**West Lothian Volunteer Network**

Tuesday May 27th 2pm (online)

Chair: Aynsley Douglas (West Lothian Council) Aynsley.Douglas@westlothian.gov.uk

Note Taker: Victoria Isbister (VSGWL) Victoria.Isbister@VSGWL.org

**Present**: Claire Garton (NHS), Aynsley Douglas (WLC), LeighAnn Bishop (Xcite), Elizabeth Campbell (HCL), Lee Dolby (Linlithgow), Roz (School Bank), Susan Proudfoot (CAB)

**Apologies:** Ray Fallan (VSGWL), Jamie (50+), Gillian Dunigan (Social security), Linden Raeburn (WLC), Lisa Callaghan (Home Start), Margaret King and Jennifer Harley (Team Jak)

1. **Welcome and Apologies:** Aynsley opened the meeting.
2. **Last minutes and previous actions:** No comments or actions.
3. **Guest Speaker: Jocelyn Lockhart (WLCAN)**

Board and Staff. Membership organisation. What is climate action? Connecting people and providing training. Held their second regional summit held yesterday, follow up event in Bathgate next week. If your interested hosting, get in touch! There is a small pot of funding for members. 68k distributed so far in 2 rounds supporting projects such as education, energy and biodiversity. Orchard tree giveaway last year. Open to suggestions for volunteers, no set schedules or repetitive tasks so still looking at how to accommodate. Just recruited Comms volunteer to boost social media. Looking at local biodiversity action plan to make volunteering working group to support different orgs environmental volunteering to support and recruit their volunteers, supported b VSGWL. Orchard volunteering last March. Members across county to Bellsquarry. Youth action network and mentors, setting up. Youth climate action network being formed. You can subscribe to WLCAN newsletter. Subscribe. 2 months. Lee said the feedback from Monday night was positive and would like to know about youth climate action network.

1. **Themed discussion:** Volunteer training – No comments at this time, agreement to carry forward.
2. **PVG Updates**

Ray held an information session at the Gateway April 23rd with Disclosure Scotland (Duncan Steele). The recording will be available on our website shortly.

[Resources - Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian](https://www.voluntarysectorgateway.org/organisation-support/resources/)

Aynsley and Linden had attended other PVG sessions prior and felt they had more questions than answers. Following Ray’s session at the Gateway they felt they had more clarity. Lee agreed it was a really useful session. For them, it generated questions and discussions, which were needed. They have made internal judgements and feel they are right but asked whether anyone would find it beneficial to form a community collective, and informal peer support group, to share questions and check decisions.

1. **VSGWL: Volunteer event: June 6th**

Organisations throughout West Lothian were invited to nominate their volunteers for one of three categories: Volunteer of the Year Award, Dedication and Commitment Award and Volunteer Team of the Year Award. We’ve had an outstanding response, with collectively over **240 volunteers** nominated in total. The celebration will take place on Thursday 5th June, from 12pm to 2pm, at St Mary’s Church Hall in Bathgate. All nominees, along with their nominators from the organisations they volunteer with, have been invited to attend. Each nominee will receive a certificate of recognition, and a winner and runner-up for each category will be announced on the day. We are excited about the event here at the Gateway!

1. **Volunteer Celebration Event**

Brief discussion after last meeting, January suggested – members present agreed. Location: College? Refreshments? Follow up at next meeting.

1. **Volunteer Fayre/s**

WLC attended Bathgate job centre last week and found it to be a great opportunity, got lots of contacts. VSGWL also attended and Whitburn CDT. Livingston Thursday. Perhaps we can continue to tap into this resource? HCL weren’t at event however they have had enquiries. Well ran.

