



West Lothian Local Police Plan

2017 to 2020

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1. Introduction

Section 47 of the Police & Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 states that the local police commander must prepare a 'Local Police Plan' that sets out priorities for the policing of that local authority area. The plan must set out the reasons for selecting the priorities and identify how the success of those priorities may be measured.

This is the 2017 to 2020 Local Police Plan for West Lothian.

The policing priorities in this Local Policing Plan were identified using

- A Strategic Assessment (an analysis of risks and threats likely to impact on communities)
- Results from the Public Consultation Survey "Your View Counts" (Your View Counts is a new process for public consultation available online 365 days a year at www.scotland.police.uk. The consultation survey can also be obtained through your local police station)
- The West Lothian Council Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (West Lothian Community Planning Partnership Single Outcome Agreement 2013 to 2023)

The Local Authority together with local partners and communities were consulted throughout the development of the Local Police Plan.

West Lothian Council say

Executive Councillor – Services for the Community

‘Ensuring that all our citizens can live their lives free from the fear of crime is a high priority for West Lothian Council and therefore I welcome the Local Policing Plan for West Lothian which clearly details the priorities for the West Lothian area over the next three years.

West Lothian Council, our Community Planning Partners, Community Councils and local Residents and Tenants Groups have an excellent record of working in partnership with Police Scotland to improve the safety of our communities and it is vital that work continues’.

2. Police Scotland

Police Scotland was formed on 1st April 2013.

Since that date the service has faced many challenges and has sought to evolve in a progressive and constructive manner reflecting changes in society and local communities. Within these challenges the service has attempted to identify and take advantage of new opportunities to strengthen both local and national policing.

Whilst this Plan confirms the local policing priorities for the next 3 years, these changes in our society and local communities mean that the police service has to adjust to continue to operate effectively.

In May 2017, Policing 2026 'Serving a Changing Scotland', a 10 year strategy for policing was launched, setting a clear direction for long-term operational and financial sustainability and providing the opportunity to achieve our vision of 'sustained excellence in service and protection'.

Over the next ten years, the police service will need to make productive use of limited resources to create the ability to focus on early intervention and prevention by addressing inequalities. Also to improve the overall impact of the service, working more intelligently with partners and the public to deliver **better outcomes for communities.**

3. All About West Lothian

West Lothian is one of the fastest growing areas in Scotland, a trend that is predicted to continue, with the population set to increase by 19.3% by 2035 (2010-2035). Notably, the population aged below 16 is projected to increase by 13.3% and by 52% in respect of those of pensionable age, within this period. The number of dwellings and households in West Lothian is further projected to increase by 30%, a figure significantly higher than the national average of 23%.

Covering 165 square miles, reaching from Broxburn in the East to Blackridge in the West, West Lothian towns and villages are located across a diverse mix of urban and rural landscapes. Covering a large portion of the central belt of Scotland, West Lothian provides an attractive base for a range of industries due to its location between the cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh together with its excellent transport links.

The predicted increases in population and housing will undoubtedly add to the demands placed on public services in West Lothian. The face of policing in Scotland has and must adapt and respond to the new challenges these changes in demographic and society will bring. The predicted rise in the elderly and under 16's will place specific demands on Police Scotland and our partners as well as challenges linked to emerging trends in criminality such as cyber crime and financial harm.

In the context of these predictions, significant disparities still exist in West Lothian with 13% of the population experiencing income deprivation and almost 9000 people in West Lothian, around 5% of its population, living within some of the most deprived areas in Scotland. With research suggesting that those affected by social inequality are more likely to have poorer physical and mental health than the general population we must continue to work collaboratively to tackle inequality.

Police Scotland also recognise that around 80% of police work relates to non-criminal events, dealing also with wider societal issues such as missing persons, mental health related enquiries and vulnerabilities.

A cohesive society requires engagement from all partner agencies in order to understand and better serve our communities and tackle and reduce inequalities. **With limited resources aligned to changing and increasing demands, we must work creatively with partners in the spirit engendered by the Community Empowerment Act to ensure our communities in West Lothian receive the service they expect and deserve.**

*(Source: West Lothian Community Planning Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2013-2023).

Police Resources

Within West Lothian our operating model was established with local communities at its heart, focusing on working collaboratively with partners to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities across the county and keep people safe. Uniformed resources are split between community and response policing teams.

Named and dedicated community officers work within each council ward to deliver consistent, local engagement and effective partnership working. In addition to this, teams of response officers work in collaboration with partners to make our communities safer and improve community wellbeing as well as responding to calls from the public and emergency situations.

