

Summary of evidence: Community safety data audit and strategic assessment

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1. Introduction

This publication brings together the key findings from two pieces of work commissioned by West Lothian Council: West Lothian Community Safety Data Audit and Community Safety Strategic Assessment. Both were carried out by MVA Consultancy in 2008-9.

We commissioned the work following the publication of the West Lothian Community Safety Strategy in 2008. The strategy concentrated on three community safety priorities: anti-social behaviour, preventable injuries and deaths and violence and crime.

In taking forward action on these priority areas, it is important that we make good use of all the information that we already have about the nature and scope of these problem areas. The data audit has enabled us to bring together and understand the data that is already available, and importantly, has identified gaps in information that we can now fill. The strategic assessment has given us an analysis of that data, identifying patterns and trends and highlighting key findings that will shape future action.

In line with our commitment to produce user-friendly evidence that will support informed discussion with our partners about future priorities and action, this summary report brings together the main findings from the data audit and strategic assessment in one document. Note that the data audit and strategic assessment documents should be used for more detailed information, data breakdowns and a list of all data sources.

2. A profile of West Lothian¹

West Lothian's population was 167,700 in 2007. We have a growing population overall. Between 1995 and 2005, West Lothian had the largest increase in population of all Scottish local authorities and its population is expected to grow by a further 20% between now and 2024.

The population is younger than average, with the proportion of under 16s at 21% compared to 18% in Scotland as a whole. The proportion of people over pensionable age is 15.6% compared to a national average of 19.4%. However, as for most Scottish local authorities, the proportion of the population over retirement age is increasing.

West Lothian is made up of nine multi-member wards which each have a locality planning partnership that consult with local people and groups and develop plans to tackle the main issues in the area. The main settlements in West Lothian are:

¹ All data from www.wlinfo.org.uk

- Livingston - population 51,276
- Greater Bathgate – population 19,157
- Linlithgow & surrounds - population 13,896
- Whitburn & surrounds - population 11,073
- Armadale & surrounds - population 11,034

The number of Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants in West Lothian has steadily declined in recent years and in June 2008 was at 2.1%. The full impact of the recession on West Lothian is not yet known and these figures may increase. There are already small areas of deprivation in West Lothian, with the areas of greatest deprivation being the Mayfield area of Armadale and in the north east of Blackburn.

3. Our vision for community safety

One of the Scottish Government's five strategic objectives is to achieve 'safer and stronger' communities across Scotland, specifically to:

"Help local communities to flourish, becoming stronger, safer places to live, offering improved opportunities and better quality of life".

In West Lothian the Community Planning Partnership supports this objective and aims to develop and support a high quality of life in our communities.

Our three community safety priorities for West Lothian: anti-social behaviour, preventable injuries and deaths, and violence and crime, were identified from feedback from locality planning partnerships and data from partner agencies.

These priorities have been selected because

- there are identified problems or gaps in services
- action to tackle these problems will fit with and support other priorities identified in the Single Outcome Agreement
- partnership working has the potential to make a real difference on these issues to an extent that no single partner organisation working in isolation could achieve.

What have we done so far?

The Strategy builds on a track record of successful and innovative community safety work which has been developed and implemented by the main public sector service providers and voluntary organisations in West Lothian.

- Partnership work on anti-social behaviour has improved our knowledge about "hotspots" and youth issues, and we are able to focus resources on known problems and problem areas. Safer Neighbourhood Teams provide a local resource to tackle local problems.

- Preventable injuries and deaths have been decreasing in number. Existing work that is reducing injuries and deaths from road accidents and dwelling fires is ongoing. The Strategy adds further outcomes on preventable injuries to older people and young children.
- Overall levels of reports of violence and crime have fallen considerably. While preventing and detecting crimes will remain a top priority for the police, there is now a key focus on additional work to improve the criminal justice outcomes for domestic abuse, to address violence and crime targeting vulnerable people, and to improve our understanding of and response to hate crimes.
- Finally, we are taking a holistic approach to community safety and young people, taking particular care to see young people as victims of violence, crime, and antisocial behaviour as well as offenders.

