



West Lothian
Council

Armadale and Blackridge Local Area Committee

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

23 May 2013

A meeting of the **Armadale and Blackridge Local Area Committee** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Conference Room 3, Civic Centre** on **Friday 31 May 2013 at 10:00am**.

For Chief Executive

BUSINESS

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Order of Business, including notice of urgent business
3. Declarations of Interest - Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration at the meeting, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.

Public Session

4. Confirm draft Minute of Meeting held on 22 February 2013 (herewith).
5. Housing, Construction and Building Services - Report by Head of Housing, Construction and Building Services (herewith).
6. Welfare Reform - Update - Report by Head of Finance and Estates (herewith).
7. Ward 9, Armadale - Report by Police Inspector, Ian Moffat
8. Watson Park Project Update - Report by Head of Area Services

DATA LABEL: Public

(herewith).

9. Community Regeneration - Public Health Activity - Report by Head of Area Services (herewith).
10. Community Regeneration - Ward Action Plan 2012-13 Final Report and Ward Action Plan 2013-15 - Report by Head of Area Services (herewith).
11. School Developments and Improvements within the Armadale and Blackridge Ward - Report by Head of Education (Quality Assurance (herewith)
12. Workplan
13. Strategy For Tackling Under-Age Drinking/Diversinary Activities for Young People - Report by Head of Area Services (herewith).

NOTE **For further information please contact Eileen Rollo on 01506 281621 or email eileen.rollo@westlothian.gov.uk**

MINUTE of MEETING of the ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE of WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, LIVINGSTON, on 22 FEBRUARY 2013.

Present – Councillors Jim Dixon (Chair), Stuart Borrowman

Absent – Isabel Hutton

In attendance

Elaine Cook, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council
Douglas Benson, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council
Campbell Hornell, Head Teacher, Armadale Academy
Inspector Ian Moffat, Lothian & Borders Police
Tony Irvine, Senior Planning Officer, West Lothian Council

1. MINUTE

The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 23 November 2012. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

2. ARMADALE ACADEMY ANNUAL UPDATE PRESENTATION AND REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) and a presentation by Campbell Hornell, Head Teacher, Armadale Academy.

The report advised that Armadale Academy was a six year comprehensive school offering 781 students a progressive, relevant, challenging and enjoyable curriculum with opportunities for personalisation and choice.

Armadale Academy offered a full range of National Qualifications found in a modern Scottish secondary school. The aim was to provide experiences that would result in a creative and enterprising attitude in students and develop young people with a sense of pride and ambition to contribute positively to local, national and international community.

The school had excellent facilities for student and staff use including a Drama Studio and Hairdressing Salon.

Campbell Hornell, Head Teacher advised that successes and achievements were as follows:-

- SQA Results, particularly Level 5 results at end of S4
- Curricular Provision

- Learning Community
- Community Sports Hub
- Local and National Awards
- International Education and Partnerships

Mr Hornell also advised the following list of priorities for improvement:-

- Raising Attainment, particularly Level 6 results at end of S5
- Securing Positive Destinations for leavers
- Excellent L&T in every classroom
- Staff Development
- Develop a culture of ambition

In conclusion the report advised that Armadale Academy was a school with significant strengths, robust quality improvement process and a capacity to improve.

Decision

To note the contents of the report and presentation.

3. PLANNING UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning and Economic Development providing an update on development management planning matters of interest in the Armadale & Blackridge ward.

The report provided a brief update on a number of Core Development Areas including, Colinshiel, Southdale (Armadale Station) Lower Bathville (Brickworks) and Standhill.

The report also provided detail on other matters of interest including, Arnold Clark at North Street, Proposed Windfarm, Woodend (Doonin), Drumbrow Homes and Manorlane.

The report recommended that the committee note the items contained in the report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

4. HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING SERVICES

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Construction and Building Services providing an overview of the service activities within the Armadale and Blackridge ward.

The report provided information relating to property void and let performance for mainstream and temporary tenancies from October to December 2012. Arrears performance from April 2012 to December 2012.

The report provided information in relation to mainstream tenancies, temporary tenancies and arrears performance from April to June 2012. During the course of the discussion Members raised their concerns about the increase in arrears performance. The report also provided details of the area housing office activity, locality planning and community engagement and new build update.

The report also provided details relating to the following:-

- Armadale and Blackridge Area Team Activity
- Mayfield Community Garden Project
- Service Wide Welfare Reform Activity
- Ward Specific Capital & Environmental Programme
- Safer neighbourhood Council Officer Ward Information
- WLC Officer based in SNT – November 2012
- Youth Worker based in SNT – November 2012

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

5. WARD 9, ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE POLICE REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Police Inspector Ian Moffat, Lothian & Borders Police.

The report provided the committee with information on the key performance indicators for the ward, national priorities and community engagement priorities and highlighted issues of note.

The report also provided details of performance statistics for the year to date compared to last year. It was noted that the figures were similar to last year. The SNT and Community Teams were committed to improving the solvency figures and regularly reviewed crimes to assess patterns and detect leads.

The report went on to provide details on the following activities:-

- Reducing Community and Social Harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse
- Reducing antisocial behaviour within our communities
- Dealing with youth disorder
- Increased police presence at peak periods

Local initiatives included the continuation of Operation Faraday and a further Operation Floorwalk organised to take place in February 2013. Forthcoming events included the Made from Crime Campaign, with posters being distributed throughout Armadale and division wide highlighting the campaign to further pressure Organised Crime Groups in the area.

In conclusion the report provided contact details of Armadale and Blackridge Community officers and the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6. COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services providing an update on community regeneration activity in the Armadale and Blackridge ward.

The report recommended that the committee note the progress of community regeneration within the ward particularly the Updated Ward Profile, Blackridge Work Club and the Together for Health project links into the community.

The report provided details of the following:-

- Updated Ward Profile
- Armadale Youth Space
- Together for Health Project
- Armadale Family Unit – Project Details
- Blackridge Work Club
- Town Centre Improvements

The report went on to advise that on 29 January 2013 as part of the general services capital (property) budget approval, the council agreed to

put forward Blackridge Primary School for funding from the additional capital that was to be distributed by the Scottish Government amongst all 32 local authorities. It was likely that the council's share would be approximately £1m which would be added to from the general services capital (property planned improvements budget).

The proposals at Blackridge Primary would consist of planned improvements, primarily to undertake the following:-

- Extension of Nursery Provision (to full 30/30) with additional toilets
- Single classroom extension to meet full single stream status
- Alteration to existing General Purpose (GP) / Gym to form fully functioning GP room and Learning Support Room (LS)
- Provision of 231 sqm hall with separate dry changing accommodation by converting existing community hall and ancillary spaces (would include new sprung floor)
- Cladding external walls to hall steel structure
- Upgrade existing fire and security alarm systems
- Upgrade existing boiler plant
- Upgrade electrical systems
- Internal decoration
- Repairs to roof (as necessary).
- Repairs to windows (as necessary)
- Accessibility improvements

The Head of Education advised that a number of other issues required to be considered including the purchase of ground and that she would keep the local members updated.

The report recommended that the committee note the progress of community regeneration activity within the ward particularly the Update Ward Profile, Blackridge Work Club and the Together for Health project links into the community.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

3.

TIMETABLE OF PROPOSED MEETINGS OF ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE 2013-14

The committee noted that a proposed timetable of meetings that had been

prepared for meetings of the local area committee for 2013-14.

Decision

Agreed the timetable of meetings of the local area committee for 2013-14.

8. WORKPLAN

The committee noted the Armadale and Blackridge Local Area Committee workplan and agreed to add the following items of business to the plan:-

- Armadale Academy Update
- Armadale Partnership Centre

Decision

To note the workplan and additional items to be included.



West Lothian
Council

ARMADALE and BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION and BUILDING SERVICES

REPORT BY HEAD OF HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Local Area Committee with an overview of the service activities within the Armadale and Blackridge ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Local Area Committee is asked to note Housing, Construction and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs Being honest, open and accountable Providing equality of opportunities Developing employees Making best use of our resources Working in partnership
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	N/A
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	N/A
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	N/A
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	N/A
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	N/A
VII Consideration at PDSP	N/A
VIII Other consultations	N/A

D. TERMS OF REPORT

Housing Performance Information

The purpose of this report is to provide the Local Area Committee with an overview of the activities of Housing, Construction and Building Services specific to the Armadale and Blackridge ward.

Property Void & Let Performance: Mainstream Tenancies

Void Period	Jan 2013	%	Feb 2013	%	Mar 2013	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	3	50%	4	80%	23	100%	65%
2-4 weeks	2	28%	1	20%	0	0%	25%
4+ weeks	1	22%	0	0%	0	0%	10%
Total Lets	6	100%	5	100%	23	100%	100%

Property Void & Let Performance: Temporary Tenancies

Void Period	Jan 2013	%	Feb 2013	%	Mar 2013	%	WL Target %
0-2 weeks	1	50%	4	100%	3	100%	70%
2-4 weeks	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%	20%
4+ weeks	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	10%
Total Lets	2	100%	4	0%	0	100%	100%

Delays in re-letting can occur and for a variety of reasons. The type or location of the property, the completion of void work or the identification of additional works not visible during the initial inspection. Ensuring that vulnerable persons are supported through the viewing and sign up process. Some of our applicants have specific support requirements which require detailed planning and co-ordination by both social work and housing services prior to tenancy commencement.

In the year to date there have been 130 mainstream tenancies, including 19 new build, and 33 temporary tenancies let by the Armadale and Blackridge team.

There are 13 Policy Voids in the ward, this will reduce with 3 longer term properties being completed and returning to stock at the beginning of May. The other properties have electrical issues or require asbestos removal.

Arrears Performance

2011/2012	Total £Value	2012/2013	Total £Value
April 11	84,284	April 12	78,755
May 11	87,126	May 12	78,204
June 11	91,474	June 12	86,231
July 11	103,032	July 12	100,810
August 11	105,161	August 12	109,479
September 11	101,411	September 12	124,072
October 11	115,468	October 12	115,028
November 11	107,161	November 12	139,416

December 11	86,495	December 12	124,351
January 12	93,295	January 2013	118,218
February 12	91,431	February 2013	117,822
March 12	65,940	March 2013	93,930

Rent arrears continue to be a concern county wide and tenant engagement in respect of arrears is an ongoing challenge for the housing teams. The Housing Manager undertakes monthly audits, cases are progressed timeously and the team strive to keep cases moving through the recovery process. An in depth analysis of the outstanding arrear cases was carried out and an analysis of the outcome has determined a plan of action for officers to address the situation.

Following the introduction of new legislation last year whereby landlords have to issue a tenant with a pre-action requirement our first cases for Armadale will call in court next month with the outcomes being closely monitored. We currently hold 3 live decrees for eviction for rent arrears. Since having been to court and having decree to evict awarded against them, the tenants are continuing with arrangements made with housing officers and if maintained we will not evict. Since new legislation has been brought in last August a sheriff can grant a period of up to 6 months where the decree to evict is valid allowing the landlord further scope to work with tenants again to emphasise that eviction is the absolute last resort.

A number of cases are being represented by the Court Advice Project Team at the Advice Shop and agreements are being requested just prior to or on date of court appearances. Cases are being continued by the Sheriff to allow monitoring of these agreements however these usually have very high balances by this stage.

Our officers work closely with the local revenues team to ensure claims are processed as quickly as possible including housing staff collecting outstanding evidence. The team also work with Debt Support Team and the Advice Shop and are committed to support tenants who find themselves in financial difficulties, ensuring they are provided with all necessary advice and assistance. This can include money, debt and energy advice and is a valuable piece of work that ensures the tenant's income is maximised and additional advice and assistance provided.

Due to intensive intervention work and the support provided by our officers no evictions were carried out during this reporting period.

Armadale and Blackridge Area Team Activity

Officers in the team have a number of tenancies under supervision for issues such as child protection, anti social behaviour and poor tenancy conditions. Our officers' work with a range of services and agencies to ensure tenants and residents are fully supported, tenancies are maintained and sustained as far as possible and appropriate action taken where necessary as well as ensuring, that where the situation arises, other members of the community affected are also supported.

The area office has a new member of staff. The first Modern Apprentice in Housing has been appointed and will be guided by the Housing Team.

Service Wide Welfare Reform Activity

The Housing Benefit size criteria changes took effect from 1st April 2013. The table below shows the number of West Lothian Council tenants affected. Monitoring arrangements are now in place to track the impact of the under-occupation changes on rent arrears. Housing staff will make early contact with affected tenants who get into rent arrears, to ensure appropriate advice is given and relevant referrals for support are made.

Percentage reduction of eligible rent	Number	Average weekly loss of HB (£)
14%	1973	£9.42
25%	491	£17.26
Grand Total	2464	£10.98

Office activity

Officers have worked hard in attempts to make contact and carry out as many face to face interviews as possible, some of which were very emotional and difficult.

238 interviews took place in the Armadale area for tenants who will be affected by the Housing Benefit size criteria.

As a result we have completed 12 mutual exchanges for tenants to move into properties adequate for the composition of their family and in line with the new size criteria. We will continue to work with all of the tenants identified and offer advice and assistance to identify further possible mutual exchanges, referrals for money and debt advice and where appropriate application for discretionary Housing Benefit payments.

Issues for the forthcoming months will be liaising with tenants who are finding difficulty in making payments and also encouraging engagement with tenants not making payments. This will be a very challenging and sensitive task to be carried out by the Housing Team.

Mayfield Community Garden Project

The area housing team continues to support this very successful project. Further work is to be carried out by our officers to enable the growth of the project which will include the Early Years Teaching Unit. The unit will be sited within garden areas previously used by our tenants. The Housing Team have been working and liaising with legal services and the affected tenants to reach a successful conclusion.

