Recruitment Information Pack

Job Title	Youth Support Worker
Reference No	510.59
Location	Various Locations
Hours	2.5 hours
Salary	£28,455 - £30,595 pro rata
Status	Fixed Term until 31 March 2027

Thank you for your interest in this post, if you have any questions in relation to the recruitment process or if you are disabled and require any adjustment to the recruitment process please contact our recruitment team on 01506 28 22 22 or email recruitment@westlothian.gov.uk.

Privacy Notice – HR Services - Recruitment

Information held about you.

West Lothian Council will hold the following personal information:

- Full name
- Home address
- Email address
- Employment history
- Training/qualifications
- Registration with professional bodies
- Equal opportunities monitoring information (gender, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religion and disability)
- Criminal convictions (if applicable)
- Pre-employment checks (health screening, references and PVG check if applicable)

Who is processing my information?

All personal information is held and processed by West Lothian Council in accordance with data protection law.

How will we use information we hold about you?

Personal information held by West Lothian Council will be used in the following ways:

- To assess the suitability of applicants for the job they have applied for
- Equal opportunities monitoring information will be used to monitor the councils compliance with equality legislation
- To populate the HR Payroll system for successful candidates (see privacy notices on performance of contract of employment for further details)

Who we will share your information with?

We will not share your information with any external bodies.

How long do we keep your records?

If your application is successful we will keep your information for a period of 6 years after you leave employment with the council. Information stored on the Myjobscotland website will be retained for 7 years from the date of your application.

If your application is unsuccessful, all information will be kept for a period of 6 months, following which it will be securely destroyed. Information stored on the Myjobscotland website will be retained for 5 years from the date of your application.

Your rights

You have a number of rights under data protection law, including the right to request your information and to request that the information be amended or, in some circumstances, erased if incorrect.

To request your records, you will need to put your request in writing to HR Services, West Lothian Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 6FF

Email – hrsupport@westlothian.gov.uk

You also have a right to make a complaint about our handling of your personal information to the Information Commissioner's Office.

Further information

If you have any questions or concerns about how your information is used, please contact Data Protection Officer, West Lothian Council, West Lothian Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 6FF or email DataProtectionOfficer@westlothian.gov.uk

More information about data protection and how it applies to you is available from the Information Commissioner's Office.

About Education Services

Schools

West Lothian Council's 68 primary schools, 13 secondary schools, 66 early learning and childcare settings and 5 additional support needs schools deliver Education Services to approximately 26,000 pupils and approximately 4,000 pre-school children, their parents/carers and the wider community.

Education is provided in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, the Standards in Scotland's Schools Etc. Act 2000, the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004, and the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Schools work towards achieving the key strategic aims of the council. In particular, schools improve opportunities for young people, in partnership with centrally based officers, other Council services and external partners by:

- Raising standards of attainment and achievement for all
- Addressing the 'poverty related attainment gap' by ensuring equity of opportunity
- Improving employability and positive destinations for all school leavers
- Improving the learning environment
- Promoting equality of access to education
- Promoting citizenship and community engagement
- Promoting skills for lifelong learning including enterprise and creativity

Quality Improvement

The core function of the Quality Improvement Team (QIT) is to support and challenge school leaders in all schools to build capacity for self-evaluation that leads to improvement in the key areas of:

- Leadership and Management
- Learning Provision
- Success and Achievements

The team plays a key role in driving the implementation of the Raising Attainment Strategy, through effective quality improvement activities, which includes validated self-evaluation. The team also carries out individual and collective school attainment reviews, engaging school leaders in the forensic analysis of performance data to inform improvements and interventions.

The Quality Improvement team drive improvement in Early Learning and Childcare in Council establishments and partner providers.

The Quality Improvement team also assist with the recruitment and appointment of senior leaders in schools (Head Teachers and Depute Head Teachers), and builds capacity for effective senior leadership and leadership at all levels.