What do we aim to do now?

At the planning stage, it was considered that the production of The Community Safety Strategy for 2008 – 2010 would:

1. Guide partnership work and resources to support progress towards these priorities.
2. The data audit and strategic assessment will enable the community safety partners in West Lothian to decide on a definitive list of priorities and to select those which should be targeted in the short, medium and long term.
3. Following the prioritisation process, we would set and implement clear objectives, with associated measurable milestones, to monitor performance over time. Implementation of the strategy would be through an action plan with annual targets. Subgroups would monitor delivery of these targets and be accountable for them to the Community Safety Forum.

We would also develop a plan to review and update the data to ensure that it remained current. The audit, strategy and action plan are working documents and require to be updated and revised as the partnership progresses in improving community safety in West Lothian.

That said however, further development is already taking place with considerable improvements to 'partnership working'. The drive for change has come about through the new Joint Tasking Meetings.

The partner analysts collate all relevant information from the Community Safety Partners and are able to present their findings at regular meetings. They can provide statistics of crime and highlight the priority areas of concern in West Lothian.

As a result, we will use the community safety strategic assessment to continue to guide partnership work on our current priorities and to consider additional work. The new joint tasking structure provides us with an implementation tool at both operational and strategic levels.

4. Anti-social behaviour

What do we know about anti-social behaviour in West Lothian?

In West Lothian the available recorded data indicates that levels of anti-social behaviour are not unusually high in relation to other areas of Scotland. The public's view of anti-social behaviour also seems to be more positive than in other authorities. However, there is a need for further consideration of other data sources and additional evidence to refine our understanding of the impact of anti-social behaviour on community safety.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is behaviour that is "likely to cause alarm, distress or harassment to another individual or individuals"². However, because this definition is based on how people feel about such behaviour, it is difficult to measure. The measures used in this report are police recorded crime statistics and local authority databases regarding anti-social behaviour measures enforced and breached. The report also includes data on people's attitudes to anti-social behaviour from the Scottish Household Survey (SHS).

There are a number of weaknesses in the data, which are examined in the full reports: for example, recorded crime data does not include all reports of anti-social behaviour, but only those where a crime has been committed; and the use of anti-social behaviour measures varies widely between areas. However, we also found that there is a lot of data recorded which would help to flesh out the picture of anti-social behaviour in West Lothian, but much of it is not publicly available (for example the police database System for Tasking and Operational Resource Management (STORM) which records

² Crime and Disorder Act 1998

police responses to any police-generated activity). The reports therefore make the best use of available data to provide a picture of anti-social behaviour trends in West Lothian.

Summary of main findings

- The number of incidents of vandalism, malicious damage and malicious mischief, minor assault and breach of the peace in West Lothian has remained reasonably steady between 2005 and 2007. The detection of these crimes has also remained steady.
- There has been a small increase in the number of incidents of vandalism recorded in Whitburn and Blackburn and Broxburn, Uphall, and Winchburgh areas between 2006 and 2007.
- For minor assault, the only ward experiencing a notable increase in recorded incidents in recent years is Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh (up from 202 in 2006 to 278 in 2007). There have been decreases in the number of incidents recorded in Livingston South and Whitburn and Blackburn but rates there remain high.
- Bathgate and Broxburn have witnessed small rises in recorded Breach of the Peace incidents between 2006 and 2007, while in Livingston North the rise was sharper (144 in 2006 to 242 in 2007). Again, there was a drop in the number of incidents recorded in Livingston South and Whitburn and Blackburn.
- Linlithgow has the lowest proportion of reported incidents of vandalism, minor assault and hate crime in West Lothian.
- The ASB measures used most often in West Lothian are Seizure of Vehicle warnings, followed by noise nuisance warnings. This is slightly different from the national pattern, which shows that noise nuisance warnings are the measure used most frequently.
- At police force level, the number of Seizure of Vehicle warnings is considerably higher in Lothian and Borders than in any of the other Scottish Forces. Use of this measure is typically linked to reckless, careless or inconsiderate driving by young drivers.
- Livingston South generates the greatest number of ASB measures enforced per annum, but this is not disproportionate per head of population.
- Armadale & Blackridge and Bathgate both generate high numbers of ASB measures per head of population.
- The number of anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued in West Lothian has increased slowly in the previous 5 years. The majority of ASBOs are breached.
- Initiatives to tackle anti-social behaviour, such as the Neighbourhood Response Team and Safer Neighbourhood Team appear to work well in tackling ASB.

