



Community Planning Partnership Board

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

14 November 2023

A physical meeting of the **Community Planning Partnership Board** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Meeting Rooms G7/G8, West Lothian College, Almondvale Crescent, Livingston, EH54 7EP** on **Monday 20 November 2023 at 10:00am**.

For Chief Executive

BUSINESS

Public Session

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest - Members must declare any interests they have in the items of business for consideration at the meeting, identifying the relevant agenda items and the nature of their interests.
3. Order of Business, including notice of urgent business and declarations of interest in any urgent business
4. Confirm Draft Minutes of Meeting of Community Planning Partnership Board held on Monday 28 August 2023 (herewith)
5. CPP Dataset - Report by Community Wealth Building Manager (herewith)
6. Community Planning in Practice - Report by Community Planning Officer (herewith)
7. Review of Community Learning and Development Plan 2021-24 - Report by Education Services Manager (herewith)
8. West Lothian Children's Rights (UNCRC) Report 2020-2023 - Report by HSCP Senior Manager (herewith)
9. Dates of Future Meetings - TBC

DATA LABEL: Public

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 (2021)

This form is a reminder and an aid. It is not a substitute for understanding the Code of Conduct and guidance.

Interests must be declared at the meeting, in public.

Look at every item of business and consider if there is a connection.

If you see a connection, decide if it amounts to an interest by applying the objective test.

The objective test is whether or not a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard your connection to a particular matter as being so significant that it would be considered as being likely to influence your discussion or decision-making.

If the connection does not amount to an interest then you have nothing to declare and no reason to withdraw.

If the connection amounts to an interest, declare it as soon as possible and leave the meeting when the agenda item comes up.

When you declare an interest, identify the agenda item and give enough information so that the public understands what it is and why you are declaring it.

Even if the connection does not amount to an interest you can make a statement about it for the purposes of transparency.

More detailed information is on the next page.

Look at each item on the agenda, consider if there is a “connection”, take advice if necessary from appropriate officers in plenty of time. A connection is any link between the item of business and:-

- you
- a person you are associated with (e.g., employer, business partner, domestic partner, family member)
- a body or organisation you are associated with (e.g., outside body, community group, charity)

Anything in your Register of Interests is a connection unless one of the following exceptions applies.

A connection does not exist where:-

- you are a council tax payer, a rate payer, or a council house tenant, including at budget-setting meetings
- services delivered to the public are being considered, including at budget-setting meetings
- councillors’ remuneration, expenses, support services or pensions are being considered
- you are on an outside body through a council appointment or nomination unless it is for regulatory business or you have a personal conflict due to your connections, actions or legal obligations
- you hold a view in advance on a policy issue, have discussed that view, have expressed that view in public, or have asked for support for it

If you see a connection then you have to decide if it is an “interest” by applying the objective test. The objective test is whether or not a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard your connection to a particular matter as being so significant that it would be considered as being likely to influence your discussion or decision-making.

If the connection amounts to an interest then:-

- declare the interest in enough detail that members of the public will understand what it is
- leave the meeting room (physical or online) when that item is being considered
- do not contact colleagues participating in the item of business

Even if decide your connection is not an interest you can voluntarily make a statement about it for the record and for the purposes of transparency.

The relevant documents are:-

- [Councillors’ Code of Conduct, part 5](#)
- [Standards Commission Guidance, paragraphs 129-166](#)
- [Advice note for councillors on how to declare interests](#)

If you require assistance, contact:-

- James Millar, Interim Monitoring Officer and Governance Manager, 01506 281613, james.millar@westlothian.gov.uk
- Carol Johnston, Chief Solicitor and Depute Monitoring Officer, 01506 281626, carol.johnston@westlothian.gov.uk
- Committee Services Team, 01506 281604, 01506 281621
committee.services@westlothian.gov.uk

January 2022

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD held within CONFERENCE MEETING ROOM, LINLITHGOW ACADEMY, BRAEHEAD ROAD, LINLITHGOW, EH49 6EH, on 28 AUGUST 2023.

Present –

Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan (Chair)	West Lothian Council
Councillor Tom Conn	West Lothian Council
Councillor Andrew McGuire	West Lothian Council
Graham Hope (Chief Executive)	West Lothian Council
Graeme Struthers	West Lothian Council
Elaine Cook	West Lothian Council
Julie Whitelaw	West Lothian Council
Patrick Welsh	West Lothian Council
Craig McCorrison	West Lothian Council
Clare Stewart	West Lothian Council
Alison White	Integration Joint Board
Ashley Goodfellow	NHS Lothian
Ben Lamb	West Lothian Leisure
Wille Pollard	Scottish Fire and Rescue Services
Chief Inspector Jocelyn O'Connor	Police Scotland
Jackie Galbraith	West Lothian College
Alan McCloskey	Voluntary Sector Gateway
Brenda Cumming	West Lothian Chamber of Commerce
Dave McCallum	Skills Development Scotland
John Sives	Joint Forum of Community Councils

In Attendance –

Susan Gordon	West Lothian Council
Michelle Kirkbright	West Lothian Council
Susan Mitchell	West Lothian Council
Siobhan McGarty	West Lothian Council
Katherine Davidson	NHS Lothian
Fiona MacKenzie	West Lothian Council
Nahid Hanif	West Lothian Council
Dougie Grierson	West Lothian Council

Apologies –

Councillor Angela Doran-Timson	West Lothian Council
Katie Dee	NHS Lothian
Mark McMullen	Scottish Enterprise
Pauline Cochrane	West Lothian Council
Karen Morrison	NatureScot

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTE

The Board confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 20 March 2023. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Board received a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the review process of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) and presenting the final version of the plan.

It was recommended that the Board consider and provide comment on the Draft Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

The Board noted that a report would be presented to the next meeting setting out some examples good practice that had been brought about through partners working in collaboration, such as anti-social behaviour in Fauldhouse.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

4. LOCALITY PLANNING

The Board received a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the review of Locality Plans in West Lothian.

It was recommended that the Board:-

1. Note the review process of Locality Plans
2. Consider the draft Locality Plan for Whitburn & Blackburn
3. Note the engagement process undertaken

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

5. COMMUNITY PLANNING GOVERNANCE

The Board received a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the proposals to refresh the governance arrangements of the Community Planning Partnership to ensure the governance arrangements reflected the CPP's priorities and to provide a mechanism for the CPP to deliver on their outcomes.

It was recommended that the Board:-

- a) Note and consider the proposals in relation to reviewing governance arrangements; and
- b) Note and consider the refreshed Terms of Reference.

On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanks all partners and officers who had engaged in the progress of developing the new LOIP, Locality Plans and the refresh of governance arrangements.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

6. WEST LoTHIAN CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2023-2026

The Board received a report (copies of which had been circulated) advising of the development of the West Lothian Children's Services Plan 2023-2026 and Annual Report 2022-2023 in compliance with the requirements of Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

It was recommended that the Board:-

- I. Note the contents of the West Lothian Children's Services Plan 2023-2026; and
- II. Note the contents of the West Lothian Children's Services Annual Report 2022-2023.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

7. COMMUNITY JUSTICE OUTCOME ACTIVITY ACROSS SCOTLAND LOCAL AREA ANNUAL RETURN REPORT 2022-23

The Board received a report (copies of which had been circulated) raising awareness of the annual report and progression of the Community Justice Strategic Plan 2019-24 which acted as the Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan (CJOIP). It was proposed that the Annual Report would be submitted to Community Justice Scotland in September 2023.

It was recommended that the Board:-

- i. Note the Annual Report for the Community Justice Strategic Plan 2019-24 (including CJOIP); and
- ii. Agree the submission of the annual report to Community Justice Scotland.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

8. ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY 2023-2028 & ACTION PLAN

The Board received a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the outcomes achieved against the Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018-2023 and seeking approval for a Tackling Poverty Strategy for 2023/24 to

2027/28 which would aim to mitigate the effects of poverty on vulnerable households in West Lothian.

It was recommended that the Board :-

- 1) Note the range of activity carried out in 2022/23 to mitigate the impact of poverty and deprivation in West Lothian;
- 2) Approve the proposed Better Off West Lothian: Tackling Poverty Strategy; and
- 3) Note the annual action plan for 2023/24 and the Integrated Impact Assessment as set out in the report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee would take place on 20 November 2023.

CPP Dataset

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to provide an update to the CPP Board on the CPP dataset.

2. Recommendations

The CPP Board is asked to;

- Note the updated dataset,
- Highlight any areas that should be explored further by the Board due to the trend in the data in appendix one,
- Note the locality level data and trends emerging by Locality.

3. Discussion

The CPP Dataset is being updated on a regular basis as part of a wider approach in considering how the CPP can maximise the use of data to inform and influence the actions of the CPP more generally, and how the dataset is used in conjunction with other relevant data sources. Taking a more data-driven approach would enable more analysis of the data itself - using the data to shape discussions at CPP meetings and address key issues at a partnership level.

The team have been working in consultation with key officers and partners to have discussions around the most appropriate measure for inclusion. Other data sources have also been explored to ensure that a wide range of locally available measure have been considered, particularly those measures that are available at local authority level and below.

Where possible, data has been broken down by locality to highlight the local picture. The CPP Team have now met with Police Scotland and have identified data to be included in relation to community safety.

An additional four measures in relation to employment and economic activity have been included in order to further demonstrate the current economic position in West Lothian. These indicators are part of West Lothians Poverty Profile and provide additional information in relation to; In Work Universal Credit Claimants; Economically Inactive Universal Credit Claimants; Low Income Employment & Zero Hours; Household Incomes. These were considered and agreed for inclusion at the CPP Steering Group on 6 November.

The dataset as a whole shows key trends emerging at locality level. It was agreed at the Steering Group that data should be presented at locality level to demonstrate where issues are presenting in relation to geographic areas. Data for key areas has been extracted and is presented by locality in Appendix 3.

The Board are asked to highlight any other key measures that are either missing from the data, or areas where data may be available at more local level.

4. Summary of Implications

Relevant LOIP outcome (s)	ALL
Relevant LOIP performance indicator (s)	ALL
Resources	N/A
Link to prevention/community engagement	The dataset will help the CPP to shape future activity which will have a focus on prevention
Impact on inequalities	The dataset will help the CPP identify areas of inequality in relation to the indicators that are included.
Key risks	N/A

5. Consultations

The CPP was consulted in the development of the dataset. Partners have been involved in discussions around potential additional indicators for inclusion.

6. Conclusions

The CPP Board are asked to note the updated dataset.

Report written by/contact details/date

Clare Stewart, Community Wealth Building Manager, November 2023

clare.stewart@westlothian.gov.uk

References – N/A

Appendices

Appendix 1: CCP Dataset Slides

Appendix 2: CPP Dataset Narrative

Appendix 3: Locality Profile Data- Whitburn and Blackburn Ward and Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Ward

Community Planning Partnership Data Set update

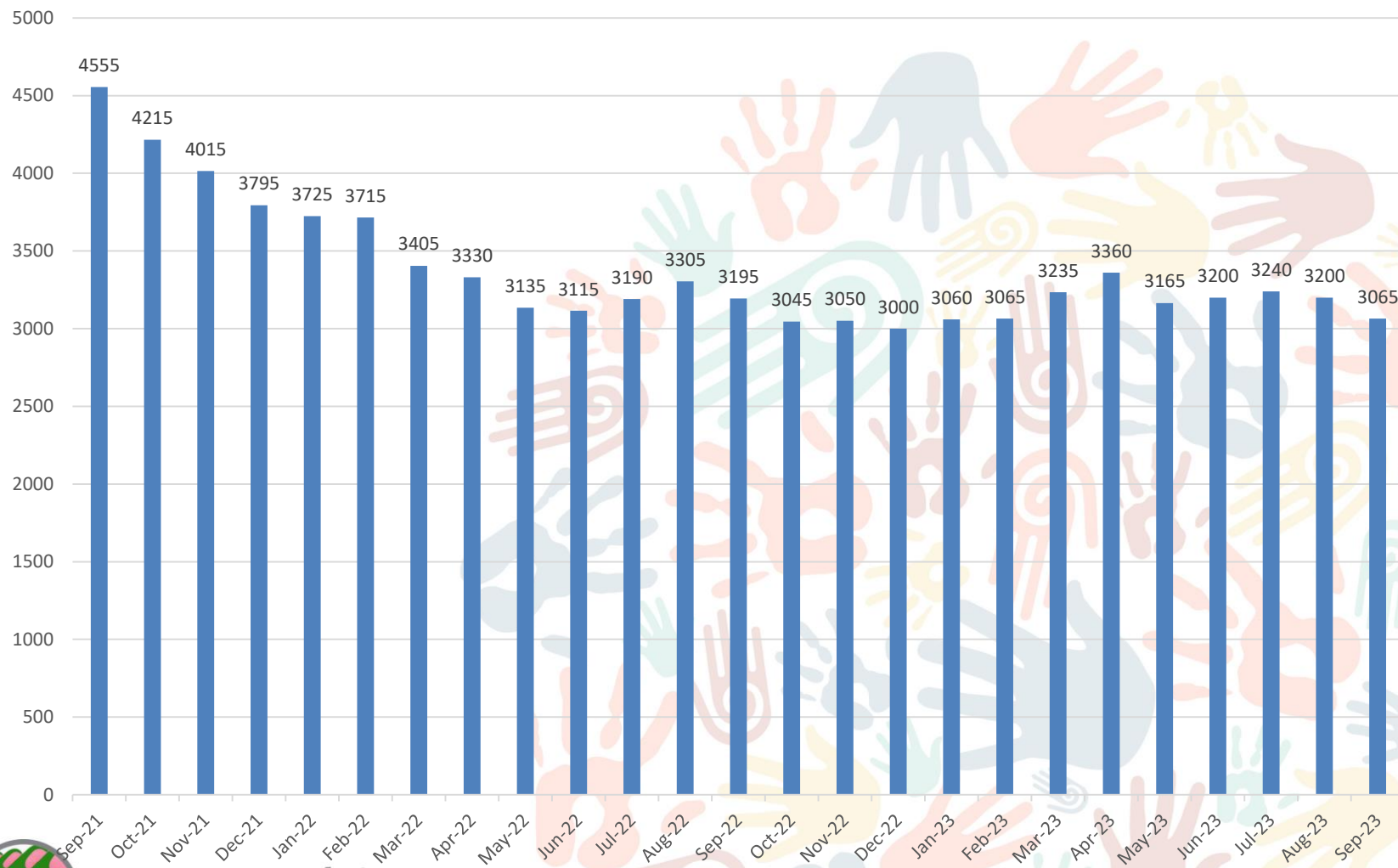


West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

November 2023

Claimant Count

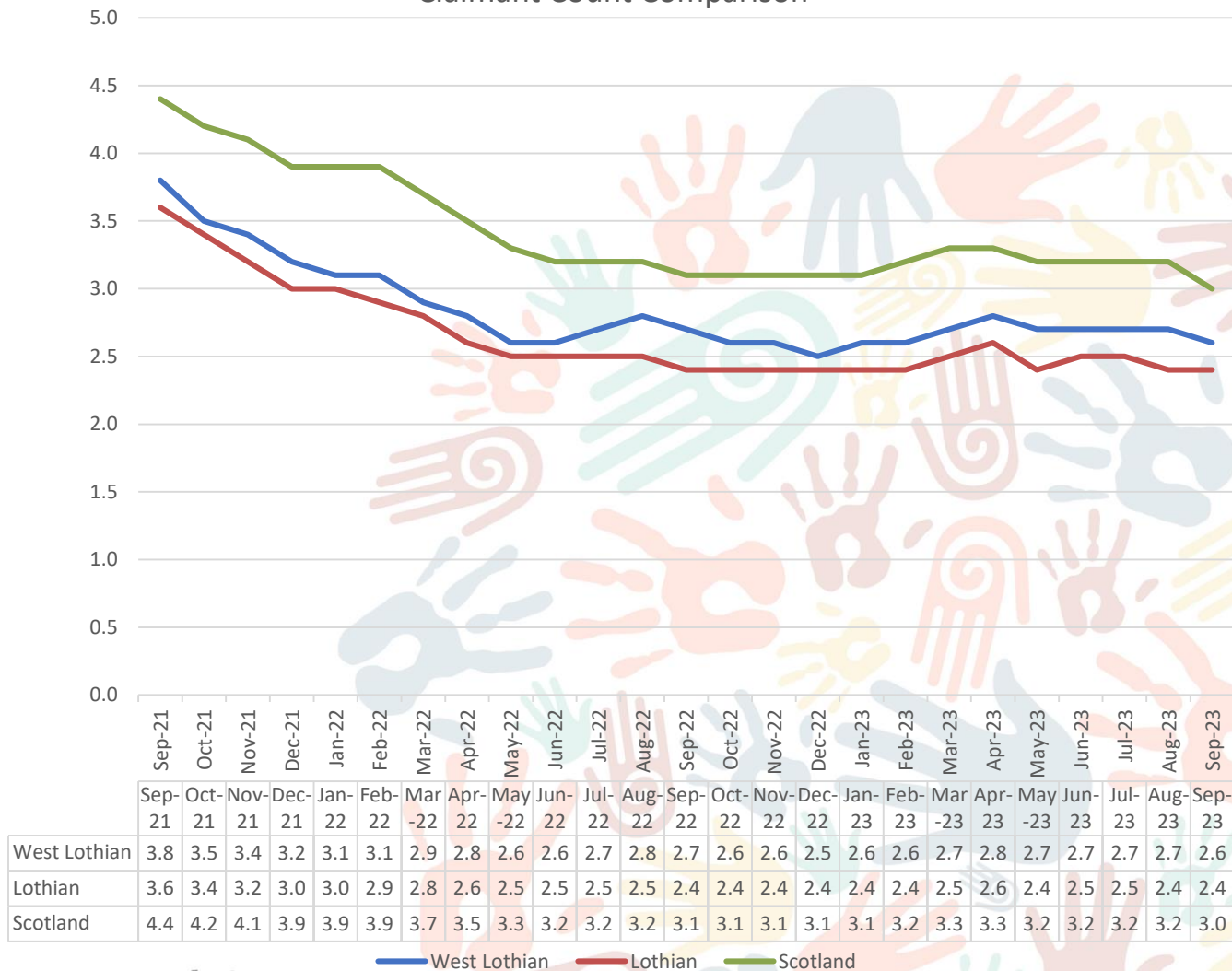
West Lothian Claimant Count



West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Claimant Count

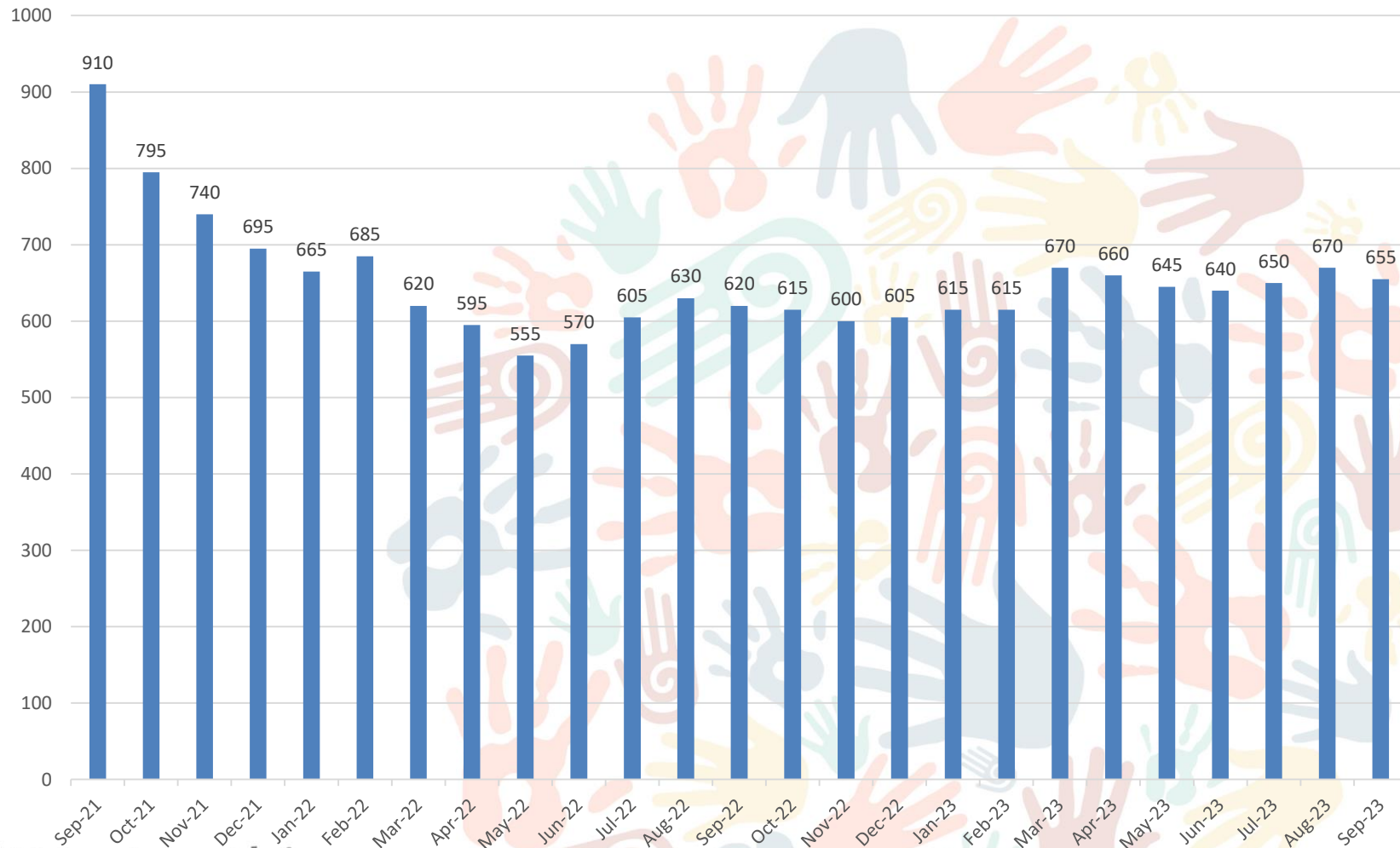
Claimant Count Comparison



West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Youth Claimant Count

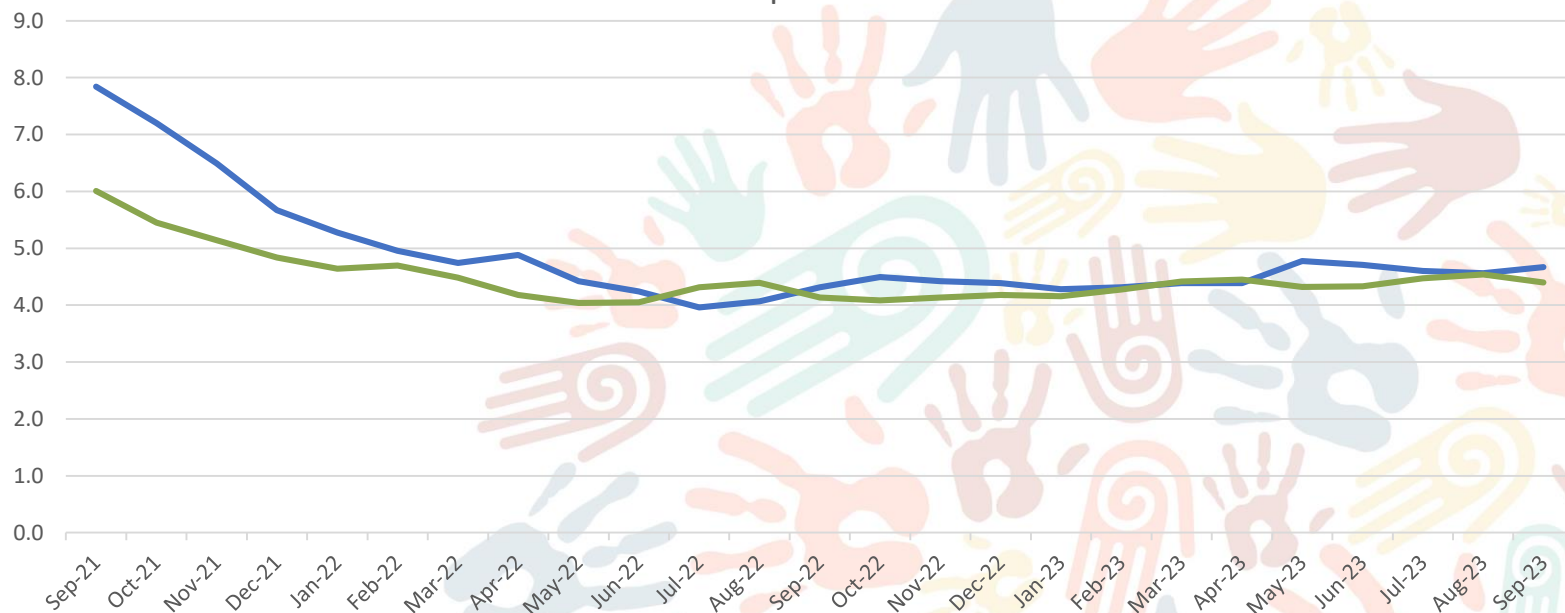
West Lothian Youth Claimant Count



West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Youth Claimant Count

Claimant Count Comparison



	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23
West Lothian	7.8	7.2	6.5	5.7	5.3	5.0	4.7	4.9	4.4	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.7
Scotland	6.0	5.5	5.1	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.4

