



West Lothian
Council

Livingston North Local Area Committee

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

27 February 2015

A meeting of the **Livingston North Local Area Committee** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Conference Room 3, Ground Floor, Civic Centre** on **Thursday 5 March 2015 at 9:30am**.

For Chief Executive

BUSINESS

Public Session

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 Livingston North Local Area Committee held on Thursday 04 December 2014 (herewith)
5. Knightsridge Community Garden Update - Report by Head of Area Services (herewith) and Presentation by Members of the Community Garden
6. Livingston North Multi-Member Ward Quarterly Performance Report - Report by Scottish Fire and Rescue Services (herewith)
7. Ward 3, Livingston North, Update - Report by Police Inspector Myles Marshall (herewith)

DATA LABEL: Public

8. Housing, Construction and Building Services - Report by Head of Housing, Construction and Building Services (herewith)
9. Employment Support Allowance/Use of Food Banks/Low Birth Weight Data for Livingston North Ward - Report by Depute Chief Executive, Community Health and Care Partnership (herewith)
10. Advice Shop and Adult Basic Service Update - Report by Head of Area Services (herewith)
11. Community Learning and Development Activity Update - Report by Head of Area Services (herewith)
12. Operational Services Update Report - Report by Head of Operational Services (herewith)
13. Youth Provision - Report by Head of Area Services (herewith)
14. Community Regeneration Update - Report by Head of Area Services (herewith)
15. Workplan (herewith)
16. Timetable of Meetings 2015-16 (herewith)

NOTE **For further information contact Anne Higgins, Tel: 01506 281601 or email: anne.higgins@westlothian.gov.uk**

MINUTE of MEETING of the LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE of WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within CONFERENCE ROOM 1, GROUND FLOOR, CIVIC CENTRE, on 4 DECEMBER 2014.

Present – Councillors Angela Moohan (Chair), Anne McMillan, Robert De Bold, Andrew Miller.

In Attendance –

Jim Jack, Lead Officer, Livingston North Local Area Committee

Michelle Kirkbright, Community Regeneration Officer

Alison Smith, Housing Construction and Building Service

Linda Middlemist, Social Policy

Myles Marshall, Police Scotland

Martyn Brandrick, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Siobhan McGarty, Headteacher, St Margaret's Academy

Apologies – Brian Johnston, Livingston Village Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTE

The Committee approved the minute of its meeting held on 11 September 2014.

3. ST MARGARET'S ACADEMY - PRESENTATION BY HEADTEACHER

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Siobhan McGarty (Head Teacher, St Margaret's Academy). Ms McGarty had been invited to attend the meeting to provide an overview of the school's performance and levels of attainment.

The Committee heard details of the staffing structure at St Margaret's Academy. There followed a presentation showing attainment levels for the five year period from 2010 to 2014. It was noted that the percentage of students achieving 1+ advance higher at level 7 was 23% in 2014, compared to 12% in 2010. The presentation also covered School Leavers in a Positive Destination and SLDR 2012/13 by Destination.

Ms McGarty spoke of the specific areas that had been identified for improvement and provided details of the Tracking Strategy.

The following successful events were brought to the Committee's attention:-

- Remembrance Day

- Trip to Barcelona, September 2014
- 21st Anniversary Lunch
- Feast Day Mass
- Senior Awards Ceremony
- Children In Need S6 Event

Ms McGarty then responded to questions raised by LAC members.

Finally, the Chair thanked Ms McGarty for her informative presentation.

Decision

To note the terms of the presentation.

4. COMMUNITY HEALTH CHAMPIONS

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive, Community Health and Care Partnership providing an update on the Community Health Champions approach.

The Committee was informed that the next stage in the Community Health Champions approach was to deliver training to elected members and to identify interested groups who might already be active in local areas.

The elected member training was based on COSLA guidance *“Reducing Health Inequalities and Improving Health: What Councillors Can Do to Make a Difference”*.

Training dates had been arranged and these were 13 January 2015 and 24 February 2015. The topics covered in the training were listed in the report.

The report went on to provide details of plans to engage with community groups and to offer the opportunity of training. Commencing in January 2015, training would be rolled out with a view to achieving active community involvement in all ward areas.

The Committee was invited to note the information contained in the report.

During discussion, it was noted that officers had previously been asked to consider providing information (as recorded in the minute of meeting at page 80). The information concerned:- (i) a breakdown of ESA figures and (ii) low birth weights

Decision

To note the terms of the report and that officers would provide information to the next meeting of the Local Area Committee in response to the two issues raised at the September meeting.

5. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE RESOURCES BASED CREWING ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service informing the Committee of changes to the way the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service deployed its resources through a Resource Based Crewing (RBC) model at Bathgate Fire Station.

The report summarised the implications for service delivery as follows:-

There would be no reductions to frontline emergency service delivery in the Bathgate and West Lothian areas, as the physical resources remained in place and unchanged. The change related to how SRFS crewed these appliances.

Appendix 1 to the report provided an overview of the SFRS resources based crewing arrangements within West Lothian.

Appendix 2 to the report provided an overview of how the frontline fire and rescue tender and Incident Support Unit (ISU), based at Bathgate Fire Station, would be mobilised to the various scenarios that might be encountered using the RBC model.

Appendix 3 to the report provided some contextualisation in the form of scenarios of how the frontline fire and rescue tender and ISU, based at Bathgate Fire Station, would be mobilised to the various incident types that might be encountered using the RBC model.

During discussion, it was noted that an interim review of the new arrangements had been undertaken and that consideration would be given to reporting the outcome of the review to elected members. The Chair requested that future reports to the Local Area Committee should include an update on implementation of the RBC model, including incidents of note and any issues arising.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6. WARD 4 LIVINGSTON NORTH, UPDATE

A report had been circulated by Police Inspector Myles Marshall providing an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period up to 30th September 2014.

The report provided statistics for both Livingston North and Livingston South wards, with comparative figures for the same period in 2013.

In relation to abstractions, the Committee was informed that there were no official abstraction figures produced for SNT officers. However, non-official figures were being recorded by individual officers. The non-official abstraction rate for the previous two week period for the Community Officers for the ward had been 39%, however, this rate would be reduced once one officer had been returned from the Names Suspect reduction

team.

The report went on to provide details of activity in relation to Antisocial Behaviour, Making Our Roads Safer, Tackling Substance Misuse, Domestic Violence, Miscellaneous Incidents and Forthcoming Events.

The committee then heard details of a new shift pattern to be implemented around April 2015 which would see a return to the community policing approach. Details of the new model would be brought to the Local Area Committee at an appropriate time in 2015.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7. HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING SERVICES

A report had been circulated by the Head of Housing, Construction and Building Services providing an overview of the service activities within Livingston North ward.

The report examined performance for Property Voids and Lets, for both mainstream and temporary tenancies for the three month period from July to September 2014.

The report contained a table showing the level of arrears and the number of tenants in arrears in the ward from end September 2013 at the start of the Rent Arrears Campaign and the level of arrears at 6th October 2014.

The Committee was informed that staff would continue to work with tenants in offering advice and assistance, for example, referrals for money, debt advice and where appropriate application for Discretionary Housing Benefits payments. The Area Housing Officer advised that arrears performance for West Lothian compared favourably with other local authorities.

In relation to the new build programme, it was noted that a site for 42 homes at Deans South had been included in the new build programme and was currently out to tender. A site for 10 homes at Appleton Parkway, Livingston for 10 homes had been identified and a tender had been issued. In response to a question raised concerning the new build programme for the ward, officers undertook to provide Councillor Miller with details of the housing type/size specified in the tender documents, if available.

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8. OPERATIONAL SERVICES UPDATE

A report had been circulated appraising members of the Operational Services activities for Livingston North from 1st August to 31st October 2014.

Prior to presenting his report, the Head of Operational Services referred to the recent success of the Household Food Waste Collection Service at the Celebrating Success Awards. The team had been recognised for the introduction of an easy to use, environmentally friendly waste collection scheme.

The report contained details of the planned and completed play area, carriageway and street lighting improvements for the area.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

9. PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATION 2014

A report had been circulated by the Head of Area Services informing the Committee of the allocations to be made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2014 to groups in the Livingston North ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

The Committee was informed that seven application forms had been issued to groups across Livingston North ward, with all seven returned. The intention was that all seven groups would be supported, and Appendix 1 to the report showed the organisations to be supported and the allocation to each.

In relation to Livingston-wide and West Lothian-wide organisations, the report advised that one application had been sent to, and returned by, a Livingston-wide group. The intention was this would be supported, and Appendix 2 showed the organisations and the allocation to each.

Finally, it was noted that a full report on the final allocations would be made to the Voluntary Organisations PDSP in November. Letters had been issued to groups on 13 October advising them of the amount of funding they would receive, and payments would be made directly to the bank accounts of groups during November via PECOS.

It was recommended that the Committee note that nine groups within Livingston North ward had applied to the fund and would be supported.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

10. YOUTH PROVIDERS FORUM

A report had been circulated by the Head of Area Services informing the Committee of the progress made to date by the Youth Providers Forum set up in the Livingston North ward.

The Committee was informed that, at the first meeting of the re-established group, held in February 2014, it had been decided that the aims of the group would be adopted to ensure that the forum had focus and meaning. The aim of the group was set out in the report, together with the objectives that had been agreed.

To date, there had been six meetings with partners including Community Regeneration, Police Scotland, Fire and Rescue Service, The Vennie, Mosswood Community Centre, West Lothian Youth Action Project, West Lothian Scout group, Active Schools, Community Youth Services, Community Arts, Community Facilities and Community and Leisure Services.