- According to the Scottish Household Survey fewer people in West Lothian than the Scottish average both perceive and experience neighbourhood nuisances. The only exception to this is respondents' direct experience of 'groups or individuals harassing others', which, at around 9% in West Lothian, is almost double the Scottish average of 5%.
- The SHS also showed that West Lothian is similar to the Scottish average in dislike of neighbourhood vandalism/graffiti, litter, neighbour problems, alcohol and drug abuse or dealing, maintenance of the local area or concern about crime in general. The only aspect which was disliked more in West Lothian (19%) than in Scotland as a whole (16%) was '*young people hanging around/having nothing to do*'.
- Overall in West Lothian, the public view of problems with anti-social behaviour and direct experience of such behaviour is more positive than the national average, as reported in the Scottish Household Survey.

Recent research has suggested that people's perceptions about the nature of anti-social behaviour can vary according to location³ i.e. what is acceptable in one location (groups of young people in a park) is not in another (young people hanging round a street corner). This means local research is needed to explore what people mean by anti-social behaviour in different communities. There are some good examples of community engagement and consultation (for example, the Fauldhouse Anti-Social Behaviour Survey) and these could provide a starting point for the development of other such initiatives.

Gaps in the data

The following gaps in data were identified by the data audit:

- data on community perceptions of anti-social behaviour and fear of crime
- data regarding offender and victim profiles for each of the recorded crime offences (vandalism, minor assault, hate crime and breach of the peace) is not readily available for secondary analysis
- lack of robust evaluation of existing initiatives, e.g. effectiveness of CCTV
- lack of data relating to minority groups

³ Millie, A. (2008) Anti-social behaviour, behavioural expectations and an urban aesthetic, British Journal of Criminology, 2008, 48, pp.379-394

Areas for action

The following areas for action were identified:

- keep informed about community concerns in relation to anti-social behaviour
- where appropriate, target action on the issues and types of behaviour that people are concerned about.

By doing this, the actual level of anti-social behaviour could be minimized, while at the same time having the maximum impact on the community's wellbeing.

5. Preventable injuries and deaths from road and home accidents and suicide

What do we know about preventable injuries and deaths in West Lothian?

The level of accidents, injuries and suicides in West Lothian do not differ greatly from the Scottish average. As with Scotland as a whole, those most likely to be affected by road and home safety issues in West Lothian are the young and the elderly. There have been reductions in most areas of preventable injuries and deaths in recent years, with the exception of suicide, which has shown a recent increase in West Lothian.

The main sources identified in the audit were data on road traffic accidents (from STATS 19), fire statistics (from Fire Statistics Scotland and Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Statistics), accidents, hospital and deaths data (from ISD and StaySafe Lothian) and data from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Summary of main findings

- In West Lothian children under 5 are more likely than the Scottish average to be admitted to hospital on an emergency basis.
- Male children up to the age of 5 are more likely to require A&E admission than females.
- Most children admitted to A&E in West Lothian are subsequently discharged to their GP.
- The areas of Carmondean, Bathgate and Howden have the highest number of children attending A&E at St John's Hospital.
- Armadale, Bathgate, Blackburn, Carmondean and Craigshill are the areas with the highest number of referrals to the StaySafe West Lothian project.
- In 2006, there were over 13,000 reported injury accidents on Scotland's roads, of which over 700 (5%) were in West Lothian.
- In West Lothian (as with Scotland as a whole), males in the 16-22 age group are the most likely to be involved in serious or fatal RTAs. This may be linked to the data presented on Seizure of Vehicles in the ASB section of this report.
- In the over 65 age group people who fall in the home are the most likely to require an emergency admission to hospital.
- Females are most likely to require emergency hospital admission due to a fall in the home and males are most likely to require emergency hospital admission due to falls outside the home.