— West Lothian — Scotland



West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

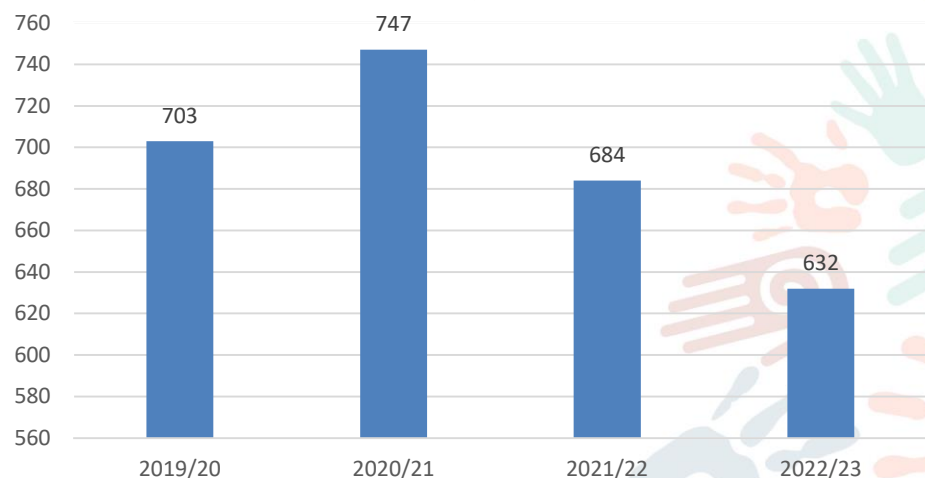
Claimant Count by Ward

	Armadale and Blackridge		Bathgate		Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh		East Livingston and East Calder		Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley		Linlithgow		Livingston North		Livingston South		Whitburn and Blackburn		West Lothian	
Month	Claimant Count	Rate %	Claimant Count	Rate %	Claimant Count	Rate %	Claimant Count	Rate %	Claimant Count	Rate %	Claimant Count	Rate %	Claimant Count	Rate %	Claimant Count	Rate %	Claimant Count	Rate %	Claimant Count	Rate %
Sep-21	375	3.8	615	4.0	475	3.8	530	3.6	535	5.3	195	1.9	485	3.2	585	3.7	755	5.4	4555	3.8
Oct-21	365	3.7	575	3.7	455	3.6	470	3.2	500	4.9	180	1.8	420	2.8	540	3.4	710	5.1	4215	3.5
Nov-21	330	3.3	540	3.5	450	3.6	465	3.2	480	4.7	175	1.8	385	2.5	520	3.3	675	4.8	4015	3.4
Dec-21	320	3.3	490	3.2	430	3.4	445	3.1	465	4.6	160	1.6	365	2.4	480	3.1	635	4.5	3795	3.2
Jan-22	310	3.2	485	3.1	420	3.4	445	3.1	460	4.5	160	1.6	365	2.4	455	2.9	625	4.5	3725	3.1
Feb-22	310	3.2	500	3.2	410	3.3	440	3	435	4.3	150	1.5	375	2.5	480	3	610	4.4	3715	3.1
Mar-22	275	2.8	465	3.0	375	3.0	395	2.7	405	4	145	1.5	355	2.3	415	2.6	575	4.1	3405	2.9
Apr-22	280	2.8	435	2.8	365	2.9	380	2.6	385	3.8	150	1.5	325	2.1	415	2.6	595	4.3	3330	2.8
May-22	260	2.7	410	2.6	345	2.8	380	2.6	375	3.7	125	1.2	295	1.9	390	2.5	550	3.9	3135	2.6
Jun-22	255	2.6	425	2.7	335	2.7	365	2.5	355	3.5	130	1.3	295	1.9	410	2.6	545	3.9	3115	2.6
Jul-22	275	2.8	430	2.8	350	2.8	350	2.4	345	3.4	145	1.4	315	2.1	425	2.7	550	3.9	3190	2.7
Aug-22	295	3.0	445	2.9	410	3.3	340	2.3	360	3.5	145	1.4	320	2.1	435	2.8	560	4	3305	2.8
Sep-22	275	2.8	455	2.9	375	3.0	320	2.2	350	3.4	130	1.3	315	2.1	405	2.6	565	4.1	3195	2.7
Oct-22	280	2.8	455	2.9	325	2.6	320	2.2	330	3.3	125	1.2	280	1.8	380	2.4	550	3.9	3045	2.6
Nov-22	295	3.0	445	2.9	320	2.6	310	2.1	340	3.4	115	1.2	285	1.9	375	2.4	565	4.1	3050	2.6
Dec-22	285	2.9	425	2.7	320	2.5	315	2.2	355	3.5	130	1.3	260	1.7	350	2.2	565	4.1	3000	2.5
Jan-23	280	2.8	425	2.7	315	2.5	340	2.3	370	3.6	125	1.2	275	1.8	370	2.4	555	4	3060	2.6
Feb-23	285	2.9	430	2.8	320	2.5	340	2.3	380	3.7	120	1.2	245	1.6	360	2.3	580	4.2	3065	2.6
Mar-23	285	2.9	475	3.0	335	2.7	360	2.5	405	4	125	1.2	275	1.8	375	2.4	595	4.2	3235	2.7
Apr-23	295	3.0	485	3.1	355	2.8	380	2.6	425	4.2	125	1.2	290	1.9	395	2.5	615	4.4	3360	2.8
May-23	280	2.8	455	2.9	350	2.8	340	2.4	395	3.9	120	1.2	285	1.9	380	2.4	555	4	3165	2.7
Jun-23	275	2.8	465	3.0	340	2.7	360	2.5	390	3.8	120	1.2	285	1.9	400	2.6	565	4	3200	2.7
Jul-23	285	2.9	450	2.9	345	2.8	360	2.5	405	3.9	125	1.2	280	1.8	415	2.6	575	4.1	3240	2.7
Aug-23	295	3.0	445	2.8	330	2.6	380	2.6	390	3.8	110	1.1	295	1.9	425	2.7	535	3.8	3200	2.7
Sep-23	285	2.9	420	2.7	325	2.6	360	2.5	345	3.4	120	1.2	295	2	395	2.5	510	3.7	3065	2.6

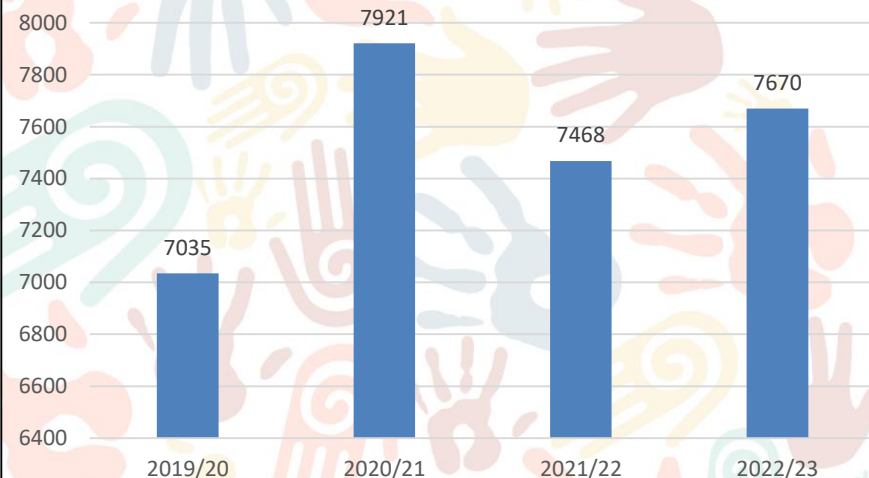


School Support

EMA Payments



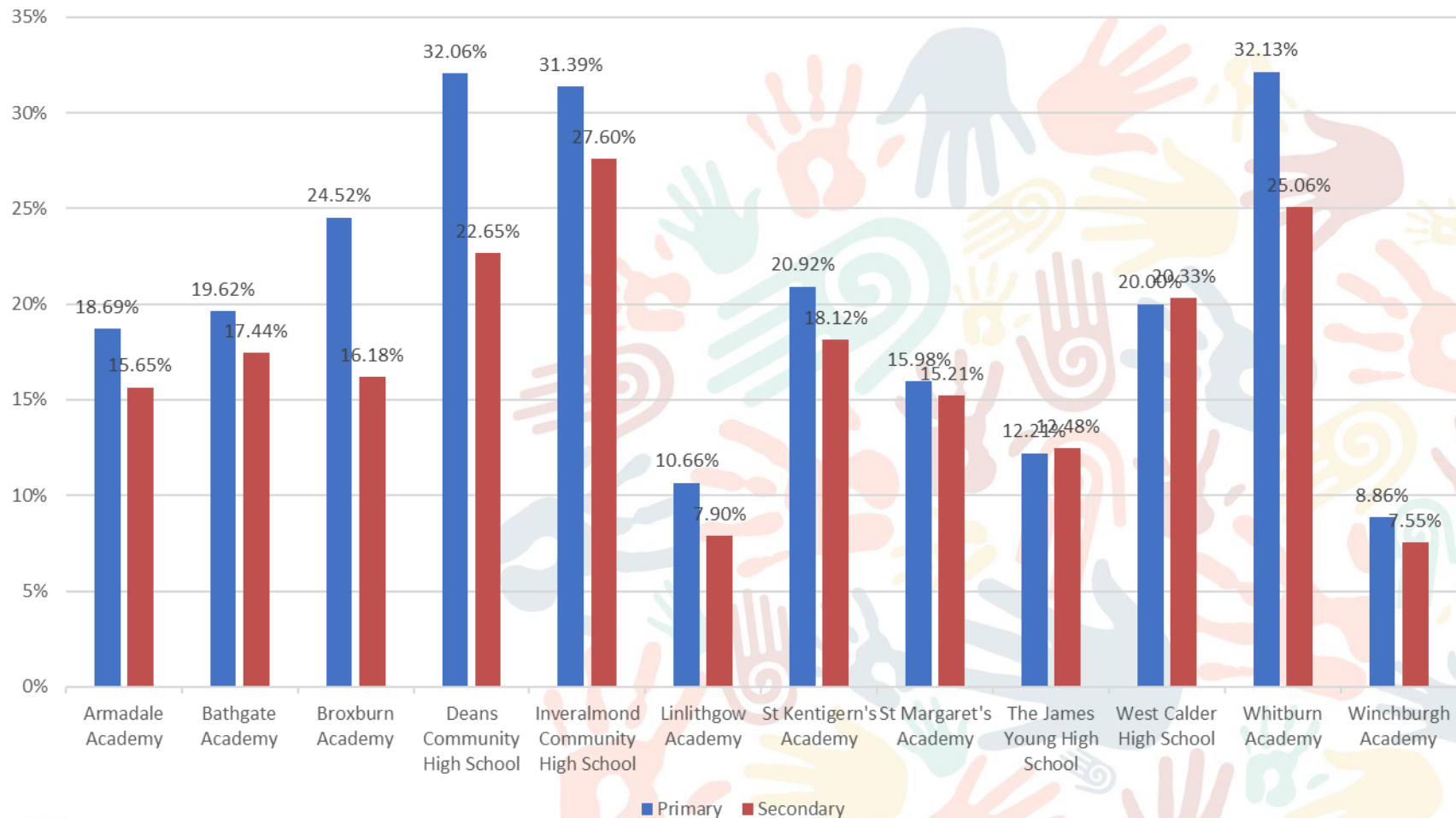
Clothing Grant



West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

School Support

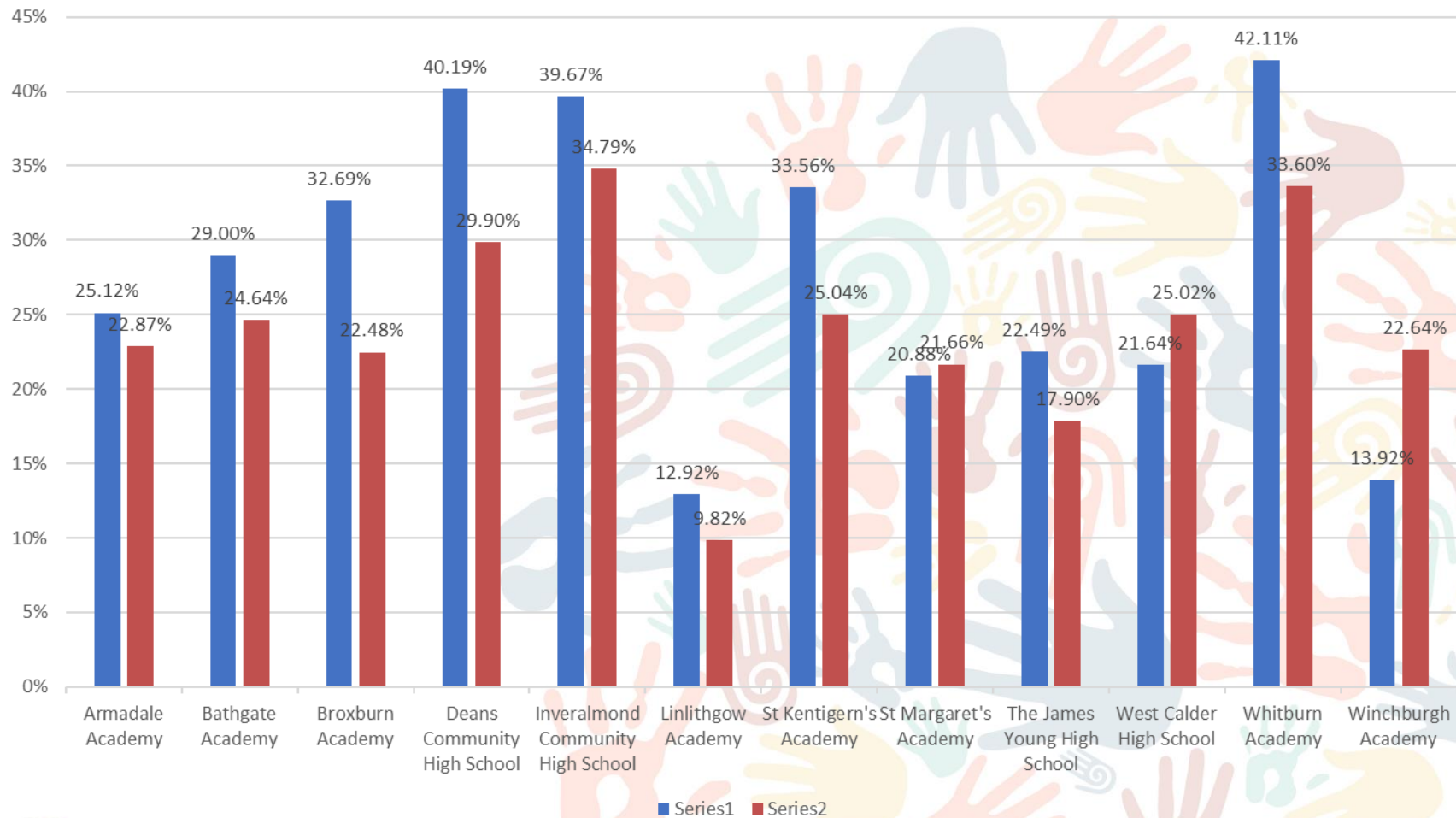
Free School Meals



West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

School Support

Clothing Grant



West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Rent Arrears

Current Arrears Overall (Mainstream + Temporary Accommodation)

	2021	2022	2023
Jan	£3,988,322	£4,155,825	£4,599,880
Feb	£3,300,988	£4,146,209	£4,553,121
Mar	£3,516,718	£3,496,679	£3,824,264
Apr	£3,156,370	£3,780,062	£4,018,844
May	£3,306,635	£4,051,193	£4,191,943
Jun	£3,488,182	£4,206,734	£4,348,700
Jul	£3,730,450	£4,362,509	£4,366,438
Aug	£3,917,470	£4,552,071	£4,552,388
Sep	£4,150,768	£4,780,804	£4,666,987
Oct	£4,252,776	£4,853,361	
Nov	£4,371,137	£4,927,178	
Dec	£3,833,032	£4,305,323	



Rent Arrears

Temporary Accommodation - WARD (Average Debt)

Temporary Accommodation - WARD (Average Debt)

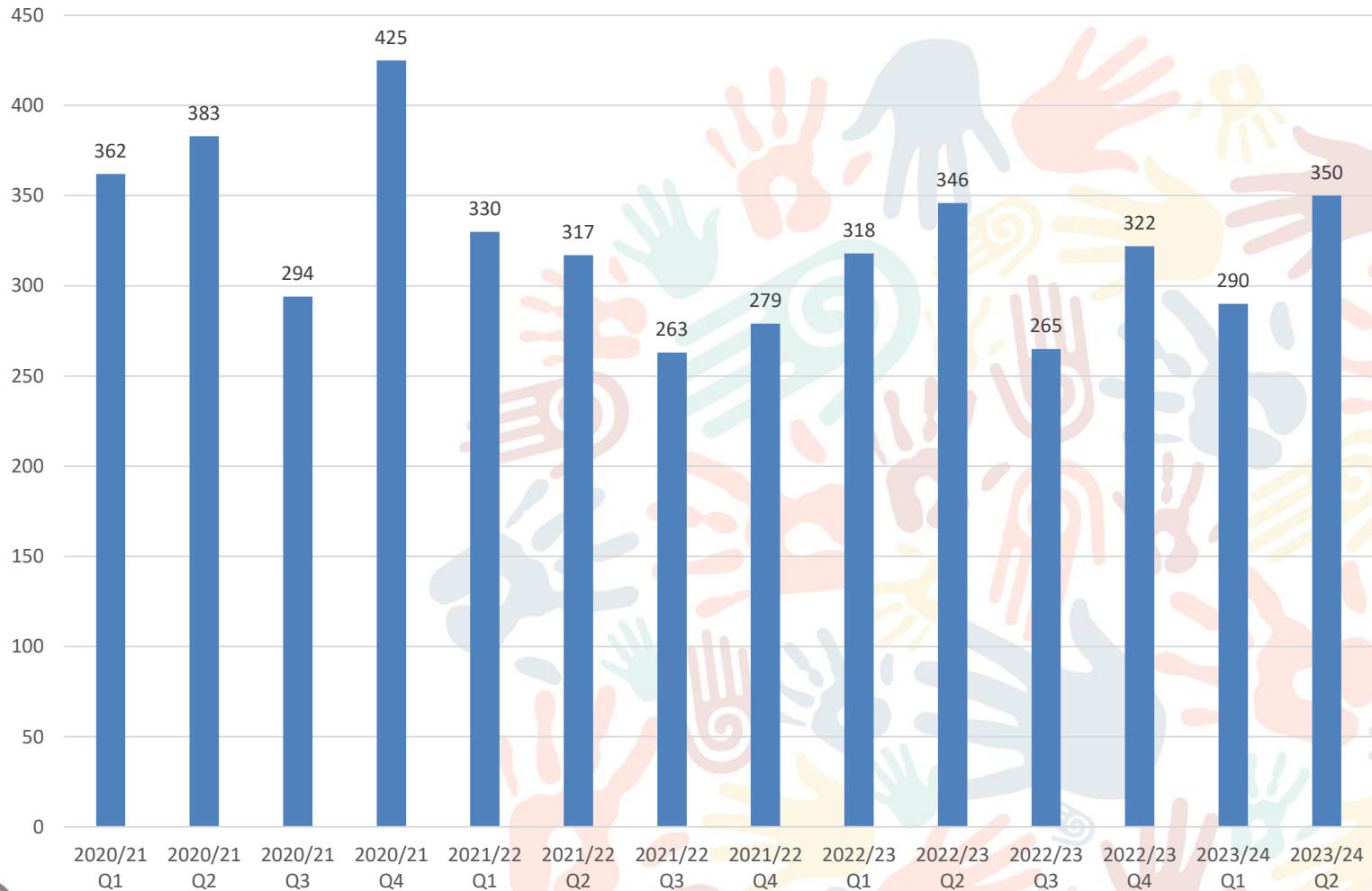
	ARB1	BAT1	FAB1	BRW1	ELC1	LIN1	LVN1	LVS1	WHB1
	Armadale	Bathgate	Breich Valley	Broxburn	Livi East	Linlithgow	Livi North	Livi South	Whitburn
April	£565	£333	£829	£875	£2,413	£78	£735	£546	£537
May	£690	£391	£926	£898	£2,364	£169	£674	£518	£589
June	£545	£402	£1,045	£933	£2,563	£287	£673	£461	£624
July	£510	£414	£1,143	£933	£1,661	£253	£760	£410	£630
August	£603	£517	£1,211	£835	£1,404	£376	£832	£540	£614
September	£707	£557	£1,167	£717	£1,521	£386	£916	£553	£507



West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Homeless Applications

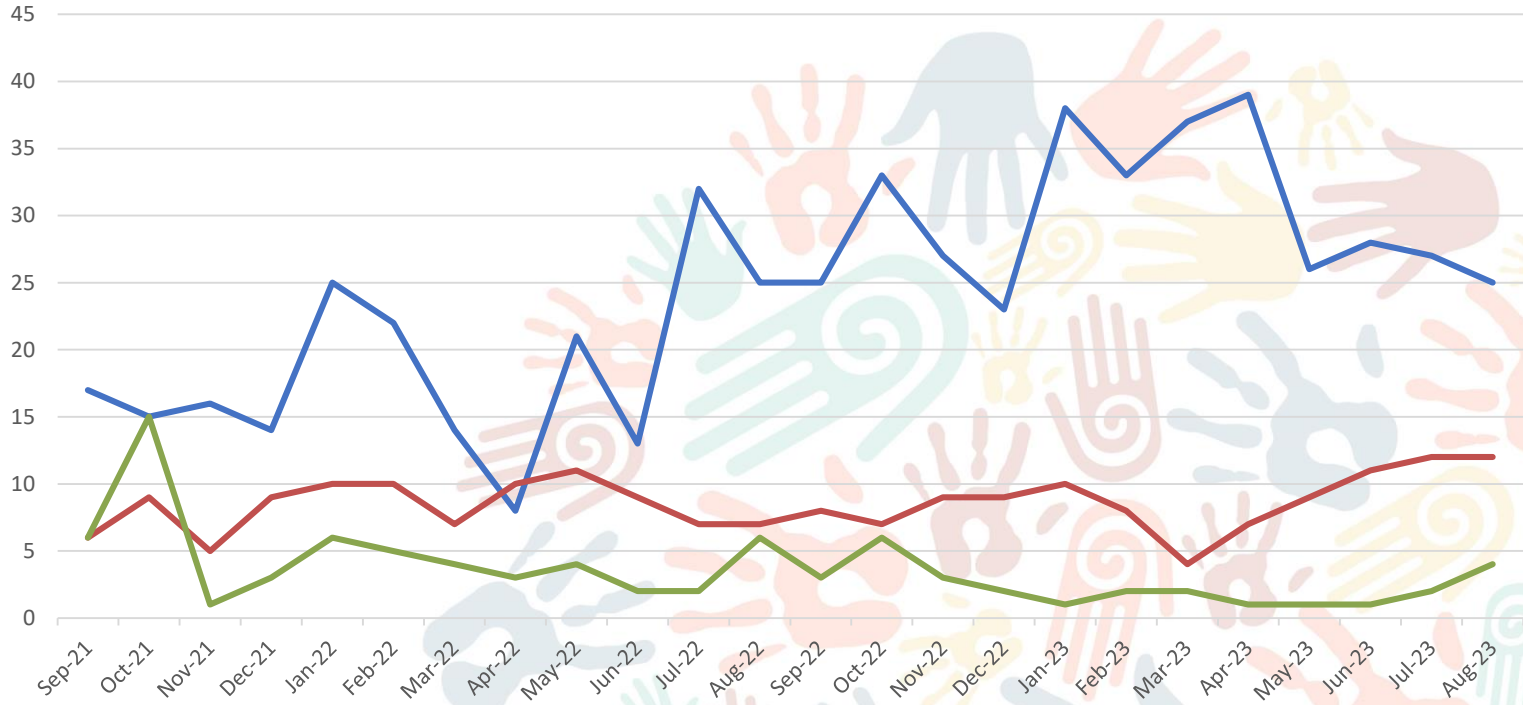
Homeless Applications



West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Delayed Discharge

Delayed Discharge



	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
Standard	17	15	16	14	25	22	14	8	21	13	32	25	25	33	27	23	38	33	37	39	26	28	27	25
Code 9 awi	6	9	5	9	10	10	7	10	11	9	7	7	8	7	9	9	10	8	4	7	9	11	12	12
Code 9 other	6	15	1	3	6	5	4	3	4	2	2	6	3	6	3	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	4