Ward Specific Capital & Environmental Programme

Outcomes from 2012/13

- The multi-year Property Upgrading programme in the Mayfield Area of Armadale is continuing. More details are provided below, in Planned Work.
- Phase 2 of Work to upgrade St Helen's Place has been completed, with the provision of a new stairway to the deck access and new barrier fencing. Remedial work to Phase 1, concrete repairs, following the dissolution of the contractor, is being arranged.
- Central Heating has been upgraded, due to condition, health and safety rules on vents or parts availability in properties in Hillside Drive and Park Road in Blackridge and in Birkenshaw Way and Lower Bathville in Armadale.
- Any Health and Safety related programmes in the Armadale and Blackridge Ward planned for 2012/13 have been completed, with the exception of properties where access could not be gained. Any required Handrails have been fitted where there are more than 2 steps and External Lights have been fitted to properties where they have been assessed as required. Upgrading of the fire protection systems to Hard Wired systems will have been carried out in void properties as will opportunistic Periodic Inspections.
- External Painting Upgrades and fencing upgrades works have been carried out as required by survey to properties in Birkenshaw Way, Denholm Grove, Hardhill Place, Lower Bathville, Manse Avenue, McCallum Court, Russell Avenue, Shaw Avenue, Shaw Place, St Andrew's Drive, Temple Avenue, Woodend Walk, all in Armadale, and to properties in Fleming Place and Louburn, both in Blackridge.
- Detailed design works for the major upgrades of the flats in Park Road in Blackridge have been completed.
- Scheduled Periodic Testing and all required repairs to the domestic electrical system took place to Millburn Road, Strathavon Terrace and Strathlogie, all in Westfield, and also in any voids in that arose in the Armadale and Blackridge Ward.
- Rhone Cleaning and repair work was carried out in Bedlormie Drive, Bridgecastle Road, Burns Avenue, Cappers Court, Dell Avenue, Ewart Avenue, Forrester Road, George Street, Glen Road, Glen View, Gracie's Wynd, Greenside, Langside Drive, Lower Bathville, Marches Drive, Ogilface Crescent, St Paul's Drive and West Main Street.
- Communal Bin store upgrades were completed in Mayfield Court.

The Housing Team are liaising and playing an important role within the Mayfield Drive upgrade. This is a very challenging role and one the team are working very hard to ensure a successful outcome.

Planned for 2013/14

- Mayfield Area. Major work continues in the Mayfield Area, comprising Mayfield Drive, Calder Crescent and Birkenshaw Way. This programme will continue for several years until all the council houses are upgraded. The original programme of roof and roughcast has been expanded to include new windows and, where required, substructure work to address deep solums and poor ventilation. Investigative surveys are continuing on several fronts to determine the best way to reduce the high risk of condensation and these works will be included in future phases and also rolled back to the Phase 1 houses.
- Bathville Flats. The upgrading of the whole Bathville area continues with the start, later in the year, of the major upgrading of the deck access flats surrounding Bathville Cross. The intention is to transform the appearance and quality of these flats with new roofs, major changes to the deck and external wall insulation. Major changes will be made to the access points with new structural stairwells being built to prevent loitering and criminal or social damage. Further work to improve the area is the subject of a separate report to the council. This work will take approximately 2 years to complete.
- A new roof will be fitted, and any outstanding repairs completed, to council houses in George Street in Armadale.
- Roofs and roughcast will be renewed to council properties in Strathlogie in Westfield.
- St Helen's Place will have a new roof fitted over council properties and will have external walls upgraded in Phase 3 of its upgrade.
- The Upgrades to the Park Road flats in Blackridge will begin this year with major upgrades including new roof, external wall insulation, totally upgraded access and common areas.
- Windows will be replaced with new highly energy efficiency windows to Harestanes Road in Armadale.
- New External Lights are planned to be done to individual council houses, or common flats, where need is determined by survey, at King Street, Lower Bathville, Mayfield Drive, McNeil Crescent, Mount Pleasant, South Street, West Main Street, Wood Terrace and Wotherspoon Crescent, all in Armadale; to council houses in Bedlormie Drive, Craig Street, Craighill View, Craigginn Terrace, Drummond Place, Greenhill Road, Hillside Place, Langside Drive, Park Road, Redburn Road and Sunnydale Road, all in Blackridge; to council houses in Millburn Road and Strathlogie in Westfield and to one council house in Priorscroft in Torphichen.
- Fencing Upgrades, where determined by survey and condition, are planned to Ogilface Crescent, Bedlormie Drive, and Langside Drive, all in Blackridge; and to Burns Avenue, Bridgecastle Road, Cappers Court, Dell Avenue, Ewart Avenue, Forrester Road, George Street, Glen Road, Glenview, Gracie's Wynd, Marches Drive, St Paul's Drive, West Main Street, all in Armadale; and to council houses in Greenside, Torphichen.
- Upgrading of the domestic fire protection systems to hard wired systems will be carried out in Birkenshaw Way, McCallum Court, Woodend Walk, all in Armadale, and to council houses in Louburn and Park Road, both in Blackridge, and also opportunistically in void properties with the ward.
- Opportunistic Periodic Inspections of the electrical system will be carried out in void properties
- Rhone Cleaning and Repair will be carried Ogilface Crescent, Bedlormie Drive, and Langside Drive, all in Blackridge; and to Burns Avenue, Bridgecastle Road, Cappers Court, Dell Avenue, Ewart Avenue, Forrester Road, George Street, Glen Road, Glenview, Gracie's Wynd, Marches Drive, St Paul's Drive, West Main Street, all in Armadale and to council houses in Greenside, Torphichen.

Safer Neighbourhood Council Officer Ward Information

The Safer Neighbourhood Teams across the nine Multi-Member Wards are an integral part of the Community Safety Unit and are a key feature of partnership working. In the Armadale and Blackridge ward partnership working sees the local housing team, youth worker, council officer within the SNT and Police officers all working together to tackle anti social behaviour.

WLC Officer based in SNT – March 2013

Joint working initiatives continue with proactive patrolling of key problem areas; focussing on youth problems and under age drinking. Operation Floorwalk has been conducted with joint patrols resulting in alcohol seized, youths conveyed to the Police Station.

An extension on an interim ASBO has been sought and obtained for an anti social issue in Wotherspoon Crescent. Tenancy warnings have been served at Shaw Avenue with the case accelerated to Legal Services. Joint working with the Police will provide additional support to a vulnerable complainant.

Increased joint visits with the Police to Blackridge have taken place due to problems with a couple of properties at the Louburn flats, this presence has been to prevent things escalating and to prevent any tenancy warnings being served.

Youth Worker based in SNT – March 2013

Approximately 15 referrals have gone into WLYAP due to a large number of house parties in the area and a mixed age group having Access to alcohol on the property. Parents have been visited and warned with regards to some of the young people behaviour. The behaviour is being monitored by the Youth officer.

SNT, NRT and Youth Worker have had regular meetings to keep on top of ASB and highlight hot spots.

The Youth Worker has undertaken some joint working to manage young people's involvement in ASB.

Youth notices from the previous month are still being monitored and the young people worked with to help them understand the consequence and ripple effect of ASB, this has reduced the number of calls to this area this month.

Joint working with schools to report neighbour disputes and parental confrontations continues and as a result there have been a reduced number of calls linked to these issues.

E. CONCLUSION

To note the contents of the report.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments: None

Contact Person: Gary Stoddart, Housing, Construction & Building Services.

Email; gary.stoddart@westlothian.gov.uk Tel: 01501 678301

Date: 31st May 2013



ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

WELFARE REFORM - UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF FINANCE AND ESTATES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Committee of the implications for West Lothian Council and the likely impact on the Armadale and Blackridge community of the UK Government's programme of welfare reforms, and the actions being taken to mitigate these impacts.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the LAC note the content of the report and the ongoing work being done by officers on welfare reform.

C.

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|---|---|
| I Council Values | Focusing on our customers' needs
Being honest, open and accountable
Providing equality of opportunities
Making best use of our resources
Working in partnership
Developing Employees |
| II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment) | The Welfare Reform Act 2012 provides for significant changes to Housing and Council Tax benefits, the introduction of a new Universal Credit to replace existing claimant benefits, abolition of the Social Fund to be replaced by the Scottish Welfare Fund and the abolition of Disability Living Allowance to be replaced by Personal independence Payments. |
| III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers | Detail still to be determined. |
| IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators | Corporate and service PIs will need reviewed and in some cases altered as implications of the reforms become clearer |
| V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement | Outcome 5 – Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed

Outcome 6 – We live longer healthier lives |

	Outcome 7 – We have tackled significant inequalities in West Lothian society
	Outcome 8 – We have improved the life chances for people at risk
	Outcome 13 – We take a pride in a strong, fair and inclusive society
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The Working Group on Welfare Reform is continuing to assess the potential financial implications for the council.
VII Consideration at PDSP	The initial impacts of Welfare Reform were reported to the Partnership and Resources PDSP on 13 May 2011 and a more comprehensive update was reported on 21 September 2012. The first of the planned quarterly updates was reported on 7 December 2012 and the second quarterly update was reported on 1 March 2013.
VIII Other consultations	With affected services, through the West Lothian Council Welfare Reform Working Group, including ongoing consultations with the voluntary sector, local housing associations, local landlords' forums and other partners on specific issues arising.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

1.0 Overview

The UK Government is undertaking a major programme of Welfare Reform which will have a significant impact on local authorities and the communities in West Lothian.

Recent research by Sheffield Hallam University suggests that by 2016 - 17 the annual loss to people in West Lothian as a result of all changes will be £57 million per year.

This figure takes into account not simply the effects on the West Lothian community of the measures in the Welfare Reform Act 2012, which this report focuses on, but also the impact of earlier reforms announced in 2010 affecting the private rented sector (Local Housing Allowance); the effect of limiting the up rating of benefits to 1% p.a. rather than using the Consumer Price Index figure; the substantial increase in the rates of Non-Dependant deductions from Housing Benefit; and the major changes to the rates and eligibility for Working Tax Credits, Child Tax Credits and Child Benefit.

The council has set up the Working Group on Welfare Reform, with membership from those services most affected by the reforms, including Area Services, Finance and Estates, Housing, Construction and Building Services, and Social Policy.

2.0 The Welfare Reform Act 2012

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 provides for the introduction of six major changes to the welfare system:

1. The introduction of size restrictions in the social rented sector with a consequent loss of Housing Benefit for those affected.
2. The abolition of Council Tax Benefit and its replacement with a local scheme of Council Tax Reduction with a 10% reduction in funding
3. The introduction of a new Universal Credit which will, by 2017, replace many existing benefits including Housing Benefit and Job Seeker's Allowance
4. The abolition of the Discretionary Social Fund and replacement of its two main elements , Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants, with the Scottish Welfare Fund a scheme of localised support to be administered by local authorities
5. The abolition of Disability Living Allowance and the introduction of a new Personal Independence Payment
6. The introduction of an absolute benefit cap on how much claimants can receive per week. Any excess above this cap is to be deducted, by local authorities, from the Housing Benefit award

3.0 Specific Issues in the Welfare Reform Act 2012

3.1 Size Criteria in the Social Rented Sector

From 1 April 2013 tenants of working age who rent from the Council or from other social landlords such as Housing Associations have had their Housing Benefit (HB) reduced if they are living in a property that has been assessed as too large for their needs.

This change will not affect tenants who have reached the age for state pension credit.

Issues arising

Those households found to be "under-occupying" the dwelling which they rent, i.e. the property has more bedrooms than their household composition warrants under the new restrictions, have lost a part of their Housing Benefit entitlement.

- Claimants with one bedroom "too many" have had the eligible rent used to calculate the Housing Benefit award reduced by 14%.
- Claimants with two or more bedrooms "too many" have had the eligible rent used to calculate the Housing Benefit award reduced by 25%.

Impact on West Lothian

- An analysis of the current Housing Benefit caseload found that approximately 2,492 council tenants are being adversely affected, resulting in an HB shortfall of £1.36 million per year.
- Similar analysis was undertaken with the Housing Associations in the area which has indicated that a further 800 households in this sector will be adversely affected, resulting in an HB loss of some £750,000.

Impact on Armadale and Blackridge

- 347 council tenants in Armadale and Blackridge are affected by this restriction. Of these 290 households have had a 14% reduction in housing benefit as they have one bedroom “too many”. A further 57 households have had a 25% reduction in their housing benefit as they have two or more bedrooms “too many”.
- Work is ongoing to with our Housing Association partners to identify the number of their tenants affected who live in Armadale and Blackridge.

Actions taken to mitigate Welfare Reform Act 2012 changes

The council has undertaken a number of positive actions designed to advise and provide support to residents in West Lothian who could be affected by the various Welfare Reform changes. These include:

- An “early warning” letter issued to all tenants during November 2012, who based on information held, would be affected by the size criteria restrictions. The purpose of the letter was to highlight to the tenants that, due to the size restriction criteria, they were facing a reduction in their Housing Benefit from April 2013; to give tenants the opportunity to correct any misinformation regarding their household composition and house size; and to offer the opportunity to engage with the council, mainly via the local area housing offices, and to explore the various options open to them.
- Housing Construction and Building Services are working in close partnership with the Revenues Unit, the Advice Shop, and Social Policy to identify and engage with those tenants who will need support.
- A programme of face-to-face interviews is ongoing with local Housing Offices, or the Housing Association staff, contacting the tenants concerned to discuss the options available.
- A Welfare Reform communication strategy is in place which to date has included a number of publications highlighting welfare reform changes, training events for council staff and the third sector, and various Advice Shop events.
- Additional time limited resources of £1.024 million have been approved by Council Executive for the following:
 - Additional advice shop support to provide assistance and advice to people affected by Welfare Reform changes
 - Additional support to provide advice shop representation at Social Security Tribunals for anyone wishing to appeal against full or partial loss of disability living allowance
 - Additional Housing Needs staff support
 - Increased Revenues and Benefits staff support to manage the benefits caseload
 - Top up funding for a three year period towards the Discretionary Housing Fund (see separate heading below).