The Child Protection Officer (Education) provides high level expertise for Designated Members of Staff at school level for all aspects of child protection. The CP Officer liaises closely with national and local partner agencies to ensure a co-ordinated approach to child protection.

Performance Team

The core function of the Performance Team is to provide the Quality Improvement Team and schools with support in the management, analysis and intelligent use of data to support improvements in key indicators of performance. The Performance Team are also responsible for managing data collection and validation.

Inclusion and Wellbeing Service

The Inclusion and Wellbeing Service (IWS) works in partnership with schools, the Educational Psychology Service, the Quality Improvement Team and multi-agency partners to deliver education services and contribute to the overall aims of the council in relation to the educational attainment, achievement and health and wellbeing outcomes for West Lothian's children and young people.

More specifically, the service supports schools in improving the delivery of education provision, learning experiences and opportunities for children and young people with additional support needs across the curriculum in every educational context and setting, enabling all pupils to achieve at their highest potential. Collaborative planning with multi-agency partners is a key focus throughout the service's strategic and operational activities with the Getting It Right for Every Child agenda underpinning all partnership working.

Education Psychology

The Educational Psychology Service (EPS) works directly with children and their families, schools and multi-agency partners to contribute to the overall aims of the council in relation to the educational achievements and mental health and wellbeing outcomes for West Lothian's children and young people.

Strategic Resources

The team is the client interface with Finance, Estates and Property Services for the provisioning on new schools and early learning and childcare (ELC) settings and for delivering improvements to the current school estate.. The team works in partnership with Finance, Estates and Property Services and Operational Services for services to schools and has responsibility for health and safety, business continuity planning, statutory compliance and control of risk across the service.

The team undertakes workforce planning for teaching and non-teaching staff across the service including job sizing for promoted teaching posts. The team provides schools with business support and support for SEEMIS (schools management information system for staff and pupils) including completing census annual returns for the Scottish Government (ScotXed). The team also provides support for iPayimpact (an online payment facility for parents/carers).

Early Years Development

The Early Years Development Team have a lead role in service for the quality assurance in early learning and childcare (ELC) in relation to ensuring that all council settings including private partner providers, playgroups and childminders (with the SCMA) meet and maintain the National Quality standard published by the Scottish Government for eligible children.

Digital Learning

The Digital Learning team provide support to schools to enable them to develop teaching resources through the use of digital platforms and to complete their strategy for the hardware and devices within their school. The team also support the Council's Virtual Campus and use of GLOW. The team are a key part of provisioning for new schools and early learning settings.

Instrumental Music
The Instrumental Music Service encourages achievement, enhances and supports the music curriculum within schools and delivers all aspects of Curriculum for Excellence to our young musicians. The service delivers music tuition in a range of instruments to children and young people in West Lothian.

Instructors work across groups of schools, ensuring access to instrumental tuition and extending pupil experience. The central team is responsible for managing, developing and supporting all aspects of the Instrumental Music Programme on behalf of West Lothian Education Service and for organising and delivering career long professional learning development opportunities. This ensures that good professional standards are maintained in liaison with school music departments. The team also co-ordinates West Lothian Schools Area Bands and Ensembles Programme.

Community Arts
Community Arts supports the development of arts and cultural activity in West Lothian and provides opportunities to participate in the arts by offering a range of curricular and community-based learning and development opportunities. Arts Officers manage the community arts programme including the Youth Music Initiative (YMI) and also work in partnership with Planning and Economic Development, the service manages the council's Public Art programme which is funded by developer contributions. Grassroots Public Art grants enable communities to manage the commissioning of new pieces of public art which are based on community consultation and engagement.

Community Arts work with West Lothian Leisure to provide high quality cultural facilities at Howden Park Centre and manage a year-round performing and visual arts programme at both Linlithgow Burgh Halls and Howden Park Centre. Linlithgow Burgh Halls also provides a range of flexible spaces for hire to community groups and individuals.

