



West Lothian Community Safety Partnership Strategic Plan 2022 - 2025
Working Together for a Safer West Lothian

BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES AND PROTECTING PEOPLE AT RISK

Abstract

This strategic Plan sets out key outcomes, activities and behaviours that the Community Safety Partnership will pursue in support of our individual and joint local priorities. It aims to support a culture of continuous improvement for joint working to make West Lothian safe

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For more information:

[West Lothian Council – https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/30848/HomeWest Lothian Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 6FF](https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/30848/HomeWest%20Lothian%20Civic%20Centre,%20Howden%20South%20Road,%20Livingston,%20West%20Lothian,%20EH54%206FF)

Executive Summary

Our Strategic Plan builds upon joint planning foundations established through our West Lothian Community Safety Partnership. The plan outlines our vision for community safety for the people of West Lothian; what our priorities are and how we will continue to build on a foundation of strong partnership work to deliver them.

Following the Covid 19 pandemic and continuing through the recovery phase, we are working within a fluid environment where there are increasing demands for services and growing public expectations at a time of significant resource challenges and financial constraints. Therefore, it is extremely important that we utilise our collective resources to our best means, share resources and at the same time, work to reduce duplication and provide a timely response to the communities we serve. Being able to respond as quickly as possible in this way means that we get the correct help where it is needed and it is delivered in the right place, at the right time, by the right person. Where possible, partners continue to be proactive, working towards early intervention and the prevention of incidents and criminality.

As a Community Safety Partnership (CSP), we are all acutely aware of the necessity and benefits of why we must all work together in a more integrated way with each other, including the third sector, in respect of demands on health care and community health services to deliver on our strategic priorities and maximise our health and wellbeing.

Tackling health inequalities has been prioritised at both a national and local level and has a bearing across the partnership. We recognise that health and wellbeing inequalities are not likely to be changed significantly by single services working in isolation. These inequalities require to be challenged by a joined up, co-ordinated approach by all the partners.

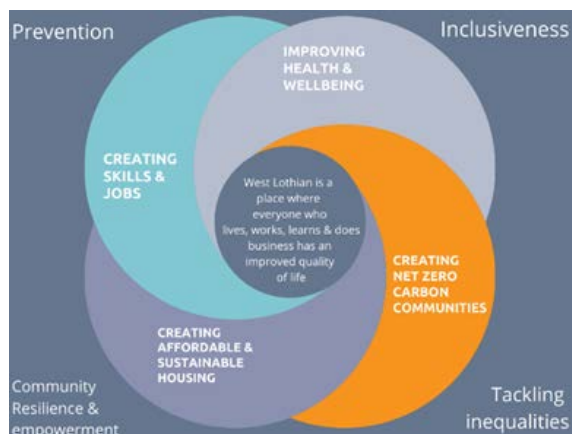
Along with the Partners, responsibility for strategic planning for emergency response services relating to community safety, we will identify opportunities to design and deliver new services which ensures we provide a response that meets the collective needs of the community.

Community Safety covers a vast number of issues and the Community Safety Partnership needs to be able to be reactive to meet the most serious of all needs. Partners recognise that the requirement to meet these operational demands whilst at the same time, acknowledging how we intend to deliver services that meets the strategic planning, is the way forward in how we will have a significant impact on shifting the balance on reducing health and wealth inequalities and improving safety of people and places across West Lothian.

