

# Public Document Pack



## COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD

THURSDAY, 10TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

**Date:** 10 September 2020

**Time:** 2.00 p.m.

**Location:** Online via MS Teams – the Chairman has directed that this meeting will be conducted in accordance with Section 43 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 and will be accessed remotely by all attendees. The meeting will be live streamed to the public and a link will be on the Council's website.

| <b>BUSINESS</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1.              | <b>Apologies for Absence.</b>                                                                                                                                                                 |                                   |
| 2.              | <b>Minute</b> (Pages 5 - 12)<br>(a) Consider Minute of previous meeting of the Community Planning Strategic Board held on 12 September 2019. (Attached)<br><br>(b) Action Tracker. (Attached) | All                               |
| 3.              | <b>South of Scotland Enterprise and Regional Economic Partnership</b><br>(Pages 13 - 20)<br>Briefing on the impact of the Community Planning Partnership. (Report attached)                   | Russel Griggs/ Rob Dickson        |
| 4.              | <b>Community Plan - Performance Update</b> (Pages 21 - 26)<br>(a) Performance Update. (Report attached)<br><br>(b) Presentation by each Theme Lead.                                           | Shona Smith/<br>Alasdair Collison |
| 5.              | <b>Locality Plans</b><br>Consider the Locality and Action Plans for approval for:                                                                                                             | Jenni Craig/<br>Shona Smith       |
|                 | (a) <b>Berwickshire</b> (Pages 27 - 54)<br>(Locality and Action Plans attached)                                                                                                               |                                   |
|                 | (b) <b>Cheviot</b> (Pages 55 - 76)<br>(Locality and Action Plans attached)                                                                                                                    |                                   |
|                 | (c) <b>Eildon</b> (Pages 77 - 106)<br>(Locality and Action Plans attached)                                                                                                                    |                                   |
|                 | (d) <b>Teviot &amp; Liddesdale</b> (Pages 107 - 136)<br>(Locality and Action Plans attached)                                                                                                  |                                   |

|     |                                                                                                                                                                        |                |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
|     | (e) <b>Tweeddale</b> (Pages 137 - 172)<br>(Locality and Action Plans attached)                                                                                         |                |
| 6.  | <b>Local Child Poverty Action Plan - 2019/20 Annual Progress Report</b><br>(Pages 173 - 256)<br>Consider progress report for 2019/20. (Report and appendices attached) | Jenni Craig    |
| 7.  | <b>Best Value Audit Report</b> (Pages 257 - 324)<br>Consider Action Plan items relevant to Community Planning Partnership.<br>(Report and appendices attached)         | Jenni Craig    |
| 8.  | <b>Covid19 Response</b><br>Presentation on response by Community Planning Partnership to date,<br>including preparedness and key priorities.                           | Rob<br>Dickson |
| 9.  | <b>Matters for Update/Noting</b>                                                                                                                                       |                |
|     | (a) <b>Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Strategy</b> (Pages 325 - 366)<br>(Report attached)                                                                               |                |
|     | (b) <b>Whole Systems Pilot - Eyemouth</b> (Pages 367 - 370)<br>(Briefing Note attached)                                                                                |                |
|     | (c) <b>Review of Area Partnerships</b> (Pages 371 - 386)<br>(Report to SBC 27 August 2020 attached)                                                                    |                |
| 10. | <b>Dates of Future Meetings (all at 2pm)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19 November 2020</li> <li>• 4 March 2021</li> <li>• 10 June 2021</li> </ul>      |                |
| 11. | <b>Any Other Business</b>                                                                                                                                              |                |

**NOTE**

**Members are reminded that should they have a Declaration of Interest to make on an item of business, they should do so at the appropriate time.**

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**Members of the Strategic Board:**

| <b>Name</b>                     | <b>Organisation</b>                               |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Councillor Mark Rowley* (Chair) | Scottish Borders Council                          |
| Ms Elaine Acaster               | Borders College                                   |
| Councillor Sandy Aitchison*     | Scottish Borders Council                          |
| Councillor Stuart Bell*         | Scottish Borders Council                          |
| Mr Malcolm Dickson              | NHS Borders                                       |
| LSO Stephen Gourlay             | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service                  |
| Professor Russel Griggs         | South of Scotland Enterprise                      |
| Councillor Carol Hamilton*      | Scottish Borders Council                          |
| Ms Karen Hamilton               | NHS Borders                                       |
| Mrs Marjorie Hume               | Third Sector representative                       |
| Superintendent Angus MacInnes   | Police Scotland                                   |
| Councillor George Turnbull*     | Scottish Borders Council                          |
| Mr Simon Mountford              | Registered Social Landlords representative (SBHA) |

\* any 3 from the 5 named SBC Councillors

**Copies also sent for information:**

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| <b>Name</b>             | <b>Organisation</b>                      |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Mr David Alexander      | Eildon Housing                           |
| Mr Jamie McDougall      | Scottish Government                      |
| Lin Bunten              | Scottish Environment Protection Agency   |
| Mr Niall Corbet         | Scottish Natural Heritage                |
| Councillor Gordon Edgar | SESTRAN                                  |
| Mr David Gordon         | Waverley Housing                         |
| Ms Andrea Hall          | Skills Development Scotland              |
| Mr Colin McGrath        | Community Council Network representative |
| Mr Bill White           | Live Borders                             |

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Please direct any enquiries to Jenny Wilkinson, Clerk to Council  
Tel: 01835 825004 Email: [jjwilkinson@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:jjwilkinson@scotborders.gov.uk)

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**SCOTTISH BORDERS  
COMMUNITY PLANNING  
STRATEGIC BOARD**

**MEETING**

**Date:** 12 September 2019 from 2.00 to 4:30 p.m.

**Location:** Council Chamber, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells

**Attendees:** Councillor Mark Rowley (SBC) [Chair], Councillor Stuart Bell (SBC), Ms Angela Cox (Borders College), Mr Malcolm Dickson (NHS Borders), Mr Stephen Gourlay (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service), Councillor Carol Hamilton (SBC), Mrs Marjorie Hume (Third Sector), Inspector Jacqi McGuigan (Police Scotland), Councillor Simon Mountford (RSLs representative), Mr David Rennie (Scottish Enterprise).

**Also in attendance:** Colin Banks, Jenni Craig, Cameron Frater, Clare Malster, Stuart Easingwood, Jenny Wilkinson (all SBC); Tim Patterson (NHS/SBC); Nile Istephan (Eildon Housing).

**MINUTE AND ACTION POINTS**

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Councillor S. Aitchison (SBC), Ms Karen Hamilton (NHS Borders), Mr Tony Jakimciw (Borders College), Superintendent Angus McInnes (Police Scotland), and Ms Elaine Morrison (Scottish Enterprise).

2. **MINUTE**

Copies of the Minute of Meeting of 13 June 2019 had been circulated.

**AGREED to approve the Minute.**

3. **ACTION TRACKER**

It was noted that all outstanding items on the Action Tracker were on the agenda for the meeting.

4. **MEN'S SHED**

4.1 Ross Hall, Scottish Borders Men's Shed Development Officer, along with Johnny Johnston and Wilson George from Eyemouth and Hawick Men's Sheds respectively, joined the meeting. Mr Hall gave a presentation on the Men's Sheds in the Scottish Borders, each of which were different but all fulfilled their aim to reduce social isolation – particularly for men – with every shed having hugely talented skilled tradesmen. Sheds were run by the 'shedders' themselves, and there was a wide range of local organisations able to provide further information, advice and guidance about getting involved. General information could also be obtained from the Scottish Men's Shed Association

[www.scottishmsa.org.uk](http://www.scottishmsa.org.uk) or from Ross Hall [r.hall@vcborders.org.uk](mailto:r.hall@vcborders.org.uk). There were over 500 'shedders' in the Borders with the numbers growing each week, and there were currently sheds in Coldstream, Duns, Eyemouth, Galashiels, Hawick, Jedburgh, Kelso, Lauder, Peebles and Selkirk.

- 4.2 Johnny Johnston then spoke of his involvement with the development of the Eyemouth Men's Shed which had initially started in the old British Legion before moving to the premises of the Eyemouth and District Disabled Association (TEDDA) and were currently looking for their own premises which could then be shared with other clubs. The main thrust was men from all walks of life – farmers, joiners, fishermen, engineers - sitting round a table sharing their experiences; with links also being made with the Head Teacher to get young people to come and join in the discussions. Not all the shedders were from Eyemouth but came from a 15-mile radius. It was possible to see the difference made to those men suffering from depression or who had disabilities, which had a wider impact on immediate family members as well, just by having a conversation and sharing. Wilson George then gave details of Hawick Men's Shed and its work with social service referrals as well as the long term unemployed, providing support to the community.
- 4.3 The Chairman commented on the scale of the Men's Shed movement in the Borders and its success, in particular on the emotional side as well as the practical side. It was difficult to quantify the success of the sheds, as it was not simply about numbers but also about the difference made to the wider family e.g. if someone with dementia is attending a shed, the family knows the person is in a safe environment. Some attendees did require support or the presence of a carer. The only thing that was frustrating was the ability to tackle loneliness, with some people in their house alone with no contact with others and to try to get them involved. Men's Sheds did reduce social isolation and brought people together who would not normally speak to each other. There was a no-alcohol policy so this was somewhere for adults to go in a safe environment and talk to people and leave feeling happier. It encompassed all walks of life and occupations and was all about sitting down with a cup of tea and conversations going on around you all the time. Mr Johnston commented that it was a blessing to be involved and a blessing for the shedders. Councillor Hamilton gave a vote of thanks to all the Men's Sheds and the work they did across the Scottish Borders.

## 5. **COMMUNITY PLAN ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of 13 June 2019, copies of the proposed format for the Annual Performance Report were circulated, which was a mock up combining historic and live data from the Quality of Life theme. If this style was agreed, it would be used to monitor the progress of the actions in the Community Plan. Jenni Craig, SBC Service Director Customer & Communities, advised that the theme leads were working with the SBC Community & Partnerships team to identify a number of key measures and targets, pulling together the actions for each theme within the Community Plan, with the aim of bringing this back to the next meeting of the Strategic Board in November 2019. With regard to the mock-up of Quality of Life data, feedback was requested on the format and style, which used infographics and greater detail within an appendix. The Annual Performance Report was aimed at the public, showing how the partners were performing against the actions in the Community Plan. A return would be made to the Scottish Government on an annual basis. Members commented:

- A need to be careful with the use of percentages without accompanying context e.g. knife crime increases by 50% when it goes from 2 to 3 incidents, so where numbers were low it could be better to stick to numbers rather than percentages.
- Consideration would be given to the inclusion of a RAG status and/or trends, although timescales may vary on each action e.g. quarterly, annually.
- The format was heading in the right direction, with enough detail to get a reasonably informed view of a snapshot in time.
- All measures and targets should be locked down by the next meeting.

- Consideration would be given to superimposing the Scottish rate on graphs to give a national context.
- Consideration would be given to include the details beside or underneath graphs rather than later in the document.

All these points would be taken into account for the final document.

**AGREED to use the format circulated at the meeting for the Annual Performance Report, subject to the above points.**

## 6. **CHILD POVERTY ACTION PLAN**

With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of 13 June 2019, copies of a briefing paper by Allyson McCollam, Associate Director of Public Health, had been circulated. The Strategic Board had previously agreed that a multi-agency Working Group should be established to oversee the further development and implementation of the Child Poverty Action Plan, with membership drawn from across the Community Planning Partnership from those that had a remit for the relevant strategic areas. The Working Group would report to the Children and Young People's Leadership Group (CYPLG) six monthly and provide an annual update to the CPP Strategic Board in advance of submitting the required annual report to the Scottish Government, with the next one due in June 2020. Terms of reference for the Working Group would be developed for approval by the CYPLG, and the Working Group would focus initially on reviewing the first Action Plan to identify key strategic priorities and potential areas for collaborative action. National scrutiny of local action plans would be provided through the Poverty and Inequalities Commission which would be reviewing a sample of local action plans, with feedback expected later in 2019. Engagement with the Third Sector was also planned in advance of the first meeting of the Working Group on 24 September, in order to raise awareness of the Action Plan. There was a need to demonstrate that the priorities being developed were being done so in consultation with those affected. It was also recognised that this was a long term plan. With regard to the definition of child poverty, 4 different definitions had been used.

**AGREED:**

- (a) **to note the progress since June 2019 towards establishing the Child Poverty Working Group;**
- (b) **to approve in principle the governance arrangements for the Child Poverty Action Plan; and**
- (c) **to receive an update on progress with quantification and prioritisation of actions within the Child Poverty Action Plan at the next meeting of the Strategic Board.**

## 7. **ECONOMY, SKILLS AND LEARNING UPDATE**

7.1 With reference to paragraph 7.1 of the Minute of 7 March 2019, an update on the work of the Economy, Skills and Learning Group was circulated at the meeting. Angela Cox, Principal of Borders College gave highlights from the paper. The South of Scotland Enterprise Agency was due to come in to operation on 1 April 2020, and it had recently been announced that Professor Russel Griggs, who had been chairing the South of Scotland Economic Partnership (SOSEP), would be the first Chair of the Agency. SBC Officers had been working on future governance arrangements between Scottish Government, the Agency, the 2 Councils and partners in the South of Scotland which was likely to involve the establishment of a South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership. This Partnership would oversee the development and implementation of a joint South of Scotland Regional Economic Development Strategy, which would link to the Scottish Borders Economic Action Plan. A South of Scotland Convention would also be

established to provide an opportunity for direct political dialogue between the Councils and Scottish Government Ministers' and its agencies.

- 7.2 With regard to work by SOSEP, the South of Scotland Regional Skills Investment Plan had been launched on 20 June 2019, and this had been followed by a workshop at Borders College. Skills Development Scotland was working with various partners to ensure the various actions in the Plan were implemented. SOSEP had also undertaken 28 consultation events across the South of Scotland which included dedicated business and thematic sessions. One key priority action identified from these events was the need for an integrated approach to transportation and work was taking place to consider how this may be taken forward. Work, led by the Council, on Brexit preparations was ongoing, with efforts to engage businesses focussed on the possibility of the UK leaving the EU without a deal at the end of October 2019.
- 7.3 The Heads of Terms Agreement for the Borderlands Inclusive Deal had been signed by the 5 Borderlands Councils and the Scottish and UK Governments on 1 July 2019. The two governments were contributing £350m to the Deal. A Borderlands Inclusive Deal conference was being planned for 7 October 2019 in Northumberland to provide information to partners about the Deal. The full Deal was expected to be signed in 2020. Work had also continued to progress the Central Borders Innovation Park project at Tweedbank as part of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal. SBC had led on the Workforce Mobility Project as part of the Integrated Regional Employability and Skills Programme, with the full business case for this project approved by SOSEP in June 2019.

*Note: Councillor Mountford left the meeting.*

## 8. **HEALTH AND WELLBEING UPDATE**

- 8.1 With reference to paragraph 7.2 of the Minute of 7 March 2019, copies of an update report on Out Health, Care and Wellbeing had been circulated. Tim Patterson, Director of Public Health, gave highlights of the work undertaken since the last update, focussing on the diabetes prevention partnership and weight management; physical activity and the work undertaken with Live Borders; the healthy workplace programme; diversity week; and drugs deaths. Copies of the Scottish Borders Diversity Week programme for 23 to 29 September 2019 were circulated at the meeting along with details of the NHS Borders Wellbeing Service which offered support to people who wished to improve their lives in any of the following areas: mental health and wellbeing; being more active; eating more healthily; and quitting smoking. With regard to priorities for work going forward, this may need to be the subject of debate at the next Strategic Board meeting to identify the areas where the Board had more influence and which areas to monitor.
- 8.2 Mrs Hume, Third Sector representative, commented on the University of the Third Age (U3A), set up across the Borders, which took account of physical and mental wellbeing. There followed a discussion on the most appropriate data to include which would link actions and activities back to the outcomes. Jenni Craig confirmed that this work was underway with all the theme leads and at the next meeting of the Strategic Board this should be available. Some of the problems stemmed from the availability of up to date data e.g. Scottish health survey was carried out every 3 years. Members commented on the need for simpler data; home consumption of alcohol and the reduction in licensed premises.

## 9. **QUALITY OF LIFE UPDATE**

With reference to paragraph 7.3 of the Minute of 7 March 2019, copies of the update report on Our Quality of Life had been circulated. Stuart Easingwood, SBC Chief Social Work and Public Protection Officer & Interim Service Director Children & Young People, gave highlights of the work over the previous months. Anti-social behaviour monitoring



had increased and the number of early interventions had decreased; although there tended to be a seasonal trend, this slight worsening would continue to be monitored; more mediation in communities rather than escalation was the preferred route. In response to a question, Inspector Jacqi McGuigan, Police Scotland, confirmed that Group 1 offences related to non-sexual violent crime e.g. murder, extortion offences, etc.

## 10. **PLACE UPDATE**

10.1 With reference to paragraph 7.4 of the Minute of 7 March 2019, copies of an update on Our Place had been circulated. The Affordable Warmth & Home Energy Efficiency Strategy had now been approved following extensive partnership working and consultation. The Scottish Borders Home Energy Forum was now focussed on delivery and also responding to emerging national fuel poverty strategy and legislation. Collaborative working was underway between SBC, RSLs, Changeworks and The Energy Savings Trust on a number of projects and funding bids. Pre-manufacture (including modular) housing group was progressing with affordable housing schemes using modern methods of construction which were proposed across the Borders and Dumfries & Galloway. Work was underway with the Construction Scotland Innovation Centre to utilise their support and advice. Extra care projects were progressing in Gala and Duns. The Rapid Re-Housing Final Plan 20189-24 had been approved by SBC in March 2019 for final submission to Scottish Government – this had been developed in partnership with the Borders Housing Alliance and H&SCI Strategic Planning Group, with implementation from April 2019. Feedback had been received from Scottish Government on the Plan and follow up action was being planned. Some challenges and delay with securing planning consent was impacting on housing supply, but the delivery of the expanded programme was progressing well with future projects and priorities being identified. It was hoped to use the output from the current Wheelchair Accessible Homes Study to inform future investments. Discussions were ongoing with Aberlour and SBHA on potential future provision for a Borders based project for children with learning disabilities, and between Eildon Housing and Cornerstone with respect to a new LD service.

10.2 Nile Istephan, Eildon Housing Chief Executive, gave a presentation on the Green Homes initiative, which related to key activities in the Action Plan. Fuel poverty and sustainability issues came together in housing stock. New homes, when built, would have as high standards as possible e.g. zero carbon efficient, but most houses already existed so required a different approach. The RSLs were currently building more new homes in the Borders than any other provider, with 750 in the pipeline along with extra care housing. In some cases, RSLs purchased homes from private developers. The house building programme could also trigger economic benefits through use of a local workforce and supply chain. Eildon Housing's green programme comprised 4 different schemes, with completions expected by March 2021: Passivhaus (10 homes); Energiesprong with battery technology (13 homes); Off-site volumetric 12 homes (12 homes); and traditional time frame and air source heat pumps as the control scheme. The programme had end to end performance monitoring from the Mackintosh Environmental Architecture Research Unit built in, with analysis carried out from concept and build, to lived-in. These new type of heating systems required tenants to use them differently as they usually had a constant level of heat, rather than turning systems on/off when in/out. Tenants for these houses would be identified according to housing needs but they would be advised that due to the nature of the heating systems, they needed to use them properly to gain the benefits. The use of gas heating systems was no longer sustainable and alternatives had to be explored. Members welcomed the programme and looked forward to receiving updates as the schemes progressed.

## 11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Marjorie Hume, Third Sector, made a plea for all papers for future meetings to be submitted by the due deadline so they could be issued in advance of meetings to ensure there was sufficient time for members to read them. Mrs Hume also referred to the Lord-

Lieutenants' Volunteering Event which was due to take place at Springwood Hall, Kelso on 25 September 2019 and was advertised on various websites.

12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting of the Strategic Board was confirmed as Thursday 21 November 2019 at 2.00 p.m.



**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**

**ACTION SHEET**




**COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD - November 2012 onwards**

Notes:-

1. Paragraphs Marked with a \* require full Council approval before action can be taken
2. Items for which no actions are required are not included

| NO.                      | MINUTE PARAGRAPH NUMBER, TITLE AND DECISION REQUIRING ACTION                                                                                                                                                                         | ORGANISATION | RESPONSIBLE OFFICER | OUTCOME                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>12 September 2019</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |              |                     |                                                                                                               |
| 1.                       | Paragraph 5 ( <b>Community Planning Performance Report</b> ) – <b>Action: AGREED</b> to use the format circulated at the meeting for the Annual Performance Report, subject to points raised at the meeting).                        | SBC          | Jenni Craig         | On agenda - 10 Sep 20.<br> |
| 2.                       | Paragraph 6(c) ( <b>Child Poverty Action Plan</b> ) – <b>Action: AGREED</b> to receive an update on progress with quantification and prioritisation within the Child Poverty Action Plan at the next meeting of the Strategic Board. | SBC          | Jenni Craig         | On agenda - 10 Sep 20.<br> |

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| <b>KEY:</b>                                                                         |                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No symbol                                                                           | Deadline not reached                                                     |
|  | Overdue                                                                  |
|  | <1 week to deadline                                                      |
|  | Complete – items removed from tracker once noted as complete at meeting. |

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## **Update on the Establishment of the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership**

**Report by Executive Director, Corporate Improvement and Economy**

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### **SCOTTISH BORDERS COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD**

10 September 2020

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#### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides the background and context to the phased establishment of the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (REP). This includes an overview of the work of the COVID 19 Team South of Scotland Leadership Group, the forerunner of the REP.
- 1.2 The South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (REP), has replaced the Scottish Borders Economy and Low Carbon Team, and it is proposed that the REP will deliver the economic development strand of the work of the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership. This proposal was agreed by Scottish Borders Council at its meeting on 31 October 2019 and needs to be also agreed by the Community Planning Partnership.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Strategic Board:**
  - a) **Agrees that the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership will deliver the economic development strand of the work of the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership.**
  - b) **Recognises the work carried out by the COVID 19 Team South of Scotland Leadership Group.**
  - c) **Welcomes the progress being made in establishing the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership and its work programme.**
  - d) **Notes the work of the Borders Learning and Skills Partnership set out in section 6 and its links to the strategic employment, training, and skills work at a South of Scotland level.**

### **3 THE SCOTTISH BORDERS COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE SOUTH OF SCOTLAND REGIONAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 31 October 2019, Scottish Borders Council discussed a report on the establishment of the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (REP). A recommendation in this report was agreed that proposed that the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership should replace the Scottish Borders Economy and Low Carbon Delivery Team in the structure of the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership.
- 3.2 Briefly, the REP aims to support the establishment of South of Scotland Enterprise by developing and driving forward a South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy. The remit and composition of the REP is set out in Appendix 1. It comprises members of Scottish Borders Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, South of Scotland Enterprise, together with appointed members from business, communities, social enterprise, registered social landlords, and representatives from colleges, universities and public bodies including the Scottish Funding Council, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Enterprise, and VisitScotland. These are also all the partners that would be involved in taking forward the economic development theme work in Community Planning.
- 3.3 The REP also links into the South of Scotland Convention which is chaired by the Deputy First Minister. The first meeting of the South of Scotland Convention was held in Dumfries in February 2020.
- 3.4 Work commenced to establish the Regional Economic Partnership (REP) at the beginning of the year. In early March 2020 it was agreed to pause efforts to establish the REP as the scale of the COVID-19 pandemic became clear, recognising the immediate need to re-focus resources.
- 3.5 The severity of the economic impact was recognised from the outset of the pandemic, evident from the unprecedented scale of support measures announced by the Scottish and UK Governments. These included: significant funding support for businesses, in addition to schemes covering job retention, vat deferral and loans. Scottish Borders Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, and South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) since assuming its legal powers on 1 April 2020, then focused on responding and mitigating the impact of COVID-19.
- 3.6 To ensure an aligned and rapid response to addressing impacts, the councils, together with SOSE, acted quickly to establish the COVID-19 Team South of Scotland Leadership Group. Also the South of Scotland was predicted to be amongst the worst impacted of Scotland's regions – reflecting its rurality, high levels of employment in exposed sectors, and high levels of self-employment. The need to be as proactive as possible was seen as a key part of the Group's efforts across all of its activities.

- 3.7 Reflecting its economic focus and remit, members of the Leadership Group were: Councillor Rob Davidson, Depute Leader of Dumfries and Galloway Council and chair of the Economy and Resources Committee, Councillor Mark Rowley, Executive Member for Business and Economic Development and Professor Russel Griggs OBE, chair of SOSE. The Leadership Group met every two to three weeks, with the chair rotating across all three members. The Group was supported by senior officers from the two councils, SOSE and Skills Development Scotland (SDS).

#### **4 THE COVID-19 TEAM SOUTH OF SCOTLAND LEADERSHIP GROUP**

- 4.1 The Covid-19 Team South of Scotland Leadership Group's focus was to provide strategic direction and oversight to the initial economic response to COVID-19 in the South of Scotland, consistent with the national approach. This helped to address immediate economic and social issues arising from the pandemic and ensured an aligned approach across partner organisations using capacities and resources to maximise impact.
- 4.2 Under the direction of the Leadership Group, senior officers from across the councils and SOSE worked effectively together to ensure businesses could access grant support, coming together to deliver operational activity. As well as delivering significant support to businesses to help them survive the impacts, this also enabled intelligence to be gathered to help identify gaps in coverage. It ensured that the South of Scotland perspectives were made clear to Government. Contacts with business were used to signpost to relevant areas of potential support, capturing issues and concerns being raised.
- 4.3 The proactive and co-ordinated implementation of national schemes, alongside a commitment to exploring other forms of support, has helped to safeguard businesses and jobs across the South of Scotland and the Scottish Borders. The joined-up operational approach has assisted in delivering maximum impact using capacity and resources to best effect.

#### **4.4 THE COVID-19 TEAM SOSE LEADERSHIP GROUP**

- a. **Understanding the impact of COVID-19** – the Group recognised it was vital to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the South of Scotland to help shape response activity. The Group received a regular evidence pack capturing national, regional and local data to help understand the differential impact.
- b. **Supporting business** – providing effective business support has been key through the crisis. The councils and SOSE entered into a data sharing agreement to ensure a joined-up approach to dealing with businesses, sharing information and identifying those in need. The Group worked to ensure the property grants provided through councils and the Hardship and Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Grants provided by

SOSE reached key businesses. The Group monitored potential gaps in provision and put proposals to the Scottish Government about a potential future discretionary grant scheme.

- c. **Supporting communities** – the primary focus of the Group was on tackling the economic impact of COVID-19 and the immediate impact on business, but it also looked at support being given to communities across the South of Scotland and took forward work to understand anchor institutions and encourage a more strategic approach to national funding.
- d. **Advocating for the South of Scotland** – the Group has been able to present a strong and direct voice to government, advocating for the South of Scotland, influencing national policy thinking
- e. **Communication** - The Group agreed a joint approach to communications, with Team South of Scotland responses supporting an effective partnership approach delivering a co-ordinated, consistent and effective message.
- f. **Tackling labour market challenges** – the Group has monitored COVID-19's impact on the labour market, with improved real-time intelligence sharing about potential redundancies and potential employment opportunities. Work continues on developing a South of Scotland approach to tackling unemployment, with SDS working with the councils, SOSE and the Borders Learning and Skills Partnership and the Dumfries and Galloway Employability Partnership. This is a key area for future activity, building on initial scoping activity.
- g. **Aligning response, restart and recovery activity** – the Group recognised the range of activity underway at national, regional and local level and the complexity of the landscape. It worked to align a strategic approach to restart and recovery activity which could form an effective basis for future activity.
- h. **Setting the groundwork for the REP** – the Group took forward work to develop the approach to the REP, deciding on a phased approach to establish the REP.

## **5 SOUTH OF SCOTLAND REGIONAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (REP)**

- 5.1 In starting the process to establish the REP, the Team SOS Leadership Group agreed to do this a phased way. The first phase was to bring together members from Scottish Borders Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council and SOSE, with the full REP to be established as soon as practicable thereafter. Scottish Borders Council is represented on the REP by Councillors Shona Haslam, Mark Rowley, Simon Mountford, and Stuart Bell, with Councillor Euan Robson as a substitute member. There have now been two meetings of the REP. These took place on Friday 31 July 2020 and Friday 21 August 2020.



- 5.2 The REP will be chaired by the Councils, alternating annually based on financial years. Dumfries and Galloway Council is chairing the REP for this financial year 2020/21. It is planned that the REP will meet every other month up until the end of March 2021, to build relationships and maintain momentum, and then meet less frequently.
- 5.3 The setting up of the REP is involving the appointment of members from the private sector, community development, social enterprise, Third Sector, and Registered Social Landlords from both the Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway. The members from the Scottish Borders following an open recruitment exercise that have been appointed are Mrs Sue Berry, Mr Trevor Jackson, Mr Keith Dickinson, Mr Crick Carleton and Mrs Julia Mulloy. A member from the Third Sector from the Scottish Borders is still to be identified. There will be College and University members, and the Scottish Borders will be represented by Ms Elaine Acaster, Interim Chair of Borders College Board and Mr Grant Innes, Chair of Court, Heriot Watt University. In addition there will members from national agencies.
- 5.4 A key task for the fully formed REP which holds its first meeting on the 18 September 2020 will be to set the strategic direction for the regional economy in the South of Scotland by developing the South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy and Action Plan. The Regional Strategy will be long term and build on previous analysis of the opportunities and challenges that had taken place before COVID-19. The Action Plan will likely have a shorter say 5 year time span and be reviewed annually.
- 5.5 It is likely that the REP will want to reflect on the impact of COVID-19 on the regional economy, which has been experienced differently across different areas of the economy. Currently there is significant uncertainty and there will be more reflection as trends emerge, to ensure a future strategy focuses on the right priorities. Key matters to be considered the national and regional levels are as follows:

**National**

- A range of expert groups providing recommendations on recovery that will inform national recovery strategies at UK and Scotland level;
- Regular, new and short term policy and funding announcements from UK Government and Scottish Government;
- Timing of phases to the new normal;
- Impact of EU exit and a trade deal, and trade deals with other countries ; and
- Budget discussions.

