



West Lothian
Council

Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

13 August 2014

A meeting of the **Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Blackburn Community Centre, Ash Grove, Blackburn** on **Monday 18 August 2014 at 10:00am**.

For Chief Executive

BUSINESS

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Order of Business, including notice of urgent business.
3. Declarations of Interest - Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration at the meeting, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.
4. Confirm Draft Minute of Meeting of the Committee held on 2 June 2014 (herewith).
5. Whitburn & Blackburn Multi-Member Ward Operational Plan 2014-17 - report by Scottish Fire and Rescue Services (herewith).
6. Police Ward Report - report by Inspector Tidy (herewith).
7. Blackburn Partnership Centre - report by Head of Area Services (herewith).
8. Whitburn Town Centre Update - report by Head of Planning and Economic Development (herewith).

9. Housing, Construction and Building Services - report by Head of Housing, Construction and Building Services (herewith).
10. Alcohol Diversionary Activities - Feedback Report - report by Head of Social Policy (herewith).
11. Alcohol Diversionary Activities - New Application - report by Head of Social Policy (herewith).
12. Community Health Champions - report by Depute Chief Executive, Community Health and Care Partnership (herewith).
13. Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund Provisional Allocations 2014 - report by Head of Area Services (herewith).
14. Community Regeneration Update - report by Head of Area Services (herewith).

NOTE **For further information please contact Lorraine McGrorty on 01506 281609 or e-mail lorraine.mcgrorty@westlothian.gov.uk**

MINUTE of MEETING of the WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within SEAFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE, SEAFIELD, on 2 JUNE 2014.

Present – Councillors George Paul (Chair), Jim Dickson, Mary Dickson and Barry Robertson.

In Attendance –

Inspector Steven Tidy, Police Scotland
Sergeant Phil McIntosh, Police Scotland
David Lockhart, Group Manager, Fire and Rescue Service
Alex Hume, Station Manager, Fire and Rescue Service
Alistair Shaw, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council
Scott McKillop, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council
Andrew Sharkey, Acting Head Teacher, St. Kentigern's Academy, West Lothian Council
Anne Purdie, Head Teacher, St. John the Baptist Primary, West Lothian Council
Lorraine Donnelly, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council
Elizabeth Butters, Contracts and Commissioning Officer, West Lothian Council
Nairn Pearson, BIDS Manager, West Lothian Council
Tracy Johnstone, Whitburn & Greenrigg Community Council
Alison Kerr, Blackburn Community Council
John Moore, Five Sisters' Area Committee

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTE

The committee confirmed the draft Minute of its Meeting held on 16th December 2013 subject to removing Whitdale Primary School as Gary Stoddart's place of employment. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. ST. KENTIGERN'S ACADEMY - PRESENTATION

The committee received an extremely interesting presentation from Andrew Sharkey, Head Teacher, St. Kentigern's Academy.

Mr Sharkey's presentation began by setting the context of the school including the total number of pupils, the S1 intake for 2014/15, the number of associated primary schools, the very high number of young people who travelled to school every day by bus, the percentage of children receiving free meal entitlement and the SIMD ranking for the school.

The presentation then moved on to give members an overview of the school's attainment figures and staying on rates. A table within the

presentation demonstrated a 3 year average for attainment in the school against the national trends. It also provided an analysis of the number of school days lost to exclusions from 2008/09 to the present. Members were delighted to note the drop in exclusions and welcomed the school's efforts to keep children in school and educated.

Mr Sharkey then provided the committee with an overview of the school's areas of strength and other points of note including the positive destination of more than 90% of students and of the new programmes which had been put in place to support students going to positive destinations.

The presentation then focussed on the wider achievement of the school and the partnership working with parents and concluded with information on the key priorities for the school.

Anne Purdie, Head Teacher, St. John the Baptist Primary School, then provided the committee with an overview of the excellent transition arrangements that were in place between for pupils moving from the associated primary schools to St. Kentigern's.

Decision

To note the terms of the very interesting and informative presentation.

4. LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN FOR WEST LoTHIAN 2014-2017

The committee considered a report by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (which had been circulated) providing members with the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2014-2017.

David Lockhart, Group Manager, explained that it was a statutory requirement of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to prepare a plan for each local authority area. The plan for West Lothian had been considered by the Services for the Community PDSP before being formally approved by the Council Executive in April 2014.

The plan set out the seven priorities for West Lothian which were aligned to the priorities of the West Lothian Strategic Assessment on Community Safety and would continue the excellent partnership working on community safety which was evident in West Lothian.

The Group Manager hoped that arrangements would be put in place for reports on performance in the ward against the 2014-2017 plan priorities to be presented to the committee on a quarterly basis. Alex Hume, Station Manager for Bathgate, Linlithgow and Whitburn, explained to members the tactical work which was undertaken by the local crews to ensure that they were familiar with premises in their area which was held electronically and available on appliances at all times.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

5. POLICE WARD REPORT

The committee considered a report by Inspector Steven Tidy (which had been circulated) providing an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period 15th May 2014.

The report provided information on national police priorities, West Lothian priorities and the ward specific community engagement priorities for the ward. It outlined performance and solvency rates in the ward for the period to April 2014, along with comparator figures for the previous year.

The committee noted that some of the recorded crimes had increased during the reporting period. The Inspector explained that this had primarily been caused due to an increase in the number of party houses in the ward, which were being monitored, and a number of complaints due to the skatepark being used before its official opening. It was hoped that the number of calls about the skatepark would subside once the park had been officially opened and the barriers had been removed.

The report then went on to list various activities in relation to the local ward priorities, initiatives and a list of forthcoming events. The Inspector explained that the full impact of the Commonwealth Games on police staffing levels was currently unknown although it was anticipated that the Games would have an affect the number of community officers available across Scotland.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6. HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING SERVICES

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing, Construction and Building Services (which had been circulated) providing an overview of housing performance for the period January to March 2014.

The performance figures for property void and let for mainstream and temporary tenancies for the year 2013 to 2014 were provided in the report. The committee noted that for the year there were 311 mainstream tenancies, 36 new build tenancies and 45 temporary tenancies had been let. There were 22 property voids in the ward due to properties requiring repairs for asbestos removal, fire damage and health and safety issues. Two of the properties were being held as decants, both of which were currently occupied.

The report provided a summary on rent arrears performance for the year to March 2014. Rent arrears continued to be an ongoing challenge for the service. In 2013/14, the council had faced unprecedented rent arrears levels and a task group had been established in September 2013 to

address this. The escalating arrears had been a national issue, particularly for local authority landlords, as a result of reduced income levels for tenants, rising cost of living and the impact of welfare reforms. A West Lothian wide rent arrears target of £1.5m was set and the multi-disciplinary task group monitored the progress on a weekly basis.

A high profile rent arrears campaign had been ongoing from September 2013 to the year end. Tenants who engaged with the council were offered support and advice in relation to applying for Housing Benefit, Discretionary Housing Payments and referrals to the Advice Shop where they were given money advice to allow them to make more realistic sustainable payment arrangements.

The report provided a table which shown the level of rent arrears and the number of tenants in arrears at the start of the rent arrears campaign against the figures to the end of March. Members noted that in January 2014, the number of tenants in arrears was 1276 and the amount owed was £436,014.89. By the end of March, the number of tenants in arrears had fallen to 872 and the amount owed had dropped to £312,465.26. This exceeded the year-end target which had been set for the ward of £330,000. Across West Lothian as a whole, the challenging target of £1.5 million was also exceeded and the final figure for the year end was £1.317 million.

The Arrears Task Group would continue during financial year 2014-15 as there were many challenges to come in the management of rental income due to the ongoing phasing in of Welfare Reform, increasing fuel costs, reduced household income and the negative impact these changes would have on council tenants.

The report concluded with an update on local area team activity, ward specific capital and environmental programme, new build information, tenant participation, homelessness, the new Housing Bill, street environmental improvement projects, housing networks, Scottish Social Housing Charter, Safer Neighbourhood ward information and the work of the council officer and youth worker based in the safer neighbourhood team.

There was then a lengthy discussion on the housing allocation policy and, in particular, within the Whitburn area. The Head of Housing, Construction and Building Services advised that the new build housing stock would have impacted on the number of available stock in the ward and agreed to include comparator figures in the next report to committee on the number of properties which had been allocated within Whitburn to residents from outwith the area against other areas of West Lothian.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7. WHITBURN TOWN CENTRE UPDATE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Planning and Economic Development (which had been circulated) providing an update on town centre related matters in Whitburn.

The committee noted that local business within Whitburn town centre continued to be able to apply for grant assistance through the shop front improvement scheme. Applications were being actively encouraged with grants of up to potentially £750 per premises. The benefits of the scheme were recognised and had helped to attract new business starts, particularly around West Main Street and the Cross.

The formal re-launch and rededication of the cenotaph had taken place in March 2014. The Whitburn community, alongside the council, had worked hard to deliver and achieve the positive regeneration of the area and provide a fitting legacy for the town. The First World War banner project was ongoing.

The land adjacent to the two commercial shop premises on Union Road was subject to ongoing discussions to improve the streetscape of the area. Preliminary concept and design work had been undertaken and officers were progressing towards implementing plans.

The former Direct Flooring Unit had been purchased by a new owner and a planning application was pending determination to sub-divide and change the use of the premises. It was envisaged that the proposals for the building would provide a confidence boost within the town centre by removing what had been perceived as an eyesore and blight on the streetscape.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8. EMPLOYABILITY UPDATE REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Area Services (which had been circulated) providing an update the employability support being provided by the West Lothian Working Together Group and the impact on employability in the ward.

The report provided the committee with the background to the formation of the West Lothian Working Together Group in April 2010. The report then outlined economic activity and employment figures for the ward based on the 2011 census. Information on qualification levels, work commute distances, unemployment claimants and other measures for jobless benefit claimants was provided in the report.

The report then went on to outline the activities the group had been involved with including employability support and provision, welfare reform and employer offers. The Group monitored a number of key performance indicators which were aligned to the West Lothian Single Outcome Agreement. An appendix to the report outlined the significant progress

that had been made in tackling unemployment in West Lothian and specifically the Whitburn and Blackburn ward.

A list of the key activities to be undertaken by the group in 2014/15 was provided in the report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

9. ALCOHOL DIVERSIONARY ACTIVITIES

The committee considered a report by the Head of Social Policy (which had been circulated) providing an update on the application for alcohol diversionary funding from Know Heavy Bevv which had been considered at the last meeting of the committee.

The report recalled that the committee had approved an application for funding from Know Heavy Bevv for submission to allow it to progress to the Alcohol Drug Partnership Subgroup. The ADP Subgroup had considered the application in April and had refused the application. They agreed to return the application to the committee as the evaluation of the project for the previous year and plans to involve disengaged young people had not been provided with the application.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

10. PREVENTING NEGATIVE OUTCOMES – ALCOHOL DIVERSIONARY ACTIVITIES

The committee considered a report by the Head of Social Policy (which had been circulated) recalling the new governance process for alcohol diversionary funding and inviting the committee to recommend a new application for £43,450 from the Know Heavy Bevv project to allow it to progress to the Alcohol Drug Partnership Subgroup.

The report and appendix provided the committee with full details of the application, which now included an evaluation of the previous year's project and detailed the group's plans to involve disengaged young people from the village.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report and refer the application to the ADP Subgroup for approval.

11. COMMUNITY HEALTH CHAMPIONS

The committee considered a report by the Depute Chief Executive,

Community Health and Care Partnership (which had been circulated) proposing a model to set up a Community Health Champion in every council ward area who would work to develop and deliver local health initiatives and be part of the devolved ward local area committees.

The report explained that health inequalities were systematic unfair differences in the health of the population that occurred across social classes or population groups. Health inequalities existed across West Lothian and, in general, the communities in the west of West Lothian and in the older parts of Livingston had poorer health outcomes across a range of indicators. Therefore increased support and priority would be provided to these communities by way of the development and delivery of the Community Health Champion approach.

Initially, three officers from the Public Health/Health Improvement Team would be linked to a grouping of three Local Area Committees so that the scope and level of activity could be determined with a view to allocating further officers should that be deemed necessary. The remit of the Community Health Champion was outlined in the report. The officers would meet regularly to share themes, collate information for dissemination and develop the champion approach further.

Local Area Committees would undertake to agree actions to develop and deliver local initiatives that would impact positively on health, represent those issues within the broader council structures and negotiate necessary resources and be responsible in partnership with the Community Health Champion for the monitoring and evaluation of local health initiatives.

In addition to the officer leads, the wider Community Health Champion approach would draw on the experience of groups of volunteers trained in an evidence-based community health development methodology to work alongside CHC officers.

Finally, the report concluded with information on the training which would be provided to the Local Area Committee members and lay Community Health Champions. The committee noted that health profiles by ward were being drawn up and would be presented to the next meeting of the committee.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

12. COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Area Services (which had been circulated) providing an update on progress with Community Regeneration activity in the ward.

The report provided members a summary of the various planned activities within the ward including:-.

- Queens Baton Relay, Whitburn;
- Village Improvements Fund;
- Whitburn Advice Service;
- Community Action Blackburn;
- Blackburn Environmental Group;
- Blackburn Wheeled Sports Project;
- Wheeled Sports in King George V Park, Whitburn;
- Whitburn Older People's Network;
- Blackburn Early Years 'Fabulous Fun Friday';
- Asset Based Community Development; and
- West Lothian Jam Jar Accounts

The report concluded that partnership working was informing local groups about the priority needs and issues across the communities in the ward, providing the focus for activity and adding value to the mainstream service provided by the community planning partners. The support provided to Community Action Blackburn and Whitburn and District Community Development Trust had created key opportunities for local partnership working that tied into broader community activity in both areas which would allow for more sustainable community-led development in the future.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

13. COMMUNITY REGENERATION REPORT – WARD ACTION PLAN END OF YEAR REVIEW

The committee considered a report by the Head of Area Services (which had been circulated) providing an update made on progress made against the targets set in the Whitburn and Blackburn Ward Action Plan 2013-15.

The report described the range of services and support offered by the Regeneration and Employability Team and recalled the key activities within the ward action plan for 2013-15.

The ward action plan for 2013-15, which was provided as an appendix to the report, had been updated to show the progress that had been made against the targets set and new local developments and initiatives which had been added to the plan. A list of the key achievement was listed within the report.

The report concluded by reflecting on the significant contribution the action plan was making to improve the quality of life of citizens in the Whitburn and Blackburn ward.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

14. WEST LOTHIAN VILLAGES IMPROVEMENT FUND

The committee considered a report by the Head of Planning and Economic Development (which had been circulated) outlining an application for funding from the West Lothian Villages Improvement Fund for 2014/15 for an organisation in the ward.

The report recalled that in 2012, the Council Executive had agreed the eligibility criteria for a West Lothian Villages Improvement Fund. Funding of £1.65m was available to support eligible schemes with the funding phased over five years. The fund had the following two work streams:

- A Shop frontage/shop improvement scheme; and
- Small scale village improvements and initiatives.

The following four villages within the Whitburn and Blackburn ward were eligible under the scheme. Distribution of funding was based on village size and the following funding was available from 2014/15 to 2017/18:

- Blackburn - £125,000 (including £35,000 already committed)
- East Whitburn - £55,000
- Seafield - £55,000
- Greenrigg - £55,000 (including £1588 already committed)

An application had been received from Seafield Community Council for £4750 to improve the road between the Main Street and Seafield Bowling Club as outlined in the appendix to the report. The works would be carried out by Operational Services. The community council had agreed to provide 50% of the project costs, however, Operational Services had indicated that they would provide the necessary match funding to enable the project to proceed. The works would bring the road up to a good standard which should not require any further works for at least 15 years. Road Maintenance would take over future maintenance of the road.

The report recommended that as the application had been based on estimates provided by Operational Services which were not fixed and could therefore differ from the application costs, members approve up to an additional £5000 for the project if necessary, to cover any additional costs.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

15. PROGRESS REPORT ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES RAISED A
MEETINGS OF THE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Area Services (which had been circulated) providing members with an update on progress of the many ward related issues that had arisen over the course of recent meetings of the committee.

The appendix to the report demonstrated that a course of action was being followed to address and resolve many of the outstanding issues. Officers would continue to respond to and monitor issues raised at meetings of the committee.

The committee remained dissatisfied with the condition of the SUDS facility in Blackburn and the Lead Officer undertook to arrange a site meeting with Scottish Water before the next meeting of the committee.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

16. WORKPLAN

The committee noted the content of the workplan to December 2014 (which had been circulated).

Decision

To note the terms of the workplan.



WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

**WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN MULTI-MEMBER WARD OPERATIONAL PLAN
2014-2017**

REPORT BY SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consult the Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee on the draft Whitburn and Blackburn Multi-Member Ward Operational Plan 2014-2017.

B. RECOMMENDATION

That Committee Members are invited to provide comment on the Whitburn and Blackburn Multi-member Ward Operational Plan 2014-2017 and considers ways in which they can support its implementation within the Local Area Committee area.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being honest, open and accountable• Focusing on our customers' needs• Making best use of our resources• Working in partnership
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Multi-member Ward Operational Plans are being produced to ensure delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan, which is a statutory requirement of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None at this stage.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	WL CPP SOA Performance indicators: SOA1304_13 Number of deliberate fires per 100,000 population SOA1304_14 Number of accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 population.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The council contributes to directly and in partnership to the delivery of the plan
VII Consideration at PDSP	None
VIII Consultations	West Lothian Citizen's Panel Survey, July 2014.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

Multi-Member Ward Operational Plans have been produced by SFRS to ensure delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2014 – 2017, which is a requirement under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, Section 41E.

D.2 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Whitburn and Blackburn Multi-member Ward Operational Plan 2014-2017

Following the publication of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2014-2017, which identifies key priorities for SFRS activities within the local authority area, the Local Senior Officer for Falkirk and West Lothian has produced a ward operational plan for each multi-member ward area to support and deliver against the key priorities.

The seven key priorities identified within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2014 – 2017, were assessed in relation to their impact within each ward area. The assessment process included a survey of the West Lothian Citizen's Panel, asking them for their perception of the impact that incidents related to the key priorities had within the ward area that they reside in. The results from this survey are based upon 70 responses to the survey.

The assessment has established that within the Whitburn and Blackburn Ward area the key priorities should be given priority in relation to SFRS activity, as follows:

Continuous Priority

- Local Risk Management and Preparedness.

High Priority

- Reduction of Dwelling Fires
- Reduction in Fire Fatalities and Casualties
- Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals.

Medium Priority

- Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting
- Reduction of Fires in Non-Domestic Property
- Reduction in Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies.

E. CONCLUSION

The Whitburn and Blackburn Multi-member Ward Operational Plan 2014-2017 aligns to the key priorities of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2014 – 2017, the West Lothian Strategic Assessment of Community Safety and continues with the excellent partnership working on Community Safety, which is evident in West Lothian.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Alex Hume
Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Final Draft

Version 1.0 29/07/14

July 2014

Appendix 1 - Whitburn and Blackburn Multi-Member Ward Operational Plan 2014-2017.

Whitburn and Blackburn Multi Member Ward Operational Plan 2014 - 2017



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for a safer Scotland**



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3. Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities
4. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting
5. Reduction of Fires in Non Domestic Property
6. Reduction in Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies
7. Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Review

Contact Us

Glossary of Terms

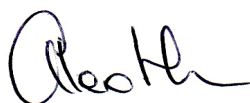
Foreword

Welcome to the Scottish Fire & Rescue Services (SFRS) Operational Plan for the Local Authority Multi Member Ward Area of Whitburn and Blackburn. This plan is the mechanism through which the aims of the SFRS's Strategic Plan 2013 – 2016 and the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2014-2017 are delivered to meet the agreed needs of the communities within the Whitburn and Blackburn ward area.

This plan sets out the priorities and objectives for the SFRS within the Whitburn and Blackburn ward area for 2014 – 2017. The SFRS will continue to work closely with our partners in the Whitburn and Blackburn ward area to ensure we are all “Working Together for a safer Scotland” through targeting risks to our communities at a local level.

This plan is aligned to the Community Planning Partnership structures within West Lothian. Through partnership working we aim to deliver continuous improvement in our performance and effective service delivery in our area of operations.

The SFRS will continue to use data analysis techniques to identify risk and to ensure resources are allocated to the point of need within our communities. While considering the strategic priorities of the SFRS we will develop local solutions to local needs and ensure equitable access to Fire and Rescue resources. Through our on-going involvement with local community safety groups in the Whitburn and Blackburn ward area and West Lothian Council we will continue to develop our understanding of local needs and proactively seek out consultation opportunities with all sections of the community. Using this approach we will ensure that the service we deliver is driven by consultation, in line with public expectations and helps to build strong, safe and resilient communities.



