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## Foreword

In West Lothian we recognise that investment in our children and young people is one of the most valuable long-term investments that we can make.

By investing our resources in the delivery and development of services that focus on prevention and early intervention we can ensure that children's needs are met at the earliest opportunity and children are supported to achieve their full potential.

**This Annual Report for 2024-2025 reflects the work and progress of the Children's Services Plan priorities and actions**



## Annual Reporting

As in previous years and in accordance with the Children and Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014, local and national partners who deliver services for West Lothian's children and families have come together to design and publish our revised Children's Services Plan for 2023 - 2026. The West Lothian Children's Services Plan does not exist in isolation, and this plan aligns with relevant existing plans and strategies across West Lothian and nationally.

This report outlines the key areas of work undertaken by the Children and Families Strategic Planning Group, the key factors that have impacted on this work and the progress made in taking forward the priorities of the West Lothian Children's Services Plan 2023-2026.

## Planning Services for Children, Young People and Families

The multi-agency Children's Services Plan 2023/26 sets out the vision and priorities for the children's partnership.

As a product of partnership working amongst the community planning partners, the plan is agreed through the Children and Families Strategic Planning Group, reporting to the Community Planning Partnership.

The partnership listens to the voices of children and ensures that their views are valued and respected.

Partners have a shared commitment to achieving positive outcomes for children, young people and their families through active participation in joint planning for service delivery. The views of children and their families are at the heart of the decision-making process.

Across children's services there is strong focus on supporting whole families, supporting people to remain at home or in homely settings within their own communities as far as is possible, safe and in keeping with wishes and rights.

Children's services are committed to the provision of whole family intensive support to retain children within their own family network and community.

There continue to be significant financial challenges across children's services, with managing demand and making best use of resources both integral to future service delivery.

Innovative approaches in the use of technology are being continually developed and are supporting improvements in service delivery. Opportunities for further innovation will be considered and a commitment to continuous improvement.

**Siobhan McGarty**  
Chair of the Children & Families  
Strategic Planning Group



# The West Lothian Children's Services Plan

## Our Vision

Partners in West Lothian believe that every child should have the best start in life to enable them to: have high aspirations, build the foundations for living well in the future and realise their potential.

This underpins the national programmes of the Curriculum for Excellence and Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), with desired outcomes that all children become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens through being safe, nurtured, healthy, active, included, achieving, respected and responsible.

Partners are committed to providing services that are holistic and developed with families and partner agencies; that tackle inequalities and focus on improved outcomes for children. To ensure that children and young people in need have a head start in life, preventative work with families is valued and promoted, to support with the pressures of parenting and improve overall outcomes. There is a commitment to providing a high standard of statutory and child protection services when needed.

## Our Principles

Central to the underpinning principles of the planning and delivery of services for children is targeted support to children and their families early enough whilst recognising that there will always be a need to provide services for the ongoing problems that families may experience.

**The West Lothian Children's Services Plan has been developed to encompass the following principles:**

- Re-distributing resources towards targeted activities with individuals, groups and communities
- Improved integrated working
- Improved outcomes for the individual child and their family
- Focusing on early intervention by shifting resources from managing crisis to prevention and building resilience.

## Partnership Working

**The Children's Services Plan confirms the commitment of partners to:**

- Actively participate in well-established joint service planning in West Lothian, through: Children and Families Strategic Planning Group, Corporate Parenting Strategic Planning Group, Safer Communities Strategic Planning Group, Child Protection Committee, Anti-Poverty Task Force and the Third Sector Strategy Group.
- Investigate best practice in early intervention and preventative approaches, and implement such approaches across West Lothian.
- Build on previous successes and further demonstrate the added value from cooperative approaches to planning and delivering services and activity.

## Our Priorities

The plan defines the key priorities which have been agreed by partners as multi-agency actions and explains the way in which activity relating to each of these priorities will be linked to key outcomes, will be monitored through the use of meaningful performance indicators and will be driven by challenging targets. The following seven priorities are identified by the Children and Families Strategic Planning Group as key areas of work:

- **Protecting Children**
- **Strengthening Corporate Parenting**
- **Raising Achievement and Attainment**
- **Promoting Health and Wellbeing**
- **Promoting Children's Rights and participation**
- **Reducing Harm from Substance Use**
- **Reducing Harm for Children and Young People in Conflict with the Law**

There are themes identified that run through all of the priorities:

- Early Intervention and Prevention Approaches
- GIRFEC / UNCRC / the Promise
- Partnership working and associated strategies and plans

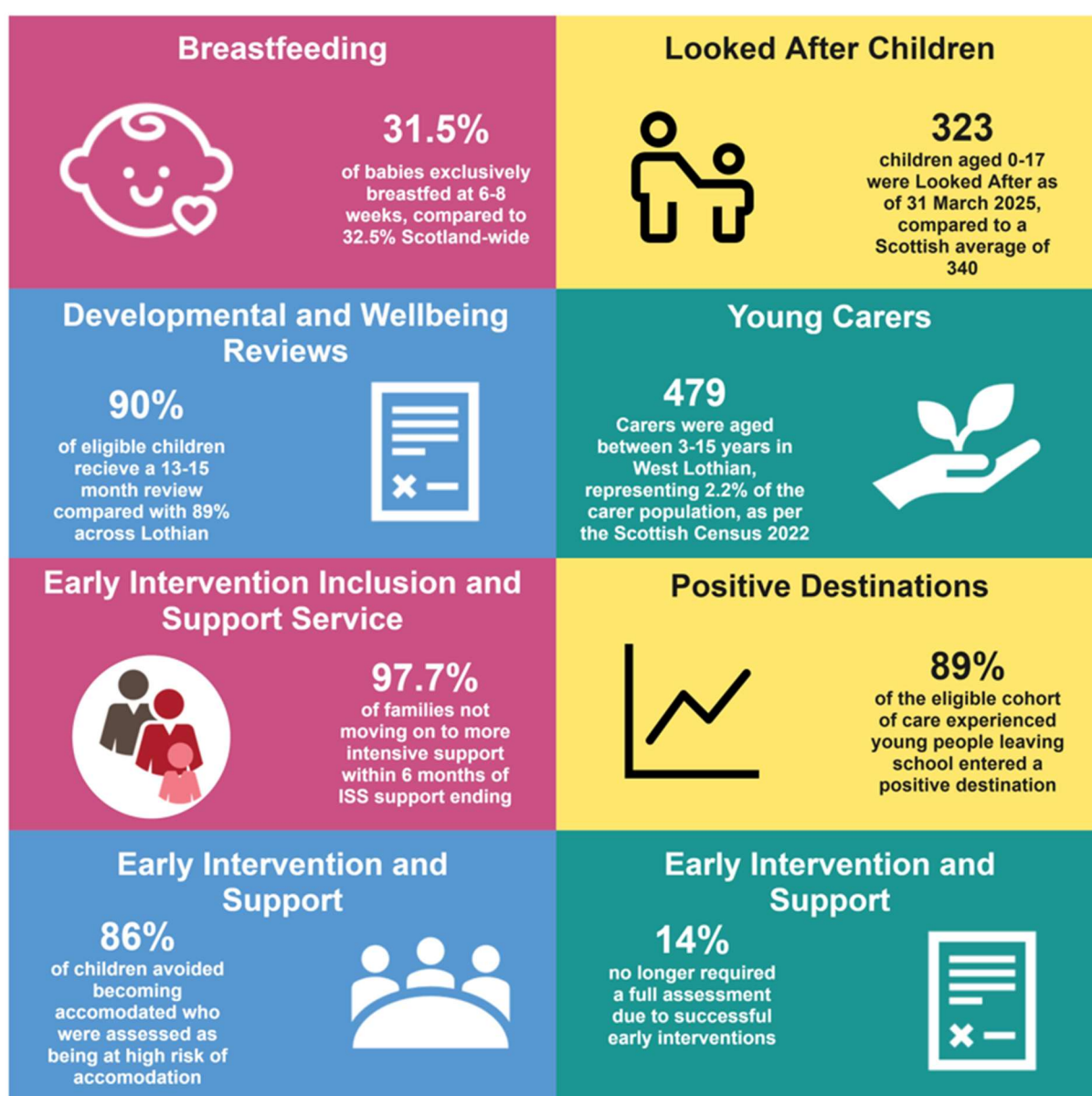


# West Lothian Profile

## Profile of Children, Young People & Families in West Lothian

In planning for the development and delivery of services, the profile of children and families in West Lothian has been considered. West Lothian has a population of approximately 183, 810 (Mid 2023) and is one of the fastest growing and youngest local authorities in the country. Between 2001 and 2023, the population of West Lothian has increased by 15.6%. This is the 5th highest percentage increase out of the 32 council areas in Scotland. Over the same period, Scotland's population rose by 8.4%.

Based on 2023 mid-year population estimates of West Lothian population of children and young people aged 0-15 years was 34,090 which is 18.5% of the total population. This is a 2.5% decrease since 2001 compared with an 7.8% decrease of the 0-15-year-old population across Scotland for the same time period. The local profile is of importance in considering all areas of service design and developments.



Sources for statistics – National Records Scotland [www.nrscotland.gov.uk](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk), West Lothian Council Housing, [Children's social work statistics - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://Children's social work statistics - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)), Scottish Government - school Meals Survey, [www.publichealthscotland.scot/publications/infant-feeding-statistics](http://www.publichealthscotland.scot/publications/infant-feeding-statistics), Health and care - Themes - Scottish Health and Social Care Open Data ([nhs.scot](http://nhs.scot))

## Strategic & Legislative Developments

There have been significant strategic and legislative developments during 2024/25 likely to impact on Children and Family Strategic Planning Group Partners service delivery in the future

West Lothian was awarded a one-off grant fund to support the development of the **Bairns' Hoose** model during 2024/25, working in partnership with Children 1st who specialise in trauma support. For 2025/26, West Lothian made another successful application and have been awarded a further grant to continue the work and to support ongoing development

**The Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024** ended the use of Youth Offender Institutions (YOI) with any under 18s in YOI, moved into secure accommodation. These children will now have the statutory status of Looked After Children and the duties to them which this confers up to the age of 26 years

**The Vision for Justice in Scotland** – gov.scot ([www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)) was published by the Scottish Government in 2022 and sets out a series of action and reforms through to 2026.

