

ARTS SERVICES

**Annual Report
2008 / 2009**

INTRODUCTION

I am delighted to present our annual report for 2008-2009.

A momentous year concluded in March with the presentation of the first events in the newly reopened Howden Park Centre. The building has been transformed into a fully equipped, extended venue with a professional auditorium providing high quality facilities for a range of arts, business, social and catering services.

The reopening of Howden Park Centre marked the end of a very busy year that also took in securing the funding for the major restoration and redevelopment of the Burgh Halls then “wrapping” it up while the work progressed. While all of this Capital work was developing the staff continued to maintain and even extend the different arts programmes, winning local and national recognition for the quality of their work.

Among a list of notable successes and achievements Arts Education Service was short-listed for a national *Education Initiative of the Year* by the Herald Society and we were particularly pleased to receive two awards from the National Music Council in recognition of the excellence of our Instrumental Music Service.

- *Colin Hutcheon, Arts Services Manager*

FOREWORD

2008 – 9 has been a very demanding year for the staff of Arts Services as they continued to try to deliver a full and varied programme of performances, classes and projects, while continuing to develop the plans for the Burgh Halls and prepare for the long awaited reopening of Howden Park Centre.

The challenges have all been met and Arts Services didn't only deliver on them but also managed to pull in significant external funds, launch major new events, including the week long Bathgate Music Festival and win significant awards and praise for different areas of their work.

Personally, I have enjoyed many different performances this year but it is when partners tell me that a project made a real difference or my friends and neighbours tell me how much they enjoyed a show that I really appreciate how important this work is to the people in our communities.

I hope you enjoy reading this report.

- *Cllr Jim Walker, Executive Councillor for Culture and Leisure*

ARTS SERVICES

The work of Arts Services is carried out by three sections - Arts Education Service and the Instrumental Music Service work mainly in schools, the Arts Development section works in the wider community providing an extensive professional performance programme, projects for specific groups and supporting voluntary arts groups and individuals.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Activity	Output Measure	Performance Target	Actual performance 2008 to 2009	Performance for Previous year	Comment
Arts development projects	No of participants	9,000	11,031	9,395	Numbers vary according to types of activities
Arts Grants	Major grants/ SLAs No of grants awarded	2	2 131	2 121	
Craigsfarm	Number attending events		1,420	35,313	This figure only relates to events/ activities organised by Arts Services
Howden Park Centre (closed for redevelopment 30 June 2006)	No of lets Activity attendance No of events Audience	The target was to try to sustain a reasonable level of activity and attendance while HPC remained closed	Closed		
Regal Community Theatre (opened 31 August 2006)	No of lets Activity attendance No of events Audience		552 20,614 139 18,075	559 26,321 157 6,872	Audience figures affected by Bathgate Music Festival
Other venues being used during HPC closure	No of lets Activity attendance No of events Audience				
Arts in Education	Number of pupils attending	25,000	31,246	36,836	Actual performance influenced by external funding
Instrumental Music	Number of pupils taught	2,102	2,220	2,120	

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Arts Development

- Arts Services was selected as a finalist in Celebrating Success in the category, Making best use of resources for the Winchburgh Futures Project. It was highly commended for submissions for the Connect Project and West Lothian Works.
- £772,500 was secured from Heritage Lottery Fund toward the cost of the redevelopment of the Linlithgow Burgh Halls as a community arts and heritage venue.
- Arts Services worked in partnership with West Lothian Youth Action Project, West Lothian College, The Sound Station and other local promoters and youth and music organisations to establish a forum to support young people's music making. This forum aims to improve the networking of people interested in supporting young people's music making, to improve co-ordination, provide a network for communication, identify and address gaps in provision and work to improve resources and opportunities.
- The Public Arts Strategy and Supplementary Planning Guidance was approved by the council's executive on 15 August 2008.
- Arts Services played a key role in developing the first Bathgate Music Festival which took place from 14 to 20 September 2008.
- £120,000 external funding was sourced for arts development work in West Lothian.
- A total of 11,031 people participated in arts activities targeted at specific ages, interest groups and locations as part of the arts development programme. This included working with older people through the Generation Arts project, looked-after people young people through the Connect Project, attendance at Bathgate Music Festival, summer activities for children and young people and training for voluntary arts groups.

Arts Education

- Arts Education Service was short-listed for a Herald Society award in the category *Education Initiative of the Year* for Wee Music Makers, its early years music education programme.
- Global Beats, a music and citizenship project, introduced primary school pupils to a range of percussion traditions from around the world.
- Professional musician and composer Dave Trouton spent 2 weeks in West Lothian primary schools delivering Music in Action. The project examined the psychology of music - how music affects the way we feel.
- Take Two a 6 month multi arts programme funded by the Strategy for Tackling Underage Drinking took place in Armadale Academy and Inveralmond CHS.
- The SQA accredited Higher dance course is run in partnership with Telford College and Inveralmond CHS. It is now in its fifth year and pupils from this programme have gone on to study dance at HNC, HND and degree level courses at colleges in Scotland and England.