Other actions already in place include the set up of a dedicated Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) team within the Revenues and Benefits unit who will assess SWF applications and administer the fund. Additional call centre staff have also been employed on a fixed term basis to handle SWF enquiries.

In relation to size criteria, officers are currently considering the mix of housing for the new build council house programme.

Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) Fund

The Department for Work and Pensions provides local authorities with a Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) fund to assist those people who face real hardship as a result of not being able to meet their housing costs, and where Housing Benefit does not meet those costs in full.

However, the Discretionary Housing Payment fund is not designed to offer long-term solutions to meeting housing costs. Indeed the funding of DHP ensures that in most cases it cannot.

Awards of DHP are generally made for a short period of time, usually thirteen weeks, sometimes up to six months. During this time applicants would be encouraged and supported to find a more long-term solution to their problems.

The council will receive DHP funding from the Department of Work and Pensions in 2013/14 of £239,000. The council has agreed additional time limited top up funding of £180,000 for the DHP fund for each of the three years 2013/14 to 2015/16. This means that the council will have a total DHP fund of £419,000 in 2013/14.

The £180,000 council contribution to the DHP fund will be used for claimants affected by six criteria restrictions who are prioritised using the 'hardship' test.

It is anticipated that the demands of the fund will however be significantly higher than the funding available. The size criteria changes alone will result in a total housing benefit loss of over £2 million for the council and housing association tenants.

3.2 Abolition of Council Tax Benefit

Under the Welfare Reform Act, Council Tax Benefit has been abolished and replaced by localised schemes of support. Unlike Council Tax Benefit the new scheme is not fully funded by the DWP, with a 10% reduction in funding, equivalent to a £40 million reduction at a Scottish level. For Scotland, an interim Council Tax Reduction Scheme has been put in place by the Scottish Government for 2013/14 which ensures that the 10% DWP shortfall is being funded by the Scottish Government and local authorities.

Those customers who were in receipt of Council Tax Benefit in March have now been transferred to the new interim Council Tax Reduction scheme. Unless they have a change in their own circumstances, they should not see any change during the first year of the new scheme.

The Scottish Government plans to introduce a more permanent scheme from April 2014; however research and development for this scheme is at an early stage and further details are awaited.

Impact on Armadale and Blackridge

In Armadale and Blackridge of the 6,827 Council Tax properties in the ward, 1,741 households are currently in receipt of Council Tax Reduction.

3.3 The introduction of Universal Credit

Universal Credit will mean the integration of six core benefits and tax credits into a single payment. It will bring together: Income Based Job Seekers Allowance; Income Support; Income Related Employment Support Allowance; Housing Benefit; Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit. The plan is to make one single monthly payment to the household. This will mean that the housing support element of Universal Credit will be included in this single payment and paid to the claimant and not the landlord. Universal Credit will be introduced in a staggered manner across the UK. The process will start with new claimants and then move on to the existing caseload and is due to be completed in 2017. In West Lothian, new claimants of working age will be directed to apply for Universal Credit from April 2014.

Issues arising

The Universal Credit application process is to be “Digital by Default”. Claimants will be expected to apply online. However early indications, from our face to face interviews with those tenants affected by the under-occupancy restrictions, suggest that 45% of these tenants in Armadale and Blackridge do not have access to the internet. Area Services are working to develop Digital Inclusion Action Plans to address the difficulties which the new Universal Credit application process will cause to some claimants.

Paying Universal Credit direct to claimants will have the potential to cause major issues for social landlords, including the council, who have received some 60% of their rental income by direct transfer from the local authority Housing Benefit system direct to their rent accounts. Such landlords will henceforth have to organise to ensure that their tenants pay their rent.

Our face to face interviews with tenants indicate that 19% of council tenants in Armadale and Blackridge do not have a current bank or building society account that they can use.

The DWP appear to accept that certain vulnerable claimants will not be able to manage these new budgeting responsibilities and that safeguards will need to be put in place, but as yet we have no details of what these safeguards will be. Indications from the DWP are this should affect a small minority of tenants and they should only be in place for short periods.

The DWP in consultation with local authorities and others have begun developing a scheme of Localised Claimant Support and an initial Framework Document was published in February 2013. This will be taken forward over the coming months and issues such as local partnership arrangements, the role of local authorities and the third sector, and DWP funding for such partnership work will be developed.

3.4 The introduction of the Scottish Welfare Fund

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 abolished the DWP’s Discretionary Social Fund. Two key elements of the Social Fund - Community Care Grants (CCGs) and Crisis Loans (CLs) for Living Expenses, were transferred to the Scottish Government on 1 April 2013. The Scottish Government has now introduced a successor scheme – The Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF). This interim scheme will last for two years, and a new permanent scheme will be introduced from 2015.

The objectives of the new scheme are to:

- Provide a safety net in a disaster or emergency, when there is an immediate threat to health or safety – Crisis Grants.
- Enable independent living or continued independent living, preventing the need for institutional care – Community Care Grants.

Although delivered locally, the SWF fund remains a national scheme for the whole of Scotland, with national parameters, a common application form, and common reporting and monitoring arrangements with common targets for processing claims. West Lothian Council has been allocated £1.066 million with £674,000 allocated towards Community Care Grants, and £392,000 allocated to Crisis Grants.

Applications to the fund are by telephone, through the Customer Service Centre, with some face to face help for vulnerable customers. Decisions are made and customers notified through a dedicated team in Revenues. An online claim option is being introduced when software from the software supplier, IEG4, is installed in May 2013.

3.5 The Personal Independence Payment

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) will change to a new benefit called Personal Independence Payment (PiP). This process will begin in June 2013 for new claimants. All existing claimants of DLA will start a migration process from January 2014 and this will be completed by 2016.

PiP will be based on a points scoring system that will depend on the assessment of a claimant's lack of abilities in certain tasks. There will not be a level of entitlement in PiP for claimants who presently receive the lowest rate of care in the present Disability Living Allowance. The criteria for qualifying for the higher mobility component of PiP are to be made much tougher.

Issues arising

Many disabled people will have significantly lower incomes. Overall it is estimated that about 1,900 disabled people in West Lothian will lose income when they are assessed for the PiP. In Armadale and Blackridge around 180 people will lose some or all of the PiP. By April 2016, the total annual loss to disabled people in Armadale and Blackridge will be in the region of £470,000 per year.

Loss of entitlement will also mean the loss of extra support in Housing Benefit, Council Tax support and Income Support through the loss of 'premiums' in the calculation of these benefits and their successors. Many customers will not only have less money to pay rent and council tax but will have more of the rent and council tax to pay. This is likely to significantly increase the demand for financial and non financial support from the Council.

3.6 The introduction of an absolute benefit cap

From April 2013, in a limited number of locations, the DWP has introduced an absolute benefit cap. The absolute benefit cap has been introduced in four London Boroughs in April 2013 and will be introduced throughout England, Wales and Scotland in September 2013.

All relevant benefits will be added together, by the DWP, who will then inform local

authorities where the aggregated amount of benefits exceeds the cap. At the moment the proposed cap will be £350 per week for a single adult with no children and £500 per week for a couple or lone parent, regardless of the number of children they have. Local Authorities will then be obliged to deduct any excess from the claimant's Housing Benefit award

The DWP is endeavouring to identify and alert those concerned. The DWP carried out a scan of their benefit data in January 2013 and, from this, have identified 77 households in West Lothian who will be adversely affected. We have, as yet, no details of the level of the weekly loss of benefit to these households. However as the DWP write to these customers we will be provided with the analysis, and we will also be able to contact the customers concerned before the Benefit Cap takes effect in September 2013.

4.0 Future Action

The council will continue to take a proactive approach in identifying the implications of Welfare Reform changes and to identify what further options can be considered to assist people affected by the welfare reform changes.

In terms of future actions already identified the council will be:

- Delivering the new Scottish Welfare Fund in West Lothian
- Delivering the new Council Tax Reduction scheme as it replaces Council Tax Benefit
- Working with tenants to explore the options available to them to deal with the "under-occupancy" restrictions
- Quantifying and minimising where possible the effects on disabled people caused by the introduction of the Personal Independence Payment
- Offering advice and support to customers, to help maximise their benefit entitlement, and manage their incomes

Further updates on progress made will be reported to future meetings of the LAC as appropriate.

E CONCLUSION

The Welfare Reform programme will have significant consequences for people in West Lothian and on West Lothian Council for many years to come.

The Welfare Reforms being introduced from April 2013 will present significant challenges to our customers, our communities and to the council itself.

Despite a strong record of partnership working within and outwith the council, and proactive action by officers, services, and partners, it remains the case that our best efforts can only alleviate or mitigate the effects of the welfare reforms.

There are a number of positive developments:

- The Discretionary Housing Payment Fund (DHP) allocation from the DWP will increase from £80,000 in the current year to £239,000 for 2013/14 and the council have allocated an additional £180,000 to the fund for each of the next three years.
- The Scottish Welfare Fund will have scheme funding for Grants which is greater than the 2011/12 Social Fund.

- As a result of Local Authority and Scottish Government intervention, no existing recipient of Council Tax Benefit will lose out in 2013/14

However it is the case that none of the above schemes are demand-led social security benefits.

Looking ahead the council will continue to assess the implications of Welfare Reform changes and consider what options are available to help mitigate the effects of the changes on communities.

F BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

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**Donald Forrest
Head of Finance and Estates
31 May 2013**



**West Lothian
Council**

LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

WARD 9, ARMADALE

REPORT BY POLICE INSPECTOR IAN MOFFAT

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

Police Update for Armadale and Blackridge.

B. RECOMMENDATION

For discussion by the Chair.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values

Focusing on our customers' needs
Being honest, open and accountable
Providing equality of opportunities
Developing employees
Making best use of our resources
Working in partnership

**II Policy and Legal (including Strategic
Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues,
Health or Risk Assessment)**

**III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to
Officers**

**IV Impact on performance and performance
Indicators**

V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement

VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)

VII Consideration at PDSP

VIII Other consultations

D. TERMS OF REPORT

To update the Local Area Committee on performance, activities and issues across the Ward for the period up to 30th April 2013.

“KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE”

NATIONAL PRIORITIES – DELIVERED LOCALLY

The Force has identified its seven, very high priorities for 2013-2014 as:

1. Reduce violence, disorder and anti social behaviour
2. Protect the public
3. Increase road safety and reduce road crime
4. Tackle serious organised crime and terrorism
5. Effectively police major events and threats
6. Maintain high levels of public confidence in police
7. Deliver our equality and diversity outcomes

WEST LOTHIAN PRIORITIES

Your West Lothian Priorities

1. Protecting People
2. Reducing Anti Social Behaviour
3. Reducing Violence
4. Tackling Substance Misuse
5. Making our Roads Safer
6. Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PRIORITIES

Your Local priorities

1. Reducing Anti Social Behaviour
2. Tackling Substance Misuse
3. Making our Roads Safer

PERFORMANCE

The figures listed below are for the period up to and including 31st March 2013

Crimes Groups 1 to 5 (Ref: Measuring Our Performance)						
Area	This year to date			Last year to date		
	Rec.	Sol.	% Sol	Rec.	Sol.	% Sol
Force	49789	21901	44.0%	57481	25275	44.0%
F Division (prior to 01/04)	7946	3545	45%	9021	3787	42%
Armadale	598	222	38%	625	193	30.9%

Future statistics will be posted on the Police Scotland Website that can be accessed via the link below.

Ward plans and Community information can also be obtained by using the link to access the website and then tab into 'your community' and enter your postcode to find the Armadale Ward.

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/our-performance/>

Armadale Ward					
Month	This month	LYTD	TYTD	% Change	
Youth Calls	29	31	29	-6%	
All ASB Calls	80	102	80	-22%	
Hate Crime	1	3	1	-67%	
Vandalism & Reckless Conduct	9	15	9	-40%	
Fire-raising	2	0	2	200%	
Alcohol-related Incidents	10	10	10	0%	

ISSUES OF NOTE

- **Exception Reporting on the above**

The solvency figure for Armadale Ward as of 31st March has improved significantly from the previous year taking into account that there were fewer recorded crimes in the period. The Community Team are tasked to carry out preventative patrols at key areas based on local knowledge combined with an analytical intelligence product. This knowledge and directed tasking can lead to a positive effect in a community and we will continue to work towards reducing recorded crime and ensure a safe Armadale for residents and visitors.

As can be seen there has been a significant decrease in youth calls, Anti Social Behaviour, hate crime and vandalism calls to the area. The Safer Neighbourhoods Team and Community Officers are keen to be visible in their area and this has a positive effect in youth engagement, prevention and ensures a safer community for all.

In regards Hate Crime at time of reporting there has been 1 reported incident and the offender was traced and arrested. Officers in the local community team and local response officers prioritise such enquiries and actively encourage reporting of incidents and promote schemes such as remote reporting.

Alcohol related incidents have remained at the same level and the local Community Team are continually looking at methods to reduce these. They make every attempt to provide resources in key areas at key times liaise with the licensees via Pub Watch and make licensed visits in an effort to detect and deter crime and incidents.

Enquiries are continuing into the fire-raising calls however they appear to be completely unconnected and isolated incidents and there is nothing to suggest a repeat pattern of behaviour.

PREVENTION

- **Activities**

Reducing community and social harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse

The community team continue to carry out stop and searches to deter, disrupt, divert and detect offenders. In the period of this report they have had 2 positive searches for drugs and the recoveries have been herbal cannabis. This has led to 2 persons being reported to the Procurator Fiscal for offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

The community team continue to carry out directed alcohol prevention patrols and continue to lead the partnership Operation Floorwalk and Operation Freeze initiatives that are specifically aimed at detecting youths in possession/consuming alcohol in public places and also detecting underage youths in licensed premises.

Two Operation Floorwalk events were carried out in February and March respectively and this led to recoveries of alcohol from youths and three local youths were taken to the local police station to speak with the partner organisations. The partner agencies thereafter continue with an 'Alcohol Brief Intervention' that is aimed at highlighting issues and diverting the youth from the behaviour.

