



Voluntary Organisations Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

29 October 2021

A meeting of the **Voluntary Organisations Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Virtual Meeting Room** on **Thursday 4 November 2021 at 9:30am**.

For Chief Executive

BUSINESS

Public Session

1. Apologies for Absence
2. 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
3. Order of Business, including notice of urgent business and declarations of interest in any urgent business
4. Confirm Draft Minutes of Meeting of Voluntary Organisations Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel held on Thursday 19 August 2021 (herewith)
5. Employability Provision - Report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith)
6. Cyrenians - Presentation by Adam Forrest
7. Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian Update - Report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith)
8. West Lothian Social Enterprise Network Update - Report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith)

9. Pensioners Groups Christmas Fund Allocation 2021/22 - Report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith)
10. Third Sector and West Lothian Council Annual Report 2020/21 - Report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith)
11. Workplan

NOTE **For further information please contact Anastasia Dragona on tel. no. 01506 281601 or email anastasia.dragona@westlothian.gov.uk**

CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

This form is to help members. It is not a substitute for declaring interests at the meeting.

Members should look at every item and consider if they have an interest. If members have an interest they must consider if they have to declare it. If members declare an interest they must consider if they have to withdraw.

NAME	MEETING	DATE

AGENDA ITEM NO.	FINANCIAL (F) OR NON- FINANCIAL INTEREST (NF)	DETAIL ON THE REASON FOR YOUR DECLARATION (e.g. I am Chairperson of the Association)	REMAIN OR WITHDRAW

The objective test is whether a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard the interest as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your discussion or decision making in your role as a councillor.

Other key terminology appears on the reverse.

If you require assistance, please ask as early as possible. Contact Julie Whitelaw, Monitoring Officer, 01506 281626, julie.whitelaw@westlothian.gov.uk, James Millar, Governance Manager, 01506 281695, james.millar@westlothian.gov.uk, Carol Johnston, Chief Solicitor, 01506 281626, carol.johnston@westlothian.gov.uk, Committee Services Team, 01506 281604, 01506 281621 committee.services@westlothian.gov.uk

SUMMARY OF KEY TERMINOLOGY FROM REVISED CODE

The objective test

“...whether a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard the interest as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your discussion or decision making in your role as a councillor”

The General Exclusions

- As a council tax payer or rate payer or in relation to the council's public services which are offered to the public generally, as a recipient or non-recipient of those services
- In relation to setting the council tax.
- In relation to matters affecting councillors' remuneration, allowances, expenses, support services and pension.
- As a council house tenant, unless the matter is solely or mainly about your own tenancy, or you are in arrears of rent.

Particular Dispensations

- As a member of an outside body, either appointed by the council or later approved by the council
- Specific dispensation granted by Standards Commission
- Applies to positions on certain other public bodies (IJB, SEStran, City Region Deal)
- Allows participation, usually requires declaration but not always
- Does not apply to quasi-judicial or regulatory business

The Specific Exclusions

- As a member of an outside body, either appointed by the council or later approved by the council
- The position must be registered by you
- Not all outside bodies are covered and you should take advice if you are in any doubt.
- Allows participation, always requires declaration
- Does not apply to quasi-judicial or regulatory business

Categories of “other persons” for financial and non-financial interests of other people

- Spouse, a civil partner or a cohabitee
- Close relative, close friend or close associate
- Employer or a partner in a firm
- A body (or subsidiary or parent of a body) in which you are a remunerated member or director
- Someone from whom you have received a registrable gift or registrable hospitality
- Someone from whom you have received registrable election expenses

MINUTE of MEETING of the VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL held within VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 19 AUGUST 2021.

Present – Councillors Kirsteen Sullivan (Chair), Andrew McGuire, William Boyle, Tom Conn, David Dodds, Bruce Fairbairn and Chris Horne

Apologies – Ian Buchanan (Senior People's Forum)

In attendance – Craig McCorriston (Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration), Raymond Branton (Third Sector Strategy Group Representative), Douglas Grierson (Regeneration and Employability Team Leader), Alan McCloskey (Voluntary Sector Gateway), Alice Mitchell (Economic Development Manager), Maria Throp (1st Development), Linda White (West Lothian Social Enterprise Network)

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2 MINUTES

The panel approved the minutes of its meeting held on 20 May 2021 as a correct record.

3 1ST STEP DEVELOPMENT VENTURES

The panel considered a presentation by 1st Step Development Ventures explaining how the organisation promoted recovery from addiction and poor mental health through food deliveries and training opportunities in catering and refurbishing donated bikes.

During discussion, a suggestion was made for extending the programme to people dealing with recovery as they come out of prison; further discussions were to take place in order to consider how to progress this initiative.

Decision

To note the presentation.

4 REPORT ON WEST LOTHIAN VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION MODERNISATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing an update on the West Lothian Modernisation and Improvement Programme and setting out details of the approach to allocate the remaining £134,000 in 2021/22 and 2022/23.

It was recommended that the panel:

1. Note the effects of Covid-19 on the allocations of the funding;
2. Note the process to monitor grants awards in the original allocation in 2020;
3. Note that £134,000 remained to be allocated in the financial years 2021/22 and 22/23;
4. Note the changes to the process established in 2019;
5. Note that the fund would be open on a rolling basis with no deadline until the end of 2022/23 or when all funds were utilised if earlier; and
6. Note that the training element once finalised might require to draw down some of the available funding to provide.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

5 VOLUNTARY SECTOR GATEWAY WEST LoTHIAN UPDATE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing an update on the current activities being undertaken by Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian in providing an effective single point of access for support and advice and representing the interests of voluntary and community groups within West Lothian.

It was recommended that the panel note the positive outcomes in regard to the work undertaken by Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian in supporting and representing the interests of voluntary and community groups within West Lothian.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6 WEST LoTHIAN SOCIAL ENTERPRISE NETWORK UPDATE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing an update on the current activities being undertaken by West Lothian Social Enterprise Network (WlSEN) in providing an effective single point of access for support and advice and representing the interests of social enterprises within West Lothian.

It was recommended that the panel note the positive outcomes in regard

to the work undertaken by West Lothian Social Enterprise Network in supporting and representing the interests of the social enterprise sector within West Lothian.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7

WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

EMPLOYABILITY PROVISION

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide the panel with an update on the funding that has been provided to the Third Sector to support the delivery of the employability provision through the Young Person's Guarantee.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the panel:

1. Notes the introduction of the Young Person's Guarantee and additional resources to support delivery,
2. Notes the grant awards that have been made to the Voluntary and Third Sector to support the delivery of the Young Person's Guarantee; and
3. Notes the support being provided to the Sector to increase its capacity to engage in employability provision.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; providing equality of opportunities and; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	<p>The revised arrangements were introduced by the Scottish Government in consultation with COSLA in September 2020.</p> <p>The YPG do not raise any strategic environmental assessment issues. Any impacts on equality and health are likely to be positive.</p>
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	The additional opportunities for young people should have a positive impact on performance indicators linked to supporting young people to progress into a positive destination.

V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	The creation of opportunities for young people reinforce a number of the aims of the Single Outcome Agreement, specifically: We are better educated and have access to increased and better-quality learning and employment opportunities.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Additional resources made available by the Scottish Government, £1,169,898 in January 2021 and £1,746, 839 in July 2021.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	Progress with employability initiatives are reported regularly to Development & Transport PDSP.
VIII	Other consultations	Voluntary Sector Gateway, Skills Development Scotland, West Lothian College, Developing Young Work Force.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Background

In September 2020, to help mitigate the significant labour market impact of Covid-19, the Scottish Government announced the Young Person's Guarantee scheme. The guarantee will ensure that within two years everyone aged between 16 and 24 has the opportunity of work, education or training for a minimum of 12 months.

To support the guarantee West Lothian Council was provided with an additional *No One Left Behind Grant* of £1,169,898 in January 2021 to support delivery in 2020/21 and a further £1,746,839 in July 2021 to support delivery in 2021/22. The funding has been provided to increase local capacity to deliver a range of employability opportunities and interventions for 16-24 year olds.

Funding has been targeted at supporting young people with a range of barriers including; those who are unemployed, about to leave school without a positive destination, school leavers without a positive destination, those in low paid employment, those at risk of losing an apprenticeship, those leaving training, volunteering, college or university without a positive destination, young people who are low skilled, those without qualifications and the underemployed.

D2 Delivery in West Lothian

West Lothian Council services and partners have experience of delivering a range of employability opportunities to young people aligned to the aims of the Young Person's Guarantee. Services have established interventions and networks that are known to have an impact.