Alex Hume

Station Manager

Falkirk and West Lothian LSO Area

Introduction

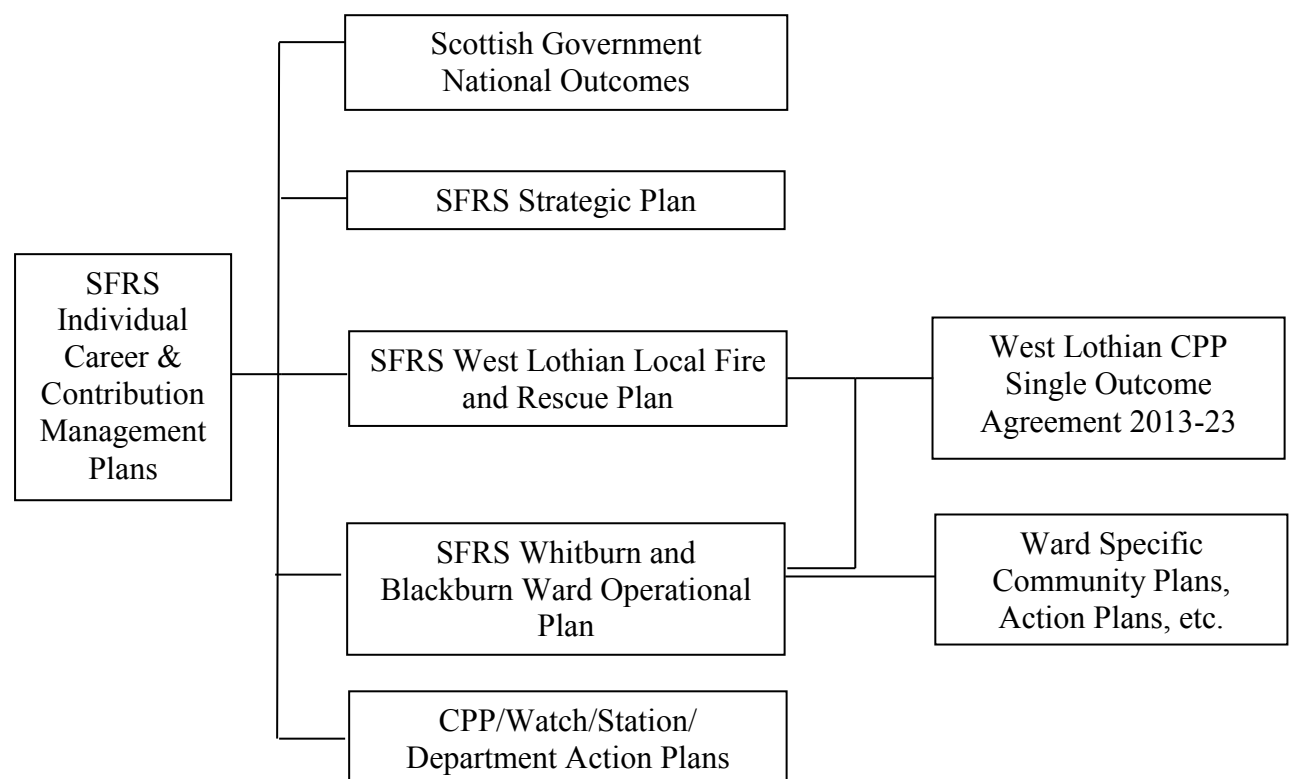
This Whitburn and Blackburn Ward Operational Plan is the mechanism through which the priorities contained in the SFRS's Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2014-2017 are delivered to meet the agreed needs of the local area. This plan should be seen as an integral part of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2014-2017 which can be read using the following link ([Local Plan](#)).

Delivering Frontline Outcomes Locally

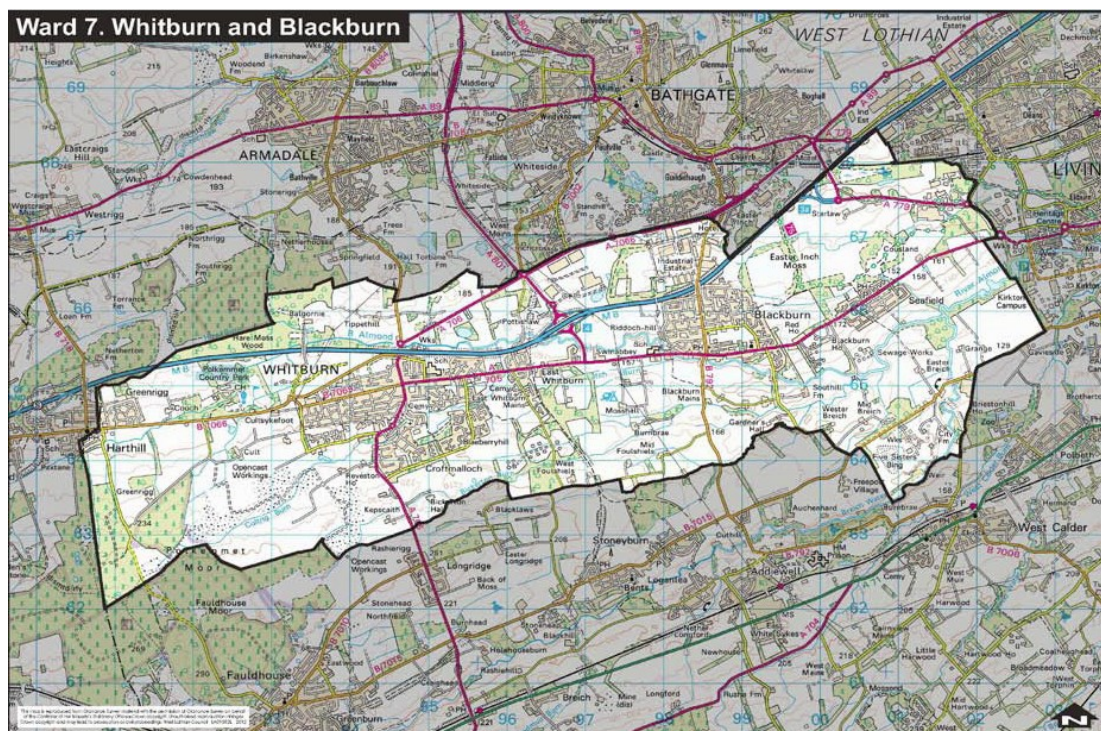
This plan outlines the key delivery mechanisms through which we will deploy and utilise our resources to achieve our agreed priorities and contribute to the achievement of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and also our Community Planning Partners' (CPP) outcomes at a local area level.

The diagram below shows the context of this Ward Operational Plan in the overall planning process for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

The diagram below shows the context of this Ward Operational Plan in the overall planning process for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.



Whitburn and Blackburn Ward Profile



Ward Overview

Understanding the Whitburn and Blackburn ward area and the profile of the community is of vital importance in helping the SFRS to develop this plan and identify priorities and objectives to ensure everyone has the opportunity to access our services and reduce their risk from fire and other adverse safety events..

This plan has been prepared within the wider context of the West Lothian Community Planning Partnership and sets out the local priorities for delivering local fire service priorities for the Whitburn and Blackburn ward area. Underlying this plan are the key principles of community planning namely; prevention and early intervention; integration of public services around the whole systems approach; transparency, accountability and innovation in our approaches to fire service provision.

Main Settlements

This is the fifth largest ward with a population of 19,229 (based on Mid-2010 GRO Population Estimates) and includes the communities of Blackburn, Greenrigg, Seafeld and Whitburn / East Whitburn. The largest settlement in the ward is Whitburn which combined with East Whitburn has 11,730 residents (Mid-2010 GRO Population Estimates), It has close links to the M8 motorway which bypasses the town. The Heartlands project is developing on the west of the town, renovating the disused land surrounding the old Polkemmet Colliery and will have a positive impact on the local economy and make-up of the town and surrounding communities.

Blackburn has a population of 5,250 although there have been housing developments within the village since that count and there is continued development around Easter Inch. The first Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in West Lothian is located on over 400 acres of public land between Blackburn and Seafield (population 1,360). Both Seafield and Greenrigg (1,164) have recently experienced increases in their populations.

Age Risk Profile

The proportion of the population who are of “working age” is 62% compared to 63% for both West Lothian and Scotland. Whitburn and Blackburn ward has a significantly higher rate of employment deprivation at 15% as against 13% for West Lothian and Scotland. The ward has similar levels of income deprivation to West Lothian and Scotland.

Health Profile

Indicators allow a comparison between key health indicators in the ward against West Lothian and Scotland. They show that Whitburn and Blackburn ward has a significantly higher proportion of people claiming Disability Living Allowance than West Lothian and Scotland. There are significantly fewer hospital admissions related to drugs misuse than there are across Scotland however, the figure is comparatively higher than for West Lothian. In addition there is a much lower percentage of babies being breast fed at the 6-8 week review than the West Lothian average..

Hospital Admissions are broadly similar to the West Lothian average with the exception of Coronary Heart Disease which is 79% higher than the West Lothian figure.

The health indicators in the table above are taken from the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics site at: - <http://www.sns.gov.uk>

Management of Risk Sites

Within the Whitburn and Blackburn ward area there are sites that have been identified as having the potential to pose operational risks to SFRS, their partners and communities, should an incident at the site occur. SFRS and partners gather relevant information, prepare plans for dealing with an incident and carry out training to ensure a multi-agency approach is delivered to achieve a satisfactory conclusion to any incident. Included in this are sites registered under the COMAH regulations (Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999).

In addition to sites registered under COMAH regulations, SFRS gather information on specific sites that may pose significant risk to firefighter safety when dealing with an incident. These include:

- Large warehouses
- Complex Office accommodation
- High risk Process sites
- Construction industry sites.

Further generic risks such as schools, hospitals and the transport network are also prevalent throughout the Whitburn and Blackburn ward area. SFRS prepare for incidents at these types of sites ensuring that there are appropriately trained personnel and equipment available to deal with any incident.

Future Key Developments

Major housing growth is directed to Whitburn where the Heartlands Development has permission for 1970 units;

Blackburn currently has planned housing growth of 173 units on a number of sites in the town;

Council house building at Dixon Terrace, Whitburn has seen phase 1 (49 units) completed with phases 2 & 3 (116 units) currently under construction;

Heartlands Business Park at Cowhill, Whitburn;








Key road infrastructure to the west of Whitburn is in place;

A new partnership centre is planned for Blackburn.

Source - West Lothian Council, West Lothian Ward Profile 2012 available at:
<http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/downloadaddoc/WhitBlackWardProf1>

Local Operational Assessment

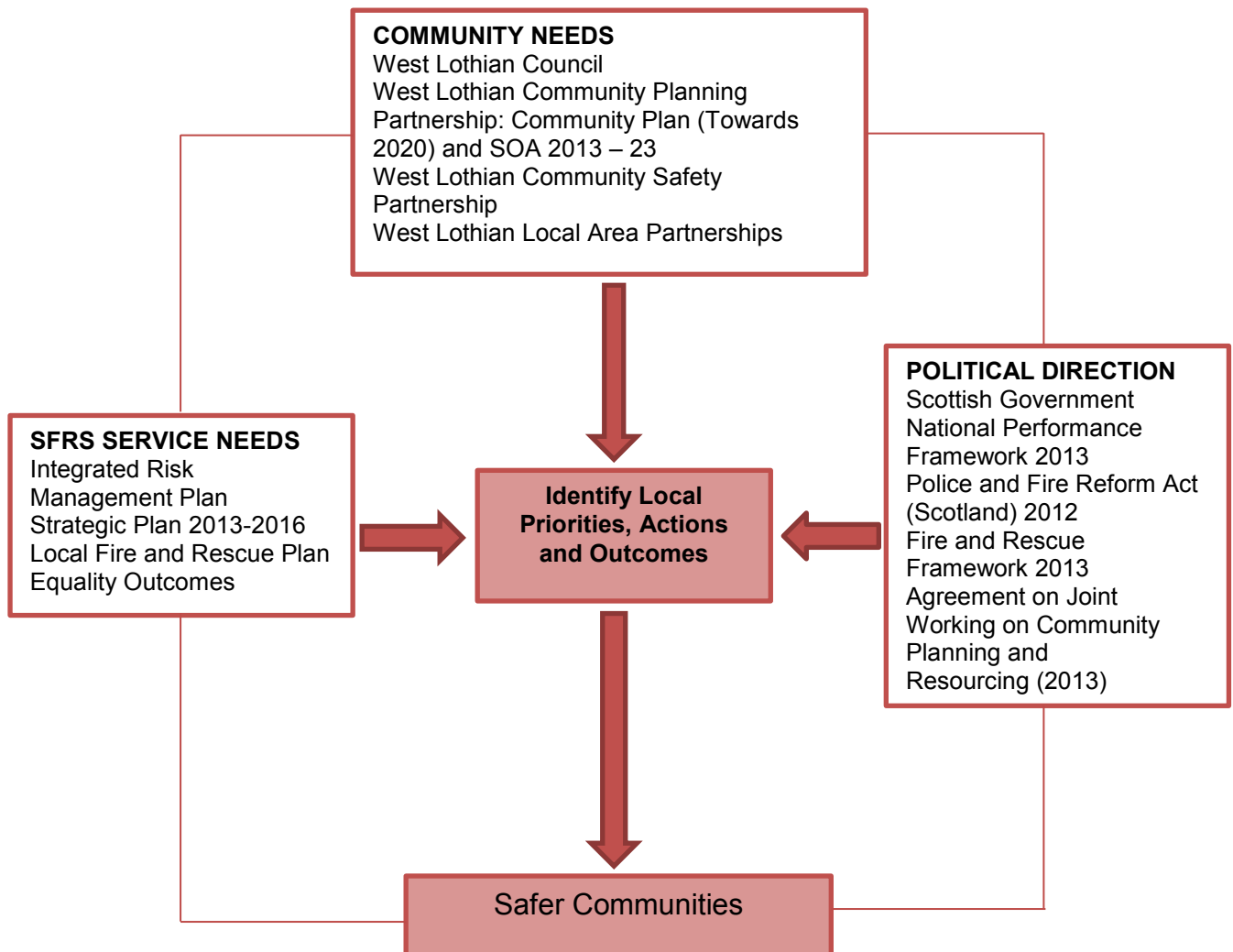
An assessment of local operational activity in the Whitburn and Blackburn area informs the SFRS on how to prioritise prevention, protection and intervention initiatives within the local area.

Key Priority	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	3 year average	Trend
Local Risk Management and Preparedness	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Accidental Dwelling Fires	18	28	31	25.67	
Accidental Dwelling Fires Fatalities	0	0	0	0	
Accidental Dwelling Fires Casualties	5	16	3	8	
Deliberate Fire Setting	170	55	78	101	
Fires in Non Domestic Property	9	5	3	5.67	
Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies	22	15	11	16	
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	225	289	275	263	

Achieving Local Outcomes

Prioritising Risk Pathway

Following a process of identifying local risks within the Whitburn and Blackburn ward area, priority actions to address them and expected outcomes have been set within this plan. Local risks were identified following considerations of political direction set by the Scottish Government, community needs identified through consultation and the available operational risk information, resources and capacity of the SFRS.



Priority Risk Setting

The priority setting matrix has been used to evaluate and prioritise the key priorities in the Whitburn and Blackburn ward and informs the SFRS and partners on targeting resources to areas of greatest need/risk.

Key priorities	Assessment Factors					Risk Evaluation High/Med/Low
	Seriousness	Scale	Trend	Community Concern	Strategic Objectives	
	Is the trend line Higher/Lower than West Lothian and Scotland?	Incidents /Unit of population (average over previous 3 years)	Is the trend upwards or downwards over the last 3 years	On a scale – High/Medium/ Low percentage return *.	Aligns to	High/Med/Low**
Local Risk Management and Preparedness.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	SFRS Strategic Plan 2013-16, Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2014-17, West Lothian SOA 2013-23	Continuous
Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires	Higher than both Scotland and West Lothian.	2.79/ 10,000	Upward.	High – 8.6% Med – 37.1% Low – 54.3%	SFRS Strategic Plan 2013-16, Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2014-17, West Lothian SOA 2013-23	High
Reduction in Fire Fatalities and Casualties	Significantly lower than both Scotland and West Lothian.	0/ 1,000,000 (fatal) 0.87/ 1,000,000	Constant.	High – 8.7% Med – 18.8% Low – 72.5%	SFRS Strategic Plan 2013-16, Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2014-17, West Lothian SOA 2013-23	High
Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting.	Slightly lower than both Scotland and West Lothian.	10.98/ 10,000	Downward.	High – 15.7% Med – 45.7% Low – 38.6%	SFRS Strategic Plan 2013-16, Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2014-17, West Lothian SOA 2013-23	Med
Reduction of Fires in Non Domestic Property	Significantly lower than both Scotland and West Lothian.	0.09/ 10,000	Slightly upward.	High – 14.3% Med – 34.3% Low – 51.4%	SFRS Strategic Plan 2013-16, Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2014-17, West Lothian SOA 2013-23	Med
Reduction in Fatalities and Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies	Significantly lower than both Scotland and West Lothian.	1.74/ 1,000,000	Constant.	High – 12.9% Med – 38.6% Low – 48.5%	SFRS Strategic Plan 2013-16, Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2014-17, West Lothian SOA 2013-23	Med
Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals.	Higher than both Scotland and West Lothian.	28.6/ 10,000	Upward.	High – 11.6% Med – 29% Low – 59.4%	SFRS Strategic Plan 2013-16, Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2014-17, West Lothian SOA 2013-23	High

* Percentages are calculated on returns from a survey of West Lothian Council Citizens' panel, who were asked for their perception of risk within the ward area that they reside, in relation to the stated specific key priorities.

** The Final Risk Evaluation for each Key priority is determined by analysing the assessment factors. This Risk Evaluation result determines the focus of SFRS's prevention activity, for the duration of the plan. Details of this preventative activity are found in the Priorities, Actions and Outcomes section of this plan.

Performance Reporting

The objectives contained within this plan and a suite of performance indicators will be reported on a quarterly basis to the Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel and the Local Area Committee.

SFRS Resources in West Lothian

Two fire appliances are located at Bathgate Community Fire Station which is staffed by a mixture of Whole-time fire fighters who are located at the station 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and Retained Duty System (RDS) fire fighters who provide a 24 hours a day, seven days a week emergency on call response.

Two fire appliances are based at Livingston Community Fire Station which is staffed by mixture of Whole-time fire-fighters who are located at the station 24 hours a day, seven days a week; Day Duty fire fighters who are located at the station Monday to Friday, during day periods, and RDS fire fighters who provide emergency on call response outside of the working hours of the Day Duty fire fighters.

One fire appliance is based in each of the remaining four Community Fire Stations; Broxburn, West Calder, Whitburn and Linlithgow. Each of these stations are staffed by RDS fire fighters who provide a 24 hours a day, seven days a week emergency on call response.

RDS firefighters are employed on a part time basis and provide a vital service to the community in which they live or work. Most of our RDS fire fighters are women and men who have primary employment in another field, but in addition to their full time job, they provide the same range of emergency services as their Whole-time colleagues.

A team of community safety engagement staff work across West Lothian to support their station based colleagues in delivering the wide range of preventative, awareness and engagement activities. Coordinating this activity is a Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO), who is based at West Lothian Civic Centre and provides a direct link between West Lothian Council, Community Planning Partners and the Fire and Rescue Service.

Supporting the enforcement of fire safety legislation, within buildings other than domestic premises, are a team of highly trained Fire Safety Enforcement Officers who provide advice on fire safety matters, actively conduct fire safety audits of buildings, consult on building warrant plans and enforce compliance with fire safety legislation.

A management team has responsibility for service delivery and community engagement/enforcement across West Lothian. These officers are responsible for the effective service delivery across the area.

SFRS resources employed across West Lothian will aim to work in partnership and collaboration with other community resources to deliver better outcomes for communities. Sharing of information will be a key enabler in this process and will ensure that duplication of services is reduced and that community focused outcomes are aligned and delivered.

In addition to day-to-day resources based within West Lothian, it is a Strategic Aim of the SFRS that, as a single service, communities will have access to specialist skills and resources from across Scotland.

We will work with the other emergency services and voluntary groups within West Lothian that have an interest in emergency response and specialist rescue. This will allow us to identify resources, such as skills and equipment that are available nationally.

Priorities, Actions and Outcomes

1. **Local Risk Management and Preparedness.** **Risk Evaluation - Continuous**

The SFRS has a statutory duty to reduce the risks to our communities and to make certain that they receive the best possible service.

The SFRS monitors existing risks and emerging threats in terms of the fire and other emergency related incidents to inform us of the priorities in the Whitburn and Blackburn ward area. We also monitor existing risks and emerging threats posed by the natural and built environment to identify patterns and trends that require mitigation initiatives.

The SFRS is committed to working in partnership with all relevant stakeholders to ensure emergency planning and preparedness arrangements are in place and tested.