Active Schools and Community Sport
Active Schools is a national network of staff working across Scotland to increase capacity and provide opportunities for children and young people to participate in sport before and after school. The team work together to provide a wide range of opportunities connected to physical education, school sport and club sport.

Customer Support
The Customer Support Team are responsible for the administration of early learning and childcare placements, placements at the P1 and S1 stages. The team have responsibility for parental involvement, co-ordinating freedom of information requests and the central complaints service. It also covers the letting of primary schools and halls, internal and external communication and the achievement of customer quality standards.

Adult Learning and CLD Youth Services
Adult Learning and CLD Youth Services have a strong focus on early intervention, prevention and tackling inequalities. These services empower people individually and collectively to make positive changes in their lives and in their communities; in line with corporate plan priorities 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7. Access to high quality learning, skills development, attainment and activities to promote health and wellbeing are important factors in determining life chances and can be a key to reducing inequality. Working together and with our partners CLD Youth Services and Adult Learning aim to ensure that disadvantaged communities have access to community learning and development support they need and help our most disadvantaged citizens develop the skills and support to participate fully in society.

Customer Participation
The service actively engages with customers and potential customers in the delivery and re-design of services to ensure that they are accessible and focused on their needs and preferences.

Council Strategies

Education Services is responsible for the development and implementation of the following corporate strategies; Raising Attainment Strategy, Active West Lothian Strategy.

Equality and Diversity

Equality is relevant to us all. Addressing discrimination and promoting equality are everyone's core business.

We want a West Lothian in which all people and communities have a say in their future and an equal opportunity for health, safety, education, fulfilling work, and a high quality of life. West Lothian Council has published equality outcomes, equality information on our workforce and our progress on mainstreaming equality. This reflects our commitment to promoting equality and eliminating discrimination as well as fulfilling our statutory duties under legislation.

The council recognises and values the diverse range of talents, skills, experience and perspectives that exist within society and believes that those qualities and attributes should also be reflected within the composition of its workforce, its employment practices and in the planning and delivery of its services.

Central to the council's Equality and Diversity agenda, is the prevention of discrimination, victimisation and harassment against service users and employees on any grounds, but particularly in relation to the following protected characteristics:

- age;
- disability;
- sex (gender)
- gender reassignment;
- marriage and civil partnership;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sexual orientation

In addition, prevention of discrimination, victimisation and harassment in relation to gender identity, gender expression, non-binary identities, language, social origin, employment status, political belief, trade union membership or activity, or responsibility for dependants is key to ensuring we have a diverse and inclusive workforce that reflects the communities we serve.

West Lothian Council is a Stonewall Diversity Champion and is committed to advancing LGBT equality and this is reflective in all our policies which are inclusive of all protected characteristics.

How to apply

Our preferred method of receiving applications is on line. In the interests of equality we do not accept C.Vs.

All applications must be received by the closing date stated on the advert and any late applications will not be accepted. Where there have been a high number of applications for a post, we may decide to close the post early. We do not keep copies of application forms on file for any future similar vacancies and therefore you will need to complete a separate application form for each post that you apply for. However, when applying on line the system will remember your core details.

If you apply for a post on line we will contact you using the email address you have provided.

The information you provide in your application is used to determine whether or not you should be shortlisted for interview. It is therefore in your interest to complete the form fully and carefully. Your application form should contain sufficient information to demonstrate that you have the skills and experience required for the post.

What happens next?

Following consideration of your application you will be notified as to whether or not you have been selected for interview.

If you are selected for interview you will receive an email from us confirming this and asking you to log in to the Myjobscotland website and select a suitable interview time. If you are not selected for interview you will receive an email confirming this.

Successful Candidate

The successful candidate will receive a conditional offer of employment, pending completion of the following checks, as appropriate.

- Pre employment health check
- References
- PVG
- Eligibility to work in the UK

A formal offer of employment will be issued only when all checks have been satisfactorily completed.