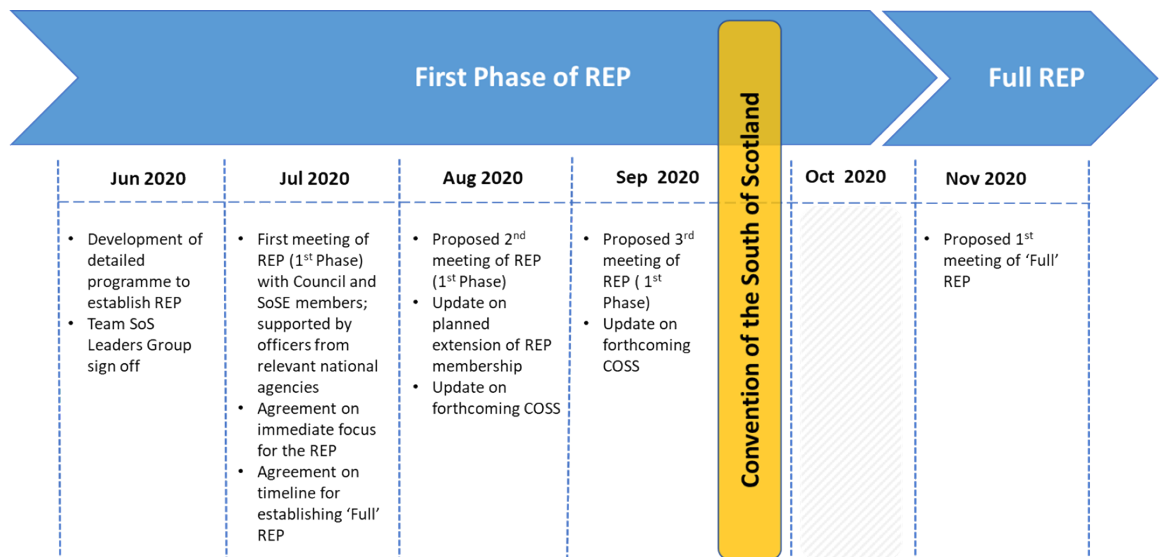
**Regional**

- Increasing volatility in the labour market;
- Increasing poverty and disadvantage;
- Building confidence in places and communities;
- Emerging growth opportunities;

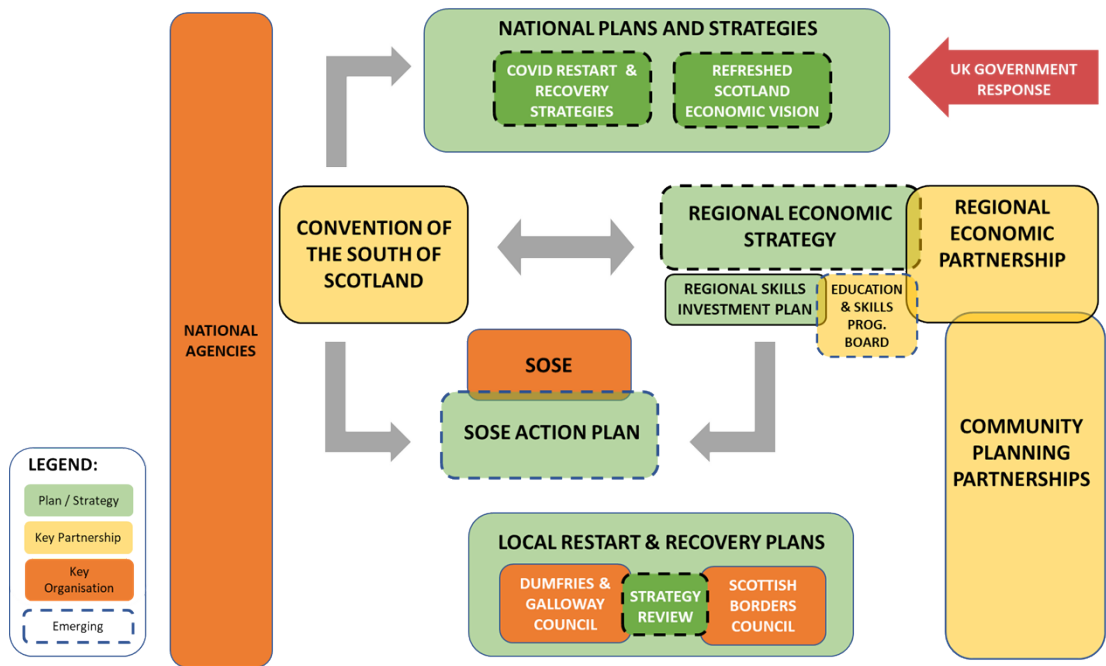
- The Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal is being finalised by the Borderlands local authorities; and
- SOSE will also be developing its Action Plan, through a process set out in legislation that will include extensive consultation.

5.6 As part of its early work, the REP, will also be taking account of the next meeting of the South of Scotland Convention which takes place on 28 September 2020. The agenda of the Convention is aiming to reflect the outcomes of its February meeting and ensuring that the economic impact of COVID-19 on the South of Scotland is fully discussed.

5.7 The diagram below sets out the timeline the REP is working to at present.



5.8 The table below sets out the relationship between the various key elements of activity and core elements of the regional landscape:



## 6. EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND SKILLS

- 6.1 The South of Scotland Regional Skills Investment Plan was launched on 20 June 2019, and since then Skills Development Scotland have been working closely with partners to support the implementation of the plan. To oversee this work it is intended that a South of Scotland Regional Skills Group be established which will report into the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership. The inter-agency Borders Learning and Skills Partnership will link into this South of Scotland Skills Group.
- 6.2 The Borders Learning and Skills Partnership co-chaired by Angela Cox, Principal, Borders College and Douglas Scott, Senior Policy Adviser, Scottish Borders Council has continued to meet. It comprises representatives of both local bodies i.e. Scottish Borders Council, Borders College, the Developing Young Workforce initiative, Heriot Watt University and the voluntary sector and national agencies, including the Department of Work and Pensions and Skills Development Scotland.
- 6.3 The role of the Borders Learning and Skills Partnership is very important as it serves to link the work on employability and training in the Scottish Borders into the strategic planning work being carried out at the South of Scotland level (as mentioned above) together with the employment, skills and training work being carried out as part of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal. It also brings a strategic coherence to the employment, training and employability work being undertaken in the Scottish Borders.
- 6.4 The Borders Learning and Skills Partnership is now meeting on a fortnightly basis and is bringing partners together to assist in developing short and medium term responses to supporting individuals affected by the increasing levels of unemployment resulting from the adverse economic impact Covid-19 pandemic. This involves support for young people and adults. Its

activities includes: improving the understanding of the issue and the needs for training and other support; looking at how the Scottish Borders can maximise the support and make the best use of monies from the employability and training initiatives being announced by the Scottish and UK Governments; and ensuring agencies are working together to support the PACE redundancy support initiative, digital training, the promotion of apprenticeship training, etc.

Author: Douglas Scott, Senior Policy Adviser [dscott@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:dscott@scotborders.gov.uk) tel: 01835 825155



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## **SCOTTISH BORDERS COMMUNITY PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018-19**

**Report by Service Director, Customer & Communities**

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### **SCOTTISH BORDERS COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC BOARD**

**10 September 2020**

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#### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report presents the first performance report against the Scottish Borders Community Plan, for 2018-19.**
- 1.2 The Scottish Borders Community Plan was created in November 2017, and refreshed in May 2018. The Community Planning Partnership are required to produce an annual report detailing the performance against the plan.
- 1.3 This first report is presented at Appendix 1 and includes data where provided for the remainder of 2017/18 and 2018/19. Due to the timespan over which the report has been prepared, some of the actions described and summary comment may be more recent. In addition, the range of topics and diverse sources of information has led to time frequencies and periods varying from measure to measure.
- 1.4 A further report for 2019-20 will be brought to a future Community Planning Partnership Strategic Board at the earliest opportunity.

#### **2 STATUS OF REPORT**

- 2.1 This report would have been produced for the Community Planning Partnership Strategic Board earlier in 2020 but has been delayed through Covid related impacts.

#### **3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 I recommend that the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership Strategic Board acknowledges and notes the performance summarised in Section 5 and detailed within Appendix 1 along with Actions intended for the next 12 months.**

## 4 BACKGROUND TO COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE REPORTING

- 4.1 The Scottish Borders Community Plan was created in November 2017, and refreshed in May 2018. The Community Planning Partnership are required to produce an annual report detailing the performance against the plan.
- 4.2 This first report is presented at Appendix 1 and includes data where provided for the remainder of 2017/18 and 2018/19 however the range of topics and diverse sources of information has led to time frequencies and periods varying from measure to measure. Performance data has been provided from across a range of Community Planning partners.
- 4.3 Due to the timespan over which the report has been prepared, some of the actions described and summary comment may be more recent.
- 4.4 Performance is set against a suite of indicators intended to evidence achievement against an extensive range of ambitious outcomes, across four Community Planning 'Themes'
- Our Economy, Skills & learning
  - Our Health, Care & Wellbeing
  - Our Quality of Life
  - Our Place
- 4.5 Against the stated outcomes within each theme, the report covers an understanding of the position, why the Community Planning Partnership want to improve it, a selection of performance information and charts, measures and targets, key actions, plans, strategies and initiatives. Summary commentary from 'Theme leads' is also provided.

## 5 UPDATES AGAINST EACH THEME

- 5.1 Theme: Our Economy, Skills & Learning
- a) **Planned outcome - More people working more productively for higher wages:** Whilst prior to the reporting period, Gross Value Added (GVA) & wages grew in the period to 2017 but remained below Scotland. The establishment of the new South of Scotland Enterprise Agency and the successful progression of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal are opportunities to support economic development and drive economic growth with the additional resources that will become available.
  - b) **Planned outcome - More Highly Skilled Workers:** Occupational employment projections (2019-2029) highlight greatest net requirements in 'Professional Occupations', 'Skilled Trades Occupations', 'Sales and Customer Services Occupations' and 'Elementary Occupations'. Based on 2018 data, qualification levels for 16-24 year olds in the Scottish Borders are below Scotland overall in the SCQF 7-12 bands although this is less pronounced when looking at the broader 16-64 year old age groups.
  - c) **Planned outcome - More people benefitting from better connectivity:** As of 2019, the Scottish Borders had caught up with and was slightly better than Scotland overall for availability of faster

broadband connectivity (Premises unable to receive 30Mbit/s) but remained worse than the average across local authorities in Scotland overall for geographic area with no reliable 4G signal.

- d) **Planned outcome - More business people benefitting from greater investment and better support for their new and existing businesses, particularly in key growth sectors:** There was an improvement in total growth sector business numbers in the Scottish Borders through to 2018, and was higher than the average per local authority in Scotland.
- e) **Planned outcome - More people shopping, visiting and spending in local town centres:** A slight reduction in average weekly footfall in Borders towns was experienced in 2018. Retail vacancy rates (to 2017-18) increased and were higher than Scotland overall.
- f) **Planned outcome - More children, particularly those living in poverty, achieving higher levels of attainment:** The gap between pupils from the most deprived and the least deprived SIMD quintiles achieving expected levels of Literacy and Numeracy remains albeit narrowed across a number of measures in 2018-19 compared to 2017/18.
- g) **Planned outcome - More LAC (looked after and accommodated) children and young people in positive and sustained destinations:** The percentage of Looked After Leavers in a Positive Destination remained significantly lower in 2017/18 than for all School Leavers. (76% positive destination for Looked After for full year, 69% for Looked After for part year, 93% for All School Leavers).

## 5.2 Theme: Our Health, Care & Wellbeing

- a) **Planned outcome - More people in good health and leading an active lifestyle at every age and stage of life:** The gap between Scottish Borders and Scotland in rates of Adults Overweight and also Smoking in Pregnancy narrowed however some of the data precedes the reporting period. Diabetes type 2 figures continued to grow but slowed in 2018.
- b) **Planned outcome - More people in good mental health at every age and stage of life:** More recent data for the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS) and the General Health Questionnaire (GHQ12) is required to be able to comment on performance during the reporting period.
- c) **Planned outcome - Improved support and care for older people:** Unplanned hospital admissions have grown between 2017-18 and 2018-19 having fallen in the 2 years prior to that. Bed days relating to delayed discharge from hospital reduced in 2018-19 but remain higher than 2016-17. The percentage of Resource Spent on Emergency Stays reduced in 2018-19.

## 5.3 Theme: Our Quality of Life

- a) **Planned outcome - Fewer people experiencing violence (incl. domestic abuse):** The Serious assault rate per 10,000 population

grew in 2018/19. The number of incidents of domestic abuse reduced in 2018/19 having grown in the 3 years prior.

- b) **Planned outcome - Fewer people experiencing anti-social behaviour (ASB):** Racially aggravated harassment/conduct and reported ASB incidents (both rates per 10,000 population) remained relatively flat in 2018/19.
- c) **Planned outcome - Fewer people killed or seriously injured on our roads:** The numbers of fatalities and seriously injured on the roads was above Scottish Government targets in 2018. Numbers continue to fluctuate on an annual basis although the longer term trend was downward.

#### 5.4 Theme: Our Place

- a) **Planned outcome - More people able to afford to heat their homes:** Households in fuel poverty data precedes the reporting period. The Number of private sector measures installed has grown in 2018-19.
- b) **Planned outcome - More people living independently in affordable and sustainable homes:** Housing completions grew in 2018-19 but remained below target. The Affordable Housing total was well above target in 2018-19.

## 6 IMPLICATIONS

### 6.1 Financial

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

### 6.2 Risk and Mitigations

Effective performance reporting arrangements will help to ensure that community planning partners are aware of weaknesses and can take corrective action, therefore mitigating any risks more effectively.

### 6.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

There are no adverse equality/diversity implications. Performance reporting may help the Community Planning Partnership to identify and address any equality / diversity issues and improve processes and procedures.

### 6.4 Acting Sustainably

Economic, social and environmental impact of Community Planning Partnership actions can be monitored more effectively if there are effective performance reporting arrangements in place.

### 6.5 Carbon Management

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



## 6.6 Rural Proofing

This report does not relate to new or amended policy or strategy and as a result rural proofing is not an applicable consideration.

## 6.7 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.

### Approved by

**Jenni Craig**

**Service Director, Customer & Communities**    **Signature.....**

### Author(s)

| Name              | Designation and Contact Number                              |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alasdair Collison | Senior Business Services Officer Tel: 01835 824000 Ext 8023 |

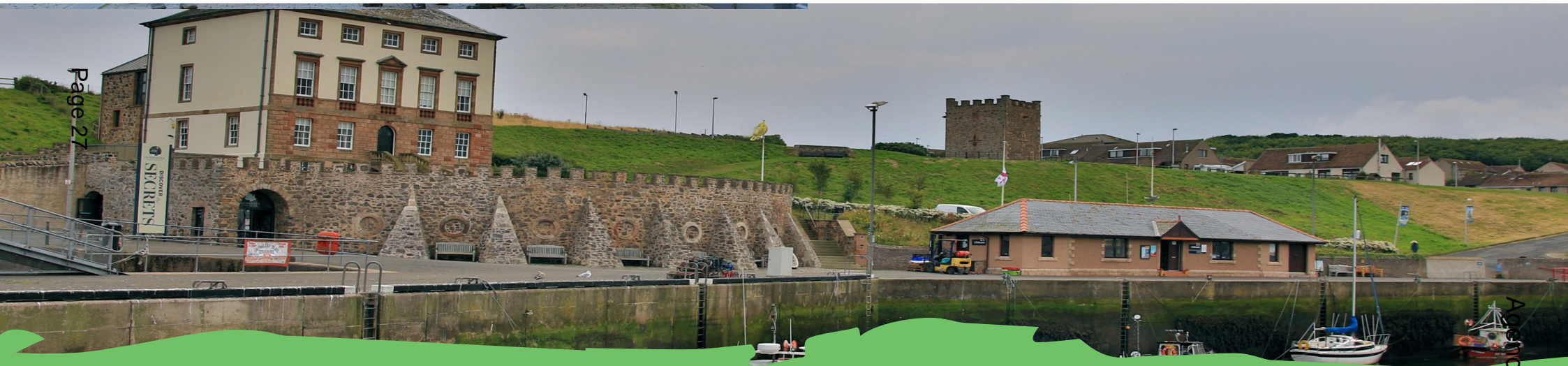
### Background Papers:

### Previous Minute Reference:

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

Contact us at Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose TD6 0SA. Tel 01835 824000.

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# Berwickshire Locality Plan 2020

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# Berwickshire Area Partnership

The Berwickshire Area Partnership<sup>1</sup> is about creating a space where the aspirations and ideas of the community can be heard and community planning can be strengthened through communities and public bodies working together.

The Locality Plan is part of this process. It outlines the priorities of the Berwickshire area with a focus on reducing inequalities to improve the area for those who live, work and visit the area.

<sup>1</sup> Area Partnership – brings together organisations, groups, individuals and businesses from across the locality to collectively work together

# Introduction

## Welcome to the Berwickshire Locality Plan



This plan builds on the Scottish Borders Community Plan and sets out:

- The priorities for improving the area over the next five years
- The commitment to work in partnership and use our shared resources <sup>2</sup> in the most effective way to reduce inequality

In bringing together this plan we have asked, and will continue to ask, local people across Berwickshire what would make the area better.

<sup>2</sup> Resources – this could be funding (e.g. budget or grants), people (e.g. staff of volunteers) or assets (e.g. land, buildings or equipment)

This plan is structured around four themes:



Comments and feedback gathered at Area Partnership meetings to date have been prioritised to reflect what actions need to be undertaken in the Locality to make a difference.

Communities, community planning partners<sup>3</sup> and local service providers<sup>4</sup> will need to work together in partnership to plan and deliver better services that meet the needs of the people who use them.

At a Borders-wide level this is done through the Scottish Borders Community Plan and the Community Planning Partnership.

At an area level this is done through the Berwickshire Area Partnership, the Berwickshire Locality Plan and associated Action Plan. We expect to continue to evolve these plans to reflect the developments within the area. The most up to date action plan is available on Scottish Borders Council's Website [www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships).

At a local level, services and communities continue to respond to their local community needs. Local plans, including local community action plans demonstrate this and are referenced at the end of this plan.

“How do we build and improve our economy, skills and learning?”

“How do we promote and improve our health, care and wellbeing?”

“How do we protect and improve our quality of life?”

“How do we develop and improve our environment & place?”

<sup>3</sup> Community planning partners – those organisations who are taking forward the Scottish Borders Community Plan

<sup>4</sup> Local service providers – those organisations who are providing services locally (e.g. GPs, Community Nurses, Business Advisors, etc.)

# What we know about Berwickshire

## Key Facts and Figures

A selection of key facts and figures relating to the issues highlighted by our communities have been identified and detailed on this page. These present what data we have and what is known about the area, as well as a reflection against the Scottish Borders and national averages where possible.

A more comprehensive Berwickshire Area Profile is available detailing all the key information for the area. This is available to download from [www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships)



### NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITY

**41%** of the people in Berwickshire live within the 10% most **access deprived** in all of Scotland **(SB = 27%)**  
(SIMD - 2016)

**36%** of survey respondents said they **have problems accessing public transport where they live** **(SB = 28%)**  
(SBHS - 2018)

**22%** of survey respondents said they **have difficulty accessing leisure facilities because of where they live** **(SB = 18%)**  
(SBHS - 2018)

### VOLUNTARY WORK

**62%** of survey respondents are **involved in voluntary work**, such as supporting Parent Councils, committees or helping a neighbour with shopping **(SB = 59%)**  
(SBHS - 2018)

### SETTLEMENTS

**82.9%** of people live in a **settlement of under 500 people** **(Scottish Borders = 28.5%)**

Larger settlements in Berwickshire:

|                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>3,557</b><br>Eyemouth  | <b>1,871</b><br>Coldstream |
| <b>1,444</b><br>Chirnside | <b>628</b><br>Greenlaw     |
| <b>2,756</b><br>Duns      | <b>607</b><br>Ayton        |

(NRS 2017)



### INCOME DEPRIVED

**10.1%** of Berwickshire's population was considered to be **income-deprived** in 2016. **(Scottish Borders = 9.7%; Scotland = 12.5%)**

This ranged within Berwickshire from **3% in the least-deprived neighbourhoods to 22% in the most-deprived**

(SG-SIMD)



### BROADBAND

**6.0%** of premises were **unable to receive 2Mb/S Broadband** in 2016 **(SB = 4.2%)**

This ranged **within Berwickshire** from **0%** in the **least-affected neighbourhood** to **30.2% in the most-affected**.  
(OFCOM)

Berwickshire had around **average levels** of **digital exclusion** out of the **5 localities** in 2017; but **higher in parts of Chirnside, Eyemouth, Coldstream and Duns**.

(Scottish Borders Digital Inclusion Index 2017)

### ACTIVITY LEVELS

**66.7%** of **Primary 7 pupils** took part in **"Active Schools" extra-curricular sports** in 2017-18. **(SB = 79.5%)**

By **S4** this was **down to 27.8%** **(SB = 36.7%)**

(SEEMIS)

# Berwickshire Wards

## POPULATION ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS

National Records of Scotland (NRS) estimates the population of **Berwickshire** to be

**20,945** population  
(18.2% of the Scottish Borders (SB))

**16.0%** aged 0-15  
(SB = 15.9%; SCOT = 17.0%)

**58.0%** aged 16-64  
(SB = 59.0%; SCOT = 64.7%)

**26.0%** aged 65+  
(SB = 24.5%; SCOT = 18.3%)



### MID BERWICKSHIRE

**10,387** Population



**2,756** Duns

**1,871** Coldstream

### EAST BERWICKSHIRE

**10,558** Population



**3,557** Eyemouth

**1,444** Chirnside

(NRS 2017)



# Engaging with our Communities

It is the intention of the Area Partnership to involve as wide a group of people as possible. This helps to make sure our plans reflect the needs of our communities. We will create more opportunities for people to attend the Area Partnership and talk to us in person, take part in surveys or contact us online. As further information and understanding of the needs and ambitions of our communities is gathered, the Area Partnership will continue to build on this plan. We welcome your views and suggestions.

There are many other ways of being involved in your local community, key contacts are provided below:

To give us your views or to get involved with Area Partnerships please contact:

Communities and Partnerships Team  
Email: [communityplanning@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:communityplanning@scotborders.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 0300 100 1800

More information on Community Councils:

[www.scotborders.gov.uk/communitycouncils](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/communitycouncils)  
Telephone: 01835 825005.

Many Community Council's now have their own website and social media pages and will also be contactable directly through these means.

More information on volunteering, community support or advice:

Volunteer Centre Borders  
[www.vcborders.org.uk](http://www.vcborders.org.uk)  
Telephone: 01896 754041  
Email: [enquiries@vcborders.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@vcborders.org.uk)

Berwickshire Association of Voluntary Service  
[www.bavs.org.uk](http://www.bavs.org.uk)  
Telephone: 01361 883137  
Email: [Kathy.cremin@bavs.org.uk](mailto:Kathy.cremin@bavs.org.uk)

## Our Economy, Skills & Learning

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Berwickshire is:

Improve the connectivity within and out with Berwickshire, including

- Transport (infrastructure and service provision)
- Digital (mobile and broadband coverage)

Other priorities that are important to the Berwickshire community:

- Support and make the most of existing Tourism opportunities, for example
  - Coastline, including marine reserve and harbour
  - Heritage
- Widen the opportunity and availability of modern apprenticeships and vocational training
- Improve the access to further and higher education and the opportunity for lifelong learning
- Protect and retain traditional skills unique to Berwickshire (e.g. sea skills)
- Encourage business start-ups & investment in the area, for example with the availability of suitable (and flexible) business spaces
- Encourage further partnership working to support the area in managing the economic and social impact of current and future demographic changes (i.e. increasing older population, young people moving away)

## Our Health, Care & Wellbeing

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Berwickshire is:

- Co-location of specialist services and better service planning, acknowledging the complexities of delivering services, leading to improved outcomes

Other priorities that are important to the Berwickshire community:

- Improve the availability and accessibility of services for people living in rural areas and towns across Berwickshire
- Increase the availability of locally based rehabilitation services
- Increase the range of housing options available across the locality
- Improve support for unpaid carers
- Increase the range of care and support options across the locality to enable people to remain in their own homes and communities
- Focus on rural isolation and social inclusion and the impacts on mental health
- Understand the future care requirements for the area and how best to incentivise people to work in the sector

## Our Quality of Life

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Berwickshire is:

- Continue to support (multi-agency) partnership working opportunities, promoting referrals/pathways to those local initiatives and sharing good practice

Other priorities that are important to the Berwickshire community:

- Invest in and create community facilities/spaces (for all ages/intergenerational)
- Support local community capacity building, in particular local volunteers (utilising their skills and expertise)
- Encourage leisure/cultural facilities to be as accessible as possible (convenient, affordable, time of day)
- Improve communication across communities and between public agencies, including promotion / marketing of specific activities (e.g. men's shed, walking football)

## Our Environment & Place

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Berwickshire is:

Investment in transport infrastructure and service provision, including

- Reston Station / A1
- Cross-border, North-South services
- Community Transport
- Enabling people to be where they need to be

Other priorities that are important to the Berwickshire community:

- Work with local communities on regenerating and reimagining their local places (town centres, village halls, play areas etc.)
- Understand the housing needs of the area and ensure the right developments are being considered to meet those needs, including affordable housing and housing for all stages and ages of life
- Promote environmentally friendly home energy solutions to local residents

# How we will measure success

The priorities identified in this plan have been used as the basis for the Berwickshire Locality Action Plan. This action plan will help to track action and activities and to drive change in Berwickshire. As this will be an ever changing document the action plan is available to download from Scottish Borders Council's website, [www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnership](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnership) or in hard copy from the Community & Partnerships Team.

The Berwickshire Area Partnership will feedback every year on the progress made in delivering the priorities within this plan. By monitoring the progress we make, we can measure the difference made to local people and communities. Progress and achievements will be shared with the Community Planning Partnership and other public bodies as well as being shared and celebrated with the wider community.

We will continue to ask the community their views and encourage more people to participate in the Area Partnership. As the needs of the locality change, we will ensure the priorities and actions within the plan reflect these changes.

## Other Local Plans for Berwickshire

- Coldstream Community Action Plan
- Abbey St Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston Community Action Plan
- Berwickshire Learning Community Partnership Plan
- Eyemouth Learning Community Partnership Plan



You can get this document on audio CD, in large print, and various other formats by contacting us at the address below. In addition, contact the address below for information on language translations, additional copies, or to arrange for an officer to meet with you to explain any areas of the publication that you would like clarified.