The management of risk within our community means:

- Identifying the risks to the community which fall within the scope of responsibility of the SFRS.
- Undertaking a process to prioritise and mitigate these risks.
- Ensuring that appropriate local and national resource capability and trained Fire and Rescue Service personnel are in place to address them.

Aligns to:				What we will do (Examples provided below)	How we will do it (Examples provided below)	Expected Outcomes	In doing so we will add value by:	How it will be measured
National Outcomes:	SFRS Strategic Aims:	SFRS Equality Outcomes	Whitburn and Blackburn and West Lothian Priority:					
6,8,9,11 and 12.	1,2,3 and 4.	1, 2,3,4,5 and 7	<p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership: Community Plan 'Towards 2020'</p> <p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership: Single Outcome Agreement 2013-23 'achieving positive outcomes' No's 3,4,7 and 8</p> <p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership: Strategic Assessment 2013</p> <p>West Lothian Community Safety Partnership: Strategic Assessment 2012-15</p> <p>East Service Delivery Area Regional Resilience Partnership \ Lothian and Borders Local Resilience Partnership Community Risk Register</p> <p>The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (Scotland) Regulations 2005.</p>	<p>Ensure our training, staff development and equipment is fit for purpose to meet our current risk profile and adaptable to changing circumstances.</p> <p>Ensure all known risk information is obtained, recorded, communicated and tested.</p> <p>Working locally with partner organisations and agencies to ensure effective response plans are developed for identified risks.</p> <p>Fulfilling our statutory duties in relation to the Civil Contingencies Act.</p>	<p>We will train and exercise to be able to effectively resolve operational incidents.</p> <p>We will service and maintain our equipment and apparatus.</p> <p>We will visit high risk premises</p> <p>We will record and maintain premises risk information</p> <p>We will participate in multi agency exercises.</p>	<p>We will participate in emergency pre-planning to be able to safely and effectively resolve emergency incidents.</p> <p>We will be able to respond effectively to emergency incidents.</p> <p>We will be able to effectively resolve operational incidents.</p> <p>We will be aware of the risks in our area.</p> <p>We will be able to work effectively with our partners at emergency incidents.</p>	<p>Keeping our staff and members of the public safe should any incident occur.</p> <p>Reducing the financial burden and disruption caused to our communities when emergencies occur.</p> <p>The wealth and prosperity of our area will increase.</p> <p>Proactively helping the wider community by preventing emergencies and planning to mitigate their effects when they occur.</p>	<p>We will monitor our effectiveness to resolve emergency incidents through pro-active and re-active auditing and monitoring arrangements. (e.g., pre, during and post operational incident audit, monitoring and review)</p> <p>We will be subject to audit, monitoring and review by external stakeholders (e.g. the Chief Inspector for Fire and Rescue Service, the Health and Safety Executive).</p>

2. Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires

Risk Evaluation - High

Throughout the Whitburn and Blackburn ward area, dwelling fires have occurred within a wide variety of dwelling places. There are direct links to areas of social deprivation and those who are most vulnerable to fire within the community.

Alcohol consumption and/or drugs misuse continues to be identified as a contributory factor in a number of serious injury/fatal fires, due to the affect that they have upon the occupant's ability to react appropriately in a fire situation. In addition, cigarettes and smoking materials remain the primary ignition source in a number of serious injury/fatal fires.

House fires can have a significant negative impact on both individuals and the community, in relation to the human, social and economic cost of fire.

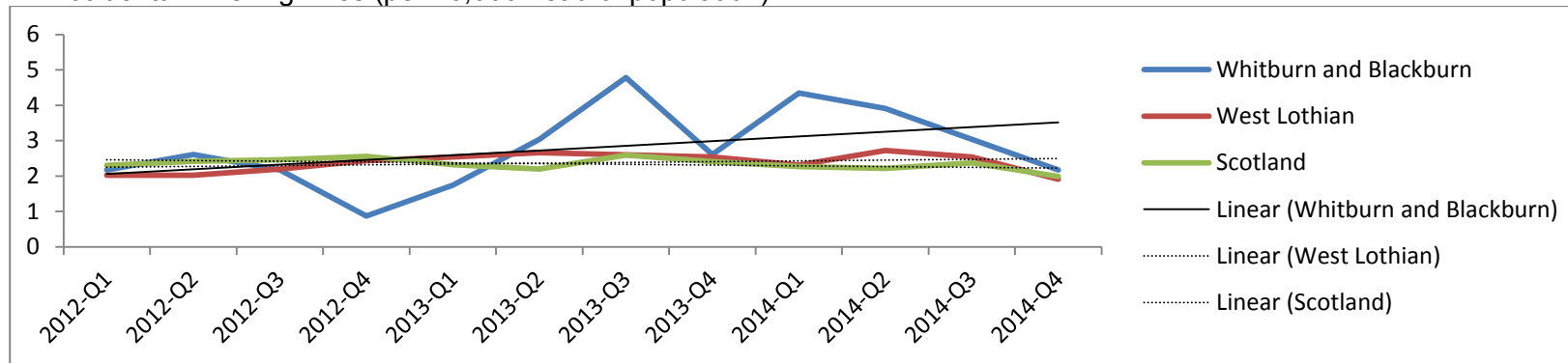
Through our Home Fire Safety Visit Programme and Community Engagement and Education activities, we aim to reduce the risk and impact of fire and the associated losses.

Aligns to:				What we will do (Examples provided below)	How we will do it (Examples provided below)	Expected Outcomes	In doing so we will add value by:	How it will be measured
National Outcomes:	SFRS Strategic Aims:	SFRS Equality Outcomes	Whitburn and Blackburn and West Lothian Priority:					
6, 8, 9, 11 and 12:	1,2,3 and 4	1, 2 and 3	<p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership: Community Plan 'Towards 2020'</p> <p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership: Single Outcome Agreement 2013-23 'achieving positive outcomes' No's 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 and 8 (SOA1304 -14 indicator)</p> <p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership: Strategic Assessment 2013</p> <p>West Lothian Community Safety Partnership: Strategic Assessment 2012-15</p>	<p>Active participation in West Lothian Community Planning arrangements and adopting a partnership approach to risk reduction.</p> <p>Sharing information with partners to help protect the most vulnerable,</p> <p>Develop new partnerships to identify and support at risk groups.</p> <p>Identifying opportunities for engagement with all partners to promote fire safety and good citizenship.</p>	<p>Delivery of fire safety related educational and engagement activities.</p> <p>Delivery of Home Safety Visits.</p> <p>Delivery of Post Domestic Incident Response Visits.</p> <p>Delivery of Thematic Home/Community Safety Initiatives.</p>	<p>We aim to reduce Accidental Dwelling Fires in the Whitburn and Blackburn area on a year on year basis, that contributes towards the reduction of incidents in the West Lothian area.</p> <p>We will contribute towards the SFRS target of a 10 % reduction in Accidental Dwelling Fires over a three-year.</p>	<p>Promoting confident and safe communities where residents feel positive about where they live.</p> <p>Our citizens will be protected.</p> <p>Our citizens and communities shall be encouraged to take responsibilities for their own health and well-being.</p> <p>Our communities will be safer.</p> <p>Reducing the potential financial burden on society through the education of citizens.</p>	<p>We will monitor our performance quarterly and report on progress to the;</p> <p>West Lothian Council Services for Communities Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership Board</p> <p>West Lothian Community Safety Board</p> <p>Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee</p>

Performance

The graph below provides empirical incident data on performance in relation to Accidental Dwelling Fires in the Whitburn and Blackburn ward area.

All Accidental Dwelling Fires (per 10,000 head of population)



3. Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities

Risk Evaluation - High

Fire casualties tend to occur in accidental dwelling fires. Evidence suggests that where occupants of a dwelling misuse alcohol and/or drugs or are elderly or infirm, there is an increased likelihood of becoming a fire casualty/fatality. The absence of a working smoke detector can greatly increase the vulnerability of these individuals.

The human and financial costs associated with fire casualties/fatalities are high due to potentially significant trauma/loss of life to individuals, and societal costs.

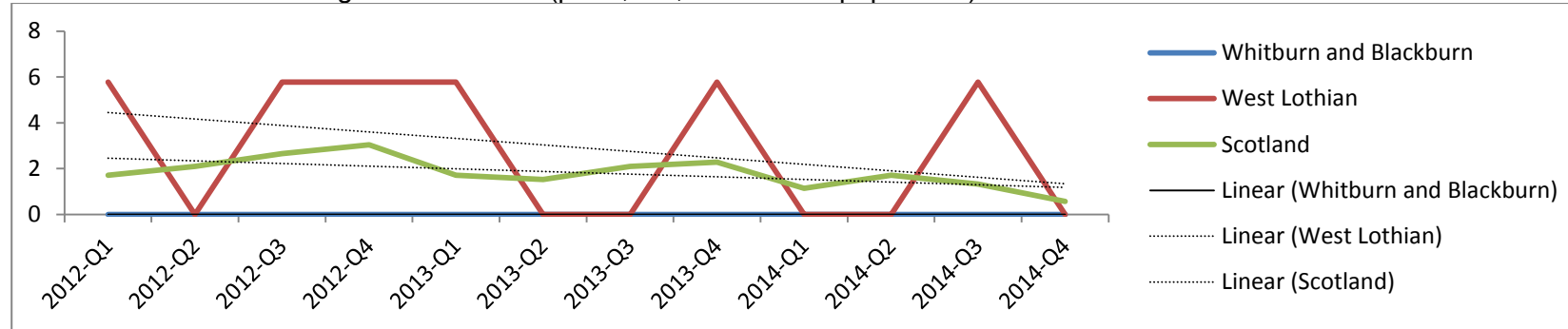
The SFRS in the Whitburn and Blackburn ward area aims to target a reduction in these casualties by adopting a partnership approach to reduce the risk to individuals, particularly those that are most vulnerable.

Aligns to:				What we will do (Examples provided below)	How we will do it (Examples provided below)	Expected Outcomes	In doing so we will add value by:	How it will be measured
National Outcomes:	SFRS Strategic Aims:	SFRS Equality Outcomes	Whitburn and Blackburn and West Lothian Priority:					
6,8, 9,11 and 15	1,2,3 and 4	1,2,3 and 7	<p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership: Community Plan 'Towards 2020'</p> <p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership: Single Outcome Agreement 2013-23 'achieving positive outcomes' We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities No's 1,2,4,5,6 and 7 (SOA1304_13 & SOA1304_14 indicators)</p> <p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership: Strategic Assessment 2013</p> <p>West Lothian Community Safety Partnership: Strategic Assessment 2012-15</p>	<p>Active participation in West Lothian Council Community Planning arrangements and adopting a partnership approach to risk reduction.</p> <p>Promoting healthier lifestyles through encouraging a reduction in alcohol, drugs and cigarette use.</p> <p>Ensuring our community safety strategy considers all persons at risk from fire.</p> <p>Encouraged citizens to take responsibilities for their own health and well-being.</p>	<p>Delivery of fire safety related educational and engagement activities.</p> <p>Delivery of Home Safety Visits.</p> <p>Delivery of Post Domestic Incident Response Visits.</p> <p>Delivery of Thematic Home Safety Initiatives.</p>	<p>We aim to reduce Fire Casualties on a year on year basis in the Whitburn and Blackburn area, that contributes towards a reduction in the West Lothian area.</p> <p>We will contribute towards the SFRS target of a 5 % reduction, in Fire Casualties over a three-year rolling period.</p>	<p>Our citizens will be protected. Our communities will be safer.</p> <p>Reducing demand on other partner services such as local health care and social work partners.</p> <p>Reducing fire casualty hospitalisation times.</p>	<p>We will monitor our performance quarterly and report on progress to the;</p> <p>West Lothian Council Services for Communities Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership Board</p> <p>West Lothian Community Safety Board</p> <p>Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee</p>

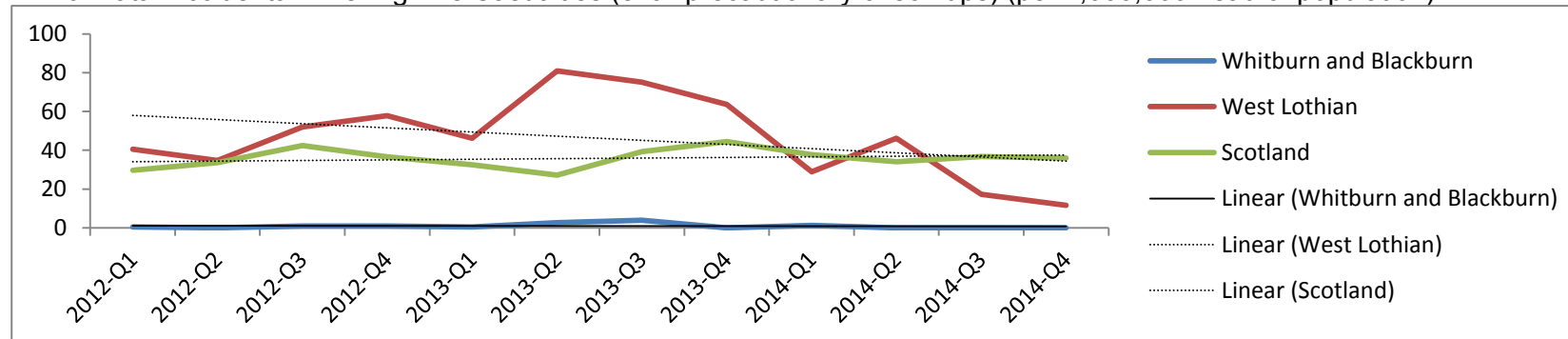
Performance

The graph below provides empirical incident data on performance in relation to Fatalities and Casualties in the Whitburn and Blackburn area.

All fatal Accidental Dwelling Fire casualties (per 1,000,000 head of population)



All non-fatal Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties (excl. precautionary check-ups) (per 1,000,000 head of population).



4. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting Risk Evaluation - Medium

Deliberate fire setting is a significant problem for the SFRS and is responsible for a significant number of secondary fires that are attended across the Whitburn and Blackburn West Lothian area. In the main, secondary fire categories are refuse, grassland and derelict buildings incidents. In addition, deliberate fire setting is responsible for a number of primary fires which involve property loss and potential injury/loss of life.

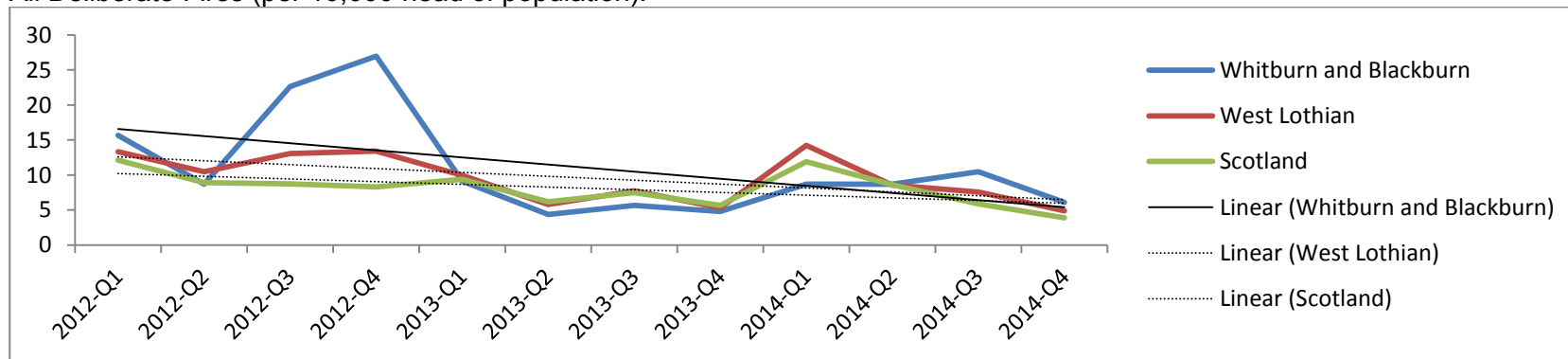
There is a close link between deliberate secondary fires and other forms of anti-social behaviour. By continuing to focus our attention on deliberate fires this will reduce the demand on the SFRS and the burden upon partners and in turn enhance community wellbeing and reduce the environmental impact.

Aligns to:				What we will do (Examples provided below)	How we will do it (Examples provided below)	Expected Outcomes	In doing so we will add value by:	How it will be measured
National Outcomes:	SFRS Strategic Aims:	SFRS Equality Outcomes	Whitburn and Blackburn and West Lothian Area Priority:					
4,8,9,11,12,14 and 16	1,2,3 and 4	1,2,3 and 7	<p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership: Community Plan 'Towards 2020'</p> <p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership: Single Outcome Agreement 2013-23 'achieving positive outcomes' We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities No's 2,3,4 and 8 (SOA1304_13 indicator)</p> <p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership: Strategic Assessment 2013</p> <p>West Lothian Community Safety Partnership: Strategic Assessment 2012-15</p>	<p>Engaging in a multi-agency approach to tackle deliberate fire setting and fire related anti-social behaviour by the targeting resources to areas of demand.</p> <p>Identify and develop partnerships with organisations who engage with young people.</p> <p>Providing an enhanced level of Fire Investigation within the Whitburn and Blackburn area</p>	<p>Deliver youth engagement programmes to reduce anti-social behaviour through diversionary activities and education.</p> <p>Delivery of Thematic deliberate fire reduction Initiatives. (e.g. Bonfire night).</p>	<p>We aim to reduce Deliberate Fire Setting on a year on year basis in the Whitburn and Blackburn area, that contributes to a reduction in the West Lothian area.</p> <p>We will contribute to the SFRS target to continually reduce Deliberate Fire Setting over a three year rolling period.</p>	<p>Promoting safe and attractive communities in which people want to live.</p> <p>Diverting those persons away from anti-social behaviour by encouraging them to be good citizens.</p> <p>Reducing the adverse effects which deliberate fire setting has on peoples' lives within the West Lothian area.</p> <p>Supporting the national focus towards early and effective intervention.</p>	<p>We will monitor our performance quarterly and report on progress to the;</p> <p>West Lothian Council Services for Communities Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership Board</p> <p>West Lothian Community Safety Board</p> <p>Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee</p>

Performance

The graph below provides empirical incident data on performance in relation to Deliberate Fire Setting in the Whitburn and Blackburn ward area

All Deliberate Fires (per 10,000 head of population).



5. Reduction of Fires in Non-Domestic Properties

Risk Evaluation - Medium

All fires in workplaces and business premises are classed as Non-Domestic Fires and come under the scope of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005.

Fire Safety Enforcement Officers carry out audits to ensure statutory responsibilities are met and provide advice to businesses on fire safety. The types of premises encompassed by the Act can be wide-ranging and include industrial, commercial and those premises providing sleeping accommodation such as residential care premises.

In addition to the costs associated with fires in commercial properties, many businesses who experience a significant fire do not reopen afterwards.

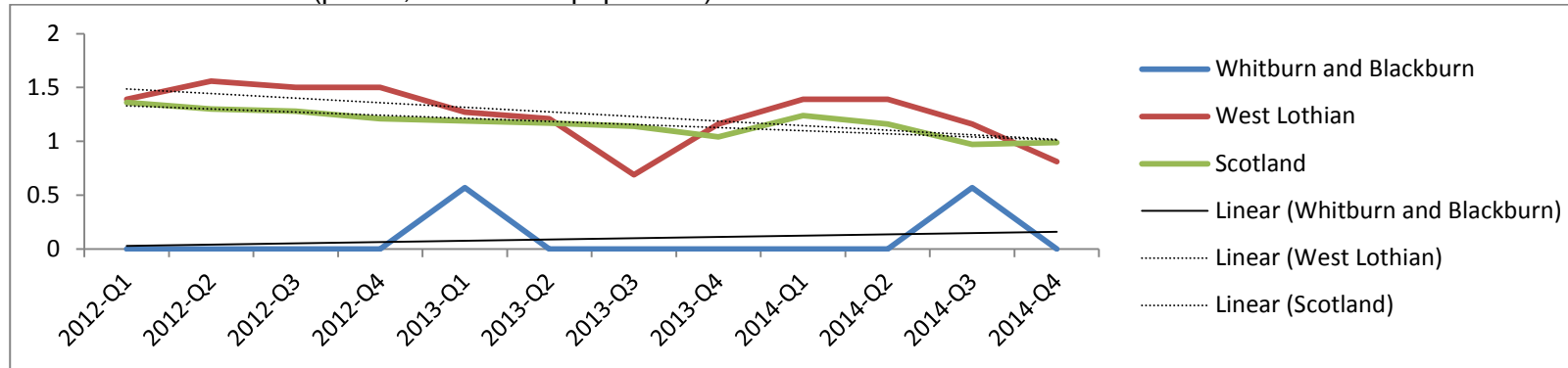
We proactively work as part of a partnership, with local industry to ensure that Businesses Continuity Planning and Emergency Preparedness Arrangements are appropriate, to ensure we can mitigate the impact of fires and other emergencies on business and that we are prepared to respond to adverse safety events.