Within West Lothian, Youth Community Officers work in partnership across each of West Lothian's High Schools focusing on early intervention and restorative justice, developing proactive strategies to reduce truancy and exclusion, engaging with pupils and offering support and advice to improve their life outcomes.

Community Action Teams represent a flexible, local resource, able to respond to emerging crime trends, working proactively to address community priorities, targeting anti-social behaviour and a wealth of other related demands, all with a thread of prevention and localism as directed by the Local Area Commander.

The breakdown of locally based operational uniformed resources is 9 Inspectors, 24 Sergeants and 195 Constables split across the roles outlines above.

In support of this model, West Lothian Council provides part funding for 21 officers who work within Community Policing Teams, making a significant contribution across West Lothian to tackle Community Priorities.

A large number of specialised resources including Crime Investigation, Roads Policing, Public Protection, Intelligence Development and Pro-Active teams are also deployed locally to support front line policing.

In addition to this, both regional and national resources when required further augment our policing model. Examples of these resources include Operational Support Teams, Major Investigation Teams, Cyber Crime Investigation, Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit, National Rape Investigation Unit as well as Flexible Deployment Teams who support local officers in addressing local issues.

Police Buildings

Police Scotland needs modern, flexible buildings, which are fit for the future. We will seek to embed modern working practices and technology to help shape future service provision, whilst maximising opportunity for partnership working, from a modern and efficient asset base.

Evidence shows that co-location and shared services between partners leads to closer collaboration and, ultimately, better outcomes for the communities they serve. An example of forward looking, creative partnership working, where the police, local authority and our communities seek to benefit from a flexible estate strategy can be seen in the West Lothian Civic Centre where police officers are co-located with Local Authority partners, providing more coherent and efficient working practices.

This approach will further enhance **collaboration and partnership working.**

4. Delivery of the West Lothian Local Police Plan 2014-2017

Over the last three years, Police in West Lothian have worked extremely hard alongside partners to address the issues of greatest concern to the communities of West Lothian.

Additional resources have been focused on tackling Domestic Abuse with significant work undertaken to target offenders and provide greater support to Victims.

Incidents of antisocial behaviour have decreased with partnership work undertaken daily to address issues as they arise. Community Safety arrangements in West Lothian continue to be viewed as Best Practice within Scotland and Police Scotland play a leading role in this regard. Our approach has been supplemented with the introduction of Community Action Teams last year, which compliment the existing arrangements.

Road Safety figures have, however, shown an increase in serious injury accidents, which is attributable to a higher number of accidents on trunk roads and motorways in the past three years. Levels remain below national targets and work continues to make our roads safer.

Violent crime has also increased over the past three years and work has been undertaken to address this with dedicated weekend policing plans targeting hot spot areas. In addition, we have been working with partners to roll out prevention campaigns targeting high schools and licensed premises in particular.

We have worked to disrupt serious and organised crime with an increase noted in drug supply charges and enforcement activities in this area by robustly targeting identified groups.

Domestic housebreakings have reduced which is extremely positive with an overall increase in the number of crimes detected. A specialist team continues to monitor the trends of this crime type and tackle recidivist offenders robustly.

5. Better Outcomes for Communities

This 2017-2020 Local Police Plan represents a positive shift in approach with a greater focus on longer-term outcomes, in line with that of West Lothian Council Community Planning Partners.

The successful achievement of these outcomes will rely on excellent local delivery and joint working across the Community Planning Partnership. Our primary focus will be reducing harm within our communities, prioritising resources to the areas of greatest need, supporting the most vulnerable in our communities and targeting those who cause the greatest harm. We will work hard to engage effectively with all of our communities and maximise public trust and confidence.

Accordingly, all the identified priorities for the policing of West Lothian have been aligned to the themes within the West Lothian Community Planning Partnership Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2013 to 2023 and the relevant outcomes centre on the reduction of harm in our communities.

The relationships between outcomes, themes and police priorities are illustrated in the following 2 tables;

Table 1 – Better Outcomes for Communities

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

West Lothian Community Planning Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2013 to 2023

Theme as per West Lothian Community Planning Partnership Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2013 to 2023	Identified Police Priority	Short Term Police Outcome
Protecting People	Child protection	Children at risk are safer and less vulnerable
	Child sexual abuse & exploitation	Children at risk are safer and less vulnerable
	Missing persons	To reduce the harm and instances
	Sexual crimes	To reduce the harm
	Adults at risk	Adults at risk are safer and less vulnerable
	Financial harm including doorstep crime & fraud	To reduce the instances and harm
	Cyber crime	To reduce the harm
	Housebreakings and theft	To reduce the instances and harm

