



Get involved

We need your help.

Get your voice heard in West Lothian!

West Lothian Council is working alongside The Poverty Alliance in an exciting new campaign to strengthen how we understand and tackle poverty and low income in West Lothian. Find out more about how we are working to improve our communities in very practical ways, and how you can get involved in making a difference. All you need is a desire for positive change!

Have you ever wanted to speak up about issues in your community and get your voice heard? Do you know what it's like to live on a low income? Have you ever felt frustrated about not getting your voice heard? Do you have opinions about issues having to do with income, employability, housing, health, education or community? If so, this is a new way to get heard. You can get involved in this new campaign as an individual or as part of a group.

As an individual you could attend a monthly meeting of the West Lothian Community Reference Group. The West Lothian Community Reference Group is a new group meeting monthly and working alongside the Council seeking practical solutions to tackling poverty and improving the lives of people in West Lothian. If you have ideas about what could work better, this is a group for you! If you are interested but worry about attending regular meetings, there are other ways to get involved so please come along to this meeting or get in touch with Lynn (info below, from The Poverty Alliance).

If you attend any group, for example a local parents group or a bowling group, you can get involved by inviting Lynn to one of your meetings to discuss your group's thoughts about what works and doesn't work in your community. She can also answer your questions about changes to benefits and tax credits so you know how you and others may be affected (almost everyone will be affected or know someone who will be affected), where to go for support, and how you can speak out about the impact of the changes.

To find out more contact Lynn Law on:
0141 353 0440 / 07760 753 039 or
lynn.law@povertyalliance.org

→ Learning more about money

Schools will be playing their part during Money Week too.

Pupils in nursery, primary and secondary schools across West Lothian will be engaging in a wide variety of learning experiences which will develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of financial education.

Here is a flavour of what some of the schools will be doing:

- S1 and S2 pupils at West Calder High School will be learning about the importance of costing and budgeting for recipes in Home Economics together with making links to financial education across the curriculum. Through participating in the World Trade Game, pupils will be learning about factors which can affect a country's ability to make and sell products considering fairness, ethics and responsibility.
- In Bathgate Academy, S2 pupils will be developing their financial education through The Florida Holiday Project and all S3 pupils will be completing The Money Week Project on budgeting.
- It is never too young to start learning about the importance of managing money! Many nursery and primary schools will be delivering important messages about finance through lots of exciting activities including: reading specially written short stories, setting up and running their own businesses, learning about saving, budgeting and how the world of money works.



→ Local Libraries save you Lolly!

All libraries will be taking part in a fines amnesty during Money Week.

Local residents can return overdue books between 1 and 6 October without having to pay any fines (overdue DVDs and CDs are not included in this amnesty).

Libraries are also a great source of information, advice and resources to help you better manage your finances, cope with money worries, stay healthy on a budget and much more.

Go to your local library and find out how you can:

Get Crafty About Cash - great money themed crafts and activities for children. **Friday 5th October: 1 - 4pm**

PC Taster Sessions - Use the internet to save money on-line. **Friday 5th October: 10am - 12pm**

Better off

West Lothian Money Week
2012



maximising your income
1 - 6 October

westlothian.gov.uk



Monday 1st October

Food Co-op Blackburn Family Centre 10am – 2pm

It is possible to feed your family fresh food on a budget. Drop in to buy delicious fresh fruit and vegetables at prices that won't break the bank!

Savvy Shoppers Tesco, Bathgate 10am – 4pm

Stock up on information while you shop. Find out more about Council services in your local area.

Switched On Bathgate Partnership Centre 11am- 3pm

Turn your house into a home. Hints, tips and advice on housing options, dealing with household bills, gas and electricity issues and much more.



Business Start Up Advice Civic Centre, Livingston

Thinking about starting your own business? Come along and meet with a Business Gateway adviser who can help you find out how.

'Skint' Taster Session Winchburgh Community Centre 1-3pm

Come along to find out more about this fun, interactive course. Learn about budgeting, benefits, saving, borrowing and making the most of your money.

Work Your Money Armadale Community Centre Work Club 1-4pm

Come along to Armadale Work Club for practical help and advice on finding the right job for you. Talk to a benefits adviser and find out how much better off you could be by starting work.

Tuesday 2nd October

Women Onto Work WOW Factor Confidence Boosting Workshop

West Lothian College 9.30am – 11.30am

Mums - Worried about how you'll manage when your youngest starts school and you need to look for a job? Come along to our workshop and take away lots of ideas and info on finding a job that fits with your home life. Creche provided. To book your place call 01506 282989.

Better Off: Benefits Strathbrock Partnership Centre 10am-12pm

Living with a disability or long term health problem can be difficult financially. With around £20 million worth of benefits unclaimed in West Lothian each year, it is worth checking to see if you are getting everything you are entitled to. Pop in to speak to a trained benefits adviser.