Instrumental Music

- West Lothian West Lothian Schools Symphony Orchestra performed at the Festival of British Youth Orchestras in both Edinburgh (as part of the Fringe) and Glasgow.
- West Lothian Schools Brass band won the Scottish Youth Championships for the fourth consecutive year.
- A new ensemble, the West Lothian Schools Pipe Band, was successfully established.
- West Lothian Schools Symphony Orchestra toured in Seville, performing 3 concerts to capacity audiences. Pipers from West Lothian Schools Pipe Band and fiddlers from West Lothian Schools Fiddle group performed in Grapevine, Texas.
- West Lothian Schools Wind Ensemble was awarded a silver at the NCBF Scottish finals and the West Lothian Schools Big Band were awarded a Gold.

ARTS DEVELOPMENT – PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE AND EXHIBITION PROGRAMME

Bathgate Music Festival

Bathgate Traders Forum and Bathgate Town Centre Management Group expressed an interest in developing a music festival in Bathgate as a way to build on the work being done to improve the town. In July 2007 Arts Services was invited to explore the potential of this idea and, following several meetings, it was agreed that a pilot festival should be developed for September 2008. A steering group was formed including representatives from Bathgate Traders Forum, Bathgate BIDs, Regal Community Theatre and local elected members to work with officers from Arts Services and the Tourism and Town Centre Officer.

The idea of the festival was being developed as Bathgate was bidding to become the first traditional town in Scotland to win the status of a Business Improvement District. This bid was successful and gave an important impetus to the development of the music festival - a new initiative with the potential to assist in the drive to establish a new sense of community and direction in the town, making Bathgate a more attractive place to stay and to visit.

The Festival was well attended. 1079 tickets were sold for performances at the Regal Community Theatre and further 244 people attended workshops, 104 people attended a jazz performance at the Vu and 130 attended the launch of West Lothian Youth Music Forum – Fuse Music. It is estimated that 1867 attended free events as part of Live n Local, Live@lunch and Live@theSteelyard and over 400 performers participated in the Festival.

There was significant local press coverage for the festival and a very positive response from the community, demonstrated through tickets sales, attendance at events and in verbal and written feedback from audiences, participants, partners and sponsors.

The following feedback was collected from the public in a street survey undertaken by Enterprising Bathgate in the Steelyard in October 2008:

122 returned surveys

106 respondents said they were aware of Bathgate music festival (87%)

114 would like it to become an annual event (93%)

“Good to see Bathgate come alive”

“Great pricing and excellent value for money”

“Very Inspiring!”

“Feel uplifted”

Public Arts Strategy

The council's executive approved the Public Arts Strategy and Supplementary Planning Guidance on 15 August 2008. The strategy is to be published and distributed to contributors to the 2007 consultation process and made available to developers, service areas and all interested parties.

Arts Services was selected as a finalist in Celebrating Success in the category, 'Making best use of resources' for the Winchburgh Futures Project.

Artlink launched the Kirkhill Pillar Project in June in Almondell Country Park. This Public Art project has involved the local community working with artist Donald Urquhart. The project is based on the 18th century Kirkhill Pillar, the last remnant of a model solar system created by 11 Earl of Buchan and has resulted in 11 sculptures located in the landscape relating to interpretations of the planets and solar system. A website and information route map and guide has also been developed. This project was supported by a grant from Arts Services.

Visual Arts

In April 2008, 10 participants took part in 'Starting Out' a training workshop to assist artists to start thinking about running their own business. The workshop was run by Arts Services in partnership with Business Gateway.

The Travelling Gallery toured West Lothian for 5 days in April with the visual art exhibition Re/trato. 853 visitors – pupils, teachers and members of the public saw the exhibition when it travelled to Linlithgow Academy, Deans Community High School, Broxburn Academy, West Lothian College and Bathgate Steelyard.

Three Venue Strategy

Regal Community Theatre

The Regal Community Theatre appointed a full time venue co-ordinator in September 2008. This is a significant increase to the venue's staffing capacity and was made possible through increased annual grant support from Arts Services.

Arts Services continued to provide support in programming and marketing the venue. In September, the Regal was the main venue for the first Bathgate Music Festival. £10,000 was awarded by the Scottish Arts Council toward the cost of developing the performing arts programme at the Regal Community Theatre to encourage a younger audience and to develop daytime activities. This resulted in an expansion of the performance programme.

Essential Scottish Opera opened their Scottish tour at the Regal Community Theatre with a sell out performance.

Burgh Halls

In June 2008 the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded West Lothian Council £772,500 toward the cost of the redevelopment of the Linlithgow Burgh Halls as a community arts and heritage venue. This was the final piece of external funding needed to allow the project to proceed. Hunter and Clark was appointed as the contractor for the redevelopment and work began in September 2008.