Appendix 1 to the report illustrated a mapping exercise that had been undertaken by the group as a way to highlight to one another the level of activity in the area from the three main providers.

Appendix 2 was a document that highlighted activity that focused on school holiday activity. The initial exercise had highlighted duplication, therefore amendments had been made by providers in order to address this issue and the revised document was that in Appendix 2.

The Head of Area Services concluded that progress had been made by partners on the joint planning of provision and the sharing of resources in the ward. Further development of partnership working could be taken further in order to meet local needs, maximise resources, improve provision and the range of opportunities for young people so enhancing their life chances and building resilient, cohesive and safe communities.

It was recommended that the Committee note the updates provided specifically in relation to the number of meetings to date, the outcomes and success of meetings, partner involvement and the results from the mapping of provision.

During discussion, the Chair noted that West Lothian Youth Action Project had not completed the template mapping provision in the ward. It was therefore suggested that the LAC Lead Officer write to WLYAP on behalf of the Committee raising this issue.

Finally, it was noted that further reports would be brought to the Local Area Committee.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report; and
2. To agree that the Lead Officer write to West Lothian Youth Action Project as suggested by the Chair.

11. COMMUNITY REGENERATION - WARD ACTION PLAN

A report had been circulated by the Head of Area Services updating members on progress with community regeneration activity in the Livingston North ward.

The Ward Action Plan 2013-15 was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The plan showed regeneration, employability and partner activity against the Livingston North ward. The plan had been updated to show progress made to date against the targets set. New local developments and initiatives had been added to the plans, as appropriate.

The report went on to highlight achievements and significant areas of current work.

During discussion, the Chair suggested that a report be brought to the next meeting concerning Adult Basic Education (ABE). The report should outline provision in the Livingston North ward, and examine the reasons for less provision in the ward when compared to the Livingston South ward.

The Committee was asked to note the content of the report and the progress made against the ward action plan over the previous 18 month period.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report; and
2. To agree that a report be brought to the next meeting concerning Adult Basic Education (ABE) as suggested by the Chair.

12. WORKPLAN

A copy of the Workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the Workplan and, in particular, that it included 'Update on the Feasibility of a Youth Club in Livingston Centre.'



LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

LIVINGSTON NORTH MULTI-MEMBER WARD QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

REPORT BY SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Livingston North Local Area Committee on the activity within Livingston North Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 31st December 2014.

B. RECOMMENDATION

That Committee Members are invited to note and provide comment on the Livingston North Multi-member Ward Quarterly Performance Report.

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)	Quarterly reports on the 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

Quarterly reports on the 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) Livingston North Multi-member Ward Quarterly Report

Following the publication of the Livingston North Multi-member Ward Operational Plan, the Local Senior Officer for Falkirk and West Lothian has produced a Quarterly Performance Report detailing activity against the key priorities.

The seven key priorities within the Livingston North Ward area are 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 Livingston North Multi-member Ward Quarterly Performance Report 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.

Martyn Brandrick

Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

January 2015

Appendix 1 - Livingston North Multi-Member Ward Quarterly Performance Report

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



**West Lothian
Council**

LIVINGSTON NORTH, LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

WARD 3, LIVINGSTON NORTH, UPDATE

REPORT BY POLICE INSPECTOR MYLES MARSHALL

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Local Area Committee with an update on performance, activities and issues across the Ward for the period up to 31st December 2014.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes the content of the report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; and 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	Performance relative to the same period in 2013; set out in the report.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger; we take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive society
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None.
VIII	Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

NATIONAL PRIORITIES – DELIVERED LOCALLY

Based on our assessment of national priorities, the following have been identified for tailored action for the communities of West Lothian:

- Violence, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour
- Protecting the Public
- Road safety and Road Crime
- Serious Organised Crime and Terrorism
- Major Events and Threats
- Benefits of Reform
- Public Confidence

WEST LOTHIAN PRIORITIES

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

- Protecting People
- Reducing Antisocial Behaviour
- Reducing Violence
- Tackling Substance Misuse
- Making our Roads Safer
- Tackling Serious Organised Crime

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PRIORITIES

Livingston South

- Reducing antisocial behaviour
- Making our roads safer
- Tackling substance misuse

PERFORMANCE

For full details, please use the below link to access the Police Scotland Internet site.

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/forces-welcome>

Livingston North Ward						
Month	Oct-14	Oct-13	% Change	TYTD	LYTD	% Change
Youth Calls	23	20	15%	177	152	16%
All ASB Calls	65	79	-18%	763	723	6%
Hate Crime	4	0	0	20	21	-5%
Vandalism & Reckless Conduct	7	12	-42%	101	124	-19%
Fire-raising	0	1	-100%	2	7	-71%
Alcohol-related Incidents	14	22	-36%	136	127	7%
Public Space Assaults	9	12	-25%	59	68	-13%

Livingston North Ward						
Month	Nov-14	Nov-13	% Change	TYTD	LYTD	% Change
Youth Calls	20	30	-33%	196	182	8%
All ASB Calls	81	97	-16%	844	820	3%
Hate Crime	2	1	100%	22	22	0%
Vandalism & Reckless Conduct	15	32	-53%	116	156	-26%
Fire-raising	0	0	0	2	7	-71%
Alcohol-related Incidents	14	19	-26%	150	146	3%
Public Space Assaults	8	5	60%	67	73	-8%

Livingston North Ward						
Month	Dec-14	Dec-13	% Change	TYTD	LYTD	% Change
Youth Calls	5	11	-55%	201	193	4%
All ASB Calls	46	93	-51%	890	913	-3%
Hate Crime	0	0	0	22	22	0%
Vandalism & Reckless Conduct	9	21	-57%	125	177	-29%
Fire-raising	0	0	0	2	7	-71%
Alcohol-related Incidents	9	31	-71%	159	177	-10%
Public Space Assaults	9	11	-18%	76	89	-15%

Reducing Anti-social Behaviour

- As part of Operation Cleanslate, that was a festive initiative run through-out the month of December. During this time hi-visibility patrols were carried out in the North ward and youth calls dropped by 55% and all anti-social calls dropped by 51%.

Making Our Roads Safer

- Several local road checks were carried out as part of Operation Cleanslate. Various minor offences were identified and person's reported.

Tackling Substance Misuse

- A high profile operation was conducted in the weeks prior to Christmas focussing on Organised Crime Groups involved in the supply of illegal drugs. This resulted in several persons being detained and subsequently reported.

Domestic Violence

- Domestic violence is a priority running through the heart of Police Scotland. Persons charged with these offences are targeted by the community team and are visited regularly to ensure that they are not breaching their conditions of bail. This is in an effort to protect the victims and within the ethos of Keeping People Safe.

Miscellaneous Incidents of Note

- On 13th December 2014, an armed robbery took place at Ladbrokes, Carmondean Centre, Livingston. The suspect made off with an amount of monies and enquiries are ongoing to trace the person responsible.
- A further Attempted Armed Robbery took place at a separate premise in January and positive lines of enquiry are being made in relation to both.
- There has been a spate of thefts from motor vehicles. Enquiries are continuing to trace the person(s) responsible; however people are being encouraged to remove all valuable items.
- A female has been charged with various offences and her two Rottweiler dogs removed from her. This follows reports of the dogs being out of control.

Forthcoming Events:

- Friday Night Project at Deans Community High School continues to attract youths from Livingston North and South.



LIVINGSTON NORTH 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 Livingston North 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 Livingston North ward.

Property Void & Let Performance: Mainstream Tenancies

Void Period	Oct 2014	%	Nov 2014	%	Dec 2014	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	8	80%	1	100%	2	100%	65
2-4 weeks	1	10%	0	0%	0	0%	25
4+ weeks	1	10%	0	0%	0	0%	10
Total Lets	10	100%	1	100%	2	100%	100%

Property Void & Let Performance: Temporary Tenancies

Void Period	Oct 2014	%	Nov 2014	%	Dec 2014	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	5	100%	3	75%	3	100%	70
2-4 weeks	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	20
4+ weeks	0	0%	1	25%	0	0%	10
Total Lets	5	100%	4	100%	3	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.

There are currently 5 policy voids in the ward.

Arrears Performance

2013/2014	Total £Value	2014/2015	Total £Value
April 13	£91,713	April 14	£181,669
May 13	£114,433	May 14	£194,904
June 13	Figure not available	June 14	£198,132
July 13	£158,932	July 14	£208,930
August 13	£187,996	August 14	£211,574
September 13	£195,935	September 14	£218,318
October 13	£195,345	October 14	£238,699
November 13	£216,932	November 14	£237,838
December 13	£200,439	December 14	£217,706
January 14	£203,349	January 2015	
February 14	£206,568	February 2015	
March 14	£142,292	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

£1m 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 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.

On 22 December 2014 the Council Executive approved a motion instructing officers to provide additional one-off time limited DHP funding, to address the legacy bedroom tax arrears from 2013/14. Officers have calculated the legacy arrears value by taking the rent arrears position at the end of 2013/14, and assessing the bedroom tax element net of any DHP already received for that financial year. The total value of bedroom tax for both current and former tenants equates to approximately £250,000.

Using existing anti-poverty funding of £200,000 and £50,000 of one off funding for welfare changes, this will be administered in accordance with the DHP scheme, with funding to be distributed in accordance with the terms of the DHP scheme guidelines.

At the end of December 2014 our arrears caseload was 4980 cases totalling £1,636,398.21

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 December 2014.

