



THE GATEWAY
Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian

E-Bulletin



SEPTEMBER EDITION



Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian
20-22 King Street, Bathgate EH48 1AX

Registered Company in Scotland No. SC244154 and
Registered Scottish Charity No. SC027612



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Promoting, Supporting
& Developing West
Lothian's Voluntary
Sector

WELCOME

Welcome to the September edition of The Gateway E-Bulletin – and the first edition in our new flipbook format!

We've refreshed the way we bring you the latest news, opportunities and updates from The Gateway and across West Lothian's third sector. Our new format is designed to make the E-Bulletin more engaging and easier to browse, while bringing everything together in one place.

Inside this month's edition, you'll find the latest news from The Gateway, funding opportunities, volunteering updates, upcoming events and training, and useful information from across the wider third sector.

We hope you enjoy exploring our new-look E-Bulletin and find plenty of useful information to take away.

Happy reading!
The Gateway Team



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THE GATEWAY NEWS

Supporting West Lothian's Voluntary Sector



Volunteer Opportunities Showcase brings organisations and volunteers together

The Gateway was delighted to welcome prospective volunteers and 10 local organisations to our Volunteer Opportunities Showcase in Bathgate on 16th September.

The event gave people the chance to meet organisations, discover opportunities and explore the many ways they can get involved in volunteering across West Lothian.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part and helped make the event a success!

[READ MORE](#)



Year 6 Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund is open

Applications are now open, with micro-grants of £500–£2,500 available to support community-based mental health and wellbeing activities across West Lothian. **Deadline: 12 noon, 5th October 2026**

[READ MORE](#)

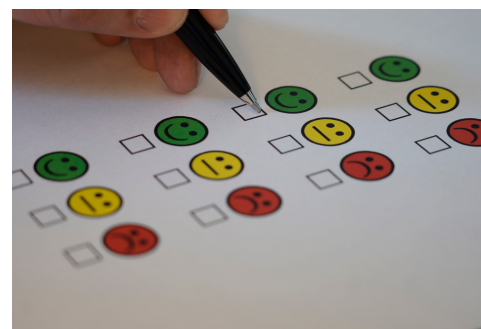


Social Enterprise Conference 2027

Save the date!

Our next Social Enterprise Conference will take place on **Wednesday 12th May 2027 at Howden Park Centre in Livingston.**

[READ MORE](#)



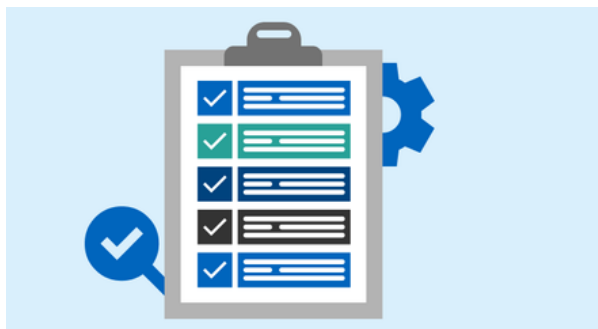
Stakeholder Survey 2026

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our 2026 Stakeholder Survey. We really appreciate you sharing your views and experiences with us. We will now be analysing the responses and will publish a report outlining the key findings in due course.

SECTOR NEWS

News, updates and opportunities from across West Lothian's third sector

Equality and Human Rights Mainstreaming Toolkit



Join this online session to discover how the Equality and Human Rights Mainstreaming Toolkit can help organisations embed equality and human rights across their work, including a live demonstration and Q&A.

1st October | 2:30–3:30pm | Online

[READ MORE](#)



Have your say: Carers of West Lothian Annual Surveys 2026



Carers of West Lothian is inviting people who use its services to share their experiences through its 2026 Annual Surveys.

Surveys are available for carers, Disability Service users and young carers, with feedback helping to shape and improve future services.

[READ MORE](#)



Job Opportunities with The Larder



The Larder is recruiting for a number of roles across West Lothian, with opportunities in youth and employability support, catering and its LIFE programme.

[READ MORE](#)



WLDAS is recruiting

West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service

WLDAS

Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery

West Lothian Drug & Alcohol Service is recruiting a Business Manager to join its Extended Management Team, supporting areas including finance, funding, facilities and HR.

[READ MORE](#)



SECTOR NEWS

News, updates and opportunities from across West Lothian's third sector

Living Life to the Full – Free Course for Parents



Kidz-Eco is offering a free six-week Living Life to the Full course for parents of children aged 0–5, providing practical support to build confidence, manage stress and tackle everyday challenges.

[READ MORE](#)



Upcoming Events from West Lothian Climate Action Network



West Lothian Climate Action Network has two upcoming events offering opportunities to learn more about climate change and issues affecting communities across West Lothian.

[READ MORE](#)



The Third Sector's Role in Scotland's Priorities



Following publication of the Scottish Government's Programme for Government 2026–2031, Alan McCloskey, CEO of The Gateway, reflects on the vital role West Lothian's third sector can play in turning national priorities into meaningful local change.