**COMMUNITIES & PARTNERSHIPS TEAM**

Scottish Borders Council | Council Headquarters | Newtown St Boswells | MELROSE | TD6 0SA  
tel: 0300 100 1800 | email: [Communityplanning@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:Communityplanning@scotborders.gov.uk)  
[www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships)

**ECONOMY SKILLS & LEARNING**

| Priority                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Planned Activity                                                                                                    | How will the activity be delivered                                                                                                                                                                        | Project timeline                                                                    | Who will deliver the project | Progress                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Improve the connectivity within and out with Berwickshire, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transport (infrastructure and service provision)</li> </ul> Digital (mobile and broadband coverage) | Develop alternative transport models appropriate to local circumstances – locally controlled, flexible, meets needs | Public consultation on bus service provision in the Scottish Borders                                                                                                                                      | Autumn 2019                                                                         | Bus Users Scotland           | Subsidised bus services delivered to main settlements:<br>Berwick – Hutton - Paxton – 32<br>Kelso – Greenlaw - Berwick – 85/87<br>Kelso – Coldstream (Weds) – 710<br>Westruther – Stichill – Kelso - 902                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Deliver superfast broadband to all premises by end of 2021                                                          | The Scottish Government has commenced a new initiative, the R100 programme to deliver.<br><br>The council is promoting a 4g infill programme alongside partners in the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal. | Contracts to be awarded end of 2019 and delivery expected to commence later in 2020 | Scottish Government          | SBC has invested £8.4m in the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband Programme. R100 programme procurement has commenced<br><br>SBC regularly lobbied Governments and the Mobile Network Operators to improve the coverage of mobile phone services and reduce the number of ‘not-spots’ in the Scottish Borders. It has also lobbied for improved 4G services coverage; these have improved over the last 2 years. |
| Support and make the most of existing Tourism opportunities                                                                                                                                                        | Coastline, including marine reserve and harbour                                                                     | Visit Berwickshire will continue to promote the area and are seeking VisitScotland Growth Funding to expand their range of activity.                                                                      | Ongoing                                                                             | Visit Berwickshire           | The Visit Berwickshire initiative has used Coastal Communities Fund monies to deliver new marketing and promotion of Berwickshire’s visitor attractions and facilities. It is led by Eyemouth Harbour Trust and brings together businesses from across Berwickshire.                                                                                                                                              |

BERWICKSHIRE LOCALITY ACTION PLAN – UPDATED 20/01/2020

|                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                         |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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|                                                                                              | Heritage                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Continued development of “Scotland Starts here” App<br><br>The Jim Clark Rally is returning to Berwickshire<br>The Council and other local partners are in discussion with James Hutton Institute about potential visitor opportunities at Siccar Point on the coast.<br>Duns Tourism Partnership to be develop to maximise tourism opportunities | Ongoing<br><br>November 2019 & May 2020 | MBTAG                                 | The Council and Live Borders have worked with the Jim Clark Trust to deliver the Jim Clark Museum in Duns, a major new visitor attraction opened in May 2019.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Widen the opportunity and availability of modern apprenticeships and vocational training     | Borders College physical and digital hub network to provide better access to training in health and social care, renewable energy, engineering and construction skills will improve access for some types of training. | Development of spoke sites to include provision at Eyemouth and Berwickshire.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | October 2019                            | Borders College – E-learning Manager. | Digital spoke sites now live in Eyemouth and Berwickshire High Schools .<br><br>The Council is working with Skills Development Scotland and Borders College to ensure a suitable range of Modern Apprenticeship qualifications are available in the Scottish Borders. Work to establish Foundation Apprenticeship courses is also being taken forward by the CPP partners. |
| Improve the access to further and higher education and the opportunity for lifelong learning | The redevelopment of Eyemouth Primary School will provide opportunities for increased community                                                                                                                        | Community Consultation – Fit for 2024                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 2020/2021                               | Scottish Borders Council              | Older person’s digital skills session in Eyemouth.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |



BERWICKSHIRE LOCALITY ACTION PLAN – UPDATED 20/01/2020

|                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                     |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                         | <p>use &amp; lifelong learning opportunities.</p> <p>Borders College digital hub creation.</p>                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                     |                                             | <p>Food Hygiene (REHIS) Training offered to volunteers to support Eyemouth Street Food Event</p> <p>Digital spoke sites now live in Eyemouth and Berwickshire High Schools .</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                                                                                                                                         | <p>Develop IT skills to enable them to access important services and save money online.</p>                                                                                                                                   | <p>Identify areas where digital skills café can be delivered in wider Berwickshire, develop delivery capacity and roll-out.</p> <p>Project Model to be developed and applied to other communities across Berwickshire</p> | <p>Spring 2020</p>  | <p>SBC Community Capacity Building Team</p> | <p>Four partnership sessions delivered to aid understanding of the diverse range of needs in order to support older people in the community to encourage and develop confidence using technology in their daily lives.</p> <p>Partners have come together to form a steering group to enable delivery of community sessions. Community sessions delivered March to May 2019.</p> |
|                                                                                                                                         | <p>Borders College physical and digital hub network to provide better access to training in health and social care, renewable energy, engineering and construction skills will improve access for some types of training.</p> | <p>Development of spoke sites to include provision at Eyemouth and Berwickshire.</p>                                                                                                                                      | <p>October 2019</p> | <p>E-Learning Manager</p>                   | <p>Digital spoke sites now live in Eyemouth and Berwickshire High Schools .</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p>Protect and retain traditional skills unique to Berwickshire (e.g. sea skills)</p>                                                   | <p>Berwickshire/Duns Skills Development Partnership to be established with a range of local 3<sup>rd</sup> sector partners taking the lead.</p>                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>2020</p>         | <p>A Heart for Duns</p>                     | <p>A project to encourage young people to be involved in traditional boat building has been run in Eyemouth in recent years by local experts. This is provided on a voluntary basis.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>Encourage business start-ups &amp; investment in the area, for example with the availability of suitable (and flexible) business</p> | <p>A Heart for Duns are conducting a feasibility study on the Volunteer Hall site, with the view to</p>                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>January 2020</p> | <p>A Heart for Duns</p>                     | <p>Public responses on the Main Issues Report have been gathered and are being used to inform the Local Development Plan (LDP2).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

BERWICKSHIRE LOCALITY ACTION PLAN – UPDATED 20/01/2020

|                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                         |  |           |                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| spaces                                                                                                                                                                                                      | provide further mixed use appropriate to local market requirements.                                                                                                     |  |           |                                                                   | The Council has provided serviced sites for businesses to develop their own premises on. There are serviced plots available in Eyemouth, Duns and Coldstream.<br><br>SBC has secured funding from SOSEP which will provide dedicated Community Enterprise support for Eyemouth & East Berwickshire. |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                             | The Council will work with South of Scotland Enterprise to ensure that sites are serviced and available for private sector development and inward investment in future. |  |           |                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Encourage further partnership working to support the area in managing the economic and social impact of current and future demographic changes (i.e. increasing older population, young people moving away) | Continue work in Eyemouth to deliver a range of actions identified in the Vision 4 Eyemouth documents.                                                                  |  | 2019-2023 | Scottish Borders Council/Eyemouth & East Berwickshire partnership | The Council has worked with Berwickshire Housing Association and other local partners to help support the Vision 4 Eyemouth initiative and action plan.                                                                                                                                             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Work with Coldstream Community Council and Community Trust to address the challenges set out in their community action plan.                                            |  | 2018-2022 | Coldstream Community Trust/Coldstream Community Council           | Action plan published.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**HEALTH CARE & WELLBEING**

| Priority                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Planned Activity                                                                                                                      | How will the activity be delivered | Project timeline | Who will deliver the project                                                     | Progress                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Co-location of specialist services and better service planning, acknowledging the complexities of delivering services, leading to improved outcomes                                                                           | Develop two integrated team covering all areas across the locality                                                                    |                                    | September 2017   | Health & Social Care Partnership /AHP                                            | Update Required                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Implement joint staff meetings and training for Health, Social Care and Third Sector staff                                            |                                    |                  |                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Improve the availability and accessibility of <i>Health &amp; Social Care</i> services for people living in rural areas and towns across Berwickshire, <i>in particular (vulnerable) Young People and an aging population</i> | Develop a link with the transport hub to establish rural needs and potential solutions.                                               |                                    | September 2017   | TSI/Locality Working Group                                                       | Update Required                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Work with community led steering group to establish appropriate 'What Matters Hubs' across Berwickshire locality.                     |                                    | 2017-2018        | SBC Community Led Support.                                                       | What Matters Hubs established in Duns, Eyemouth and pop-up provision in Cockburnspath.                                                                                                                                   |
| Increase the availability of locally based rehabilitation services <i>and specialist services</i>                                                                                                                             | Scope out the gaps in community rehabilitation services across the partnership and devise and implement a structure to address these. |                                    | September 2017   | Integrated Joint Board – Locality Working Group/Allied Health Professionals Lead | Day Services Review Engagement Event Hosted 27/6/2017<br><br>Health in Mind, Re:discover Borders funded to provide 12 week outdoor skills programme to assist those people living with challenging mental health. (LBF2) |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Increase access to Allied Health Professionals and support staff to manage people's rehabilitation needs within the community         |                                    | March 2018       |                                                                                  | Update Required                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

BERWICKSHIRE LOCALITY ACTION PLAN – UPDATED 20/01/2020

|                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                             |                                                                                                         |            |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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|                                                                                                                                  | Raise Awareness of Live Borders 'Active Ageing' programme within the local community                        |                                                                                                         | March 2017 | Locality Working Group/Live Borders                                                 | Update Required                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Increase the range of <i>affordable and accessible</i> housing options available across the locality                             | Delivery of Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2018-2023                                              | Work with Berwickshire Housing Association to support the development of appropriate extra care housing | 2023       | Berwickshire Housing Association/SBC Housing Strategy Team Borders Housing Alliance | SES Housing Needs assessment has been produced and forms the basis for future planning.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                                                                                                                  | Work with Registered Social Landlords to develop alternative accommodation across all areas of the locality | Deliver Housing Strategy                                                                                | 2017-2022  | Registered Social Landlords/Housing Strategy Team                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Improve support for unpaid carers                                                                                                | Consult on and respond to the Scottish Government's Consultation on draft regulations                       |                                                                                                         |            | Integrated Joint Board SBC Social Work                                              | In conjunction with Borders Carers Centre a new draft Carers support plan has been tested.<br><br>What Matters Hubs have relevant information available eg Carers Act & Self Directed Support                                                                                                                                                       |
| Increase the range of care and support options across the locality to enable people to remain in their own homes and communities | Support the independent sector to implement My Home Life - <i>Locality Working Group</i>                    |                                                                                                         |            | Integrated Joint Board – Locality Working Group                                     | What Matters Hubs have relevant information available eg Carers Act & Self Directed Support – <i>Community led support Steering Group</i><br>'What Matters' hubs established in Duns, Eyemouth and pop-up provision in Cockburnspath<br>What Matters Hubs and Hospital to home teams now have a Technology Enabled Care (TEC)<br>Goody bag or small |

|  |                                                                                         |                                                                                     |                 |                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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|  |                                                                                         |                                                                                     |                 |                                  | pieces of equipment that can be used to show clients or be loaned to clients for a period.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|  | Work with providers in the development of available support service.                    | Further roll-out of Florence Home Mobile Monitoring for hypertension in early 2020. | Throughout 2020 | Integrated Joint Board           | <p>Florence Home Mobile Health Monitoring for Hypertension is being rolled out across the Borders and is now live Duns, Chirnside and Greenlaw.</p> <p>AskSARA launched mid December. This is an online self-help guide that provides expert advice and information on products and equipment that can potentially help older and disabled adults with everyday living.</p> <p>Border Ability Equipment Service redesign to include locality stores.</p> |
|  | Support the implementation of new ways of working through the frailty redesign pathways |                                                                                     |                 |                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|  | Support the further development of reablement services within the Third sector          |                                                                                     | March 2018      | Red Cross/Locality Working Group |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

|                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                     | Develop partnership activities and interventions                                                    | Link with Healthy Living Network to further develop activities and locality specific action plans.<br>Work to support further development within<br>Support development of Community Capacity Building initiatives |  | Joint Health Improvement Team<br>Eyemouth Practice/Locality Working Group<br>Community Capacity Building Team |                                                                                                                                                  |
| Focus on rural isolation and social inclusion and the impacts on mental health on people living across the locality | Young Persons mental health referral protocol training delivered to frontline staff in the locality |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  | SBC Community Learning & Development (Young People)                                                           | Young People’s Emotional Health, Well-being and Resilience steering meeting held – CLD Youth Learning/Eyemouth High School                       |
|                                                                                                                     | Annual health & well-being day held at Eyemouth High School                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  | Eyemouth High School                                                                                          | New integrated summer activities provided by Connect Berwickshire Youth Project covering Duns, Eyemouth and Coldstream and outlying areas (LBF1) |
|                                                                                                                     | Initiate signposting of young people to support service and information through SPOC digital portal |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |                                                                                                               | Funding provided to Eat, Sleep & Ride CIC to develop their horse therapy service (LBF2)                                                          |
|                                                                                                                     | Conduct further research with young people regarding emotional health and well being –              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  | CLS Youth Learning/Eyemouth High School                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                  |

|                                                                                                               |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Understand the future care requirements for the area and how best to incentivise people to work in the sector |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|

**QUALITY OF LIFE**

|                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Planned Activity</b>                                                                                       | <b>How will the activity be delivered</b> | <b>Project timeline</b> | <b>Who will deliver the project</b> | <b>Progress</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Continue to support multi-agency partnership working opportunities, promoting referrals/pathways to those local initiatives and sharing good practice. | Additional resources identified to extend Community Action Team (CAT) capacity                                | Recruitment and deployment of second CAT. | 2019/20                 | Police Scotland                     | Jedburgh Grammar School JAAT (Joint Agency Action Team) – meets 4 times per annum.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Domestic abuse services to be embedded within new Public Protection Service and whole family approach.        | Relocation of staff                       | Early 2020              | SBC Safer Communities Team          | The Safer Communities Team currently coordinate the activity of the Council funded Community Action Team (CAT). A member/Officer Oversight Group meet to task based on data and local intelligence/knowledge. Domestic Abuse Multi-agency Risk Assessment meetings held monthly aimed at protecting victims. |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Increase early interventions conducted to address Anti-social behaviour.                                      |                                           |                         |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Expand and develop Eyemouth Street Food Event working group with wider engagement of partners and volunteers. |                                           | Summer 2020             | Splash/NHS Health Promotion         | HLN/CLD focus on food industry and healthy diet as part of LCP Plan, event delivered on priority to encourage further partnership working.<br><br>Production of Eyemouth Good Food Partnership Newsletter.                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Source funding to enable trial of Beat the Street Initiative                                                  |                                           | 2019/2020               | NHS Health Promotion                | Partial funding secured, project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |



|                                                                                                                  |                                                                                    |                                                                                                 |                            |                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Invest in and create community facilities and spaces.                                                            | Feasibility Study to be conducted on the redevelopment of the Volunteer Hall, Duns |                                                                                                 | October 19 to January 2020 | A Heart for Duns                                   | Contractor appointed and feasibility study now commenced.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                                                  | Intergenerational Community Campus Consultation and Development                    |                                                                                                 | 2020                       |                                                    | Initial community workshop held in Eyemouth                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                  | Support community groups/organisations through delivery of the Community Fund      |                                                                                                 | Ongoing                    | Area Partnerships/SBC Communities and Partnerships | Delivery of Locality Bid Fund 1&2 to with following projects supported:<br>Funding support provided to extend use of Duns Primary School outside of school hours for public performances. Also, wider community use of new playground equipment and enhancements. (LBF 1)<br>Provide start up funding for insurance and equipment to support the creation of Duns & District Men’s Shed (LBF1)<br>Funding provided to Friends of Ayton Primary to support the installation of AV equipment to enable wider community and functional use of the facility. (LBF2) |
| Support local community capacity building, in particular local volunteers (utilising their skills and expertise) | Roll-out of Digital Skills training across Berwickshire                            | Scope out the demand and feasibility.<br>Commence wider delivery plan<br>Evaluate effectiveness | Spring 2020                | Community Capacity Building Team                   | Pilot Digital Skills Programme delivered in Eyemouth<br>Community Fridge initiated by local volunteers<br>Volunteer Conference Held, Springwood Park, Kelso – Lord Lieutenants.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

|                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                |           |              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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|                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                |           |              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Encourage leisure/cultural facilities to be as accessible as possible (convenient, affordable, time of day)                                                      | Live Borders Strategy 2018-2023                                                         | Expand levels of participation, including having universal membership card and developing services where there is significant need.            | 2018-2023 | Live Borders | Community activity funded through Locality Bid Fund 1 & 2:<br>Sea the Change beach wheelchairs improving access to beach environs and<br>Installation of power hoist at Duns Pool to enable independent access.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Improve communication across communities and between public agencies, including promotion / marketing of specific activities (e.g. men's shed, walking football) | Area Partnership will enable further opportunities for joint working on key priorities. | Promotion of opportunities available to communities through the Community Empowerment Act – Participation requests, Community Asset Transfers. |           |              | Red Cross Activities Calendar produced and updated regularly.<br>ALISS (a Local Information System for Scotland) is a web based information portal is live can be used to share information on activities.<br>Learning Community Partnership Monthly Bulletin established providing information and training opportunities for partners.<br>SBC Production of funding profiles for localities to enable identification of funding and new developments.<br>Berwickshire Area Partnership established and |

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|  |  |  |  |  | will facilitate increased joint working, |
|--|--|--|--|--|------------------------------------------|

| ENVIRONMENT & PLACE                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                              |                                    |                  |                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| Priority                                                                                                                                                                                      | Planned Activity                                                                                                                                             | How will the activity be delivered | Project timeline | Who will deliver the project               | Progress                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Investment in sustainable transport infrastructure and service provision                                                                                                                      | SBC Passenger Transport Community Consultation/Planning being undertaken for services 2020/21                                                                |                                    | Ongoing          | SBC Passenger Transport                    | Transport Conference held in June 2019 – conference output then considered by the Area Partnership.<br>Youth Scot discount available to young people on single fares                                                                                                     |
| Work with local communities on regenerating and reimagining their local places (town centres, village halls, play areas etc.)                                                                 | Local Development Plan 2 will provide a local framework for development guided by the overarching South East Scotland Strategic Development Plans (SESplan). |                                    | March 2020       | SBC Regulatory Services                    | SESplan Strategic Development Plan sets the key policy areas for Economic Growth (employment land, town centres, retail and minerals) • Housing (housing land requirements, flexibility and affordable housing) • Infrastructure (transportation, infrastructure)        |
| Understand the housing needs of the area and ensure the right developments are being considered to meet those needs, including affordable housing and housing for all stages and ages of life | The Delivery of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan:                                                                                                       |                                    | 2019-2023        | SBC/Registered Social Landlords/Developers | The Local Housing Strategy 2017-22 sets out a vision for the supply, quality and availability of housing in the local area. The LHS is the key planning document, providing a framework of action, investment and partnership-working to deliver these local priorities. |

BERWICKSHIRE LOCALITY ACTION PLAN – UPDATED 20/01/2020

|                                                                           |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                |  |                          |                                                          |
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| Promote environmentally friendly home energy solutions to local residents | Bio-diversity Strategy<br>Low Carbon Economic Strategy 2023<br>SBC Affordable Warmth & Home Energy Strategy 2019-2023 Actions | Continued roll-out and promotion of Home Energy Efficiency Programme (HEEP).<br>Development of Community Food Growing Strategy |  | Borders Housing Alliance | ECO Schools Programme<br>Community Food Growing Strategy |
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Agenda Item 5b

# Cheviot Locality Plan 2020

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# Cheviot Area Partnership

The Cheviot Area Partnership<sup>1</sup> is about creating a space where the aspirations and ideas of the community can be heard and community planning can be strengthened through communities and public bodies working together.

The Locality Plan is part of this process. It outlines the priorities of the Cheviot area with a focus on reducing inequalities to improve the area for those who live, work and visit the area.

<sup>1</sup> Area Partnership – brings together organisations, groups, individuals and businesses from across the locality to collectively work together



# Introduction

## Welcome to the Cheviot Locality Plan



This plan builds on the Scottish Borders Community Plan and sets out:

- The priorities for improving the area over the next five years
- The commitment to work in partnership and use our shared resources <sup>2</sup> in the most effective way to reduce inequality

In bringing together this plan we have asked, and will continue to ask, local people across Cheviot what would make the area better.

<sup>2</sup> Resources – this could be funding (e.g. budget or grants), people (e.g. staff of volunteers) or assets (e.g. land, buildings or equipment)

This plan is structured around four themes:



Comments and feedback gathered at Area Partnership meetings to date have been prioritised to reflect what actions need to be undertaken in the Locality to make a difference.

Communities, community planning partners<sup>3</sup> and local service providers<sup>4</sup> will need to work together in partnership to plan and deliver better services that meet the needs of the people who use them.

At a Borders-wide level this is done through the Scottish Borders Community Plan and the Community Planning Partnership.

At an area level this is done through the Cheviot Area Partnership, the Cheviot Locality Plan and associated Action Plan. We expect to continue to evolve these plans to reflect the developments within the area. The most up to date action plan is available on Scottish Borders Council's Website [www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships).

At a local level, services and communities continue to respond to their local community needs. Local plans, including local community action plans demonstrate this and are referenced at the end of this plan.

“How do we build and improve our economy, skills and learning?”

“How do we promote and improve our health, care and wellbeing?”

“How do we protect and improve our quality of life?”

“How do we develop and improve our environment & place?”

<sup>3</sup> Community planning partners – those organisations who are taking forward the Scottish Borders Community Plan

<sup>4</sup> Local service providers – those organisations who are providing services locally (e.g. GPs, Community Nurses, Business Advisors, etc.)

# What we know about Cheviot

## Key Facts and Figures

A selection of key facts and figures relating to the issues highlighted by our communities have been identified and detailed on this page. These present what data we have and what is known about the area, as well as a reflection against the Scottish Borders and national averages where possible.

A more comprehensive Cheviot Area Profile is available detailing all the key information for the area. This is available to download from [www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships)

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### POPULATION

**9.1%** of Cheviot's population was considered to be **income-deprived** in 2016. **(Scottish Borders = 9.7%; Scotland = 12.5%)**  
This ranged within Cheviot from **3% in the least-deprived neighbourhoods** to **19% in the most-deprived**



(SG-SIMD)

### TOWN CENTRE FOOTFALL 2012-2016

up **22%** Kelso  
down **20%** Jedburgh  
**(SB = down 6%)**

(SBC-PR)

### VOLUNTARY WORK

**51%** of survey respondents are **involved in voluntary work**, such as supporting Parent Councils, committees or helping a neighbour with shopping  
**(SB = 59%)**

(SBHS2018)

### BROADBAND

**5.3%** of premises were **unable to receive 2Mb/S Broadband** in 2016 **(SB = 4.2%)**  
This ranged **within Cheviot** from **0%** in the **least-affected neighbourhood** to **37.7% in the most-affected**.

(OfCom)

Cheviot had amongst the **highest levels of digital exclusion** out of the **5 localities** in 2017, particularly in **Jedburgh and Kelso**.

(SBHS 2018/ Scottish Borders Digital Inclusion Index 2017)

### WELLBEING

**84.2%** of **Primary 7 pupils** took part in **"Active Schools" extra-curricular sports** in 2017-18 **(SB = 79.5%)**

By **S4** this was **down to 45.7%** **(SB = 36.7%)**



(SBHS 2018/ScotPHO/ SEEMIS)

### NEIGHBOURHOOD

**41%** of the people in **Cheviot** live within the **10% most access deprived** in all of Scotland **(SB = 27%)**



(SIMD 2016)

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACCESS

**34%** of **survey respondents** said they **have problems accessing public transport due to where they live** **(SB = 28%)**

(SBHS 2018)

### LEISURE FACILITIES ACCESS

**16%** of **survey respondents** said they **have difficulty accessing leisure facilities because of where they live** **(SB = 18%)**



(SBHS 2018)

# Cheviot Wards

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## POPULATION ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS

National Records of Scotland (NRS) estimates the population of **Cheviot** to be

**19,477** population  
 (16.9% of the Scottish Borders) (SB)

**15.0%** aged 0-15  
 (SB = 16.3%; SCOT = 17.0%)

**57.1%** aged 16-64  
 (SB = 59.2%; SCOT = 64.7%)

**27.8%** aged 65+  
 (SB = 24.5%; SCOT = 18.3%)

(NRS 2017)



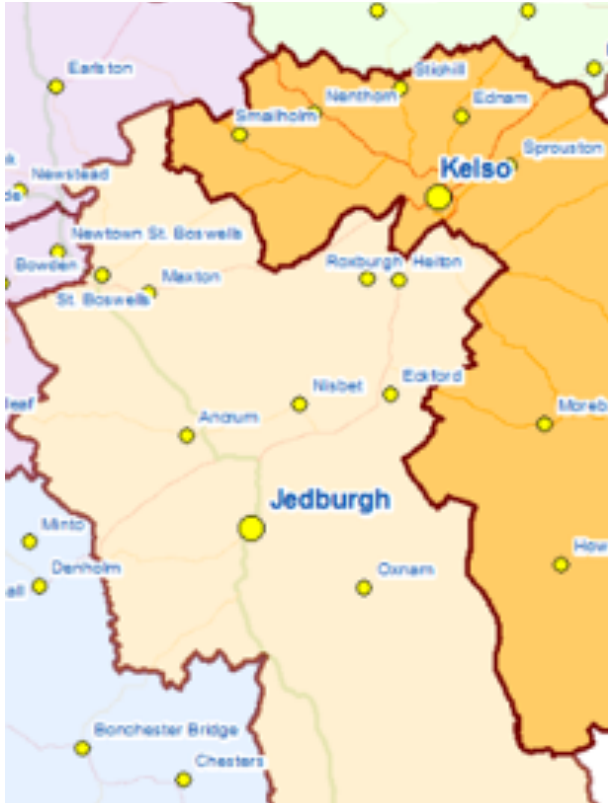
### KELSO & DISTRICT

**10,321** Population



**6,903** Kelso

**611** Yetholm



### JEDBURGH & DISTRICT

**9,156** Population



**3,882** Jedburgh

**1,460** St Boswells

# Engaging with our Communities

It is the intention of the Area Partnership to involve as wide a group of people as possible. This helps to make sure our plans reflect the needs of our communities. We will create more opportunities for people to attend the Area Partnership and talk to us in person, take part in surveys or contact us online. As further information and understanding of the needs and ambitions of our communities is gathered, the Area Partnership will continue to build on this plan. We welcome your views and suggestions.

There are many other ways of being involved in your local community, key contacts are provided below:

To give us your views or to get involved with Area Partnerships please contact:

Communities and Partnerships Team  
Email: [communityplanning@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:communityplanning@scotborders.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 0300 100 1800

More information on Community Councils:

[www.scotborders.gov.uk/communitycouncils](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/communitycouncils)  
Telephone: 01835 825005.

Many Community Council's now have their own website and social media pages and will also be contactable directly through these means.

More information on volunteering, community support or advice:

Volunteer Centre Borders  
[www.vcborders.org.uk](http://www.vcborders.org.uk)  
Telephone: 01896 754041  
Email: [enquiries@vcborders.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@vcborders.org.uk)

The Bridge (Roxburgh Office)  
[www.the-bridge.uk.net](http://www.the-bridge.uk.net)  
Telephone: 01835 863554  
Email: [roxburgh@the-bridge.uk.net](mailto:roxburgh@the-bridge.uk.net)

## Our Economy, Skills & Learning

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Cheviot is:

- Seek additional investment to help regenerate our town centres

Other priorities that are important to the Cheviot community:

- Improve the existing tourism offer, for example
  - development of existing and new accommodation businesses
  - co-ordination of, and between, key tourist sites
  - adjusting business opening hours to meet the needs of visitors
  - creation of new events
- Understand and develop the opportunities alongside the Developing the Young Workforce Programme
- Build on the investment in the new school/community campus estate
- Invest in opportunities for inter-generational projects, including the development of life skills
- Improve the infrastructure, specifically mobile and broadband connectivity as well as transport

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## Our Health, Care & Wellbeing

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Cheviot is:

- Help support (e.g. raise awareness, signpost, promote) and build the capacity (e.g. training, sharing best practice) of local community groups and organisations in delivering their activities.

Other priorities that are important to the Cheviot community:

- Increase the availability of locally based rehabilitation services
- Increase the range of care and support options across the locality to enable people to remain in their own homes and communities
- Improve transport links across Cheviot, including the opportunities that could be provided by Community Transport groups/organisations
- Improve support for unpaid carers
- Increase the range of housing options available across the locality to meet need and demand
- Improve efficiency and effectiveness of existing co-located and integrated teams (e.g. Multidisciplinary Team, Community Healthcare Team)
- Enhance and promote the “contact” opportunities for individuals with their local communities (to reduce social isolation)

## Our Quality of Life

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Cheviot is:

- Support the development of (multi-agency) approaches to tackle local community issues

Other priorities that are important to the Cheviot community:

- Encourage sports, leisure and youth clubs to provide year-round, affordable and accessible activities for all
- Sustain and improve local community space and activities for young people
- Improve communication across communities, including about specific projects and between public agencies
- Better understand the support on offer for, and within, the community (specifically from the Public and Third Sectors) across all themes of this Plan

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## Our Environment & Place

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Cheviot is:

- Improve public transport services/delivery models, including accessibility to them, and explore offering free transport for young people

Other priorities that are important to the Cheviot community:

- Plan for future infrastructure requirements, including connectivity (i.e. broadband) and energy (i.e. renewable technology and sustainable heating systems)
- Provide appropriate and affordable housing for all ages and stages of life, including mixed tenure/age housing developments and explore the opportunities of the old/forthcoming secondary school sites
- Ensure the locality has the right provision of business and industrial premises and land availability, including high street premises and spaces for small businesses
- Reduce our impact on the local (and global) environment by raising awareness of what local communities can do in terms of their homes, their businesses, their schools, their travel etc.
- Address local flooding issues, specifically where it holds back local development

# How we will measure success

The priorities identified in this plan have been used as the basis for the Cheviot Locality Action Plan. This action plan will help to track action and activities and to drive change in Cheviot. As this will be an ever changing document the action plan is available to download from Scottish Borders Council's website, [www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnership](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnership) or in hard copy from the Community & Partnerships Team.

The Cheviot Area Partnership will feedback every year on the progress made in delivering the priorities within this plan. By monitoring the progress we make, we can measure the difference made to local people and communities. Progress and achievements will be shared with the Community Planning Partnership and other public bodies as well as being shared and celebrated with the wider community.

We will continue to ask the community their views and encourage more people to participate in the Area Partnership. As the needs of the locality change, we will ensure the priorities and actions within the plan reflect these changes.

## Other Local Plans for Cheviot

- Jedburgh Economic Regeneration Action Plan
- Kelso Learning Community Partnership Plan
- Jedburgh Learning Community Partnership Plan
- Cheviot Health & Social Care Locality Plan





You can get this document on audio CD, in large print, and various other formats by contacting us at the address below. In addition, contact the address below for information on language translations, additional copies, or to arrange for an officer to meet with you to explain any areas of the publication that you would like clarified.