The additional grant provided has been utilised to enhance the current delivery and to add additional capacity to existing services and interventions that will engage and support young people particularly those that are struggling as a result of Covid-19. This is delivery that is known to have an impact and will ensure the maximum benefit from the resources available. The range of interventions being delivered will ensure that support is targeted at all ages and at all abilities from key working

disengaged young people to supporting graduate that have found themselves unable to secure any employment after graduating during the pandemic. It has also been designed to provide a mix of service providers including existing services and those new and additional provided by the Voluntary and Third Sector and partners.

D3 Voluntary and Third Sector Provision – West Lothian

Additional funding has been provided to the Voluntary and Third Sector in West Lothian to support delivery in the form of two rounds of grant funding. The resources have been provided to support the Voluntary and Third Sector to delivery of a range of interventions for young people. Interventions have focused on adding value to current provision and the removal of barriers faced by young people to enable progression into provision.

Two rounds of funding have been made available up to £120,000 in March 2021 and up to £200,000 in September 2021. Calls for applications were put out to the sector through a range of mechanisms and forums. Once received applications were assessed by a multi-agency scoring panel, and funding allocated based on the panel's recommendations.

In March 2021 the following organisation were awarded funding:

- SMILE – Counselling service for Young People was allocated £34,671
- The Conservation Volunteers - Green Action West Lothian project was allocated £19,200
- Cyrenians - Building a Farm for the Future programme was allocated £19,875
- West Lothian Youth Action Project - Practical skills training and Pre-Employability programme was allocated £34,713

In October 2021 the following organisation were awarded funding:

- Enable - First Steps programme was allocated £28,792.50
- The Larder -Stage 4 Progression programme was allocated £46,007
- Street League - Connected programme was allocated £19,538
- Open Door - Community Outreach Project was allocated £17,395
- Venture Trust - Change Cycle project was allocated £25,255
- Cyrenians Farm -Linburn Walled Garden Project was allocated £17,047
- Cyrenians Farm -Fruitful Woods was allocated £19,739

Provision from the organisation listed above will run until the end of March 2022.

D4 Support to the Voluntary and Third Sector in West Lothian

In addition to the provision of grant funding to support the delivery of employability provision for young people, funding has also been made available to focus on supporting the Voluntary and Third Sector to participate in the delivery of employability provision and to increase the capacity of organisation to engage in provision.

The support will focus on engaging the sector in the Young Person's Guarantee, to support the sector to increase their capacity to create employability opportunities and participate in the delivery of employability provision across West Lothian. This will include the provision of support to enable organisation to look at how they can create employability opportunities within their organisations and how they can

delivery employability provision.

In addition to supporting the Sector to engage in the Young Person's guarantee the funding is also available to support the preparation of the Voluntary and Third Sector for changes in national funding through No One Left Behind which will be implemented in March 2022.

This support is being provided by a consortium of providers including Community Enterprise, the Voluntary Sector Gateway, West Lothian Social Enterprise Network, The Larder and Youth Action Project who were success in bidding for the delivery of the support.

E. CONCLUSION

Tacking youth unemployment remains a key priority for West Lothian Council and Partners. The additional resources, being provided to Voluntary and Third Sector in West Lothian will provide the ability to increase current capacity within the sector to provide additional support for young people and increase the number and capacity of organisations delivering employability support.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments: none

Contact Person: Clare Stewart, Employability Manager, Tel: 01506 281100,
Clare.stewart@westlothian.gov.uk

Craig McCorriston
Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration

Date of meeting 4 November 2021

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

VOLUNTARY SECTOR GATEWAY WEST LoTHIAN UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update the panel on the current activities being undertaken by Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian in providing an effective single point of access for support and advice and representing the interests of voluntary and community groups within West Lothian.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the panel:

1. Notes the positive outcomes in regard to the work undertaken by Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian in supporting and representing the interests of voluntary and community groups within West Lothian.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs. Being honest, open and accountable. providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	The report does not raise any health or risk assessment issues. No strategic environmental assessment is required.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	We live in resilient, cohesive and sae communities.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	£48,770 has been awarded to VSGWL from the Voluntary Organisations budget for 2021/22.

VII Consideration at PDSP

The Voluntary Organisations PDSP is updated on a quarterly basis.

VIII Other consultations

None.

D. TERMS OF THE REPORT

D.1 Background

The role of the third sector interface (TSI) is to provide an effective single point of access for support and advice for the third sector within a local area. It is expected that the TSI will provide a strong cohesive conduit between the third sector and the local authority and Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and that it is well managed, governed and effective.

The TSI operating in West Lothian is the Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian (VSGWL). The VSGWL is a member of the West Lothian CPP. VSGWL receives a grant from the Scottish Government Third Sector Unit and received £48,770 from West Lothian Council in 2021/22.

D.2 Current update

An update from the Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian is attached as Appendix 1.

E CONCLUSION

The panel is asked to note the report but the Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian and that the PDSP will receive regular updates going forward.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: none

Contact Person:

Douglas Grierson, Regeneration Team Leader, tel: 01506 281088; email douglas.grierson@westlothian.gov.uk

Craig McCorriston,
Head of Planning Economic Development and Regeneration

04 November 2021



*Promoting, Supporting and Developing
West Lothian's Voluntary Sector*

Progress report on Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian (VSGWL)

To be presented at Voluntary Organisations Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on the 4th November 2021.

- We continue to deliver on our outcomes on building capacity of the sector, volunteering and capturing the voice of the sector.
- Representatives from the Third Sector are continuing to work closely with Council Officials as part of a funding Working Group.
 - The Group continues to support the Voluntary Orgs Revenue Budget decision-making process and discussing ways of improving the arrangements moving forward.
 - VSGWL has issued survey to the sector to identify their current and future training and support needs. It is hoped this will form part of a longer-term business transformation and training strategy for the sector.
 - Survey also promoted at TSSG meetings. Deadline for responses is 29th October. Results will be discussed at next Working Group meeting and way forward agreed.

2nd Annual VSGWL third sector summit – Wed 3rd Nov (10am-12pm)

At the time of writing plans are progressing well for the second annual VSGWL summit that will showcase the role and value of the third sector – ‘Communities First in a transformed West Lothian’. The summit will be held online and follow a similar approach to last year’s event with keynote speakers and a range of themed breakout rooms. Anna Fowlie, CEO SCVO and Cllr Sullivan are confirmed speakers. A verbal update on the event will be provided at the Panel meeting.

VSGWL is chairing weekly meetings with a handful of representatives from the Sector and Dougie Grierson to develop the programme which will be issued on Wednesday 27th Oct. Unfortunately, the IJB has also just recently announced another event at the same date and time as the summit. Both events would be attractive to many health and social care professionals however this timing clash will leave some being disappointed.

Funding opportunity

The Scottish Government announced a new £15m Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund on Friday 15 October. The Fund, which will be administered by TSIs, will be aimed at small, grass roots community organisations that support individuals experiencing inequalities, mental health, trauma etc.

Working closely with colleagues in Health and Social Care Partnership and Community Planning Partnership, VSGWL will be coordinate and manage applications and look to ensure the timely distribution of monies. Application forms and guidance notes are in the

process of being developed. Full details about the funds will be announced in the coming days with the application process going live during November.

VSGWL will also be responsible for producing an evaluation report at the end of March 2022.

Plans for a New National Care Service for Scotland

The Scottish Government is consulting on wide ranging plans for how social care in Scotland is delivered. The proposed changes have implications for many organisations in the third sector especially those supporting children and families, community justice, alcohol and drug services, elements of mental health as well as unpaid carers. The proposed shake up has also significant implications for the future of IJBs, with the consultation seeking to centralise accountability.

VSGWL secured a short information and Q&A session aimed specifically at the third sector by the Head of Service from the National Care Service Consultation team on 21st October. The event was attended by a number of reps from the sector.

The 43 page easy read (!) version of the consultation is attached here - [Easy Read NCS consultation](#)

The TSSG continues to meet regularly to share best practice, knowledge and identify risk and opportunities.

VSGWL staffing update

Following an internal review of VSGWL, two new roles are being created within the organisation. Interviews are taking place 28th October for the Development Officer (Partnerships) role. The Operations Manager role was re-advertised following disappointing response to original recruitment. Closing date for applications is 12th November with interviews scheduled for 3rd December. Once in post, the role will further strengthen the support we can offer.

Trustee Week

Plans are being developed to promote the role and value of trustees during Trustee Week (1-5 Nov). This is a positive endorsement of the role played by individuals who are trustees on Boards

Presented by Alan McCloskey
Chief Executive Officer
VSGWL

25th October 2021

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

WEST LOTHIAN SOCIAL ENTERPRISE NETWORK UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update the panel on the current activities being undertaken by West Lothian Social Enterprise Network (WLSSEN) in providing an effective single point of access for support and advice and representing the interests of social enterprises within West Lothian.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the panel:

1. Notes the positive outcomes in regard to the work undertaken by West Lothian Social Enterprise Network in supporting and representing the interests of the social enterprise sector within West Lothian.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs. Being honest, open and accountable. providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	The report does not raise any health or risk assessment issues. No strategic environmental assessment is required.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	£31,500 has been awarded to WLSSEN from the Voluntary Organisation budget for 2021/22.