Through this strategic plan we aim to ensure: *We continue to share information to maintain our joint working and pull resources to target the most vulnerable and reduce incidents of crime and harm thus promoting a safe and nurturing environment to live and work.*

Introduction - Welcome to the West Lothian Community Safety Strategic Plan 2022/25

This Strategic Plan has been developed in support of the current West Lothian Council's Corporate Plan and is anticipated to align to the new Corporate Plan being developed for the period 2023 – 202.... This Community Safety Plan will support the current local Police and Fire Plans and the work being undertaken by the Community Planning Partners (CPP) to re-new the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) which sits at the top tier of the governance framework. The new LOIP is anticipated to have 4 Pillars within the framework



Within this Plan are key outcomes, activities and behaviours that the Community Safety Partnership will pursue in support of our individual and joint local priorities along with other partner related strategies and aims to support a culture of continuous improvement and joint working. The priorities described within this Plan align well to priorities set out above and will support the 4 Pillars. The Plan sets out the governance of the Community Safety Partnership and explains the reporting mechanisms to the Community Safety Board which oversees the Partnership activities and performance relating to Community Safety and its relevance to the LOIP. The delivery will enhance the ethos of the following statements;

The Scottish Government: We want to enable everyone in Scotland to live in communities where they feel secure and are safe from crime, disorder and harm.

Justice in Scotland: A vision and the Priorities set out by the Scottish Government for a *Just, Safe and Resilient Scotland* – where the Scottish Government set out transformative vision of the future justice system for Scotland, spanning the full journey of criminal, civil and administrative justice, with a focus on creating safer communities and shifting societal attitudes and circumstances which perpetuate crime and harm. Fairness, the rule of law and justice services must transform to meet the needs of people in today's society, and as such, the five aims include:

- We have a society in which people feel, and are, safer in their communities
- We work together to address the underlying causes of crime and support everyone to live full and healthy lives

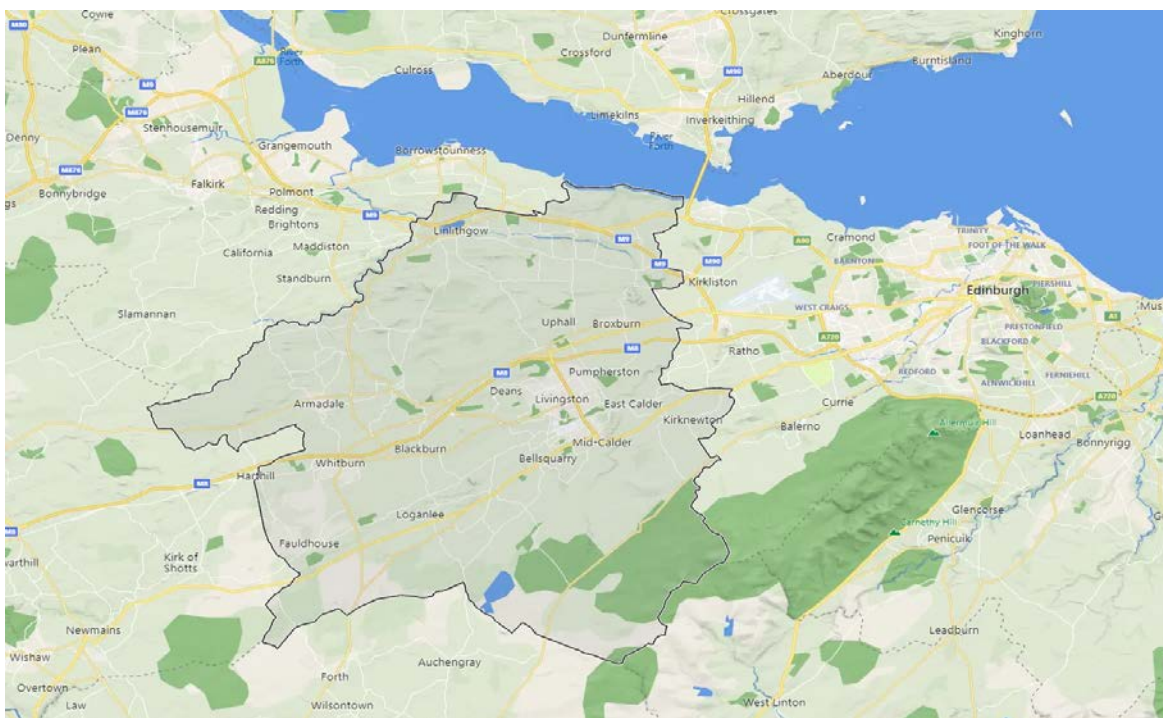
- We have effective, modern person-centered and trauma-informed approaches to justice in which everyone can have trust, including as victims and those accused of crimes and as individuals in civil disputes.
- We support rehabilitation, use custody only where there is no alternative and work to reduce reoffending and revictimization
- We address the on-going impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to renew and transform justice

