



West Lothian  
Council

# factfile

Your essential guide to  
our performance in 2022/23



- 1** Raising Educational Attainment
- 2** Strengthening care and support for children, adults and older people
- 3** Investing in Skills and Jobs
- 4** Helping to Create Strong and Sustainable Communities
- 5** Tackling Homeless, Poverty and Inequality



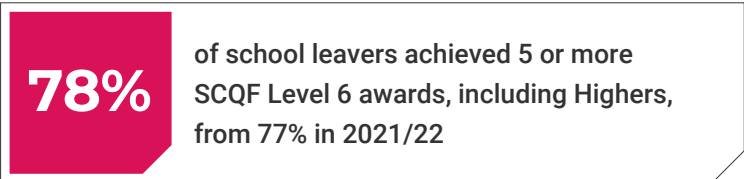
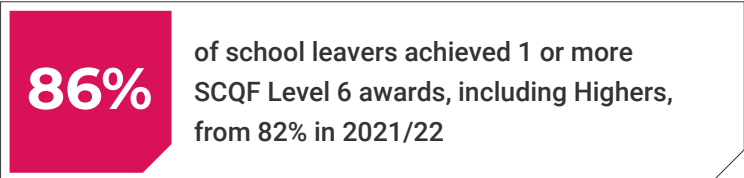
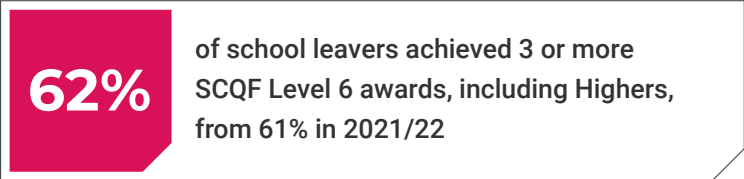
# Raising Educational Attainment



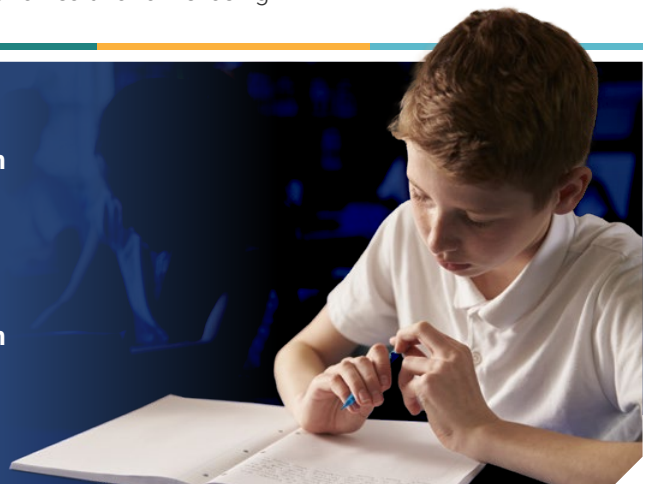
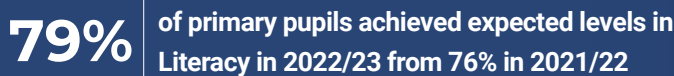
The council continue to improve literacy and numeracy for children and young people and remains strongly committed to helping West Lothian’s young people make the most of their opportunities so they can achieve positive outcomes.

**Achievements over the last year include:**

- West Lothian pupils are achieving significantly above the level of the virtual comparator and the national average at key measures of Breadth and Depth attainment at SCQF Level 6
- The percentage of primary pupils achieving nationally expected levels of attainment in literacy and numeracy is above national performance in all measures, including those in the most deprived areas
- Continued investment in the school estate, including the extension of existing schools and opening of new schools, to improve suitability, accessibility and sustainability



Continuously raising attainment and achievement increases personal, social, cultural and economic opportunities to help young people fulfil their potential. The focus remains on service delivery that has a tangible impact on attainment, including addressing the attainment gap for the most deprived young people as well as those who are care-experiences. The council will also continue to work with parents and carers to develop positive attitudes to learning and health and wellbeing.