In November the Burgh Halls went under wraps. An impressive, large scale digital image had been commissioned to be hung on the scaffold to mask the building site, so prominent in the town centre and to draw attention to this important development. The image was a recreation of the restored facade with the addition of historical characters and features looking through the windows. Interpretation panels were on the site hoarding giving information on the figures on the wrap and providing to the local community and visitors information on the history, context and future development of the Burgh Halls.

Howden Park Centre

The £6M redevelopment of Howden Park Centre was concluded at the end of March 2009. The first public event took place on 26 March with a concert given by West Lothian schools Brass Band and Pipe Band as part of the annual spring concert Series.

Significant work was undertaken throughout the year to prepare furniture and fittings, IT infrastructure, staffing, budgets, marketing and programme for the launch of the new venue.

Arts, Health and Wellbeing

Connect

The Connect project in association with Youth Inclusion Partnership continued to successfully provide art experiences for young people at risk. A DVD was made of a performance the young people gave in June at the Regal Community Theatre. The DVD contained footage of the performance and audience reactions as well as an 8 minute documentary/ evaluation charting the whole project. This was distributed to the participants, partners and funders.

At the end of summer the project resumed on a weekly basis allowing young people to work with a range of art specialists including theatre photographer Eamonn McGoldrick and make-up artist, James Clark, on a special effects workshop, music making with Gordon Balfour, graffiti and stencil art with several art tutors.

The Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival took place from 1 to 19 October 2008. Carolyn Jones, Arts Development Officer worked on placement to the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival for one day a week. She assisted in the programming of visual arts and theatre for the national festival, and in co-ordinating events in West Lothian as part of the regional festival.

Offbeat

Arts Services is working as part of the Craigshill Youth Providers to provide "Offbeat" a regular Friday afternoon activity programme in Craigsfarm funded by the Strategy

for Tackling Underage Drinking. Offbeat began in October ran weekly as a pilot until Christmas and continued from January to March. The project aim was to use arts activities to engage with young people addressing the issue of alcohol use and its associated effects such as risk taking behaviours. Young people aged 12 to 16 years old are regular attenders, they have worked with dance, drama, music, visual arts and crafts. The project will continue to be evaluated by the Providers group through to summer 2009.

Surestart Dad's Group launched its own website with the assistance of Arts Services. A group of 10 dads worked together with their children to provide and upload accessible and useful content whilst learning media and computer skills. www.wlcdadsclub.net

Survivarts

The Survivarts project is co-ordinated jointly by Arts Services and the West Lothian Community Health and Care Partnership with funding from the Scottish Government. The aim of the project is to provide adult survivors of abuse with regular arts activity to improve their general well being and provide access to support and information as required.

An initial taster event was held in October with a day of arts taster events and a question and answer session. It received praise at the mental health forum with service professionals keen to refer clients to the programme.

A programme of accessible arts activity was developed and publicity material produced to reach potential participants. The activities, each led by experienced tutors, included dance, storytelling, printmaking and crafts.

Professional staff, support workers and volunteers with an interest in this area of work were given an insight into the project at a taster event in March 2009. It provided practical hands on experience of the kind of workshops that will be available to participants through the project and gave information on how to register or signpost people to the project.

Survivarts will provide access to free arts activity programmes beginning in April 2009 and running throughout the year in order to assess the potential impact of this kind of approach.

Kites Over Howden

A free one day event was organised in partnership with the Greenspace Officer and Howden Community Council as part of the nation wide Love Parks Week. Kite making workshops were delivered in local schools and a public event was attended by over 200 people in Howden Park with kite flying, making, demonstrations and live music.

Summer programme

West Lothian Out of School Care Network enjoyed summer workshops in circus skills, drama and singing. 16 WLOSCN groups took part with an estimate of over 200 children being involved.

145 young people between 5 and 18 took part in the summer High School Musical and Fame weeks in the Regal Community Theatre. There were 5 performances in total with a total attendance of 228.

The Range Adventure Playground, Broxburn enjoyed a makeover. Approx 40 young people in the area worked 8 sessions with artist Julia Hamilton to revitalise some of the old equipment., install new art works and create their own game as part of summer activities.

A range of summer arts workshops took place in partnership with Community Learning and Development including stage make up, drumming, street dance and arts and crafts. Approximately 700 children and young people attended 125 half day sessions.

Supporting the voluntary arts

A welcome reception was held in August for traditional, giant figures from Catalonia - Colla Geganter de Vacarisses. This exchange followed from a similar visit made by the West Lothian Independent Dancers (WLIDS) to Vacarisses. As part of their cultural exchange The Colla Geganter appeared at several outdoor locations including the Steelyard, Bathgate, Linlithgow Music at the Cross, Scotch Hop at Linlithgow Palace and at Almond Valley Heritage Centre.

84 individuals received arts grants to assist in developing arts skills. 50 groups received arts grants for a wide range of activities and purchase of equipment. Grant support was given to a number of organisations to assist with summer events in West Lothian including Hopetoun House Summer Fair, West Lothian Playschemes Association Fun Day in Blackburn and Linlithgow Scotch Hop.