**COMMUNITIES & PARTNERSHIPS TEAM**

Scottish Borders Council | Council Headquarters | Newtown St Boswells | MELROSE | TD6 0SA  
tel: 0300 100 1800 | email: [Communityplanning@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:Communityplanning@scotborders.gov.uk)  
[www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships)

**ECONOMY SKILLS & LEARNING**

| Priority                                                        | Planned Activity                                                    | How will the activity be delivered                                                       | Project timeline             | Who will deliver the project                                | Progress                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Seek additional investment to help regenerate out town centres. | Jedburgh Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS)               | Restoration of heritage buildings in Jedburgh town centre                                | 2019-2022                    | SBC Economic Development                                    |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                 | Community Refurbishment of the Port House                           | Community Enterprise Manager will support the community to take forward project activity | 2020                         | Jedburgh Community Trust                                    | SBC has secured funding from SOSEP which will provide a dedicated Community Enterprise Manager for Jedburgh.                                                          |
|                                                                 | Jedburgh Economic Regeneration Action Plan                          |                                                                                          | Ongoing                      | JCC<br>SBC Economic Development                             | Feasibility Studies being undertaken to explore options for the redevelopment of SBC legacy buildings                                                                 |
| Improve the existing tourism offer<br>Page 67                   | Development of existing and new accommodation or tourism Businesses |                                                                                          |                              |                                                             | Community Fund currently supporting the development of the Morebattle Heritage Centre.                                                                                |
|                                                                 | Co-ordination of, and between, Key Tourist Sites                    | Continued development of “Scotland Starts here” App                                      | Ongoing<br><br>December 2018 | MBTAG/Visit Kelso<br><br>Jedburgh Tourism & Marketing Group | Visit Kelso local business led group established.<br>CF support provided to Jedburgh Marketing Group for the                                                          |
|                                                                 | Adjusting business opening hours to meet the needs of visitors      | Funding Currently being sourced from a range of sources                                  | April 2019                   |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                 | Creation of new events                                              |                                                                                          |                              | SBC Events Team                                             | SBC secured a Full stage of the Tour of Britain in the Scottish Borders for 2019, starting and finishing in Kelso                                                     |
| Develop the Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Programme      | DYW implemented in early years and primary school settings          |                                                                                          | 2020                         | Borders College                                             | DYW programme running for 4 years and has established strong links with industry and schools. DYW is in the process of recruiting Young Board members to their Board. |

CHEVIOT LOCALITY ACTION PLAN – UPDATED 10/12/2019

|                                                                                         |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                            |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Build on the investment in the new school/community campus in Kelso and Jedburgh</p> | <p>Options for a range of community linked uses are being discussed for the new Community Campus</p>                       | <p>Joint work between Live Borders and Scottish Borders Council -</p>                                                                                                                                            | <p>Nov-March 2020</p>                                                                      | <p>Fit for 2024 Transformation Team</p>                                                      | <p>Kelso High School completed and site being transformed into affordable housing.<br/>Jedburgh Campus Construction well underway and scheduled for opening in Spring 2020.<br/>Feasibility Studies being undertaken to explore options for the redevelopment of SBC legacy buildings within Jedburgh.<br/>Jedburgh Community Campus consultation held in June 2019</p>         |
| <p>Improve mobile and broadband connectivity as well as transport networks/roads</p>    | <p>Develop alternative transport models appropriate to local circumstances – locally controlled, flexible, meets needs</p> | <p>Public consultation on bus service provision in the Scottish Borders</p> <p>Explore options for Ecar based in Jedburgh/Kelso with enhanced marketing.</p>                                                     | <p>Autumn 2019</p> <p>January 2020</p>                                                     | <p>Bus Users Scotland</p> <p>SBC Communities &amp; Partnerships Team/Passenger Transport</p> | <p>Subsidised bus services delivered to main settlements:<br/>Earlston – Stichill and Kelso – 66<br/>Kelso – Greenlaw - Berwick – 85/87<br/>Kelso – Coldstream (Weds) – 710<br/>Westruther – Stichill – Kelso - 902</p>                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                         | <p>Deliver superfast broadband to all premises by end of 2021</p>                                                          | <p>The Scottish Government has commenced a new initiative, the R100 programme to deliver.</p> <p>The council is promoting a 4g infill programme alongside partners in the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal.</p> | <p>Contracts to be awarded end of 2019 and delivery expected to commence later in 2020</p> | <p>Scottish Government</p>                                                                   | <p>SBC has invested £8.4m in the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband Programme.</p> <p>SBC regularly lobbied Governments and the Mobile Network Operators to improve the coverage of mobile phone services and reduce the number of ‘not-spots’ in the Scottish Borders. It has also lobbied for improved 4G services coverage; these have improved over the last 2 years.</p> |

**HEALTH CARE & WELLBEING**

| Priority                                                                                                                         | Planned Activity                                                                                        | How will the activity be delivered                  | Project timeline       | Who will deliver the project                                 | Progress                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Support and build the capacity of local community groups and organisations in delivering their activities                        | Jedburgh Grammar Senior Pupils Volunteering Assembly to become annual event                             | Partnership working with LCP and JGS                | 2019-2021              | SBC Community Learning & Development/Jedburgh Grammar School | A very successful pilot volunteer assembly hosted by Jedburgh Grammar.                                                                                 |
|                                                                                                                                  | Workplace initiatives on mental health and well-being in SBC and NHS                                    | Suicide prevention training                         | 2019-2021              | Mental Health, NHS Borders                                   |                                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                  | Communicate information and services which are available to the public                                  | Continued development/roll-out of What Matters Hubs |                        | Social Work Team Leader – Cheviot                            | Community partners are integral to the delivery of What Matters Hubs - Red Cross produce a community activity directory                                |
|                                                                                                                                  | The Bridge and TSI partner offer capacity building support in accordance with the sectors needs,        | Both provision of group or 1:1 support.             | Ongoing                | The Bridge/TSI                                               | The Lord Lieutenants with support from SBC, VCB and TSI hosted a volunteering event in September 2019 at Springwood Park, Kelso.                       |
| Increase the availability of locally based rehabilitation services                                                               | Improve access to Allied Health Professionals and support staff to manage people's rehabilitation needs |                                                     |                        | Community & Primary Services, NHS Borders                    | What Matters Hubs established at Abbey Row, Kelso.<br>Establishment of locality based integrated health and social care community mental health teams. |
| Increase the range of care and support options across the locality to enable people to remain in their own homes and communities | Assisting Equipment purchasing by provision of advice and guidance                                      | Ask Sara website                                    | Launched December 2019 | Community Equipment Service                                  | 17 Satellite Equipment stores established across the Borders.<br>Automated equipment decontamination which allows faster turnaround of equipment.      |

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|                                        |                                                                                            |                                                                            |         |                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Page 70                                | Develop out of hospital care model                                                         | Reshape AHP services to support “Out of hospital care model”               |         | Primary & Community Services, NHS      | Buurtzorg pilot currently in progress. Weekly MDT patient reviews within Kelso. Health Care Support Workers recruited to support gaps in home care provision in Coldstream.                                                    |
|                                        | Embed the Self Directed Support approach in the assessment and support planning management |                                                                            |         | Chief Social Work Officer              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                        | Development of enablement services provided by our third sector.                           | Introduce community connection link worker.                                |         | Chief Social Work Officer              | A new centralised service matching requested for care at home provision with home care providers. Community connections approach piloted in Cheviot.                                                                           |
| Improve Transport Links across Cheviot | Explore options for innovation in the rural service.                                       | Bus users Survey.<br><br>Explore Extended Ecar provision in Jedburgh/Kelso | Ongoing | Bus Users Scotland                     | Flow centre operational and providing a single point of contact for Community Transport. Demand Responsive Transport operating in Smailholm, Stichill and surrounding areas. Borders Transport Conference hosted in June 2018. |
| Improve support for unpaid carers      | Consult on and respond to the Scottish Government’s Consultation on draft regulations      |                                                                            |         | Integrated Joint Board SBC Social Work | In conjunction with Borders Carers Centre a new draft Carers support plan has been tested.                                                                                                                                     |

CHEVIOT LOCALITY ACTION PLAN – UPDATED 10/12/2019

|                                                                                                                                           |                                                               |                                             |         |                                           |                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Increase the range of housing options available across the locality to meet need and demand                                               | Delivery of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan             | 37 Extra Care units to be provided in Kelso | 2021/22 | Borders Housing Alliance                  | SES Housing Needs                                                                                                                  |
| Improve efficiency and effectiveness of existing co-located and integrated teams (e.g. Multidisciplinary Team, Community Healthcare Team) | Reshape AHP services to support 'Out of hospital care' model. |                                             |         | Integrated Joint Board<br>SBC Social Work | Weekly multidisciplinary Team review of frail elderly patients within Kelso Practice.<br><br>Buurtzorg pilot currently in progress |

| QUALITY OF LIFE                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                             |                                  |                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Priority                                                                                                      | Planned Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | How will the activity be delivered                                          | Project timeline                 | Who will deliver the project                                                                                                   | Progress                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Support the development of multi-agency approaches to tackle local community issues                           | <p>Additional resources identified to extend Community Action Team (CAT) capacity</p> <p>Domestic abuse services to be embedded within new Public Protection Service and whole family approach.</p> <p>Increase early interventions conducted to address Anti-social behaviour.</p>                      | <p>Recruitment and deployment of second CAT.</p> <p>Relocation of staff</p> | <p>2019/20</p> <p>Early 2020</p> | <p>Police Scotland</p> <p>SBC Safer Communities Team</p>                                                                       | <p>Jedburgh Grammar School JAAT (Joint Agency Action Team) – meets 4 times per annum.</p> <p>The Safer Communities Team currently coordinate the activity of the Council funded Community Action Team (CAT). A member/Officer Oversight Group meets to task officers based on data and local intelligence.</p> <p>Domestic Abuse Multi-agency Risk Assessment meetings held monthly aimed at protecting victims.</p> |
| Encourage sports, leisure and youth clubs to provide year-round, affordable and accessible activities for all |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                             |                                  | Live Borders                                                                                                                   | Young Coach Academy and SCQF Sports Leaders qualifications being delivered by Active Schools to YP at JGS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Sustain and improve local community space and activities for all ages                                         | <p>High Schools (Kelso &amp; Jedburgh) develop intergenerational opportunities around IT Skills and other learning opportunities.</p> <p>Digital Skills Programme delivery by Cheviot Youth planned to continue to 2021.</p> <p>Jethart Youth Hub scoping options to deliver event for Older Adults.</p> | Financial support provided by SBC Community Fund                            | 2020/21                          | <p>Live Borders</p> <p>Village Halls</p> <p>SBC Community Capacity Building Team</p> <p>SBC Communities &amp; Partnerships</p> | <p>Red Cross Activities Programme developed/produced, this provide information on the range of community activities ongoing across the Borders.</p> <p>A Local Information System for Scotland (ALISS) introduced and promoted by NHS Borders Joint Health Improvement Team</p>                                                                                                                                      |



CHEVIOT LOCALITY ACTION PLAN – UPDATED 10/12/2019

|                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                |  |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                       | Community Capacity Building Team to scope opportunities for older adults supporting horticultural projects. |                                                                                                                                                |  |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Improve communication across communities, including about specific projects and between public agencies.                                              | Area Partnership will enable further opportunities for joint working on key priorities.                     | Promotion of opportunities available to communities through the Community Empowerment Act – Participation requests, Community Asset Transfers. |  | SBC/TSI/Community Councils | Learning Community Partnership Monthly Bulletin established providing information and training opportunities for partners.<br>SBC Production of funding profiles for localities to enable identification of funding and new developments.<br>Cheviot Area Partnership established and will facilitate increased joint working, |
| Better understand the support on offer for, and within, the community (specifically from the Public and Third Sectors) across all themes of this Plan |                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                |  |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

| ENVIRONMENT & PLACE                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                    |                                                            |                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Priority                                                                                                                                                                                                | Planned Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                         | How will the activity be delivered                                 | Project timeline                                           | Who will deliver the project               | Progress                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Improve public transport services/delivery models, including accessibility to them, and explore offering free transport for young people                                                                | SBC Passenger Transport Community Consultation/Planning being undertaken for services 2020/21                                                                                                                            |                                                                    | Ongoing                                                    | SBC Passenger Transport                    | Transport Conference held in June 2019 – conference output then considered by the Area Partnership. Youth Scot discount available to young people on single fares.                                                                                                       |
| Plan for future infrastructure requirements, including connectivity (i.e. broadband) and energy (i.e. renewable technology and sustainable heating systems)                                             | Local Development Plan will provide a local framework for development guided by the overarching South East Scotland Strategic Development Plans (SESplan).                                                               |                                                                    | March 2020                                                 | SBC Regulatory Services                    | SESplan Strategic Development Plan sets the key policy areas for Economic Growth (employment land, town centres, retail and minerals) • Housing (housing land requirements, flexibility and affordable housing) • Infrastructure (transportation, infrastructure)        |
| Provide appropriate and affordable housing for all ages and stages of life, including mixed tenure/age housing developments and explore the opportunities of the old/forthcoming secondary school sites | The Delivery of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan:<br>35 Affordable Homes planned for Cheviot in 2019/20<br>77 Affordable homes planned for Cheviot in 2021/22<br>12 Affordable homes planned for Cheviot in 2022/23 | Feasibility study to be conducted for the Jedburgh Grammar School. | December 2019<br><br>2019/20<br><br>2021/22<br><br>2022/23 | SBC/Registered Social Landlords/Developers | The Local Housing Strategy 2017-22 sets out a vision for the supply, quality and availability of housing in the local area. The LHS is the key planning document, providing a framework of action, investment and partnership-working to deliver these local priorities. |

CHEVIOT LOCALITY ACTION PLAN – UPDATED 10/12/2019

|                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                        |                   |                                                           |                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Ensure the locality has the right provision of business and industrial premises and land availability, including high street premises and spaces for small businesses</p>                     | <p>Local Development Plan 2 will bring together the anticipated needs for each respective area, this will drive development.<br/><br/>Area partnerships will be consulted on the Draft plan.</p> |                                                                                                                                        | <p>March 2020</p> | <p>SBC Regulatory Services</p>                            | <p>Main Issues report has been compiled which gathers views on Housing, transport, industry, and public services.</p> |
| <p>Reduce our impact on the local (and global) environment by raising awareness of what local communities can do in terms of their homes, their businesses, their schools, their travel etc.</p> | <p>Bio-diversity Strategy<br/>Low Carbon Economic Strategy 2023</p>                                                                                                                              | <p>Continued roll-out and promotion of Home Energy Efficiency Programme (HEEP).<br/>Development of Community Food Growing Strategy</p> |                   | <p>Borders Housing Alliance/Scottish Borders Council</p>  | <p>ECO Schools Programme<br/>Community Food Growing Strategy</p>                                                      |
| <p>Address local flooding issues, specifically where it holds back local development</p>                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                        |                   | <p>Scottish Borders Council – Flood Prevention Scheme</p> | <p>Tweed - Local Flood Risk Management Plan produced to guide development in affected areas.</p>                      |

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# Eildon Locality Plan 2020

# Contents

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# Eildon Area Partnership

The Eildon Area Partnership<sup>1</sup> is about creating a space where the aspirations and ideas of the community can be heard and community planning can be strengthened through communities and public bodies working together.

The Locality Plan is part of this process. It outlines the priorities of the Eildon area with a focus on reducing inequalities to improve the area for those who live, work and visit the area.

<sup>1</sup> Area Partnership – brings together organisations, groups, individuals and businesses from across the locality to collectively work together

# Introduction

## Welcome to the Eildon Locality Plan



This plan builds on the Scottish Borders Community Plan and sets out:

- The priorities for improving the area over the next five years
- The commitment to work in partnership and use our shared resources <sup>2</sup> in the most effective way to reduce inequality

In bringing together this plan we have asked, and will continue to ask, local people across Eildon what would make the area better.

<sup>2</sup> Resources – this could be funding (e.g. budget or grants), people (e.g. staff of volunteers) or assets (e.g. land, buildings or equipment)

This plan is structured around four themes:



Comments and feedback gathered at Area Partnership meetings to date have been prioritised to reflect what actions need to be undertaken in the Locality to make a difference.

Communities, community planning partners<sup>3</sup> and local service providers<sup>4</sup> will need to work together in partnership to plan and deliver better services that meet the needs of the people who use them.

At a Borders-wide level this is done through the Scottish Borders Community Plan and the Community Planning Partnership.

At an area level this is done through the Eildon Area Partnership, the Eildon Locality Plan and associated Action Plan. We expect to continue to evolve these plans to reflect the developments within the area. The most up to date action plan is available on Scottish Borders Council's Website [www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships).

At a local level, services and communities continue to respond to their local community needs. Local plans, including local community action plans demonstrate this and are referenced at the end of this plan.

“How do we build and improve our economy, skills and learning?”

“How do we promote and improve our health, care and wellbeing?”

“How do we protect and improve our quality of life?”

“How do we develop and improve our environment & place?”

<sup>3</sup> Community planning partners – those organisations who are taking forward the Scottish Borders Community Plan

<sup>4</sup> Local service providers – those organisations who are providing services locally (e.g. GPs, Community Nurses, Business Advisors, etc.)



# What we know about Eildon

## Key Facts and Figures

A selection of key facts and figures relating to the issues highlighted by our communities have been identified and detailed on this page. These present what data we have and what is known about the area, as well as a reflection against the Scottish Borders and national averages where possible.

A more comprehensive Eildon Area Profile is available detailing all the key information for the area. This is available to download from [www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships)



### POPULATION

National Records of Scotland (NRS) estimates the population of **Eildon** to be

**35,330** population  
(30.7% of the Scottish Borders (SB))

**16.5%** aged 0-15  
(SB = 16.3%; SCOT = 17.0%)

**61.2%** aged 16-64  
(SB = 59.2%; SCOT = 64.7%)

**22.3%** aged 65+  
(SB = 24.5%; SCOT = 18.3%)

(NRS 2017)



### TOWN CENTRE FOOTFALL 2012-2016

down **4%** Galashiels

down **2%** Melrose

up **2%** Selkirk  
(SB = down 6%)

(SBC-PR)

### HEALTH

**395** per 100,000 people were discharged from hospital with **Coronary Heart Disease**, 2015-18  
(SB = 343; SCOT = 381)

(ScotPHO)

### WELLBEING

**75%** of survey respondents say they take part in moderate physical 30-minute exercise at least twice a week.  
(Scottish Borders = 78%)

**73.8%** of Primary 7 pupils took part in "Active Schools" extra-curricular sports in 2017-18  
(SB = 79.5%)

(SBHS 2018/ScotPHO/ SEEMIS)



### NEIGHBOURHOOD

**41%** of the people in **Eildon** live within the 10% most access deprived in all of Scotland  
(SB = 27%)

(SIMD 2016)



### BROADBAND

**2.8%** of premises were unable to receive 2Mb/S Broadband in 2016  
(SB = 4.2%)

This ranged **within Eildon** from **0%** in the **least-affected neighbourhood** to **32.0%** in the **most-affected**.

(OfCom)

Eildon had **lower than average levels** of **digital exclusion** of the **5 localities** in 2017, but **higher** in parts of **Galashiels, Selkirk and Newtown St Boswells**

(SBHS 2018/ Scottish Borders Digital Inclusion Index 2017)

### UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMANT RATE ALL PEOPLE AGED 16-64

**2.3%** Galashiels and District


**0.9%** Leaderdale and Melrose

**1.4%** Selkirkshire  
(SB = 1.4%; SCOT = 1.8%)

(ONS - NOV 18)

# Eildon Wards




**GALASHIELS & DISTRICT** 

**14,957** Population

**12,603** Galashiels

**711** Stow

**LEADERDALE & MELROSE** 

**10,746** Population

**2,464** Melrose      **1,790** Lauder

**2,022** Tweedbank      **1,728** Earlston

**SELKIRKSHIRE** 

**9,627** Population

**5,560** Selkirk

**1,331** Newtown St Boswells

# Engaging with our Communities

It is the intention of the Area Partnership to involve as wide a group of people as possible. This helps to make sure our plans reflect the needs of our communities. We will create more opportunities for people to attend the Area Partnership and talk to us in person, take part in surveys or contact us online. As further information and understanding of the needs and ambitions of our communities is gathered, the Area Partnership will continue to build on this plan. We welcome your views and suggestions.

There are many other ways of being involved in your local community, key contacts are provided below:

To give us your views or to get involved with Area Partnerships please contact:

Communities and Partnerships Team  
Email: [communityplanning@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:communityplanning@scotborders.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 0300 100 1800

More information on Community Councils:

[www.scotborders.gov.uk/communitycouncils](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/communitycouncils)  
Telephone: 01835 825005.

Many Community Council's now have their own website and social media pages and will also be contactable directly through these means.

More information on volunteering, community support or advice:

Volunteer Centre Borders  
[www.vcborders.org.uk](http://www.vcborders.org.uk)  
Telephone: 01896 754041  
Email: [enquiries@vcborders.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@vcborders.org.uk)

The Bridge (Central Office)  
[www.the-bridge.uk.net](http://www.the-bridge.uk.net)  
Telephone: 01896 755370  
Email: [central@the-bridge.uk.net](mailto:central@the-bridge.uk.net)

## Our Economy, Skills & Learning

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Eildon is:

- Improve rural digital connectivity, accessibility and use of technology
- Improve the accessibility and reliability of transport services

Other priorities that are important to the Eildon community:

- Enhance career advice and career opportunities by promoting modern apprenticeships and vocational training
- Increase learning opportunities and skills development across a wide range of subjects and vocations and ages
- Invest in local, sustainable employment opportunities
- Develop a business / community hub model for tech start ups, small businesses etc and encourage new businesses to set up the Locality
- Encourage intergenerational activity and creation of learning hubs in schools, Borders College and community spaces
- Promote Eildon as a visitor destination, highlighting the heritage and unique selling points of the area networks/roads

## Our Health, Care & Wellbeing

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Eildon is:

- Increase the range and accessibility of community activities to encourage a reduction in drug and alcohol use in the Eildon locality

Other priorities that are important to the Eildon community:

- Increase the range of care and support options across the locality to enable people to remain in their own homes and communities
- Increase the availability of locally based rehabilitation services
- Improve the availability and accessibility of services for people living in rural areas
- Increase the range of housing options available across the locality and plan for future housing needs
- Reduce the number of people admitted to hospital with drug and alcohol related problems
- Reduce the number of people attending the Borders General Hospital on multiple occasions
- Support people to make informed health and lifestyle choices

## Our Quality of Life

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Eildon is:

- Create safe areas for young people within local communities and provide leisure facilities that are accessible and affordable

Other priorities that are important to the Eildon community:

- Revise transport provision to improve connectivity and reduce rural isolation
- Strengthen partnership working between local services
- Improve communication of social and leisure opportunities to local residents
- Carry out more community mapping and consultations to identify what people want in their area
- Improve older people's quality of life by increasing their sense of safety within the community

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## Our Environment & Place

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Eildon is:

- Create appropriately placed, affordable & socially inclusive housing in the countryside
- Develop attractions within the countryside to encourage visitors to the area

Other priorities that are important to the Eildon community:

- Housing stock should reflect need in the local community, be affordable and be accessible for local services
- Reduce fuel poverty across the Locality. All housing developments to incorporate eco infrastructures into builds
- Development of town / village centres and housing must consider the environment and health and wellbeing of people who will live there

# How we will measure success

The priorities identified in this plan have been used as the basis for the Eildon Locality Action Plan. This action plan will help to track action and activities and to drive change in Eildon. As this will be an ever changing document the action plan is available to download from Scottish Borders Council's website, [www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnership](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnership) or in hard copy from the Community & Partnerships Team.

The Eildon Area Partnership will feedback every year on the progress made in delivering the priorities within this plan. By monitoring the progress we make, we can measure the difference made to local people and communities. Progress and achievements will be shared with the Community Planning Partnership and other public bodies as well as being shared and celebrated with the wider community.

We will continue to ask the community their views and encourage more people to participate in the Area Partnership. As the needs of the locality change, we will ensure the priorities and actions within the plan reflect these changes.

## Other Local Plans for Eildon

- Earlston Community Action Plan
- Ettrick and Yarrow Community Development Plan
- Heriot Plan (draft)
- Earlston Learning Community Partnership Plan
- Galashiels Learning Community Partnership Plan
- Selkirk Learning Community Partnership Plan



You can get this document on audio CD, in large print, and various other formats by contacting us at the address below. In addition, contact the address below for information on language translations, additional copies, or to arrange for an officer to meet with you to explain any areas of the publication that you would like clarified.

**COMMUNITIES & PARTNERSHIPS TEAM**

Scottish Borders Council | Council Headquarters | Newtown St Boswells | MELROSE | TD6 0SA

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[www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships)



| Theme: Economy skills and learning                                         |                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                      |                  |                              |                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Priority                                                                   | Planned Activity                                                                                                                                                      | How will the activity be delivered                                                                                                                                   | Project timeline | Who will deliver the project | Progress                                                                                            |
| To improve rural digital connectivity, accessibility and use of technology | Continue to work with the UK and Scottish Government, Mobile Network Operators and local Partners to develop broadband coverage and wireless based internet services. | Through continuous lobbying with The Scottish and UK Governments and with Mobile Network Operators we have increased and improved 4G coverage over the last 4 years. |                  |                              | Scottish Borders Council has invested £8.4 M in the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband Programme. |
|                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                       | Engage with the Scottish Governments R100 programme which aims to deliver superfast broadband to all occupied premises by the end of 2021.                           |                  |                              | We have increased the number of businesses and households who have access to superfast broadband.   |
| Improve the accessibility and reliability of transport services            | Public consultation on bus service provision in the Scottish Borders was completed in Autumn 2019                                                                     | Subsidised bus services on routes;<br><br>Galashiels – Earlston (Sat, Sun AM) – 61<br>Galashiels – Earlston                                                          |                  | Passenger Transport SBC      | Public consultation on bus service provision in the Scottish Borders was completed in Autumn 2019   |

|                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |                                |                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|----------------------|
|                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | and St Boswells (Sat evening) – 61/67<br>Earlston – Stichill and Kelso – 66<br>Border Weaver - 964                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |                                | (Bus Users Scotland) |
|                                                                                                            | The viability and affordability of some bus routes is currently being reviewed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |                                |                      |
| Enhance career advice and career opportunities by promoting modern apprenticeships and vocational training | The creation by Borders College of a physical and digital hub network to provide better access to training in health and social care, renewable energy, engineering and construction skills will improve access for some types of training. It is intended that schools and potentially business premises are part of the digital hub network, ensuring a wide geographic spread of these facilities. | The Council is working with Skills Development Scotland and Borders College to ensure a suitable range of Modern Apprenticeship qualifications are available in the Scottish Borders. Work to establish Foundation Apprenticeship courses is also being taken forward by the CPP partners. |  | Skills Development Scotland    |                      |
|                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  | Borders College                |                      |
|                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  | Developing the Young Workforce |                      |

|                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                             |  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Increase learning opportunities across a wide range of subjects | Weekly employability drop-in sessions delivered by Works+ for all ages at the Focus Centre in Galashiels                                                                  | The redevelopment of Galashiels Academy and Earlston Primary School will provide opportunity for increased community use of the campus and lifelong learning opportunities  |  |  | Lifelong learning and skills development opportunities across a wide range of subjects and vocations are available through Borders College. This includes a rural learning offer which can be accessed s digitally. |
|                                                                 | Family breakfast and activity club at Langlee Early Years Centre, provides healthy food, physical activity opportunities, family activities and family learning sessions. |                                                                                                                                                                             |  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                                                 | Knowepark Primary School computer coding club open all P5-P7 pupils in the Eildon cluster with a view to open to a wider age range once the club is established           | Borders College's physical and digital hub network will provide better access to training in health and social care, renewable energy, engineering and construction skills. |  |  | Digital IT suite created in TD1 youth hub to develop young people's IT skills and gain qualifications.                                                                                                              |
|                                                                 | Learning Community Partnership subgroup are planning an information event for participants who graduate Job Centre Plus courses                                           |                                                                                                                                                                             |  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

|                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                         |  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Invest in local, sustainable employment opportunities                           | The Great Scottish Tapestry visitor centre will provide local employment opportunities                                                    | SBC will work with South of Scotland Enterprise to ensure that sites are serviced and available for private sector development and inward investment in future.         |  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                           | SBC will work with South of Scotland Enterprise to ensure that modern industrial and office premises are available for business growth and inward investment in future. |  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Develop a business/ Community hub model for tech start-ups and small businesses | The Central Borders Innovation Park at Tweedbank will create employment opportunities through the creation of office and industrial space | Scottish Enterprise provides support to businesses                                                                                                                      |  |  | It is anticipated that the level of support and encouragement to businesses to start up, grow or invest in the Scottish Borders will significantly increase when South of Scotland Enterprise becomes operational in April |

|                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |  |                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | SBC will provide support to businesses to help them start up and to grow through Business Gateway.                                                                                       |  |  | 2020.                                                                                                                                                                |
| Encourage intergenerational activity and creation of learning hubs in schools, Borders College and community spaces | Borders College's physical and digital hub network will provide better access to training in health and social care, renewable energy, engineering and construction skills.                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |  |                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Promote Eildon as a visitor destination                                                                             | There are a number of initiatives and projects being developed to increase tourism in Eildon including The Great Tapestry of Scotland, Galashiels Town Trail, Trimontium Museum, Stow Station House, Walks of Stow, the upgrade of Eildon Hills path and Bird Gardens Scotland | SBC has supported the Selkirk Business Improvement District initiative<br><br>SBC working with Melrose RFC to expand the potential of Melrose 7's into a multi-day, international event. |  |  | The Melrose 7's event has been supported by SBC to grow and attract more visitors to the area.<br><br>Borders Book festival has grown nationally and internationally |

|  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |                                             |  |
|--|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------------|--|
|  |  | <p>The Council will work with community organisations to develop new signage and a refreshed town trail in Galashiels.</p>                                                                                                                                                                     |  | Midlothian and Borders Tourism Action Group |  |
|  |  | <p>Continue to develop the “Scotland Starts Here” app.</p> <p>The Scotland Starts Here app connects visitors to Midlothian &amp; The Scottish Borders. Connecting people to places makes for a more memorable experience and helps people experience, not just observe – it is our culture</p> |  |                                             |  |

