

**PE1571/I**

West Lothian Council Email of 27 October 2015

West Lothian Council established a Food Poverty Working Group in June 2013 and this has met regularly since then. This includes a range of council services, third sector organisations with an involvement or interest in food poverty and representation from DWP. This group sees a strong link to the council's Anti-Poverty Strategy, and including specific food poverty activities and outcomes in the Anti-Poverty Action Plan is currently being discussed.

The Food Bank is a member of the anti-poverty development group and is both supported and contributes to the anti-poverty actions.

The Food Bank works in partnership with the council's Advice Shop to provide benefits, money, housing and debt advice at some of their distribution outlets.

West Lothian Council does not directly fund food banks but does provide storage space for their operation. In addition the council has three collection points for food donations from staff: West Lothian Civic Centre, Bathgate Partnership Centre and Strathbrock Partnership Centre in Broxburn.

One-off funding of £29,000 was awarded by the council to four organisations in June 2014 to support improved joint working. These were West Lothian Food Banks (£15,000), Community Food Initiatives West Lothian (£10,000), Food Train West Lothian (£3,000) and the Salvation Army (£1,000).

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