The team continue to change their shifts to provide maximum resources at peak times at weekends and during these Operation Faraday events they have had cause to identify and engage with a number of youths who are out in Armadale.

Reducing antisocial behaviour within our communities

The Community team continue to carry out high visibility patrols in local parks and engage with youths as part of their daily tasking.

In an effort to maintain the reduction in youth calls and calls of ASB the team continue to change their shifts to provide maximum resources at peak times at weekends and during these Operation Faraday events they have had cause to identify and engage with a number of youths who are out in Armadale.

Issues of anti social use of off-road motorcycles continue to pose problems and the community team are following up a number of positive enquiries in regards the use of a quad bike and motorcycle in the area of South Street and the Brickworks.

The community team have actively engaged with a business in the area of the brickworks in an effort to clear the area of debris and to secure the fencing. WLC and the business are looking at methods to improve the security and deter people from fly tipping and breaching the fencing. If this was more secure issues of off road cycle use may be reduced in the area.

- **Initiatives**

Making our Roads Safer

Local officers continue to carry out road checks to provide reassurance and carry out enforcement and educate young drivers to work towards reducing the communities fear in regards anti social driving by young persons.

Reducing Anti Social Behaviour

The Safer Neighbourhoods Team work closely with the WLC NRT officer for the area and continue to challenge ASB in the home, issue tenancy warnings, and this can lead to Anti Social Behaviour Orders being issued.

Tackling Substance Misuse

Further Operation Floorwalks will be undertaken in May, June and July to identify and challenge instances of youth alcohol issues.

Community Action Days

The Armadale Community team are committed to keeping the residents of and visitors to the Armadale and Blackridge ward safe. To this end they will carry out two 'Community Action Days' each month. During these initiatives they will carry out a number of proactive activities with the specific aim being to target offenders, address local priorities and to 'Keep People Safe'.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Torphichen – Kirking of the Queen will take place in Torphichen, West Lothian, on Sunday 9th June 2013.

Armadale Gala Day will take place in Armadale, West Lothian, on Saturday, 15th June 2013.

Blackridge Gala Day will take place in Blackridge, West Lothian, on Sunday 30th June 2013.

CONTACTS



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Community Armadale and Blackridge

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PC Richard Morrice
Armadale
Community



PC Helen Woollven
Armadale Community



PC Darryl Macaulay
Armadale Academy High
School Link Officer

Safer Neighbourhoods Team Armadale and Blackridge



PC Darren Primrose



PC Gordon Milne

PC Steven Leonard



ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

WATSON PARK PROJECT UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF AREA SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides an update to the Local Area Committee on progress with the Pitch and Changing Pavilion project at Watson Park, Armadale.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Local Area Committee is asked to consider the contents of the report and note the progress made with the Watson Park project which is included within the Council's property capital programme.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; working in partnership;
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Adopted Policy – Open Space Strategy; Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy; Sport For All in West Lothian, West Lothian Council Capital Programme, West Lothian Council Asset Management Strategy.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	SOA 15: Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs. SOA 6: We live longer, healthier lives.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	£974,000 expenditure approved within the council's capital budget.
VII Consideration at PDSP	Not applicable.
VIII Other consultations	Consultation undertaken as part of the Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy which supports this

investment.

Further consultation methods and consultees to be agreed.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

West Lothian Council has allocated funds within the Property Capital Programme to develop and enhance outdoor sports pitch and associated changing facilities within Watson Park, Armadale. This investment will contribute towards the locality recommendations detailed within the West Lothian Council Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy.

The approved Strategic Outline Business Case for this project details requirement for improved and increased changing provision at this site along with an additional full-size grass pitch.

D.2 Progress

This project, originally planned for completion in the previous capital programme, has been re-phased, awaiting agreement on a combined master plan for the Watson Park area. The agreement of a master plan for Watson Park is subject to existing planning permissions in place for the site as well as pre-school and primary school development proposals.

At present, there is outline planning permission in place for a retail development linked to the re-provision of existing community facilities at Watson Park. Unfortunately, these proposals are no longer economically viable. For this reason it is not intended to seek to renew the existing consent when it expires later this year.

Educational provision on this site is still to be agreed and will be subject to the agreement of provision elsewhere in Armadale.

While some of the above factors remain to be resolved, it is proposed that council officers progress with the formation of a draft brief for the pitch and pavilion project, taking cognisance of the afore-mentioned factors which will influence the master plan of this site.

E. CONCLUSION

West Lothian Council has allocated capital budget to the improvement and extension of pitch and changing facilities at Watson Park, Armadale.

Council officers will progress with a draft brief for this project, in consultation with the local community and take cognisance of wider factors influencing the master plan for the Watson park site.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

West Lothian Council Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy (2005. 2009)

Watson Park Pitch and Changing Strategic Outline Business Case (updated 2012)

Contact Person: Keir Stevenson - Sport and Outdoor Education Coordinator

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Steve Field, Head of Area Services

Date: 31 May 2013



West Lothian
Council

ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY REGENERATION – PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITY

REPORT BY HEAD OF AREA SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on public health activities delivered in the Armadale Ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the committee notes the content of the report and, in particular the work of the Armadale Employability Group.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; making best use of our resources; and working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Community regeneration reinforces the council's commitment to community planning at a local level.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Performance indicators relating to the activity within the plans are captured within the set of Regeneration and Employability key performance indicators.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Regeneration and Employability initiatives reinforce a number of aims of the Single Outcome Agreement specifically those aimed at employability and tackling inequalities in West Lothian.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Initiatives are delivered from existing approved budgets.
VII Consideration at PDSP	None.
VIII Other consultations	Consultation has been undertaken with the

partners referred to within this report.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

Public health work is a key component of regeneration in our communities. A healthy community supports social gain and economic activity, building strong resilient communities. The determinants of health are vast and public health work takes a need led, customer focussed approach. This report updates the committee on health related activity delivered in the Armadale Ward over the last six months.

D.2 Armadale Employability Group

This multi disciplinary group has been working together for the past 18 months. Initial primary research to gather insight into the needs of local people in respect to employment and work has informed and directed the work of the group. The work has been extensive and varied in its approach. A few highlights of the work are:

- Increased provision of Business Gateway support in the area, increasing number of clients supported and an increase in business start ups.
- Development and delivery of customer service training responding to findings of the primary research where local people told us they lacked this area of expertise. Course delivered successfully and model now being replicated in other areas in West Lothian.
- New IT course delivered alongside our highly successful work club in Armadale responding to customer need. IT skills are required for job searching and communicating with potential employers so are an essential skill required for the jobseeker.
- An oral history project with an exhibition of “Work in West Lothian” recently opening in Armadale Library. The exhibition will then move to other communities.

The group has completed an annual report and is planning for the year ahead.

D.3 Stop Smoking in Pregnancy Pilot

This pilot aimed to decrease the number of pregnant women smoking in pregnancy and increase uptake of the stop smoking services offered. The pilot has recently been reported, and the findings are positive with both an increase in uptake of services and an increase in successful quits for women smoking. The Director of Public Health for Lothian, Dr Alison McCallum, commented on the work saying “this is an excellent piece of work and it is good to have people like you on board”. The stop smoking support manager for Lothian has reported that the learning from the pilot has recently been valuable in shaping the current introduction of changes to the appointment booking arrangements for pregnant women across the Lothian’s. It is hoped it will now support many expectant mothers to get the right support, enabling them to quit with the attendant multiple benefits to their babies and themselves.

D.4 Armadale Community Garden/The Dale Food Group

The Armadale Community garden is supported and delivered by the Dale Food Group. The objective of the project is to provide local people with a communal space where they can be physically and socially active while learning new knowledge and skills. The garden is entering its full second growing season and there is a lot of activity. The garden has seen many developments over the last few months with a new path network and an increasing number of community members visiting. The garden has now eight affiliated groups who have their own space to tend to and grow things of their choice.

Community events held in the garden are popular and attract residents from areas adjacent to Mayfield where it is situated. Recent grant awards totalling £52,000 have secured the garden development worker post for three years and for structural changes including paths and a skill and learning space in the shape of a large shed. Plans for the second phase of the garden are well under way with many few things that will provide fun learning activities.

The garden has had many visitors from outlying areas interested in the development and the approach it is taking. The Dale Food Group has attended and supported partners in related activities such as last year's money week event in Bathgate Partnership Centre.

The Dale Food group continues to sell affordable quality fruit and vegetables from Armadale community centre on a weekly basis, with a recent increase in sales.

D.5 Together For Health Project

87% of respondents to a recent community survey said they were aware of the project with 83% saying that involvement in project activity had a positive impact on their health and well being.

The project steering group continues to meet regularly. Recent initiatives include "Fruity Friday". After an initial pilot phase this has been rolled out over this academic year. Children across the six ward primary schools are provided with fruit on the last Friday of each month. This encourages them to touch, smell and taste fruit. Findings demonstrate that the children enjoy the activity, learn from it and, for many, it has increased their knowledge and their intake of fruit.

The project also held a highly successful Christmas event to walk with Santa, encouraging people to be active over the holiday period. Approximately 400 participants enjoyed the festivities.

The third 'Armadale Run for Fun' saw, for the second year, over 250 runners of all abilities enjoy a wonderful event delivered by the project and partners. This continues to attract people who may not normally be active and its success is that it attracts new people year on year as well as people returning to the annual event. These two community activities have and are being replicated in other West Lothian areas as a mechanism of engaging the community and promoting health messages and positive healthy behaviours. As a result of the 'Run for Fun', there are now four jogging groups and a family walk in the town every week. Local people have been trained to deliver the groups.

The project now has a database of 300 friends of the project who receive regular mailings from the project about activities and how they can get involved.

The project works with other community groups to promote health and well being. Work with a local children's football club included health information sessions for over 100 children, the trainers and the development of a club action plan around the promotion of health.

The project reports to the main funder regularly and receives positive feedback.

D.6 Local Breastfeeding Plan

This plan aims to increase the acceptance and promotion of breastfeeding in the area. The plan includes the:

- start of a new Baby Cafe supported by primary care services and hosted in a local food establishment;
- working with a local food establishment to gain a breastfeeding friendly award;
- education sessions in local primary school; and
- supporting local nurseries to gain a breastfeeding friendly award.

The work is just commencing but it is hoped that a few aspects of the plan can be included in a small event to celebrate National Breastfeeding Week at the end of June 2013.

E. CONCLUSION

The work detailed above demonstrates the diverse nature of the work in the area promoting healthy behaviours in the Armadale Ward and how it contributes to wider regeneration work.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: None.

Contact Person

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Steve Field, Head of Area Services

31 May 2013



West Lothian
Council

ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

**COMMUNITY REGENERATION – WARD ACTION PLAN 2012-13 FINAL REPORT AND
WARD ACTION PLAN 2013-15**

REPORT BY HEAD OF AREA SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report informs the Local Area Committee of key achievements relating to Regeneration and Employability activity in 2012-13. The paper also outlines the ward action plan which sets out further initiatives for 2013-15.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the committee note the contents of the report, specifically the planned activity for 2013-15.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; making best use of our resources; and working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Community regeneration reinforces the council's commitment to community planning at a local level.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Performance indicators relating to the activity within the plans are captured within the set of Regeneration and Employability key performance indicators.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Regeneration and Employability initiatives reinforce a number of aims of the Single Outcome Agreement specifically those aimed at employability and tackling inequalities in West Lothian.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The 2013-15 action plan can be delivered from existing approved budgets.
VII Consideration at PDSP	None.

VIII Other consultations

Consultation has been undertaken with the partners referred to within this report.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

The Regeneration and Employability team delivers a range of services to support some of our most disadvantaged communities and individuals, with a particular emphasis on engaging with people to build personal and community capacity. The team comprises three component parts:

- Regeneration
- Support to the voluntary sector
- Employability

The service produces annual local action plans for the nine multi member wards. The plans outline the activities to be delivered that meet the regeneration needs of the individual areas. The key activities within the action plans focus on:

- Developing the capacity of individuals and community based projects and initiatives to assist regeneration in the most disadvantaged communities.
- Delivering targeted, specialist campaigns, interventions and support to improve health, employability and the environment in these communities.

D.2 Ward Action Plan 2012-13

Appendix one contains the completed ward action plan for 2012-13. The plan shows Regeneration, Employability and partner activity across the Armadale and Blackridge ward area.

The plan has been updated to show progress against the targets set.

Significant achievements include:

- £52,000 funding has been awarded to support Mayfield community garden activities and development.
- Employability provision within the ward has resulted in 109 new registrations with 59% of clients progressing onto positive destinations.
- Blackridge Work Club was successfully piloted on a Friday afternoon, delivered by Access2employment at the Craig Inn Centre. Delivery has increased to two afternoons per week.
- The 'Together 4 Health' and the 'Do More Drink Less' projects delivered a successful Christmas Event with a health theme encouraging families to be physically active over the festive season with a torch light walk around Watson Park. They also delivered a ladies day at Mayfield Community House giving the opportunity to experience Head Massage, Qigong and Henna tattoos whilst raising awareness of the effects of alcohol.

- Over 2110 people used the 'Youth Space'. Two graffiti art project were delivered through the 'Youth Space'.
- The usage of the Community Sports Hub Increased by 275% and registered Community Sports Clubs increased from 9 to 31. All clubs have shown increases in membership ranging from 20% to 145%.

D.3 Ward Action Plan 2013-15

Appendix two contains the ward action plan for 2013-15. The plan shows Regeneration, Employability and partner activity across the Armadale and Blackridge ward area. The plan has been designed to show what the various services will be working together to achieve over the coming year, what outcomes they are working towards and how they will measure progress against these.

The plan does not include 'core' or mainstream work in the area so, for instance, details of all the youth provision available in the area is not contained within this plan.

