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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TUESDAY, 22ND MARCH, 2016

A MEETING of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE will be held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, NEWTOWN ST BOSWELLS, TD6 0SA on TUESDAY, 22 MARCH 2016 at 10.00 am.

Please note that the Education Business is not expected to commence until approximately 10.30 a.m.

J. J. WILKINSON,
Clerk to the Council,
15 March 2016

OTHER BUSINESS		
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Order of Business	
3.	Declarations of Interest	
4.	<p>PRIVATE BUSINESS</p> <p>Before proceeding with the private business, the following motion should be approved:- "That under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the aforementioned Act."</p>	
5.	<p>Integrated Sport and Culture Trust - Member Trustee Liaison Group (Pages 1 - 28)</p> <p>Consider report by Corporate Transformation and Services Director. (Copy attached.)</p>	30 mins
6.	PUBLIC BUSINESS	
7.	<p>Minute (Pages 29 - 34)</p> <p>Consider Minute of the Executive Meeting held on 8 March 2016. (Copy attached.)</p>	2 mins
8.	<p>Scrutiny Recommendation - Private Water Supplies (Pages 35 - 38)</p> <p>Consider recommendation from Scrutiny of 18 February 2016. (Copy</p>	5 mins

	attached.)	
9.	Final Revenue Virements and Earmarked Balances 2015/16 (Pages 39 - 60) Consider report by the Chief Financial Officer. (Copy attached.)	5 mins
10.	Scotland Route Study for the Rail Network (Pages 61 - 68) Consider report by Service Director Regulatory Services. (Copy attached.)	10 mins
EDUCATION BUSINESS		
11.	Integrated Children and Young People's Plan 2015 - 2018 (Pages 69 - 128) Consider report by Service Director Children & Young People. (Copy attached.)	10 mins
12.	Developing the Young Workforce - Implementation and Impact 2015 - 2016 Presentation by Service Director Children and Young People.	15 mins
13.	Any Other Items Previously Circulated	
14.	Any Other Items which the Chairman Decides are Urgent	
	Education Theme additional Membership of Committee:- Mr G. Donald, Mr J. Walsh, Mr G. Jarvie, Jeanette Aitchison (Parent Representative), Alison Ferahi (Parent Representative), Pupil Representatives.	

NOTES

1. **Timings given above are only indicative and not intended to inhibit Members' discussions.**
2. **Members are reminded that, if they have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any item of business coming before the meeting, that interest should be declared prior to commencement of discussion on that item. Such declaration will be recorded in the Minute of the meeting.**

Membership of Committee:- Councillors D. Parker (Chairman), S. Aitchison, S. Bell, C. Bhatia, J. Brown, M. J. Cook, V. M. Davidson, G. Edgar, J. G. Mitchell, D. Moffat, D. Paterson, F. Renton and R. Smith

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**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of Meeting of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, TD6 0SA on Tuesday, 8 March, 2016 at 10.00 am

Present:- Councillors D. Parker (Chairman) (from para 2.2), S Aitchison (from para 2.2), S Bell, C Bhatia, J Brown, M J Cook, V Davidson (from para 2.2), G Edgar, D Moffat, D Paterson, F Renton, R Smith.

Also Present:- Councillors I Gillespie, G. Logan, S Mountford, A Nicol.

Apologies:- Councillor J Mitchell.

In Attendance:- Depute Chief Executive (Place), Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Transformation and Services Director, Clerk to the Council, Democratic Services Officer (F. Walling).

CHAIRMAN

Councillor Parker had sent apologies for his anticipated delay in arrival. For the first two items the meeting was therefore chaired by Councillor Bhatia.

1. **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Chairman varied the order of business as shown on the agenda and the Minute reflects the order in which the items were considered at the meeting.

2. **MINUTE**

The Minute of meeting of the Executive Committee of 16 February 2016 had been circulated. It was noted that Councillor Bhatia's apologies should have been recorded on the Minute.

DECISION

APPROVED for signature by the Chairman, subject to the above amendment.

3. **EXTRA CARE HOUSING: BUSINESS CASE FOR BERWICKSHIRE**

3.1 There had been circulated copies of a report by the Service Director Regulatory Services proposing that 2 new extra care housing schemes should be developed in Berwickshire. The report provided a brief overview of the business case for the provision of extra care housing in Berwickshire and the process used to inform the development of that business case which included testing the needs assessment for extra care housing, a separate evaluation of the Dovecote extra care housing in Peebles and an option appraisal. The needs assessment concluded that there was a large projected need for this type of housing model in Berwickshire and findings indicated a requirement for two new extra care housing developments with the first being built in Duns and the subsequent development in Eyemouth. Through an option appraisal approach, the study also concluded that it would be best value if the projects were developed, owned and managed by a Registered Social Landlord, although it was anticipated that as these were high costs projects they were highly likely to require some gap funding from the Council's Affordable Housing Budget. It was envisaged that these developments would provide both housing for social and mid-market rent and shared equity options, all of which were considered as being compliant with the Council's Affordable Housing Policy definitions. Further individual site specific feasibility studies were required to test the financial modelling. The evaluation of Dovecot Court concluded that the Dovecote extra care

housing was meeting this type of need that it was intended to address; and made a number of recommendations for service provision at Dovecot which would also influence future services provided in future new build developments.

- 3.2 Members were content with the direction of travel and conclusions contained within the report but asked questions on the detail of the Extra Care Business Case prepared by an independent consultant, which was presented as an appendix. Questions referred in particular to the analysis of need, demand and supply of Extra Care Housing and Housing with Care and the estimated numbers of Extra Care Housing units required in Berwickshire. Further information was given by the Chief Financial Officer and the Group Manager, Housing Strategy and Services. Members were advised that further detailed reports which lay behind the business case could be provided if required. Reference was made by officers to the demographic time bomb in terms of the care of older people and an independent survey which had shown that in the Borders, by 2018, there would be a shortfall in the provision of Extra Care Housing and Housing with Care of 192 units and 545 units respectively. This was the first stage of a programme to provide this type of housing in all major towns in the Borders. Members were also referred to the Council's Local Housing Strategy 2012-20. Confirmation was given that all the options in the Business Case were negatively funded i.e. some additional funding would be required from the Council and/or its partners over and above Scottish Government grant funding. The proposal was to ring-fence funding from 2nd Homes Council Tax and Developer Contributions to address this funding gap.

DECISION

AGREED:-

- (a) **that officers initiate discussions with RSL partner organisations to establish and agree the most appropriate partner who was financially viable, experienced and capable of delivering projects of this scale;**
- (b) **that officers continue to liaise with Scottish Government to trail the intention to develop these projects via the Strategic Housing Investment Plan and established processes;**
- (c) **in principle to assist the development of these two proposed affordable housing projects by using the Council's 2nd Homes Council Tax budget to compensate the 10-year Capital Investment Programme on the basis of affordable housing valuation for the sites; and**
- (d) **in principle to use 2nd Homes Council Tax and Developer Contributions to address the funding gap associated with this type of development potentially above affordable housing benchmark eligible grants.**

MEMBERS

Councillors Aitchison, Davidson and Parker joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

CHAIRMAN

Councillor Parker chaired the meeting for the remaining items of business.

4. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

There had been circulated copies of a Minute extract from the Scrutiny Committee meeting of 28 January 2016. This related to a request submitted to the Committee by Ettrick and Yarrow Community Council: *To review the extent to which the Scottish Borders Council's (SBC) budget for road repairs and maintenance was sufficient to meet need and the not unreasonable expectation that roads would be maintained in a safe condition. Within this context, to particularly examine how the allocation of budget for rural roads was arrived at and whether more should be allocated.* After consideration of a

report by the Service Director Neighbourhood Services and subsequent discussion Members of the Scrutiny Committee agreed 'to recommend that the Executive Committee continued to consider ways of further increasing investment in roads and related infrastructure'. The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Logan, gave some background to the recommendation but indicated that this had been made prior to the decision to allocate additional money in the budget to roads and prior to the roads review. In discussing the recommendation Members maintained that the agreed amendment to the Administration's proposed budget, to increase roads spending by £500,000 per year over the next five years, showed that all Members were in agreement that investment in roads should be prioritised. It was noted that although the Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE) for roads was calculated by the Scottish Government on a needs basis it was up to Members as policy makers to look at competing areas of the budget and to make decisions as to how the budget should be allocated. The Chief Financial Officer agreed to provide Members with a briefing on GAE and information on roads spending in particular. Members agreed that the recommendation from the Scrutiny Committee highlighted the issue of investment in roads and as such was supportive and useful. Members also referred to Scrutiny's proposal to consider the budget implications of the re-trunking of the A72 and A7. Discussion continued on the damage inflicted on roads by timber haulage vehicles and the years of apparently ineffective representations by the Council to the timber haulage industry about responsibility for the costs of repair. It was suggested the Council should take a more investigatory proactive approach and to isolate roads used purely by timber haulage in order to clearly identify responsibility and claim reimbursement from the industry for the damage. Officers were also asked to look into enforcing the legal obligation of landowners to maintain field drainage and prevent the water run-off onto adjoining roads that led to surface damage.

DECISION

AGREED:-

- (a) to accept the recommendation from the Scrutiny Committee to 'consider ways of further increasing investment in roads and related infrastructure' and to thank the Committee for the work carried out;**
- (b) to request that the Chief Financial officer provide a briefing note for Members on GAE funding/calculations and roads spending; and**
- (c) to request that the Chief Officer Roads investigate further any action that the Council could take in respect of:**
 - (i) damage to roads by timber haulage vehicles; and**
 - (ii) the legal obligation for landowners to maintain field drainage and prevent water run-off onto adjoining roads.**

5. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17 - BLOCK ALLOCATIONS

With regard to paragraph 8 of the Council Minute of 11 February 2016, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval for the proposed individual projects and programmes within the various block allocations in the 2016/17 Capital Financial Plan. Appendices A – Z to the report contained proposals for various projects to be allocated resources from the block allocations within the 2016/17 Capital Financial Plan. The report explained that not all projects had been fully identified. As and when this information was available this would be brought to the Executive for consideration. The Chairman referred systematically to each of the appendices to give Members an opportunity to comment and ask questions. Where the information requested was unavailable the Chief Financial Officer and/or Executive Members agreed to provide this following the meeting. Members welcomed the proposed investment to improve and refurbish parts of the School Estate and asked that details of the investment

be publicised and included in the information available as part of the pre-consultation exercise prior to the School Estate review.

DECISION

APPROVED the block allocation breakdowns contained in appendices A – Z to the report.

6. **AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS GOVERNANCE**

With reference to paragraph 5 of the Executive Minute of 4 March 2007, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Service Director Regulatory Services proposing that the Chief Financial Officer be given delegated powers to allocate Affordable Housing Policy developer contributions to assist delivery of affordable housing projects. The report referred to the decision of Executive on 4 March 2007 to operate an investment framework regarding the allocation of Affordable Housing Policy developer contributions to assist delivery of affordable housing. It had been identified that the Scheme of Delegation required to be amended to reflect the management arrangements to deal with the allocation of these developer contributions.

DECISION

- * **AGREED to RECOMMEND** that the following addition to the powers delegated to the Chief Financial Officer be incorporated in the Scheme of Delegation “To authorise the allocation of Affordable Housing Policy funding collected by the Council to assist delivery of individual projects”.

7. **ROADS REVIEW OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of 12 May 2015, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Chief Officer Roads seeking approval for the preferred operation model for the Council’s Roads Services and agreement to proceed to the next stage, which was development of a full business case for the preferred model. The Depute Chief Executive (Place) gave a presentation which summarised the report and Option Appraisal which was appended to the report. It was explained that on 12 May 2015 the Executive Committee agreed that a review be carried out of the operating model of the Council’s wider roads service to ensure maximisation of services to the Borders and continued ability to operate in the external market place; and that any model should be capable of interfacing with the Edinburgh, Lothians, Borders and Fife (ELBF) proposal. Given the tight timescales for arriving at the most advantageous operating model the focus was placed on evaluating the options of internal restructure or Limited Liability Partnership (LLP). A series of workshops were held between October and mid November 2015 with Senior Managers from across the Roads Services, HR, Finance, Business Transformation and Trade Union representatives. The key drivers for change centred around legal, financial, customer, governance and flexibility issues. The preferred redesigned service arrangement was a Client/Provider set-up. This applied to both of the options. It was also emphasised that, with regard to governance, the Council would retain 100% control as an internal service and with an LLP the Council would retain 100% ownership and exercise control through the new governance structure. The differences between the Internal Restructure and the LLP options were largely around their capacity to generate external income. The internal restructure was limited by legislation in the amount of external income that it could generate, with limited tender opportunities. The LLP would be free to trade commercially. It would therefore not be limited in the amount of external income that it could generate and could take full advantage of any tender opportunities. When both options were scored against the key drivers for change the internal restructure scored 280 and the LLP scored 407. Members discussed the report and were supportive of the proposal to develop a full business case for the LLP model as a means to ensure that the Council’s road service would remain effective whilst also having the opportunity to operate in the private market and deliver additional benefit. Members welcomed the emphasis on the customer service approach considered within the report. It was agreed that in respect of the competitive nature of the Council’s road operations in relation to local businesses

the Council needed to be transparent, throughout the process, with those competitors who worked alongside.

DECISION

AGREED that:-

- (a) the Client/Provider arrangement was the best set up for a redesigned Roads service;**
- (b) Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) was the best model for the redesigned services;**
- (c) a full business case be developed for the LLP model within the next three months; and**
- (d) the Chief Officer Roads bring a further report on the Council's Roads Services for consideration by the Council in June 2015.**

8. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR THE INTEGRATED SPORT AND CULTURE TRUST

8.1 With reference to paragraph 5 of the Council Minute of 7 October 2016, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Corporate Transformation and Services Director proposing a Performance Management Framework for the integrated Sport and Culture Trust. This would allow Scottish Borders Council's Executive Committee to oversee the work of the Integrated Trust and ensure that the required outcomes were being achieved. The Corporate Transformation and Services Director referred to the agreement of Scottish Borders Council to the formation of an integrated Sport and Culture Trust and that the necessary work be done to facilitate the successful transfer to the Trust of the agreed services, facilities and staff with an anticipated go-live date of 1 April 2016. As part of the transfer to Trust, it was recommended that a Performance Management Framework (PMF) be developed and brought back to the Executive Committee for approval in March 2016 and that the Executive Committee then received regular performance reports thereafter. Attached as an appendix to the report was a draft PMF developed in conjunction with Cultural Services, Borders Sport and Leisure Trust (BSLT) and the Scottish Borders Council Member Officer Working Group. This allowed for regular performance monitoring and oversight against agreed outcomes, for both elected Members and Council officers. The Corporate Performance and Information Manager gave a presentation outlining how the framework was developed; the six outcomes that Scottish Borders Council required the Trust to work towards; and the proposed monitoring and reporting arrangements to ensure delivery of the outcomes specified within the Service Provision Agreement. In addition to the regular meetings and reporting outlined it was proposed that a Member-Trustee Liaison Group met three times a year to discuss strategic direction, future priorities and commissioning as well as raising any concerns about service delivery and/or the partnership. The report recommended that the membership of this group included the Executive Member for Culture, Sport, Youth and Communities and the Executive Member for HR and Corporate Performance.

8.2 Members discussed the draft PMF at length, particularly in respect of the monitoring and reporting arrangements, the relationship between Scottish Borders Council and the Trust in the context of performance management and the proposed membership of the Member-Trustee Liaison Group. The Executive Member for Culture, Sport, Youth and Communities recognised the hard work carried out by officers in preparing the Framework. In a wider context she referred to accountability and the fact that statutory responsibility for delivery of services remained with the Council. She expressed her disappointment that in setting up the Integrated Trust the opportunity had not been taken in terms of the legal agreement to keep elected Members clearly responsible. With regard to outcomes the Director advised that these had been worded in a way as to achieve

consistency with the Corporate Plan and the Trust's charitable objectives. In response to questions about the inclusion in the Trust of other external groups to which the Council provided financial assistance, such as the Eastgate Theatre, it was confirmed that as far as possible the Council would ensure consistency in its relationship with these external organisations. With regard to the proposed membership of the Member-Trustee Liaison Group, discussion continued about the issues faced by Members who had a number of overlaid relationships through being members of related bodies such as this group and having separate obligations in respect of each. To ensure objectivity there was discomfort expressed about Executive Members being part of the Member-Trustee Liaison group. It was agreed that a decision on the membership of the Member-Trustee Liaison Group be postponed to the next meeting of the Executive Committee. This would enable discussions to take place with the Chief Executive of Border Sport and Leisure Trust and the Council's Chief Legal Officer with a view to bringing back a report for consideration which specifically addressed the issues and conflicts referred to.

DECISION

AGREED:-

- (a) **the Framework presented at appendix 1 to the report subject to the membership of the Member-Trustee Liaison Group being confirmed at a future date;**
- (b) **to accept performance reports from the Trust twice yearly; and**
- (c) **that a report on membership of the Member-Trustee Liaison Group be brought back to the meeting of the Executive Committee of 22 March 2016.**

9. **PRIVATE BUSINESS**

DECISION

AGREED under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the business detailed in the Appendix to this minute on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs of part 1 of schedule 7A to the Act.

10. **MINUTE**

The Committee approved the private Minute of 16 February 2016.

The meeting concluded at 12.25 pm



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**22 March 2016****SCRUTINY MINUTE EXTRACT – 18 FEBRUARY 2016**

3. PROTECTION OF PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

- 3.1 With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of 29 October 2015, the Chairman welcomed Mr Anthony Carson, Regulatory Services Manager, Mr Anthony Barker, Environmental Health Officer, and Mr John Hayward, Development Standards Manager, to the meeting to give a presentation on the Protection of Private Water Supplies across the Scottish Borders. There had also been circulated copies of a Briefing Note by Mr Carson. Members were advised that there were currently 1,500 known Private Water Supplies (PWS) in the Borders which supplied over 4,500 properties and explained that, when a Planning application was made, Scottish Borders Council (SBC) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) both had a role in ensuring that private water supplies were protected. The different roles and responsibilities of these organisations were summarised including where consideration had to be given to the protection of water supplies, whether a proposed development did or did not need a water supply, an example being where a development did not require a water supply but had the potential to impact on water supplies in the locality. Mr Carson gave examples of three different Planning applications and the approaches/responses required for developments of varying size and complexity, including that of a large wind farm application.
- 3.2 Members were informed that under the Water (Scotland) Act 1980, any person erecting a building was required to satisfy the Council that there would be a sufficient supply of wholesome water in pipes for the domestic purposes of the persons occupying or using the building. SBC also had a duty to keep itself informed about the wholesomeness and sufficiency of water supplies to all premises in its area. In order to comply with these duties, Regulatory Services, on behalf of SBC, reviewed every planning application in relation to the proposed water supply required for the development and/or the impact the development could have on existing water supplies. In considering the water supply required for a development, Mr Barker explained that when the supply was to be served by the public mains water supply, the applicant was expected to provide written evidence from Scottish Water to that effect.
- 3.3 Mr Barker then explained that there were two types of developments, the first of which was where a development was to be served by a private water supply. In this case, a range of information was required, such as the type of supply/source eg borehole, spring, well etc; an 8 figure grid reference for the location of the site; details of other properties supplied by the same source; details of any flow tests; evidence that the supply would not have a detrimental effect on other supplies in the area; details of any treatments to be installed on the system; and data relating to tests that had been carried out to ensure the wholesomeness of the water. In situations when this information was not provided, a suspensive condition was applied in order to ensure that the site was adequately serviced without detriment to the surrounding water supplies of nearby properties. A decision as to the suitability of the

proposed supply would then be made following receipt of the required information and consultation with SEPA whenever relevant. Any agreement between an applicant and other users of a water supply was considered to be a civil matter and the Council would not request such information.