Arts Services contributed to a Training Calendar which was distributed to all voluntary arts groups offering training courses on Handling Finance, Understanding Constitutions, Charitable Status, Child Protection, First Aid, Risk Assessment, Committee Work and Basic Computing skills.

A discussion group for West Lothian writing groups was established to explore potential for collaboration and networking to strengthen community based writing. In January West Lothian Write! took place with 21 local people reading from their own writing, a selection of poetry, storytelling and prose. This is part of a occasional series of events planned to promote and provide an informal network for local writers and their work which is building momentum for future development.

Long established partnerships with regional and national voluntary arts organisations were sustained through joint projects with the Scottish Brass Band Association (SBBA), and Traditional Music and Song Association (TMSA) Edinburgh and Lothians Branch.

SBBA's Besson Scottish Solo and Ensemble Championships took place in February in the Regal Community Theatre and Strathbrock Partnership Centre. This annual event brought players from across central Scotland, and further afield to West Lothian to compete. The weekend also featured a Gala Concert with West Lothian Schools Brass Band and Whitburn Band, both current Scottish Champions.

The annual West Lothian Festival of Brass took place in June with six of Scotland's top brass bands competing for the West Lothian Challenge Trophy. This was the seventh year of this event which is established as a major event in the Scottish brass band calendar.

The Singers Gathering took place in February in the Regal Community Theatre. This celebration of traditional singing is run in partnership with the TMSA. The event was attended by over 100 people and very well received by those attending.

3 open meetings took place giving voluntary arts groups the opportunity to meet with Arts Services to discuss opportunities for development and to give a better understanding of the needs of these groups. These took place in Bathgate, Linlithgow and Livingston. Representatives from 15 different groups attended these sessions. An action plan for future work will be prepared as an outcome of these sessions.

Three editions of the West Lothian Arts brochure were published and distributed giving information on the arts programme taking place at different venues across West Lothian. Each edition was distributed directly to over 8000 households registered on the Arts Services mailing list. Approximately 4000 brochures were distributed using arts venues, libraries, community education centres, community information centres and private sector outlets including hotels, hairdressers and post offices.

Fuse Music - West Lothian Youth Music Forum

Arts Services worked in partnership with West Lothian Youth Action Project, West Lothian College, The Sound Station and other local promoters and youth and music organisations to establish a forum. This forum aims to improve networking of people interested in supporting young people's music making, to improve co-ordination, provide a network for communication, identify and address gaps in provision and work to improve resources and opportunities.

£10,000 was awarded by the Scottish Arts Council's Youth Music Initiative to assist in setting up the Forum over a 12 month period. This enabled the group to commission research into current provision and demands, provide a range of workshops, showcase events, establish the website www.fusemusic.org.uk and visit other similar networks in other parts of Scotland.

Fuse Music was publicly launched on 16 September as part of Bathgate Music Festival. 130 young people attended a workshop and band showcase in the Regal Community Theatre with 5 local young bands performing, a Christmas gig was held in Craigsfarm.

WORK IN SCHOOLS

Arts Services is active in all kinds of state schools in West Lothian, nursery, primary, secondary and special education needs schools. Most schools involvement comes from The Instrumental Music Service and Arts Education Service.

Arts Education Service

The Arts Education Service creates links between the professional arts sector and formal education and supports the development of a range of creative learning opportunities for young people in West Lothian schools. We provide schools with opportunities to work with professional artists and arts organisations in a way which enhances the curriculum and enriches children's learning.

The arts are a powerful tool for developing children's learning across the curriculum and taking part in arts activities is a useful starting point for children's reflection, inquiry, discussion and exploration of a whole range of different topics. Benefits to learning are wide ranging and include developing creativity and critical thinking skills; enhancing emotional and imaginative intelligence; increasing knowledge and understanding of social and cultural issues and increasing self-confidence and self-esteem.

West Lothian Council's Arts Education Service supports schools to deliver the Curriculum for Excellence enabling our young people to become successful learners, confident individual, responsible citizens and effective contributors. Many teachers recognise the potential of the arts to support the aims of the Curriculum for Excellence, particularly in terms of linking learning across subjects, providing opportunities for active and collaborative learning and in finding new models for curriculum design and delivery. There are many examples of good practice in West Lothian and evidence that schools are increasingly using the arts, culture and heritage to link learning, enhance classroom teaching and to deliver the curriculum in creative ways.

From April 2008 to March 2009 the Arts Education Service worked with 31,285 pupils and teachers at nursery, primary, secondary and special education schools across West Lothian.