The National Performance Framework (NPF) providing a clear vision for Scotland of national wellbeing, covering economic, health, social and environmental indicators and targets. In respect of antisocial behaviour, the relevant national outcome relates to; We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe.

West Lothian Integration Joint Board Strategic Plan setting out how it intends to deliver its vision; To increase wellbeing and reduce health inequalities across all communities in West Lothian.

West Lothian - An overview of the Community Safety Partnership

Community Safety and all that it entails, remains a high priority for the members of the Community Safety Partnership as it continues to protect the people living and working in West Lothian. There is a focus on the well-being of individuals as well as communities as a whole, where everyone feels happy, healthy, safe and included. The partnership remains committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusivity within communities. It is fair to say that prejudice and unfairness will not be tolerated and the nine protected characteristics outlined in the Equality Act 2010 are respected and supported by all.



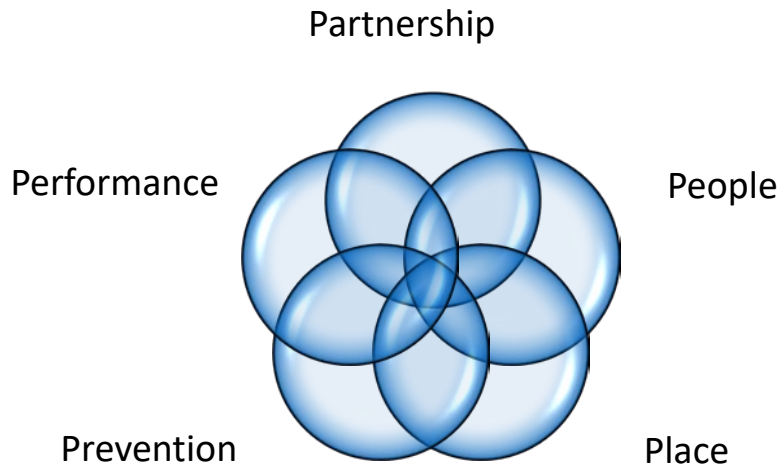
About the 'Community Safety Partnership'

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) includes West Lothian Council, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, NHS Lothian, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, Scottish Prison Service, West Lothian College, Justice Services and the Voluntary (third sector) Organisations and businesses. Our 'Partnership' also extends to colleagues in all the other 31 Local Authorities across Scotland as we share Best Practise and intelligence in order to protect life and maintain safety. Partners are committed to delivering effective joint working arrangements to continue to share information, work collaboratively in order to pull resources, target the most vulnerable and provide the best outcomes possible to reach our joint aim.

Our Principles

It is 10 years on from the Christie Commission, the Community Safety Partnership still strives to work towards the Christie principles – There are now 5 principles. A 5th principle 'Place' was added on at a later date and is very much an important part of how the Community Safety Partnership sets out a lot of its work. A diagram of the Community Safety Partnership principles is set out below and shows how the 5 principles entwine

1. Partnership
2. People
3. Performance
4. Prevention
5. *Place*



This is reflective of how the work carried out by the Community Safety Partners is seen within the communities: overlapping, sometimes requiring multi skilled resources to resolve difficult and complex situations, involving multi layers of provision in order to resolve the issues presented.

❖ What is our Aim?

To reduce incidents of crime and harm and prevent offending and reoffending whilst removing the opportunity for escalation of incidents thus promoting a safe and nurturing environment to live and work.

❖ How do we do that?