- 3.4 The second category was developments where no water supply was required but there was a potential impact on existing supplies. Smaller developments were typically not expected to have any effect. It was possible, however, that larger sites could impact on the wholesomeness and sufficiency of existing supplies and in these situations, a monitoring programme as part of a condition for the construction and decommission stages of the development would be put in place with SEPA taking the lead role. Mr Barker advised Members that most of the private water supplies in the Scottish Borders were from groundwater sources and in order to clarify its legal responsibilities and provide guidance on the protection of groundwater, SEPA had developed the "Groundwater Protection Policy for Scotland" and also issued guidance for the protection of groundwater from planning applications. This guidance included wind farms; as part of a planning application, SEPA required detailed information on all water resources located on or near the development site and where the source was a private water supply, the applicant was required to provide a range of data such as the number of properties served by that specific supply. In some cases, a detailed risk assessment was required eg where infrastructure from the development was within 250m of a water resource. Further information on SEPA's role could be found in Planning Advice Note 51 (Planning, Environmental Protection and Regulation.)
- 3.5 The Briefing Note provided examples of three different types of planning applications to demonstrate the varying complexity of developments. In relation to a single dwelling house application where the water supply would be from a private resource and where a suspensive condition had been applied, the development could only commence once all the required information had been provided and the condition subsequently discharged. Where a development was likely to use higher volumes of water from ground water that already provided a private supply, eg a small commercial business, SEPA would be involved in assessing whether an abstraction licence would be necessary in addition to planning consent and again, the development could proceed only when all data had been received and any conditions discharged.
- 3.6 With larger developments such as wind farms, there was potential for construction and installation works to impact on groundwater and local private water supplies. In these situations, a hydrogeological risk assessment would be required. SEPA would take the lead role and would consider any impact on local private water supplies. In addition, SEPA would also engage with the applicant to agree the monitoring and assessment programme and would receive update reports.
- 3.7 Members asked for clarification on a number of points. Mr Carson advised that developments were categorised according to the size of the development and the amount of water the development would require and Mr Hayward confirmed that any site over 2 hectares would require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). In response to a question about the Council's statutory role in relation to private water supplies, Mr Barker explained that the Council maintained a Register of all known properties and private water supplies across the Scottish Borders. The information was, at times, based on historical data, and although the Register was updated regularly, it was acknowledged that it could be incomplete. It was also noted that the Register may identify properties with a private water supply but not necessarily the location of the source of that supply. Mr Barker further advised that it was not always possible to collect and collate the data for all smaller, domestic properties due to limited officer-time resources. Larger developments would be pursued by SBC if the water supply was found to be unwholesome. However, if property

had a private water supply and there was an issue, owners needed to check their title deeds or deed of servitude to establish whether the supply from a private supplier was for 'water' or 'wholesome water' and what was the legal agreement for the terms of such a supply. Grants could be available from the Scottish Government to assist in improving a private water supply subject to the required criteria being met; these grants could be accessed either by individual or groups of owner/occupiers and further information was available on the Scottish Government website. Members asked what sanctions/enforcement were available to the Council and Mr Hayward confirmed that in addition to involvement by SEPA, in terms of Planning, a large development such as a wind farm could be stopped if a breach was considered to be substantial. With regard to contamination of surface water, Members were advised that a number of actions could be taken, such as fencing animals away from a water supply and setting up specialised treatments to the water. SEPA would also carry out testing the wholesomeness of a water supply following referral by a customer.

- 3.8 The Chairman also extended a welcome to Mr James Taylor, Chairman of Eddleston Community Council, who was present to provide additional information to the Committee. Mr Taylor explained that during the 4 years that he had lived at his current address, there had been planning applications for 3 wind farms in that locality, each still awaiting a decision by Scottish Ministers. During each planning process, Mr Taylor had carried out some research to determine the location and utilisation of private water supplies and had found that the information he collated did not reflect the data held on the Council's Register. He had produced a map which detailed the locations of private water supplies and properties supplied (one supply was likely to have originated in the 16th century) which he was happy to share with officers but felt that further clarity in respect of ownership and responsibility for private water supplies would be useful for general public access. Members were advised that Data Protection applied when providing information from the Register but excerpts could be made available on request. Mr Carson responded to a question in relation to the accuracy of the Register and explained that 15-20 years previously, the onus was on the private water supplier to provide precise data to the Council but this was no longer the case and it was now more challenging for officers to maintain the Register. Mr Barker advised that EIAs were used to discover any inaccuracies in the Register, eg to identify previously unknown properties. Members were informed that, in terms of wind farm planning applications, SEPA might state concern but would not object to a development on the grounds of private water supply. It was therefore important to ensure that as much accurate data as possible was included on the Register for examination by Scottish Ministers when required. In order to assist in this process, Mr Taylor agreed to meet with officers from Regulatory Services to share the information he had gathered and consider any lessons learned during his research.
- 3.9 Discussion followed in respect of the information available to the public and how this could be extended and improved. It was agreed that engagement with Area Fora, Community Councils and individuals was essential as this would capture local knowledge and enable officers to review and update the Register. A media campaign to publicise the grants scheme for improving private water supplies was already being delivered in conjunction with the Scottish Government and included mail drops to those on the Register and a presence at local events such as the Border Union Show. It was agreed that the Council's Communications Team be asked to progress a public awareness campaign to encourage people with a private water supply to send in details of their property/source which would give a more complete picture in the Private Water Supply Register. The campaign would focus on Area Fora and Community Councils and would include information about grants/conditions available for the improvement of private water supplies and the development of maps of source locations not currently on the Register.
- 3.10 Following further discussion, Members were advised that staffing resources were in place to enable the Council to fulfil its statutory responsibilities in relation to private water supply but

not to do much more. Mr Hayward advised that Mr Carson and Mr Barker could be invited to attend a planning event for Community Councils which was currently being developed. The Chairman then thanked officers and Mr Taylor for their contributions.

DECISION

- (a) NOTED the presentation;**
- (b) AGREED that officers from Regulatory Services meet with Mr Taylor to share the information he had gathered and consider any lessons learned during his research**
- # (c) AGREED to RECOMMEND to the Executive Committee that:**
 - (i) Officers from Regulatory Services work with the Council's Communications Team to progress a public awareness campaign –**
 - giving information about grants/conditions available for the improvement of private water supplies;**
 - encouraging people with private water supplies not on the Private Water Supplies Register to send in their details to allow a more complete mapping of properties/source locations not currently on the Register;**
 - placing information on the Council's website;**
 - attending Area Fora meetings; and**
 - involving Community Councils asking for their assistance by providing a map of known properties/sources within their area and requesting them to populate these maps further using local knowledge; and**
 - (ii) the Director of Regulatory Services continue to ensure sufficient staff resources were available to meet the Council's statutory needs for private water supplies.**

FINAL REVENUE VIREMENTS AND EARMARKED BALANCES 2015/16

Report by the Chief Financial Officer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

22 MARCH 2016

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 To seek approval for Budget Virements.

1.2 The monitoring of the General Fund Revenue Budget at the end of January has identified the final virements and earmarked balances for 2015/16. These include routine virements in Appendix 1 and earmarked balances in Appendix 2 where it has been identified that budget is required to be carried forward to support work taking place in 2016/17.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Executive Committee:

(a) approves the virements in Appendix 1, and

(b) approves the earmarked balances in Appendix 2.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 During 2015/16 and most recently at the meeting held on 16 February 2016, the Executive Committee approved a range of Revenue Budget virements. The original projections on which the February virements were based were made in January 2016, based on actual spend to 31 December 2015. Since then, further work on projected expenditure and income has identified the requirement for further virements as attached.

4 VIREMENTS REQUIRED

4.1 These fall into two categories as follows:

(a) **2015/16 – Routine Virements (Appendix 1)**

These supplement the virements approved by Executive during the financial year, including 16 February 2016, and are detailed in Appendix 1 and comprise virements to reflect:

- i) a range of virements to address projected pressures in Services from available budget in other Services;
- ii) devolving budget from the Centre to DSM school budgets ;
- iii) future year budget adjustments required to finalise the Social Care budget to be delegated to the Integrated Joint Board;
- iv) technical accounting adjustments.

(b) **Earmarked Balances (Appendix 2)**

These supplement the earmarked balances approved by the Executive Committee during 2015/16 to date. These virements are detailed in Appendix 2 and earmarking is generally required:

- i) where projects or initiatives will be completed in 2016/17;
- i) to earmark schools DSM budget as per the approved DSM scheme;
- ii) to support achievement of Financial Plan savings in 2016/17;
- iii) to support Corporate Transformation, including IT transformation, in 2016/17.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

There are no additional costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.

5.2 Risk and Mitigations

The main risk is that after the earmarked balances are carried forward into 2016/17, the Services do not come within budget at year-end, this is mitigated by year-end adjustments which will reduce earmarked balances in relevant services where there are budget pressures to ensure the annual budget provision is not exceeded.

5.3 Equalities

It is anticipated there will be no adverse impact due to race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation or religion/belief arising from the proposals contained in this report.

5.4 **Acting Sustainably**

There are no economic, social or environmental effects.

5.5 **Carbon Management**

There are no effects on carbon emissions.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Directors and their relevant staff have been involved in and agreed the compilation of the final virements. These and the overall reported position have been agreed by the Corporate Management Team.
- 6.2 The Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit & Risk, the Chief Officer HR and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and any comments reflected in the report.

Approved by

David Robertson
Chief Financial Officer

Signature

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Suzy Douglas	Financial Services Manager

Background Papers: -

Previous Minute Reference: N/A

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Finance can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at: Suzy Douglas, Financial Services Manager, Financial Services, Chief Executive, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA.

Telephone – 01835 824000 X5881
e-mail – sdouglas@scotborders.gov.uk

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Budget Virement Requirement

Chief Executive

No. of Virements 1

1 Virement is required from

Department	Chief Executive	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Executive Support	£	£	£
Budget Head	Employee Costs	(7,000)	0	0

To

Department	Chief Executive	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Chief Executive	£	£	£
Budget Head	Employee Costs	7,000	0	0

Because

Staff turnover savings from delayed recruitment to offset staffing pressure within Chief Executive due to maternity cover arrangements.

Budget Virement Requirement People No. of Virements 5

1 Virement is required from

Department	People	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Primary Schools	£	£	£
Budget Head	Premises Related Expenditure	(9,044)	(11,627)	0
Service	Secondary Schools	£	£	£
Budget Head	Premises Related Expenditure	(7,016)	(7,814)	0
Total		(16,060)	(19,441)	0

To

Department	Place	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Property & Facilities Management	£	£	£
Budget Head	Premises Related Expenditure	(16,060)	(19,441)	0

Because

To permanently transfer budget from Primary and Secondary schools to Place in respect of Energy Efficiency measures undertaken within Primary and Secondary Schools.

2 Virement is required from

Department	People	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Central Schools	£	£	£
Budget Head	Supplies & Services	(76,346)	0	0
Service	Integrated Children's Services	£	£	£
Budget Head	Employee Costs	(93,000)	0	0
	Third Party Payments	(33,000)	0	0
Total		(126,000)	0	0

To

Department	People	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Primary Schools	£	£	£
Budget Head	Employee Costs	155,000	0	0
Service	Secondary Schools	£	£	£
Budget Head	Employee Costs	7,575	0	0
	Premises Related Expenditure	39,830	0	0
Total		202,405	0	0

Because

To vire available budget from Central Schools and Integrated Children's Services (ICS) to address pressures in Primary Schools relating to supply and to Secondary Schools for the new games hall Rates at Peebles High School and additional supply costs.

3 Virement is required from

Department	People	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Community Learning & Development	£	£	£
Budget Head	Third Party Payments	20,000	0	0

To

Department	People	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Primary Schools	£	£	£
Budget Head	Supplies & Services	(20,000)	0	0

Because

To devolve budget from Community Learning & Development to Primary Schools as a contribution towards childcare services provided by the crèche at Burnfoot Community School and Langlee Primary School.

4 Virement is required from

Department	People	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Business Support	£	£	£
Budget Head	Employee Costs	(7,635)	0	0
	Income	(18,000)	0	0
	Total	(25,635)	0	0

To

Department	People	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Generic Services & Staff Teams	£	£	£
Budget Head	Employee Costs	25,635	0	0

Because

To transfer available budget in Business Support to offset budget pressure within Adult Services.

5 Virement is required from

Department	People	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Generic Services	£	£	£
Budget Head	Third Party Payment	(17,000)	209,000	455,000
	Total	(17,000)	209,000	455,000

To

Department	Social Care & Health Partnership	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Generic Services & Staff Teams	£	£	£
Budget Head	Third Party Payments	17,000	(209,000)	(455,000)

Because

To finalise Social Care budget to be delegated to Integrated Joint Board for the period 2016/17-2017/18 based on agreed functions and budgets to be integrated, following interim position reported to Council on 11th February.

Budget Virement Requirement Financed By No. of Virements 3

1 Virement is required from

Department	Financed By	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Revenue Support Grant	£	£	£
Budget Head	Income	(50,000)	0	0

To

Department	Chief Executive	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Strategic Policy Unit	£	£	£
Budget Head	Employee Costs	50,000	0	0

Because

Additional Revenue Support Grant to fund Community Justice Project Manager post within Strategic Policy Unit.

2 Virement is required from

Department	Financed By	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Revenue Support Grant	£	£	£
Budget Head	Income	(147,465)	0	0

To

Department	People	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Central Schools	£	£	£
Budget Head	Supplies & Services	(147,465)	0	0

Because

To allocate additional Revenue Support Grant funding to support the development of the young workforce.

3 Virement is required from

Department	Financed By	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Revenue Support Grant	£	£	£
Budget Head	Income	(283,000)	0	0

To

Department	Place	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Customer Services	£	£	£
Budget Head	Supplies & Services	(283,000)	0	0

Because

Additional Revenue Support Grant for flooding.

Budget Virement Requirement **Chief Executive** **No. of Virements** **5**

1 Virement is required from

Department	Chief Executive	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Economic Development	£	£	£
Budget Head	Supplies & Services	(18,500)	18,500	0
	Third Party Payments	(48,750)	48,750	0
Total		(67,250)	67,250	0

To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	67,250	(67,250)	0

Because

To earmark budget into 2016/17 to support Economic Development projects. Match funding to enable drawdown of European Social Funds in 2016/17.

2 Virement is required from

Department	Chief Executive	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Housing Strategy & Services	£	£	£
Budget Head	Employee Costs	(29,000)	0	0
	Supplies & Services	(9,500)	0	0

Service	Audit & Risk	£	£	£
Budget Head	Employee Costs	(750)	0	0
	Supplies & Services	(1,750)	0	0

Department	Place	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Planning	£	£	£
Budget Head	Employee Costs	0	14,000	0

Service	Housing Strategy & Services	£	£	£
Budget Head	Employee Costs	0	27,000	0

Total		(41,000)	41,000	0
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To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	41,000	(41,000)	0

Because

Underspends in employee costs within Employment Support Service and Welfare Benefits, supplies & services within Homeless Service and reduced discretionary spending (staff training, courses & conferences, subsistence and subscriptions) in Audit & Risk to be earmarked to fund Regulatory Services priorities and Financial Plan savings in 2016/17.

3 Virement is required from

Department	Chief Executive	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Transformation	£	£	£
Budget Head	Employee Costs	(36,000)	0	0
Service	Emergency Planning	£	£	£
Budget Head	Supplies & Services	(6,000)	0	0
Service	Democratic Services	£	£	£
Budget Head	Supplies & Services	(5,000)	0	0
Service	Sports Trusts	£	£	£
Budget Head	Third Party Payments	(28,500)	0	0
Department	Other	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Corporate Transformation	£	£	£
Budget Head	Third Party Payments	0	75,500	0
Total		(75,500)	75,500	0

To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	75,500	(75,500)	0

Because

To earmark staff turnover savings within Transformation and underspends in i) resilient communities in Emergency Planning; ii) licensing fees in Democratic Services; and iii) third party payments in Sports Trusts, to fund IT Transformation in 2016/17.

4 Virement is required from

Department	Chief Executive	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Information Technology	£	£	£
Budget Head	Supplies & Services	(8,500)	0	0
Department	Other	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Corporate Transformation	£	£	£
Budget Head	Third Party Payments	0	8,500	0
Total		(8,500)	8,500	0

To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	8,500	(8,500)	0

Because

Underspend in telephony to be earmarked to fund Railway Blueprint costs in 2016/17.

5 Virement is required from

Department	Chief Executive	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Strategic Policy Unit	£	£	£
Budget Head	Employee Costs	(11,465)	11,465	0

To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	11,465	(11,465)	0

Because

To earmark unspent Revenue Support Grant to fund the continuation of the Community Justice Project Manager post in 2016/17.

Budget Virement Requirement People No. of Virements 7

1 Virement is required from

Department	People	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Primary Schools	£	£	£
Budget Head	Employee Costs	(326,940)	326,940	0
	Supplies and Services	8,712	(8,712)	0
Total		(318,228)	318,228	0

To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	318,228	(318,228)	0

Because

To earmark the projected Primary DSM carry forward including staffing, cash and externally funded projects from 2015/16 into 2016/17. This virement will bring the total Primary projected carry forward to £1,058k, this includes £55k which has been externally funded.

2 Virement is required from

Department	People	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Secondary Schools	£	£	£
Budget Head	Employee Costs	(49,872)	49,872	0
	Supplies and Services	(95,834)	95,834	0
Total		(145,706)	145,706	0

To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	145,706	(145,706)	0

Because

To earmark additional projected Secondary DSM carry forward including staffing (£49k), cash (£78k) and externally funded projects (£18k) from 2015/16 into 2016/17.

3 Virement is required from

Department	People	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Central Schools	£	£	£
Budget Head	Supplies & Services	(12,000)	12,000	0

To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	12,000	(12,000)	0

Because

To earmark Learning Community funding from 2015/16 into 2016/17 due to the delay in the initial budget allocation.

4 Virement is required from

Department	People	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Central Schools	£	£	£
Budget Head	Employee Costs	(39,716)		0
	Supplies & Services		39,716	0

To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	39,716	(39,716)	0

Because

To earmark budget in Central Schools to fund three deprivation teachers and two Depute Headteachers for period April to August 2016 to reflect the difference between Academic and Financial Year from 2015/16 into 2016/17.

5 Virement is required from

Department	People	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Central Schools	£	£	£
Budget Head	Supplies & Services	(70,568)	70,568	0

To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	70,568	(70,568)	0

Because

To earmark additional Young Workforce Development funding to reflect the delay in the commencement of the programme from 2015/16 into 2016/17.

6 Department

Department	People	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Community Learning & Development	£	£	£
Budget Head	Employee Costs	(6,133)		0
	Supplies & Services		6,133	0

To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	6,133	(6,133)	0

Because

To earmark budget in Community Learning & Development arising from 2015/16 staffing savings into 2016/17 towards implementation of future years Financial Plan savings.

7 Department Service Budget Head	People	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
	Community Learning & Development	£	£	£
	Third Party Payments	(3,000)	3,000	0

To

Department Service Budget Head		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
		£	£	£
	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	3,000	(3,000)	0

Because

To earmark Fairer Scotland Funding within Community Learning & Development from 2015/16 into 2016/17 to continue to support Syrian refugee families in relation to English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).
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Budget Virement Requirement Place No. of Virements 13

1 Virement is required from

Department	Place	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Legal Services	£	£	£
Budget Head	Third Party Payments	(4,800)	4,800	0

To

Department	Other	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	4,800	(4,800)	0

Because

Earmarked balance £4,800 from savings into 2016/17 towards Regulatory Services Financial Plan Savings.

2 Virement is required from

Department	Place	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Commercial Services (Design Services)	£	£	£
Budget Head	Employee costs	(18,080)	18,080	0

To

Department	Other	0	0	0
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	18,080	(18,080)	0

Because

Earmarked balance £18,080 to part fund a temporary Assistant Architect to improve level of customer care, to match business plan requirement of balancing the relationship between professional & technical staff within the section and People Planning . The additional post will allow the maximum benefit to be achieved from new software that was invested in the current financial year. The software and this development will be integral to wider Corporate Transformation and Estate Management.

3 Virement is required from

Department	Place	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Commercial Services (Projects)	£	£	£
Budget Head	Third Party Payments	(27,375)	27,375	0

To

Department	Other	0	0	0
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	27,375	(27,375)	0

Because

Earmarked balance £27,375 for feasibility works not carried out in 2015/16 but which require to be undertaken in 2016/17.

4 Virement is required from

Department	Place	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Planning Implementation			
Budget Head	Third Party Cost	(5,500)	5,500	0

To

Department	Other	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	5,500	(5,500)	0

Because

Earmarked balance £5.5k from savings into 2016/17 towards Regulatory Services Financial Plan savings.

5 Virement is required from

Service	Waste	£	£	£
Budget Head	Transport Related Expenses	(15,000)	15,000	0
	Supplies & services	(3,750)	3,750	
	Third Party Payments	(3,500)	3,500	0

Total	(22,250)	22,250	0
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To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	22,250	(22,250)	0

Because

To earmark budget into 2016-17 for continuing staff in Customer Services supporting Housing Benefit overpayment and Council tax recovery.

6 Virement is required from

Department	Place	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Safer Communities	£	£	£
Budget Head	Third Party Payments	(16,328)	16,328	0

To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	16,328	(16,328)	0

Because

To earmark budget into 2016-17 for Advanced Young Drivers due to less uptake than anticipated.

7 Virement is required from

Department	Place	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Safer Communities	£	£	£
Budget Head	Third Party Payments	(13,000)	13,000	0

To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	13,000	(13,000)	0

Because

To earmark budget into 2016-17 for the extension of the Pathways Project.

8 Virement is required from

Department	Place	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Neighbourhood Services	£	£	£
Budget Head	Third Party Payments	(55,369)	55,369	0

To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	55,369	(55,369)	0

Because

To earmark Quality of Life budget into 2016-17 due to prioritisation of Bellwin works.

9 Virement is required from

Department	Place	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Neighbourhood Services	£	£	£
Budget Head	Supplies & Services	(53,413)	53,413	0

To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	53,413	(53,413)	0

Because

To earmark Small Schemes budget into 2016-17 due to prioritisation of Bellwin works.

10 Virement is required from

Department	Place	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Neighbourhood Services	£	£	£
Budget Head	Supplies & Services	(9,050)	9,050	0

To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	9,050	(9,050)	0

Because

To earmark Planned Revenue Works budget into 2016-17 due to prioritisation of Bellwin works.