Examples of the creative projects developed and delivered this year:

Early Years Music

In 2008 Arts Education Service was short-listed for a Herald Society award in the category *Education Initiative of the Year* for Wee Music Makers, its early years music education programme. Started in 2006, the programme aims to “*fill the gap*” in music teaching in nursery schools by developing and increasing music making for pupils and training teachers in every nursery school in West Lothian. The programme is delivered by early years music specialist Andrew Cruickshank and every session involves singing songs and nursery rhymes, playing simple percussion instruments, movement to music and interaction with puppets and other stimuli to help pupils explore the world around them. CPD is an integral part of the programme and is designed to develop teachers' skills and increase their confidence in the delivery of early years music and to create a lasting legacy which will ensure that the work continues after the project ends.

“One particularly disabled young girl was reaching for things, tracking activities and lifting her head and holding it to watch what was happening in a way which we rarely see. It is incredibly rare that visitors to our school manage to deliver at exactly the right level for our children. However, Andrew (Cruickshank) provided a stimulating, educational, fun experience for all the children in the group. I can't thank him enough for his input.” - Beatlie School

Theatre Programme for Schools

The arts are a powerful tool for developing children's learning across the curriculum and attending live theatre performances are a useful starting point for children's reflection, inquiry, discussion and exploration of a whole range of different topics. The Arts Education Service programmes a wide range of professional theatre for West Lothian schools from early years to senior high school and this year has brought some of Scotland's acclaimed and award-winning companies such as Catherine Wheels, Visible Fictions, Wee Stories, Starcatchers, Giant Productions, Stellar Quines, V.amp, Benchtours, Reeling & Writhing and Mull Theatre Company to West Lothian. Performances take place both in school or in theatres and are often supported by a range of educational activities which extend the experience and include ideas for teachers and activities which help pupils explore characters and stories in more depth.

National Companies

Scottish Opera was in residence at the Regal Community Theatre in Bathgate for one week delivering their early years interactive opera *The Undersea World of Bubble McBea*. 14 nursery schools took part in the project which included an education programme consisting of CPD sessions for teachers prior to the performance and classroom resources including a CD of the music classroom activities and teaching plans to help teachers deliver key aspects of the curriculum for the expressive arts PSD and Environmental Studies.

“They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and we were amazed to see how enthusiastic and involved they were. The songs and dances gave a new lease of life to song time in the nursery and the children who often lack confidence came out of their shells. The knowledge they gained about sea creatures was also very apparent. We were reminded of how effective a tool music and drama can be to promote learning.” - Seafield Nursery

Cross Curricular Music

Global Beats, a music and citizenship project, introduced primary school pupils to a range of percussion traditions from around the world. Classroom based sessions combined a mixture of interactive performance and hands on activities and included an introduction to the musical instrument and an exploration of the origin, history and style of the music. Professional musicians from the Celtic, Brazilian and Kenyan musical traditions demonstrated traditional tunes and taught pupils to play simple rhythms.

“All of the children felt a sense of achievement in learning and performing a piece of music. It was also very useful to learn about music from a different country and a different culture. It was such a cross curricular activity and very much in keeping with the new curriculum for excellence. Please can we have more activities like this!”
- St Joseph’s PS (Linlithgow)

Professional musician and composer Dave Trouton spent 2 weeks in West Lothian primary schools delivering Music in Action. The project examined the psychology of music - how music affects the way we feel. Each whole day workshop looked at the ways music helps to tell a story and manipulate our emotions by uncovering the science behind how it works.

“They are now thinking differently about music. Very good for teamwork skills. Everyone was involved. They learned so much about music, science, sound. Dave was excellent with all the children and it was so inclusive. They absolutely loved him and have been full of praise. The day ties in very well with CfEx capacities.”
- Lowport PS

Creative Writing

80 pupils from 11 high schools attended Write On! the first West Lothian creative writing conference for senior pupils which took place at the Regal Theatre in Bathgate in September. The conference was supported by funding from the Scottish Book Trust’s Live Literature Scheme. Six professional writers, James Robertson, Matthew Fitt, Liz Niven, Des Dillon, Fergus Mitchell and Alan Bissett delivered workshops for pupils which aimed to give pupils an opportunity to develop their creative writing skills in a range of different genres, to underline the importance of reading and books and also to meet professional writers who live and work in Scotland and to introduce the idea that it’s possible to pursue a career in writing.

Write On! was nominated for a Best Practice award through the Scottish Book Trust.

"It was a great opportunity to meet so many great writers covering all different genres."

"I learned a lot and enjoyed it at the same time."

"It was a good experience and I feel I got a lot of good things from today."

"Very good as we had an insight to an actual published writer."

"The event was great - learned a lot about Scots."

"All the writers were really helpful and very impressive and inspirational."

"It helped me improve my writing and was a really enjoyable day - I would definitely come again."

"I thoroughly enjoyed the event, the writers were great and I took a lot out of it. Wish we had longer."

"It was a great experience and I would love to do it again."

- Pupils' feedback

Arts Education in Partnership

Take Two a 6 month multi arts programme funded by the Strategy for Tackling Underage Drinking took place in Armadale Academy and Inveralmond CHS. This programme of work was designed and managed in partnership with WLDAS and YAP and delivered by award-winning theatre company Visible Fictions. The project gave pupils from both schools the opportunity take part in an exciting and stimulating creative project but it also provided a platform to explore, discuss and challenge their attitudes, behaviours, understanding, perceptions and beliefs about the issue of underage drinking, divert them from anti social behaviour, provide credible alternatives and promote positive behaviour.

