



West Lothian  
Council

**COUNCIL EXECUTIVE**

**STRATEGY FOR TACKLING UNDER-AGE DRINKING/DIVERSIONARY ACTIVITIES  
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

**REPORT BY ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LEAD OFFICER**

**A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the alcohol diversionary funding for the Armadale and Blackridge ward as detailed below.

The contents were agreed by the Members present at the Armadale and Blackridge Local Area Committee (LAC) on 22 June 2012. Due to the meeting being inquorate the report is being referred to the Council Executive for approval.

**B. RECOMMENDATION**

To request that the Council Executive approves the Armadale and Blackridge Local Area Committee's recommendation to agree the allocation of the funding as detailed in this report.

**C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I</b>	<b>Council Values</b>	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
<b>II</b>	<b>Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	The Armadale and Blackridge LAC heard the report but could not approve it due to the LAC being inquorate. In such cases, it is appropriate for the Lead officer to refer the report to the Council Executive.
<b>III</b>	<b>Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	None

<b>IV</b>	<b>Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	None
<b>V</b>	<b>Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	Outcome 6 - We live longer, healthier lives Outcome 8 - We have improved life chances for children, young people and families at risk Outcome 9 - We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger Outcome 11 - We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their actions and how they affect others
<b>VI</b>	<b>Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	The plan identifies disbursement of Alcohol Diversionary funds available to the LAC.
<b>VII</b>	<b>Consideration at PDSP</b>	None
<b>VIII</b>	<b>Other consultations</b>	The overall funding and the expected outcomes was discussed and agreed by the Tobacco, Drug and Alcohol commissioning group. The funding allocation to each ward was agreed by the Council Executive.  The report was considered at the Armadale and Blackridge LAC on 22 June 2012. Members of the LAC agreed that the report should be forwarded to the Executive for approval.

## **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

**D.1** West Lothian Council's Strategy to Tackle Under-age Drinking commenced in 2008 in response to concern expressed over problems in West Lothian relating to underage drinking, particularly on a Friday afternoon, amongst young people. The strategy focussed on providing young people with educational opportunities relating to alcohol and drugs. A key objective of the strategy will be to link the educational message with a programme of diversionary activities, particularly on Friday afternoons and evenings.

Funding was originally allocated by the Project Board through an open application process, but in 2009 specific funds were made available to each ward and Local Area Committees given responsibility for allocating these. The Council Executive has allocated £23,765 to the Armadale and Blackridge ward.

### **D.2 Allocation Process**

The allocation process is in two parts, viz

1. An overall allocation is made for each ward and to county wide programmes
2. Ward allocations are made by Local Area Committees based on applications received and recommendations from officers.

There are three county wide programmes – Floorwalk, Midnight Football and West Lothian Youth Action Projects (WLYAP) Summer Programme. Floorwalk can be delivered through previous payments to West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Project and West Lothian Youth Action Projects. The proposed allocations are £37,000 to Midnight Football and £18,000 to WLYAP Summer Programme.

This leaves £245,000 to be allocated between the nine multi member wards. The proposed allocation is based on a weighted score of (i) the percentage of the West

Lothian population of young people aged 10 -19 in the ward (based on Mid-2010 GRO Population Estimates, (ii) the percentage of underage drinking instances reported in 2011 across West Lothian in the ward, and (iii) the percentage of the 20% most deprived data zones located within wards based on the 2009 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD).

The Allocation to the Armadale and Blackridge ward is £23,765 which is an increase on the £19,569 received last year.

The Strategy to Tackle Under-age Drinking steering group invited existing and other providers to submit an application for 2012-13 funding. This form asked for the following information :-

- Project Outline
- Total Budget Request
- Inputs
- Processes (Activities)
- Outputs
- Output Measures/Indicators
- Outcomes
- Outcome Measures/Indicators

The following applications were received :-

#### **Armadale Youth Space - £23,765**

A copy of the project outline is attached as Appendix 1.

The Strategy to Tackle Underage Drinking funding for diversionary activities is now included in the commissioning strategy for Tobacco, Drug and Alcohol services, and funded activities are expected to have a greater focus on outcomes that have a wider and more discernible impact on drinking behaviour. The outcomes agreed in the commissioning strategy are :-

- Reducing antisocial behaviour (a key objective of the Community Safety Partnership Action Plan) through a range of youth diversionary activities targeted at young people who would otherwise have been at risk of involvement in underage drinking and anti social behaviour. Based on previous performance of the activities, this will reduce the number of underage drinking incidents reported to Lothian and Borders Police.
- Delivery of 1:1 alcohol brief interventions (ABIs) by youth work staff and other staff working at diversionary and other events. The strong evidence base for ABIs means the numbers of individuals to whom the interventions are delivered is an appropriate measure, although the possible impact of ABIs will also be monitored including reported reductions in drinking where follow up information is available, repeat police involvement for individuals who have received an intervention through Operation Floor Walk, and engagement with other services as a result of interventions.
- Changing group attitudes to drinking in order to increase acceptance of non-drinking and low-risk drinking and to support critical thinking about cultural and marketing presentations of alcohol in young people as indicated by reporting on the content and number of individuals involved in alcohol educational activity and impact information.

Each applicant has been asked to contribute to these outcomes, and these are attached as Appendix 2.

### **D.3 Consideration at the Armadale and Blackridge LAC**

The Armadale and Blackridge Local Area Committee considered the recommendation to award £23,765 to the Youth Space on 22 June 2012. The recommendation was supported by members present however due to the meeting being inquorate the recommendation is referred to the Council Executive for approval.

### **E. CONCLUSION**

The diversionary funding made available through the Strategy for Tackling Under-age Drinking has contributed to significant reductions in the number of underage drinking instances reported across West Lothian, and is now increasingly focussed on raising awareness and changing attitudes of young people in relation to the impact of alcohol use and misuse.

The members of the Armadale and Blackridge LAC agreed the content of the report however due to being temporarily inquorate, could not approve the report. The request is that members of the Council Executive approve the report on behalf of the Armadale and Blackridge LAC.

### **F. Strategy for Tackling Under-age Drinking (Council Executive June 2008)**

West Lothian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Partnership's Alcohol Strategy 2009.  
<http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/downloaddoc/1799563/1845964/2241553>

Minutes of the Armadale and Blackridge Local Area Committee held on 22 June 2012

Strategy for tackling under-age drinking / diversionary activities for young people  
<http://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Dc%91oy%87>

Appendices/Attachments: Two

- 1: Strategy for Tackling Underage Drinking - Appendix 1 Project Outlines
- 2: West Lothian Strategy for Alcohol Funding - Appendix 2 Key Outcomes

Contact Person: Douglas Benson, Community Regeneration Officer.  
douglas.benson@westlothian.gov.uk 01506 281970

Elaine Cook, Lead Officer Armadale and Blackridge Local Area Committee.

Date: 06 July 2012