Strategic planning and continued partnership working ensures that we will continue to make effective use of evidence-based interventions for all ages and that our work remains to be proactive as well as reactive. Using evidence/data and utilising our own skill sets, knowing our service provision and looking at what the data and people tell us. The community safety partners know what the communities across West Lothian need them to focus on. With this knowledge and availability to be creative with ideas for improvement, the partners are able to create opportunities that develop and improve existing provision to strive to provide a better service.

❖ Developing the Strategy and Action Plans

This Community Safety Strategic Plan has been the collaborative production. It has been influenced in its development by the evidence data, performance trend, review of strategic plans and horizon scanning applying the knowledge gained from the partners and customers from close working in communities across West Lothian that have helped shape the priorities.

❖ Strategic Priorities

Community Safety Partners have developed a list of high-level strategic priorities considering the 5 key principles - Partnership - People – Performance – Prevention and Place. The Community Safety Partners will report on the strategic priorities and on the action plans that will flow from these priorities. The success of the plan will be measured through outcomes and key performance indicators throughout the lifetime of the strategy. The following tables set out the:-

- Strategic Principle/Strategic Topic
- Lead Agency
- Summary Action and Desired outcome

Strategic Principle	Lead Agency	Strategic Topic	Priority / Action	Outcome
People	Trading Standards	Financial Harm	To monitor the number of Financial Harm referrals made via the CSP referral system for joint interventions to work together to reduce harm, provide support and deliver interventions to protect individuals	To reduce the harm caused by Financial Harm and to prevent repeat incidents and provide support to people at risk
People	Justice Services	EI	Streamlining processes between CS and EI (including ACR and Whole Systems Approach) - to develop pathways and to help drive progress and enable earlier interventions	To lower the quantity of youth calls and concerns to the CSP's.
People	Justice Services KC Emailed x2	ACES	Increasing ACE's Trauma Informed Practice and a response overall that meets age and stage of maturation in young	To develop a holistic and appropriate response

People	WLHSCP, ADP Teams Mtg with Mike: 20.8.22	Drug and Alcohol	To increase the number of Whole Family Approaches in West Lothian to reduce the misuse of drug and alcohol misuse	To reduce the incidents of harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse
People	WLHSCP Teams Mtg with Mike: 20.8.22	Mental Health	Workstream to be set up looking at interface between children's/ young people's services, CAMHS, adult mental health services and Primary Care	To provide a streamlined service provision to aid support
People	WLHSCP Teams Mtg with Mike: 20.8.22	Mental Health	To continue the ongoing work with NHS Lothian Unscheduled Care Board to improve pathways from NHS 24 MH hub, Lothian flow centre and primary care.	To develop an unscheduled pathway to ensure that those in distress in the community are supported to access assessment, care and treatment in a timely manner.
People	WLHSCP Teams Mtg with Mike: 20.8.22	Suicide Prevention	To develop a Suicide Prevention Board and a Public Health practitioner to be recruited with capacity to take forward actions directed by Board	To reduce the incident rate of suicide
People	Anti-Poverty Service	Poverty and Inequality	To develop early intervention pathways in partnership with other agencies to mitigate negative impacts for those at risk of poverty	To promote equality and inclusion through advice and support to prevent engagement in criminality
People	SFRS	Unintentional Harm	To undertake analysis of unintentional harm and injury and identify key areas of focus for partners to seek improvement and reductions of unintentional harm and to implement reduction strategies, prevention and early intervention methodology.	To reduce the instances of unintentional harm and injury for over 65's and under 5's
People	SFRS WLC	Hoarding	Design a referral process to highlight instances of Hoarding with a view to providing intervention and reducing harm	To reduce the instances of harm from the results of Hoarding
People	WLC Dougie e- mailed x2	Community Wealth Building Team (Community Planning and Regeneration)	To provide a structure to engage with community groups and communities to encourage co-production both to provide the CS process with a better insight into the issues affecting people within the communities across West Lothian. To provide a way for CP Partners to engage with communities at a local level. Including those from the areas identified through the SIMD bottom 20% DZs and key hard to reach groups	To ensure that our communities are both informed about and able to participate in shaping the response to community safety priorities across West Lothian
Strategic Principle	Lead Agency	Strategic Topic	Priority / Action	Outcome