- The number of suicides in West Lothian fell steadily between 2002 and 2006, however, the number of suicides in West Lothian went up to 25 in 2007, from 15 in 2006.

Gaps in data

The following gaps in data were identified by the data audit:

- data that related to minority groups and road safety, home safety, falls or suicide;
- more up-to-date information at the local level on alcohol-related accidents and deaths; this may be required to understand who is best targeted in any future community safety activity to reduce harm caused by alcohol;
- data on the geography of suicide, which would be valuable to partners in achieving a fuller understanding of how to tackle this issue locally.

Areas for action

The following areas for action were identified:

- explore the over-representation of under fives in the hospital emergency admissions data and why males are more likely to be admitted than females;
- consider further targeted work with young drivers to prevent injuries and deaths;
- consider further work to investigate and prevent suicides.

6. Violence and crime

What do we know about violence and crime in West Lothian?

Recorded violence and violent crimes in West Lothian have decreased in recent years, although the incidence of violent crime varies across West Lothian. There is a reported higher incidence of domestic abuse here than in other local authority areas. However, calculating accurate prevalence figures for domestic abuse is difficult due to under-reporting to the police, and an inability to cross-reference alternative data sets (such as those held by support organisations) with the core police data. This means that the problem is likely to be underestimated.

For the purposes of police recording, crimes of violence are:

- murder
- attempted murder
- culpable homicide
- causing death by dangerous driving
- serious assault
- robbery and assaults with intent to rob
- offensive weapons
- child neglect
- threats and extortion

The main data sources identified in the audit were Police Recorded Crime Statistics, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey and Scottish Household Survey. Additional information on offenders and victim profiles, which would improve understanding of the nature and pattern of violent crimes is contained within the police database, but was not released to the audit due to its confidential nature. The work involved in anonymising data is considerable, and was not achievable in the time available.

Summary of main findings

- The total number of recorded violent crimes in West Lothian decreased by around 15% between 2004 and 2007.
- The biggest reduction between 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 was in robbery and assault.
- Violent crime occurs differentially across the authority. Livingston has the highest reported violent crime rate, followed by Bathgate.
- Data from the Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey suggests that males are more likely to have been the victim of a physical attack than females. Males in the age groups 16 to 34 and 35 to 44 are most likely to have been physically attacked.
- West Lothian accounted for 18.4% of the total number of domestic abuse incidents reported to Lothian and Borders police in 2006/07, 17.1% of the total number reported in 2005/06, and 17.2% of the total

number reported in 2004. This shows only a marginal percentage increase over the later years.

- When compared to Scotland as a whole, West Lothian's proportion of reported domestic abuse incidents has also risen from 3% in 2004 to 3.6% 2006/07.
- Between 2005-2006 and 2006-2007, West Lothian experienced a 20% increase in the total number of domestic abuse incidents. This is notably larger than the 11.5% increase in Lothian and Borders police force area as a whole, and the 6.6% increase in domestic abuse incidents nationally.
- The number of child protection referrals in West Lothian between 2003 and 2007 has remained reasonably stable, with the proportion of male and female referrals being broadly similar.
- Fear of crime figures for West Lothian compare favourably to those of Scotland as a whole.
- In West Lothian, men are, overall, less likely to say that their quality of life is affected by fear of crime, across all age bands. Those aged 16-24 are most likely to say that fear of crime affects their quality of life.