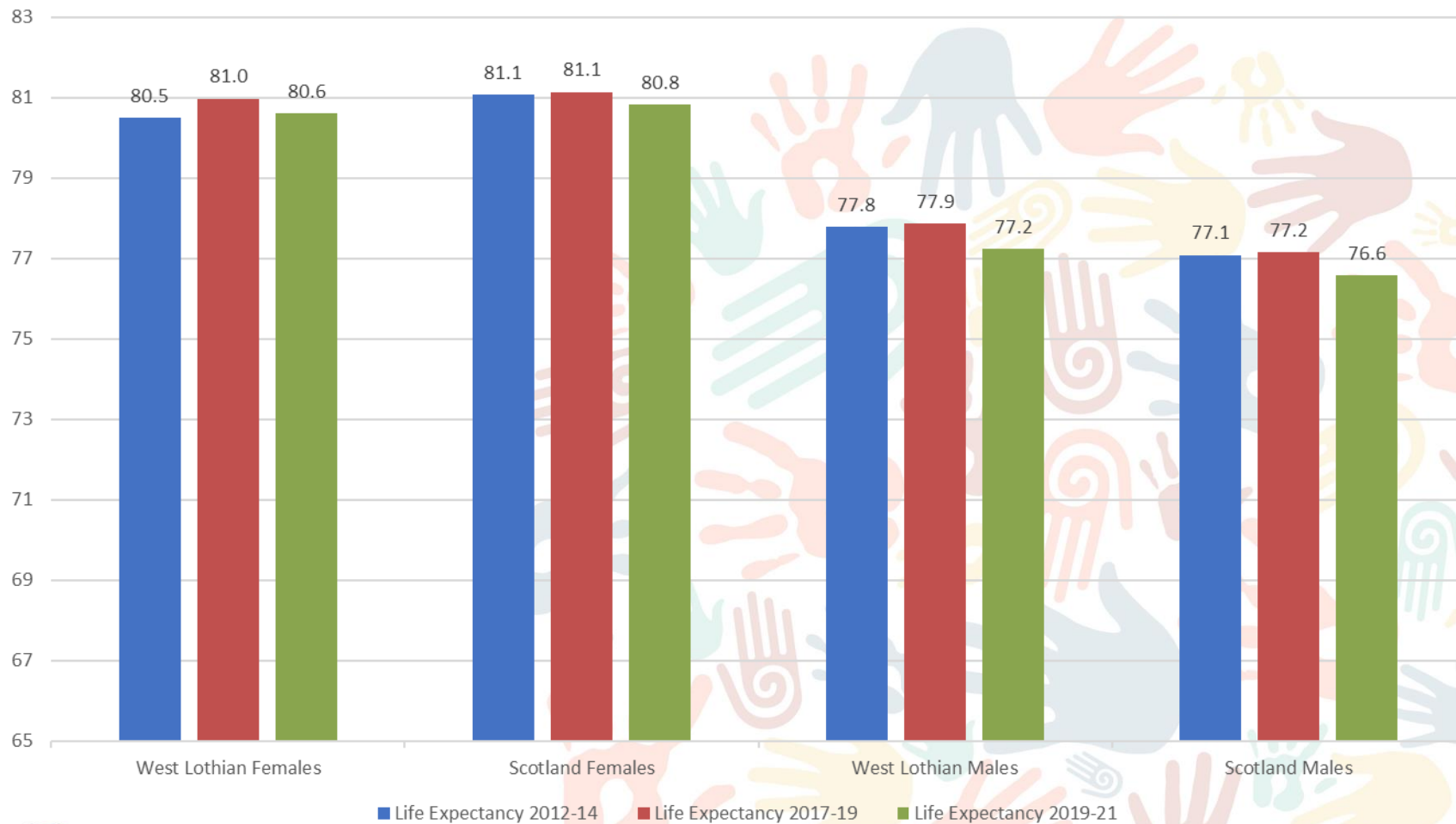
Standard Code 9 awi Code 9 other



West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Life Expectancy

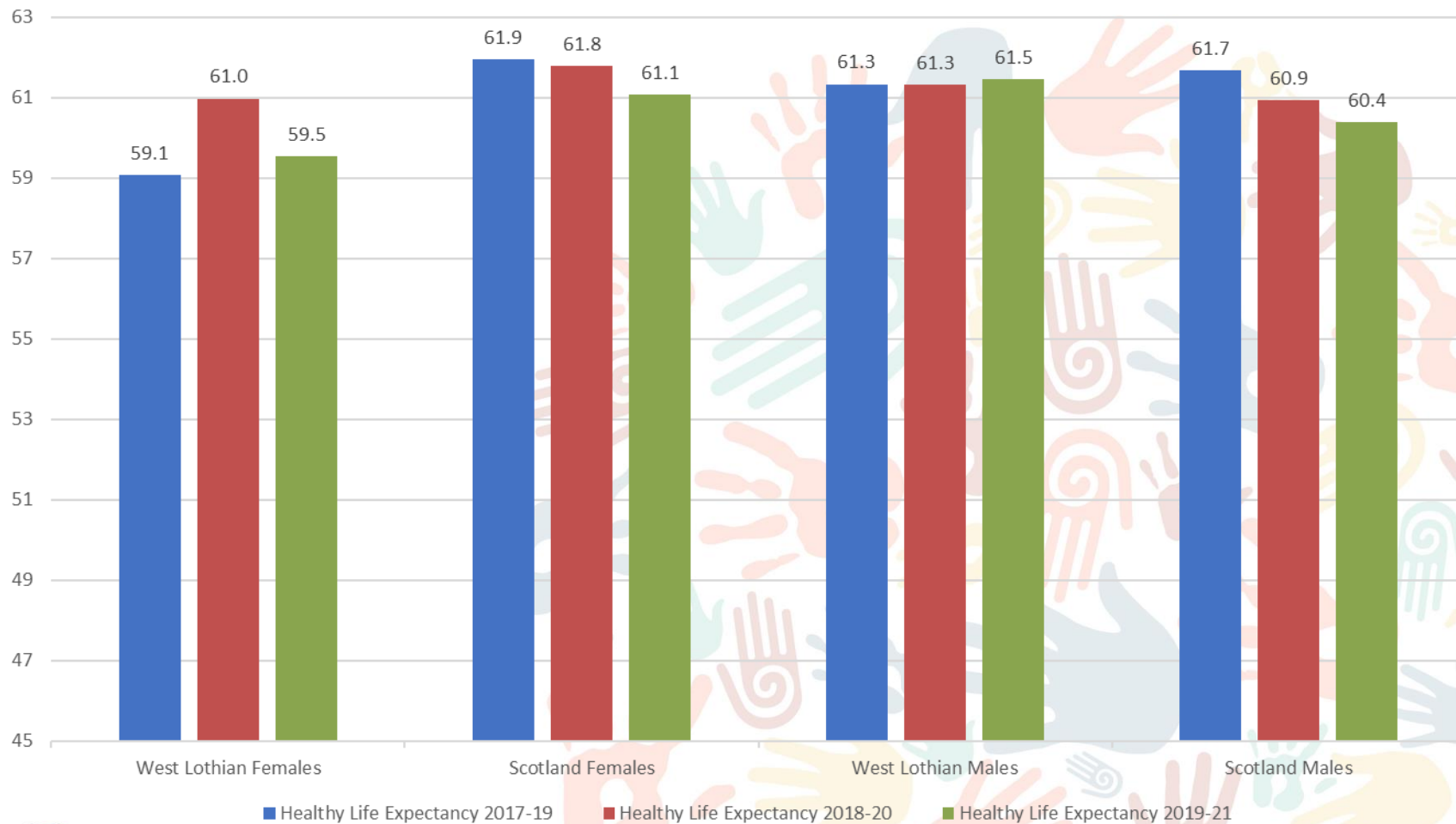
Life Expectancy



West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Healthy Life Expectancy

Healthy Life Expectancy



West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Life Expectancy

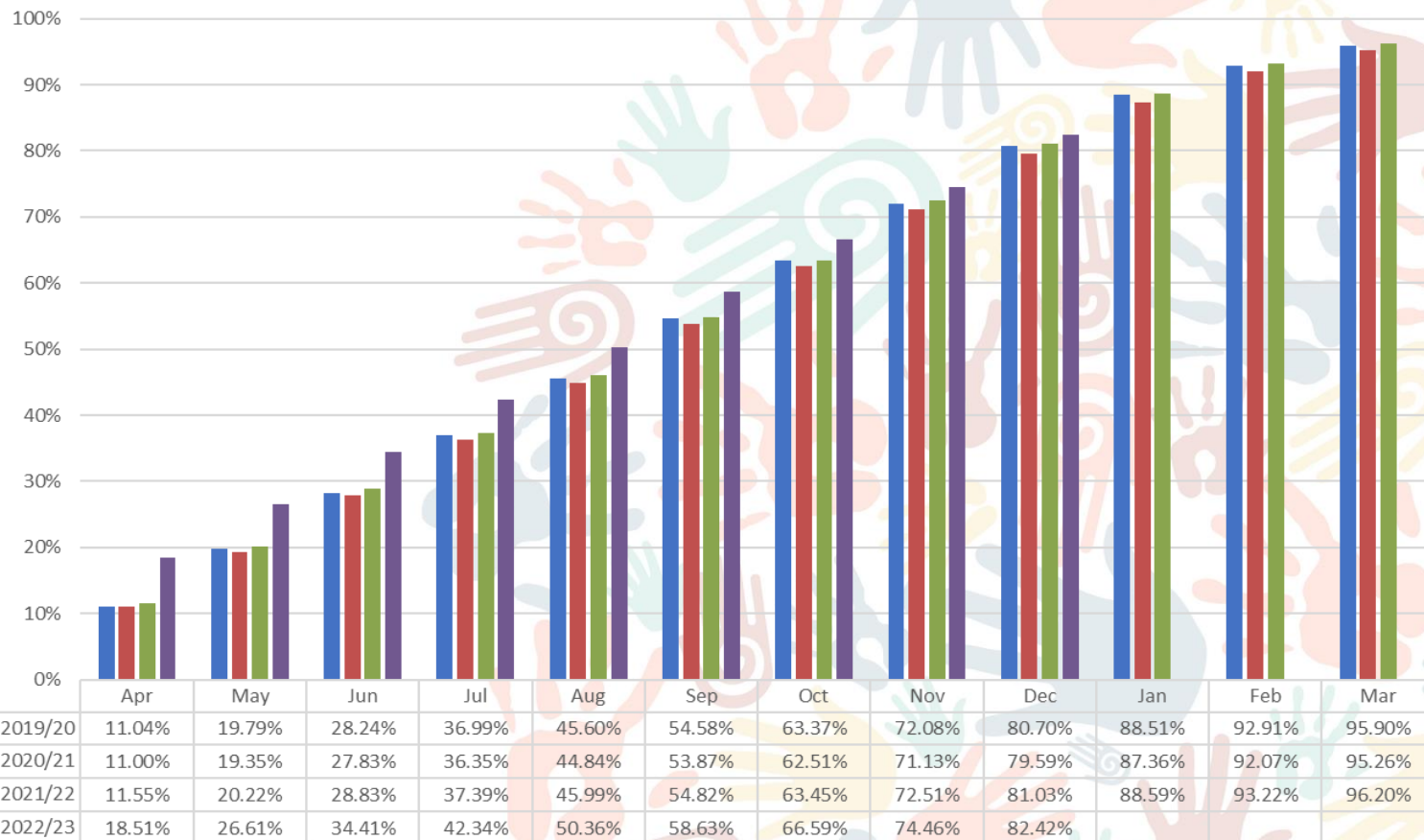
	Armadale and Blackridge	Broxburn	Bathgate	East Livingston and East Calder	Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	Linlithgow	Livingston North	Livingston South	Whitburn and Blackburn
Female Life Expectancy:									
Lowest	78.6	80.6	77.9	79.8	77.3	84	79.6	78.8	76.7
Highest	80.7	83.9	85.5	86.5	82.9	87.5	84.9	84.3	80.1
Gap	2.1	3.3	7.6	6.7	5.6	3.5	5.3	5.5	3.4
Male Life Expectancy:									
Lowest	75.3	75.9	74.6	74.2	73.7	77.0	74.7	73.2	73.3
Highest	79.4	82	81.8	81.4	77.3	85.0	82.6	83.4	78.3
Gap	4.1	6.1	7.3	7.2	3.6	8.0	7.9	10.1	5.0

- Lowest female life expectancy intermediate zone: Blackburn
- Highest female life expectancy intermediate zone: Linlithgow South
- 10.8 year gap between those two extremes
- Lowest male life expectancy intermediate zone: Dedridge East
- Highest male life expectancy intermediate zone: Linlithgow North
- 11.8 year gap between those two extremes



Council Tax Collection

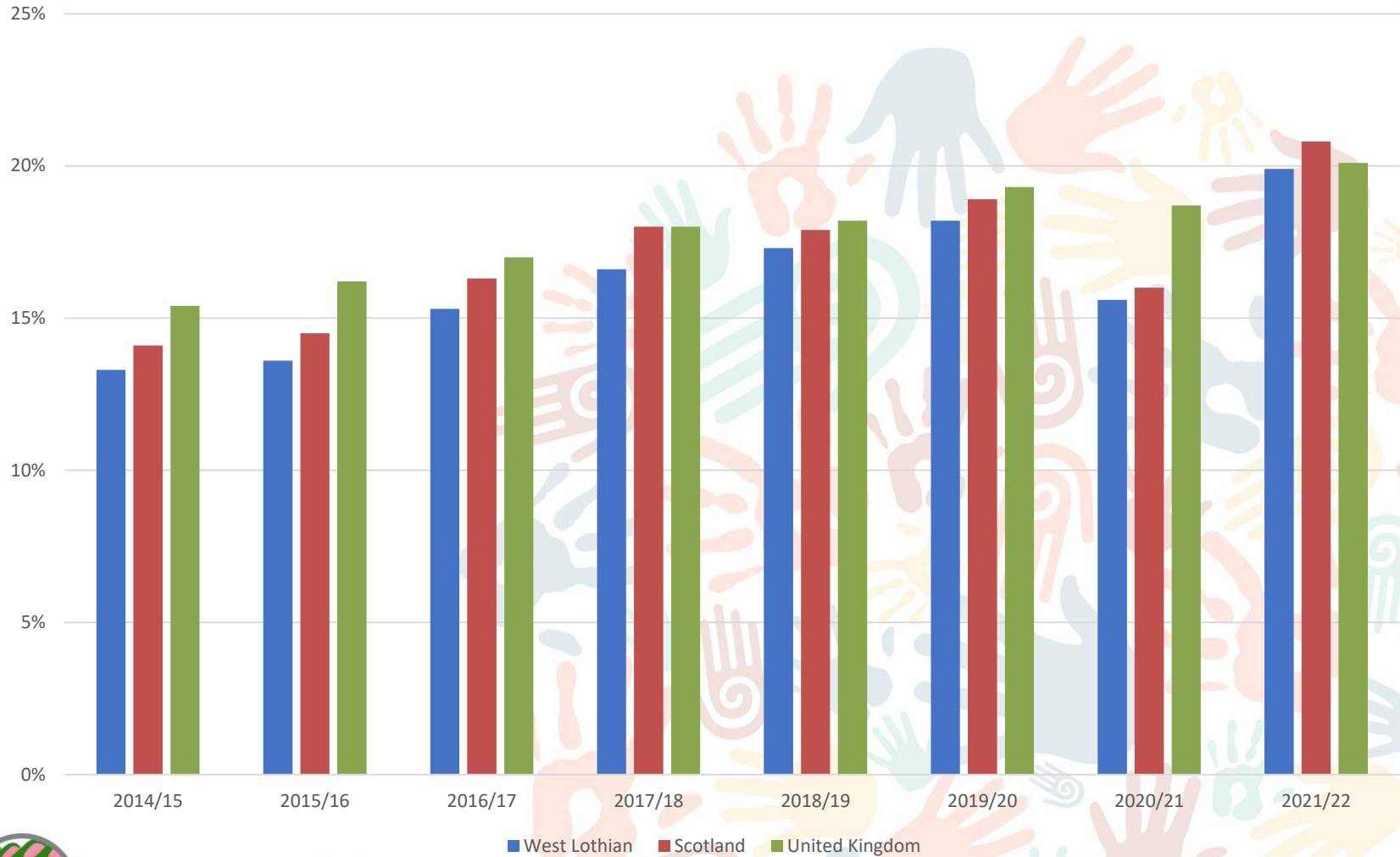
Cumulative Council Tax Collection Rate



West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Child Poverty

Children in Low Income Families



West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

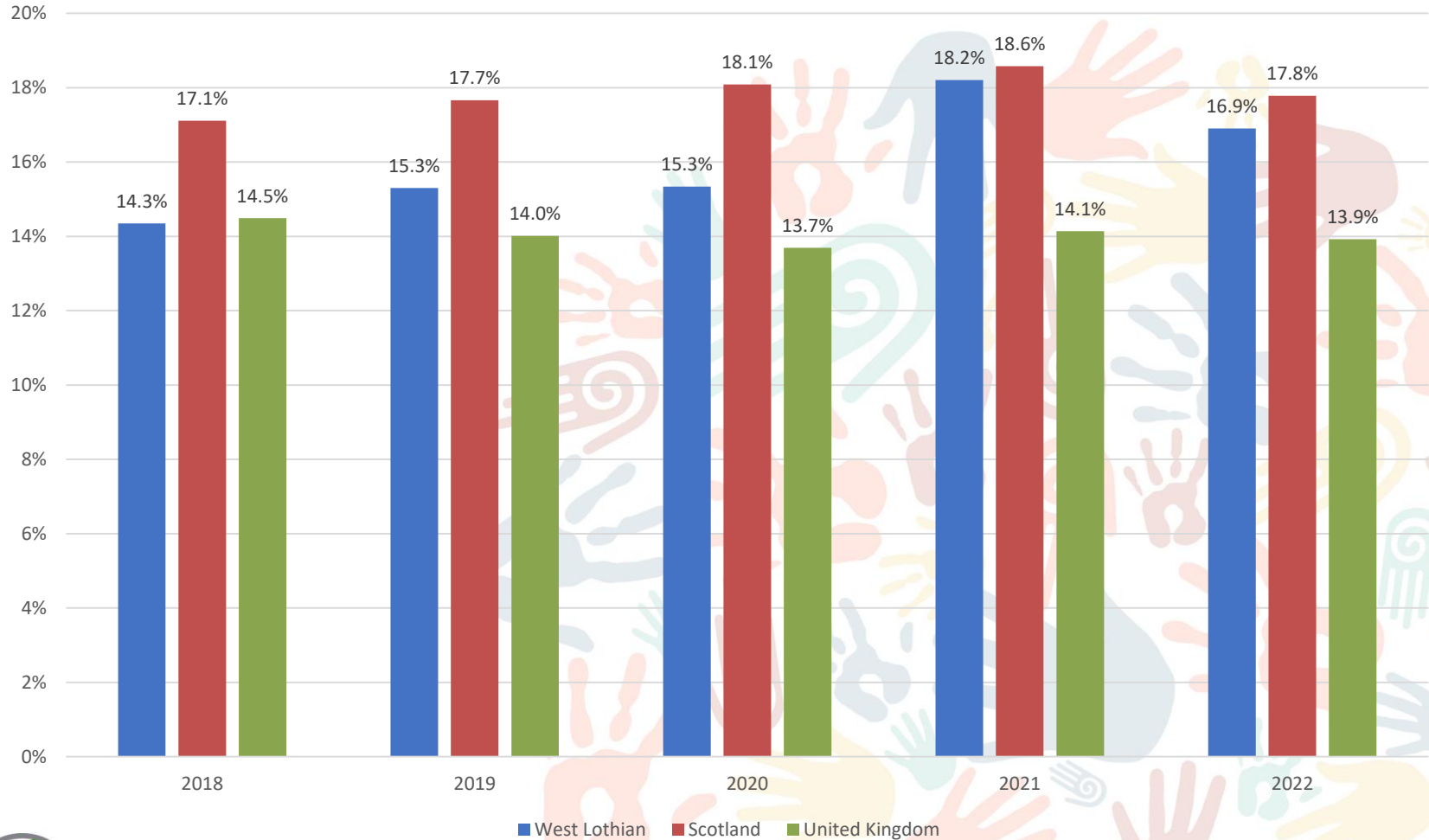
Children in Low Income Families

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Armadale and Blackridge	17.8%	16.1%	18.3%	16.1%	20.6%
Bathgate	16.2%	15.8%	16.1%	13.3%	18.9%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	15.0%	16.5%	17.8%	16.2%	20.1%
East Livingston and East Calder	16.3%	16.5%	17.1%	16.1%	17.7%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	20.6%	20.9%	25.4%	20.2%	27.4%
Linlithgow	6.8%	8.1%	8.0%	6.5%	7%
Livingston North	15.6%	16.4%	18.2%	15.6%	20.4%
Livingston South	17.9%	19.8%	19.4%	15.3%	20.1%
Whitburn and Blackburn	22.0%	23.5%	23.0%	20.0%	24.9%
West Lothian	16.6%	17.2%	18.2%	15.5%	19.9%
Scotland	17.9%	18.9%	15.9%	18.0%	20.8%
United Kingdom	18.0%	18.2%	19.3%	18.7%	20.1%



Workless Households

Workless Households



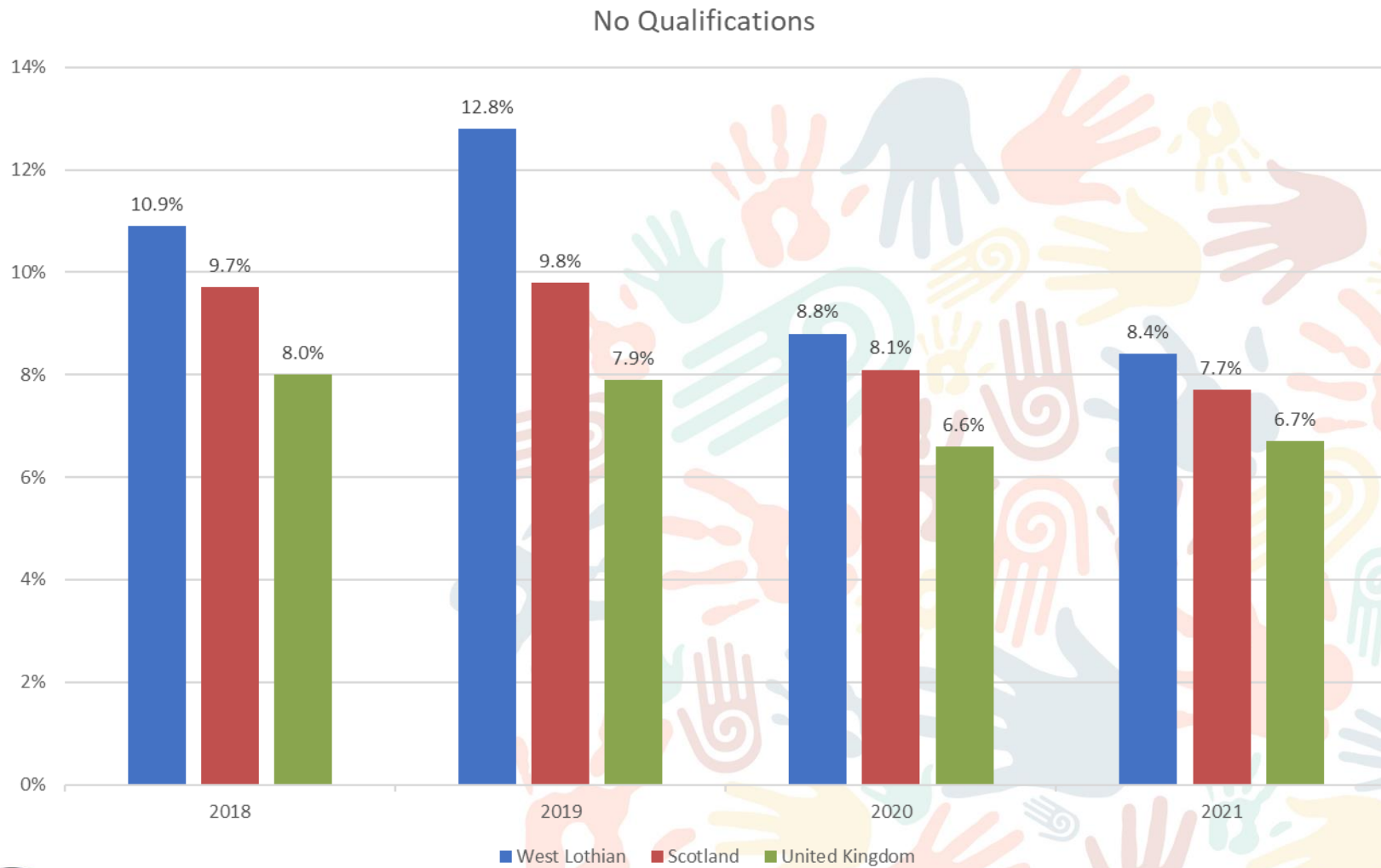
West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Positive Destinations

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Armadale Academy	92.62%	95.95%	92.13%	93.55%	97.02%	94.53%
Bathgate Academy	90.91%	91.95%	95.51%	91.43%	92.36%	96.17%
Broxburn Academy	93.24%	94.44%	95.45%	85.07%	95.65%	93.37%
Deans Community High School	91.63%	93.25%	93.71%	91.98%	93.87%	89.94%
Inveralmond Community High School	93.41%	94.22%	95.11%	92.57%	94.61%	96.95%
Linlithgow Academy	97.72%	98.12%	96.57%	91.60%	94.86%	95.41%
St Kentigern's Academy	94.71%	95.87%	96.17%	92.55%	97.09%	95.92%
St Margaret's Academy	95.16%	95.69%	95.91%	95.48%	96.55%	93.75%
The James Young High School	96.00%	95.24%	95.12%	96.84%	95.89%	94.23%
West Calder High School	93.18%	92.26%	91.24%	95.74%	93.44%	96.45%
Whitburn Academy	92.26%	87.86%	94.62%	94.53%	95.65%	93.85%
West Lothian	93.93%	94.36%	94.81%	92.88%	95.27%	94.64%
Scotland	93.72%	94.40%	95.05%	93.36%	95.48%	95.74%