Place	WLC	Road Safety	To provide a partnership approach to Road Safety by using the aim of Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2030 towards Vision Zero (no death and no serious injuries on Scotland's roads by 2050) by using the Safe System	To reduce the casualty rates from road traffic collisions
Place	SFRS	Water Safety	To develop and set up a partnership approach to water safety by the creation of a Water Safety Strategy and support long term partnership delivery	To work towards Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy - Reduce accidental drowning deaths in Scotland by 50 % by 2026 and reduce risks of accidents
Place	SNT	Mediation	To increase the number of antisocial behaviour mediation interventions with a view to more people accepting these as a positive intervention	To encourage community resilience and harmony through understanding, compromise and good neighbourliness in communities and, nurturing responsibility and self help
Place	Police Scotland	Partnership against Rural Crime	To have a sustained approach to providing crime prevention advice and increased communication / literature across West Lothian promoting green spaces in our communities and environments, thus empowering people to ensure these areas remain safe and enjoyable places to live, work and visit	To reduce the incidents of ASB and crime within our community environments and ensure that our parks and green spaces remain safe and enjoyable places to live, work and visit.
Place	WLC	Women and Girls Safety	Take forward the development of a partnership approach to improve women and girl's safety across West Lothian	To improve the safety of women and girls
Place	Anti-Poverty Service	Poverty and Inequality	Work in partnership with other agencies to improve access to targeted advice and support	To improve early intervention for groups at risk of poverty to secure positive outcomes
Strategic Principle	Lead Agency	Strategic Topic	Priority / Action	Outcome
Prevention	Police/Council	Serious Organised Crime	<p>Delivery of Serious Organised Crime Action Plan covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent and reduce Serious and Organised Crime across West Lothian Reduce harm caused by Serious and Organised Crime through Detect, Deter, Divert and Disrupt activities Tackling drug supply and misuse through enforcement Improve access to uptake of drug prevention and diversionary activities 	Prevention 1 – Information Sharing - sharing information intelligence, joint tasking and coordinating resources to prevent instances of crime and to target, disrupt and deter those involved in serious and organised crime.
Prevention		Community Safety Partnership	Ensure multi-agency safeguarding measures are available to prevent people	Prevention 2 – CONTEST - to reduce the risk from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with

		Community Safety Partnership	from being drawn into terrorism.	confidence, and to respond to the threat from terrorism
		Council/Police	Ensure that frontline staff who engage with the public should understand what radicalisation means and why people may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism as a consequence of it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent: to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism Pursue: to stop terrorist attacks Protect: to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack Prepare: to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack
			Maintain the local multi-agency CONTEST group to oversee activity in West Lothian and provide progress updates on activity contained in the local implementation plan.	
Prevention		Community Safety Partnership	Embed Prevent into everyday activities and ensure the Prevent Referral Process is widely understood across the across the Community Safety Partnership.	Prevention 3 – Prevent – to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and to reduce incidents and threats of attack in West Lothian from violent extremist and terrorist ideologies, groups and individuals.
		Council/Police Scotland	Ensure people who may be drawn into terrorism are safeguarded and offered appropriate advice and support through the Prevent Multi Agency Panel (PMAP) process.	
		Council/Police Scotland	Enable high risk and vulnerable individuals to reach their full potential and successfully reintegrate into society	
Prevention		Police Scotland	Increase the awareness of significant infrastructure and engage with partners to enhance the resilience / protective security capability at these locations.	Prevention 3 – Protect – to enhance physical, personnel and cyber protective security to protect against terrorism and other malicious threats.
		Community Safety Partnership	Partners to identify locally relevant significant infrastructure assets and any existing gaps in security / resilience.	
		Police Scotland	Collaborate with partners in order to overcome identified gaps.	
Prevention		Police Scotland	Ensure appropriate advice on keeping yourself safe in the rare event of a firearms or weapons attack is provided.	Prevention 4 – Prepare - to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack that cannot be stopped.
		Community Safety Partnership	Increased resilience in order to recover after an attack.	
Prevention		Police Scotland	Ensure appropriate advice is provided on how to report suspicious activity and/or the threat of terrorist activity.	Prevention 5 - Pursue: - to investigate and disrupt terrorist attacks.

