemistry and History are taken by the highest numbers of pupils, followed by French, Physics, Art & Design and Physical Education.

With the exception of French, languages do not feature prominently, a trend which is seen across the UK and causing some concern. Graphic communication, Accounting and Economics are other subjects that do not feature prominently.

Level 3 – Foundation Standard Grade

On average, 94% of pupils (based on a 3yr average) achieve English and Maths Level 3 by the end of S4. Performance in West Lothian secondary schools is above national levels (93%) and above comparator authority attainment levels (92%) in this measure, but there are strategies for improving this further, and significant investment in early intervention has been agreed. Over the last five years the % of pupils attaining 5+ qualifications at Level 3 by the end of S4 has remained relatively consistent at 94/95% Attainment over the last 5 years has remained stable in this indicator. Despite a drop of 1% between 2010 and 2011 attainment remains above the national average (93%) and above comparator authorities (91%).

Level 4 – Intermediate 1 / General Standard Grade

Over the last three years the % of pupils attaining 5+ qualifications at Level 4 by the end of S4 has remained relatively stable – between 79% and 81%. Performance in West Lothian secondary schools is equal to national levels (79%) and higher than comparator authority levels (77%).

Attainment is often poorer in Looked After Children, with the same indicator averaging 58% over the same review period. Since 2008/09 there has been notable improvement in educational outcomes for LAC in West Lothian, but 61% in 2010/11 remains below target.

Level 5 – Intermediate 2 / Credit Standard Grade

Over the last three years there has been a decrease in the % of pupils achieving 5+ Level 5 qualifications by the end of S4 – from 37% to 35% during the period. Performance in West Lothian secondary schools is lower than national levels (36%) but higher than comparator authority attainment levels (34%).

Level 6 - Higher

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Over the last three years there has been an increase in pupils attaining 3+ awards at Level 6 by the end of S5 with 24% of them achieving this in 2010/11 (up from 21% in 2008/09).

Performance in this measure is above target and equal to comparative local authorities and improved on previous attainment levels, but below national levels (26%). Over the last three years there has been a slight rise in the % of pupils attaining 5+ qualifications at Level 6 (higher) by the end of S5 with 11% achieving this in 2010/11, the highest level ever achieved. Performance in West Lothian secondary schools in this measure is lower than national levels (12%) but higher than comparator authority attainment levels (10%).

Additional Support & Looked After Children

In 2011, 1152 Primary School pupils in West Lothian were identified as having additional support needs. The most prevalent reasons (where reasons are known) are Social/Emotional/Behavioural difficulty (16%), Language/Speech disorder (14%) and Learning disability (11%). This is similar to national prevalence. The prevalent forms of support (where reasons are known) are Additional specialist teaching support (46%), Additional specialist non-teaching support (27%) and Health services (16%).

In the same year, 1275 Secondary School pupils were identified as having additional support needs. The most prevalent reasons are Dyslexia (25%) and Social/Emotional/Behavioural difficulty (15%). Nationally, Dyslexia only accounts for 15% of all pupils identified with additional support needs.

In West Lothian, the prevalent forms of support are Additional specialist teaching support (53%) and Additional specialist non-teaching support (29%), other forms of support are less prevalent than in Primary schools due to the nature of needs. Nationally, specialist non-teaching support is more prevalent than in West Lothian – 32% and teaching support less prevalent (44%) due to the nature of the needs.

In 2011 12.6 pupils/1000 pupils were assessed and/or declared as having a disability in West Lothian. This is lower than the Scottish rate of 21.6/1000 pupils. Most pupils had more than one adaptation assessed as required – 71% required physical adaptation, 88% required a curriculum adaptation and 69% a communication adaptation.

There has been a downward trend over the last 5 years in the number of exclusions from Primary Schools through an improved policy. The number of openings lost per 1000 pupils in 2010/11 is at its lowest level over the last 6 years – 42/1000 pupils. The 3yr average is 52/1000 pupils.

The same trend has been reflected in exclusions from Secondary School - the number of openings lost/1000 pupils in 2010/11 is at its lowest level over the last 5 years – 449/1000 pupils. The 3yr average is 578/1000 pupils.

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In the last three years there have been no children classed as 'missing from education'.

Educational attainment and positive outcomes is heavily dependent on levels of deprivation, with S2 pupils in poorer areas half as likely to perform well.

In the last three years there has been an increase in the % of Primary School pupils entitled to a free meal – from 16.8% in 2009 to 21.8% in 2011. National data for the last 3 years is 2009 16.7%, 2010 19.8% and 2011 22.6%. West Lothian has a lower level in each year, although the difference between local and national entitlement is closing – 3% difference in 2010 compared to only 0.8% in 2011.

Similarly, there has been the same trend in the % of Secondary School pupils entitled to a free meal – from 10.6% in 2009 to 16.5% in 2011. National data for the last 3 years is 2009 12.3%, 2010 14.4% and 2011 15.2%. West Lothian has a lower level in 2009 and 2010 than the national average, but in 2011 had a greater % - 16.5% locally compared to 15.2% nationally.

Free school meal uptake has also increased slightly in Primary and Secondary schools – 38% in 2009/10 to 40% in 2011/12 in Primary Schools and 30% to 33% during the same period in Secondary Schools.

Supporting young people in transition is important and can play a significant role in ensuring young people succeed in their adult life – key workers are available in all mainstream West Lothian secondary schools and support young people who are disengaging from education and the community in order to aid their positive progression, with notable evidence of the positive impact of this service. There is also a key worker who aids the transition of young people from schools out with West Lothian into the authority's education system. Each worker works with 45 young people across West Lothian's schools, and the caseload is resource dependent. As available key workers increased over recent years, the number of young people they work with has increased, indicating a continuing pool of young people at risk of disengagement.

Assessments are made using a number of factors – whether the young person is a carer, what their care status is, if they're a young parent, involved in offending, have substance misuse issues, have low attendance/attainment or poor engagement and what their physical/mental well being is like.

SIMD figures will also be used in order to provide additional key work support in schools of greatest need as well as moving toward providing group work support for young people who are showing signs of 'at risk' in S2 and S3.

In the last few years there has been a rise in the staying on rate of S4 pupils – 67% in 2008/09, 71% in 2009/10 to 74% in 2010/11, with a similar rise in S5 pupils staying on – 58%,

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63% and 66%, respectively. It is likely that the current economic and employment situation has contributed to these increased staying on rates as there are fewer opportunities for young people currently. This rise in staying on rates could begin to influence grade attainment at Higher and Advanced Higher¹ – probably reducing attainment as less able pupils who would have left school earlier stay on – but may also result in a higher overall skill and education level of West Lothian young people. The upward trend in staying on is likely to continue.

Further Education

West Lothian has a generally poorer qualification level than the rest of Scotland with 22% possessing degrees/professional qualifications, compared to 26% nationally. Though there are more HNC/HND qualifications – 17% compared to 10% nationally.

Combined participation rates in Further and Higher Education in West Lothian now sit above the Scottish average. A continuing rise in the percentage of West Lothian school leavers entering Further Education now sits at 28.4%; this is above the Scottish average of 27.1%.

On average, 80-90% of West Lothian College's pupils are from West Lothian, with more than 50% from Livingston. The 16-19 years population of the College accounts for almost 60% of all learners followed by 25+ then 20-24 years; with the <16 years accounting for 6% of learners.

West Lothian College is committed to meet the Scottish Government's ambition to guarantee all 16-19 year olds whatever their circumstances a place in post-16 education and training. Clear priorities have been identified by the Government to also address the provision for those unemployed between 20-24 years old, those in the workplace who require up-skilling and activity with S4/6 school pupils in pursuit of the entitlements of the Senior Phase of Curriculum for Excellence.

West Lothian College annually reviews the curriculum portfolio to reflect national and local sector skills priorities and ensure a breadth and depth of opportunities to develop knowledge and essential transferable skills, as well as encouraging entrepreneurship and citizenship. Distribution & Logistics, Retail, Tourism and Financial Services have all been developed in response to the skills priorities needs. Sport & Recreation is one of the few areas that have remained relatively consistent. Consistently over-subscribed courses are in hairdressing and beauty, motor vehicle, early education and childcare and access to nursing; however there are

¹ Though this will not change the S4 attainment performance grade.

insufficient places in higher education institutes and opportunities in the work place to merit increasing the intake of these courses.

The capacity to offer training places in West Lothian has been insufficient to meet the demands of a population which has been expanding for the past twenty years. It is anticipated that changes to the distribution of funding means West Lothian College should look forward to an increase in the supply of further education to meet the needs of young people.

Adults

The Scottish Survey of Adult Literacy (SSAL) 2009 represents the biggest survey of adult literacy levels undertaken in Scotland. The survey measured three dimensions of literacy skills (prose, document and quantitative) for almost 2000 people living in Scotland and found that:

- 73.3% of the Scottish working age population have a level of literacy that is recognised internationally as appropriate for a contemporary society;
- around one-quarter of the Scottish population (26.7%) may face occasional challenges and constrained opportunities due to their literacy difficulties, but will generally cope with their day-to-day lives; and,
- within this quarter of the population, 3.6% (one person in 28) face serious challenges in their literacy practices.

Within West Lothian this equates to 79,360 with appropriate literacy levels but 28,907 who face occasional challenge/constraint and 1000 that face serious challenges in their literacy practice.

Skills

There has been notable improvement in the percentage of school leavers entering a positive destination (employment, further education, training or voluntary work) over the last 3 years – 82% in 2008/09, 84% in 2009/10 and 89% in 2010/11, and West Lothian is now on a par with the national figure of 89%. Based on a four year average from 2007/08 to 2010/11, 61% went into Higher or Further education and 21% into employment. At 11%, the group unemployed and seeking work is the next highest proportion. Only 5% went into training.

In West Lothian the destinations with increases were Higher Education and Further Education, with decreases seen in employment, which is due to the recent economic circumstance.

The increase in higher and further education uptake will raise the skill level of West Lothian young people, and it is important that there are employment opportunities in West Lothian or

further afield to use these skills, and that academic choices made are reflective of growth sectors.

The three year average (2008-2010) of % population with workplace qualifications¹ for West Lothian is 67.5%. 29.1%² of the West Lothian population have an HND qualification, only slightly lower than the most recent national figure of 31%.

Historically, West Lothian has a relatively low skills base, reflecting the industrial/manufacturing heritage; though improved exam attainment at school/college and immigration have improved this in recent years, with almost a 2% rise between 2009 and 2010. The most recent Scottish figure is 69%, so despite the increase West Lothian remains below the Scottish average for workplace qualification(s).

Adult Basic Education (ABE)

The work of ABE covers three distinct areas: Literacies, English as a second or other language and lipreading. Key groups within the population are targeted - young people aged 16-24 who need 'more choices, more chances (MCMC)', those with few if any qualifications, unemployed people, adults with a disability, ethnic and settled minorities, offenders and those in receipt of benefits. Within West Lothian focus has been on two of these groups those who are unemployed and young people in the MCMC category.

There has been an increase in the number of adults in receipt of ABE across all target groups but a slight decrease in literacy uptake. 73% of recipients (for the 3yr average) were classed as unemployed and this proportion has increased from 2009/10 to 2011/12 (66% in 2009/10 to 81% in 2011/12). Just under half of all ABE recipients are 16-24yrs of age.

ABE can lead to recipients gaining a core skill qualification, and this has increased from 5% in 2009/10 to 10% in 2010/11 to 17% in 2011/12; with 82 people gaining a qualification in 2011/12.

Future work will focus on the provision of English as a second language as evidence supports the need for better integration between the English speaking and non-English speaking communities.

Other Learning

A snapshot of library services in West Lothian (taken May 2012) for young people indicates that children aged 5-11years account for almost 50% of memberships, the under fives (pre-school) for 28% and teenagers for around 23%.

Even though there is a greater male than female 0-17 population in West Lothian, female library memberships are greater than male memberships at all ages – 11286 compared to

¹ ON data – SQA2

² Three year average 2008-2010

9635, respectively. This becomes more pronounced from pre-school through to teenage years – 226/560/865 memberships is the difference between female and male membership from pre-school to school to teenage years. Nationally, male literacy is typically poorer than female literacy in young people.

HEALTHIER

Help people to sustain and improve their health, especially in disadvantaged communities, ensuring better, local and faster access to health care.

People living in Scotland should enjoy the best physical and mental health they can, free from preventable illness and disability. We want to make Scotland healthier by tackling health inequalities and supporting healthier lifestyles and choices, complemented by early interventions and anticipatory, responsive services.

Govt

- Improving health – alcohol / healthcare quality / smoking
- Improving opportunity (access) – life expectancy / inequalities
- Improving communities – house building / home insulation / town centre regeneration

Scotland has poorer life and healthy life expectancy than other similar Western European countries and female life expectancy is significantly poorer in West Lothian than Scotland.

Equal access to care, response and anticipatory care and support for independence are central themes for health and social care in West Lothian.

From the 2010 quality of life survey carried out using the Citizen's Panel in West Lothian, 3 in 4 respondents say their health is good/very good; 5% say bad/very bad. 2 in 10 say their day to day life is inhibited because of a long-term health condition or disability.

Overall, in addition to health inequalities, mental well being, care of older people, fitness and sporting participation, alcohol misuse and early years - incorporating both maternal and child health, particularly young mothers, smoking during pregnancy, breastfeeding and underweight children – are highlighted.

The Future

Commissioning Plans for older people and the Prevention and Reshaping care for older people funds plan for future commissioning of services for Dementia, Services for older people, Mental Health, Children & Families, Learning and Physical disabilities and Tobacco, alcohol and drugs. There may be opportunities to build outcomes from the strategic assessment process into these, or to align to these.

Some evidence shows that the economic downturn and welfare reform have, and are likely to continue, to impact negatively upon some people's mental well being as well as increasing health inequalities – these will be challenges for the partnership to intervene and reduce this impact.

Demographic change – rising overall population and a rapidly increasing older population – will result in higher prevalence of health problems linked to older people including, amongst others, dementia and falls; and provide a significant challenge for health and care partnerships to care for these people. With a background of plans to integrate adult health and social care and the requirement to provide increased independence and community care this will be challenging, but these approaches provide an opportunity to improve health (and other) outcomes for this population.

A shift towards increased care in the community, self-directed support¹ and independence provides better outcomes for people and an improved quality of life, and may be more cost effective for providers.

Challenges

- ∞ Quantifying future need
- ∞ Ensuring properties are adaptable and accessible to allow for this future shift
- ∞ Rise in expensive clinical waste uplifts from people's homes
- ∞ Increase in vulnerable people within the community e.g. fire risk / bogus caller risk / accidents within the home.
- ∞ As service providers, becoming more flexible and responsive to individuals needs.

Opportunities

- ∞ Telecare and Integrated adult health & social care provides significant opportunity to permit this
- ∞ Implement energy efficiency, renewable and low carbon energy sources for heat and electricity at start of new build developments.

Children, in particular LAC will remain a focus for the Scottish Government – the Children and Young People Bill¹ and Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011² are hoped to contribute to better outcomes for children and families.

¹ The Bill comes into force by end of March 2013. Applies to all children 'in need' and gives clear message that children and their families/carers must be involved in assessing need for support/services and can make informed choices about their own care.

Challenges

- ∞ Lack of clarity around additional resources required to assist roles that are likely to become a legislative requirement in GIRFEC.
- ∞ Risk around the interpretation of the legislation.
- ∞ No clarification around the relationship between the courts and hearing system re permanence orders.
- ∞ One section continues to exclude unmarried fathers with no parental rights and responsibilities.

Opportunities

- ∞ Opportunity to embed all/some aspects of GIRFEC and Early Years Framework in law.
- ∞ Strengthen the rights of the child
- ∞ Increase the amount of free early learning and childcare.
- ∞ Remove barriers to child-centred service delivery.
- ∞ Focus on outcomes and improving life chances.

For LAC there is likely to be an increase in children in kinship care, but there is a challenge around recruiting foster carers and adoption as well as with recruitment of social and care staff. West Lothian LAC continue to perform better than the Scottish average LAC population but transition and care leavers remains a challenge, outcomes for LAC remain poorer than the wider population, and there is little information about LAC outcomes other than educational ones.

There is high demand in West Lothian for quality affordable and market housing, and high quality housing provides key outcome benefits such as health and well being. Challenges are around a lack of supply of housing to meet demand (all tenures), insufficient temporary accommodation and assisting those people with complex needs. Delivering improvements with a limited budget is also a challenge, but provides an opportunity to invest in improvements to existing properties and in sustainable housing developments.

