



POLICE
SCOTLAND

West Lothian
Local Policing Plan 2013-2014



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Policing Plan for 2013-2014

1. Introduction

This plan sets out the local policing priorities and objectives for West Lothian for 2013-2014 and is a statutory requirement of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012. It is produced as part of a planning process which takes account of the Scottish Government's overarching vision for public services, the Strategic Police Priorities set by Scottish Ministers, the Scottish Police Authority's Strategic Police Plan and the Chief Constable of Scotland's Annual Police Plan.

The Local Policing Plan for West Lothian represents a critical part of the delivery process for the new service, demonstrating our commitment to local policing within the national planning framework and enabling us to respond effectively to the concerns of local communities as well as meet and tackle nationwide demands. This local authority plan will be supported by nine community policing plans, which respond directly to local needs and demands.

2. Foreword by:

Chief Constable Stephen House QPM

This plan is the first under the new policing arrangements for Scotland. Local Policing will be the focus of the Police Service of Scotland and will deliver real improvements to the way services are delivered to local communities. Reform offers us the opportunity to improve accountability and increase scrutiny. This plan sets out our continuing commitment to 'Keeping People Safe'. It establishes the issues we believe are important to communities across Scotland. By delivering a local policing service that drives improvements against our priorities we can make a real difference in the quality of life for people in Scotland.

Vic Emery, Chair of the Scottish Police Authority

When it comes to local police services, one size doesn't fit all. Different communities across Scotland want access to the best expertise and services in policing - but they quite rightly expect police services to meet their area's needs and priorities. Your Local Policing Plan is a key part of making sure this happens, and keeping this local focus at the heart of community policing. These plans are linked to national priorities, but are based on local issues and what people say matters to them. They are also a very public commitment by Police Scotland on what it will deliver to make our communities safer. The Scottish Police Authority will be working with Police Scotland, partners and communities to ensure we all receive the best policing possible.

Councillor John McGinty, Leader of West Lothian Council

Ensuring that all our citizens can live their lives free from the fear of crime is a high priority for West Lothian Council and that is why we welcome the Local Policing Plan for our area.

West Lothian has an excellent record of working in partnership with the police to improve our communities, and whilst the way the police service is organised will change, we are committed to ensuring that we will continue to develop the very positive partnerships that have made our community safety model a national leader.

The Local Policing Plan reflects the priorities of our communities here in West Lothian, and the Council will do all we can to ensure that our area has a visible, effective police service.

Chief Superintendent Jeanette McDiarmid, Local Police Commander

As the Local Police Commander for West Lothian I am delighted to provide you with the first Local Policing Plan, as part of my statutory duty under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.

The Local Policing Plan for West Lothian sets out the key strategic priorities for policing and has been developed in collaboration with local communities and our partners, whilst taking national policing priorities and crime analysis into consideration. It prioritises the issues that really matter to local people. Police officers will focus on these identified priorities in order to reduce crime whilst robustly pursuing those responsible for committing such crimes.

I am committed to delivering the highest possible service to the people of West Lothian in order to improve safety and well being whilst increasing public confidence and satisfaction.

3. Priorities and Objectives

Priority 1 – Protecting People

Our officers are committed to protecting victims of serious sexual crime and vulnerable groups, including adults, children, and people experiencing domestic abuse.

Public protection activities in West Lothian ensure the most vulnerable members of our community are identified and given the support they require. It is vital that children and adults at risk, victims of serious sexual crime, domestic abuse or other vulnerable individuals are identified and offered the appropriate assistance to prevent an escalation of abuse or an increase in offending behaviour.

We will:

- Work in partnership to identify and protect those at risk through effective early intervention, education and enforcement;
- Proactively share information and intelligence to task and coordinate resources and change trends;
- Work together to deliver intelligence-led initiatives and reassure those individuals, groups and communities affected;
- Support, manage and rehabilitate offenders and support victims and their families.

Objectives:

- Increase detection rates for crimes of domestic abuse
- Increase the detection rate for sexual offences

The focus of police activity will be to ensure that the most vulnerable people within our communities are protected and feel safe. This will be achieved by identifying victims of crime and ensuring support mechanisms are in place for them.

The Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit will target the perpetrators of serious and complex domestic abuse cases and provide early and effective support to victims and their families. The Rape Investigation Unit will continue to deliver a victim-centered approach in partnership, provide investigative consistency and place victim welfare and support at the forefront of the investigation.

Priority 2 – Reducing Antisocial Behaviour

Our priority is to reduce antisocial behaviour and hate crime within our communities.

Antisocial behaviour and hate crime covers a range of activity that can have a detrimental impact upon the quality of life of individuals and communities. As well as making life unpleasant, it can hold back the regeneration of areas and create an environment where more serious crime can take hold. Both are also known to have an impact upon community cohesion.