Table 2 - Better Outcomes for Communities

We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities

West Lothian Community Planning Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2013 to 2023

Theme as per West Lothian Community Planning Partnership Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2013 to 2023	Identified Police Priority	Short Term Police Outcome
Reducing Antisocial Behaviour & Hate Crime	Antisocial behaviour & hate crime	To reduce the harm
Reducing Violence	Domestic abuse	To reduce the harm
	Crimes of violence	To reduce the harm caused by public and private space violence
Tackling Substance Misuse	Misuse drugs & alcohol	To reduce the harm
Reduce Home, Fire and Road Casualties	Road casualties	To reduce the instances and harm
Tackling Serious and Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism	Drugs, financial harm & fear	To reduce the harm
	Extremism & terrorism	To reduce the risk

6. Achieving Priorities & Outcomes

The following pages demonstrate how we will practically achieve priorities and outcomes through policing in collaboration with partners and communities.

Achieving Priorities & Outcomes

Child Protection, Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation, Missing Persons, Sexual Crimes, Adults at Risk, Financial Harm including Doorstep Crime and Fraud, Cyber Crime, Housebreakings and Theft

To ensure people most at risk are protected and supported to achieve improved life chances we will ...

- Be open, responsive and accountable to victims, witnesses and communities, giving them an effective voice and working to develop new ways to meet their needs such as a better understanding of cultural and diversity requirements;
- Protect victims and the most vulnerable within our communities, working in partnership, sharing relevant information and taking collaborative action as a partnership to support these individuals by providing education, support, intervention and referral, making it easier for victims of crime to get help and support;
- Enhance our investigations into missing people and provide appropriate support to individuals and families;
- Remain committed to the development of strong partnerships in order to protect children and young people and to promote wellbeing within our communities through referral, early effective intervention, education and enforcement. Through the proactive sharing of information, identify those most exposed to risk allowing us to implement effective measures for their protection.

CASE STUDY - “Fearless” Campaign & Operation Sandorne

In West Lothian a rolling programme to deliver the ‘Fearless’ campaign across all of West Lothian’s high schools continues aimed at educating and encouraging 11-16 year olds to speak out about crime. An anonymous reporting system run by Crimestoppers, Fearless provides a bespoke website offering advice, help and support to young people on the issues surrounding crime and criminality as well as a safe place to provide anonymous information regarding crime and its perpetrators.

Supported further by online media resources including Facebook and Twitter, providing a variety of videos, workbooks and school learning materials, Fearless is now being integrated within the curriculum for excellence reinforcing empowerment through education. See www.fearless.org

Operation Sandorne is an ongoing initiative in West Lothian, aimed at targeting drug dealing amongst schoolchildren, complimenting the prevention aspect of the Fearless campaign through robust enforcement. Formed following the suspected drugs-death of a school pupil who died after taking ecstasy tablets supplied by another pupil, Operation Sandorne delivers a zero tolerance approach to drug dealing within this peer group, with police officers taking fast executive action in response to information regarding drug dealing alongside effective interventions for those children and young persons identified as being involved in drugs supply.

Providing a multi agency approach to drug supply, supporting interventions and prevention through education, Operation Sandorne has had considerable success, including the recovery of drugs with a street value of £71,240 to date. Through collaboration with partners these schemes help empower children and young persons to make better more informed decisions about their lives. Martin Berginis, Child Protection Officer for West Lothian Council Education said *“Pupils from Inveralmond Community High School, Broxburn Academy and Linlithgow Academy have engaged well with the Crimestoppers: Fearless promotion. Fearless pupil volunteers identified in each school have also taken on added responsibility for helping to share the key messages of the programme. The initiative has made a real contribution to making pupils safer as evidenced through surveys and the level of actual usage of the Fearless platform in West Lothian.”*

CASE STUDY - Looked after Children as Missing Persons

In West Lothian, we recognised that looked after children were, by the very nature of their age and circumstances, a particularly vulnerable group within our communities and at even greater risk of harm if they became a missing person. (The term 'looked after children' refers to children and young people who are in care or accommodated).

Although the vast majority of missing persons return or are found quickly, missing children are at an increased risk of exposure to physical, emotional and sexual abuse and we must ensure we do all that we can in West Lothian to prevent children from going missing in the first instance and reduce the risk of exposure to harm whilst missing.

The introduction of the Missing Person Local Partnership framework together with the National Missing Person Strategy facilitates the provision of a consistent response to looked after children missing from residential units and foster care settings using the principles of Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC; National approach to improving the wellbeing of every child).