¹ Introduced to Parliament in 2013 leading to fundamental reforms in the way children and their families are supported

² Implementation for September 2012. Many changes to the children's hearing system including regulation of personnel, structure of the system and changes to 'grounds of referral', right to appear and 'relevant persons' status. LAs will also come under more scrutiny about implementation of decisions made at the hearing.

Live Longer

Scotland has poorer life and *healthy* life expectancy than other similar Western European countries, and female life expectancy is significantly poorer in West Lothian than Scotland - 78.7 years locally compared to 79.5 years in Scotland.

Since 1998, life expectancy at birth has increased by 4% to 78.1 years in West Lothian, a greater improvement than Scotland, particularly for males. Male life expectancy in West Lothian is now slightly higher than for Scotland and slightly lower for females, though female life expectancy remains higher than male. Despite an increase in healthy life expectancy in males living in England, this declined in males in Scotland from 61.2 years to 59.8 years (in England this is 64.4 years)¹. The gap is also widening between males and females nationally, but likely to be less pronounced in West Lothian due to the lower than average female life expectancy.

Compared to Scotland for the period 2008 to 2010, West Lothian had a lower death rate, 8.4/1000 population, compared to 10.5 for Scotland. Death rates have remained relatively stable over recent years, but the projected rise in the +65 population in the future is likely to bring West Lothian closer to the national rate.

The main cause of death in West Lothian was cancer followed by circulatory disease early deaths (<75 Years) due to Coronary Heart Disease, both of which correlate strongly with deprivation.

On average (from 2008-2011) there were 274-275 new lairs sold or used within cemeteries. It is anticipated that there is sufficient capacity in all existing cemeteries until at least 2017, and an in depth assessment will be carried out before January 2014. New cemeteries are pending at West Calder, Fauldhouse and Armadale with a planned new cemetery at East Calder. West Lothian also has a recently commissioned privately run crematorium which may decrease burial requirement. There is also interest and a growing necessity for greener burial methods – this is lower maintenance, captures carbon, takes up a smaller space than more traditional methods and is less costly over time. Preventing or managing the contamination of land associated with this is a challenge.

¹ Office for National Statistics released August 2012 <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/disability-and-health-measurement/health-expectancies-at-birth-and-age-65-in-the-united-kingdom/2008-10/index.html>

Live Healthier

West Lothian has a higher disease prevalence¹ than the rest of Lothian with regard to Coronary Heart Disease, hypertension, diabetes, COPD, asthma and depression. Compared to Scotland² West Lothian has a higher disease prevalence for obesity, asthma, diabetes, cancer and new diagnosis of depression. There is also a higher number of people living with a long-term condition which limits their ability to cope with day-to-day life – 27-31,000 in West Lothian, often concentrated within public rather than private sector housing.

Sporting participation in West Lothian is poorer than in Scotland – 67% compared to 73% nationally, and as part of the Quality of Life survey in 2010, over ¼ exercises less than once per week. According to the most recent Scottish Household Survey, 50% participate in sport (excluding walking), 69% including walking, and those who exercise feel in better health than those that do not. In West Lothian and Scotland, sport participation decreases as deprivation increases – 63% participate in least deprived areas, 46% in most deprived³ - though this is less apparent when walking is included (which may reflect lower car ownership in more deprived areas).

Despite this, in 2010/11, West Lothian Council was ranked 7 out of 32 Scottish authorities for attendances per population at swimming pools and 12 out of 32 Scottish authorities for other indoor sports facilities excluding pools in a combined complex.

Cultural, as well as physical activity impacts upon health, particularly mental wellbeing, and there is poorer cultural participation⁴ in West Lothian compared to Scotland. Attendance and participation at such events diminishes as the level of qualification decreases, and the same is true for deprivation levels.

Active travel to work is less common than elsewhere in Scotland, indicating the extent of dependence on the car for travelling within and out with West Lothian.

Diabetes prevalence is greater in West Lothian than the Scottish average – 4.3 locally compared to 3.5 people/100,000 people nationally.

West Lothian has a higher rate of people with *cancer* than Scotland – 443.6 people/100,000 population compared to 412.6 nationally – however deaths from cancer are similar to the

¹ Disease prevalence is taken from GP practices disease registers and variance can exist due to level of coding and robustness of registers.

² Based on two year average data from 2009/10 and 2010/11 on QoF, disease prevalence per 100 people

³ This compares with 81% and 60% in Scotland, respectively.

⁴ For these purposes this includes crafts/arts/classical music/dance/literary events

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national average. Cancer is, however the main cause of death in West Lothian, responsible for around 1 in 3 deaths.

West Lothian has fewer patients hospitalised with *asthma* – 353.8 locally compared to 472.9 people/100,000 population nationally.

The rate of patients hospitalised with *cerebrovascular disease* is lower in West Lothian than Scotland, (though early deaths are similar to Scotland)) – 1043 locally compared to 1088 people/100,000 population nationally. Note that Scotland compares poorly to other small Western European countries for these indicators, so the West Lothian position should be taken in context.

The number of admissions in West Lothian related to *long term conditions* has remained relatively stable over the past four years, although the admission rate at 1567 is higher than the Lothian average of 1403. This is due to the higher prevalence of long-term conditions in West Lothian. The length of stay has reduced from 9086 to 7160 between 2009/10 and 2010/11, though West Lothian is ranked second highest out of the four Lothian local authorities for admissions and the bed days length of stay. The rate of admissions is highest for COPD followed by myocardial infarction and heart failure. The bed day rate for all long term conditions has reduced.

West Lothian has a higher rate of *emergency hospitalisations* than Scotland – 7143.9 compared to 6378.9 people/100,000 population nationally. The same trend is reflected in +65 years multiple hospitalisations and falls – 5144.9 vs 4607.6 and 844.8 vs 710.4 people/100,000 population West Lothian vs national, respectively. The same is true for the over 75 age group and all is linked directly to disease prevalence. The higher rate of multiple hospitalisations may also be linked to the lower average hospital stay in West Lothian.

Substances

The Tobacco Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (TADP) works towards Prevention & Early intervention, Recovery and Community safety. It commits to a whole population approach to address alcohol misuse, targeting the relatively small number of dependent drinkers but also the much larger group of hazardous and harmful drinkers with the aim of to reducing the average overall alcohol consumption, in the expectation that this will in turn reduce alcohol-related harm.

Approximately 27% of adults in West Lothian *smoke*, which is higher than the Scottish average of 25% and smoking-related illness is higher locally than in Scotland. West Lothian also has a higher percentage of deaths attributed to smoking than Scotland – 28.2% locally

compared to 24.1% in Scotland. Using a small sample of 15 year olds, it is estimated that the prevalence of smoking is higher in young people than the national level.

Estimated annual smoking cessation service uptake rate (% of total adult smokers) is 8.8%, lower than the Scottish average of 10.4% for Scotland, and smoking prevalence has decreased consistently from 32% in 2003/04¹ to around 27% in 2010/11.

Smoking is strongly correlated with area deprivation - prevalence is highest within the most deprived data zones, decreasing as deprivation declines. Smoking prevalence among young people is strongly correlated with adult smoking prevalence within an area², though there are some local exceptions to this.

Alcohol sales data suggests that consumption increased by around 10% since 1994, with enough alcohol being sold for every adult in Scotland to exceed weekly recommended limits for men each and every week since at least 2000. Although recent indications have been of decreasing sales, in 2010, 23% more alcohol was sold per adult in Scotland than in England & Wales, the widest gap to date.

In Scotland hospital discharges have quadrupled since the early 1980s and deaths directly related to alcohol misuse doubled. The impact on crime and anti-social behaviour is equally stark, with statistics showing that 50% of prisoners (including 77% of young offenders) were drunk at the time of their offence.

Alcohol misuse places an enormous economic burden on Scottish society. According to estimates by the University of York in 2007,³ these costs are between £2.48 billion and £4.64 billion per year (almost £1000 for each adult) – around 14% to health and social work, 20% crime costs and almost 25% result from loss of productive capacity. 40% are the wider societal costs.

Although alcohol consumption is high across all sectors of Scottish society, health harm from it largely falls on those living in areas of deprivation.

5% of people surveyed as part of the 2010 Citizens' Panel drink 7 days a week and 70% drink more than the recommended unit intake at least one day a week. 27% have decreased their intake in the last twelve months, 12% have increased their intake. Within Lothian, alcohol

¹ Data Source Scottish Household Survey West Lothian 2009/10 published October 2011. SCTPho Profiles 2010

² Small area estimates for health related behaviours – smoking, alcohol consumption & drug misuse in East, Mid and West Lothian. Ipsos MORI October 2011

³ Scottish Government, (2010) The Societal Cost Of Alcohol Misuse In Scotland For 2007, York Health Economics Consortium, University of York

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/297819/0092744.pdf>

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consumption within the male population is extremely high, even by Scottish standards: 31.7% of men are hazardous drinkers¹ and the female population has among the highest levels of alcohol consumption in Scotland; 23% of women drink at hazardous levels². Nine percent of men and 6% of women drink at a level which is considered to be high enough to cause immediate physical, social or psychological harm³. It is estimated that of the 5% of people in West Lothian who are physically or psychologically dependant on alcohol, only 3.3% of these actually enter treatment. Alcohol misuse in young people is similar to that of Scotland, although young Scots have a higher intake than other Western European countries, and consumption in West Lothian is increasing⁴. The mean number of units consumed in West Lothian was also greater than the Scottish average – 23 in West Lothian in 2010 compared to 19.5 nationally in the same year. The mean number of units consumed has increased locally and nationally – by 2.7 units per week in West Lothian and 1.2 in Scotland. In West Lothian this is equivalent to a 15yr old drinking an additional 70-80ml vodka or similar spirit per week or ½L cider.

The rate of hospital admissions involving alcohol⁵ in West Lothian is lower than the Scottish average – 717 locally compared to 739 in Scotland, however is the highest rate in the Lothians. However, the average number of discharges per person in West Lothian equals the national figure of 1.4.

Alcohol-related deaths are also lower than in Scotland⁶ - 17 locally compared to a rate of 22 in Scotland. In West Lothian most alcohol-related hospital discharges are male (over 70% in 2010/11), and the rates are highest in the 50-54 year old age group. Decreases have been seen in all age groups apart from the 35-39 years. Discharges are for Harmful use followed by acute intoxication and then alcoholic liver disease, with 91% related to emergency admissions in 2010/11.

Drugs

It is estimated that in West Lothian around 1% of the working age adult population are problematic drug users (users of opiates and benzodiazepine), which equates to 1100 men and 470 women, this is less than the Scottish average of 1.7%. Of these, an estimated 32% access treatment and support, with 2 in 3 accessing no treatment or support⁷.

¹ They drink over 21 units/ week, levels which may cause long-term health harm

² Over 14 units per week

³ Over 21 units for women and 50 units for men

⁴ % of young people drinking in Scotland decreased from 2008-2010 (by 4.5% from 24.9% to 20.4%), the % increased by 4% in West Lothian – 15.9% in 2008 and 20% in 2010.

⁵ 4 year average 2007/08-2010/11 from ISD Scotland.

⁶ 3 year rolling average rates per 100,000 population 2005/07-2008/10, ISD Scotland.

⁷ From the Tobacco Alcohol & Drugs Partnership commissioning plan

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Drug related hospital admissions (3yr rolling av/100,000popn) in West Lothian are similar to the Scottish average – 114 2007/10 in WL and 116 in Scotland. These averages for Scotland and West Lothian have increased over time – from 94 and 99 respectively in 2004/07 to 114 and 116 in 2007/10. The number of discharges per person in West Lothian is the same as the national rate – 1.3. The crude mortality rate for drug related deaths in West Lothian for 2010 (0.04 per 1000 population) is lower than Scottish rate of 0.07 and Lothian rate of 0.06. Drug-related deaths rose from 2007 to 2009, but dropped in 2010; though 2010 rates are still higher than in the previous eight years.

Using a small sample of 15 year olds¹, it is estimated that the prevalence of drug use is similar to the Scottish average – though this is higher in Scotland than other similar countries and should therefore be taken in context. Between 2008 and 2010 there was a decrease in the % that had used illegal drugs in the month prior to the survey – 12% to 10.7%. Contrary to a small increase nationally, there has been a slight decrease in the % of 15yr olds who report being offered drugs in the last year (from 2008-2010) – 52.3% in 2008 compared to 49.2% in 2010. The West Lothian 2010 figure is also lower than the national figure of 57.5%. Despite this, almost half of all 15yr olds in West Lothian report being offered drugs in the last year.

Misuse of drugs is highest in males aged 25-34yrs – 4.2% in West Lothian compared to 1.8% in 15-24yrs and 1.2% 35-64yrs. Drug-related admissions due to Opioids was most common (particularly in 30-35 year olds indicating an aging drug using population), followed by Cannabinoids and 'sedatives'. 92% of discharges were admitted as an emergency rather than elective, and most (86%) were short stays of less than a week.

Five years worth of data (2006/07 to 2010/11) shows an upward trend in this, particularly in 35-39 year olds, and with Opioids, Cannabinoids and 'sedatives'.

When the data was collected in 2008/09 West Lothian had a much lower Hepatitis C prevalence among injecting drug users than the Scottish average – 21.7% compared to 53.5%.

West Lothian has a greater prevalence in drug misusing maternities (rate per 1000 maternities) than the rest of Scotland, and something which is increasing – 13.4 in 2007/08-2009/10 (11.9 in Scotland). This is also increasing nationally, but not to the same extent as in West Lothian, and it is only in 2007/08-2009/10 that West Lothian has overtaken Scotland².

Treatment

¹ SALSUS annual survey

² Scotland – 9.0 in 2004/05-2006/07 to 11.9 2007/08-2009/10 and West Lothian – 3.8 in 2004/05-2006/07 to 13.4 2007/08-2009/10

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Demand is heavily weighted towards alcohol in West Lothian, with the exception of offenders where 70% are treated for drug misuse¹.

When working at full capacity, 70-80% of clients with severe and chronic alcohol misuse issue maintain/improve their health and well being through working with specialist alcohol social workers. In the absence of the social worker this reduces to around 50%.

Working with addiction workers has a notable impact on the harmful use of substances (drugs or alcohol) by adults with substance misuse issues – on average 69% per quarter demonstrate a reduction of harmful use of substances.

The % of clients waiting for more than three weeks between referral and beginning treatment with a specialist drug/alcohol service is greater in West Lothian than the national average – 36.2% locally compared to 16.2% nationally in 2011. The % of clients referred who are offered an assessment of their needs within 5wks has increased from 2009 to 2010 – 77% to 90%. Of those referred, an average of 94.5% are assessed offered treatment within 5 weeks of their assessment.

Critics of Scotland's £32m methadone programme have called on the Scottish government to put more resources into abstinence programmes to help drug addicts get clean rather than leaving many maintained on methadone without time limit. The comments follow recent official figures which showed that methadone was present in 275 out of 584 cases of drug related deaths in 2011, more than heroin.

Naloxone data is only available by Health Board, with 63 kits issued in 2011/12 per 1000 Problem Drug Users (PDUs)², higher than the Scottish rate of 46/1000 PDUs.

Current Gaps identified by the TADP commissioning plan are

- Inconsistent delivery around substance misuse in schools;
- A range of evidence-based options are not being provided, especially social norming and telecare/e-care solutions;
- Data and awareness of foetal alcohol syndrome (public and professionals);
- Data around attitudes from the public towards those experiencing problematic substance misuse and a gap in consultation with users and wider community;
- Limited workplace policies around substance misuse;
- No focal point for recovery locally with few opportunities for networking/informal support;
- Shortage of provision of meaningful activity and employer engagement could be improved;

¹ TADP commissioning plan

² 520 kits, 8200 PDUs

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- Lack of integrated care pathway for throughcare and aftercare; and,
- Meeting mental wellbeing needs

Mental Wellbeing

Rates of suicide in Scotland are among the highest in Western Europe and higher than in England and Wales at 18.7% per 100,000 population compared to 10.2%. 9% of the Scottish population aged 15 and over (more than 300,000 people) are estimated to take anti-depressant drugs on a daily basis. Prevalence of depression reports vary from one-in-six to one-in-four of the population having a problem with depression at some point in their lives. In recent years the proportion of NHS and Council budgets spent on mental well being has risen - in West Lothian the average Council spend on adults with mental health needs per head of population is £25.