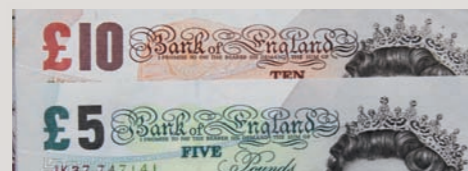
Just the Job Fauldhouse Partnership Centre 11am – 4pm

Give yourself an edge in the job market. Drop in and meet local employers, smarten up your CV and chat with employability specialists.



Welfare Reform Information Session West Calder Community Centre 2-4pm

Are you worried about your benefits changing? Do you want to know more about how this will affect your finances? Come along to find out – call 01506 282080 to book your free place.



Wednesday 3rd October

Shut Out Bogus Callers Bathgate Partnership Centre 9am-1pm

Reduce your chances of being conned by bogus callers or rogue traders. Drop in to find out more from Lothian and Borders Police.

Money, Money, Money! Blackburn Mill Centre 10am – 4pm

Money matters can be confusing. Drop in to learn about budgeting, saving, borrowing and managing debt.



Volunteering Opportunities Whitburn Council Office 10am-12pm

Find out more about volunteering in your local area – there's something for everyone.

Better Off: Parents Knightsridge Early Years Centre Inveralmond Early Years Centre 10.30am-2pm

Help and advice for parents looking to get back into work.

CV Workshop Addiewell Community Centre 1-4pm

Come along for help and advice on creating a great CV and submitting a standout job application.

Skilled to Go Boghall Resource Centre 10am- 12pm Bathgate Partnership Centre 1-3pm Blackburn Community Centre 7-9pm

Don't miss out on the best deals. Come along and learn how to make the most of online money saving tools.

Get Involved! West Lothian College 7-9pm

Pop in to find out about fantastic ways to get involved in local classes, clubs and groups.

Thursday 4th October

Savvy Shoppers The Centre, Livingston 10am-4pm

Beat the Christmas shopping blues by stopping to speak to a dedicated adviser to find out if you are entitled to any extra benefits or tax credits.



Better Off: Benefits St John's Hospital, Livingston 10am – 4pm

Living with a disability or long term health problem can be difficult financially. With around £20 million worth of benefits unclaimed in West Lothian each year, it is worth checking to see if you are getting everything you are entitled to. Pop in to speak to a trained benefits adviser.

Shut Out Bogus Callers Whitburn Community Development Trust 11am-1pm

Taking basic precautions can reduce your chances of being conned by bogus callers or rogue traders. Come along to find out more from Lothian and Borders Police.

Better Off : Work Strathbrock Partnership Centre, Broxburn 1-4pm

Meet with employability services to find out what opportunities are available for you. Help and support to access the training you need to take your career further.

Housing Options Seminar Civic Centre, Livingston 7-9pm

If you are looking for your first home, or if you are unhappy with your current housing, this is for you. Call 01506 283019 to book your place; find out about social housing, private lets, mortgages and any help that might be available to you.

Friday 5th October

Get Energised! Addiewell Pitstop 10am-12pm

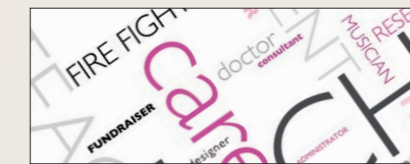
Confused about utility bills; bring them along and get them explained. Take the chance to sign up for a free course to help you save money on your gas and electricity.

Health and Wealth Brucefield Church, Whitburn 11am-3pm

Advice on how to live a healthy lifestyle on a budget. Cooking tips, free refreshments, advice on keeping active and much more.

Just the Job Almondbank House, Craigshill 11am – 4pm

Give yourself an edge in the job market. Drop in and meet local employers, smarten up your CV and chat with employability specialists.



PPI Clinic Strathbrock Partnership Centre, Broxburn 11am-1pm

Did you take out personal protection insurance? Beat the big companies – find out how to reclaim PPI free of charge.

Film Friday The Hub Cinema, Fauldhouse Community Development Trust

A free trip to the cinema!
2pm The Lion King
6pm The Hunger Games
Call 01506 283019 to book your free tickets.



Saturday 6th October

Big Day Out Tenants Information & Family Fun Day Civic Centre, Livingston 10.30am – 2.30pm

A family fun day with plenty to see and do for both adults and kids.

Money saving tips, entertainment and free activities to keep the kids happy: magician, storytelling, animal zoo and face-painting.

Community Arts Workshop Lowport Centre, Linlithgow 2-4pm

Come along and get in touch with your creative side. Save money on pricey art by learning to make your own. Call 01506 283019 to book your free space.



Business Start Up Advice Bathgate Partnership Centre 2-5pm

Thinking about starting your own business? Come along and meet with a Business Gateway adviser who can help you find out how.



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