VII Consideration at PDSP

The Voluntary Organisations PDSP is updated on a quarterly basis.

VIII Other consultations

None.

D. TERMS OF THE REPORT

D.1 Background

West Lothian Council is committed to supporting the development of more enterprising and sustainable third sector that contributes to the key Community Planning Partnership outcomes.

D.2 Current update

A report from WLSSEN on the activities they have undertaken since the previous meeting of the panel is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

E CONCLUSION

The Panel is asked to note the update report but the West Lothian Social Enterprise Network (WLSSEN) that the PDSP will receive regular updates going forward.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix 1 WLSSEN update

Contact Person:

Douglas Grierson, Regeneration Team Leader, tel: 01506 281088; email douglas.grierson@westlothian.gov.uk

Craig McCorriston
Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration

04 November 2021

Report to Voluntary Sector Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel
4 November 2021
 (Report period 20/8/2021 to 21/10/2021)



WLSen's Mission

At WLSen we are supporting our Network members to recover from the impacts of the pandemic and help them thrive. We are also raising awareness of the social enterprise sector's role in delivering a fairer, more inclusive, and sustainable economy.

1. WLSen Team and Board

Our new Membership Co-ordinator joined WLSen on 13 September 2021 (contract expires March 2022). The Co-ordinator will play a critical role in raising awareness of WLSen, amplifying our messages through digital communications, and supporting Network development. The Co-ordinator is developing a communication and engagement strategy, building on a stakeholder mapping exercise. This will help us prioritise our workstreams while maximising impact.

Maria Throp has taken up role of interim Chair as Paul Renwick steps back from WLSen after joining in 2017. Adele Prendergast is replacing Victoria Pearce as Treasurer. June Dickson has also stepped back. We express our sincere thanks to Paul and Victoria for their long service to WLSen, and June for providing specialist advice around mental health support services. We welcome Angela Moohan to the Board. Recruitment of an additional two Board members is in progress.

2. Amplifying WLSen's voice and supporting members

Our member has engaged continued over last quarter through delivery of:

- **Weekly news** (Three Things for Thursday) – A total of 9 have been delivered up to 21 October 2021. We are pleased and encouraged to see an increasing level of engagement from 49% in last quarter to 53.8% given that it spans school holiday periods. The highest recorded rate was 61.4%, this far exceeds our peers' average click rate of 45.6%.
- **Monthly Newsletter** – 3 newsletters have been delivered with an average click rate of 55.3%, an increase of 5% from last quarter. In response to member feedback, we are sharing information about national initiatives and engagement opportunities like Third Sector Collaboration Week, Poverty Week, and climate news.
- **Social media** – The last quarter has seen another significant increase in Twitter engagement in response to our posts about learning and funding opportunities, members' events and supporting stakeholders' posts. The number of followers and 'mentions' have increased with over 4,000 'impressions' over a 28-day period up to 20 October. WLSen's Facebook page is not live now. We will look at social media channels as part of our Communications & Engagement Strategy.

We are amplifying Network news and helping to build capacity and resilience by sharing details of learning, funding and collaboration opportunities through our regular updates and social media posts. Appendix 1 provides examples of recent WLSen's communications. We will host a 'meet WLSen' event for Network members this month, followed by a member showcase event in early December. Going forward, we plan to add an additional appendix to this PSDP report which showcases one of our Network members, highlight their activities and positive community impacts.

We are supporting the Third Sector Summit on 3 November by raising awareness of our HSCP funded mental health and wellbeing project and talking about challenges and opportunities. We held a collaborative event with Community Enterprise Ltd about understanding the Accelerator programme (21 Oct.). We also supported The Larder's bid to West Lothian Council's Young Person's Guarantee as part of a Third Sector led project team. This complements our ongoing participation in sector groups like the Third Sector Strategy Group and SENSco's network meetings. We are also connecting with other organisations and networks across sectors like Federation of Small Businesses, Chamber of Commerce and Community Enterprise in Scotland to broaden our reach and identify potential collaboration opportunities around business skills and building capacity.

3. WLSSEN Collaboration

a) Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP) Funded Project

We are making good progress in shaping the HSCP funded project to deliver from the third sector early intervention and prevention services to adults in West Lothian experiencing low to medium mental health challenges. Sixteen organisations have come forward from the Mental Health Forum to help shape and deploy this pilot project. We are also drawing down support and expertise from Wellbeing Scotland and SENS Scot. Community Enterprise Ltd is providing specialist advice in relation to the project's digital space. We plan to recruit a project worker during November who will manage the referral service on behalf of WLSSEN and the project partners.

b) Climate Action

We're excited to have created a space for [SENS Scot](#) to participate in the ['Future' Series COP26 Conference](#) in collaboration with Net Zero Scotland Community (10 Nov.) which is focused on taking tangible action in the face of the climate crisis. This provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the Third Sector's [Net Zero Strategy](#), and explore challenges and opportunities across a diverse audience including SMEs. This Strategy has been informed by a [Survey](#) of over 500 third sector organisations. Of those who responded, only 11% of organisations have measured their carbon footprint. While the social enterprise sector is more aware of the need to act and act quickly, it is critical that organisations take action to help deliver greener communities. We will raise awareness of the potential adverse impacts and risks of climate change for social enterprises, signpost learning and funding opportunities and partnership opportunities to help WLSSEN members reduce their carbon emissions.

4. Scottish Government Consultations

In collaboration with [Social Enterprise Scotland](#) and other stakeholders, WLSSEN contributed to a [representation](#) in response to the Scottish Government's consultation about a [National Strategy For Economic Transformation](#). This letter spotlights the vital economic contribution of over 6,000 social enterprises in Scotland with an estimated net worth for the whole social enterprise community of £6.1bn. It also highlights that social enterprises and other values-led businesses are vital to Scotland's green recovery. We are also supporting VSGWL is hosting a Q&A session with the Scottish Government's National Care Service Consultation Team in relation to the [Consultation](#) on how social care in Scotland is delivered. The proposed changes have implications for organisations in the third sector supporting children and families, community justice, alcohol and drug services, mental health, and unpaid carers.

5. Social Enterprise Landscape

a) Programme for Government

The Scottish Government's [Programme for Government 2021-22](#), announced in September, makes a commitment to "support businesses with alternative ownership models, including cooperatives and social enterprises...". It also states that it will "support the social enterprise sector as it works to tackle pressing social issues including homelessness and climate change – investing £5million over three years to help community organisations recover from the pandemic, give every child the opportunity to engage with a social enterprise during their time at school, and promote international social enterprises ...". These commitments are made within the context of the Social Enterprise three-year Action Plan focused on: stimulating social enterprise; developing stronger organisations; and realising market opportunity. To support social enterprises in West Lothian, we will continue to signpost, and support, organisations to tap into funding programmes and look for collaboration opportunities with corporate partners.

b) Scottish Single Intermediary Body

The Scottish Government proposals to create an enhanced single intermediary body for Social Enterprise Sector in Scotland are moving towards a competitive process. SENScot has prepared a representation to the Scottish Government, expressing their frustration about the delay and concerns that this approach could be damaging for the sector, and involve considerable time to work through the legal, financial, operational, and emotional issues involved. They have also reiterated their commitment to bring about a more consensual and constructive approach to the future development of the Intermediary Infrastructure which puts the sector's interests first. We will follow this process closely and ensure that WLSSEN's views are shared where appropriate.

c) State of Social Enterprise UK Study 2021

This year's State of Social Enterprise Survey, compiled by [Social Enterprise UK](#), called 'No Going Back' shows that social enterprises have not changed their approach over the past year, unlike other parts of our economy. *"It has acted the way it has always done, driven by its values and a desire to do what is – in the long term – in the interests of people and the planet"*. The report states that 93% of social enterprises in Scotland experienced overall negative impact on operations due to Covid and 35% faced disruption to support or services to beneficiaries. Despite covid related challenges, it also highlights the positive impact, agility and resilience of social enterprises across UK: 44% grew turnover; 74% made a profit/broke even; and 66% introduced a new product/service.

It concludes that *"we need social enterprise to become the backbone of our economy as well as our society"*. They offer demonstrable value because a significant proportion not only operate in the most deprived parts of the UK, tackling socio-economic imbalances, but they are examples of how the Government's 'levelling up' agenda can be achieved at a community level. Key messages to share in our communications with funders, partners, and allies.