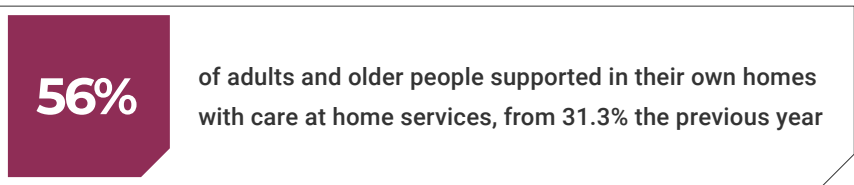
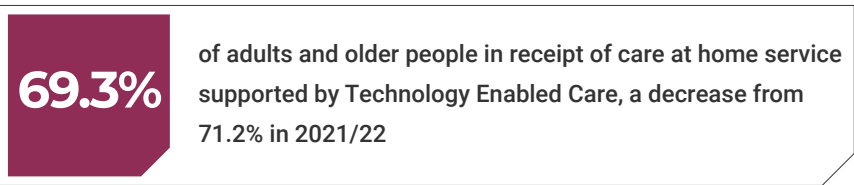
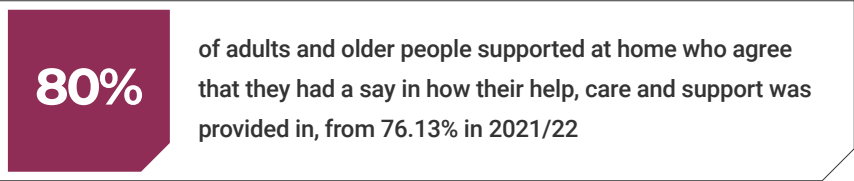
# Strengthening care and support for children, adults and older people



The council aims to deliver high quality services that ensure that people in need of care and support in West Lothian are supported to live well.

We are committed to strengthening our Care at Home service to ensure older people receive the care they require in a timely manner.

Significant activity has been undertaken to strengthen operational teams and contracting arrangements with the independent providers to ensure best use of resources.



The number of Looked After Children has been reducing through the provision of early, holistic family support. A reduction in new admissions to residential care has been achieved by providing support and interventions for families when needed.

Increasing the number of young people who are looked after in community-based placements, rather than residential care, is a key priority for the council and a better outcome for the young person. Community placements include; Children Looked After at Home, Kinship Care and Fostering.



Community based supervision orders support people from re-offending and reduce risk by encouraging changes behaviours and a focus on healthy lives.

The council supports people to secure stable housing and pursue employment and vocational training.



# Investing in Skills and Jobs



The council aims to support the growth of a vibrant business sector, built around highly motivated and skilled workforce.

Investing in skills and jobs will positively impact on the quality of life and the overall wellbeing of residents in West Lothian.

Our community needs a strong local economy to flourish as it supports the success of other priorities, particularly in improving attainment and health outcomes, and addressing poverty.

The council will continue to focus on maximising employment opportunities with a particular focus on helping young people enter the job market.



**59** wage subsidy StepsN2work places within West Lothian companies were created by the council, from 72 employment places in 2021/22

**62%**

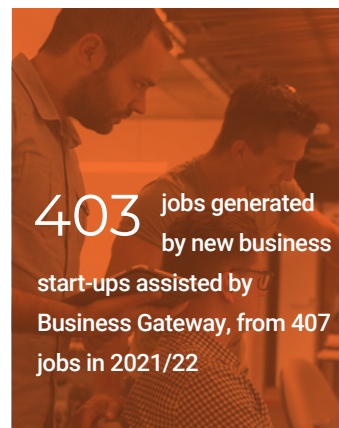
of Employability customers progressing into employment, training or education, from 54% of customers in 2021/22

West Lothian Council has taken a number of key actions to deliver positive outcomes in employability, include:

- Building an entrepreneurial culture in West Lothian by supporting business start-ups and early stage company growth
- Supporting investment in West Lothian, complementing and collaborating with national agencies including Scottish Enterprise and Skills Development International (SDI)
- Investing in improving skill levels within West Lothian – the council has a specific role in respect of school and community-based provision and also works in close partnership with other agencies including West Lothian College to deliver a joined-up skills strategy for West Lothian



**301** new businesses in West Lothian supported through Business Gateway, from 325 in 2021/22



**403** jobs generated by new business start-ups assisted by Business Gateway, from 407 jobs in 2021/22



**617** small and medium sized businesses received support from the council's Business Gateway service, from 811 in 2021/22





# Helping to Create Strong and Sustainable Communities

The council aims to support the development of a strong, inclusive and sustainable West Lothian. We want to support empowered communities through services that are well designed and protect the built and natural environment for current citizens and future generations.

We will continue to focus on building an infrastructure that will support a growing and thriving West Lothian, ensuring that there is access to council services, schools, housing, roads and transportation networks that will allow people, families and businesses to succeed.

**28.6%**

of the overall Road Network should be considered for maintenance treatment, from 29.9% in 2021/22

**92.9%**

of customer enquiries to the Customer Service Centre were resolved at first point of contact, an increase from 89.94%

**74.1%**

of all local planning and other applications or consents determined (fully assessed and decision issued) within the statutory period, including householder planning applications and other consents, from 78.27% in 2021/22

Our aim is to provide services which support healthier lifestyles, inclusions and social equality and sustainable economic growth. To create strong and sustainable communities in West Lothian, the council will focus on:

- Supporting the sustainable residential and commercial development of the local area
- Ensuring that West Lothian has a transport and roads network to support and sustain economic and population growth in the local area
- Providing high-quality customer services and community facilities and a range of cultural services
- Protecting the environment through a range of regulatory and enforcement activities that will protect the health, wellbeing and safety of local people
- Improving waste recycling rates across West Lothian and introducing low carbon and renewable energy solutions

**45.9%**

of all household waste was recycled in 2022, an increase from 41.3% in 2021



**93.1%**

score achieved for the cleanliness of local streets, an improvement from 92.2% in 2021/22.



# Tackling Homelessness, Poverty and Inequality

The council aims to help people living in poverty and deprivation as they have significantly worse life outcomes than those in average households, and this is often determined at a very early age by family circumstances.

The Advice Shop supported over 14,000 individual customers, resulting in an increased income of over £24m through additional benefits and managing nearly £5m of debt.

Over £487,000 in savings were secured for customers over the period, through energy efficiency advice and access to financial support with energy costs, along with 134 potential evictions prevented to ensure that tenants can remain in their homes.

**74.2%** of debt was managed on behalf of customers through money advice intervention in 2022/23, an increase from 64.5% in 2021/22

**94.3%** of Crisis Grant Decisions were made within 1 day in 2022/23, from 91.2% in 2021/22

## West Lothian Council has taken a number of key actions to deliver positive outcomes, including:

- Launched the youth homeless prevention Education Programme in 11 secondary schools
- Implemented enhanced on-site support for those in emergency accommodation for those with mental health, addictions and more complex needs
- Introduced a new young person's support service, resulting in a reduction of youth homelessness in 16-17-year olds by 11%
- Implementation of trauma aware service provision and Housing First for adults
- Plans approved for the creation of a new young persons supported housing facility in Livingston
- Launch of the Pathways Project to improve long-term financial security for those not current in work and people in low paid, insecure employment.

**546** new affordable homes delivered in 2022/23, an increase from 168 in 2021/22

**0.9%** homelessness applications where repeat homelessness occurred within 12 months in 2022/23, from 0.8% in 2021/22

**94.3%** of new tenancies were sustained for more than a year in 2022/23, an increase from 91.2% in 2021/22



 West Lothian  
Council

