Chair: Linden Raeburn (WLC) Linden.Raeburn@westlothian.gov.uk

Secretariat: Victoria Isbister (VSGWL) Victoria.Isbister@VSGWL.org

**Present**

Sandra Stark (Cyrenians) Maureen Coquhoun (WLC) Hayley (Home-start)

Leighann Bishop (Xcite) Ray Fallan (VSGWL) Jennifer Harley (Team Jak)

Glenn Marsters (Active Schools) Claire Garton (NHS)

Carol Tugman (Social Security) Ros (school Bank) Dorothy Terhune (NCT)

**Apologies**

Elizabeth (HCL), Susan Proudfoot (CAB), Rosemary Sleith (ODAP), Sharon (Cyrenians), Paula Mark (Mood)

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Linden opened the meeting and noted apologies.

1. **Last minutes and previous actions -** Approved.
2. **Guest Speaker:** WL Food Network – Ray Fallan (VSGWL)

Born from shared prosperity fund, delivered food parcels during pandemic from food bank. Invested in and supported by WLC. From 2022, Foodbank didn’t want to continue involvement, so WLC approached The Gateway to manage the Network to the next level including overseeing funding to member organisations. 3 days of Rays job devoted to the Network. Now have 22 members, all based WL delivering different services around food. Early intervention, not crisis. Collecting Data which shows Network fed over 90,000 people last year and that single people are most affected by food insecurity. 2 tier SCIO achieved May 1st this year, now a charity, and next goal is to become sustainable. Each organisation has it’s own processes (there is no direct referral process to the Network). Organisations include: The Larder, Loganlea Miners and Community Action Backburn. Food with dignity. Board of 6 trustees. Each organisation has volunteers.

[West Lothian Food Network – West Lothian Food Network is a registered charity in Scotland No. SC053304](https://westlothianfoodnetwork.org/)

1. **Volunteer Fayre: January 2025 (Maureen)**

Location;

* Bathgate partnership centre again - Quite small?
* Asda Livi - front part / steps next to lifts
* WLC College
* The Centre – hard to get booked in
* Bathgate cinema
* Regal – high cost
* Bathgate Cinema

All Locations have pros and cons. Is it a good time of year? (resolutions!).

There wasn’t loads of sign up on the day in June. 6 of those present are interested in January event so decision to go ahead.

Time to organise, coordinate and publicise. W/c January 27th

Feedback from Team Jak that Asda community champion has been very supportive and helpful.

1. **Celebration Volunteer Event Planning: Big event 2025**
2. First Subgroup meeting at the end of this one – everyone welcome
3. Meet once a month online then moving to weekly before event
4. Evening event, £10,000 WLC funding
5. Without a subgroup, this event cannot go ahead. Need at least 6 people. Collaborative project.
6. **Social media**

Ann Holloway from Change Grow Live, was previously involved in network and has taken a step back however will continue as Social media volunteer. If anyone wants anything posted on WLVN page email either Anne or Linden.

1. **Service Updates**

**Home–start** – Always recruiting and training volunteers.

**Opal** – In middle of office decorating and purchases with funding.

**VSGWL** – Speaking to different organisations. Linlithgow have a lot of groups so working with number of groups there to streamline processes and explore volunteering. Ray feels less numbers of people volunteering in general.

**Xcite** – Had a few volunteer enquiries. Can Olympics Sept 25th where care homes come to do variety of games. Working with The Larder who are supplying volunteers who are on their new Social Care Academy programme. Other activities running as normal. Well done to Avril on the nomination UK active. Please vote!

<https://www.ukactive.com/ukactive-awards-2024-stage-2-public-vote/>

**WLC**: Volunteers going through training inc MacMillan volunteers. Recruited someone to replace the irreplaceable Rosie. New member Ainsley, who will attend future WLVN.

**NHS**: Not many people applying to NHS Lothian, especially St Johns. Currently 113 volunteers. 2 new positions, 10am – 6pm, Discharge lounge, keeping people settled. Lots of roles in outpatient departments inc children who have had laser treatment, faces, pre and post-surgery. Have to wait in hospital certain period time. Press release was not picked up for Courier and volunteering day not well attended. Ray checked with Claire what information she receives from Volunteer Scotland and will discuss further.