6. WLSSEN's Strategic Direction

From an operational perspective, we are continuing to develop our strategic approach around how we engage and support the Network while raising the voice of the social enterprise sector in West Lothian through dialogue with our member and stakeholders. When complete, our communication and engagement strategy will help frame what we do and how we prioritise our workstreams, using the three broad actions which we shared in our last PDSP report:

- **Amplify** the voice of the social enterprise sector to influence policy and decision making.
- **Empower** social enterprises to become sustainable, resilient, and inclusive.
- **Collaborate** with others to create ecological and socially just communities through action.

Over a longer timeframe, we are ambitious about helping our members to make strategic shifts in relation to their environmental credentials, market share and financial sustainability. We believe that collaboration will be key in shaping our strategic direction and working towards our vision.

APPENDIX 1 WLSN NETWORK ENGAGEMENT – OVERVIEW OF TOPICS

Grants and Funding Opportunities including:

- West Lothian Council's [Young Person Guarantee](#) which offers funding to create opportunities to remove barriers experienced by young people aged 16-24 and create opportunities within education/training/employment, and support progression towards a positive destination.
- West Lothian Council's **Voluntary Organisations** [Modernisation & Improvement Fund](#) to support voluntary organisations in the Council area to become more sustainable through action which helps deliver the Council's strategic priorities and/or helps build back better.
- **Ballie Gifford Grassroots Sports Fund** is aimed at supporting grassroots sports organisations. Grants are available for helping people to participate in sport by removing barriers and improving club sustainability - all ages and abilities, all sports. Up to £5k is available. Please [see here](#) for guidance and how to apply.

Training & Learning Opportunities including:

- **2050 Climate Group's** [Youth Climate Summit](#) **Let's Talk COP26** was open to young people aged 18-35 from across Scotland.
- **FirstPort Scotland/Just Enterprise** workshops, offering tailor-made for start-up social entrepreneurs including finance and legal matters.
- **Sportscotland** in partnership with Hampden Sports Clinic, the Scottish FA and Scottish Rugby, released a new, e-learning module [Supporting Mental Health](#) designed to equip coaches with the knowledge to effectively support participants and hold a conversation about mental health.
- **Borrow a Researcher** event series across [West Lothian Libraries](#) to tap into expertise of a researcher to help you explore the latest research.
- **Big Society Capital** want to take social impact investment to the next level, doubling the size of the market by 2025 and creating even greater social change.

Members News including:

- **Trash Panda's** *Sober October*. A challenge with a chance to win a big cash prize. Whatever the reason you want to give it a try; weight loss, better sleep, testing out the alcohol-free life, Trash Panda offered support and content from amazing educational people.
- **First Aid for Mental Health Training** was available through EnvironMENTAL Health CIC [Facebook](#)
- **Larder's** award recognitions including the Living Wage Scotland Awards ([Twitter](#)).

Sector News including:

- [Third Sector NetZero Strategy](#) as part of the CEIS' [SE Policy and Practice Conference](#). It has grown through cross sector collaboration. Steering Group member, Pauline Hinchion (Director at Scottish Communities Finance Ltd), has written [this blog](#), highlighting the contribution the third sector can make and the importance of collaboration. To find out more about how social enterprises are tackling climate change, please join the SES event [COP26, social enterprise & the climate emergency](#).
- Scottish Government consultation about: Review Of Intermediaries to deliver a single body which better reflects the needs of the sector in support of [Scotland's Social Enterprise Strategy 2016-2026](#); and their consultation about Appointment of a new economic council and the plan for a [National Strategy For Economic Transformation](#).
- Social Enterprise Scotland is hosting a [Buy Social Scotland Corporate Challenge launch](#). Corporate partners will join us in a discussion on what social procurement means to them, highlight work undertaken to date and share their thoughts on working with social enterprise organisations. You can also hear from social enterprise suppliers and more about the new Buy Social Scotland business site.

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

PENSIONERS GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATION 2021/22

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the Panel of the final allocations that will be made to groups from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2021-22. The Panel is asked to note the continuing impact that COVID – 19 has had on the application and allocation process regarding the fund. The Panel is also asked to note that applicants were offered, as they were in 2020, an additional option of a pre-prepared meal as an alternative to a direct grant award.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the panel:

1. The effect of COVID-19 on the arrangements regarding the Pensioners Groups Christmas Fund in 2020-21;
2. The inclusion of a meal option; and
3. 63 groups will be supported through the Pensioners Christmas Fund in 2020-21

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs. Being honest, open and accountable. providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	The report does not raise any health or risk assessment issues. No strategic environmental assessment is required.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	The Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration Services has the delegated authority to make the final allocations and payments.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	This will be reported against indicator EDR061_9b.1b; Number of community organisations funded or supported through funding managed or administered by Community Planning and Regeneration.

V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Older people are able to live independently in the community with an improved quality of life.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	£29,000 agreed by the Council.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	The Voluntary Organisations PDSP is updated annually.
VIII	Other consultations	Local Area Committees

D. TERMS OF THE REPORT

D.1 Background

Each year the Council approves the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund. In 2021-22 the total fund amounts to £29,000. The fund is allocated through an application process and funding paid out on the basis of a pro-rata allocation based on the beneficiary numbers identified by the applicants. In 2020 this saw 49 organisations and 3,372 beneficiaries supported with an allocation of £8.64 per head.

D.2 2021 and the ongoing effect of COVID-19

In 2021, as was the case in 2020, due to ongoing effect of COVID-19, many groups will not be delivering support in the same manner as usual if at all, at Christmas 2021.

In 2020, the council in partnership with the West Lothian Food Network, offered applicants the option of a pre-prepared chilled Christmas meal as an alternative to a direct grant award as a contribution towards the costs an event or activity, this option was offered again to applicants in 2021.

The meal will be prepared and delivered to groups with support from the Council's Anti-Poverty Service. The meal will be delivered to groups to deliver to their members. The value of the meal is equivalent to the amount that groups receive per capita in a grant payment.

D.3 Applications 2020/21

Officers contacted all previous recipients of the fund, 83 groups in total, by email or phone to ask if they were intending to provide a service this year and if so would they be interested in the provision of a pre-prepared meal or would they prefer a direct grant payment as before.

As a result of this work:

- 20 groups declined to apply to the fund including 6 groups that reported they had disbanded. As anticipated the groups that declined to apply did so due to the restrictions place on them by COVID-19
- 51 groups requested a grant
- 11 groups requested the meal option
- 1 group requested both the grant and meal option

As in previous years the fund is divided equally by the total number of beneficiaries, which in 2021-22 is will see £6.71 per hear allocated to 4,319 recipients. This means

there is a small underspend in the budget of £19:51. Appendix 1 shows the overall breakdown by ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide.

Due to the changes the normal application forms were not used this year. Letters and e-mails will be issued to groups in November advising them of the amount of funding they will receive in a cash payment or its equivalent in the form of a pre-prepared meal. Payments will be made to the bank accounts of groups via Pecos or BACs for those groups not on PECOS.

E CONCLUSION

The report asks the Panel to note the continued effect of COVID-19 on the uptake and allocation of the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund in 2021-22 across West Lothian and the inclusion of the prepared meal option provided this year.

The report advises of the allocations that will be made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2021-22 to groups across West Lothian.

Letters and e-mails will be issued to groups in November advising them of the amount of funding they will receive in a grant payment or its equivalent in the form of a pre-prepared meal. Payments will be made to the bank accounts of groups via Pecos or BACs for those groups not on PECOS.

A satisfaction survey will be conducted with all applicants in January 2021.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix. Final allocation by ward

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Craig McCorriston
Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration

4 November 2021

APPENDIX 1

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2021-22

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

Appendix 1: Allocations 2021-22 to Pensioners Groups

Ward or Area	Number of Beneficiaries 2021-22	Global Unit Cost 2021-22	Amount 2021-22
Armadale & Blackridge	232	£6:71	£1,556:72
Bathgate & Boghall	290	£6:71	£1,945:90
Broxburn, Uphall & Winchburgh	218	£6:71	£1,462:78
East Livingston & East Calder	686	£6:71	£4,603:06
Fauldhouse & Breich Valley	1,061	£6:71	£7,119:31
Linlithgow	160	£6:71	£1,073:60
Livingston North	280	£6:71	£1,878:80
Livingston South	329	£6:71	£2,207:59
Whitburn & Blackburn	173	£6:71	£1,160:83
Livingston-Wide	67	£6:71	£449:57
West Lothian-Wide	823	£6:71	£5,522:33
Totals	4,319	£6:71	£28,980:49

Note: 63 groups applied to the fund. 20 groups declined to apply to the fund including 6 that reported that they had disbanded. There is a small underspend of £19:51 on the budget.