The main priority themes for the ward in 2013-15 will be:

- Young people and Antisocial Behaviour
- Employability and Financial Inclusion
- Community Development
- Health and the Environment

Examples of key planned activities for 2013-15 are:

Action	Target
Support the development and continued delivery of Armadale Employability Group.	Growth of employability group and continued support of existing provision across the ward.
Support projects across the ward.	Provide continued support to projects throughout the ward including Mayfield House, Youth Space and Community Sports Hub.
Continued delivery of Do More, Drink Less project in Armadale.	Develop activities which encourage and support young people to make healthy lifestyle choices. Specific activity will include establishing working group, planning and delivering events to allow young people to have positive experiences of an alcohol free environment.
Support environmental improvements within the ward.	Carry out environmental visual audits within the ward and work with partners to deliver improvements where need identified.
Support the delivery of events aimed at increasing knowledge and tackling inequalities throughout the ward.	Support events including Armadale Run for Fun, Money Week and Do More Drink Less.

D.4 Reporting

Progress on the plans will be reported back to the Local Area Committee at six monthly intervals. At this point progress and achievement to date will be reported on in line with the planned performance indicator.

Any significant new local developments and initiatives will be added to the plans, as appropriate.

E. CONCLUSION

This report reflects achievement against planned activity from Regeneration and Employability and partners in 2012-13. A new ward plan has been developed for 2013-15, and is aimed at making a significant contribution to improving the quality of life of the citizens in the Armadale and Blackridge ward.

An update report will be presented to the Local Area Committee in November 2013 and at six monthly intervals thereafter.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: Two

Appendix One: Armadale and Blackridge Completed Ward Action Plan 2012-13

Appendix Two: Armadale and Blackridge Ward Action Plan 2013-15

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Steve Field, Head of Area Services

31 May 2013

APPENDIX 1
ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE WARD
WARD ACTION PLAN 2012-13



Armadale and Blackridge Ward Action Plan 2012/13

Introduction

The following action plan details the partnership activity within the Armadale and Blackridge ward in 2012/13.

Purpose

The purpose of the plan is to show what partners across the Armadale and Blackridge area will be working together to achieve over the coming year, what outcomes they are working towards and how they will measure progress against these.

The plan does not include 'core' or mainstream work, so details of, for example, all the youth provision available in the area, is not contained within this plan.

The plan feeds into the Area Services Management Plan and ultimately contributes to achieving the outcomes set in the West Lothian Single Outcome Agreement.

Partners

This is a partnership plan, therefore individual partners have a responsibility for delivering their part of the ward plan and a collective responsibility for monitoring and evaluating progress. Partners include all the Community Planning Partners along with local voluntary organisations.

Priority areas

Priority areas for the Armadale and Blackridge Ward Integrated Partnership Plan are:

- Young people and Antisocial Behaviour
- Employability and Financial Inclusion
- Community Development
- Health and the Environment

These priority areas have been identified through statistical analysis and consultation with the local community. Actions for each area are contained within the tables on pages 4 – 12.

Who is the plan for?

The purpose of the plan is to help partners monitor the delivery of services that require multi-agency working and to help them make best use of resources. The plan is also aimed at residents in the communities the plan supports, to help them identify what we are doing and what we deliver for them. We welcome feedback from residents about the plan and the services that we deliver, and throughout the year we will be gathering the views of participants and the wider community to help improve services and identify priorities.

Throughout the year, new actions will be identified and partners will be flexible about responding to needs as they arise.

Funding

The work within the plan is largely funded through existing resources supplied by West Lothian Council or one of the partners. In some cases external funding is being used for specific pieces of work.

How will we report on the plan?

Progress on these plans will be reported on every six months to the Local Area Committees for each ward. At this point progress to date will be reviewed and any new initiatives added to the plans, as appropriate.

Action	SOA Outcome	Desired Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	Finish date	Resources	Partners involved	Results/ Progress	
					Target	Actual						
Together For Health (24H)	We have improved the life chances for people at risk	Reduction in prevalence of childhood obesity by 2018	% increase in people participating in physical activity	Series of connected local health promoting events	BMI figures for Primary 1 children do not increase	Dates agreed with partners for next data collection	Aug 2009	Approx 2015	Health Improvement Fund, NHS Lothian	Regeneration and Employability	Results made available to relevant partners – July 2013	
			% increase in people reporting a positive change to diet	Social marketing process to inform project delivery		Social Marketing end of project report						
				Targeted health promotion to target populations	Delivered for four weeks	Fruity Friday now delivered monthly in all schools						
	We live longer, healthier lives	Increased fruit consumption in school and at home	Increased no. pack lunches containing fruit	Qualitative feedback from children, teachers and parents highlighting increased fruit consumption	Fruity Friday programme	10% school population participate and winner announced and celebrated	Lunch boxes distributed to new intake of P1 children	May 2012	March 2013	Project funding Partner time in kind Fruit and vegetables Appropriate equipment	Youth Services Dale Food Group Education	Fruity Friday programme continuing on a monthly basis – evaluation collected
				More than 70% of primary school children participating in increased physical activity at	Provision of lunch boxes that encourage the inclusion of fruit	All 6 schools delivering the activity	Partnership discussion to explore use of evidence based products					
					Development of “Signature action” activity	50% of participants reporting to enjoy sessions						
		Increased physical activity in the school environment		Daily or weekly			April 2012	March 2013	Project funding Partner time in kind Appropriate equipment	T4H project team Education CFINE Health Improvement Team	Sticker distributed to schools and being used as incentive to children to eat more fruit	
											Product agreed & school use contract developed to be launched	

Action	SOA Outcome	Desired Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	Finish date	Resources	Partners involved	Results/ Progress
					Target	Actual					
			school	delivery of physical activity session Armadale Run for Fun		available on the market 280 participants of variable ability				T4H project team Education Health Improvement Team	August 2013 Partnership approach to planning race scheduled for May 2013
Early Years Forum	Every child deserves the best possible start in life and support to fulfil their potential	Armadale Early Years Action group established Working collaboratively with partners and families to deliver high quality early years services Promotion of collaborative multi agency working to provide best value to the community	Integrated and more partnership working Attendance and contribution of partners at meetings Action plan and programme of activities established	Residential for young parents Action plan for this year include; mapping exercise, community consultation and worker consultation Developing an action plan and directory of 'who's who!' for Armadale early years	1 x residential for young parents 4 x early years meetings Programme of activity and action plan drawn together	Residential for young parents in March 2013 – 8 young parents and children attended	April 2012	March 2013	Existing Early Years Action Fund	Armadale Early Years Action Group Regeneration and Employability NHS Lothian Voluntary Sector Four Square YWCA	Evaluation report is available in respect to the residential Mapping exercise and community consultation has taken place. Report on consultation findings is available
Do More, Drink Less	We have improved the life chances for people at risk We live longer, healthier lives	Reduction in levels of alcohol consumption Increase in age of onset of alcohol use	% increase of people reporting positive change in attitudes to and perception of alcohol. % increase of people supporting	Whole population approach developed with a specific focus on reducing alcohol use in the area Hold	1 X Women's pamper day held in Armadale 1 X Women's group established in	13 women participated in event Not yet achieved	June 2009	June 2012	Tobacco Alcohol and Drug Partnership WLDAS WLYAP LBP Youth Services	Regeneration and Employability WLDAS WLYAP LBP Youth Services	13 women participated in event Establishment of women's group not yet achieved 280

Action	SOA Outcome	Desired Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	Finish date	Resources	Partners involved	Results/ Progress
					Target	Actual					
			measures that restrict alcohol consumption	'Women's Day' event within Mayfield. Initiate Women's Group Continue to support Armadale Run for Fun	Armadale 1 x Run for Fun delivered	280 people took part in the Run for Fun				Education	participants at the Run for Fun

Action	SOA Outcome	Desired Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	Finish date	Resources	Partners involved	Results/ Progress
					Target	Actual					
<p>Youth Space - 'Phase 2'</p>	<p>We have improved the life chances for people at risk</p> <p>We live longer, healthier lives</p> <p>Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens</p> <p>We live longer, healthier lives</p>	<p>Young people have improved knowledge / understanding of substance use issues</p> <p>There is less anti-social behaviour perpetrated by young people in Armadale/ Blackridge ward</p> <p>An increase in the wellbeing and positive life choices from groupwork participants</p> <p>Young people are more informed about their choices around alcohol</p>	<p>Reduction in youth calls to Police</p> <p>% of young people reporting increase in at least one personal or social indicator</p> <p>Increase in confidence and capacity of young people to participate in decision-making processes</p> <p>No. of alcohol awareness sessions delivered</p>	<p>Further develop the space and the services provided to young people</p> <p>Facilitate young people to take ownership of project and become more active citizens</p> <p>Obtaining funding to secure long-term future of project</p>	<p>Youth calls to Police do not increase</p> <p>Services will work with 80 young people per week through STUAD activities</p> <p>Work with 6 young people on youth committee</p>	<p>24% decrease of underage drinking calls in the ward by young people</p> <p>Youth committee - 6 females aged 13-16 every week = 192 visits</p> <p>Average number per week engaging in youth space activities All groups 80-100 aged 12-19</p>	<p>April 2012</p>	<p>Approx March 2013</p>	<p>LEADER/ST UAD</p> <p>Youth Services</p> <p>WLYAP</p>	<p>Youth Services</p> <p>Youth Action Project</p> <p>Regeneration and Employability</p> <p>Armadale Academy</p> <p>Armadale Community Education Association</p>	<p>2 graffiti art project were delivered.</p> <p>10 alcohol awareness sessions were delivered on Friday night</p> <p>Funding application process on-going</p> <p>Total number visits 2110</p> <p>Average number per week engaging in youth space activities excluding Firefly/ other groups; 65 per week. All groups 80-100 per week aged 12-19</p>

Action	SOA Outcome	Desired Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	Finish date	Resources	Partners involved	Results/ Progress
					Target	Actual					
Additional employability provision in the area aimed at increasing access to employability support	We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people	Clients have the skills to secure and sustain employment Increase the uptake of employability services by residents most in need of support	% of all clients progressing onto positive destinations	1: 1 employability sessions in a number of locations	96 new registrations	109 new registrations	April 2012	31 st March 2013	ERDF Existing Access2employment resource	Armadale Employability Group Access2employment Working Together West Lothian Armadale CIS office Mayfield Community House CLD Adults and Communities team	Mon AM/Fri AM 3 1:1 appointments available in Housing Office
			No. Access2employment sessions delivered in areas of high unemployment	Armadale Work Club-weekly group session run in Community centre	50% of clients progress onto positive destinations	59% of clients progress onto positive destinations					Wed PM 3 1:1 app's available Mayfield Community House
			No. of one off campaigns organised to support employability and attendance	Provision of outreach A2E weekly Utilisation of work club to enable partner contact / delivery to target group	3 additional sessions delivered per week	6 sessions delivered within ward 3 in Armadale Community Centre, 1 in Mayfield House and 2 at Craig Inn Centre, Blackridge					Area's targeted Lower Bathville/Mayfield Drive/Calder Crescent
			Number of new registrations	Provision of job boards to provide information on vacancies							
			Number of additional Access2employment sessions delivered	Provision of additional 1:1 sessions with Access2employment Advisors in Armadale		1 job board added to Mayfield Community House					New a2e leaflets specific to support in Armadale produced and distributed to various
			Number of clients progressing into a positive	Area specific publicity							

Action	SOA Outcome	Desired Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	Finish date	Resources	Partners involved	Results/ Progress
					Target	Actual					
			destination	produced to highlight the support available in Armadale							locations in area
Town Centre improvements	We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people	Strengthen the pride and economic vitality of Armadale town centre	Town centre shop occupancy levels	Investment in the appearance and fabric of the town centre Promotional and marketing activities Support provided to traders group	Maintain occupancy levels in relation to WL and UK averages		November 2009	On-going 2013	Town Centre Capital Budget Economic Development revenue budget	Economic Development LAC Representatives of town centre businesses	Armadale- 92.6% WL towns- 92.1% Scotland – 89.9% UK- 89.1%
Community Sports Hub	We have improved the life chances for people at risk We live longer, healthier lives	Local sports facilities are fully utilised Enable local residents to participate in sport	Number of sports clubs using Armadale facilities Number of active members in sports clubs using Armadale facilities	Armadale residents playing an active role in maximising the use of Armadale Academy and other local facilities	CSH usage to increase Community Sports Club membership to increase	Increased by 275% Community Sports Clubs increased from 9 to 31. All clubs have shown increases in membership ranging from 20% to 145%	October 2011	Ongoing (Funding ends March 2015)	Sport Scotland Funding	Armadale Academy Sports Development Active Schools WLL Community Sports Clubs/Local Residents 24H Regeneration and Employability	Annual Report for 12/13 is available

Action	SOA Outcome	Desired Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	Finish date	Resources	Partners involved	Results/ Progress
					Target	Actual					
Focus on Mayfield: Community Garden	We have improved the life chances for people at risk We live longer, healthier lives	Local people have increased health from participation in outdoor activities	% increase in people attending community garden % increase in volunteering in the community garden Development of tool lending scheme 200 people attending garden based events	Structured green activities with residents Delivery of scheme with 25 residents using it 6 community events held in community garden	75 local residents participate 10 regular volunteers continue to engage OR increase in no.	100 people attending each of the 6 garden events 10 regular volunteers	Ongoing	Ongoing	Housing Together For Health (T4H) Health Improvement Small Grants	Housing Together For Health F&CDWL Dale Food Group Regeneration and Employability	A total of £52,000 funding has been awarded to support garden activities and development Six community events delivered across the year. Garden been visited by other community groups and local MSP Number of volunteers completed food hygiene, health and safety and operation of machinery courses
Community Families Project Mayfield Community House	We live longer, healthier lives Our children have the best start in life and are ready to	Parents are supported to provide children with the best start in life	% of families sustaining contact with project and other services	Deliver services that support parents needs	Work with 10 families from target group (parents with substance	Worked with 5 families linked them into YWCA Young Mums worker &	September 2012	Ongoing	Fairer Scotland Fund/ LEADER	F&CDWL WLC Health Regeneration and Employability	Number of families worked with reduced as family unit has not yet been opened

Action	SOA Outcome	Desired Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	Finish date	Resources	Partners involved	Results/ Progress
					Target	Actual					
	succeed				use)	Sure Start					Work on-going at site Drainage works have started Focus is on work in community house
	We live longer, healthier lives Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed	Increase in personal and social development of residents Enable access to services that can improve life circumstances	% of participants reporting increase in at least one personal and social development indicator % Increase in young people reporting increase in confidence and capacity to participate in decision-making processes	Deliver services/activities from Mayfield Community House that address the needs of the community and supports community-led regeneration Provide information/training to enable residents to take ownership of project and become more active citizens	25 residents participate in at least one structured activity/ programme 50 people actively participate in at least one decision-making process	52 Adults have participated in structured activities to date. 53 residents involved in consultation about Mayfield area	April 2012	March 2013	Vol Org Budget Report	F&CDWL Sunny Dale Association Health Improvement Team Regeneration and Employability Housing CLD	11 volunteers working in community house 30 young people registered for Friday group and 14 regularly planning and organising their group 30 children accessing clubs and setting the programme and activities they are involved in 14 local residents attended a weekend residential promoting

Action	SOA Outcome	Desired Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	Finish date	Resources	Partners involved	Results/ Progress
					Target	Actual					
											the role of volunteering in local community

APPENDIX 2
ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE WARD
WARD ACTION PLAN 2013-15



Armadale and Blackridge Ward Action Plan 2013-15

Introduction

The following action plan details the partnership activity within the Armadale and Blackridge ward in 2013-15.

