



# LOCALITY PLAN Whitburn & Blackburn Ward 2008 – 2011

| Issue identified  | Action proposed  |
|---|--|
| Research showed that there were feelings of isolation amongst many older people locally   | Volunteering Project   |
| Statistics showed that part of Polkemmet had 34% of pensioners claiming Pension Credits compared to the national average of 19%. It is thought that only around 65% of eligible older people actually claim this. | Financial Inclusion Project based from shop unit on West Main Street in Whitburn which includes advice services on advice on pensions, entitlement to benefits, heating allowance, as well as other information about health and for carers. |
| Lack of information about services working with older people and lack of networking of existing older people's organisations  | Established older people's forum to meet every four months for local older people's representatives to facilitate information sharing, and promote health and well-being   |
| Older people identified a gap in provision at weekends of Wanderer bus service  | Extension of Wanderer Bus Service provision to include Saturday mornings   |

## Priority D: Early Years in Blackburn

### Reason for selection of this priority

Statistics show that two of the seven datazones (or neighbourhoods) covering Blackburn are in the top 15% in Scotland in terms of overall levels of disadvantage, with another four in the top 25%. Early intervention is seen as key to breaking the cycle of disadvantage.

Local workers had initially identified a lack of co-ordination of services and activities for early years children and therefore an early years group of various services has been working together to develop services and activities in Blackburn to support parenting and the educational and health development of early years children. This also includes working to build the capacity of parents to influence decisions about services.

| Issue identified   | Action proposed   |
|--|---|
| Local workers have observed poor dietary and weaning of early years children | 'Wean the weans' Community Health and Development project                     |
| Need to support parents that are not engaged in other services               | Support continuation of 'Fun Friday's' programme                              |
| Need to support local parents in helping develop services for early years    | Building capacity of parents towards forming a parents committee in Blackburn |
| Lack of information about early years activity                               | Develop newsletter for parents about local early years activity               |

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## 1. Introduction

The West Lothian Community Planning Partnership has committed itself to developing and delivering Locality Plans in each of the nine multi-member wards. Locality Planning is about planning and developing services at a local level, allowing services to be targeted in the most appropriate way and providing a more complementary, co-ordinated approach to service delivery.

The West Lothian Community Planning Partnership (CPP) brings together statutory, voluntary and private sector organisations who work together to plan and deliver services that can't be delivered by any partner on their own. The CPP has agreed a Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) which is an improvement plan for West Lothian based on jointly agreed outcomes that sets out targets against key priority areas.

The objectives of Locality Plans are to:-

- Support delivery of Single Outcome Challenges at local level
- Engage with and involve communities in identifying and addressing local priorities
- Provide a Focus for Action on local priorities
- Encourage integrated service delivery by Council Services and Community Planning partners

This plan is aligned to the Single Outcome Agreement, where it can contribute to the delivery of the challenges and outcomes. It has a particular focus on areas of deprivation; targeting key issues in local areas to improve the quality of life and reduce inequalities.

## 2. Whitburn & Blackburn Ward

This ward includes the communities of Blackburn, Greenrigg, Seafeld and Whitburn/East Whitburn. Whitburn is the largest settlement of the ward and has close links to the M8 motorway which bypasses the town. The Heartlands project is developing on the west of the town, renovating the disused land surrounding the old Polkemmet Colliery and will have an impact on the local economy and make-up of the town and surrounding communities. Combined with East Whitburn, the total population of the area is around 13,030.

Blackburn has had a growing population due to recent housing developments within the village. Including the surrounding rural areas, the population is around 6,161. This growth, as well as the growth in population of the adjacent village of Easter Inch, will present challenges and opportunities for service provision within the village in future.

Greenrigg, which has an estimated population of 1,167 including the surrounding rural area, is also part of this ward as well as Seafeld with a population of around 1,293 residents. Both these villages statistically show little signs of disadvantage.



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### 3. Information on Locality Planning Structure

In March 2008, a Steering Group for Locality Planning in the Whitburn and Blackburn Ward was formed consisting of local managers and officers of services across the Community Planning Partnership to agree the themed priorities for the ward which Locality Planning would address.