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

THIRD SECTOR AND WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present the previously agreed Annual Report produced with the Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian. The report gives a general overview of the partnership working including finding, planning groups and other support during the financial year 2020/21 and some information of funding committed in the first part of 2021/22.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that panel:

- Consider and note the contents of the report;

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs. Being honest, open and accountable. providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Appropriate assessments of projects will be carried out as required.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None, although the report sets out a one-off delegate for the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration to approve and disburse grant funding in April 2021.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	CPP's are now required to prepare a Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) in place of Single Outcome Agreement (SOA). The proposal does not raise any matters of conflict with the SOA/LOIP.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Various Council budgets

VII Consideration at PDSP

Regular reports are provided to PDSP on the Vol Orgs budget. This is the first report dealing specifically with the allocation for 2021/22.

VIII Other consultations

Third Sector Working Group

D. TERMS OF THE REPORT

D.1 Background

As part of the Third Sector Partnership and Voluntary Organisations Budget 2021/22 paper presented to the Panel in September there was a commitment to producing an Annual Report in partnership with the Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian. This annual report would aim to bring together an overview of the partnership work between the Council and third sector to show progress and articulate the overall financial value of the various methods of support and Council's ongoing investment in the sector, as well as how this work has met the priorities and needs of our communities, including highlighting issues that need to be addressed moving forward.

It would help to bring together a wider picture that tried to show how the guiding principles set out and agreed by the Third Sector Working Group were being met not in general.

Three areas were identified to cover:

- Participation in decision making and planning
- Investment and funding support for the Third Sector
- Third Sector and Volunteering

D.2 Annual Report

The Annual Report is attached as Appendix 1 and pulls together a wide overview of West Lothian Council's engagement and funding of the Third Sector and highlights just how vital working with the sector is to supporting our community.

It covers a wide range of services interaction as part of this overview but does not go into depth. It is not for the Panel to scrutinise those elements that are rightly reported in more detail to other PDSP's and Council Executive by the lead services. What it is trying to show is the bigger picture for, possibly, the first time and is hopefully helpful to the panel to see this in one place, where it isn't necessarily presented together in other fora.

It is fair to say that there may be some gaps and it is not definitive though every effort was made to do so.

If the panel find this helpful and something to be developed for future years Officers and VSGWL are keen to get the panel's feedback on this first report and what could be done to improve the structure going forward. For example, one aspect touched upon in the report is the need to better understand the other funding drawn into West Lothian by the sector to show the true value the sector brings whether that is funding that can match Council support or delivers other projects that benefit our community.

E CONCLUSION

West Lothian Council recognises that the third sector plays a hugely important role in the fabric of society and both compliments and adds values to the work of West Lothian Council in delivering the support our communities need. It is vital that our partnership working is strengthened and developed. The development of an annual report that pulls together 12 months work will provide a good opportunity to reflect on as well as highlight the work being done.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Voluntary Organisations PDSP, 24 September 2020

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=46334>

Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix 1: Annual Report

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Craig McCorriston
Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration

19 November 2020



Annual Report 2020/21 (April 2020 to Summer 2021)

Content:

1. Introduction
2. Voluntary Sector overview
3. Partnership Working
4. Funding
5. Other support
6. Conclusion

Introduction

The last 18 months have been unlike any other. The Covid-19 pandemic has loomed large over all our communities, changing the way we work and increased pressure on our communities.



In the Spring of 2020, a national lockdown was enforced because of Covid-19. This left many people in West Lothian feeling vulnerable, lonely and isolated, facing financial worries, unable to get food for their families and worried about their health and well-being.



West Lothian Council, Community Planning Partners, Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian (VSGWL) and the wider third sector took a leadership role and responded positively by working at pace to provide a coordinated response to provide help and support to vulnerable individuals and communities across the local area. The Third Sector played a crucial role in the emergency response, often initiating actions at a

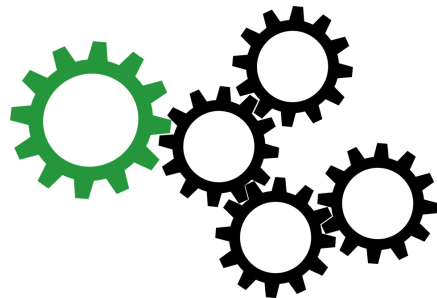
community level and working with statutory partners such as West Lothian Council and the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) to support those in need.

Through necessity it has opened up new ways of working for many and for some that will be a permanent part of how services are delivered going forward.

The work reported to the Voluntary Organisations PDSP tends to focus on the £944,000 Voluntary Organisations budget and the £450,000 Modernisation and Improvement Fund administered by Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration, as well as smaller grants such as the gala and Pensioners and the associated partnership work. However, this is only one part of the overall investment, support and partnership working that goes on. This report tries, for the first time, to broaden that out and provide an overview of the funding, support and partnership working that takes place across a number of Council Services. It is not meant to be an in-depth analysis, as much of the activity captured here is reported in more detail to other PDSPs and fora and that is the right place. It is, however, an attempt to show the range of partnership work that goes on and how some of that has been shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is not a definitive picture as links, networks and partnership working take place all the time and is not always captured easily. Similarly, with funding, there is much more investment that supports the Third Sector and Council to deliver than the investment that goes into the third sector through Council. The key importance of how the Third Sector is able to draw down funding from external funders is recognised on all sides and that this helps to deliver key support to our local communities whether geographically or thematically. This is something that needs to be better understood going forward and something Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian (VSGWL) will be looking at to provide a clearer picture of the full impact of the sector. Understanding the impact of the sector is also not simply about the ability to attract external funding it is also about what the funding is for, namely how they improve the outcomes for their users in whatever sector they operate. This is something generally recognised and is no doubt captured individually or thematically but not looked at in the round.

West Lothian Council and the Third Sector have worked closer than ever before and strengthened existing processes and relationships. This partnership approach is not just about funding but also about planning strategically to ensure a joined-up approach so that available resources best targeted to deliver for our communities.



In terms of defining the Third Sector for the purposes of the report this includes local community based organisations groups (mainly charities but some unincorporated), West Lothian wide groups, national charities operating within West Lothian, Community Development Trusts and other social enterprise models etc.)

This is the first time this information has been pulled together in one place and it is hoped that in doing so it will provide a useful and informative overview. Indeed on the investment and funding side alone there is around **£43M** (mainly 2020/21 but some in the current financial year looking slightly beyond 20/21) referred to within the report across all sectors that include grant awards, commissioned work etc., in particular the work delivered through Social Policy to support the care sector.

The feedback received will help shape future reports and provide insight to what people find useful and not so useful, anything else that could be included and indeed if it is something people would like to see in future years.

Voluntary Sector Overview – Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian

Sharing knowledge and information exchange

The Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian is the recognised Third Sector Interface in West Lothian. It is one of 32 across Scotland that represents and supports the sector both in terms of organisations but also volunteering. Throughout the crisis, VSGWL



worked closely with West Lothian Council to coordinate communications and help to jointly provide the best possible support to individuals and communities. VSGWL surveyed third sector colleagues about the support that they might be able to offer during this crisis and published a Directory of Services, including contact details, on their website. This was enhanced with information gathered by West Lothian Council about informal groups that came together locally, this was also incorporated into the online Directory.

The frequency of Third Sector Strategy Group (TSSG) meetings increased significantly during the pandemic with monthly meetings scheduled to share best practice, knowledge and identify risk and opportunities. TSSG held a virtual session for the Clerks from the Equalities and Human Rights Committee to help inform the Committee's Inquiry into the impact of Covid-19 in Summer 2020.

VSGWL chaired an important Covid-19 recovery summit to showcase the work of the third sector during the pandemic. The online event attracted 100 participants, including elected members, MPs, MSPs and a host of third sector partners. The event received very positive feedback and wide-spread recognition of the importance of the sector in the economic and social recovery and the partnership approach required to create a new West Lothian.

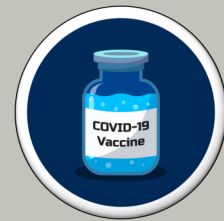
Coordination of volunteering opportunities



Over 1200 people from across West Lothian signed up to volunteer during the crisis. VSGWL created a volunteering database that allowed them to manage and respond to requests from partners for volunteers. They signposted individuals to their online Directory of Services which has details about all organisations providing help and support during the crisis.

Individuals have secured opportunities with a range of third sector partners helping with food parcel deliveries to those in need, PPE supplies to carers, medicine pick-ups and support as ward helpers in St John's. It is hoped that individuals will be able to secure long term volunteering opportunities post Covid-19. One particularly positive (and unexpected) outcome has been the number of individuals expressing interest in volunteering as trustees. Over 60 people have been sign-posted to third sector partners to help with the important role Boards play in governing and supporting voluntary organisations.

To support the vaccination process VSGWL was able to call on volunteers across West Lothian to support the mass vaccination work at the Pyramids, Bathgate. Working closely with NHS Lothian, VSGWL coordinated the astonishing public response to this volunteering support. We ensured a team of 'meet and greet' volunteers were present at three shifts per day, 7 days per week from February 2020. There were over 1674 shifts undertaken with individuals contributing over 5800 hours of volunteering support. This work was recognised by supportive Motions in the Scottish Parliament and locally by West Lothian Council.