Curriculum Dance

The Arts Education Service established the Curriculum Dance programme in West Lothian in 2002. Now in its sixth year the programme continues to flourish: over 120 pupils are now involved in the Intermediate Level 2 dance programme which this year was delivered at Inveralmond CHS, St Margaret's Academy and Bathgate Academy. The SQA accredited Higher dance course is run in partnership with Telford College and Inveralmond CHS. It is now in its fifth year and pupils from this programme have gone on to study HNC, HND and degree level dance courses at colleges in Scotland and England. The Dance Development Officer provides advice and support to Broxburn and St Kentigern's Academies in implementing and delivering their own curriculum dance courses and other Local Authorities regularly seek advice from the DDO on replicating our programme.

"I would like to congratulate you and all the girls who performed on Saturday evening – it was fabulous! I thoroughly enjoyed the dances, the staging and the very slick management of the event – well done! I know how hard you've worked to promote dance in the authority over these last few years and the performances were a great credit to you. Please pass on my congratulations to everyone that was involved on Saturday. I'm sure they made you, their parents and friends very proud."

- West Calder High School

"Higher dance has given me all the tools I will ever need to become a successful, confident and proud dancer."

- H Dance Pupil

Dance in Partnership

The dance development programme is run in partnership with a variety of organisations which allows us to focus on specific target groups. Partnerships this year include: youth dance groups with West Lothian Leisure; taster workshops in a variety of dance styles for young families with Sure Start; dance and creative movement for older people with Generation Arts; Move A Shape dance groups for adults with physical and learning disabilities with Day Services; dance and health themed days for women and young people with Community Learning & Development; a dance citizenships project for primary schools looking at themes of respect for self and others, co-operation and mutual understanding.

Instrumental Music Service

West Lothian's Instrumental Music Service (IMS) is widely acknowledged as one of the most comprehensive and ambitious in Scotland. In 2008 West Lothian's Instrumental Music Service was awarded a Diploma by the National Music Council and a "Will Michael Diploma" for its work in jazz.

Performance

Over 2220 pupils, from every school in West Lothian receive free weekly tuition from a team of 29 Instrumental staff, (25 FTE), who teach a vast range of instruments from piccolo to pipes, trumpets to trombones, and violins to vibraphones.

Performing

IMS provides free weekly tuition for the 607 young musicians that make up West Lothian Schools Area Ensembles. These pupils are transported, free of charge, on a weekly basis to various venues in West Lothian where they are taught and rehearsed without charge as members of West Lothian Schools Brass Band, Pipe Band, Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Junior Concert Band, Big Band, Little Big Band, Symphony Orchestra, two Junior String Ensembles, Guitar Ensemble and Fiddle Group. Each of these ensembles benefits from a continuous development programme that takes in local, national and international performance opportunities, competitions, residential workshops, ongoing partnerships with national bodies and ambitious one-off projects with world class musicians, conductors and educators. Every ensemble performs at community and civic events across West Lothian. For example, West Lothian Schools Pipe Band performed in the torchlight procession of the annual Linlithgow Advent Fayre, the closing event of West Lothian's Diversity week, the steelyard in Bathgate as part of Bathgate Music Festival and shared the stage of the annual Scotland meets Vienna concert in Bathgate with the West Lothian Schools Brass Band. West Lothian Schools Fiddle group performed at the Young Writer of the Year award and the 25 years service awards.

In March 2008, IMS staged the Spring Concert Series in the games hall at St Margarets Academy. The hall was transformed into a concert hall, complete with star cloth, professional lighting and sound, a 10K projector and remote cameras and became the venue for a series of four weekend concerts involving each of the Area Ensembles playing to audiences of up to 2000 people. This year we kick started our SCS with a concert at the newly refurbished Howden Park Centre where our brass band and pipe band delighted audiences with a varied evening's programme in the Brian Duguid Auditorium.

The day after this performance the brass band were again performing, this time at the Excellence in Practice conference.

Nationally, this year West Lothian West Lothian Schools Symphony Orchestra performed at the Festival of British Youth Orchestras in both Edinburgh (as part of

the Fringe) and Glasgow and flute group Flutissimo performed at Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh at the EIS Annual Lecture. West Lothian Schools Brass Band continued to be in huge demand. Their national performances this year included a performance in the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow as guests of the Phoenix Choir, taking part in "Carol Smillies Christmas Cracker" concert at Kelvingrove Art Gallery, performing in the Gala concert at the Besson Solo and Ensemble Championships and in a joint concert with the Fine Arts Brass ensemble and Katrina Marzella as part of the Bathgate Music Festival. The band also played at the Scottish Brass Band Association Scottish Solo and Ensemble Championships final and the RSAMD Brass open day. This performance was transmitted on BBC Radio2. Jamie Shade , euphonium player with WLSBB won the Best Instrumentalist award at the British championships.