Aligns to:				What we will do (Examples provided below)	How we will do it (Examples provided below)	Expected Outcomes	In doing so we will add value by:	How it will be measured
National Outcomes:	SFRS Strategic Aims:	SFRS Equality Outcomes	Whitburn and Blackburn and West Lothian Area Priority:					
1,6,9,and 12:	1,2,3 and 4	1,2,3 and 7	<p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership: Community Plan 'Towards 2020'</p> <p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership: Single Outcome Agreement 2013-23 'achieving positive outcomes' We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities No's 3,4 and 8 (SOA1304_13 indicator)</p> <p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership: Strategic Assessment 2013</p> <p>West Lothian Community Safety Partnership: Strategic Assessment 2012-15</p>	<p>Using a risk based approach, auditing of business and commercial premises by Fire Safety Enforcement Officers.</p> <p>Work with the West Lothian Council licensing department to ensure all multiple occupation houses comply with the required standards in relation to Fire Safety.</p> <p>Consultation with West Lothian Council Building Standards Officers and architects.</p>	<p>Undertake targeted audits High Risk Business and Commercial premises.</p> <p>Undertake post fire audits of Business and Commercial premises.</p> <p>Provide information in request to assistance to comply with fire safety legislation.</p>	<p>We aim to reduce the number of Fires in Non-Domestic Premises in the Whitburn and Blackburn area on a year on year basis, that will contribute to a reduction in the West Lothian area.</p> <p>We will contribute to the SFRS target of continually reducing the number of fires in other buildings over a three year rolling average.</p>	<p>The wealth and prosperity in our area will increase. The quality of our infrastructure will help promote growth of the local economy.</p> <p>Safeguarding the wellbeing of residents and employees within relevant premises.</p> <p>Supporting business continuity and employment within the West Lothian area.</p> <p>Our citizens will be protected.</p> <p>Our communities will be safer.</p>	<p>We will monitor our performance quarterly and report on progress to the;</p> <p>West Lothian Council Services for Communities Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership Board</p> <p>West Lothian Community Safety Board</p> <p>Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee</p>

Performance

The graph below provides empirical incident data on performance in relation to Non-Domestic Fires.

All Non-Domestic Fires (per 10,000 head of population).



6. Reduction in Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies

Risk Evaluation - Medium

A central part of the SFRS's role is responding to non-fire emergencies such as Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), other rescue situations and flooding. Operational fire-fighters are trained to a high standard and have at their disposal the most modern equipment for extricating people in rescue situations and administering first aid to casualties.

Attendance at RTCs has become a predominant activity for the SFRS however primary responsibility for road safety lies with Transport Scotland, Police Scotland and Local Authorities. The SFRS has a crucial role in supporting these organisations at a local level and can provide access to hard hitting education programmes aimed at the most at risk groups to highlight the consequences of RTCs and dangerous driving.

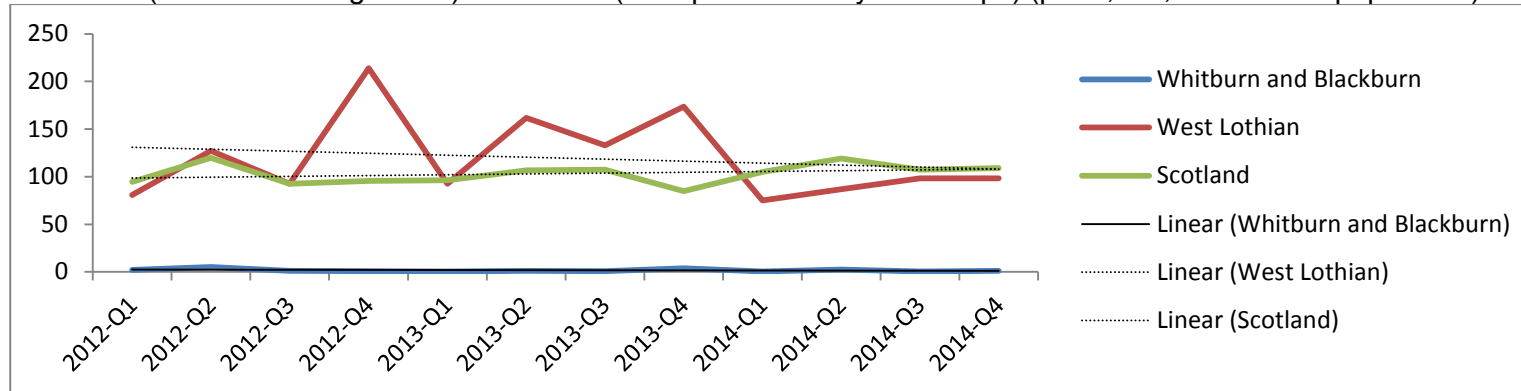
The educational road safety activities that we deliver are designed to increase driver awareness in relation to the consequences of dangerous driving. Particular focus continues to be on young and new drivers.

Aligns to:				What we will do (Examples provided below)	How we will do it (Examples provided below)	Expected Outcomes	In doing so we will add value by:	How it will be measured
National Outcomes:	SFRS Strategic Aims:	SFRS Equality Outcomes	Whitburn and Blackburn and West Lothian Area Priority:					
4,6,9,and 15	1,2,3 and 4	1,2,3 and 7	<p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership: Community Plan 'Towards 2020'</p> <p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership: Single Outcome Agreement 2013-23 'achieving positive outcomes' We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities No's 2 and 4 (SOA1307_04)</p> <p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership: Strategic Assessment 2013</p> <p>West Lothian Community Safety Partnership: Strategic Assessment 2012-15</p> <p>West Lothian Community Safety Partnership: Road Casualty Reduction Plan 2012 – 15.</p>	<p>Continuing our educational programmes, particularly aimed at high risk groups within our communities.</p> <p>Develop innovative ways of delivering the road safety agenda in collaboration with partners.</p> <p>Working with our partners within the West Lothian area to ensure that all agencies can map road incident hotspots.</p>	<p>Deliver Safe Drive Stay Alive initiative.</p> <p>Deliver thematic Road Safety campaigns and initiatives.</p>	<p>We aim to reduce the number of Fatalities and Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies in the Whitburn and Blackburn area on a year on year basis, which will contribute to a reduction in the West Lothian area.</p> <p>We will contribute to the SFRS target of continually reducing the number of Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies over a three-year rolling period.</p>	<p>Our citizens will be protected.</p> <p>Our communities will be safer.</p> <p>Our citizens and communities shall be encouraged to take responsibilities for their own health and well-being.</p> <p>Reducing the number of hospital admissions, and the associated costs to the NHS and other organisations due to RTC related injuries. Encouraging young drivers and other groups to be responsible road users through active engagement and education.</p>	<p>We will monitor our performance quarterly and report on progress to the;</p> <p>West Lothian Council Services for Communities Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership Board</p> <p>West Lothian Community Safety Board</p> <p>Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee</p>

Performance

The graph below provides empirical incident data on performance in relation to Non-Fatal (Non-Fire Emergencies) Casualties (excl. precautionary check-ups) in the Whitburn and Blackburn ward area.

Non-Fatal (Non-Fire Emergencies) Casualties (excl. precautionary check-ups) (per 1,000,000 head of population).



7. Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Risk Evaluation - High

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) are those occasions when an automated fire alarm system activates and results in the mobilisation of SFRS resources, when the reason for that alarm turns out to be something other than a fire emergency.

UFAS are categorised into three main categories; False Alarm with Good Intent, False Alarm Malicious or Equipment failure.

Within West Lothian UFAS incidents in non-domestic properties account for a significant amount of the total calls attended.

UFAS has a negative impact on the SFRS through the deployment of resources to incidents where their life saving services are not required. This negative impact is also experienced by businesses through loss of production, business continuity or service delivery.

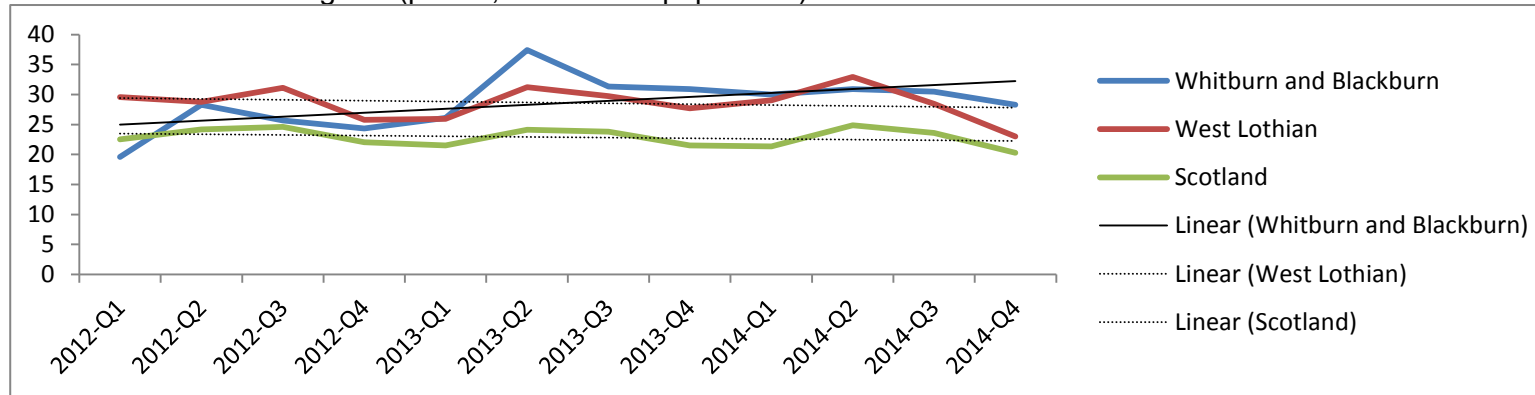
Attendance at UFAS creates a negative financial burden upon the SFRS as well as increasing the road risk and environmental impact within West Lothian.

National Outcomes:	Aligns to:			What we will do (Examples provided below)	How we will do it (Examples provided below)	Expected Outcomes	In doing so we will add value by:	How it will be measured
	SFRS Strategic Aims:	SFRS Equality Outcomes	Whitburn and Blackburn and West Lothian Area Priority:					
1,6,9 and 12	3 and 4	1, 2 and 7	<p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership: Community Plan 'Towards 2020'</p> <p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership: Single Outcome Agreement 2013-23 'achieving positive outcomes' No's 3, 4 and 8.</p> <p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership: Strategic Assessment 2013</p> <p>West Lothian Community Safety Partnership: Strategic Assessment 2012-15</p>	<p>Working with the business and commercial sector to provide advice and guidance in relation to the management of unwanted fire alarm signals.</p> <p>Ensure premises with unwanted fire alarm signal occurrences comply with the Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006.</p>	<p>Implement SFRS policy on UFAS.</p> <p>Provide advice to occupants of premises in how to prevent/reduce UFAS.</p>	<p>We will seek to reduce Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals over a three year rolling trend in the Whitburn and Blackburn area.</p> <p>Our target against the SFRS 3-year average is to contribute towards a continued reduction in UFAS.</p>	<p>The wealth and prosperity in our area will increase.</p> <p>The negative impact of UFAS on local business will reduce.</p> <p>Reducing road risk for our emergency services.</p> <p>Reduction of our carbon footprint.</p> <p>Enabling SFRS resources to be available for life saving incidents.</p>	<p>We will monitor our performance quarterly and report on progress to the;</p> <p>West Lothian Council Services for Communities Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>West Lothian Community Planning Partnership Board</p> <p>West Lothian Community Safety Board</p> <p>Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee</p>

Performance

The graphs below provides empirical incident data on performance in relation to Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (per 10,000 head of population).



Review

To ensure this Ward Operational Plan remains flexible to emerging local or national priorities, a review may be carried out at any time but will be reviewed at least once in its lifetime. A review may also be carried out if the Scottish Minister directs it or if a new Strategic Plan is approved.

Contact Us

If you have something you would like to share with us, you can get in touch in a number of ways:

- Use the feedback form on our website to send an email
www.firesecotland.gov.uk
- Contact your local community fire station - details are listed on our website
- Contact Falkirk and West Lothian LSO Area office - 01324 710276
- Write to us at the address at the bottom of this page.

We are fully committed to continually improving the service we provide to our communities and recognise that to achieve this goal we must listen and respond to the views of the public.

We use all feedback we receive to monitor our performance and incorporate this information into our planning and governance processes in order to continually improve our service.

We are proud to say that the majority of the feedback we receive is positive, and we are keen to hear examples of good practice and quality service delivery that exemplifies the standards of care that we strive to provide for the communities of Scotland.

In instances where our standards of service are questioned, we welcome the opportunity to investigate the circumstances, and are committed to correcting any lapses and using the learning outcomes to improve our future service delivery.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format or a version in another language please contact:

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Service Delivery Area East HQ, Main Street, Maddiston FK2 0LG

Tel 01324 710220 Fax 01324 715353 or alternatively visit our website
www.firescotland.gov.uk

Glossary of Terms

Accidental: Caused by accident or carelessness. Includes fires which accidentally get out of control.

Casualty: consists of persons requiring medical treatment beyond first aid given at the scene of the incident, those sent to hospital or advised to see a doctor for a check-up or observation (whether or not they actually do). People sent to hospital or advised to see a doctor as a precaution, having no obvious injury, are recorded as 'precautionary check-ups'. Casualty figures do not include fatalities.

Deliberate: covers fires where deliberate ignition is suspected

False Automatic Fire Alarm: is defined as an event in which the Fire and Rescue Service believes they are called to a reportable fire and then find there is no such incident. These can be Malicious, of Good Intent or caused by Apparatus. The False Fire Alarms recorded for our indicator are those caused by Apparatus, as these constitute a significant majority of False Fire Alarm incidents.

Fatality: a casualty whose death is attributed to a fire is counted as a fatality even if the death occurred later. Fatalities associated with Other Incidents can include attendance to assist Police or Ambulance colleagues when a person has been found who has committed suicide, for example. Often there is little we can do as a Service to influence this particular figure.

Primary Fires: includes all fires in buildings, vehicles and most outdoor structures or any fire involving casualties, rescues or fire attended by five or more pumping appliances.

Secondary Fires: These cover the majority of outdoor fires including grassland and refuse fires unless they involve casualties or rescues, property loss or if five or more appliances attend. They include fires in derelict buildings but not chimney fires.



West Lothian
Council

LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

WARD 7 , Whitburn & Blackburn Ward.

REPORT BY – Inspector Steven Tidy.

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

Police Update for Whitburn & Blackburn Ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

For discussion by the Chair.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values

Focusing on our customers'
needs
Being honest, open and
accountable
Providing equality of
opportunities
Developing employees
Making best use of our resources
Working in partnership

II Policy and Legal (including Strategic
Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues,
Health or Risk Assessment)

III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to
Officers

IV Impact on performance and performance
Indicators

V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement

VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)

VII Consideration at PDSP

VIII Other consultations

D. TERMS OF REPORT

To update the Local Area Committee on performance, activities and issues across the
Ward for the period up to 25th June 2014.

POLICE SCOTLAND NATIONAL PRIORITIES – DELIVERED LOCALLY

The force has identified its seven high priorities for 2014-2015 as:

- Reduce violence, disorder and anti-social behaviour
- Protect the public
- Increase road safety and reduce road crime
- Tackle serious and organised crime and terrorism
- Effectively police major events and threats
- Maintain high levels of public confidence in policing
- Deliver our equality and diversity outcomes

WEST LOTHIAN PRIORTIES

The community priorities identified for West Lothian through our Community Planning Partnership are:

- Protecting people
- Reducing anti-social behaviour
- Reducing violence
- Tackling substance misuse
- Making our roads safer
- Tackling serious and organised crime

WARD PRIORITIES

Priorities identified by the Whitburn and Blackburn Community

- Anti – Social Behaviour
- Substance misuse
- Road Safety
- Acquisitive Crime

Performance

Groups 1-5	June			This YTD			Last YTD			Difference this/last YTD	
Crime Description	Rec	Sol	%Sol	Rec	Sol	%Sol	Rec	Sol	%Sol	%Rec	%Sol
Total Groups 1-5	75	29	38.67%	254	130	51.18%	238	105	44.12%	7%	7.06%

West Lothian (Up to and Including 30.06.14)						
Month	Jun-14	Jun-13	% Change	TYTD	LYTD	% Change
Youth Calls	230	252	-9%	769	702	10%
All ASB Calls	1072	1153	-7%	3142	3089	2%
Hate Crime	31	36	-14%	80	76	5%
Vandalism & Reckless Conduct	110	180	-39%	389	467	-17%
Fire-raising	8	11	-27%	27	32	-16%
Alcohol-related Incidents	259	238	9%	751	617	22%
Public Space Assaults	103	124	-17%	312	292	7%

Whitburn & Blackburn Ward						
Month	Jun-14	Jun-13	% Change	TYTD	LYTD	% Change
Youth Calls	25	44	-43%	128	80	60%
All ASB Calls	155	182	-15%	486	429	13%
Hate Crime	10	5	100%	17	8	113%
Vandalism & Reckless Conduct	20	34	-41%	59	65	-9%
Fire-raising	0	1	-100%	1	2	-50%
Alcohol-related Incidents	36	47	-23%	95	101	-6%
Public Space Assaults	16	18	-11%	42	39	8%

ASB and Youth calls although higher than this time last year have both seen a reduction in the month of June and further reductions are required to bring the overall average back on track.

Hate crime is also up and this is explained later in the document.

Crime overall is slightly up on last year as is the solvency rate for those offences.

PREVENTION

Activities

The Community Policing Team have carried out a number of activities in relation to the local ward priorities, as follows.

Anti-social behaviour

Although calls to the skate park in Blackburn have reduced focused attention is still being given to the area. The police are still receiving reports of underage drinking and other substance misuse. The Community Policing Team have been tasked with patrolling the areas during the reported times of increased activity. It is hoped that

by sending a clear message in the early stages of its use that call volume and the impact on the wider community will be lessened further.

The spike of activity in relation to the party houses and skate park earlier in the year has had the consequential effect of increasing the year to date figures in relation to youth calls, however the successful securing of 2 ASBO's and increased attention to identified hotspot areas in Blackburn and Whitburn has facilitated a drop in the number of youth calls when compared to the same monthly reporting period as last year.

The Community Policing Team have been involved in the investigation of a number of hate crimes in the Whitburn area. Whilst there has been an increase in the number of hate crimes it should be highlighted that a number of these hate crimes relate to the one incident involving an alcohol fuelled attack on a local shop premise and its staff. The Community Policing Team took the lead in identifying and bringing the offender quickly to justice. As a result the perpetrator has been remanded until the court case later in the year. Other offences relate to a variety of individuals regarding race, gender and ethnicity and include offences against police officers, which have seen an increase this year.

Substance Misuse

Officers from the Community Investigation Unit have carried out 4 Misuse of Drugs Act warrant executions in the ward area assisted by the local CPT officers. These warrant executions have been with both Blackburn and Whitburn and two of the addresses contained cannabis cultivations. Several thousand pounds worth of drugs and monies were recovered during these operations.

CPT officers continue to gather intelligence from a variety of sources with the intention of craving drugs warrants. All assistance from the community is welcome by contacting the team directly, with information being treated confidentially if needed or by contacting them by e-mail <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/> or phone 0800 555 11.

Road Safety

The CPT are continuing to carry out Community Action Days targeting Road Safety and the target of two set days per calendar month is still being maintained. East Whitburn continues to be given specific attention to complaints of inconsiderate driving being made by local residents.

Acquisitive Crime

Operation RAC is an ongoing operation targeting domestic and business housebreakings. A number of preventative activities are undertaken by the CPT including visits to known offenders. The CPT also carries out proactive patrols of known hotspot areas.

A local male has been charged and reported to the PF for 10 Theft by Housebreakings committed over a period of time in the Whitburn area..

Initiatives

Community Action Days

The Community Policing Team is committed to keeping the residents of the ward safe. To this end they will carry out 'Community Action Days' at identified periods during which a number of proactive activities will be undertaken to target offenders, address local priorities and to 'Keep People Safe'.

Roads Policing Action Days

The Community Policing Team are focused on making our roads safer and have planned 2 Roads Policing Actions Days each month to ensure that this priority is delivered. The action days will comprise of intelligence led activity, static road checks and speed checks.

Forthcoming Events

There are no significant forthcoming events planned at this time.