Gaps in data

The following gaps in data were identified by the data audit:

- lack of accessible police data regarding offender and victim profiles which means that there is only a limited awareness of the problems of violent crime. This issue is especially important in relation to domestic abuse because there has been an increase in recent years in the number of domestic abuse incidents reported to the police in West Lothian.
- planning for West Lothian's Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) for the management of sexual and violent offenders are still at an early stage. As a result, specific data for this category cannot be provided here but it should be available in future
- similarly, there is a lack of available data regarding the sexual offender profiles other than that held by the police or the courts, which is hard to access due to the need to protect offender anonymity. The Lothian and Borders Force Information Unit could provide figures on request, but this was not achieved for the data audit.

Areas for action

The following areas for action were identified:

- explore whether the reduction in robberies and assaults has been achieved because of the high visibility patrols used by the police as a preventative measure. This would enable a better understanding of their impact and facilitate the achievement of further reductions in the future.
- research fear of crime locally to examine whether it is proportionate to the actual level of crime committed. Although research has shown that the fear of crime is disproportionate to the actual amount of crime committed in any given area, it can still be sufficient to prevent community participation at even the most basic level.

7. Cross cutting themes - substance misuse

What do we know about substance misuse in West Lothian?

There are more young people coming forward for drug treatment services in West Lothian than in other parts of Scotland and the average age of those being treated is younger. In relation to alcohol, though males overall are most likely to need hospital treatment for alcohol, among under the 15s, females are more likely to need treatment. There are also local variations in hospital admissions for drug and alcohol misuse which show concentrations in a small number of localities within West Lothian.

Drugs and alcohol were included in the community safety data audit because of the body of evidence linking substance misuse and both risk of offending and victimisation. These include, for example, links between acquisitive crime and drug misuse, alcohol and violence, and the use of drink and drugs as contributors to personal injuries and death, especially through road traffic accidents and fires in the home. It is considered that tackling drug and alcohol misuse can benefit personal health as well as community well-being through minimising exposure to drug and alcohol related crime and social disorder.

The main data sources used in relation to drug and alcohol use were the Drug Misuse Statistics Scotland (Scottish Drug Misuse Database (SMR25), Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, Scottish Household Survey, Scottish Health Survey (2003), SALSUS 2006 and the West Lothian Drug Action Team reports.

Main findings

- There has been a steady increase in the number of new male and female clients presenting to drug treatment services in West Lothian . Overall there has been a much higher rise in the number of males presenting to drug treatment services than females.
- The average age of new referrals to drug treatment services in West Lothian for 2007/08 was 27, slightly younger than the national average of 30.
- Young people aged under 19 accounted for 16% of all new referrals into drug treatment services in 2007/2008 in West Lothian (compared to 8% nationally) and around one third of these were aged under 15 (compared to a fifth nationally).
- The number of drug related deaths in West Lothian has remained relatively stable over the previous 11 years, with six deaths in 2006.
- Males are considerably more likely to require hospital treatment due to alcohol related injuries than females across nearly all of the age groups. Notably, the exception is the 0-15 age group where females are more likely to require treatment.
- Local research exploring the links between alcohol and violence has been useful in highlighting a positive correlation, and provides a good research template for potential future use. It also highlights that alcohol related violence may exhibit seasonal variation.

Gaps in data

The following gaps in data were identified by the data audit:

- although data on, drug and alcohol-related deaths is readily available, no data on the number of drug and alcohol-related accidents was found;
- more information is required on service uptake by alcohol mis-users.

Areas for action

The following areas for action were identified:

- continue to focus on reducing substance misuse among young people in the area
- investigate further the characteristics of young females among whom figures show that age, gender and substance misuse all combine to create a high risk group with regards to personal safety
- focus substance misuse services and prevention on the small number of localities where they are most prevalent

8. Cross cutting themes - young people

The main finding in respect of young people is that there is a lack of readily available evidence which can be used to understand their experiences as either victims or offenders. However, the data that is available suggests that young people may be disproportionately affected by substance misuse, road accidents and assaults. They are also more likely to be affected by fear of crime. West Lothian does not appear to be more affected by youth anti-social behaviour than other parts of Scotland.