The partnership is committed to working collaboratively to achieve these priorities over the life time of this plan. As a partnership, the challenges for all public sector bodies cannot be under estimated as the recovery following the COVID19 pandemic continues and ongoing challenges with regards to resourcing and economic pressures impacting on services and communities. West Lothian Council alone has to meet a significant budget gap of £73 million over the next five years. It is imperative that partners are able to share resources, reduce duplication and maximise delivery and outputs across West Lothian.

Delivering focused work within the available resources will enable effective working and help maintain the crucial partnership that has grown and developed over the years within West Lothian. Our continued method of working is robust and equipped to face the challenges and opportunities Community Safety presents, now and in the coming years. The partnership recognises that a safe community creates conditions in which individuals and communities can thrive and is therefore fundamental to improving wellbeing. We are confident that the information sharing and the available analytical capacity from our collective services allows us to have the capability of providing an overview assessment of what is current, what is missing or could be improved and what is required for future work.

❖ **How do we link to Community Planning Partnership?**

The Community Safety Board sits alongside the Economic Partnership Forum, the Health and Wellbeing Partnership and the Climate Change and Sustainability Working Group. All of these groups are Governed by the Community Planning Steering Group and the Community Planning Partnership Board (CPPB). Community Planning Partnership focuses on where partners' collective efforts and resources can add the most value to their local communities, with particular emphasis on reducing inequality.



Community Planning aims to improve the connection between all the tiers of Government and wider society through partnership working to jointly deliver better outcomes for everyone. The Community Safety Partners link in with other services within the Council such as Education, Community Education and Social Policy. These areas cover all the Educational aspects of community safety and assist partners with delivering preventative information and initiatives in and out of school settings. In addition, assisting with personal safety for both young and old alike is imperative to help keep people safe, at home and when out and about and also in care settings.

❖ **Community Engagement**

It is important for people to feel like they belong in their community and that they can take some pride and responsibility for the area in which they live. Encouraging community empowerment is an essential part of the way in which people have a say in how they live their lives, what affects them and what they can do to help make decisions to keep themselves safe. Community involvement is to be encouraged and the Community Safety Partners have seen some encouraging work in recent years within some communities across West Lothian.

One such intervention, hailed by the Scottish Government as **good practice**, highlighted the benefits of working together within the community, encouraging participation and carrying out interventions that made them safer over the bonfire and firework period. Peer education and communication assisted in the impressive joint partnership initiative and as a result, brought the community closer together, provided interventions to divert young people away from antisocial behaviour whilst at the same time, proactively assisting with the reduction of crimes and incidents whilst reducing the fear of crime and supporting community cohesion.

It is vitally important that we use the collective resources available across the Partnership, to intervene at the earliest opportunity, and work together to provide support and guidance to those who require our help and assistance. We are committed to protect those who are most vulnerable or disadvantaged. In a variety of ways, the partnership will develop positive engagement, so we can continue to foster and encourage social responsibility. This will strengthen the community's resilience across West Lothian and thereby reduce inequalities and support victims and vulnerable groups.

❖ **How do we promote safety?**

The CSP uses a number of ways to promote safety and do this by contacting communities with the use of: Social media, local newspapers, Bulletin, Twitter, Facebook, websites, local meetings including community council meetings, school visits, gala days and specific awareness raising days/weeks/events that supports the partnership aims and being available and approachable within communities.