CONTACTS

Inspector Steven Tidy <mailto:steven.tidy@Scotland.pnn.police.uk>

Sergeant Phil McIntosh <mailto:phillip.mcintosh@Scotland.pnn.police.uk>

Community Whitburn

WhitburnBlackburnCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

PC 5690 Evans

Safer Neighbourhoods Team Whitburn

PC 11369 Montgomery

PC 11399 Wilson

Whitburn High School

PC Thomson

Safer Neighbourhoods Team Blackburn

PC MacKinnon



WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

BLACKBURN PARTNERSHIP CENTRE

REPORT BY HEAD OF AREA SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on progress with the Blackburn Partnership Centre project.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes the updates provided on progress with design development, obtaining statutory consents, the advanced works package and ongoing communications and engagement activity.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Being honest, open and accountable. Focusing on our customers' needs. Making best use of our resources. Working in partnership.
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None at present.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV	Impact on performance and performance indicators	None at present.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Relevant to all outcomes.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The total capital budget for the delivery of the partnership centre is £4.6m. This covers design and construction costs at £4.053m together with the existing community centre demolition, additional ICT, furniture and Mill Centre access link

costs of £547,000. It is anticipated that the council's recurring revenue costs for the new centre will be met from existing revenue budgets.

VII	Consideration at PDSP	See Section F of this report for details of previous reports.
VII	Consultations	<p>There is ongoing consultation and dialogue with a range of services, partners and other stakeholders including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Local Members – Council services – West Lothian Community Health and Care Partnership (CHCP) – NHS Lothian – Ashgrove Medical Practice – Community partners

D TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Design development

Development of the detailed 1:50 scale drawings for each part of the accommodation is now complete. These designs have been agreed in principle with the key stakeholders (partners, services, teams, elected members and community representatives), many of whom were involved in workshop sessions with the architects and tier 1 contractor.

These designs will ultimately form part of Hubco's stage 2 submission, which in turn will require formal approval from the council and NHS Lothian towards the end of the year.

Through the production of these designs it has been necessary to define all the fixtures, fittings and equipment required for each part of the accommodation. Some of these items will be provided as part of the construction contract and others will not. It has therefore been necessary to commence the production of equipment and furniture schedules in order to allow cost estimates for non-contract items to be established and factored into appropriate budget projections.

In recent weeks, design intent drawings have been drafted for areas including the reception space, sports hall, early years space, community health/GP waiting space, dental waiting space and a standard consulting room. Architectural detailing has also been progressing e.g. for walls, roofs, floors, windows, parapets, stairs and screens. Furthermore, designers have been instructed to develop options and associated costs for the provision of a shutter solution for the building.

The Project Manager will present a selection of the 1:50 scale and design intent drawings at the Local Area Committee meeting for information.

D2 Statutory consents

Planning permission was granted by the council on 21 July. The proposal submitted for approval was based on the building designs which were presented at the Local Area Committee meeting on 10 March for development on the preferred site to the

East of the Mill Centre.

The proposal was deemed consistent with the relevant development plan policies and there were no material considerations that outweighed the development plan presumption in favour of the development.

As is consistent with developments such as this, a number of planning conditions were attached to the application. These relate to e.g. dealing with surface water, the detail of ground/finished floor levels, the specifications of external finishes, boundary enclosures and landscaping, parking access arrangements, public art and site operations during the construction phase.

In addition, the stage 1 building warrant was granted on 27 May and the stage 2 building warrant was submitted on 23 May.

D3 Advanced works package

Before the main construction contract and the related works can commence, there is a requirement for existing utilities within the site boundary to either be disconnected or diverted. Detailed site surveys have been undertaken recently to determine the extent of the works which will be required and quotes from utilities companies are in the process of being obtained and accepted.

The package of advanced works is programmed to happen over the coming months. It should be noted that, although there will be activity on parts of the site at this time, none of these works relate to the actual construction of the facility. The construction works are not scheduled to commence until into 2015. None of the funding identified for the actual construction of the building will be utilised for the advanced works. It is the intention to utilise separate funding which has been allocated by the South East Territory Partnering Board.

Consideration is currently being given to the viability of relocating the automated public convenience and nearby CCTV pole to an alternative location within the site boundary, as part of the advanced works package. This work is ongoing, however initial estimates indicate that the relocation and re-commissioning of these installations could be prohibitively costly.

D4 Communications and engagement

Since last report to the Local Area Committee, progress with the design of the facility and subsequent submission of the planning application has been the subject of a well-received press release. The press release, which included a photo-realistic artist impression of the building viewed from front courtyard area, was picked up by the West Lothian Courier and the Daily Record website. Similar content has also been published in the council's Bulletin and the CHCP newsletter Westlife. At the time of writing this report, a press release on obtaining planning consent for the development is in production.

A webpage for the project, which will be hosted on NHS Lothian's website, is under development and this will be used to periodically publish project updates. It is the intention to promote the publication of information on the webpage via the Facebook and Twitter feeds of the partners and key community groups.

In recent months, community engagement activity has been undertaken in Blackburn at an early years open day, a galaday fundraising event and a young people's Easter programme. Positive comments on progress were received from a wide cross-section of the local population and young people in particular were keen to feed back their

ideas on the décor and furnishing of the spaces which they would utilise in the building. Further 'walkabouts' were also undertaken in the Mill Centre with a similar positive response from the general public.

In the same period, the Project Manager and community representatives visited Drumbrae Hub and Wester Hailes Healthy Living Centre, which were developed by City of Edinburgh Council and NHS Lothian respectively in partnership with Hubco. These visits were intended to showcase purpose built, modern facilities which housed frontline community and health services and there has been positive feedback from the community representatives involved.

The visits also gave an insight into the opportunities which could emerge from having co-located public services and community facilities, as well as generating ideas about artwork, public involvement in developing/maintaining external garden spaces, signage, furniture and décor.

E CONCLUSION

This report provides an update on progress with the Blackburn Partnership Centre project. Momentum across all of the project's key work streams is being maintained and it is particularly positive that planning consent has been obtained in this reporting period. Regular update reports on these and related matters will continue to be brought to Local Area Committee meetings.

F BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Reports to Council Executive - 15 November 2011, 7 February 2012, 12 March 2013 and 21 January 2014.

Reports to West Lothian Community Health and Care Partnership Board - 10 April 2012, 2 October 2012 and 27 May 2014.

Reports to Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee - 4 June 2012, 27 August 2012, 17 December 2012, 11 February 2013, 27 May 2013, 23 September 2013 and 10 March 2014.

Reports to Culture and Leisure Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel - 8 June 2010 and 20 December 2012.

Appendices: None

Contacts: Alan Colquhoun
Project Manager – Blackburn Partnership Centre
West Lothian Community Health and Care Partnership
alan.colquhoun@westlothian.gov.uk / 01506 281924

Steve Field
Head of Area Services

Date: 18 August 2014



WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

WHITBURN TOWN CENTRE UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members on town centre related matters in Whitburn.

B. RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that Members note the contents of this report for information

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Outcome 1. We make West Lothian an attractive place for doing business
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Not applicable
VII Consideration at PDSP	Not applicable
VIII Other consultations	None

D. TERMS OF REPORT

This report updates the Elected Members on town centre related matters in Whitburn, and formalises those provided at the Whitburn Town Centre Management Group.

47-49 West Main Street, Whitburn

The former Direct Flooring unit at 47-49 West Main Street, Whitburn, as previously reported was purchased by a new owner in early 2014. Planning permission has been obtained for sub-division, change of use and extension for retail, hot food takeaway and upper floor housing.

It is understood that works have commenced to refurbish the interior of the premises and that the eventual re-use of this important town centre building will provide a significant positive boost to the town centre, and in doing so remove what has long been seen by the community as an eyesore and blight on the town centre streetscape.

Shopfront Improvement

Local businesses within Whitburn town centre continue to be open to and apply for grant assistance through the Shopfront Improvement Scheme. Applications are being actively encouraged from all eligible local businesses situated within the designated Whitburn town centre boundary. Advance dialogue is recommended as retrospective applications are not accepted. Grants of up to potentially £750 per premises may be available to assist in costs associated with any external frontage improvements.

Experience of the benefits of the operation of this scheme from across West Lothian, highlights that recent investment made by local businesses and the local authority, does make a difference. Further interest in and current applications will continue to help towards improving the town centre and its physical environment, its wider appearance and attraction to users, whilst also seeking to build confidence amongst local traders / community.

Since the report made to the previous meeting of the Local Area Committee in June 2014, there have been 2 Shopfront grants approved and awarded, with a further 1 grant having been agreed in principle awaiting completion of improvement works.

Whitburn Civic Space

Council officers in Economic Development and Community Regeneration are supporting and working with local community groups to enhance the appearance, awareness of, and the use of the Civic Space. It is anticipated that working alongside this range of community interests, will in time, encourage local groups to make use of the Civic Space, both informally and formally, and that local town centre businesses will seek to maximise any opportunities arising from more regular activities and the associated footfall in the Civic Space.

Queens Baton Relay

The arrival of the Queens Baton Relay to West Lothian on Sunday 15 June brought to a successful conclusion and celebration, many months of detailed planning. The day was not only a tremendous celebration for the Whitburn community but a starting point for the creation of a meaningful Legacy of the Commonwealth Games, for Whitburn's community and its population.

Land at Union Road, Whitburn

Preliminary concept and illustrative drawings have been prepared with Construction Services, in discussion with a range of Council officers and service areas for the area adjoining the two shop units at Union Road. This is focusing upon minor streetscape improvements works.

Further dialogue is taking place with Operational Services to determine feasibility, and discuss statutory road traffic and legal requirements and other considerations linked to any potential creation of 2 additional parking spaces within a new pull in lay-by.

E. CONCLUSION

Town centre improvements continue to be discussed, explored and brought forward through Whitburn Town Centre Management Group, as the primary means to enhance the attractiveness and competitiveness of the town centre.

It is recommended that Members note the content of this report for information

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments: None

Contact Person:

Nairn Pearson, BID & Town Centre Manager, 01506 637537, nairn.pearson@westlothian.gov.uk

Alice Sinnet, Economic Development Manager, 01506 283079, alice.sinnet@westlothian.gov.uk

Date of Meeting: 18 August 2014



WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING SERVICES

REPORT BY HEAD OF HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Local Area Committee with an overview of the service activities within Whitburn and Blackburn ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Local Area Committee is asked to note Housing, Construction and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs. Being honest, open and accountable. Providing equality of opportunities. Making best use of our resources. Working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 Housing (Scotland) Act 2010
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	There is no impact
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	There are positive impact on the following SOA indicators: SOA4 – we live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities SOA8 – we make the most effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None
VII Consideration at PDSP	Yes
VIII Other consultations	N/A

D. TERMS OF REPORT

Housing Performance Information

The purpose of this report is to provide the Local Area Committee with an overview of the activities of Housing, Construction and Building Services, specific to the Whitburn and Blackburn ward.

Property Void & Let Performance: Mainstream Tenancies

Void Period	April 2014	%	May 2014	%	June 2014	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	13	65%	11	53%	5	34%	65%
2-4 weeks	4	20%	6	28%	6	40%	25%
4+ weeks	3	15%	4	19%	4	26%	10%
Total Lets	20	100%	21	100%	15	100%	100%

Property Void & Let Performance: Temporary Tenancies

Void Period	April 2014	%	May 2014	%	June 2014	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	2	67%	0	0%	1	25%	70%
2-4 weeks	1	33%	2	100%	2	50%	20%
4+ weeks	0	0%	0	0%	1	25%	10%
Total Lets	3	100%	2	100%	4	100%	100%

Delays in re-letting can occur for a variety of reasons. The type or location of the property, the completion of void work or the identification of additional works not visible during the initial inspection. Ensuring that vulnerable persons are supported through the viewing and sign up process. Some of our applicants have specific support requirements which require detailed planning and co-ordination by both social work and housing services prior to tenancy commencement.

In the year to date there have been 56 mainstream tenancies and 9 temporary tenancies let by the Whitburn and Blackburn Housing Team.

There are 19 Policy Voids in the ward; this is due to properties requiring repairs for asbestos removal, fire damage and Health and Safety issues. One property is currently being used as a decant property.

Arrears Performance

2013/2014	Total £Value	2014/2015	Total £Value
April 13	£209,790	April 14	£346,411
May 13	£267,788	May 14	£382,544
June 13	Not available	June 14	£389,446
July 13	£365,796	July 14	
August 13	£417,411	August 14	
September 13	£436,192	September 14	
October 13	£439,347	October 14	
November 13	£449,896	November 14	
December 13	£415,189	December 14	
January 2014	£436,014	January 2015	
February 2014	£449,277	February 2015	
March 2014	£312,465	March 2015	

West Lothian Council has for many years been one of the top performing councils in Scotland with respect to rent collection and the council's rent arrears process has been widely considered to be best practice, engendering a strong payment culture amongst most of its tenants.

For 2014-15 the Arrears Task Group has agreed, as an interim measure, to monitor against a £1.3m target. This will allow time for some actions from the Rent Strategy to be in place, so the target will be subject to change later in the year.

The Councils high profile rent arrears campaign moved to their Summer Campaign in June with the message being 'This Summer I need to sort out my Rent' and stating a list of options. Posters are being displayed in Councils offices, Community Centres, GP Surgeries and on back of some Council vans.

The workload priorities agreed at the Arrears Task Group ensured that tenants who engaged with the Council were being offered support and advice in relation to applying for Housing Benefit, Scottish Welfare Fund and referrals to the Advice Shop where they can get Money Advice and in making a realistic sustainable payment arrangement.

Articles encouraging tenants to pay their rent were inserted into Tenants News, Applicants News, the Bulletin and on the internet to raise awareness of Welfare Reform changes and their potential impact on our customers.

The table shows the level of arrears and the number of tenants in arrears in this Ward from end September 2013 at the start of the Rent Arrears Campaign and the level of arrears at the end of June 2014.

Arrears Banding	Balance 27 September 2013	Tenants in Arrears	Balance 30 June 2014	Tenants in Arrears
£0.01-£49.99	£5587.97	257	3436.18	183
£50.00-£149.99	£26498.34	297	27095.14	288
£150.00-£299.99	£73611.25	336	48018.59	217
£300.00-£499.99	£73422.67	192	61580.11	160
£500.00-£749.99	£79,277.47	127	65252.53	108
£750.00-£999.99	£49799.41	57	47206.54	54
£1000.00-£1999.99	£112,201.56	86	107374.5	78
£2000.00+	£21,056.85	8	29482.51	11
Total	£441,455.55	1360	£389,446.10	1099

The Arrears Task Group will continue meeting through the financial year 2014-15 as there are many challenges to come in the management of rental income due to the on-going phasing in of Welfare Reform, increasing fuel costs, reducing household income and the negative impact these changes are having on Council Tenants.

Office Activity

Officers have worked hard in attempts to make contact and carry out as many face to face interviews as possible, some of which were very difficult and emotional. This continues on a weekly basis as our customers face many changes with their on-going DWP Benefit Award for various reasons, which has an impact on their on-going Housing Benefit award.

We will continue to work with all our tenants in offering advice and assistance, for example, referrals for money, debt advice and where appropriate application for Discretionary Housing Benefits payments.

Whitburn and Blackburn Area Team Activity

Officers in the team have a number of tenancies under supervision for issues such as child protection, Antisocial Behaviour and poor tenancy conditions. Our officers' work with a range of services and agencies to ensure tenants and residents are fully supported, tenancies maintained and sustained as far as possible and appropriate action taken where necessary, as well as ensuring, that where the situation arises, other members of the community affected are also supported.

Ward Specific Capital & Environmental Programme

All Projects of repair and upgrade works for the Ward are on site progressing according to completion with no major issues though some extensions of work programmes due to increased work content will be considered by council later in the year. Those that have recently finished are entering a 12 month defects stage, and those carried out by external contractors, or by subcontractors to Building Services contain conditions where any faults that arise are addressed by the contractor and he will not receive full

contract payment until all these works are complete. All Planned Programmes and whole Area Programmes such as rhone cleaning, repair, stairwell maintenance, periodic testing, etc. are progressing well and with no issues. The Painting programme has however been delayed due to a requirement for asbestos checks.

New Build information

The council is making good progress with its 1,000 new build council houses programme. Contractors have been appointed for the first set of sites, lots 1 and 2 which comprise sites in Bathgate, Blackburn, Pumpherston and Broxburn.

The site at Redhouse West in Blackburn will accommodate 100 new build units and the preferred contractor is currently progressing more detailed design with a view to submitting a detailed planning application at the end of August. In addition, the contractor is proposing a public consultation event, where members of the community will have an opportunity to examine the proposals in more detail & make comment.

Lot 3 is currently out to tender and tender returns are due back on 27 August. Lots 4 and 5 will be tendered over the next few months.

Tenant Participation Update

Riddochhill Tenants and Residents Association continues to be very active, the group meet on a monthly basis. The Community Housing Officer promotes the group and encourages new and established tenants to attend the meetings.

Scottish Social Housing Charter

The Scottish Housing Regulator asked Landlords to evidence compliance with The Charter outcomes through a process of self-assessment, which involves tenant scrutiny and is a key element of the Charter requirements.

Senior Managers have been working closely with the members of the Tenant Participation Development Working Group to finalise performance measures submitted on 30 May to the Scottish Housing Regulator. The results of which will be published on the Scottish Housing Regulators website at the end of August.

Homeless Housing Network

The development group has been working towards the launch of a new Housing Network especially for those who have been through the Homeless route, giving them the opportunity to reflect on their homeless experiences in using Council services and help improve and deliver effective services that are required for Service Users.

The Network will be launched with the first meeting on September 25 in Broxburn Family Unit at 11am. Posters and Leaflets will be distributed and Housing Needs staff are actively promoting this new group when visiting customers.

Good Neighbour Awards

Nominations are now being taken for the fourth Annual Good Neighbours Awards. This award allows those who deserve to be recognised for their thoughtfulness and consideration to their neighbours.

Application forms are available in the Summer edition of Tenants News or online at West Lothian Council/Housing/Council Housing/Tenant Participation related documents closing date for entries is 1st September 2014.

Consultation

Extensive consultation has been taking place with tenants and service users on a variety of issues including the new Allocations Policy, Review of the Repairs categories and the Governments consultation on Anti-Social Behaviour noise regime.

Tenants have been asked for their views by various methods including, Tenants Panel, Housing Networks and in Tenants News and the findings will be fed back to help in the Review of Service Delivery.

Safer Neighbourhood Council Officer Ward Information

The Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) across the nine Multi-Member Wards are an integral part of

the Community Safety Unit and are a key feature of partnership working. In the Whitburn and Blackburn Ward partnership working sees the local Housing team, Youth Worker, Council Officer within the SNT and Police officers all working together to tackle Antisocial behaviour in the Ward.

WLC Officer based in SNT June 2014

There were 69 visits over the last month carried out, 37 in Blackburn, 27 in Whitburn, 2 in Seafield and 1 in Greenrigg. 6 verbal warnings were given all to West Lothian Council tenants. 1 full ASBO was granted, 1 interim ASBO granted with a further case being escalated to Legal Services to seek ASBO proceedings.

Youth Worker based in SNT June 2014

The youth worker continues to monitor ASB levels in the area, calls to the Police regarding ASB are monitored on a daily basis. A drop-in facility was available at Blackburn Community Centre on Wednesday from 6.30pm-9.30pm and 2pm-5pm on Sundays.

E. CONCLUSION

To note the contents of the report.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments: None

Contact Person: Gary Stoddart, Housing, Construction & Building Services

Email; gary.stoddart@westlothian.gov.uk

Tel: 01501 678012

Date: 18 August 2014



WHITBURN & BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

ALCOHOL DIVERSIONARY ACTIVITIES

HEAD OF SOCIAL POLICY

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is for the Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee (LAC) to note the decision made at the ADP Subgroup on 18th June 2014 in regards to the "Know Heavy Bevv" application.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

The ADP subgroup recommended that the "Know Heavy Bevv" application return to Whitburn and Blackburn LAC. There is a requirement for funding decisions to be considered as a whole, taking for example other funding which is provided to an area or initiative into account.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I.	Policy and Legal	None.
II.	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
III.	Impact on performance and performance indicators	Reduction in the number of underage drinking and antisocial behaviour calls registered with the Community Safety Unit.
IV.	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	People most at risk are protected and supported to achieve improved life chances. We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities
V.	Resources (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The budget for projects is £250,000, £150,000 of which is time limited
VI.	Consideration at PDSP/Executive Committee required	None
VII.	Details of consultations	None

D. BACKGROUND

A new governance process for the Alcohol Diversionary Funding was approved by the Council Executive on 21st January 2014.

The report submitted and approved by the Council Executive, references the LAC involvement when applications do not proceed to Social Policy PDSP:

“Applications which do not meet the criteria / outcomes will be passed back to the LAC with feedback to allow a further review and resubmission of the application.”

The application was supported by Whitburn and Blackburn LAC on 2nd June 2014. It was considered on 18th June by the Alcohol Drug Partnership subgroup and at this stage it will not progress through the process to Social Policy PDSP and Council Executive.

