
Report by the Chief Constable

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PARTNERSHIP WORKING: WEST LOTHIAN COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Community Planning is about organisations and communities working together to improve how local services are planned, co-ordinated and delivered. The intention is to make a real improvement to the quality of people's lives.
- 1.2 This report has been prepared to highlight current good practise in West Lothian's Community Planning Partnership.

2. West Lothian Community Planning Partnership

- 2.1 West Lothian Community Planning Partnership (WLCPP) was established in 1999 and now consists of seventeen partner organisations: West Lothian Council, NHS Lothian, Lothian and Borders Police, Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue, Voluntary Action West Lothian, West Lothian College, Oatridge College, Scottish Enterprise, West Lothian Chamber of Commerce, Scottish Water, Association of Community Councils, JobCentreplus, West Lothian Leisure, West Lothian Youth Congress, Skills Development Scotland, SESTRANs and the Pension Service.
- 2.2 The Partnership produced a new Community Plan "Towards 2020" which was published in December 2009. This will shape the future and set out the strategic direction for West Lothian and details the key targets and priorities for the Partnerships work.
- 2.3 West Lothians Single Outcome Agreement has been developed by the Community Planning Partnership and recognises the key role other organisations will play through working in partnership to deliver local outcomes.
- 2.4 The objectives of the Partnership are to:
 - develop a clear and shared long term vision for West Lothian that sets out joint priorities, performance indicators, and targets;
 - develop joint approaches to improving service delivery and the quality of life for the citizens of West Lothian;
 - ensure that partnership working in the area is coordinated and cohesive;

- negotiate directly and collectively with the Scottish Government and other bodies on national policy and resource issues;
- support the development of active and informed communities that can engage with and have an influence on the community planning process; and
- develop ways of working within the Community Planning Partnership that supports the values of openness, parity between partners and achieving progress through consensus.

3. Benefits of Community Planning/Partnership Working

3.1 Working together in partnership, sharing resources, information and intelligence is key to building safer communities in West Lothian.

3.2 The following examples represent evidential success of partnership working in West Lothian:

Early and Effective Intervention

Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) was established in West Lothian in February 2010 and has dealt with 92 youth offenders. This new and innovative group is funded by Scottish Government (£25,000) over 2 years to assist with coordination of partner resources.

The aim is to ensure that young people who have begun to become involved in offending receive the appropriate intervention in order to divert them away from further offending.

It relates directly to the needs and behaviour of the young person, takes account of the impact on others, and makes reparation and restoration where appropriate. It therefore embraces the principles expressed in *Getting It Right for Every Child*

Success - This is already having a positive outcome with only one young person committing an offence after EEI (less than 2% of all cases).

Operation Fade

Operation FADE is a multi-agency proactive task force specifically targeting high risk offenders of domestic abuse at the greatest risk of engaging in serious harm, using effective investigation, intervention and partnership working to reduce the threat and increase the number of domestic abuse perpetrators held to account through the criminal justice system.

Success – As a result of this joint work, West Lothian has experienced a decrease in repeat victims through the Partnerships sympathetic and victim-orientated approach. There has also been a decrease in repeat offenders with an increase in reported incidents due to improved confidence in this method of partnership working.

Integrated Offender Management

Integrated Offender Management in West Lothian brings together local partners to contribute towards the SOA as well as delivering a local response to local problems in the form of Local Authority Area targets. This work helps in reducing re-offending, reducing crime, tackling social exclusion and

inequality of offenders and their families and raising public confidence in the criminal justice system.

This addresses overlaps in existing partner approaches, strengths and simplifies governance as criminal justice agencies align their work accordingly. This is building on the success of existing outcomes as communication and information sharing improves to maintain public safety, reduce re-offending and rehabilitate offenders.

Hate Crime Strategy

Regular meetings with various groups are held and are used to encourage confidence and promote reporting, including the use of remote reporting. There are currently 17 remote reporting sites, accessible by all sections of the community, where trained staff are available to give information on a range of topics and issues to local communities. Additionally, Lothian and Borders Police Officers have participated in Multi Cultural events, MELA Festival, West Lothian's Diversity Week as well as acting as Police advisor to the Community Race Forum.

Road Safety Partnership

Road Safety Partnership in West Lothian involves Education, Transportation, Police and Fire Service as the main partners who work effectively together to tackle the serious national problem of killed and seriously injured (KSI) road users.

The downward trend in road traffic statistics indicate that we are contributing to the reduction in road casualties in West Lothian and encouraging safer and capable drivers of the future. Young drivers have played a significant part in the number of road crashes in West Lothian.

Success - Westdrive provides an exciting innovative solution to connect with future drivers at the time when statistics show that they are most likely to be involved in road crashes. This programme promotes driving issues in a positive and fun way to school leavers. It aims to educate young people on how to safely enjoy driving whilst understanding the responsibilities and risks associated with this type of road use

'Focus On' Campaigns

Following the success of Operation Focus in March 2009 – a West Lothian partnership response to tackling drugs; there have been a number of successful multi-agency 'Focus On' initiatives, which have been highly successful in terms of crime statistics and community response.

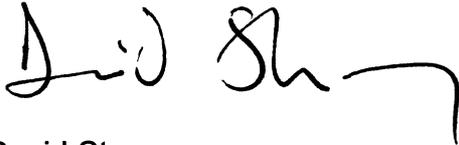
Success - Focus on Doorstep Crime – This successful operation reduced Bogus Caller Incidents by 85% across West Lothian, by combining enforcement and prevention opportunities. Enforcement campaigns engaged a diverse range of partners including Roads Policing, Department of Work and Pensions, Vehicle Operators & Servicing Agency and Trading Standards. Prevention opportunities saw police, social services, housing and Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue help the vulnerable by providing a wide range of activities to prevent bogus caller crime and promote reassurance.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The information provided in this report illustrates the real benefits of working in partnership in West Lothian, where collaboration between all members of the WLCPP continues to produce positive outcomes for local residents and communities.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 That the Board notes the report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Strang', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Strang
Chief Constable

18 January 2011