

PE1711/K

West Lothian Council submission of 25 February 2019

Background

The Public Petitions Committee considered the following petition at its meeting on 20 December 2018

“Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to-

1. Ensure that all primary schools in Scotland incorporate basic first aid as an integral part of their curriculum; and
2. Provide funding in order to develop high quality teaching materials on what to do in common emergencies, as well as to establish training and support for teachers to enable them to deliver these skills during short, interactive first aid workshops.”

The committee are seeking the views of all Scottish local authorities in relation to the action being called for in the petition. In addition, answers to the following Questions are being sought.

- a. To what extent does our local authority map the legislative requirement to have a named person in schools and other institutions?*
- b. Beyond that to what extent does our local authority have an understanding of who has first aid skills in the institutions within their area?*

Response to The Petition PE1711

While as a Local Authority we would always welcome funding for the development of high quality teaching materials as well as training and support for teachers to implement key aspects of the curriculum such as basic first aid training; we recognise that this would be subject to the availability and prioritisation of funding for the Scottish Curriculum as a whole. It may be that there are other partners and agencies that could support the delivery of basic first aid training in the way that you describe?

We are satisfied that basic first aid awareness and how to keep safe/seek help are built into the Curriculum for Excellence experiences and outcomes and benchmarks for **Personal and Social Education (PSE)** in primary schools. All schools in West Lothian use current and relevant Curriculum for Excellence Guidance and Advice in relation to PSE in the unique context of their school.

Please find below the current Guidance provided to all West Lothian Schools and institutions in the document below in relation to the questions a) and b).

FIRST AID PROVISION IN SCHOOLS

The **minimum** number of first aid personnel to be available within schools when **staff** are at work is outlined below:

Sector	Minimum number/type of first aid personnel	Additional notes
Early Years Centres/Nursery School (in a separate building)	1 x Appointed person 1 x First Aider	Schools should also train a number of staff in emergency first aid as required following a risk assessment to highlight any additional needs. All wraparound staff should be emergency first aid trained.
Primary School with less than 50 pupils	1 x Appointed person 1 x First Aider	Schools should also train a number of staff in emergency first aid as required following a risk assessment to highlight any additional needs.
Primary School with less 51 - 200 pupils	1 x Appointed person 1 x First Aider	Schools should also train a number of staff in emergency first aid as required following a risk assessment to highlight any additional needs.

		All wraparound staff should be emergency first aid trained.
Primary School with more than 200 pupils	1 x Appointed person 2 x First Aiders	Schools should also train a number of staff in emergency first aid as required following a risk assessment to highlight any additional needs. All wraparound staff should be emergency first aid trained.
ASN School	1 x Appointed person 2 x First Aiders	Schools should also train a number of staff in emergency first aid as required following a risk assessment to highlight any additional needs.
Secondary School	1 x Appointed person 3 x First Aiders	Schools should also train a number of staff in emergency first aid as required following a risk assessment to highlight any additional needs.

Notes:

1. Appointed Person.

An 'appointed' person should also complete the emergency first aid course (1 day), with a refresher course on an annual basis. Head Teacher/DHT must also be

trained in emergency first aid and be able to operate as an appointed person in case of absence.

2. First Aider

A 'first aider' must hold a valid certificate of competence issued by an HSE approved training provider which is valid for 3 years. Where an employee is a 'designated' first aider for a premises, then will receive an allowance of £330 per annum.

The numbers outlined in this document are for **guidance only**. The first aid needs risk assessment may highlight the need for a greater number of first aiders.

Should more than the minimum number of staff wish to be considered to hold this position in a school, then competitive interview should be held to make the appointment.

3. Training

The various levels of first aid training courses are available at the WLC Low Port Centre or arrangements can be made with the centre to provide on site training.

Schools may use other training providers if 3 quotes (Low Port could count as 1) are provided as per Council procurement regulations.

It is strongly recommended by the HSE that yearly refresher training is carried out to ensure skills are current.

4. School Excursions

Staff accompanying pupils must be trained in emergency first aid as per the Council policy.