E. This report provides an update and feedback to the LAC.

CURRENT POSITION

The ADP subgroup has informed the applicant and provided feedback. The applicant is able to resubmit application for reconsideration to Whitburn and Blackburn LAC.

F. CONCLUSION

All LACs will be informed about applications that do not proceed to the Social Policy PDSP and Council Executive.

The Whitburn and Blackburn LAC is asked to note the decision and feedback for the “Know Heavy Bevv” application.

G. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Contact Person: Alan Bell, Senior Manager, Community Care, Support and Services
alan.bell@westlothian.gov.uk Tel: 01506 281937

Elizabeth Butters
ADP Policy Officer

Date: 18th August 2014



WHITBURN & BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

ALCOHOL DIVERSIONARY ACTIVITIES

REPORT BY HEAD OF SOCIAL POLICY

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update the Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee (LAC) in regards to an application for Alcohol Diversionary Activity Funding.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Whitburn and Blackburn LAC note and consider the application submitted for Alcohol Diversionary Funding against the Alcohol and Drug Partnership Joint Commissioning Plan's outcomes:

- Reducing antisocial behaviour
- Delivery of 1:1 alcohol brief interventions (ABIs)
- Changing group attitudes to drinking

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I.	Policy and Legal	None.
II.	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
III.	Impact on performance and performance indicators	Reduction in the number of underage drinking and antisocial behaviour calls registered with the Community Safety Unit.
IV.	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	People most at risk are protected and supported to achieve improved life chances. We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities
V.	Resources (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The budget for projects is £250,000, £150,000 of which is time limited
VI.	Consideration at PDSP/Executive	None

Committee required

VII. Details of consultations

D. TERMS OF THE REPORT

A new governance process for the Alcohol Diversionary Funding was approved by the Council Executive on 21st January 2014, which referenced the LAC involvement;

“Local Area Committees will receive any applications for proposed projects and will provide an assessment panel with their recommendations. Results from the application and approval process will then be reported to the PDSP and approved by the Council Executive”.

There has been an application received for consideration by Whitburn and Blackburn LAC and it is requested that the LAC consider the application, note their recommendations and provide these to the Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) Subgroup panel. The timeline for the process is attached in Appendix 1.

The application for the project, Blackburn Initiative, is requesting £14, 808 as detailed more fully in Appendix 2.

E. CONCLUSION

The new process stipulates that LACs will receive projects for Alcohol Diversionary Funding and consider and provide recommendations to the ADP Subgroup Panel.

The Whitburn and Blackburn LAC is asked to note and consider the application for funding detailed in Appendix 2 and to make recommendations on this project proceeding through to the ADP subgroup.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix 1 – Timeline for Whitburn/Blackburn ADF application process

Appendix 2 - Application for Blackburn Initiative

Appendix 3 – Evaluation of Project 2013/14

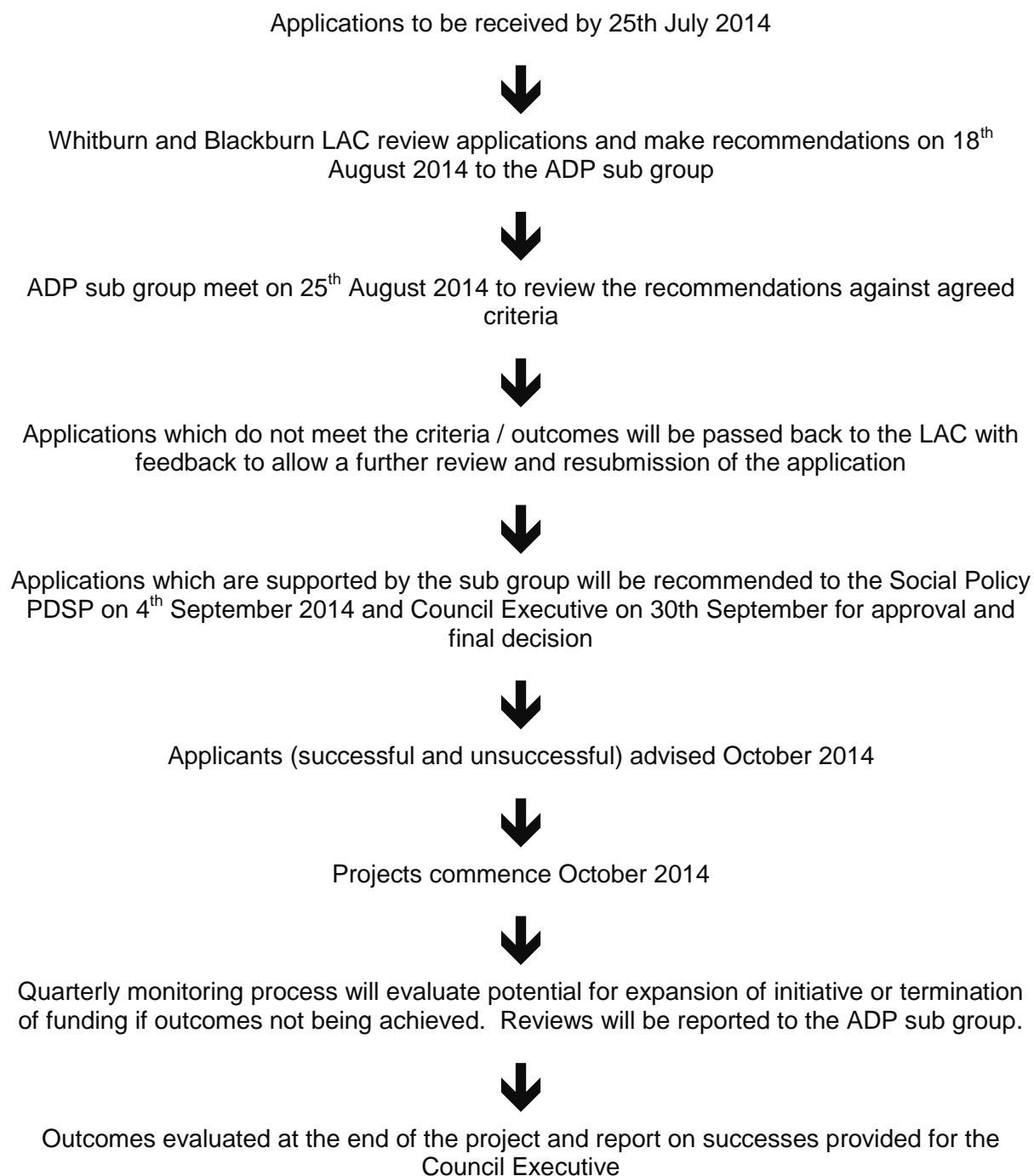
Contact Person: Alan Bell, Senior Manager, Community Care, Support and Services
alan.bell@westtohian.gov.uk Tel: 01506 281937

Elizabeth Butters
ADP Policy Officer

Date: 18th August 2014

APPENDIX

PROPOSED PROCESS FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ADF FOR Whitburn/Blackburn LAC



Application Form

The West Lothian ADP Youth Alcohol Diversionary Fund application form is split into several sections covering different aspects of your initiative or project. Please take some time to ensure the main points are covered in the appropriate place.

Section 1 – Submission details	
TADP Partner	West Lothian Youth Action Project
Name of Key Contact	Helen Davis
Project Title / Name	Blackburn Initiative
Have you applied for funding for this same initiative before?	Yes – slight variation to reflect need
<i>If so, an evaluation must have been carried out AND attached before completing the following sections</i>	

Section 2 – The Project	
What outcome targets are set for the project?	<p>Changing young people's attitudes to alcohol and associated risks</p> <p>Young people at risk are informed about alcohol and associated risky behaviours</p> <p>Improved social behaviour in the community: Reduction in youth anti-social behaviour calls to Police</p> <p>Improved levels of confidence and more positive lifestyle choices of group participants</p>

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC

What ward areas will the project cover?	Blackburn
Who are the intended beneficiaries of the project?	Young people aged 12-18
Which of the National Outcomes does the project cover?	<p>Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective communicators and responsible citizens</p> <p>We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities.</p> <p>We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities</p> <p>We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger</p>
What local priorities/outcomes does the project cover?	<p>Young people get a range of alternatives to drinking and a wider understanding of the risks associated to alcohol and substance use</p> <p>Young people's alcohol consumption is reduced</p> <p>The level of youth and alcohol related disorder is reduced</p> <p>Young people are better educated and have support to be included in decision making processes for them and their communities.</p>

Section 2 – The Project

How does the project meet the Equalities and Diversity Agenda?	The project will be open and inclusive, broadening out to encompass a mix of young people from Blackburn. It will strive to capture a balance of ages, genders and ethnic backgrounds making specific initiatives and campaigns to attract participants from a range of backgrounds.
How does the project demonstrate positive engagement with the local community?	This project has been set up in response to feedback from several consultations with young people, the local community and partner agencies. This has led to the project and shaped the focus and content The project takes into account what was successful in the previous project work in the Blackburn area.
How will your project be advertised/publicised?	Marketing locally through local schools and youth clubs, the Mill Centre Community Notice Board, Community Centre, Blackburn Facebook page, Blackburn United Community Football Club, WLYAP streetwork and a range of other community projects, word of mouth through families, peer leaders.
Explain what is new and innovative about this project?	<p>Having undertaken a recent audit of youth provision in the Blackburn area a “whole systems” approach has been adopted by establishing a Youth Providers Group to address alcohol consumption, healthier lifestyles and antisocial behaviours using a range of interventions including Education and Prevention, Early Intervention and Intensive Support.</p> <p>WLYAP will operate the projects described below and will feed information and outcomes of the work into the Youth providers group as well as the ADP and monitoring body.</p>
Is this a short term or long term solution/intervention?	In the short term, the project will have immediate impact and will also make a contribution to longer term change and delivery of local and national objectives.
<p>Please give an outline of the project that will be undertaken including how the project need was identified and its relevance to the West Lothian ADP</p> <p>(maximum 500 words)</p>	<p>Prevention and Education</p> <p>West Lothian Youth Action Project and associated partners will run informal sessions and specific targeted groupwork programmes for young people in the Blackburn area. This will provide two specific drop-in sessions per week on Wednesday evenings and Sundays, together with targeted diversionary activities identified by young people, encouraging new opportunities and positive alternatives to alcohol and drug use. (e.g. music/creative arts/photography). WLC Youth Services and the Youth Action Project will jointly operate the Sunday afternoon provision. This is an important time for staff to assist young people with issues that have occurred during the weekend, often alcohol related.</p> <p>Staff running the sessions are trained to carry out Brief Interventions and encourage young people and their families</p>

	<p>to utilise complementary support provided by partner agencies such as CAB and WLDAS/ Circle.</p> <p>Two intensive support programmes will be run for identified young people who are struggling with mainstream education, and employment. Specific tailored programmes will be developed with young people to address the issues that are causing them to make negative life choices. These programmes will be developed with partners such as MCMC team, education staff including the Behavioural support unit, CAB, Police/Fire Service. There will be 2 x 8 week programmes during 2014/5. Members of the group will receive certificates of attendance/completion & First Aid certificates. There will also be a presentation of the groups' achievements to interested parties. The levels of alcohol and drug use by these young people, many of whom will be at significant risk of making poor life choices will be measured using ABI's and other recognised assessments. Specific 1-1 Intervention work will be carried out with individual members for these groups as required. Many of the young people involved in these groups will have chaotic lifestyles that require follow up and home visits.</p> <p>The project will ensure that a core group of youth representatives attending the drop ins or intensive support groups act as a user committee/forum (with staff support) to ensure that young people's views are included in plans to address issues affecting the future of Blackburn. Young people involved in the committee will achieve Saltire awards for their volunteering time and accredited certificates such as a Youth Achievement award.</p> <p>The group will also be encouraged to take part in Peer Education training programmes ensuring that information and learning gained by this group is disseminated widely. Young people will determine what attitudinal and behavioural changes towards alcohol use and other lifestyle changes have taken place. The group will create documented evidence of achievements and views of young people in Blackburn through a medium of their choice.</p>		
Project Start Date	Late September 2014	Project End Date	March 31st 2015

Section 3 – Resources	
How much are you applying for the Fund?	£ 14,808
What is the total cost of the project?	<p>WYLAP Staff costs for drop-ins, 4 staff x 3 hours @ £14ph x 26 weeks = £4,368</p> <p>Specialist support staff – music/ artists/ creative arts/technical skills training = £1,000</p> <p>One to one support costs/ follow up = £1,120</p> <p>Staff for intensive support groups = £3640 (5 hours per week x 2 staff inc planning and prep)</p> <p>Youth Advisory group/forum support staff to March 31st 2015 = £1,500</p> <p>Resources/ equipment for all groups = £2,400</p> <p>Transport costs: Diesel for minibus/ staff travel £780</p> <p><u>Sub Total £14,808</u></p>
What other funding sources have you obtained, including in-kind / matched funding?	Substantial in-kind contributions from many sources including use of the Community Centre; involvement of partner agencies and individuals in the delivery of education and awareness sessions e.g. Community Police, Community safety Unit, Fire & Rescue, Sports and Fitness Coaches, Careers & Employment Advisors.
What staffing resources are required to deliver the project?	<p>4 youth workers – variable hours</p> <p>Specialist workers for sessions held within drop-ins and intensive support groups</p>
What partner organisations are involved and what will be their contribution?	West Lothian Youth Action Project; Community Action Blackburn & West Lothian Council Youth Services; will contribute to the delivery of the project in specific roles within the Project Description above. This will ensure a joined up cohesive approach with expert inputs over the project period and linkage to complementary services for lasting impact and tracking progress of outcomes over time.

Highlight how applicants will work together to reduce duplication of service and resources.	<p>Each of the agencies involved will offer different yet complementary interventions with coordination to link with each other for greater impact and avoid duplication:</p> <p>West Lothian Council Youth Services – delivery of youth work – Sundays, West Lothian Youth Action Project - Groupwork/Alcohol Brief Interventions/Intensive Support projects</p> <p>Community Action Blackburn will be the conduit for this work, assisting with identifying need and promotion.</p>
Please provide evidence of how this project demonstrates preventative spend?	<p>The project will intervene with a key age group to change behaviours early and avoid costly intervention and treatment later. This will deliver benefits earlier through preventative spend and reduce costs. This is in line with leading thinking and the recommendations of the Christie Commission which calls for Local Authorities to prioritise Prevention activity to reduce inequalities and make early interventions. This preventative project will deliver a new, collaborative culture through our public services that tackle the deep-rooted social problems around alcohol and young people that persist in the Blackburn community.</p>

Section 4 – Monitoring and Evaluation

How will you evaluate this project?	<p>A variety of evaluation tools will be used involving partners, practitioners and young people themselves and evaluation will be composited by each partner at the end of the project. A project monitoring and evaluation framework will be designed to capture the achievements through a series of surveys and KPIs covering quantitative and qualitative approaches. These will cover the project, beneficiaries and wider community effects. Examples include measurements covering project activities, outputs and outcomes over time including evidence of risk awareness, attitudinal change, drinking levels, risk taking and improvements in knowledge, behaviour & lifestyle change.</p>
What monitoring data will be collected for the project?	<p>Performance monitoring will be carried out to gather a range of data including number of attendees, referrals and youth calls; completion records, awareness levels and certificate attainment levels relating to outcomes. Involvement of experienced staff will ensure that aspects of the project will be measured against West Lothian Council's Outcome measures. The Blackburn Youth Providers Group will support and assist in the evaluative progress and produce regular reports with metrics and explanatory commentary. An annual report</p>

	on the project will gather evidence on data from survey returns and self-evaluation by beneficiaries as well as showing the project effects overall.
What outcomes will you achieve?	<p>A change young people's attitudes to alcohol and associated risks</p> <p>Young people at risk are informed about alcohol and associated risky behaviours</p> <p>Improved social behaviour in the community: Contribute to the reduction in youth anti-social behaviour calls to Police</p> <p>Improved life choices and opportunities for the young people involved in the intensive support groups</p> <p>An increased number of young people from Blackburn engaging in decision making processes within their community</p>
What impact will the project have?	<p>The project will have a positive impact on young people, families and the community. A range of healthy activities, drop- in programmes and educational initiatives will inform, encourage and build self-efficacy for young people, working towards longer term change and a reduction in harmful substance use and risky anti-social behaviour. This can have wider impacts and legacy effects as well as positive peer influence to assist in sustaining initial behaviour change.</p> <p>The Intensive support groups will lead young people to improve their knowledge base and broaden positive life choices.</p>
Note any possible barriers or threats.	Given Blackburn's demographics, some of the targeted young people will come from hard to reach groups. Some will be looked after, some will be coping with drug and alcohol use in the wider family and some will be using substances themselves. The project will work hard to reach these groups and influence through involvement to change behaviour. However, we recognise the difficulties and make allowance for the barriers presented by entrenched family and community culture.

Section 5 – Validation

This part of the application verifies that all partners are happy with the content and intention contained within the application. For electronic copies received without a signature, the funding panel will assume that all the relevant permissions/approvals and evidence have been sought and attached by the applicant.

Signed on behalf of the project

Name Helen Davis	Organisation West Lothian Youth Action Project	Position Project Director
Signed	Date 29/7/14	Telephone number 01506 431430

Section 6 – Your Organisation

ADP / CPP Partner	
Name of Key Contact	Helen Davis
Position in Partnership/ Organisation	Project Director
Correspondence Address	Craigsfarm Campus, Maree Walk, Craigshill, Livingston
Post Code	EH54 5BP
Tel Number	01506 431430
Email Address	helen@wlyap.org.uk
Website	

Appendix 3

WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL

Strategy for Tackling Underage Drinking
Reporting Framework 2013-4

PROJECT TITLE & REF NO	<i>Blackburn Drop-in and groupwork.</i>
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CONTACT DETAILS	<i>Name - Helen Davis</i>
	<i>Designation - Project Director</i>
	<i>Address</i>
	<i>Craigsfarm campus Maree, Livingston, West Lothian</i>
	<i>Post code EH54 5BP</i>
	<i>Tel 01506 431430</i>
	<i>Email helen@wlyap.org.uk</i>
	<i>Web www.wlyap.org.uk</i>

LOCATION OF PROJECT	<i>Blackburn Community Centre – Youth room</i>
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DURATION OF PROJECT AND PROJECTED COMMENCING DATE	<i>April 2013 – March 2014</i>
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LEAD AGENCY	<i>West Lothian Youth Action Project</i>
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PARTNER AGENCIES:	<i>Community Youth Services, Community Regeneration Officer, Police Scotland, Community Action Blackburn, Community Council</i>
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PROJECT OUTLINE	<i>The Youth Action Project and other partners have continued to operate an informal drop-in youth provision within Blackburn Community Centre; this facility targets young people that do not usually use youth clubs or mainstream services.</i>
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	<p><i>The funding provided through the Alcohol Diversion fund has allowed the drop-ins and when required additional streetwork sessions to operate as required. The Sunday sessions are operated in partnership with Community Youth services and prove to be a useful time to discuss the issues that have occurred for young people during the weekends. During the drop-in sessions a wide range of issues are addressed with young people, such as employment and education concerns, health, sexual health and relationship matters. The staff operating the drop-in sessions are C-Card trained so young people have access to Sexual health resources.</i></p> <p><i>When the sports hall is available in the community centre on Sunday sessions the young people have access to the facility and have played football, basketball etc.</i></p> <p><i>Many of the conversations between staff and young people during Sunday sessions revolve around the young people's activities on Saturdays. Therefore we have a good knowledge of young people's alcohol and drug use, the trends and concerns relating to these matters and advice and support is given the young people who are putting themselves at risk with their behaviour.</i></p> <p><i>Many of the young people attending on Sundays have not eaten and are sometimes recovering from their activities on Saturday evenings, therefore staff introduced provision of snacks such as toasties etc, this has been favourably received.</i></p> <p><i>Finally there is a deep interest in football in Blackburn, many Scottish Premier league matches have been played on a Sunday, we have provided a safe and neutral space for the young people to watch the matches on TV, times of the drop-in have been altered on occasions to suit football matches. This facility has been welcomed and has reduced the risk of young people drinking alcohol when matches are on.</i></p> <p><i>Specialist sessions have been held on alcohol and drug use – These involve the use of Alcohol Brief Interventions, 46 ABI's have been carried out and 8 young people have received individual support in relation to their alcohol and drug use.</i></p> <p><i>A young women's group developed in September 2013 with 6 young women initially involved in the group, these were referred from schools and Social work as they were placing themselves at risk and involved in anti –social behaviour. This work is still continuing, addressing issues such as self esteem, personal safety, alcohol issues and consequential thinking. Unfortunately one young woman was unable to sustain this programme.</i></p> <p><i>The youth facility still acts as a base within which to consult young people from Blackburn and environs about their communities and issues that affect their lives. One of the major consultations has been around the development of the skate park facility currently under construction in Blackburn.</i></p> <p><i>The young men's group had 9 involved in total with 7 completing the programme, most of the work was around the impact of involvement with crime, relationship and employment / education issues. The group also used the workshop base in Craigshill for practical skills training.</i></p>
HOW THE YOUNG	<i>How did you make contact with them?</i>