In the Lothian region, an estimated 20% of adults, 126,586 people between the ages of 15 and 64, are believed to have a mental health problem (this may be an underestimated figure however given that it can be difficult to identify people with mental health problems if they do not seek professional advice). In 2004, the level of mental health problems identified in Scottish children / young adults aged 5-16 years was estimated at just over 8% of the population, approximately 55,000 individuals (or one in twelve). At the other end of the population, national statistics suggest that depression specifically affects one in five older people.

In West Lothian from 2008/09 to 2010-12 there is an increase year on year of prevalence within all aspects of mental health¹ – depression prevalence and newly diagnosed depression and dementia. On average 7.47% depression prevalence with 12.3% newly diagnosed depression over the three years. This is higher than the Scottish and Lothian rates.

Prescriptions for anxiety, depression and psychosis are higher in West Lothian than the Scottish average – 10% locally and 9.7% nationally – as are psychiatric hospitalisations – 321.5 locally and 303 nationally people/100,000 population. Prescriptions for these conditions are only slightly above the Scottish average, and given the higher prevalence suggests that methods of treatment other than pharmaceuticals are being offered.

The prevalence of dementia in the West Lothian is increasing – 0.42 to 0.54 2006/07 to 2010/11 - and as it is expected to affect 5% of the older population. It is assessed that up to

¹ Data from ISD Scotland

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70% of people within care homes may have dementia, though the majority of people with dementia live at home in the community. There are over 500 patients currently on memory treatment, and this has increased by 200 since 2008.

There is likely to be an increase in prevalence with an increasing age profile of West Lothian's population – a projected increase of 87%¹ - with 2600 to 3000 sufferers projected in 2024 (around 95-97% will be over sixty five).

Last year, there were 680 inpatient referrals made to the liaison post (379 following acts of self-harm, 311 general liaison), including 211 patients over-65, and 187 outpatient referrals.

In 2008-10 West Lothian's suicide rate² is the lowest in the Lothian region at 12.8 compared to Lothian rate of 14.5 and Scottish rate of 15.1. There has been a general rise in the number of suicides³ from 2000 onwards compared to the early/mid 1990s, however nationally there has been a decrease from the late 1990s/early 2000s to the last few years. Scotland has a higher suicide rate than the rest of the UK, but is mid-table when compared to the rest of Europe. Compared to the rest of the UK, young Scots are more prevalent, particularly males and alcohol misuse plays a great part in the lives of suicide cases than in England and Wales. Risk factors for suicide are a diagnosis of mental health, a history of suicide attempts, substance misuse, anxiety, recent bereavement, unemployment and poverty⁴. Although the same research found that 40% of the cases had had no admission to a general hospital in the previous five years and almost 80% had not had a psychiatric admission during that period.

In Scotland, social-economic class as an individual appears key, and more significant as a risk factor than area socio-economic deprivation.

One in 12 people self-harm in their teenage years, a long-term study in the Lancet found. For most people the problem will resolve before adulthood but for 10% it will continue into their adult lives. Teenage girls are more likely to self-harm than boys and are at greater risk of continuing as young adults. Researchers found that anxiety; depression, heavy alcohol use, cigarette smoking and cannabis use were all associated with self-harm. The researchers suggest identifying and treating common teenage mental health problems could be part of an "important and hitherto unrecognised component" of preventing suicide in adults, as self-harm is one of the most significant predictors of completed suicide.

It is recognised that there is a significant and increasing number of individuals living in the community with a range of co morbid presentations some of whom regularly come to the

¹ Facing Dementia Together Initial Report, Stirling University 2009

² Per 100,000 population

³ Five year moving average

⁴ ScotSID publication 2011

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attention of the emergency services or are known to the criminal justice system. Other challenges are around assessing numbers of socially isolated individuals.

As well as demographic change, the impact of the recession including welfare reform, increasing unemployment may result in an increase in mental health conditions including depression and anxiety, and even suicide. In 2010/11 approximately 7,000 individuals (16-65 years) benefited from a Housing Support Service in West Lothian. 539 people (7.7%) had a mental health problem. Without Housing Support provision, there may potentially be an increase in residential (long-term care) usage, day service support and hospital admission. The profile of the mental health client group is changing with service users (often younger in age) having a dual diagnosis or complex needs.

Improving mental wellbeing

The key aims of the National programme are Raising awareness and promoting mental health and well-being, Eliminating stigma and discrimination, Preventing suicide and Promoting and supporting recovery. A “Sense of Belonging” – A Joint Strategy for improving the mental health and wellbeing of Lothian’s population, 2011 to 2016 – focusing on four linked Commitment to Change areas: Addressing health inequalities, Embedding recovery, Building social capital and wellbeing and Improving services.

There is a range of inpatient provision for mental health from intensive psychiatric care units to open admission wards with 75-90% bed occupancy over during recent months. The Acute Care and Support Team is offers assessment, crisis intervention and home treatment and assessed around 400 clients during a year. Outpatient psychiatry is being reviewed in order to better understand and manage demand, and reduce the proportion of unscheduled work.

Initial results from the impact of physical exercise on mental health are encouraging¹ - After the project 91% said taking part made them happier, 81% reported increased confidence, 87% had learnt new skills and 82% said the projects had helped them to be more active in their daily lives.

Breaking the cycle of poor mental well being is also important – how to enable people to self-manage their problems in the community with only distant support.

¹ Social Association for Mental Health pilot project results from August 2012 - over 600 people participated in the physical activity pilots, the majority of those involved had personally experienced a mental health problem.

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Befriending / social activity-type services are also planned to help integrate those with mental health problems into the community and introduce them to appropriate social networks in order to aid wellbeing and recovery.

There are various estimates of the number of people living with a *disability* – anywhere from 15,400¹ to approximately 33,000 people as a whole group for West Lothian² - and the 2009/10 Scottish Household Survey found that 33% of Scottish households include at least one member with a long standing illness or disability.

Visual disabilities account for 10-15% of disabilities (3300-4950 people in West Lothian), 15% of the total population has a hearing disability (25,050 people in West Lothian) and 7.5% of population expected to have mobility related disability (12,525 people in West Lothian, 1250 of which will be wheelchair users). Across Scotland there are increasingly more people with learning disability. Currently in West Lothian there are 862 people with learning disabilities³ known to services, however the figure based on UK prevalence is likely to be closer to 3500 for those with a mild/moderate learning disability and 500-700 with a profound learning disability. The biggest category of disability tends to be “longstanding health condition” which is very difficult to define or provide figures for, and proportion of people will also suffer from multiple disabilities. Providing care for individuals with complex needs is a challenge and the commissioning plan(s) have identified 116 people in West Lothian who meet an agreed definition of complex care.

Increasingly care is being provided at home allowing people to live as independently as possible. Employment support is also provided to around 14 people with learning disabilities per year. The average annual cost per person for people with learning disabilities receiving community based services is approximately £36,000 and £13388 for people with physical disabilities. Inspections of the various services by the care inspectorate have been good or above since 2009/10, and customer satisfaction remains consistently high.

One gap is the provision for young people in transition with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Future challenges are increasing numbers of younger people with increasingly complex needs

¹ The Family Resources Survey 2008/2009

² Based on a national prediction that 1 in 5 people have a condition that would be covered by the definition of disability within the Equality Act 2010

³ The 2000 Same As You? review report defined learning disability as: ‘...A significant, lifelong condition, which has three facets: Reduced ability to understand new or complex information or to learn new skills; Reduced ability to cope independently; and a condition which started before adulthood (before the age of 18) with a lasting effect on the individual's development.’

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and numbers of people with complex needs living with older carers. Additional pressures resulting from increased expectations for more individualised care packages and other shifts in care to self-directed support, independent living and reablement are also evident.

Women & Children

Young Maternal Age

There has been a significant and sustained reduction in pregnancy <16 years achieved in West Lothian from high of 10.5 in 1996-1998 to low of 5.3 in 2006/08. There has been a slight increase in 2008/10 to 6.5, but this still lower than the Scottish Average of 7.4. The introduction of Healthy Respect, Chill Out Zone and work in schools has had positive effect.

There has been a similar trend in <20 years pregnancy in West Lothian and Scotland, though these have decreased less than <16s pregnancies – West Lothian has been historically above the national average until relatively recently where there have been substantial decreases in the teenage pregnancy rate, most notably in those >16 years.

Stillborn and Neonatal Deaths

These are only available at a health board level, but NHS Lothian has a lower rate of stillborn and neonatal deaths than nationally - 7.3% for the healthboard compared to 8.6% in Scotland.

Abortions¹

West Lothian has a consistently lower rate of abortion than Scotland, with a rate of 11.5 abortions/1000 15-44yr old women from 2002-11 compared to 12.3 nationally. Nationally and locally there was a rise in the abortion rate from 2002 to 2008, when the rate began to drop. During this decrease the gap between Scotland and West Lothian's rates widened to 1.7% in 2011. Nationally and locally around 50% of abortions are for the 20-29 age group, 22% <20 years and the remainder in the over 30s. There has been recent press about the number of women having multiple abortions, but there is no local data for this.

Breastfeeding²

Encouraging and supporting breastfeeding is recognised as an important public health activity. There is good evidence that breastfeeding in infancy has a protective effect, particularly in low birth weight infants, against many childhood illnesses with these infants likely to have a

¹ Rates/1000 15-44yrs women

² A health improvement target was set to increase the proportion of newborn children exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks in Scotland from 26.2% in 2006/07 to 32.7% in 2010/11 (an increase of 25%).

reduced risk of infection. There is also evidence that women who breastfed have lower risks of breast cancer, epithelial ovarian cancer and hip fracture later in life.

On average in West Lothian for 2008-2011, 45.5% babies are breastfed (37.5% are exclusively breast fed) at first visit, falling to 31.1% at 6-8 week review (25.1% exclusively). In recent years the breastfeeding proportion at first visit and 6-8 week review has fluctuated by 0.5-1% between years. The same is evident across Scotland. West Lothian, specifically in certain areas of West Lothian, has always had lower rates than the rest of Scotland and the UK – 46.8% breastfed nationally at first visit and 37.1% locally.

There is a strong correlation between deprivation and breastfeeding; 10% in more deprived to almost 60% in the least deprived areas. Nationally, research¹ highlights correlation between education levels and age. Mothers with managerial/professional occupations had the highest rate of breastfeeding, which declined towards those with routine/manual occupations and further still to those who had never worked. Regarding age, rates increase with a mother's age, with those over thirty had higher a prevalence of breastfeeding.

Child Immunisations

Children in Scotland are protected through immunisation against many serious infectious diseases with these programmes protecting the individual and preventing the spread of these illnesses within the population. As a public health measure, immunisations have been hugely effective in reducing the burden of disease. It is of public health concern when immunisation rates fall, as this increases the possibility of disease transmission and, hence, complications arising from outbreaks of infectious diseases. In Scotland the target of the national immunisation programme is for 95% of children to complete courses of childhood immunisations² by 24 months of age. An additional national target of 95% uptake of one dose of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine by five years of age (with a supplementary measure at 24 months) was introduced in 2006 to focus efforts on reducing the number of susceptible children entering primary school.

In West Lothian immunisation uptake rates for children aged up to six years remain high and stable – 96.75% three year average. In West Lothian, annual uptake rates by 24 months of age for primary courses of immunisation against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio & Hib (DTP/Pol/Hib), MenC and PCV remain high and stable at 98%. Uptake rates have exceeded the 95% target for the last

¹ As well as academic research papers there is also the Infant Feeding Survey carried out by NHS

² diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), Meningococcal group C (MenC) and Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV)

decade. Annual uptake of the first dose of MMR vaccine by 24 months is 95.7%, above the national uptake of 94.3%. Uptake rates of all primary and booster courses are exceeding the target – 95.6% for the three year average.

Child Weight

Low birthweight is a major determinant of infant mortality and morbidity and because of its association with various social and environmental factors it is often used as a health status indicator. Low birthweight may result from being born too soon (i.e. a preterm birth), from poor intrauterine growth or from a combination of the two. Maternal smoking, maternal age (older and younger mothers are more likely to have a low birthweight baby); deprivation, previous obstetric history, low pre-pregnancy maternal weight, drug/alcohol use, and hypertension are associated with low birthweight and/or preterm births.

Since 2006/07 the % low birth weight babies born has reduced slightly from the baseline of 2.56%, and the four year average is 2.2%. At 2.2% in 2009/10, West Lothian is similar to the Scottish average of 2.3%, and this has been rising slightly since 2007/08 – 1.85% to 2.09% to 2.2%.

On average 07/08-10/11 in West Lothian 5.69% P1 children have a low BMI and 3.03% have a very low BMI. In 09/10 *and* 10/11 both of these indicators were above the four year average – 7.1% of children in P1 have low BMI and 3.4% with very low.

Compared to the increase in West Lothian, national levels have remained relatively stable over the period 2000/01 to 2010/11 at around 3% to 4%. West Lothian is above average nationally and ranks the highest out of all Scottish local authority areas, with Dundee and South Lanarkshire joint 2nd.

At the other end of the scale there is continued concern over the levels of obesity among children in Scotland. Obesity during childhood is a health concern in itself, but can also lead to physical and mental health problems in later life, such as heart disease, diabetes, osteoarthritis, back pain, increased risk of cancer, low self-esteem and depression.

On average 08/09-10/11 in West Lothian 19.23% of P1 children are classed as 'overweight', 8.56% classed as 'obese' and 5.17% as 'severely obese'. These all decreased from 07/08 – 09/10 but have all risen slightly in 10/11 with those classed as 'severely obese' above the three year average in 10/11 at 5.9%. The average across all participating NHS boards for 10/11 is 21.4% overweight with 9.6% obese and 5.5% severely obese. West Lothian in the same period is under the national figure for overweight and obese children, but above it for

severely

obese

children.

Meal uptake has not changed significantly over the past few years – averaging 39% in Primary School and 30.8% in Secondary School. In the past few years there has been a slight rise in the Secondary school uptake – 2% increased on the 31% baseline (2008/09 data).

Child Dental Data¹

West Lothian is currently on par with Lothian average of 68.6% and well above Scottish Average of 64%. There has been a notable improvement in this from 2008-2010 as a result of interventions such as childsmile (50% in 2008 to 68.9% in 2010). Within the Lothian region West Lothian is ranked 3rd out of the four local authorities with East Lothian and Edinburgh averaging 72% and 71.5%, respectively.

Carers² are still the largest unpaid workforce in the UK. The 2001 Census estimated around 480,000 carers in Scotland (15,000 in West Lothian). However the more recent Scottish Household Survey, 2007 – 2008, suggested approximately 657,300 carers in Scotland (18,000 in West Lothian) - that's one in eight of the population in Scotland (one in nine in West Lothian). Based on 2001 estimates of the number of hours of unpaid care provided, of the 18,000 carers in West Lothian (Scottish Household Survey 2007-08) 25% of them (4,500) are providing 50+ hours of support per week.

The majority of carers provide care to a parent, most carers are female and the average age of a carer is 47 years, with almost 20% above pensionable age. Around 52% of carers are employed. The average young carer is twelve, 50% of young carers live with a lone parent and almost 50% look after someone with a mental health issue.

Carers of West Lothian reports a marked rise in demand for support for carers – at the end of March 2012 they were in contact with 3218 carers, 15% increase on the previous years. Of the 433 carers supported in 2011/12 12.5% were aged 8-18 years (54). Around 2/3 enquiries are for general information with financial concerns, training and individual support accounting for the remainder fairly equally. Almost all the financial concerns relate to welfare benefits and pension. Most information enquiries centre around a carers assessment but also around legal issues / carers rights, support groups and other care options. National statistics show that there is not a high uptake of carer's assessments across Scotland. West Lothian has taken steps to identify carers through the assessment process including introducing carers Single

¹ NDIP 2010 CHP Results: NHS Lothian: National survey carried out every two years 2004/08/10

² From SHS and 2001 Census and Carer groups in West Lothian

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Shared Assessment (SSA) and adding a carer's section to the initial SSA to encourage more carer's assessments to be offered.

West Lothian is developing a Carer's Strategy – the key partners involved are the council, NHS and Carers of West Lothian (CoWL). This will take into account the "Carer's Strategy for Scotland 2010-2013" headline actions and the consequent implications for partners and other stakeholders involved with both adult carers and young carers. The focus will be on creating positive impact and outcomes for all carers.