West Lothian's young musicians play in concert halls, community festivals and a host of other venues across the world thanks to the district's thriving twinning programme. Most recently West Lothian Schools Symphony Orchestra toured in Seville, performing 3 concerts to capacity audiences and some pipers from West Lothian Schools Pipe Band and some fiddlers from West Lothian Schools Fiddle group performed in Grapevine, Texas. West Lothian Schools Wind Ensemble and Collyville High School Wind Band from Texas performed in a marquee in Linlithgow as part of the Linlithgow Rotary Clubs children's concert. Children from Linlithgow Academy music department also performed. The Texan wind band were on a week long exchange visit to West Lothian. West Lothian also has a long standing arrangement with Hochsauerland in Germany and young string players from West Lothian and Germany joined forces to rehearse and perform a joint concert. The brass band are frequent visitors to the Sauerland Herbst festival of brass and a group of West Lothians instrumental teachers have been invited to play at the Gleidorf Music Festival in Germany as part of this twinning arrangement. Linlithgow is twinned with Guyancourt in France and this recently resulted in an exchange by groups of string players.

Competitions and Awards

West Lothian's Area Ensembles continually strive to raise the quality of their playing and test their success by taking part in competitions and applying for national awards. West Lothian Schools Brass Band are Scottish Youth Brass Band Champions for the fourth consecutive year, British and European Champions. West Lothian Schools Wind Ensemble were awarded a silver at the NCBF Scottish finals and the West Lothian Schools Big Band were awarded a Gold. West Calder High School Senior Wind band were awarded a Gold and invited to the finals in Cardiff where they also were awarded a Gold. St Margaret's Junior Wind Band gained a silver and James Young High School gained a bronze. West Lothian Schools Guitar Ensemble performed a Gala concert in the Queens Hall, Edinburgh after they were awarded first place in the Guitar Ensemble open class of the Edinburgh Festival of Music, Speech and Dance. In 2008 West Lothian's Instrumental Music Service was presented with a Diploma award by the National Music Council and a "Will Michael Diploma" for its work in jazz.

Workshops and Masterclasses

Workshops developed to support the tuition of different ensembles include Rock Platform, double bass masterclasses and Guitar Fest.

The annual Rock Platform has been developed by the addition of a day of master classes in aspects of musicianship, performance and business giving school based rock bands an opportunity to polish their skills before they perform at the Rock Platform showcase performance at the Regal theatre. 38 young people from 9

secondary schools participated. The prize of recording time at a local recording studio was awarded to KYOKUDO, a rock band from St Margaret's Academy for the best original song.

Guitar Fest is a non-competitive weekend of tuition, master classes and concerts attended by more than 40 young musicians. Led by professional guitarist Philip Thorn the weekend gives West Lothian's young guitarists the opportunity to interact with musicians from other ensembles and to play and perform with professional musicians. The guitar fest started off with a performance by BBC Classical Star finalist Ian Watt and the following day by Laura Husbands, second place Ivor Mairants International Classical Guitar Competition 2007.

8 double bass pupils attended RSAMD StringFest which was a collaboration with RSAMD Musicworks and the Scottish Bass trust. This was a two day event containing workshops, ensemble playing and coaching on exam pieces, full of tips on playing double bass. It was attended by young bass players and their teachers from all over Scotland.

Partnerships

Instrumental Music Service capitalises on a range of partnerships with national bodies and organisations including the National Youth Choir of Scotland and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama to bring the best of different styles of music to West Lothian. Under the partnership with NYCoS this year, every Primary 3 class in West Lothian was given a 45 minute workshop session of singing, games and rhymes (2030 pupils). 207 pupils from 33 primary schools then applied to attend P3 evening Play and Sing groups. Those P3's who were unable to attend the evening groups will be offered a day of singing and rhymes in June.

We are delighted to have been involved in a pilot project at St Nicholas primary school where a nursery/primary one project was run by Lucinda Geoghegan. It links with Curriculum for Excellence – Active Learning. NYCoS provided activity packs for the teachers with lesson aims, outcomes and support for the members of staff involved. The children were divided into groups, which rotated round four leaders. All active staff received one-to-one development opportunities on site whilst working with small groups and carried out assessments on a weekly basis. It is planned to roll this programme out to other primary schools in 2009/10.

The partnership with RSAMD Youthworks involves 112 pupils taking part in Saturday String School. These Saturday morning workshops take place in Armadale and Livingston throughout the year and consist of weekly lessons of 30 minutes of musicianship 30 minutes instrumental lesson and then 30 minutes of ensemble work. The children taking part also attended a cross centre residential weekend of rehearsals with young people from music centres throughout Scotland, the weekend culminated in a concert at the RSAMD.