11 Virement is required from

Department	Place	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Neighbourhood Services	£	£	£
Budget Head	Supplies & Services	(20,500)	20,500	0
	Transport Related Expenses	(10,950)	10,950	0
Service	Waste	£	£	£
Budget Head	Transport Related Expenses	(15,000)	15,000	0
	Third Party Payments	(3,500)	7,000	0
	Total	(49,950)	53,450	0

To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	49,950	(53,450)	0

Because

To earmark underspends in salt, transport costs and hired & contracted services into 2016-17 to fund Safer Communities in 2016-17.

12 Virement is required from

Department	Place	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Infrastructure & Asset Management	£	£	£
Budget Head	Third Party Cost	(15,000)	15,000	0

To

Department	Other	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	15,000	(15,000)	0

Because

Earmarked balance for repairs to Eyemouth sea wall. Repair works have been delayed due to prioritisation of Bellwin works.

13 Virement is required from

Department	Place	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Infrastructure & Asset Management			
Budget Head	Third Party Cost	(7,500)	7,500	0

To

Department	Other	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	7,500	(7,500)	0

Because

Earmarked balance £7.5k for Hydraulic Model relating to the Tima Water in Upper Etrick Valley. Works have been delayed due to prioritisation of Bellwin works.

Budget Virement Requirement Other No. of Virements 4

1 Virement is required from

Department	Other	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Corporate Transformation	£	£	£
Budget Head	Third Party Payments	(10,000)	304,000	0
Service	Loan Charges	£	£	£
Budget Head	Capital Financing Costs	(240,000)	0	0
Service	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	£	£	£
Budget Head	Supplies & Services	(41,000)	0	0
Service	Non Domestic Rates Relief	£	£	£
Budget Head	Supplies & Services	(13,000)	0	0
Total		(304,000)	304,000	0

To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	304,000	(304,000)	0

Because

Underspends within Corporate Transformation, Loan Charges (due to favourable interest rates), Council Tax Reduction Scheme (less uptake than anticipated) and Non Domestic Rates Relief, to be earmarked to fund IT Transformation in 2016/17.

2 Virement is required from

Department	Other	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Corporate Transformation	£	£	£
Budget Head	Third Party Payments	(61,500)	61,500	0

To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	61,500	(61,500)	0

Because

Underspends within Corporate Transformation (slippage of Railway Blueprint costs) to be earmarked in to 2016/17.

3 Virement is required from

Department	Other	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Early Retirement/Voluntary Severance	£	£	£
Budget Head	Employee Costs	(396,000)	396,000	0

To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	396,000	(396,000)	0

Because

To earmark underspend in Early Retirement/Voluntary Severance budget to ensure full year Financial Plan savings met in 2016/17.

4 Virement is required from

Department	Other	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Discretionary Housing Payment	£	£	£
Budget Head	Supplies & Services	(10,000)	10,000	0

To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	10,000	(10,000)	0

Because

To earmark underspend in Discretionary Housing Payments to fund balance of pressures in 2016/17 (customer portal, risk based verification, online benefits system and digital access provision licensing costs).

Budget Virement Requirement Financed by No. of Virements 3

1 Virement is required from

Department	Financed by	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Revenue Support Grant	£	£	£
Budget Head	Income	(15,000)	15,000	0

To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	15,000	(15,000)	0

Because

Unapplied Revenue Support Grant to be earmarked in to 2016/17.
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2 Virement is required from

Department	Financed by	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Revenue Support Grant	£	£	£
Budget Head	Income	(2,107,000)	0	0

Department	Place	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Customer Services	£	£	£
Budget Head	Supplies & Services	0	2,107,000	0

Total		(2,107,000)	2,107,000	0
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To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	2,107,000	(2,107,000)	0

Because

Unapplied Revenue Support Grant for flooding to be earmarked in to 2016/17.

3 Virement is required from

Department	Chief Executive's	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Various	£	£	£
Budget Head	Supplies & Services	(87,215)	0	0

Department	People	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Various	£	£	£
Budget Head	Supplies & Services	(131,418)	0	0

Department	Place	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Various	£	£	£
Budget Head	Supplies & Services	(211,342)	0	0

Department	Other	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Various	£	£	£
Budget Head	Supplies & Services	(71,500)	0	0

Department	Other	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service	Corporate Transformation	£	£	£
Budget Head	Third Party Payments	0	501,475	0

Total		(501,475)	501,475	0
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To

Department		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Service		£	£	£
Budget Head	General Fund Reserve - Earmarked Balances	501,475	(501,475)	0

Because

To earmark budget from all departments in the Council to fund IT Transformation in 2016/17, consistent with the IT report to Council on the 10th March 2016.
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SCOTLAND ROUTE STUDY FOR THE RAIL NETWORK

Report by Service Director Regulatory Services EXECUTIVE

22 March 2016

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 To advise members on a consultation exercise that is currently being undertaken by Network Rail on potential future infrastructure provision on the Scottish Rail Network and to outline the proposed response from Scottish Borders Council to the consultation exercise.**
- 1.2 The Scotland Route Study is a document produced by Network Rail that informs future infrastructure provision on the Scottish Rail Network between 2019 and 2029. It also takes a view on longer term development.
- 1.3 Network Rail produced a draft route study document for consultation at the end of December 2015, with the required closing date for responses being noted as 10th March (Network Rail has agreed to an extension of time until this report has been reviewed by Executive). Network Rail has indicated that the final route study document is planned will be published in July 2016.
- 1.4 The proposed response from Scottish Borders Council has been separated into three key elements:
 - Borders Rail – Provision of additional dynamic loops on the line to help improve service reliability, longer trains to help accommodate increased passenger demand and potential enhancement of parking facilities;
 - Borders Rail Extension – To extend the Borders Rail project beyond Tweedbank to Hawick and Carlisle;
 - New Rail Stations – To ensure that additional capacity on the East Coast Main Line is available to accommodate local, long distance and freight related services and the development of new stations at Reston and East Linton.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Executive:

- a) Approves the consultation response from Scottish Borders Council in relation to the Scotland Route Study produced by Network Rail.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Scotland Route Study is a key part of the longer term planning process for Network Rail and will help to influence investment decisions over the next two control periods (between 2019 and 2029) and beyond towards a proposed forecasting date of 2043.
- 3.2 The key issues that Network Rail anticipate that will shape the future network within Scotland include:
- Safety;
 - Performance;
 - Resilience;
 - Construction of High Speed Rail;
 - Meeting forecasted demand; and
 - Enabling future aspirations.
- 3.3 The closing date for providing a response to the consultation document is 10th March 2016 (Network Rail has agreed to an extension of time until this report has been reviewed by Executive), with Network Rail anticipating that a final route study document will be published in July 2016.

4 THE SCOTLAND ROUTE STUDY REPORT

- 4.1 Some of the key elements from the draft consultation document have been provided below.
- 4.2 The main drivers of change along with some typical interventions were provided within the draft consultation document and these have been provided in **Table 4.1** below.

2043 Drivers of change	Typical Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth in passenger numbers – ‘prospering in global stability’ demand forecast scenario forecasts demand to double on many of the busier routes, and at the major terminal stations in Scotland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer trains – platform lengthening and station capacity • Additional network capacity – delivering more frequent services • Additional passenger and circulating capacity at major stations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Government aspirations for faster journey times, new stations, electrification and improved connectivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network capacity – more frequent services and optimised timetabling of interurban versus local stopping services • Linespeed improvements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Distance Market Study findings – more Anglo Scottish passenger services, HS2, longer trains and faster journey times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network capacity • Linespeed improvements • Longer trains – with implications for major stations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freight Market Study findings – more cross-border intermodal services, longer and larger gauge trains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network capacity • Electrification – benefits of faster, larger gauge trains

Table 4.1 – Key Rail Network Drivers and Typical Interventions

- 4.3 The report notes that one of the most significant infrastructure improvements in the current control period (2014-2019) was the completion of the Borders Railway Project.
- 4.4 The three key travel markets of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen will continue to be very important in terms of forecasting future employment growth and therefore dictating potential enhancement work throughout the Scottish rail network. The Edinburgh to Glasgow Improvement Programme is a key example and will be delivered within the current control period to help reduce end to end journey times and to increase capacity per train set.
- 4.5 The forecasting for potential future growth in the Edinburgh Travel Market has predicted an annual 4.1% growth rate between 2012 and 2023 and an annual growth rate of 1.6% between 2023 and 2043.
- 4.6 The document acknowledges that demand for commuting and regional services from East Lothian and the Scottish Borders on the ECML is set to increase in the future. One option identified in the report to help increase capacity on the East Coast Main Line (ECML) is the provision of loops at Grantshouse.
- 4.7 Demand on the Borders Rail corridor is forecast to exceed available capacity by 2023. The lengthening of peak trains and the reviewing of stopping patterns should be considered as potential options.
- 4.8 The report identifies that a potential scheme to re-model the route between Portobello Junction and Slateford Junction will offer potential service improvements to Borders Rail.

5 CONSULTATION RESPONSE

- 5.1 The proposed response to the consultation exercise has been separated into three sections:

- Borders Rail;
- Borders Rail Extension; and
- New Rail Stations

5.2 Borders Rail

Scottish Borders Council acknowledges the fact that passenger forecasts are planned to exceed capacity on the Borders Rail Corridor by 2023. The Council would agree that the peak time lengthening of trains is required on the route. However, noting the success of the first phase of Borders Rail, Scottish Borders Council would encourage Network Rail to consider train lengthening for both peak and non-peak services immediately to help cope with the existing demand on the route which has completely outstripped predicted patronage levels and to help encourage continued patronage growth on the route up to and beyond 2023.

Service resilience has been a key concern during the first few months of operation on Borders Rail and Scottish Borders Council would like Network Rail to consider the provision of further dynamic passing loops on the line to help provide enhanced service reliability and functionality between Edinburgh Waverley and Tweedbank.

Scottish Borders Council welcomes the inclusion of a re-modelled route between Portobello Junction and Slateford Junction within the draft document. This proposed improvement work improves capacity on the ECML and supports future growth for local services. This work is vital to help deliver further improvements for Borders Rail and potentially encourage the delivery of more local service provision on the ECML. In the draft strategy document this work is programmed to take place during Control Period 9 (2034-2039). Scottish Borders Council would encourage Network Rail to accelerate this work and bring this proposal forward into an earlier control period.

The further development of the Borders Rail Line is potentially constrained by the current level of car parking at Tweedbank Station and to a lesser extent at Stow Station. At Tweedbank, the car park appears to be full on a regular basis and overflow car parking has been provided by Scottish Borders Council in an adjacent industrial estate. A longer term solution in relation to parking and a continued review of station facilities for customers at all of the stations on the Borders Rail Line will be required to help encourage further patronage for the route.

The existing wifi provision on the Borders Rail Line is currently intermittent and does not fully encourage mobile working. Scottish Borders Council would encourage Network Rail, Transport Scotland and ScotRail to work together to resolve this important issue.

The tourist market is very important to the Scottish Borders and every opportunity to enhance the tourist offering should be exploited such as the continued delivery of the steam train experience, enhanced on-carriage bicycle provision and co-operation on specific event provision. Scottish Borders Council would encourage Network Rail, Transport Scotland and ScotRail to work together with the Council to help provide opportunities for future tourist related activity on the Borders Rail Line.

5.3 **Borders Rail Extension**

Following the success of the Borders Rail Line, Scottish Borders Council is committed to extending the line beyond Tweedbank towards Hawick and Carlisle, providing additional resilience for the ECML and the West Coast Main Line and providing further economic opportunities and social benefits for the south of Scotland.

5.4 **New Rail Stations and Potential New Routes**

Scottish Borders Council has been working in partnership with East Lothian Council, Transport Scotland and Network Rail to develop the case for a local rail service on the ECML, including the provision of two new stations at Reston and East Linton. Scottish Borders Council acknowledges that the two proposed new stations have been mentioned in the draft strategy document and the Council would like to reiterate the view of both Local Authorities that this new local service will be transformational for local communities whilst helping to resolve overcrowding on the North Berwick Line and providing a sustainable low carbon transport option for the people of south east Scotland.

The success of the Borders Rail Line has understandably encouraged local communities throughout the Scottish Borders to consider potential future rail schemes in this area. There is an extensive former rail network in the Scottish Borders and there is an understanding that a lot of these former branch lines would not be suitable for redevelopment in the foreseeable future. However, Scottish Borders Council would encourage Network Rail to explore the redevelopment of former rail lines in the Borders such as that between Edinburgh and Peebles, noting that Midlothian Council has existing proposals to develop the former rail link between Edinburgh and Penicuik.

6 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 **Financial**

There are direct cost implications to the Council with regard to the provision of a new local rail service between Edinburgh and Berwick-upon-Tweed and potentially in the development of an extension to the current Borders Railway Line. However, a finalised Scotland Route Study Document will outline potential future modifications to the rail network that will be primarily promoted by Network Rail and Scottish Government.

6.2 **Risk and Mitigations**

The finalised Scotland Route Study will have an impact on how rail proposals are subsequently delivered in the Scottish Borders and the South of Scotland.

6.3 **Equalities**

There are no adverse impacts due to race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation or religion/belief arising from this report.

6.4 **Acting Sustainably**

The key aspect of the report is the promotion of sustainable transport.

6.5 **Carbon Management**

There are no significant carbon emission impacts as a result of this report.

6.6 **Rural Proofing**

The development of the rail network in the Scottish Borders will help to improve accessibility and social inclusion for the area and could help to initiate the development of tourism and economic related opportunities for the whole of the Scottish Borders.

6.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

No changes to the Scheme of Administration or Delegation are required as a result of this report.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Service Director Strategy and Policy, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR and the Clerk to the Council have not been consulted at this stage of the reporting process.

7.2 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive Place, Corporate Transformation & Services Director, Service Director Neighbourhood Services and Service Director Commercial Services have not been consulted at this stage of the reporting process.

Approved by

Director of Regulatory Services

Signature

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
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Background Papers: None

Previous Minute Reference: APWG – 8th March 2016

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Jacqueline Whitelaw can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Jacqueline Whitelaw, Environment and Infrastructure, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA, Tel 01835 825431, Fax 01835 825071, email e&translationrequest@scotborders.gov.uk.

INTEGRATED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2015 - 2018

Report by Service Director Children & Young People

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

22 March 2016

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents the Integrated Children & Young People's Plan 2015 – 2018 which sets out the strategic priorities for integrated Children and Young People's Services across partner agencies in the Scottish Borders.
- 1.2 The integrated plan has been developed by the Children & Young People's Leadership Group which is a multi-agency group with members from Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Police Scotland, Scottish Children's Report Administrator and the Third Sector. The plan summarises progress made over the period of the previous plan and highlights priorities and key actions which will be progressed over the next 3 years. Following completion of the final draft there was a consultation on the plan involving key stakeholders including young people and their families as well as members of the wider public and staff across agencies. The main themes identified during consultation have been reflected within the final version of the plan which is presented at Appendix 1. The plan was approved by the Community Planning Partnership Strategic Board in March 2016.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 I recommend that the Education Themed Executive Committee:-

- (a) **Note the Integrated Children & Young People's Plan 2015 – 2018.**

3 DEVELOPMENT OF INTEGRATED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2015 - 2018

- 3.1 The development of the Children and Young People's plan has been led by the Children and Young People's Leadership Group. This is a multi agency plan which builds on the achievements of the previous plan. This includes the creation of 4 Early Years Centres, the introduction of the Wellbeing Web and multi-agency guidance to ensure a consistent approach in planning for individual children, the development of services to support children and young people affected by domestic abuse, the introduction of Community Mental Health Workers to support young people with emotional and mental health issues and the introduction of a new family orientated service to support children and young people affected by their own substance misuse or that of their parents.

The plan sets out a vision that "all children and young people in the Scottish Borders will achieve their unique potential" and sets out the new key priorities which are:

- i. Keeping children and young people safe
- ii. Improving health and reducing health inequalities
- iii. Improving the wellbeing and life chances for our most vulnerable children and young people
- iv. Raising attainment and achievement for all learners
- v. Increasing participation and engagement.

Key high level actions to achieve these priorities are set out in the plan.

- 3.2 This ambitious plan reflects the priorities set out by the Children & Young People's Leadership Group to work in partnership to deliver meaningful and sustainable improvements to the lives of children and young people across the Scottish Borders, ensuring there is targeted support for the most vulnerable and recognising the value of partners working jointly to ensure improvements for all. The principles of Getting It Right For Every Child and the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child are firmly embedded within the plan and there is a clear link to the Scottish Borders Single Outcome Agreement.
- 3.3 Consultation on the draft plan commenced in November 2015 and was carried out in the following ways:
- i. Engaging with members of the public (parents, carers, young people and members of the public) at consultation events held in conjunction with Health & Social Care
 - ii. On-line consultation facilitated through the SBC website and publicised via partner agency websites
 - iii. Presentation of the draft plan at key meetings
 - iv. Meetings with young people
 - v. Distributing the consultation document at a number of school events
 - vi. Sending e-mails to staff groups and publicising the consultation opportunity on the SBC website
 - vii. Awareness raising with Elected Members and Third Sector organisations via workshops.

The consultation period ended in January 2016. Analysis of the comments found that respondents were clearly supportive of the priorities outlined in the plan. A report summarising the findings of the consultation is found at Appendix 2. The plan has been updated to reflect the significant comments raised during the consultation and this final version was approved by the Community Planning Partnership Strategic Board on the 3rd of March 2016.

- 3.4 The detailed actions to deliver on the 5 priorities outlined in the plan are now being developed by the sub groups of the Children & Young People's Leadership Group. There will be regular reporting on progress to the Leadership Group and the Community Planning Partnership Strategic Board. In response to a number of comments received during the consultation, an "easy read" and shorter version of the plan will be developed with a version for young people.

4 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

There are no direct costs attached to any of the recommendations outlined in this report. The Children & Young People's Leadership Group are currently taking forward a review of commissioned services to ensure that commissioned services support delivery of the plan. The review will also map out the total spend on children and young people's services across the partner agencies.

4.2 Risk and Mitigations

The plan sets out the strategic direction for joint children and young people's services to improve outcomes for children and young people across the Scottish Borders. A focus on improvement, early intervention and providing support for the most vulnerable will support a reduction in risk for some individuals.

4.3 Equalities

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out on this proposal and it is anticipated that there are no adverse equality implications. The plan recognises the needs of specific groups and the most vulnerable and seeks to improve outcomes for all.

4.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no significant impacts on the economy, community or environment arising from the proposals contained in this report.

4.5 Carbon Management

There are no significant effects on carbon emissions arising from the proposals contained in this report.

4.6 Rural Proofing

Addressing the needs of children and young people and their families across the Scottish Borders is a key focus in the delivery of services. Within the plan there is an intention to reduce inequalities and the Leadership Group recognises that children and young people living in a rural setting can be disadvantaged in terms of access to services and actions will be considered to alleviate this.

4.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to be made to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals contained in this report.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR, and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Donna Manson **Signature**

Service Director Children & Young People

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Susan Yates	Senior Policy, Planning & Performance Officer

Background Papers:

Previous Minute Reference: Community Planning Strategic Board 3 March 2016

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Contact us at Susan Yates, Scottish Borders Council, Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, TD6 0SA

Integrated Children and Young People's Plan

IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS 2015-2018



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INTEGRATED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2015-2018

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WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



INTEGRATED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2015-2018

FOREWORD

The Community Planning Partnership is committed to improving the wellbeing of all children and young people across the Scottish Borders. We translate this commitment into action through the work of the Children and Young People's Leadership Group which brings together partners from Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Police Scotland, the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and the voluntary sector. The Group focuses on shared priorities to deliver meaningful and sustainable improvements to the lives of all our children and young people, particularly the most vulnerable.

The planning and delivery of our services are underpinned by the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and contribute to the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Single Outcome Agreement.

By embedding 'Getting It Right For Every Child' (GIRFEC), we will ensure that all our children and young people are safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included achieving their unique potential and making a positive contribution to society.

Scottish Borders offers rich opportunities for children and young people to thrive and go on to be confident and successful adults. We want outcomes for all our children and young people to improve whilst closing the gap between our most deprived and least deprived families and communities, targeting resources at our most vulnerable children and young people.

A strong emphasis on developing early years services will enable us to reduce the cycles of poverty, inequalities and poor outcomes and will allow us to provide all children and young people with the best start in life, helping them to achieve their full potential within nurturing and supportive environments.

This plan builds on the achievements of the previous Children and Young People's Services Plan 2012-2015. It also sets out a vision and priorities for the future, highlighting our full commitment to work together in partnership to pursue improved outcomes for all children, young people and families.