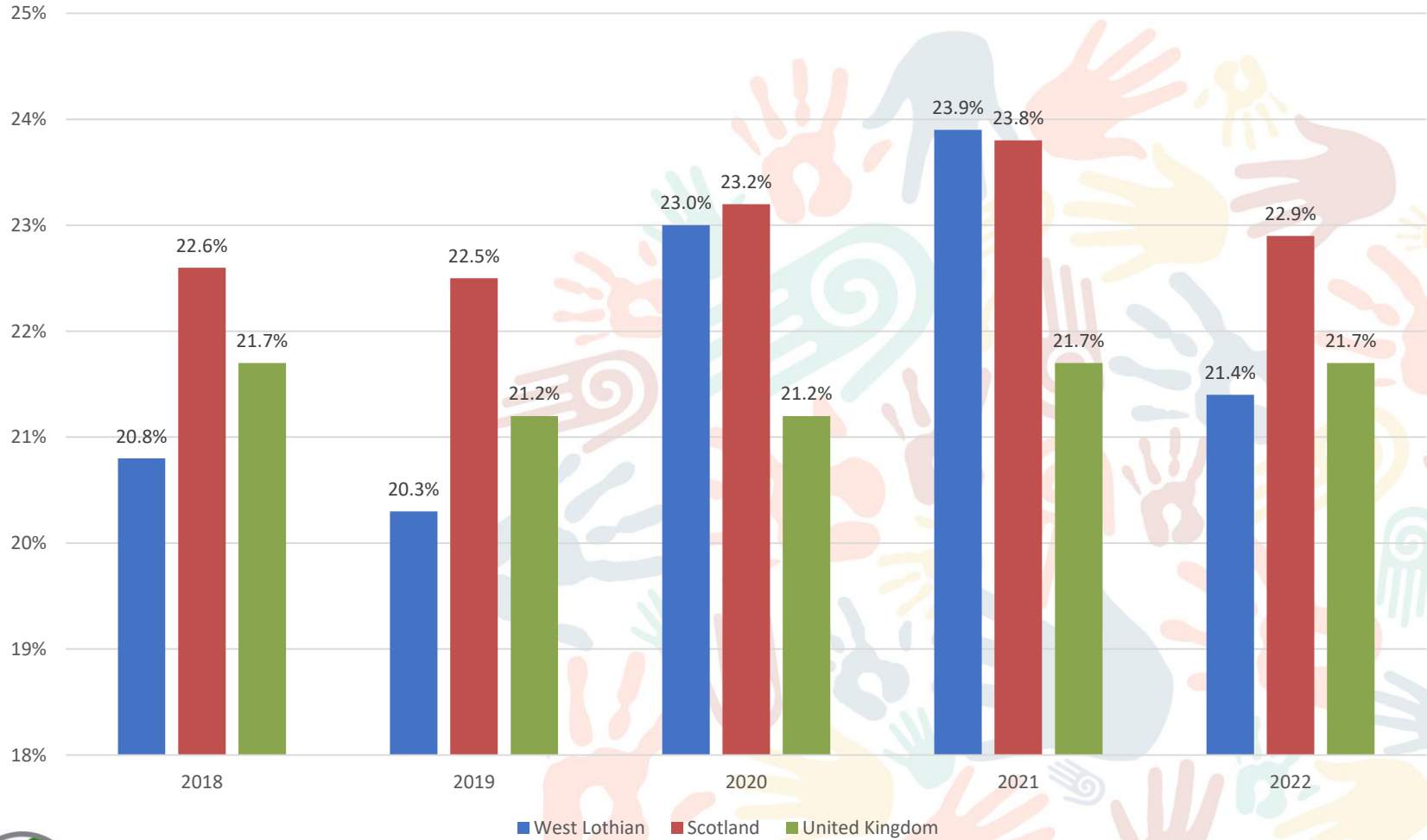
No Qualifications



West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Economic Inactivity

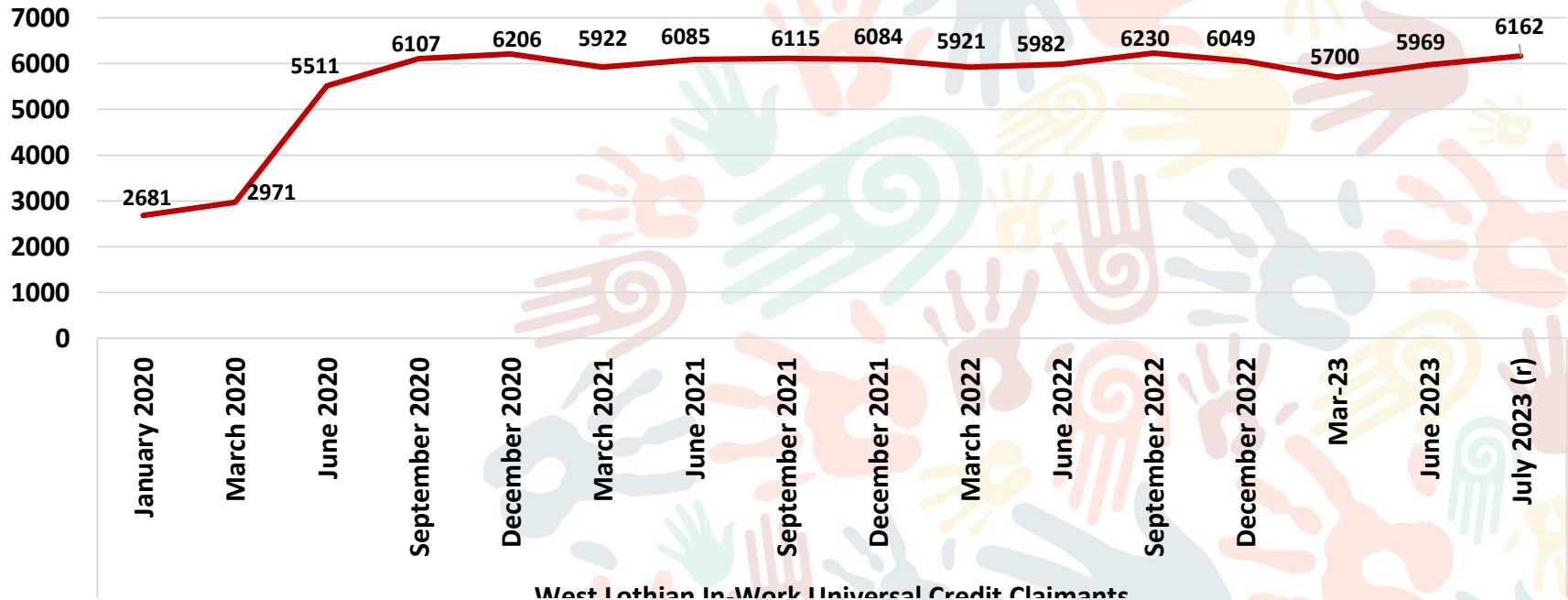
Economic Inactivity



West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

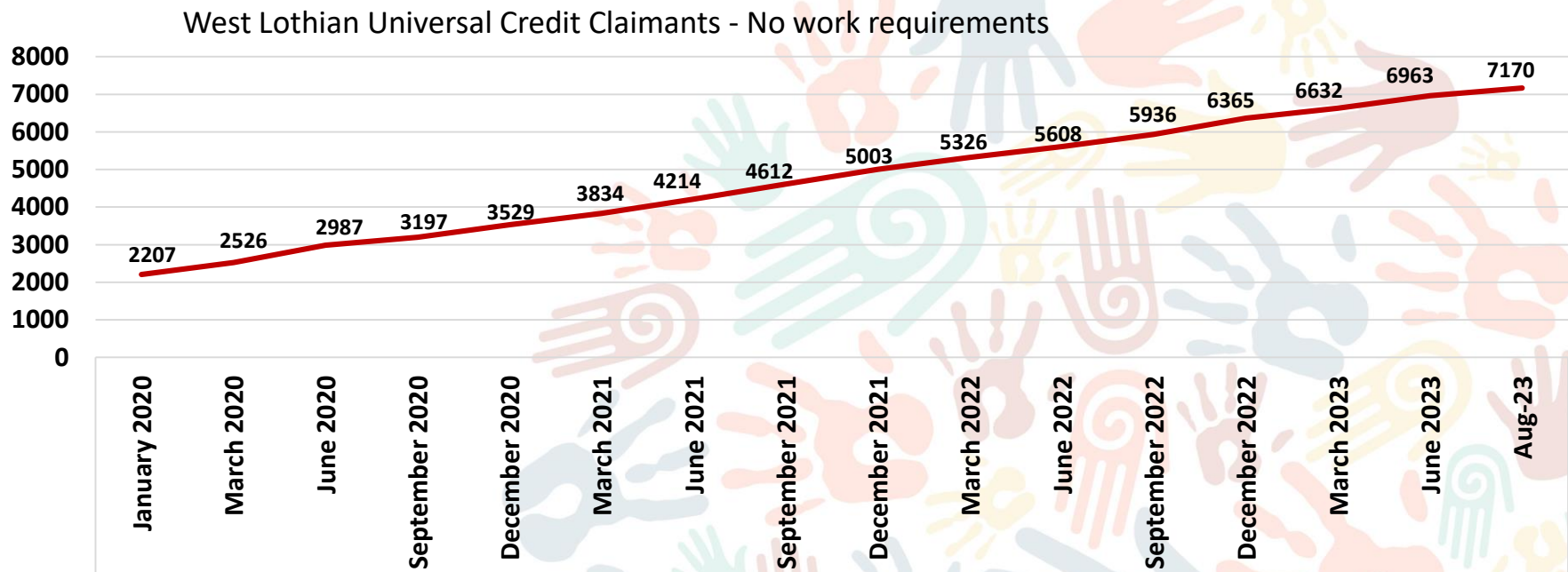
In Work Universal Credit Claimants

West Lothian In-Work Universal Credit Claimants



West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Economically Inactive Universal Credit Claimants



West Lothian
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Low Income Employment and Zero Hours

Low Pay Employment and Zero Hours Contracts		
LGBF Family Group 3	Low pay (% of employees) 2021	Zero-hour contracts (% of employees) 2021
Angus	16.1	3.2
Clackmannanshire	10.8	*
Midlothian	11.1	*
South Lanarkshire	9.9	0.8
Inverclyde	13.5	1.0
Renfrewshire	9.8	2.1
West Lothian	11.6	0.9
East Renfrewshire	6.3	1.8
Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region	11.4	2.3
Scotland	11.4	2.2

Household Incomes

Median Household Income Estimates – 10 DZs with lowest median weekly income

Datazone Names	Median Weekly income
Whitburn War Memorial	£282
Whitburn Whitdale School	£283
Livingston Dedridge West	£306
Livingston Ladywell Banks South East	£314
Uphall Station West	£322
Livingston Ladywell Banks Central	£325
Livingston Eliburn South East	£326
Armadale Drove Road	£327
Greenrigg East	£330
Livingston Deans South	£331



Claimant Count (Slides 2-6)

The Claimant count for West Lothian is 3063 at 2.6% for September 2023, which is lower than the Scottish rate (3%) and the UK rate (3.7%). The latest rate is lower than it was in August (2.7%) which was 3,200 count and is lower than the rate in September 2022 (2.7%) which was 3,195. The jobs market has continued to be buoyant, but the changing economic climate may impact on employment levels with increasing concern on the impact of the cost of doing business crisis, high inflation, recession and high competition to fill skilled/experienced vacancies.

Youth unemployment figures for West Lothian in September were (4.7%), higher than the rate for Scotland (4.4%) The latest rate is lower than August 23 which was 670 count and continues with the trend in West Lothian of a reducing Youth Claimant number from September 21 (7.8%). Key sectors such as services, hospitality, and retail who generally are the largest employers of young people are still actively recruiting.

Overall, as the number of job vacancies continued to reach record levels, the general trend for unemployment has been a levelling off towards the end of 2021, which continued through 2022 until summer, where we have then seen a small rise in out-of-work claimants but has now levelled off at around 2.6% for West Lothian in 2023. It is worth noting that the figure includes individuals who are not in work and not looking for a job - those who are unable to look for work due to disability, long-term health issues, or caring responsibilities. DWP are currently looking at ways to help support some of these individuals to return to work by working with employers to provide a more flexible approach to working hours and in-work support.

It is likely that this increase in in-work claimants has resulted from a variety of different factors over the last few years including the high cost of living and reduced working hours. West Lothian Advice Shop has also noted increased numbers of individuals seeking advice and support related on money issues and budgeting. These figures should continue to be carefully monitored given the squeeze on household income through inflation and increased prices.

School Support (Slide 7-9)

For EMA the number of applications in West Lothian and in Scotland are falling. The reduction in payments of EMA has been linked to the increasing number of young people leaving school early to pursue employment opportunities rather than further education. However, it should be noted that for the 2020/2021 academic year numbers are higher because West Lothian Council carried forward applications due to the start of the pandemic.

As at 03 March 2023, there are 5,628 pupils in receipt of free school meals and 833 P1 to P5 pupils in receipt of the school clothing grant, who are eligible for the £3 meal payments while schools were on strike.

Whitburn Academy, Deans Community High School and Inveralmond have the highest levels of pupils in receipt of free school meals and clothing grants in both Primary and Secondary.

Rent arrears and Homelessness (Slides 10-12)

The value of current tenant arrears at 30 September 2023 was £4.667 million (6,909 cases), with the equivalent position in 2022/23 of £4.781 million. Arrears and their impact will continue to be closely monitored. It is likely that the value of current rent arrears is due to a number of factors including the current cost of living crisis and reduced working hours.

This is also reflected in 5 of West Lothian Council's Multi Member Ward Areas where the average debt for those in temporary accommodation has risen. The highest rates of average debt increase for those in temporary accommodation is in Bathgate (67%) where the average debt has increased from £333 in March 2023 to £545 in September. Although the highest levels of average debt for temporary accommodation are in Livingston East and East Calder (£1,521) and Fauldhouse and Breich Valley (£1,167).

It should also be noted that there has been an increase of homelessness applications in West Lothian in Q2 2023/24 (350) compared to Q1 2023/24 (290) which is an increase of 60. This again is likely to be due to a number of different factors including the cost of living crisis and the increases in inflation since 2021.

Delayed Discharge (Slide 13)

A delayed discharge occurs when a patient, clinically ready for discharge, cannot leave hospital because the other necessary care, support or accommodation for them is not readily accessible and/or funding is not available, for example to purchase a care home place. The rate in West Lothian for September 2023 was 0.01% lower than the Scottish average which was 3.22%

Slide 13 shows the number of discharges relating to standard reasons (health & social care or patient & family related); Delays for code 9 - Adults with Incapacity (AWI) reasons; Delays for code 9 - Non-AWI reasons. It should be noted that the rates of delayed discharge for standard reasons has decreased throughout 2023 from 38 in January to 25 in August.

Life Expectancy (Slide 14-16)

Life Expectancy estimates are based on the mortality probabilities indicated by the death records for the three years prior to the date of publication. Healthy life expectancy is defined as the number of years that someone could expect to spend in 'good' or 'very good' health. General Life Expectancy data shows similar performance across the Local Authority over the last 3 years and consistently lower Life Expectancy for males than females, which compares similarly to Scotland overall. Healthy Life Expectancy shows greater variance with data for females as lower than wider Scotland and falling from previous year whereas male data is slightly improving while this has continually fallen over the last 3-years Nationally.

- Lowest female life expectancy intermediate zone: Blackburn
- Highest female life expectancy intermediate zone: Linlithgow South
- 10.8-year gap between those two extremes
- Lowest male life expectancy intermediate zone: Dedridge East
- Highest male life expectancy intermediate zone: Linlithgow North
- 11.8-year gap between those two extremes

Council Tax Collection (Slide 17)

Council Tax income collection has increased in 2022/23 mainly due to the Scottish Governments £150 Cost of Living Award being credited to the Council Tax accounts of eligible households in April 2022. To be eligible, the householder must have been liable for

Council Tax on 14 February 2022 and be living in a property in band A-D or in receipt of a specific Council Tax reduction.

The effect of the £150 credit to Council Tax accounts of eligible households was to reduce the Council Tax due for the year and therefore the amount that had to be paid each month to the Council Tax account. As all credits were applied in April 2022 the reduction in the increase in Council Tax collection naturally reduced in each subsequent month of the financial year.

Child Poverty, Low Income Families and Workless Households (Slide 18-20)

The percentage of children in poverty after housing costs demonstrates a consistently lower rate than in Scotland and wider United Kingdom. Once data for Low Income Families is broken down per Multi-Member Ward Fauldhouse & Breich Valley (27.4%) and Whitburn & Blackburn (25.1%) have a higher rate of Children in Low Income Families in West Lothian, significantly higher than the West Lothian, Scotland and UK average. The recent rise in the data demonstrates the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic and the Cost of Living Crisis. The gap between the highest and lowest rate per MMW in 2021/22 is 20.0 percentage points.

The percentage of workless households in West Lothian has decreased between 2021 and 2022 by 1.3% points which is a greater decrease than Scotland (1.2%) and the United Kingdom (0.2%). Despite the decrease in Workless Households the data demonstrates an increase in Children in Low Income Families in 2021/2022 which is likely to be due to a variety of different factors over the last few years including the high cost of living and reduced working hours.

Positive Destinations (Slide 21)

Each category of destination is classified as either positive or non-positive. Each leaver's category will be determined by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) staff in direct discussion with the school leaver. SDS staff make the decision on the most appropriate category to be used for any given situation. The following destinations are considered as non-Positive; Unemployed not seeking, Unemployed seeking and not know destination.

Almost all Schools showed an increase in performance over the 5-year period from 2017/18 to 2021/22, West Lothian performance this year was slightly lower than in 2020/21 which was the highest ever for proportion of pupils entering a Positive Destination.

No Qualification Rate (Slide 22)

People are classed as having low or no qualifications if they have SCQF level 4 or below. The ratio is the number of people who reported having low or no qualification divided by the number of people in employment (16-64 years). A small number with unknown qualifications is excluded from this calculation.

Latest performance across the Authority has fallen over the last two years but is still above the proportion of people with no qualifications across Scotland and the UK.

Economic Inactivity (Slide 23)

Economically inactive people are those not in employment, but do not satisfy the internationally agreed definition of unemployment. This group covers people without a job who: want a job but have not been seeking work in the last four weeks; or want a job and

are seeking work but not available to start work in the next two weeks; or do not want a job. Headline Inactivity levels and rates cover all workers aged 16-64 for both men and women. This excludes many people who would be inactive due to retirement.

Although performance improved in 2022, the proportion of people who are economically inactive has increased over the 5-year period from 2018 and still higher in West Lothian than Scotland and the UK.

In-work Universal Credit Claimants (Slide 24)

This indicator highlights the number of people In-Work who claim Universal Credit. The number of people in West Lothian who are in work but required financial support from Universal Credit (UC), has increased by 130% (6,162 July), since January 2020 (2,681).

In-work claims have remained consistently high since the start of the Covid Pandemic. The Cost of Living crisis continues to impact with higher costs and wages failing to keep up with inflation. Underemployment and insecure jobs are key factors for creating potential for higher levels of 'in work poverty'.

Economically Inactive Universal Credit Claimants (Slide 25)

This indicator further demonstrates Economic Inactivity in West Lothian. An estimated 15% (18,200) of the West Lothian working age population are 'economically inactive', discounting those retired.

'No work requirements' group is largest Universal Credit claim group and are defined as people who cannot do paid work due to health conditions / caring responsibilities. Universal Credit Claims have increased by around 225% (5,000) since pre-Covid period (Jan '20) which is 42% of the total UC caseload in August 2023 (7,170). A contributing factor to this has been the significant rise in long-term sickness figures, since early 2020 and the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Low Income Employment and Zero Hours Contracts (Slide 26)

This indicator demonstrates the number of people in West Lothian who are in Low Income Employment. At 2021 1 in 10 West Lothian residents are in low paid jobs (10,600), but less than 1% (800) are experiencing zero-hours contracts. West Lothian's proportion of Low Paid employees is close to the national and SE Scotland City Region rates. Employees on a zero hours contract are lower than the regional and national rates.

Household Incomes (Slide 27)

This indicator highlights the median household income estimates of the 10 datazones with the lowest average income in West Lothian. Latest estimates for average gross disposable household income (after housing costs) suggests that average income per household in West Lothian at £580 per week (around £30,200 per annum). An estimated 18% of West Lothian Households were in relative low income (when an income is below 60% of the average (median))

Appendix three

Whitburn and Blackburn Area Profile

Overview

Whitburn and Blackburn are former mining towns located in the western part of West Lothian, to the south of the M8 motorway. Whitburn, one of West Lothian's five traditional towns, is the larger of the two communities, with a population of 11,805. Blackburn, with a population of 5,775, is an older mining community that has recently undergone a transformation, marked by new housing developments to the south and additional planned developments to the west.

West Lothian encompasses 35 data zones falling within the bottom two deciles of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). Four of these data zones are in Whitburn, while five are in Blackburn. Further analysis of the SIMD data reveals:

Whitburn contains two data zones within the lowest 10% overall in Scotland, with all four ranking in the lowest 10% for employment and health.

In Blackburn, two data zones are in the lowest 10% overall in Scotland, with four ranking in the lowest 10% for health, three for education, employment, and crime.

Consequently, within Whitburn and Blackburn, four of the most deprived areas in Scotland can be identified.

Claimant Count and Rent Arrears

Claimant Count Data- September 2023		
	Claimant Count	Rate %
Whitburn and Blackburn	510	3.7
West Lothian	3,065	2.4
Scotland	106,805	3.0

The current tenant arrears as of September 30, 2023, in West Lothian amounted to £4.667 million, involving 6,909 cases. This figure represents a slight decrease from the equivalent position in the 2022/23 financial year, which was £4.781 million. Notably, the Whitburn and Blackburn Multi-Member Ward showed the highest level of mainstream tenant arrears in West Lothian, totalling £861,652. A closer examination of this data reveals that £495,452 of the arrears effect tenancies in Whitburn, while £286,707 are associated with Blackburn. In the Whitburn and Blackburn Ward, the average tenant debt stands at £663, slightly exceeding the figure for Blackburn, which is £699.

Children in Low-Income Families and Accessing School Meals

The average percentage of children in low-income families in West Lothian stands at 19.9%. However, within Whitburn and Blackburn, 16 out of 21 data zones surpass this West Lothian average, and in two data zones the level is twice the West Lothian average:

- Blackburn (S01013361) - 39.4%
- Whitburn Central (S01013374) - 41.6%

In the financial year 2022/23, 10,962 foodbank vouchers were distributed in Multi-Member wards throughout West Lothian, with 5.7% of West Lothian's population benefiting from these

vouchers. Notably, nearly a fifth of these vouchers, totalling 2,181, were distributed in Whitburn and Blackburn, helping 15.8% of the child population and 7.8% of the adult population through food vouchers.

The average percentage of children in West Lothian receiving non-universal free school meals in 2022/23 was 18.82%. In contrast, within Whitburn and Blackburn, the average percentage of children receiving non-universal free school meals was higher at 22.61%.

Children Accessing non-Universal Free School Meals- 2022/2023		
	Free School Meals	Rate %
Whitburn and Blackburn	1,897	22.61%
West Lothian	16,581	16.81%

School Leaver Destinations

In West Lothian, 94.64% of school leavers found themselves leaving school to positive destinations in the 2021/22 academic year, slightly higher than Whitburn and Blackburn Multi-Member Ward, where the rate was 93.31%. Among these school leavers in West Lothian, 39% chose to pursue Higher Education, while in Whitburn and Blackburn, the corresponding rate was 34%.

Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Area Profile

Overview

The Fauldhouse and Breich Valley ward is comprised of seven distinct villages. Fauldhouse, with an estimated population of 4,900 in mid-2020, stands as a substantial village located at the very heart of Scotland's central belt. Surprisingly, despite this central positioning, it is a remote locality owing to its upland rural surroundings, making it one of the highest-elevated villages in West Lothian.

Addiewell and Loganlea, with a combined estimated population of 1,280 in mid-2020, are former mining villages also nestled within the same ward.

Polbeth, situated in the central belt, is approximately one mile from West Calder and three miles from Livingston. Notably, the village boasts a historic local landmark, the Five Sisters shale bing, located just a mile west of its boundaries.

Within West Lothian, there are 35 data zones situated within the bottom two deciles of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). Among these, three data zones are in Fauldhouse, one is in Addiewell, and another one in Stoneyburn. A more detailed breakdown of the SIMD data highlights that one data zone in Fauldhouse falls within the bottom 10% overall in Scotland, emphasising its unique socioeconomic characteristics.

Claimant Count and Rent Arrears

Claimant Count Data- September 2023		
	Claimant Count	Rate %
Fauldhouse and Breich Valley	343	3.4
West Lothian	3,065	2.4
Scotland	106,805	3.0

The current tenant arrears, as of September 30, 2023, in West Lothian, amounted to £4.667 million, encompassing 6,909 cases. This figure signifies a slight decrease compared to the equivalent position in the 2022/23 financial year when it stood at £4.781 million. The Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Multi-Member Ward displayed the second-highest level of mainstream tenant arrears in West Lothian, totalling £785,166. A closer examination of this data reveals that £285,556 of the arrears relate to tenancies in Fauldhouse, £144,037 to Polbeth, and £135,639 to Addiewell.

In the Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Ward, the average tenant debt is the highest in West Lothian, reaching £848, with the highest average rates observed in Breich, at £1,143.

Children in Low-Income Families and Accessing School Meals

The average percentage of children in low-income families in West Lothian stands at 19.9%. However, within Fauldhouse and Breich Valley, 15 out of 21 data zones surpass this West Lothian average, and in two data zones the level is twice the West Lothian average:

- West Calder and Polbeth (S01013261) - 39.5%
- Breich Valley (S01013254) – 40.7%

In the 2022/23 financial year, a total of 10,962 food bank vouchers were distributed across Multi-Member Wards of West Lothian. A significant proportion of these vouchers, approximately 1,288, were provided to individuals in the Fauldhouse and Breich Valley ward.

Approximately 5.7% of West Lothian's population relied on food bank vouchers for support. In contrast, within the Fauldhouse and Breich Valley, a significant 14.1% of the child population and 6.6% of the adult population depended on food vouchers to meet their essential needs.

The average percentage of children in West Lothian receiving non-universal free school meals in 2022/23 was 18.82%. In contrast, within Fauldhouse and Breich Valley, the average percentage of children receiving non-universal free school meals was notably higher at 22.84%.

Children Accessing non-Universal Free School Meals- 2022/2023		
	Free School Meals	Rate %
Fauldhouse and Breich Valley	1,353	22.84%
West Lothian	16,581	16.81%

School Leaver Destinations

In West Lothian, 94.64% of school leavers found themselves leaving school to positive destinations in the 2021/22 academic year, slightly lower than Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Multi-Member Ward, where the rate was 95.59%. Among these school leavers in West Lothian, 39% chose to pursue Higher Education, while in Fauldhouse and Breich Valley, the corresponding rate was 34%.

CPP Dataset

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to present three examples of Community Planning in Practice to the CPP Board to demonstrate the value of working collaboratively and the impact this is having locally.

2. Recommendations

The CPP Board is asked to;

- Note the project examples
- Consider and identify future opportunities for collaborative working

3. Discussion

It was agreed at the CPP Board held on 15 August 2023 that examples of good practice of collaborative working would be presented at the next CPP Board.

Community Planning focuses on where partners collective efforts and resources can add the most value to local communities. The recently published Local Outcomes Improvement Plan therefore highlights the 'added value' that working in partnership can bring. Working in partnership in this way is key to the success of the partnership, and for improving outcomes for local communities.

West Lothian has an excellent track record of working in Partnership, both at a strategic and local level. Sharing examples of good practice, and encouraging partners to consider and identify opportunities for further joint working is fundamental to the future success of the partnership, and the delivery of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans.

Three examples will be presented, demonstrating live examples of how working in partnership is having a positive impact in local communities

- **Fauldhouse Anti-Social Behaviour Project:** A project to address an increase in youth anti-social behaviour, particularly around fire raising. This was a joint project between a number of local partners, including Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, West Lothian Council and Fauldhouse Community Development Trust.
- **S6 Level 7 Experience:** A pilot project in conjunction with West Lothian Council, West Lothian College and Scottish Water to enable young people in S6 to gain qualifications through a national progression award in Cyber Security and Software Development and Young STEM Leader Qualification. Scottish

Water will provide additional learning as an employer giving the young people valuable insight into this industry.

- **West Lothian Mental Health Oversight Group:** This group brings together a range of partners involved in mental health services across West Lothian for children and young people to ensure that they receive the right kind of support and the right time in the most appropriate way.

A more detailed description of each of these projects can be found in the Appendix.

4. Summary of Implications

Relevant LOIP outcome (s)	ALL
Relevant LOIP performance indicator (s)	ALL
Resources	N/A
Link to prevention/community engagement	Collaborative working between partners and with communities is vital in helping to improve outcomes at local level.
Impact on inequalities	Working collaboratively and focusing on the added value of working together to reduce inequalities is the focus of the CPP and the LOIP.
Key risks	N/A

5. Consultations

CPP partners agreed at the Board meeting in August that good practice examples should be shared.

6. Conclusions

The CPP Board are asked to note the project examples.

Report written by/contact details/date

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References – N/A

Appendices: Appendix 1: Project Case Studies

Fauldhouse Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) Project 2022/2023

The Challenge

In September 2022 there was an increase in youth antisocial behaviour issues in Fauldhouse particularly around fire raising, attacks on the buses, unruly and threatening behaviour in the village. Issues were being raised by local residents, key community organisations and the local community council, particularly following a number of incidents of attacks on the bus service to the village, fires in the forest and within the village.