National Diversion from Prosecution use has increased overall for adults and young people in line with its aims. In West Lothian there has been a 13% increase in assessments undertaken and a 40% increase in commencement of cases over the reporting period

**The Bail and Release from Custody (Scotland) Act 2023 (Commencement No. 2) Regulations 2025** offering a further opportunity to consider early intervention for young people appearing from custody. The initial bail assessment includes consideration of the young person's welfare and support needs which support desistance as well as identifying risks. The service are adapting to the changes.

**The UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024**, which came into force on July 16, 2024, incorporates the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into Scots law, making children's rights legally binding and enforceable across public services in Scotland.

On the back of the **Equally Safe** refresh in December 2023, a delivery plan was published in August 2024. The delivery plan sets out specific actions and deliverables needed to achieve the strategies goal of preventing and eradicating violence against women and children.

Introduction of **Included, Engaged and Involved Part 3 and Associated National Guidance** on 'Included, engaged and involved part 3: A relationships and rights-based approach to physical intervention in schools'. This guidance is for education authorities grant-aided and independent schools in Scotland on the use of physical intervention.

**A Quality Improvement Framework for the Early Learning and Childcare Sectors:** early learning and childcare. This self-evaluation framework supports quality improvement in early learning and childcare (ELC) settings. It can be used by all early learning and childcare (ELC) services. This includes childminders and school age childcare providers. The Care Inspectorate and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) will use the framework for the inspection of settings.

**The National Improvement Framework (NIF)** for Scotland education sets out the vision, key priorities and seven key educational outcomes for children and young people. The 2025 improvement plan sets out the full details of the actions that will be taken to deliver the seven key outcomes of the NIF, the evidence to support them and how we will measure progress.

## Early Intervention and Prevention

In West Lothian early intervention and prevention has been identified as a strategic theme that runs through all the priorities in the Children's Services Plan and is supported through robust multi-agency partnership working. The benefits of preventing crisis and creating conditions to allow children and young people to thrive is recognised as the best outcome for the individual, the wider family and the community.

Partners have embedded models of support which engage with families with very complex needs and with the most entrenched social issues using asset based, co- production ways of working. This has the benefit of working with families on their own terms, addressing issues that are live and important for the family by building strong and persistent relationships between professionals and families, supporting them to navigate and negotiate services and realise the strengths already present within the family to best improve outcomes.

The Inclusion and Support Service is a prevention and early intervention Education and Social Policy integrated service, providing support to children, young people and their families with additional wellbeing support needs. This service works with children from pre-birth until the age of 18 years old in order to help families meet their individual needs and to thrive by accessing the help they need, where and when they need it.

The service provides educational support for children and young people and a range of other interventions can be put in place including; vulnerable pregnancy service, outreach parenting support and family work, parenting group work and counselling. The service has a holistic approach and has developed interventions informed by assessed need and engagement with families.

West Lothian's Family Assessment and Support Services screening group provides a collective forum for professionals to meet to discuss and resource wellbeing referrals for all children pre-birth and up to the age of 5 by the Inclusion and Support Service.



West Lothian's Wellbeing Recovery Group operates in the same way as the Family Assessment and Support Services screening group but considers referrals for children and young people aged 5 – 18 years old. A wide range of agencies are represented including from the voluntary sector, CAMHS, Practice Teams, Education (ASN) and Domestic and Sexual Assault Team (DASAT). The group operates a needs-led approach which ensures young people have access to the correct supports and resources without delay.

All referrals to the Inclusion and Support Service are screened within a two-week period. Referrals for care experienced children and young people, many of who have trauma-related concerns are prioritised, however the majority of referrals are from universal services.

In West Lothian, a dedicated Mental Health Lead Officer is driving forward the transformation of mental health services. This work is guided by the values and principles of the Community Young People's Mental Health & Wellbeing Supports and Services Framework and is supported by associated funding. Efforts are closely aligned with national developments, including changes in legislation, policy, regulation, and guidance. The work also draws on current research evidence and best practice to ensure a high-quality, responsive approach.

The Mental Health Oversight Group (MHOG) plays a key role in providing multi-agency oversight, monitoring progress against the agreed action plan and performance indicators, and ensuring effective governance. Partners work collaboratively to advance shared priorities and embed a rights-based approach to service delivery.

With the allocation of The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, West Lothian has taken a Public Social Partnership (PSP) approach to help families access the support they need, when they need it to significantly reduce the number of children and young people in care by 2030. It is intended to shift family resources from crisis intervention to early intervention and prevention, with support provided based on individual needs of families in response to a range of issues including, child and adolescent mental health, child poverty, drug and alcohol misuse and educational attainment.

Services are designed around strengths-based models, empowering families to identify what support they need to improve mental health and wellbeing. Families are then connected with the services they choose, ensuring they receive timely and appropriate support when it is needed most.

## Protecting Children

West Lothian Child Protection Committee (CPC) is the key local body for developing, implementing and improving child protection strategy across and between agencies and the local community. The CPC performs a number of crucial functions in order to jointly identify and manage risk to children and young people, monitor and improve performance and promote the ethos that "It's everyone's job to make sure I'm alright".

The CPC has 3 subcommittees to support its work: Quality Assurance & Self Evaluation (QASE), Practice and Training (P&T) and a Learning Review (LR) subcommittee. The CPC has strong links with the Children and Families Strategic Planning Group with its oversight and leadership of Getting It Right for Every Child in West Lothian.

### Main Highlights and Developments in the Period 2024-2025:

- Edinburgh and the Lothians Under Age Sexual Activity Guidance was updated and circulated, ensuring staff have up-to-date guidance and links to relevant services
- A newsletter is circulated after every Child Protection Committee meeting to inform staff of the work of the CPC
- A new logo for the CPC was designed by a local 7-year-old
- Child protection information including research and training opportunities is circulated weekly
- A range of learning opportunities is offered to staff: webinars, podcasts, practice reflection sessions, supervision, core group supervision, 7-minute briefings to prompt team discussions, virtual and face to face training and eLearning that can be accessed at times to suit practitioners.
- A Bairns' Hoose project has been established with a co-ordinator role and rights and recovery workers supporting children, young people and their families through child protection and court processes, working closely with the local SCIM (Scottish Child Interviewing Model) team and all partners.

### Priority Areas for 2025/26:

- The CPC is informed by local and national management information, learning from case reviews, audit activity, feedback from children, families and professionals to inform its priorities for future years.
- The QASE subcommittee is considering ways to improve the quality of child protection planning, this work will be informed by audit activity, feedback from staff and families who have been involved in child protection processes.
- The CPC is considering ways to improve Interagency Referral Discussions, ensuring that Education Services plays a meaningful role, where appropriate, and managers from the key involved agencies are enabled to meet together virtually to analyse risk and make appropriate plans.
- The Bairns' Hoose project is engaging with children and families to shape practice developments during the next year.





## Promoting Health and Wellbeing

Good health and wellbeing are key to ensuring that children and young people in West Lothian have the best start in life. Children's health and wellbeing starts prior to conception and is influenced by children's wider social and economic environments. Health and wellbeing includes good physical and mental health, feelings of happiness, satisfaction and successful social functioning. It influences the way children and young people interact in their environment. A strong sense of wellbeing provides children with confidence and optimism which maximise their learning potential and life chances.

Improving health and wellbeing is at the core of what we do and is where we focus the majority of our preventative work intervening and providing support, early enough to prevent deterioration or escalation. We recognise however that for some children and young people specialist help will be required to address more complex needs that impact health and wellbeing. Across the partnership we have a range of services in place to support these young people and ensure that they get the right support at the right time.

### Main Highlights and Developments in the Period 2024-2025:

#### Health Visiting:

- All families have a named Health Visitor from 32 weeks of pregnancy until their child starts school.
- The Universal Health Visiting Pathway in Scotland is a plan to offer a home visiting programme to all families as a minimum standard. The health visitor acts as the named professional and first point of contact for all health and wellbeing and child protection issues for children under five.
- The Early Years have a profound impact on an individual's future experience of health and wellbeing. Health professionals, particularly Health Visitors, have a vital role to play in supporting children and families in the first few years of a child's life.
- Evidence demonstrates the importance of prevention, early identification and intervention throughout the early years of life. Health Visitors have, and always have had, a significant public health role to play in relation to individuals, families and communities by providing critical support to all children under five years of age
- The Pathway presents a core home visiting programme to be offered to all families by Health Visitors as a minimum standard. Along with these core home visits Health Visitors exercising the function of a Named Person on behalf of their Health Board will be required to be available and responsive to parents to promote support and safeguard the wellbeing of children by providing information, advice, support and help to access other services. The Pathway is based on several underlying principles. These are:
  - Promoting, supporting and safeguarding the wellbeing of children
  - Person-centeredness
  - Building strong relationships from pregnancy
  - Offering support during the early weeks and planning future contacts with families
  - Focusing on family strengths, while assessing and respectfully responding to their needs
  - The programme consists of 11 home visits to all families - 8 within the first year of life and 3 Child Health Reviews between 13 months and 4-5 years.
- Whole Family Wellbeing Fund (WFWF) funding in place in Health Visiting team and a mapping of early years supports has been completed. A website has been set up for parents to access this information more easily and Health Visitor's giving out link at visits, also completed an audit with parents as to what support they would like, play and stay and more breastfeeding groups came out on top. In response to the parent audit we have established groups in the most deprived areas with an aim to further roll these out across West Lothian. Early intervention groups have been set up to support parenting with an emphasis for parents to understand their children's development.
- West Lothian's children have higher rates of speech and language concerns in comparison to other areas of the Lothians, we are currently doing a small test of change in Whitburn, Armadale and East Calder which focuses on early intervention for preventable speech and language problems.
- On average last year 11.6% of children in West Lothian were identified as having a speech and language concern at their 27 month review

- 79% of 27 month old children received a developmental assessment by their health visitor.