**Theme: Health, Care and Wellbeing**

| Priority                                                                                                                                    | Planned Activity                                                                                                                                                                                     | How will the activity be delivered                                                                                                                           | Project timeline | Who will deliver the project                               | Progress                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Increase the range and accessibility of community activities to encourage a reduction in drug and alcohol use in the Eildon locality</p> | <p>Develop the Learning Community Partnership's understanding of referral routes to support people they work with</p>                                                                                | <p>ALISS (A Local Information System for Scotland) is helping increase the availability of health and wellbeing information across the Scottish Borders.</p> |                  | <p>Alcohol Drugs Partnership</p>                           | <p>The Learning Community Partnership subgroup hosted Scottish Families 'Power of Communities' conference</p>                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                             | <p>The Learning Community Partnership subgroup plans to hold an alcohol free 'DryFest' event to celebrate the recovery community and develop reintegration approaches within the local community</p> |                                                                                                                                                              |                  | <p>Galashiels Learning Community Partnership sub group</p> | <p>Freedom to Change event delivered by Galashiels Learning Community Partnership &amp; Alcohol Drugs Partnership. Event looked at the lived-experience of family members and people in recovery.</p> |

|                                                          |                                                                                                                      |                                                                 |  |                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                          | Launch of resource pack on drugs, alcohol and tobacco intervention and prevention for Primary and Secondary Schools. |                                                                 |  |                                    | <p>online package of resources was launched on Thursday 7th November 2019 for teachers across Scottish Borders Schools (Primary and Secondary) on drugs, alcohol and tobacco education and prevention. The resources are available on the schools intranet system (Glow).</p> <p>A short term working group reviewed current resources and has developed and implemented a robust evidenced based programme which will be delivered across all Scottish borders school</p> |
| Increase the range of care and support options available | Establishment of an integrated Eildon Community Mental Health Team                                                   | What Matters Hubs established in Ettrick, Yarrow and Galashiels |  | Health and social care partnership |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |



|  |                                                                          |                                                                                               |  |             |  |
|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------|--|
|  | Implementation of the Scottish Borders Mental Health Strategy            | Community and Day Hospitals review to improve patient care and support care closer to home.   |  |             |  |
|  | Community Connection link workers to be introduced across all Localities | New centralised service matching requests for care at home provision with home care providers |  | Social work |  |
|  |                                                                          |                                                                                               |  |             |  |

|                                                                                         |                                                                   |                                                                                                                   |  |                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Increase the availability of locally based rehabilitation service                       | Live Borders deliver 'Health and Fitness' Programmes in Eildon    | Supporting the further development of transitional care beds within Waverly Care Home (Chief Social Work Officer) |  |                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Improve the availability and accessibility of services for people living in rural areas | What Matters Hubs established in Ettrick, Yarrow and Galashiels   | Redesign Eildon Integrated Health and Social Care team                                                            |  |                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                         | Identify possible transport solutions in Eildon                   |                                                                                                                   |  |                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Increase the range of housing options                                                   | Increase the availability of affordable housing throughout Eildon | Creation of timeframe for the delivery of Extra Care Housing Development within Eildon                            |  | SBC Economic Development | The Council and its partners are confident that they are on track to deliver 213 new homes over the Strategic Local Programme (SLP) for the period 2018-2019<br><br>89 of these are in the Eildon locality |
|                                                                                         |                                                                   | Local Housing Strategy 2017-2022 to address housing, care and support needs of older people                       |  |                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

|                                                                                          |                                                                                                                        |                                                                            |  |                                           |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------------|--|
| Reduce the number of people admitted to hospital with drug and alcohol related problems  | produce a local alcohol profile                                                                                        | Strengthen local arrangements for early intervention across adult services |  | Alcohol and Drugs Partnership             |  |
|                                                                                          | Implement model for reducing drug related deaths                                                                       |                                                                            |  | Galashiels Learning Community Partnership |  |
| Reduce the number of people attending the Borders General Hospital on multiple occasions | Joint learning opportunities for gender based violence services and alcohol and drug services to support joint working |                                                                            |  |                                           |  |
|                                                                                          | Redesign Eildon Integrated Health and Social Care team                                                                 | support a community based Out of Hospital Care model                       |  |                                           |  |
|                                                                                          | Pilot of Anticipatory Care Plans at Currie Road Health Centre                                                          |                                                                            |  |                                           |  |
|                                                                                          | Developing 'Step Up; transitional care beds within Waverly Care Home                                                   |                                                                            |  |                                           |  |

|                                                              |                                                                                                                    |                                                                 |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Support people to make informed health and lifestyle choices | Local Area Co-ordination Team are supporting Eildon residents to make connections with local groups and activities | What Matters Hubs established in Ettrick, Yarrow and Galashiels |  |  |  |
|                                                              | Nurture the Borders are delivering a programme of activities to support new parents                                |                                                                 |  |  |  |

| Theme: Quality of Life                                                                        |                                                                                                                            |                                    |                  |                              |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| Priority                                                                                      | Planned Activity                                                                                                           | How will the activity be delivered | Project timeline | Who will deliver the project | Progress |
| Create safe areas for young and provide leisure facilities that are accessible and affordable | Interest Link will develop 5 volunteer befriending groups for children, young people and adults with learning disabilities |                                    |                  |                              |          |

|                                                                               |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                     |  |  |                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                               | Engagement with the Local Policing Teams will help to maintain safe areas and discourage anti-social behaviour and crime. | The Community Action Team (CAT) is operating in Eildon. Deployment of the CAT has already extended to Parks and other open space areas where young people frequent. |  |  |                                                                           |
|                                                                               | Children's outdoor equipment to be installed in Glendinning Primary School                                                | Learning Community Partnership subgroup are developing a strategy for working with young people not in school                                                       |  |  | New multi-use ball wall installed in Newtown Primary School playground    |
|                                                                               |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                     |  |  | Children's outdoor equipment installed in Burgh Primary School playground |
|                                                                               |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                     |  |  |                                                                           |
| Revise transport provision to improve connectivity and reduce rural isolation |                                                                                                                           | An E-car scheme will provide an opportunity for residents to hire an e-car for their journey                                                                        |  |  | Passengers are now able to travel on Ettrick & Yarrow school buses        |

|                                      |                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                            |  |                                           |                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Strengthen partnership working       | Learning Community Partnership subgroup to develop a Charter of Kindness         | Public and third sector partners work together to deliver community learning                                                               |  | Galashiels Learning Community Partnership |                                                                                          |
| Improve communication of 'what's on' | A Galashiels Network for grassroots community groups is planned to start in 2020 | ALISS (A Local Information System for Scotland) is helping increase the availability of health and wellbeing information.                  |  |                                           | Rural consultations have been completed to identify need in the local communities        |
|                                      |                                                                                  | Locality Co-ordination team helping to connect people to local activities and groups (SBC)                                                 |  |                                           |                                                                                          |
|                                      |                                                                                  | Red Cross have mapped activities and groups and attend What Matters Hubs which is helping to connect people to local activities and groups |  |                                           |                                                                                          |
| Carry out more community mapping     |                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                            |  |                                           | Galashiels Learning Community Partnerships have completed this and identifies local need |

|                                                       |                                                                                                                                            |                                                      |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Help older people to feel safe within their community | Engagement with the Local Policing Teams will help to maintain safe areas for older people and discourage anti-social behaviour and crime. | SBC social media is used to promote crime prevention |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|

| Theme: Environment and Place |                  |                                    |                  |                              |          |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| Priority                     | Planned Activity | How will the activity be delivered | Project timeline | Who will deliver the project | Progress |

|                                                                              |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                        |  |  |  |                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Develop attractions within the countryside to encourage visitors to the area | Upgrade of the Macfie Hall, Heriot to provide fit for purpose facilities which can be used for a wide range of activities | Public responses on the Main Issues Report have been gathered and have been used to inform the Local Development Plan  |  |  |  | <b>Earlston Paths group have purchased new equipment to maintain the network of paths</b> |
|                                                                              | Refurbishment of Stable Life's indoor school which will be used for staging competitions                                  |                                                                                                                        |  |  |  | <b>Stable life received Localities Bid Funding</b>                                        |
| Reduce fuel poverty                                                          | Home Energy Efficiency Programmes are available in Eildon to help make homes warmer and more comfortable                  | Social landlords to achieve a set energy efficiency rating for households based on the housing type and fuel type used |  |  |  |                                                                                           |
| Development of town and village centres                                      | The redevelopment of the historic Hammerman Hall in Selkirk will be in line with recent town centre improvement scheme    |                                                                                                                        |  |  |  |                                                                                           |



|  |                                                                                                                                                         |  |  |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
|  | The redevelopment of a derelict property in Selkirk town centre in to a Selkirk Community Energy Centre which will also be available for community use. |  |  |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|

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Agenda Item 5d

# Teviot & Liddesdale Locality Plan 2020

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# Teviot and Liddesdale Area Partnership

The Teviot and Liddesdale Area Partnership<sup>1</sup> is about creating a space where the aspirations and ideas of the community can be heard and community planning can be strengthened through communities and public bodies working together.

The Locality Plan is part of this process. It outlines the priorities of the Teviot and Liddesdale area with a focus on reducing inequalities to improve the area for those who live, work and visit the area.

<sup>1</sup> Area Partnership – brings together organisations, groups, individuals and businesses from across the locality to collectively work together

# Introduction

## Welcome to the Teviot and Liddesdale Locality Plan



This plan builds on the Scottish Borders Community Plan and sets out:

- The priorities for improving the area over the next five years
- The commitment to work in partnership and use our shared resources <sup>2</sup> in the most effective way to reduce inequality

In bringing together this plan we have asked, and will continue to ask, local people across Teviot and Liddesdale what would make the area better.

<sup>2</sup> Resources – this could be funding (e.g. budget or grants), people (e.g. staff of volunteers) or assets (e.g. land, buildings or equipment)

This plan is structured around four themes:



Comments and feedback gathered at Area Partnership meetings to date have been prioritised to reflect what actions need to be undertaken in the Locality to make a difference.

Communities, community planning partners<sup>3</sup> and local service providers<sup>4</sup> will need to work together in partnership to plan and deliver better services that meet the needs of the people who use them.

At a Borders-wide level this is done through the Scottish Borders Community Plan and the Community Planning Partnership.

At an area level this is done through the Teviot and Liddesdale Area Partnership, the Teviot and Liddesdale Locality Plan and associated Action Plan. We expect to continue to evolve these plans to reflect the developments within the area. The most up to date action plan is available on Scottish Borders Council's Website [www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships).

At a local level, services and communities continue to respond to their local community needs. Local plans, including local community action plans demonstrate this and are referenced at the end of this plan.

“How do we build and improve our economy, skills and learning?”

“How do we promote and improve our health, care and wellbeing?”

“How do we protect and improve our quality of life?”

“How do we develop and improve our environment & place?”

<sup>3</sup> Community planning partners – those organisations who are taking forward the Scottish Borders Community Plan

<sup>4</sup> Local service providers – those organisations who are providing services locally (e.g. GPs, Community Nurses, Business Advisors, etc.)

# What we know about Teviot & Liddesdale

## Key Facts and Figures

A selection of key facts and figures relating to the issues highlighted by our communities have been identified and detailed on this page. These present what data we have and what is known about the area, as well as a reflection against the Scottish Borders and national averages where possible.

A more comprehensive Teviot and Liddesdale Area Profile is available detailing all the key information for the area. This is available to download from [www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships)

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### HEALTH

**23.5%** of pregnant women admitted to being **current smokers** in 2015-17  
(SB = 16.7%; SCOT= 15.9%)

[ScotPHO/ Statistics.gov.scot]

**421** per 100,000 people were discharged from hospital with **Coronary Heart Disease**, 2015-18  
(SB = 343; SCOT = 381)

[ScotPHO]

**572** per 100,000 people were hospitalised due to **alcohol misuse** in 2017-18  
(SB = 412; SCOT = 675)

[ScotPHO]

### YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMANT RATE<sup>2</sup> ALL PEOPLE AGED 16-64

**5.2%** Hawick and Denholm  
**6.1%** Hawick and Hermitage  
(SB = 3.4%; SCOT = 3.2%)

[ONS - JAN 19]

### SETTLEMENTS

**22.0%** of people live in a **settlements of under 500 people**  
(Scottish Borders = 28.5%)

[NRS 2017]



### TOWN CENTRE FOOTFALL 2012-2016

down **37%** Hawick  
(SB = down 6%)

[SBC-PR1]

### BROADBAND

**3.2%** of premises were **unable to receive 2Mb/S Broadband** in 2016  
(SB = 4.2%)

This ranged **within Teviot** from **0%** in the **least-affected neighbourhood** to **26.2%** in the **most-affected**.

[OfCom]

Teviot & Liddesdale had the highest levels of **digital exclusion** of the **5 localities** in 2017; particularly in **Hawick and Newcastleton**

[Scottish Borders Digital Inclusion Index 2017]

### FREE SCHOOL MEALS

**18%** of Teviot's school roll received **Free School Meals** on grounds of low income in 2017-18  
(SB Average 11%)  
At school level within Teviot, this ranged from **8% to 41%**

[Seemis]

### CLOTHING GRANT

**23%** of Teviot's school roll received **Clothing Grant** in 2016.

At **school level within Teviot**, this ranged from **12% to 47%**



[Seemis]

### INCOME DEPRIVED

**13.8%** of Teviot's population was considered to be **income-deprived** in 2016.  
(Scottish Borders = 9.7%; Scotland = 12.5%)

This ranged within Teviot from **5% in the least-deprived neighbourhoods** to **27% in the most-deprived**

[Seemis]

# Teviot & Liddesdale Wards

## POPULATION ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS

National Records of Scotland (NRS) estimates the population of **Teviot** to be

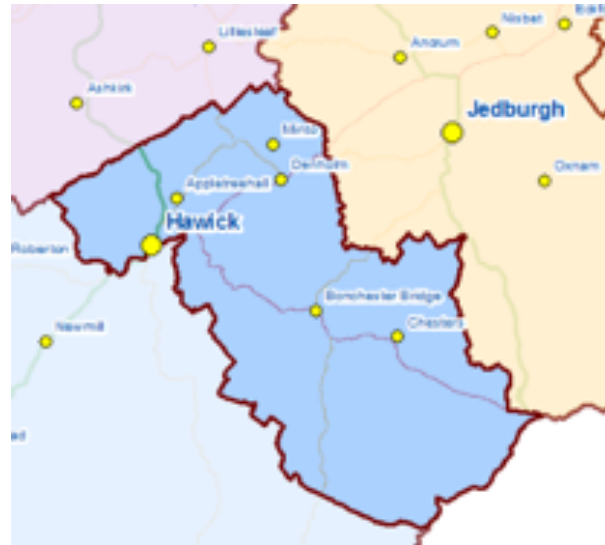
**17,942** population  
(15.6% of the Scottish Borders (SB))

**16%** aged 0-15  
(SB = 16.3%; SCOT = 16.9%)

**58.6%** aged 16-64  
(SB = 59.2%; SCOT = 64.4%)

**25.4%** aged 65+  
(SB = 24.5%; SCOT = 18.7%)

(NRS 2017)



### HAWICK & DENHOLM



**9,331** Population

**13,889** Hawick

**695** Denholm



### HAWICK & HERMITAGE



**8,611** Population

**13,889** Hawick

**777** Newcastleton



# Engaging with our Communities

It is the intention of the Area Partnership to involve as wide a group of people as possible. This helps to make sure our plans reflect the needs of our communities. We will create more opportunities for people to attend the Area Partnership and talk to us in person, take part in surveys or contact us online. As further information and understanding of the needs and ambitions of our communities is gathered, the Area Partnership will continue to build on this plan. We welcome your views and suggestions.

There are many other ways of being involved in your local community, key contacts are provided below:

To give us your views or to get involved with Area Partnerships please contact:

Communities and Partnerships Team  
Email: [communityplanning@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:communityplanning@scotborders.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 0300 100 1800

More information on Community Councils:

[www.scotborders.gov.uk/communitycouncils](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/communitycouncils)  
Telephone: 01835 825005.

Many Community Council's now have their own website and social media pages and will also be contactable directly through these means.

More information on volunteering, community support or advice:

Volunteer Centre Borders  
[www.vcborders.org.uk](http://www.vcborders.org.uk)  
Telephone: 01896 754041  
Email: [enquiries@vcborders.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@vcborders.org.uk)

The Bridge (Roxburgh Office)  
[www.the-bridge.uk.net](http://www.the-bridge.uk.net)  
Telephone: 01835 863554  
Email: [roxburgh@the-bridge.uk.net](mailto:roxburgh@the-bridge.uk.net)

## Our Economy, Skills & Learning

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Teviot and Liddesdale is:

- Learning and training which is accessible and affordable and which meets the needs of all individuals including local employers

Other priorities that are important to the Teviot and Liddesdale community:

- Fast, reliable broadband and mobile connectivity for all communities and businesses
- Promote and support local and big business developments including Hawick's business incubator centre and offer support to businesses who need to diversify
- Promote alternative routes into employment, including the Centre of Excellence in Textiles
- Profile key areas for economic growth to inform business development and investigate opportunities for new industry
- Improve transport and road connectivity and consider the potential economic growth from connecting with Carlisle airport and Border Railway
- Increase the range of learning courses and qualifications available in the locality to reduce the need for people to travel / leave the area
- Continue the development of a strong tourist offer and build on the profile created by Visit Scotland and Midlothian and Borders Tourism Action Group

## Our Health, Care & Wellbeing

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Teviot and Liddesdale is:

- To communicate more effectively what treatment and support health services offer and to improve access to services

Other priorities that are important to the Teviot and Liddesdale community:

- Improve the availability and accessibility of services for people living in rural areas across Teviot & Liddesdale and Hawick
- Increase the availability of locally based rehabilitation services
- Increase the range of care and supporting options across the locality to enable people to remain in their own homes and communities
- Increase the range of housing options available across the locality
- Develop robust preventative services and early intervention for long term conditions
- Improve support for unpaid carers- including young carers
- Increase the availability and accessibility of local activities and information, including grants available, to improve health and well-being

## Our Quality of Life

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Teviot and Liddesdale is:

- Improve communication of activities and services available in the locality and make it easier for groups to share their news

Other priorities that are important to the Teviot and Liddesdale community:

- Provide activities and learning opportunities which respond to the needs of children and young people with an emphasis on early intervention and education
- Have a clearer understanding of what levels of anti-social behaviour exist and how services can efficiently promote community safety
- Ensure leisure and culture services are accessible in rural and urban areas and are responsive to the needs of local users
- Encourage people to look after their local area and take pride in where they live

## Our Environment & Place

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Teviot and Liddesdale is:

- Regenerate Hawick town centre and villages
- Use vacant land and empty buildings for housing and business opportunities

Other priorities that are important to the Teviot and Liddesdale community:

- A long term plan for environmentally friendly, sustainable housing and industrial building development and an increase in renewable energy projects
- Increase affordable and specialist homes to meet need in the locality
- Improve pathways around the locality to improve connectivity
- Extension of the Borders Railway

# How we will measure success

The priorities identified in this plan have been used as the basis for the Teviot and Liddesdale Locality Action Plan. This action plan will help to track action and activities and to drive change in Teviot and Liddesdale. As this will be an ever changing document the action plan is available to download from Scottish Borders Council's website, [www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnership](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnership) or in hard copy from the Community & Partnerships Team.

The Teviot and Liddesdale Area Partnership will feedback every year on the progress made in delivering the priorities within this plan. By monitoring the progress we make, we can measure the difference made to local people and communities. Progress and achievements will be shared with the Community Planning Partnership and other public bodies as well as being shared and celebrated with the wider community.

We will continue to ask the community their views and encourage more people to participate in the Area Partnership. As the needs of the locality change, we will ensure the priorities and actions within the plan reflect these changes.

## Other Local Plans for Teviot and Liddesdale

- Burnfoot Community Action Plan
- Future Hawick Hawick Action Plan
- Newcastleton & District Community Trust Community Plan
- Teviot Learning Community Partnership Plan
- Teviot & Liddesdale Health & Social Care Locality Plan



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You can get this document on audio CD, in large print, and various other formats by contacting us at the address below. In addition, contact the address below for information on language translations, additional copies, or to arrange for an officer to meet with you to explain any areas of the publication that you would like clarified.

**COMMUNITIES & PARTNERSHIPS TEAM**

Scottish Borders Council | Council Headquarters | Newtown St Boswells | MELROSE | TD6 0SA  
tel: 0300 100 1800 | email: [Communityplanning@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:Communityplanning@scotborders.gov.uk)  
[www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships)

| Theme: Economy, Skills and Learning                                                                                                    |                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                              |                  |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| Priority                                                                                                                               | Planned Activity                                                | How will the activity be delivered?                                                                                                                          | Project timeline | Who is the project lead?                                                                                          | Progress                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Learning and training which is accessible and affordable and which meets the needs of all individuals including local employers</b> | Borders College’s physical and digital hub network              | New suites will be installed in four areas, including Hawick campus to enable remote learning opportunities.                                                 | Ongoing          | Borders College - elearning                                                                                       | Renovation work completed at Hawick campus                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                                        | Borders College’s STEM centre to provide learning opportunities | Co-ordinated planning with local businesses, community and industry to address the skills gap in areas such as Energy and Engineering, Construction and Care | Ongoing          | Borders College                                                                                                   | STEM Hub manager appointed                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                                        | Developing the Young Workforce                                  | Various events, workshops, programme and activities are being delivered to bridge the gap between industry and education                                     | Ongoing          | Industry led group with representation from key sectors and in partnership with SBC Education and Borders College | DYW programme running for 4 years and has established strong links with industry and schools. DYW is in the process of recruiting Young Board Members to their Board<br>DYW is due to be implemented in the early years and primary schools |
| Fast, reliable broadband                                                                                                               | Scottish Government’s                                           | R100 Procurement for                                                                                                                                         | Contracts to be  | Scottish Government                                                                                               | Procurement in                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

|                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                            |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| <p>and mobile connectivity for all communities and businesses</p>                                                                                                 | <p>R100 programme - deliver superfast broadband to all occupied premises by 2021.</p> | <p>South Scotland. Contractor will ensure all areas within South of Scotland are within reach of accessible fibre to underpin superfast broadband and 4G and 5G</p> <p>The council is promoting a 4g infill programme alongside partners in the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal.</p> | <p>awarded end of 2019 and delivery expected to commence later in 2020</p> |  | <p>progress</p> <p>SBC has invested £8.4m in the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband Programme.</p> <p>SBC has regularly lobbied Governments and the Mobile Network Operators to improve the coverage of mobile phone services and reduce the number of 'not-spots' in the Scottish Borders.</p> |
| <p>Promote and support local and big business developments including Hawick's business incubator centre and offer support to businesses who need to diversify</p> | <p>The South of Scotland Enterprise will increase support to businesses 2020</p>      | <p>SOSEP is undertaking a South of Scotland-wide study into the availability and suitability of business property considering the needs of different sectors and the needs of businesses at different stages in their growth cycle.</p> <p>Community enterprise</p>                    | <p>Formation of South of Scotland Enterprise April 2020</p>                |  | <p>South of Scotland Enterprise Partnership are working with businesses now ahead of SoSE opening</p> <p>Recruitment of the community enterprise managers will commence early</p>                                                                                                                 |



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|                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                  | managers will work with local organisations and support funding opportunities, including those based in the TD9 area |                                                            |                              | 2020                                                                                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                     | Creation of a business incubator space in Hawick for local businesses                                            | A hub and business space will be built to accommodate up to 17 small and start up companies                          | Demolition due to start 06.01.20. Completion date 06.03.20 | SBC Economic Development     | Power disconnection completed                                                                                                            |
| Promote alternative routes into employment, including the Centre of Excellence in Textiles                          | Consideration of how a second phase of the Centre of Excellence in Textiles could be delivered                   | Secondary Head Teachers are to help strengthen links between schools, colleges and businesses.                       |                                                            | SBC Economic Development     | The next cohort of trainees for the Centre of Excellence are being recruited                                                             |
| Profile key areas for economic growth to inform business development and investigate opportunities for new industry | Inward investment in the Scottish Borders is expected to increase through the South of Scotland Enterprise, 2020 |                                                                                                                      | April 2020 onwards                                         | South of Scotland Enterprise | Recruitment process is underway                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                     | Local Development Plan 2                                                                                         | Suitable sites which encourage economic growth will be identified in the new Local Development Plan.                 | Due to be published in 2020                                | SBC Planning                 | The Main Issues Report is a forerunner to the Local Development Plan 2. Consultation on the MIR took place between Nov 2018 and Jan 2019 |
| Improve transport and road connectivity and                                                                         | SBC Passenger Transport Community Consultation/Planning                                                          | Community engagement and survey opportunities                                                                        | 2019/20                                                    | SBC Passenger Transport      | Transport Conference held in June 2019 –                                                                                                 |

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| consider the potential economic growth from connecting with Carlisle airport and Border Railway |                                                                   | to gather the views of bus users                                                                                                   |                      |                                 | conference output then considered by the Area Partnership. Update to Area Partnership February 2020<br><br>Consider alternative rural transport services and provision |
|                                                                                                 | Promotion of TD9 visitor opportunities at Carlisle airport        |                                                                                                                                    |                      |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                 | Cross border feasibility assessment for extending Borders Railway | Governments in Holyrood and Westminster have pledged to fund a feasibility study through a Borderlands Growth Deal funding package |                      |                                 | An Onward to Carlisle Fund launch on justgiving to raise £10,000 to help support campaign activity                                                                     |
|                                                                                                 | Bike friendly buses                                               | Bike racks installed on X95 buses                                                                                                  | Ongoing              | Border Buses                    | Bike racks have been installed on 10 buses                                                                                                                             |
|                                                                                                 | A co-operatively owned community car club                         | 2 electric cars are available for hire at an hourly rate. Cars are based at Mart Street and bookable online                        | January 2020 onwards | Teviot Electric Car Club (TECC) | People can now register online to become a member of TECC                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                 | E-Car scheme                                                      | E-cars are available in Hawick for hire during                                                                                     | Ongoing              | SBC                             | Cars stationed at the Common Haugh and Lothian Street                                                                                                                  |

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|                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                              | evenings and weekends for members of the E-Car Club                                                                                          |              |                                                                                  |                                                                                                                  |
| Increase the range of learning courses and qualifications available in the locality to reduce the need for people to travel / leave the area          | Borders College's physical and digital hub network                           | New suites will be installed in four areas, including Hawick campus to enable remote learning opportunities.                                 | Ongoing      | Borders College - elearning                                                      | Renovation work completed at Hawick campus                                                                       |
| Continue the development of a strong tourist offer and build on the profile created by Visit Scotland and Midlothian and Borders Tourism Action Group | Development of bunkhouse accommodation and a learning centre in Newcastleton | Restoration of Buccleuch House to create accommodation, a learning centre and laundrette                                                     | 2020 onwards | Newcastleton and District Community Trust                                        | Funding application submitted. Decision due early 2020. Community engagement events have been held               |
|                                                                                                                                                       | Potential of 'Dark Skies' tourism                                            | Development of Langholm Moor to create tourist accommodation and facilities                                                                  | 2020 onwards | Newcastleton and District Community Trust                                        | Funding application to be submitted 2020. Community engagement events have been held                             |
|                                                                                                                                                       | 'Town of 1000 Trails' and 'St Leonard's Race Course' tourism initiatives     | Web based promotion of local trails and facilities in TD9.<br><br>Development of St Leonards Race Course to provide commercial opportunities | 2020 onwards | Town of a Thousand Trails<br><br>Town of the Horse – a subgroup of Future Hawick | Part funding secured for the website<br><br>Feasibility study for St Leonards complete. Plans to be shown in 3d. |
|                                                                                                                                                       | Explore feasibility of a 12 Towers of Rule history trail                     | A community project could be developed to promote                                                                                            |              | Local residents                                                                  | A proposal is to be worked up with                                                                               |

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|  |  | the heritage of the Rule<br>Valley |  |  | Archaeology<br>Scotland |
|--|--|------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|

| Theme: Health, Care and Well-Being                                                                                            |                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                         |                  |                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                  |
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| Priority                                                                                                                      | Planned Activity                                                                                        | How will the activity be delivered?                                                                                                     | Project timeline | Who is the project lead?                                                         | Progress                                                                                                                         |
| To communicate more effectively what treatment and support health services offer and to improve access to services            | AskSARA website                                                                                         | Website available 24/7 showing equipment and solutions that can help make life easier with regards to health, home and daily activities | Ongoing          | Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Partnership / Disabled Living Foundation |                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                               | Aliss (a local Information System for Scotland) website                                                 | Information that will help those living with long term conditions, disabled people and unpaid carers live well                          | Ongoing          | Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland                                         |                                                                                                                                  |
| Improve the availability and accessibility of services for people living in rural areas across Teviot & Liddesdale and Hawick | Implementation of Integrated Health and Social Care Teams within the Teviot locality                    |                                                                                                                                         | 2017-2019        | Chief Officer, Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Partnership               |                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                               | What Matters Hubs                                                                                       | Operating weekly in Heart of Hawick and the first Tuesday of the month in Newcastleton                                                  |                  | Teviot Social Work Team                                                          | What Matters Hubs established Heart of Hawick and Newcastleton. Consideration being given to establishing additional Hubs in TD9 |
| Increase the availability of locally based rehabilitation services                                                            | Improve access to Allied Health Professionals and support staff to manage people's rehabilitation needs |                                                                                                                                         |                  | Community & Primary Services, NHS Borders                                        | Establishment of locality based integrated health and social care                                                                |