The number of incidents being observed locally and shared on social media was high in marked contrast to the low number being officially reported to services.

Interventions

In October 2022 the Community Regeneration Officer supported the creation of a local multi agency working group to address the issues that were being presented. Partners engaged in the actions to address the challenges included:

- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Police Scotland
- West Lothian Council – (Customer and Community Services, Community Learning and Development (CLD) Youth, Community Regeneration, Education, Safer Neighbourhood Team, Housing)
- Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Community Development Trust (CDT)
- Forestry and Land Scotland
- West Lothian Youth Action Project
- Fauldhouse Partnership Centre Management Committee
- Fauldhouse Community Youth Target (FCYT - local community group)
- Sport and Well-being for All
- Fauldhouse Community Council
- The Larder

The group met every three weeks to discuss the issues and how best they could be addressed, with supplementary meeting being held with key partners outwith the group to progress actions.

The group aimed to gain an understanding of the key issues in the community, an understanding of why the issues were happening and what the best way to address them would be. Initially First Bus were wanting to remove the bus service on safety concerns which needed to be prevented. The group were keen to ensure that the community were involved in supporting both the tackling the issues and the interventions required, and that they felt empowered to report any problems.

Key areas of activity that were initially progressed and implemented included:

- Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service met to compare and collate information across both their systems, when reported incidences had been reported to both agencies. This enabled a triangulation of issues to gain an understanding of when and where activities were happening, and it supported building a picture of the challenges.

Following the initial analysis, this information sharing took place where officers were sharing the information if/when reports came into either service.

- Under-reporting, through official channels, was a key issue initially identified. Information was brought together on how to report ASB and shared to every household in Fauldhouse through the Community Development Trust's newsletter and shared via social media by key community groups in the area.
- FCYT was established by the community and supported by partners including WLYAP, CLD Youth Services and the CDT with expertise, training and facilities. The community felt strongly that they wanted to form part of the solution to issues. Partners supported targeted work with some of the key individuals involved in the antisocial behaviour.
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service liaised with St Kentigern's and Whitburn Academy to identify young people at risk of engaging in anti-social behaviour. A Fireskills (firefighter for a day) session was run at Whitburn Fire Station for each school where pupils took part in practical sessions covering firefighting, search and rescue, water safety and the consequences of deliberate fire setting.
- A number of talks took place at local primary schools on fire raising and its dangers, the effects of it, the cost to tackle fire, the cost of dealing with the aftermath and the impact on safety not just to those engaged in fire starting but the wider community.
- Streetwork interventions were put in place with West Lothian Youth Action Project, through the TAC, to engage young people involved in the antisocial behaviour on a regular basis. This was the start of the engagement that then led to these young people attending sessions delivered by FCYT and Youth Action Project. This resulted in positive interactions with local shops and building more positive relationships.

Other interventions included:

- Information on activities available from all partners in the community was put together in a document by Fauldhouse Community Development Trust, and promoted to all residents in the village to make them aware of these.
- An information afternoon was held on 19 May 2023 with partners on the village green which included a BBQ delivered by WLYAP. The event was used as a chance for the community to learn about how to report issues and an opportunity to speak to services about any issues. Partners in attendance included Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue, West Lothian YAP, Customer and Community Services, CLD Youth Services, Access 2 Employment, FCYT, the LARDER, Fauldhouse and Breich Valley CDT, Community Wealth Building Team and Forestry and Land.
- Information on progress of tackling issues was shared regularly at TAC and through the Local Area Committee.

Impact

As a result of multi-agency working, the level of anti-social behaviour in the area has significantly decreased, with a marked decrease in the number of calls and incidents of fires raising and antisocial behaviour occurring in the village. No issues have been reported with attacks on the local bus network. In addition to the overall reduction the following impacts were also achieved:

- A number of charges brought against key alleged perpetrators of anti-social behaviour
- The Fauldhouse Community Youth Target was officially formed as a local community group which is running sessions for young people every second Friday evening at Eastfield Centre.
- Young people who had been identified as causing issues are engaging regularly with Fauldhouse Community Youth Target and took part in a programme of activity during the summer (2023) in association with the LARDER and Fauldhouse Community Development Trust. The activity included sessions in Benhar woods with Forestry and Land and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.
- Young people who had been identified as causing issues and some of their parents/guardians are meeting regularly and engaging with CLD adult services. Part of the engagement is looking at upskills courses and family learning opportunities to engage the young people in purposeful activity. For example, a young person and his parent have been engaged in numeracy support and four young learners, in partnership with the LARDER, have been working on individual qualifications (one of the participants was heavily involved in the Fauldhouse ASB).
- The relationship between young people and the wider community has improved.

Future Developments

Whilst the partnership group are no longer meeting regularly, the mechanisms are in place to reconvene the joint working should there be a future need. Key partners are continuing to meet to ensure activity is planned locally to support the needs of young people at risk of engaging in antisocial behaviour including the possibility of co-ordinating an e-sports pilot initiative.

S6 Level 7 Experience

West Lothian Council, West Lothian College and Scottish Water

Background

During the 2023/2024 academic session, West Lothian secondary schools are piloting a SQCF Level 7 qualification in conjunction with West Lothian College and an employer, Scottish Water with the view to enhancing the sixth-year experience for learners. In the national and local context, stay on rates of learners in S6 has been decreasing over time due to a multitude of factors. The financial element for learners of employment by the time they are 18 is a large factor at the detriment to their education and long term potential. Many leavers at the end of S5 go on to employment which is short lived prior to re-entering education through a college pathway some years later. For other learners, the curriculum offer of a sixth year experience is not attractive as in many educational settings this reflects what has gone before in the senior phase and learners struggle to find subjects which challenge and interest them.

2023 / 24 – S6 Level 7 experience

A Level 7 qualification represents the equivalent level of challenge as an Advanced Higher. For some learners, the difficulty of written exams at Level 7 can be prohibitive to them undertaking this qualification. The pilot of a Young STEM Leader (YSL) qualification at Level 7 in partnership with West Lothian College represents a unique opportunity for learners to study at this level while gaining a transition to study beyond school without the external exam. This qualification focuses on developing the leadership skills of learners in the context of the STEM area, however these skills are transferable to all areas of curricular learning.

In this initial pilot young people undertake learning through National Progression Awards (NPA) in Cyber Security and Software Development on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. On a Friday afternoon they work on their Young STEM Leader qualification which is largely based on a research project and is connected to their NPA subjects. Over the course of the year, learners will gain three qualifications in their two NPAs and Level 7 Young STEM Leader. To enhance this experience, we have developed a plan with Scottish Water for them to deliver elements of learning related to careers education and the area of cyber security. This will involve a site visit to a Scottish Water processing plant alongside Scottish Water's input on campus with the learners throughout the qualification. Scottish Water will support learning around how as a large business, elements of cyber security are vital in ensuring continuity of business within their infrastructure. They will also provide input from an HR perspective and allow learners to gain an insight into applying for a wide range of jobs in this sector. The real quality of Scottish Waters engagement is the authenticity it provides to learners who are working on elements of learning led by professionals who are not teachers. Giving them real industry incite whilst learning.

Future plans

Beyond the pilot this session, the intention is to widen the scope of the NPA qualifications being delivered to life sciences and the business/admin sector. These will still be covered by the Young STEM Leader framework for the Level 7 qualification while a more bespoke project element will underpin the NPA learning. As we plan for delivery in academic session 2024-25 we envisage engaging with employers and partners who will become part of the delivery model and as such this learning experience will provide an exciting and relevant venture for both pupils, college and industry.

West Lothian Mental Health Oversight Group

Remit

The West Lothian Mental Health Oversight Group maintains an oversight of the various mental health services across West Lothian for children and young people and ensure clear linkages exist and that good communication and partnership working is supported. The purpose of the group is to meet the following outcome which is detailed in the Health and Wellbeing priority of the Children's Services Plan:

'Support positive mental and emotional wellbeing of children and young people by establishing a Single Point of Access to ensure help is provided at the right time and by the most appropriate service'

To do this effectively four workstreams have been set up to take this forward. These are:

1. Landscape and mapping (led by NHS Lothian Public Health)
2. Transitions into adult services (led by Social Policy)
3. Engagement and Participation (led by Education)
4. Training and Capacity Building (led by Social Policy and Public Health)

Partners

Other partners involved in this work are listed below:

NHS Lothian Public Health
WLC learning and development
WLC Social Policy (Children's Services, Adults and Community Justice)
WLC Education
PSP Roots Partnership
Youth Action Project
WLC CLD Youth Services
General Manager Mental Health and Addictions and Suicide Prevention Chair
CAMHS Lothian
Youth Justice
Who Cares Advocacy
WLC Housing
WLC Regeneration and Employability
Financial Inclusion
Active Schools Senior
HSCP Mental Health Services (Adults)
WLC Trauma Lead

Activity to date

Workstream 1: Landscape and Mapping

All children, young people and their families have the right to experience positive mental wellbeing throughout West Lothian. This group aims to take collaborative action so we can improve equity, inclusion and a high standard of care for families in West Lothian. The group will achieve this

vision by supporting children and families to participate in all parts of service provision, providing capacity building opportunities, increasing resilience, improving communication between services and people who access them and to support families to have choice and control in how they are supported.

The group are currently developing a user friendly 'roadmap' of services to help people and referring professionals navigate the system. Key outcomes are:

- Clarity of referral processes for families and professionals in West Lothian
- Access to a single point of access as developed by engagement and participation group.

Workstream 2: Transitions into Adulthood

This workstream aims to progress and promote an action plan that meets the needs of all children and young people transitioning from Children and Young People Mental Health Services to Adult Mental Health Services obtaining the views and engagement of children and young people and agencies that provide services that will allow the shaping of future service delivery. The actions in this workstream are almost complete and work is continuing to support transitions via various other workstreams. The workstream will therefore not be required on an ongoing basis once clear linkages, communication channels and a way to measure outcomes is in place.

Workstream 3: Engagement and Participation

This workstream aims to develop mentally healthy communities where families, children and young people are empowered to seek effective support for their mental health. Key outcomes are:

- Families, children and young people feel confident that their voices are heard and views are taken into consideration.
- Families, children and young people agree that the pathway developed is accessible and user friendly

This group have consulted with a wide range of children and young people across schools in West Lothian who have developed a vision for the 'one stop shop' for children and young people for all information and advice and referral routes for mental health and wellbeing. There has been engagement with 5 Clusters of P3-S6 Champs and with 30 families. Ongoing consultation is planned with mini/midi and family champs and young people with lived experience.

There will be a QR code for easy access and it is being designed by young people. Work is currently ongoing to identify a slogan and further develop the nine apps. The design is shown below;



Workstream 4: Training and Capacity Building

This workstream aims to enhance people's knowledge and skills through signposting and delivery of evidence-based interventions that promote positive mental health and wellbeing across West Lothian communities and workforce. This includes Mental Health First Aid, Trauma Informed Practice and Suicide Prevention. Key outcomes are:

Number of staff and community members completing mental health training.

- 2 courses have run in Armadale and Whitburn (14 community members)
- 55 staff have been trained in mental health first aid
- Approximately 500 staff have completed trauma informed practice as a pilot using WL developed facilitators notes
- Over 900 council staff have completed the suicide prevention e learning unit.
- 140 education staff have completed an introduction to trauma informed practice skilled level

Number of staff trained as trainers in Mental Health First Aid/Trauma Informed Practice

- 22 trained in Mental Health First Aid
- 5 members of staff have been trained in Trauma Informed Practice (TIP) level 2. Plans are for another 25 staff to be trained in TIP 2 in Feb 24. In addition, a Trauma informed programme developed for Elected Members will be developed. Evaluations have been very positive of the training to date

Number of staff reported feeling more informed & confident when supporting people's mental health.

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REVIEW OF COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021 - 2024

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the implementation progress and recent review of the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan 2021-24.

2. Recommendations

The Community Planning Partnership Board is asked to:

- Note the progress capture position within the current 3-year cycle of the CLD Plan 21-24;
- Discuss how the Community Planning Partnership partners can support the development of actions within the Plan; and
- Note the proposed schedule for the development and publication of the next CLD Plan 2024 – 27.

3. Discussion

3.1 Background

The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 place a requirement on education authorities to identify the Community Learning and Development needs of target individuals and groups within their Local Authority area. These regulations set requirements in relation to: the steps being taken by the education authority in securing community learning and development; the obligation to involve and consult certain representatives in carrying out that process; and ultimately the publication of a CLD plan every 3 years containing information about the provision of community learning and development.

There is an expectation on education authorities to recognise and coordinate, in the CLD plan, the integration and impact of CLD practice across services within the local authority area. This work includes services provided by the CLD workforce employed and volunteering, CLD provision within schools, colleges, third sector organisations and other community planning partners.

The CLD plan requires also to clearly acknowledge any needs for CLD which cannot be addressed in the period of the plan.

National guidance directs that the priorities for the delivery of CLD throughout the life span of the CLD plan (2021-24) should include, but not be limited to:

- Priorities set out in the LOIP and other national policies, whilst taking account of an evidence base most relevant to CLD provision;

- Working with partners in schools, colleges, third sector organisation and Community Planning Partnerships to ensure services are adequate and efficient;
- Identifying priority groups and target the most vulnerable and marginalised learners in schools, colleges and communities to engage with CLD services;
- Protecting and improving health and wellbeing outcomes for young people, adults and families;
- Creating additional opportunities and support for learning, employability and creating local wealth;
- Recognising and taking appropriate action to support those most disproportionately affected by digital poverty ensuring they have the necessary tools, skills and support to access digital learning and services;
- A commitment to incorporate the UNCRC into policy across CLD services;
- Taking account of the need for community-based adult learning, youth work and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) learning and embedding in provision across the local authority area.

Governance is an important part of the CLD planning process. The Community Planning Partnership has the central governance role in the provision and coordination of CLD provision with the West Lothian CLD Steering Board reporting directly to it.

3.2 Implementation and Progress of the CLD Plan 21-24

A collaborative approach to ensuring the delivery of CLD practice is recognised as being key to achieving improved outcomes for young people, adults, families and communities within West Lothian. Establishment of the CLD Plans for West Lothian is the core function of the CLD Steering Board. The Board meets five times a year and representation on the Board is drawn from various partners involved in Community Learning and Development including:

- Community Development Trust/ Anchor Organisations
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Housing Associations
- NHS Lothian
- Skills Development Scotland
- Voluntary Sector Gateway
- West Lothian College
- West Lothian Council (Schools, Youth Services, Adult Learning, Active Schools/Community Sports, Community Wealth Building, Regeneration, Economic Development, Anti-Poverty)
- West Lothian Leisure Trust.

Appendix 1 to this report contains the currently published CLD Plan 21-24. The Plan is designed around three improvement priorities with related strategic themes embedded within each priority area.

1. Improvement Priority: Supporting Learning, Health & Wellbeing, and Creating Local Wealth

- 1.1 Theme: Health & Wellbeing
- 1.2 Theme: Workforce Development
- 1.3 Theme: Skills Development and Employability
- 1.4 Theme: Family Learning
- 1.5 Theme: Digital Inclusion

2. Improvement Priority: Building Citizenship, Cohesion and Community Voice

- 2.1 Theme: UNCRC and Equality
- 2.2 Theme: Community Empowerment
- 2.3 Theme: Reducing Crime and Improving Community Safety
- 2.4 Theme: Youth Participation and Democracy

3. Improvement Priority: Designing Future Focus

- 3.1 Theme: Digital Pathways
- 3.2 Theme: Embedding national CLD Outcomes across West Lothian

The Plan is a working document and update on progress is the standing item at each Board agenda throughout the year. In May this year, as part of the process of on-going review, the Board commenced a comprehensive review of development to date, reflecting on the relevance of the current actions and the robustness of the performance measurement process involved.

Appendix 2 contains the summary of the review outcome including the actions considered, an agreed set of targets, self-evaluation statements and proposals for support requested from the Community Planning Partnership.

Key Discussion Points

The following areas have been identified as key discussion points in collaboration with members of the Community Planning Partnership.

Improvement Priority 1: Supporting Learning, Health & Wellbeing and Creating Local Wealth
Strategic Theme 1.6: Volunteering

- Consideration proposed for all partners to establish consistent target to measure impact of volunteering on health and wellbeing.
- Consideration proposed for all partners to establish consistent target to measure impact of volunteering on employment prospects.
- Consideration proposed on how to improve promotion of benefits of volunteering in relation to health & wellbeing.
- Support from CPP to commit to providing meaningful work experience opportunities over the LOIP lifetime.

- Consideration is proposed for members to ensure consistent and joined up approach regarding recognition of Volunteers' achievements.

Improvement Priority 2: Building Citizenship, Cohesion and Community Voice
Strategic Theme 2.1: UNCRC and Equality

- Consideration proposed to establish, across all partners, a baseline/target of children and young people reporting that they are involved in decisions that affect them.
- Consideration proposed on:
 - (i) the identification of a West Lothian data set which provides the appropriate protected characteristics information to inform an inclusive approach to planning and service delivery; and
 - (ii) how to make the collection/use of data consistent across all CLD partners.

3.3 Next Steps

The CLD Board will utilise thematic working groups to enable wider discussion and engagement in order to progress the existing actions within the agreed targets of the 2021-24 Plan. Any short life working group established for this purpose will be led by CLD Board members and involve wider representation of partner organisations and practitioners as is appropriate.

Particular focus of the Board in the immediate future will be directed towards the establishment of the West Lothian CLD Plan 2024-27. The statutory requirement directs that the revised Plan is published by September 2024.

4. Summary of Implications

Relevant LOIP outcome (s)	All
Relevant LOIP performance indicator (s)	All
Resources	The CLD Plan 2021/24 will be implemented within existing resources allocated to activities from identified relevant partners.
Link to prevention/community engagement	Key activities within the CLD Plan relate to prevention, community engagement and empowerment.
Impact on inequalities	Key activities within the CLD Plan support tackling inequalities.
Key risks	None identified at this stage.

5. Consultations

The CLD Plan is established, implemented and reviewed in consultation with the wide spread of membership partners including:

- Community Development Trust/ Anchor Organisations
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Housing Associations
- NHS Lothian
- Skills Development Scotland
- Voluntary Sector Gateway
- West Lothian College
- West Lothian Council
- West Lothian Leisure Trust.

6. Conclusions

The Community Planning Partnership has the central governance role in the provision and coordination of CLD provision across West Lothian. The CLD Board, as part of the process of on-going review, commenced a comprehensive review of the CLD Plan 21/24. This review reflected on the relevance of the current actions and the robustness of the performance measurement process involved in the Plan to date. This report sets out a summary of the review outcome including the actions considered, an agreed set of targets, self-evaluation statements and proposals for support requested from the Community Planning Partnership.

The West Lothian CLD Plan 2024-27 requires to be published by September 2024.

Report written by/contact details/date

Alison Raeburn, Education Services Manager, November 2023

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References

N/A

Appendices

Appendix One - CLD Plan 2021/24

Appendix Two - CLD Plan 2021/24 Summary of Review



Community Learning and Development (CLD)



Partnership Plan 2021 2024



Our Vision

“We want to provide an improved quality of life for everyone that lives, works and does business in West Lothian”

West Lothian Community Planning
Partnership Vision Statement.



West Lothian’s CLD partners have an active role in empowering people individually and collectively to make positive changes in their lives and in their communities.

It is recognised that CLD has a vital role in recovery through the pandemic and responding to the new challenges ahead.

This 3 year plan sets out how CLD partners will continue to work together with individual learners and communities to plan and deliver high quality learning and development opportunities.



James Cameron

Chair of Community Learning and
Development Steering Board



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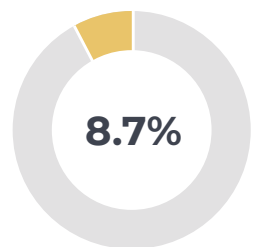
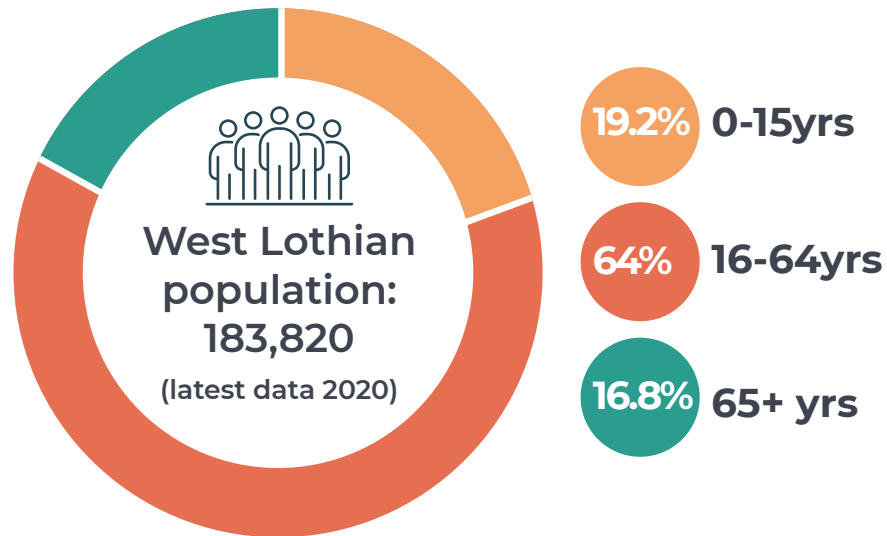
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2021 - 2024 Survey Responses

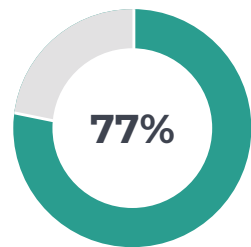
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Action Plan 2021 – 2024

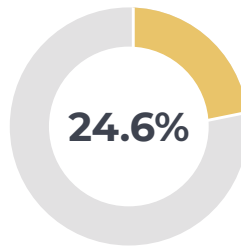
Our West Lothian Community



People of working age with no qualifications
(Scotland 8%)



self-assessed their general health as good or very good.
(Scotland 72%)



of children in West Lothian are living in poverty
(Scotland 24.3%)



Information about our community shows that West Lothian is projected to have a population of **189,065** by 2024

There are 13 targeted areas of deprivation in West Lothian.

These are in: Addiewell, Armadale, Bathgate, Blackburn, Bridgend, Craigshill, Dedridge, Fauldhouse, Knightsridge, Ladywell, Polbeth, Stoneyburn and Whitburn

Tackling inequalities is a core theme underpinning this plan

Governance and Involvement



Unmet Need

Partners recognise that the actions put in place to meet the challenges facing our communities may change throughout the lifetime of this plan to reflect any new emerging priorities. This will be informed by national/local strategies and priorities and available resources.

Some specific examples of unmet need concern the following:

- Tackling barriers to participation, i.e. costs of digital inclusion, supported learning, transport and venue costs.
- Family learning and intergenerational learning opportunities.
- Young people experiencing youth homelessness.
- Young people for whom there is a long-term illness in the family.
- Professional development and progression pathways for CLD practitioners.

Achievements 2018 – 21

Strengthening Partnerships

Strengthening partnerships across organisations and services improving community learning and development opportunities, and the range of supports available to children, young people, adults and communities to achieve their goals.

Holiday Lunch and activity clubs

Holiday hunger and learning loss reduced through the provision of holiday lunch and activity clubs for 2182 children and young people.

Collaborative Working

Partners continuing to work collaboratively through themed strategic groups to identify need, realign and target resources effectively at agreed priorities.

Online Referral & Tracking System

Establishment of West Lothian Online Referral and Tracking system, which is used by 45 organisations to make or receive referrals. Case studies gathered from a range of CLD organisations, highlight successful CLD practice and partnership working.

Connecting Scotland Programme

Co-ordination and delivery of Connecting Scotland Programme locally has reduced digital poverty and social isolation. 1029 devices and internet connectivity have been awarded and distributed to West Lothian residents.



Progression Pathways

Progression pathways have been further developed with the introduction of the community partnership programme between Adult Learning and WL College. Successful participants gain a qualification and are guaranteed an interview for a college course.



Achievements 2018 – 21

Community Engagement & Empowerment

Strengthening community engagement and empowerment through the development of 13 community led action plans. Communities have identified and are managing sustainable local services to meet community needs; e.g. West Lothian Food Network and developing community gardens.



Celebrating Achievements

Celebration events to recognise and celebrate individuals and communities' achievements and to support further engagement in community learning and development activity.

CLD Forth Valley & West Lothian Collaborative

The establishment of a CLD Forth Valley and West Lothian Collaborative involving the four local authorities; Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Stirling and West Lothian to share CLD practice and improve workforce development.

Expansion of Apprenticeships

Expanded the Apprenticeship Family to Foundation, Modern and Graduate Apprenticeship. The development of the Foundation Apprentice programme, and expansion of the frameworks, has allowed work-based learning pathways to start in the senior phase of school for pupils. This aids the development of young people's skills and expands their pathways to move into a positive destination.



Mental health and wellbeing

Staff have improved knowledge and skills to support a young person in crisis. Increased awareness of and support to young people experiencing mental health and wellbeing issues by upskilling school and CLD staff with Mental Health First Aid Training.

Learner Journeys

CLD interventions and support, along with effective partnership working, are enhancing employment opportunities, addressing poverty and disadvantage, improving health and wellbeing, and reducing social isolation and community safety issues.

The learner journeys detailed here are just a few examples of the difference CLD can make to individual learners and communities.

A Vital Lifeline

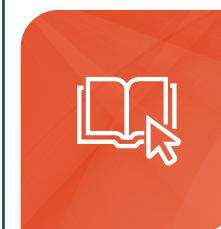
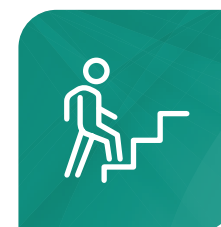
Lindsay's childhood experiences were traumatic and made life hard for her growing up. Broxburn Family Centre became her 'safe space' over many years and now, with three young children of her own, she is engaging with them again.

You can read more about Lindsay's journey [here](#).

Mary now feels less isolated

Following the death of her husband, 71 year old Mary felt alone, had reduced physical fitness and wellbeing, had lost her confidence and was at risk of becoming socially isolated. After joining a local Ageing Well class she's had a new lease of life. She's made new friends and gone on to become an Ageing Well volunteer; helping to deliver a range of classes for the past nine years.