If you have any questions please email recruitment@westlothian.gov.uk

Terms and Conditions of Employment for Employees

Conditions of Service	Conditions of Service are those of the Scottish Joint Council for Local Government employees as adopted and amended by West Lothian Council
Hours of Work	Hours of work for a full time post are 36 hours per week. The standard working hours are Monday – Thursday 8.30 – 5.00, Friday 8.30 – 4.00. School based staff are employed on sessional contracts of either 38, 39 or 40 weeks. Contracts in early learning and childcare are 52.14 weeks. Adult Learning Team work 52.14 weeks per year
Pay	Employees are paid by bank transfer on the last Thursday of the month. Where appropriate you will receive an annual increment on the 1st April each year, until you reach the top of the grade.
Annual Leave	Depending on length of service you will be entitled to either 25(180 hours) or 30 (216 hours) days annual leave, this will be pro-rated for part time employees. The leave year is 1st January to 31st December. School based sessional staff will receive additional pay, depending on their length of service, to reflect their annual leave entitlement.
Public Holidays	There are 7 paid public holidays. Part time employees will be given a pro -rated entitlement to reflect their particular working arrangements.
Sickness Absence	Your entitlement to sickness allowance will be in accordance with the Scheme of Sickness Absence set out within the National Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Service for Scottish Local Government employees.
Pension	You are legally required to make provision for your pension. Employees with permanent contracts, or temporary contracts for 3 months or more, will automatically become members of the Local Government Pension Fund, unless they apply to opt out. Pension contributions are based on your salary.

Appraisal Development Review	All employees are entitled to an annual review with their manager, to identify any development needs and set objectives for the coming year.
Employee Benefits	The council has negotiated discounts for employees with over 90 local businesses and over 1,000 businesses nationally. Employees can take advantage of 20% off membership and free joining fees with West Lothian Leisure. As part of its commitment to having a healthy workforce the council offers physiotherapy, counselling and an Employee Assistance Programme
Pool Cars	The council provides access to pool cars for employees who need to drive as part of their job.
Trade Union	The council supports collective bargaining and you have the right to join a trade union and take part in its activities and are encouraged to do so.
Health and Safety	The council is committed to ensuring a healthy and safe working environment for all employees. Health and safety responsibilities are set out in the Occupational Health and Safety Supplementary Policy and Safety Arrangements booklet for your workplace.

West Lothian Council

Job Description

Job Title	Youth Support Worker
Reports to:	Senior/Community Education Worker
Location:	Various Locations

The purpose of the Youth Support Worker role is to:

- Support Senior/Community Education Workers, Keyworkers and Youth Work staff to deliver structured learning and support programmes for young people in West Lothian.
- Work positively with young people aged 7 – 25 years in a structured learning environment.
- Develop and deliver learning opportunities and programmes appropriate to the learner's needs and abilities and in keeping with the Curriculum for Excellence and GIRFEC.
- Engage young people in learning to help support them to engage positively in their schools and communities.
- Provide support and guidance to enable young people to achieve their personal and social development and learning goals.

Job Scope

- The post holder will have considerable youth work experience and be able to provide appropriate support and facilitation of learning opportunities to positively engage young people in transition.
- The post holder must be able to work on own initiative and operate as part of a team within a changing environment.
- The post holder will require understanding of policies and practices across Community Learning and Development Youth Services.
- The post holder must have effective communication skills both written and oral, with the ability to assist with session recording, reports and evaluations.

Principal Accountabilities/ Key Tasks

Principle Accountabilities:

- Working with the Senior/Community Education Worker the post holder will plan, organise and evaluate the youth work programme to ensure the learning needs of young people

continue to be met. This will include both structured and informal learning activities such as nationally recognised personal development programmes, accredited learning opportunities, building democratic literacy, research and presentation skills and health and well-being programmes/inputs.