### **School Nursing:**

- School Nurses have a continuing focus on prevention, early intervention and support for the most vulnerable children over five years. The refocused role concentrates primarily on ten priority areas under the overall headings of vulnerable children and families, mental health and wellbeing, and risk-taking behaviour. The ten priority areas are:
  - Emotional Health and Wellbeing
  - Substance Misuse
  - Child Protection
  - Domestic Abuse
  - Care Experienced Children
  - Homelessness
  - Sexual Health and Wellbeing (including pregnancy)
  - Transitions
  - Young Carer's
- The areas have been identified from evidence and have a sound rationale to support actions. They represent public health priority areas, and interventions on each have been found to be effective in preventing adverse childhood experiences ( ACEs), the impacts of which not only affect health and development potential in childhood but can also persist deep into adulthood. School nurses have vitally important roles in preventing ACEs and, where they have occurred, mitigating their short- and long-term effects.
- Let's Introduce Anxiety Management (LIAM) is a cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT) informed intervention, for anxiety in children and young people, aimed at treating mild-moderate anxiety symptoms in primary and secondary school aged children and young people aged 8 and 18 years, particularly those who have been unable to access psychological interventions because they do not meet the severity criteria for a tier 3 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). School nurses have supported 40 individual children and young people through the programme in the last year.

### **West Lothian Children & Young Peoples Occupational Therapy Service**

- All Provision of Occupational Therapy assessment and interventions to promote functional independence ,participation and well-being in children & young people , aged 0 -19 at home ,school and in the community.
- Development of further timely and accessible advice and support when needed:
  - Development of a Telephone advice line for parents, carers, education & professionals
  - Development of a service specific website
  - Development of Developmental Coordination Disorder diagnostic and intervention pathway jointly with Paediatrician and Physiotherapy
  - Delivery of Stay & play sessions to children under 3 with complex , ongoing disabilities as a developmental team of professionals , creating a community of practical & emotional support for families to improve confidence in management of their child's condition & maximising their development.
- Ongoing initiatives within Children & Young People Occupational Therapy Services include:
  - Delivery of training and workshops to other professionals and education
  - Delivery of Parent/Carer workshops to provide advice and strategies to support their child / young person's occupational performance
  - Occupational Therapy access service for education enabling access to personal care & curriculum for pupils who require adaptations by providing assessment, recommendations and ongoing advice and support as required
  - Monitoring and improving clinical processes to support achieving waiting time targets

### **Maternal and Infant Nutrition Service (Public Health)**

- Breastfeeding drop off at 6-8weeks for West Lothian is 33.4%, this is the lowest it has been and means that West Lothian has met the Scottish Government target for drop off which was 36.6% (which was set in 2017)
- The Delivering Early Breastfeeding Support (DEBS) team continue to show improvement in breast feeding drop off rates across

West Lothian, with more babies receiving breast milk at the first health visitor visit (41% improvement) and at the 6–8-week check (43% improvement)

- The Health visiting and Family nurse services were reaccredited by UNICEF as meeting the UNICEF Baby Friendly Accreditation standards in 2024 following an inspection in September 2024. This is 2-day inspection, where staff training and support is audited and feedback from staff and families are collated.

### **Mental Health Oversight Group (MHOG)**

- Development of a young people's specific area on West Space, developed by young people. Children, young people and their families from education, Youth Action Project (YAP) and Listen & Link were all involved in the development of the West Space site. The site provides information on how to get help when you need it, through texting or messaging and provides information on how to keep yourself well through talking to a trusted adult and the 6 ways to wellbeing
- The MHOG met In January to hold a workshop on developing the new iteration of the action plan and take stock of progress of the old action plan. This will be being developed over the next few months and will have 3 main workstreams which are prevention, promoting pathways, connections and awareness and supporting the workforce
- Launch of a new mental health pathway for children, young people and their families with a focus on empowering families to seek effective support for their mental health when they need it.
- Families self-referring via the Listen and Link phone lines ensures children young people are involved in the decisions about what they feel would help them achieve positive mental health outcomes. They are offered a no wrong door approach to mental health support ensuring the families receive the right service at the right time based on expressed need.
- The number of families choosing self-directed support (157) to manage their mental health through Listen and Link in year two has increased by 155%
- Top 4 reasons for connections with Voice the text messaging service are low mood or sadness, suicide, stress or worry & self-harm
- Top 4 reasons for calls to Listen and Link are emotional and behavioural issues, anxiety, school issues and support for parents.
- 44% of texters to Voice are from the LGBTQI+ community
- 36,601 people have visited West Space in 24-25, a 67% increase on total visitors from 23-24
- Through discussions directly with children and young people we have heard what is important to them. Children from the Children's Rights Network and young people who are part of our Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) population have highlighted that mental health is one of the main themes they would like to explore further. Young people are shaping mental health services in various ways:
  - The marketing materials and website content of the new mental health pathway and single point of information has been co designed with children, young people and their families from many different organisations.
  - A group of young people from the big conversation event shared that they felt mental health self-help was important to them and have written their own self-help booklet. Written by young people for young people.
  - A young person from one of the residential houses felt they wanted to write a welcome pack for children and young people when they arrive at the home. It was important to them that they included what to do to ensure young people were achieving positive mental health outcomes.
- **Priority Areas for 2025/26:**
  - **Health Visiting**
  - Continue to provide the universal health visiting pathway and reduce health inequalities.
  - Continue to explore early interventions which may reduce speech and language concerns in children by collaborating with speech and language representatives.
  - Ensure the workforce are trained in trauma informed practice.

- Appropriate staff are trained in routine enquiry and practicing using the safe and together approach to providing care to families affected by domestic abuse.
- Working in partnership with agencies to improve income maximisation for families with clear pathways for onward referral.
- **Mental Health Oversight Group (MHOG)**
- The current MHOG action plan will be reviewed to take stock of progress to date and to agree priority areas for 2025/26. This will be further developed over the next few months and will have 3 main workstreams:
  - Prevention
  - Promoting Pathways
  - Connection, Awareness and Supporting the Workforce
- **School Nursing**
- Engagement with early years to promote continence and prevent future continence problems before they arise.
- Continue to roll out LIAM programme.
- Engage with schools to promote all aspects of health.
- Engagement with children, families and multi-agency partners to reduce the risk of adverse childhood experiences.
- **West Lothian Children & Young Peoples Occupational Therapy Service**
- Establishing and measuring impact of website and clinical pathway developments with child/young person and stakeholder feedback.
- Ongoing improvement to clinical processes and waiting times including use of skill mix, maximising resource capacity and highlighting areas of need.
- **Maternal and Infant Nutrition Service (Public Health)**
- Looking at how we can fund DEBS on a more permanent basis and expand the programme across Lothian
- Ongoing improvement to clinical processes and waiting times including use of skill mix, maximising resource capacity and highlighting areas of need.



## Raising Achievement and Attainment

West Lothian Council is committed to improving attainment for all children and young people in line with the National Improvement Framework and through the effective delivery of Curriculum for Excellence. The Raising Educational Attainment Strategy is the mechanism by which attainment and achievement of all learners will be supported. There are two key overarching outcomes of a) Learning and Curriculum and b) Wellbeing, Inclusion and Attendance. Annual progress towards the Strategy is contained within the National Improvement Framework Report and Plan for Education Services along with progress with the Scottish Attainment Challenge framework.

### Main Developments in the Period 2024-2025:

#### Positive Destinations Work

- A new Positive Destinations Improvement Group was established with partners with a clear focus on improving outcomes for all pupils and with a specific focus on those in the most deprived demographics (Quintile 1), care experienced learners and those with Additional Support Needs (ASN). Data released in February 2025 showed improvements across all groups.

#### Care Experienced Tracking and Monitoring and the Development of the CE Lead Teacher Role

- The tracking and monitoring of progress in learning and positive destinations has continued in our secondary schools this year through the support of the Care Experienced Lead Teacher approach. This has led to improvements in attainment and also specifically in relation to positive destinations for our learners who are care experienced.
- Tracking of the learning progress of our care experienced children in primary school has also been undertaken this year. This authority wide data has been shared with school leaders as part of routine Quality Improvement discussions. This has led to the identification of support around transitions for CECYP being an area that would benefit from additional support. This will be incorporated into strategic plans as things move forward into next year.

#### Attendance Development Work

- The launch of the positive relationships policy is framing the key relational approaches required to ensure the engagement of learners in their school communities which is driving attainment, achievement and attendance improvements.
- A three year strategic plan to support improving attendance in schools has been put into place this session and includes the following drivers: policy review, data for improvement, systems and partnerships.
- The Attendance and Engagement in Schools Policy is currently being reviewed. Consultation has been carried out with all stakeholders and revised draft is almost complete. Revised partnership approaches to supporting attendance will be part of the new policy.
- The use of data to support improvement in attendance has continued to be a focus across all schools this year. All schools can now access and manage strategic attendance data to support tracking and monitoring processes and assist in planning interventions. 8 schools have participated in the Education Scotland Improving Attendance initiative and most secondary schools have participated in a project using Service Improvement tools this year with groups who face additional barriers.
- The Interrupted Learner Service has continued to receive very positive feedback on their work with learners with Emotion Based School Avoidance. The service has also delivered CLPL, led a cluster transition initiative in partnership with Social Policy and successfully trialled an online learning group this year.
- The launch of new a new pathway 'Inspire' which is a partnership pathways working across community, education, and industry whilst providing the appropriate therapeutic intervention to allow for learners with our most complex needs to be receive their educational entitlement in an accessible and creative way to meet individual needs.

#### Cost of the School Day

- To date, almost all schools have engaged with the Child Poverty Action group (CPAG) Cost of the School Day e-learning module, to further their understanding of cost of the school day (CoSD) issues. CoSD newsletters have been issued regularly throughout the session to highlight key messages, share practice and promote learner voice. 100% of schools are now signed up to use the Fast Online Referral Tracking (FORT) system to promote referral pathways with opportunities for income maximisation for families.
- The CPAG CoSD Voice network continues to be actively promoted with significant engagement by WLC schools and a visit to Boghall Primary School, by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, took place in March 2025 when invited children and young people had an opportunity to share their work and ask questions of the Cabinet Secretary with the potential to influence change.