In West Lothian, we recognise that tackling this issue requires a multi-agency response together with co-ordination across a range of policy areas with partners. Supported by the national framework and strategy, regular meetings are held with representatives from Education, Child Protection, Youth Inclusion and other third sector agencies that receive Community Safety partnership funding as well as senior staff from each of our residential establishments to share information, and work together to identify and address the often complex and interconnected issues that contribute to each child going missing. This allows us to reach collectively informed decisions to reduce the likelihood of these children going missing again.

By working together to protect children and minimise the harm they may experience, this process identifies those children most at risk of harm or, an increased likelihood of offending behaviour whilst missing, and aims to implement early intervention and medium and longer term strategies which enables those children to reach positive destinations beyond the horizons of their care home setting.

CASE STUDY - Financial Harm, Operation Monarda

In West Lothian we continue to successfully deliver Operation Monarda, a high profile national campaign, delivered locally to tackle all forms of bogus callers and associated doorstep crime. These crimes have a devastating impact on the lives of their victims, particularly the elderly and vulnerable and can have potentially serious consequences for their life chances.

This campaign sees police work in partnership with a range of agencies including Trading Standards, The Department of Work and Pensions, Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA), the DVLA, UKBA and HMRC focussing on prevention through locally delivered education and media campaigns.

Working with partners to deliver high profile media campaigns through the distribution of literature to the public, private and third party sectors to help raise awareness of the prevalence of financial crime and what to look out for helps our community in employing preventative measures. This also assists Police Scotland in the gathering of intelligence to identify emerging threats, prevent crime and apprehend offenders.

In addition to prevention, robust, multi-agency enforcement days are held which sees the deployment of officers utilising a range of policing tactics to specifically target the perpetrators of these crimes, disrupting and detecting criminality.

Reducing the number of individuals affected by doorstep crime, Operation Monarda keeps vulnerable groups safe and empowers our local communities.

Achieving Priorities & Outcomes

Antisocial Behaviour, Hate Crime, Domestic Abuse, Crimes of Violence, Misuse of Drugs & Alcohol, Road Casualties, Drugs Financial Harm & Fear, Extremism & Terrorism

To ensure **we live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities** we will ...

- Work with partners to prevent and reduce criminality, ensuring that the most vulnerable members of our communities are protected, focussing on the offences and offenders that cause the greatest harm, whilst ensuring our staff and services are accessible and responsive;
- Work in partnership to prevent and reduce the instances of domestic abuse and crimes of violence through effective early intervention, enforcement and education, identifying those perpetrators who present the greatest risk of harm, actively targeting and utilising all available methods to reduce the threat posed by them;
- Tackle criminality and the misuse of drugs and alcohol through effective early intervention, education and enforcement ensuring victims and perpetrators are referred and signposted to the relevant support agencies to minimise the opportunity of repeat victimisation and offending;
- Continue to work intelligently with partners and communities to tackle the issues surrounding antisocial behaviour, focussing on those most affected by this and reducing the distress caused to our communities;
- Influence road user behaviour and improve road safety awareness through education, initiatives, activities and enforcement;
- Prevent Serious organised crime and target, disrupt and deter those involved;
- Protect our communities from the threat of terrorism, contributing fully to the UK Government CONTEST Strategy in respect of terrorism locally, across the region, nationally and internationally.

CASE STUDY - West Drive

Across West Lothian road safety is a priority, with young drivers being overrepresented in many serious and fatal road accidents. It is therefore important through education to ensure that young drivers understand that the skill of driving comes with a responsibility to keep people safe.

With many serious and fatal accidents occurring on rural roads, where the cause of the collision can be attributed to driver behaviour, helping young drivers develop excellent driving skills and an awareness of safety issues is important for the continuous improved safety of our road networks.

To address the issues surrounding young drivers, a programme of events to emphasise risk and support good driving behaviour is provided for all senior pupils at high schools across West Lothian. Working with partners including Transport Scotland, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, the Scottish Ambulance Service, local cycling groups, West Lothian Community Safety Unit and third party organisations, Police Scotland deliver an educational event which includes a theatre performance, followed by group discussion and debate surrounding the issues arising from the play as well as inputs from partners regarding their experiences when attending road traffic collisions. The Police Scotland Roads Policing Unit provides information on some of the responsibilities that young drivers have and the potential consequences of ignoring these. Following this formal session, attendees interact with representatives from all agencies, stimulating discussion and an enhanced awareness of the dangers that can be faced on our roads.

Having run for several years this programme is very successful with 76% of attendees stating the event would have a direct impact on their driving and feeling more able to challenge other road users behaviour as a result.