PEOPLE GOT INVOLVED	
	<p><i>Prior to the commencement of the drop-in leaflets were handed out on the streets with WYLAP Streetwork Team and via word of mouth through the network of young people that had previously been involved with the development of the drop-in and through Facebook and social networking sites. Community Action Blackburn also promotes the WLYAP services and youth activities through their Newsletter and Website.</i></p> <p><i>The groupwork programmes were referral based groups.</i></p> <p><i>Community Action Blackburn and local adults have also continued to promote the drop-in facilities as have partner agencies such as the police etc.</i></p>

INPUTS	<p><i>The resources you used to deliver the project. They include, for example, staff time, budgets, equipment, buildings and policies.</i></p>
	<p><i>3 part-time members of staff</i> <i>Refreshment and equipment costs – I.e. Art materials/food for Sunday sessions</i> <i>Specialist worker fees – Music/ employability/ workers trained in alcohol and drug issues</i> <i>Equipment</i> <i>Transport for activities</i> <i>Project Director support/ Administration support/ Tooled Up workshop staff provided in kind</i> <i>Child Protection/ Health & safety policies</i> <i>ABi's</i> <i>Skills workshops – based at Tooled Up in Craigshill</i></p>

PROCESSES	<i>The ways by which the inputs were used to achieve the planned outputs (in other words, what was done with the resources)</i>
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	<p><i>The youth workers are responsible for the development of the programme working with the Project Director and other youth work specialists. Staff liaise closely with staff from the Community Centre, Management Committee and Community Action Blackburn to ensure everyone is informed of the progress.</i></p> <p><i>The team and project streetwork staff continues to promote the Blackburn facility and meet with the young people to encourage them to attend the drop-in. Young people discuss options and plans for the drop-in together with staff. This helps to develop positive relationships between staff members and the young people.</i></p> <p><i>Referrals for groupwork were provided by Social work and local high schools. Young people involved in Floorwalk operations were also referred to groupwork programmes if appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>Alcohol Brief Interventions and Cannabis assessments were carried out with targeted young people and appropriate supports put in place if substance use proved to be a concern.</i></p> <p><i>An agreement was made with the Centre staff and Centre Committee that all young people over 12 years of age would be allowed into the drop-in, behaviour of the young people is monitored and discussed with CLD staff. We operate the same rules now and if short term exclusions are necessary for young people due to extreme behaviour all partners are informed including local Police officers. Young people are involved in planning the programme and how the project will develop. They are using the computers, pool table and games equipment.</i></p>
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OUTPUTS	<i>The specific products of the project. These are the quantifiable (easily counted) things such as the number of young people taking part or the number of activities delivered.</i>
	<p>Number of young people involved</p> <p>No. of sessions - Total including groupwork programmes 112</p> <p>138 different individuals (excluding summer programme figures)</p> <p>1270- total attendances</p> <p>Age ranges 11-20 yrs</p> <p>Highest percentage of users are</p>

OUTPUT MEASURES/ INDICATORS	15 & 16 year olds.
	11-14's 66
	15+ 72
	Number of males 88
	Number of females 50
	Average number of young people on a weekly basis – 50 divided between sessions – some are repeat users of different sessions
	<i>How we knew we have carried what was planned in the way we intended?</i>
	<i>Regular and consistent attendance of young people, including those identified as category 3 young people – High risk.</i> <i>Increased partnership working</i> <i>Increased awareness amongst young people of the risks associated to alcohol consumption.</i> <i>Alcohol Brief Intervention assessments.</i> <i>Increased awareness of services, improved relationship with Community Police/SNT –</i> <i>A reduction in the number of youth calls to police</i> <i>Improved attendance of young people into mainstream activities.</i>

OUTCOMES	<i>The changes or results that have come about because of the project. Outcomes are normally what the project is trying to achieve but some outcomes are not planned.</i>
	National outcomes met <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. • We live longer, healthier lives.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have improved the life_chances for children, young people and families at risk <p>Local outcomes –</p> <p>Key outcomes achieved were:- Reducing anti-social behaviour Young people are better educated and have access to increased and better learning and employment opportunities. Changing group attitudes to alcohol</p> <p>Evidence of how these outcomes were met are detailed below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base line evaluation at the start of the programme to measure young people's alcohol consumption/attitudes, how they access alcohol and their knowledge of understanding. <p>46 young people agreed to carry out brief intervention sessions to assess their alcohol consumption since April 2013, 11 had high levels of consumption There is ongoing work being carried out with 8 of these young people to assist reduction of alcohol consumption.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substance use has also been addressed with a number of young men, 9 have significantly reduced their cannabis use. (Cannabis assessment forms are used with the group to monitor use. (These are approved by WLDAS) 6 group based alcohol and substance awareness sessions have taken place to address concerns such as the use of alcohol, Legal highs and Cannabis use amongst young people – 85% of young people increased their knowledge and awareness of risk Almost 70% have significantly reduced their alcohol consumption of the 46 who undertook ABI's Trusting relationships have been developed with staff. 10 music sessions took place with young people who would not normally participate in musical activities The partnership process has assisted the various services to share policies and practice and inform decision making. CLD and WLYAP workers have addressed and developed joint strategies to manage the challenging behaviour of some high risk young men and women. Information has been shared with Police, Youth Justice and education to maintain the behaviour management in schools and communities. Of the 7 young men involved in the groupwork programme – 3 have gained college places, 2 moved into full time work and 1 into BLES training, only 1 young man is still unemployed The drop-in sessions have assisted staff to identify young people with employment or education issues and staff had therefore referred these young people into other services such as McMc
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OUTCOME MEASURES/ INDICATORS	workers or assisted them directly with CV's.
	<i>How we knew we have effected change?</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A reduction of alcohol and substance use by some attendees.</i> • <i>Positive relationships have been built between adults and young people.</i> • <i>Increased attendance at youth facilities in the Community Centre</i> • <i>Young people have learned new skills</i> • <i>Involvement in consultations and Community Action Blackburn programme. There is a positive and integrated relationship between WLYAP and CAB. Young people have been involved in the development of the proposed wheeled sports facility</i> • <i>Agreed uptake of structured sessions e.g. groupwork and music sessions.</i> • <i>The continuing development of a girls group – raising aspirations, confidence levels and the impact alcohol can have on individuals and their communities.</i> <p>• Staff details this information through WLYAP Outcome and Achievement records and ABI and Cannabis assessment forms – all available if required.</p>

WHAT EVALUATION METHOD WAS USED	
	LEAP <input type="checkbox"/>
	The Big Picture <input type="checkbox"/>
	Own method <input type="checkbox"/> x Describe - questionnaires/feedback recordings/ database Focus group meetings/ session
	Other <input type="checkbox"/> x Describe – Alcohol Brief interventions Rickter scale assessments with appropriate young people on 1-1 basis

HOW WERE YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACHIEVEMENTS RECOGNISED	
	<p>Formal accreditation/awards <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>.</p> <p>Informally <input type="checkbox"/> Certificates were produced for attendance and tracking progress – no formal accreditation as group participants did not want to complete Youth Achievement awards.</p>

WHAT LESSONS WERE LEARNED	<i>What went really well? Any unexpected problems/issues?</i>
	<p><i>Challenging behaviour continues to be addressed, particularly amongst a small number of young men, but the incidence of serious issues has reduced and more positive relationships have developed with staff members and young people and community members.</i></p> <p><i>Sadly we see repeated behavioural issues amongst each chronological age group of young people in Blackburn as they use local services. It is clear that where possible we need to work with parents/ family groups to address some behavioural changes such as alcohol and drug use and aspirations to improve lifestyles.</i></p> <p><i>The youth drop-in is a valuable resource but is not conducive for small groupwork and individual support, particularly with the most challenging young people. Therefore tailored groupwork programmes remain essential to ensure attitudes and life choices are addressed with those young people most at risk.</i></p> <p><i>Employment support and advice was recognised as an issue for many of the young people in Blackburn, positive relationships have been formed with young people designated as McMc</i></p> <p><i>The girls group has been more challenging than the young men's work this period, WLYAP staff are keen to assess if this risky behaviour displayed by some young women will remain a continued trend or whether this is just attributed to a small contained group of young women in this area.</i></p>



WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY HEALTH CHAMPIONS

REPORT BY DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, COMMUNITY HEALTH AND CARE PARTNERSHIP

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide a health ward profile to support Community Health Champions.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee takes note of the Ward Health Profile, with information in the profile to be used to develop ward priorities.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focusing on our customers' needs.• Providing equality of opportunities.• Making best use of our resources.• Working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	The development of Community Health Champions linked to local area committees offers the opportunity to improve health in our communities and tackle health inequalities.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	SOA 8: We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Training and staff support for the development of community health champions, and training for councillors would be carried out within existing budget allocation.

VII Consideration at PDSP	Health and Care PDSP, 27/6/13, Reducing Health Inequalities and Improving Health: What councillors can do to make a difference.
VIII Other consultations	Community Health and Care Partnership; Community Planning; and Community Regeneration.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Background

A proposal to develop Community Health Champions in each ward area was presented at Local Area Committees in June 2014. The proposal included a commitment to return to the next round of LAC with a Health profile for each ward area.

The Community Health Champion approach supports the overarching theme of the West Lothian Single Outcome Agreement in tackling inequality; outcome 8 relates specifically to the strategic importance of tackling health inequalities.

Health inequalities exist across West Lothian's communities with a difference in male life expectancy of 9.2 years and female life expectancy of 8.7 years between the communities with the highest and lowest average life spans.

The nature of health inequalities is complex and cannot be attributed to a single risk factor. They are the result of social circumstances and reflect the underlying distribution of power and resources in the population. Although lifestyle choices are important, determinants of health include community, economic, cultural and environmental factors. Health inequalities are not only related to socio-economic status. People who are disadvantaged by race, disability, gender and other factors also have poorer health.

Health inequalities do not just affect the most deprived communities and individuals. For almost every health indicator there is a clear gradient showing progressively poorer health with decreasing affluence. The Health Profile has been compiled on these broader determinants of health.

D2 Health profile for Whitburn and Blackburn

The Health Profile is based on ward profiles produced by Community Regeneration in 2012 and have been updated where new information is available. There are indicators on quality of life, key statistical information, health and population and benefits. The Citizen Panel Quality of Life survey in 2013 has provided up to date information for quality of life indicators.

Quality of Life

- The sixth West Lothian Quality of Life Survey for the Community Planning Partnership was carried out in 2013
- The percentage of residents who agree or strongly agree that West Lothian has improved in the last few years has decreased by seven percent. This reflects a similar drop in West Lothian as a whole

- Percentage of residents who agree or strongly agree that people in their community help each other when there is a problem has shown a nine percent decrease, while West Lothian remains the same
- Residents who engage in physical activity more than once per week has increased by 12% matching the rise seen in West Lothian.

Key Statistics

- Whitburn & Blackburn ward has a slightly higher percentage of working age population who are employment deprived
- The S4 average tariff score for all pupils in 2012/13 has increased to 211 from 175 in 2009.

Population and Benefits

- The percentage of 16-24 yrs old claiming key benefits in 2012 is higher than West Lothian and the percentage of 25-49 yrs old claiming key benefits is also higher than that of West Lothian.

Health Indicators

- DLA claimants per 1,000 in 2012 is higher than that of West Lothian
- Breastfeeding rates at the 6-8 week review while slightly lower than the West Lothian Rates shows an increase from 27% to 31%
- Rates for Coronary Heart Disease in Whitburn and Blackburn are significantly higher than both West Lothian and Scottish rates (2005 data).

E Conclusion

The health profile has been developed to support the Local Area Committee to prioritise health issues and agree/develop actions. The next step in the community health champion approach is to recruit local people and groups to work towards identifying and addressing issues. Recruits will initially be involved in a shortened version of the Health Issues in the Community Course (HIC).

F BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics (SNS)
West Lothian Council Citizens Panel Survey

Appendices/Attachments: One
Whitburn and Blackburn Ward health profile

Contact Person: Jane Kellock, Senior Manager – Children and Early Intervention

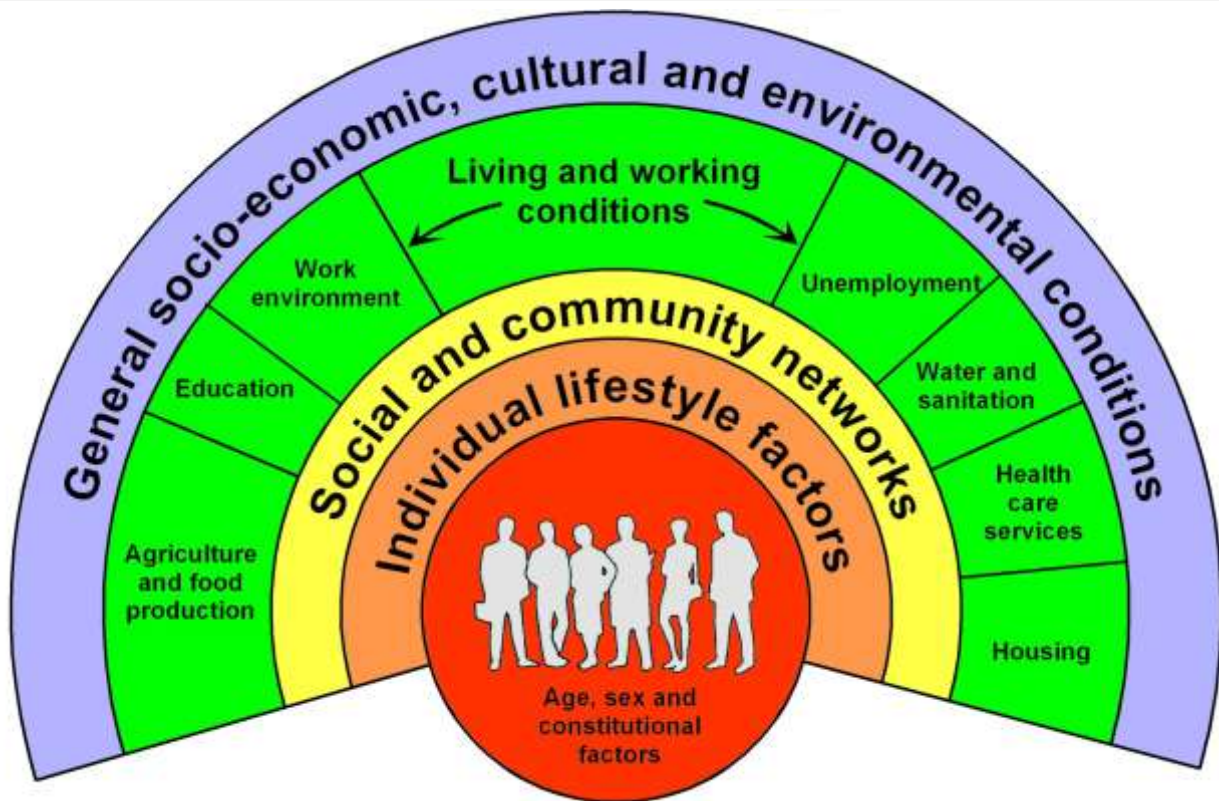
Jane.kellock@westlothian.gsx.gov.uk

01506 281920

Jennifer Scott, Head of Social Policy

18 August 2014

WARD HEALTH PROFILE: Whitburn and Blackburn



Source: Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1991

Determinants of Health

Community Health Champions

The West Lothian Council administration made a commitment to set up a Community Health Champion in every council ward area to develop and deliver local health initiatives and to promote greater involvement with our local communities in tackling health inequalities.

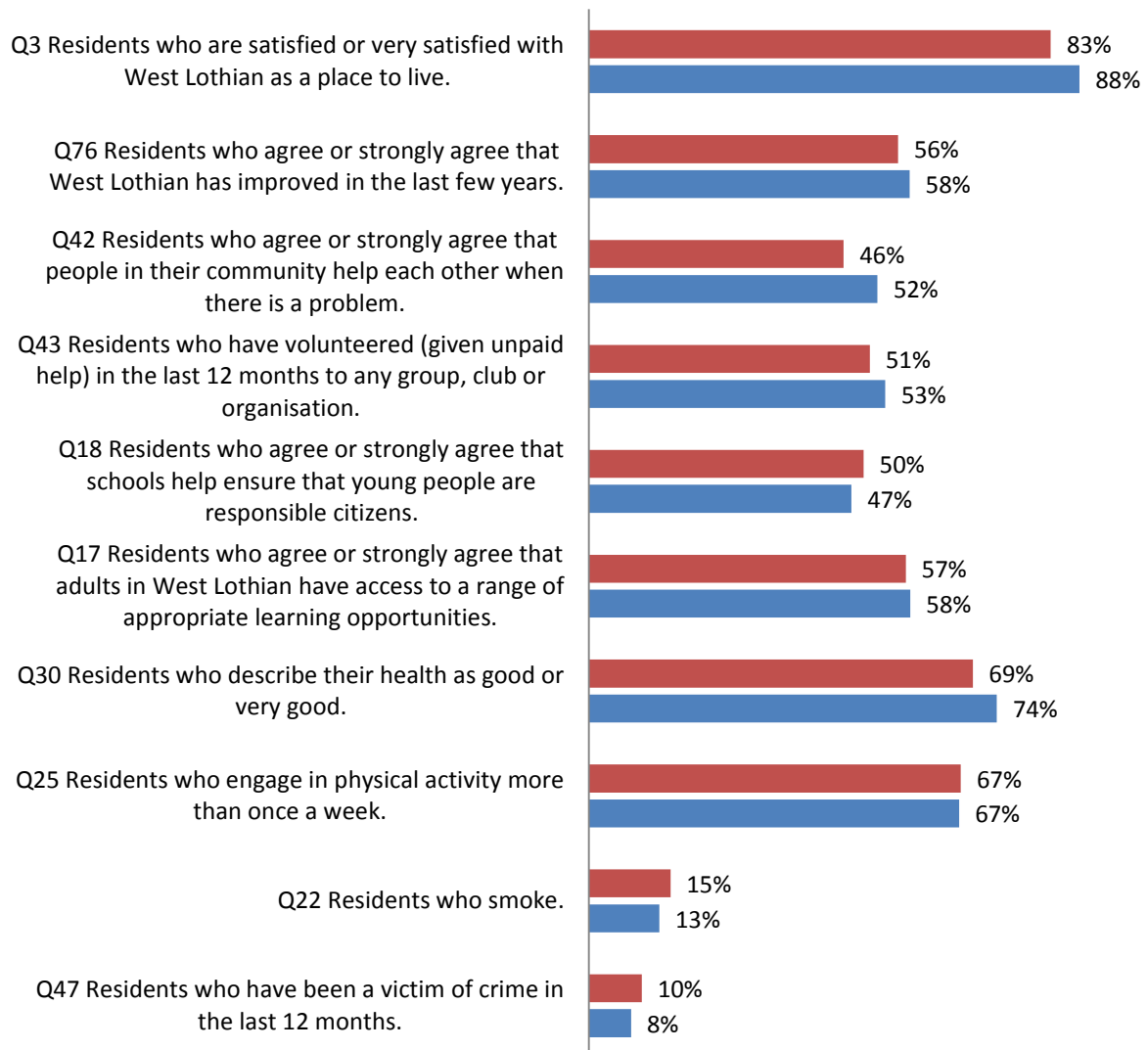
The overarching theme of the West Lothian Single Outcome Agreement is tackling inequality, and outcome 8 relates specifically to the strategic importance of tackling health inequalities.

The community Health Champion approach involves an identified individual utilising a community development approach to tackle health inequalities. The approach includes training and supporting local people to work towards influencing the health of their community and training offered to Local Elected members to support them in their work towards reducing health inequalities in their ward.

