



West Lothian
Council

factfile

Your essential guide to
our performance in 2024/25



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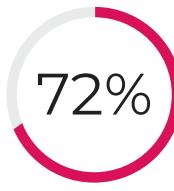


Raising Educational Attainment

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, Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Level 6.
- In the most recently published national data, West Lothian primary pupils 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.
- 87% of parents said they were satisfied with their child's school and education overall.



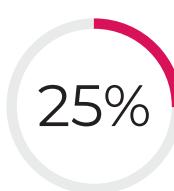
72%

of school leavers achieved literacy and numeracy at Level 5, from 69% in 2023/24.



53%

of school leavers achieved 5 or more SCQF Level 6 awards, including Highers, from 52% in 2023/24.



25%

of school leavers achieved 1 or more Level 7 awards, from 24% in 2023/24.

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-experienced. The council will also continue to work with parents and carers to develop positive attitudes to learning and health and wellbeing.



85%

of primary pupils achieved expected levels in Numeracy in 2024/25 maintaining the previous achievement of 85% in 2023/24.



79%

of primary pupils achieved expected levels in Literacy in 2024/25 in comparison with 80% in 2023/24.





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.



of adults and older people supported in their own homes with care at home services, from 59% the previous year.



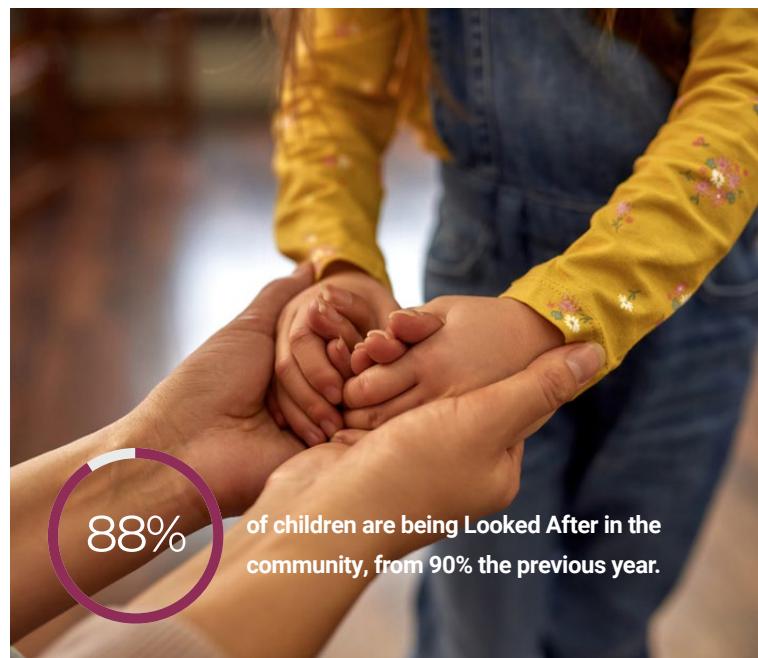
of adults and older people in receipt of care at home services supported by Technology Enabled Care, from 53% the previous year.



of adults and older people supported at home who agree that they had a say in how their help, care and support was provided, from 97% the previous year.

The number of Looked After Children have continued to reduce through the provision of early, holistic family support and intensive intervention for families when this is needed.

We aim to ensure there is a shift in the balance of care away from residential care, towards community-based placements. Community placements include Children Looked After at Home, Kinship Care and Fostering.



Community-based supervision orders aim to address the root causes of offending, reduce reoffending, and promote positive behavioural changes and healthier lifestyles. Justice services support individuals to secure stable housing, access employment or vocational training, and develop skills that support rehabilitation and reintegration into the community.



Investing in Skills and Jobs

The council aims to support the growth of a vibrant business sector, built around a 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 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.



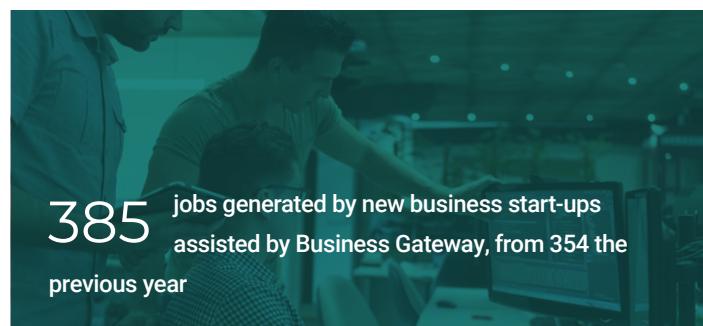
72 wage subsidy StepsN2work places within West Lothian companies were created by the council, from 73 the previous year.



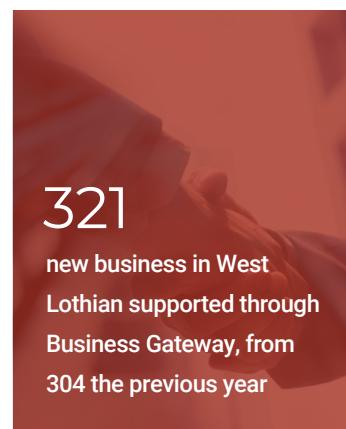
of Employability customers progressed into employment, training or education from 48% the previous year.

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

- 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.
- 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.



385 jobs generated by new business start-ups assisted by Business Gateway, from 354 the previous year



321
new business in West Lothian supported through Business Gateway, from 304 the previous year



590 small and medium sized businesses received support from the council's Business Gateway service, from 589 the previous year



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.



of customer enquiries recorded within the Customer Service Centre were resolved at first point of contact, from 99.7% the previous year



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 74.4% the previous year



of overall road network should be considered for maintenance treatment, from 31.1% the previous year.

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.



score achieved for the cleanliness of local streets, from 94% in 2023/24.



of all household waste was recycled in 2024, from 50.8% in 2023.





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. These outcomes are often determined at a very early age by family circumstances.

The Homelessness Strategy, launched in January 2025, focuses on preventing homelessness, improving access to housing supply and securing better long-term outcomes for tenants. Despite the ongoing challenges in West Lothian, there was sustained good performance in key outcomes in

relation to housing and anti-poverty activities in 2024/25.

The Advice Shop continues to support customers to increase household income, reduce debt, secure savings and improve energy efficiency

£6,636,106 of problem debt was handled by debt advisors leading to reduction in customer debt repayments of £1,774,049.



of Crisis Grant Decisions were made within 1 day from 97% the previous year.

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

- 14,500 customers were supported through the Advice Shop, resulting in an increased income of over £24m through additional benefits and managing nearly £6.7m of debt.
- Over £568 thousand customers savings were successfully secured through energy efficiency.
- 1,054 new clients were registered with Acess2Employment service in support of sustainable employment.
- The Young Person's Emergency Prevention (YEP) service has been mainstreamed and is delivered to young people aged 16-18 as part of the Youth Housing and support service.
- Enhanced Housing Options approach for under 18s with support from the mainstream YEP (Young Person's Emergency Prevention) service, resulting in 6.5% decrease in youth homelessness.
- New Intensive Housing Support (HIS) service has been launched and provides intensive support to identify vulnerable clients.



1208 new affordable homes delivered in 2024/25.



of new homeless tenancies were sustained for more than a year in 2024/25, from 91% the previous year.



homelessness applications were assessed within timescale in 2024/25, from 80% the previous year.