Arrears Banding	Balance 30 Sept 2013	Tenants in Arrears	Balance at 31 December 2014	Tenants in Arrears
£0.01-£49.99	£ 2,338.38	116	£ 2,477.81	115
£50.00-£149.99	£ 16,311.65	162	£ 13,731.22	151
£150.00-£299.99	£ 28,759.90	131	£ 25,895.97	118
£300.00-£499.99	£ 46,933.80	121	£ 25,339.99	64
£500.00-£749.99	£ 35,289.90	59	£ 27,814.47	45
£750.00-£999.99	£ 24,814.60	28	£ 28,444.28	33
£1000.00-£1999.99	£ 41,274.80	31	£ 56,997.36	40
£2000.00+	£ 9,658.08	4	£ 37,005.17	13
Total	£205,381.19	652	£ 217,706.27	579

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.

Livingston North Team Activity

Officers in the team have a number of tenancies under supervision for issues such as child protection, anti-social 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. The Housing Team are working with a new group of interested tenants from The Riggs and are meeting with them on a monthly basis, it is early days for the group and the team are encouraging tenant involvement and participation.

Capital Programme and New Build Council Housing

The overall 2014/15 Housing Capital Investment Programme has been progressing since April without major incidents, accidents or issues. Some upgrading programmes are slipping a little due to contractor capacity, but this will be caught up over the remainder of the year and over 2015/16. Any houses in poorer condition have been prioritised. Planned programmes have been progressing on or ahead of programme. Health and Safety programmes such as Hard

Wired Smoke Detectors, Electrical safety checks, Gas system checks and Heating upgrades are also progressing on or ahead of programme. Exterior painting and landscaping works are progressing well.

Good progress is also being made on the 1,000 houses new build programme. The first 6 homes were completed in September 2014 and work is well underway for a site for 18 homes in Broxburn. The developer has been selected for 587 homes and a further 363 homes are at tender stage.

A site for 42 homes at Deans South has been included in the new build programme and is currently at tender stage. A site for 10 homes at Appleton Parkway, Livingston has been identified. This is at tender stage.

Tenant Participation Update

Scottish Social Housing Charter

The first Annual Report called 'Performance Matters' was published at the end of October 2014. Staff have been working closely with the members of the Tenant Participation Development Working Group to produce this first report which shows how well we did in key areas including rent collection, tenant and service user involvement, repairs, maintenance and improvements, allocations, homelessness and how we deal with antisocial behaviour and empty properties. This report is available online at <http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/5854/Landlord-Report---Performance-Matters-201314>

Homeless Housing Network

The Homeless Network group have continued to meet on a monthly basis and have increased in numbers with new members joining. Service users who attend have shared their homeless experiences with staff and discussed how they would like to help improve the services delivered at present. The group invited guest speakers and have heard about the Scottish Welfare Fund and the Pet Fostering Service in Edinburgh. The group meets on the last Thursday of the month in Broxburn Family Centre and anyone wishing to find out more can contact their Housing Needs Officer or the Customer Participation Team.

Housing Networks

Both Networks continue to meet on a monthly basis to consult with Housing, Construction and Building Services on any changes or developments to service delivery. The Network meetings are held in the third week of the month for more information contact your local housing staff or the Customer Participation Officer's by emailing TP@westlothian.gov.uk

Street Environmental Improvement Projects (SEIP)

SEIP Applications for 2015/16 have been received and members of the Street Environmental Group have made site visits to ensure the projects meet the criteria. Plans for these projects will be drawn up with associated costs and presented to the group for agreement.

Tenants Fun and Information Day

The Tenants and Residents Fun Day is held annually in the Civic Centre and offers tenants and residents from throughout West Lothian the opportunity to meet with staff from Housing, Construction and Building Services and their partners, and discuss any issues relating to their home and community. This year's event was well attended with over 200 tenants and residents coming along. For the third year in a row, it was held in partnership with the Advice Shop, as the culmination to their 'Money Week'. There were three separate consultation events carried out, on the new proposed Allocations Policy, the draft Landlord Report 'Performance Matters' and the proposed rent increase for 2015/16.

Good Neighbour Awards

Every year we ask our tenants through our newsletter 'Tenants News' to nominate someone they feel deserves recognition for being an outstanding neighbour. This year we had a very good response. All those nominated were invited to attend the Annual Tenant Fun and Information Day held in October and each was presented with a 'Good Neighbour' certificate and a bouquet of flowers.

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 Livingston North ward partnership working sees the local housing team, youth worker, council officer within the SNT and Police officers all working together to tackle anti social behaviour in the ward.

WLC Officer based in SNT Joint patrols continued over the 3 months and many of them were with partner agencies which included community housing officers. Monitoring of minor vandalisms and fire-raising of wheelie bins continued in the ward area. Despite these continued cases of minor vandalisms and wilful fire-raising, there were no serious cases of antisocial behaviour reported. A joint agency meeting has been held in respect of certain issues within the ward and consultation is now taking place regarding appropriate further action.

Youth Worker Update

Two youth work cases have been closed. One young person has made positive progress with their behaviour and the impact within the community with no further reports of antisocial behaviour. The other young person has also made progress and is carrying out two work placements. The youth worker remains to work with one young person in the area. West Lothian Youth Action Project is working with partners to monitor the youth congregating in Eliburn Park which has been requiring attention.

E. CONCLUSION

To note the contents of the report.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments: None

Contact Person: Alison Smith, Housing Manager, Housing Construction & Building Services

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Tel: 01506 775863

Date: 5th March 2015



LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT ALLOWANCE/USE OF FOOD BANKS/LOW BIRTH WEIGHT DATA FOR LIVINGSTON NORTH WARD

REPORT BY DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, COMMUNITY HEALTH AND CARE PARTNERSHIP

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Local Area Committee with information requested in action note of 11/09/14, item 10:

- To produce a breakdown of ESA figures to specific areas in the Livingston North Data Zone areas, and to outline data indicative of low income in the area
- To examine the use of Food Banks by the Livingston North population
- To examine the risk factors associated with low birth weight in the ward

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Local Area Committee takes note of the report.

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)	None
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; Council Executive, 21/1/14, Community Health Champion Proposal
VIII	Other consultations	NHS Lothian Public Health;

D. TERMS OF REPORT

ESA figures in the Livingston North Data Zone areas

The overall level of benefit claimants in Livingston North ward as of May 2014 (14%) is just below the Scottish and West Lothian rates.

Incapacity and Employment Support Allowance represent the largest group of working age claimants in the ward.

Although the ward rate of 7% is also slightly below the West Lothian and Scottish levels, there is significant variation within the ward – and the datazone breakdown confirms that the highest levels of benefit claims are concentrated in Knightsridge and Deans, with much lower levels in Eliburn, Livingston Village and Carmondean/ Deer Park.

The rates for each area within the ward are as follows:

- Knightsridge 11%
- Deans 9%
- Carmondean 7%
- Livingston Village 4%
- Eliburn 3%

Up to date information on the incidence of low pay is not generally available at a small area level.

However, there is information on the number of households benefiting from Working Tax Credit (WTC) for 2011 (derived from latest available data at datazone level), which is claimed by working households to ensure their income meets a minimum level. This showed that 12% households with working age adults in Livingston North benefited from WTC.

The percentage of households benefiting from WTC within the ward was as follows:

- Knightsridge 17%
- Deans 15%
- Carmondean 14%
- Eliburn 8%
- Livingston Village 5%

Use of Food Banks by residents in Livingston North

The Trussell Trust operates 8 food banks in West Lothian and a delivery service to Fauldhouse from the Whitburn food bank.

The Trussell Trust collects data on the number of vouchers issued and people supported by ward area. From 1 April 2014 – 31 January 2015 the number of vouchers issued for residents of Livingston North was 132. This equates to 359 adults and children using the service. Livingston North ward area has the fourth highest usage of food banks, with Whitburn and Blackburn, Livingston South and Bathgate with higher usage.

Other data on the reasons for use of the service, age groups, ethnic groups and family types are collected for West Lothian as a whole. Across West Lothian the main reason for referral to a food bank is benefit delay followed by low income and benefit changes.

Risk factors associated with Low Birth Weight in Livingston North ward area

Low birth weight babies – those born at weight of or under 2.5 kgs (regardless of gestational age) may face severe short- and long-term health consequences. Low birth weight is a major determinant of mortality, morbidity and disability in infancy and childhood and also has a long-term impact on health outcomes in adult life

Poor nutritional status and inadequate nutritional intake for women during pregnancy directly affects women's health status and can have a negative impact on birth weight and early development.

The following is a list of risk factors that may increase a pregnant woman's chances of having a low birth weight baby in her lifetime:

Social and economic factors, such as:

- Low income
- Low educational level
- Stress
- Domestic violence or other abuse
- Unmarried
- Previous preterm birth poor nutrition

Other factors

- Obesity
- Smoking
- Drinking alcohol
- Lack of weight gain
- Younger than 15 years and older than 35 years

Appendix 1 shows the statistics for low birth weight for two periods of aggregated data: 2010-2012 and 2011-2013. (Data is aggregated into three year periods ending in 31 March of the third year and refers to the year of discharge from hospital.)

The 2011-13 overall figure for West Lothian is above average at 2.78%, reflecting the relationship between low birth weight and deprivation.

Work underway through the Early Years Collaborative aims to target measures which will improve birth weight, such as reducing late booking of pregnancy, reducing maternal smoking and improving maternal nutrition.

E. CONCLUSION

The information provided regarding ESA and WTC shows significant variation across the ward area reflecting relative deprivation.

The use of food banks in Livingston North was the fourth highest in West Lothian. As the reasons for food bank use relate to benefit delay and low income, it is logical to assume that the highest use of food banks is made by those living in the areas of highest ESA and WTC benefit.