- Learners from both primary and secondary sectors are working with CPAG to plan an autumn CoSD conference for children and young people. Options have been explored to strengthen learner voice around CoSD issues. As a result of this, 2 school clusters have each agreed to pilot a Cluster CoSD Voice Network with work currently at an early stage. CoSD self-evaluation guidance continues to be promoted as a key self-evaluation tool, supporting schools to work towards the CoSD stretch aim.

### Equity Team Update

- The Equity Team provides universal and targeted support to schools and Early Learning & Childcare (ELC) settings in tackling the poverty-related attainment gap and making effective use of Pupil Equity Funding. Over the last year, the Equity Team's professional learning programme has supported school leaders, teachers and support staff to further develop learning, teaching and assessment approaches which can have the greatest impact in tackling poverty-related gaps.
- In addition, the Leading Equitable Schools programme has been completed by all clusters and there are now one or more middle leaders trained in every school. Bespoke, targeted support for a group of schools has continued this year and these schools have had increased opportunity to work collaboratively and share practice. Termly Equity Network sessions have also been well-attended by staff from across sectors and participants have welcomed the focus on partnership working and practice sharing.

### Positive Relationships Policy

- West Lothian Council promotes that every child should have the best start in life to enable them to realise their potential and achieve their aspirations. The existing Education Service Positive Relationships Policy which underpins this approach was revised and updated this year. This was a significant task which included a wide range of Education colleagues and multi-agency partners.
- The revised policy seeks to provide further clarity around the vision and values in West Lothian in promoting positive relationships to underpin the work of education to improve life choices and chances for children and young people. The new guidance document provides clarity for all educational establishments on how to implement the policy and aims to be flexible in nature to meet the needs of a fast paced and changing sector.

### Ongoing Initiatives / Key Areas of Work

- **Partnership Approach to Strategic Equity Fund**
  - The partnership approach to Strategic Equity Funding planning has continued in order to collaborate with a range of services across the local authority. Collaborative projects have continued which have a specific targeted focus – these have included Mentors for Violence Prevention, Interrupted Learning and Attendance Support amongst others. Schools continue to share practice in effective interventions and supports and have reported positively on the impact of their Pupil Equity Fund Planning.
- **Equity Team**
  - As the end of the second phase of the Scottish Attainment Challenge approaches, the ongoing work of the team is focused on ensuring sustainability and supporting schools to maintain a relentless focus on tackling poverty-related gaps going forward. This includes collating self-evaluation materials and other training resources which can support schools in embedding a long-term strategic approach to equity.
- **Cost of the School Day**
  - The CoSD Working Group continues to lead CoSD development and share practice. Professional learning opportunities continue to be promoted and interesting and impactful practice shared. Schools continue to be encouraged to use referral pathways, creating opportunities for income maximisation. Exploring opportunities for developing authentic and meaningful learner voice continues to be a key priority. Schools continue to be supported to work towards a CoSD evaluation of very good (or better) as set out in the SAC stretch aim for CoSD.

### Priority Areas for 2025/26:

- Positive Destinations work
- Joint refresh of GIRFEC Practice with multi-agency partners as part of the Positive Relationships Policy follow-up
- Alignment of collaborative working groups – Moving Forward in Learning - in order to continue to promote inclusive practices
- Curriculum improvement cycle for all subject areas being introduced by Education Scotland
- Support for care experienced learners around key transitions



## Strengthening Corporate Parenting

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 defines corporate parenting as "the formal and local partnerships between all services responsible for working together to meet the needs of looked after children, young people and care leavers". This includes infants, children, young people and care leavers who are:

- in residential care, including secure care
- in foster care
- in kinship care, who live with a family member other than a parent
- looked after at home
- disabled and who receive overnight respite
- left care – up to the age of 26 years

In West Lothian, the Corporate Parenting Plan is developed by the multi-agency Corporate Parenting Strategic Group and with engagement with children and young people. West Lothian are proactively working in partnership to embed the Promise Scotland Change programme and ensure that children and young people grow up loved, safe and respected.

### Main Developments in the Period 2024-2025

- A Children's Resources Panel in Social Policy has been introduced during 2024/25 with the remit of quality assuring assessment and care planning for children and young people, through visible leadership that promotes operational change to Keep The Promise and with alignment to strategic planning for children in West Lothian. The Panel is made up of group managers in Social Policy and a service manager in Children First and considers planning for individual children and families, to ensure matching to the most appropriate resource in order to minimise disruption and further trauma.
- There is continued focus on improving permanency timescales from the point of being cared for to reaching a permanent care plan decision and the dedicated social worker tracking and providing guidance and mentoring to staff is supporting with complex permanence related matters, including delays to consider new siblings. A permanence tracking meeting is now held monthly with oversight from the senior management team to identify and address delays.
- Following the planning and development phase, the West Lothian Council adoption service is now operational and includes assessing and approving foster carers as adopters, and supporting prospective adopters through the adoption process.
- There has been a significant focus on positive destinations for all care experienced young people through authority wide developments and focused planning. Care Experienced young people are specifically targeted for additional supports and planning in the senior phase to ensure that they are on track for a positive destination at the point at which they leave education. This year, we have seen a significant improvement with 89% of the eligible cohort of young people entering a positive destination. This is above the national average.
- Targeted work in analysing the attainment data across our primary schools has enabled the authority to better understand the profile of learning progress for all care experienced children across all primary schools. This information has been shared with school leadership teams to ensure robust planning for progression is in place. Next year, there will be a focus on supporting the key transition from Primary School to secondary school as part of the ongoing approach to improvement. This will form a key aspect of Education Services supporting the calls of The Promise and providing effective scaffolding for our care experienced learners as they approach with key transition.
- Improved consent rate and completion of care experienced children and young people (CECYP) Initial Health Assessments and further development of Standardised Operating Procedure which will ensure that all CECYP will be offered opportunity of annual CECYP Review Health Assessment. This will include West Lothian CECYP who are living out with Lothian area.
- Implementation of NHS Dental pathway for Care Experienced Children and Young People including Throughcare and Aftercare CECYP supporting access to dental services.

# Our Priorities

- There has been focused work on data mapping, collection, and analysis focusing on CECYP health outcomes.
- The Throughcare and Aftercare Nurse has been supporting 48 young people, some intensively, with themes including: advocating for health follow up for young people in relation to existing physical or mental health conditions, accessing appropriate health care (GP, mental health services, specialised health services, Sexual health services) and general health promotion.
- During 2024/25, Children's services in West Lothian redesigned the support and accommodation options for care leavers which has increase resource capacity. This is enabling earlier planning and improved transitions for young people, preventing delays. With improved planning and oversight across the system, this is enabling matching and choice for young people to move on at the right time for them, with tailored support.
- The Throughcare and Aftercare social work service has a lead role in supporting unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC). The service, in partnership with the third sector has established a fortnightly UASC drop-in space for young people to meet, establish relationships and create a community. There is a particular focus on English language practice, cultural exchange and supporting young people with their integration as New Scots including access to services. The opportunity has been well received by young people.
- An established local multi-agency working group continues to bring partners together to share learning and to support the ongoing developments for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in West Lothian.

## Ongoing Initiatives / Key Areas of Work:

- Positive Children's Services in West Lothian employed a graduate for a 6 month period to undertake a research project to consider how we ensure that children, young people and their families voices are heard throughout our child planning processes when they become looked after. This research made a number of recommendations on the basis of findings and there is currently consideration of a pilot to determine if changes can make a positive difference for children, young people and their families.
- Specific training focused on Permanence will be introduced for Foster Carers.
- Review of the language used within all aspects of care experienced planning and review processes. There are many examples of language changing in West Lothian and these include: Looked After Childcare Review is now called My Plan Meetings, family time as opposed to contact, Family Placement Team are now Family Based Care Service, Placement Agreement meetings are now Life Where I live meetings. The aim is to ensure a consistent approach through all processes.
- Development of process to ensure initial and review health assessment completion when West Lothian CECYP move out with the NHS Lothian area and, to ensure smooth transition and assessment of health needs when returning to the area.
- There will be a specific focus on supporting key educational transitions for care experienced children over the next academic year.
- There will be an ongoing focus on ensuring that learner voice is incorporated into all of the wider strategic planning work that is being undertaken.

## Priority Areas for 2025/26:

- The focus on positive destinations will continue as a priority for activity across all schools over the next academic year as part of authority wide plans.
- There will be ongoing focus on the assessment and evaluation of health interventions, including data from various health interventions delivered by Mental Health and Family Support, 'Active Schools' and universal services.
- Development of communications to support care experienced children and young people accessing information for health services.
- Plans for further developing UASC support with focus on Education and Social opportunities.

## Promoting Children's Rights and Participation

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 which came into force on 16th July 2024 places a legal duty on public authorities—and those acting on their behalf—to comply with the requirements of the UNCRC when exercising devolved powers, whether through Acts of the Scottish Parliament or common law. Importantly, it provides legal remedies when a child's rights are believed to have been breached and applies to everyone under the age of 18.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) outlines the specific rights that every child is entitled to in order to reach their full potential. These include rights related to health, education, leisure and play, protection from exploitation, and the right to be heard and taken seriously.

The UNCRC contains 54 articles, each setting out a different aspect of a child's rights. These can be grouped into four core principles:

- Non-discrimination
- A commitment to the best interests of the child
- The right to life, survival, and development
- Respect for the views of the child

These rights are interdependent and must be upheld in full. They are indivisible, universal, unconditional, inalienable, and inherent—they apply to every child, everywhere, at all times.