West Lothian does have a number of ongoing initiatives which are designed to reduce young people's involvement in criminal activity, to divert them away from the justice system and to encourage positive healthy lifestyles. West Lothian has experienced increased entry into drug treatment services by young people in recent years, as well as a reduction in persistent offending, both of which may be a reflection of the good work already being undertaken.

The findings below have already appeared earlier in this summary but are repeated here to bring together the youth-related information.

Main findings

- Youth ASB does not appear to be particularly prevalent in West Lothian compared to Scotland as a whole, nor is it perceived as such by local residents.
- In West Lothian (as with Scotland as a whole), males in the 16-22 age group are the most likely to be involved in serious or fatal RTAs. This may be linked to the data presented on Seizure of Vehicles above.
- Data from the Scottish Crime and Victimisation Survey suggests that males in the age groups 16 to 34 and 35 to 44 are most likely to have been physically attacked.
- In West Lothian those aged 16-24 are most likely to say that fear of crime affects their quality of life.
- Young people aged under 19 accounted for 16% of all new referrals into drug treatment services in 2007/2008 in West Lothian (compared to 8% nationally) and around one third of these were aged under 15 (compared to a fifth nationally). Males are considerably more likely to require hospital treatment due to alcohol related injuries than females across nearly all of the age groups. Notably, the exception is the 0-15 age group where females are more likely to require treatment.

Gaps in data

The following gaps in data were identified by the data audit:

- overall, there is a lack of readily available evidence which can be used to understand young people's experiences as either victims or offenders
- though not available for this audit, the police and the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration may hold information that could be used if suitably anonymised, in order to gauge the numbers of young people who are involved in offending or who have been victimised. However, given the sensitivities of accessing data about young people, any investigative work in this area would need to be well specified and rationalised.

Areas for action

The following areas for action were identified:

- research fear of crime; substance misuse, particularly alcohol misuse among young females; and reckless driving by young males.
- develop suitable action plans based on the research and building on what is already being done

9. Geographical analysis

The following tables provide a summary of the population characteristics for each of West Lothian's nine multi-member wards alongside the main community safety issues which may require to be addressed in each.

Ward Characteristics	Key Issues to be Addressed
<p><i>Armadale and Blackridge</i></p> <p>Population = 13,863 (8.37% of WL total)</p> <p>Under 16s = 19.4% of ward population</p> <p>Over 60s = 17.9% of ward population</p> <p>Unemployment = 2.5% of ward population</p> <p>Deprivation = The Mayfield datazone in Armadale is the most deprived area of West Lothian and the only area of West Lothian in the top 5% most deprived in Scotland.⁴</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Proportion of incidents of vandalism and hate crime recorded by the police in 2007/08 was greater than might be expected given the proportion of West Lothian's population living in the area. ■ Generates high numbers of ASB measures per head of population. ■ The EH48 postcode (Bathgate and Armadale) accounts for a large proportion of episodes of care for people receiving treatment for problem drug use. ■ Datazone S01006393 (Armadale Mayfield) shows consistently high figures for hospital admissions related to both drugs misuse and alcohol abuse. ■ Has the highest number of referrals to the StaySafe West Lothian project despite having slightly fewer children than the average for wards in West Lothian. ■ Has one of the highest rates of violent crime per head of population, second only to Livingston.