David Parker
Chair of Community Planning Partnership



INTEGRATED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2015-2018

1. INTRODUCTION

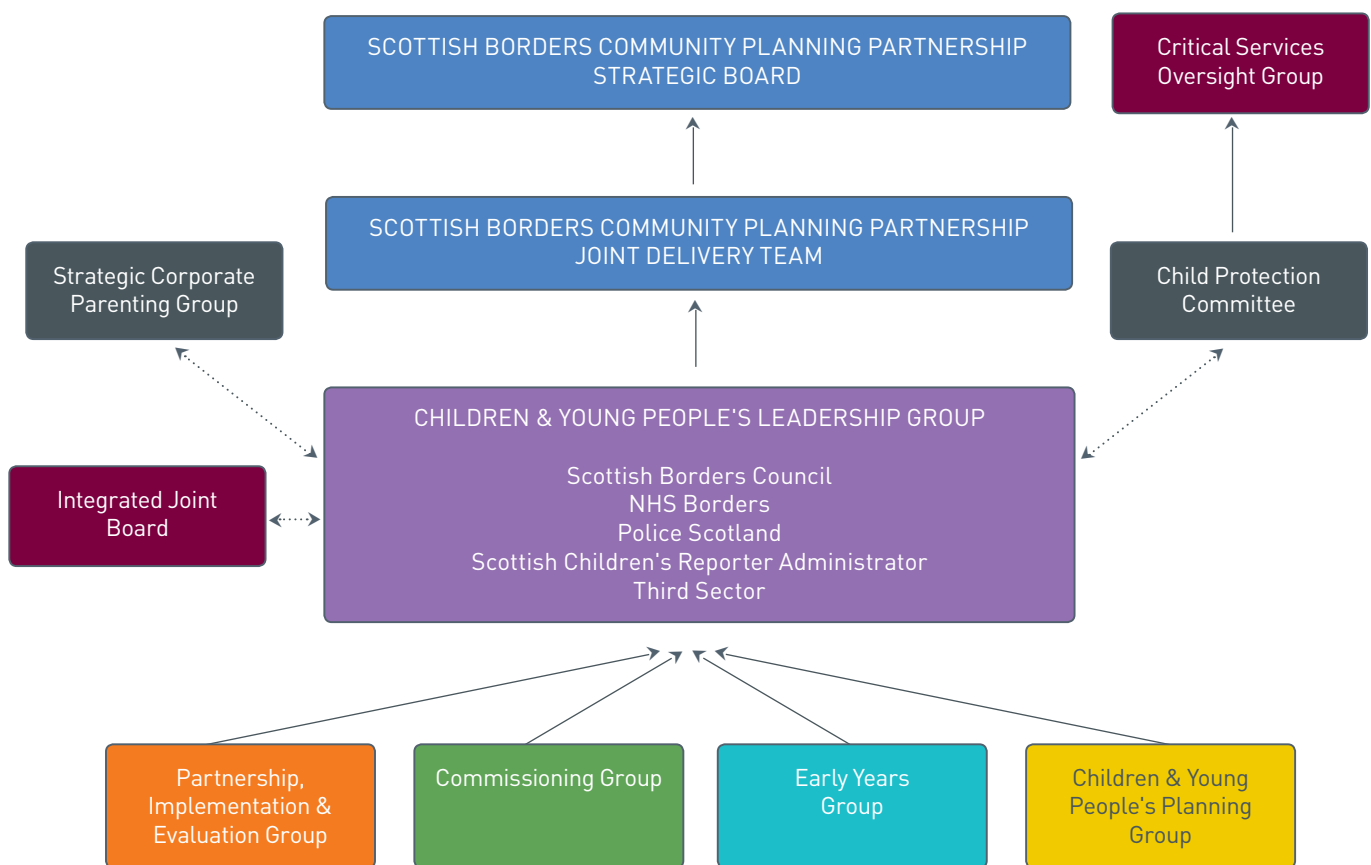
This Integrated Children & Young People's Plan (ICYPP) sets the strategic direction of service delivery to create opportunities and conditions to ensure that children and young people in the Scottish Borders have the best start in life.

The development of this ICYPP has been underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) legislation (the most recent of which has been the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014) and a range of national policy drivers such as Curriculum for Excellence and 'Getting it Right For Every Child'. It also builds on previous multi-agency planning and service developments in the Scottish Borders. The Plan is closely aligned to the (CPP) priorities. In doing so, partners intend to make better use of available data to drive improvement and continue to develop new data sets. In addition, the Plan expresses our commitment to understanding more fully the totality of our resources and budgets for children and young people's services across the partnership and explore ways to use these more creatively and efficiently. Through the life of this Plan, we will continue to work to strengthen relationships between the public and third sectors.

The Children and Young People's Leadership Group was established in 2014 to provide strengthened cohesive strategic leadership across the CPP, building on the work of the Children and Young People's Planning Partnership. The Leadership Group is a decision making group of senior officers from the key stakeholders who deliver children and young people's services in the Scottish Borders including Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Police Scotland, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) and the third sector. Central to the work of the group is hearing the voices of children, young people and families and ensuring that their views and experiences inform the work that we do.

Figure 1 overleaf illustrates the governance structure of the Children and Young People's Leadership Group (CYPLG).

FIGURE 1
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEADERSHIP GROUP



Key
 —> Direct oversight
 -.-> Reporting

The **Children and Young People's Leadership Group** sets the strategic direction for the planning and delivery of services for children and young people. The Group is responsible for identifying challenges and mitigating risks associated with the implementation of the Plan. Its work is supported by a set of sub groups:

The **Early Years Group** is responsible for the Early Years Strategy and related actions to enable children to have the best possible start in life. This includes support for families before birth up to when the child is 8 years old.

The **Children and Young People's Planning Group** is responsible for improving outcomes and reducing inequalities for all young people aged 8-18 years (25 for looked after young people).

The **Partnership, Implementation and Evaluation group** leads on the implementation of legislation that impacts on multi agency services for children and young people. It is responsible for developing and improving working practices across services.

The **Commissioning Group** leads all multi-agency commissioning activities initiated to improve outcomes for children and their families. It seeks to ensure that GIRFEC is firmly embedded within all commissions and to work in partnership and collaboratively with service providers.

INTEGRATED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2015-2018

2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

KEY LEGISLATION AND NATIONAL POLICY

This Plan ensures that the planning and delivery of our services complies with policies, legislation and guidance across the Scottish Government. The current phased implementation of the requirements of the Children and Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014 has been particularly influential in our thinking but the legislation and policies listed in Appendix 2 provide an indication of the range of issues which need to be considered when planning future services for children, young people and families.

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES

In 2013, the **Community Planning Strategic Board** considered the Scottish Borders Strategic Assessment and agreed its vision for the Scottish Borders.

“ *By 2023, quality of life will have improved for those who are currently living within our most deprived communities, through a stronger economy and through targeted partnership action* ”

The Board chose 3 strategic priorities which will help drive progress towards its vision.

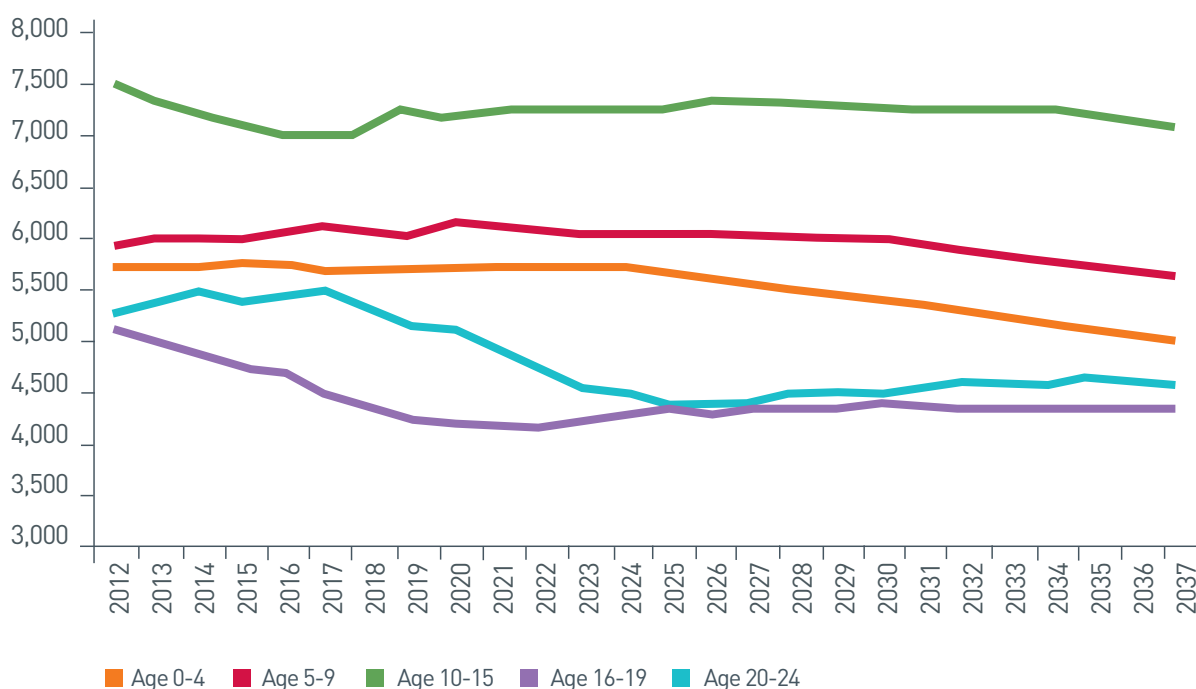
1. Grow our economy and maximise the impact from the low carbon agenda
2. Reduce inequalities
3. Reform future services

All 3 strategic priorities are applicable to the Children and Young People's Plan but the theme of **reducing inequalities** is central to supporting our aim of improving the wellbeing of all our children, young people and families.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE POPULATION

LOCALITY	AGE GROUPS					TOTAL AGE GROUP 0-24	TOTAL POPULATION (ALL AGES)
	0-4	5-9	10-15	16-19	20-24		
Berwickshire	961	1049	1264	845	948	5067	20657
Cheviot	941	931	1136	845	826	4679	19503
Eildon	1898	1900	2281	1677	1973	9729	35190
Teviot and Liddesdale	935	857	1088	739	897	4516	17965
Tweeddale	1086	1280	1463	892	827	5548	20715
Scottish Borders	5821	6017	7232	4998	5471	29539	114030

PROJECTED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POPULATION FOR THE SCOTTISH BORDERS 2012-2037



Source: NRSScotland Population Projections 2012-2037

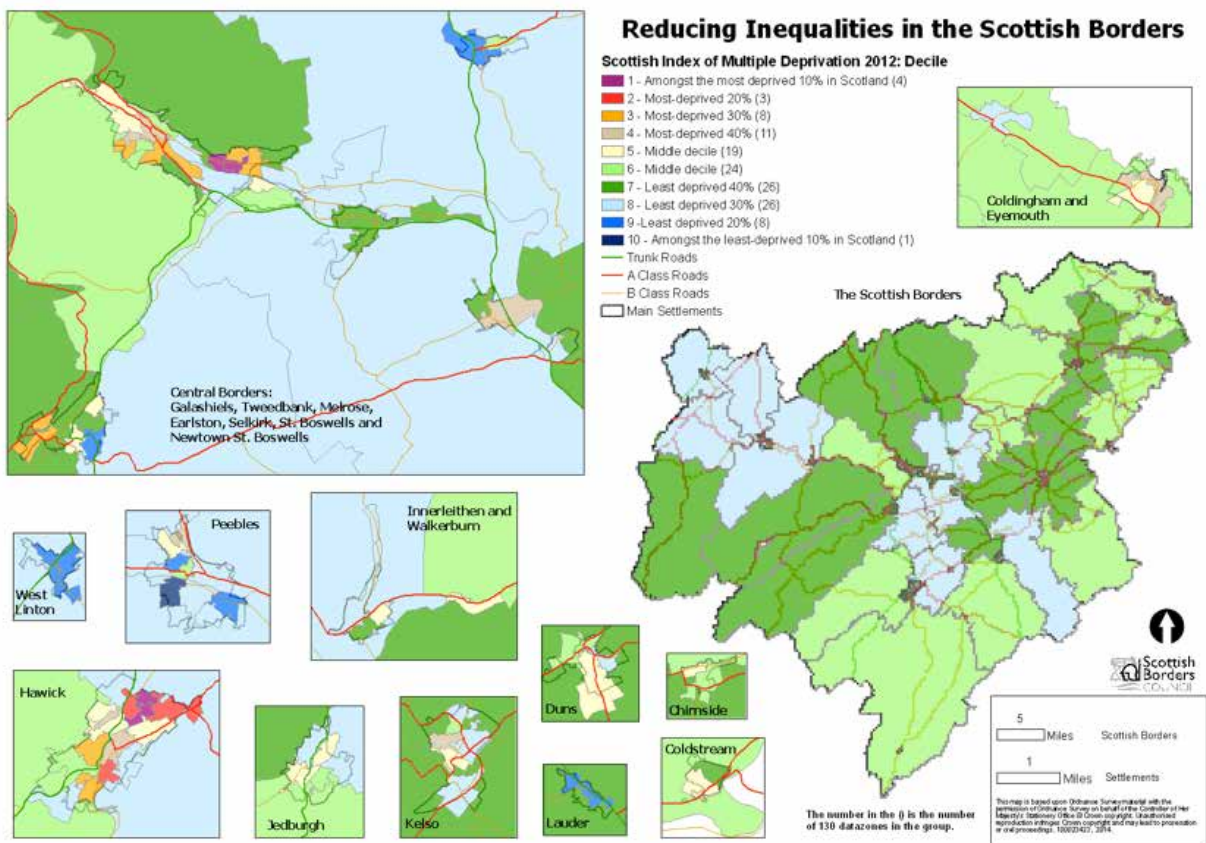
The number of young people under the age of 25 accounts for 24.4% of the Scottish Borders population. The latest projections from the National Records of Scotland (NRS) show that over the next 25 years, Scottish Borders will see no net change in population. This is due to decreased net migration and fewer births. The number of people aged under the age of 65 is expected to decrease. Working age population (16-64) is projected to decline by over 13,500 or 20%. The number of people aged 25 and under is expected to decrease by 9.8%.

INEQUALITIES IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

The Scottish Borders is a safe and healthy place to live when compared to other local authority and NHS Board areas. However, data indicates that there are a number of areas and key groups where significant inequalities exist and where there is a negative impact on children and young people.

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the Scottish Government's official tool for identifying those places in Scotland suffering from deprivation. Of the 130 datazones¹ in the Scottish Borders, 5 are found in the 15% of the most deprived datazones in Scotland. These deprived datazones are in Galashiels and Hawick and account for 3.5% of the population of the Scottish Borders.

AREAS OF DEPRIVATION



Living in a deprived area impacts on the lives of children and young people in a variety of ways:

- Whilst rates of child poverty in the Scottish Borders are lower than Scotland as a whole (12.6% compared to 18.6% in Scotland), rates are as high as 41% in our most deprived areas
- Household incomes are below the Scottish average
- Poor educational attainment and achievement are more pronounced in areas of deprivation
- Children and young people are more at risk of poorer health and wellbeing outcomes in areas with higher levels of deprivation.

¹ The SIMD ranks small areas (called datazones) from most deprived (ranked 1) to least deprived (ranked 6,505). People using the SIMD will often focus on the datazones below a certain rank, for example, the 5%, 10%, 15% or 20% most deprived datazones in Scotland.

ATTAINMENT, ACHIEVEMENT AND INCLUSION

KEY FACTS

- The number of children and young people at school at the start of the school term in academic year 2015/2016 was 8188 in primary school and 6438 in secondary school
- In 2015, 94% of school leavers had a positive destination compared to 92% for Scotland
- Primary school and secondary school attendance is higher in the Scottish Borders compared to the Scottish average
- The overall positive trend in attendance is also reflected in our areas of highest deprivation
- There is a 4 year trend of improved attainment levels for children leaving the school system. More young people are attaining higher levels of qualification and more are being presented for formal qualifications. The range and breadth of qualification have also increased
- Scottish Borders identifies more pupils with Additional Support Needs (25%) than the national average (21%) (data sourced from Scottish Parliament Report, April 2015)
- Exclusions from school, both primary and secondary, have fallen significantly
- Achievement and participation levels are increasing with more young people gaining recognition for Duke of Edinburgh, Sports Leadership and Saltire Awards than ever before.

HEALTH

KEY FACTS

- The general health of children and young people across the Scottish Borders is good but there are some noticeable differences in a small number of deprived areas
- Uptake rates for immunisations at 24 months is 95% and for the first dose of MMR at 5 years is also 95%
- Smoking in pregnancy rates appear to be higher in the Scottish Borders than the Scottish average. Smoking rates tend to be closely associated with deprivation
- Breastfeeding rates in the Scottish Borders are higher than the average for Scotland. In 2013-14, 35.2% of babies were exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks compared to 26.5% for Scotland. Rates within the Scottish Borders are higher in the least deprived areas
- Over the decade to 2014, 75% of P1 children in Scottish Borders have been within a healthy weight range
- 80% of pregnant women register for ante-natal care by 12 weeks of pregnancy and this is consistent across areas of highest and lowest deprivation
- In 2013/14, 78.7% of P1 children showed no obvious signs of dental decay compared with 68.2% nationally
- In 2014/15, 92% of children offered a health and development review at 27-30 months had an assessment completed
- 16% of the children assessed at 27-30 months had at least one development concern. Speech, language and communication was the most common concern (12%)

SAFETY

KEY FACTS

- In 2013/14, 201 children were referred to the Scottish Children's Reporter, 1.05% compared with the Scottish average of 2.09%. The most common ground for referral was 'lack of parental care' and the most common age bracket for referrals was 12-15 years
- On 31st July 2014 there were 16 children in the Scottish Borders on the Child Protection Register. This is the lowest number over the last 7 years. This was lower (per 1000 population aged 0-15) than all our comparator local authorities
- Over the period July '14 – June '15, there was an average of 35 referrals per month concerning the safety of a child which were the subject of inter-agency discussion
- There was an average of 27 children on the Child Protection Register over the same time period. The most common reasons for being on the register were domestic abuse and emotional abuse.

WELLBEING AND LIFE CHANCES

KEY FACTS

- The most recent data for alcohol consumption in children and young people suggest that consumption is reducing in Scottish Borders and that there is no difference between Borders and Scotland
- In 2013, 16% of 15 year olds reported drug use in the previous year, an apparent increase on previous years. This rate is above the Scottish average although is similar to the rate for comparable local authority areas. 16% equates to 106 young people
- There has been a large drop in the proportion of pupils reporting smoking in recent years. In the 2013 SALSUS study, the proportion of S4 pupils in the Borders reporting regular smoking – 9% – is the lowest since the survey began
- Recent estimates indicate that there are in the region of 400 young carers in the Scottish Borders. An increasing number are being identified and supported
- In 2015 there were 227 children in the Scottish Borders affected by disability and or complex health needs requiring a high level of support in order to access education. A small number attend specialist provision outwith the Borders but the majority attend mainstream schools and / or support centres attached to mainstream schools
- The Scottish Borders has one of the lowest levels in Scotland of Looked After Children (0.8%) as a percentage of the child population (Age 0-17) in comparison to the National Figure (1.5%)
- There is an increasing trend of Looked After Children being cared for by a family member (32 in July 2012 and 48 in July 2015) and a decreasing trend of them being placed outwith the Scottish Borders area
- Looked After Children have improved inclusion within Primary and Secondary Schools and a higher number are going on to a positive destination.



INTEGRATED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2015-2018

3. ACHIEVEMENTS 2012-15

The CYPLG is committed to recognising and celebrating good practice and we want to build on the progress made in implementing the previous plan as we move ahead with our ambitions for 2015 – 18. The previous plan focused on a series of priority themes. The section below highlights key achievements that the Leadership Group has recognised under each of these themes.

GETTING IT RIGHT FOR EVERY CHILD

We have developed a robust set of tools and processes that underpin our work with individual children and their families. These include:

- Multi-agency guidance to ensure a consistent approach to assessment, planning and reviewing outcomes for individual children across our agencies and to facilitate information-sharing, supported by multi-agency training
- The introduction of the Wellbeing Web tool to obtain the views of children and parents/carers and contribute to the measurement of progress for a child
- Social Workers, Police Locality Integration Officers, Community Mental Health Workers and Family Support Workers meet regularly in Locality Business Meetings to share information and plan intervention with children, young people and families where there are emerging concerns.

PROMOTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

We have created a range of opportunities for young people to have their voice heard.

Examples include:

- Scottish Borders Council's Community, Learning and Development (CLD) Service delivers Youth Voice and Youth Chex which supports children and young people across Scottish Borders to influence decision-makers and shape services
- Work in schools towards the Rights Respecting Schools awards
- The achievement of meeting the European Association Hospital Charter status by the Children's Ward at Borders General Hospital
- Working with our partners to recognize volunteering and achievements by children and young people
- Supporting the Scottish Borders three MSYPs (Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament) who represent the constituent views of young people.

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

We have taken a variety of steps to keep children safe:

- In response to a finding from the “Joint Inspection of Services to Protect Children and Young People in 2011, a new health needs assessment process, using the GIRFEC wellbeing indicators was tested and rolled out for children on the Child Protection Register
- Following the launch of the national Risk Framework, a briefing pack was developed by an inter-agency group which was then disseminated through professional teams
- The views of parents who have been involved in the child protection process have been gathered through an objective external body on behalf of local partners
- An innovative set of integrated services have been established to provide support for children and young people affected by domestic abuse. We have also improved information sharing and care planning by introducing Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences to protect high risk victims of domestic abuse
- Following a review of drug and alcohol services, a new family oriented service was commissioned to support children and young people affected by the drug and/or alcohol use of their parents, carers, children and young people with their own substance use concerns and parents who need to address the impact of their own use on their family
- An established Partnership model of youth work delivery ensures local youth clubs are available in all of our major settlements.