Whilst low birth weight was considerably higher during the 2010-2012 period than the West Lothian average, this has now improved and Livingston North is now below the West Lothian average, although still above the Scottish average.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/early-years/early-years-collaborative/workstreams/workstream-one>

<http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Maternity-and-Births/Births/>

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/index.html>

Contact Person:

Jane Kellock
Senior Manager – Children and Early Intervention
Jane.kellock@westlothian.gov.uk

01506 281920

Jennifer Scott, Head of Social Policy

Appendix 1: Data Tables for Livingston North Ward

ESA Figures for Livingston North Ward*				
Datazone Name	total benefit claimants working age*		ESA and incapacity benefits*	
	number	rate	number	rate
Livingston Deans Staffa & Jura	75	30%	45	18%
Livingston Knightsridge Moncreiff Way	135	32%	70	17%
Livingston Carmondean Fells Rigg	105	26%	65	16%
Livingston Deans Broomyknowe Drive	55	20%	40	14%
Livingston Deans Broomyknowe Strip	90	22%	50	12%
Livingston Deans Main Street	175	22%	95	12%
Livingston Knightsridge Ferguson Way	130	30%	50	12%
Livingston Knightsridge Sutherland Way	80	20%	40	10%
Livingston Carmondean Harburn Avenuer	85	15%	55	10%
Livingston Ladywell / Knightsridge	90	19%	45	10%
Livingston Knightsridge Greenwood Park	65	17%	35	9%
Livingston Knightsridge Cameron Way	75	16%	40	8%
Livingston Carmondean Camps Rigg	70	12%	45	8%
Livingston Deans Huntly Ave	75	14%	40	7%
Livingston Eliburn Peel Park	85	13%	45	7%
Livingston Eliburn East	45	12%	25	7%
Livingston Carmondean Buchanan Crescent	100	12%	50	6%
Livingston Knightsridge North Gallacher Grn	50	10%	30	6%
Livingston Deans Dean - Northwood Park	55	10%	30	5%
Livingston Village / Kirkton	35	9%	20	5%
Livingston Knightsridge Sarazen & Barnes Green	30	8%	15	4%
Livingston Deans High School	40	7%	20	4%
Livingston Eliburn Newyearfield	30	7%	15	3%
Livingston Village / Kaims	35	5%	20	3%
Livingston Knightsridge Herd Green	15	5%	10	3%
Livingston Eliburn West	25	6%	10	3%
Livingston Eliburn Centre North	40	5%	15	2%
Livingston Eliburn Centre	15	4%	5	1%
Livingston Eliburn - Waverly Cres	20	4%	5	1%
Livingston North	1,925	14%	1,030	7%
West Lothian	16,950	15%	8,860	8%
Scotland		15%		8%

*As of May 2014

Use of Food Bank for Livingston North Ward**				
Ward	Vouchers	Adults	Children	Total
Livingston North	132	194	165	359
<i>West Lothian</i>	<i>1825</i>	<i>2386</i>	<i>1113</i>	<i>3499</i>

**1 April 2014 – 31 January 2015

Profile of Food Bank Use for West Lothian**				
Crisis type	Benefit delay	Low Income	Benefit changes	Other
	1333	644	492	453
Age Group	16-24	25-64	Not disclosed	Over 65
	593	2781	96	29
Ethnic Group	White	Not disclosed	Black	Asian
	3303	115	32	17
Family types	Single	Single parent	Family	Couple
	1005	318	235	217

**1 April 2014 – 31 January 2015

Low birth weight statistics for Livingston North Ward						
	Low weight live singleton births 2010-2012	Live singleton births 2010-2012	Low weight live singleton birth as % of live singleton births 2010-2012	Low weight live singleton births 2011-2013	Live singleton births 2011-2013	Low weight live singleton birth as % of live singleton births 2011-2013
Livingston North	26	726	3.58	19	724	2.62
West Lothian	136	5,225	2.60	141	5,080	2.78
Scotland	3,211	157,965	2.03	3,162	156,392	2.02



LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

ADVICE SHOP AND ADULT BASIC SERVICE UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF AREA SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to inform the local area committee of the work undertaken by the Advice Shop and Adult Basic Education service from April – December 2014.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the committee notes:

1. the Advice Shop and Adult Basic Education provision in the ward;
2. the intention to report annually on service activity in the area; and
3. the impact provision is having in terms of supporting the outcomes of the 'Better Off: Anti-Poverty Strategy'.

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; and 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 activity contained in the report contributes to service KPIs.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	<p>We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities.</p> <p>We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities.</p> <p>We have tackled significant inequalities in West Lothian society.</p>
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Activities delivered from approved budgets supplemented by external funding from

	Macmillan cancer support, European Social Fund, Scottish Funding Council, West Lothian Growth Fund, West Lothian Challenge Fund and Scottish Legal Aid Board.
VII Consideration at PDSP	None.
VIII Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

The Advice Shop and Adult Basic Education (ABE) deliver different services, to the same targeted customer groups, such as those who are vulnerable, disadvantaged and likely to be in poverty.

The Advice Shop is a free, impartial and confidential service to help the people of West Lothian with a focus to alleviate poverty, promote inclusion and equality through advice, assistance and advocacy. It does this by providing comprehensive advice to adults and specifically targets those who are:

- Without work or in low paid work.
- Are poor and/or fuel poor.
- Have money/debt issues.
- Have been affected by cancer or other long term conditions.
- Are over 60.

Adult Basic Education (ABE) works under the strategic guidance and principles for effective teaching and learning which are contained in the Scottish Government's "Adult Literacy and Numeracy in Scotland: 2020" report and the "Adult ESOL Strategy for Scotland". ABE delivers activities which:

- Help anyone over the age of 16 who can set goals to improve their literacy and numeracy skills and, where appropriate, work towards qualifications.
- Provide coping strategies, assertiveness techniques and lip-reading skills for anyone who is experiencing a hearing loss.
- Support migrant workers and settled minorities to acquire communication skills in both written and spoken English.
- Offers a range of volunteering roles which provide opportunities for improving employability skills.

The Advice Shop and ABE service is funded through: a core council budget, European Social Fund, Scottish Funding Council, West Lothian Growth Fund, Macmillan Cancer Support, West Lothian Challenge Fund and Scottish Legal Aid Board.

All activity across the service is informed and prioritised by the 'Better Off: West Lothian Anti-Poverty Strategy'. The overall purpose of this strategy is to help minimise the impact of poverty on the people of West Lothian. Its object is to ensure that people are equipped to cope with the challenges they currently face, in terms of their disposable income, and the impact that this has on their health, education and community involvement, the aim being to help people to obtain and retain employment as a key route out of poverty.

D.2 Local Provision

Appendix One shows the number of people the service has worked with over the last nine months.

The Advice Shop has helped 987 customers to manage their money and to resolve benefit problems. As a result, customers better understand that claimants and benefit administrators have rights, obligations and constraints and have some idea what these are. Customers know how to take the steps they can to sort out their benefit queries and are able to maximise their household income.

The Court Advice Project is funded through the Scottish Legal Aid Board to support anyone who is at court facing eviction. Customers can be in social or private housing or an owner occupier. The service worked with 36 families in the ward to support them to sustain their home.

The Adult Basic Education team has worked with 112 hard to reach adults who lead complex and chaotic lifestyles. The service offers a range of short course, mainstream and English as a Second Or Other Language option to help support learners to gain the skills, knowledge and understanding to better able them to use their literacies skills effectively. The impact of learning has supported learners to feel confident to work towards a qualification, to move on to further learning, volunteer or gain employment.

The service had identified a number of priorities for the 2014/15 year; namely, continue to offer a range of engagement activities to meet the needs of clients and partners and, to develop an outreach advice session at Carmondean Connected in partnership with MacMillan Cancer Support. This session will be open to all who have been diagnosed with cancer, their families and carers. All of these priorities have been moved forward and are on track to be achieved by the end of the year.

E. CONCLUSION

The report and attached appendix summarise the work of the Advice Shop and Adult Basic Education service in the Livingston North area. The Local Area Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and to consider how the service could better target its resources in this area. It is the intention to report on activity in the ward area on an annual basis.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix one
Appendix 1 : Livingston North Ward Profile Apr-Dec 2014

Contact Person: Elaine Nisbet, Advice Shop and Adult Basic Education Manager (Acting)
Tel: 01506 282936 email: Elaine.nisbet@westlothian.gov.uk

Steve Field
Head of Area Services

Date of meeting: 5 March 2015

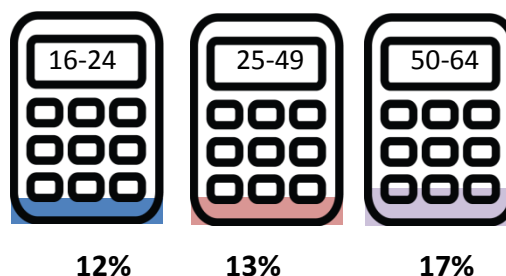
Livingston North Ward Profile Apr-Dec 2014

What we know about the community*



22% children
65% working age
13% pensionable age

Percentage of working adults claiming benefits by age



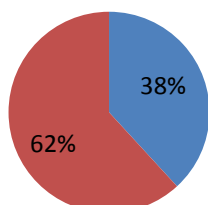
* taken from Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics: www.sns.gov.uk