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|                                                                                                                                     |                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                       |                                    | community mental health teams.                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                     | Further development of reablement services provided by Third Sector partners |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                       | Chief Social Work Officer          |                                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                                     | Live Borders Health and Fitness Programme in Teviot including Active Aging   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Ongoing               | Live Borders                       |                                                                                  |
| Increase the range of care and supporting options across the locality to enable people to remain in their own homes and communities | WorkFLEX                                                                     | Workforce management platform which manages communication between relief/casual staff and SBC. Staff can self serve, review and accept or decline job offers and update their availability                                         | Pilot until June 2020 | Health and Social Care Partnership | System is operational                                                            |
|                                                                                                                                     | Re-modelling of Deanfield Care Home                                          | Develop a model of residential care and support for older people in a homely setting with associated infrastructure providing services such as shops, restaurants and common spaces available to residents and the wider community |                       | SBC                                | Approval September 2019 to invest £2.8m of capital to remodel Deanfield          |
|                                                                                                                                     | Assisting Equipment purchasing by provision of advice and guidance           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                       | Community Equipment Service        | 17 Satellite Equipment stores established across the Borders Automated equipment |

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|  |                                                                                            |                                                                                     |         |                                                        | decontamination which allows faster turnaround of equipment.                                                                                         |
|  | Develop out of hospital care model                                                         | Reshape AHP services to support "Out of hospital care model"                        |         | Primary & Community Services, NHS                      | Community event held in Hawick to introduce Buurtzorg pilot (neighbourhood care).                                                                    |
|  | Embed the Self Directed Support approach in the assessment and support planning management |                                                                                     |         | Chief Social Work Officer                              |                                                                                                                                                      |
|  | Development of community enablement services provided by our third sector.                 | Introduce community connection link workers                                         |         | Chief Social Work Officer                              | A new centralised service matching requested for care at home provision with home care providers. Community connections approach piloted in Cheviot. |
|  | Implementation of the Scottish Borders Mental Health Strategy                              | An implementation plan has been developed to deliver the objectives of the strategy |         | General Manager for Mental Health Services NHS Borders |                                                                                                                                                      |
|  | Delivery of Healthy Living Network services in Burnfoot                                    | A programme of activities responding to local need                                  | Ongoing | Joint Director of Public Health                        |                                                                                                                                                      |

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|                                                                                      | to address local priorities                                                                                      | are being delivered                                                                                          |           |                                                                    |                                                                                            |
|                                                                                      | Scottish Ambulance Service paramedics responding to urgent home calls from primary care patients – pilot project |                                                                                                              |           | Teviot Medical Practice                                            |                                                                                            |
|                                                                                      | A Matching Unit is operational in Teviot matching requests for care at home provision with home care providers   |                                                                                                              |           | Chief Social Work Officer                                          |                                                                                            |
| Increase the range of housing options available across the locality                  | Delivery of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2018-2023                                                      | Increase availability of affordable housing including Extra Care Housing Development within Teviot 2021-2022 | 2018-2023 | SBC                                                                |                                                                                            |
|                                                                                      | Local Housing Strategy 2017-2022 to address housing, care and support needs of older people                      |                                                                                                              | 2017-2022 | SBC                                                                |                                                                                            |
| Develop robust preventative services and early intervention for long term conditions | Community based pathways have been created for patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease               |                                                                                                              |           | Director of Pharmacy, NHS Borders                                  |                                                                                            |
| Improve support for unpaid carers- including young carers                            | Consult on and respond to the Scottish Government’s Consultation on draft regulations                            |                                                                                                              |           | Integrated Joint Board SBC Social Work                             | In conjunction with Borders Carers Centre a new draft Carers support plan has been tested. |
|                                                                                      | Joint development of a Carers Support Plan with partnership working to provide support to                        |                                                                                                              |           | Chief Officer, Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Partnership |                                                                                            |



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|                                                      | unpaid carers                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                   |                     |                                 |                                                                             |
| Increase the availability and accessibility of local | Red Cross directory of activities                                          |                                                                                                                                                                   |                     |                                 |                                                                             |
| <b>Theme: Quality of Life</b>                        |                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                   |                     |                                 |                                                                             |
| grants available, to improve health and well-being   |                                                                            | Tuesday of the month in Newcastleton                                                                                                                              |                     |                                 | Hubs may be extend to other outlying areas of TD9 if there is capacity      |
|                                                      | Installation of an outdoor gym in the grounds of Drumlanrig Primary School | Gym will be open to both children and adults during weekdays and weekends                                                                                         | 2019/20             | Friends of Drumlanrig School    | First phase of a planned three phase project                                |
|                                                      | Hawick Trishaw Project                                                     | The two trishaws purchased will be used by volunteer 'pilots' to cycle people with low mobility around Wilton Lodge Park                                          |                     | Friends of Wilton Lodge Park    | Funding secured for two bikes; one bike has been purchased and is operating |
|                                                      | Healthy Hawick Newsletter                                                  | Partner organisations submit health and well-being information for the newsletter which is co-ordinated and distributed by NHS Borders Health Improvement service | Published quarterly | NHS Borders Health Improvements |                                                                             |

| Priority                                                                                                                                                   | Planned Activity                                                                                      | How will the activity be delivered?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Project timeline                              | Who is the project lead?               | Progress          |
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| <b>Improve communication of activities and services available in the locality and make it easier for groups to share their news</b>                        |                                                                                                       | Information of activities and groups to be shared via <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red Cross directory of activities in the Teviot &amp; Liddesdale Area</li> <li>• What Matters Hubs taking place in Hawick and Newcastleton</li> <li>• Local social media sites such as Burnfoot Community Futures and Hawick CLD</li> <li>• Healthy Hawick Newsletter</li> <li>• Learning Community Partnership monthly bulletin</li> </ul> | Ongoing                                       | Individual organisation                |                   |
| Provide activities and learning opportunities which respond to the needs of children and young people with an emphasis on early intervention and education | Borders Blue Zone scheme                                                                              | A range of activities for young people delivered at Teviotdale Leisure Centre of Friday evenings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 6 months with a view to extending the project | Police Scotland and Live Borders       | Launched 06.12.19 |
|                                                                                                                                                            | SBC Community Learning and Development learning programmes for early years, children and young people | The Adult Learning and Youth Learning team will deliver a range of programmes and initiatives based on identified need                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Ongoing                                       | SBC Community Learning and Development |                   |
|                                                                                                                                                            | Burnfoot Community Futures After School and Holiday Care Programme                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                               | Burnfoot Community Futures Board       |                   |

|                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                        |                                  |                                                                |
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|                                                                                                                                      | Burnfoot Community Futures Service Review and redevelopment of priorities 2020-2023 | Production of a three year plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                        | Burnfoot Community Futures Board |                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                      | Young Teries Future Champions Award – grants of up to £1,000                        | Awards will be administered by Future Hawick                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Closing date for applications 31.01.20 |                                  | Fund open                                                      |
| Have a clearer understanding of what levels of anti-social behaviour exist and how services can efficiently promote community safety | Tackle crime through the Community Action Team                                      | CAT quarterly impact report details actions carried out and impact of actions in the Locality                                                                                                                                                              |                                        | Police Scotland                  | Second CAT established 2019 following success of the first CAT |
|                                                                                                                                      | Safer Communities Safer Scotland booklet                                            | Communities can suggest topics to Safer Communities for inclusion in future plans<br><br>Monthly Core Group meetings are held by SBC's Anti-Social Behaviour Unit to consider interventions that can be used to reduce instances of anti-social behaviour. |                                        | SBC Safer Communities            |                                                                |
| Ensure leisure and culture services are accessible in rural and urban areas and are responsive to the needs                          | Live Borders Strategy 2018-2023                                                     | Expand levels of participation, including having universal membership card and                                                                                                                                                                             | 2018-2023                              | Live Borders                     |                                                                |

|                                                   |                                                     |                                                                                                     |                         |                                 |                                                     |
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| of local users                                    |                                                     | developing services where there is significant need                                                 |                         |                                 |                                                     |
| Encourage people to look                          | Community Council                                   | An increase in the number                                                                           | Ongoing                 | Individual Community            |                                                     |
| <b>Theme: Environment and Place</b>               |                                                     |                                                                                                     |                         |                                 |                                                     |
| <b>Priority</b>                                   | <b>Planned Activity</b>                             | <b>How will the activity be delivered?</b>                                                          | <b>Project timeline</b> | <b>Who is the project lead?</b> | <b>Progress</b>                                     |
| <b>Regenerate Hawick town centre and villages</b> | Hawick Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) | Restoration of historic Hawick town centre buildings including education and training opportunities | 2019-2024               | SBC Economic Development        | Six priority building projects have been identified |
|                                                   | Shopfront and property improvement grant schemes    | £40k has been allocated to Hawick to improve shopfronts and property                                |                         | Future Hawick/CARS              |                                                     |
|                                                   | Property related engagement event                   | Events are being delivered across the Borders, including Hawick, to work with                       | 2019/20 – 2020/21       | SBC Assets and Infrastructure   | Events have been held in Jedburgh, Earlston and     |

|                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                |                                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                |
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|                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                         | communities to establish how services and properties can be reconfigured in each area.                                         |                                                     |                                     | Eyemouth to date                                                                                               |
| <b>Use vacant land and empty buildings for housing and business opportunities</b>                                                                          | Creation of a business incubator space in Hawick for local businesses                                                                                                                   | A hub and business space will be built to accommodate up to 17 small and start up companies                                    | 2020                                                | SBC Economic Development            |                                                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                            | Conversion of Peter Scott mill into retirement flats                                                                                                                                    | Phase 1 – 10 luxury 2 bedroom retirement apartments will be built<br>Phase 2 – an additional 40 apartments will be created     | Estimated 15 months – completion date of early 2021 | Maramar Holdings                    | Demolition work has started                                                                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                            | Local Development Plan 2 will bring together the anticipated needs for each respective area, this will drive development.<br><br>Area partnerships will be consulted on the Draft plan. |                                                                                                                                | March 2020                                          | SBC Regulatory Services             | Main Issues report has been compiled which gathers views on Housing, transport, industry, and public services. |
| <b>A long term plan for environmentally friendly, sustainable housing and industrial building development and an increase in renewable energy projects</b> | SBC Affordable warmth and home energy efficiency strategy 2019-23 actions                                                                                                               | Home Energy Efficiency Programmes designed to improve energy efficiency of properties who meet the programme criteria          |                                                     | Changeworks and Scottish Government | Householders in Newcastleton have recently benefited from the Home Energy Efficiency scheme                    |
|                                                                                                                                                            | Bio-diversity Strategy<br>Low Carbon Economic Strategy 2023                                                                                                                             | Continued roll-out and promotion of Home Energy Efficiency Programme (HEEP).<br>Development of Community Food Growing Strategy |                                                     |                                     | ECO Schools Programme<br><br>Community Food Growing Strategy                                                   |

|                                                                              |                                                                   |                                                                                                                                    |         |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                              |                                                                   |                                                                                                                                    |         |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Increase affordable and specialist homes to meet need in the locality</b> | Extra Care Housing development                                    | Proposed that 30 extra care homes to be built in Hawick                                                                            | 2020/21 | SBC Housing | The Local Housing Strategy 2017-22 sets out a vision for the supply, quality and availability of housing in the local area. The LHS is the key planning document, providing a framework of action, investment and partnership-working to deliver these local priorities. |
| <b>Improve pathways around the locality to improve connectivity</b>          |                                                                   |                                                                                                                                    |         |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Extension of the Borders Railway</b>                                      | Cross border feasibility assessment for extending Borders Railway | Governments in Holyrood and Westminster have pledged to fund a feasibility study through a Borderlands Growth Deal funding package |         |             | An Onward to Carlisle Fund launch on justgiving to raise £10,000 to help support campaign activity                                                                                                                                                                       |









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Agenda Item 5e

# Tweeddale Locality Plan 2020

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# Tweeddale Area Partnership

The Tweeddale Area Partnership<sup>1</sup> is about creating a space where the aspirations and ideas of the community can be heard and community planning can be strengthened through communities and public bodies working together.

The Locality Plan is part of this process. It outlines the priorities of the Tweeddale area with a focus on reducing inequalities to improve the area for those who live, work and visit the area.

<sup>1</sup> Area Partnership – brings together organisations, groups, individuals and businesses from across the locality to collectively work together

# Introduction

## Welcome to the Tweeddale Locality Plan



This plan builds on the Scottish Borders Community Plan and sets out:

- The priorities for improving the area over the next five years
- The commitment to work in partnership and use our shared resources <sup>2</sup> in the most effective way to reduce inequality

In bringing together this plan we have asked, and will continue to ask, local people across Tweeddale what would make the area better.

Comments and feedback gathered at Area Partnership meetings to date have been prioritised to reflect what actions need to be undertaken in the Locality to make a difference.

<sup>2</sup> Resources – this could be funding (e.g. budget or grants), people (e.g. staff of volunteers) or assets (e.g. land, buildings or equipment)

This plan is structured around four themes:



Comments and feedback gathered at Area Partnership meetings to date have been prioritised to reflect what actions need to be undertaken in the Locality to make a difference.

Communities, community planning partners<sup>3</sup> and local service providers<sup>4</sup> will need to work together in partnership to plan and deliver better services that meet the needs of the people who use them.

At a Borders-wide level this is done through the Scottish Borders Community Plan and the Community Planning Partnership.

At an area level this is done through the Tweeddale Area Partnership, the Tweeddale Locality Plan and associated Action Plan. We expect to continue to evolve these plans to reflect the developments within the area. The most up to date action plan is available on Scottish Borders Council's Website [www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships).

At a local level, services and communities continue to respond to their local community needs. Local plans, including local community action plans demonstrate this and are referenced at the end of this plan.

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“How do we build and improve our economy, skills and learning?”

“How do we promote and improve our health, care and wellbeing?”

“How do we protect and improve our quality of life?”

“How do we develop and improve our environment & place?”

<sup>3</sup> Community planning partners – those organisations who are taking forward the Scottish Borders Community Plan

<sup>4</sup> Local service providers – those organisations who are providing services locally (e.g. GPs, Community Nurses, Business Advisors, etc.)

# What we know about Tweeddale

## Key Facts and Figures

A selection of key facts and figures relating to the issues highlighted by our communities have been identified and detailed on this page. These present what data we have and what is known about the area, as well as a reflection against the Scottish Borders and national averages where possible.

A more comprehensive Tweeddale Area Profile is available detailing all the key information for the area. This is available to download from [www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships)

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### TOWN CENTRE FOOTFALL 2012-2016

up **2%** Peebles  
[SB = down 6%]

[SBC-PR]

### YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMANT RATE<sup>2</sup> ALL PEOPLE AGED 16-64

**1.0%** Tweeddale East  
**2.3%** Tweeddale West  
[SB = 3.4%; SCOT = 3.2%]

[ONS - JAN 19]

### NEIGHBOURHOOD

**29%** of the people in Tweeddale live within the 10% most **access deprived** in all of Scotland  
[SB = 27%]

[SIMD 2016]



### COMMUNITY

An average rate<sup>2</sup> of **75.2 per year** died or were hospitalised due to a **road traffic accident** between 2015 and 2017  
[SB = 72.6; SCOT = 59.2]

[ScotPHO]

### SETTLEMENTS

**29.5%** of people live in a **settlements of under 500 people**  
[Scottish Borders = 28.5%]

Larger settlements in Tweeddale:

|                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>8,535</b><br>Peebles      | <b>896</b><br>Cardrona   |
| <b>3,141</b><br>Innerleithen | <b>695</b><br>Walkerburn |
| <b>1,766</b><br>West Linton  |                          |

[NRS 2017]



### BROADBAND

**4.6%** of premises were **unable to receive 2Mb/S Broadband** in 2016  
[SB = 4.2%]

This ranged **within Tweeddale** from **0%** in the **least-affected neighbourhood** to **32.4%** in the **most-affected**.

[OfCom]

Tweeddale had the lowest average levels of **digital exclusion** of the **5 localities** in 2017; but **still higher in parts of Innerleithen, Peebles and Walkerburn**

[Scottish Borders Digital Inclusion Index 2017]

### PROJECTIONS

The NRS projects that the population of **Tweeddale** will be **17,369** people by 2036

Of these:

**17.4%** will be aged **0-15**  
[more than present]

**49.7%** will be aged **16-64**  
[more than present]

**32.9%** will be aged **65+**  
[more than present]

[NRS 2012-Based]

### WELLBEING

**34%** of survey respondents in **Tweeddale** say they **sometimes or often feel lonely or isolated**.  
[Scottish Borders = 33%]

**81%** of survey respondents say they **take part in moderate physical 30-minute exercise at least twice a week**.  
[Scottish Borders = 78%]

[SBHS 2018/ScotPHO/SEEMIS]



# Tweeddale Wards

## POPULATION ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS

National Records of Scotland (NRS) estimates the population of **Tweeddale** to be

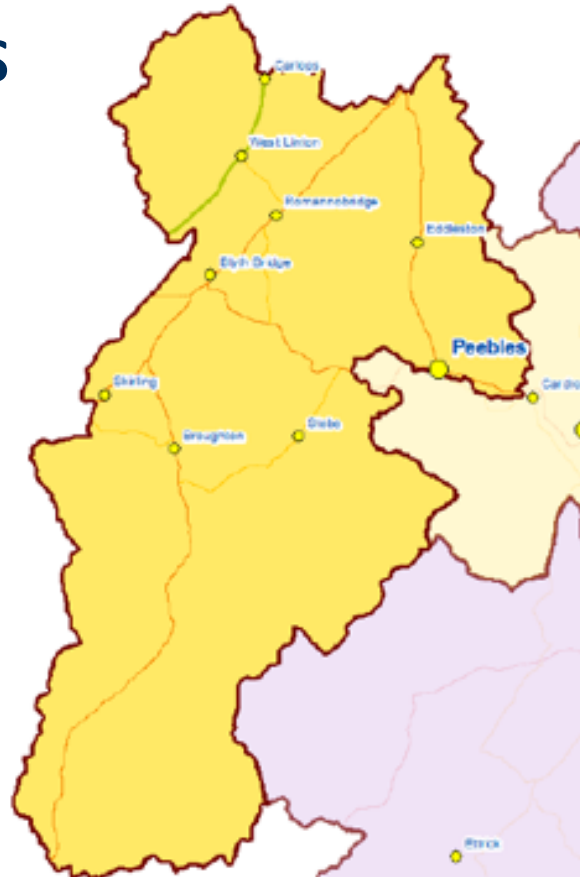
**21,326** (Est 2017) **population**  
 (18.5% of the Scottish Borders (SB))

**18.1%** aged 0-15  
 (SB = 15.9%; SCOT = 16.9%)

**59.4%** aged 16-64  
 (SB = 59.0%; SCOT = 64.4%)

**22.5%** aged 65+  
 (SB = 25.1%; SCOT = 18.7%)

(NRS 2017)



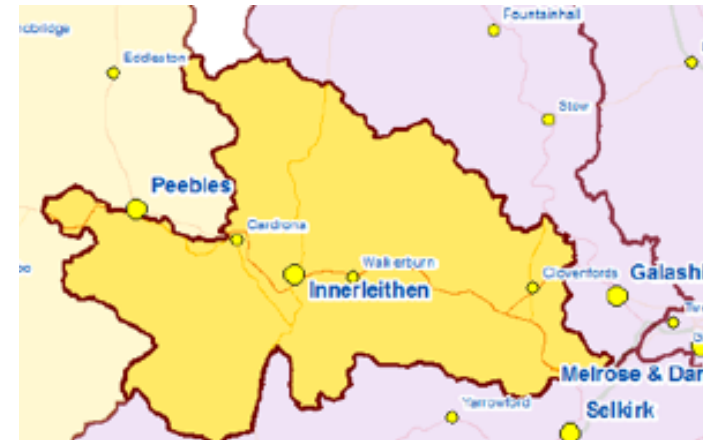
### TWEEDDALE WEST



**10,408** Population

**8,535** Peebles

**1,766** West Linton



### TWEEDDALE EAST



**10,918** Population

**8,535** Peebles

**896** Cardrona

**3,141** Innerleithen

**695** Walkerton

# Engaging with our Communities

It is the intention of the Area Partnership to involve as wide a group of people as possible. This helps to make sure our plans reflect the needs of our communities. We will create more opportunities for people to attend the Area Partnership and talk to us in person, take part in surveys or contact us online. As further information and understanding of the needs and ambitions of our communities is gathered, the Area Partnership will continue to build on this plan. We welcome your views and suggestions.

There are many other ways of being involved in your local community, key contacts are provided below:

To give us your views or to get involved with Area Partnerships please contact:

Communities and Partnerships Team  
Email: [communityplanning@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:communityplanning@scotborders.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 0300 100 1800

More information on Community Councils:

[www.scotborders.gov.uk/communitycouncils](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/communitycouncils)  
Telephone: 01835 825005.

Many Community Council's now have their own website and social media pages and will also be contactable directly through these means.

More information on volunteering, community support or advice:

Volunteer Centre Borders  
[www.vcborders.org.uk](http://www.vcborders.org.uk)  
Telephone: 01896 754041  
Email: [enquiries@vcborders.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@vcborders.org.uk)

The Bridge (Tweeddale Office)  
[www.the-bridge.uk.net](http://www.the-bridge.uk.net)  
Telephone: 01721 723123  
Email: [tweeddale@the-bridge.uk.net](mailto:tweeddale@the-bridge.uk.net)

## Our Economy, Skills & Learning

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Tweeddale is:

- To improve and develop transport networks, connections and options - from, to and within Tweeddale

Other priorities that are important to the Tweeddale community:

- Review the availability and suitability of business premises
- Develop commercial / industrial sites and premises to encourage new business to the area
- To provide an “Enterprise and/or Community Hub” for start-ups and growth of businesses
- Enhance marketing and promotion of the Tweeddale tourism offer
- Improve broadband and mobile coverage
- Develop stronger links with colleges, schools and businesses to create a joint approach to education and upskilling the workforce
- Increase practical skills and knowledge for primary and early secondary school children & young people
- Create a mentoring model within the community to build knowledge, skills and confidence
- Increase training opportunities for local trades

## Our Health, Care & Wellbeing

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Tweeddale is:

- To improve the availability, accessibility and connections to services for people living in rural areas and towns across the Tweeddale area to reduce loneliness and social isolation

Other priorities that are important to the Tweeddale community:

- Increase the availability of locally based rehabilitation services
- Increase the range of care and support options available (across the locality) to enable people to remain in their own homes and communities
- Increase the range of housing options available across the locality and plan for future housing needs
- Improve support for unpaid carers by providing a wider choice of support and assistance (including social events)
- Develop intergenerational community hubs



## Safer Communities

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Tweeddale is:

- Community connections need to be further developed to share information and activities across the Tweeddale Area

Other priorities that are important to the Tweeddale community:

- Increase support to individuals to help them be active members of their community
- Reduce anti-social behaviour
- Create stronger links to the SBC Community Action Team (with a focus on road safety, speeding and pedestrian access) by increasing awareness of the CAT and how communities can feed into the CAT work programme

## Our Environment & Place

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Tweeddale is:

- Ensure that Tweeddale residents have access to appropriate housing, and the environment is clean and safe

Other priorities that are important to the Tweeddale community:

- Improve the provision of suitable housing (sheltered, extra care, young people with disabilities) by developing a range of flexible accommodation for communities at every age and stage of life
- Tackle fuel poverty
- Identify opportunities where green space and access to green space can be improved and local access to growing projects can be developed
- De-cluttering and environmental improvement campaigns are undertaken in key streets/areas within Tweeddale locality
- Improve awareness and access to information, support and resources to increase energy efficiency.
- Increase the range of affordable and accessible housing options available across the locality, and plan for future housing needs

# How we will measure success

The priorities identified in this plan have been used as the basis for the Tweeddale Locality Action Plan. This action plan will help to track action and activities and to drive change in Tweeddale. As this will be an ever changing document the action plan is available to download from Scottish Borders Council's website, [www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnership](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnership) or in hard copy from the Community & Partnerships Team.

The Tweeddale Area Partnership will feedback every year on the progress made in delivering the priorities within this plan. By monitoring the progress we make, we can measure the difference made to local people and communities. Progress and achievements will be shared with the Community Planning Partnership and other public bodies as well as being shared and celebrated with the wider community.

We will continue to ask the community their views and encourage more people to participate in the Area Partnership. As the needs of the locality change, we will ensure the priorities and actions within the plan reflect these changes.

## Other Local Plans for Tweeddale

- Innerleithen Community Action Plan
- Newlands Community Action Plan
- Peebles Community Action Plan
- Tweedsmuir Community Action Plan
- Walkerburn Community Action Plan
- Tweeddale Learning Community Partnership Plan



You can get this document on audio CD, in large print, and various other formats by contacting us at the address below. In addition, contact the address below for information on language translations, additional copies, or to arrange for an officer to meet with you to explain any areas of the publication that you would like clarified.

**COMMUNITIES & PARTNERSHIPS TEAM**

Scottish Borders Council | Council Headquarters | Newtown St Boswells | MELROSE | TD6 0SA  
tel: 0300 100 1800 | email: [Communityplanning@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:Communityplanning@scotborders.gov.uk)  
[www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/areapartnerships)

**TWEEDDALE LOCALITY ACTION PLAN**

**Theme: Economy skills and learning**

| Priority                                     | Planned Activity                                                         | How will the activity be delivered                                                                                                                                                                          | Project timeline | Who will deliver the project                      | Progress                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To improve and develop transport networks    | Be innovative in the provision of rural transport services               | Explore options around E-car, E-bike, Tripshare, Community Transport and Social car schemes could be considered.                                                                                            |                  | Community Councils<br><br>SBC Passenger Transport | Subsidised bus services delivered to main settlements:<br>Peebles Town Service – 90A/B<br>Peebles – Broughton/Biggar – 91<br>Peebles – Broughton/West Linton – 93                            |
|                                              | Identify transport that is an alternative to ‘traditional bus’ services. | Proposals are being looked at to provide a taxi service for Clovenfords, walkerburn and Innerleithen.<br><br>It should be managed locally<br><br>It will be flexible enough to meet the communities’ needs. |                  | Community Councils<br><br>SBC Passenger Transport | Trial of the West Linton Taxi/Bus Connection<br>660 people signed up for the scheme and there were 200 users                                                                                 |
| Review the availability of business premises | Study into the availability and suitability of business property.        | South of Scotland Enterprise Project is undertaking a South of Scotland-wide survey                                                                                                                         | Spring 2020      | South of Scotland Enterprise Project              | The Council provides a range of industrial buildings in Peebles and Innerleithen where occupancy rates are high.<br><br>The private sector provides some modern office space at Cavalry Park |

| Priority                                                                                 | Planned Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | How will the activity be delivered                                                                                                                              | Project timeline | Who will deliver the project       | Progress                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Develop commercial / industrial sites and premises to encourage new business to the area | The Council will identify sites in Peebles, Innerleithen and West Linton in the new Local Development plan which will support and facilitate business development and growth.                                                                                                                          | The Council will work with South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSEP) to ensure these sites are serviced and available for private sector development and investment. |                  | SBC Environment and Infrastructure | The Local Development Plan identifies sites in Peebles and West Linton for business development.                                                                |
| To provide an “Enterprise Hub” for start-ups and growth of businesses                    | SOSEP is undertaking a South of Scotland-wide study into the availability and suitability of business property. The study will consider the need for manufacturing and storage uses, as well as office space. It will also consider the needs of businesses at different stages in their growth cycle. |                                                                                                                                                                 |                  | SOSEP<br>SBC                       | Three small office spaces are currently available for business start-ups in the Council’s Rosetta Road office. Only one of these offices is currently occupied. |

| Priority                                                                     | Planned Activity                                                                                                                  | How will the activity be delivered                                                                                | Project timeline | Who will deliver the project           | Progress                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Improve marketing and promotion of the Tweeddale tourism offer</b></p> | <p>Work towards the establishment of a Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) that will help support tourist marketing.</p> | <p>Continued development of the “Scotland Starts Here” by Midlothian and Borders Tourism Action Group (MBTAG)</p> |                  | <p>Tweed Valley Tourist Consortium</p> | <p>Tweed Valley Tourism BID has been in development for the past 18 months, with a five-year business plan launched in October following extensive consultation with participating tourism businesses.</p> <p>The result of a vote, conducted by Scottish Borders Council, showed that over 80% of voting businesses (from a turnout of 68.4%) supported the initiative. This will allow a levy to be taken from participating businesses over a five-year period to fund investments to improve the area’s tourism product. It is hoped that the £350,000 private investment will be match-funded by the public sector.</p> <p>VisitScotland recently initiated a specific South of Scotland marketing campaign - ‘See South Scotland’. The Scottish Government contributed £500,000 additional funding to support the creation of a campaign that will promote the south of Scotland as a tourism destination to key UK and</p> |

|  |  |  |  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--|--|--|--|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |  | <p>European markets, focusing on coastal and forest activities in particular.</p> <p>Tweeddale's tourism profile is increased by the marketing and promotion activity that happens in relation to Mountain Biking, Glentress, Innerleithen and the 7stanes brand</p> <p>Key events run by local event organisers also raise the profile of the area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tweedlove</li> <li>- Enduro World Series</li> <li>- Tour O' The Borders</li> <li>- The Mighty Deerstalker</li> </ul> |
|--|--|--|--|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| Priority                                     | Planned Activity                                                                                                | How will the activity be delivered                                                                                          | Project timeline | Who will deliver the project | Progress                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Improve broadband and mobile coverage</b> | Deliver superfast broadband to all occupied premises by the end of 2021.                                        | The Scottish Government has commenced a new initiative, the R100 programme, in order to deliver superfast broadband by 2021 | 2021             |                              | The Council has invested £8.4M in the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband Programme.                                                                                                                                             |
|                                              | The Council is promoting a 4G Infill Programme alongside its partners in the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal. |                                                                                                                             |                  |                              | The Council has regularly lobbied Governments and the Mobile Network Operators to improve the coverage of mobile phone services and reduce the number of 'not-spots' in the Scottish Borders. It has also lobbied for improved 4G |



|                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                               |  |                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                               |  |                                                                              | services coverage; these have improved over the last 2 years                                                                                                    |
|                                                                                                                                          | As 5G networks start to be delivered in some cities, the Council will continue to lobby for better mobile services across the Scottish Borders, so that rural areas are not 'left behind'. |                                                                                                                               |  |                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Develop stronger links with colleges, schools and businesses to create a joint approach to education and upskilling the workforce</b> | Create a physical and digital hub to provide better access to training in health and social care, renewable energy, engineering and construction skills                                    | Secondary Head Teachers are currently developing ideas to further improve the links between schools, colleges and businesses. |  | Borders College<br>Secondary Head Teachers<br>Developing the Young Workforce | The 'Developing the Young Workforce' initiative has established stronger links between businesses and schools, including specific school/industry partnerships. |

| Priority                                                                                                          | Planned Activity                                                                                                                                       | How will the activity be delivered | Project timeline | Who will deliver the project | Progress                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Increase practical skills and knowledge for primary and early secondary school children &amp; young people</b> | Create a Regional Apple Training Centre at Kingsland Primary School for staff as part of the Inspire Learning Programme.                               |                                    |                  | SBC                          | Professional learning for Tweeddale staff in primary school computing science established.  |
|                                                                                                                   | Plan and implement work inspiration/experience programme with Developing Young Workforce Industry Group for young people with additional support needs |                                    |                  |                              | Leadership program for pupil Digital Leaders in Peebles HS for Inspire Learning established |
|                                                                                                                   | Development of the secondary curriculum to meet the needs of the Regional Skills Investment Plan for the South of Scotland.                            |                                    |                  |                              |                                                                                             |

|                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                    |                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Create a mentoring model in schools</b>              | Support the community to establish its own mentoring programme tapping into knowledge skill and experience within the community.                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                              |  | SBC in partnership with:-                          | Engaging with families in enhanced family learning opportunities, building capacity & capability (CLD Service), PEEPS Group, Transitions Groups, |
|                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                    | The Bridge provides advice and guidance to community groups to help build knowledge, skills and confidence.                                      |
|                                                         | The Chamber of Commerce are considering how to run an expanded programme in future. South of Scotland Enterprise may be able to support this mentoring approach once it becomes operation in April 2020. |                                                                                                                                                                              |  | Chamber of Commerce & South of Scotland Enterprise | Scottish Borders Chamber of Commerce has completed a mentoring programme across the Scottish Borders. The programme was LEADER funded.           |
| <b>Increase training opportunities for local trades</b> | Create a network to provide better access to training in health and social care, renewable energy, engineering and construction.                                                                         | Borders College to create a physical and digital hub network to provide better access to training in health and social care, renewable energy, engineering and construction. |  | Borders College                                    | Young people and others seeking to learn a 'trade' are able to access training opportunities through Borders College.                            |

|  |                                                                                                                            |  |  |  |  |
|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
|  |                                                                                                                            |  |  |  |  |
|  | A project is being created to encourage local trade's people to develop skills in 'low carbon' and 'green energy' systems. |  |  |  |  |