You can read more about Mary's journey [here](#).



Introducing Sarah

Sarah is in a settled relationship and is a mum of two girls; one in high school and one in primary school. She started learning with us in May 2018. She works part-time in the café at a local high school. Sarah is dyslexic.

Sarah's Learning Journey

Sarah's first learning goal was writing in paragraphs. We started by looking at adaptations that would help with her dyslexia. Her visual stress was an issue and so we worked with blue paper/screen and large print. We also agreed on explicit instruction and tasks to be allocated in stages. She uses her laptop for writing and for reading large pieces of work. She then moved on to creating a budget for home expenses.

In the next term Sarah learned study skills to help her eldest child with research and writing for school work. Sarah consulted with the Disability Centre in Livingston and is getting help and support from them too, both for herself and her youngest daughter. Her next goals include research into ADHD and autism to inform herself and be ready for

interviews with NHS regarding her daughter and the support she needs to help with her behavioural changes and to get the correct support.

The difference Sarah's learning has made

Sarah is better able to deal with correspondence as her reading has improved. She is also happy to administer the family budget and her finances are currently stable.

Sarah has become more confident in dealing with professionals in regard to her support needs and her child's. She has negotiated her youngest daughter's change of primary school and transition to high school with support from the new primary school's learning support team. Sarah's daughter has been diagnosed with dyslexia and is being evaluated still for ADHD/Autism. Sarah's confidence has been boosted significantly by being able to help her daughter get her additional support needs recognised and supported. She has continued to fight for and get learning support and evaluation for her daughter. Her knowledge of childhood ASN and its support is now her driving ambition. She would like to help other parents with their struggles.

What next for Sarah?

Sarah has been accepted to start a Level 5 course in Early Education and Childcare with West Lothian College in September 2020. Sarah is already in contact with the college's learning support team in preparation for starting.

Introducing Grant

Grant is from a family of school non-attenders and has barely attended school since S2. He is shy but knows his own mind. Grant started to get into trouble within the community and decided that he didn't want to go down a bad road so he distanced himself from friends and decided to stop going out. He is from a supportive family who have a good work ethic..

The first time I met Grant, I went to his house and he didn't say much but agreed to get involved with MCMC and his mum said she would support him. He mentioned he was bored and that his preferred career choice was to go into the Army. We chatted about the Schools Vocational Programme (SVP) and Opportunity for You (OFY).

He seemed interested in the SVP mechanics and Hard Landscaping and OFY Fit for Life and Confidence. Although he enjoyed the Hard Landscaping course he only managed to go once. I supported Grant to attend an Outreach teaching group on a Tuesday. His attendance at this was poor but I would call him the day before to remind him this group was on and he would cycle over. He did attend

most weeks and did gain some qualifications; however, Grant was not keen on education and much preferred being active and doing practical activities. Grant was keen on finding work or joining the Army (which he decided he would shelf until he was a bit older) and it was clear that he was not interested in Further Education or Training. To improve his confidence, I supported him to self-reflect on his skills and identify how he would manage different situations. Over the coming weeks, Grant and I met on a regular basis to apply for work and I supported him with job applications and creating a CV.

We practiced addressing envelopes and what to say and do when you were handing them into potential employers. We looked at

how to adapt his CV for different jobs, how to write covering letters, practiced telephone interviews and looked at websites and places where he could find job opportunities. Sample job application forms were used to give him practice at completing them.

After weeks of applying for jobs I introduced Grant to another service, Access to Employment. We discussed what they could offer him and they gave us details of a couple of opportunities. Grant wanted to apply for a labourer position with West Lothian Council and I supported him to apply. He was invited for interview and we did some prep and I supported him to attend. He said the interview went well and was delighted to be offered the post as Trainee Labourer.

"I'm ready for work"



West Lothian's 3 CLD Shared Priorities for 2021-24

**Supporting
Learning,
Health &
Wellbeing and
Creating Local
Wealth**

**Building
Citizenship,
Cohesion and
Community
Voice**

**Designing
Future Focus**



These 3 Shared Priorities have been determined and informed by a range of sources:

West Lothian Local Outcome Improvement Plan

Achieving Positive Outcomes' is West Lothian's Local Outcome Improvement Plan and sets out West Lothian Community Planning Partnership's long term vision for West Lothian

West Lothian Council Corporate Plan Priorities

The Corporate Plan sets West Lothian Council's strategic direction and identifies our priorities for the years between 2018/19 and 2022/23.

West Lothian Anti-Poverty Strategy

The West Lothian Raising Attainment Strategy is focused on improving attainment and positive destinations. It aims to ensure that children and young people are well placed to move into adult life and employment or further/higher education.

West Lothian Raising Attainment Strategy

The Anti-Poverty Strategy sets out how the Community Planning Partnership aims to address poverty at a local level. Over the five year period from 2018/19 to 2022/23

National Improvement Framework

The 2021 National Improvement Framework (NIF) and Improvement Plan sets out the vision and priorities for Scottish education. It complements ongoing implementation of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), and Developing the Young Workforce (DYW); the three supporting pillars of Scottish education.

Community Empowerment Act

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places new duties on public sector partners to promote community empowerment.

National Performance Framework

The National Performance Framework details a number of indicators and goals that are supported by effective CLD, particularly National Outcomes 'We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe' and 'We are well educated, skilled and contribute to society'.

Fairer Scotland

The Fairer Scotland Duty places a legal responsibility on public bodies to consider how they can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage.

Tackling Child Poverty

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets national targets to reduce the number of children in poverty.

National Youth Work and Adult Learning Strategies

These strategies will provide the strategic context for CLD, specifically in relation to Youth Work and Adult Learning. CLD Partners are engaging in consultations on both of these strategies, and the emerging themes have been considered within this plan. These strategies are due for publication in 2021/22.

The United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child

The United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill places duties on public sector partners to ensure they are not acting incompatibly with the Rights of children and young people as defined through the 54 Articles of the UNCRC.

2021- 2024 Survey Responses

In developing the Plan, we have listened to individual learners, families and communities, as well as third and public sector organisations. We have taken account of a wide range of views including responses to online surveys and focus group discussions.

Theme: Youth Work - Young People's Responses

Top 5 responses for participating in Youth Work activities



Top 5 skills developed through participation in Youth Work activities



Top 5 ways to improve the learning experience for Young People



Theme: Adult & Family Learning Responses

Top 5 responses for participating in Adult & Family Learning

Learning and
developing new
skills

Achieving my
goals

Meeting new
people and
socialising

Getting
qualifications to
improve my job
prospects

Learning how
to manage my
finances better

Top 5 skills developed through participation in Adult & Family Learning

Communication
(reading, writing,
talking and
listening)

Confidence

Digital Skills
(computers,
technology and
social media)

Working with
others

Managing
time and
responsibilities

Top 5 ways to improve the learning experience for Adults & Families

Help me to set
and achieve goals

Give a wider range
of opportunities to
gain qualifications
or prepare for work

Provide better
information about
what's on in my
community

Help me to improve
my digital skills

Support me to
move on to training
and employment
opportunities

Theme: Community Groups & Organisations Responses

Top 5 ways you would like to build capacity for your group/organisation



Top 5 ways you would like to build capacity for your learners



Theme: Practitioners & Volunteers Responses

Top 5 emerging themes to be considered in the CLD Plan

**Diversity &
Inclusion**

**Mental Health &
Wellbeing**

**Blended
Learning**

Employment

Digital Inclusion

Top 5 ways of improving your CLD work/volunteering experience

**Networking
Opportunities
with Third Sector**

**Appropriate IT
equipment and
resources for all**

**In person
training
opportunities**

**Digital Skills
Training**

**Development
pathways for
volunteers**

Action Plan 2021 – 2024

1 Improvement Priority: Supporting Learning, Health & Wellbeing, and Creating Local Wealth

1.1 Theme: Health & Wellbeing

Action	Desired Outcomes	Timescales	Lead and Contributors	Measures of Success
Continuation and further development of supporting positive mental and emotional wellbeing of parents, children and young people	<p>Increase in positive healthy relationships.</p> <p>Improve access to community based mental wellbeing support for children, young people and their families in their local community.</p> <p>Positive impact of counselling services for young people.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Education Services</p> <p>Access to Employment</p> <p>Third sector organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in engagement with Health & Wellbeing courses • Percentage of learners completing accredited courses and achieving an SQA Wellbeing qualification. • Impact feedback from service users. • Evaluation of impact reports from counselling services.

1 Improvement Priority: Supporting Learning, Health & Wellbeing, and Creating Local Wealth

1.1 Theme: Health & Wellbeing

Action	Desired Outcomes	Timescales	Lead and Contributors	Measures of Success
Supporting vulnerable children and young people throughout school summer holidays with targeted developmental activities in some of the most disadvantaged communities in West Lothian	Vulnerable children and young people are benefitting socially, emotionally, and educationally, from participating in fun learning activities during school summer holiday periods. Increased understanding of the importance of play in contributing to reducing health inequalities.	April 2022	CLD Youth services Third sector organisations Active Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective identification and referral system to the programme • Increase in number of uptake from targeted group • Shared CLPL opportunities in relation to West Lothian's Play Strategy • The establishment of a revised model of targeted summer activities to support vulnerable children and young people in West Lothian.
Continue to promote and secure a wide range of volunteering opportunities	Volunteering opportunities are helping to improve health and wellbeing	Ongoing	West Lothian Voluntary Sector Gateway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved coordination and promotion of volunteering opportunities • Annual celebration
Deliver a range of health improvement projects to tackle health inequalities.	Targeted interventions are delivering positive outcomes on health	March 2024	Public Health CLD providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific project evaluation

1 Improvement Priority: Supporting Learning, Health & Wellbeing, and Creating Local Wealth

1.2 Theme: Workforce Development

Action	Desired Outcomes	Timescales	Lead and Contributors	Measures of Success
Continue to upskill CLD practitioners to respond to changes in need within the community.	<p>Increased understanding of the importance of play in contributing to reducing health inequalities.</p> <p>Organisations and practitioners understand where to access Dyslexia, Autism and Mental health & Wellbeing support</p> <p>A shared understanding of need and continue to use data to realign/target resources at agreed priorities in line with national developments</p> <p>CLD practitioners are trained to provide progression and pathways guidance to adult learners</p> <p>CLD Practitioners are upskilled on all aspects of digital delivery.</p> <p>CLD Practitioners are aware of the training opportunities available and how to access them</p>	ongoing	<p>Education Services</p> <p>All CLD providers</p>	<p>Shared CLPL opportunities in relation to West Lothian's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play Strategy • Dyslexia support • Autism Strategy • Use of data to ensure a shared understanding of need and continue realignment and targeting of resources at agreed priorities in line with national developments • Mental Health & Wellbeing support • Progression and Pathways Guidance for Adult Learners • Use of digital resources for learning <p>Increased number of practitioners as members of the CLD Standards Council Scotland</p> <p>Increased engagement with the Forth Valley and West Lothian CLD Collaborative (including consideration of Workforce Planning)</p>

1.3 Theme: Skills Development and Employability

Action	Desired Outcomes	Timescales	Lead and Contributors	Measures of Success
Continue delivery of lifelong learning.	An agile learning offer to provide guidance and opportunities to gain initial qualifications to upskill adults to gain and retain employment.	Ongoing	Adult Learning West Lothian College. Access to Employment, Third Sector organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of adult learners participating in literacy, digital skills and English for speakers of other languages classes. • Increase in the percentage of adult learners supported into a positive destination • Increase in the percentage of adult learners achieving accreditation • Evidenced flexibility in learning offer to meet the changing needs of adults.
Continue delivery of employability services in school and post school, with a focus on vulnerable and disengaged young people, through pro-active intervention.	An agile learning offer to provide opportunities for young people to build on their skills and gain qualifications to support transition to a positive destination.	Ongoing	DYW Steering Board Inclusion & Support service CLD Youth Services Access to Employment Schools Skills Development Scotland (SDS) West Lothian College Work-based Training providers Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the percentage of MCMC young people achieving a positive destination and sustaining for 6 months. • Increase in the percentage of care experienced young people achieving a positive destination. • Percentage increase in those young people participating in post school employability programmes achieving accreditation. • Evidenced flexibility in learning offer to meet the changing needs of young people.

1.3 Theme: Skills Development and Employability

Action	Desired Outcomes	Timescales	Lead and Contributors	Measures of Success
Continue to promote and secure a wide range of volunteering opportunities	Volunteering opportunities are helping to improve employment prospects	ongoing	West Lothian Voluntary Sector Gateway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish measurement for volunteers progressing into employment. Percentage of volunteers seeking employment who progress to employment.
Continue to improve planning across CLD partnerships to recognise the achievements of a range of local learners and promote the services of partners.	Systems are in place to ensure learners and volunteers achievements are recognised and celebrated.	ongoing	Education Services Third Sector Organisations West Lothian Volunteering Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear guidelines and expectations across all organisations that recognise and celebrate learners and volunteers' achievements.

1.4 Theme: Family Learning

Action	Desired Outcomes	Timescales	Lead and Contributors	Measures of Success
Continue to support parents to become further involved in their children's learning through the provision of Family Learning opportunities.	CLD contribution to a West Lothian Family Learning strategy is implemented and recognised.	March 2023	WL Education Services WL Social Policy Third sector organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidenced strong approach to collaborative Family learning Clear role and responsibilities across all partners Ability to demonstrate impact on individuals and families Increase in number of PEEP pathways classes delivered.

1.5 Theme: Digital Inclusion

Action	Desired Outcomes	Timescales	Lead and Contributors	Measures of Success
Continue to co-ordinate and deliver the Connecting Scotland Programme across West Lothian	Reducing digital poverty and social isolation	August 2022	Adult Learning Digital Inclusion Partnership Third Sector Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of Programme in line with national criteria and timescales Number of recipients confirming positive impact West Lothian allocation of devices fully utilised.

2 Improvement Priority: Building Citizenship, Cohesion and Community Voice

2.1 Theme: UNCRC and Equality

Action	Desired Outcomes	Timescales	Lead and Contributors	Measures of Success
Promote and incorporate principles of the UNCRC to ensure that every child and young person knows their rights and is heard in matters affecting them.	Children and Young People in West Lothian are aware of their rights	April 2023	CLD Youth Services Third sector organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of children and young people engaging in CLD activities reporting that they are involved in decisions that affect them.
Continue to provide a safe space and community-based provision for young LGBT people, children/ young people with additional support needs, girls and young women to raise aspirations, wellbeing and achievement	There is an inclusive approach to service planning and delivery, which takes account of individuals and groups with protected characteristics	Ongoing	CLD Youth Services West Lothian Pride Committee Youth and Community Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased promotion of opportunities for targeted groups.
Reduce barriers and increase engagement with BAME children and families.	Increased engagement with BAME children, families and communities	June 2024	Education Services Corporate Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a consistent framework of data collection across local partners.

2.2 Theme: Community Empowerment

Action	Desired Outcomes	Timescales	Lead and Contributors	Measures of Success
Continue to support individuals and groups to actively engage in their communities shaping decisions and planning services	<p>Communities in our most disadvantaged areas have the confidence, knowledge and skills to influence decisions and there is evidence of this leading to positive change</p> <p>Communities have identified and are managing sustainable local services to meet community needs</p>	ongoing	<p>Community Planning and Regeneration</p> <p>Third Sector organisations</p> <p>Customer and Community Services</p> <p>Anti-Poverty Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of community groups receiving capacity building support through CLD activity Number of people taking part in influence and engagement activity through CLD – (including community planning / participatory budgeting / local and national consultations / co-production and influencing service design) Number of adults, children and young people reached through one off engagements Increase in number of community led/owned services The Experts by Experience panel improve engagement with those with lived experience of poverty Opportunity of anti-poverty champions training for young people is established
Continue to promote and secure a wide range of volunteering opportunities	West Lothian citizens are actively engaged and contributing in their local community	ongoing	<p>West Lothian Voluntary Sector Gateway</p> <p>Regeneration Team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active promotion of volunteering opportunities via West Lothian Voluntary Sector Gateway website Analysis of volunteer participation in supporting activities to demonstrate impact, e.g. number of volunteers supporting activities in Local Regeneration Planning.

2.3 Theme: Reducing Crime and Improving Community Safety

Action	Desired Outcomes	Timescales	Lead and Contributors	Measures of Success
Deliver a range of targeted, preventative, diversionary and educational interventions	Anti-social behaviour within our communities is reduced and a reduction of re-offending evidenced.	June 2023	Adult Learning West Lothian College CLD Youth Services Criminal and Youth Justice Service Third sector organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of Adult learning classes for Criminal Justice experienced adults Development of collaborative interventions in response to reported incidents of anti-social behaviour.

2.4 Theme: Youth Participation and Democracy

Action	Desired Outcomes	Timescales	Lead and Contributors	Measures of Success
Continue to establish a new youth-led youth democracy and participation model in partnership with young people	<p>There is an effective Engagement & Youth Participation Model in place to gather the views of young people</p> <p>Young people in our most disadvantaged areas have the confidence, knowledge and skills to influence decisions and there is evidence of this leading to change</p>	August 2023	<p>CLD Youth Services</p> <p>Schools</p> <p>Third Sector Organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model implemented Increased engagement of young people in local decision-making forums

3 Improvement Priority: Designing Future Focus

3.1 Theme: Digital Pathways

Action	Desired Outcomes	Timescales	Lead and Contributors	Measures of Success
Develop additional opportunities through blended/ online learning	Learners have access to a more flexible learning offer and reduce barriers to learning.	July 2022	Education Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of an online learning platform appropriate to the needs of our learners Redesigned Adult Learning Programme based on impact feedback

3.2 Theme: Embedding national CLD Outcomes across West Lothian

Action	Desired Outcomes	Timescales	Lead and Contributors	Measures of Success
Continue to gather, share and jointly analyse relevant data to inform CLD provision	Partners have a shared understanding of need and continue to use data to realign, or target resources at agreed priorities in line with national developments	ongoing	Education Services All CLD providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with newly established CLPL opportunity to understand the need to use data to realign, or target resources at agreed priorities in line with national developments Partners effective engagement in themed strategic forums Creation of relevant opportunities for learners as a result of shared use and analysis of data.
Development of a communication strategy to ensure awareness of CLD activities available in their local community	Collaborative approaches to enable targeted groups of children/ young people/ adults/ families to access personal development and wider achievement opportunities in their communities	August 2023	Education Services CLD Youth Services Regeneration Team Adult Learning Corporate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published CLD communication strategy Support School improvement planning Wide dissemination of CLD Plan Publication and marketing of annual summary of achievements and provision of formal opportunity for strategic feedback. Increased understanding of the benefits of membership of the CLD Standards Council Scotland



Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan Review October 2023

RAG Key

Red – not started/ unlikely to achieve target

Amber – in progress/ working towards target

Green – achieved/ on target

Improvement Priority: **1. Supporting Learning, Health & Wellbeing and Creating Local Wealth**

Strategic Theme: **1.1 Health and Wellbeing**

Desired Outcome	Actions/ Outputs	Target	Progress Capture	RAG	Partnership Actions
Increase in positive healthy relationships and improved access to community based mental wellbeing support for children, young people and their families in their local community.	1. Established Me Time programme (CLD Youth Services) improving young people's health and wellbeing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An effective referral pathway is established Numbers of participants and groups facilitated is directly linked to need Programmes are codesigned and delivered in community settings 	100% identified learners offered a placement on course.	Relevant QIs 1.1 and 2.3 Partners use data to plan provision to meet the existing and emerging needs identified in relation to mental health and wellbeing supports/interventions. Further consideration requires to be given to joint target setting process.		
	2. Established SQA Wellbeing qualification for Adults (Adult learning Service and Access to Employment) improving adult's health and wellbeing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An effective referral pathway is established Numbers of participants and groups facilitated is directly linked to need Programmes are codesigned and delivered in community settings 	100% identified learners offered a placement on course.	Consideration requires to be given to the use of benchmarking to monitor the impact of service delivery. Next steps for learners are built into partners' planning and service delivery process.		
	3. Established Mental Health First Aid Course (NHS Lothian) improving community health and wellbeing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An effective referral pathway is established Numbers of participants and groups facilitated is directly linked to need Programmes are codesigned and delivered in community settings considering participants views, learning choices and anticipated outcomes 	Planned courses are delivered	Evidence exists from impact reports demonstrating the positive impact to service users' mental health and wellbeing.		
Vulnerable children and young people	1. Holiday provision is codesigned with children, young people and families and is effective in meeting their needs and interests.	West Lothian allocation of resources utilised for	Relevant QIs 1.1 and 2.3 Vulnerable children, young people and adults and families are benefitting socially, emotionally, and		

are benefitting socially, emotionally, and educationally, from participating in fun learning activities during school summer holiday periods.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Improved diversity and inclusion through engagement and codesign and delivery of holiday activity provision with new partner providers. 3. All practitioners have an increased understanding of the importance of play in contributing to reducing health inequalities. 4. An effective identification and referral system to the Summer Programme exists. 	Holiday Provision	educationally, from participating in a diverse range of provision and volunteering opportunities offered through partnership.		
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Strategic Theme: 1.2 Workforce Development

Desired Outcome	Actions/ Outputs	Target	Progress Capture	RAG	Partnership Actions
<p>West Lothian Council CLD practitioners are aware of the training opportunities available and how to access them</p> <p>West Lothian Council CLD practitioners are upskilled on all aspects of digital delivery</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WLC CLD practitioners at all levels are attending professional networks, upskilling themselves, sharing practice and disseminating information widely. 2. Engagement in professional networks at national and regional level has improved. 3. Staff are aware of and are using a range of digital platforms for effective service delivery (to engage in learning opportunities, to facilitate delivery and for promotion and correspondence via social media networks.) 	<p>100% of West Lothian Council CLD practitioners are aware of the training opportunities available and how to access them</p> <p>100% of relevant West Lothian Council CLD practitioners are upskilled on all aspects of digital delivery</p>	<p>Relevant QIs 1.1, 1.2, 6.1, 6.2</p> <p>Almost all practitioners are engaged in and are benefiting from CLPL networks.</p> <p>Relevant staff are effectively using a range of digital platforms to maximise engagement in learning opportunities.</p>		
<p>Increased understanding of the importance of play in contributing to reducing health inequalities</p> <p>Organisations and practitioners understand where to access Dyslexia, Autism and Mental Health & Wellbeing support</p>	<p>Establish and promote clear guidance for all CLD practitioners to ensure increased understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the importance of play in contributing to reducing health inequalities; and • where to access Dyslexia, Autism and Mental Health & Wellbeing support. 	<p>Provision of online up to date guidance</p>	<p>Relevant QIs 1.1, 1.2, 6.1, 6.2</p> <p>All partners have a good understanding of how the Summer of Play opportunities contribute to reducing health inequalities.</p> <p>Work required to establish clear guidelines for all CLD practitioners on the most relevant and up to date shared CLPL opportunities related to Dyslexia, Autism and Mental Health & Wellbeing support.</p>		

A shared understanding of need and use of data to realign/target resources with agreed priorities in line with local and national developments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve awareness of all CLD practitioners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • of local and national priorities; and • support identification and use of appropriate data to inform service provision. 2. Partners have opportunity to engage with the West Lothian Council CLD Practitioners CLPL opportunities. 	Provision of online information and bespoke support where requested.	<p>Relevant QIs 1.1, 1.2, 6.1, 6.2</p> <p>Third Sector organisations and community groups are equal partners in multiagency strategic groups informing joint evaluation, planning and delivery</p> <p>It is recognised that there is a need to establish a mechanism to measure the impact of the agreed support to improve awareness and implementation in practice.</p> <p>There is a strong ethos and practice of equality diversity and inclusion across all partners.</p>		
CLD practitioners are trained to provide progression and pathways guidance to adult learners	All Adult Learners receive guidance on progression pathways.	100% of Adult Learning practitioners provide Adult progression pathway guidance	Adult Learning Service are skilled to provide progression pathways and guide Adult Learners to progress.		

**Strategic
Theme:**

**1.3 Skills Development and
Employability**

Desired Outcome	Actions/ Outputs	Target	Progress Capture	RAG	Partnership Actions
An agile learning offer to provide guidance and opportunities to gain initial qualifications to upskill adults to gain and retain employment.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase in the number of adult learners participating in literacy, digital skills and English for speakers of other languages classes. 2. Increase in the percentage of adult learners supported into a positive destination 3. Increase in the percentage of adult learners achieving accreditation 4. Evidenced flexibility in the learning offer to meet the changing needs of adults. 	100% of adult learners requesting support receive a personalised offer	<p>Relevant QIs 1.1, 1.2, 2.2, 2.3</p> <p>Adult Learning and Youth Services have set clear aims and targets to upskill and improve employability prospects for learners. Monitoring and reporting on outcomes is consistent.</p> <p>Services work with and understand our learners and successfully remove barriers to access, participation and progression.</p>		
An agile learning offer to provide opportunities for young people to build on their skills and gain qualifications to support transition to a positive destination.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase in the percentage of young people provided with MCMC support achieving a positive destination and sustaining for 6 months. 2. Increase in the percentage of care experienced young people achieving a positive destination. 3. Increase in the percentage of young people participating in post school CLD Youth Services employability programmes achieving accreditation. 4. Increase in the percentage of young people participating in post school employability programmes facilitated through third sector partners achieving accreditation. 5. Evidenced flexibility in learning offer to meet the changing needs of young people 	100% of identified learners are offered personalised support.	<p>An online learning platform has been established to meet the needs of adult learners. E-learning opportunities allow learners to access additional resources to support their study between weekly classes, helping develop the learners' digital and independent learning skills.</p>		

**Strategic
Theme:**

1.4 Family Learning

Desired Outcome	Actions/ Outputs	Target	Progress Capture	RAG	Partnership Actions
CLD contribution to a West Lothian Family Learning strategy is implemented and recognised.	Development of a collaborative Family Learning Strategy including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear roles and responsibilities across all partners; and • impact measurement guidance and tools. 	Publish and promote the Family Learning Strategy	Relevant QIs 2.2, 2.3, 3.2 CLD partners are taking the lead in developing, sustaining and supporting partnerships to progress the priority of Family Learning. This includes working effectively and in collaboration with Education Services (central), schools, Social Policy and third sector organisations so that children, young people and families get access to the support they need to achieve and progress. There is a focus within the Summer Programme on Family Learning.		

