

Community Action - Blackburn

Primary 7 Conference Thursday 26th February 2009

This event was hosted by Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School and was attended by 55 Primary 7 pupils and 30 invited adult guests. The focus of the day was on the children of our community who were given an opportunity to voice their opinions about what they thought it was like to live in Blackburn, what they liked, what they didn't like and what we could all do to make our village a better place to live.

The primary 7 classes from all 3 schools carried out a survey and their results were given on the day to the invited guests, who the children will be depending on to resolve the issues and concerns raised.

A few of the issues identified by the children were

- Improve and clean up open space areas and play parks;
- Reduce vandalism especially to the schools;
- Alcohol being sold to persons under age;
- More for them to do;

A full report and DVD of the conference are being prepared and will be made available.

The event was a tremendous success achieving its aims by highlighting the concerns and aspirations of our children and promoting inter school working by bringing together the young people in our community and giving them the opportunity to have a voice.

More information in the next edition.

Easter Events at Blackburn Community Centre

Additional activities have been arranged between the hours of 2 and 4 pm from Saturday 4th to Sunday 19th (with the exception of Friday 10th and Monday 13th). These include Arts & Crafts, Football, Pool Competition, Treasure / Scavenger Hunt , Magic Skills and Dancing. For more information contact Community Centre on 01506 653014

Community Consultation and Engagement



The consultation process involved engaging with residents and key stakeholders to produce an in depth community mapping profile. See full report at www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/blackburn

The Steering Group, which informs and advises on the way forward for the project, has used the results of the community consultation to identify the following outcomes for the initial stage of the project.

- Engage with the community
- Improve communication links within the community
- Improve alcohol awareness education
- Reduce underage drinking and alcohol-related harm

A work plan has been developed and the Steering Group are seeking funding to develop and deliver the preventative measures. The following measures, which interlink with a number of the identified outcomes have already been acted upon:

- Alcohol Awareness Week – community specific events provided
- Primary School poster competition
- Jump2It Programme - basketball initiative organised by Scottish Sports Futures. In conjunction with the Scottish Rocks Pro Basketball Team they provide a health and wellbeing programme to school children aged between 9 and 11 years with a view to promoting healthy living and citizenship along with the development of the game of basketball.
- Rory Learning Resource is being piloted in 9 primary schools and Pinewood School from January to June 2009 and in a one to one setting by West Lothian Drug & Alcohol Service (WLDAS), West Lothian Youth Action Project, Circle West Lothian, West Lothian Children and Young Persons Team and Whittdale Family Centre.
- Development of substance awareness programme for S1 and S2 pupils
- Production of a community newsletter
- Community approach to addressing under age and agent purchase.

For more information please contact Charlie Bryceland on 07889 251909 or email: charlie.bryceland@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk or visit www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/blackburn

2009 Blackburn Children's Gala-Day Saturday 13th June 2009

Our 100th Year Centenary Gala-Day will be take place in 2011. We need your help to make it a success. If you have any spare time or idea's on fund raising events, please get in touch. New people/members are always welcome.

Its costs approximately £11,000 to hold our annual event. We are collecting old gala-day photographs and would appreciate any previous gala-queens contacting us through our website www.blackburnchildrensgaladay.co.uk or telephone Lynne Wishart (Secretary) 01506 636493



Miss Danni Lee of Blackburn Primary School has been selected to be our Gala-Queen of 2009.

Tackling Under Age and Agent Purchase

Community Action Blackburn in conjunction with all Blackburn Licensed Premises, Local Licensing Forum, West Lothian Licensing Standards Officers and Lothian & Borders Police are examining ways of reducing the level of alcohol being purchased by those under the age of 18 years and by adults on behalf of those under the legal age. Following a recent meeting a four stage framework was agreed and work is continuing to finalise and put the proposal into operation. The following are included in the overall proposal:-

- Increase awareness of the issues of under age and agent purchase;
- Identification required from those who appear to be under 21 years of age;
- Provide training for staff within licensed premises;
- Increased police visibility and enforcement of Licensing laws.

More information will be available in the next issue of the newsletter.

Locality Planning

Locality Planning is a process which brings together public services with voluntary groups and the community to identify the main issues in communities, and to collectively plan ways to respond to these.

The themed issues Locality Planning is looking at in the Blackburn area are Young People, Employability and Early Years. Examples of what we are doing include:

- The creation of an information leaflet for young people about what they can get involved in, in their community;
- A door-knocking campaign to inform people about services which can help them find employment; and
- The development of a parents committee for Blackburn which is currently looking at planning activities and events for parents of early years children.

As alcohol misuse can have a negative impact on the community, Locality Planning will be working closely with Community Action Blackburn to respond to these issues where possible. If you require further information please contact Scott McKillop, Locality Planning Officer with West Lothian Council on 01506 777000.

Blackburn School Poster Competition

Scotland's second Alcohol Awareness Week ran from 5th to 11th October 2008 and asked the question 'will you take the challenge?' This was seen as an ideal opportunity to involve the whole community of Blackburn in raising awareness of and reducing the significant health and social harm caused by alcohol.

In order to promote involvement with families and the wider community, Blackburn Community Council and Community Action - Blackburn (Changing Attitudes to Alcohol) staged a number of events and competitions to help raise awareness of **healthy living issues** the main one being the School Artwork Competition.