It is projected that by 2031 the number of people over 85 will increase by 144% in Scotland and by nearly 300% in West Lothian. There are increasing numbers of disabled people caring for a more heavily-disabled partner/relative, as well as more children with complex needs being cared for at home. There are also increasing numbers of non-English speaking carers being identified. The balance of care will continue to shift from residential settings to care at home.

Care of Older People

In West Lothian 65% of the total budget for health and social care for those over 65 years is spent on providing institutional care in hospitals and care homes, 35% of which relates to emergency admissions to hospital. With the anticipate rise in this population, it is clear that the current model of service delivery will not be sustainable and a shift of emphasis towards preventative and anticipatory care, as proposed by the Reshaping Care for Older People Strategy¹, is essential.

There has been a rise in the average number of people over 65 years receiving care in their own home – 1248 in 2009-10 to 1301 in 2011-12², with a rise in the hours of care delivered to this group, accordingly – 9676 hours in an average week in 2010/11. This is below the rest of Scotland due to the lower number of older residents – this will change in the coming years as this is the fastest growing sector of our demographic. During the same period there has been little change in the number of care home residents – an average of 800-830 residents at any one time. The average annual cost per person of services³ for people aged 65 and over is £930,000, and satisfaction remains consistently high.

¹ Moves towards community capacity building, including rehabilitation, reablement and respite through local community services, in addition to managed care pathways and anticipatory care plans, combined with promotion of well being and tele-health technology.

² Based on a week's snapshot

³ Covers Care at Home, Care Homes, Housing with Care, Occupational Therapy, and Assessment and Care Management.

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There has been little change in the provision of community transport service in recent years – around 250 people are transported each day.

West Lothian's Telecare programme is growing consistently and is proportionately the biggest in the UK, with just over 4000 clients in 2011/12 and 84% of Homecare clients, enabling people to remain in their homes for as long as possible. This has improved the number of delayed discharges¹ from hospital per month with only two between June 2011 and April 2012 – this is lower than other local authority areas.

Those receiving community care are predominantly satisfied with the opportunities for social interaction – 88% (2081 people) of the group surveyed. Wider social interaction data is limited, though estimates nationally suggest that social isolation is a concern.

From a review of 50 patients discharged from ward 3² between January and June 2011 it is suggested that 32% of admissions could have been avoided and 50% of admissions could have had a reduced length of stay if there was additional acute care and support available in the community. Various options for inpatient care have not been used to full capacity, and service reconfiguration is being looked at as an option. The day hospital services are restricted in their hours of operation and attendances due to the existing service model and transport arrangements. In addition to providing assessment and treatment through day care the services provide some outreach support. Memory treatment service has a high caseload, and this is only anticipated to rise.

Themes in the older people's commissioning plan are Prevention, Tackling ageism, Dignity and Physical and mental well being. Maximising independence, end of life care and person-centred and integrated care are also central.

SAFER & STRONGER

¹ Waiting more than six weeks to be discharged into an appropriate care setting.

² +65s mental health admission & assessment unit at St John's Hospital, Livingston

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“Helping local communities to flourish, becoming stronger, safer places to live, offering improved opportunities and a better quality of life. Creating thriving communities; better places to live and work, contributing to a more economically-cohesive Scotland and sustainable economic growth. We will achieve this by improving housing and neighbourhoods, fighting crime, and reducing the fear of crime, making communities we are proud to be part of. By making our communities safer and stronger for those who live there, we will also increase the attractiveness of Scotland as a place to live and work.” Scottish Government

Govt

- Tackling Crime – RR / SOC / Criminal Justice (S) Bill / Violence
- Tackling the causes of crime – alcohol / drugs / deprivation
- Promoting personal responsibility for actions – Community Safety / regeneration / policing / cashback

There have been reductions in levels of crime and disorder in West Lothian in the last few years, with lower levels of violence, vandalism, fire-raising and Antisocial behaviour. West Lothian has an overall crime rate lower than that of the Scottish average and the vast majority of residents feel safe, with improvements in public perception of safety noted on previous years.

About 50% of the 2010 Citizens’ Panel were happy with communities - feeling involved, influencing decisions, helping each other, volunteering and that people of different ethnic backgrounds have a good relationship. This still means 1 in 2 people do not feel involved, do not feel they can influence decisions, do not feel the community helps each other and feel relationships could improve between people of different ethnic backgrounds. With Outcome 11 due to extend beyond volunteering, some additional work around this outcome is anticipated, ensuring “We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others”.

The Future

There is the possibility of a national Scottish Community Justice Service and move from 8 CJAs to one national Board – this could lead to better and more precise allocation of resources, make it easier to plan cross-local authority services and reduce funding-related bias. However, it could remove CJSW services from local authority and damage local delivery of services and joint working, in addition to limiting local flexibility of resource allocation.

Economic and demographic factors impact upon this objective – rising commodity prices can result in increased illegal use of vehicles, increasing road safety incidents involving cyclists,

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increased metal theft; whilst a larger population can mean more crime; and increasing falls and accidental fires involving older people. Limiting the impact of these is a challenge, but an opportunity to prevent in partnership. A growing older population and increasing diversity will create opportunities for more inclusive and stronger communities.

Planned partnership centres and the proposed Community Empowerment and Renewal bill will provide an opportunity for the partnership to engage more with the community, and for people to become more involved in their community.

Community involvement and responsibility

In 2010 out of an electorate of 75,924, 63.10% turned out to vote. This is an increase on 58.5% in 2005. Conversely there was a drop in the voter turnout for the Scottish National Elections from 2007-2011 (52.3% to 51%) and this turnout was lower than the turnout for the national elections.

Engaging young people in politics is challenging, with national surveys¹ indicating almost 2/3 of them do not trust politicians. Despite this, 63% of the 1000 18 year olds surveyed were interested in politics, but turned off by the behaviour of politicians and political parties; and 64% do not believe political parties are interested in things that matter to young people. In West Lothian there was a Democracy Challenge which estimates that an additional 350 S6 young people would not be on the electoral role if this intervention didn't occur, and as many as 837 may not have registered to vote.

People are generally satisfied with West Lothian as a place to live – 87% of the West Lothian 2010 Citizens' Panel, with little change in recent years. There was an increase in people believing that West Lothian has improved (66% 2010 vs 47% in 2007).

About 1 in 2 of the panel felt involved in their local community and felt they could influence decisions. Community cohesion has been mentioned as a potential issue as part of the panel and the engagement exercise carried out by the Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian (VSGWL) in 2012, with a proportion of the population (50% in the panel) feeling that relationships and cohesion between different sectors of the community could improve.

As discussed in the demographic section, in 2010/11 there were 8300 National Insurance Registrations from overseas nationals in West Lothian. This equates to 5% of the population

¹ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/18727320> accessed July 2012. This survey was carried out as researchers try to understand why fewer than half of all 18-24 year olds did not vote in the 2010 general election.

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of West Lothian. This total includes a substantial increase in the Eastern European communities in the past ten years within West Lothian.

There has been a slight increase in Hate crime, particularly against Eastern European people in West Lothian, and the peak offending age of perpetrators is between 14 and 16 years of age. The majority of hate crimes involve the victim being subjected to verbal abuse, and violent incidents have dropped from 20% of all incidents to less than 10%.

Most offenders and victims of hate crime are male with fewer than 20% of offenders female, and under 15% of victims female. Most offenders are 14-16 years old, with the exception of sectarian crimes where offenders 25 to 30.

Third Sector¹

In Scotland formal volunteering is assessed to have contributed an estimated £2.5 billion to the Scottish economy in 2009/10. Nationally, the third sector in Scotland employed 137000 staff in 2010 (around 4% of the working age population), with a further three in every ten adults in Scotland volunteering within the sector.

There are estimated to be between 1000 and 1500 third sector organisations in West Lothian, and 460 Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator registered charities. 228 organisations are registered with Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian, with almost 2500 volunteers registered with the service.

Third sector income sources in West Lothian are from a range of sources with most money from non-local authority sources including grants, contracts and Skills Funding Agency money. A number also generate their own income from trading/services or fundraising. Over the last few years there has been a decrease in the number of voluntary organisations that West Lothian Council has supported – much of this is due to reduced funding through the Tough Choices programme. At its peak there were just over 173 supported organisations with £20M investment. In 2010/11 there were 157 supported organisations. Nationally, most third sector organisations have an income of less than £100,000 though increasingly money is concentrated within a small number of larger charities.

As part of the wider programmes of change motivated by the economic climate funding is being, and will continue to be, reduced; although demand for services is rising in certain parts of the sector. Increased collaboration between sector organisations and increased tendering for public procurement contracts, in addition to increasing volunteer numbers and innovatively

¹ Due to different collection methods, there are various statistics available on the third sector in West Lothian. The Scottish Household Survey is based on around 300 people in West Lothian the State of the Sector report 2011 is based on responses from 300 third sector organisations. Information also comes from a self-evaluation report completed by VSGWL based on 2011/12 information.

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responding to income and expenditure challenges should be priorities for the sector. Focusing on outcome-based tendering is key for the sector due to the outcome-based commissioning model now being used by West Lothian Council and other local authorities.

Social enterprise has been identified as a priority for development, and through the work of a funded post, a social enterprise network has been established and a number of organisations have been assisted into becoming social enterprises in the past year.

Of 24 social enterprises surveyed there are, in total, over 550 staff employed, 330 trainees and volunteers and 170 Board members. For most, income from trade is the primary source of finance, with smaller amounts from grants (around 15% of the £16,990,786 total).

There was an increase in volunteering in Scotland and West Lothian between 05/06 and 07/08, but a drop from 07/08 to 09/10. On average, 16.5% volunteer in West Lothian, compared to 23.4% in Scotland (around 20,000 people).

More females than males volunteer, most volunteers are in full-time employment or retired and there are a low % of young volunteers in West Lothian (9.8% compared to 19% nationally). Nationally, those who are self-employed or in education are most likely to volunteer. There is little information from West Lothian about the income/deprivation status of volunteers, but nationally as income increases, the number of volunteers also increases, with little volunteering activity from those in the 15% most deprived areas.

The most volunteering support is given to children/youth activities followed by health/social welfare, religion, sport and hobbies. Compared to Scotland, there is less volunteering in local community/neighbourhood groups or for older people's groups. Most people (around 50%) volunteer between one and five hours per week.

Typically, people stop volunteering for a variety of reasons, of which a change in circumstance (moving house / changing job) and illness are the most frequently cited reasons nationally. Reasons for undertaking paid work (apart from altruistic motivations) are if volunteering fits in with other commitments and interests; but flexibility, fun and being asked to participate are important. More recently contribution towards future job prospects or qualifications has become more important.

There is an opportunity to increase volunteering further due to the new Community Empowerment bill, and there may also be opportunities in the school, family and older community to enhance this programme of volunteering – this could be addressed through the Volunteer Strategy.

SAFER

Victims¹

The reported top three worst aspects of being a victim of crime were the emotional and psychological distress; the social impact; and the physical pain and suffering. Repeat victims were more likely to rate the social impact of being a victim highest.

Respect and recognition from criminal justice agencies, punishment of the offender; and protection (particularly for women) are the most important factors after having fallen victim to crime. Personal experience of the criminal justice system appears to be the sole determinant to the satisfaction with the service received, though ¼ stated they had been put off reporting subsequent crime due to their previous experience. Around 50% were distressed by having to repeat their experience to a number of agencies, with victims of sexual crime most affected by this.

A third (33.6%) of the respondents listed emotional support as most important following crime. Victims appear to favoured referral mechanisms whereby an offer of support was proactively given with almost 60% supporting an automatic Police and 45% an automatic hospital referral. The preferred method of service delivery was face-to-face (78%), followed by phone support (35%) and talking to other victims with similar experiences (21%). This was a consistent consensus irrespective of gender, age, repeat victimisation and type of victim. Interest is growing re receiving support through modern technology. Women and victims of sexual/violent crimes were more likely than men to wish networking support. Younger victims were more likely to want networking support.

The top three services asked for were in order of preference emotional and psychological support (76%) followed by protection/ security assistance (74%) and information about the criminal justice system and victims' rights (74%). Emotional and similar support is ranked higher by women than men.

People who have not experienced crime were more likely to state that they would like to receive assistance with insurance claims; employment problems; and restorative justice in the aftermath of crime compared to people who had experienced victimisation.

This demonstrates that the true impact of being a victim of crime is not appreciated or understood by the wider community/public, and is of particular significance since juries are made up of members of the public.

¹ From a Victim Support Scotland report 2012. This surveyed victims and non-victims to get their opinion on a range of matters regarding support, sentencing and impact of crime.

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Better understanding of the impact of crime and dealing sensitively with victims/witnesses and more robust sentencing were highlighted as key to improving the Scottish criminal justice system. The balance of victim vs offender rights was also highlighted.

Communities

The 2010/11 Scottish Crime and Justice survey estimates that around one in six adults aged 16 or over was the victim of at least one crime.

In most cases the perceived risk was around twice the actual risk (prevalence) on average across the population, but this was more skewed when becoming a victim of acquisitive crime. Much of this is likely to be influenced by the media – these opinions are based on people who may have had no contact with the criminal justice system - and demonstrates the importance communication with the community in order to give them an accurate picture of local community safety.

Confidence in all aspects of the criminal justice system had increased between 2009/10 and 2010/11, however only 56% were confident that the system is effective in bringing criminals to justice, and 65% thought that community sentences do not punish criminals enough. There was a split in opinion around community sentencing. Despite 72% agreeing that community sentencing is an effective way of dealing with less serious crime, 51% agreeing that learning new skills during community sentences stops criminals from committing more crimes and 67% agreeing that drug users need treatment not prison; 65% agreed that community sentences do not punish criminals enough and more than half do not believe criminals who complete their community sentences have paid back their community for the harm they have caused. Striking a balance between punishment and repayment is challenging for all services associated with reducing re-offending and criminal justice.

Locally¹, most people contact the Police to report a crime or disturbance/nuisance, and satisfaction remains fairly high for the way the Police dealt with the matter reported – 72% - however under half of respondents feel the local Police are doing a good job generally.

Over ¾ of respondents do not feel informed of the work the Police do in their local area, and most do not know or know how to contact their local community officers. Most people wish for more information from the Police in all facets of Police and community safety work. Traditional communication methods such as attending local meetings, articles in traditional media (written and radio), information through the door attract a lot of support, as does information on social networking sites – this missing component is a proven positive engagement tool, particularly with the younger population.

¹ Information extracted from the Lothian and Borders Police public perception survey 2011.

From 2010 there has been an improvement in how safe our communities feel – in their own homes, streets and the local area at night. Despite this, 51% of people still feel unsafe walking in their area in the dark, and 11% in their local area during the day. There are also still places within local areas where people do not feel safe. Although people in West Lothian have confidence in the local Police, they are lacking in confidence about their ability to deal with minor crimes/incidents and the provision of reassurance in the local area. Compared to 2010 people feel that we are addressing issues and consult them sufficiently about what matters to them, but there is always room for improvement – 22% do not feel we consult them enough and 21% do not feel we are addressing issues.

People in West Lothian are still concerned about the following community safety issues (in rank order): ID theft, ASB and Vandalism, Physical attack and Acquisitive crime from the home. These feelings will be influenced in part by local and national media (particularly ID theft) and personal experience. Respondents felt that dog fouling and parking problems have increased from 2010 to 2011, and ASB (specifically dog fouling, speeding/dangerous driving, parking, litter, youth ASB and rowdy drunken behaviour) all remain top priorities for West Lothian communities. Drug dealing/taking also remains an issue – 13.8% of people perceiving drug misuse/dealing to be very/fairly common in their neighbourhood which is increased on the 2007/08 survey (10%) and higher than the most recent Scottish result. Of all community safety issues ID theft, ASB, Vandalism and Hate crime in addition to other undisclosed issues tended not to be reported to the Police.

Often in direct contrast to their local issues and crimes that they are worried about, communities feel more ‘traditional’ issues should be concentrated on by Lothian and Borders Police¹ which supports the current differential approach to addressing priorities at a very local community level, and an overall strategic approach for the County/Force.

Offenders²

Offenders are representative of the most disadvantaged groups in society, and because offenders often face multiple and interrelated problems, breaking the cycle of reoffending is a considerable challenge.

An offender is more likely than most people to have had family dysfunction and problematic adult relationships, poor literacy and numeracy resulting from dis-engaging from education, substance misuse and mental health issues. A lack of access to health services and poor accommodation also often feature.