1. **Volunteers Week in June: events**
* WLC holding coffee morning for volunteers, Aynsley working on social media.
* Is there a #? To Link in events on social media. Tag Facebook WLVN.
* Linlithgow: Looking to link in events with support of VSGWL with a call for action planned for the Friday. Low capacity but are keen to showcase what is happening.
* NHS Celebration for WL volunteers Friday 20th, hope to involve conservation volunteers. Scheduled posts X and blue-sky and NHS Lothian Facebook.
* CAB, celebration on Wednesday and wee walk round Beecraigs on Sunday which went down well last year, fresh air, mental health boost.
* HCL, present to volunteer dispatcher and drivers.
* Xcite doing event later in year due to volunteer availability
1. **Service Updates inc Volunteer celebrations: awards and successes**

VSGWL:

* [Homepage - VSGWL Locator](https://westlothianlocator.org/) Members organisations now showing on our new service locator. [Membership - Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian](https://www.voluntarysectorgateway.org/organisation-support/our-members/).
* A reminder of council funding link: [Home | West Lothian 4 Community](https://funding.idoxopen4community.co.uk/westlothian).
* We have launched an Early Warning Guide for Better Business and it can be found here: [Organisation Overview Health Check - Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian](https://www.voluntarysectorgateway.org/organisation-overview-health-check/).
* Please get in touch if you have an volunteering opportunities: <https://www.voluntarysectorgateway.org/organisation-support/advertise-your-volunteering-opportunities/>

NHS: Recruitment open briefly for 16-25yr old programme. 40 young people recruited so far. While recruitment has been on hold policy and procedures have been reviewed. Quality of volunteers and support offered is important. Opportunities for other age groups and roles will be open throughout the year at certain times with set interview dates and training.

[Volunteering Opportunities – Get Involved](https://www.nhslothian.scot/getinvolved/volunteering/volunteering-opportunities/)

WLC: 4 people completed Pathways to volunteering course last week: 2 were referred from parental employment and 2 from job centre which is a great link. Their main aim is employment but looking to add to their CV and develop their confidence. Someone recently got a job, which is a great result. Gina has joined the team and spoke about how she had been working 21hours with Improving the Cancer journey and has increased her hours so now also volunteer team development worker.

WLCAN: Inducting their first volunteer. Looking to host more volunteers in the future, finding their feet and going through PVG process.

Xcite: Ageing well running as normal, Will be attending the awards, New young at Heart (entertainment, quiz, tea/coffee) at Strathbrock which is funded so people attend for free. It’s once a month next one is 11th June 1.30-3.30.

HCL: Due to the changing funding landscape, they have an additional fundraising group who have given up their own time to do a bungee jump. This money was spent on day trips to Dunfermline and the Falkirk Wheel. In July a trip is planned from Blackridge and Armadale to Burntisland. One driver partnered up with OCS facilities management and gave up lots of time to train for and run 10k marathon on Saturday, 6 of the staff volunteered for Sunday. This money will put back into service delivery.

Linlithgow: Continuing to recruit volunteers. Main projects have volunteers however travelling and isolation is preventing some people from coming into town e.g. Bridgend and Whitecross so now trying to set up satellite projects including recruiting people to then be lead volunteers for sustainability. What do people want? Felt better to support people who will then take the lead. Hoping this will increase insight into what the community needs and wants.

School bank: The School Bank West Lothian have just launched our summer back to school campaign where we ask the public to sponsor a child by providing a uniform pack for them returning to school after the summer holidays. We already have 139 sponsors which is great but last year we helped around 900 children with uniform packs for going back to school after the summer so still a ways to go. Would appreciate any social media shares for the campaign if anyone is able.

**CAB:** Meeting next week to see what we volunteer opportunities there are, still training existing volunteers.

1. **Any other business**: none
2. **Next meeting date:** last Tuesday of the month 2pm online

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|  | **Guest Speaker** | **Themed discussion** |
| **January 28th** | Dogs trust (Erin) |  |
| **February 25th** | Voiceability (Adele) |  |
| **March 25th** | Joe (Rooms to Reward) | PVG (Ray) |
| **April 29th** | VSGWL Service Locator (Tracy) |  |
| **May 27th** | Jocelyn Lockhart (WLCAN) | Volunteer mapping |
| June 24th |  | Volunteer Expenses (Linden) |
| August 26th | WLC Volunteering (Linden) | Volunteer Fayre |
| September 30th | Community Benefits Gateway (Tracy, VSGWL) | Volunteer Training |
| October 28th |  | Volunteer retainment |
| November 25th | Volunteer Scotland? |  |

**Actions**

Tag WLVN on Facebook during volunteers’ week