EARLY YEARS

There have been significant development:

- Significant progress has been made to introduce our locality model for integrated service delivery through the Early Years Centres in four targeted areas and a wider hub and spoke approach elsewhere
- Early Years Improvement Networks continue to develop in each locality with good – and growing - multiagency support
- We have developed new ways of working to address the Key Change themes from the National Early Years Collaborative and are increasingly adopting the Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) improvement methodology to facilitate change.

LOOKED AFTER AND ACCOMMODATED CHILDREN

Achievements for our looked after and accommodated children include:

- Free access to opportunities through the Borders Sport and Leisure trust has been expanded to include children and young people in kinship care along with their kinship carers and young people leaving care
- Multi-agency training focusing on meeting the needs of Looked after Children (“We Can and Must Do Better”) has been offered to a range of staff including newly qualified teachers, LAC Co-ordinators and Additional Needs Assistants as well as Foster Carers, Police Officers and Educational Psychologists
- Regular Corporate Parenting Seminars have been held to highlight the needs of looked after children and the role that we all have to play in ensuring that we provide the best possible support for these children
- A new Health Needs Assessment process has been introduced for Looked After Children.
- There has been a 33% increase in the number of foster carers from 2011 to 2015 (48 in July 2012 and 64 in July 2015)
- Our fostering and residential services have achieved improving grades in recent care inspections.

PARENTING

We have supported parents in the following way:

- A new multi-agency Parenting Framework was agreed in 2014, as the basis for ensuring a consistent approach to the provision of parenting programmes
- We have successfully introduced the Psychology of Parenting in Scottish Borders, using a multiagency delivery team
- The new Early Years Centres offer a wide range of parenting supports, programmes, family activities as well as more informal opportunities, with a range of services working together from statutory to third sector.

IMPROVED ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

There has been improvement in a wide range of areas:

- 19 schools participated in the Raising Attainment for All(RAFA) national programme focused on 'Closing the Gap' in attainment, achievement and Inclusion in 2014-15. This resulted in significant individual pupil progress for approximately 300 children. All participating schools continue to use the PDSA improvement methodology and have targets set for children living in deciles 1 and 2 in the national SIMD profile
- There is a 4 year trend of improved attainment levels for children leaving our school system. More young people are attaining higher levels of qualifications and more young people are being presented for formal qualifications. The range and breadth of qualifications have also increased with the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence
- During the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence, schools have improved the quality of their curriculum to ensure that there are greater opportunities for children and young people to experience skills for learning, life and work. As a result, our positive and sustained destinations are in the top quartile nationally and demonstrate a significantly improving picture
- Our exclusion rates have reduced dramatically and attendance has improved. Schools are developing more inclusive cultures and climate supported by structures and systems which build capacity to be more responsive to the needs of our most vulnerable learners
- Our systems for our most vulnerable learners have improved. The Additional Needs Multi-agency Team (ANMaT) meets fortnightly and undertakes a quality assurance role in relation to the requirements of the Additional Support for Learning Act and wider issues with regard to children with additional support needs. Over the last 3 years, the group has tightened up the multi-agency Co-ordinated Support Planning process, provided detailed guidance packs for professional staff and promoted improved approaches for ensuring the views of children and parents are fully embedded in planning and decision-making
- Our partnership working to reduce inequalities has improved through the introduction of Learning Community Partnerships. These involve Public and Third Sector organisations in the joint analysis of local need and collaborative planning of programmes of work
- Development of robust locality-based third sector youth work infrastructure – developed through a partnership between the third sector, statutory organisations which enables young people to access a wider range of local based youth work services.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The voices of parents and carers have been heard in a number of ways:

- The views of parents and carers have been central to the design and implementation of the Early Years Centres
- A range of training has been developed to support Parent Councils to facilitate effective working with their school
- The Parent Council Chairs Forum has regular engagement sessions with senior management regarding process and policy
- There has been consultation with parents/carers in the development of Community Learning & Development Strategic Plan
- Links have been established with a key group of parents of children with disabilities and there is regular engagement and feedback.

IMPROVED HEALTH AND WELLBEING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Health and wellbeing has been a priority:

- A school and community-based Fit4Fun Programme on healthy eating and active living has been delivered to meet identified needs
- A mental health education pack has been developed to provide social and emotional health input in school, with accompanying training for pastoral staff in schools
- Community Mental Health Workers in the Locality Teams provide support to young people with emerging emotional and mental health issues
- Midwives in the multi-agency Early Years Assessment Team provide a range of support on healthy lifestyles for pregnant women
- A tobacco prevention programme has been rolled out in partnership with Community Learning and Development with active engagement with young people
- 7,911 children and young people (54% of the Borders P1-S6 population) took part in at least one extra-curricular physical activity programme in the last year.

TRANSITIONS 16+

We are clear that the transition to adult services should be seamless:

- We have established an Activity Agreements programme to successfully support some of our most vulnerable young people into further education
- The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service now provides support to young people up to the age of 18
- A multi agency group has been established to improve transitions for young people with learning disabilities to ensure there is successful transition to Adult Services
- Improvements have been made to the Vulnerable Young Person Protocol and this is now included in the Child Protection Procedures in order to ensure ease of access for staff.
- Improvements in multi-agency working are supporting more vulnerable young people into positive and sustained destinations through, 16+ Modern Apprenticeship and Developing the Young Workforce
- Dedicated resources are now in each High School to deliver our senior phase strategy. This will support positive destinations for the furthest from the labour market, create local employer partnerships agreements and establish new standards for work based learning
- A strategic partnership structure is now in place to work on Piloting foundation apprenticeships and Build on the success of our School College Academy to reward increase learner pathways in the senior phase.

WORKFORCE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Our workforce should have the right skills:

- Multi-agency training and awareness raising sessions have taken place in preparation for full implementation of the GIRFEC statutory requirements in 2016. This has included briefings, training sessions, e-learning packages and newsletters for practitioners
- The Child Protection Committee has continued to provide a range of multi-agency and single agency training and awareness raising events. New programmes on Child Sexual Exploitation have included tailor-made sessions for taxi drivers, 6th year pupils, ambulance drivers and staff from Housing providers
- We have continued to develop and deliver multi-agency training on a wide range of topics such as domestic violence, substance misuse, suicide prevention and self-harm, and child nutrition.
- Multi-agency training in the Solihull approach continues to prepare our early years practitioners to support children and their families.

INTEGRATED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2015-2018

4. VISION AND PRIORITIES

This plan sets out our vision and the five key priorities for the next 3 years and beyond, establishing the foundation and direction for future plans.

OUR VISION



In pursuit of our vision, we will strive to improve the wellbeing and life chances of all our children, young people and families through the provision of high quality, integrated services. We are committed to ensuring that all our children and young people living in the Scottish Borders have a good childhood and are prepared for adulthood. This requires a strong focus on early intervention and prevention, building resilience and supporting children, young people and families to develop the skills and capabilities that enable them to navigate the challenges of modern life.

Our planning is underpinned by a set of principles in respect to how we intend to deliver services:

- Focusing on early intervention and prevention; ensuring we target families early enough
- Ensuring that children and families' needs are at the centre of service design and delivery
- Ensuring reducing inequalities is a priority across all services but that we get an appropriate balance between resourcing targeted and universal services
- Improving integrated working and focusing on combined resources
- Working with and empowering communities
- Improving outcomes for every child and their families highest achievers.

Children and young people can expect that:

we will provide them with high quality services to help give them the best possible start in life and support them to succeed as they develop into adulthood. For those children and young people who face specific challenges in their lives, we will provide targeted support. We will respect the rights of children and young people and listen to their voices.

For families this means that:

we will work in partnership with parents and carers because we believe that they know their children best and our services will be more effective if we listen to their views and include them in decisions that affect their children. Children and young people are at the centre of what we do and we will aim to get the right targeted support for parents at the earliest possible opportunity in order to provide their children with a safe and nurturing upbringing.

For everyone providing services for children and young people, this means that:

we recognise and value the knowledge, skills and commitment of our workforce. We will listen to the views of our workforce and will equip them with the development opportunities and tools to support the delivery of high quality services. We will work with our partners to support them in achieving joint goals.

For communities in the Scottish Borders, this means that:

it's everyone's business to look out for our children and young people and make them feel included and valued within their communities. We want to work with communities towards these aims.

For the Community Planning Partnership, this means that:

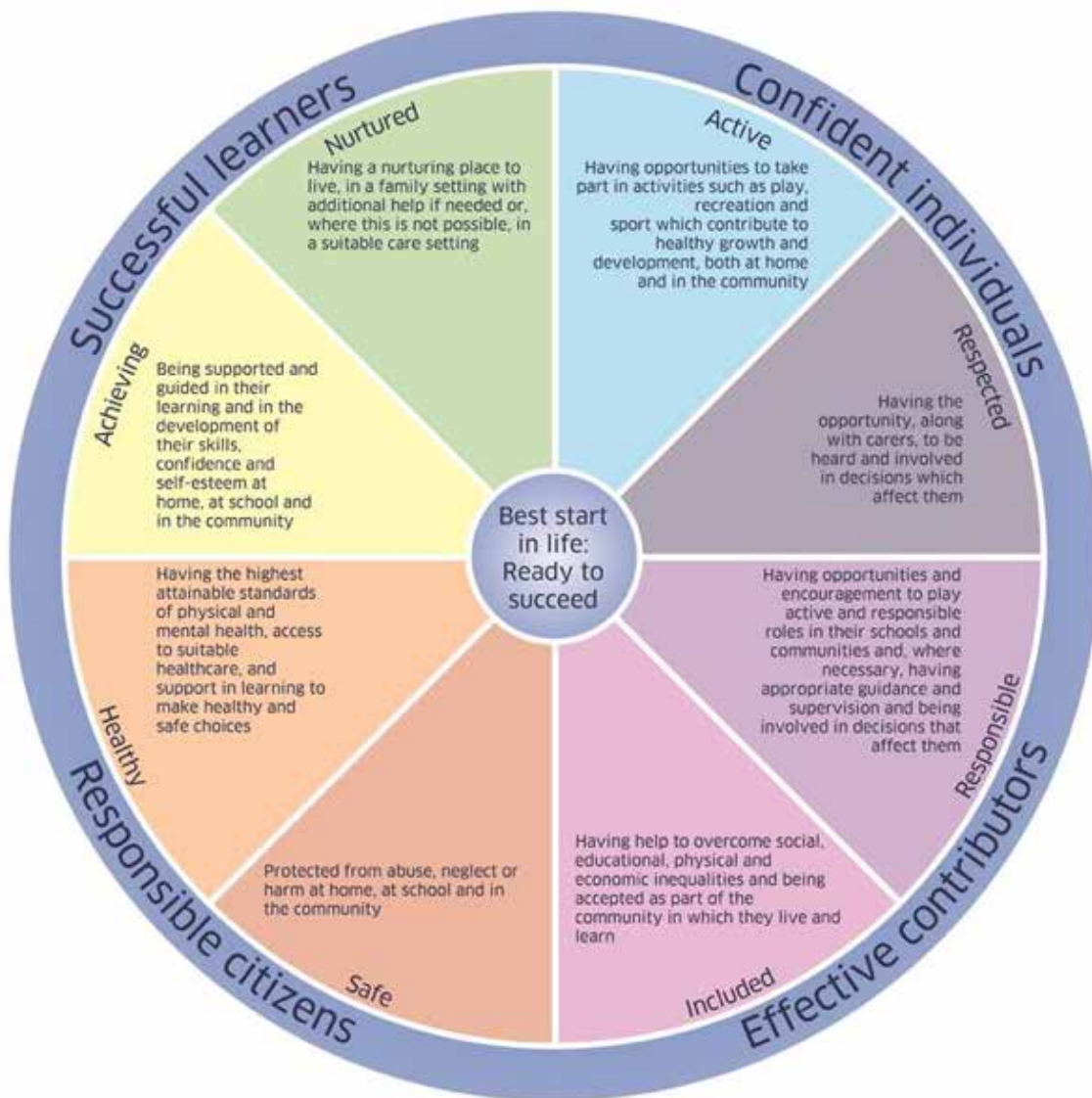
we need their ongoing support to ensure the delivery of this Plan and a commitment to keeping the needs of children, young people and their families at the centre of strategic planning in the Scottish Borders.

WELLBEING OUTCOMES

'Getting It Right For Every Child' (GIRFEC) is the multi-agency approach we have now used for a number of years to underpin our work with children, young people and families.

The national definition of **wellbeing**, now embedded in legislation, creates a common language across agencies and with children, young people and their families. This is summarised in the Wellbeing Wheel in figure 2 below. Every child and young person has the right to expect appropriate support from adults to allow them to develop as fully as possible across each of the wellbeing indicators and all agencies providing services which impact on children and young people must play their part in making sure that this happens.

FIGURE 2
WELLBEING WHEEL



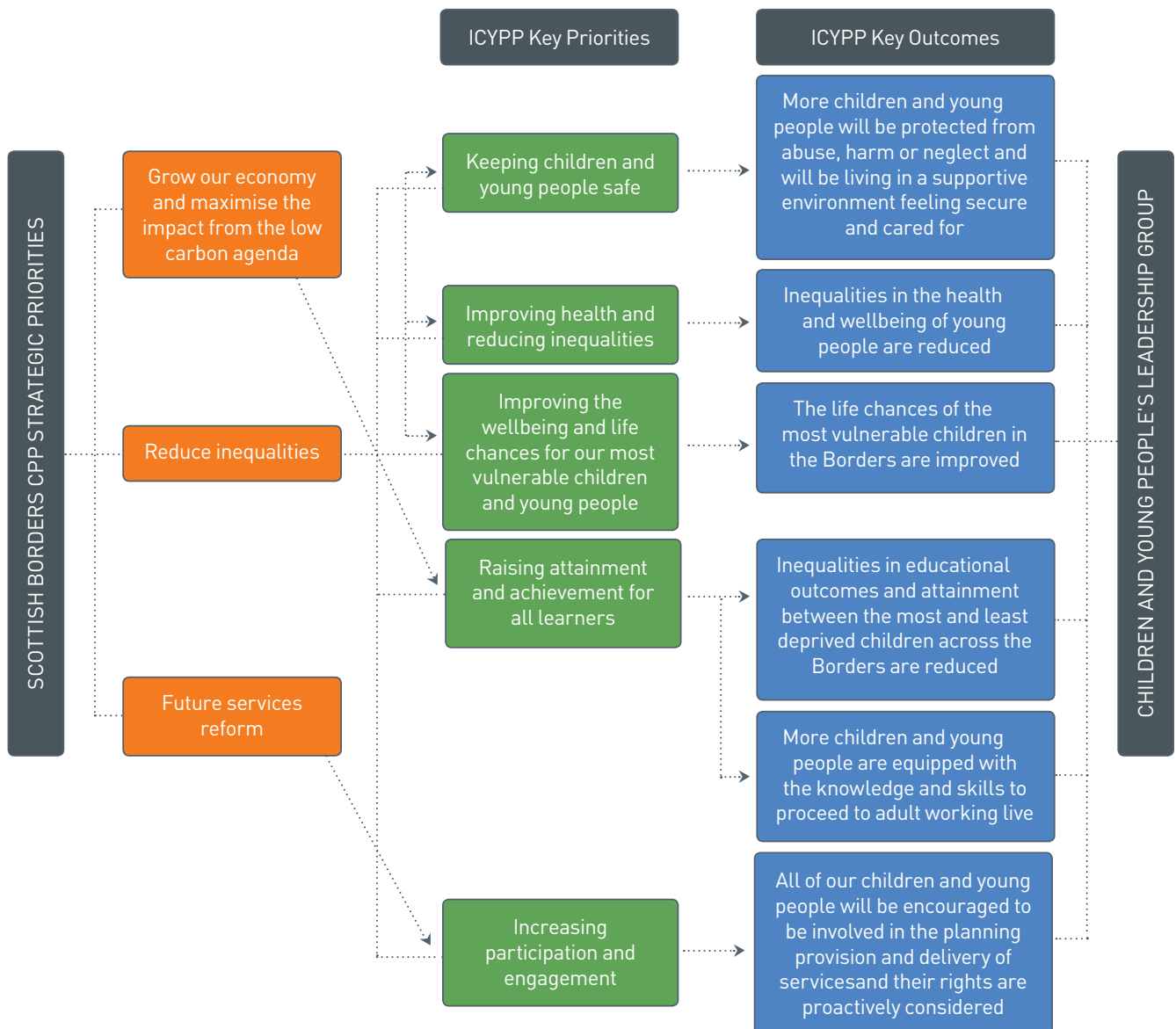
The 8 wellbeing indicators as described in the above diagram underpin the **5 key priorities** we have chosen to focus on during the lifespan of this Plan.

Our 5 Key Priorities:

1. Keeping children and young people safe
2. Promoting the health and wellbeing of all children and young people and reducing health inequalities
3. Improving the wellbeing and life chances for our most vulnerable children and young people
4. Raising attainment and achievement for all learners
5. Increasing participation and engagement.

The diagram below demonstrates the links between the strategic priorities of the Community Planning Partnership, our key priorities and how we aim to translate these into improved outcomes for children and young people.

OUR GOLDEN THREAD



INTEGRATED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES PLAN 2015-2018

5. STRATEGIC OUTCOMES AND HIGH LEVEL ACTIONS

This section outlines the strategic outcomes that we aim to achieve over the lifetime of this Plan and the high level actions that are planned in order to support our ambitions for our children and young people.

PRIORITY 1

Keeping children and young people safe

OUTCOME

More children and young people will be protected from abuse, harm or neglect and will be living in a supportive environment, feeling secure and cared for.

The strategic overview of the inter-agency approach to keeping children and young people safe is undertaken by the Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee. The work undertaken is multi-faceted and includes the following; ensuring that the Child Protection procedures are regularly reviewed and updated, providing training and awareness-raising programmes to a range of staff who directly or indirectly have a role in keeping children and young people safe, rigorously monitoring and evaluating child protection services and ensuring that areas for improvement are addressed; and ensuring that the views of children, young people and parents about our services are listened to and, where appropriate, acted upon as part of our improvement planning.

However, responsibility for keeping children and young people safe does not just lie with the Child Protection Committee, the Child Protection Unit or Social Work. For all staff who work with children and young people, this is a fundamental part of their role. The protection of children is also the responsibility of all members of the public. The GIRFEC approach, enables our staff to be better able to identify risk at an earlier stage and to intervene appropriately and proportionately.

HIGH LEVEL ACTIONS FOR 2015-18

- Ensure staff are supported to develop and maintain the skills, knowledge and confidence to deliver high quality and effective child protection services
- All partners to continue to develop and deliver relevant and appropriate training
- Provide staff with awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) to help them identify young people at risk of this form of sexual abuse
- Ensure child protection procedures are regularly reviewed and updated
- Promote the “Management of the Unseen Child Policy” and the “Bruising in non-mobile infant” policy
- Identify and support young people at risk of self-harm
- Evaluate the second year of the Multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARACs) which were introduced in 2014
- Develop and Implement a digital safety strategy for young people across the Borders
- Help support safe and trusting environments in the youth work and voluntary sector outside school life.



PRIORITY 2

Improving Health and Reducing Health Inequalities

OUTCOME

Inequalities in the health and wellbeing of young people are reduced

Health inequalities are unfair differences in health across different social groups and between different groups of the population. These inequalities are not random or inevitable and can be addressed through partnership commitment, using evidence based approaches.

Starting well is singularly important as the first 3 years of a child's life strongly influence health and wellbeing in childhood and adulthood. Circumstances and experiences in these early years can impact on risks of long term ill health associated with obesity, conditions such as heart disease, substance misuse and poor mental health.

HIGH LEVEL ACTIONS FOR 2015-18

- Continue to develop the locality model of integrated service delivery to support families in the Early Years, using early intervention and preventive approaches
- Improve universal programmes and approaches to promote health and wellbeing to ensure they meet the needs of those at risk of poorer health outcomes
- Provide targeted support and interventions for families who are more likely to experience poor health outcomes
- Work proactively with Community Planning Partners to maximise income and resources for households with children and to promote access to employment opportunities
- Promote emotional health and wellbeing for children and young people and improve access to timely help and support when required.

PRIORITY 3

Improving the wellbeing and life chances for our most vulnerable children and young people

OUTCOME

The life chances of the most vulnerable children in the Borders are improved

In addition to focussing our attention on those children and young people in our more deprived communities, we are also committed to improving outcomes for particular groups whose circumstances places them at significant disadvantage unless specific arrangements and services are put in place for them. Examples are looked after children, children with disabilities or complex needs, young carers, young people who have offended and children with drug/alcohol problems or who are affected by parental substance misuse, domestic violence and parental mental health difficulties.

