



West Lothian  
Council

**ARMADALE BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

**STRATEGY FOR TACKLING UNDER-AGE DRINKING / DIVERSIONARY ACTIVITIES  
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF AREA SERVICES**

**A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report updates the Local Area Committee on the allocation of the Strategy for Tackling Under-age Drinking / Diversionary Activities for Young People funding.

**B. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee agrees the proposed allocation of funding to the following alcohol diversionary programmes:

- Armadale Youth Space - **£22,610**

**C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>I 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; and working in partnership. |
| <b>II Policy and Legal (including Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b> | None.  |
| <b>III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>   | None.  |
| <b>IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>  | The number of underage drinking and antisocial behaviour calls regarding young people registered with the Community Safety Unit.   |
| <b>V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>  | Outcome 6 - We live longer, healthier lives.<br>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.

- VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)** Council has allocated £250,000 for the strategy for tackling underage drinking / diversionary activities for young people, and a further £50,000 has been awarded by the Community Safety Strategic Steering Group making a total of £300,000 available for 2013-14.
- VII Consideration at PDSP** None.
- VIII Other consultations** The overall funding and the expected outcomes were discussed and agreed by an officer panel with representatives from West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service, Community Safety and Area Services.

## D. TERMS OF REPORT

### D.1 Introduction

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 is to link the educational message with a programme of diversionary activities, particularly on Friday afternoons and evenings.

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.

Underage drinking calls to the police have fallen for the past two years at a higher rate than all youth related disorder. The following table displays the decrease in calls.

| UNDERAGE DRINKING CALLS |       |          | ALL YOUTH DISORDER CALLS |       |          |
|-------------------------|-------|----------|--------------------------|-------|----------|
| YEAR                    | TOTAL | % CHANGE | YEAR                     | TOTAL | % CHANGE |
| 2010/11                 | 630   | N/A      | 2010/11                  | 4941  | N/A      |
| 2011/12                 | 431   | -31.6%   | 2011/12                  | 4408  | -10.8%   |
| 2012/13                 | 243   | -43.6%   | 2012/13                  | 3236  | -26.6%   |

Overall, in the past two years there has been a decrease of 61% in the number of underage drinking calls recorded compared to the 2010/11 total compared to a decrease of 34.5% in the total number of youth related calls over the same period.

During 2010/11 underage drinking accounted for 12.75% of all youth disorder calls but only accounted for 7.5% of all youth disorder calls in 2012/13.

Calls in relation to youth disorder registered with the Community Safety Unit decreased by 59.9% from 5,400 in 2011/12 to 3,236 in 2012/13.

On average, 1,238 young people across the county regularly engaged in alcohol awareness and diversionary activities. Throughout the year 150 Alcohol Brief Interventions were carried out, and young people had opportunities to engage in informal and accredited learning opportunities; volunteering, organising activities and events for other young people:

- 11 achieved external certification for active citizenship
- 4 accessed voluntary work with Community Youth Services
- 5 pupils attending Deans Community High School volunteered at the Friday Night Project based at the school as part of their Higher Personal Development Award
- 8 achieved the Young Quality Scot Award
- 1 achieved the Silver Millennium Volunteer Award
- 5 achieved the Dynamic Youth Award

The Council Executive has agreed, at its meeting of 21 May 2013, the continuation of provision for April to June 2013 through existing programmes and that Local Area Committees agree new applications to run until 31 March 2014.

The majority of the Strategy for Tackling Under-age Drinking – Diversionary Activities for Young People funding will be allocated to each Local Area Committee to fund interventions in each ward. However, a proportion of the funding will be allocated to West Lothian-wide programmes such as Midnight Football and activities provided by West Lothian Youth Action Project.

The former Project Board originally allocated funding through an open application process originally allocated funding; but in 2009 specific funds were made available to each ward and Local Area

Committees were given responsibility for allocating these. The funding period is from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014. The proposed allocation to wards and to West Lothian wide programmes for 2013-14 is given below.

## **D. 2 Allocation process**

The allocation process is in two parts:

- (i) An overall allocation is made for each ward and to countywide programmes.
- (ii) Ward allocations are made by Local Area Committees based on applications received and recommendations from officers.

