

Ex-children wanted

Our annual campaign to recruit people from all walks of life to sit on your local Children's Panel begins in September 2008.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Children's Panel please join us at one of the following open evenings to find out how you can get involved

Tues 16th Sept 08 – West Lothian House @ 6pm

Thurs 18th Sept 08 – West Lothian House @ 6pm

Mon 22nd Sept 08 – Bathgate Academy @ 6pm

Weds 24th Sept 08 – Strathbrock Partnership Centre, Broxburn @ 6pm

For more information please see overleaf or visit:

www.infoscotland.com/childrenshearings



1 What is the Children's Panel?

The Children's Hearings system combines welfare and justice for vulnerable and troubled children/young people from birth to 17 years of age.

The Children's Panel is a group of volunteers appointed by Scottish Ministers following extensive vetting and training and forms part of the Scottish Children's Hearings system.

Each of Scotland's 32 local authorities has a children's panel, which represents a cross-section of the local community.

2 What do members of the Children's Panel do?

In the Children's Hearings system, members of the Children's Panel help make decisions on what is best for vulnerable children/young people who are, for example, at risk of:

- physical, sexual or emotional abuse
- parental neglect
- being out of control
- offending
- not going to school
- taking drugs or alcohol.

Members of the Children's Panel meet the child, family and relevant professionals to discuss the issues and decide what is in the best interests of the child/young person.

3 Why do we need more members of the Children's Panel?

As each hearing involves 3 members of the Children's Panel, it is important that there are enough members to cover all of the hearings that need to take place.

We also monitor how representative the Children's Panel is of the local community, and sometimes we need to recruit more people from certain areas or groups.

4 What should I do if I am interested in becoming a member of the Children's Panel?

Join us at one of our open evenings held throughout the district – details on the reverse of this leaflet

There you will be able to find out more information on the commitment required to become a Panel Member and take away an application form.