Strategic Theme:

1.5 Digital Inclusion

Desired Outcome	Actions/ Outputs	Target	Progress Capture	RAG	Partnership Actions
Reducing digital poverty and social isolation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. West Lothian allocation of devices through Connecting Scotland are fully utilised 2. Delivery of Connecting Scotland Programme in line with national criteria and timescales 3. Implementation and review of the Digital Inclusion Plan 	Continual implementation and review of the Digital Inclusion Plan	<p>Relevant QIs 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 4.1, 4.2</p> <p>Connecting Scotland Programme is a strong example of partnership working. It was completed in line with national criteria and timescales. The data gathered shows the positive and wide-ranging impact that the Connecting Scotland programme has had within the West Lothian community, particularly in reducing isolation, improving mental health and enabling people to connect socially and with essential services.</p> <p>The Digital Inclusion Plan is a well-established 2-year plan which is updated and reported on annually and is aligned with the council's Customer and Digital Board and Digital Strategy.</p>		

Strategic Theme:

1.6 Volunteering

Desired Outcome	Actions/ Outputs	Target	Progress Capture	RAG	Partnership Actions
Volunteering opportunities are helping to improve health and wellbeing	1. Improved promotion of benefits of volunteering in relation to health & wellbeing. 2. Develop an established measurement to capture the impact of volunteering (both health and wellbeing and employability) 3. Develop a wide range of fulfilling volunteering activities 4. Develop quality support for individuals wishing to engage in and sustain their volunteering experience. 5. Enhance access to real experience of the world of work, leading to improved career and employment prospects and outcomes for young people.	Establish an agreed target across all partners in relation to measurement of impact of volunteering on participants' health and wellbeing	Relevant QIs 1.1, 1.2, 2.2, 2.3 Consideration is required on how to better gather data to evidence skills development and employability and improved health and wellbeing in relation to volunteering opportunities. Consideration is required to ensure consistent approach to recognition of Volunteers' achievements.		Consideration proposed for all partners to establish consistent target to measure impact of volunteering on health and wellbeing. Consideration proposed for all partners to establish consistent target to measure impact of volunteering on employment prospects. Consideration proposed on how to improve promotion of benefits of volunteering in relation to health & wellbeing.
Volunteering opportunities are helping to improve employment prospects		Establish an agreed target across all partners in relation to measurement of impact of volunteering on participants' employment prospects			
Systems are in place to ensure learners and volunteers achievements are	Volunteers' achievements are recognised and celebrated.	Establish a standard level of recognition across all partners to celebrate			Support from CPP members requested to commit to providing meaningful work experience opportunities over the LOIP lifetime.

recognised and celebrated.		volunteers' achievements			Consideration is proposed for all members to ensure consistent and joined up approach regarding recognition of Volunteers' achievements.
West Lothian Citizens are actively engaged and contributing in their local community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For residents of West Lothian Develop an effective system across all partners promoting and providing access to volunteering opportunities to engage and contribute to their local communities. 2. Develop a wide range of fulfilling volunteering activities 3. Develop quality support for individuals wishing to engage in and sustain their volunteering experience. 	Number of adults and young people taking part in influence and engagement activity through CLD – (including community planning / participatory budgeting / local and national consultations / co-production and influencing service design).	A strategic approach is required to ensure young people are actively involved in shaping and implementing Locality Plans (including target setting and monitoring of performance)		

Improvement Priority: 2: Building Citizenship, Cohesion and Community Voice

Strategic Theme: 2.1 UNCRC and Equality

Desired Outcome	Actions/ Outputs	Target	Progress Capture	RAG	Partnership Actions
Children and Young People in West Lothian are aware of their rights	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Forth Valley and West Lothian Regional Improvement Collaborative team have produced a suite of resources which includes policy writing guidance to support practitioners in implementing UNCRC into their practice. 2. West Lothian schools are engaging with the Rights Respecting Schools accreditation and validation process. 	<p>Establish a baseline of children and young people reporting that they are involved in decisions that affect them.</p> <p>100% of West Lothian schools are engaging with the Rights Respecting Schools accreditation and validation process.</p>	<p>Relevant QIs 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3</p> <p>Recognition that the original measurement of success has not been established as a formal PI: "Percentage of children and young people engaging in CLD activities reporting that they are involved in decisions that affect them."</p> <p>Issues to be addressed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who do we want this information from? • How do we make the collection of data consistent across all CLD partners? (e.g. use of same QR code which is analysed centrally) <p>Work is developing positively across sectors in relation to implementing UNCRC. Evidence of ongoing training exists. Evaluation Statements from training required to assess impact.</p> <p>100% of West Lothian schools are currently engaging with the RRS accreditation and validation process. Require to find out how the progression through the 3 stages of the RRS award monitored and reported/encouraged.</p>		Consideration proposed to establish, across all partners, a baseline/target of children and young people reporting that they are involved in decisions that affect them.
There is an inclusive approach to service planning and delivery, which takes account of individuals and groups with protected characteristics	Identify a West Lothian data set which provides the appropriate protected characteristics information to inform an inclusive approach to planning and service delivery.	Establish data set of West Lothian's profile in relation to protected characteristics.	<p>Relevant QIs 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3</p> <p>Consideration is required on how partners make the collection of data consistent across all CLD partners.</p>		<p>Consideration proposed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the identification of a West Lothian data set which provides the appropriate protected

					characteristics information to inform an inclusive approach to planning and service delivery; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to make the collection/use of data consistent across all CLD partners.
	Provide a safe space and community-based provision for young LGBT people, children/ young people with additional support needs, girls and young women to raise aspirations, wellbeing and achievement.	Community-based provision in place	There continues to be a safe space and community-based provision for young LGBT people, children/ young people with additional support needs, girls and young women to raise aspirations, wellbeing and achievement.		

Increased engagement with BAME children, families and communities	Development of initiatives to increase the engagement with BAME children, families and communities.	Evidenced increased engagement with BAME children, families and communities	<p>Educational resources have been developed by the Legacy of Chattel Slavery Working Group and is being used in schools as part of the revised school curriculum.</p> <p>West Lothian Summer Programme has encouraged provision of activities targeting BAME children young people.</p> <p>Forth Valley, West Lothian RIC has an established Building Racial Literacy Network which is developing resources to be shared more widely.</p>		
	Establish a consistent framework of data collection across local partners	The establishment of data set of West Lothian's BAME profile.	Consideration is required on how partners make the collection of data consistent across all CLD partners.		

Strategic Theme: 2.2 Community Empowerment

Desired Outcome	Actions/ Outputs	Target	Progress Capture	RAG	Partnership Actions
Communities in our most disadvantaged areas have the confidence, knowledge and skills to influence decisions and there is evidence of this leading to positive change (for example, communities have identified and are managing sustainable local services to meet community needs)	Communities are actively involved in shaping and implementing Locality Plans in the 13 Regeneration Areas.	<p>Number of community groups receiving capacity building support through CLD activity (application of national target to be confirmed and number set)</p> <p>Number of adults and young people reached and engaged with through one-off promotional events / drop-ins / community events / engagements. (application of national target to be confirmed and number set)</p>	<p>Relevant QIs 1.2, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4 3.2, 4.1.</p> <p>Planning approach has recently been revised and adapted.</p> <p>In relation to communities empowered to influence decisions and shape services locally, we have good examples of partner activity.</p> <p>Strong partnership working through and beyond the COVID pandemic has maintained services and secured funding to develop and sustain community projects.</p>		

Strategic Theme: **2.3 Reducing Crime and Improving Community Safety**

Desired Outcome	Actions/ Outputs	Target	Progress Capture	RAG	Partnership Actions
Anti-social behaviour within our communities is reduced and there is a reduction of re-offending evidenced	West Lothian experience fewer incidents of anti-social behaviour and misuse of fireworks night period.	Fewer incidents of anti-social behaviour and misuse of fireworks over the October/November period.	Relevant QIs 2.1 2.2, 2.3, 3.2 There is a strategic approach within West Lothian to reduce crime, improve community safety and reduce anti-social behaviour e.g. SLA with Youth Action Project, Blackburn Bonfire Night Group, Trust Project. This is encapsulated within the "Community Safety Strategic Partnership".		
	Adult Learning classes for Criminal Justice experience Adults established	Number of criminal justice experienced adult learners.	Evidence demonstrates effective partnership working to address incidences of anti-social behaviour and mis-use of fireworks in targeted localities. The success of partnership working in Blackburn has led to this approach being developed within the Fauldhouse area to address youth anti-social behaviour.		
	Targeted interventions to reduce young peoples' involvement in anti-social behaviour.	To contribute to the establishment of a collaborative Youth Work approach (Education Services, Social Policy, Housing, Regeneration, Community Safety) to strategically utilise available resources to engage young people in positive activities.	The Trust Project is supporting adults and young people who are involved in the justice system. Full time and part time courses, all individualised and do include a partnership with Adult Learning. Some are supported on full time mainstream classes and some supported in The Den (West Lothian College) on an individualised programme. Youth Action Project deliver interventions identified through the Community Safety Partnership to reduce young peoples' involvement in anti-social behaviour. Work is ongoing to review the existing strategic approach across the authority.		

Strategic Theme: **2.4 Youth Participation and Democracy**

Desired Outcome	Actions/ Outputs	Target	Progress Capture	RAG	Partnership Actions
There is an effective Engagement & Youth Participation Model in place to gather the views of young people	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase engagement in national and local participation structures 2. Young people lead youth participation events and engage in local and themed forums/ activities 	<p>West Lothian elects, maintains and supports 4 Members of The Scottish Youth Parliament</p> <p>100% of West Lothian Secondary Schools deliver a programme which supports democratic literacies and voter registration</p>	<p>Relevant QIs 1.1, 2.1, 2.3</p> <p>Strong evidence of engaging with local and national structures.</p> <p>Progress with young people leading youth participation events and engaging in local and themed forums/ activities has been made e.g. A Big Conversation, Democracy Challenge.</p> <p>Next step is to support the implementation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Charter; and • Children's Rights Network (UNCRC) 		
Children and young people have the confidence, knowledge and skills to influence decisions and there is evidence of this leading to change	<p>Plan in place to establish mechanisms for children, young people and adults across the authority to understand their rights and roles to influence decisions in their local area including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory budgeting • Community representation • Local authority representation 	<p>% Participatory Budgeting engagement statistics match West Lothian demographics (from 8 to 18 yrs old)</p>	<p>Partners are working towards a strategic approach to ensure young people are actively involved in shaping and influencing decisions in their local area.</p>		

WEST LOTHIAN Children's Rights (UNCRC) Report 2020-2023

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to share the West Lothian multi agency United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) 2020-2023 report and seek approval from the Community Planning Partnership to submit it to the Scottish Government for publication. This is a requirement of Part 1 (section 2) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

2. Recommendations

The Community Planning Partnership Board is asked to:

- I. approve the contents of the West Lothian Children's Rights (UNCRC) report and;
- II. agree for its submission to the Scottish Government

3. Discussion

Overview

The Scottish Government has committed to implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and seek to incorporate it into Scots law to make it unlawful for all public authorities, to act incompatibly with UNCRC requirements.

Part 1 (section 2) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places a duty on a range of public authorities (including all local authorities and health boards) to report, "as soon as practicable" after the end of each 3-year period, on the steps they have taken to secure better the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

This section of the 2014 Act came into force in 2017 and this is the second reporting cycle, covering the period 2020 to 2023.

West Lothian Children's Rights

Promoting Children's Rights and Participation is a priority in the Children's Services Plan 2023-2026. [Children's Services Plan Here](#) Performance and Progress of all the Children's Services Plan Priorities is overseen by the Children and Families Strategic Planning Group, and this group reports directly to the Community Planning Partnership on services for children, young people and families.

The development of the plan involved both targeted and open consultation with service users, carers, young people, families, service providers from the third and independent sectors and staff and partners from across the Health and Social Care partnership and the Community Planning Partnership.

All priorities in the Children's Services Plan are underpinned by the principles of

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)
- The Promise

West Lothian Children's Rights Report 2020-2023

Partners in West Lothian are committed to upholding and embedding the UNCRC at every level of our services. The UNCRC has 54 articles in all, each outlining in detail the basic rights of every child. These can be summarised into four core principles:

- Non-discrimination
- Devotion to the best interests of the child
- The right to life, survival and development
- Respect for the views of the child.

This report has been written using the wellbeing indicators – **Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included** (known widely as SHANARRI) as headings, which are widely familiar to children, young people, their families and professionals who support them. Each heading has been used to highlight the work undertaken by partners in West Lothian to progress Children's Rights covering the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023.

4. Summary of Implications

Relevant LOIP outcome (s)	<p>West Lothian is a place where everyone who lives, works, learns and does business has an improved quality of life</p> <p>West Lothian is a place where everyone has the opportunity to enhance their mental and physical health and wellbeing</p> <p>Everyone has access to appropriate, affordable and sustainable housing which meets their needs</p>
Relevant LOIP performance indicator (s)	New Children's Rights indicators will be established in line with the Children's Services Plan 2023-2026 which aligns to the LOIP plan
Resources	Existing budgets for the delivery of services for Children and Young People
Link to prevention/community engagement	The report is focused on the Children's Services Plan 2023-2026 priority: Promoting Children's Rights and Participation has been developed in conjunction with key stakeholders.
Impact on inequalities	The report is based on the aim of the West Lothian Children's Services Plan to tackle health and social inequalities and give children and young people in West Lothian the best possible start in life.

Key risks	None
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5. Consultations

The development of the UNCRC report 2020-2023 was overseen by the members of the West Lothian Children's Rights Group. The group was established in May 2022 and is chaired by the Senior Manager for Children and Justice Services and co-chaired by the Community Learning and Development Youth Services Manager. The group has representation from Community Planning Partners. All partners have collective responsibility for ensuring children's rights are respected and promoted in line with the West Lothian Children's Services Plan. The members of this group have all contributed to this report and this reflects the collaborative partnership working that West Lothian adopt when working towards the best interests of our children, young people and families.

Children and young people have also contributed to the development of the report and the art work contained within.

The draft report was shared with all the members of the Children and Families Strategic Planning Group and the feedback was incorporated into the final report.

6. Conclusions

The West Lothian Children's Rights Group will develop a coordinated approach for the incorporation and implementation of the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill into Scottish Law to ensure understanding of our legal responsibilities. The group will also gather evidence of good practice to be used in the next 3-year reporting cycle, covering 2023 to 2026.

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC

Work has been progressing to support children and young people to develop a children's rights network to ensure all children and young people are aware of their rights. This will provide a platform for children and young people to share their united voice in matters that are important to them and to share their views with adult decision makers when developing strategic plans. All partners are working together to embed children's rights in all of the services we deliver. As duty bearers we will work to respect, protect and fulfil all children's rights working compatibly with the UNCRC requirements.



2020-2023

WEST LoTHIAN

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS REPORT

GETTING IT RIGHT FOR WEST LoTHIAN'S CHILDREN & FAMILIES



West Lothian
Health & Social Care Partnership
westlothianhscp.org.uk



West Lothian
Council

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Introduction

In West Lothian we recognise that investment in you, our children and young people, is one of the most valuable investments we can make. We want to support you to enjoy a safe and rewarding life and grow into an adult who achieves your individual dreams. We are committed to making sure that:

- You **know your rights**
- you are **supported to understand these rights**
- you **are encouraged to express your views** in things that are important to you

This report provides evidence of some of the different activities carried out to protect, promote and defend your rights as a child living in West Lothian from 2020-23. It is aimed at you, your family and carers. You will hear about organisations who work together to support you, such as:

- West Lothian Council
- NHS Lothian
- West Lothian College
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Scottish Children's Reporters Administration
- Third sector partners

In February 2020 there was a big exercise to gather views and experiences from children, young people, families, carers and service providers. This feedback was used to put together the **Children's Services Plan 2020-23**, which had seven key priorities:

- Protecting Children
- Promoting Health and wellbeing
- Raising Achievement and Attainment
- Strengthening Corporate Parenting
- **Promoting Children's Rights and Participation**
- Reducing Harm from Substance Use
- Reducing Harm for Children and Young People in Conflict with the Law

A **Children's Rights Working Group** was put together with partners from services in West Lothian Council and other important organisations.

COVID-19 Pandemic

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 11 March 2020. This created many new challenges for everyone, including the organisations and services in this report, and affected the way things were delivered during the time period we are covering (2020-23). The main challenge was the closing of schools, but almost every area of life was affected and most services had to find a way to adapt to the new normal.

West Lothian – Key Facts

West Lothian has a population of **183,820** (National Records of Scotland, 2020)

In 2021, there were **53,619** people aged 0-24 living in West Lothian

There are **69 primary schools** with over 30,000 pupils and **13 secondary schools** in West Lothian.

In 2021, **21.1%** of children in West Lothian were living in poverty, compared to **24.6%** in 2020.

Your Rights Explained

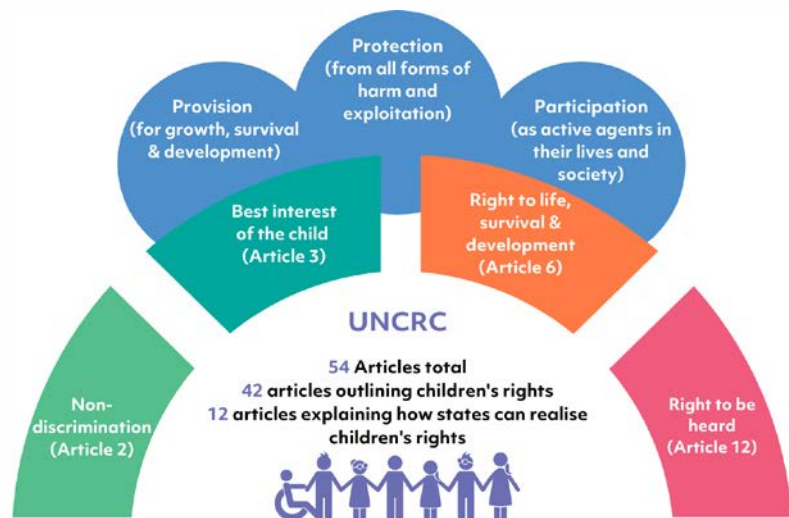
The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** is an international instrument which sets out the human rights of every child, including you. It lists the rights of every child, including you, and is made up of 54 articles. The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill** turns these articles into the law in Scotland. It sets out the specific rights that you and all children have to help fulfil your potential. These rights cover:

- Health
- Education
- Leisure & play
- Fair & equal treatment
- Keeping you safe
- Your right to be heard

The Scottish Government is committed to including the UNCRC into Scottish law as much as it possibly can. This will give public authorities more duties to ensure your rights are respected in every area of your life. In West Lothian, **promoting children's rights** is already a key priority. This includes embedding the UNCRC into all of our services to make sure you know about and understand your rights and know what to do if you feel your rights are not being met.

The **Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014** is an important piece of legislation because it aims for children and young people to be more involved in services provided to you by these organisations. It also aims to identify and prevent problems in your life before they become a crisis.

The Act also strengthens children's rights and along with the Scottish Government commitment to implementation of children's rights into Scots law it gives public authorities more duties to ensure your rights are respected in every area of your life.



GIRFEC

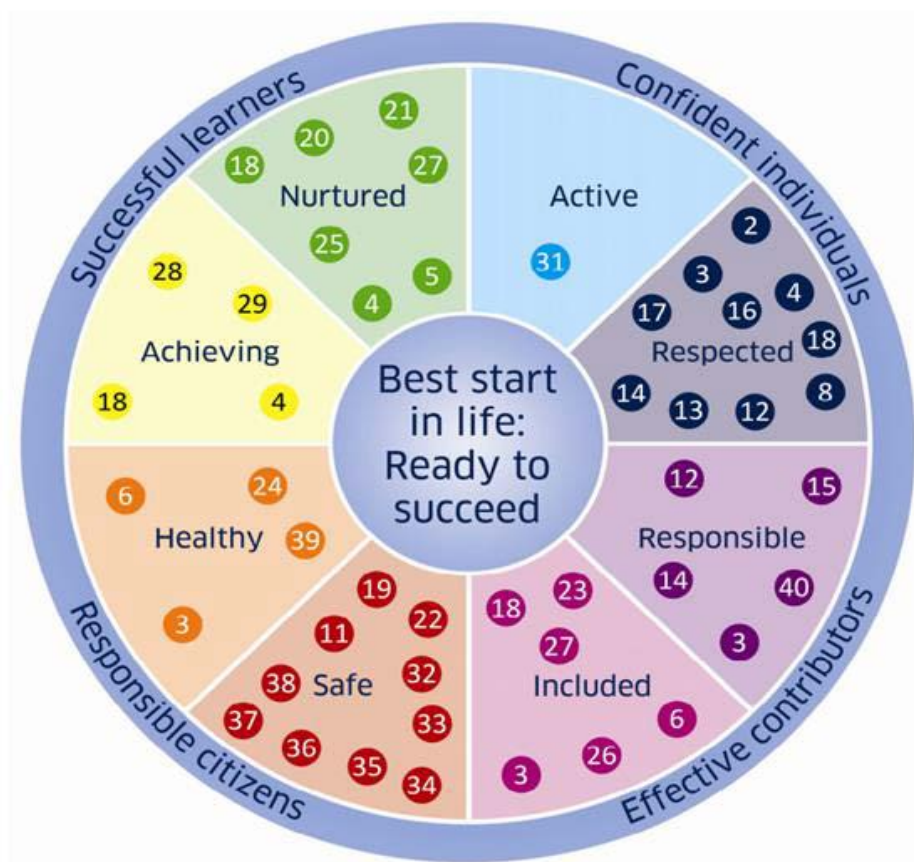
Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) is a framework used in Scotland to help support your wellbeing and keep you safe. It is used in West Lothian by organisations, services and practitioners across **Children's Services Planning Partnerships**, who work together to make changes that benefit you.

The SHANARRI wellbeing indicators, which you can see in the picture below, are a way to measure if your rights are being met. This report uses SHANARRI as headings from page 7 onwards to show different ways your rights are met in West Lothian.

A GIRFEC group was set up in 2022 and they created guidance for **Child's Planning Meetings** to help practitioners best support children who need this type of support. The guidance:

- Explains what Child's Planning Meetings are and why they are needed
- Made sure there is a named person and a lead professional for each child
- Includes how long things should take

GIRFEC and the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators are in line with **The Promise**, which you can find out about on the next page, and the voice of the child which is one of the UNCRC articles.



THE PROMISE

On the 31st of March 2021 Scotland launched **Plan 21-24**. This included **Five Priority Areas** and **Five Fundamentals** that are required to make the changes that are needed to better support care experienced children and young people.

West Lothian's **Call to Action Implementation Plan** has been developed with support from **The Promise Scotland**. It contained steps for each partner organisation to make which will better support care experienced children and young people living here.

There is always work happening in West Lothian to make changes to how we talk, think and act to make sure that everyone is working together to make sure children grow up feeling safe, loved and respected.

Some of the changes that have been made include strengthening services that support you and your family in your local community and making sure that the right services are available for you and your family at the right time.



HOW ARE WE KEEPING THE PROMISE?

Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) supported **99** children from **68** families in 2022/23.

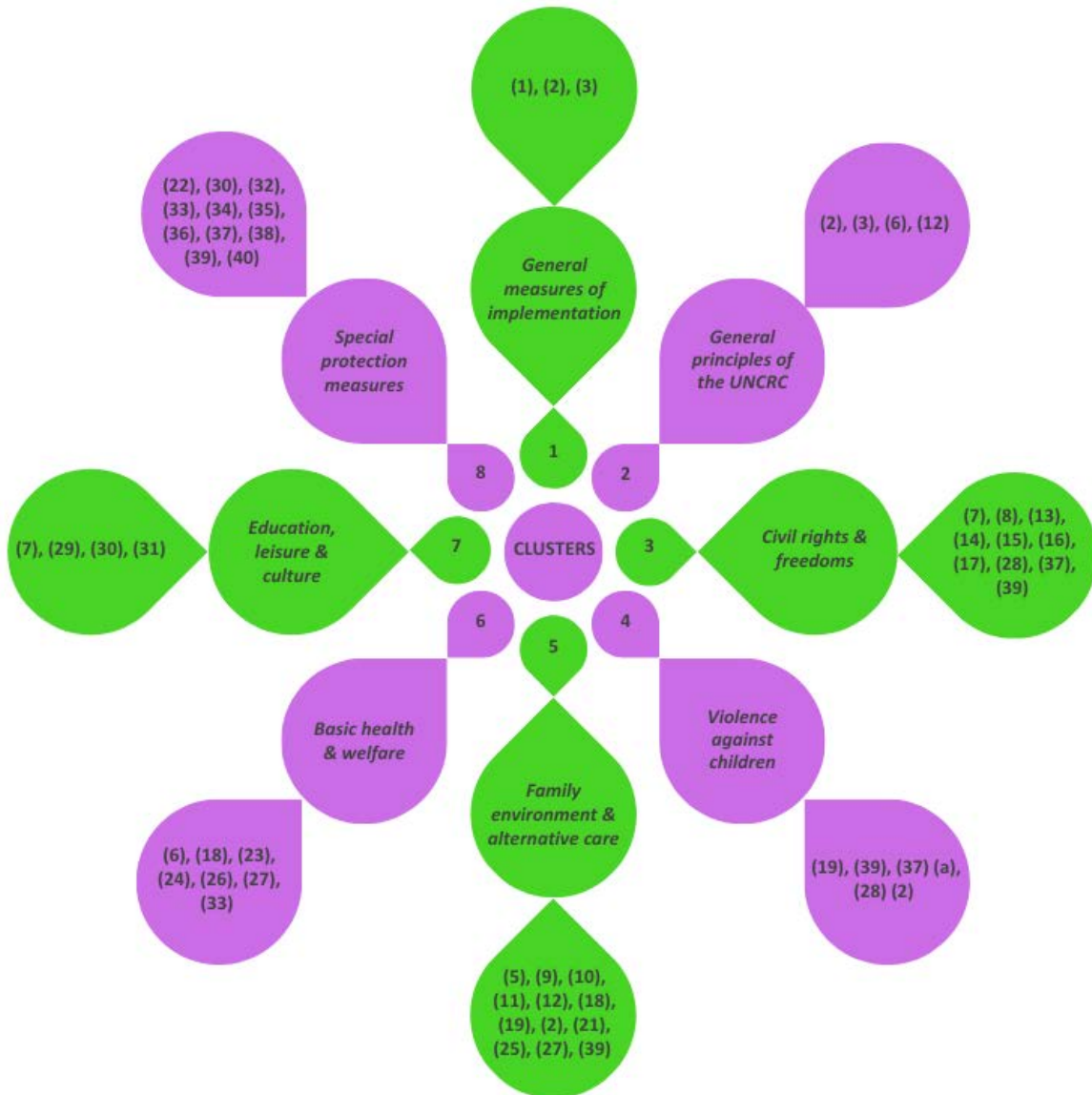
The total number of **looked after children** in West Lothian decreased **16%** from **427** in 2018/19 to **360** in 2022/23.