⁴ <http://www.wlinfo.org.uk/Geog1.asp>

Ward Characteristics	Key Issues to be Addressed
<p>Bathgate</p> <p>Population = 16,595 (10.02% of total)</p> <p>Under 16s = 20.0% of ward population</p> <p>Over 60s = 17.4% of ward population</p> <p>Unemployment = 2.5% of ward population</p> <p>Deprivation = Bathgate has more of the most deprived datazones in West Lothian (four in the most deprived 15% in Scotland) than any other West Lothian ward. The Boghall area in particular suffers from high levels of deprivation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Experienced a small rise in the number of recorded incidents of Breach of the Peace between 2006 and 2007. ■ Generates high numbers of ASB measures per head of population. ■ The EH48 postcode (Bathgate and Armadale) accounts for a large proportion of episodes of care for people receiving treatment for problem drug use. ■ Datazone S01006418 (Bathgate Boghall Centre – Elizabeth Drive) shows consistently high figures for hospital admissions related to drugs misuse. ■ Datazones S01006477 (Bathgate Balbardie) and S01006416 (Bathgate Centre) show consistently high figures for hospital admissions related to alcohol misuse. ■ Bathgate has the second highest number of children attending A&E at St John's Hospital, and the third highest number of referrals to the StaySafe project despite having slightly fewer children in the population compared to West Lothian as a whole. This may be because referrals are only made for families in receipt of benefit. ■ Bathgate has one of the highest rates of violent crime per head of population in West Lothian, second only to Livingston.

Ward Characteristics	Key Issues to be Addressed
<p><i>Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh</i></p> <p>Population = 17,673 (10.67% of total)</p> <p>Under 16s = 18.8% of ward population</p> <p>Over 60s = 18.07% of ward population</p> <p>Unemployment = 2% of ward population</p> <p>Deprivation = only one datazone (Broxburn Bridge Place) in the in the most deprived 25% in Scotland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The only ward in West Lothian that has experienced a notable increase in recorded incidents of minor assault. ■ A small increase in the number of incidents of vandalism recorded between 2006 and 2007. ■ Broxburn witnessed a small rise in recorded Breach of the Peace incidents between 2006 and 2007.

Ward Characteristics	Key Issues to be Addressed
<p><i>East Livingston and East Calder</i></p> <p>Population = 19801 (11.95% of total)</p> <p>Under 16s = 20.9% of ward population</p> <p>Over 60s = 17.14% of ward population</p> <p>Unemployment = 2.2% of ward population</p> <p>Deprivation = contains three of the fourteen most deprived datazones in West Lothian, all in Craigshill, all amongst the 15% most deprived in Scotland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The ward does not appear to be uniquely affected by any community safety issue covered by the data audit. More detailed understanding of this location may reveal examples of good practice in community and personal safety harm reduction.

Ward Characteristics	Key Issues to be Addressed
<p><i>Fauldhouse and Breich Valley</i></p> <p>Population = 16013 (9.66% of total)</p> <p>Under 16s = 19.7% of ward population</p> <p>Over 60s = 13.21% ward population</p> <p>Unemployment = 2.2% ward population</p> <p>Deprivation = The ward includes one datazone in Stoneyburn that is one of the 15% most deprived in Scotland, as well as more affluent areas such as West Calder.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ One datazone (S01006300 – Fauldhouse Cricket Ground) previously showed consistently high figures for hospital admissions related to drugs misuse. This cricket ground is now burnt down and there is no access to this area. This may have resulted in displacement of drug/alcohol users who previously frequented this area, and local intelligence may be desirable to identify if a new site is being used for these purposes.

Ward Characteristics	Key Issues to be Addressed
<p>Linlithgow</p> <p>Population = 15713 (9.4% of total)</p> <p>Under 16s = 20.4% of ward population</p> <p>Over 60s = 11.4 % of ward population</p> <p>Unemployment = 1.1% ward population</p> <p>Deprivation = least deprived of all the wards in West Lothian.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Appears to be relatively unaffected by all of the community safety areas that were a focus of the data audit.

Ward Characteristics	Key Issues to be Addressed
<p>Livingston North</p> <p>Population = 20379 (12.3% of total)</p> <p>Under 16s = 22.6% of ward population</p> <p>Over 60s = 10.70% of ward population</p> <p>Unemployment = 1.7% of ward population</p> <p>Deprivation = the least deprived of the three Livingston wards and out performs the West Lothian average in all of the Key Economic Indicators.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Experienced a sharp rise in the number of recorded Breach of the Peace incidents between 2006 and 2007.