❖ **Place Making**

One of the areas that a connected partnership can assist with is developing the ethos of place making. Our physical environment can have a significant impact on our health. It influences what we do, the way we move, and how we interact with people and places. The places we live can help us and be places that support our physical, social and mental wellbeing and prevent negative issues such as inactivity, obesity, air quality and a variety of other physical and mental health challenges. Healthy Place Making and nurturing sustainable places will help provide a better balance. West Lothian Community Safety Partners want to promote the development of healthy places and together our planners, developers, designers, and a range of other professionals consider how policy and practice can positively influence health. In turn, this helps us all better understand the impact of the built and natural environment on our wellbeing and explore opportunities to make our places healthier. We need to work together, with communities, to help maintain these safe places and keep them free from litter, damage, fly-tipping, deliberate fire-raising, vandalism and antisocial behaviours



Community Safety Partners aim to promote the value of a consistent set of place and wellbeing outcomes when delivering places that enable wellbeing and support Scotland's 20-minute neighbourhood ambition.

❖ **Partnership & Governance**

The Community Safety Partnership continually assess any 'risk factors' on a daily basis and meet weekly to highlight operational issues that require joint assistance. Not only does this provide a joint working and where necessary, a targeted approach, but ensures that the right service meets the demand required without time delay or duplication of service provision. This is necessary, at a time when there are significant challenges for all services to ensure that communities receive as much as possible from the public purse and that officers are utilising all resources in a manner that provides this due diligence of service provision, whilst meeting the demands of the public. The partnership work is monitored by the Safer Communities Strategic Performance Group (SCSPG), a quarterly strategic group that monitors progress and outcomes. This group reports to the Community Safety Board (CSB) for noting and scrutiny purposes. Partners will routinely deliver presentations to the CSB relating to thematic priorities structured to take place throughout the timeline of the Plan. The outcomes of the CSB are shared at the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) by means of the minutes/reports. Partners can highlight areas requiring further focus and improvement or to highlight objectives and good outcomes delivered within our communities across West Lothian.



❖ **Evaluation and Review**

This strategic document has outlined the partnership work being undertaken to address the issue of community safety. This work will be developed into a set of Actions and Lead officers will continually monitor and report on the development of these actions. The outcomes will be evaluated annually to ensure that services remain 'fit for business' and that the communities continue to receive services

that meet their needs. With the use of validated data and evidence to show outcomes achieved, and gathered observations and testimonials of change, it is important that the CSP's relay this back to the communities across West Lothian and be transparent, honest and accountable for the combined efforts, both reactive and proactive, to make change and improve safety for all.

References

- 1 *We promote safety in our homes, on our streets and in our communities by decreasing anti-social behaviour - 2012-17 Housing Strategy and the new WLC HS 2022-2027*
- 2 Annual Police Plan 2022/23 – 5 strategic outcomes
- 3 Local Police Plans - revised in 2020 for 3 years. They will be refreshed in 2022 for start 2023
- 4 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Plan 2019-22 and a new Plan to be published in October 2022
- 5 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Local Plan for West Lothian - may be subject to review on publication of new Scottish Fire and Rescue Service strategic plan
- 6 West Lothian Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018-23
- 7 The Community Planning Partnership's Local Plans
- 8 West Lothian Jobs Task Force – Economic Recovery and Growth Plan 2020-2023
- 9 Social Policy Management Plan 2021-22 - The Promise, 5 foundations aligned to GIRFEC
- 10 Children and Families Strategic Plan – Justices Services including EEI and WSA
- 11 Education – Raising Attainment Strategy 2018/19-2022/23
- 12 West Lothian Integration Joint Board Strategic Plan 2019-23 / associated plans
- 13 Place and Wellbeing Outcomes - what every place needs for people to thrive
- 14 Lothian Strategic Development Framework - Children, young people, and families.

West Lothian Community Safety Partnership Strategic Plan 2022 - 2025
Working Together for a Safer West Lothian

BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES AND PROTECTING PEOPLE AT RISK

August 2022