¹ Drugs, Child Protection, Housebreakings and Violence & Sexual crime

² Taken from West Lothian’s Reducing Reoffending strategy

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Considering the disadvantages and inequalities faced by offenders does not seek to legitimise or excuse their behaviour, but it does give an insight into the issues that need to be addressed in order to reduce reoffending. We know that the majority of offenders do not specifically wish to commit offences, but that they are often poor at controlling their behaviour.

Research among victims suggests that their most desired outcome is that the offender will not commit the crime again. This is often coupled with a desire for an offender to make reparation to the community in some way.

Before the introduction of the Community Payback order there was a slight increase from 2005-06 baseline levels to 2010-11 two year reconviction rates for those offenders who successfully completed probation orders – 39.5% to 42.2%. Despite this rise, reoffending rates for probation orders were still lower than for custodial sentences.

The Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO) is a very demanding court order, only used for offenders with the most serious or persistent records of drug-related offending. As such, successful completion is calculated in terms of offenders who reach the end of their order with reduced and controlled levels of drug use and of related offending. Over time there has been a slight reduction in the % of successful completions – 72% in 2009/10, 69% in 2010/11 and 60% in 2011/12.

In sentencing¹, protection of the victim and the general public (37%); rehabilitation (23.1%); and punishment (20.9%) were most frequently highlighted. Victims of a sexual crime and repeat victims placed increased importance on the punishment aspect of sentencing, whereas rehabilitation was most important for ASB victims.

Protection of the victim and the general public was seen as the most important purpose of sentencing for both victims and 'non-victims'. Victims were almost twice as likely as 'non-victims' to report punishment as the most important purpose of sentencing. Victims were also more likely than non-victims to specify deterrence and reparation as other important purposes of sentencing.

Catching and punishing the offender was seen as the most important part of justice for both victims of crime and people who had not experienced crime. Victims emphasised the importance of being kept informed about the progress and outcome of the case; being treated with respect and recognition from all criminal justice agencies; and receiving financial compensation.

Almost half the full sample (49%) indicated that a life sentence should be until the offender dies, while a fifth of the sample (20.5%) indicated that a life sentence should be 25 years. No significant difference based upon demographic or previous victim status. Respondents were

¹ From the VSS 2012 report

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roughly equal (40% agreed, 37% disagreed) that victims' views should be taken into account when choosing a sentence for the offender. Almost half (46%) agreed that victims' views should be taken into account when releasing an offender, and victims are more likely to feel this way than non-victims. Both the control and victim sample groups thought offenders should contribute financially to victim services.

Respondents were overwhelmingly in favour of community sentences for minor crimes and overwhelmingly against community sentences for serious crimes, but more divided on whether or not community sentences are a soft option (older respondents were more likely to feel this way). Putting prisoners in prison was largely perceived as protecting communities (63% agreed), and 43% of respondents agreed that prison sentences are a good way to punish offenders. However, nearly half the sample (48%) indicated that they do not believe prison sentences discourage criminals from committing crimes in the future. A similar proportion (49%) believed that prison increases criminals' risk of reoffending as they learn new ways to offend during their time in prison. Interestingly there was no difference in victim status or gender.

Open since 2008 HMP Addiewell is a private prison within West Lothian, with capacity for 700 prisoners (and a further 96 in reserve)¹. Prisoners are male and, historically, predominantly from North and South Lanarkshire, with a small proportion from West Lothian, though this is changing as part of the Reducing Reoffending strategy.

Reports comments on evidence of best practice, the low success rate for smuggling forbidden items into the prison by visitors and little evidence of bullying, with prisoners treated well. It did, however note the comparatively high turnover of staff compared to other similar prisons, risking a loss of experience and expertise. Points previously criticised in the 2010 report² have all improved according to a 2012 report³, but there is no room for complacency, particularly with regards to violence. There was good partnership working and links with other 3rd sector organisations, aiding re-integration of prisoners into the community.

On the basis of the above, West Lothian's Reducing Reoffending plan focuses on

Female offenders may have the same life problems as male offenders these issues manifest themselves differently, but they also tend to have more difficult family relationships and have had poor parental supervision. They also tend to have experienced higher rates of poverty,

¹ From Visiting committee 2011 and HMIP report 2010

² Levels of violence (particularly against staff), criticism about healthcare and food and improvements required to the learning aspect in the prison – prisoners wanted more employment opportunities to use their learning/gain qualifications.

³ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/09/9368>

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family dysfunction, poor familial mental health, personal suicide attempts and physical, sexual or *domestic abuse*.

A woman is only half as likely as a man to be imprisoned, but she is on average likely to be imprisoned for fewer or less serious offences. Many are imprisoned for short sentences that do not give the option of mandatory post-sentence supervision. There is also a significant impact on the children of female offenders with many ending up in prison themselves (others will have lost care of their children prior to being imprisoned due to the acceleration of other issues).

Community payback also incorporates time to be spent improving offenders' prospects and reduce the risk of reoffending (e.g. literacy assessments / parenting skills / employability / addictions work).

The prevalence of problematic *substance misuse* among offenders has increased considerably in the past thirty years, with drug misuse becoming common, and alcohol addiction remaining a substantial problem. Drinking, alongside drug use, is a major contributory factor to crime rates in Scotland. For illustration:

- Fifty percent of prisoners reported being drunk at the time of their offence and this figure rose to 77 % for young offenders¹
- Where status was known, 69 % of those accused of homicides in Scotland were drunk at the time^{as 4}
- Seventy percent of assaults requiring treatment in A&E are thought to involve alcohol, with the majority of these at the weekend and involving young men²
- Seventy percent of those surveyed in the Lothian and Borders region regard alcohol abuse as being a major social problem in their area, with the proportions of people reporting this rising in areas of greater deprivation³

Addiction prevalence tests carried out as prisoners are admitted show over half of all prisoners register for illicit drug use (including prescribed drugs). For the same test carried out at release, this is around 1 in 6. Children with substance misusing parents are affected, and on the whole are at higher risk of maltreatment, emotional/physical neglect, family conflict and inappropriate parental behaviour.

¹ Scottish Prison Service. Prisoner survey 2009. 12th Survey bulletin [online] 2009.
<http://www.sps.gov.uk/default.aspx?documentid=21190703-e7b4-4abc-bc83-44b5d0f06f69>

² Scottish Government. Homicide in Scotland 2009-2010. Statistical bulletin. Crime and justice series [online]. 2010. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/12/10110553/0>

³ Source: Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2009/10, reported in
http://www.alcoholinformation.isdscotland.org/alcohol_misuse/files/alcohol_stats_bulletin_2011_update_d_110413.pdf

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At a younger age, offenders seem to be healthier in many ways than non-offenders; however repeat offenders appear to have worse health in middle-age¹. The reasons for this poorer health are unclear, but it is apparent that those who continue to offend at a high rate as adults are at a higher risk of poor health than other groups, including those who offended as adolescents and then stopped. This demonstrates that the cost of repeat offending is not just limited to the effects of criminal activity, and that health, social and criminal justice agencies should work together to try to limit post-adolescent offending, reducing the risk of illness in later life and the cost to society.

Offenders are more likely to have had poor experiences in learning, and most have *literacy and numeracy skills* well below the national average 80% prisoner population have the writing skills of an 11 year, 65% the numeracy skills of an 11 year old and 50% the reading skills of an 11 year old. The figures for young prisoners are even poorer regarding basic skills, rate of unemployment and levels of school exclusion. These skills, along with *gaining employment* is seen by most offenders are the highest among their aspirations. The above traits tend to lead to poor *housing options*.

Assisting offenders in making better decisions and improving the control of their behaviour is also important.

Crime Disorder & Danger

Serious Organised Crime (SOC) is a multi-billion pound enterprise. The activities of Serious Organised Crime Groups (SOCGs) continue to generate millions of pounds of profit for the groups involved, with the true cost reflected in the harm caused to communities².

The social and economic costs of drug misuse are estimated to be over £2.6 billion a year, and fraud, much of which is carried out by SOCGs, costs £330 per person in Scotland each year³. Groups are branching out from illegal drugs into money laundering, fraud, human trafficking, counterfeit goods, and internet crime.

Everyone is affected by organised crime. It fuels street crime and increases the fear of crime through violence and intimidation, brings misery to thousands of families through drug peddling and undermines legitimate hard-working businesses all of which affects Scotland's economy. Criminals in Scotland have connections that span the world, but most of the serious organised criminals operating in Scotland were born and bred in Scotland.

¹ Violence and Society Research Group at Cardiff University

² From Lothian and Borders Police Strategic update 2011

³ Scottish Government Serious & Organised Crime webpage – accessed September 2012

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The Scottish SOCG Mapping Project was established in April 2008 as a result of recommendations from the Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland (ACPOS) review of capacity and capability within the Scottish police service. The project set out to develop a better understanding of the individuals and groups that contribute to SOC in Scotland, and to identify the level of threat these criminals pose to Scotland's communities. This was designed to better protect communities from the threat; risk and harm caused by SOCGs and facilitate a greater impact against SOC¹.

The national strategy for tackling SOC in Scotland – Letting Our Communities Flourish – was published in June 2009, and review – One Year On – released in June 2010. This strategy has four pillars: Divert, Disrupt, Deter and Detect, and focused in the first instance on getting the message out, and going beyond law enforcement to involve businesses, local authorities and communities; with a number of initiatives to support this work.

The mapping project found that all Scottish Police force areas were impacted by various SOCGs to a greater or lesser extent. Groups were involved in a wide range of crime types from drug importation and money laundering to counterfeiting and robbery, and over half were involved in multiple crime types. Many were also involved in violence and intimidation, with a number linked to firearms; as well as human trafficking. In addition to SOCG members, a number of individuals had 'specialist' links to the groups; the most common were financial specialists and money launderers. Money laundering tended to be through business and/or property investment.

West Lothian has two tiers of SOCGs, those being targeted locally and other groups passed to the SCDEA for enquiry due to their involvement in the wider SOCG network in Scotland. SOC is not hidden to communities in West Lothian – a number of communities, particularly in the more deprived areas of the County highlight SOC, particularly drug dealing, as a priority for them.

SOCGs in West Lothian are involved in trafficking Class A, and sometimes Class B, drugs within the area, a number using 'legitimate' businesses as cover – for money laundering activities. A number also have links to members of other SOCGs out with the County. There are often familial links within SOCGs, with children of members and other vulnerable young people at risk of becoming involved in SOC.

Whilst local drug dealers do not tend to live out with their means, some members of the high ranked SOCGs fund their criminal lifestyles through illegal earnings, and there is potential

¹ <http://www.sdea.police.uk/Other-publications/Mapping%20Summary%20Report.pdf>

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under the Proceeds of Crime Act to seize such property. One SOCG in West Lothian is believed to have an increasing property portfolio as result of activities.

Information gaps continue to exist around the main principal members of SOCGs, and lack of intelligence continues to limit enforcement opportunities.

Human Trafficking also has significant local and national gaps¹. Scotland has already introduced legislation but, unlike other parts of the United Kingdom, and despite evidence of trafficking, to date there has been only one successful prosecution, resulting in two convictions against Scots. Secured only in September this year; this single conviction compares to over 150 successful prosecutions in England and Wales.

There is certainly human trafficking in Scotland, and some evidence that Scotland is becoming an initial destination for sex trafficking. Many of the trafficked women that featured in the inquiry had not been trafficked directly into Scotland, but had either been transferred to Scotland or were escapees who had received help from a client or mere acquaintance to flee their captors.

The inquiry recommended that Scotland developed a strategy to prevent and tackle human trafficking. West Lothian has a planned response in case of a human trafficking incident; however there is little proactive work within the County around this. The inquiry highlighted little public or professional awareness of trafficking in Scotland, or of its indicators, significant intelligence gaps and a lack of drive to consider human trafficking within SOCG work. It found that there is a stereotypical perception of victims² which needs to change and recommended that organisations should work better together to tackle this, embed anti-trafficking within frameworks and practices, broaden their work to cover more than just sexual exploitation³ and ensure end-to-end processes exist for victims.

The Inquiry found it impossible to establish the extent of trafficking in Scotland. Reliable figures are impossible to come by and some support organisations give numbers that are hard to verify. However, trafficking undoubtedly exists and any level has to be taken seriously.

Victims tend to have been vulnerable through poverty and/or social exclusion in their home country. Evidence suggests most are female and therefore trafficking for purposes of sexual

¹ Information from the Human Rights and Equality Commission's 2012 report

² Victims are chained to the radiator and not allowed out of the home etc, whereas in reality control is through various means including controlling finances etc.

³ Human trafficking is not just about sexual exploitation; this also notes those working in farms etc, as well as being kept a virtual prisoner in family homes.

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exploitation is high, but there is also labour within farms, domestic servitude (typically occurs within ethnic/national groups) or being forced into criminality (e.g. benefit fraud, cannabis cultivation or charity collectors). Deception by the traffickers is key – all victims were unaware of conditions or type of work they would be doing, and they are typically trafficked for a single reason.

Nationally there were almost 200 referrals in 21 months identified with possible trafficked status¹. Trafficking in Scotland tends to come from a small group of countries²: Nigeria / Czech Republic / Slovakia / China / Somalia. Nationally the strongest evidenced links were between Nigeria and sex trafficking, the Baltic states and Czech/Slovak republics and forced labour and the Indian sub-continent and domestic servitude. Of over 30 countries, half were African countries and a significant minority from Asia. Intra-nationally trafficking is the norm, run either by OCGs or smaller groups based on cultural/socio-economic hierarchies at home.

Traffickers use commercial products, services, and premises to organise and facilitate the exploitation of victims, including through mobile phones, websites, credit and debit payment facilities, and privately rented or owned accommodation.

We should not see this as a ‘foreign’ or ‘imported’ problem – the fact that Scotland is a preferred destination is problem enough, and we receive/seek out the services (whether unwittingly or otherwise) provided by the product of trafficking. The inquiry noted the stigmatisation of victims, particularly of sexual exploitation, and the fear regarding violence threatened to family back home.

Scotland, and this includes West Lothian, should be taking steps to make it clear that it has established an environment which is totally hostile to trafficking and all other parts of the state apparatus, private sector and communities are geared up to stamp it out.

Traditionally SOCGs were dealt with by the Police only, then Community Safety Partnerships, but the links between SOC and other thematic partnerships are now recognised – health and care, and particularly economic. In time these partnerships should deliver increased intelligence and succeed in reducing the impact and preventing the spread of SOC in our communities.

People at Risk

¹ NRM and Migrant Help

² Sample was from April 2009 - December 2010

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Public Protection is a core activity for statutory agencies. Child Protection work has been in existence for many years now, recent years have seen the introduction of Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) to ensure agencies work together to protect our community from those sexual offenders who may still pose a risk after being convicted. Similarly, the introduction of multi-agency guidance, local procedures, and new legislation has significantly increased the profile of Adult Protection.

A combination of factors, including increased awareness, and new legislation has seen a steady increase in the number of 'Public protection' incidents reported in West Lothian, with an increase in the number of Joint Interviews and Case Conferences.

High profile incidents continue nationally and these cases justify the need for a very high level of scrutiny of public protection services to ensure a high level of service is provided for each and every case.

The risk of under-reporting of these offences and concerns can lead to significant information gaps regarding individuals involved in this behaviour; with a large number of historical allegations, which can make the investigative process more challenging.

Sexual Offences decreased by 18% during the 2011 compared to the three-year average.

The rate of Sexual offences per 1000 population in West Lothian is lower than in Scotland 1.17 locally compared to 1.35 in Scotland.

Sexual offenders are predominantly male and around 80% of all victims are female. The peak age of offenders is 16 with most of these incidents being sexual assault or rape of a younger female.

In 2011 there was an increase in the number of recorded rapes due to the introduction of the Sexual Offence Reform Act in December 2010. This act offers greater protection for victims of sexual crime and strengthens the way in which the criminal justice system deals with these crimes. Most offenders of rape are under twenty five, with over half of all victims being under twenty one. Only 12% of rapes involved strangers with half involving an offender known to the victim but not a family member. West Lothian now has a dedicated unit that specifically deals with these cases and provides clear support for victims via partnership agencies and Rape crisis and also a standard approach to offenders via the criminal justice system.

Indecent assaults have remained at a similar level compared to previous years with the majority of victims younger than twenty five.

At any one time in West Lothian (over the past year), there have been between 98 and 103 Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs) being managed under West Lothian's Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). This level has remained for the past two years although

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there has been considerable movement with a number of individuals being de registered whilst a similar number of people have been placed on the register. In 99% of cases, the identified level of risk of these individuals has been reduced or retained which reflects upon the high level partnership working in this area.

