

# **West Lothian Council**

*NEWS RELEASE*

## **WEST LOTHIAN DRUG ACTION TEAM UNVEILS ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

Mary Mulligan MSP, deputy minister for health and community care, today (Monday 10 December) attended the launch of West Lothian Drug Action Team's three year strategy to combat substance misuse.

Bristow Muldoon, MSP and Dominic Keane, chairman, Livingston Football Club also attended the event which was held at Livingston Football Club.

West Lothian Drug Action Team (WLDAT) co-ordinates local action to tackle drug, alcohol, tobacco and volatile substance ('solvent') misuse. It is a multi-agency group, represented by senior figures from all the main statutory and voluntary organisations with an interest in substance misuse.

Councillor Bruce Ferrie, chair of WLDAT, said: "I am delighted to launch this major strategy for West Lothian. It is the result of much effort and dedication by many organisations and sets out a clear and co-ordinated plan for action which will address all aspects of substance misuse, from education and healthcare, right through to police enforcement."

The plan outlines the actions that will be taken to address the broad range of issues relating to drugs, alcohol, tobacco and solvents. It describes how West Lothian will help to meet a range of national objectives.

The strategy covers four main areas:

- Education - it is targeted at every young person in West Lothian
- Communities - to reduce the impact of substance abuse
- Healthcare - a partnership approach to providing treatment and health services for people with substance misuse problems
- Enforcement - incorporating the police, other criminal justice agencies, partner organisations and the wider community.

The strategy is the result of extensive collaboration between WLDAT's 11 partners from the voluntary and statutory sectors and other organisations.

**Note to Editor**

WLDAT is one of 22 DATs in Scotland and is accountable to the Scottish Executive for its performance.

Drug action team members work towards common objectives and ensure that local action is based on best practice, sound evidence and value for money.

Members include:

West Lothian Council

West Lothian Healthcare NHS Trust

Lothian Health

Lothian and Borders Police

West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service

Edinburgh and Lothians Council on Alcohol

HM Prison Edinburgh

Scottish Drugs Forum

Voluntary Action West Lothian

West Lothian Social Inclusion Partnership

West Lothian Tobacco Issues Group

Ends

Issued by Media and Communications Officer Elaine Henderson Telephone:

01506 777127

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