Purpose

The purpose of the plan is to show what partners across the Armadale and Blackridge area will be working together to achieve over the coming year, what outcomes they are working towards and how they will measure progress against these.

The plan does not include 'core' or mainstream work, so details of, for example, all the youth provision available in the area, is not contained within this plan.

The plan feeds into the Area Services Management Plan and ultimately contributes to achieving the outcomes set in the West Lothian Single Outcome Agreement.

Partners

This is a partnership plan; therefore individual partners have a responsibility for delivering their part of the ward plan and a collective responsibility for monitoring and evaluating progress. Partners include all the Community Planning Partners along with local voluntary organisations.

Priority areas

Priority areas for the Armadale and Blackridge Ward Integrated Partnership Plan are:

- Young people and Antisocial Behaviour
- Employability and Financial Inclusion
- Community Development
- Health and the Environment

These priority areas have been identified through statistical analysis and consultation with the local community. Actions for each area are contained within the tables on pages 4 – 19.

Who is the plan for?

The purpose of the plan is to help partners monitor the delivery of services that require multi-agency working and to help them make best use of resources. The plan is also aimed at residents in the communities the plan supports, to help them identify what we are doing and what we deliver for them. We welcome feedback from residents about the plan and the services that we deliver, and throughout the year we will be gathering the views of participants and the wider community to help improve services and identify priorities.

Throughout the year, new actions will be identified and partners will be flexible about responding to needs as they arise.

Funding

The work within the plan is largely funded through existing resources supplied by West Lothian Council or one of the partners. In some cases external funding is being used for specific pieces of work.

How will we report on the plan?

Progress on these plans will be reported on every six months to the Local Area Committees for each ward. At this point progress to date will be reviewed and any new initiatives added to the plans, as appropriate.

Relevant SOA Outcomes:

We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities

Action	Local Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	End date	Resources	Partners involved	Results/ Progress						
				Target	Actual											
Together For Health (24H)	Reduction in prevalence of childhood obesity by 2018	% increase in people participating in physical activity	Series of connected local health promoting events	BMI figures for Primary 1 children do not increase		April 2013	March 2015	Health Improvement Fund, NHS Lothian	Regeneration and Employability							
		% increase in people reporting a positive change to diet	Social marketing process to inform project delivery													
		Increase no. pack lunches containing fruit	Targeted health promotion to target populations													
		Qualitative feedback from children, teachers and parents highlighting increased fruit consumption	Fruity Friday programme	Delivered for four weeks												
		More than 70% of primary school children participating in increased physical activity at school	Design a sticker schools competition	10% school population participate and winner announced and celebrated												
	Increased fruit consumption in school and at home		Provision of lunch boxes that encourage the inclusion of fruit									Project funding Partner time in kind Fruit and vegetables Appropriate equipment	Project funding Partner time in kind Appropriate equipment	Scotmid	Youth Services	Dale Food Group
			Development of "Signature action" activity	All 6 schools delivering the activity												
			Daily or weekly delivery of physical activity session	50% of participants reporting to enjoy sessions												
			Armadale Run for Fun													
Increased physical activity in the school environment						Project funding Partner time in kind Appropriate equipment	Project funding Partner time in kind Appropriate equipment	Education	T4H project team	Education						

Relevant SOA Outcomes:

We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities

Action	Local Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	End date	Resources	Partners involved	Results/Progress
				Target	Actual					
No Smoking Day Campaign	Residents of Ward are aware of the negative health effects of smoking Children across ward are educated about the negative health effects of smoking	Number of people engaged with on the day	Event to be held in Ward around No Smoking Day 2014 and 2015	Event held		1 st March 2014	31 st March 2014	Existing	Regeneration & Employability NHS Education	
		Number of referrals made to smoking cessation services	Awareness sessions with school pupils	50 people engaged with on the day		1 st March 2015	31 st March 2015			
		Number of brief interventions carried out	Smoking brief interventions delivered	10 people referred to smoking cessation services						
		No. of pupils attending awareness sessions		20 brief interventions carried out						
				500 pupils educated about the effects of smoking						

Relevant SOA Outcomes:

**We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities
Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed**

Action	Local Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	End date	Resources	Partners involved	Results/ Progress
				Target	Actual					
Local Breastfeeding Strategy	Increase acceptability and the promotion of breastfeeding within the ward	Number of breastfeeding friendly community spaces Delivery of key activities across the ward	Establishment of baby cafe initiative Supporting and establishing development and delivery of breastfeeding nursery award Development and delivery of educational sessions within school setting Delivery of peer support training	Establishment of a baby cafe initiative Delivery of 2 peer support training courses Breastfeeding friendly nursery award achieved within 2 settings Input agreed and initial pilot delivered within school setting		April 2013	March 2015	Maternal and infant nutrition funding Together 4 Health Funding	Regeneration and Employability Infant feeding advisor WLCHCP Primary Care Staff Local Businesses Education	

Relevant SOA Outcomes:

Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed

Action	Local Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	End date	Resource s	Partners involved	Results/ Progress
				Target	Actual					
Early Years Forum	<p>Armadale Early Years Action group established</p> <p>Working collaboratively with partners and families to deliver high quality early years services</p> <p>Promotion of collaborative multi agency working to provide best value to the community</p>	<p>Integrated and more partnership working</p> <p>Attendance and contribution of partners at meetings</p> <p>Action plan and programme of activities established</p>	<p>Developing an action plan and directory of 'who's who!' for Armadale early years</p> <p>Early Years Collaborative and statistics collation</p> <p>Stakeholder event</p> <p>Information leaflets to keep the early years community up to speed with developments</p>	<p>4 x early years meetings</p> <p>Programme of activity and action plan drawn together and distributed</p> <p>1 x stakeholders event</p> <p>2 x information leaflets distributed</p>		April 2013	On-going	<p>Existing</p> <p>Early Years Action Fund</p>	<p>Armadale Early Years Action Group</p> <p>Regeneration and Employability</p> <p>NHS Lothian</p> <p>Voluntary Sector</p> <p>Community Education worker-Parent Action</p> <p>YWCA</p>	

Relevant SOA Outcomes:

We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities

We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities

Action	Local Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	End date	Resources	Partners involved	Results/ Progress
				Target	Actual					
<p>Youth Space - 'Phase 2'</p>	<p>Young people have improved knowledge / understanding of substance use issues</p> <p>There is less anti-social behaviour perpetrated by young people in Armadale/ Blackridge ward</p> <p>An increase in the wellbeing and positive life choices from groupwork participants</p> <p>Young people are more informed about their choices around alcohol</p>	<p>Reduction in youth calls to Police</p> <p>% of young people reporting increase in at least one personal or social indicator</p> <p>Increase in confidence and capacity of young people to participate in decision-making processes</p> <p>No. of alcohol awareness sessions delivered</p>	<p>Further develop the space and the services provided to young people</p> <p>Facilitate young people to take ownership of project and become more active citizens</p> <p>Obtain funding to secure long-term future of project</p> <p>Deliver Alcohol brief interventions and intensive support as and when required</p>	<p>Youth calls to Police do not increase</p> <p>Services will work with 80 young people per week through activities</p> <p>Increase youth committee membership by 4</p> <p>50 Alcohol Brief Interventions delivered</p>		<p>April 2013</p>	<p>March 2014</p>	<p>LEADER/ STUAD</p> <p>Youth Services</p> <p>WLYAP</p>	<p>Community Youth Services</p> <p>Youth Action Project</p> <p>Regeneration and Employability</p> <p>Armadale Academy</p> <p>Armadale Community Education Association</p>	

Relevant SOA Outcomes:

We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities

Action	Local Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	End date	Resources	Partners involved	Results/Progress
				Target	Actual					
Sustain and develop employability provision in the area aimed at increasing access to employability support	Increase the uptake of employability services by residents most in need of support.	<p>Number of Access2employment sessions delivered across the ward</p> <p>Number of new registrations</p> <p>Number of clients progressing into a positive destination the Ward</p>	<p>Weekly sessions delivered across the ward</p> <p>Area specific publicity produced to highlight the support available in ward</p>	<p>100 new registration within ward</p> <p>50% clients progress into a positive destination</p>		April 2013	March 2015	<p>ERDF</p> <p>Existing Access2employment resource</p>	<p>Armadale Employability Group</p> <p>Access2employment</p> <p>Working Together West Lothian</p> <p>Armadale CIS office</p> <p>Mayfield Community House</p> <p>CLD Adults and Communities team</p> <p>Craig Inn Centre - Blackridge</p>	

Relevant SOA Outcomes:

We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities

Action	Local Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	End date	Resources	Partners involved	Results/ Progress
				Target	Actual					
Development of Armadale Employability Group	<p>To decrease the level of Armadale residents currently unemployed</p> <p>To increase the service provision in line with customer need</p> <p>Increase the positive destinations of Armadale Academy pupils</p> <p>Group continue to grow and expand through the ward</p>	<p>Raise awareness of history of work throughout West Lothian</p> <p>Increased knowledge and skills in basic I.T</p>	<p>Deliver event highlighting the history of work within West Lothian</p> <p>Employability event delivered</p> <p>Courses delivered in basic I.T.</p> <p>Customer service training delivered to include young person's course</p>	<p>Historical road show delivered through library and heritage services</p> <p>1 employability event delivered</p> <p>2 courses delivered in basic I.T.</p> <p>3 customer service training sessions delivered across ward</p>		April 2013	March 2014		<p>A 2E, Skills Development Scotland, Armadale Academy, Advice Shop, Voluntary Sector Gateway, Libraries, MCMC team, Armadale Community Education Centre, Community Learning & Development, HYPE, Public Health, Regeneration and Employability, Community house, Business Gateway, CIS Housing</p>	

Relevant SOA Outcomes:

We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities

Action	Local Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	End date	Resources	Partners involved	Results/ Progress
				Target	Actual					
Town Centre improvements	Strengthen the pride and economic vitality of Armadale town centre	Town centre shop occupancy levels	Investment in the appearance and fabric of the town centre Promotional and marketing activities Support provided to traders group	Maintain occupancy levels in relation to WL and UK averages		April 2013	March 2015	Town Centre Capital Budget Economic Development revenue budget	Economic Development LAC Representatives of town centre businesses Police	

Relevant SOA Outcomes:

We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations

Action	Local Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	End date	Resources	Partners involved	Results/ Progress
				Target	Actual					
Small-scale environmental improvements within ward	Aesthetic improvement of Ward	Improvements made Ward wide	Environmental Visual Audits take place across ward per year	3 x Environmental Visual Audits across ward per year		April 2013	March 2015		Regeneration and Employability Police Economic Development 'Youth Space'	
		Armadale Young People's Artwork exhibited on hoardings	Art Competition	1 exhibition highlighting history of ward						
		Level of funding to enable project to commence		Obtain 100% of funding (if applicable)						

Relevant SOA Outcomes:

We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities

Action	Local Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	End date	Resources	Partners involved	Results/ Progress
				Target	Actual					
Community Sports Hub (CSH)	Local sports facilities are fully utilised Enable local residents to participate in sport More stronger and sustainable clubs Improved community engagement and awareness Improve the range of and facilitate access to community sports facilities Improve links between Armadale CSH and Armadale Academy curriculum	Number of sports clubs using Armadale facilities Number of active members in sports clubs using Armadale facilities	Armadale residents playing an active role in maximising the use of Armadale Academy and other local facilities Outreach work to outlying areas – taster sessions	Increase in club participants across Female Male Adults Young people Increase in club members across Female Male Adults Young People Volunteers Paid staff		April 2013	March 2015	Sport Scotland Funding to March 2015	Armadale Academy Sport Development Active Schools West Lothian Leisure Community Sports Clubs/Local Residents Together 4 Health Regeneration and Employability	Annual Plan for 13-14 is available

Relevant SOA Outcomes:

We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities

Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed

People most at risk are protected and supported to achieve improved life chances

Action	Local Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	End date	Resource s	Partners involved	Results/ Progress
				Target	Actual					
Focus on Mayfield: Community Garden Community Families Project	Local people have increased health from participation in outdoor activities	% increase in people attending community garden	Structured green activities with residents	75 local residents participate		April 2013	Ongoing	Housing	Housing	
		% increase in volunteering in the community garden	Delivery of scheme with residents using it	10 regular volunteers continue to engage OR increase in no.				Together For Health (T4H)	Together For Health F&CDWL	
		A number of affiliated groups use garden on regular basis	Community events held in community garden	Delivery of scheme with 25 residents using it				Health Improvement Small Grants	Dale Food Group	
		Development of tool lending scheme	Regular (supported) open sessions to promote use of the garden and gardening	6 community events held in community garden				Robertson Trust	Regeneration and Employability	
		250 people attending garden based events	Phase two of garden development					Lloyds PDI		
				Path network developed supporting disability access						
				Learning and social space developed						
	Parents are supported to provide children with the best	% of families sustaining contact with project and other services	Deliver services that support parents needs	Work with 10 families parents with substance use		April 2013	Ongoing	LEADER	F&CDWL WLC	