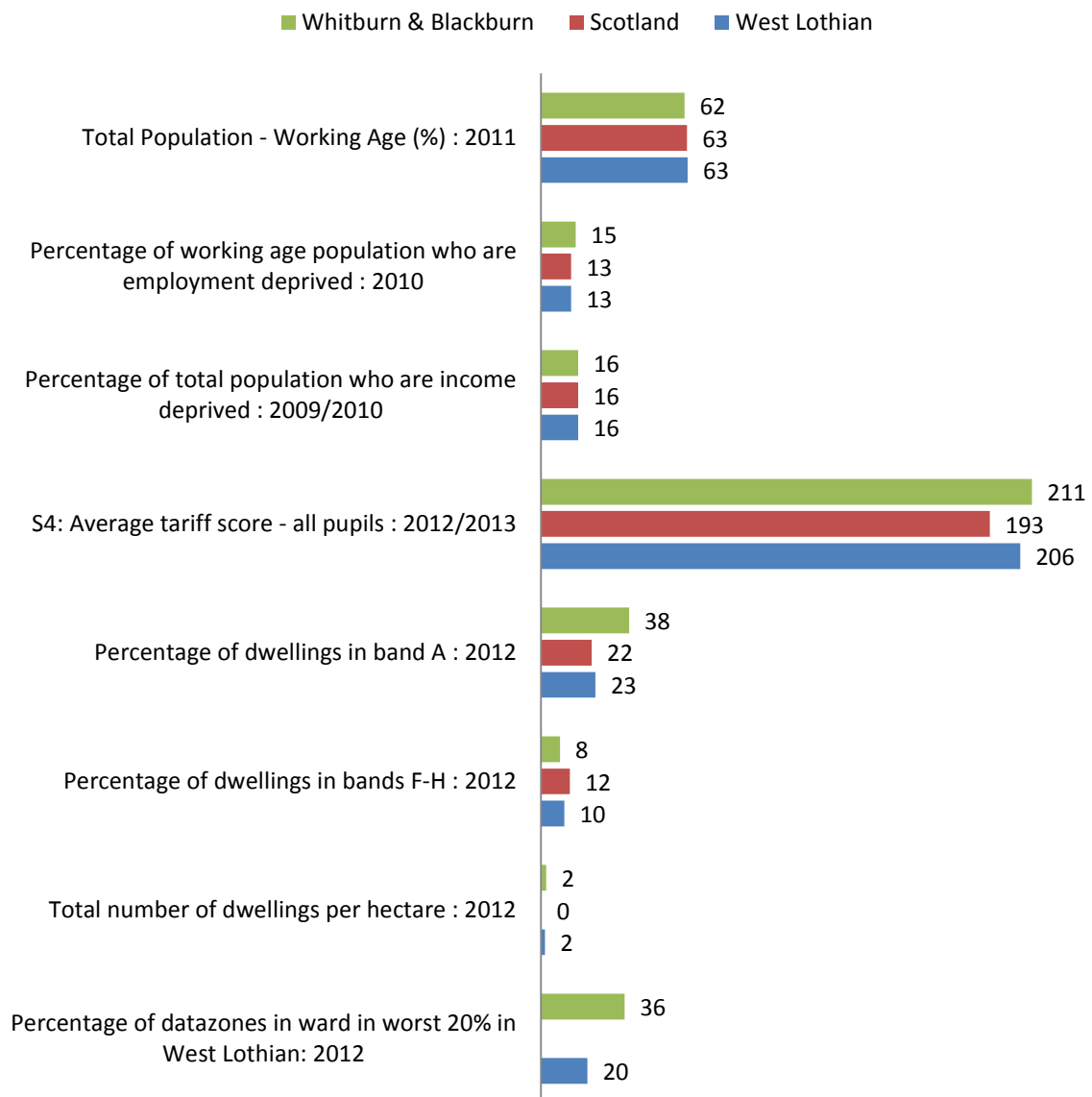
This profile represents the most up-to-date data in regards to indicators that contribute as determinants of health for each Multi-Member-Ward. The profile consists mainly of data taken from Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics (SNS), showing comparisons between the ward and West Lothian and, where data is available, Scotland as a whole. It also features results taken from the 2013 Quality of Life survey, showing comparisons between each ward and West Lothian relating to determinants of health.

Quality of Life Indicators

■ Whitburn & Blackburn ■ West Lothian

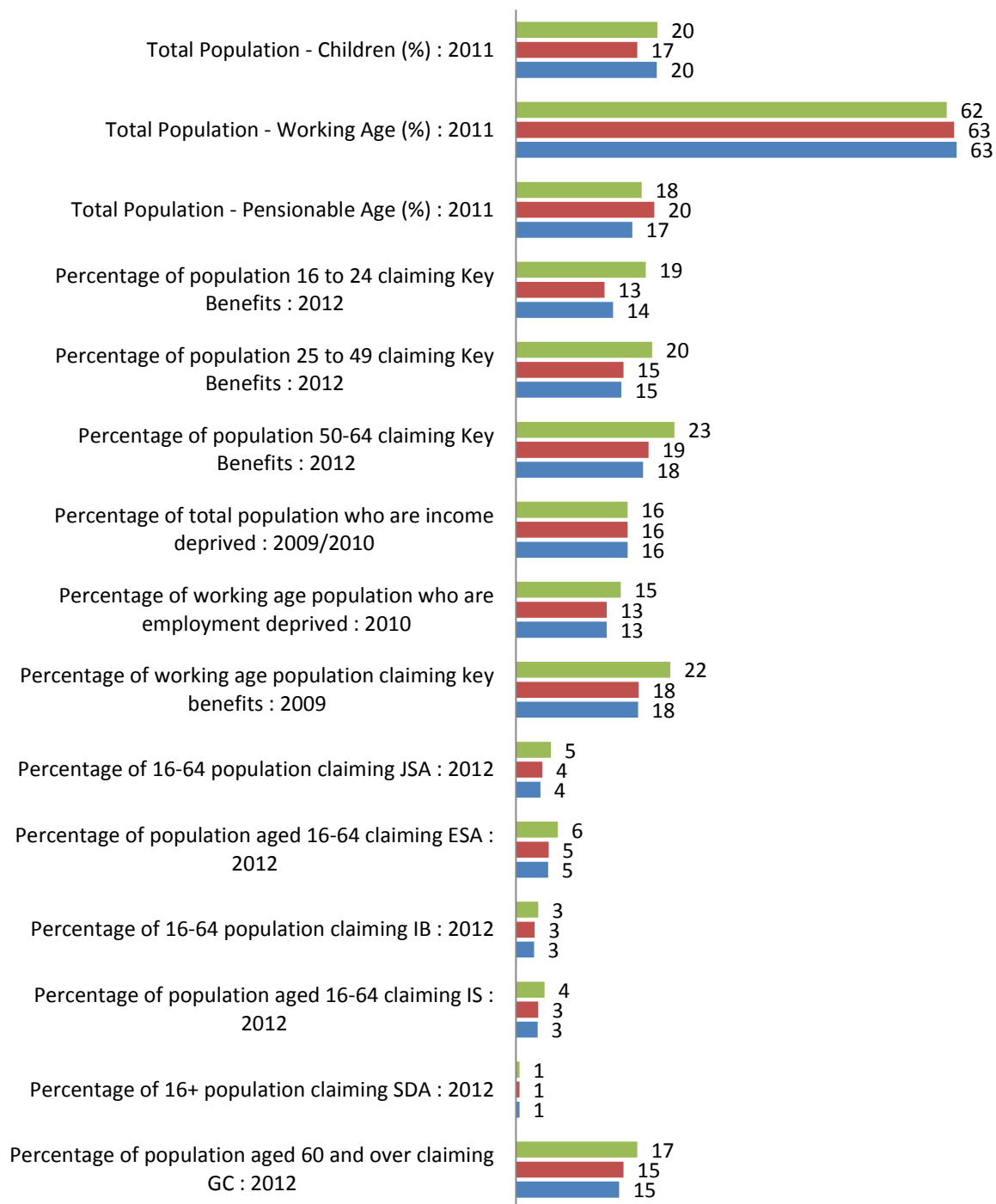


Key Statistics



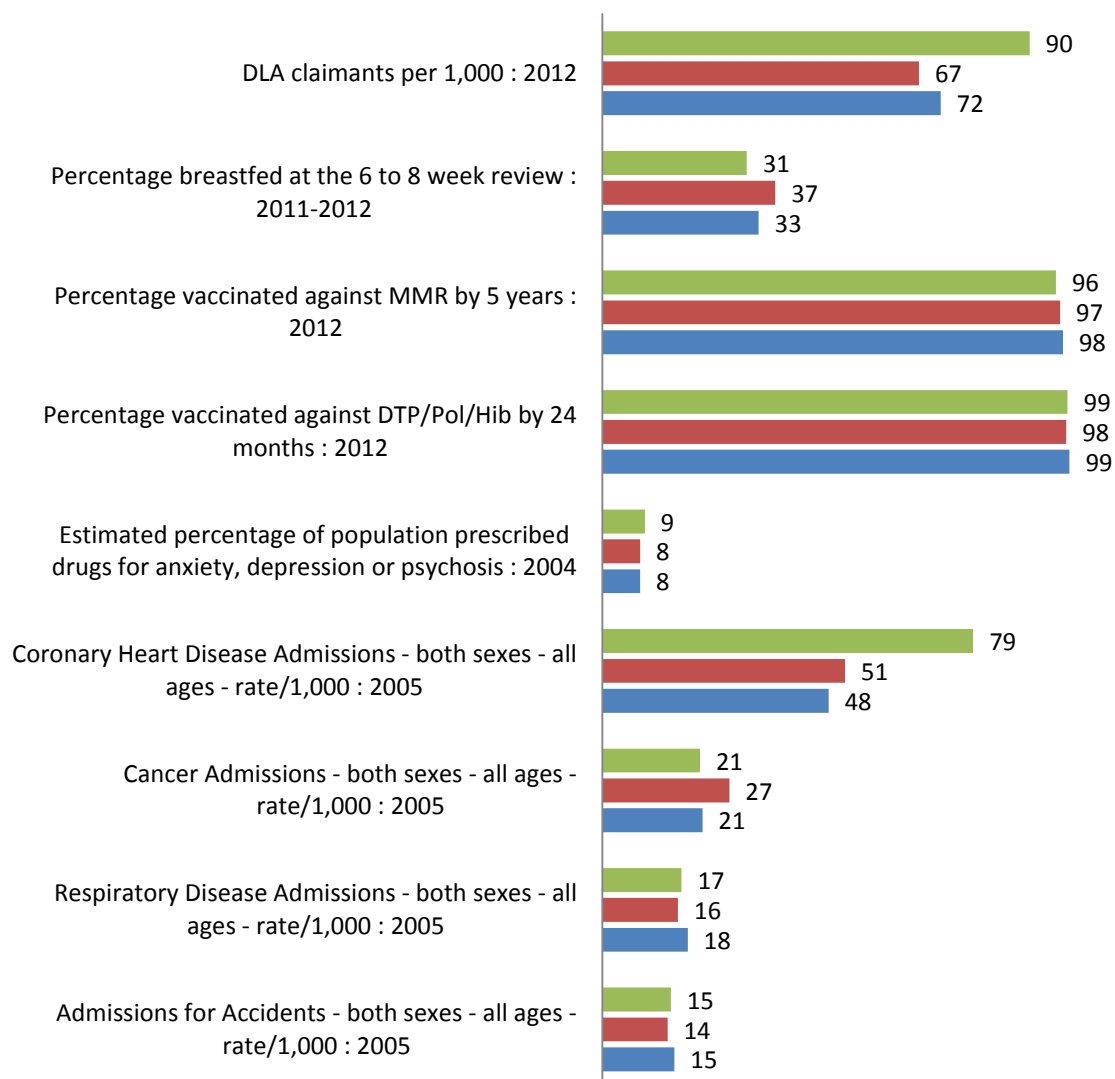
Population and Benefit Indicators

■ Whitburn & Blackburn ■ Scotland ■ West Lothian



Health Indicators

■ Whitburn & Blackburn ■ Scotland ■ West Lothian





WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND PROVISIONAL ALLOCATIONS 2014

REPORT BY HEAD OF AREA SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the Local Area Committee of the provisional allocations made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2014 to groups in the Whitburn and Blackburn ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the committee notes that nine groups within Whitburn and Blackburn ward have applied to the fund and will be supported.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Being honest, open and accountable. Focussing on our customers' needs. Making best use of resources. Working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	The duty of Best Value is set out in the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	The Head of Area Services has the delegated authority to make the final allocations and payments.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	SOA 5 - Older people are able to live independently in the community with an improved quality of life.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Total fund of £28,481 agreed by the council. £3,022.20 will be distributed in the Whitburn and Blackburn ward.
VII Consideration at PDSP	Following consideration at all nine Local Area Committees, an update will be prepared for the Voluntary Organisations PDSP.

VIII Other consultations

Similar reports will be prepared for the other eight Local Area Committees.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Background

Council approves the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund each year. In 2014 the total fund amounts to £28,481 (£28,199 in 2013). The fund is divided by the total number of beneficiaries which, in 2014, provisionally, is 3,904 (4,857 in 2013). By using that number the provisional global unit cost for 2014 is £7.30 (£5.81 in 2013) per beneficiary (£28,481/3,904). In Whitburn and Blackburn ward there are 414 beneficiaries and an allocation of £3,022.20. These figures are provisional as several organisations in other ward areas have not yet returned an application form and these are being followed-up. Given the above, no substantive change to the global or ward specific figures is anticipated at this time. If any substantive changes arise in regards to Whitburn and Blackburn ward, the Local Area Committee will be advised. Otherwise, a full report on the final allocations will be made to the Voluntary Organisation PDSP later in the year. Letters will be issued to groups in late October advising them of the amount of funding they will receive and payments will be made directly to the bank accounts of groups during November via PECOS.

D2 Applications 2014: Whitburn and Blackburn ward

Nine application forms were issued to groups across Whitburn and Blackburn ward. All with nine have been returned. The intention is that all nine will be supported. Appendix one shows the organisations to be supported and the provisional allocation to each.

D3 Applications 2014: Livingston-wide & West Lothian-wide organisations

One application was sent to, and returned by, a Livingston-wide group. The intention is that this will be supported. Two applications were issued to West Lothian-wide groups, with one returned to date. The intention is that this group will be supported. Appendix two shows the organisations and the provisional allocation to each.

E. CONCLUSION

The report advises of the provisional allocations that are proposed to be made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2014 to groups in Whitburn and Blackburn ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups. At this time, no substantive change to the global or ward specific figures is anticipated.

A full report on the final allocations will be made to the Voluntary Organisation PDSP later in the year. Letters will be issued to groups in late October advising them of the amount of funding they will receive, and payments will be made directly to the bank accounts of groups during November via PECOS.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Voluntary Organisations Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel, Review of the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund Process 2011, Report By Head Of Area Services.

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix 1: Provisional Allocations 2014 Whitburn and Blackburn Ward

Appendix 2: Provisional Allocations 2014 Livingston-wide and West Lothian-wide Organisations

Contact Person: Graham Whitelaw, Policy Officer, Regeneration and Employability
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Steve Field, Head of Area Services

Date: 12 August 2014

WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND PROVISIONAL ALLOCATIONS 2014

REPORT BY HEAD OF AREA SERVICES

Appendix 1: Provisional Allocations 2014 Whitburn and Blackburn Ward

Group	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount
1. East Whitburn & Redmill OAP	67	£489.10
2. Good Companion Group	15	£109.50
3. Seafield Senior Citizens	70	£511.00
4. Scottish Pensioners Association Whitburn No1 Branch	20	£146.00
5. Scottish Pensioners Association Whitburn No2 Branch	12	£87.60
6. Blackburn Women s Social Services Club (WSSC)	25	£182.50
7. Society of St. Vincent de Paul	120	£876.00
8. Weavers Court Tenants Group	38	£277.40
9. Young at Heart	47	£343.10
Totals	414	£2,022.20

Note:

WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND PROVISIONAL ALLOCATIONS 2014

REPORT BY HEAD OF AREA SERVICES

Appendix 2: Provisional Allocations 2014: Livingston-Wide & West Lothian-Wide Organisations

Group	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount
Braid House Day Centre	250	£1,825.00
Total	250	£1,825.00

Group	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount
West Lothian 50+ Network	218	£1,591.40
Total	218	£1,591.40



WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF AREA SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update members on progress with Community Regeneration activity in the Whitburn and Blackburn ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes the progress on Community Regeneration activity within the ward, in particular, the success of the Queens Baton Relay in Whitburn.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

- | | |
|---|---|
| I Council Values | Focusing on our customers' needs.
Being honest, open and accountable.
Making best use of our resources.
Working in partnership. |
| II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment) | Community regeneration activity reinforces the council's commitment to community planning at a local level. |
| III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers | None. |
| IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators | Performance indicators relating to the activity within the plans are included in the set of Regeneration and Employability key performance indicators. Ward action plans also contain measures to indicate progress towards outcomes. |
| V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities. - We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities. - We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities. - We make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the |

built and natural environment.

VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Actions will be delivered within existing resources.
VII Consideration at PDSP	None.
VIII Other consultations	All activities are developed and monitored through different local partnership groups.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

This report provides highlights of progress in relation to the activity that Community Regeneration either leads on or is a key partner in. This complements the End of Year Review of the Ward Action Plan report provided to the previous meeting of the Local Area Committee, by providing detail on the current developments for many of the activities within the plan.

Queen's Baton Relay (QBR), Whitburn

The baton passed through Whitburn on Sunday 15 June as part of the route through West Lothian. This has been deemed a success by those involved including the community representatives.

Police had estimated that there were approximately 1,500 people at the event in King George V Park, where various sports demonstrations were held and where the Whitburn leg of the QBR started with the boxer, Kieran Smith, carrying the torch into the park. The relay route was also busy with police estimates of a further 3,500 residents coming out to see the procession, particularly in the areas around the town centre where the local bands were performing.

There were a number of other events provided in the town. These were:

- East Whitburn Gala Day provided entertainment in the village to welcome the baton's passing as well as a family disco afterwards.
- West Lothian Leisure provided activities throughout the day from their Xcite facility as well as within KGV Park.
- The Hilcroft Hotel held their family fun day which was also visited by the QBR's Marathon Storytelling Challenge which featured actor Tam Dean Burn.
- The Alternative Company Entertainers (ACE) provided residents of Whitdale House with singing and music prior to the baton passing.

As well as providing a successful and memorable event for the town, the QBR also provided an opportunity for community organisations to work in partnership with council services, an experience from which all concerned will hopefully have learned new skills and built new relationships.

Villages Improvement Fund

As reported to the previous LAC, there have been changes made to how projects can be delivered. The guidance for the fund is currently being altered to reflect this and, once ready, the Community Regeneration Officer (CRO) will use this as an opportunity to re-engage with community organisations regarding the fund.

In the meantime, the CRO is continuing to work with local groups around specific proposals with a view to utilising this fund.

Blackburn Environmental Group

The partnership group, consisting of locally based schools and community organisations with support from wider services, is currently focussed on developing the Bathgate Road verges project, for which designs are being drafted at present.

As part of this, the relevant partners are also planning how the intended conservation area at the north of the road will be utilised.

The designing and costing exercise will identify the remaining funding that the group will look to utilise through the Villages Improvement Fund allocation for Blackburn via Community Action Blackburn.

The group is looking to commission feasibility work to identify other areas in the village which can be improved and better utilised to provide more learning and volunteering opportunities for residents of all ages.

Whitburn Community Development Trust (WCDDT)

WCDDT has been awarded funding from the Tudor Trust and Community Regeneration Fund to develop and expand the Volunteer Advice project over the next two years. The CRO will be working closely with the co-ordinator to help implement this.

The next Whitburn Older People's Network is planned for 1 October to tie-in with Older People's Day.

Blackburn Wheeled Sports Project

The furniture for the facility was put in place at beginning of July, leaving only the lighting fixtures remaining to be installed.

The launch event for the facility was held on Saturday 5 July and involved many young people, particularly from 5-13 years of age. Competitions were held and managed by Wheelscape, with participant's receiving a range of equipment as prizes.

The facility continues to be well used and highly regarded by young people and parents.

Wheeled Sports in KGV, Whitburn

Initial consultation has been undertaken regarding young people's intended usage of the facility and this will be used to help inform the design of the facility. 116 young people were consulted, 60% said they intended to use the facility, and the main intended use would be for scooters and BMXs.

The project is currently in the pre-tender stage, and further work with young people will take place prior to the design being finalised.

Blackburn Early Years Action Group

The group is currently undertaking a community engagement exercise with parents of early years children to help inform planning for early years services within Blackburn. This includes engaging with parents via local nursery schools, health visitors and at early years activities and events.

E. CONCLUSION

Partnership working is informing local groups about the priority needs and issues across the communities within the ward. This provides the focus for activity, and adds value to the mainstream service provided by the community planning partners.

The support provided to both Community Action Blackburn and Whitburn and District Community Development Trust has created key opportunities for local partnership working that tie into broader community activity in both areas. This will allow for more sustainable community-led development in future.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Villages Improvement Fund Update Report to Council Executive on 15 April 2014

Ward Action Plan- End of Year Review report to Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee on 2 June 2013.

Appendices/Attachments: None.

Contact Person: Scott McKillop, Community Regeneration Officer, 01506 281092, scott.mckillop@westlothian.gov.uk

Steve Field, Head of Area Services.

Date of meeting: 18 August 2014