Trigger plans are in place to deal with those offenders identified as high risk and officers from the Offender Management Unit routinely visit offenders

Stalking legislation¹ came into effect in Scotland at the end of 2010. One in twenty adults has experienced some sort of stalking or harassment in the past year, according to the most recent Scottish Crime and Justice survey. It also showed women and younger people, aged 16-24, were more likely to experience stalking and harassment, with some kind of relationship between more than half of victims and offenders.

Alcohol continues to be a prominent factor in a large number of sexual crimes with a public perception that some responsibility therefore lies with the victim. Work continues to publicise the risk of sexual crime whilst under the influence of alcohol, and emphasise that sexual assault is a crime irrespective any circumstances.

Recent work by children's organisations has highlighted the need to teach young people about consent, and also about normal behaviour within relationships which is arguably becoming increasingly influenced and altered by access to modern media. Recent media has also noted the growing problem of abuse within teenage relationships in particular.

A 2011 report researching stalking also looked at sexual victimisation, and found that 3% of adults, mostly women, had experienced serious sexual assault at least once since the age of 16. At the same time a separate study showed 16% of adults who had at least one partner since the age of 16 had experienced abuse. Of those, a quarter went on to form subsequent abusive relationships.

Domestic Abuse, in particular child contact in the context of domestic abuse, has been identified as a priority by West Lothian's Violence Against Women (VAW) partnership. In the past year there has been a renewed focus on domestic abuse in the Community Safety Partnership, with a dedicated officer gathering greater evidence by spending increased quality time building up relationships with victims to provide additional evidence to assist the Procurator Fiscal in proceeding with cases. This approach has been further enhanced with

¹ The offence covers a wide range of behaviours constituting stalking, including the sending of threatening or harassing emails, text messages or phone calls, or persistent following, pursuing or spying upon a person. The offence is not however limited in scope to stalking related activity and ensures that prosecutors can take action in other areas, such as incidents of domestic abuse that take place in isolated locations or where a public element is not present.

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the Domestic Abuse Court that has recently been introduced in Livingston. This specialist court is expected to provide improved outcomes and increase the process time for cases to trial.

Incidents of Domestic abuse reported to Police in West Lothian continue to show an increase with a 6% increase in reports in the past year compared to the 3 year average, and this has long been a priority issue within West Lothian. There has also been an 8% increase in the number of crimes that have been identified as domestic related. A large number of incidents are identified as being verbal arguments that result in a call to the police but no further action with only 30% of incidents actually resulting in a crime being recorded. National data also indicates that women are often victims of abuse on a number of occasions before any authority is contacted.

There has been a reduction in repeat victims, although 30% of victims are repeat victims, with 90% of all women who have been dealt with by the partnership domestic abuse team stating that they feel safer as a result of the intervention work they have received. An increasing trend nationally has shown that teenage girls between 16 and 19 are now the group most at risk of domestic violence, closely followed by girls aged 20-24 – all victims of a new generation of abusers who are themselves in their teens and early twenties. Often young girls find it difficult to identify controlling, intimidating behaviour by a teenage boyfriend as abusive until it turns violent before they look for support.

Almost three quarters of domestic abuse incidents occur when children are present or there are children in the family. The number of children involved in domestic incidents has fallen by 3.6% slightly in the past year but the figure of 2447 children referred due to domestic incidents is still considerable. There is more chance that a child growing up seeing domestic abuse at first hand is more likely to go on to be a perpetrator of abuse in later life, and children living in chaotic households may also be more likely to be out on the streets as they see this as a safer place to be, increasing their vulnerability further.

On average (2009-12) almost 70% of Domestic abuse perpetrators complete a probation order without further incidents reported to the Police (though some incidents may not necessarily be reported to the Police). This figure has been decreasing during the last few years from 80% in 2009/10 to almost 58% in 2011/12. Research indicates the positive impact that social work intervention has on domestic abuse perpetration, though there are no estimates on reporting confidence.

Over the past three years the number of reported incidents of Domestic Abuse have increased with a correlated increase in the number of women referred to the Domestic abuse service.

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The number of women that access a service increased from 2009 to 2010, but dropped slightly from 858 in 2010 to 772 in 2011. Co-location of the Domestic abuse service team and Lothian and Borders Police have resulted in more efficient working practices in this respect, more than doubling the number of referrals in the first year.

Children referred to the multi-agency screening group for domestic abuse tend to be in the 0-11 years age group – 45% under four years and 40% 5-11 years. The remaining 15% are 12-15 years. There has been an increase in the number of referrals to the group has increased, though it is not clear how many of these are re-referrals (i.e. multiple referrals for a single child).

On 28 November 2011, new legislation in Scotland came into place to protect both men and women currently in a *forced marriage* or anyone who feels the threat of forced marriage upon them. This is the first time in the UK that the breach of Forced Marriage Protection Orders has been criminalised, and ensures that anyone in Scotland is protected from the threat, harassment or pressure to marry or enter into a civil partnership which they have not consented to or to which they are not capable of consenting. There is a significant information gap regarding this in West Lothian, and nationally.

Violence Against Women Partnership

Prevention is a key focus of West Lothian's VAW partnership work. West Lothian's stance on prevention is underpinned by a gendered approach, which views violence against women as cause and consequence of gender inequality.

There are three strands to the prevention work the VAW strategic partnership West Lothian undertakes:

Primary prevention is designed to address the underlying root cause of violence against women. This includes initiatives to address occupational segregation, increase women's political representation and more generally to improve equality of opportunity and tackle structural and systemic inequality.

Secondary prevention takes place immediately after the violent event occurs and includes steps, which decrease the likelihood of the event reoccurring and increase safety for the survivor. It can include helping those affected to find safe housing, health services, access to justice and so on.

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Tertiary prevention takes a long-term approach by working with survivors over time and implementing intervention programmes for perpetrators of abuse. It addresses the long-term effects of gender-based violence, including health, productivity, economic, safety and well-being.

Initial key priority areas and information gaps are

- Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage and other harmful cultural practices
- Sexual Violence
- Child Contact in the context of Domestic Abuse

Recent research has indicated that violence against women in teen relationships - domestic abuse and coercive behaviour and sexual violence - is a key information gap and is a rising issue.

Children and Young People

Inequality and deprivation impact upon the potential of children becoming at risk of neglect or abuse, often caused or exacerbated by parental substance misuse, domestic violence within the home or lack of parental care. Ascertaining the true extent of this is hampered by its often hidden nature – particularly in pre-school children and those out with the education system.

An NSPCC study published in 2012 stated that as many as one in five secondary school children in the UK have been abused or neglected in childhood - the equivalent of almost a million 11 to 17-year-olds who have been severely neglected, physically assaulted or even sexually abused at some point in their lives.

For the first time since 2004, child protection referrals in 2011 decreased during the previous financial year, which may be due to an increase in early identification of concerns and swifter interventions. Child protection Inter-agency Referral Discussions (IRDs), Joint Investigations (JIs) and Case Conferences (CCs) also all decreased during 2011.

The number of children referred to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) has been decreasing in West Lothian and Scotland since 2006/07. In 2010/11 there were 25 children referred per 1000 of the population in West Lothian, compared to a rate of 43 for Scotland – this gap has been widening between West Lothian and Scotland since 2006/07. Care and protection referrals were a rate of 20 in 2010/11 for West Lothian and 37 for Scotland and for offences, 14 for West Lothian and 18 for Scotland.

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The number of hearings held per 1000 of population has remained relatively stable in West Lothian and in Scotland during the last few years - a three-year average of 34 in West Lothian and 47 in Scotland.

The number of supervision requirements in for both areas has also remained stable in the last few years – a three-year average of 10 in West Lothian compared to 15 in Scotland.

The number of Child Protection Orders¹ has risen in West Lothian, notably from 2009/10 to 2010/11 – three-year average is 14 per year and 32 in 2010/11. The 2010/11 figure is the highest since 2003.

The number of Joint Reports² has remained relatively stable in recent years (there was a low figure in 2009/10), with 27 made in 2010/11. The number of custody referrals remains very low – the three-year average is less than two per year.

Referrals in West Lothian predominantly come from Police and Social work, and most children are referred to SCRA due to a lack of parental care (almost 50%) or they are alleged to have committed an offence (almost 25%). Those classed as ‘beyond control’, or have school attendance issues make up a further 20%. Compared to Scotland, there is a much larger proportion of those referred for concerns about a lack in parental care and those alleged to have committed an offence; and a smaller proportion of referrals for school non-attendance, bad associations and being a victim of a Schedule 1 offence³. Most children referred are in the 12-15 age group (true for Scotland and West Lothian) with more boys referred than girls during the course of an average year.

In West Lothian, only 5% of children referred to the reporter have a Children’s hearing arranged (this is greater than the 2% nationally). Most cases have insufficient evidence to proceed (21% in West Lothian) or the family have already taken action (34% in West Lothian, similar national figure), or measures are already in place (10% in West Lothian). 15% of children are diverted to other measures, and 7% are diverted to the local authority. The main differences in West Lothian compared to Scotland are that a higher % of cases have insufficient evidence to proceed and diversion to other measures occurs more often. Fewer cases in West Lothian get referred back to the local authority (this figure is more than double in Scotland – 23%) and there is a lower % of cases where a Children’s hearing is arranged in Scotland compared to West Lothian.

¹ Requires the child to be removed to or kept in a place of safety away from the home

² Where a child is alleged to have committed a serious offence

³ A set of specified offences against children (specified in Schedule 1 of the Criminal Procedure [Scotland] Act 1995). These are primarily offences comprising neglect or physical, sexual, or emotional harm towards children.

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The most frequent decision following West Lothian hearings in 2010/11 is for new Supervision Requirements to be made – in 88% of cases. In a small percentage grounds were denied and discharged, or a review of Supervision Requirements was instructed.

The most recent figures¹ show 98 children on the CPR² in West Lothian. This total shows 49 female, 45 male and 4 unborn children. The most prevalent category of abuse is neglect with over 35% followed by physical injury with 30%. Over half of all children on the CPR are under 5 years of age. During the same period there has been a slight rise in the % of re-registered children – 10.8% in 2009/10 to 11.6% in 2011/12, but a decrease in the % of children who have been on the CPR for two years or more – 6.4% in 2009/10 to 2.9% in 2011/12.

During 2009-2011 there were 449 *Looked After Children (LAC)* in West Lothian – around 1% of the West Lothian 0-21 years population. There has been a decrease in the % of LAC with multiple³ placements from 35% in 2009/10 to 30% in 2010/11 - in the most recent reporting period this equates to 134 LAC who had three or more placements.

On average, most LAC are at home with their parents – 74%. Around 10% are with friends/relatives and another 10% in independent living or at home with adoptive parents.

Between 2009/10 and 2010/11 there was a rise in the % placed with friends/relatives and placed in residential care (1 in residential care in 09/10 and 5 in 10/11), and a decrease in the % in semi-independent living and placed with new adoptive parents.

Currently 62.1% (almost two out of every three) of young people who have ceased to be classed as 'looked after' have a positive accommodation outcome within six months of leaving placement. The future target is 75%.

Care of Children & Families At Risk

Themes in this commissioning plan are to respond to the culture change in delivering residential child care – possibly shifting to a higher proportion of foster care -, break the cycle of poor outcomes, maintain the recent improvement in educational attainment overall, but continue to raise performance in LAC and areas of deprivation where children typically have poorer educational (amongst other) outcomes. Employment options and progression for young people, particularly LAC⁴, remains challenging. Focusing on supporting parents to help their children and help themselves *and* encouraging communities to become more engaged in supporting young children and their families will be important longer-term.

¹ 31.03.2011

² Child Protection Register

³ Three or more

⁴ 25% of young care leavers, who left West Lothian schools in 2011, did not go onto positive destinations.

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There are also challenges around the provision of services for children and families at particular stages of their lives:

- Early Years. Estimated no of children aged 0-4 living in families misusing drugs or alcohol - 2,708 (24% of those aged 0-4years)
- School Age. Estimated no. of children and young people at risk of failing to achieve their potential owing to serious adverse circumstances - 1,111 (3.65% of the school population)
- Young People in Transition. 14.9% of school leavers are unemployed and seeking employment¹

From 2001-09 there has been just over a 4.5% per annum increase in children in foster care and over 65% of these children had no real short-term restoration home plan. 67% children in foster care are under 12, and there is an aging foster care population - 61% in 2010 were over fifty; something which is also reflected nationally.

The demographic profile of West Lothian coupled with the life-stage specific challenges indicates that it is realistic to expect that there will be an increase in the demand for services for children and families with additional needs. Prevention, integration and redistribution towards target groups is the future.

The Child protection committee considers information on the number of CP referrals, joint investigations resulting in CPCC's² and registration, case conferences held within the current 28-day time period and agency compliance with the procedures. Further scrutiny of management information is provided by the Quality Assurance subcommittee, which, for example, considers all cases where children's names have been on the child protection register for over 2 years and reviews cases where children's names have been de-registered and re-registered. A consultation group has been established for staff to approach when they feel that planning in a case has become "stuck".

The 2010 HMIE inspection identified a number of strengths in West Lothian's child protection work, and recommended improvements to the approach taken when reviewing CPC work to ensure sharper focus on improving outcomes for vulnerable children, and build on the current work to further improve risk and needs assessment(s). Both of these are incorporated into the Child Protection Committee's Improvement Plan for 2012 - more information will become available as part of the improvement plan as outcomes will be assessed for a sample of

¹ School Leaver Destination Results 2010

² Child Protection Case Conferences

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children who have been on the CPR (and those re-registered) – this will allow for further service improvement and act as a further evidence base.

There are opportunities to tackle information gaps around the protection of children with a disability, those missing from or out with the education system and child sexual exploitation and/or trafficking. In addition to this there are still opportunities for the CSP and child protection to work closer together.

The [Adult Support and Protection \(Scotland\) Act 2007](#) was introduced in October 2008 and there has been a large rise in the number of adult referrals since the legislation came in, with an average of 150-180 per year. Accompanying the rise in referrals is a consequent increase in adult IRD's with 2/3 of these resulting in adult protection case conference & reviews.

As adult protection is a comparatively new field, there was a lack of awareness of adults of risk or who to contact regarding concerns. This has improved in recent years due to local campaigns, although from the 2010 Citizens' Panel, of those surveyed only 64% knew who to contact with concerns and only 50% think the law protects adults at risk.

Risk assessment is an integral part of adult protection work and is undertaken through written and verbal reports submitted at an Adult Protection Case Conference. The timely submission of risk assessments is a good indicator that adults are being protected appropriately and within necessary timescales.

With a significant increase in the older population of West Lothian projected, the work around protecting adults at risk is anticipated to increase further still.

Adult referrals generally are split between those suffering from mental health issues, alcohol misuse and deliberate self-harm risks.

In adults, the widening gap between the rates of suicide in Scotland and England & Wales has been developing since the late 1960s, but accelerated in 1990s due to an increase in men, particularly young men in Scotland taking their own lives.

Age-related and some health condition/disability-related risks also exist where people take are at risk of harm being done to them by other people, in addition to / or instead of them being a risk to themselves. People can take advantage of this group in a number of ways, but financially is the most evidenced one in West Lothian. This comes in the form of simple theft,

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or more sophisticated scams or doorstep/'bogus' callers¹ – the over eighty group are preferentially targeted due to assumptions about their mental capacity. The large amount of money typically kept in the home by this age group is also an attraction to criminals. Incidents like this can have a significant health impact in addition to financial consequences.

Prevention is particularly important, as under-reporting is notable in this area, aided by a highly mobile group of offenders.

Violent crime continues to decrease in West Lothian, and at 1.6 offences per 1000 population in 2010/11 & 2011/12, is lower than the Scottish average rate of 2.0.. Minor and Serious assaults account are the most common violent offences in West Lothian, and account for around 12-15% of all crime in West Lothian in an average year. Despite Minor assaults decreasing in recent years, Serious assaults have remained relatively static. Around 10% of violent offences are domestic offences.

83% of offenders are male and 62% are male victims, 38% female, and most are 17-34 years. Offenders and victims tend to have a previous association, with only 1 in 3 offences occurring between strangers. On average, 17% of offences involve the use of a weapon, and 1 in 3 offences involves alcohol and a proportion is linked to the night-time economy, though this is assessed to be an underestimate. It is unclear what, if any, violence in West Lothian is linked to SOC, though there tends to be a fair amount of pre-meditated violence in the County.