Who we've worked with

987 Advice Shop Clients

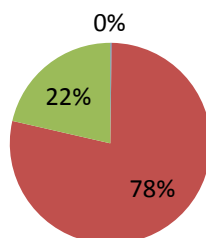
Gender

Male Female



Age

0 - 15 16 - 64 65 +



Evictions Prevented



Maximising income for clients

Appeals



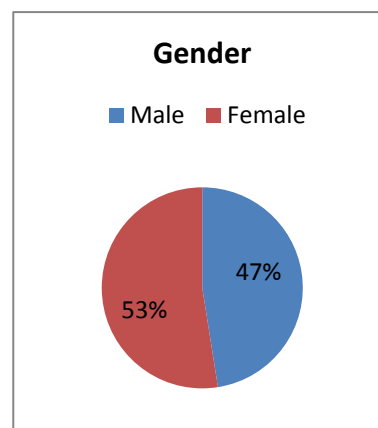
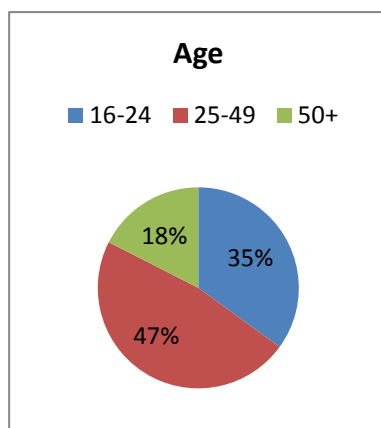
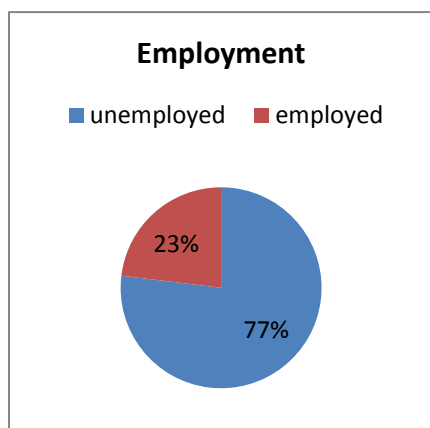
Benefit Claims



Money saved: Energy

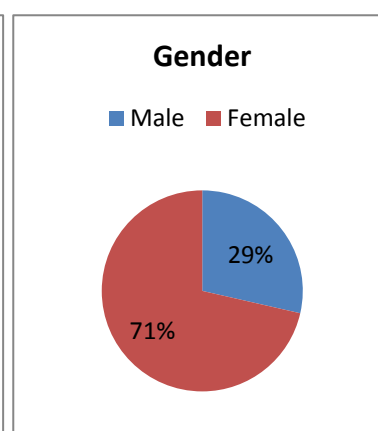
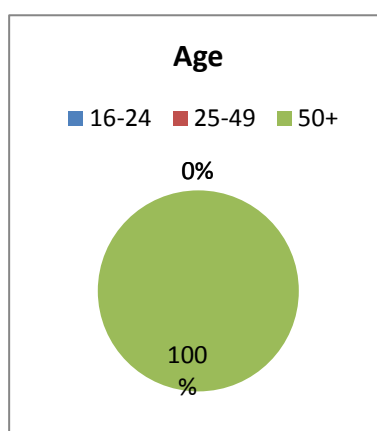
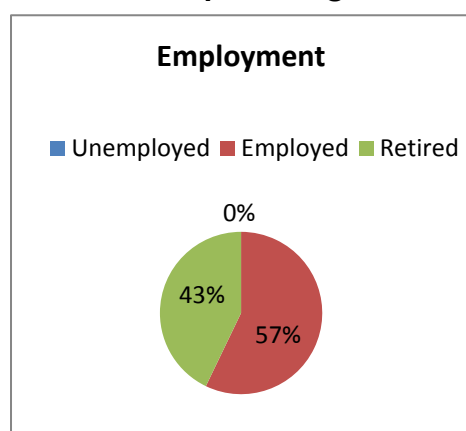


40 Literacies Learners



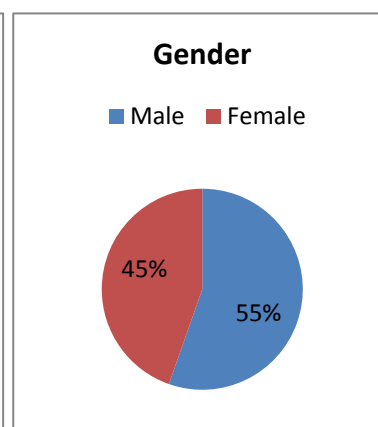
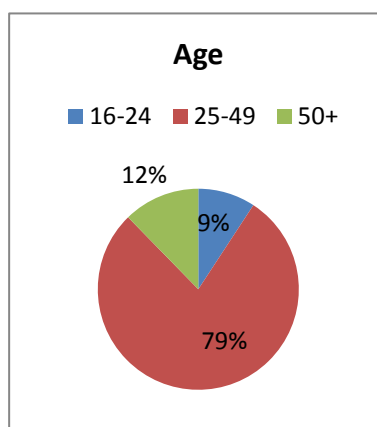
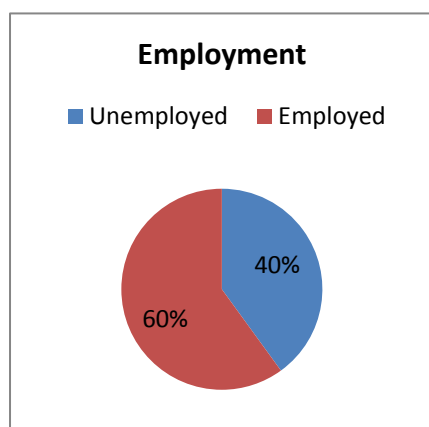
33 learners improved their literacies skills, 7 people gained a qualification, 8 progressed to further learning, 1 started volunteering and 1 moved into work

7 Lipreading Learners



7 learners found their confidence with lipreading had increased

65 ESOL Learners



46 learners improved their English skills, 1 person progressed to college and 1 started work

This year we plan to

- Continue to offer a range of engagement activities to meet the needs of clients and partners
- Develop an outreach advice session at Carmondean Connected in partnership with MacMillan Cancer Support



LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF AREA SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform members of community learning activity delivered to adults for the period 1 April 2014 to 28 February 2015.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes the learning and development activity provided within the ward by the Community Learning and Development (Adults and Communities) team.

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)	Community Learning and Development is delivered in accordance with council policy priorities taking account of The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 and related guidance issued to education authorities and community planning partnerships.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Performance indicators relating to community learning and development activity are reported in twice yearly performance reports presented to the culture and leisure policy development and scrutiny panel.

V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	SOA 1 – Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed. SOA 2 - We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities. SOA 4 - We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Within existing resources.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	Not applicable.
VIII	Other consultations	Council services, community group and individuals within the learning community.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D. 1 BACKGROUND

This paper summarises the key activities delivered in support of adults learning in a community setting in relation to council priorities of:

Priority 1: Delivering positive outcomes and early interventions for early years.

Priority 2: Improving the employment position in West Lothian.

Priority 5: Minimising poverty, the cycle of deprivation and promoting equality.

Priority 7: Delivering positive outcomes on health.

Activities relating to the above are detailed in appendix 1 along with case studies illustrating the positive impact of adult learning and development support to community organisations.

These priorities have informed the deployment of available staff resources to seven geographical areas within West Lothian that have the highest levels of deprivation as determined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD).

E. CONCLUSION

The impact of community learning and development activities detailed in appendix 1 contribute directly to council priorities and intended outcomes in the West Lothian Single Outcome Agreement at a local level within the North Livingston Ward.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

West Lothian Council Corporate Plan 2013/17.

Achieving positive outcomes - Single Outcome Agreement 2013/23.

Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix 1 – Livingston North community learning and development activity 1 April 2014 to 28 February 2015

Contact Person: Ian McIntosh, Community learning & Development Coordinator
Tel: 01506 281275
Email: ian.mcintosh@westlothian.gov.uk

Steve Field, Head of Area Services.

Date of meeting: 5 March 2015



Community Learning & Development

North Livingston Activity

2014/15

Contents

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2	Community Learning & Development Structure	Page 5
3	Key Partners	Page 6
4	Activity	Page 6
5	Impact case study	Page 8

1 Overview

1.1 Community Learning & Development

The activities delivered by the Community Learning and Development Service make a significant contribution to the personal development of returning adult learners and increasing the capacity of communities and community organisations to do things for themselves. Community Learning and Development is committed to realising West Lothian's outcomes – particularly:

- ⦿ **Outcome 1** - Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.
- ⦿ **Outcome 2** - We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities.
- ⦿ **Outcome 4** – We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities.

1.2 Council priorities

The activities that contribute to the above outcomes are informed by the following council priorities:

Priority 1: Delivering positive outcomes and early interventions through early years

Children and young people deserve the best possible start in life. What happens to children in their earliest years will influence their future.

Priority 2: Improving the employment position in West Lothian

Improving the employment position will positively impact on the quality of life and the overall well-being of residents in West Lothian.

Priority 5: Minimising poverty, the cycle of deprivation and promoting equality

People living in poverty and deprivation have significantly worse life outcomes than those in average households, and this is often determined at a very early age by family circumstances. The financial cost is significant also, with people having a greater reliance on public services throughout their lives.

1.3 Our approach

We work in partnership with other council services, community groups and individuals to extend our services in response to local needs and support people to access community learning and development (and other council services) through the provision of a crèche service for preschool children.

The purpose of Community Learning and Development and the outcomes expected by the Scottish Government are set out in national guidance issued to community planning partnerships. Community Learning and Development is tasked to:

“Empower people, individually and collectively, to make positive changes in their lives and their communities, through learning.”

The principles that underpin Community Learning and Development practice are:

- ⦿ *empowerment* - increasing the ability of individuals and groups to influence matters affecting them and their communities;

- ⊙ *participation* - supporting people to take part in decision-making;
- ⊙ *inclusion, equality of opportunity and anti-discrimination* - recognising some people need additional support to overcome the barriers they face;
- ⊙ *self-determination* - supporting the right of people to make their own choices; and
- ⊙ *partnership* - ensuring resources, varied skills and capabilities are used effectively.