Action	Local Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	End date	Resources	Partners involved	Results/ Progress
				Target	Actual					
Mayfield Community House	start in life								Health Regeneration and Employability	
	<p>Increase in personal and social development of residents</p> <p>Enable access to services that can improve life circumstances</p>	<p>% of participants reporting increase in at least one personal and social development indicator</p> <p>% Increase in young people reporting increase in confidence and capacity to participate in decision-making processes</p>	<p>Deliver services/activities from Mayfield Community House that address the needs of the community and supports community-led regeneration</p> <p>Provide information/training to enable residents to take ownership of project and become more active citizens</p>	<p>25 residents participate in at least one structured activity/ programme</p> <p>50 people actively participate in at least one decision-making process</p> <p>Family unit operational</p>		April 2013	On-going	Vol Org Budget Report	<p>F&CDWL</p> <p>Sunny Dale Association</p> <p>Health Improvement Team</p> <p>Regeneration and Employability</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>Community youth services</p>	

Relevant SOA Outcomes:

We live longer, healthier lives

We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their actions and how they affect others

Action	Local Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	End date	Resources	Partners involved	Results/Progress
				Target	Actual					
Do More, Drink Less Project	Young people have increased understanding of the harmful effects of alcohol.	25% of young people reporting an increased understanding of the harmful effects of alcohol.	Planning group formed and meets to develop and deliver project	Engage a number of partners to develop project		1 st April 2013	31 st March 2014	Do More Drink Less budget	Regeneration & Employability Education Police Community Youth Services WL Youth Action Project Local Young People representatives	
	Young people have positive experience of alcohol free environment	25% of young people engaging in additional activities	Delivery of key events creating 'club experience' for young people Armadale	Delivery of 3 key events						
	Alcohol consumption is reduced		Continue to support Armadale Run for Fun	Delivery of an evaluation report						
	People take part in healthy lifestyle activities									

Relevant SOA Outcomes:

We have tackled the significant inequalities in West Lothian society

Action	Local Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	End date	Resources	Partners involved	Results/ Progress
				Target	Actual					
Money Day & Money Week activities	Residents are better informed about financial support available to them Residents are more able to access financial inclusion services	No of people attending events held during Money Week Number of people attending Money Day	Employability event to be held in Armadale and Blackridge Ward	1 event held during Money Week		1 st Oct 2013	31 st Oct 2013	Existing	Regeneration & Employability Advice Shop Armadale Employability Group	
			Money Day event to be held in Ward	Money Day event held in Ward		1 st Oct 2014	31 st Oct 2014			
			Daily themed events to be held through Money Week	250 people engaged with						
			Marketing of events to ensure uptake							

Relevant SOA Outcomes:

Our economy is diverse and dynamic, and West Lothian is an attractive place for doing business

Action	Local Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Activity	Performance		Start date	End date	Resources	Partners involved	Results/Progress
				Target	Actual					
Support the development of Fairtrade Group	Residents are better informed of Fairtrade Armadale is recognised as a fairtrade town	Number of meetings held Number of partners attending A range of Fairtrade products available	Steering group formed and meets to develop and deliver project Promote Fairtrade Map local Fairtrade activity	Establish Fairtrade Steering Group in Ward		April 2013	March 2015	Existing	Regeneration and Employability Community groups	



West Lothian
Council

ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THE ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE WARD

REPORT BY HEAD OF EDUCATION (QUALITY ASSURANCE)

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on school developments and improvements within the Armadale and Blackridge Ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the committee notes the content of the report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; and working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Outcome 4 Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Initiatives are delivered from existing approved budgets.
VII Consideration at PDSP	None.
VIII Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

The schools discussed within this paper are located within the Armadale and Blackridge ward. Four schools have been identified for development and improvement and one (Southdale) is a new build required due to the scale of the new housing in the south of Armadale to allow the council to meet its statutory education responsibilities.

D.2 School Developments and Improvements

Latest developments and improvements across the Armadale and Blackridge ward are detailed below;

- Armadale Primary School

The project includes a 124sqm extension to the existing nursery (capacity will be 60/60), a new multi use games area (MUGA) plus planned improvement works to the existing school building. The nursery extension will be single storey and will be clad in larch timber and will have a sedum roof. Both current nursery classrooms in the upper floor of the existing school will become primary classrooms once the extension is complete. Construction cost is £760,000 and overall cost will be in region of £800,000. The work is due to commence in May 2013 and due for completion in August/September 2013.

- St Anthony's Primary School

Phase 1 will increase the nursery capacity to 60/60 which will mean a new build extension to the existing nursery accommodation. A new access road for the school is also part of the works. Work is due for completion in August 2013. Appendix 1 contains a copy of outline plans for the nursery extension at St Anthony's.

- Eastertoun Primary School

A new multi-use games area (MUGA) is due to be constructed over the summer holiday period 2013.

- Blackridge Primary School

A detailed condition survey has been undertaken. Construction services are undertaking feasibility and programming works. Initial works will commence late 2013.

- Southdale Development - New School

The latest update received from Planning given the status of developer negotiations on funding, section 75 agreement, site transfer, site investigations suggests potentially August 2015.

- Armadale Academy

The new improved building and facilities at Armadale Academy have led to improved community links and partnerships. The local community

now benefits from a wide range of sporting opportunities through the development of the Community Sports Hub and local groups access the first class facilities on a daily basis. In addition, the building improvements have helped facilitate international partnerships with Norway and China. This year fourteen Norwegian students spent their sixth year at Armadale Academy and six Armadale Academy students spent a week in Norway. In September, twelve of our students will visit the Teda no.1 middle school in the Tianjin Province and fifteen students from our partner school will visit Scotland. The improved facilities at Armadale Academy have provided students with increased opportunities for learning.

E. CONCLUSION

This report outlines school developments and improvements within the Armadale and Blackridge Ward. Further updates as the work progresses will be delivered to the Local Area Committee.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

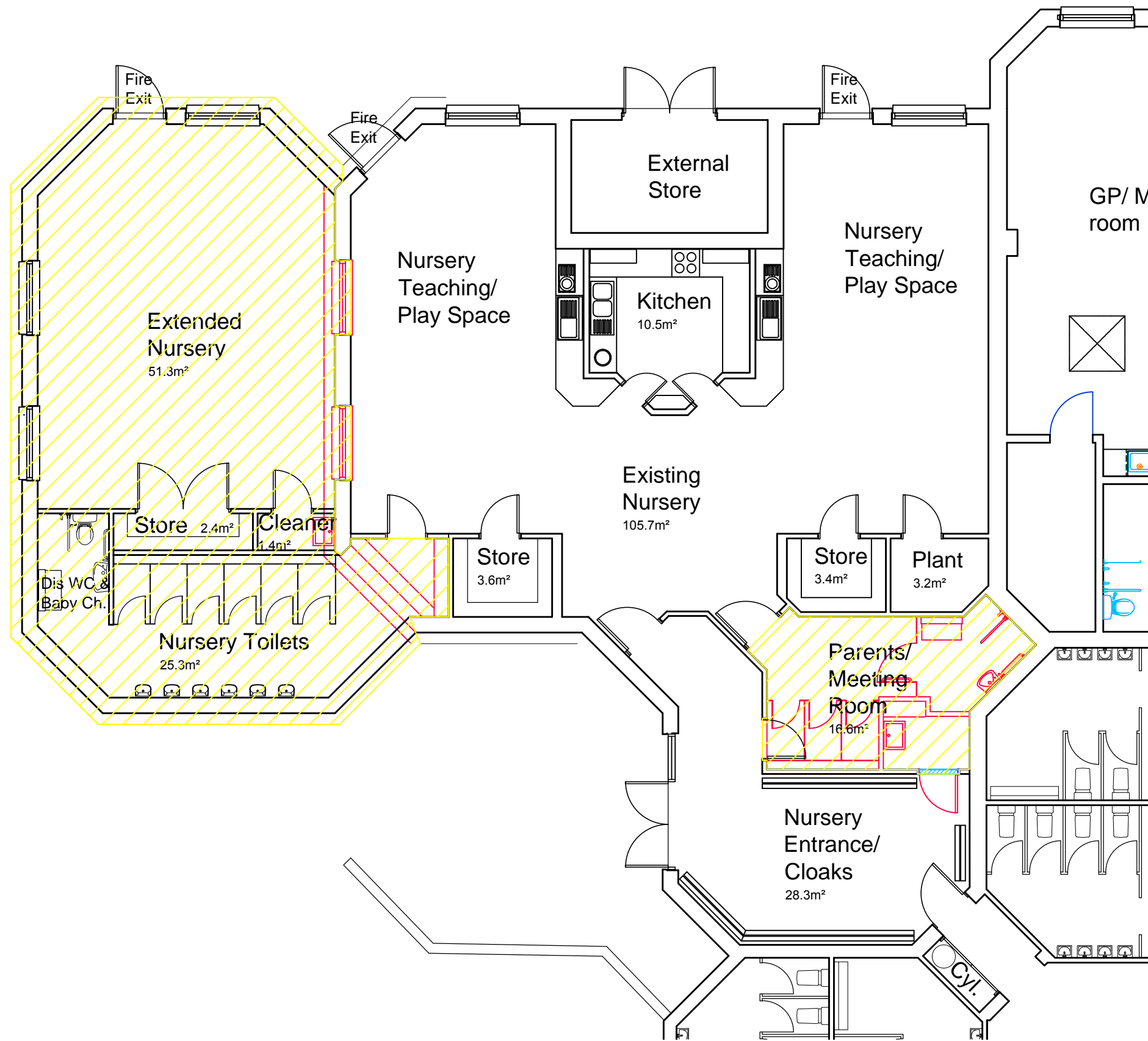
Appendices/Attachments: One

Appendix One: Nursery Extension at St Anthony's RC Primary School

Contact Person Elaine Cook, Head of Education (Quality Assurance)
elaine.cook@westlothian.gov.uk Tel 01506 283050

Elaine Cook, Head of Schools and Education (Quality Assurance)

31 May 2013



Nursery Extension Proposal 3				Nursery Extension at St Anthonys RC Primary School	
SCALE: 1:100	DATE: 30/08/2012	JOB NO:	DRAWING NO: Des-03		

ANDERSON BAYNE ARCHITECTS
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**ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE
WORKPLAN 2013-14**

MAY 2013

	Issue	Purpose	Lead Officer	Date	Referral
1	Housing report	Quarterly update on housing issues	Gary Stoddart	May 2013	No
2	Police/NRT report	Quarterly update on Police/SNT activity	Inspector Ian Moffat	May 2013	No
3	Schools development report	To provide update on school developments and improvements across the ward	Elaine Cook	May 2013	No
4	Alcohol Diversion report	To provide a report on allocation of Alcohol Diversionary Funding	Beverly Akinlami	May 2013	No
5	Watson Park update	Update on progress with the Pitch and Changing Pavilion project at Watson Park, Armadale	Keir Stevenson	May 2013	No
6	Ward Action Plan End of Year review	To provide a final report on achievements against the 2012-13 Ward Action Plan	Douglas Benson	May 2013	No
7	Public Health report	To provide a report on health related activity/issues in the ward	George Scott	May 2013	No
8	Welfare Reform	Update on Welfare Reform	Ian Alcorn	May 2013	No
9	Capital Programme	Reports on Housing and General Capital Programme Budgets for 2013 - 14	Donald Forrest	TBC	Yes
10	Pensioners Christmas Fund Allocations	To provide a report on allocation of Pensioner's Christmas Fund	Graham Whitelaw	TBC	Yes
11	NETs Report	Annual Update Report on NETs activity	Tony Fleming	TBC	No



West Lothian
Council

ARMADALE BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

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

REPORT BY HEAD OF AREA SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

B. RECOMMENDATION

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

- Armadale Youth Space - **£22,610**

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; and working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment) Strategic	None.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	The number of underage drinking and antisocial behaviour calls regarding young people registered with the Community Safety Unit.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Outcome 6 - We live longer, healthier lives. Outcome 8 - We have improved life chances for children, young people and families at risk.

Outcome 9 - We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger.

Outcome 11 - We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their actions and how they affect others.

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

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

D. 2 Allocation process

The allocation process is in two parts:

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

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

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

Midnight Football - **£37,000**

WLYAP Summer Programme - **£18,000**

This leaves £245,000 to be allocated between the nine multi member wards. The allocation is based on a weighted score of (i) the percentage of the West Lothian population of young people aged 10 -19 in the ward (based on Mid-2010 GRO Population Estimates, (ii) the percentage of underage drinking instances reported in 2012 across West Lothian in the ward, and (iii) the percentage of the 20% most deprived data zones located within wards based on the 2012 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). Local Area Committees will allocate funding based on applications received and recommendations from officers.

This is summarised in the table below:-

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

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

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

West Lothian Youth Action Project Summer Programme	£18,000	£18,000
Midnight Football	£37,000	£37,000
GRAND TOTAL	£300,000	£300,000

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

The allocation to the Armadale and Blackridge ward is £22,610, which is a decrease on the £23,765 received last year.

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

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

The following applications were received :-

- Armadale Youth Space £27,000

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

D.3 The Strategy to Tackle Underage Drinking funding for diversionary activities is now included in the commissioning strategy for Tobacco, Drug and Alcohol services, and funded activities are expected to have a greater focus on outcomes that have a wider and more discernible impact on drinking behaviour. The outcomes agreed in the commissioning strategy are :-

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

- Changing individual and group attitudes to drinking in order to increase acceptance of non-drinking and low-risk drinking and to support critical thinking about cultural and marketing presentations of alcohol in young people as indicated by reporting on the content and number of individuals involved in alcohol educational activity and impact information.