- Support individual young people to address their learning needs. This will include completion of nationally recognised personal evaluation materials and supporting the Senior/Community Education Worker, Keyworker and partner agencies, in the delivery of learning activities and projects of a personal development and employability nature.
- Create a safe environment which is conducive to young people's learning and support needs.
- Negotiate with young people learning programmes based on their needs, skills and development requirements.
- Assist young people to access appropriate and relevant information that is easily accessible and young person friendly. Information sources will include the internet, information leaflets, magazines and visits to and from other agencies.
- Undertake the duties of the post in accordance with the policies of West Lothian Council.

Key Tasks:

- Ensure completion of appropriate recordings and forward them to the Senior/Community Education Worker.
- Support young people to complete individual accredited learning opportunities and record their achievements on the Management and Performance Information system.
- Ensure the appropriate excursion guidelines are adhered to and all necessary medical and participant consent forms are completed and returned, in line with the requirements of the policies of West Lothian Council.
- Collate, file and or submit evaluation information and participant impact statements, and self evaluation materials completed by young people as a requirement of the Service Quality Improvement Framework.
- Record complaints and comments from young people, members of the public and outside agencies following the West Lothian Council complaints procedures.
- Undertake cash handling duties including collection, recording and banking of admission, membership and excursion fees in line with West Lothian Council Financial Guidelines.
- Maintain regular communication with the Senior/Community Education Worker to update on issues, programme ideas and achievements of the youth project and individual members of the youth project.
- Liaise with youth work providers, within the council and voluntary sector, to raise awareness of the youth work programmes.
- To help set-up and dismantle any resources required to undertake the programmed activities for the session. Resources such as sports equipment, arts & crafts materials, tables & chairs, games consoles and table top games.
- To ensure the safe storage and porterage of any youth work resources available to the youth project and report any damage to the Senior/Community Education Worker.
- To ensure the safety and security of young people, youth work staff/volunteers and the venue being used.

Other Essential Information

Youth Support Workers working within the youth work programme will support young people on an individual and group basis:

- In transition
- Building self esteem and self confidence to create confident individuals.
- Developing the ability to manage personal and social relationships.
- Creating learning, developing new skills and becoming successful learners.
- To consider risk, make reasoned decisions and become effective contributors.
- Developing a world view which widens horizons and supports responsible citizenship.

A range of creative and innovative approaches will be used in this work including small group work, 1:1 discussion, presentations to large groups, personal development activities, thematic discussions, and peer education work, all of which are designed to encourage young people to develop and enhance their social, personal and learning skills. A focus on health issues, including Sexual Health, Drugs and Alcohol, as well as work around Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender, Black Minority Ethnic and other equalities issues will be integral to this area of work.

Youth Support Workers will also be required to work in partnership with staff from other agencies, and these may include Schools, Police, Health, Colleges, Skills Development Scotland staff, training providers, and voluntary sector youth work providers.

Hours of work will primarily be undertaken weekdays, but there may occasionally be a requirement to undertake residential, weekend or evening work.

It is a requirement of this post that you attend meetings and briefings as advised by your Senior/ Community Education Worker or a member of your Service management team.

West Lothian Council's Community Learning and Development Youth Service have a training calendar for staff working with young people that covers induction, core and specialist training opportunities, elements of which are mandatory. Additional staff training sessions and staff briefings for those working within school youth work will be arranged by the Community Learning and Development Youth Services.

This post requires that you can travel effectively and efficiently across the county in accordance with West Lothian Council's Business Travel and Subsistence Policy.

This post is considered Regulated Work with children and/or protected adults under the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scotland Act 2007. From 28 February 2011, preferred candidates will be required to join the PVG Scheme or undergo a PVG Scheme update check before a formal offer of employment is made by West Lothian Council.

The postholder may be required to perform duties appropriate to the job, other than those given in the job outline. The particular duties and responsibilities attached to the job may vary from time to time without changing the overall purpose of the job and would not, therefore, justify reconsidering the grade of the job. Such variations would be reflected in an updated job profile.