We will:

- Work in partnership to prevent and reduce antisocial behaviour and hate crime through effective early intervention, enforcement and education;
- Proactively share information and intelligence to task and coordinate resources and change trends
- Work together to deliver intelligence-led initiatives, reassure communities affected, support and rehabilitate offenders and support victims.

Objectives:

- Reduce the number of antisocial behaviour incidents
- Increase the detection rate for hate crime

The antisocial behaviour picture in West Lothian is positive with proactive tasking and a preventative philosophy adopted throughout the partnership. There have been consistent decreases since the introduction of partnership Community Policing Teams and the establishment of the West Lothian Community Safety Unit.

Hate crime prevention activity has focused on building stronger links within our communities which has increased public confidence in reporting such crimes. There has also been greater engagement with secondary schools with community officers delivering bespoke educational inputs.

Priority 3 – Reducing Violence

Violence in our communities will not be tolerated and our officers are dedicated to making West Lothian a safer place.

Violent crime impacts on all members of society and is not limited by age, sex or ethnic origin. It causes fear amongst people such as the vulnerable and elderly and has a damaging impact on communities.

We will:

- Work in partnership to prevent and reduce instances of violence through effective early intervention, enforcement and education;
- Proactively share information and intelligence to task and coordinate resources and change trends;
- Work together to deliver intelligence-led initiatives, reassure communities affected, support, manage and rehabilitate offenders and support victims of violent crime.

Objectives:

- Reduce the level of violent crime
- Increase the proportion of positive stops and searches for offensive weapons

The impact and consequence of a violent incident has everlasting consequences upon all concerned. Weapon related crime and public space violence will be tackled through effective tasking and patrolling of identified hot spots.

Prevention activity will focus on the 'Straight to the Point' anti-knife campaign which is to be adopted at a national level by the 'No Knives Better Lives' campaign and the Best Bar None licensed venues initiative.

Priority 4 – Tackling Substance Misuse

Tackling the community and social harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse is imperative in West Lothian.

Substance misuse is a complex problem that impacts upon all our communities. It has far-ranging and harmful implications for individuals, families and neighbourhoods. The link between substance misuse and crime and disorder is well known and by tackling the harm caused to public safety we will improve the quality of life for many people in West Lothian and reduce the negative effect on local communities.

We will:

- Work in partnership to prevent drug and alcohol misuse through effective early intervention, education and enforcement;
- Proactively share information and intelligence to task and coordinate resources and change trends;
- Work together to deliver intelligence-led initiatives and reassure those communities affected;
- Support, manage and rehabilitate offenders and support victims of crime who are victimised as a result of drug and alcohol misuse

Objectives:

- Increase the proportion of positive stops and searches for drugs
- Increase the number of licensed premises visits (on/off sales premises)

In partnership we will focus on the needs of the most persistent offenders in West Lothian who crimes are committed in order to sustain their dependency on drugs, alcohol and other substances and reduce their level of offending.

Enforcement activity has included the successful Operation Focus partnership approach, which was established to not only target offenders but also have a lasting impact on the whole community.

Priority 5 – Making our Roads Safer

We are dedicated to keeping people safe on our roads and enhancing and improving the safety of the community by reducing the number of incidents and casualties from road traffic collisions.

Road safety affects everyone who lives, works or visits West Lothian. Most people use the roads every day in some capacity and it is therefore essential to ensure we can all use the roads safely.

We will:

- Work in partnership to improve road safety through enforcement, engineering, education and effective early intervention;
- Proactively share information and intelligence to task and coordinate resources and change trends;
- Work together to deliver intelligence-led initiatives and reassure communities affected by serious road traffic collisions;
- Support victims of serious road traffic collisions and support and rehabilitate offenders.

Objectives:

- Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads
- Increase the number of people detected for drink/drug driving offences

There are a number of major arterial routes that run through West Lothian, which link the east, and west of Scotland. This, along with numerous rural routes linking towns and villages, make the county a risk location for road traffic collisions.

Young drivers remain a concern and prevention activity is delivered through West Lothian's WestDrive initiative for young driver education, which targets all sixth year secondary school students.

Priority 6 – Tackling Serious Organised Crime

Our officers are committed to tackling serious organised crime and reducing the impact and harm it has on our communities.

Serious organised crime impacts negatively on all aspects of community life. It can fuel street crime, increase the fear of crime and have a detrimental financial effect upon local economies.

We will:

- Work in partnership to prevent serious organised crime and target, disrupt and deter those involved;
- Proactively share information and intelligence to task and coordinate resources;
- Work together to deliver intelligence-led initiatives and reassure communities and businesses affected;
- Educate, support, divert and deter those at risk of becoming involved in organised crime and support victims.