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

- Armadale Youth Space - **£22,610**

E. CONCLUSION

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

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

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Strategy for Tackling Under-age Drinking (Council Executive June 2008)

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

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

Contact Person: Beverley Akinlami, Community Youth Services Coordinator. Tel. 01506 281093 E-mail: Beverley.akinlami@westlothian.gov.uk

Steve Field, Head of Area Services
Date: 30 May 2013

WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL

Strategy for Tackling Underage Drinking
Funding Proposal 2013 / 2014

Main Objectives and Outcomes

The strategy for tackling underage drinking will contribute to the planned longer-term outcomes of the DAT, with particular emphasis on:

- **Prevention and education**
 - increased attitudinal change towards alcohol
 - increased community involvement in prevention activities
 - increased knowledge of the harmful affects of alcohol (as well as tobacco and drug use)

- **Substance misuse behaviour by young people**
 - reduction in risk-taking behaviour
 - reduction in the consumption of alcohol
 - reduction in binge drinking

In your application please evidence how you will monitor relevant bullet points above.

The strategy will also reduce the anti-social behaviour often associated with underage drinking. Examples of the kind of intervention and/or diversionary activities that are likely to have an impact and receive support are contained within the attached summary table.

CONTACT DETAILS	<i>Name Claire Kane</i>
	<i>Designation CL&D worker wvyp team- community youth services</i>
	<i>Address</i>
	<i>Address</i> <i>Whitburn CEC, Manse Road</i>
	<i>Post code EH47 8EZ</i>
	<i>Tel 01501 678890</i>
	<i>Email Claire.kane@westlothian.gov.uk</i>
<i>Web</i>	

PROJECT OUTLINE	<p>Armada Youth Issues group are a sub group of Armadale Community Education Association and have supported a bid to develop a unique youth space in the centre of Armadale. The space is based in the old Co-op Halls on the Main Street and was refurbished with involvement of young people and partners. The space opened to young people aged 12-19 at the end of April 2010 and a variety of programmes have run throughout the three years including targeted employability work, alternative curriculum projects, drama projects, youth committee, drop in's and holiday provision.</p> <p>Leader funding was previously matched with alcohol and core CL&D and WLYAP funding. There are currently funding bids submitted into Big Lottery's early intervention fund and Robertson trust. The request for funding would enable the youth space to help develop its capacity to</p>
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continue to deliver better outcomes for young people and families and the communities which support them. It will enhance and expand on the delivery of current services and enable new groups to deliver focused work to vulnerable young people. The youth space is an umbrella organisation of the association and was set up as an additional space for voluntary and council services to work more intensely with young people at risk in a youth friendly space, designed by young people.

The youth space currently attracts a wide range of groups during the week day time and in the evening and we would like to fill the gaps in service delivery which would include weekend use. The service will continue to be inclusive to all young people including some of the most vulnerable young people in Armadale and surrounding rural villages.

The strategy for tackling underage drinking funding will focus on the following areas of work which will be expanded in the process section;

- Continuation and development of Thursday and Friday night drop in; targeting young people aged 12-19. This work will be a combination of preventive and targeted work and will focus on alcohol intake, substance misuse and risk taking behaviour.
- Develop and increase the number of Alcohol brief interventions and intensive support as and when required with young people using youth space.
- Providing additional holiday provision and diversionary activities for young people aged 12+ in the ward
- Host youth festivals and other alcohol awareness focused events at times when young people tend to drink more including last day of term before summer and Christmas.
- Employability support groups in partnership with Armadale Academy and WLYAP
- Continue to support capacity of young people participating in the youth committee and recruit new members ensuring all young people are represented.
- Targeted girls work in partnership with Armadale Academy, YWCA and CL&D focusing on risky behaviour
- Further develop the sexual health and wellbeing services within the youth space.

TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR PROJECT – <i>please detail below how the funding will be used?</i>	Cost
6 months rent for youth space	£6000
% utilities including gas, electricity and broadband	£3000
Youth events x 2 including resources, workshops and inflatable's	£5000
Youth committee summer residential to write action plan/ explore recruiting new members	£2500
Holiday provision including subsidised trips/ transport and workshops	£2500
Development worker focusing on drop in's and expanding weekend use staff costs. 1 worker @ 10 hrs per week at £11.91 per hour for 40 weeks including on costs	£5000
Specialist inputs including graffiti art, music and Sports workshops focusing on alcohol awareness	£3000
Totals	£27,000

INPUTS	<i>The resources you will use to deliver the project. They include, for example, staff time, budgets, equipment, buildings and policies.</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part time CLD youth worker • CLD worker part time • WLYAP sessional staff and full time staff • Community regeneration • Youth space coordinator and cleaner • Armadale Community Education Centre • Strategy for Tackling Underage Drinking Funding • Armadale Youth issues group • Armadale academy sports hub • Sports equipment • Gaming, entertainment equipment • WLYAP Transport • WLC Transport • Youth Scotland's dynamic youth and Youth achievement packs • Protecting Vulnerable Group Scheme • Child Protection Training • WLC Health and Safety policies inc risk assessments • Alcohol Brief Intervention Training • Arts and sports unit • External activities workshops • WLDAS Workshops • Healthy Respect and C card • YWCA • Armadale Together for health • Police and SNT team

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PROCESSES	<p><i>The ways by which the inputs are used to achieve the planned outputs (in other words, what we do with the resources). What specific interventions are planned to reduce alcohol consumption (e.g. Alcohol Brief Interventions) and addressing anti social behaviour? How will young people at risk be targeted?</i></p> <p>The various groups using the youth space will provide alternatives to involvement in anti social behaviour and alcohol or substance misuse. Young people will be offered further opportunities to participate in issue based educational sessions focusing on alcohol, lifestyles, sexual health and wellbeing and positive choices.</p> <p>The drop in's will continue to provide activities including graffiti art, music and sports which will keep young people engaged and challenge their current lifestyle choices. Additional C card services will compliment sexual health inputs and will increase young people's access to local services. The main aims of the Thursday and Friday night drop in's include, delaying alcohol consumption and reducing consumption of older young people, providing alternative activities at peak times when alcohol use is high, raise awareness of alcohol/ substance misuse and associated risks and offer targeted work to young people when required.</p> <p>Through partnership working with police/ SNT, additional drop in's will open to reduce anti social behaviour and underage drinking youth calls at the weekend.</p> <p>All youth work staff will be ABI trained this year, ensuring ABI's are used on a weekly basis or as required. Through recording sheets, staff will also be able to ensure needs of young people are being met and where appropriate young people will be referred to 1-1 support or to existing or new group work within the space.</p> <p>Holiday provision will enable the space to continue to engage with young people aged 12-18. The drop in's will continue to run through the summer and also offer opportunities for young people to engage in recreational and outdoor activities, which will increase their personal and social development and offer diversionary activity to alcohol or substance misuse.</p>
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	<p>Youth festivals and events targeting young people will held at different times throughout the year in partnership with other agencies. These events will offer young people alcohol free alternatives and an opportunity to be involved in decisions making about future planning within the youth space.</p> <p>The youth committee are currently working on a DVD which will act as a living annual report to promote the youth space. They are also exploring challenging the school's views on barriers to education and will be meeting with other pupils to explore this before the summer. They will also be working on new action plan for 2013-2015 during the summer and exploring how to recruit new members.</p> <p>Armadale Academy has one of the lowest proportion of leavers entering higher education in West Lothian, and a very slightly lower level of young people (0.9%) going into further education .This could account for the higher than average proportion of leavers going into a negative destination. This will be addressed through the youth space in partnership with education and other council services. Many of the young people who are in a negative destination are also involved in negative lifestyle choices within their life and wider community.</p> <p>Young people at risk will be targeted through existing provision, streetwork and work delivered in schools. Many of the young people currently using the youth space are at risk and may be involved with MC keyworker, alterative curriculum projects, get ready for work or risky behaviour referred groups.</p> <p>The above interventions will impact directly on the attitudes and knowledge young people have towards alcohol and the impact it has on them as individuals, their families and the wider community. The promotion of positive lifestyles, diversionary activities and exploring health and wellbeing will also address these issues. The holiday provision and youth festivals/ events will provide opportunities for educational inputs and alternatives to alcohol use and changes to attitude will be measured through a verity of baselines and recording sheets and ongoing progress monitoring with young people.</p>
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OUTPUTS	<i>The specific products of the project. These will be quantifiable (easily counted) things such as the number of young people taking part or the number of activities delivered. Please detail projected numbers involved?</i>	
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="456 1951 1117 2016">Number of young people involved</td> <td data-bbox="1117 1951 1361 2016">600-700</td> </tr> </table>	Number of young people involved
Number of young people involved	600-700	

	<p>individual members using space ____</p> <p>Age ranges 12-19</p> <p>Projected Number 12 -14 year 350</p> <p>Projected Number 15+ year olds 250-350</p> <p>Projected Number of males 350</p> <p>Projected Number of females 300</p> <p>Average number of young people on a weekly basis 80-100</p> <p>Number of sessions delivered per week. 7-10 groups</p> <p><i>Educational sessions across all groups 20-30</i></p>
<p>OUTPUT MEASURES/ INDICATORS</p>	<p><i>How we will know if we have carried what was planned in the way we intended? How will you measure the impact of your intervention?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly registers will monitor numbers and recording forms will monitor issues • Recording forms will also highlight topics/ issues discussed and feedback from young people • Materials and resources used and completed by young people will highlight information/ sessions delivered • Number of ABI carried out through recording sheets and carried forward. • Recording sheets from C card Friday afternoon and Friday night • Performance recording sheets which are being developed by CL&D which will measure KPI's • Ipad apps will be used to gather feedback from young people and ensure targets are being met • Anecdotal Feedback from young people and youth work staff • Anecdotal feedback from police • Feedback from young people • DVD and feedback • Number of young people engaging in activities • Youth Related Calls and underage drinking statistics from police

<p>OUTCOMES</p>	<p><i>The changes or results that have come about because of the project. Outcomes are normally what the project is trying to achieve but some outcomes are not planned.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people have improved and increased knowledge / understanding of alcohol and substance use issues. • Young people are consuming less alcohol. • Young people are entering into increase of positive destinations • There is less anti-social behaviour perpetrated by young people in Armadale/ Blackridge ward • Reduction in underage youth drinking calls in Armadale/ Blackridge ward • An increase in the wellbeing and positive life choices from groupwork participants • Increase in opportunities for young people to engage in diversionary activities especially at the weekend. • Young People at risk of social exclusion will be supported to become responsible citizens, successful learners, confident individuals and effective contributors. • Young Peoples skills knowledge and employment opportunities will be increased as a result of support, educational and training opportunities provided within the youth space. • Increase partnership organisations capacity to meet the needs of the young people both in Armadale and surrounding villages.
<p>OUTCOME MEASURES/ INDICATORS</p>	<p><i>How we will know we have effected change?</i></p>

- 35% of young people who attend regular inputs/ drop in's report that they have reduced their alcohol consumption
- 45% of the young people who state they are regular drinkers report that attending the provision has reduced their alcohol consumption.
- 80% of young people report that their knowledge of alcohol and harmful effects of it has increased
- 60% of young people indicate that they have seen a positive change in their behaviour as a result of attending the drop in.
- There will continue to be a reduction in police related youth calls and underage drinking calls from Police statistics in Armadale/ Blackridge ward.
- Young People have access to increased provisions / services within Armadale Youth Space
- Young People will have the confidence and ability to access further courses both within the local authority area and out with.
- Socially excluded young people participate in targeted group work programmes focusing on issues identified by themselves including barriers to employment, literacy, numeracy and life skills.
- Young People have increased capacity to participate in community life and events, challenging negative stereotypes of young people.

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Signature of Applicant **Claire Kane**

Position **CL&D worker**

Signature of Partner youth action project **Helen Davies**

Position **Manger of West Lothian**

Date **11/4/13**

Please return by Thursday 11 April 2013:
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Examples of the type of intervention and/or diversionary activities that might be likely to have an impact and receive support:

- **Focused work** – targeting young people (15+) known to be engaging in at risk behaviours linked to alcohol consumption.
- **Group work** - personal and social development opportunities, working with targeted groups of young people. The group would be supported by a youth worker/tutor and the group would determine the activities themselves.
- **Street work** - work with groups of young people identified in various community locations by a youth worker. The aim of the work would be to engage with young people and develop an alternative programme that changes their behaviour.
- **Youth cafés** - work in youth cafés or community centres with groups of young people, with flexible informal programmes.
- **Afternoon/midnight football** - building on the successful midnight football initiative, informal round-robin competitions can be held at a central or local location involving the police, youth workers and sports development staff.
- **Rock music** - building on the successful Rock Platform and promoting rock music amongst groups of young people, within their community. The initiative would involve tuition, rehearsing, recording and performing. The recording studio at Craigsfarm could become a central venue for recording various bands and community centres could be encouraged to identify suitable rehearsing space, particularly utilising Friday afternoons and evenings.
- **Hairdressing/Beauty Treatment** - activities such as hairdressing and beauty treatment have proved popular in engaging young people. Professional expertise could be sought to work with groups and support these activities.
- **Dance** - with appropriate support from dance teachers/instructors, dance is a popular medium for engaging young people in break-dancing and a range of other dance forms.
- **Arts** - depending on the interests of young people, a range of art forms could be used to engage with young people.
- **Outdoor activities** - building on the success of the enhanced and alternative curriculum programmes, outdoor education activities have proved invaluable in working with groups of young people at risk.
- **Sport** - in addition to football, other sports activities could be utilised to engage with targeted groups, where such an interest is expressed by young people
- **Other Activities** – innovative proposals for engaging with targeted groups of young people would be particularly welcomed from Agencies and Services.