Robbery and Assaults have increased by 13% compared to the average committed in the 3 previous years, and tend to be committed on footpaths. Males are typically threatened or assaulted and females have their handbags forcibly removed. Offenders involved in robbery do not tend to be first-time offenders, and many are known to misuse alcohol and/or drugs.

The threat level from *International Terrorism* to the UK remains at Substantial, meaning that an attack is a strong possibility and the main threat continues to be from networks linked to Al Qaeda (AQ). Although no specific intelligence exists of an attack, the forthcoming Commonwealth games (2014 in Glasgow) represent potential targets for terrorist activity.

West Lothian has established wind farms and planning applications in for more - these farms may be deemed an attractive target for Domestic Extremists / Terrorists given their links to the National Grid. West Lothian is also in the Edinburgh airport flight path which has implications for the County if air travel remains a high risk target. Iran continues to develop nuclear technology causing growing unease in the west which could result in another Cold War. Many

¹ Criminals posing as cold callers tend to target homes with visible clues such as handrails or wheelchair access ramps, and in some cases they have even been known to trawl obituaries columns to identify the recently bereaved.

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Islamic Extremists will view any interference from the west as another attack on Islam, which will increase the possibility of an attack on the UK mainland.

The growth of Social Networking sites and enhanced internet technology makes contact with vulnerable individuals much greater, and people within West Lothian being targeted for radicalisation by these means is plausible.

The threat level in *Northern Ireland* remains at Substantial, meaning that an attack is a strong possibility. Recent bombs attacks in Northern Ireland have increased the tension in Northern Ireland enforcing the threat level, and clashes continue as part of parade season. Dissident Irish Republicans are disconnected from the peace process and this may reignite tensions within the Loyalist community. Locally, some individuals / communities in West Lothian are known to sympathise with both Dissident Irish Republican and Loyalist terrorists.

Domestic Extremism - the current economic climate and associated unrest is likely to increase protests, with the potential for extreme elements to hijack legitimate demonstrations. The National front and support for other extreme right organisations has been increasing nationally, and there may be pockets of support for this in West Lothian.

Any possible independence result in the future may have implications on national security as the responsibility falls to the Scottish Government.

Since 2003 the UK government has had in place the CONTEST strategy¹, which aims to reduce the risk from international terrorism so that people can go about their daily lives freely and with confidence. Locally, the group have devised and agreed an action plan to progress a West Lothian response to counter the threat from international terrorism, a significant contributory factor in ensuring West Lothian is as safe from terrorism as any other part of the UK.

West Lothian's CSP will continue to focus on the delivery of prevent products in the foreseeable future.

'ACT NOW' events, which are designed to put members of the community in the role of the Police to provide a greater understanding of the challenges faced by Police in relation to intelligence led terrorism operations, will continue to be delivered to 5/6th year secondary school pupils and adult audiences.

Workshops to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) will continue to be rolled out to representatives of partner agencies who operate in public facing roles. These workshops

¹ Tackling terrorism through Pursue, Prevent, Detect, Prepare. The CONTEST Strategy is delivered locally through the West Lothian Delphinus Group, which has been operational since November 2009. It is made up with senior representatives from the Blue Light Services, West Lothian Council, NHS Lothian, West Lothian College and ELREC and meets three times a year.

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provide public sector workers with the necessary knowledge to identify those vulnerable to radicalisation operating in the pre-criminal phase. Such individuals are then provided with support from the relevant partner agencies and will in the future be dealt with at Prevent Case Conferences.

Road Safety in West Lothian continues to improve, with consistent reductions in road casualties, and is due to meet the interim Government targets. All KSI (Killed or Seriously Injured) collisions are below target with 63 incidents in 2011; of these, 22% involved young drivers. Fatal Road casualties are also below target with only 2 fatalities – both under 24 years - recorded last year. Young adults, particularly males, aged between 16 and 25 are the most vulnerable in terms of casualties (account for around 20% of all casualties) and this is the case for all road user groups including pedestrians, and this group are disproportionately represented in collisions and offences such as driving under the influence of alcohol. Serious child casualties remain a concern, with seven in 2011 (above target); five were pedestrians 8-14 years.

Road casualties in West Lothian are mostly composed of car occupants and are generally falling in number, however, the number of cyclists and pedestrians injured is growing and is expected to continue to do so as high motoring costs and tightening finances mean more people using alternative modes of transport to private cars. This will also mean an increase in KSI casualties as pedestrians and cyclists are far more vulnerable to more serious injury in the event of a collision than vehicle occupants. The rise in motorcycling is also reflected as the number of motorcycle casualties for 2011/12 is currently higher than in any of the three previous years.

Carelessness and recklessness is a factor in nearly all collisions with many drivers and riders losing control of their vehicles as they are driving too fast for the conditions of the road. Many drivers, riders and pedestrians, particularly young people, fail to look out for other road users. Most collisions are concentrated into the town centres with pedestrian and cyclists more likely to be involved in collisions on busy high/main streets. Vehicle occupants are involved in collisions both within built up town centres and along main arterial commuter routes, and tend to occur at junctions.

In 2010 1 in 19 child and 1 in 40 deaths are as a result of *unintentional injury*, with >65 year olds over-represented. In 2010/11 unintentional injuries accounted for 1 in 7 child and 1 in 9 adult emergency admissions, with 15% of emergency admissions (around 53,000) due to,

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largely preventable, unintentional injuries. There are also unknown figures where these injuries have been treated at home or by a GP. Admissions as a result of UI have increased over the last five years from 1945 2006/07 to 2248 2010/11 (15.6% rise), with a 5 year average of 2101.2 UI admissions per year in West Lothian.

Most child UIs occur in the home and 49% of UI in children are falls. Children aged 1-4 years account for 50% of the total child UIs and the likelihood of UI decreases as children get older. Boys feature more than girls.

Similarly, most adult UIs occur in the home and 56% are falls, particularly in those over 65 years (81% of their UIs are falls). Males are more likely to be injured, until 65+ when females become more prevalent¹.

There is a correlation between deprivation and unintentional injury – people from the most deprived areas are two times more likely to die as a result of a UI than people from the least deprived areas.

Accidental dwelling fires continue to decrease in West Lothian, with less than 1 in 10 resulting in injury - two fatalities and twenty three injuries in 2011. Most casualties suffer gas/smoke inhalation with only a few casualties suffering serious burns.

A common theme with regards to accidental dwelling fires is the high number of incidents that involve cooking with chip pan fires still the most prevalent cause of fires. The other common cause of fires involves physical impairment due to excessive alcohol consumption. These incidents often happen to vulnerable adults who lead chaotic lives due to substance abuse. 1 in 3 accidental fires result from electrical faults.

Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) is behaviour that lacks consideration for other people and affects individuals and communities alike. The picture regarding ASB within West Lothian is very positive with proactive tasking and a preventative philosophy adopted throughout the partnership. Although ASB overall has been decreasing in recent years, the rate of ASB offences (fire-raising/vandalism/reckless conduct) per 1000 population is higher in West Lothian than Scotland – 15.6 locally compared to 15.1 in Scotland.

Last year, ASB calls accounted for 21.4% of all calls recorded by police in West Lothian and several communities throughout the county have highlighted this issue as a key concern to residents. Although this remains a high volume occurrence, levels of ASB throughout West

¹ Some of this may be due to females having a higher life expectancy

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Lothian continue to decrease with large decreases seen recently in youth-related ASB, disturbances and public nuisance calls although neighbour disputes and noise related calls have remained relatively stable. Reductions in these precursor incidents have resulted in a reduction in escalating behaviour, for example fire-raising and vandalism.

Despite a decrease, more than 1 in 3 ASB incidents relate to young people, and this is often indicative of other issues and may eventually lead to entering the criminal justice system if behaviour escalates. Diverting young people from offending has been successful through the Early and Effective Intervention Group that was established in 2010, however this group only reviews youths once they have committed a crime. 150 youths passed through this process during 2011, which has diverted a large number of youths from offending.

These continuing decreases have also impacted upon environmental ASB reports received by West Lothian Council with a decrease of over 20% seen during 2011. Incidents of Graffiti have reduced by 40%; fly tipping by 18% and dog fouling by 14%.

Noise complaints received by the West Lothian Council Noise team have increased by 30% in the past three years. Only 60% of calls, however, receive a visit from officers and the percentage of calls whereby action has been taken has fallen from 22% to 18% in the past year. The peak demand for this service is identified as Friday and Saturday evenings between 2100Hrs and 0300Hrs. Noise calls to the police have, however only increased by 4.7% over the same period.

Neighbour dispute figures show an increase in calls to the police of 8%, although the volume of open cases to West Lothian Council has decreased by over 30% over the same time period. The level of Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBO) remains low with fewer than ten orders issued in each of the past four years.

Vandalism has reduced by 29%, but young people (13-15 years) are over-represented and offenders. Lothian & Borders Fire and Rescue Service have seen a decrease of 27% in deliberate secondary fires although wheelie bin fires remain an issue throughout West Lothian – these tend to involve younger people aged 8-16 years. There has also been an increase in the reports of violence to fire crews with regards to verbal abuse, although this is minimal compared to the number of fires that the officers attend.

The number of problem *drug* users in Scotland has risen by 4,000, to an estimated at 59,600, Scottish Government figures show. West Lothian has an estimated prevalence of 1.29%, lower than the national figure of 1.71%. Since 2006 there has been an increase, nationally

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and in West Lothian, of the estimated prevalence of problem drug use; but West Lothian saw a greater increase than the National rise – 1%-1.43% locally, 1.67-1.75% nationally.

Almost three-quarters (71%) are male and 43% are aged 35 to 64, but the figures, including those on methadone programmes, show a drop in the number of young Scots with serious drug problems (though recreational use by young people has not changed as notably).

Notwithstanding the large number of offences recorded as part of Operation Focus in 2009, there are on average just over eight hundred drug offences committed per year in West Lothian, around 450 per 100,000 population.

Approximately 62% of all drugs crimes are for drugs possession offences with almost one third for supply of controlled drugs charges. Less than 5% relate to cultivations and importing. Males are responsible for 85% drug offences, with many aged 25-34 years.

Cannabis is particularly prevalent in the offence figures (around 66%), with increasing numbers of cannabis cultivations discovered within homes - this has risen steadily since 2008 and the number discovered has almost doubled from 31 in 2008 to 57 in 2011 with 184 discovered since 2008. Around half were linked to SEAOCGs in 2011. All were in residential locations and most involved serious disruption to the power supply increasing the likelihood of fire or serious accidents. The majority of premises were rented from private landlords.

There is an increasing trend for misuse of prescription drugs and cannabis, as well as dual misuse of drugs and alcohol; though misuse of heroin, cocaine and amphetamine have remained relatively stable in the last few years, accounting for around 20% of offences. The nature of drug use often reflects how long someone has been using, their employment and deprivation status and whether it is for recreational use only. In the future, staying ahead of the 'legal high' market is going to be a future challenge.

Charges for drug misuse at HMP Addiewell have decreased over the past few years, with around 35 charges per year.

The number of drug deaths in West Lothian have fluctuated in recent years from a peak of 21 in 2009¹ and 12 in 2010. The rate in West Lothian is lower than the Scottish rate – 7 per 100,000 population locally and 10 per 100,000 population nationally. Most deaths occur in drug users and are due to heroin or methodone overdose (some involving alcohol as well); however the increased distribution of self-administered naloxone² may decrease the overall figures and the proportion of deaths due to opiate overdose.

¹ <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files2/stats/drug-related-deaths/2010/drug-related-deaths2010.pdf>

² This drug can counter the effect of opiate overdose, and a programme of distribution to drug users at risk of opiate overdose is in place.

Acquisitive crime overall is decreasing in West Lothian, though it still accounts for around 30% of all crime. The rate of acquisitive crime (offences per 1000 population) is lower in West Lothian than in Scotland – 25.9 locally compared to 29.8 in Scotland.

Most offenders are males aged 17-34 years, and based on intelligence, a number have drug misuse problems or are linked to the controlled drug market.

Recently emerging trends have been theft of gold and other metals. Gold prices often increase in times of economic decline/instability, and reset of items stolen is comparatively simple since the advent of postal valuation services and pop-up stalls in shopping centres. Rapid development in economies like China and India have fuelled demand for metal – the price of copper has more than doubled since 2009 and in 2011 was fetching around £5000/tonne¹. Rising metal theft has accompanied these price increases, with offenders targeting a wider variety of metals in recent months affecting rail networks, BT and other utility suppliers, churches and other community buildings and even manhole covers – in total worth around £400,000 in 2011. Reset is comparatively simple due to the lack of regulation of scrap metal yards. This is likely to continue even if prices decrease and is a new avenue of acquisitive crime unexploited until relatively recently - the value of metal and ease of theft and reset is attractive to offenders. Until tighter regulation of scrap yards is enforced through national legislation change, metal theft will remain a concern.

Housebreakings – business and dwellings – tend to occur when properties are unoccupied. The most commonly targeted property items are jewellery, portable electrical Goods and cash from dwellings. In businesses, property stolen can range from low value consumable items to high value items such as tobacco metal and plant, with links to larger cross-border crime groups evident. Theft of tobacco has particularly increased very recently with around £80,000 worth stolen in 2011, with convenience stores and distribution depots targeted, with a large amount of planning involved.

Reset is through second hand dealers or online trading, drug dealers, licensed premises, convenience stores; though there are significant gaps of reset of higher value items stolen from businesses.

Theft of items from cars – generally portable such as satellite navigation systems – is one of the few types of acquisitive crime that has increased. Most occur overnight and are easily preventable by removing items of value from vehicles and leaving vehicles secure (almost 1 in 3 of these offences were from insecure vehicles). Of concern is the rising number of thefts

¹ London Metal Exchange accessed March 2012.

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from and thefts of vehicles using true keys, but there is limited intelligence on this in West Lothian.

All of this impacts upon the West Lothian economy, particularly for businesses looking to locate in the County, and partnership work between the economic forum, Police and other partners should be developed.

GREENER

“Improve Scotland's natural and built environment and the sustainable use and enjoyment of it and facilitate the transition to a low carbon economy. The choices and decisions we make every day - as government, as businesses and as individuals, young and old, rural and urban - impact on the environment around us. Achieving a greener Scotland depends on all of us - and will benefit us all too.” Scottish Government

Govt

- Supporting business (underpin rural economy) – fishing / food & drink policy / farming
- Empowering communities – Rural network / crofters / rural dev programme
- Protecting the environment – Climate change / ZWP / energy efficiency / marine bill

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The key driver for renewable energy policy is the legally binding EU 2020 target which states that 20% of the EU's energy consumption must be from renewable sources by 2020. In Scotland, current energy policy is framed by the Scottish Government's plans to move towards a low carbon economy through progressively increasing the generation of renewable energy in Scotland, and supporting an increase in sustainable economic growth. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 also sets ambitious targets for carbon reduction: 42% reduction in carbon emissions to be achieved by 2020, and 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050.

West Lothian has extensive greenspace, and is home to a number of biodiversity and other ecological sites of interest. West Lothian is a prime location within the Central Belt of Scotland, however care must be taken regarding the impact new housing and business development will have on waste, transport and air quality. More homes and businesses means rising transport demand, increasing waste and consumption; there are already concerns about the air quality in Linlithgow and Broxburn and certain areas of West Lothian continue to be reliant on car-based transport and further development risks adding to this.

Low carbon economies have long been associated with improved health due to the lower atmospheric pollutants, however evidence for the health benefits has been mounting comparatively more recently¹, with research noting that mental well being in particular is improved by local greenspace. Other physical conditions were also improved – coronary heart disease, some joint complaints, diabetes, respiratory infections and asthma, and other unexplained physical symptoms. Mental well being in children under twelve was particularly affected by this, and the overall health of the 46-65 year age group.

The researchers postulated that these benefits were, in part and particularly for respiratory conditions and joint pains, due improved air quality and free exercise, but also that green spaces help recovery from stress and offer greater opportunities for social contacts.

It clearly shows that green spaces are not just a luxury but they relate directly to diseases and the way people feel in their living environments. Most of the diseases which are related to green spaces are diseases which are highly prevalent and costly to treat.

There is an opportunity to join up CPP partners' plans around climate change to create a West Lothian wide Climate Change Strategy.