Objectives:

- Increase the number of cash seizures and restraints through the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) legislation
- Increase the number of people detected for supplying drugs

Criminals involved in serious organised crime have an impact on society as a whole by impinging on local economies and targeting individuals within our

communities. These criminals can generate substantial income to the detriment of genuine businesses by using apparently legitimate businesses as a cover for their activities.

We will strive to develop a wider intelligence picture of serious organised crime groups in West Lothian and provide additional opportunities to implement Detect, Divert, Disrupt and Deter tactics under the national Serious Organised Crime Strategy.

4. How we identified our Priorities and Objectives

The Scottish Policing Assessment sets out the priorities for the Police Service of Scotland to the year 2015. It is a key document for the police in the continuous process of meeting future policing challenges and ensuring that the service the police provide to the communities of Scotland is of a high standard.

The Assessment draws on information and intelligence provided by all the Scottish forces and law enforcement agencies as well as information from key partner agencies including the Scottish Government, Local Authorities and the public. It is through this assessment that risk in relation to crime and disorder is prioritised.

The priorities identified in this plan have been identified through assessment of current trends in community safety, emerging issues and priority areas of concern. Appendix A lists the key cross cutting themes that impact upon, but are not limited to community safety. These are issues that need a high-level multi agency response to ensure the maximum benefit to communities and individuals.

The 2012-2015 Strategic Assessment was the third undertaken by West Lothian's Community Safety Partnership, and forms the basis of a three year Community Safety Strategy in West Lothian.

Throughout 2012 we consulted with people from across West Lothian about the issues that were of greatest concern to them. These consultation results made a critical contribution to identifying issues for local communities and these have been translated into the key policing priorities for West Lothian. Appendix B shows the results of our consultation.

All of our work is underpinned by our commitment to equality and diversity, in both our dealings with the public we serve and our own staff.

We recognise that effective and fair policing is about reflecting the needs and expectations of individuals and local communities. Survey results show that different communities have differing expectations and contrasting experiences of the service provided by the police. Our aim is to ensure that our service to all is fair and consistent, keeping those who are most vulnerable safe and enhancing their quality of life.

To further this aim, and satisfy our statutory duties under The Equality Act 2010, we are developing national equality and diversity outcomes for 30 April 2013. In our 2014 three-year plan we will identify local priorities and objectives aligned to them.

5. Local Policing Arrangements

Our mission is to keep people safe. We aim to deliver policing that is visible accessible and responsive to the needs of the communities across West Lothian.

From 1 April 2013 a single Local Police Commander has been appointed for West Lothian who will direct a Local Area Commander in order to deliver an effective policing service against our key priorities.

We will continue to respond quickly and effectively to public demand by answering all calls and operational requests made of us.

We have nine local Community Policing Teams based within each electoral ward to tackle local problems and issues.

In addition to the Local Policing Plan for West Lothian, each ward will have an individual plan, which will address the priorities specific to that ward and neighbourhood as well as linking closely with the plan for West Lothian.

These plans will be delivered by identifiable officers located in each geographic community, continuing engagement with the communities and adopting a shared partnership problem-solving approach to dealing with issues.

Individual Multi Member Ward community policing plans are available at www.scotland.police.uk

Local policing arrangements are aligned to the Community Safety Partnership working towards joint community safety priorities.

Uniformed officers are engaged in community policing and response roles; additional funded officers form part of joint partnership Community Policing Teams, working closely with officers from the local authority and third sector. Response resources comprise five response policing teams, each with an identified Inspector. Local Community Policing Teams are managed through four community-based Inspectors. A Criminal Investigation Department and other specialist units support these resources.

The local Community Policing Team will make sure you know who they are and how you can contact them. They will be visible and accessible in your communities, working first and foremost on community priorities. They will arrange regular community meetings, work with you to identify local concerns and work with others to solve these problems. They will regularly update you with progress made.

This blend of preventative policing set within the community planning context is targeted at providing an effective and efficient police service whose aim is community reassurance and increasing community well-being.

Measures of satisfaction from public perception surveys will be used when examining performance and all policies, procedures and practices will be Equality Impact Assessed.

6. Local Contribution to National Outcomes and National Policing Priorities

The Scottish Government has 16 National Outcomes, which demonstrate a commitment to creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth. Policing in West Lothian can make a significant contribution to improving these outcomes for this area by contributing to the community planning arrangements across West Lothian.

The priorities in this plan will be reflected in the Single Outcome Agreement for West Lothian, which will also include a range of indicators and targets focused on delivering improved services.

Scottish Ministers have also established Strategic Policing Priorities and these reflect the contribution that policing can make to achieve the National Outcomes.