In recognition of the particular needs of these children and young people, we have specific strategies in place such as the Corporate Parenting Strategy (Looked After Children), Young Carers Strategy and Drug & Alcohol Strategy. This ensures that the particular needs of these children and young people have a consistently high profile with senior officers and arrangements and services for addressing their particular needs are subject to on-going review and revision in our drive to improve outcomes.

HIGH LEVEL ACTIONS FOR 2015-18

- Complete the roll-out of the key components of the GIRFEC approach, most notably the introduction of the Named Person Service
- Improve outcomes for Looked After Children through the implementation of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan
- Complete implementation of the Whole Systems Approach to youth offending, including the provision of support to young offenders aged 16 and 17
- Implement the Young Carers Strategy
- Implement the elements of the Drug & Alcohol Strategy relevant to children and young people
- Ensure sustainability of support services for families experiencing Domestic Abuse
- Review the range of services and support focusing on children and young people with complex needs to ensure that provision is delivering improved outcomes
- We will improve forward planning for children and young people with additional support needs to ensure seamless transitions and there will be more partnership working with parents.

PRIORITY 4

Raising attainment and achievement for all learners

OUTCOME

Inequalities in educational outcomes and attainment between the most and the least deprived children across the Borders are reduced.

More children and young people are equipped with the knowledge and skills to proceed to adult working life.

A number of disadvantaged children in the Scottish Borders grow up without the skills needed to thrive in the long term and it is vital we do more to “close the gap” and provide all our young people with the best possible life chances as they leave school and move into the world of work or further study. We have begun to address these challenging issues and inequalities through the Raising Attainment for All (RAFA) and Early Years Collaborative activities and there is evidence that the lives of individual children and their families have changed for the better through such actions.

HIGH LEVEL ACTIONS FOR 2015-18

- Ensure that every young person leaving school in the Scottish Borders will have the offer of a job, training or further education opportunity (Implement “Developing the Young Workforce”)
- Further develop Curriculum for Excellence in all our schools
- Provide more creative and positive local opportunities for training and employment for young people
- Implement the Community Learning and Development Strategy and strengthen CLD Learning Community Partnerships
- Work in partnership with parents in all aspects of children’s learning increasing family learning opportunities to maximise the contribution of parents and carers
- Implement the Senior Phase strategy
- Implement the Corporate Parenting Strategy
- Strengthen Early Year’s Partnerships within localities
- Implement the Early Years Strategy
- Implement Inclusion for All
- Ensure all our staff experience high quality professional learning and training tailored to their individual and the service needs
- Increase the number of schools involved in the RAFA programme (from 19 to 29 in 2015-16 session)
- Work with the third sector to build skills through volunteering, enhancing the self confidence and life chances of young people
- We will work with parents/carers to support their role in preparing children for their adult

PRIORITY 5

Increasing participation and engagement

OUTCOME

All of children and Young People will be encouraged to be involved in the planning, provision and delivery of services and their rights are proactively considered

To make the necessary changes to our services, it is vital that the voices of our service users are at the heart of everything we do and the Leadership Group will ensure these views influence service development and design. In the Scottish Borders we have consulted with children, young people and their families regarding the services we provide, but we want to build on this and enable service users to work in partnership with us to help shape our services and how they are delivered.

If we are to recognise and understand the needs of children and young people, particularly those facing a range of challenges, then we need to know what these are; and this will require effective dialogue. Through utilisation of the GIRFEC approach, we will listen to children and young people and ensure they are included as key stakeholders within service delivery and their views are valued. Partners need to reinforce the positive contribution that young people can and should make to their local communities and to the wider society in which they live.

HIGH LEVEL ACTIONS FOR 2015-18

- Develop a Child Rights Strategy to support the UNCRC principles and embed them across all services
- Develop an engagement strategy for Children and Young People's services in the Borders targeted at all age ranges and groups of children and young people
- Ensure service user feedback is collected across all relevant services and as far as possible feedback is sought from the child, in addition to the whole family. Feedback and information on how it is shaping service development should be reported on appropriately.
- Work with the third sector to increase the number of volunteering opportunities available for all children and young people (including those that are vulnerable) to further develop informal and out of school learning
- Complete the implementation of Self Directed Support (SDS) for all vulnerable children and their families
- Build on existing work with the development of a Parenting Strategy, ensuring there is access to a range of consistent and age appropriate support
- Work with colleagues to develop an online solution to signpost children, young people, parents and carers to the range of services and support available across the Scottish Borders.

INTEGRATED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES PLAN 2015-2018

6. WORKFORCE PLANNING

The organisations providing support to children, young people and families have a highly experienced, committed and caring workforce who provide a variety of services across the Scottish Borders. As a Leadership Group, we value the workforce and we will continue to invest and support staff at all levels through training, information sharing and briefing to increase skill levels and knowledge and support delivery of our priorities.

Over the last 3 years, we have developed high quality examples of multi agency training programmes and opportunities in areas such as child protection, Early Years, GIRFEC and children affected by parental substance misuse. We will continue to develop programmes where appropriate to enhance capability and ensure that we have a flexible workforce who can meet changing needs.

As decision makers, we will continue to invest and participate in national training programmes and initiatives such as the Psychology of Parenting programme and the Early Years Collaborative and our multi agency approach will maximise attendance, commitment and learning.

We will develop a joint workforce strategy to include the deployment of resources. We will also ensure our workforce, training, skills and experience support multi-disciplinary and joint working.



INTEGRATED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2015-2018

7. RESOURCING AND COMMISSIONING

We want to ensure that the best possible services are provided for children and young people. We will prioritise resources towards early years and early intervention whenever possible and we commit to working together to develop further opportunities to align our budgets in order to deliver improved outcomes for our children and young people.

To complement our universal services and provide additional support, a range of targeted services for children and young people are commissioned and delivered through statutory and voluntary services. We commit to undertaking a review of all commissioned services across the partnership to ensure that there is a collaborative approach to future commissions and there is a strong focus on delivering new priorities. We will identify the most appropriate models of delivering targeted services which will make best use of statutory, independent and third sector provision. We will also explore alternative and additional sources of funding to commission services.

We will continue to develop partnership models of service delivery to ensure the best use of resources, knowledge and expertise is utilised in meeting the needs of our children and young people.

We will develop a shared set of commissioning standards and guidelines.

INTEGRATED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2015-2018

8. ENSURING DELIVERY OF THE PLAN

The CYPLG will strive to ensure that the needs of children and young people are embedded across the CPP. To this end, the Group will take actions to increase awareness and understanding of young people's needs and raise the profile of services available, so that partners are able to consider these needs in their service planning.

The CYPLG have identified high level outcomes which are set out in this plan. The wider membership of the CYPLG sub groups are committed to working together to ensuring delivery of the priorities and detailed workplans have been created to ensure that improved outcomes for our children and young people are realised. The sub groups will report to the CYPLG at regular intervals on their respective workplans and the CYPLG will monitor progress, recognising and sharing successes and identifying solutions where required.

The CYPLG will utilise a performance and improvement framework to support implementation of the plan, ensuring that the effective use of data drives improvement and that analysis of trends across the performance indicators enables us to identify gaps and take appropriate action. The focus on performance and improvement will be underpinned with the consistent approach towards self evaluation which will be embedded across all Children and Young People's Services to ensure that services are of a high and consistent quality.

Existing strategies and protocols relating to Children and Young People across the partnership will be realigned to ensure they support the vision and priorities of this plan. A plan will be created to prioritise the development of this work. Early work to be progressed will be the Parenting Strategy and Child Rights Strategy.

INTEGRATED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2015-2018

9. FEEDBACK AND CONSULTATION

As partners we recognise the need to put into place more systematic and inclusive engagement and consultation processes with our children, young people and their families across the Scottish Borders. In the development of this plan, CYPLG and relevant services have evidenced the steps taken to consider the views of children, young people, families and staff and how these views have informed future service delivery and the overall approach to planning.

Consultation on the draft plan was launched in November 2015 and this was undertaken in the following ways:

- Wide engagement with the public in a range of venues and contexts across the Scottish Borders
- Meetings with young people
- Engagement with the third sector who work directly with our most vulnerable and disengaged individuals
- online engagement through the SBC website
- Awareness raising with staff across partner agencies
- Attending activity sessions to engage with harder to reach families
- Distributing the consultation document at a wide range of schools events
- Presenting the plan and consultation opportunity at a range of key meetings across partner agencies.

The final version of this plan reflects the results of the consultation period.

APPENDIX 1

GLOSSARY

ADP	Alcohol and Drugs Partnership
A&E	Accident and Emergency
CHS	Children's Hearings Scotland
CLD	Community Learning and Development
COSLA	Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
CPP	Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership's
CRWIA	Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment
CYPLG	Children & Young People's Leadership Group
EEI	Early and Effective Intervention
EQIA	Equality Impact Assessment
GES	Government Economic Strategy
GIRFEC	Getting It Right for Every Child
ICYPP	The Integrated Children & Young People's Plan
LA	Local Authority
LAC	Looked After Children
LGBF	Local Government Benchmarking Framework
MARACs	Multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARACs)
NHS	National Health Service
NRS	National Records of Scotland
PDSA	Plan, Do, Study, Act
PRS	Children's Reporter via pre-referral screening
RAFA	Raising Attainment for All
SBC	Scottish Borders Council
SCQF	Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework
SCRA	Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
SG	Scottish Government
SIMD	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation
WSA	Whole Systems Approach
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

APPENDIX 2

STRATEGIES & PLANS

NATIONAL STRATEGIES & PLANS

16+ Learning Choices: Policy and Practice Framework: supporting all young people into positive and sustained destinations
A Guide to Youth Justice in Scotland: Policy, Practice and Legislation: Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice
A Refreshed Framework for Maternity Care in Scotland (2011)
Achieving Our Potential
Better relationships, better learning, better behaviour
Better Eating Better Learning COSLA / SG 2014
Breaking the link between disadvantage and low achievement in the early years
Building the Ambition: National Practice Guidance on Early Learning and Childcare Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
Changing Lives (Scottish Executive 2006)
Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland - Our Approach 2014 – 2017
Closing the Attainment Gap in Scottish Education – Joseph Roundtree Foundation
Consultation on Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People Strategy (currently out for consultation 2015)
Creating a Tobacco Free Generation (SG 2013)
Curriculum for Excellence
Early Years Framework
The Early Years: Good Health for Every Child (2011)
Early Years Collaborative
Early Years Taskforce Shared Vision and Priorities paper (March 2012)
Equally Well
Extraordinary Lives (SWIA 2006)
Framework for Risk Assessment, Management and Evaluation (FRAME) 2011 and Care and Risk Management appendix to FRAME 2014
Getting it Right for Every Child (Scottish Executive, 2007)
Getting Our Priorities Right (Scottish Executive 2013)
Good Mental Health for All (Health Scotland 2015)
GUS, Growing up in Scotland
Health Inequalities Framework and Action Plan
Health Inequalities Policy Review (2013)
Health Inequalities Policy Review for the Scottish Ministerial Task Force on Health Inequalities: Health Scotland 2013
Looked After Children: we can and must do better (Scottish Executive 2007)
Maternal and Infant Nutrition Framework for Action
More Choices, More Chances
National Action Plan to Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation
National CLD Strategic Guidance
National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014

National Parenting Strategy
 National Youth Work Strategy 2014 – 2019 (Education Scotland)
 Opportunities for All: Supporting all young people to participate in post-16 learning, training or work
 Preventing Offending – Getting it Right for Children and Young People
 Preventing offending by young people: A Framework for action progress 2008-2011 and next steps (from 2008)
 Proposal for the development of guidance to support the GIRFEC provisions in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
 Raising Attainment for All (8 years to 18 years)
 Scotland’s Commissioner for Children and Young People: Poverty, educational attainment and achievement in Scotland: a critical review of the literature
 Setting the Table Health Scotland 2014 (nutritional guidance and food standards in early years)
 The Right of Every Child to Good Health: Health Scotland 2015
 These are Our Bairns (Scottish Government, 2008)

LEGISLATION

Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
 Additional Support for Learning Act 2004
 Children’s Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011
 Children (Scotland) Act 1995
 The ASL Act (2004) (amended 2009) and the Education Scotland (2000) Act
 The Police and Fire Reform Act 2012
 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
 Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013

LOCAL STRATEGIES & PLANS

Alcohol and Drug Strategy 2015–20
 Borders Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) Delivery Plan 2015-2018
 NHS Borders CEL 16 Plan 2014-15 (Health of Looked after Children)
 Children and Young People Business Plan 2015/16 – 2017/18
 Child Protection Business Plan 2014-2015
 Children & Young People’s Strategic Planning and Commissioning
 Children and Young People’s Health Strategy for the Scottish Borders 2013 – 2018
 Children and Young People’s Service Plan 2012-2015 (CYPPP)
 Commissioning Annual Report 2014-2015 (Children and Young People’s Leadership Group)
 Community Learning and Development BUSINESS PLAN 2014/15 – 2016/17
 Community Learning and Development Strategic Plan 2015-2018
 Corporate Parenting Strategy 2014 – 2018
 Early Year Strategy 2012-2015
 Economic Strategy 2013-2023
 Employment Support Strategy
 Framework for Positive Destinations
 Scottish Borders GIRFEC Implementation Plan (PIEG)
 Involved: The Participation of Children & Young People in the Scottish Borders 2012–2015
 Homelessness Services Delivery Plan 2012-2016
 Maternity Frameworks Action Plan

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Annual Report 2014/15
Physical Activity, Sport and Physical Education Strategy
Scottish Borders Parenting Strategy
Reducing Inequalities Strategy Draft 2015-2018
Senior Phase Strategy 2015
Tackling Poverty and Achieving Social Justice Strategy 2013-2018
Young Carers Strategy 2015-2018
Scottish Borders Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2014
Tobacco Control Action Plan 2015 (in draft)

PROCEDURES

Scottish Borders Child Protection Procedures
Information Sharing Guidance 2015
Parenting Framework (currently recommended Core of Programmes)
Supporting Children and Young People at Risk of Self Harm and Suicide-Scottish Borders Good Practice Guidance
NHS Borders Unseen Child Policy 2015



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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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Printed in the Scottish Borders. Designed by Scottish Borders Council Graphic Design Section. KG/01/16.



Draft Integrated Children and Young People's Plan in the Scottish Borders 2015-2018

**Analysis of Responses from the Consultation
January 2016**

Children and Young Persons Leadership Group

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GENERAL SUMMARY

Consultation Events

For some events, a new approach was taken and there was a joint consultation with Health and Social Care. Instead of arranging specific consultation events, venues were chosen which people already attended ie supermarkets, libraries and the travel interchange. This delivered some success in some venues whilst some had low attendance.

167 responses were gathered from those people who attended events in the following areas:

Galashiels	95
Peebles	30
Hawick	28
Early Years, Burnfoot	9
Duns	4

A mixture of age groups completed questionnaires at these events.

Online Responses

There have been 11 online responses received to date. There is no way to analyse the geographical spread of these responses, as there was no way to record the respondents' location or any personal information. Some of those who took time to complete the online response specifically mentioned that they felt that the questionnaire was lacking in a place to insert any detailed responses for each question and there was nowhere to include the names of the respondents (and the organisations they work with).

There were also a number of responses received in hard-copy format.

Session with Young People

A session was held with a pupil parliament at a High School, 39 young people attended this and a summary of their views and comments is found within the document. The Pupil representatives on the Educations Executive were also asked for their views and these have been included in this summary.

Meeting Presentations

The plan was presented at a number of meetings including the Area Forums, attendees were directed to the online questionnaires. The plan was also presented at a number of other meetings within SBC and NHS Borders.

Parent Council Chairs were given an overview of the plan at 8th December 2015 and the resulting discussions have been captured within the plan.

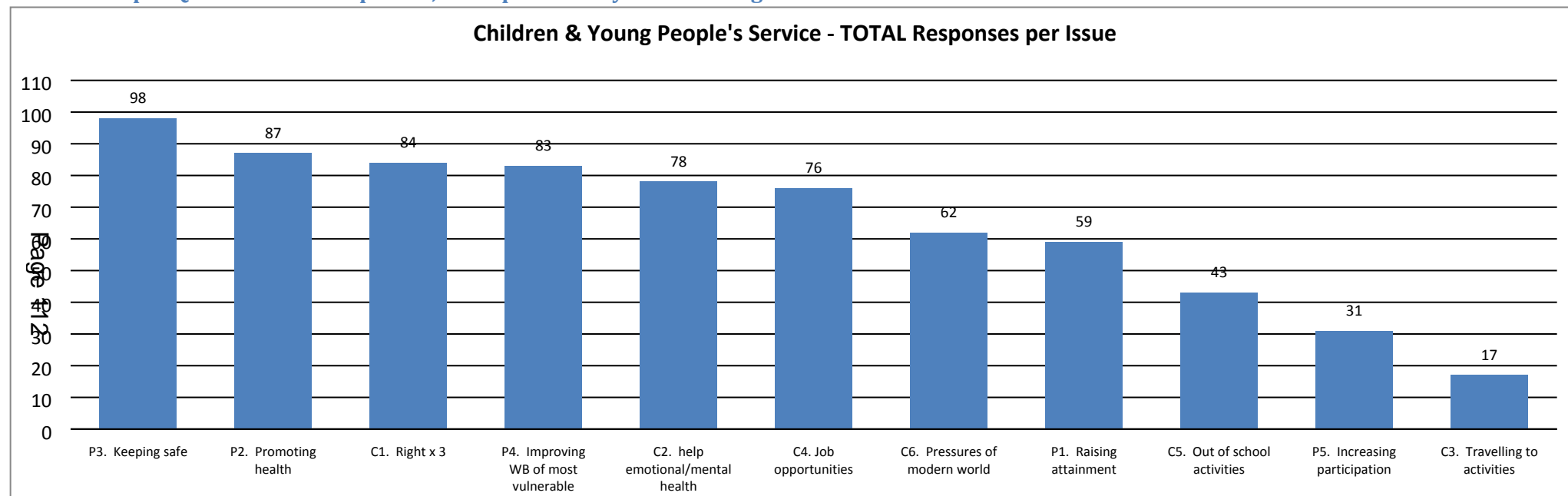
A number of responses were received on behalf of organisations such as NHS Borders, Borders Voluntary Care Voice, Interest Link Borders, Youth Borders and Community Learning & Development and these are detailed within the comments.

CONSULTATION EVENTS

Total Responses

Each respondent was asked to rate their top 3 priorities and top 3 challenges from a set list of 5 priorities and 6 challenges. The following graph shows the total of all respondents' choices, listed in order of ranking:

Chart 1 - Paper Questionnaire responses, Total per Priority and Challenge



Priority 3 (“Keeping children and young people safe”) was by far the most chosen issue (13% of the total results).

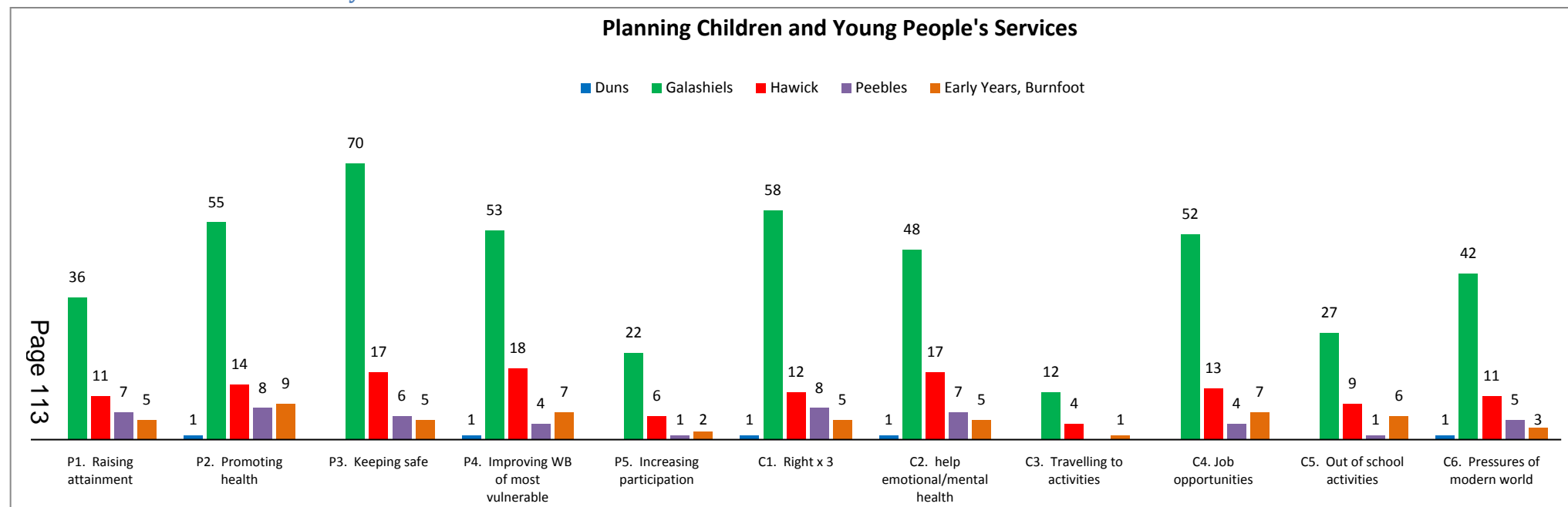
Priority 2 (“Promoting the health and well-being of all children and young people and reducing health inequalities”) and Challenge 1 (Getting the right help in the right place at the right time) both received around 11% of the total responses.