**Theme: Health Care and Wellbeing**

| Priority                                                                                                                                                                              | Planned Activity                                                                                                                                                               | How will the activity be delivered                            | Project timeline | Who will deliver the project                                   | Progress                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To improve the availability, accessibility and connections to services for people living in rural areas and towns across the Tweeddale area to reduce loneliness and social isolation | Continue to define the 'Locality Model', including the use of multi-disciplinary teams<br>Monthly article in the Peebleshire news showcasing different volunteering activities | IJB Strategic Implementation Plan (approved by IJB Sept 2019) |                  | Chief Officer, Borders Health & Social Care Partnership        | Re-design Locality Based Integrated Health & Social Care Teams (Chief Officer, Borders Health & Social Care Partnership)      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                               |                  |                                                                | Attend Anywhere Project(NHS Borders                                                                                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                       | Develop ambassador role within Peebles and link this into the wider community.                                                                                                 |                                                               |                  | Tweeddale Volunteer Initiative<br><br>Volunteer Centre Borders | "What Matters Hubs" established in Peebles, Walkerburn& West Linton (Chief Officer, Borders Health & Social Care Partnership) |

|  |                                                                                                  |                                                                                 |  |                                |  |
|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|
|  |                                                                                                  |                                                                                 |  |                                |  |
|  | Develop local volunteering hub-micro site that can act as a one stop shop& social media presence |                                                                                 |  | Tweeddale Volunteer Initiative |  |
|  | Increase the number of volunteers – showcasing the work of volunteers                            | Wider marketing and raising awareness in the community eg; via coffee mornings. |  | Tweeddale Volunteer Initiative |  |

| Priority                                                                                           | Planned Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | How will the activity be delivered                                                                                                                 | Project timeline | Who will deliver the project | Progress                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Increase the availability of locally based rehabilitation services to reduce hospital stays</b> | <p>September 2019 IJB approved the expansion of Hospital to Home (H2H).</p> <p>A review of services in Tweeddale will be commenced by December 2019.</p> <p>Older People Local area coordination has now been introduced across the whole of the Scottish Borders.</p> <p>6 new weekly sessions introduced in Tweeddale including health circuits, mobility, Guid Fettle, health conditions and gentle movement.</p> | <p>All older clients in the day service are being supported by the Local area coordinator and Link worker attend community based alternatives.</p> |                  |                              | <p>Allied Health Professionals (AHP) transformation workstream created to reshape AHP services to support community care (Associate Director of Community &amp; Primary Services, NHS Borders)</p> <p>Third Sector Partners supporting people they work with, encouraging as much independence as possible (Chief Social Work Officer)</p> <p>Transform Day Services (Chief Social Work Officer)</p> <p>Live Borders – Health &amp; Fitness Programme in Tweeddale (Live Borders&amp;Wellbeing Service)</p> <p>MacMillan Movemore (MacMillan)</p> <p>Community Capacity Building Project (Community Capacity Building Team)</p> <p>Food &amp; Friendship Project based at Victoria Park operates every Wednesday.</p> |

|  |  |  |  |  |                                                                                    |
|--|--|--|--|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |  | Three gentle exercise groups are well established in West Linton and Innerleithen. |
|--|--|--|--|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



|                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                             |  |                                                                   |                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                             |  |                                                                   |                                                                                          |
| <b>Increase the range of care and support available to enable people to remain in their own homes and communities</b> | September 2019 IJB approved the expansion of Hospital to Home (H2H).                                   |                                                                                                                                             |  |                                                                   |                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                       | Older People Local area coordination has now been introduced across the whole of the Scottish Borders. | All older clients in the day service are being supported by the Local area coordinator and Link worker attend community based alternatives. |  |                                                                   | Food & Friendship Project based at Victoria Park operates every Wednesday.               |
|                                                                                                                       | A review of services in Tweeddale will be                                                              | Allied Health Professionals (AHP) transformation                                                                                            |  | (Associate Director of Community & Primary Services, NHS Borders) | 30 extra care housing is planned for 2022/23 although as yet not site has been acquired. |

|                                                                |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                  |  |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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|                                                                | commenced by December 2019.                                                                                                            | workstream created to reshape AHP services to support community care                                                             |  |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                | 6 new weekly sessions introduced in Tweeddale including health circuits, mobility, Guid Fettle, health conditions and gentle movement. | Third Sector Partners supporting people they work with, encouraging as much independence as possible (Chief Social Work Officer) |  | Live Borders MacMillan |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                  |  |                        | <p>Ask Sara launched</p> <p><u>AskSARA</u> is an easy-to-use website which available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It shows you equipment and solutions that can make your life easier.</p> <p>It provides advice and guidance that may help you, or someone you care about, with your health, your home or your daily activities.</p> <p><a href="http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/asksara">www.scotborders.gov.uk/asksara</a></p> |
| <b>Increase the range of affordable and accessible housing</b> | New plans have been submitted by Eildon Housing to provide 22 homes providing a                                                        | The Local Housing Strategy 2017-22 sets out a vision for the supply, quality and                                                 |  |                        | 17 new homes completed at Station Yard in Cardrona                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

|                                              |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>options available across the locality</b> | mixture of flats and houses. | availability of housing in the local area. The LHS is the key planning document, providing a framework of action, investment and partnership-working to deliver these local priorities. |  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                                              |                              | SBC to continue to work alongside Link Housing Association to promote and maximise publicity and access to low cost home ownership.                                                     |  |  | James Hogg Court in Innerleithen has been acquired which will result in 22 new homes.<br><br>Recommendations from the Wheelchair Housing Study will be incorporated into the next SHIP document. |
|                                              |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |  | Planning application has been submitted to provide 40 affordable homes at Tweedbridge Court                                                                                                      |
|                                              |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Develop intergenerational community hubs     |                              | Implementation of the Scottish Borders Mental Health Strategy (General Manager for Mental Health Services NHS Borders)                                                                  |  |  | “What Matters Hubs” established in Peebles, Walkerburn & West Linton (Chief Officer, Borders Health & Social Care Partnership)                                                                   |

|                                          |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                          |  |  |                                                                                                                 |
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| <p>Improve support for unpaid carers</p> | <p>The Carers Advisory Board has become Carer's First, a forum to engage with carers across the Scottish Borders.</p> | <p>Facilitate transformation through development of community based opportunities (Community Capacity Building Team)</p> |  |  | <p>There has been a 29% increase in the numbers of carers with a carer's support plan (April 18 to June 19)</p> |
|                                          |                                                                                                                       | <p>Living Well in the Scottish Borders Plan is currently being published</p>                                             |  |  |                                                                                                                 |
|                                          |                                                                                                                       | <p>First Aid training tailored for young carers</p>                                                                      |  |  |                                                                                                                 |

| Theme: Safer Communities                                                                                         |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                  |                                                                         |          |
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| Priority                                                                                                         | Planned Activity | How will the activity be delivered                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Project timeline | Who will deliver the project                                            | Progress |
| Community connections need to be further developed to share information and activities across the Tweeddale Area |                  | Information of activities and groups to be shared via; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red Cross directory of activities in the Tweeddale Area</li> <li>• Tweeddale volunteers hosting events throughout the year</li> <li>• What Matters Hubs taking place in Peebles, Walkerburn and West Linton</li> </ul> |                  | <b>Red Cross</b><br><br><b>Tweeddale Learning Community Partnership</b> |          |

|                                                                                          |                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                          |                                                                                                                         |
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|                                                                                          |                                        | Tweeddale Learning Community Partnership Bulletin sent to partners monthly with updates on activities and learning news in the locality                                          |  |                                          |                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Increase support to individuals to help them be active members of their community</b> |                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                  |  | Tweeddale Volunteers<br>SBC<br>Mens Shed | Tweeddale Volunteers hosting events<br><br>What Matter's Hubs<br><br>Peebles & District Men's Shed open 7 days per week |
| <b>Reduce anti-social behaviour and improve street lighting and signage</b>              | Community Action Team to be recruited. | Increased investment of £256k has enabled a second Community Action Team to be recruited. Both CAT's will continue to respond to local need and demand within the Tweeddale Area |  | Mens Shed                                | Peebles & District Men's Shed open 7 days per week                                                                      |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| <p><b>Create stronger links to the SBC Community Action Team (with a particular focus on road safety) by increasing awareness of the CAT and how communities can feed into the CAT work programme</b></p> | <p>Communities will be encouraged to use their Community Policing Teams as the first point of contact</p> | <p>A member/Officer Oversight Group meet monthly to agree specific tasks to be undertaken. The basis of this work is an analytical assessment prepared by the Partnership Analyst followed by Elected Member representatives highlighting specific constituency matters to be included in the tasking process. Not all tasks fall to the CAT, some are directed to the Community Policing Teams or other specialist services. Relevant support is also secured from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service</p> |  |  | <p>In 2018/19, the seven-strong CAT carried out:</p> <p>Almost 300 drug searches on people and premises</p> <p>Issued nearly 900 parking tickets</p> <p>Took part in more than 100 static road checks<br/>Conducted over 900 hours of high visibility foot and mobile patrols</p> |
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|  | <p>The Safer Communities Team currently coordinate the activity of the Council funded Community Action Team (CAT).</p> |  |  |  | <p><b>TASKING DURING PERIOD</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kingsmeadow car park, issue with antisocial driving.</li> <li>2. Youth alcohol issues in Peebles town centre.</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Evidence impact</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Young drivers who frequent the car park have been spoken to by CAT officers. Incident numbers are low.</li> <li>2. Patrols carried out at the end of September when the problem was identified. Tasking will continue into October but incident volume has reduced.</li> </ol> |
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| Theme: Environment and Place                                                                                             |                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                  |                              |                                                                                                                                                       |
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| Priority                                                                                                                 | Planned Activity                                                                         | How will the activity be delivered                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Project timeline | Who will deliver the project | Progress                                                                                                                                              |
| Ensure that Tweeddale residents have access to appropriate and affordable housing, and the environment is clean and safe | Develop a range of flexible accommodation for communities at every age and stage of life | The Local Housing Strategy 2017-22 sets out a vision for the supply, quality and availability of housing in the local area. The LHS is the key planning document, providing a framework of action, investment and partnership-working to deliver these local priorities. |                  |                              | 17 affordable homes have been completed at Station Yard in Cardrona and 22 affordable homes are planned for delivery at Tweedbridge Court in Peebles. |
|                                                                                                                          | Incorporate the Wheelchair Housing Study into the next Strategic Housing Document        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                  |                              |                                                                                                                                                       |
| Improve the provision of suitable local housing                                                                          |                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                  |                              |                                                                                                                                                       |

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| (sheltered, extra care, for those with disabilities, care homes etc) by developing a range of flexible accommodation for communities at every age and stage of life |  |                      |  |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Tackle fuel poverty                                                                                                                                                 |  |                      |  | Changeworks<br>Home energy Scheme |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Identify opportunities where green space and access to green space can be improved and local access to growing projects can be developed                            |  | SBC Growing Strategy |  | Carol Cooke                       | 9 community garden groups; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tweedgreen Secret Garden</li> <li>• The Glebe Project</li> <li>• The Courthouse</li> <li>• Peebles CAN</li> <li>• Railway Path Group</li> <li>• Peebles Path Group</li> <li>• Bonnie Peebles</li> <li>• St Ronans Wells Garden</li> <li>• The Edible Garden</li> </ul> |
| De-cluttering and environmental improvement campaigns are undertaken in key streets/areas within Tweeddale locality                                                 |  |                      |  |                                   | Esheils Community Recycling Centre (CRC) - In addition to the recycling opportunities provided by the SBC there is a reuse cabin on site which is managed by You Can Cook, Just Cycles and Home Basics. Members of the public can leave furniture,                                                                                         |

|                                                                                                   |  |  |  |  |                                                                                         |
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|                                                                                                   |  |  |  |  | household items, tools and bikes there for redistribution by these local organisations. |
| Improve awareness and access to information, support and resources to increase energy efficiency. |  |  |  |  |                                                                                         |

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## **LOCAL CHILD POVERTY ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2019/20**

**Report by Service Director, Customer & Communities**

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### **COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC BOARD**

**10 September 2020**

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#### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report presents the Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Annual Progress Report for 2019/20 for endorsement before submission to Scottish Government.**
- 1.2 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 requires Local Authorities and Health Boards to jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report and an Annual Progress Report. This Report for 2019/20 is the second Annual Report for the Scottish Borders and provides the Community Planning Partnership and Scottish Government with an update on progress made within the Action Plan as well as an outline of proposed actions for 2020/21.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 I recommend that the Community Planning Strategic Board endorse the Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Annual Progress Report for 2019/20.**

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets out the Scottish Government's statement of intent to eradicate child poverty in Scotland by 2030. Local Authorities and Health Boards are required to jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Report (including an Action Plan) and subsequently an Annual Progress Report by the end of June each year.
- 3.2 The first Annual Report for the Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Report was submitted to Scottish Government in June 2019 for 2018/19. This is the second Annual Progress Report and is due to be submitted to Scottish Government following endorsement.
- 3.3 In May 2020 a joint Scottish Government/COSLA letter was issued to Chief Executives of Local Authorities and Health Boards to offer clarity on expectations relating to the duty to report on progress in tackling child poverty. The letter recognised that local governance arrangements may be suspended or focused on other action due to COVID-19 and so a delay to publication would most likely be necessary.

### **4 ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019/20 (Appendix 1)**

- 4.1 Highlights of the 2019/20 Annual Progress Report are:
  - (a) The Local Plan meets the majority of the 22 recommendations set out in the Poverty and Inequality Commission's Review with 3 being identified which require to be addressed in the 2020/21 Action Plan.
  - (b) The updates set out in Appendix 1 of the Report show significant achievements towards tackling child poverty in the Scottish Borders.
  - (c) Training opportunities for young people and the creation of modern apprenticeships has been very successful throughout 2019/20 and into 2020/21.
  - (d) The £16M Inspire Learning Programme has had a massive impact on the avoidance of digital exclusion and has been very well received by schools, students and their families.
  - (e) The Early Years Pathway Pilot Project has been effective in improving access to benefits information, advice and support for early years families, as well as resulting in an increase in some families' benefits.

### **5 2020/21 ACTION PLAN**

- 5.1 Future planning of and the delivery of child poverty actions are being considered as part of the Local Authority and Health Board responses to COVID-19 and the deepening issues arising as a result. High level actions for the 2020/21 Action Plan are being developed. The Child Poverty Planning Group have identified the following headings for consideration in the 2020/21 Action Plan, with further themes still to be added following feedback from a recent workshop:
  - a) Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic including local issues;
  - b) Food insecurity, food funds, funding support;
  - c) Costs of the school day;

- d) Money worries app;
- e) Connectivity – inspire programme;
- f) Borderlands/city deal/SOSE;
- g) Scottish Borders Strategic assessment – local information;
- h) Scottish Borders ScotPHO Vulnerability index 2020;
- i) Community Assistance Hubs – locality model.

The finalised 2020/21 Action Plan will be presented to the Community Planning Strategic Board in November 2020.

## **6 IMPLICATIONS**

### **6.1 Financial**

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

### **6.2 Risk and Mitigations**

- (a) Risks associated with this report relate to the deepening problem of child poverty as a result of COVID-19. Families already experiencing poverty before COVID-19 are likely to face further difficulties and new families will be identified as in poverty.
- (b) The 2019/20 Child Poverty Report outlines the progress made to alleviate child poverty in the Scottish Borders, and the 2020/21 Report and Action Plan will focus on the impact of COVID-19 to ensure that an appropriate response is made to the unprecedented challenge facing the Local Authority and Health Board.

### **6.3 Equalities**

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out on this proposal and it is anticipated that there are no adverse equality implications.

### **6.4 Acting Sustainably**

There are no economic, social or environmental effects of this proposal.

### **6.5 Carbon Management**

There are no effects on carbon emissions as a result of this proposal.

### **6.6 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

There are no changes to the Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation as a result of this proposal.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Executive Director (Finance & Regulatory), the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Service Director HR & Communications, the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated into this report.

**Approved by**

**Jenni Craig**  
**Service Director, Customer & Communities Signature.....**

**Author(s)**

| <b>Name</b>      | <b>Designation and Contact Number</b> |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Janice Robertson | Strategic Planning & Policy Manager   |

**Background Papers:**  
**Previous Minute Reference:**

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

Contact us at Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose TD6 0SA. Tel 01835 824000.



| Action                                                                                                                                                            | Poverty driver* | Partners involved                                | How will impact be assessed?                                     | Intended beneficiaries/target group   | 2019/20 Update                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| <b>Employability</b>                                                                                                                                              |                 |                                                  |                                                                  |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Page<br>Creating apprenticeships and training opportunities through commissioning of new and existing home investment.                                            | 1               | All RSLs                                         | Annual Evaluation                                                | Young and long term unemployed people | Eildon Housing Association and Harts working in partnership to create apprenticeships and training opportunities through the delivery of affordable housing projects. Eildon and Harts have jointly funded a Community Benefits Officer. A review is expected to be carried out by Eildon Housing. The Scottish Borders Housing Association have employed 7 seasonal workers locally via their Grounds Maintenance Contract, 8 Apprentices at various stages of completion (3 Electricians, 3 Joiners, 1 Plumber and 1 IT). 2 x 2 days work placements have also been delivered. |
| Development of Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal work streams on infrastructure etc, and integrated Regional Employment Support (IRES) projects. | 1               | Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region Deal | Increased employment opportunities for young people and children | Disadvantaged groups                  | Tweedbank infrastructure project under development.<br>Work being undertaken to link Scottish Borders into Construction and Data Information Gateways and other Integrated Regional Employment Support (IRES) projects. SBC leading on Workforce Mobility Project which will start in late summer 2020.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Develop links with relevant Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal programmes and projects                                                                             | 1               | Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal                | Increased employment opportunities for young people and adults   | Disadvantaged groups                  | Terms of Reference for Deal agreed July 2019. A range of programmes and projects under development which will benefit the Scottish Borders.<br>Borderlands Inclusive Deal approval planned to be before April 2021.<br>Supporting the economic development of the Scottish Borders as a whole with higher quality,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |     |     |                                                       |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |     |     |                                                       |                 | better paid and more diverse employment opportunities for young people and adults.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Education</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |     |     |                                                       |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Free access to sanitary products in schools and SBC workplaces                                                                                                                                                                                         | 2   | SBC | 100% of schools and workplaces actively participating | Women and girls | All of Scottish Borders Schools and local authority workplaces are participating in the scheme.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Customer Info Signposting</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |     |     |                                                       |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Easier and wider access to information, assistance and applications beyond free school meals and clothing grants, via increased digitalisation and self-serve work programme.                                                                          | 2,3 | SBC | Uptake rates                                          | All             | SEEMiS ParentPortal is a development to deliver a portal for parents to access a suite of education services. Some services are linked specifically to the parent/pupil. The ParentPortal will integrate with MyScotBorders, providing parents with access to other council services through the digital channel.    |
| Avoidance of digital exclusion via advice and training rolled out as part of the digitalisation and self-serve work programme, and the widening of access via provision of the technology and equipment necessary to take advantage of digital options | 2,3 | SBC |                                                       | All             | Inspire Learning is a £16million 1:1 education transformation programme which the council has centrally funded prior to COVID19. By March 2020 every secondary pupil had their own managed iPad to take home, and by July 2020 iPads were provided to primary pupils in classes P6-P7 for the academic year 2020/21. |
| Better signposting and cross cutting advice on related topics being included as part of                                                                                                                                                                | 2,3 | SBC |                                                       | All             | Through Digital Customer Access, SBC's digital offering is increasing making it easier for individuals to access services online. Included in this is a review of service information on the website to                                                                                                              |

|                                                                                                                         |   |                                |                                    |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| consistent digital offering                                                                                             |   |                                |                                    |                                   | ensure information and advice is accessible.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Early Years Pathway Pilot Project – improving access to benefits information, advice & Support for early years families | 3 | SBC Financial Inclusion Team   | Referral rates<br>Income generated | Early years families              | <p>Period 31/5/19 to 01/3/20</p> <p>The advice facility at Health Centres was arranged as part of the NHS “Pathway initiative” where Midwives are encouraged to refer expectant mothers for benefit advice.</p> <p>Uptake of the service was slow at the outset however as communication of the service improved so did the take up. The advisor now has regular referrals from Health Visitors, Nurses and new and expectant mothers as well as telephone and email messages requesting advice. The number of enquires during the 6 month period totaled 39 resulting in an increase in benefits of £76,000. The majority of enquires concerned pre-birth issues but many of the mothers involved said that they would be contacting the advisor again when the baby was born to ascertain their revised entitlement at that time.</p> <p>A few weeks into the project the Scottish Social Security Area manager attended at the Centre to discuss the new Scottish Best Start and Best Food grants and during that meeting they had the opportunity to help three expectant mothers to claim their grants. We had not anticipated their visits and they were very pleased to have been given the opportunity to have face to face meetings with their target audience for the first time.</p> |
| Scottish Welfare Fund Awareness Sessions                                                                                | 2 | SBC Scottish Welfare Fund Team | Tenancy sustainability             | Low income individuals & families | Promotion of the Scottish Welfare Fund continues online, via social media channels and via Social Landlords, CAB and other support based organisations e.g. Veterans 1 <sup>st</sup> point.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Fareshare Food distribution project –                                                                                   | 2 | SBC and Eildon Housing         | Reduce food insecurity             | Low income individuals &          | FareShare Networks have increased from 17 to 25 since March, and have supplied thousands of                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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| reduce food insecurity. Looking at creation of two new food distribution hubs Hawick and Peebles.                                                   |     |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                  | families                                                                                                                                                | families during the Coronavirus pandemic. Eg. Burnfoot Community Futures – up to 200 food bags per day<br><br>SBC and Eildon Housing have set up a FareShare Food Distribution Centre in Galashiels. This will ensure a robust and consistent service to the FareShare Network in the Scottish Borders.                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Promotion of CAB Financial Health Check service – renamed by Scottish Government as Money Talk Team<br><br>Page 180                                 | 3   | Promoted in the Scottish Borders by all CABx (Peebles, Central Borders and Roxburgh & Berwickshire) | Outcomes - Client Financial Gain and annual satisfaction survey. Central Reporting direct to SG. | Maximise income and ensure that families with children are informed of and assisted where necessary to apply for all the benefits they are entitled to. | This is a national project currently running until October 2020 between Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS) and the Scottish Government (SG). It benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lone parent families</li> <li>• Families which include a disabled adult or child</li> <li>• Larger families</li> <li>• Minority ethnic families</li> <li>• Families with a child under one year old</li> <li>• Families where the mother is under 25 years of age</li> <li>• Older people and those approaching pension age</li> </ul> |
| Increase awareness and training for CASS front line staff in relation to the advice and assistance available for benefit advice in the early years. | 3   | SBC                                                                                                 |                                                                                                  | Early Years Families                                                                                                                                    | Updates to SBC's website and CRM staff systems are ongoing, this includes links to How to Guides on benefit applications.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Mitigate the impact of Universal Credit through joint working, advice and support                                                                   | 2,3 | SBC, RSLs and Third Sector                                                                          |                                                                                                  | Families and young people on low incomes                                                                                                                | Updates to SBC's website and CRM staff systems are ongoing, this includes links to How to Guides on benefit applications.<br>Borders wide Universal Credit operational group meets quarterly to discuss Universal Credit issues.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

|                                                                                     |   |                        |                                           |                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| <b>Housing</b>                                                                      |   |                        |                                           |                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Deliver 209 new homes by 2021                                                       | 2 | SBC and All RSLs       | SHIP return                               | All families and young people in housing need | 141 Affordable homes were delivered throughout the Scottish Borders in 2019/20, 58 (41% of these were in Berwickshire).<br>The SHIP 2020/25 was approved by the Council in November 2019 and proposes the delivery of 1,066 new affordable homes, this will be under-pinned by an estimated investment of £158m over the period of the plan.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Delivery of the Housing Needs and Aspirations of Young People five year Action Plan | 2 | Local Housing Strategy | LHS Annual Progress and Monitoring Report | All young people aged between 16-34           | <p>The Housing Needs and Aspirations of Young People in the Scottish Borders Study was developed throughout 2018 and the findings and report were finalised in April 2019.</p> <p>The focus of this work has been on the housing needs and aspirations of young people aged between 16 and 34 years. The study has been undertaken to support the vision of the Local Housing Strategy 2017-22 in that “every person in the Borders lives in a home which meets their needs”. It also supports the priorities in the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan 2018-21, particularly priorities 2 and 3.</p> <p>A progress report on the first year has been produced including key highlights and significant achievements in 2019/20, as well as key developments for the year ahead. Some of these actions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with transport initiatives and seek to link with housing to maximise impact e.g. Explore opportunities to subsidise first months travel for new Modern Apprentices at SBC</li> <li>• Develop and implement the private rented sector strategy to improve access to and quality in the private rented sector.</li> <li>• Work with community councils and other community representatives to consider</li> </ul> |

|                                                          |   |                          |                                    |                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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|                                                          |   |                          |                                    |                                                         | <p>whether there is interest and capacity within communities to enable new community led housing development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review model of access to social housing in Scottish Borders across all providers to minimise time in temporary accommodation and achieve Rapid Rehousing</li> </ul> <p>Housing leads support the development of the Local Child Poverty Plan</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>Wheelchair Accessible Homes Study</p> <p>Page 182</p> | 2 | Borders Housing Alliance | No. of wheelchair accessible homes | People with disabilities that require wheelchair access | <p>Newhaven Research Scotland Ltd were commissioned to undertake an assessment of the requirements and need for wheelchair accessible housing in the Scottish Borders. To identify the current profile of wheelchair users, the current housing stock suitable for wheelchair users, the challenges wheelchair users face and the current and potential shortfalls in the provision of wheelchair accessible home. The work involved a multi-method approach and a wide range of engagement with wheelchair users and professional stakeholders. A steering group including a range of Community Planning partners have overseen the research and development of the final report.</p> <p>The final report identified a wide range of issues and challenges which will need to be addressed at national as well as at a local Scottish Borders level by the council and partner agencies. The core findings indicate that up to 300 new wheelchair accessible homes will be required across all tenures in order to address unmet need. It is anticipated that this report and its findings will be used to inform interagency planning and resource allocation processes.</p> <p>The finalised report will be used to inform setting a revised proposed Scottish Borders Council wheelchair accessible housing target with a</p> |