Main Services Provided by Community Learning & Development

- ⊙ Community based adult learning programmes – delivering short courses two to twenty weeks long in response to local needs and council priorities. There is a particular emphasis upon ‘Digital Inclusion’ as a key action within the Community Planning Partnership’s Anti-Poverty Strategy.
- ⊙ Community Capacity Building – delivering organisational and practical skills training to increase the confidence and skills of volunteers involved in community groups and voluntary organisations across West Lothian.
- ⊙ Management and delivery of a crèche service for pre-school children that enables vulnerable adults and learners to access Community Learning and Development, Adult Basic Education, ESOL (English as a Second or Other Language) Surestart and Psychology of Parenting programmes (PoPP).

Community Learning and Development Priorities

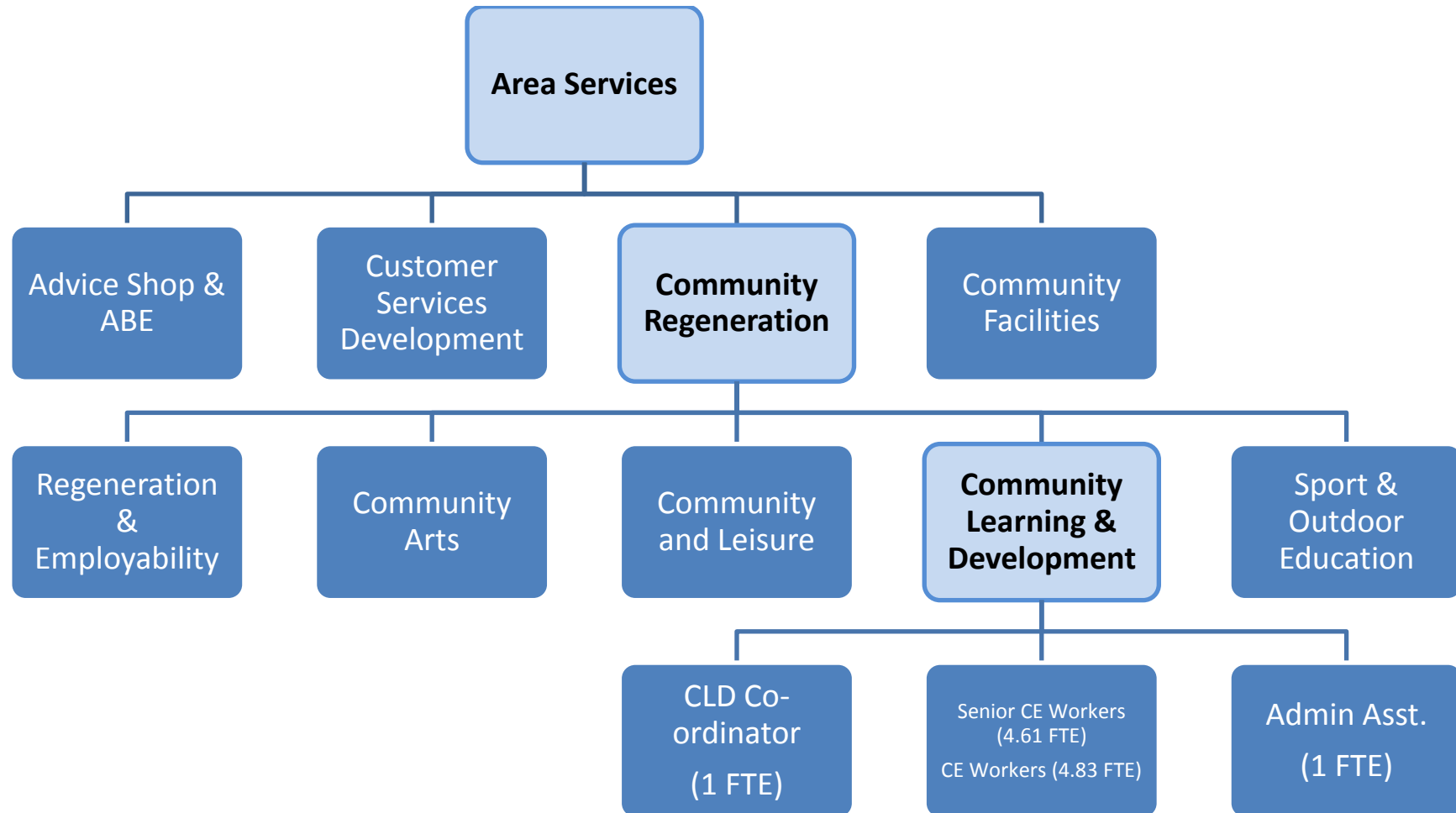
- ⊙ Provide high quality learning experiences.
- ⊙ Provide a route for adult learners to progress from ‘returning to learning’ to become independent learners who make informed decisions about their learning and take greater control over their learning in family, community and work settings.
- ⊙ Raise participation and take up from adults resident in the worst 20% of data zones in the county.
- ⊙ Raise participation and completion of learning among adults who are long term-unemployed, have episodic employment and unemployment or are returners to the labour market.
- ⊙ Develop analysis of achievement in learning communities for those engaged in adult learning and community capacity building activity with Community Learning and Development.

Community Learning and Development Main Customers

- ⊙ Adults of working age.
- ⊙ Older People.
- ⊙ Residents in the worst 20% of datazones in the county.
- ⊙ Adults who are long term-unemployed, have episodic employment and unemployment or are returners to the labour market.

2 Community Learning and Development Team Structure

The team is part of Area Services and the organisational structure is outlined below:



Service Structure

3 Key Partners

The community learning and development team works with partners to deliver the learning and support our citizens need to increase the ability of individuals and groups to influence matters affecting them and their communities and to take part in decision making. In Livingston North this includes:

- Community Education Associations
- Primary schools and nurseries
- Knightsridge early years centre
- Tenant's Association
- Faith based organisations
- Ability Centre

4 Activities

3.1 Health Issues in the Community – Health Issues in the Community, otherwise known as HIIC, is a training programme aimed at increasing community capacity, increasing community participation, and establishing/consolidating community development approaches to tackling inequalities in health. The group has just completed part 1 and is now working through part 2. Two members of the group have decided not to continue due to having entered further education and employment. The Mosswood HIIC group has included members from another group that met in Forestbank to complete part 2. Accreditation at this level is at level 6 on the Scottish qualifications framework (SCQF) this is at the same level as a Higher.

3.2 Healthy Eating Group – the group meets weekly at Knightsridge Early Years Centre. Participants can choose to be weighed to track weight loss. The group provides advice and support to those wishing to adopt a healthier diet / lifestyle. Some members of the group then move on to Mosswood where they can exercise together.

3.3 KeyStone Award Scheme/Mosswood community education association - Keystone is a new and innovative way to support committees to manage their organisation effectively and efficiently. Keystone helps organisations:

- Be confident that they are doing things right
- Comply with legislation and regulation
- Organise files, documents and information to make life easier for current and future/committees
- Understand where to go for help
- Promote and publicise the organisation and provide evidence of good practice
- Secure a long term future for facilities
- Engage with communities and other local organisations

3.4 Beginners / Intermediate ICT – These are mixed ability classes where complete beginners can learn the basics – Microsoft Word, internet, email and online safety. Learners are able to work towards a qualification at SCQF level 3, equivalent to Access 3. Learners at intermediate level can work towards a qualification at SCQF level 5, equivalent to National 5.

Digital Inclusion, a key action within the anti-poverty strategy, has been the priority for the past year. Classes and support ensure that people are equipped with the necessary skills and support to fulfil the Department of Work and Pensions job search requirements to maintain welfare benefits. Courses and support are delivered in Mosswood and Carmondean Connected. Access to ICT learning will be offered in Livingston Station Community Centre from March 2015 as the learning suite has now been reopened.

3.5 Psychology of Parenting Programme/Incredible years - The Psychology of Parenting Project (PoPP) is a Government sponsored project being rolled out nationally by NHS Education Scotland (NES) through Community Health and Care Partnerships (CHCP) and Community Planning Partnerships (CPP). This project is aimed at improving the availability of high-quality evidence-based parenting programmes for families with young children (aged 3 and 4 years) who have elevated levels of behaviour problems. A group is being delivered in Livingston Station Community Centre. Seven of the nine learners are resident in the North Livingston ward. This has been a successful recruitment to the programme that has arisen from the collaborative work between community learning and development and colleagues in the school nurseries and Knightsridge early years centre.

3.6 Livingston Islamic Centre and Mosque – working with a group of women who are seeking to set up a women's group and organising community activities in the Mosque. There have been meetings with members of the Mosque who are looking to take this forward. This group is very much in the early stages of development.

3.7 Ladies of Livingston – this group was established after a community research project identified needs. The aims of the group are:

- To provide a forum for women to meet on a regular basis to discuss issues and topics which affect their lives.
- To promote and support equal opportunities for women locally, nationally and internationally.
- To organise events that enhance the social, artistic, health and well-being needs of women.
- To bring together women from different cultures and backgrounds to raise awareness and understanding of each other's lives.

5 Impact case study - a journey

Learner **A** is a lone parent with young children who started coming along to Ladies of Livingston Women's Group. Through this group she found out about new learning opportunities that had helped other people, such as:

- Health Issues in the Community Course which started in September 2013.
- Beginners IT Class which she started in January 2014.
- Confidence and Assertiveness.

Learner **A** has been attending these courses and successfully completed Access 3 in ICT and will shortly gain a qualification at SCQF level 6 in Health Issues in the Community.