Challenge 3 (“Travelling around the Borders to take part in activities”) is the issue with the lowest ranking.

Total Responses by Geographical Area

The questionnaires were handed out to people who attended events in various locations throughout the Scottish Borders. The graph below shows the ranking of each priority and challenge and this has been broken down further to show which event the respondent attended: Duns, Galashiels, Hawick, Peebles and Early Years, Burnfoot.

Chart 2 – Breakdown of results by Event Areas

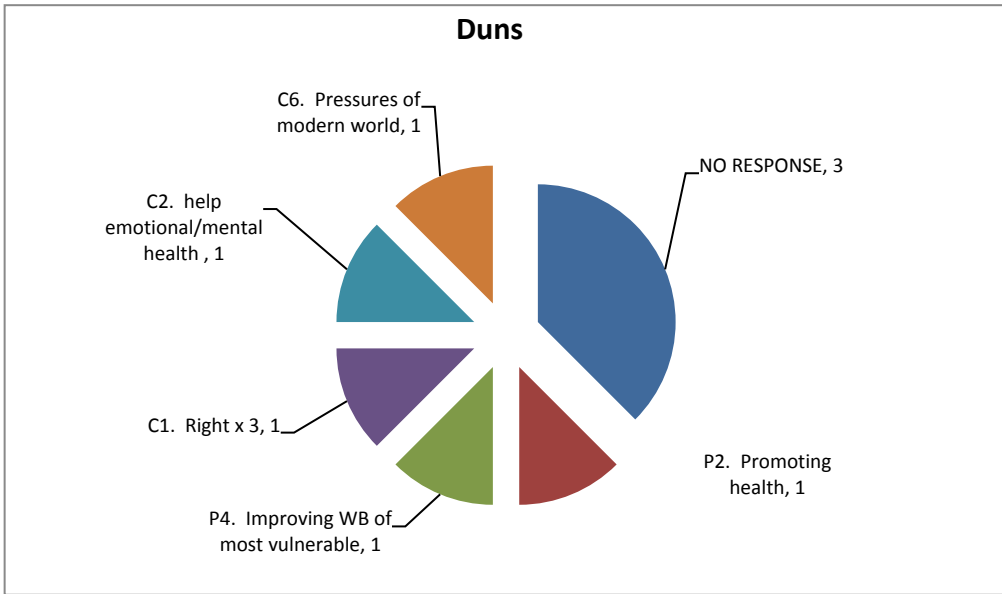


The Galashiels event was by far the most responded to event (95 questionnaires received back). It should be noted that the Transport Interchange was used as the venue and so responses may have been collected from people living in a variety of locations across the Borders and potentially outwith.

The Duns event resulted in only 1 person returning a questionnaire completed for the C&YP Services (3 others completed questionnaires but only completed the IH&SC questions). This 1 person chose only 2 priorities and 3 challenges (instead of choosing the top 3 of each).

The pie charts on the following pages show the same information as the graph above, but they focus on one area at a time.

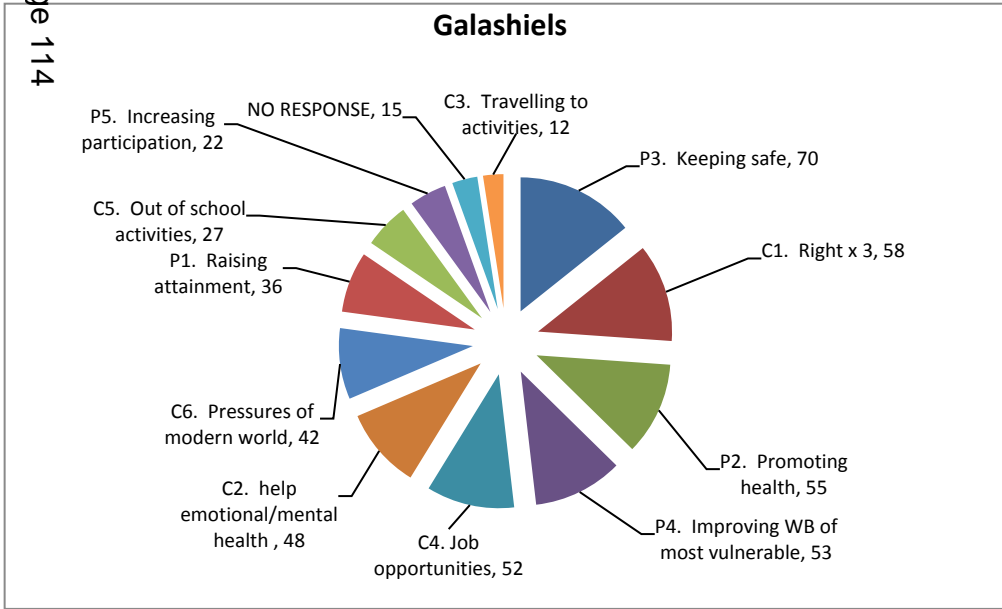
Chart 3 – Duns main Priorities and Challenges



Duns
 These results show the response of 1 individual who attended the Duns event. All 5 of the priorities and challenges that were selected by this person have been included within the results.

Interestingly, the priority which received most votes in the Scottish Borders as a whole, P3 “*Keeping children and young people safe*”, has not been included at all in this response from Duns.

Chart 4 – Galashiels main Priorities and Challenges



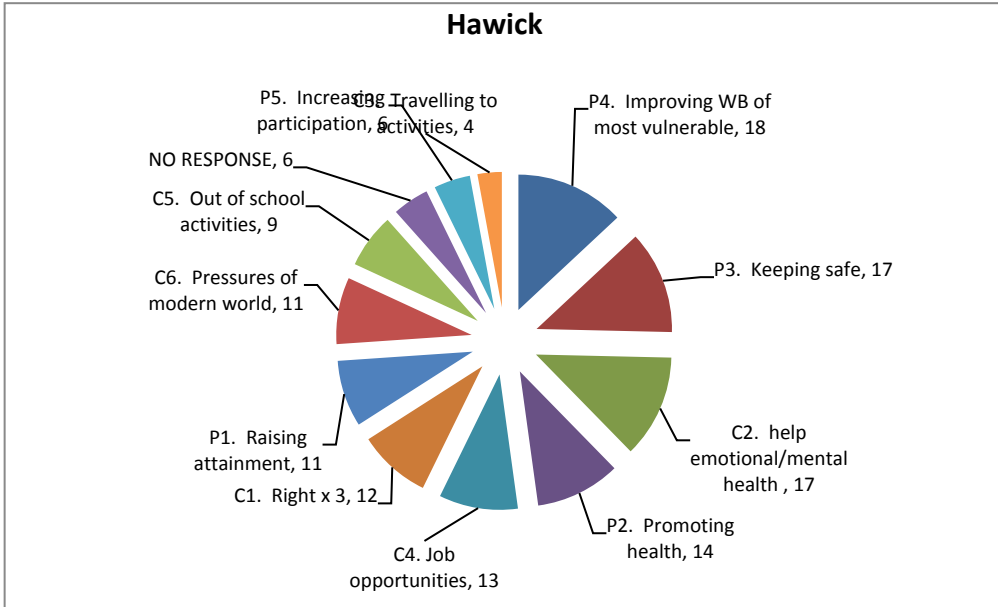
Galashiels
 The most important issue to those attending the Galashiels event is P3 “*keeping children and young people safe*”.

C3 “*Travelling around the Borders to take part in activities*” is the least voted for challenge, but it still received 2.5% of the votes.

Every single priority or challenge was chosen by these respondents.

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Chart 5 – Hawick main Priorities and Challenges



Hawick

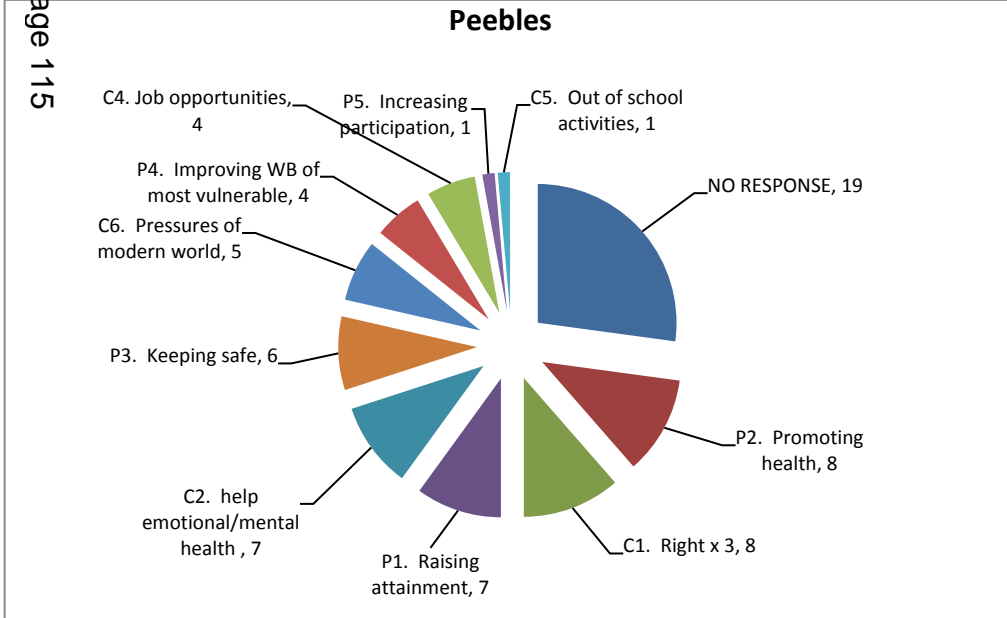
The top 3 issues to those attending the Hawick event were:

- P4 “Improving the well-being and life chances for our most vulnerable children and young people”
- P3 “keeping children and young people safe”
- C2 “getting help with emotional or mental health issues”

These amounted to 40% of all responses

As per the Galashiels results, every single priority and challenge were selected in the responses from Hawick

Chart 6 – Peebles main Priorities and Challenges



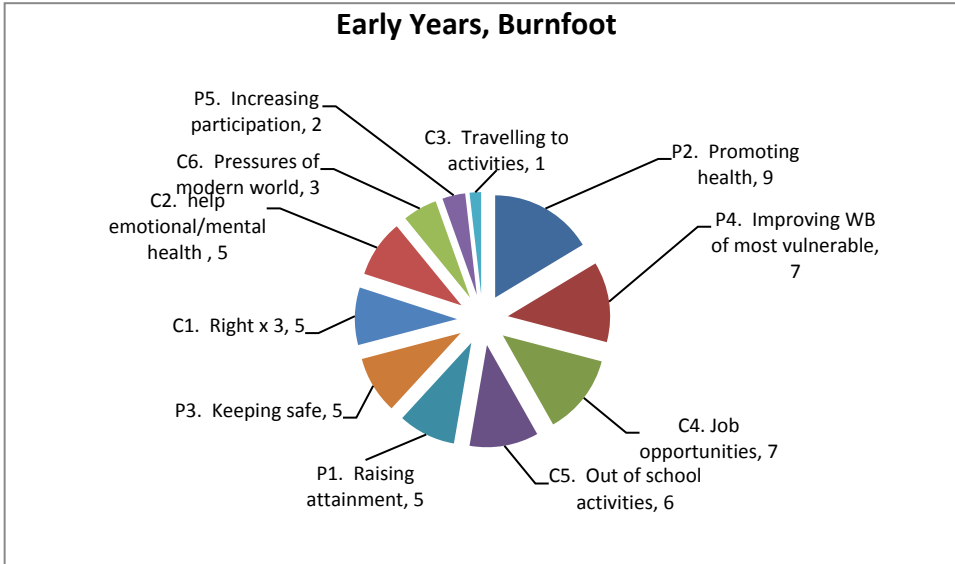
Peebles

P2 “Promoting the health & well-being of all children & young people and reducing health inequalities” and C1 “getting the right help in the right place at the right time” were the joint first issues in Peebles.

These 2 issues combined were 1/3 of all responses

C3 “Travelling around the Borders to take part in activities” was not chosen at all in the responses.

Chart 7 – Early Years, Burnfoot main Priorities and Challenges



Early Years, Burnfoot

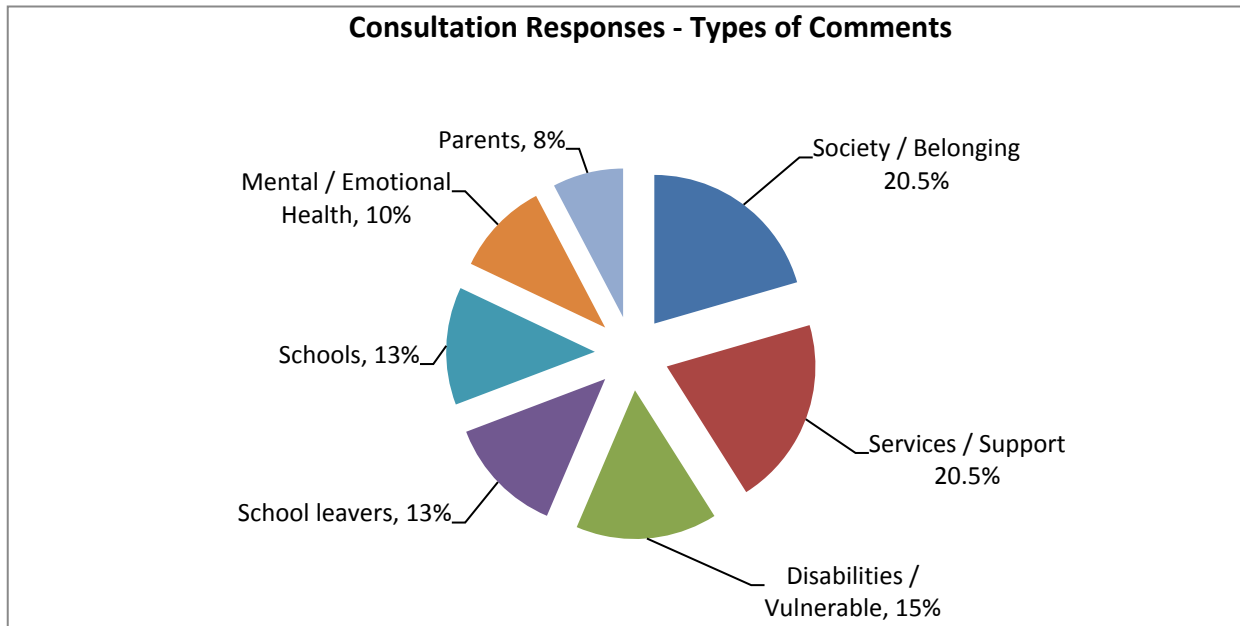
This Early Years event responded with C4 “range of job and training opportunities in the local area” as one of their top 3 issues ...interesting considering this is an issue more closely related to older children.

The top issue was P2 “Promoting the health & well-being of all children & young people and reducing health inequalities” which received 16% of the total votes.

All priorities and challenges were chosen with C3 “Travelling around the Borders to take part in activities” having the least number of votes (2%).

Chart 8 – Types of Comments from Event Attendees

Page 116



Please refer to Appendix 1 for the full listing of comments

ONLINE RESPONSES

Total Responses

82% of responses are in agreement with the aims and outcomes set out in the plan, and 73% believe we have the right priorities. However, only 45% believe the plan is easy to understand and is clear around what it hopes to achieve for children and young people.

Chart 9 – Online Responses to Yes/No questions

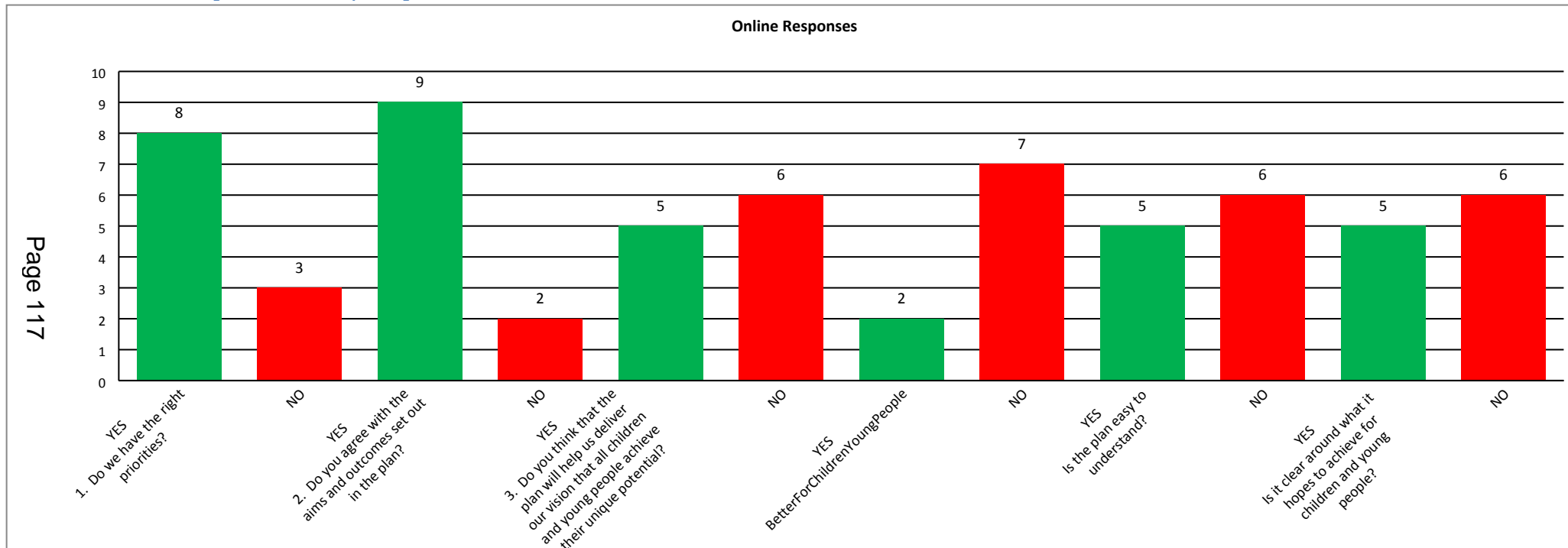
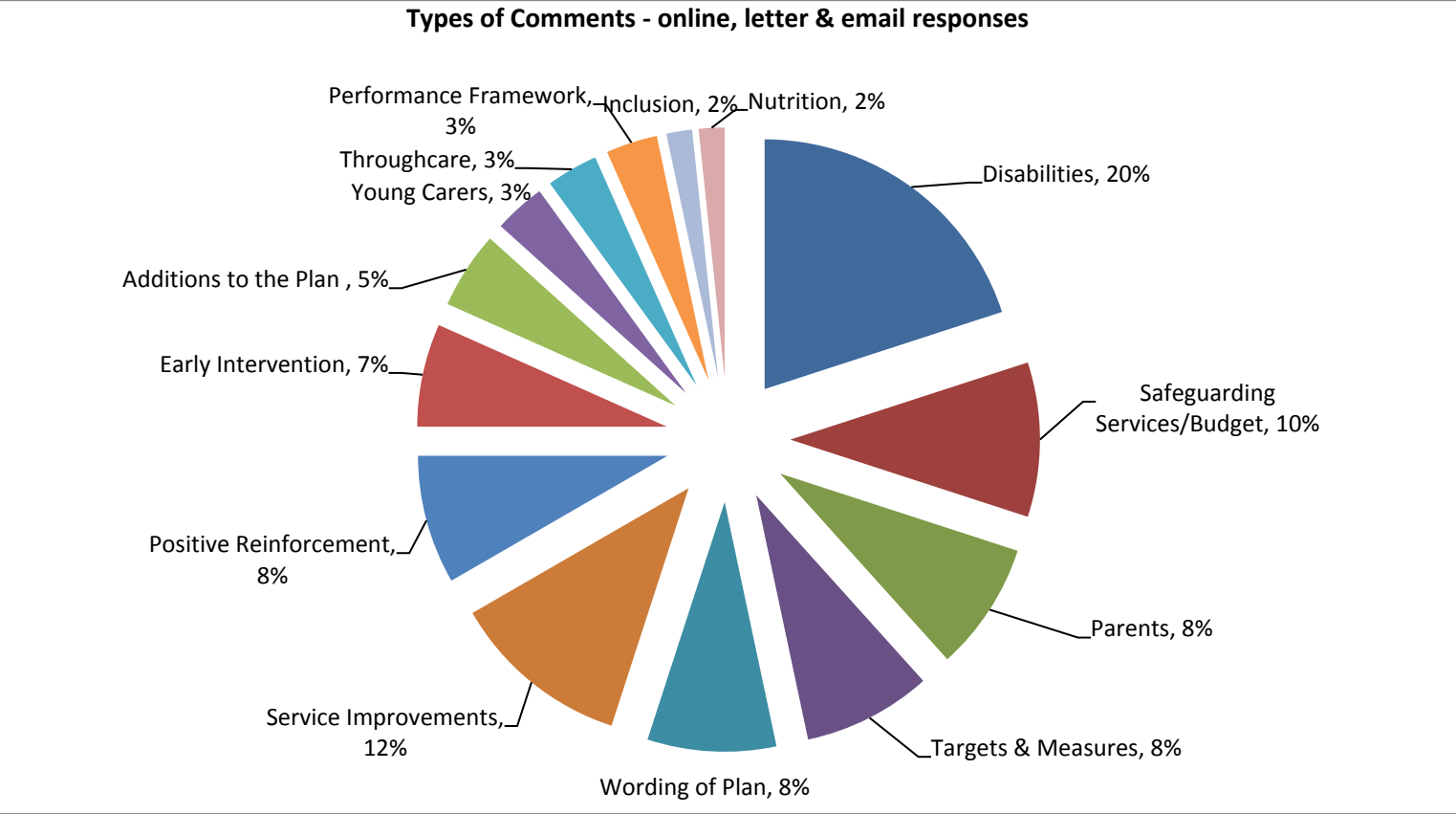


Chart 10 – Types of Comments from online, letter & email responses

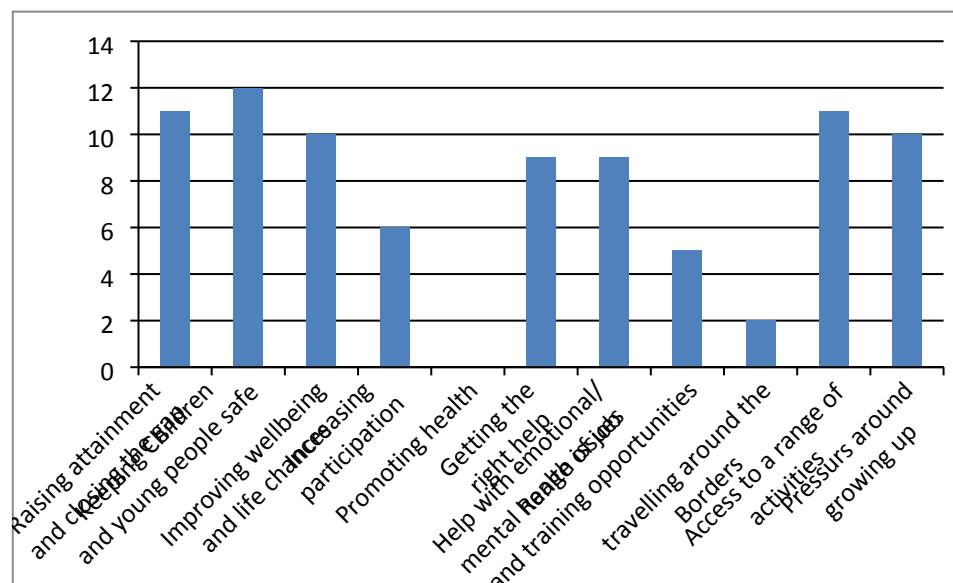


Please refer to Appendix 2 for the full listing of comments

SESSION WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

A session was held with the members of the pupil parliament at one High School. A total of 39 young people took part and the chart below shows the priorities and issues which were considered most important.