They determined two new priorities for the locality; Young People and Employability. These add to the priorities of Early Years in Blackburn and Older People in Whitburn which were defined as priority issues through the previous Locality Plans for Bathgate and Whitburn respectively (these were based on non-denominational school catchment areas previous to multi-member wards).

These local priorities both recognise opportunity and tackle disadvantage and will be validated through further community engagement work and discussions with relevant senior officers. Once these priorities were identified as themes, working groups of the relevant services across the Community Planning Partnership were established. These groups have brought together the relevant services and organisations to collectively plan and act to address the local issues identified within their theme. Details of the composition of the partnership groups can be found overleaf.

The full Locality Plan contains a Community Profile; section on Community Engagement; information on the Locality Planning Structure; detailed Action Plans; SOA challenges and outcomes; update on Life Stage Outcome Model pilots; and a Reporting / Review / Governance section. The main part is the Action Plan which details current activities and proposed activities that contribute to achievement of the outcomes.

### 4. Reporting / Review / Governance

This locality plan will be presented to Community Planning Partners in the ward and the Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee (LAC) for validation.

Quarterly reports on locality planning activity will be provided to the LAC to allow progress to be monitored. One of these reports will be an annual report highlighting performance relating to the indicators identified in the plan. Prior to annual presentation of the plan to committee, the locality plan will be reviewed by the Steering Group and/or partnership groups, where activity can be reviewed and new activity created.

There are several priorities which feature strongly across a number of Locality Plans. For each of these an existing or new West Lothian wide group will monitor the totality of interventions, consider the progress and outcomes from each locality action plan and how this should influence provision across the CPP area. These groups will specifically include partners who may not be able to participate in each individual locality working group.

The Locality Plans will be reviewed in April 2009.

### 5. Locality Plan Summary

A summary is given to the right, of the priorities identified in this locality plan, and what activity has been developed in response to these.

#### Priority A: Young People

##### Reason for selection of this priority

Young People, as a broad theme, was identified as a priority for the ward by the Steering Group. To take this forward it was agreed to have two multi-agency groups (one for Whitburn and one for Blackburn) as the issues were thought to be different in both communities, as well as the personnel of services involved in these areas. Whilst the issues in the areas may vary, one theme that is consistent across both is to engage the views of young people in this process.

| Issue identified  | Action proposed   |
|---|---|
| Statistics show that the six datazones that cover Blackburn have consistently high numbers of teenage pregnancies relative to West Lothian, and there are between 9-18 teenage pregnancies in Blackburn on an annual basis. | Development of Healthy Respect drop-in based in new youth facility in Blackburn Community Education Centre.             |
| Few girls are attending youth provision in Blackburn  | West Lothian Youth Action Project are developing a 'girls group' on Friday afternoons.                                  |
| Lack of information about what services and activities there are for young people in both the Whitburn and Blackburn areas.   | Youth directories are being put together for both areas.  |
| Lack of representation of young people in community organisations   | Youth Action Project will aim to support young people to participate in Blackburn Community Centre Management Committee |

#### Priority B: Employability

##### Reason for selection of this priority

In terms of how the Scottish Government measure disadvantage, two 'datazones' (or neighbourhoods) in the ward are in the top 15% in Scotland in terms of numbers of people out of work, with at least another seven in the top 20%. The ward itself has the joint highest rate of incapacity benefit in West Lothian. Also, there are relatively high rates of young people leaving school and not going into employment, further education or training.

| Issue identified   | Action proposed  |
|--|--|
| Whitburn Academy had the second lowest % of leavers entering positive destinations in West Lothian in 2006                           | Whitburn Academy is piloting a More Choices, More Chances Project which aims to target and support young people at risk of leaving school without going into employment or further training/education, and re-engage them into the learning process. |
| According to the SIMD (2006) particularly areas of high concentration of people out of work are in the north-east part of Blackburn. | A door-knocking campaign has been proposed which will aim to engage those out of work with employability agencies, and will focus on these particular areas initially.   |

#### Priority C: Older People in Whitburn

##### Reason for selection of this priority

The impetus for this priority was that, in 2006 statistics had indicated there were significant levels of income deprivation correlated to a high elderly population within Whitburn. Relevant services and local representatives were brought together to form a partnership group and further engagement with the community was also undertaken in the area to further identify the needs and issues of elderly residents, which together formed the basis of their actions.