Helping to secure third sector funding

To help support the response, it is estimated that around £900,000 of emergency funding and grants has been provided to West Lothian voluntary organisations from sources including Scottish Government and West Lothian Council. VSGWL has played an important role in highlighting all available funding for the sector. While this funding has proved extremely welcome, there is concern about the long-term sustainability of these monies and the work still required in the months ahead, particularly as much of the emergency funding has been exhausted.

£52,000 VSGWL Covid-19 fund, WLSEN and National Lottery partnership

VSGWL and West Lothian Social Enterprise Network (WLSEN) made a successful bid to partner with The National Lottery to provide a £52K emergency to support local, grass roots organisations and groups that responded to the Covid-19 pandemic. The fund was launched in May 2020 inviting organisations to apply for grants of £600 – £2,400 to help them with their plans to support local communities. VSGWL worked at speed to process applications and ensure monies distributed quickly.

The evaluation report captures the approach taken and the successful outcomes in helping those in most need in local communities with help during the crisis. In particular, the evaluation shows how organisations used funds awarded to provide support focussed on increasing health and wellbeing, reducing isolation, reducing poverty and reducing digital poverty.

TSI Network and Covid-19 lessons learned

Along with five other Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs), VSGWL worked with Evaluation Support Scotland (ESS) on a TSI Covid-19 learning project. ESS gathered case studies and research on the direct role played by TSIs, third sector and communities in the covid-19 response. They also captured information on what's worked well and lessons learned. Locally, interviews with key stakeholders from West Lothian Council and IJB were secured and their contributions were included in the final report presented to the Scottish Government in Spring 2021.

Value of collaboration

Key learning from the pandemic is the collaboration that worked well at all levels from grassroots community groups to local and national government. Barriers were removed and silos were broken down, allowing effective, agile and responsive delivery of services where needed. The issue now is how this can be translated into sustainable system-level change and prevent a creep back to `business as usual`.

Working collaboratively and innovatively can help to make best use of limited resources but this must include communities. Co-production can be achieved however communities need to be supported by trusted organisations with improved lines of communication with national and local government as well as the wider public sector locally. The Third Sector is ideally placed to do this.

The pandemic has proved that localism and place was the right focus. Approaches like Community Wealth Building, Community Empowerment, Community Asset transfer etc. offer a fantastic opportunity as we move forward and build on this increased partnership working and volunteering that we have seen over the last 18 months at a local level where the Third Sector is often best placed to deliver that support.

West Lothian Social Enterprise Network (WLSN)

Social Enterprise Network (WLSN) are the other West Lothian wide umbrella body. WLSN is jointly funded by WLC and VSGWL and work closely with them to provide a members network to support existing and developing Social Enterprise's and provide a range of services to their members to grow the sector and develop sustainability. The focus is broadly around advocacy, engagement, capacity building, research and looking at the green recovery going forward. They link members to funding (such as Just Enterprise) and other vital sector information thought contacts to Senscot and Social Enterprise Scotland and help develop national strategy.

They work closely with and complement the work of Business Gateway in term of Social Enterprise support and Development.

During 2020/21 as mental health became a clear area of rising concern, due to COVID-19, they have taken a lead on developing the Mental Health Network, a network of local mental health organisations. This is looking at the experience of the Food Network to see what lessons could help develop support around mental health. To support this work £100,000 has been allocated by West Lothian Council and led by Health.

Partnership and Strategic Working

Whilst funding is vital for any organisation delivering services, partnership working and sharing of expertise is also vital to bring together the knowledge and to shape strategy and policy to have the best chance of getting it right within finite resources. The establishment and development of the Third Sector Working Group to link between the Council and the Third Sector has been vital to much of the work reported to the Voluntary Organisations PDSP in recent years; in particular around the funding streams scrutinised by the PDSP.

This approach is reflected across a wide range of partnership structures, from the Community Planning Partnership Board to community level and the development of locality plans where the Third Sector is key to planning, sharing best practice and taking actions forward based on where the gaps are. This maximises the ability for limited resources to be best targeted to address the key priorities for our communities. Below shows some examples of where this takes place:

- Community Planning Partnership
- Third Sector Working Group
- PDSPs (allows for one representative of the recognised voluntary sector interface)
- Community Safety weekly and 6 weekly Tasking/Tactical
- Children and Families
- Older People Forum
- Community Learning and Development Steering Board
- HYPE Steering Group,
- Trusted Professionals Network,
- DYW Steering Board,
- Anti-Poverty Steering Group
- West Lothian Macmillan Cancer Support Advisory Board
- West Lothian Anti-Poverty Task Force
- West Lothian Anti-Poverty Practitioners Group
- West Lothian Debt Forum
- Energy Advice Group
- Child Poverty Reference Group
- Rapid Rehousing Transition Board (oversees the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan)
- RRTP Health and Wellbeing Working Group
- RRTP Housing Support and Housing First Working Group
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan Working group
- Access Forum
- Community Justice
- WL Digital Inclusion Partnership
- West Lothian Local Alcohol Licensing Forum
- The 13 local regeneration planning groups in the bottom 20% SIMD Data Zones
- Community Education Associations (35 supported by council officers)

Investment

As noted in the introduction, the focus for the Voluntary Organisations PDSP has tended to be on the budgets administered by Economic Development and Regeneration and regularly reported to the panel. In terms of funding administered by West Lothian Council this is only a relatively small part overall with many other services providing funding to the third sector with Social Policy by far the biggest contributor.

Below gives a broad overview of funding and partnership working across a range of services and provides a flavour of the vital role the third sector plays in helping our communities.

Economic Development and Regeneration

In 2020/21 **£2,195,845** went to community organisations through the service all through application based on programmes detailed below.

Also referenced is the **£1,327,861.50** committed to Third Sector Groups for work in 2021/22 and £1,996,728.50 awarded in 2019/20 for work in 2020/21.

At the start of 2020/21 the **£944,000** Voluntary Organisations budget was allocated to 23 organisations as part of a one year rollover. This was right at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and the priorities from that were used to guide the new grant process delivered in consultation with the Third Sector Work Group to support groups in 2021/22.

The Third Sector Community Support Fund (with some additional funding from other funding streams) saw 29 West Lothian Third Sector Organisations awarded a total allocation **£1,154,728.50**. A further **£285,000** of funding was allocated in 2020/21 to further support the 29 organisations to help with core costs and allow more funding to support COVID-19 recovery. This meant a total **£1,412,988.25** was allocated to support work being delivered in 2021/22 from a mix of 2020/21 and 2021/22 funding.

The Modernisation and Improvement Funding also allocated **£170,728.50** to groups in 2019/20 for work in 2020/21 to help them modernise but was offered due to timing to allow them to best use that funding for the purposes of support the COVID response.

A further **£96,570** from the hardship fund was allocated to support the recovery in 2020/21.

Additional Scottish Government Funding was received to support the **Young Persons Guarantee** to help young people into employment. In **2020/21 £108,459** was awarded to four organisations to support this programme and in **2021/22** another **£173,733.50** has been awarded to seven applicants.

West Lothian Development Trust - The Service also administers the wind farm monies through a Trust and awards funding to local community organisations in eligible areas. In 2020/21 eight awards were made to local groups to the value of **£103,816**.

Town Centre Fund - £2.484M capital fund from the Scottish Government supported around 170 projects over 2019/20 (£1.826M) and 2020/21 (£658,000) for projects to be delivered within 2020/21 and completed by mid 2021/22. The Council allocated funding on a ward basis for projects to be delivered either directly by community organisations (Third

Social Policy

In **2020/21** a total of **£29,755,481** was paid to third sector bodies through commissioned services, grants, spot purchase, block payment etc. In Adults and Older People services, there was **£20.3m** expenditure on care homes, care at home, supported accommodation, day care and other related services such as advocacy and carer support. In Children & Families, there was **£9.5m** expenditure on external placements for children, care for children with disabilities, supported accommodation, and other support to families.

There are several new programmes that came in during the period that provide key support:

Winter Protection Fund is a national programme developed to mitigate social harm posed by the concurrent risks of COVID-19, winter cost of living increases and EU exit, as well as to promote equality and human rights. Locally **£150,000** has been allocated to fund the '**Return of Children to West Lothian**', this multi-disciplinary approach with the third sector, **The Rock Trust, Open Door, Action for Children, Bethany** along with internal WLC partners allows support and accommodation packages for the planned move of young people back within authority.

£40,000 has been allocated to **Lifelong Links**, an accredited approach delivered to children and young people who are looked after away from home. The intervention enables young people to maintain meaningful contact with family members and significant people throughout the time they are away from their family and ultimately throughout their lives. **Children 1st** receive funding from the **Family Rights Group** to pilot this approach in West Lothian and have done so successfully.