The Future

¹ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/8307024.stm> from a paper published in the Journal Epidemiology & Community Health, October 2009

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Increasingly, climate change is now being seen by politicians, businesses and communities as a real and present risk, though this is still inconsistent globally and still remains relatively low – only 1/3 of major companies consider the physical risks of a changing climate as a real and present danger¹.

In this vein, West Lothian already has a winter plan and there is a lot of advice available regarding energy efficiency, as well as a Renewables Strategy for West Lothian Council however there is no climate change strategy for West Lothian which is a risk. Altering the historical car-centred development and high use of vehicles is a particularly pressing issue in West Lothian.

Challenges

- ∞ Balancing greenspace with pressure on land for low carbon technologies; economic growth with green considerations; attracting business and development and focusing on the environment
- ∞ Planning for increasingly unpredictable weather events and cost challenges within the Winter Services. The weather may also result in an increased risk of road casualties
- ∞ Meeting the ambitious carbon targets
- ∞ Reducing and managing the increased risk of fuel poverty
- ∞ Reduction in subsidies
- ∞ Cost challenges around physical changes to houses to improve efficiency and also low carbon transport options
- ∞ Increasing repair/maintenance costs for roads / green space etc

Opportunities

Nationally there are opportunities regarding income from renewable technologies, and to have a real sustainable future from these. Locally

- ∞ Providing young people with skills to work within these developing sectors
- ∞ Increase energy efficiency and reduce waste
- ∞ Decarbonise transport

The local development plan provides opportunities for more sustainable transport and to create sustainable mixed used communities, an opportunity to incorporate the green agenda into the local development plan, particularly around renewables. It is important to remember the greener agenda, not just development and the contribution of parks, greenspaces and farm land to low carbon economic strategy and Climate change policy. Challenges are

¹ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/sep/12/climate-change-business-cdp> Accessed September 2012.

healthcare and education infrastructure, balancing the need for development with greenspace needs and ensuring sustainable communities that contribute to the ZWP/low carbon economic strategy/climate change strategy.

Tourism is one of Scotland's largest business sectors, providing direct employment for 200,000 people and generating visitor spending of more than £4 billion annually¹. Although West Lothian has a Tourism strategy and has grown in recent years, it receives comparatively little tourism compared to other areas, particularly from non-West Lothian residents. There is an opportunity to develop tourism in West Lothian for all, and the Scottish government have previously highlighted wildlife tourism as a development opportunity for Scotland which may be an area to develop. Considering West Lothian's competitive advantage and how to market it will be important.

Low Carbon Economy - Communities

There is a general reduction in the carbon produced in the area², however the levels of carbon per capita are higher than the Scottish total of 7.9 kt CO₂ per capita for 2008. This may be a reflection of the growth of housing, energy consumption of industry, and the transport corridor of the M8 through West Lothian, but will not be helped by continued development without significant changes to the way we live and work in West Lothian, and should be further investigated in a Climate Change Strategy for the area. On average, 43% of West Lothian's carbon comes from industry, 37% from domestic and 20% from roads. Carbon production from roads has changed the least compared to the reductions from industry - possibly due to industry leaving between 2008 and 2009 - and domestic sectors - recent cessation in housing developments and possibly a move to low carbon economy by West Lothian residents.

Domestic sector carbon production is likely to increase with new planned developments, so sustainable low carbon developments and continuing to encourage a low carbon lifestyle from all West Lothian communities becomes increasingly important. Particular focus should be on the carbon from roads as this continues to account for 20% of total carbon production in West Lothian and has changed the least over time; and on carbon production from businesses as this continues to account for almost half of carbon produced.

Generally feedback from the Citizens' Panel indicates that people believe we should all be addressing the impact our lifestyles will have on the environment, cutting waste/saving fuel

¹ Visit Scotland, 2011

² 8.9kt CO₂/capita in 2005 to 8.6 in 2007 & 2008

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and energy, although a much smaller proportion (50% compared to 90-95%) believe climate change is an urgent and immediate issue. This gap indicates there may be a discrepancy between the opinions and the *actions* of individual communities. Evidence also shows extensive variation across communities, often on the basis of deprivation.

As well as the motivation to live a low carbon lifestyle, there also needs to be enablers to permit people to live in this way, and some work around people's/businesses lifestyles and barriers to living a low carbon lifestyle would be of merit.

Renewables¹

Renewable energy does not exist in isolation, but rather works in symbiosis with energy reduction and the move to energy efficient systems.

93% of the Citizens' Panel in 2010 agree that it is important that we try to save fuel and energy.

Scotland is committed to achieving the EU 2020 target by having 100% of Scotland's gross annual electricity consumption by 2020 generated by renewable sources and renewable sources are to provide the equivalent of 11% of Scotland's heat demand by 2020. A range of financial incentives have been implemented to encourage renewable energy generation for businesses and communities, and there are a number of large scale national developments in renewable energy underway in Scotland including offshore wave and wind power. There are small and medium scale solar developments in West Lothian as well as some use of wind technology.

Waste

As part of the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Plan (ZWP) the newly published Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 have set more challenging recycling rates and diversion of waste from landfill. The legislation to drive these changes will encourage further separation of recyclates such as plastics, glass, food, cans and paper/card/ and cardboard. The regulations require these materials to be separately collected in circumstances where it is "technically, environmentally or economically practicable". The ZWP reduces the carbon impacts of waste, but may, however require more waste management sites in WL with implementation of separate waste collections for food and glass, with associated financial implications.

From 2009/10 to 2010/11 there was an increase in the proportion of household and municipal waste recycle, both averaging between 43% and 45% for 2009/10 and 2010/11. Both of these

¹ Energy reduction, Efficient energy systems & Renewable energy.

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rates are above the Scottish average, with West Lothian ranked 11th of 32 Local authorities. Kerbside recycling has also been further rolled out to flatted/difficult to reach households in the last year, although there is some work to be done to meet the Scottish Government's target of 50% of household waste recycled by 2013 and ensure further separation of recyclates.

There were particular increases in the amount of green waste recycled from kerbside brown bin collections, but a drop in recyclates from the blue bins due to the severe weather during winter.

From the 2010 Citizens' Panel, 9 in 10 agree that citizens as well as organisations should try to address the impact which we might be having on our environment and that we should reduce and recycle waste wherever possible. 91% agree that a wide range of material can be recycled at the Council's Community Recycling Centres and 88% agree that West Lothian Council makes it easy for them to recycle, however there is limited data on the spread and degree to which West Lothian residents reduce and recycle.

A national survey published in 2011 by Zero Waste Scotland¹ highlighted major opportunities for households to recycle more, with the average weekly household bin containing around 5kg of recyclable materials. Food was particularly highlighted (1/3 current household waste, with only 4% being recycled), in addition to more common recyclables like paper and cardboard, plastic bottles, cans and glass. There were also opportunities for increased recycling from small businesses and schools.

Businesses are broadly supportive of this and note that they have traditionally lagged behind the contribution of the domestic sector to reducing and recycling, but had some concerns regarding the time and cost in compliance².

With the focus on recycling, a reduction in waste should also be emphasised as a means of engaging in a low carbon lifestyle.

Investment in waste processing technologies is also a requirement of the ZWP and there is a large scale project underway in West Lothian to develop this - the final contract will be for 25 years and the solution is planned to be operational by the end of 2014.

Greenspace

¹ <http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/content/survey-reveals-whats-scots-bins> Accessed September 2012

² <http://www.ciwm.co.uk/CIWM/Publications/LatestNews/SurveyFindsScottishBusinessesSupportZeroWastePlans.aspx> Accessed September 2012

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51% of West Lothian is covered by areas of great landscape value/special landscape control, and there is a wealth of local biodiversity sites, important geomorphological sites and a number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)¹. Over time there has been little change in the proportion of derelict land in West Lothian – from 2009-11 558, 558 and 559Ha, equalling 3.24Ha/1000people².

A smaller proportion of people in West Lothian than the rest of Scotland live within 500M of a derelict site – 25.3% compared to 30.1% nationally³.

Despite the River Almond flowing through West Lothian, there is a small risk of flooding in fluvial areas, though if the shift to more extreme weather continues, this may need to be revised.

People in West Lothian agree that open space is important and West Lothian has a lot to offer by way of open space – around 90% - but that it's not particularly attractive generally (65%)⁴. People do note that efforts are being made to improve it and the more traditional town centre, although only 62% of people think that West Lothian has a lot to offer visitors.

Areas of open/public space which were most highly rated in terms of cleanliness and appearance by the Citizens' Panel were Cemeteries (85% stating excellent/good), Parks (57%) and Children's play areas (55%).

There have been consistent, and slightly improving performance measuring street cleanliness – a five year average of 71.2, with the highest score of 73 received in 2011. Due to significant investments in open space parks there has been a similar increase in the assessment score of quality improvements – from 908 in 2009 to 1171 in 2010 and 1309 in 2011.

In recent years there has been no change in the average number of attendees per event in country parks from 2010/11 to 2011/12, though the number of events increased from 28 to 45 in the same period. There has been no change in the average number of community groups per event that are involved in country park activities. There was a decrease in the number of events and therefore hours from 2010/11 to 2011/12. There was a decrease in the number of education/school visits hosted in the country parks from 2010/11 to 2011/12 – from 91 to 51, respectively.

¹ Sixteen Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), 120 potential local biodiversity sites / 6 regionally important geomorphological sites / 50 priority local geodiversity sites / 1 local nature reserve and 1 proposed.

² Unfortunately the most recent information for Scotland is from 2005, so a comparison is not available.

³ Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics – 2011.

⁴ West Lothian Citizens' Panel 2010

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General feedback on the provision of camping/caravanning was good and retains a 4 star rating. There has been fluctuation in the number of people staying at Beecraigs caravan park¹ – 8% drop between 09/10 and 10/11 and a 12% increase from 10/11-11/12, though these figures are above the target of 7400. In the future, weather extremes are likely to impact upon the use of campsites and, to a lesser extent, caravan sites.

There were generally good assessments on the country parks (Almondell & Calderwood and Beecraigs), with progression potential for improving catering and toilets at the former and pre-arrival, arrival and retailing at the latter.

In 2011 there were twelve eco-congregations² working in West Lothian. This is the first year of data collection. In Scotland there are 280 such congregations. In other areas of the community, all West Lothian schools have registered with the eco-schools programme, and 61% (58 schools) achieved 'Green flag status' during 2010/11. All schools will be encouraged to attain this in future years.

The Wildlife & Natural Environment ('WANE') Act 2011 received Royal Assent on 7th April 2011 and covers game law, protected species, wildlife, non-native flora, muirburn and SSSI management. This is likely to increase the workload for operational services around invasive species and may change the SSSI, protected species and biodiversity sections within the Local Development Plan.

A proactive approach continues to be taken to *Wildlife Crime* in West Lothian. With partnerships set up with the local country estates there has been a rise in reported incidents of hare coursing and deer poaching, with these possibly sold onto illegitimate butchers to the west. The illegal trade in Goshawks has also been a focus. There has also been an increase in crimes regarding keeping dogs under control with 35 crimes during 2011 compared to an average of 24 crimes during the previous three years. The Control of Dogs Act passed in 2010 has given greater powers to deal with dangerous dogs with Dog Wardens now able to serve dog control notices and dog ASBO's.

Cultural Activity³ and Other learning

There is typically low participation in cultural activity and other learning in West Lothian - reading for pleasure is at 57% for adults and 33% say they participate in no cultural activity⁴, with males particularly lacking from these types of activity. On average in 2009/10, 2/3 of

¹ Note that there are another three West Lothian campsites/caravan sites that are not included in this.

² Groups in the community working towards green awards.

³ 2011 Scottish Household Survey

⁴ This excludes sport and fitness

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West Lothian's adults engaged in 'cultural activity' compared to 71.2% of adults in Scotland. More people were 'culturally engaged' (81.1% of West Lothian's adults) in 2009/10, compared to 85.5% of Scotland's adults.

Visitor numbers to key attractions, council funded/part funded museums (the museum included virtual visitors) and to the Visit West Lothian website have increased in recent years, and there are plans to create a West Lothian Tourism Strategy.

The number of users and visitors to museums in West Lothian has increased in the last few years with an average of 900 visitors/users per 1000 of the population during 2011/12. This is 200 visitors/1000 population greater than in 2008/09, and represents the impact of the Almond Valley Heritage Centre and the improvements in outreach work and virtual capacity.

There has been a steady increase in the number of people visiting community centres from 2009-2011, with an average of 26300 users per week. A number of community centres re-opened after a period of refurbishment which has resulted in increased activity and use of the centres. Improvements to data collection should enhance monitoring of patterns of community use.

The climate change agenda is already having significant influence on the type of *housing* that is built. Climate change obligations may mean additional costs in relation to the housing that is constructed but potentially lower running costs.

In the Social Rented Sector, the Scottish Housing Quality Standard sets out energy efficiency standards. By 2015, all social housing stock must have at least 100mm of loft insulation, lagged hot water tanks and pipes and cavity wall insulation and achieve an NHER rating of 5 or SAP of 50. In 2011 65% of West Lothian Council housing meets SHQS.

The number of UK households in fuel poverty has been increasing since 2003 when only two million households were in fuel poverty. Due to substantial cost increases in 2008 and 2009 it rose again in 2009 to 5.5 million, according to new figures from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) in its Fuel Poverty Statistics 2011 report. In 2009 gas costs rose 14 per cent and electricity by 5 per cent. In 2011, Consumer Focus believes the number of households in fuel poverty will be as high as 6.4 million, or 12 million people, in 2011 after this year's price increases.

Despite the % of West Lothian households in fuel poverty being slightly below the Scottish average, there has been a substantial growth in the numbers of households in fuel poverty¹ in

¹ Fuel poverty is defined as a household spending more than 10% of the disposable income on fuel.

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West Lothian from 2007 – around 28.6%¹ are currently in fuel poverty. A range of projects have been developed that have helped to maximise income of householders to help them combat fuel poverty, however, the rapid rise in energy prices presents a significant challenge to organisations providing assistance to households in relation to fuel poverty.

Transport

Air quality in West Lothian is better than the Scottish average; however Broxburn and potentially Linlithgow both suffer from poorer air quality than the rest of West Lothian – this is largely due to the car traffic through both towns, and the industry within Broxburn. Nitrogen dioxide² is lower in West Lothian than the Lothian average, but the measure of larger Particulate Matter (PM10)³ is higher.

There has been little change in the percentage of primary school pupils walking/cycling/scooting to school - 60% in 2011 (below the 61% target), but this is higher than the 2010 Scottish average of 53%. Fewer secondary school pupils take sustainable transport to school – a decrease from 2009 to 2010, and at 46% in 2011 this is below target, though still slightly above the 2010 Scottish average of 43%. The difference between primary and secondary rates is likely to be due to the increased catchment area of secondary schools, and therefore the greater commuting distance, though some additional work to ascertain enablers to change this would be beneficial.

Local authority-based data for commuting is only available from the Census (2001) and the Scottish Household Survey 2009/10 until full Census data is available in 2013.

Public transport appears to be a continuous issue in West Lothian – the % of people who think public transport is convenient in West Lothian has decreased from 2005/06 to 2009/10 averaging 76%. Feelings nationally have also decreased, but with an average of 81.4% %, is much higher than West Lothian. From the 2010 West Lothian's Citizens' Panel, 59% 'agree' that public transport is easy to access and 37/38% 'agree' that public transport is affordable and joined up.

There has been an increase in the proportion of people think that roads need repaired nationally and locally, though people's opinions are better in West Lothian – 28.5% in West Lothian compared to 35.9% nationally. The gap has decreased in 2009/10 – 32.3% in West Lothian compared to 36.1% nationally.

¹ Scottish House Condition survey

² Tends to come from the burning of fossil fuels and motor vehicle exhausts.

³ Road Transport, particularly diesel vehicles and industrial processes including construction & mining

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In West Lothian, 56.6% of adults walk more than one day a week as transport (in 2009/10) and 41.6% walk more than one day a week for pleasure (Scotland performs better than WL at 60.5% and 49.9%, respectively). 39.4% households have access to a bike (nationally this is 34.9%). People in West Lothian have more access to a car than the wider Scottish population – 74.9% 2005/06-2009/10 average compared to 69.2% nationally. Adult and >65 concession cards in West Lothian have risen from 2007 – 2010 – 2011.

More people in West Lothian report being delayed by congestion – 11.3% three year average 2005/06 – 2009/10 in West Lothian compared to 8.2% nationally, though this reversed in 2009/10 – 8.4% compared to 10.76%, respectively.