80% of children supported by the **Families Together** service stayed with their family.

34% of looked after children in West Lothian were with Kinship Carers in 2021/22, increasing to **36%** in 2022/23.

CLUSTERS

The Scottish Government organised the 54 articles in UNCRC into **8 themed 'Clusters'**, which you can see in the diagram below. In West Lothian we have chosen to lay out this report under the **SHANARRI Wellbeing Indicators**, which are part of the GIRFEC approach.



SAFE

UNCRC Articles: 11, 19, 22, 32, 33, 34

There are policies and procedures in West Lothian which keep you safe from abuse, neglect or harm at home, school and in the community. As one West Lothian child said, “it’s everyone’s job to make sure I am alright” and this is true for all of you.

All children in Scotland have the right to be protected from abuse and neglect and the **Child Protection Improvement Programme (CPIP)** promotes this across the country.

In West Lothian, there are **Child Protection Guidelines** which help keep you safe. They can be found on the [West Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership \(HSCP\) website](#).

The **Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2021/22** is also published on the HSCP website. The report shows the work of the Child Protection Committee to keep children in West Lothian safe. The **Scottish Child Interview Model** has been used in West Lothian since 2021.

Education policies and procedures are developed using the **SHANARRI wellbeing indicators**, making sure you are at the centre of every decision. **Anti-bullying guidance** was created for all schools in 2023 and can be found as an appendix to the **2018 Relationships Policy**.

The **Mentors for Violence Protection (MVP)** Scotland programme has participants from all secondary schools in West Lothian. This project aims to reduce violence by teaching ways to de-escalate situations. One mentor went on to be a key speaker at the **16 Days of Action**, an international annual campaign against domestic violence, in November 2022.

In every area in Scotland, the council and the NHS health board have to prepare a [Children’s Services Plan](#) every three years. The Scottish Government provided guidance on Children’s Services planning in 2020 and West Lothian’s 2020-23 plan is publicly available on the HSCP website.

The **Domestic and Sexual Assault Team (DASAT)** provide a specialist service for adults and children in West Lothian who are or have experienced domestic abuse. There are seven children’s workers and every adult support worker is also trained to work with children aged 5-16 who are survivors of both domestic and sexual abuse. These services are delivered in a range of different ways to meet individual needs and to suit age, ability and awareness. The **Safe and Together model** is used



and there are sexual violence workers who support those aged 12 and over. This model helps workers in West Lothian to have better knowledge and tools for supporting children and families where there are domestic abuse concerns. Workers engage with those who have committed domestic abuse to enhance the safety and wellbeing of children.

The **Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery (CEDAR)** programme was introduced in West Lothian in 2013. Support is also provided to children, young people and their parent/carers who have experienced domestic abuse. In 2020-23 they received 148 referrals.

Anyone who is concerned you or another child is at risk can contact the police on 101 (999 in an emergency) or [Social Work Duty and Child Protection Team](#) on 01506 284 440 (option 2).

Children and families who come from other countries to seek asylum are supported by **NHS Lothian's** Health Visiting and School Nursing services. NHS Lothian offers interpretation services for those where English is not their first language. These can be used when Health Visitor's come to see a family in their home. Support is also provided to families if they need to use other services.

The [West Lothian Alcohol and Drugs Partnership \(ADP\)](#) supports children and families impacted by drugs and alcohol. There are organisations such as **Circle** and the **West Lothian Drug & Alcohol Service** who provide direct support to children on an individual and group basis.

NHS Lothian's children's community services staff are all trained around child protection. They talk about child protection reports for case conferences with you if you are in school, or your parents if you are under five years old. If you have experience of abuse, NHS Lothian will refer you to the right services in West Lothian to help you recover.

Since June 2018, if you have a Child Welfare Hearing you can be supported by a **Children's Rights Court Contact Officer**. From June 2018 to June 2023 there were 399 referrals, 71% of these came from court.

The missing persons training and protocol saw a **30% reduction in looked after children going missing** from 2021/22 to 2022/23.

In 2021/22 there were **667 (18.9%) Child Protection investigations** in West Lothian, compared to a national Scottish rate of **12.8%**.

There were **188 (5.3%) Pre-birth and Initial Child Protection Case Conference's (ICPCC)** in West Lothian compared to a national rate of **4.8%** in Scotland.

HEALTHY

UNCRC Articles: 3, 6, 24, 29

There are services in West Lothian which aim to promote physical and mental health and make sure you can access healthcare and make safe, healthy choices.

Wellbeing data is gathered for all pupils by West Lothian Council's Education department that shows the impact of the positive and proactive health and wellbeing support framework in place across all schools.

Health and wellbeing were front and foremost in the 2020-22 sessions during the Covid-19 pandemic. West Lothian's Health and Wellbeing Recovery Model helped to give all pupils educational and emotional support. **Education**, the **Inclusion and Support Services** and **Education Psychology** worked together to provide high quality learning and teaching and also emotional support when working from home.

A **Forest Kindergarten** training programme for Early Level staff was delivered in partnership with **West Lothian College**. Children are benefitting from the chance for more outdoor learning, which develops:

- environmental awareness
- independence
- personal responsibility
- resilience

Early Learning Centre settings have **Parents as Early Education Partners (PEEP)** and **Family Learning groups** to support families and parents to use everyday learning opportunities at home and in the community.

West Lothian Council has revised **Included, Engaged and Involved Part 2: A Positive Approach to Preventing and Managing School Exclusions (2017)**. The updates include restorative and solution orientated approaches based on nurturing principles which respect your rights.

Counselling in Schools is in place to provide you with mental and emotional support if and when you need it through blocks of in-person sessions, drop-in sessions and phone/video calls. **Education Psychology Services** have recently made this available to pupils in primaries. 900-1100 students accessed counselling in every 6 months from January 2022 to August 2023.

Community Learning & Development (CLD) Youth Services developed a mental health and wellbeing programme, **Me Time**, for children over 12.



Me Time groups are welcoming, friendly support groups run by experienced youth work staff. They are based in the community and available via referral. These 12-week groups are held outside of school/college hours and are designed and delivered in partnership with those who attend. The groups are a safe space for you to:

- discuss your mental health and wellbeing
- develop friendships
- learn ways to cope
- set goals

CLD Youth Services ran 12 programmes in 9 different communities across West Lothian since September 2021.

NHS Lothian's **Health Visiting service** follows the **Universal Health Visiting Pathway for Scotland** for all parents in West Lothian, supporting them from before you are born until just before you start going to school. There are 11 key contacts and each one will check you and your parent's health and wellbeing. They will refer you to the right services if you need any more support. If anyone is concerned about you, they can make a referral to your named person as part of this process.

Health Visitors and School Nurses are available to support you and your parents with advice on healthy eating, movement and wellbeing. If you are care experienced, they also offer a full health assessment (on behalf of NHS Lothian) soon after you are cared for away from home. These services also work with other partners to make sure that if you are living in poverty you are supported to receive entitled **child benefits**, **Best Start Grants** and any other support that you meet the criteria for.

What else is there to help support your mental and physical health?

- **Listen and Link** – Self-referral phone line for children, young people and their families.
- **Roots** – Direct whole family support.
- **Children's Disability Service** – Support for children, young people and families affected by significant and complex disability.
- Support for young carers

Did you know?

- **83%** of children and young people using Listen and Link felt involved in decisions about the service they get.
- **100%** of families using listen and link reported feeling listened to.
- **50%** of those contacting Voice were from the LGBTQ+ community.
- Feedback from families supported by Roots was positive.

All information about these services can be found on the [West Space website](#).

"I've learned about mental health and wellbeing as a whole, such as the science behind it as well as the emotional impact. Me Time has improved my confidence."

"It's a space to be open and honest without feeling like the odd one out or like a burden. I'm with people that understand."

"It helped me understand myself better."

- Me Time participant feedback

ACHIEVING

UNCRC Articles: 4, 18, 28, 29

In West Lothian there are services in place to guide your learning and the development of skills, confidence and self-esteem in school and in the community.



The rights that make up the UNCRC are “the responsibility of all” and continue to be included more and more into schools and early years settings. Every school incorporates the UNCRC into their improvement plans and everyone is taught about the articles and what they mean for your own lives. Staff and pupils work in partnership to create class charters.

The curriculum across all West Lothian schools evolves to make sure your skills and rights are always being respected. There are Development Officers in:

- UNCRC
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Health & wellbeing
- STEM



They work with a central officer team to make sure you receive a good quality education. They also work to make things fairer, so that everyone has the chance to reach your full potential.

If you are in early secondary, you benefit from the opportunity to incorporate the UNCRC across the **Broad General Education** (BGE) curriculum, incorporating life skills through **Developing the Young Workforce** (DYW). If you are in senior phase you can also make use of vocational partnerships, which can set you on your chosen career path.



In the 2021-23 sessions there was a Quality Improvement Education Officer, who is responsible for the UNCRC within Education. This officer gave Education senior leaders UNCRC awareness training, which allows them to include you when they make decisions that affect you.

Other school staff are also learning and making positive changes in four learning areas:

- Teaching & assessment
- Opportunities for personal achievement
- Decision-making groups
- Links with the wider community

The **Senior Officer Review Group (SORG)** make sure that support is there for you in an education setting if you have different needs.

There is support available in West Lothian if you are care experienced. **Who Cares? Scotland** can support you to make sure your voice is heard and your rights are respected. The **Level Up** project can help you find the right support and packages for your individual needs.

The multi-agency **Children's Rights Network and Implementation Group** make sure you and every child across all agencies have your views and rights considered and respected. This group is also responsible for promoting children's rights across West Lothian.

CLD Youth Services manage the **Duke of Edinburgh Awards** in West Lothian. The **Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE)** is a programme that helps to develop you for life and work. 93% of people feel that DofE has helped them to work in a team and 84% feel that they have become a more responsible person. If you are from a disadvantaged background, The **Level Up** project has been working since 2021 to reach out to you with the DofE. This has been an important area of focus to help create a more equal playing field and also gain new life skills and experience.

CLD Youth Services Keyworkers support you when you are most vulnerable. They can help you access further education, training or employment. This support can sometimes be long-term, a year or more. The Keyworkers cover all mainstream secondary schools in West Lothian. Keyworkers also support you once you leave school through the employability programmes **Helping Young People Engage** and the **Skills Training Programme**.

Every council in Scotland must have a **Corporate Parenting Plan**, including West Lothian. This plan applies to you if you are currently looked after or are care experienced. It explains the work done by the **Corporate Parenting Strategic Group**, which works on five priority areas to deal with any barriers you might face.

An Awards ceremony took place in November 2022 to celebrate the achievements of children and young people across five areas.

The **Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA)** are in the early stages of a project based around deferred hearings. This is based on feedback from children and young people on the effect it has when hearings keep being deferred, as it takes time away from school and hobbies.



NURTURED

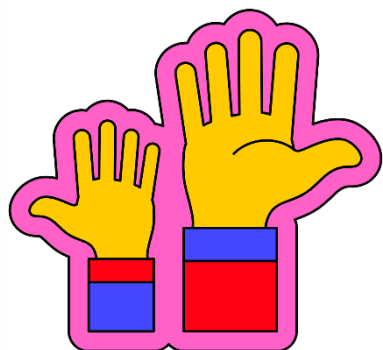
UNCRC Articles: 4, 5, 18, 20, 21, 25, 27

In West Lothian we want you to have a nurturing family setting. The goal is for your parents or family to have extra help if they need it and if you aren't able to be at home or in your family setting, another suitable home setting will be available for you.



Following on from the work to put together the Children's Services Plan, the key priorities from the plan were used to create the **Children's Services Commissioning Plan**. The needs assessment (these are exercises which get views from you and the people who deliver your services) undertaken focused on services for:

- Looked After Children
- Children and Young People requiring Early Prevention and Intervention



Children's Rights are a very important part of West Lothian Council's **Adoption and Permanence Panel**. Your views will be asked for at every stage of any permanence process and these views must be included in all reports to the panel. The panel mainly supports decisions for young people under the age of 5, so their views are sought from a trusted adult. Older children are invited to attend the panel and they can attend in person, virtually, by phone, or speak only to the Chair. They can attend all or part of the meeting. There are tools that can be used, such as the **CAPR Child's wishes and feelings** or the **Children's Participation Toolkit for Social Workers**.

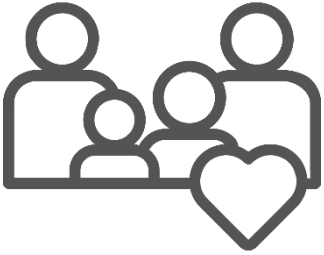
The panel looks at recommendations to promote and maintain family relationships and recognises your right to be placed with your brothers and sisters where possible. If a decision is made about adoption or a permanence order, it will go through a judicial review.

If you are or have been care experienced, Education staff work in partnership with other agencies to support you. They know about the impact of difficult childhood experiences and have trauma-informed ways to support your individual recovery. A partnership is in place with **Action for Children** and there are family support workers who develop good relationships with you and your parents so that everyone can work together to support you.

The West Lothian HSCP has invested in a wide range of early years services and parenting supports to ensure you have the best possible start in life. These include:



- Supporting child/parent attachment
- Encouraging family learning
- Improving how children and parents access and are supported to play
- Evidence-based parenting programmes such as **Incredible Years, Triple P, Mellow Parenting and Parenting Teens**, aimed at supporting parents to build their confidence in managing challenges.
- Programmes supporting parents of children with a developmental disability
- **Sure Start services** supporting parents with children aged 0-3 in areas such as social inclusion, confidence and parenting skills
- The **Families Together** service supports families on their own terms, addressing issues that are important for them and building on existing strengths



Parenting groups have good attendance and 76% completed the courses. Positive feedback included that parents felt less stress and more confidence, helping them feel more secure in the family unit.

The **Scottish Attainment Challenge** plan is made up of eight projects that aim to improve your outcomes if you are affected by poverty. These projects cover areas such as youth homelessness, the cost of the school day, supporting care-experienced children and supporting attendance.

The **Equity Team** support schools to make better use of data to make positive changes, as well as provide evidence of how you are progressing if you are impacted by poverty.

The Equity and **Pupil Equity Fund** Teams worked in partnership with school staff in West Lothian to develop a **Pupil Equity Fund Planning Tool**. The tool is used in all settings and helps make sure that your voice is at the centre of any decisions being made if you are impacted by poverty.

In Social Policy, **Families Together** is a partnership that supports families with complicated needs. They support up to 130 families, who are given a key worker who helps the family across different areas. Children 1st help support **Family Group Decision Making**, which brings family members together to make the right decisions to support you.

ACTIVE

UNCRC Articles: 3, 23, 31

In West Lothian you have different opportunities to play and take part in sport at home, in school and in the community. This is an important part of healthy growth and development.

NHS Lothian's Health Visiting Service discuss the importance of physical activity for your mental and physical health and can point your family to local services to help support this.

The **School Sport Award** is a national award scheme for physical education (PE) and school sport that:

- Involves you in decision-making/planning PE & sport in your school
- Encourages schools to self-reflect and keep improving
- Helps schools to increase your opportunities and participation in PE & school sport
- Helps place PE & school sport at the heart of school activity
- Recognises and celebrates successful PE & school sport models

If you have additional needs in respect of your education, the **Inclusion and Support Services** (ISS) will make sure those needs are met. This includes mainstream education wherever possible. The **Assessment in Transition Group** provide advice, support and recommendations if you require alternate schooling or supported learning as you transition to secondary education, ensuring that all of your needs are met.

In 2020-23 Early Years had a strong focus on the 'pedagogy of play', which is in line with national guidance from **Raising the Ambition**. Early Years centres provide a play-based curriculum which recognises the different needs of all children. All staff working in Early Learning Centres have received UNCRC training from the central UNCRC team. As a result, children, families and staff show more understanding of their rights and can talk about them more.

Because of the **Planning (Scotland) Act**, councils including West Lothian have to do **Play Sufficiency Assessments** (PSAs). As part of this, you must be asked about your views on local place plans. Children and young people from West Lothian were among 1,056 people who took part in a Play Sufficiency Assessment consultation by **Play Scotland**, who worked in partnership with **A Place in Childhood**.

Council services (Active Schools, CLD Youth Services, Adult Learning, and Social Policy) and other partner providers delivered a **summer**





holiday programme in 2021 and 2022. These programmes were designed using the views of children and families alongside other important data. Most programmes were located in the 20% most disadvantaged data zones across West Lothian. Clothing grants and free school meals were used as a way to reach out to children in low income households. There was support and activities for various groups, including preschool children and vulnerable young people aged 14+.

A team carried out visits to the different programmes to see what worked well and anything that could be improved. The information gathered by this team found that the summer programme had a positive physical, social and emotional wellbeing of those who were able to take part.

Children were also able to take part in a wide range of holiday activities including trips away, family events, sports, creative arts and multi-activity camps. Families benefited from access to leisure passes to participate in swimming and visits to local attractions.

"Great way to keep them positive and busy through the summer. Super opportunity to encourage independence in a safe environment. Allowed them to meet new friends going into the academy.... Great for transition. Helped my child deal with anxiety about moving to the high school."

"My boys loved the camp. They had the opportunity to participate in experiences that I am unable to offer them. They learned different skills. This particularly helped my 9 year old with dyspraxia. The staff were all friendly and encouraged both boys to participate which really helped them increase their confidence and self-esteem."

- Reflections from parents

RESPECTED

UNCRC Articles: 2, 3, 4, 8, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 30

Your rights and views are respected in West Lothian and you have opportunities, along with carers, to be heard and involved in the decisions that affect you.

If you are involved with hearings, the right to an advocate continues to be explored by the **Scottish Children's Reporters Administration** and more children and young people now share their views through an advocate.

Schools are always working to create a respectful environment where everyone is included, diversity is celebrated, and everyone's needs are supported by pupils and staff. A visit from the **UNCRC Commissioner for Scotland** provided groups of primary and secondary school learners the chance to share their views on topics including:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Inclusion
- Diversity
- Nutrition
- Rights, views, and desires for a better future.

All West Lothian Schools follow the **Positive Relationship Policy (2018)**, which promotes positive relationships within a climate of mutual respect and trust, based on shared values. Inclusion, engagement and involvement are the key principles that underpin the policy.

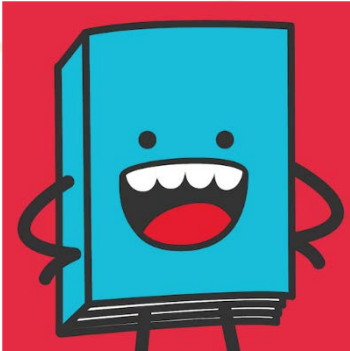
The **Rights Respecting Schools (RSS) Award** encourages schools to incorporate the UNCRC principles. All West Lothian schools either are or are becoming accredited after a lapse in 2020-22 during Covid-19. Schools achieved the following awards in 2022/23:

SCHOOL	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	NEWLY REGISTERED
<i>Primary</i>	3	17	30	9
<i>Secondary</i>	1	6	4	1
<i>Special</i>	1	1	2	2

If you attend a RRS, you understand that participation is a right rather than a permission or a one-off event. There is no minimum age at which you can participate and younger children are offered appropriate support to play an increasingly informed role in school life.



General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) applies to all Council services. This means there are clear agreements in place around when and why your personal data is gathered and that this data can only be gathered with your consent. Your parent or guardian can provide consent for you until you are 12, though they should still ask your opinion. If you are older than 12 you will be asked for your consent directly.



West Lothian libraries contain books for you at every age, from babies to teenagers. Books are also available in accessible formats. Other library resources for you include:

Read Woke West Lothian allows you to develop knowledge of social justice issues through a reading challenge by West Lothian libraries and James Young High School.



A Big Conversation, an event designed and facilitated by young people in partnership with CLD services, took place on the 9th November 2022 in Howden Park Centre as part of National Youth Work Week. 56 young people attended, representing various different groups and communities. Young people who attended were able to discuss the following key themes of poverty, climate change and health and wellbeing with a panel of elected members:

A Youth Voice Charter has been created in partnership with young people and CLD practitioners, to be used across the **Forth Valley and West Lothian Regional Improvement Collaborative**. The aim is for all young people in Forth Valley and West Lothian to feel and know that their rights are respected. There is also work underway to establish a new youth-led youth democracy and participation model in West Lothian and this will be a key focus for next steps



If you are care experienced, **Having Your Say** is a forum to have your voice heard. The group provided the drawings featured on the front cover of this report and have regular meet ups, which continued virtually during Covid-19.

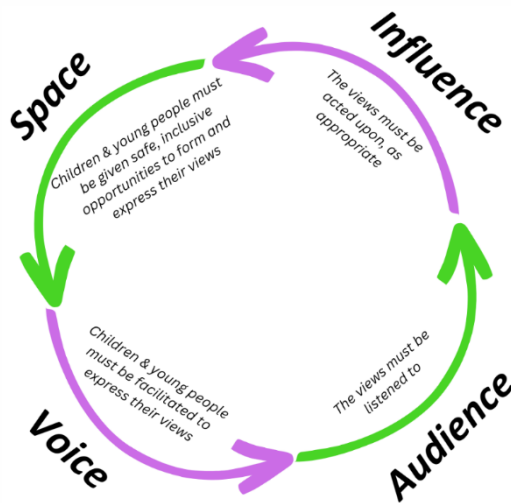
Listen and link is a service with five family support workers who provide a phone and text service for you or your family. It's there if you are worried about your mental health or the mental health of someone in your family and provided important support during the pandemic. Young people and families have told us how important this service is and it will continue to focus on involving you in decisions around the support you need to ensure you get the right support at the right time.

RESPONSIBLE

UNCRC Articles: 3, 12, 14, 15, 40

In West Lothian, you have opportunities to play an active and responsible role at home, in school and in the community and can receive the right help to join in decisions that affect you.

If you're under 16 and come into conflict with the law leading to charges in relation to offences, or are 16-18 and subject to a Compulsory Supervision Order (CSO), you're remitted to the Children's Reporter to make sure you get the right support. This is part of the **Whole System Approach**, which is committed to keeping children out of the Justice System with Warnings/Restorative Warnings and referrals to **Early and Effective Intervention (EEI)**. EEI identify and discuss your needs if you are coming into conflict with the law. Representatives from Police Scotland, Social Policy and Education Services work together to get you the right supports to prevent any further conflicts with the law. Prosecution from diversion is used if you are aged 16-21 in youth justice, dealing with your case without progression to Court and the Justice System. The percentage of EEI cases aged 12-17 years old who do not become known to the Youth Justice team within 12 months was 96% in 2020/21 and 97% in 2022/23.



- Lundy Model of Participation

Four young people were elected to the **Scottish Youth Parliament**. 2,814 young people in Almond Valley voted through the Young Scot online voting system. This was the largest single constituency vote recorded on the system. Two young people were also elected to community councils.

Other young people took part in projects like **Anti-Poverty Champions**, the **Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum**, and **COP 26 Champions**. Youth participation groups are created around your interests and needs.

Schools are trained in the **UNCRC toolkit** and the Lundy Model of Learner Participation. Learner voice was a big focus in 2022/23.

INCLUDED

UNCRC Articles: 3, 6, 18, 23, 26, 27

In West Lothian, services have processes to make sure that you are accepted as part of your community and do not have any of the following barriers:

- Social
- Educational
- Physical
- Economic



If you attend a special needs schools or local hub school, they stayed open during the Covid-19 pandemic. Staff were able to support you and your family with targeted support during this difficult time.

If you are care experienced and are facing barriers to mainstream education, the **Looked After Attainment Project** can support you directly.

If you have more than one or more complicated health needs, a Health Visitor can refer you to NHS Lothian's **Child Development Clinic**. This means you can be seen by more than one doctor at one appointment where they can all agree a plan to care for you.

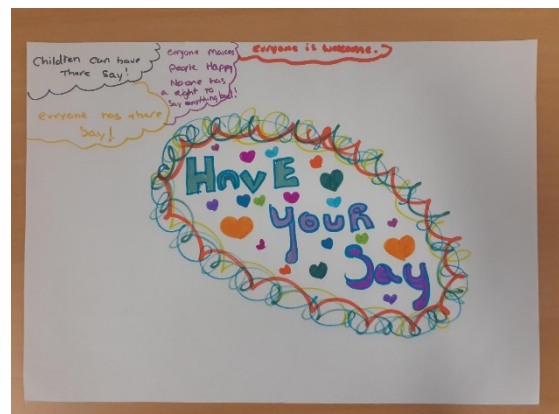
The **West Lothian Child Disability Service (CDS)** makes sure social work services are available to you and your family if you are aged 0-16 and have a significant disability. The team provide services in your local community wherever they can.

There are resources for you and your family if you have a disability. Information booklets created using **Picture Exchange Communication systems (PEC's)** can be accessed to help you understand what services and supports there are. Some CDS staff are trained in talking mats so they can gather your views directly. **Self-directed support** is used to give you the choice in how you get the support you need. The CDS team also use an external hard drive with a boardmaker to provide more children with a voice.

In November 2021, West Lothian Council welcomed nine boys aged 14-17 from outside of the UK. All councils were asked by the UK Home Office to do this. All nine boys were given a throughcare worker to support them. This is part of the council's responsibility for anyone who can't be looked after by their parents, but there are extra complications because the law is different if you were not born in the UK.



If you are a **young carer**, there are extra protections and support you can access. This is a legal right due to the Carers Act. Carers of West Lothian are an organisation who represent and support young carers. They represent you in groups and meetings where decisions are made, including the Children's Rights Group.



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NEXT STEPS

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone that played a part in this report. This includes the workforce and partners who carried out the activities, as well as the people who gave their views and who work to make sure you know your rights and that they are respected. A special thank you to Having Your Say for the drawings which can be seen on the front cover and on page 21.

Most importantly, thank YOU for taking the time to read this report and for being interested in your rights. Whether you took part in one of the activities listed in the report, or are reading it now, your voice is the most important part of this work.

Your rights are always important and we always want to hear your thoughts. If you have any feedback on this report or have any questions/issues, please get in touch with us via email: childrensrightsgroup@westlothian.gov.uk