Due to the cap on housing benefit arising from changes in the Welfare System - along with a rent increase of their privately rented home - Learner **A** and her children were made homeless. As a result of the Health Issues in the Community Course and the Confidence and Assertiveness course, she felt more able to deal with the bureaucracy and stresses involved in becoming homeless and more assertive in dealing with those in the homeless team and DWP. Her extended support network, gained by participating in group learning, increased her resilience in coping with stressful situations and ability to seek a better outcome for her family. She became confident enough to be able to study further and develop a career in childcare and was accepted onto a course at West Lothian College, that started in August 2014. Learner **A** has now completed the NPA in Playwork and Childcare

and is continuing on to the HNC in Early Education and Childcare at West Lothian College. She is currently volunteering in Knightsridge Primary School to gain some work experience.

Community Learning and Development

North Livingston 2014/15

March 2015

For more information:

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West Lothian
Council

LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

OPERATIONAL SERVICES UPDATE REPORT

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To appraise members of the Operational Services activities for Livingston North from the 1st November 2014 to 31st January 2015.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Local Area Committee are asked to:

- Note the work carried out by the services and the future planned work for the local area.
- Note the planned and completed play area, carriageway and street lighting improvements for the area.
- Advise on any areas that require further information or investigation

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)	None
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None

V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	None
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	In Line with available revenue and capital budgets for each service area
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None
VIII	Other consultations	None

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 NETs and Land Services

Grounds Maintenance – the service are currently on schedule with routine maintenance in the area.

In total, during the period 63 enquiries were received and dealt with in relation to grounds maintenance issues. Of these enquires the most commonly reported related to:

- Tree Enquiries – 30

During the same period last year we received and dealt with 69 customer enquiries

Street Cleansing – we are currently on schedule with all routine cleansing in Livingston North.

In total, during the period 90 enquiries were received and dealt with by the service in relation to street cleansing issues. Of these enquires the most commonly reported related to:

- Illegal fly tipping or dumping – 34
- Abandoned Vehicles - 14

During the same period last year we received and dealt with 80 customer enquiries

Garden Maintenance – The Garden Maintenance service has now been completed for the season and will recommence in March 2015. All new applications will be processed in time to start the scheme next year

In total, during the period 3 enquiries were received and dealt with in relation to street cleansing issues

Environmental Wardens Enforcement Action

- 2 fixed penalty issued for littering
- 2 enquires received with and dealt with in relation to dog fouling

Fells Rigg and Sutherland Way Parks – Consultants have now been appointed to design plans for the improvements to the open spaces at Fells Rigg Park Carmondean(budget £50k), and Sutherland Way Park, Knightsridge (budget £63k) in financial years 2015/16 / 2016/17. A period of community engagement will take place allowing local people to have their say on improvements to their local park facilities’.

D2 Roads and Transportation

Street Lighting – Routine maintenance and repair work is currently progressing as scheduled in Livingston North.

The following street lighting improvement have been completed in Livingston North, since the last meeting of the Local Area Committee, these are:

- **Harburn Avenue / Harburn Avenue West / Larbert Avenue, Deans** - The replacement of the lighting installation is still currently in progress. Completion was expected by end of January but due to the winter weather we have been experiencing, completion is now anticipated by end of February. Work includes new columns, underground cable network and lanterns. The lanterns being installed have a “white light” source providing a better quality of light, whilst reducing energy consumption

During the period we received and dealt with 144 customer enquiries from residents Throughout the same period last year we received 129 enquiries from residents.

Performance in repairing street lighting faults was above 99%, within a 7 day period, and for traffic light faults 97%, within the 48 hour target.

Roads Maintenance and Operations – The following roads improvement schemes were recently completed in Livingston North.

- **Carriageway resurfacing on Deans North Road** – work on resurfacing of the carriageway between Nellburn and Main Street, Deans, was completed in November.
- **Playground Resurfacing at St John Ogilvie Primary School** – Work was completed on the playground in November.

Elected Members and other interested parties will be kept fully up to date with the planned programme, the work being carried out and the timescales involved.

Winter Service - Challenging conditions during January have seen staff dealing with a wide range of weather related-issues, including snow, frost, low temperatures, high winds and flooding. Snow and ice saw council staff out on a daily basis, pre-treating and treating the area's network of roads and footways to combat the effects of bad weather.

Customer Enquiries - During the period we received and dealt with 202 enquiries from local residents relating to roads operations, maintenance and flooding including 15 emergency response calls.

During the same period last year we received and dealt with 97 customer enquiries.

D3 Waste Services

Customer Enquiries – During the period we received and dealt with 1,457 customer enquiries from residents in Livingston North. During the same period last year we received and dealt with 1,306 customer enquiries

242 customer enquiries were received and dealt with relating to missed bin collections in the local area. During the same period last year we received and dealt with 246 customer enquiries

215 customer enquiries were received and dealt with relating to new wheeled bins for local residents. During the same period last year we received and dealt with 219 customer enquiries relating new bins

555 customer enquiries were received and dealt with relating to Bulky Uplifts from local residents during the period. During the same period last year we received and dealt with 602 customer enquiries relating to Bulky Uplifts

E. CONCLUSION

- Routine works for all services is currently progressing as scheduled.
- We have received and dealt with a number of customer enquiries relating to various service areas throughout the period.
- Play area, carriageway and street lighting works are underway, planned or have been completed in Livingston North.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments: None

Contact Persons:

Daniel McComisky, Locality Manager, NETs & Land Services, Waverley Street, Bathgate. 01506 775108 daniel.mccomisky@westlothian.gov.uk

Graeme Malcolm, Road and Transportation Manager, Whitehill House, Bathgate, graeme.malcolm@westlothian.gov.uk

David Goodenough, Waste Services, Deans Depot, Livingston, david.goodenough@westlothian.gov.uk

Jim Jack,

Head of Operational Services

Date: 5th March 2015



LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

YOUTH PROVISION

REPORT BY HEAD OF AREA SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report informs the committee of the youth work projects that are taking place in the Livingston North Ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes the updates provided on specific youth provision in the area by the following council and partner agencies:

- Community Youth Services
- The Vennie
- West Lothian Youth Action Project (WLYAP)
- Deans Community High School

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)	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 within the Regeneration and Employability key performance indicators. Ward action plans also contain measures to indicate progress towards outcomes.

V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	<p>We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities.</p> <p>We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities.</p> <p>We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities.</p> <p>We make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment.</p>
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Activities will be delivered within partners' existing community planning resources, along with the Alcohol Diversion Fund.
VII Consideration at PDSP	Not applicable.
VIII Other consultations	Engaging communities is an integral and on-going part of community regeneration.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 BACKGROUND

This paper reports on the various youth projects and initiatives that are taking place in the ward. The information included has been provided by partner agencies who deliver youth provision in the following areas of the Livingston North Ward :

- Knightsridge
- Deans

West Lothian Council Community Youth Services

The Community Youth Services team currently delivers sessions in the following locations in Livingston North; Deans and Knightsridge. In Livingston Station provision for young children from P1 to P7 is provided on a Wednesday. The older age group of young people (P7 upwards) is catered for on a Saturday with an early evening club being delivered from 7pm to 9pm. The team also provide a Fun Fever session on Tuesday evenings from Deans High School. This project allows young people to sample various activities including: volleyball, swimming, football, bingo, ultra violet art projects, baking, cold cooking and crafts. The average number of young people attending Fun Fever is between 30 and 60 each session.

The Vennie

The Vennie has a varied and full programme delivering activity for young people and their families in the Knightsridge area. This can be seen in appendix one.

Due to customer feedback, some activity has recently changed to meet the needs of the community. Young people who attend the sessions requested to the Vennie staff that a swop was needed. Following consultation with users, small changes in service delivery were implemented.

Along with the usual programme of activity running from the Vennie additional projects have taken and are taking place. These have included a Skatepark outing that saw a group of young people experiencing the newly refurbished Skatepark at East Kilbride. Positive comments from the participants have led to a proposal by the Vennie Staff to take the group to different skateparks providing a varied experience in skating and boarding for the young people of Knightsridge.

A new project that the Vennie is involved with is in conjunction with Scotland's Urban Past (SUP). This will explore the architectural, archaeological and social and personal histories of the urban built environment of Knightsridge. SUP approached the Vennie to be part of this project and will support and provide the Vennie staff with training and resources. This will enable young people and the community to try out recording, surveying, photography, community mapping and digital platform techniques that will provide an opportunity to inspire a new sense of value and understanding of the urban past through active participation.

West Lothian Youth Action Project (WLYAP)

Although the WLYAP does not directly provide youth club provision in the Livingston North area the organisation is heavily involved in numerous projects and initiatives that support and complement youth work in the area. Five young people from the ward are currently being supported on an individual basis due to referrals from Social Policy, schools and the Early and Effective Intervention Service that identifies young people who are at risk from various issues including risk taking behaviour and self-harming.

Currently, two young people from the ward are involved in the Big Music Project. This project is a national programme that will see the individuals completing a Platinum Youth Achievement award. Individuals have been required to take part in the national event held in London during February. The final presentations for this will be on 11 March with the awards being made in May this year. WLYAP has also been involved in a Peer Education training programme that has enabled older students from Deans Community High School to take an active role in the running of the Friday Night Project that provides diversionary activity on a fortnightly basis for young people in the area. One of the key fundamental elements for WLYAP is that of Streetwork. This is tailored work that is delivered in specific areas identified from intelligence provided by the Community Safety Unit (CSU). During the first two months of 2015 there have not been requests by CSU for streetwork in the ward; however, a recent request to support staff at Carmondean Library who are experiencing problems during their late opening sessions is being picked up by the Streetwork team who will start to provide assistance on Thursday evenings.