Our local priorities align to the Strategic Policing Priorities and the government's National Outcomes as follows:

Priority	Strategic Policing Priorities	National Outcomes
Protecting People	1, 2, 3, 4	5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16
Reducing Antisocial Behaviour	1, 2, 4	5, 8, 9, 11, 13
Reducing Violence	1, 2, 4	5, 7, 8, 9, 11
Tackling Substance Misuse	1, 2, 4	7, 8, 9, 11
Making our Roads Safer	1, 2, 4	9, 11
Tackling Serious Organised Crime	1, 2, 4	9, 11, 13

Further information on National Outcomes and Strategic Policing Priorities can be accessed at www.scotland.gov.uk

7. Performance and Accountability

To support this plan Police Scotland will develop a national performance framework which allows the service to measure progress, monitor activity, identify key areas where resources need to be focused and demonstrate how successful we are in meeting our key priorities and objectives as set out in this plan.

We are committed to publishing our performance information and will use this as the foundation for reporting to West Lothian council and local communities. This information is available upon request or at www.westlothian.gov.uk.

8. Local Scrutiny and Engagement

The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 includes a framework for local scrutiny and engagement arrangements between local authorities and the police service.

In West Lothian local scrutiny and engagement will ensure that the locally set objectives will deliver the statutory purposes of improving the safety and wellbeing of the people. It will ensure that local conditions are understood and that community concerns are reflected. It will promote joint working to secure better outcomes and best value and will provide strategic leadership in order to influence service delivery and support continuous improvement by providing constructive challenge.

Robust monitoring and reporting processes are instrumental in ensuring that West Lothian remains on track to deliver against local objectives within the resources available.

9. Local Contact Details

Contact details

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden Road South
Livingston
West Lothian
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:

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:

www.scotland.police.uk

We are here to help

We will continue to keep in touch with you to keep you updated on the ongoing work being carried out to tackle the issues that are affecting life for you in West Lothian.

- 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.

Appendix A - Community Safety Key Themes for 2012-2015

Early Intervention

The aim of early intervention is to prevent and divert young people from offending and prevent the escalation of crime and disorder. It aims to enhance opportunities, improve outcomes and prevent the need for support from more specialist services at a later stage in their lives.

Young People

West Lothian has the youngest population in Scotland, with an average age of 38 years compared with 40 years nationally, with a rapidly expanding young population in recent years. Findings supported by a number of bodies indicate that young people are more likely to become repeat victims of crime, but were less likely to report incidents to the police than adults. Supporting young victims of crime and preventing young people from offending are important themes for West Lothian.

Vulnerable Groups

Managing and supporting the complex needs of vulnerable groups involves multiple agencies and often impacts on community safety resources. Vulnerability can arise through circumstances such as being a missing person, substance misuse, mental health issues or self-harming. People in vulnerable groups can also be at a higher risk of becoming victims of crime. The protection of these groups is a key responsibility for police and partners.

Repeat Service Users

'Repeat Service Users' can be victims, complainers and offenders. A minority of individuals commit a disproportionate amount of crime and antisocial behaviour and a similar situation can occur with welfare concern incidents where a disproportionate number of calls are received from a small number of vulnerable individuals.

Appendix B - Local Consultation Results

The priorities for the nine Multi Member Wards were identified during our most recent consultation.

Ward 1 - Linlithgow

- Priority 1 Reducing Antisocial Behaviour
- Priority 2 Tackling Substance Misuse
- Priority 3 Making our Roads Safer

Ward 2 - Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh

- Priority 1 Reducing Antisocial Behaviour
- Priority 2 Tackling Substance Misuse
- Priority 3 Making our Roads Safer

Ward 3 - Livingston North

- Priority 1 Reducing Antisocial Behaviour
- Priority 2 Tackling Substance Misuse
- Priority 3 Making our Roads Safer

Ward 4 - Livingston South

- Priority 1 Reducing Antisocial Behaviour
- Priority 2 Tackling Substance Misuse
- Priority 3 Making our Roads Safer

Ward 5 - East Livingston and East Calder

- Priority 1 Reducing Antisocial Behaviour
- Priority 2 Tackling Substance Misuse
- Priority 3 Making our Roads Safer

Ward 6 - Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley

- Priority 1 Reducing Antisocial Behaviour
- Priority 2 Tackling Substance Misuse
- Priority 3 Making our Roads Safer

Ward 7 - Whitburn and Blackburn

- Priority 1 Reducing Antisocial Behaviour
- Priority 2 Tackling Substance Misuse
- Priority 3 Making our Roads Safer

Ward 8 - Bathgate

- Priority 1 Reducing Antisocial Behaviour
- Priority 2 Tackling Substance Misuse
- Priority 3 Preventing Violence (in the night time economy)

Ward 9 - Armadale and Blackridge

- Priority 1 Reducing Antisocial Behaviour
- Priority 2 Tackling Substance Misuse
- Priority 3 Making our Roads Safer