In West Lothian, we are committed to a best practice approach in realising these rights and ensuring they are at the heart of all services and support provided to children and young people

### Main Developments in the Period 2024-2025:

- A multi- agency self-assessment was completed enabling the development of an action plan and Key Performance Indicator's KPI's to measure progress
- Bite sized training delivered to various services, foster carers and elected members
- Short life working group established to progress a child friendly complaints handling process alongside children and young people
- Five Children's Rights Network events took place over the reporting period with children and young people telling us the priorities they wished to focus on were Bullying and Discrimination, School Attendance, Mental Health and Gender Based Violence
- The Children's Rights Network supported a group of children and young people in raising awareness of gender based violence, participating in the 16 days of action campaign and staging a takeover of the 101 youth works building
- The Children's rights network supported a group of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) to progress with their wish to receive support to learn the English Language
- Participation & Engagement Children's Worker appointed in January 2025 to engage with children & young people, developing their voice and supporting development of the children's rights network by co-design
  - The P&E worker has provided an opportunity for UASC young people to have a voice and hear what is important to them 4 themes have been brought to us. Appropriate staff have been approached to work in partnership to enable the needs the young people to be met
- A research project was undertaken by a graduate alongside children, young people and their families to identify barriers to care experienced young people participating in their own My Planning meetings, with key recommendations being produced
- Planning has progressed to arrange a meet the Child Protection Committee (CPC) Event
- West Lothian's Children's Rights Officer for Court Ordered Contact presented at the UNCRC conference

## Priority Areas for 2025/26:

- Positive Progression of the development and roll out of an eLearning module
- Development of a child friendly complaints process alongside children and young people
- Children's Rights Network will continue to grow to include the development of a panel of young people
- Development of a website area alongside children and young people to raise awareness of children's rights
- Increased membership of the children rights network implementation group
- A multi-agency event celebrating Keeping the Promise to be arranged alongside Care Experienced Children and Young People
- The findings from the graduate research project will be used in order to work alongside children, young people and their families to co-design a test for change within the My Planning process which can be piloted and evaluated
- Work is ongoing to look at child poverty data and any findings will be considered





## Reducing Harm from Substance Use

The West Lothian Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) is a multi-agency partnership responsible for reducing harms associated with alcohol and substance misuse. This work is underpinned by the ADP Delivery Plan 2024-28 and taken forward by seven workstreams. Two of these workstreams – Prevention and Early Intervention and the Whole Family Public Social Partnership – have a particular focus on supporting children and families impacted by substance misuse. The Whole Family PSP in particular are responsible for coordination of existing approaches and trialling a range of additional interventions. This work is currently undergoing an evaluation ahead of commissioning of ADP Children and Family services in 2026.

### Main Developments in the Period 2024-2025

#### The West Lothian Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP)

- The Corra Foundation Children and Family Fund awarded West Lothian Alcohol and Drug Partnership (WL ADP) partners a grant of £496,508 over the next five years. A collaborative bid was submitted to the fund, led by West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service (WLDAS), and included the Youth Action Project (YAP) and Circle Scotland. The five-year project focusses on early intervention, prevention, and family support for people affected by drug and alcohol problems. The funding enabled the recruitment of one new staff member in both WLDAS and YAP, as well as 0.4 FTE in Circle. Additionally, through funding from the Whole Family Approach PSP, YAP has been able to expand its capacity with the recruitment of an additional full-time youth worker. This allows the service, now called 'Wraparound West Lothian,' to reach more young people and their families impacted by substance use and provide tailored support. This funding aligns with the Scottish Government's commitment to developing support systems that aim to reduce drug-related deaths.
- The Whole Family Approach Public Social Partnership (WFA PSP) awarded funding to maintain a 0.5 FTE Family Outreach Worker role for the year 2024/25. The service helps address the growing challenges for families linked to substance use. This ensures continuity in service delivery, alleviating pressure on existing caseloads and safeguarding the ability to meet commitments within the core service. Additionally, ongoing efforts to strengthen community involvement in designing and delivering whole-family approaches remain a key priority, supporting families affected by substance use with tailored and accessible interventions.
- A Vaping Pilot was delivered in Bathgate Academy by West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service (WLDAS) and Youth Action Project (YAP) in partnership with Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) Scotland. This was taken forward as a response to the workforce survey carried out by the Prevention and Early Intervention workstream, where vaping was consistently highlighted as a concern. Two programmes were delivered in secondary school and two programmes were delivered in the community. The Prevention and Early Intervention workstream are exploring options to continue this work.
- A Digital Library Project currently in development with YAP as the lead partner organisation, funded by the Health and Social Care Alliance. The project is due for completion in September 2025.
- The ADP Strategic Needs Assessment, published in 2024, highlighted parental substance use as one of the most common concerns identified in Child Protection Case Conferences of children registering during the year of 2022/23 at 15%.
- A workforce survey was carried out by the Prevention and Early Intervention workstream, with 104 total responses. The highest number of respondents were from secondary school staff, followed by third sector staff and Social Policy.

#### Whole Family Approach Public Social Partnership (PSP)

- The Whole Family Approach PSP commenced in April 2022 and is in place until March 2026. The purpose of the Whole Family PSP is to commission projects to ensure there is whole family support in place across the West Lothian ADP to test different approaches to service delivery and establish which projects and processes are most effective.
- The national drivers for the PSP are Rights, Respect and Recovery is the Scottish Government's national strategy to improve

health by preventing and reducing alcohol and drug use, harm and related deaths with the following key priorities:

- Prevention and Early Intervention
  - Developing Recovery Oriented Systems of Care
  - Getting it Right for Children, Young People and Families
  - Public Health Approach in Justice
- In March 2025, the Whole Family Approach PSP awarded Circle additional funding for a part-time 0.5 FTE Pregnancy & Postnatal post, adding capacity to the service for one year. The WFA PSP launched the 'Pregnancy & Postnatal Support Worker' pilot in March 2023, funding a 21-hour post. Within six months, demand exceeded capacity, resulting in the introduction of a waiting list. Referral demand has led Circle to maintain an ongoing waitlist, with wait times ranging from 8 to 12 weeks—particularly concerning for expectant mothers in vulnerable situations. The ADP Needs Assessment for West Lothian highlighted a lack of services for pregnant mothers affected by substance use. The additional 0.5FTE Family Outreach Worker post aims to address this. Expanding the team allows Circle to reduce waiting times, enhance early intervention, and mitigate the risks that substance use poses to pregnant women and their babies. This complements the pilot Pregnancy post that provides essential support to families affected by substance use from pregnancy booking to two years postnatal.
  - Working alongside key partners in adult addiction, maternity, neonatal, and children and families services, the support offers a collaborative approach to care of women and babies. Using strengths-based interventions, the support focuses on substance use recovery, mother-infant attachment, parental mental health, father/couple relationship support, and social support for kinship carers and extended families.

#### **Addictions – Young People WLDAS (West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service)**

Providing 1:1 and group support to children, young people and families either active within substance use or impacted by a significant other's substance use. Interventions are provided by WLDAS' Art Psychotherapist (1:1 and group art psychotherapy sessions), Therapeutic Support Service Young Persons Worker (Counselling and Psychological Therapies) and WL Wraparound Project incorporating WLDAS (Counselling/Psychological Therapies and training to upskill other relevant professionals), Youth Action Project (Groupwork/Diversionary Activities), and Circle West Lothian (Outreach for high-risk families).

Key Developments/Achievements for this reporting period include:

- A Young Person's Grief Matters/Art Therapy integrated groupwork
- Piloting a cross organisational Art Psychotherapy group for fathers impacted by addiction
- Community arts exhibition bringing together recovery communities
- Wellbeing bags provided to young people to support wellbeing during school breaks
- 33 Drug & alcohol/stigma education workshops held and attended by 450 professionals
- 17 Drug education workshops provided to 257 young people
- 36 young people engaged in diversionary activities (music/singing, boxing, gym, dog walking etc)
- 9 parents/carers received parenting support to increase parenting capacity (strengths based)
- 17 children/young people received support at home and school to manage family life and the impact of substances on the family
- Parent, pupils and staff scoping exercise to establish knowledge/understanding of substances and where/who people go to for support. Also, what type of substance input young people receive within school and how many have attended or not within the last 5 years
- Staff scoping exercise within and out with addictions services to establish knowledge of substances, referral pathways, confidence to engage in conversations around substances and training gaps
- Embedded Evaluation of all three projects
- Quarterly and annual reporting relative to each project
- Exploring innovative ways to use Art Psychotherapy ethos to bring communities together to improve wellbeing
- Digital Library project – To Improve access to information on substances at time of need through multi-media sites and publicity materials. YAP are leading the project with community group members and young people. Assessing where information is gained and how it should be promoted, gaps in services, what works and how adjustments can be made to ensure the journey into services and experiences can be the best possible.

## Circle West Lothian

- Circle West Lothian introduced a Dad's Drop-In Group in March 2024—an inclusive, welcoming space where fathers can connect with peers and share experiences in a safe and supportive environment. The group runs weekly in partnership with Inclusion Support Service, and provides a vital network within the local community, encouraging open conversations about substance use, recovery and the impact on their children and families. The Drop-In Group has become a trusted space where fathers feel comfortable discussing personal challenges and offering peer support. This recent development in the service that Circle now offers, not only strengthens individual resilience but also fosters a broader culture of openness and solidarity among fathers navigating similar experiences and alleviating isolation.
- The whole staff team at Circle West Lothian has now successfully completed their accreditation in the Parents Under Pressure (PuP) program, marking a significant difference in their ability to support families effectively. This accreditation is invaluable in practice, as it equips professionals with evidence-based strategies to engage families facing adversity, fostering stronger parent-child relationships and enhancing family functioning. The programme integrates psychological principles with case management, addressing challenges such as parental emotional regulation, child behaviour, and family conflict. Research indicates that the program has positive effects on children's mental health and behaviour, as well as improving parenting skills.
- With the successful application to the West Lothian Summer Grant Fund for the summer of 2024, Circle were able to significantly benefit families during the summer holidays with various activities including visits to Innoflate, cinema and soft play outings were particularly well-received and golf, which has proven popular among teenage boys in both individual and group settings.
- Families supported by Circle from April 24 to March 2025;
  - 63 families were supported
  - 102 Parents/Carers supported
  - 123 Children & Young People supported

Of the 63 families supported;

- 49% of families were impacted by domestic abuse
- 60% of families were supported to engage with education; support parents to manage school meetings, support young people to engage with education/increase levels of attendance
- 85% of families have a parent living in the household with poor mental health
- 74% of families have been supported to access benefits/income support; maximise income through benefit checks, access to food banks, food shopping vouchers, address rent arrears and debts, manage cost of living increases
- 79% of families supported have a parent who is engaged with treatment & recovery services; support to engage with services such as WLDAS, CGL, CAS, support to prepare for and attend Leap
- 84% of the families supported are impacted by social isolation; substance use, mental health, and poverty being contributing factors to isolation for families
- 87% of the families Circle supported are living in a household where there is unemployment

## Priority Areas for 2025/26:

- Develop Art Psychotherapy group plans for young people to attend during summer break
- Continue to develop and build relationships with other organisations to increase awareness of Art Psychotherapy pathway and activities
- Seek funding to continue Art Psychotherapy project beyond March 2026
- Wraparound Project to create partnership working opportunities with SOL Project (Aid & Abet/Police Scotland)
- Networking/awareness event for Wraparound Project to continue to increase referral opportunities
- Look at the potential for funding opportunity to provide Vaping interventions/awareness events
- Monitor the recent upward trend of alcohol consumption by young people, is it a short term issue or is the trend moving backwards?
- Production of social media links and information materials led by those impacted by substances.
- Re-establish young person's forum/volunteer group
- Continue to provide and develop support for young people at West Lothian College
- Build on Lived Experience involvement in the development of and improvement within services

## Reducing Harm for Children and Young People in Conflict with the Law

Ensuring access to early intervention and prevention services is a key priority for the Youth Justice Service in West Lothian and its community safety partners. The collective aim is to support whole families and reduce harm for children and young people who come into conflict with the law. There is a shared commitment to diverting young people away from formal justice measures by providing the right support at the right time, using rights-respecting, participatory approaches that empower young people to be involved in decisions affecting them.