[READ MORE](#)



West Lothian 50+ Network launches new three-year plan



West Lothian 50+ Network has launched its 2026–2029 Strategic Plan, setting out how it will help more people aged 50+ stay connected, active and involved in their communities as West Lothian's older population continues to grow.

[READ MORE](#)



SECTOR NEWS

News, updates and opportunities from across West Lothian and Scotland

New Peer2Peer Toolbox Launched

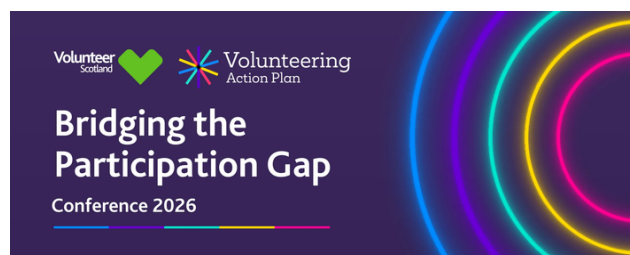


A new free Peer2Peer toolbox has launched, offering practical and flexible resources to help organisations develop knowledge, skills and confidence in peer support

[READ MORE](#)



Volunteering Action Plan Conference 2026



Explore how to create more inclusive and accessible volunteering opportunities at Volunteer Scotland's 2026 conference.

17th November | 10am–4pm | Stirling & Online

[READ MORE](#)



5 - 11 October 2026

CHALLENGE POVERTY WEEK

West Lothian Events

Join the Anti-Poverty Service and partners for a week of free events and activities, highlighting advice, services and support available across West Lothian.



MONDAY
Social Security



TUESDAY
Energy



WEDNESDAY
Fair Work



THURSDAY
Child Poverty



FRIDAY
Communities & Volunteering

[VIEW THE FULL PROGRAMME](#)



Better £ff
West Lothian

West Lothian Council

FUNDING NEWS

Latest funding opportunities for West Lothian's third sector

Year 6 Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund



£500–£2,500 micro-grants available for West Lothian organisations supporting community mental health and wellbeing.

Deadline: 5 October 2026

[READ MORE](#)



Firstport Step Up Loan for Social Enterprises



Social enterprises can access £5,000–£30,000 in 0% interest finance from Firstport to help grow successful trading activity.

[READ MORE](#)



Morrisons Foundation Connecting Communities Grants



Grants of up to £20,000 for registered charities improving community spaces, reducing isolation and protecting important local services.

[READ MORE](#)



Get Grants Virtual Conference 2026



A free two-day online conference offering practical fundraising advice, expert insights and learning for charities, community organisations and social enterprises.

6–7 October | 10am–3pm | Online

[READ MORE](#)



FUNDING NEWS

Latest funding opportunities for West Lothian's third sector

Bank of Scotland Foundation Energise Programme



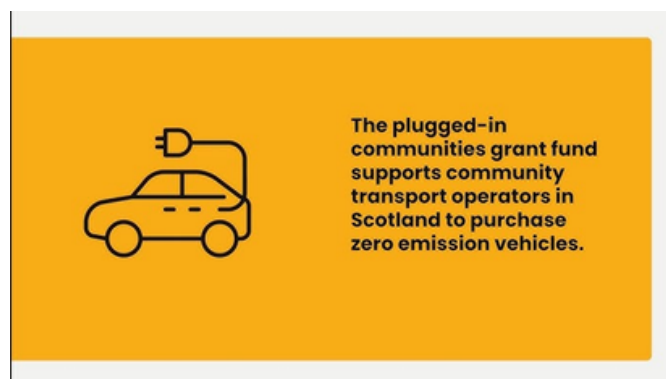
Unrestricted funding of £20,000–£40,000 for small Scottish charities supporting vulnerable people.

Opens: 28 September | Closes: 7 October

READ MORE



Plugged-In Communities Grant Fund



Up to £95,000 to help Scottish community transport organisations transition to fully electric vehicles and charging infrastructure.

READ MORE



LOOKING FOR MORE FUNDING?



Finding the right funding can be challenging. The Gateway brings together funding opportunities, search tools and useful resources to help West Lothian organisations find potential sources of support.



Funding News

Discover the latest funding opportunities and updates.



West Lothian 4 Community

Search over 500 funding opportunities for free.



Funding Resources

Explore useful funding tools, guidance and support.

EXPLORE FUNDING
SUPPORT





Discover Services Near You!

Find the Support You Need Across West Lothian

Looking for local services?

Explore our service locator! Find groups offering new activities, practical advice and support with health and wellbeing.



westlothianlocator.org

Volunteering

Latest volunteering opportunities

Volunteer with Positive Help



Positive Help is recruiting volunteers across Edinburgh and the Lothians, with opportunities including:

-  Supportive Transport Drivers
-  Children's Study Buddies
-  Children's Befrienders
-  Activity Buddies

READ MORE



Volunteer Steering Group Member – WLDAS

BECOME A VOLUNTEER
WITH



JOIN OUR PROGRESSING FORWARD STEERING GROUP
TEL 01506 430225 ENQUIRIES@WLDAS.ORG WWW.WLDAS.COM

Volunteer with West Lothian Drug & Alcohol Service and help shape the future development and evaluation of its services across West Lothian.