9 April 2008 was the culmination of West Lothian Works, an ambitious partnership project devised by RSAMD Youthworks (now Musicworks) and Instrumental Music Service that took over Livingston's Vue Cinema to stage an evening of world premiere films, each accompanied by original scores played live on stage by West Lothian Schools Symphony Orchestra. Each film and film score was written, created acted and filmed by young people in West Lothian schools.

This collaborative project involved more than 800 West Lothian primary and secondary school pupils from 28 schools, their teachers and professional musicians, composers and film makers from the Royal Scottish Academy of music and Drama. Each school created films and accompanying original music scores. An

independent panel of judges selected the best four film and music combinations to play at the premiere. West Lothian Council's Instrumental Music Service then worked with 34 young musicians of the West Lothian Schools Symphony Orchestra, students from the RSAMD and professional musicians and conductor Chris Gray, (Head of RSAMD Youthworks Music Centres) to learn, practice and rehearse the new scores, put them together with the film scores (a feat of timing!) and some classic movie music.

Another recent jazz partnership project was Scottish National Jazz Orchestra Masterworks which was free to all of the young musicians involved in both jazz ensembles. Seven workshops took place with members of the SNJO led by Tommy Smith, culminating in a concert with the SNJO in West Lothian to which parents, teachers, family and friends were invited. 52 children took part with 6 instrumental music staff also participating as part of their programme of continuing professional development. The pupils were given the rare opportunity to access professional jazz musicians insight, knowledge and guidance. They each received free packs including a workbook, a Jamey Aebersold Play – A – Long and workbook and the new Tommy Smith Youth Jazz Orchestra CD. They were also given a subsidised opportunity to attend several of Tommy Smith's concerts including the Scottish National Youth Jazz Orchestra at the City Halls in Glasgow.

West Lothian Council's Instrumental Music Service is looking forward to a busy and productive 2009 when it will build on current strengths and continue to develop the programme creating more opportunities for more young musicians to learn and play music of the highest quality.

DEPLOYMENT OF RESOURCES

Financial Year 2008/2009

Expenditure

Employee Costs	1,646,640	(including Instrumental Music staff)
Premises Costs	61,548	
Transport Costs	47,203	
Supplies & Services	768,527	
Third Party Payments	56,793	
Capital Charges	182,325	
Capital Financing Costs	100,000	
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	<u>2,863,036</u>	
 <i>Income</i>		
<i>Total Income</i>	<u>-636,582</u>	

**TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE
BEFORE SUPPORT SERVICES**

2,226,455

CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

We aim to provide a high quality service and have set an annual target of 90% for overall customer satisfaction. We value feedback from our customers and encourage them to share their comments with us at every opportunity.

The results for the year are summarised below – the overall figure of excellent and good responses averages out at 89%, with 7% ok and 4% poor.

April – August 2008

Summary of Scores	No	%
No of overall responses	128	100%
Excellent	103	80%
Good	22	17%
OK	3	2%
Poor	0	0%

September – December 2008

Summary of Scores	No	%
No of overall responses	201	100%
Excellent	83	41%
Good	63	31%
OK	33	16%
Poor	22	11%

January – March 2009

Summary of Scores	No	%
No of overall responses	62	100%
Excellent	47	76%
Good	14	23%
OK	1	2%
Poor	0	0%

Arts Services Staffing Structure

Arts Services Manager
Colin Hutcheon

Administrative Assistant
Carol McLaughlan

Instrumental Music Service

Principal Officer of Instrumental Music
Juliet Hosie

Principal Officer of Instrumental Music
Steven Gray

Co-ordinator of IMS
Anne-Marie Vance

IMS Support Officer
Hugh Foster

Music Development Officer
Derek Rae

Instrumental Staff (in schools)
X27

Piano Technician/Tuner (Piano wk/shop)
Craig Brown

Arts Development

Principal Arts Officer
Susan Thores

Arts Development Officer
Camille Archer

Arts Development Officer
Julia Priestley

Visual Arts Assistant
Dawn McPherson

Arts Development Officer
Anne-Marie Vance

Marketing Officer
Maggie Mackay

Arts Marketing Assistant
Paul Snelling

Clerical Assistant
Robina McGregor

Arts Education

Arts Education Officer
Laura Tyrrell

Dance Development Officer
Emma Jones

Cultural Co-ordinator
Nancy Douglas

Cultural Co-ordinator
Fiona MacFarlane

Howden Park Centre

Centre Manager
Amanda Young

Head Chef
Scott Kirkham

Technical Co-ordinator
Ian Gibson

Chefs
Rachel Dawson
Jerry Lewalski

Technician
Kirsty Sutherland

Kitchen Assistant
Stuart Fisher

Front of House Co-ordinator
Fiona Haldane

Catering Co-ordinator
Maggie Page

Box Office Assistants
Alan Burns
Leanne Arkley
Caroline White
Maria Dagnall

Bar Supervisor
Lorraine Robertson

Venue Assistants
Donald Brownlee
Russell Boyd
Peter Marek
Stuart Ferguson

Venue Assistants
Casual Staff x 14