

5. MACMILLAN CANCER INFORMATION AND SUPPORT SERVICE

The committee considered a presentation by Elaine Nisbet, Anti-Poverty and Welfare Advice Manager, and Joanne MacKenzie, Volunteer Development Worker, providing details of the information and support available from Macmillan @ West Lothian.

The Anti-Poverty and Welfare Advice Manager advised the committee that the number of people living longer after being diagnosed with cancer has increased. The aim of Macmillan @ West Lothian was to ensure that anyone affected by cancer in West Lothian has access within their local community to quality cancer information and emotional and practical support.

Macmillan @ West Lothian was funded by Macmillan Cancer Support and delivered by West Lothian Council. Four drop in services were available in partnership centres in West Lothian. The first drop in venue was opened in Bathgate Partnership Centre in May 2016. A drop in centre opened in Strathbrock Partnership Centre in January 2017 providing support and information to people diagnosed with cancer, family members, carers and friends, health professionals and care workers and people worried about cancer.

The Volunteer Development Worker stated that volunteers were vital to the success of the project. The aim was to recruit thirty volunteers over the life of the project. Feedback received from service users has been excellent and the service would continue to provide support and advice, engage with the local community and develop relationship with partners and health and social care/council staff.

The committee acknowledged the excellent work carried out in the community and commended staff and volunteers for their hard work and commitment in providing such a valuable service.

Decision

To note the presentation.