Preventative measures are essential to improving life chances for children and young people and they play a vital role in promoting community safety and protecting children from the potentially harmful consequences of early criminalisation. Where young people do come into conflict with the Law the collective aim is to promote recovery and reintegration.

Services across West Lothian have been adapting to the changes brought in by The Care and Justice (Scotland) Act 2024 which came into force in June 2024 and introduced several key reforms:

- All children under the age of 18 now have access to the Children's Hearings System, where needed.
- Grounds for referral have been expanded, allowing anyone under 18 to be referred to the Children's Reporter.
- Young people under 18 can no longer be placed in young offenders' institutions on remand or following a custodial sentence being imposed by the Court; secure care is now the standard form of detention.
- Reforms to better support victims have been introduced, including improved clarity around their right to request information from the Children's Reporter, and the establishment of a single point of contact for victims within the Children's Hearing System.

### Main Developments in the Period 2024-2025

- A new early intervention service called The Assess and Connect Team (ACT) was established working with children and young people aged 10-16 years to disrupt patterns of concerns (antisocial behaviour in the community and/or being at risk of exploitation) and reconnect young people and their families with Universal Services.
- ACT have received 58 referrals in the reporting period since it launched on 1st November 2024 with 82% of referrals coming from education.
- Development of Performance Indicators (Pi's) for ACT to measure progress
- Introduction of The Outcomes Star tool for supporting and measuring change when working with vulnerable people.
- Youth Justice support a Court service for under 21 year olds with all young people at Court being offered support and guidance. Youth Justice undertake all bail assessments and assess and manage all potential Diversion from Prosecution cases. All Justice Social Work Reports are completed applying all relevant age and stage risk assessments.
- Worked in partnership with Children and Young Peoples Centre for Justice (CYCJ) to support implementation of Care and Justice Act
- Reviewed the Care and Risk Management (CaRM) processes supporting increased learning and increased use across the service.
- Supporting Opportunities for Life (SOL) is a new service delivered by Police Scotland and the charity Aid & Abet, working together to support young people in West Lothian aged 10-25 in making meaningful, positive changes in their lives. The project offers early intervention, compassionate support, and practical assistance to help young people move towards a more hopeful and promising future.

- West Lothian Community Policing Team have developed a Domestic Abuse input aimed at teenagers to highlight the issues.
  - Supported by partners from West Lothian Woman's Aid and DASAT the delivery has proved a major success with the average feedback score from pupils being 4.65 / 5.00.
  - The input allows for audience knowledge of what a domestic incident is, provides real life stories of abuse and highlights behaviours that are not acceptable.
  - The input also covers 'Sextortion', 'That Guy' and 'Consent' providing teenagers with information, facts and figures to support their development.
  - This is a unique input and opportunity for all young people that attend West Lothian Schools.
- Detached Street Work Service and associated groupwork:
  - West Lothian Youth Action Project (WLYAP) secured the tender to deliver detached youth work, 5 shifts per week, in 4 geographical areas of West Lothian. Commencing in October 2024 initially until June 2025.
  - New workers were recruited to expand the existing team of youth workers during the autumn.
  - The Community Safety partnership and weekly TAC (Task and Coordination) group, work closely with WLYAP advising of the hotspots for youth anti-social behaviour within West Lothian. The youthwork teams then respond by engaging with young people and community members/ businesses in the areas. Young people are advised of risks, provided with information and where possible alternative activities are suggested.
  - Young people are also encouraged to participate in groupwork programmes or 1-1 support through the Youth Action Project or signposted to other specialist services when required.
  - A sample of successes so far have been the partnership work with Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) around the Bonfire season leading to a significant reduction in youth anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Nov 2024.
  - A reduction in fire raising incidents in Whitburn, leading to the creation of a groupwork programme in November for 6 young people who were very poor attenders at school. The group attendance has been excellent, 1 young person has recently secured work, two have attended school more regularly and are sitting some exams, two have college places to commence after the summer. Having previously been in trouble with Police almost weekly prior to the programme, there has only been one incident involving Police between November and April.
  - An initiative, still ongoing with Bathgate Partnership centre, to reduce the number of reported ASB incidents. Following youthwork intervention these incidents have reduced significantly
  - Excellent relationship developed between numerous retail outlets staff and security, assisting in the reduction of youth ASB.

#### **Priority Areas for 2025/26:**

- Increase Early Intervention work through ACT utilising contextual safeguarding approach
- Strengthening partnerships with community safety partners, including initiatives such as SOL's
- Continue to adapt to the changes introduced from the Care and Justice Act
- Attendance at Restorative Justice Development forum
- At the start of the new term in August 2025, Police Scotland will contact all schools in West Lothian again to start making arrangements for the new S4's to have involvement in the domestic abuse input which will total 13 inputs covering approximately 2600 students
- Detached Street Work
  - Develop partnership work with the SOL project – connections already made.
  - Further diversionary activities and groupwork programmes and 1-1's , particularly collaborating with education identifying those young people with poor attendance records and known to engage in ASB in the communities.
  - Continue partnership work with Youth Justice – joint risk assessment training etc.
  - Improve connections with Unit 101
  - Continue to build on many positive partnerships, with Police, SFRS, NHS, third sector agencies, WL College, businesses, Community Councils and young people.



## Performance Management




The national Children, Young People and Families Outcomes Framework (CYPF), draft Core Wellbeing Indicator Set was developed consisting of 21 indicators covering key aspects of wellbeing. The purpose of the set is to provide a high level and holistic overview of the state of wellbeing of children, young people and families in Scotland, highlighting whether desired long-term outcomes are being achieved and identifying areas where further attention is required. This helps us answer the question: *Is what we are doing making a difference to the lives of children, young people and families in Scotland?* The indicator set is designed to be used within local level reporting across Scotland through annual progress reporting on Children's Services Plans, and at a national level as part of reporting on wellbeing.

Data for the national indicators are mainly collected from questions that were included in the Education pupil ethos survey. No targets were set by the Scottish Government for the wellbeing indicators and further analysis of the first- and second-year results is required to ascertain meaningful targets. All of the indicators data will require analysing to understand the landscape and trend of what these mean for children and young people in West Lothian and how improvements can be made.

West Lothian priorities have been agreed and a robust suite of local indicators using the SMART framework, aligned to the actions agreed in our action plan to ensure we achieve our intended outcomes in meeting Children and Young People's needs to achieve their potential. Indicators are tracked through partner's performance information systems. Performance reports on the progress of the plan and the indicators will be submitted regularly to the Children and Families Strategic Planning Group and Children's Services Annual Reports and the 3-yearly UNCRC progress report will be submitted to the Community Planning Partnership to report progress of our Plan. Reports will be published on the website.

### Overall Summary of the Key Performance Indicators

Priority	Total	Green ✓	Amber ▲	Red ●	*Data Only
Protecting Children	11	5	0	0	6
Strengthening Corporate Parenting	11	9	1	1	0
Promoting Health and Wellbeing	9	1	1	1	6
Promoting Children's Rights and Participation	5	0	0	0	5
Raising Achievement and Attainment	5	3	1	0	1
Reducing Harm from Substance Use	4	0	0	0	4
Reducing Harm for Children and Young People in Conflict with the Law	3	2	0	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>

\*Data only (change since previous year or quarter): Increase in performance  Decrease in performance  Data remains the same 


## PROTECTING CHILDREN

These indicators are collected in academic years and as such data for Q4 2024-25 will be available in August 2025