£9,700 has been allocated to **Mellow Ready** to support engagement with risk taking vulnerable young people on the edge of care who have experienced various trauma triggers to divert them from negative choices and avoid teenage pregnancy etc.

£30,000 has been allocated for the purchase of 500 on-line Triple P Licences to allow for parenting groups to be provided virtually.

Mental Health Development

Coming out of COVID mental health has become a key area for focus. West Lothian Council received funding from the Scottish Government to be used to deliver new and enhanced community based mental health and emotional wellbeing support for children, young people, their families and carers. It is hoped that this funding will become an annual award.

The Council decided to work through the PSP and with the Third Sector to deliver this support. The result saw **£127,750** allocated in 2020/21 to support this between January and March 2021, with a further **£511,000** made available for delivery in 2021/22 to deliver new and enhanced community based mental health and emotional wellbeing supports and services for children, young people, their families and carers. This included awards of **£50,000 to Safe Families; £37,000 to WLYAP** and **£37,000 to Children 1st**.

A West Lothian Council grant of **£383,250** has been identified for the Mental Health PSP, which will be led by **Children 1st** in partnership with **Action for Children, Carers of West Lothian, Family and Community Development West Lothian Safe Families, Signpost, Wellbeing Scotland, WLDAS, WLYAP and Firefly**. This will meet the growing demand for mental health and wellbeing support for children, young people and their families to improve and sustain emotional health and wellbeing.

The **Wellbeing Recovery Group (WRG)** have identified an increase in demand for mental health and wellbeing support for children, young people and their families. An accessible, multi-agency support approach based on need will ensure there is 'no wrong door' for anyone seeking support, ensuring a soft introduction to the service and collaboration with partners to meet that person's needs.

A new **West Lothian Mental Health Providers Network**, modelled on the Food Network approach, has been allocated **£100,000** by West Lothian Council, in December 2020, to develop a partnership approach to coordinate local mental health support. Our NHS partners are the commissioning lead for this with WLSN supporting the local Mental Health organisations.

Vulnerable Due to Young Age Public Social Partnership has been designed to involve the third sector earlier and more deeply in the design, commissioning of and delivery of services which will support Young People who are identified as Vulnerable Due to Young Age. **WLC Social Policy, WLC Housing, The Rock Trust, Action for Children, Bethany Trust and Open Door** manage an overall budget of **£946,644**. This has been proportionately split between all third sector agencies with referrals from, but not limited to: Social Work, Youth Justice, CYPT, Housing, Education, Health, West Lothian College and also between providers services.

Domestic and Serious Assault Team (DASAT)

The **Domestic and Serious Assault Team (DASAT)** work alongside several third sector agencies to support women and children affected by domestic abuse and or sexual assault. These groups include, **West Lothian Women's Aid, Shakti Women's Aid (Edinburgh), River Kids, Wellbeing Scotland, The Foodbank, The School Bank West Lothian**

Early identification of allocated support workers from **Action for Children** and **Open Door** also allow joined up work with Social Work, the young person and their care provider to develop a transition plan for the young person leaving care and moving into supported accommodation.

Education and Sport

The Education Service works with Third Sector providers in a number of areas and includes a major contribution to West Lothian Leisure. Below shows some of that funding with **£5,047,156** committed in 2020/21. There is additional monies through PEF for example that is not included in this as well the **£577,000** School Counselling monies referred to below of which some of the funding, as noted is going to Third Sector partners..

Also listed is funding in 2021/22 of **£189,000** that went to Third Sector organisations from

The School Counselling funding of **£577,000** from Scottish Government includes elements of work being delivered by voluntary organisation partners in the following way:

Wellbeing Scotland – Primary school counselling service for all primary schools for children aged 10 years and up.

All secondary schools (including The Skills Centre) have been provided with **£25,000** to procure their own school counselling services. Cedarbank receives **£10,000** to procure a specialist therapist for pupils with significant learning needs. This means that currently, our secondary schools are working with 4 main providers locally, namely: **SMILE, Your Space, TCS (Therapeutic Counselling Services) and an independent provider for Cedarbank.**

In 2020/21 **CLD Youth Services** administered 15 awards to £62,381 in grants to 11 organisations, this was £43,181 WL Council budget and £19,200 from the Scottish Government 's Youth Work Education Recovery Fund.

More recently in 2021/22 from the £541,000 available to suppose the summer programmes for our young people £189,000 went to Third Sector organisations.

£20,000 from the Voluntary Organisations Budget is available each year to support Playgroups who can apply and receive an annual grant if they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. In 2020/21 12 local organisations benefits from this funding.

Playgroups and the Blackburn Family Centre also provide funded placements for eligible 2 year olds (funded separately from the ELC expansion monies per place).

Active Schools and Community Sport

Opportunities to participate in sports and physical activities have been significantly constrained through the pandemic and participation rates have dropped, particularly amongst key target groups. In these challenging times, the value of sports and physical activities to physical and mental health and wellbeing, however, has never been more apparent.

Community sports clubs, their members and volunteers are a fundamental, and often unacknowledged, part of the third sector landscape in West Lothian. Funding is currently provided through **the Sporting Grants scheme**. In 2020-2021 it was recognised that Covid had impacted all sports clubs and organisations and in order to support the return to sport, small recovery grants were made available. 32 sports clubs received a grant of £250 each. There were also 16 additional grants awarded giving a total allocation of **£49,775**.

Sports clubs and organisations were also provided support via the West Lothian Club Network across 2020/21 with 83 attending workshops to help with the return to sport. These were themed following a consultation with clubs.

The Network is made up of 43 'Accredited' and 12 'Verified' Sports Clubs. WLC also fund and support Clubsport West Lothian which is an independent body that represent local clubs, individuals and associations and allocate small grants. There is also a 'Partnership Network' which includes representatives from sports clubs and organisations (third sector) who have paid staffing, West Lothian Leisure, Scottish Governing Bodies of Sport and other relevant partners from across the sporting landscape in West Lothian.

An additional **£45,000** was provided to the Council by sportscotland to supplement the wider Get Into Summer investment. AS&CS has extended this provision into a project called 'Beyond Summer' which will support community clubs and partners to continue to make provision for target populations and build in sustainable models.

Also, in terms of Third Sector delivery of sport locally West Lothian Council awarded West Lothian Leisure **£4.87M** in 2020/21.

Anti-Poverty Service

Food Insecurity has been a significant area of support prior to COVID-19 but has been central to the COVID-19 response.

In 2020/21 the council received £1.045m as its share of Scottish Government Funding to alleviate food insecurity during COVID-19. This was topped up with £177,000 from the Third Sector Hardship Fund to create a fund of £1,222,000. From that funding there was focus on the development of existing strong partnership work on food insecurity which had been mapped out prior to COVID-19. £150,000 previously committed to support the development of a food network, was used to support the COVID-19 response, for example allowing small organisations to apply for membership to Fareshare which provides surplus food to community groups.

West Lothian Food Network grew from 26 to 39 organisations, with the Food Bank the lead partner, received **£756,499** in 2020/21 which has supported over 4,000 people every week to access food.

Looking ahead West Lothian Council committed **£1.2M** for 21/22 and 22/23 in February 2021 with **£596,811** committed to the Food Network in 2021/22.

Housing and Homelessness

From the core Homeless budget of **£70,000** was paid to Bethany Christian Trust and from the ADP/RRTP money there was payment of **£96,563** to Cyrenians and **£35,250** to Rock Trust in 2020/21.

Environmental

The Council's NETS, Land and Countryside and Planning work closely with national third sector groups like the **Green Action Trust (GAT)**, though this work has been affected by COVID but will pick up again moving forward. GAT (and the predecessor organisations CSFT / CSGNT) have worked with the Council for a number of years and are able to access external funding to help develop and deliver local projects around West Lothian. This well-established partnership has helped identify and secure significant additional external funding towards supporting these projects and representatives attend several related planning groups, including Local Biodiversity Action Plan Working group and Access Forum.

New links to **Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust** has started to develop over the Shale Trail implementation as they hosted the Project Manager for this £300,000 (LEADER/HLF) project and they are delivering some of the WL 'Climate Emergency' Fund projects.

West Lothian Litter Pickers

There are a number of volunteer litter picking groups operating within West Lothian. Currently the most prominent of these is West Lothian Litter Pickers (WLLP). Officers have built a good relationship with committee members of WLLP and meet with them on a quarterly basis. These meetings have allowed joint working to resolve various issues. The Council has provided **£30,000** worth of equipment (litter picks and bag hoops) to the group in the last 18 months and continues to provide clear plastic refuse sacks for the litter they collect. The Council also meets the landfill costs of disposing of the litter collected by the group.