Volunteering also plays an important part in the project and WLYAP currently has two volunteers for the Livingston North ward who help and support all aspects of the project. Due to this activity they will receive the Saltire Award for their volunteering hours.

The Integr8 Befriending service aims to reach vulnerable young people in West Lothian who, due to differing factors, need additional support to reduce social isolation, stress and anxiety. Currently, three young people from Livingston North are benefiting from this service and engaging in sustainable community activities.

Deans Community High School – Friday Night Project

The Friday Night project that is delivered from Deans Community High School is, once again, attracting large numbers of young people with between 130 and 180 regularly attending. The project runs every fortnight from 7pm to 9pm and is aimed at 11 to 17 year olds from all over West Lothian with the majority of those attending coming from the Livingston North ward. Volunteers are a key element to the project being successful, with 25 young volunteers currently supporting the delivery of a wide range of activities that include: various sports, crafts, hair and beauty, music and awareness sessions of risk taking behaviour. Personal development is a focus for the young volunteers with many completing the Eclipse peer education course in counselling and child protection.

A progression to the project has taken place with the Midnight Football now being based at Deans Community High School. This has enabled partnership working between the two projects resulting in sharing of resources to benefit more participants. Further partnerships have been strengthened with community clubs being invited to provide taster sessions in various disciplines. These have included cheerleading, delivered by Blackdiamond Dance Troop, fencing, delivered by Linlithgow Fencing Club and Burn It Boot camp, offering circuit based classes and football coaching by Heart of Midlothian Football Club. By using community clubs to provide sessions, young people are able to be signposted, providing a sustainable avenue should continuation of activity be required.

E. CONCLUSION

The information in this report provides an update on specific youth based activity in the ward and provides a snap-shot of the varied programme offered to young people in the area by four separate organisations.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Livingston North Ward Action Plan 2013-15.

Appendices/Attachments: The Vennie Activity Time Table

Contact Person: Michelle Kirkbright, Community Regeneration Officer,
Tel: 07500816855;
Email: michelle.kirkbright@westlothian.gov.uk

Steve Field, Head of Area Services.
Date of meeting: 5 March 2015

Appendix one

The Vennie Activity Time Table

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6.00pm-9.00pm Youth drop in This is a drop in for youths aged between 12 and 21. Advice on a range of different topics which affect young people. Access to the internet, playing of pool, wi-fit and various activities are available along with a c-card outlet being provided for young people aged 13 and over.	6.00pm – 9.00pm Youth drop in This is a drop in for youths aged between 12 and 21. Advice on a range of different topics which affect young people. Access to the internet, playing of pool, wi-fit and various activities are available along with a c-card outlet being provided for young people aged 13 and over.	4.30pm – 6.30pm The Vennie choir Anyone who is interested please come along to the Vennie and register for this exciting initiative. The Vennie Choir will also be going along to care homes to entertain local.	11.00pm – 2.00pm Access2Employment The Vennie offer an Access2Employment service which includes help with completing a C.V. job applications, interview techniques and careers advice. One to one advice and support, soft counselling as well as group work are also provided. Welfare and Benefits advice is offered also.	3.00pm – 6.00pm Boys club Boys aged 5-9 years can attend boys club between 3.00pm – 4.30pm. Boys aged 10-13 years can attend boys club between 4.30pm – 6.00pm. Activities including football, football training, pool tournaments, drawing, using internet, playing games on the computers and many more delivered at this club.
			5.30pm – 8.30pm Girls club Girls aged 5-9 years can attend girls club between 5.30pm – 7.00pm. Girls aged 10-13 years can attend from 7.00pm – 8.30pm. Activities including cooking, baking, sewing, arts and crafts along with various outings are provided at this club.	6.00pm-9.00pm Youth drop in This is a drop in for youths aged between 12 and 21. Advice on a range of different topics which affect young people. Access to the internet, playing of pool, wi-fit and various activities are available along with a c-card outlet being provided for young people aged 13 and over.



West Lothian
Council

LIVINGSTON NORTH 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 Livingston North Ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes the updates on Community Regeneration activity within the ward, specifically in relation to:

- Knightsridge Community Garden – Christmas event;
- The orienteering event;
- Livingston Village Environmental Volunteer Project; and
- community council support

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)	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 ward action plan are included within the Regeneration and Employability key

	performance indicators. Ward action plans also contain measures to indicate progress towards outcomes.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	<p>We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities.</p> <p>We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities.</p> <p>We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities.</p> <p>We make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment.</p>
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Activities will be delivered within partners' existing community planning resources, along with the Alcohol Diversionary Fund.
VII Consideration at PDSP	Not applicable.
VIII Other consultations	Engaging communities is an integral and on-going part of community regeneration.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 BACKGROUND

This paper reports on progress regarding activity that either Community Regeneration leads on or is a key partner in, working in close partnership with the key community development organisations.

Some of the initiatives included in this report are in the Ward Action Plan for Livingston North. New potential activity and involvement that is under development in the ward has also been highlighted.

Knightsridge Community Garden – Christmas Event

As part of the festive season, Knightsridge Community Garden was transformed into a winter wonderland. Over 180 people enjoyed the Christmas themed event that allowed young children to visit Santa in his garden grotto and to receive a small gift. This event was one where the community and community organisations came together to ensure a magical experience for the residents. The Vennie, Mosswood Management Committee, the Ladies of Knightsridge and the local Scout group all carried out key duties on the day and planning prior to the event, including a camp fire, BBQ, raffle, Christmas music and choir, the wrapping of gifts

and decorating of the grotto and festive soft drinks. Due to the success of this first Christmas Event, it is envisaged that this will become an annual event in the Knightsridge calendar.

Orienteering Event

Due to the success of gaining external funding from Awards for All to the value of £6400, the planning is now underway for the two orienteering events that will launch the new courses, one in Eliburn Park and one in Almond Park. The dates for these launch events, which will be used to publicise the new courses and to introduce people to the sport of orienteering, have been provisionally booked for 9th and 16th of May. These launch events will complement a busy calendar for orienteering and will support activity among local residents, especially with the Orienteering World Championships taking place in Inverness, from 31 July to 7 August this year.

Livingston Village Environmental Volunteer Project

Due to community need, a volunteer project is being developed to carry out an environmental project within Livingston Village during the summer months. This will see a general spruce up of the old square with the possible adoption of the old red BT phone box, repainting of the lampposts, seats and bollards, building and installation of aesthetically pleasing planters and the removing of weeds and dirt from the decorative stone paving. Local residents will be encouraged to take part in the project along with local youth groups and schools with buy-in from local businesses also being attracted.

Support to Community Councils

The Regeneration Team is supporting the training programme for community councils which is administered by Committee Services. On 10 March, a training/networking event will be held to allow community councils the space to learn from each other more informally. The training will focus on the themes of promotion of the community council and engaging with their wider communities which was requested by some community councils in the last training survey.

E. CONCLUSION

The actions detailed above contribute to the Livingston North Ward Action Plan and enable Community Planning Partners to contribute to the Single Outcome Agreement at a local level.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Livingston North ward action plan 2013-15.

Appendices/Attachments: None

Contact Person: Michelle Kirkbright, Community Regeneration Officer,
Tel: 01506 283233; 07500816855
Email: michelle.kirkbright@westlothian.gov.uk

Steve Field, Head of Area Services.

Date of meeting: 5 March 2015

**LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – JUNE 2015
WORKPLAN 2015**

	Issue	Purpose	Lead Officer	Date	Referral
	Housing report	Quarterly update on housing issues	Alison Smith	June 2015	No
	Police/NRT report	Quarterly update on police/NRT activity	Insp. Myles Marshall	June 2015	No
	Operational Services Report	To provide a quarterly update report on activity.	Jim Jack	June 2015	No
	Community Health Champion Report	To provide an update on project	Kate Marshall	June 2015	No
	Fire and Rescue Operational Plan 2015-17	To provide an update on the new Operational Plan for 2015-17	Martyn Brandrick	June 2015	No
	Deans High School	To provide annual report on activity and attainment at the school	Head Teacher	June 2015	No
	Working Together Report	To provide an update	Clare Summers	June 2015	No
	Ward Plan 6 Monthly Update	To update on the mid-year progress against the ward Action plan targets	Michelle Kirkbright	June 2015	No
	Livingston Town Centre Youth Provision Feasibility Study	To provide an update on the feasibility of a youth club in Livingston Centre	CRO/Helen Davies	TBC	No
	Update on Buchanan House	To update on issues regarding Buchanan House	Craig McCorriston	TBC	No

	Update on Kirkton Business Centre	To update on issues regarding Kirkton Business Centre	Craig McCorriston	TBC	No
	Dean South	Housing issues	TBC	TBC	No
	Youth Unemployment	To provide a 6 monthly report	TBC	TBC	No
	Alcohol diversionary Funding	To provide an update on projects	TBC	TBC	No
	Community Regeneration Update	To provide an update of activity in the area	Steve Field	September 2015	No
	Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund	To provide an update	Steve Field	September 2015	No
	Inveralmond High School	To provide annual report on activity and attainment at the school	Donna McMaster	September 2015	No
	St Margaret's High School	To provide annual report on activity and attainment at the school	Head Teacher	December 2015	No

LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2015-16

Agenda Issue	Meeting Date	Room
Fri 11 Sept 2015	Thurs 17 September 2015	To be Confirmed
Fri 27 November 2015	Thurs 3 December 2015	To be Confirmed
Fri 4 March 2016	Thurs 10 March 2016	To be Confirmed
Fri 3 June 2016	Thurs 9 June 2016	To be Confirmed