READ MORE



Volunteer with Cyrenians OPAL



Cyrenians OPAL has a range of volunteering opportunities supporting older people across West Lothian, including:

-  Digital Support Volunteers
-  Befrienders
-  Community Volunteers
-  Volunteer Walk Leaders

READ MORE



Board & Admin Volunteers – EnvironMentalHealth CIC



EnvironMentalHealth CIC is looking for volunteers with skills in governance, finance, procurement, fundraising or administration to strengthen its team.

READ MORE



Volunteering

Latest volunteering opportunities

Befriender – WLYAP



West Lothian Youth Action Project is looking for volunteer befrienders to build positive, supportive relationships with children and young people.

[READ MORE](#)



Charity Trustees – Acredale House



Acredale House is seeking two volunteer Charity Trustees to join its Board, with experience in governance, healthcare or business management welcomed.

[READ MORE](#)



Volunteer with Generation Arts



Generation Arts is looking for volunteers to support its work with older people across West Lothian, including:

 Arts & Event Volunteers

 Trustees

 Chair of the Board

[READ MORE](#)



Climate Action Outreach Volunteer – WLCAN



Help West Lothian Climate Action Network inspire more people to get involved in local climate action. No previous experience required.

[READ MORE](#)



Volunteering

Latest volunteering opportunities

Community Volunteer – West Lothian Flames



West Lothian Flames Basketball Club is looking for friendly, reliable volunteers to support coaching, events, fundraising, administration, marketing and more.

READ MORE



Young Carer Volunteer Driver – Carers of West Lothian



Help young carers aged 5–18 access groups, activities and support by becoming a volunteer driver. Mileage expenses are paid.

READ MORE



Find Volunteers for Your Organisation

Register your volunteer opportunities with us and reach potential volunteers across West Lothian.



Reach new volunteers



Promote your opportunities



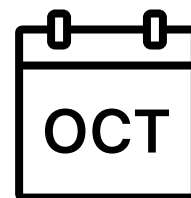
Make a positive difference

Register your opportunities



Upcoming Events

What's happening over the month ahead



01
Oct

Equality and Human Rights Toolkit

Join us for an online session, 2:30pm - 3:30pm exploring the Equality and Human Rights Mainstreaming Toolkit, including a live demonstration and Q&A.

> [LEARN MORE](#)

06
Oct

West Lothian Mental Health Forum

Bringing together third sector organisations to connect, share updates and strengthen collaboration around mental health support in West Lothian. Hybrid meeting, 14:00 - 15:30.

> [LEARN MORE](#)

20
Oct

Positive Ageing Services Forum

Bringing together organisations working with older people to connect, collaborate and strengthen services across West Lothian. 1:30pm - 3:00pm

> [LEARN MORE](#)

22
Oct

Getting More from AI: Beyond the Basics

Following on from our Introduction to AI for Beginners session, this practical session will explore how you can get more from AI in your day-to-day work. Learn how to write better prompts, improve AI-generated responses and use AI more effectively for everyday workplace tasks. 10am - 11am via Microsoft Teams.

> [LEARN MORE](#)

22
Oct

Third Sector Employability Forum

Bringing together third sector organisations to share good practice, build connections and strengthen employability support across West Lothian. 1:30pm - 3:00pm

> [LEARN MORE](#)



Room Hire

Discounted
Rates for Third
Sector

**Need a space for your
next meeting or event?**

Affordable, accessible meeting
rooms in the heart of West Lothian



Central
location



Spaces for
2-20 people



Hybrid meeting
facilities



Fully
accessible



Free high-speed
Wi-Fi



Tea and Coffee
(£5 per booking)



GENERATE

Large Meeting & Training Space

A bright, modern room perfect for training,
board meetings, conferences or workshops.



7 - 20 people



76" 4K Clevertouch Interactive Screen



HD webcam for hybrid meetings



Heating and air conditioning

Book Generate



CONNECT

Small Meeting Space

A comfortable and flexible space, ideal for
meetings, interviews or small group sessions.



2 - 8 people



TV screen for presentations



Suitable for hybrid meetings



Heating available

Book Connect



We're here to support West Lothian's Voluntary Sector

Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian (The Gateway) is the Third Sector Interface for West Lothian.

We support charities, community groups, voluntary organisations and social enterprises to develop, connect and thrive – while helping people across West Lothian discover opportunities to volunteer and make a difference.

How we can help



Organisation Support

Practical advice and support to help organisations develop and strengthen.



Volunteering

Helping organisations recruit volunteers and connecting people with opportunities.



Funding Support

Helping you find funding opportunities, resources and sources of support.



Social Enterprise

Support for organisations developing sustainable and enterprising approaches.



Working Together

Connecting the sector and creating opportunities to collaborate and have your voice heard.



News, Events & Training

Keeping you informed about opportunities, developments, events and learning.

We're here when you need us.

Whether you're starting something new, looking for funding, recruiting volunteers, developing your organisation or simply don't know where to start, get in touch with The Gateway team.



CONTACT US