The large membership and regular litter picking events of WLLP and other groups has created various operational challenges for the Cleaner Communities team and the council has provided **£165,000** in one off, time limited funding to help support the service and resolve these challenges. This has allowed the recruitment of dedicated staff to uplift the rubbish collected by WLLP and other litter picking groups. This funding will also contribute to the increase in disposal costs resulting from groups litter picking areas that WLC staff would not normally cover.

Other support and funding

More generally, there are also small pots of funding to support our older people with a treat at Christmas with **£29,000** allocated to support this each year as well as other dedicated funding that is distributed such as the Elected Member Disbursement funds.

Business Gateway Third Sector Support

Business Gateway has a full-time dedicated officer who delivers high quality customer focused business advice and support to a varied portfolio of existing and new start social enterprises in West Lothian. Support is tailored to the needs of individual organisations and includes advice on areas such as business planning, finance raising, grant and loan applications, property, community benefit leases, asset transfers, income generation, governance and sustainability. In addition, the service signposts and refers social enterprises to the wider network of support programs available both locally and nationally. Business Gateway also works closely with the **West Lothian Social Enterprise Network** (the recognised body promoting, supporting and developing social enterprise in West Lothian) to ensure network members receive the business support they need.

From April 2020 to the end of March 2021 Business Gateway supported 93 social enterprises in West Lothian to assist them with their business planning and sustainability, as well as assisting them to access the range of specialist advice and funding that became available in response to the COVID 19 pandemic.

From April 2021 to the end of September 2021 Business Gateway supported 43 social enterprises across West Lothian. During this time 16 organisations have also received specialist business support and advice from the Business Gateway service on Community Asset Transfers.

In addition, council officers work closely with Third Sector organisations in area such as Community Asset Transfer and supporting funding applications. They are currently working with the TSSG to develop suitable training opportunities for the sector with a view to putting this in place for in 2022.

The development of Community Choices has seen in the case of the Blackburn Pilot, £25,000 distributed to a number of local third sector groups to deliver small local projects identified by the community. A second pilot planned for Craigshill is likely to see funding similarly going to small scale community projects delivered by locally based community groups. This will develop further as the use of community choices evolves and is rolled out across various service areas.

Conclusion

As evidenced, the partnership work between West Lothian Council, Community Planning Partners and the Third Sector is well established and the effects of COVID-19 have strengthened relationships. It will be vital to consolidate and build on these going forward. The sheer scale of the work all partners have delivered has been incredible. It has also brought other significant hurdles around:

- Concerns around income generation and longer-term financial uncertainty;
- Increased demand for services and capacity issues;
- Volunteer drift and staff burnout;
- Mental health and well-being issues facing staff and volunteers; and
- the extent and impact on inequalities and exclusion in disadvantaged communities

There has been a huge range of different and complex challenges facing the third sector during the pandemic. Responding at pace and moving to providing many services digitally was one of the early challenges.

There is little question of the importance of the Third Sector across all the areas of work set out in this report. It is also clear that investment will remain central to what can and can't be delivered and over what time frame.

Opportunities

Investment will always be vital to how this can work. It is clear that during the last 18 months significant additional funding has been accessed to support the response and whilst welcome and important in delivering this support to our local communities. This has often increased capacity within organisations, but much of the financial support was one off funding. This is likely to mean that the overall funding available going forward will reduce across the board (Scottish Government, Lottery/Trusts, Council and UK) due to a number of one off sources of funding that have come through during COVID-19. Whilst this should be expected where one off funding happens, it does mean that some of the works and services that are being delivered with that will need to identify other sources of investment or other ways of delivering. This report primarily focusses on funding that has come through West Lothian Council but more work is needed to better understand the funding also brought in by the Third Sector both locally and nationally to deliver those services. This is a piece of work VSGWL will be looking to do in the coming year.

A better understanding of this will help not just by providing a better picture but offer the opportunity for better alignment and conversation in planning activities, be that around match funding or developing partnership applications. The pandemic has shone a light on levels of funding the sector receives and the need for more investment is crucial to work together to better support local communities and those in need. The question of collaboration and collaborative funding applications is an area that may need more investigation with some funding streams looking specifically at this approach and clearly address strategic priorities. This may attract larger pots of external funding, probably something that has not been developed as much as it might have.

As part of moving forward there are developing frameworks and approaches that offer a way of empowering our communities and ensure the local economy works for all. The developing work around Community Wealth Building, for example as West Lothian Council has firmly committed to that approach along with existing areas coming out of community empowerment, such as asset transfer, community choices as well as developing further the strategic approach and partnership working set out here will provide the basis for making sure our communities needs are met.

Summary of Annual Report

£43,000,000

across all sectors covered in this report

Voluntary Sector Gateway



1200

people signed up to volunteer during the crisis

Approx. **£900,000** emergency funding provided to Vol Orgs by Scottish Government and West Lothian Council



£52,000 National Lottery emergency funding administered by VSGWL Covid-19

Partnership & Strategic Working



Over 40 partners groups involve representatives of third sector organisations.

Housing and Homelessness

£201,813
paid out



- **£70,000** paid to: Bethany Christian Trust
- **£96,563** paid to: Cyrenians
- **£35,250** paid to: Rock Trust

Environmental



West Lothian Litter Pickers

£30,000 of equipment provided in the last 18 months.

Continue to provide clear plastic refuse sacks.

£165,000 one off, time limited funding to help support the WLC Cleaner Communities team to uplift rubbish collected.



Economic Development & Regeneration

£5,520,435
total grants paid out



Voluntary Organisation budget(23 Groups) **£944,000**

£170,728.50

Modernisation & Improvement Fund

3rd Sector Community Support Fund

£1,154,728.50

(29 Groups)

£285,000

Additional Core Cost Funding



£2,480,000

Town Centre Funding

£96,570

Hardship Fund

Young Persons Guarantee



20/21 **£108,459**

21/22 **£173,733.50**

West Lothian Development Trust

20/21 - **£103,816**



Pensioners Xmas 2020/21

£29,000 towards a meal or event



- supported **93** social enterprises with business planning and sustainability.
- supported in 2021/22 (to date) **43** social enterprises.



16 organisations have received specialist business support/advice on Community Asset Transfers.



Anti-Poverty Service

£2,106,499
paid out



£150,000

to support development of food network during Covid-19

West Lothian Food Network grew from 26 to 39 organisations



£756,499 in 2020/21
£596,811 (£1.2M total up to 22/23) committed to the Food Network in 2021/22

Social Policy

£29,755,481
total grants paid out



£20.3 Million

on care and carer support for Adults and Older People.

Children & Families, £9.5m expenditure on external placements for children, care for children with disabilities, supported accommodation, and other support to families.



£9.5 Million



Supported the national Winter Protection Fund

Locally **£150,000** has been allocated to fund the 'Return of Children to West Lothian'.



Education

£5,236,156

+ £577,000 shared between schools some of which may be paid to 3rd Sector

2020/21 CLD Youth Services administered
15 awards to **11** orgs.

£62,381

(£43,181 WLC & £19,200 ext.)



£189,000

for summer programmes 2021/22

Support Playgroups

£20,000



Sporting Grants scheme 2020/21

£41,775

• 32 sports clubs grants
• 16 additional grants

Provided to the Council by sportscotland - Get Into Summer investment.

£45,000

2020/21 West Lothian Leisure awarded:

£4.87 Million



The School Counselling funding of **£577,000** delivering:

- Wellbeing Scotland – counselling service for all primary school children aged 10 years +
- All secondary schools (including The Skills Centre) have been provided with **£25,000** to procure school counselling services. Cedarbank receives **£10,000** to procure a specialist therapist for pupils with significant learning needs.



Mental Health Development

£1,122,000

+ £946,644 shared between 3rd sector



£127,750

allocated in 2020/21

In 2020/21 **£511,000** was made available got community based mental health services for children, young people, their families and carers. **3** projects funded = **£124,000**

£383,250

has been identified for the Mental Health PSP



West Lothian Mental Health Providers Network

allocated

£100,000



Budget

£946,644

for Vulnerable Due to Young Age Public Social Partnership split between all third sector agencies





VOPSP Workplan November 2021

Issue	Purpose	Responsible Officer	Frequency	Date
Modernisation Fund	Update on the Modernisation Fund 2021/22 and 22/23	Douglas Grierson	As required	Feb 2022
Voluntary Organisations Funding 2021/22 and 22/23	Update on funding arrangements and monitoring	Douglas Grierson	As required	Feb 2022
Presentation from local Organisation or related (TBD)	To inform members of the work of local Organisations or related partners, funders etc in West Lothian	Douglas Grierson	Quarterly	All meetings
Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian	To update members on outcomes from joint working	Alan McCloskey	Quarterly	All meetings
West Lothian Social Enterprise Network supporting an enterprising Third Sector	To inform members of ongoing progress in developing more enterprising third sector organisations	Linda White	Quarterly	All meetings