Chart 11 – Top Priorities and Issues



The most commonly selected priority for young people is “keeping children and young people safe” which is consistent with the views of the wider group. Interesting no young people considered “promoting health and wellbeing” within their top 3 priorities which is very different from the wider group. Perhaps unsurprisingly as this was a school group, raising attainment and achievement was also seen as important.

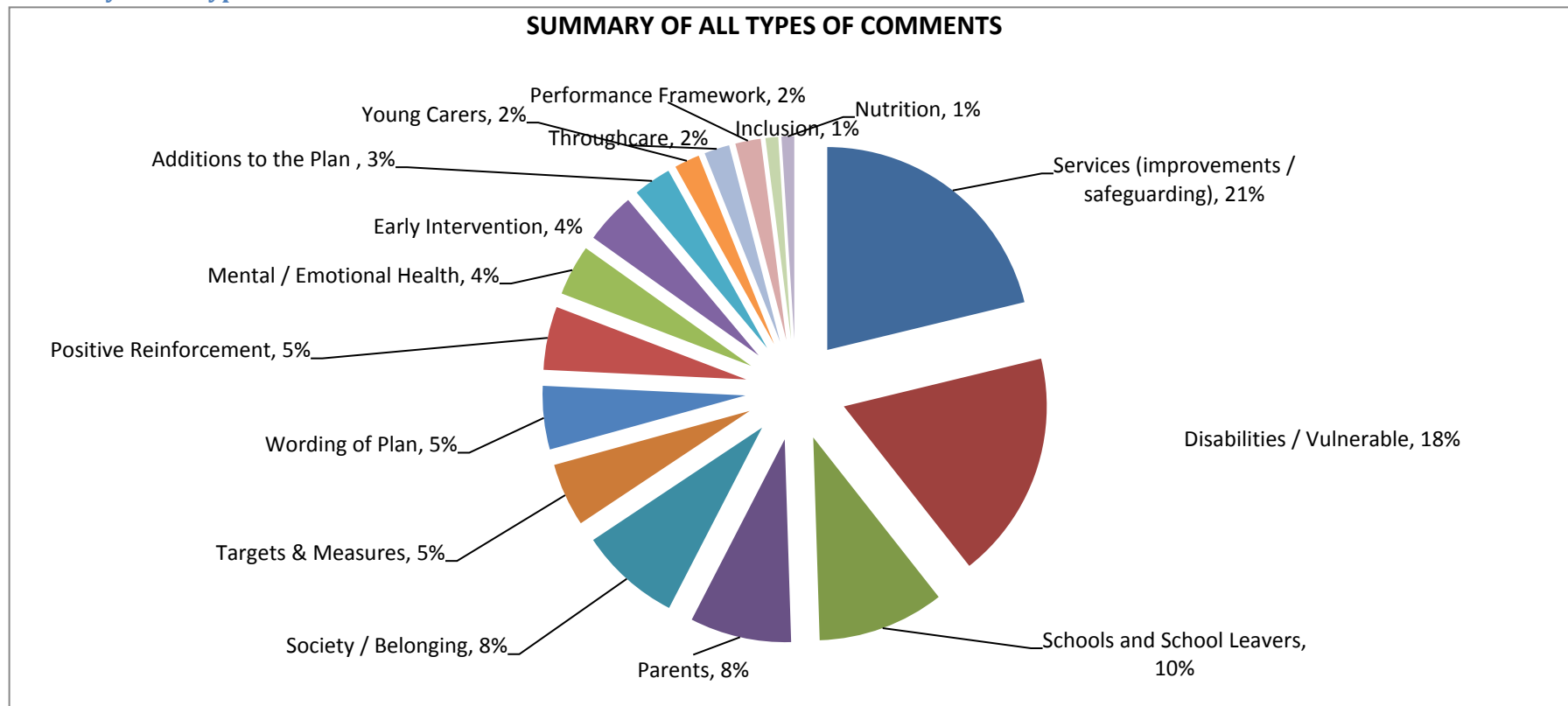
The draft plan was also shared with the pupil representatives who sit on the Education Executive and some completed the online survey. Comments were also submitted via e-mail and a summary of these along with the comments from the session with the pupil parliament is found in appendix 3.

SUMMARY

There is a definite trend of belief that we have the right priorities and there is strong agreement with the aims and outcomes set out in the plan. However, the plan is failing to make clear what it hopes to achieve for children and young people and almost half the respondents found the plan difficult to understand due to wording and the use of 'jargon'.

There were 13 comments received (out of a total of 99) about specific additions that could be incorporated into the plan, how the plan is worded and about the current targets and measures.

Chart 12 - Summary of All Types of Comments



The main area of concern (21% of the total comments) relates to the current levels of service provision and support. There was a real sense of concern about safeguarding the services and also requests for improvements to existing services and support.

Those with disabilities or vulnerabilities were also highly discussed within the comments received (18%). Specifically the lack of inclusion and consideration within the report seemed to be one of the key issues. The lack of support and improvements to services for these individuals was also highlighted.

Comments received about Schools were focussing on the requirement for better facilities, wider subject range and supporting different learning techniques. Those comments relating to School Leavers included requests for more investment in apprenticeships and increased employment training.

8 separate comments mentioned Parents and focussed on improving communications with parents, better support & easier access to resources for them, and also increasing recognition of their contribution.

Focus on providing the young people with a sense of belonging to, and being valued by, society was the theme of 8% of the comments. Greater education of life/social skills and encouraging them to aim higher despite their current social/economic situation were key points raised. One comment was about helping young people to feel valued by society despite exam results.

5 comments were very positive about specific service provisions and the Plan as a whole.

APPENDIX 1

Consultation Comments

The following is a summary of the key messages from the paper questionnaire responses:

1. There were 8 separate comments relating to **young people having a sense of belonging and being a part of a society**. The most detailed of which are:
 - Help YP find work, encourage fitness & healthy lifestyle, raise attainment, obtain more life experience
 - Young people must feel valued by our society, even if they cannot achieve good exam results or employment, just as themselves.
 - Give advice on how to read different social situations
 - Young people need an incentive a goal to make them feel they have achieved something. Group events work when they can see a goal ie SPORT.
 - They must feel a part of society with job training this would work
 - The very young - sadly support, education etc is not available for too many at home therefore children become caught up in just accepting this as a way of life, leading to at least a further generation continuing this pattern, and on it goes.
 - More education on social skills
 - Keep them motivated and concentrated on the real world and how things are run these days..

2. There were 8 separate comments relating to improvements in **Services and Support**.
 - Access equally for all young people to services
 - Narrowing gap between different classes. Everyone should have same opportunity
 - I personally have experience of trouble with my daughter which I think could have been picked up sooner with professional (ie Teachers & social worker and or maybe the police) when she was at school
 - Get extra support in schools
 - more safe homes for homeless youngsters
 - Hawick we need more for young children to keep them off the streets and out of trouble
 - making more opportunities for children after school. More help with going to afterschool clubs etc
 - Support in schools

3. The **lack of provisions relating to vulnerable and disabled young people** was commented on by 5 respondents:
 - Recognise that some children have life limiting conditions and will die before they reach school leaving age. Many of them will need intensive care both at home and in hospital. Some will appear well for a number of years but will deteriorate both mentally and physically. Not ALL children will raise attainment and achievement. Not ALL young people will be able to sit exams, or have the offer of a job, training or further education. Good palliative care is needed for these children and their families in all aspects of their life
 - Keeping children safe.
 - PROPER support for pupils with special needs.
 - Work opportunities for people with disabilities
 - Improving services for the most vulnerable people in society

4. Issues relating to the provisions in place for **School Leavers** included the following:
- increase in employment training
 - investment in apprenticeships
 - Schools should also aid in helping to get everyone into tertiary education
 - Teach them a good trade so they have a great future ahead. Then they will feel better about themselves.
 - not abandon children when they finish school - improve transitions.
5. Issues raised relating to **Schools** were as follows:
- Make sure teachers do their best to adapt to children & young people's different learning techniques
 - Schools, Community centres
 - Widen the range of subjects available. This would greatly improve the chance of children finding something that they can achieve in
 - School building fit for purpose.
 - PROPER staffing in our schools among teachers (ie no shared heads and end "facility" system)
6. Comments related to **Mental & Emotional Health** issues were:
- Emotional attainment,
 - I think that there should be an emphasis on mental health within both primary & secondary schools.
 - Mental health, drug & alcohol abuse, more support,
 - Help in schools at 5yr and not to feel stupid
7. **Support for Parents** received 3 separate comments:
- Supporting the parents as well as the children is just as important.
 - Parent who choose to stop or reduce their paid employment to look after their own young children should receive the same financial assistance (in recognition of the value of what they are doing) as other parents receive for child care
 - More support for parents (from early stage)

APPENDIX 2

Online Comments

The following is a summary of the key messages from the online respondents' comments:

1. There were 12 separate comments relating to **the lack of provisions within the report relating to vulnerable and disabled young people**. The most detailed of which are:
 - in Section 5, although YP with disabilities are mentioned in Priority 4 there are no High Level Actions that relate to them.
 - I would like the plan to build in and PROTECT services to support the vulnerable. I fear that support staff and services are easier to slice away at without the public noticing
 - It is telling that in the Achievements section there is no mention of YP with disabilities
 - There are no images of children with ASNs
 - Transitions appear to relate only to children in mainstream. Rather than "GIRFEC" it feels like "GIRFANC" - getting it right for all normal children.
 - Reducing or removing support for vulnerable and needy young people will reduce progress in priority 1, 2, 4 and 5
 - Early intervention and forward planning for children with additional support needs and greater partnership working with parents of children with additional support needs.
2. There is a consistent message about **budget concerns and a strong desire for support staff and services to be safeguarded**:
 - I think that P4 is VITAL and must be rigorously protected. During times of cuts and efficiency changes it is always the most vulnerable who suffer
 - I would like the plan to build in and PROTECT services to support the vulnerable. I fear that support staff and services are easier to slice away at without the public noticing
 - Be open: you can't afford it. How are you going to fund all of this, in the prevailing financial climate?
 - I passionately want support staff and services for young people to be safeguarded.
 - The plan is admirable and I agree wholeheartedly with its aims but it will not achieve its goals without adequate funding and resourcing
 - Reducing or removing support for vulnerable and needy young people will reduce progress in priority 1, 2, 4 and 5
3. **Increased support for parents** was raised in 5 separate comments:
 - Greater partnership working with parents of children with additional support needs.
 - Increase recognition of contribution of parents/carers. Focus on improving parental involvement to "close the gap"
 - Targeted Support for Parents
 - Include parents so they know all resources available to them
 - P.21 We could add a statement such as: "we will work with parents/carers to support their role in preparing children for their adult working life using intelligence led and evidence based approaches to "close the gap" in attainment achievement"
4. Concerns around the **Targets agreed and the measures being utilised** were mentioned in the following comments:
 - You can't deliver perfection. No-one can. Be modest - "as many as possible" instead of "all"
 - I don't think your plan is a plan! The vision and outcomes are well explained. The actions to achieve them are vague and have no specific measures for them and no timescales (other than the overarching 3 years)
 - Without more detail around how much and by when the people of the Borders won't be able to see how much progress has been made. Good intent - but woolly, vague and easy to say "We achieved it" whether or not you have made a significant difference.
 - It is difficult to comment on the aims and outcomes, as there is not enough information about how they are to be achieved.
 - Your first priority is a merge of two - raising attainment for all AND closing the gap. You need to be honest - which is your highest priority

5. The **wording within the plan** has been raised by several respondents:
- The plan is not easy to understand - use of jargon and terminology e.g. "Golden Thread". We would like to see an easy ready version of the plan and some case studies of both able bodied and disabled children.
 - Reduce jargon - plan only understandable by those already working with C&YP.
 - Make different versions of plan available to support diversity & multiple languages
 - Bullet point 4 of the High Level Actions for Priority 5 is unclear
 - I thought I should point out that Bullet point 4 of the High Level Actions for Priority 5 is worded unclearly. It currently reads: "Increase the number of opportunities for vulnerable children and young people volunteering, working with the third sector to increase the informal and out of school learning of young people." Is the intention to increase volunteering opportunities only for vulnerable children and young people, or to increase opportunities for all children and young people to volunteer in services that help vulnerable children and young people? Or is it supposed to be two separate phrases? If the first, it should perhaps read: "Work with the third sector to increase volunteering opportunities for vulnerable children and young people, so increasing their informal and out of school learning". If the second: "Work with the third sector to increase opportunities for children and young people to volunteer in services for vulnerable children and young people, so increasing their informal and out of school learning". If the third: "Work with the third sector to increase volunteering opportunities for all children and young people (including those who are vulnerable), so increasing their informal and out of school learning". Interest Link recruits 50 children and young people from schools each year, specifically to be peer mentors to children and young people with learning disabilities. Some of the children and young people with learning disabilities go on to become peer mentors. As such, I am sure you will appreciate that clarity on the matter is important to us
6. The following **service improvements** have been suggested by respondents:
- I believe that there needs to be a clear focus on how schools are performing, and how they support the aspiration to improve attainment levels for all children.
 - I believe that many young people suffering from mental health issues are currently not receiving the help they require
 - A response from the Parent Council Chairs also contained concern about the provision of support for mental health issues
 - Strategies need to be interlinked more meaningfully - eg autism strategy, inclusion strategy.
 - Priority 1 - Do not separate the lowest & highest achievers into different groups/projects. Positive effects come from mixing. Personally I would like to see this form of youth work (mixed ability groups) encouraged through the plan.
 - On page 31 the Plan talks of gaining feedback from the wider community and using the SBC Communications team to assist with this goal. I would also like to suggest that the young people of VOMO TV (www.vomo.tv) and Wired on Radio Borders (www.facebook.com/wiredonradioborders), two successful youth media projects based within SBC, are offered opportunities to assist. VOMO TV and Wired broadcast to thousands of younger and older people across the Scottish Borders every week. The two youth media projects could play a key role in supporting the aims of the Plan and I would encourage further discussion to explore the possibilities.
 - Increasing the use of social media to improve communications was suggested by the Parent Council Chairs
7. 5 responses provided **Positive Reinforcement** about the current services and the current content of the plan:
- Many SBC projects as well as third sector organisations offer a safe and trusting environment outside of school life. Disclosures are often made in these places presenting opportunities for specialist youth professionals to work with these more generic youth projects to nurture and heal from inside familiar and trusted spaces.
 - I would hope that the Leadership Group will visit many of the SBC youth projects and third sector organisations for feedback. I'm certain many of the young people involved with these groups would like to talk about their experiences and how their involvement is supporting them towards a positive destination.
 - NPS will be welcome support to youth workers looking to contribute to a more co-ordinated support plan for each young person
 - Priority 4 - Me and my youth work colleagues welcome the rolling out of the Named Person Service. Supporting incredibly vulnerable young people, caught between children and adult services, has been an unacceptable challenge for years. We will now have the opportunity to forward the disclosures and concerns surrounding vulnerable 16 to 18 year olds to a key person which is extremely encouraging.

- Priority 5 - I was encouraged to see that the value of informal learning opportunities was recognised in the Plan. SBC projects and the third sector often engage young people in ways where formal education cannot reach. An increase in partnership work between formal education providers and those offering more informal and often vocational forms of learning is welcome. Often projects like the ones I work on enable young people to realise that they can learn and have something to offer. This often helps those who have disengaged with their school and community connect again and feel valued.

8. **Early Intervention** was raised in 4 separate comments

9. The following **improvements to the plan** have been suggested by respondents:

- it would be helpful if the National Youth Work Strategy could be added to the list of national strategies and plans
- Also if the following bullet point could be added to the Strategic Outcomes and High Level Actions – “Priority 1 – raising attainment and achievement for all and closing the gap between the lowest and highest achievers” Page 22 on the plan)
 - To contribute to closing the attainment gap by strengthening and increasing the range of youth work opportunities across the region through enhanced partnership approaches, ensuring the most vulnerable young people can access services as and when is suitable to them in order
- We would be grateful if the following bullet point could be added to the Achievements section “Improved attainment and achievement for all children and young people” (Page 15 on the plan)
 - There is now a robust locality-based third sector youth work infrastructure – developed through a partnership between the third sector, statutory organisations including Scottish Borders Council and national funders e.g., Rank Foundation and Robertson Trust. As a result young people are now able to access a wider range of local based youth work services

10. **Young Carers** was raised in 2 separate responses

11. **Throughcare** was raised in 2 separate responses

12. The **Performance Framework** was mentioned in the following comments:

- Q3 - Need to see how the performance framework will support this
- It would also be helpful if a simple and easy to understand method to offer feedback to the Performance Framework could be introduced; one accessible to all children and young people's groups (often not well-versed in strategic speak). This could help support the planning of future services from a wider breadth of youth work providers.

13. **Inclusion** was raised by one respondent:

- Inclusion is the most pressing area to aides - get this right and everything else should fall into place!

14. **Nutrition Education** was raised by one respondent.

APPENDIX 3

Summary of Comments from Session with Pupil Parliament at a High School and Education Executive pupil representatives

The following highlights the key themes from this group of young people.

Keeping People Safe

- There were suggestions for improving security within the school
- It was highlighted that young people can feel unsafe within the larger towns in the Borders
- There were some concerns relating to road safety and levels of flooding.

Improving the well-being and life chances for our most vulnerable children and young people

- The group felt that teachers could be more supportive at times.
- Provide families, children and young people with more information on the range of services and how to access them

Getting the right help in the right place at the right time

- There is a sense that teachers should be more available at key times and in places that are accessible eg canteen
- It is welcomed that Locality Police Officer more available

Travelling around the Borders to take part in activities

- The majority feel they will have to leave the Borders to take up employment and training opportunities
- The train is not useful for people living in Kelso

Access to a range of activities outside of school

- The local Youth Group, the age group is too young and this deters young people attending it
- More sports activities (boxing and Zumba)
-

Pressures around growing up in the modern world (eg social media, peer pressure, expectations etc)

- Cyberbullying is a concern
- Parents need to know how to use new technology - compulsory sessions for parents during parent's nights, stall at supermarkets on how to use apps
- Need more life skills lessons. Information about Money, banks, rent, tax, general bills and national insurance

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