There are three West Lothian wide programmes – Floorwalk, Midnight Football and West Lothian Youth Action Project's (WLYAP) Summer Programme. Floorwalk can be delivered through previous payments to West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Project

and West Lothian Youth Action Projects. The agreed allocations to the others are

Midnight Football - **£37,000**

WLYAP Summer Programme - **£18,000**

This leaves £245,000 to be allocated between the nine multi member wards. The 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 2012 across West Lothian in the ward, and (iii) the percentage of the 20% most deprived data zones located within wards based on the 2012 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). Local Area Committees will allocate funding based on applications received and recommendations from officers.

This is summarised in the table below:-

| <b>Ward</b>                    | <b>% Pop (10-19)</b> | <b>% underage drinking (of WL total)</b> | <b>20% worst Data zones</b> | <b>WEIGHTED SCORE</b> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Armadale & Blackridge          | 7.5%                 | 14.3%                                    | 5.9%                        | <b>9.2%</b>           |
| Bathgate                       | 9.7%                 | 14.3%                                    | 14.7%                       | <b>12.9%</b>          |
| Broxburn, Uphall & Winchburgh  | 9.8%                 | 9.1%                                     | 0.0%                        | <b>6.3%</b>           |
| East Livingston & East Calder  | 12.2%                | 9.4%                                     | 14.7%                       | <b>12.1%</b>          |
| Fauldhouse & the Breich Valley | 9.3%                 | 10.5%                                    | 17.6%                       | <b>12.5%</b>          |
| Linlithgow                     | 9.4%                 | 5.9%                                     | 2.9%                        | <b>6.1%</b>           |
| Livingston North               | 13.3%                | 7.7%                                     | 8.8%                        | <b>9.9%</b>           |
| Livingston South               | 15.9%                | 7.7%                                     | 11.8%                       | <b>11.8%</b>          |
| Whitburn & Blackburn           | 12.9%                | 21.0%                                    | 23.5%                       | <b>19.1%</b>          |
| West Lothian Totals            | 100.0%               | 100.1%                                   | 100.0%                      | <b>100.0%</b>         |

Based on the weightings above this gives proposed allocations of :-

| <b>WARD</b>                    | <b>2013-14 proposed</b> | <b>2012- 13 Actual</b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Armadale & Blackridge          | £22,610                 | £23,765                |
| Bathgate                       | £31,685                 | £29,890                |
| Broxburn, Uphall & Winchburgh  | £15,429                 | £18,375                |
| East Livingston & East Calder  | £29,686                 | £29,155                |
| Fauldhouse & the Breich Valley | £30,575                 | £30,380                |
| Linlithgow                     | £14,896                 | £15,190                |
| Livingston North               | £24,351                 | £28,665                |
| Livingston South               | £28,877                 | £26,950                |
| Whitburn & Blackburn           | £46,891                 | £42,630                |
| <b>SUB TOTAL</b>               | <b>£245,000</b>         | <b>£245,000</b>        |

|  |                 |                 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| West Lothian Youth Action Project Summer Programme | £18,000         | £18,000         |
| Midnight Football                                  | £37,000         | £37,000         |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                                 | <b>£300,000</b> | <b>£300,000</b> |

This is the same as the previous allocation process although it is based on the most recent data available and, for example, the Whitburn and Blackburn ward has a larger allocation as both the percentage of underage drinking instances and the number of data zones in the worst 20% has increased.

The allocation to the Armadale and Blackridge ward is £22,610, which is a decrease on the £23,765 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 £27,000

A copy of the Project Outline is attached as Appendix 1.

**D.3** 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 behavior. Based on previous performance of the activities, this will reduce the number of underage drinking incidents reported to Police Scotland.
- **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 individual and 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.

The funding available is sufficient to support all the applications received, and the quality of the applications is sufficient for officers to recommend approval of them all. The Local Area Committee is therefore asked to agree to the following recommendation :-

- Armadale Youth Space - **£22,610**

#### **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 Local Area Committee is asked to approve the proposed allocation recommended above, to support interventions in the ward.

#### **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

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/downloadoc/1799563/1845964/2241553>

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix 1 'Youth Space' Project Outline.

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