Positive feedback from this year's event has been received from staff across West Lothian with the Head of Senior House at St Margaret's Academy stating *'It was a great event. The cyber goggles the pupils loved and found very realistic. Would love to bring them into school.'*

CASE STUDY - Domestic Abuse, the Disclosure Scheme

The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse in Scotland was introduced in 2015, aimed at providing a formal approach to the sharing of relevant information to potential victims of domestic abuse about their partners abusive past by providing them with a 'right to ask' and Police Scotland with a 'power to tell'.

In West Lothian, Local Decision Making Forums, comprising Police Scotland Domestic Abuse Task Force officers, Social Work Services and third sector agencies including the West Lothian Domestic and Sexual Abuse Team, work together to consider whether to disclose information regarding a persons criminal past. This is designed to enable the partner of a previously violent or abusive individual to make informed choices about whether and how to continue in that relationship. The scheme operates at both a local and national level and provides a formal mechanism for the better management of risk.

The scale of the problem of domestic abuse cannot be overstated and in West Lothian we continue our determined fight against the harm it causes.

This scheme compliments our existing policies and procedures, helping the most vulnerable members of our communities, providing them with the information and support they require to make informed choices in their lives.

CASE STUDY – Prevent E-Learning Package – Counter Terrorism

Police Scotland is committed to protecting communities by reducing and mitigating the risk and impact of terrorism to Scotland and its communities. Vulnerable individuals in our communities may be at an increased risk of radicalisation and extremism.

By creating a working group utilising specialist officers at a regional and divisional level and partners in education, NHS, Scottish Ambulance Service, utility companies, etc. the Lothian and Scottish Borders produced a bespoke 'Prevent' E Learning package for partners from the ground-up. This package was produced with the aim of stopping individuals becoming radicalised by extremists by including and working with partners in education, faith, health and criminal justice and supporting them to recognise potential risks and enabling them, through their workforce, to address those risks in the best way.

The E-learning package has provided a consistent approach to training in this important area and over 3,000 local authority staff have completed the training course so far, including West Lothian, reducing the risk of vulnerable individuals becoming radicalised, and extremism and terrorism in our communities.

7. Measuring Success

As previously indicated, this 2017-2020 Local Police Plan represents the beginning of a move from short-term 3-year objectives to a focus on longer-term outcomes. Accordingly, these outcomes will not be fully achieved during the lifetime of this Plan.

There are many factors that influence short-term performance, but to allow for appropriate scrutiny, performance indicators have been identified from Police Scotland Quarterly Management Information that reflect a better focus on outcomes.

In monitoring progress towards outcomes, these police performance indicators should be considered in context with partner indicators within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

Police Performance Indicators are listed in Appendix 1.

8. Contact Us

Local Contact Details:

Livingston Police Station
West Lothian Civic Centre
Livingston
EH54 6FF

Telephone number: Single Non-Emergency, Number 101

Email: For all non-emergency issues or enquiries relating to Police business, you can contact us via:
mailto:WestLothianLPP@scotland.pnn.police.uk

This group email address is provided for you to discuss non-urgent local policing issues. It should not be used to report a crime or incident.

For information about your local Community Policing Team and other services that Police Scotland provides, please refer to the Force website at: <http://www.scotland.police.uk/>

We are here to help

- If you have any concerns or issues you wish to discuss, contact your local Community Policing Team.
- Dial 999 for an emergency that requires urgent police attention.
- For non-emergency contact, call 101, the single non-emergency number.
- If you have information about crime in your area and wish to provide it anonymously, call CRIMESTOPPERS on 0800 555 111
- Service users who are deaf or have a hearing impairment can contact Police Scotland via TextRelay in an emergency on 18000 or non-emergency on 18001 101.

Social Media: [#keepingpeoplesafe](#) / Twitter: <http://twitter.com/policescotland> / Facebook: <http://facebook.com/policescotland>

9. Appendix 1 – Police Performance Indicators

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

Missing Person Incidents - Source: Quarterly Management Information

Sexual Crime (Group 2) Crime Rate per 10,000 population - Source: Quarterly Management Information

Housebreakings & Theft (Group 3) Crime Rate per 10,000 population - Source: Quarterly Management Information

We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities

Antisocial Behaviour Incidents per 10,000 population - Source: Quarterly Management Information

Racially Aggravated Conduct per 10,000 population - Source: Quarterly Management Information

Domestic Abuse Incidents - Source: Quarterly Management Information

Serious Assault (Group 1) Crime Rate per 10,000 population - Source: Quarterly Management Information

Road Casualties - Source: Quarterly Management Information