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

**Team Jak:** 10yrs ago last week Jak was diagnosed with rare lymphoma – Team Jak is his vision. Somewhere for families could go, a safe protected environment. Bee Happy campaign being launched at volunteer celebration Sept 20th. September also children with cancer awareness month. Deer Park Fundraiser bowling. There is an army of people crocheting yellow bees. The angel families are going away overnight. Prestonfield Ball – March.

**WLC Active Schools / Community Sport coordinator** – Community sports don’t have direct volunteers. Club volunteers support larger events. Active schools constantly on look out for volunteers. There has been a shift away from paid coaches which is creating more reliance on volunteers such as teachers and young leaders. Discussing how to expand the volunteers we have. glenn.marsters@westlothian.gov.uk

**Social security Scotland** – Gillian now covering borders. Team of 11 hard working staff who attend as many face to face appointments as possible. Someone will aim to attend once a quarter. Carers support payment starts with new claims from November. Don’t have volunteers but happy to support volunteering however find it difficult to navigate the landscape. Always looking for opportunities. Staff have 6 paid days a year to do volunteering in however need plenty of time to plan it in diaries.

**School Bank**: Coming to end of this campaign - 800 referrals, some of which have come from Community outreach. 248 public sponsors. Winter Warmer appeal starts October.

**Lothian Breast feeding** – Peer support, always recruiting and training cohorts running throughout the year, recruit mainly through social media pages.

1. AOCB
2. Volunteer friendly awards updated news: Ray asked if those present knew that Volunteer Scotland have decided that it’s not financially viable to continue (funding from the lottery has run out). Had only recently heard that these are not continuing and attended meeting yesterday about next steps such as how would it continue and who would manage? Sustainability. This leaves a huge gap. Award lasts 3 years.

Actions

1. Email any volunteer or placements opportunities to Ray.fallan@vsgwl.org
2. Victoria to email WLVN meeting poster to Food Network mailing list
3. All members get in touch with any guest speakers or interested topics e.g volunteer expenses, recruitment.
4. How many volunteers are there in WL? – How can we map this.
5. Contact Carol if any corporate volunteering opportunities (plenty of time needed to plan ahead): carol.tugman@socialsecurity.gov.scot
6. Contact Asda community champion – alorrai.s04176.uk@wal-mart.com

### Abi Lorraine: Community Life Champion: Asda Livingston: Tel: 01506835980 ext 222

Community\_Livingston@asda.co.uk

**Celebration Volunteer Event Planning: Big event 2025**

**Sub Group notes**

**Location:** WLC College Livi – cheapest, fits with aims (student practice)

 Could hire function room (which comes with function room)

 Hillcroft (less than £500 – see appendix) (poor bus issue?)

 Stadium – Simon food creations

 Strathbrock – Xcite, community centre, holds 200

 Bathgate Golf Club

 **Transport**: Ideally on Bus route (issue region wide)

**Date:** Ideally volunteers week, may have to fit in with college, First week in June

**Time:** Afternoon intoEvening, 5pm - 9pm or Afternoon (what would volunteers prefer)

**Dress code:** Posh and fancy but not incurring additional costs, want to look after people and make them feel good. Need to do what people want.

**Decorations:**

**Refreshments:** Sit down meal (100 people exc staff). Food is part of celebration.

The Larder donating to Xcite event. Buffet? BBQ.

**Catering:** College students

**Number of people:** 5 places per org

**Budget: -** £10,000. One big event or 2 or 3 events?

**Entertainment:** Disco, live band expensive. College music. Needs to be something to suit everyone. Disco might put people off. Regal music group. Background music. Choir. Combination of music /games.

**Alcohol:** Would need license or buy someone in or hide a venue.

**Members**

Linden Maureen Ray Hayley (Home-start)

Leighann School Bank

**In the past**

Certificates presented to Orgs and afternoon tea. Numbers restricted to 100 post covid.

Before that there was entertainment with coffee and snacks, 250 people.

**Actions**

1. Ray will ask her Nephew for costings about alcohol van
2. Survey own volunteers (Xcite, WLC and School Bank) on issues such as event timing