Code	Key Performance Indicator	Value	Target	Latest Update	Status	Commentary
SPPPC_100	Number of child protection re-registrations within 12 months of deregistration	0	0	Q3 24/25	✓	There were no re-registrations in Q3 2024-25. There are a range of factors that can contribute to re-registration that are not always possible to predict. Quality assurance and analysis of re-registrations is undertaken by the Child Protection Quality Assurance Sub Committee.
SPPPC_101	Number of children on the Child Protection Register.	64	100	Q3 24/25	✓	Throughout 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 the numbers of children on the child protection register have been relatively stable with higher numbers of 76 and 80 children during 2 quarters. The National picture is a steady decrease in the numbers of children registered over the last years.
SPPPC_102	Conversion rate as a percentage of children subject to pre birth or initial Child Protection Planning Meetings who are subsequently entered onto the Child Protection Register	75%	80%	Q3 24/25	✓	This relates to the percentage of Child Protection Planning Meetings (CPPM) that result in child protection registration. Independent Reviewing Officers chair CPPMs and the decision to place a child's name on the register is a multi-agency one based on an analysis of risk. In Quarter 3 of 2024/25, the conversion rate was 75% (registration at 12 out of 16 CPPM); which was slightly lower than the same period the previous year (77%)
SPCF200_9a	Percentage of initial Child Protection Planning Meetings held no later than 28 calendar days from Initial Referral Discussion	91%	90%	Q3 24/25	✓	In Q3 of 2024-25, 91% held within timescales. This is an increase in performance from Q2 which was 64%. It should be noted timescales for holding planning meetings changed in February 2024 from 21 days to 28 days in line with National Child Protection Guidance for Scotland.
P:SPCF230_9a	Percentage of first review Child Protection Planning Meetings held within 6 months of the initial child protection Planning Meeting	94.11%	90%	Q3 24/25	✓	Q3 2024-25: 94.11% held within timescale. This is an increase from the previous quarter at 78.94% and higher than the same quarter from the previous year. Every effort is made to hold review CPPMs within timescales whilst ensuring that times and dates are convenient for children and their families
Data only	Number of children referred to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) on Offence Grounds	17	N/A	Q3 24/25	↓	The Child Protection Committee noted a reduction in the number of offence referrals to the Reporter in Q2. This has increased in Q3. Focus groups will be held with staff to try and understand the reasons for this.
Data only	Number of children referred to Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) on Non-Offence rounds	31	N/A	Q3 24/25	↓	The Child Protection Committee noted a reduction in the number of non-offence referrals to the Reporter in Q2. This has increased in Q3. Focus groups will be held with staff to try and understand the reasons for this.
Data only	Number of children with Child Protection Orders granted	3	N/A	Q3 24/25	→	Child Protection Orders are granted when children are at immediate risk of harm. This is the same number as at Q3 2023-24.
Data only	Percentage of initial Child Protection Planning Meetings with parental attendance	97%	N/A	Q2 24/25	↑	This is an improved performance from 23/24 where 93% of initial child protection planning meetings had parental attendance. Every effort is made to ensure parental attendance at CPPMs and reduce any barriers to this.
Data only	Percentage of children's reporter decisions within 50 working days	52%	N/A	Q3 24/25	↓	The percentage of decisions made within 50 days has decreased since last year. West Lothian have no influence over the performance of this indicator. The percentage was 66% at Q3 2023-24

## PROTECTING CHILDREN






These indicators are collected in academic years and as such data for Q4 2024-25 will be available in August 2025

Code	Key Performance Indicator	Value	Target	Latest Update	Status	Commentary
Data only	Number of children subject to interagency Referral Discussions (IRDs)	126	N/A	Q2 24/25		The Child Protection Committee has noted a reduction in the number of IRDs over the last 12 months and has identified a number of reasons for this. The number at Q3 2023-24 was 220








## CORPORATE PARENTING

Code	Key Performance Indicator	Value	Target	Latest Update	Status	Commentary
P:SPCF008_6a	Percentage of children and young people who participate in Looked After Children reviews	100%	95%	Q4 24/25		Performance has been 100% throughout 2024/25, an improvement on 2023/24 when performance was between 92% and 98%. In Q4 of 2024/25, children and young people contributed to 100% of MPMs that took place for those over 5 years of age.
P:SPCF112_9b	Average time taken (weeks) from point of accommodation for a child under the age of 5 to obtain a permanent placement decision	58	55	2024/25		In 2024/25, for children under age 5, the performance was on average 58 weeks, slightly decreased performance from 2023/24 when it was 56 weeks and the same as 2022/23 when it was 58 weeks.
SCHN23	Percentage of Looked After Children with more than 1 placement Move in the last year	16.4%	19%	2023/24		This Indicator forms a part of the national looked after children benchmarking data. Performance for 2023/24 was 16.4% which is a decrease in performance from the previous year at 14.2%
SOA1301_12	Percentage of Looked After and Accommodated Children with 3 or more placements within an academic year	2.4%	4%	2023/24		In 2023/24 performance was 2.4%, a slight decrease (improvement) from the previous year of 2.5%.
EDSCH906_9b.1a	Percentage of Looked After S4 pupils Achieving Level 5 Literacy	48.7%	58.3%	2023/24		This performance Indicator was introduced in August 2023 in line with the refreshed Corporate Parenting Strategy (2023-2026) Performance measures. It reports on the percentage of S4 statutorily Looked After pupils achieving Level 5 Literacy in each academic year. 2023/24 - 48.7% (reported September 2024) 2022/23 - 54.3% (reported August 2023)
EDSCH907_9b.1a	Percentage of Looked After S4 pupils Achieving Level 5 Numeracy	43.6%	20%	2023/24		This performance Indicator was introduced in August 2023 in line with the refreshed Corporate Parenting Strategy (2023-2026) Performance measures. It reports on the percentage of S4 statutorily Looked After pupils achieving Level 5 Literacy in each academic year. 2023/24 - 43.6% (reported in August 2024) 2022/23 - 31.4% (reported August 2023)



## CORPORATE PARENTING

Code	Key Performance Indicator	Value	Target	Latest Update	Status	Commentary
EDSCH909_9b.1a	Percentage of Looked After School Leavers that Achieving one or more level 6 Awards	64.9%	60.5%	2023/24		This performance Indicator was introduced in August 2023 in line with the refreshed Corporate Parenting Strategy (2023-2026) Performance measures. It reports on the percentage of S4 statutorily Looked After pupils achieving Level 5 Literacy in each academic year. 2023/24 - 64.9% (N 37) (reported March 2025) 2022/2023 - 68.6% (reported March 2024)
EDSCH911_9b.1a	Percentage Attendance at school of looked After children and young people	86.4%	87.7%	2023/24		Performance for 2023/24 was 86.4%. This is a slight increase in performance from 85.7% in 2023/24 and remains above the National Average of 84.4% for 2022/23 (Published Aug 2024). Performance remains below the set target of 87.7%. National data for 2023/24 will be published by the Scottish Government in August 2025.
EDSCH910_9b.1a	Percentage of Looked After School Leavers entering a positive destination	89.2%	69%	2023/24		As the number of formally looked after children is small within any year group, minor dips in performance for a small number of pupils can affect the overall performance significantly. <b>2023/24</b> – 89.2% - (N-37) This demonstrated an internal improvement in performance on the previous year but still remained below our virtual comparator (93.2%) but above the national average of 87.2%. The target for 2024/25 is set at 89% to reflect a commitment to ongoing performance in this area but acknowledging the significant impact of small changes in performance as a result of small numbers in each cohort.
P:SPCF124_9b.1c	Percentage of young people eligible for an Aftercare service experiencing one or more episodes of homelessness	10.6%	10%	2024/25		In 2024/25, 10.6% of young people eligible for Aftercare experienced one or more episodes of homelessness. This performance related to 35 people out of 331 people.
SPCF228_9b.1c	Number of looked after young people in their care placement aged 16 and over	53	30	Qtr 4 2024/25		In Q4 of 2024/25 there were 53 young people in their care placement aged 16 and over, slightly higher than in Q3 where there were 50. Overall, numbers in 2024-25 are higher than the previous three years.





## PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELLBENG

Code	Key Performance Indicator	Value	Target	Latest Update	Status	Commentary
Data only	Proportion of children under 16 living in households with at least one person aged 16-64 where all individuals aged 16+ are in employment	60%	N/A	2023		Average for Scotland is 57%. West Lothian is 3% above the Scottish average. Universal Credit Official statistics. ONS, Workless households for regions across the UK. (Annually). This is a national KPI and will require further group discussion with the relevant partners to review. There has been a decrease nationally and locally from 68% in 2022. The status is based on the West Lothian local results of a reduction from 68% to 60%.
Data only	Percentage of S1-S3 children who agree that their friends treat them well	82.6%	N/A	2024		This is a national wellbeing indicator set by the Scottish Government (SG). No targets have been set by the SG and this will be reviewed in West Lothian. The data is collected in the Education Pupil Ethos Survey. There has been a slight decrease in performance from the 2023 figure of 83.9%
Data only	Number of children in temp accommodation at 31 March	454	No target	2025		Numbers of children in temporary accommodation has risen slightly over the last year, with 440 being accommodated as at 31st March 2024 (a 3.2% increase since then). Supply of affordable social housing remains the biggest challenge. Whilst a number of initiatives within the R RTP target prevention of homelessness and improving throughput the imbalance between demand and supply is so severe. This results in households being accommodated for longer periods of time in temporary accommodation as family sized properties are in short supply.
Data only	Percentage S1-S6 children that had at least 1 hour of exercise 3 or more days per week	86%	N/A	2024		This is a national wellbeing indicator set by the Scottish Government (SG). No targets have been set by the SG and this will be reviewed in West Lothian. The data is collected in the Education Pupil Ethos Survey. This is an increase of 4% from 2023 (82%).
Data only	Percentage children with a concern at their 27-30 month review (as a % of children reviewed)	17.3%	N/A	2023/24		Early Child Development, PHS. (Annual). West Lothian is sitting slightly higher than the national average of 16.7%. It has a significantly higher number of concerns than the rest of Lothian. Speech, Language and Communications developmental outcomes data is collected at the 27-30 month child health review. The review, introduced in Scotland in April 2013, is a universal assessment offered to every child once they reach the appropriate age. The review records the outcome of a developmental assessment looking at 9 domains (social; emotional; behavioural; attention; speech language & communication; gross motor; fine motor; vision and hearing) and specifically whether there are one or more concerns in relation to the domains mentioned. Speech and language concerns are 3 times as high in the most deprived areas than they are in the least deprived areas. National increase and local increase (from 14%).
Data only	Percentage of P5-S6 children who say they <i>always</i> have an adult in their life they can trust and talk to about any problems	94%	N/A	2024		This is a national wellbeing indicator set by the Scottish Government (SG). No targets have been set by the SG and this will be reviewed in West Lothian. The data is collected in the Education Pupil Ethos Survey. This is an increase of 1% from 2023 (93%)
SCHN17_9 b.1a	Percentage of children meeting developmental milestones at their 27-30 month review	82.7%	84%	2023/24		The performance in 2023/24 was 82.7% of children meeting developmental milestones at their 27-30month review. This is slightly below the Scottish average of 83.3%

## PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELLBENG






Code	Key Performance Indicator	Value	Target	Latest Update	Status	Commentary
	Relative child poverty rate (after housing costs)	24%	Interim target 18%	2023/24		National child poverty rate is 22% and West Lothian is higher at 24%
	Breastfeeding drop-off rate vs target for West Lothian at 6-8 week visit	33.4%	36.6%	2023/24		<p>Breastfeeding data are collected at routine child health reviews at around 10 days of age (first visit) and around 6 to 8 weeks of age (second/follow up visit) by the public health nurse/health visitor. Breastfeeding data is closely related to SIMD with the lowest number of breastfed babies in SIMD 1 (most deprived) and the highest number of breastfed babies in SIMD 5 (least deprived).</p> <p>Breastfeeding drop off at 6-8weeks for West Lothian is 33.4%, this is the lowest it has been and means that West Lothian has met the Scottish Government target for drop off which was 36.6% (which was set in 2017)</p> <p>The DEBS team continue to show improvement in breast feeding drop off rates across West Lothian, with more babies receiving breast milk at the first health visitor visit (41% improvement) and at the 6-8 week check (43% improvement).</p>

## PROMOTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND PARTICIPATION





Code	Key Performance Indicator	Value	Target	Latest Update	Status	Commentary
Data only	Percentage S1-S6 children who say they feel safe when out in their local area <i>always or most of the time</i>	91%	TBA	2024		This is a national wellbeing indicator set by the Scottish Government (SG). No targets have been set by the SG and this will be reviewed in West Lothian. The data is collected in the Education Pupil Ethos Survey. This is a positive trend from 87% in 2023.
Data only	Percentage S1-S6 children who agree their local area is a good place to live	79%	TBA	2024		This is a national wellbeing indicator set by the Scottish Government (SG). No targets have been set by the SG and this will be reviewed in West Lothian. The data is collected in the Education Pupil Ethos Survey. This is a positive trend from 78% in 2023
Data only	Percentage S1-S3 children who say they were bullied in the last year	40%	TBA	2024		This is a national wellbeing indicator set by the Scottish Government (SG). No targets have been set by the SG and this will be reviewed in West Lothian. The data is collected in the Education Pupil Ethos Survey. This is a positive trend of a decrease of 2% from 2023/24 (42%)
Data only	Percentage P5-S6 children who agree adults are good at taking what they say into account	71%	TBA	2024		This is a national wellbeing indicator set by the Scottish Government (SG). No targets have been set by the SG and this will be reviewed in West Lothian. The data is collected in the Education Pupil Ethos Survey. This is a positive trend from 2023 of 69%.
Data only	I have opportunities to learn about my rights and these are protected and promoted	78%	TBA	2024	No comparison	This is a national wellbeing indicator set by the Scottish Government (SG). No targets have been set by the SG and this will be reviewed in West Lothian. The data is collected in the Education Pupil Ethos Survey. This is the first collection of this data so there is no comparison.



## RAISING ACHIEVEMENT AND ATTAINMENT

Code	Key Performance Indicator	Value	Target	Latest Update	Status	Commentary
Data only	Percentage school leavers in positive destinations at 9-month follow up	91.6%		2023/24		Follow up Positive Destinations performance for 2023/24 was 91.6%. This is a 0.5% increase from 2022/23 but is below the National performance of 93.1%.
CP:EDSCH 601_9b.1	Percentage of P1, P4 & P7 children achieving expected CfE literacy levels (reading, writing, listening & talking)	80%	80%	2023/24		Performance in 2023/24 was 80% which was an increase from 2022/23 performance and met the target of 80%. School improvement plans are focussed on ongoing improvements in literacy attainment and an authority focus on building a reading culture has impacted positively on reading attainment.
CP:EDSCH 0819b.1a	Percentage of P1, P4 & P7 children achieving expected CfE numeracy levels	85%	85%	2023/24		The target for this performance indicator is to achieve 87% by 2023/24, and this was set in the development of the council's Corporate Plan. As this indicator is measured across the Academic year then the end of Corporate Plan performance is 2021/22. Performance in 2023/24 was 85% which matched 2022/23 performance of (85%) and below target (87%).
CP:EDSQA 1059b.1a	School Leavers achieving 1 or more Level 6 awards	85%	77.5%	2023/24		West Lothian - 1883 of 2206 pupils achieving (85%) Virtual Comparator - 13744 of 22060 pupils achieving (62%) National - 37197 of 55961 pupils achieving (66%)
EDSCH504_9b.1c	Percentage Attendance Levels in Secondary Schools	86.1%	86.5%	2023/24		Possible Openings - 3638257 Attendance Openings - 4216887 Authorised Absence Openings - 257230

## REDUCING HARM FROM SUBSTANCE USE

Code	Key Performance Indicator	Value	Target	Latest Update	Status	Commentary
Data only	Percentage of families engaging in drug and alcohol support from the referrals received in the period	83%	TBA	2024/25		29 referrals were received in the period 2024/25 of which 24 engaged with the service. This is a decrease in performance from 2023/24 of 91% of families who engaged.
Data only	Percentage of families supported who met all or part of their agreed SHANARRI outcomes where relevant	73%	TBA	2024/25		There were 63 families supported in this period and 73% met all or part of their relevant agreed outcomes to support their needs. The families supported included 108 parents/carers and 132 children. This is a decrease in performance from 92.5% in 2023/24
Data only	Percentage of Young People engaging in drug and alcohol support from the referrals received in the period	97.5%	TBA	2024/25		There were 48 referrals received in 2024/25 period for the service. whose needs where supported broken into alcohol/drugs/alcohol and drugs. This is an increase from 74% in 2023/24
Data only	Percentage of Young People who engaged in support who have met their outcomes and subsequently discharged - Planned	48%	TBA	2024/25		30 young people accessed the service with 16 accessing support for alcohol and 14 seeking support with drugs. During the period 23 young people left the service with 11 having met their agreed outcomes and no longer needing support. This equates to 48% of young people with a planned discharge. This is a reduction from 58% planned discharges in 2023/24.

## REDUCING HARM FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

Code	Key Performance Indicator	Value	Target	Latest Update	Status	Commentary
<b>P:SPCJ10 3a_9b</b>	Percentage of Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) cases 12 to 17 years who do not become known to the Youth Justice Team within 12 months	95%	95%	2023/24	✓	There is no published data available for this indicator for 2024/25. This is reported retrospectively. Performance for 2023/24 remains consistent at 95% indicating that EEI is continuing to have a successful impact, overall, in intervening to stop antisocial behaviours from progressing in frequency and severity.
<b>SPCJ104 _9b</b>	Percentage of under 21 year olds subject to Community Payback Orders supervised by the Youth Justice Service with a successful termination.	100%	70%	Q4 24/25	✓	Q4 2024/25 - numbers of orders increased in this quarter and so did completion which was back to 100% and looking at the average over the year it is sitting at 92% or orders successfully completed which is excellent performance.
<b>CsspPPL0 1 Data only</b>	Number of young people between 8 and 11 years that go to an appropriate agency instead of EEI due to Age of Criminal Responsibility Act (ACRA)	10	N/A	Q4 24/25	➔	The overall trend remains generally static with any variation in numbers being due to a child or children being identified more than once. Q4 2024-25 There were 10 children referred relating to 11 concern reports. A less busy quarter than Q3; all referred to appropriate resources.



All West Lothian's priorities contribute directly to the Wellbeing Indicators (SHANARRI) and correlate with links to the UNCRC priorities of safeguarding children and young people:

Wellbeing Indicator	Priority	Suggested Links to the UNCRC
<b>Safe</b>  Protected from abuse, neglect or harm at home, at school and in the community	Child Protection	(11) abduction and non-return of children, (19) protection from violence, abuse and neglect, (22) refugee children, (32) child labour, (33) drug abuse, (34) sexual exploitation, (35) abduction, sale and trafficking, (36) other forms of exploitation, (37) inhumane treatment and detention, (38) war and armed conflicts
<b>Healthy</b>  Having the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, access to suitable healthcare and support in learning to make healthy, safe choices	Promote Health and Wellbeing	(3) best interests of the child, (6) life, survival and development, (24) health and health services, (39) recovery and rehabilitation of child victims
<b>Achieving</b>  Being supported and guided in learning and in the development of skills, confidence and self-esteem, at home, in school and in the community	Raising achievement and attainment	(4) Governments must do all they can to make sure every child can enjoy their rights in systems that promote and protect these rights, (18) parental responsibilities and state assistance, (28) right to education, (29) goals of education
<b>Nurtured</b>  Having a nurturing place to live in a family setting, with additional help if needed, or, where possible, in a suitable care setting	Corporate Parenting	(4) Governments must do all they can to make sure every child can enjoy their rights in systems that promote and protect these rights, (5) parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities, (18) parental responsibilities and state assistance, (20) children deprived of a family, (21) adoption, (25) review of treatment in care, (27) adequate standard of living
<b>Active</b>  Having opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport, which contribute to healthy growth and development, at home, in school and in the community	Promote Health and Wellbeing	(3) best interests of the child, (23) children with disabilities, (31) leisure, play and culture
<b>Respected</b>  Having the opportunity, along with carers, to be heard and involved in decisions that affect them	Children's Rights  Corporate Parenting	(2) non-discrimination, (3) best interests of the child, (4) Governments must do all they can to make sure every child can enjoy their rights in systems that promote and protect those rights. parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities, (8) protection and preservation of identity, (12) respect for the views of the child, (13) freedom of expression, (14) freedom of thought, belief and religion, (16) right to privacy, (17) access to information; mass media, (18) parental responsibilities and state assistance, (30) the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family
<b>Responsible</b>  Having opportunities and encouragement to play active and responsible roles at home, in school and in the community, and where necessary, having appropriate guidance and supervision, and being involved in decisions that affect them	Reduce Substance Misuse  Reduce offending behaviour in Children and Young People	(3) best interests of the child, (12) respect for the views of the child, (14) freedom of thought, conscience and religion, (15) freedom of association, (40) juvenile justice
<b>Included</b>  Having help to overcome social, educational, physical and economic inequalities, and being accepted as part of the community in which they live and learn	Children's Rights  Corporate Parenting	(3) best interests of the child, (6) life, survival and development, (18) parental responsibilities and state assistance, (23) children with disabilities, (26) social security, (27) adequate standard of living



**Getting it Right for West Lothian's Children & Families**