Blackburn, Murrayfield and Our Lady of Lourdes primary schools participated in an art competition to develop a poster to promote the Community Action - Blackburn project. This provided a stage to develop interaction within the family and wider community arena during Alcohol Awareness Week. In order to promote the work being done by the children and to maximise the involvement with families and the wider community, the posters were displayed alongside the Alcohol Awareness Week information stand located within the Mill Shopping Centre.

The winning entries have been published in poster format and are used in promoting the project within the community. They can be viewed on line at www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/blackburn

Jump2It Programme



The **Jump2It** basketball initiative is organised by the Glasgow based charity, Scottish

Sports Futures. In conjunction with the Scottish Rocks Pro Basketball Team they provide a health and well being programme to school children aged between 9 and 11 years with a view to promoting healthy living and citizenship along with the development of the game of basketball. The professional players provide educational inputs on alcohol, healthy eating, smoking and fitness. They also provide coaching sessions which culminate with an inter schools tournament with the semi finals and final being played in front of the crowd at one of the Scottish Rocks home games.

From November 2008 to March 2009 Blackburn, Murrayfield and Our lady of Lourdes participated in the programme along with Seaford Primary and four Bathgate primaries. The inter schools competition was held at Blackburn Community Centre on 19 February with Our lady of Lourdes, Boghall, Balbardie and St Columba's progressing to the final stages which were held on 1 March at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow. St Columba's were the eventual winners with Our Lady of Lourdes being the runners up.

Following this successful programme a basketball club, affiliated to West Lothian Wolves Basketball Team, is now being run for P6 & P7 children on Friday afternoons between 1.30 and 3.00pm within Blackburn Community Centre.



Our Lady of Lourdes Primary
at Kelvin Hall Event

Launch of Rory learning resource

Around 1500 West Lothian primary school children are taking part in an innovative pilot project, developed by Alcohol Focus Scotland, aimed at addressing the harm caused to children as a result of parental alcohol misuse.

Fiona Hyslop, Lothians MSP, launched the "Rory Learning Resource" at Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, Blackburn on 12 January.



Nine primary schools in West Lothian have received a 'Rory' pack as part of the Community Action – Blackburn (Changing Attitudes to Alcohol) Project. The pack uniquely includes MP4 players – along with a storybook, puppet, games and worksheets. The resource is based on Rory, a fictional dog who can't understand why his owner neglects him, until it's explained that it's because his owner drinks too much.

The approach, combining the latest technology and traditional story-telling to help children understand the impact of alcohol misuse, is a first for Scotland and the project has already attracted global interest from as far afield as Canada and Belgium.

Teachers, counsellors and social workers can use the pack in different ways to help children understand the feelings they might experience when living with someone who has an alcohol problem and encourage children to speak to a trusted adult. Adults reading the book will also gain a better understanding of the impact of parental alcohol misuse from a child's perspective.

Although the resource is aimed at children aged 5-11, another version of the story book has been produced, in partnership with Pinewood School, which is suitable for younger children or those with additional support needs.

Blackburn Early Years Activities

	ACTIVITY	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
Monday	Baby Group	1:30 – 3.00	Blackburn Community Education Centre	Catrina Robertson, Blackburn Health Centre, 01506 654965
Tuesday	Messy Monkeys	9.30-11.30	Blackburn Community Education Centre	Karen Cunningham, Sure Start 01506 775836
	Blackburn Buggy Pushers	12-1.30	Meet in Blackburn Community Education Centre car park	Catrina Robertson, Blackburn Health Centre, 01506 654965
Wednesday	PEEP	10-11 during term time	Blackburn Community Education Centre	Anyone at Hopefield Nursery School, 01506 630944
	Wean the weans	1.15 – 2.45 not weekly – check for details	Blackburn Community Education Centre	Tansy Lee Moir, Communities Team, 01506 777184 or Catrina Robertson, Blackburn Health Centre, 01506 654965
Thursday	Messy Monkeys	9.30-11.30	Blackburn Community Education Centre	Karen Cunningham, Sure Start 01506 775836
	Fun to Fives Parents' group	11.45 – 1.45 not weekly – check for details	Blackburn Community Education Centre	Tansy Lee Moir, Communities Team, 01506 777184
Friday	Fun Fridays	10.00 – 12.00	Blackburn Community Education Centre	Laura Kinnaird, Parent organiser, 07724 997451



Early Years activities in Blackburn Community Education Centre have grown fast over the last year. There are now things to do with the wee ones on every weekday, and parents and carers are involved in the planning as well as the play. Some parents have got together to form 'Fun to Five' - a group which is organising parties, trips and events for local families, as well as fundraising ideas to support all the activities. They are also planning an adult learning event on **May 13th**, aimed at helping parents and carers find out what opportunities are around. For more information on any of the groups, contact the numbers above or call Tansy Lee Moir on 01506 777184.

Support Services

West Lothian NHS Addictions Service
01506 773676

Social Work Addiction Team
10506 773681

Drinkline
0800 7314314 (24hrs Helpline)

Edinburgh & Lothian Council on Alcohol (ELCA)
0131 337 8188

West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service (WLDAS)
01506 430255

Breathing Space 0800 83 85 87

ELCA Drop in Service, Lanthorn Community Education Centre, Dedridge – Mondays 2 to 4.30pm

West Lothian Youth Action Project
01506 461588

Support for families and Friends of those suffering from an Addiction:

Al Anon 0141 339 8884 (24hrs Helpline)

Social Work Assessment & Care Management
01506 777777

Alcoholics Anonymous
0845 7697 555 (24hrs Helpline)

Families Anonymous 0845 1200 660 or email office@famanon.org.uk

