

West Lothian Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plan Annual Report 2019/20 for Consultation

West Lothian's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2013-2023, 'Achieving Positive Outcomes' was prepared by West Lothian Community Planning Partnership (CPP). The theme for the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan is 'Tackling Inequality'. The CPP aims to work to make sure that West Lothian is the best place possible to live, work and do business in – for everyone. The current Local Outcomes Improvement Plan reports on the extent to which the targets for improvement across West Lothian have been achieved. The report is, in the main, positive.

In addition CPPs are required to prepare and publish locality plans for the areas experiencing poorer outcomes, setting out a plan for how outcomes will be improved within that area. In West Lothian, local plans have been developed to focus on communities where a significant proportion of that community lives within datazones in the bottom 20% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). 13 individual plans have been developed in the following areas: Addiewell, Armadale, Bathgate, Blackburn, Bridgend, Craigshill, Dedridge, Fauldhouse, Knightsridge, Ladywell, Polbeth, Stoneyburn and Whitburn.

Steering Groups are in place in all of these areas, allowing representatives of community groups, residents, local public services and voluntary sector to work in partnership. Ward members for each area are also invited to meetings. The plans were initially shaped by the community and provide a good understanding of community assets, needs and circumstances. Input from partners brought local knowledge, experience and resource. It is hoped that partners will reshape their services to meet the needs of the community based on the local information and structures. The Steering Groups will update the plans as part of a continuous process reflecting changing community and partners priorities. The existing plans are bottom-up and in many cases community-led with a central role for key community organisations, which can enable community responses to community needs.

It could be argued that the report is irrelevant to Linlithgow. The same argument could be put forward for other areas of West Lothian, Howden, Murieston, East Calder, Mid Calder, Kirknewton, Winchburgh, Philpstoun, Torphichen, etc. Could we not all benefit from an improvement plan?