Ward Characteristics	Key Issues to be Addressed
<p>Livingston South</p> <p>Population = 24988 (15.08% of total)</p> <p>Under 16s = 23.7% of ward population</p> <p>Over 60s = 17.61% of ward population</p> <p>Unemployment = 2.5% of ward population</p> <p>Deprivation = Livingston South matches the West Lothian average in nearly all of the Key Economic Indicators.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Generates the greatest number of ASB measures enforced per annum, but this is not disproportionate per head of population.

Ward Characteristics	Key Issues to be Addressed
<p>Whitburn and Blackburn</p> <p>Population = 20675 (12.48% of total)</p> <p>Under 16s = 19.8% of ward population</p> <p>Over 60s = 15.33% of ward population</p> <p>Unemployment = 3.0% of ward population</p> <p>Deprivation = contains three of the fourteen most deprived datazones in West Lothian, two in Blackburn and one in Whitburn that are in the 15% most deprived in Scotland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A small increase in the number of incidents of vandalism recorded in Whitburn and Blackburn between 2006 and 2007. ■ Postcode EH47 (Whitburn, Blackburn and Fauldhouse) accounts for a large proportion of episodes of care for people receiving treatment for problem drug use.

Areas for action

Whilst these tables show that different focus and activity is required in each of the separate nine multi-member wards, the audit has highlighted that two areas may be priority areas for action by the Partnership. These are:

- Armadale and Blackridge
- Bathgate

To a lesser extent, there may be a need to focus on the areas of:

- Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh
- Whitburn and Blackburn.

In addition to highlighting areas where more work may need to be done, the audit did show some reductions in crime in recent years, and these may provide an indication of where lessons can be learnt to inform future activity.

10. Comment on data sources and gaps

The data audit revealed very little in terms of data that could be disaggregated on the basis of demographic characteristics, including age, gender, ethnicity religion and faith, disability and sexual orientation. The audit identified nothing that relates specifically to victimisation, offending or perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour among specific disability, ethnic, religious or faith or sexual orientation sub-groups within West Lothian.

The strategic assessment recommended further work to improve data recording, availability and analysis on these characteristics.

In addition, the strategic assessment made recommendations for improving:

- accessibility of data held by relevant organisations, particularly the police
- availability of anonymised data
- awareness raising between partners of the types of data that are held
- analytical capacity

11. Summary of action areas

Anti-social behaviour

- keep informed about community concerns in relation to anti-social behaviour
- target action on the issues and types of behaviour that people are concerned about.

Preventable injuries and deaths from road and home accidents and suicides

- explore the over-representation of under fives in the hospital emergency admissions data and why males are more likely to be admitted than females;
- consider further targeted work with young drivers to prevent injuries and deaths;
- explore whether work already underway is helping to prevent accidents, injuries and deaths;
- consider further work to investigate and prevent falls in the home by those aged over 65, as an increase in the rate may indicate a need for further action;
- likewise consider further work to investigate and prevent suicides as an increase in the rate may indicate a need for further action.

Violence and crime

- Explore whether the reduction in robberies and assaults has been achieved because of the high visibility patrols used by the police as a preventative measure. This would enable a better understanding of their impact and facilitate the achievement of further reductions in the future.
- research fear of crime locally to examine whether it is proportionate to the actual level of crime committed. Although research has shown that the fear of crime is disproportionate to the actual amount of crime committed in any given area, it can still be sufficient to prevent community participation at even the most basic level

Substance misuse

- continue to focus on reducing substance misuse among young people in the area
- investigate further the characteristics of young females where among whom figures show that age, gender and substance misuse all combine to create a high risk group with regards to personal safety
- focus substance misuse services and prevention on the small number of localities where they are most prevalent

Young people

- research fear of crime; substance misuse, particularly alcohol misuse among young females; and reckless driving by young males.
- develop suitable action plans based on the research and building on what is already being done

Geographical areas

- Armadale and Blackridge
- Bathgate
- To a lesser extent, there may be a need to focus on the areas of Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh and Whitburn and Blackburn.