|                                                                                                          |   |                                                                               |                                                                                                                          |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                          |   |                                                                               |                                                                                                                          |                                                             | committee report being drafted for consideration by the Executive Committee in 2020-21. The finalised report will also influence the house type/size mix of individual pipeline affordable housing projects being developed by Borders Registered Social Landlords.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Implementing the Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plan                                                        | 2 | Borders Homelessness and Health Strategic Partnership & LHS Partnership Group | Annual Reporting against KPIs established in the Action Plan                                                             | All, particularly those at risk of Homelessness             | There has been a significant increase in the housing of homeless people. Scottish Borders Housing Association have increased the proportion of lets to homeless people by 10% from 29% to 39% of overall lets.<br>Implementation of the Scottish Borders Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019/20 was started.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| The Regeneration of Beech Ave Refurbishment Programme – 2019/2020; Demolition and new build 2021 – 2024. | 2 | Waverley Housing/SBC                                                          | More people living independently in affordable and sustainable homes;<br>More people able to afford to heat their homes. | Waverley Housing tenants and families (existing and future) | The Council and Waverley Housing have been working closely to consider suitable options for the future of an estate in Upper Langlee, Galashiels. There are 229 homes in the study area and the proposals envisage the demolition of 159 homes, refurbishment of 68 homes and provision of 109 new build energy efficient homes for social rent which will better meet the needs of tenants and residents in the local community and address future housing demand in the Galashiels area.<br>This is a high cost regeneration project with estimated costs of £23m which will be delivered over a number of years. The refurbishment element of the regeneration proposals to 68 homes has been awarded to a contractor with work starting on site in January 2020 with a planned completion date of August 2020.<br>Various consultation methods have been utilised to gauge residents views on the estate regeneration proposals and useful feedback has been obtained on a range of issues such as location of play parks, street names and types of housing to be provided which will be incorporated into the detailed planning |

|                                                                                                                |   |         |                                                 |                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                |   |         |                                                 |                      | application for the new build housing which will be submitted to Scottish Borders Council in Spring 2020.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Affordable Warmth                                                                                              | 2 | SBHA    | More people able to afford to heat their homes. | SBHA tenants         | SBHA have raised the number of homes reaching the EESSH standard for affordable warmth from 78% to 95%                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Health and Wellbeing</b>                                                                                    |   |         |                                                 |                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Improvement of financial inclusion pathways: referral tools, improved monitoring, staff awareness and training | 3 | NHS/ELC | Referral rates<br><br>Income generated          | Early years families | <p>Health visitors agreed to enquire about money worries at every contact. Developments progressing within EMIS to record conversations/response to money worries enquiries. Referral takes place via phone call or form (written or sent by email). Development of Money Worries Leaflet (2019) has been distributed and utilised by health visitors/Midwives.</p> <p>SBC Financial Support and Inclusion Team provide the bulk of money advice to pregnant women and families with young children in the Borders. Benefit gains for young families in the Borders 2018 amounted to over £1m from 362 referrals. From April to November 2019 £580,000 of gains for 249 referrals. This reflects an increase of about 20% in referrals at this time last year. The majority of these were direct referrals from Health Visitors but many came from attendance at the four Early Years Centres and other EY events and benefit surgeries held during the year. One part-time member of staff who provides majority of support (generates 1 million in claims each year).</p> <p>NHS Borders is developing Money Worries APP (informed by consultation with staff), supported by SG Financial Inclusion Funding Best Start, all payments. Scottish Borders had 74% of grants authorised with a total income of £430,000. Currently it is not possible to cross reference with eligibility, rather only number of applications approved following submission.</p> |



|                                                                                                              |   |                                                                                   |                                                     |                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Coordination & development of Holiday programmes                                                             | 2 | Community Learning & Development<br>Health Improvement<br>Live Borders            | No of programmes<br>No of Participants              | Targeted communities                                                                                        | 4 programmes ran July/Aug 2019 reaching 523 individuals (218 adults, 305 children)<br>Programmes ran in 4 targeted communities (Eyemouth, Langlee, Burnfoot and Selkirk). In addition, 34 families attended who were identified and invited by key partners (particularly likely to benefit from a summer programme)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Expansion of access to no/low cost physical activity opportunities for young people in low income households | 2 | Live Borders – Active Schools Programme<br>BANG Camp<br>SIMD Pilot programme 2020 | Participant numbers<br>User feedback and interviews | Targeted children and young people<br><br>Children, young people and families with additional support needs | BANG Activity camp (targeted user group) 30 fully funded places for children and families with additional support needs. Combination of physical activity and health and wellbeing activity for their families across a week and also to support families who cannot normally access holiday camps for both support and work.<br>Active Schools Participant numbers are significant Q1 40,264, Q3 101,620 and Q4 58,403 – activity is available for free to all school age children.<br><br>For 2020 we are also establishing qualitative feedback from participants measuring how healthier, happier and strong participants feel about their engagement in the programme. |
| Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal IRES Programme project on intensive family support        | 1 | Citydeal Joint Committee                                                          | Vulnerable families                                 | Targeted families                                                                                           | Wrap around support for families to enable more opportunities for children, young people and adults. This will support positive destinations for young people and sustained employment opportunities for adults.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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**\*Poverty Driver**

**1=Income from employment**

**2=Costs of living**

**3=Income from social security and benefits in kind**



### Statistical evidence about the Drivers of Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders

#### Earnings

- Scottish Borders average earnings in 2019 for male or female, full-time or part-time workers are **£509.40** a week.
- This is **lower** than the Scottish average of **£548.40** and is the 11<sup>th</sup> lowest out of the 32 Scottish Local Authority areas.
- Scottish Borders average earnings in 2019 for full time workers only are **£462.30** a week.
- This is **lower** than the Scottish average of **£543.30** and is the 7<sup>th</sup> lowest out of the 32 Scottish Local Authority areas.

#### Skills and qualifications

- An estimated **8.2%** of working-age people in the Annual Population survey had no qualifications in 2019. This is better than the Scottish average of **9.8%**.
- **94%** of school leavers enter a positive destination
- **92%** of Scottish Borders 16-19 year olds were participating in employment, education or training in 2019, according to Skills Development Scotland data. This is similar to the Scottish average of **91.6%**.
- **72.6%** of Scottish Borders school leavers aged 16-19 participated in Education in 2018. This is slightly higher than the Scottish average of **71.3%** (Skills Development Scotland)
- **25.2%** of Scottish Borders school leavers aged 16-19 entered employment, training or another positive destination other than education in 2018. This is similar to the Scottish average of **25.3%** (Skills Development Scotland)

#### Accessible transport

- **47.6%** of children in Scottish Borders live in areas classified as “Rural” (Accessible-rural or Remote-rural) by the Urban-rural Classification system in 2018

#### Childcare

- 5,430 children were registered by the Care Inspectorate for Early Learning and Childcare in 2018 in the Scottish Borders. This is **28.5%** of all children, slightly higher than the Scottish average of **27.5%**.

#### Food insecurity and food costs

- The January 2020 Independent Food Aid network reported six participating independent food banks in the Scottish Borders between April 2018 and September 2019. They gave out **3,915** food parcels, an **8%** increase on the previous year. This shows that there is sustained and increasing food insecurity in the Scottish Borders, which is certain to get worse in 2020.

#### Internet access

- The Scottish Household Survey estimates that **85%** of households in Scotland had home internet access in 2017. Scottish Borders is slightly behind the Scottish average with **81.3%**.

#### Debt, savings and assets

- **31.4%** of households lived in Fuel Poverty in the Scottish Borders, compared with **27.3%** in Scotland.

- **7.8%** of households are in “Extreme fuel poverty” in the Scottish Borders, compared with **7.6%** in Scotland.

#### Benefits

- **20%** of children in the Scottish Borders are living with limited resources **before** housing costs. This is above the Scottish average and is 6th-highest out of the 32 Local Authority areas.
- **24%** of children are living with limited resources **after** housing costs. The Scottish Borders is still 6th-highest out of the 32 Local Authority areas.

#### Statistical evidence about the high priority groups and other statistics

- **8.1%** (or 4,241) of Scottish Borders households in the 2011 Census were a lone-parent family. This is a lower proportion than the Scottish average of 11.1% of households (263,360 households)
- **6.5%** of first time mothers in the Scottish Borders were aged 19 and under in the 3-year rolling average period up to 2018/19 – this is 76 births. This is similar to the Scottish average of 6.6% of first-time mothers, or 4,364 births.
- According to SBC’s internal Education Management Information System SEEMIS, 797 out of 14,679 school-age children in the Scottish Borders (**5.4%** of the 2018/19 school roll) spoke a language other than monolingual mainstream English at home. 495 of them (**3.4%** of the school roll) received Learning Support on the grounds of having English as an Additional Language, although some of these also had other Additional Support needs. This information was collected as part of research into participation in extra-curricular sports, and found that having English as an additional language was a challenging issue for only a small minority of pupils.
- According to Scottish Government statistics, there were 205 children in the Scottish Borders in 2018 who were Looked After by the Local Authority in a variety of settings, which is a rate of 9.6 per 1,000 children. This is lower than the Scottish average rate of 14.3 per 1,000, or 14,736 children. Of the 205 Looked after Children, 57 were Looked After at home, 74 were in foster care, 48 were in another community placement and 26 were in residential care.

#### Other high level statistical evidence relating to child poverty in the Scottish Borders

- In Scotland Young Carers are more common in lone parent families and these Young Carers also contribute the most hours 47% (3 years ago this figure stood at 28%) of Young Carers in the most deprived areas care for 35 hours a week or more, compared with 24% (previously 17%) of Young Carers in the least deprived areas, who provide care for 35 hours a week or more. As at 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018, there were 75 carers recorded on Seemis (the Council’s Education Management Information system).

# Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2019

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May 2020

E.R. Murray for Scottish Borders Council (experimental statistics)

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## SB CPI: Purpose and Scoring

The purpose of the Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index (SB CPI) is to provide additional insight into Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders. This work has been triggered by the Scottish Government's allocation of Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) and SBC's Corporate Management Team's view that allocation could be improved. The SB CPI was also created to work along side the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. SIMD provides a way of looking at deprivation in an area, covering the whole population and does not specifically reflect child poverty.

The SB CPI is a tool to help inform the Local Child Poverty Action Plan which is a requirement of the Child Poverty Act (Scotland) 2017.

The index is a score based on data related to four components for each of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders. These components are listed below with the figure for the Scottish Borders:

| Component                                                                                               | Scottish Borders |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| • Percent of Children in Low Income Families (CiLIF) 2016 from HMRC <sup>1</sup>                        | 12.6%            |
| • Percent of Pupils in Receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) 2018 from SBC's SEEMIS                        | 11.6%            |
| • Percent of Pupils in Receipt of Clothing Grant (CG) 2018 from SBC's SEEMIS                            | 15.2%            |
| • Percent of Pupils Aged 16+ in Receipt of Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) 2018 from SBC's SEEMIS | 5.0%             |

The table below shows the score that a data zone will receive based on the result for each component. The SB CPI allows for a data zone to have a score ranging from 0 to 21, where 0 indicates no element of child poverty and 21 the highest levels of child poverty.

| % Children in Low Income Families (2015 – HMRC) | % Pupils in receipt of Free School Meals (2018 – SBC SEEMIS) | % Pupils in receipt of Clothing Grant (2018 – SBC SEEMIS) | % Pupils Aged 16+ in receipt of Education Maintenance Allowance (2018 – SBC SEEMIS) |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0 = 0 - None                                    | 0 = 0 – None                                                 | 0 = 0 - None                                              | 0 = 0 - None                                                                        |
| 1 = Under 5%                                    | 1 = Under 5%                                                 | 1 = Under 5%                                              | 0.5 = Under 5%                                                                      |
| 2 = 5% to Under 10%                             | 2 = 5% to Under 10%                                          | 2 = 5% to Under 10%                                       | 1.0 = 5% to Under 10%                                                               |
| 3 = 10% to Under 15%                            | 3 = 10% to Under 15%                                         | 3 = 10% to Under 15%                                      | 1.5 = 10% to Under 15%                                                              |
| 4 = 15% to Under 20%                            | 4 = 15% to Under 20%                                         | 4 = 15% to Under 20%                                      | 2.0 = 15% to Under 20%                                                              |
| 5 = 20% to Under 30%                            | 5 = 20% to Under 30%                                         | 5 = 20% to Under 30%                                      | 2.5 = 20% to Under 30%                                                              |
| 6 = 30% or More                                 | 6 = 30% or More                                              | 6 = 30% or More                                           | 3.0 = 30% or More                                                                   |

Note that the EMA scores are half the other components reflecting the population size.

The results of the SB CPI 2019 for each data zone grouped by primary school within secondary school catchment within each locality can be seen in: **Appendix 1: SB CPI 2019 Result for each Data Zone by Best Fit Primary School / Secondary School Catchment.**

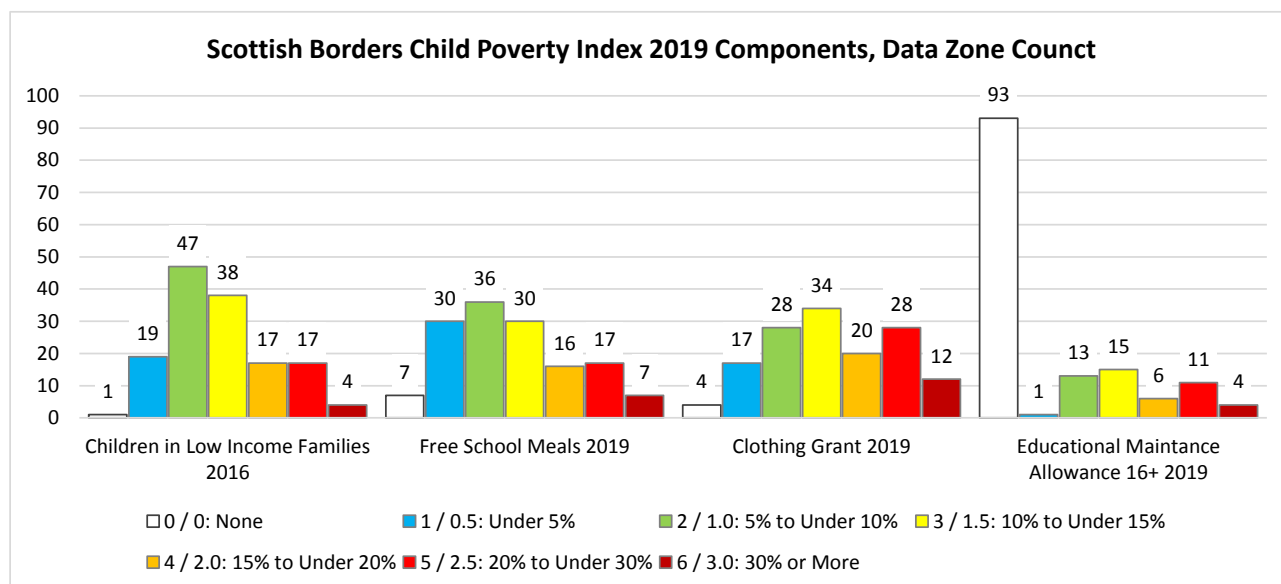
A summary position for each primary school may be seen in: **Appendix 2: Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index (SB CPI) 2019: Primary School Ranking.**

<sup>1</sup>Most recent data from HMRC at data zone.

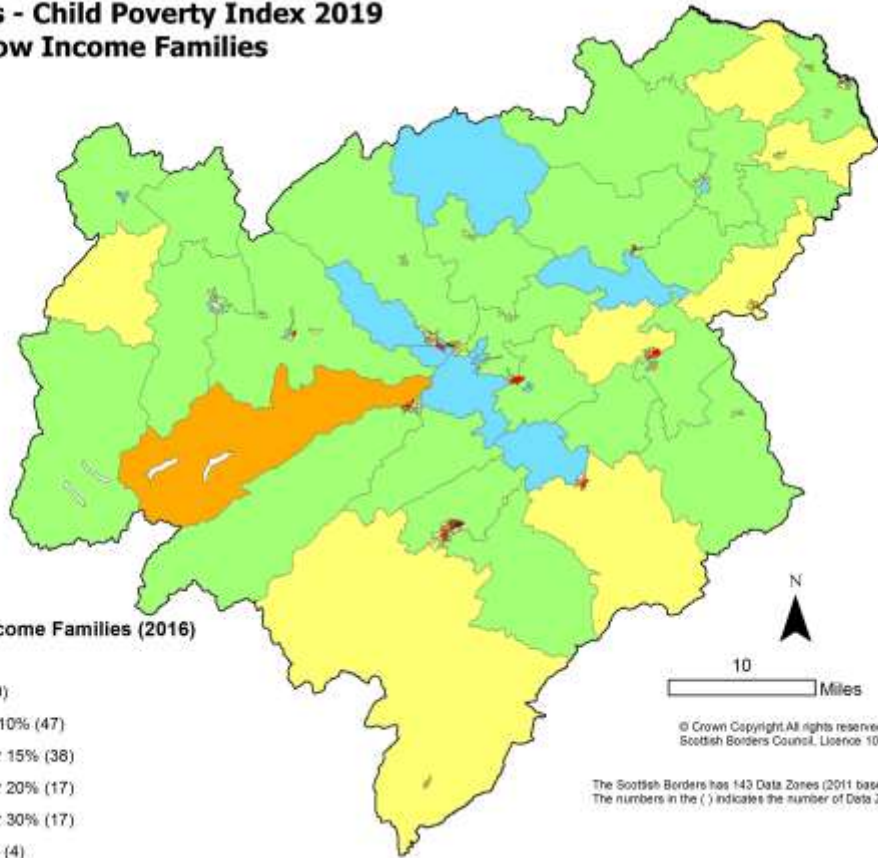
The tables and graph below shows the allocation of data zones in the Scottish Borders for each of the components. It is interesting to note that for each component there are at least 2 data zones that do not have that specific component. However, every data zone in the Scottish Borders has some evidence of child poverty.

| SB: CPI Score 2019 by Scottish Borders Data Zones | Children in Low Income Families 2016 | Free School Meals 2019 | Clothing Grant 2019 | Educational Maintenance Allowance 16+ 2019 |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 0 / 0: None                                       | 1                                    | 7                      | 4                   | 93                                         |
| 1 / 0.5: Under 5%                                 | 19                                   | 30                     | 17                  | 1                                          |
| 2 / 1.0: 5% to Under 10%                          | 47                                   | 36                     | 28                  | 13                                         |
| 3 / 1.5: 10% to Under 15%                         | 38                                   | 30                     | 34                  | 15                                         |
| 4 / 2.0: 15% to Under 20%                         | 17                                   | 16                     | 20                  | 6                                          |
| 5 / 2.5: 20% to Under 30%                         | 17                                   | 17                     | 28                  | 11                                         |
| 6 / 3.0: 30% or More                              | 4                                    | 7                      | 12                  | 4                                          |
| <b>Scottish Borders Data Zones</b>                | <b>143</b>                           | <b>143</b>             | <b>143</b>          | <b>143</b>                                 |

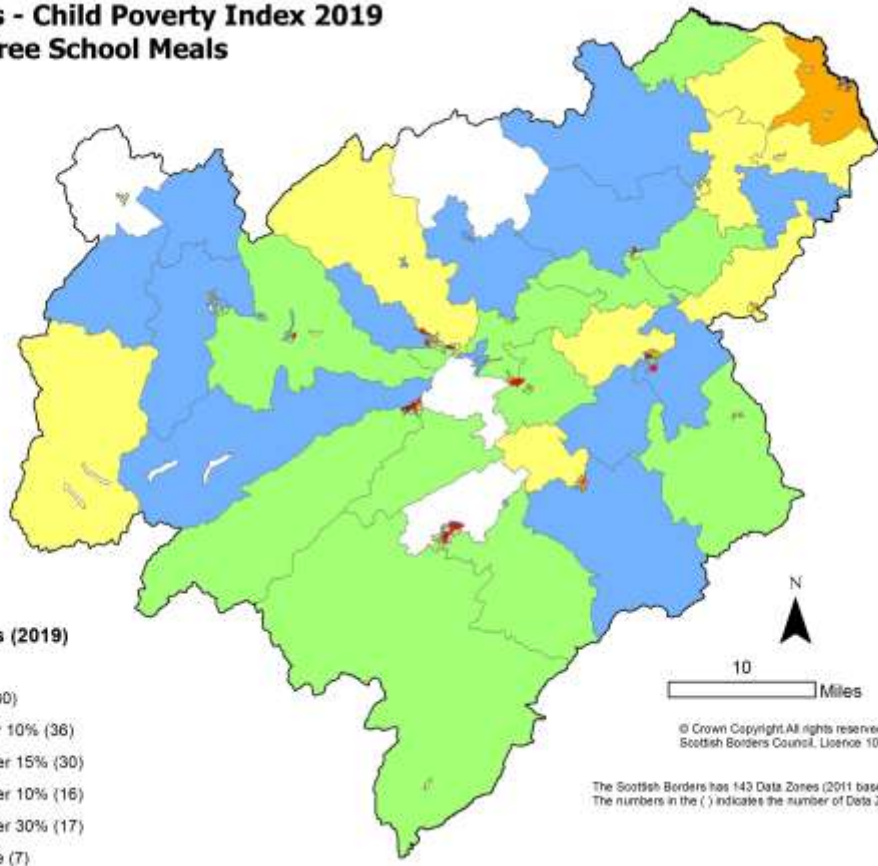
| SB: CPI Score 2019 by Scottish Borders Data Zones | Children in Low Income Families 2016 | Free School Meals 2019 | Clothing Grant 2019 | Educational Maintenance Allowance 16+ 2019 |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 0 / 0: None                                       | 1%                                   | 5%                     | 3%                  | 65%                                        |
| 1 / 0.5: Under 5%                                 | 13%                                  | 21%                    | 12%                 | 1%                                         |
| 2 / 1.0: 5% to Under 10%                          | 33%                                  | 25%                    | 20%                 | 9%                                         |
| 3 / 1.5: 10% to Under 15%                         | 27%                                  | 21%                    | 24%                 | 10%                                        |
| 4 / 2.0: 15% to Under 20%                         | 12%                                  | 11%                    | 14%                 | 4%                                         |
| 5 / 2.5: 20% to Under 30%                         | 12%                                  | 12%                    | 20%                 | 8%                                         |
| 6 / 3.0: 30% or More                              | 3%                                   | 5%                     | 8%                  | 3%                                         |
| <b>Scottish Borders Data Zones</b>                | <b>100%</b>                          | <b>100%</b>            | <b>100%</b>         | <b>100%</b>                                |



**Scottish Borders - Child Poverty Index 2019**  
**% Children in Low Income Families**  
**(2016) - HMRC**

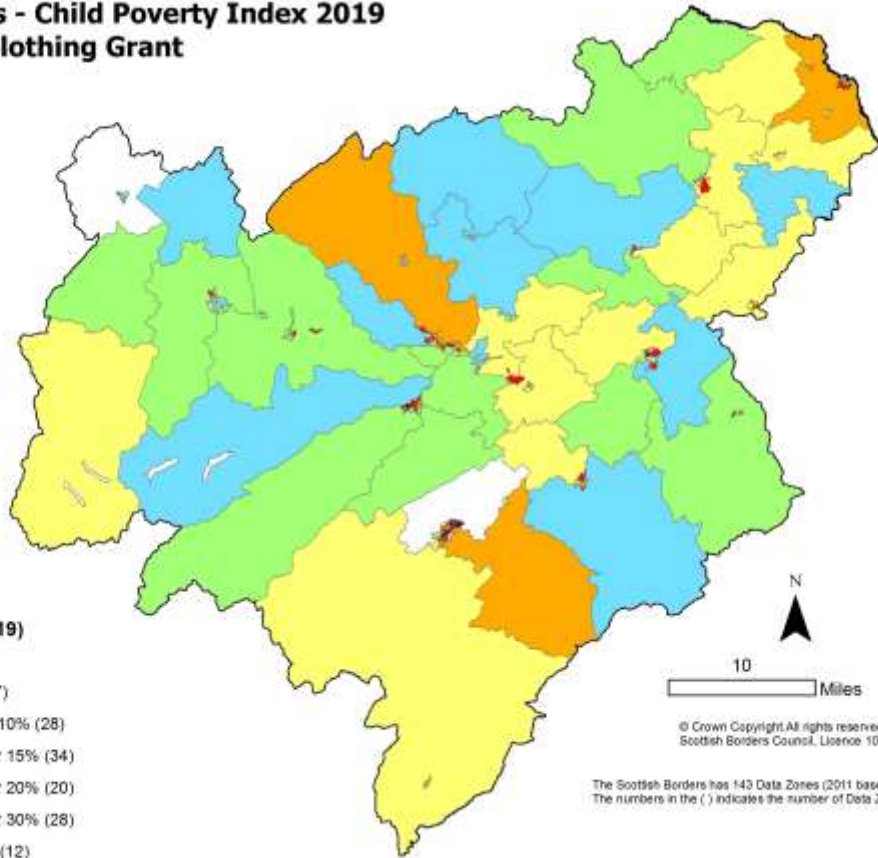


**Scottish Borders - Child Poverty Index 2019**  
**% Pupils with Free School Meals**  
**(2019) - SBC**

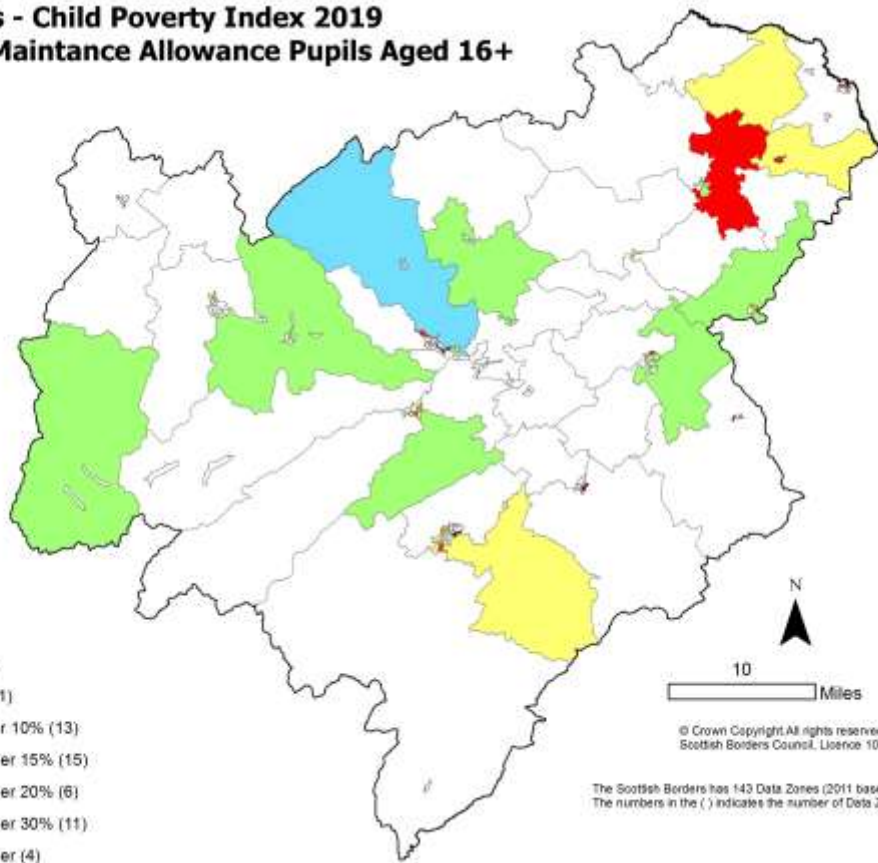




**Scottish Borders - Child Poverty Index 2019  
% Pupils with Clothing Grant  
(2019) - SBC**



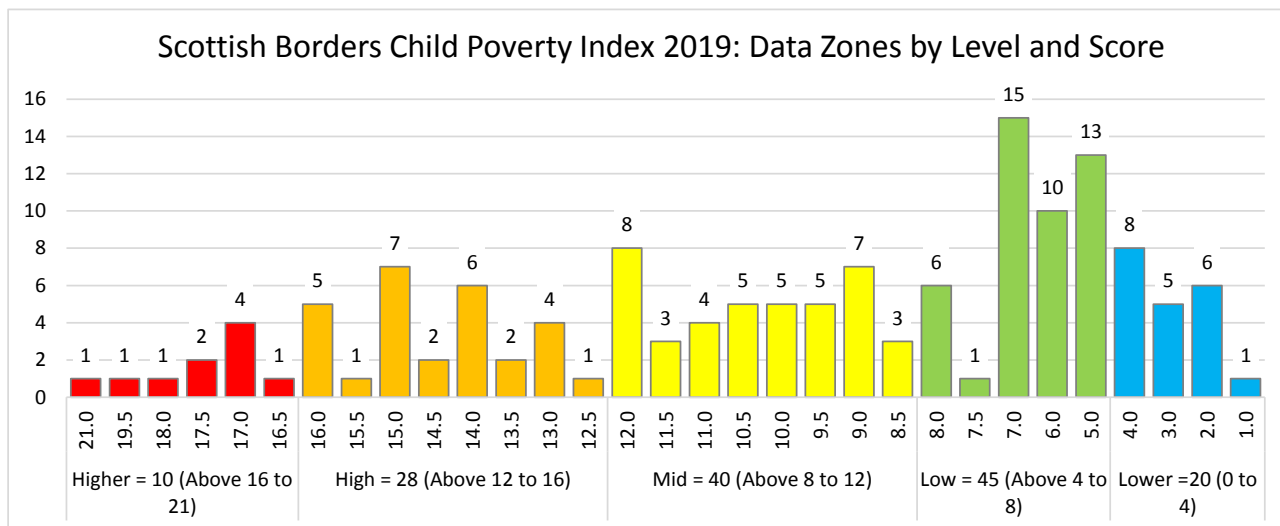
**Scottish Borders - Child Poverty Index 2019  
% Educational Maintenance Allowance Pupils Aged 16+  
(2019) - SBC**



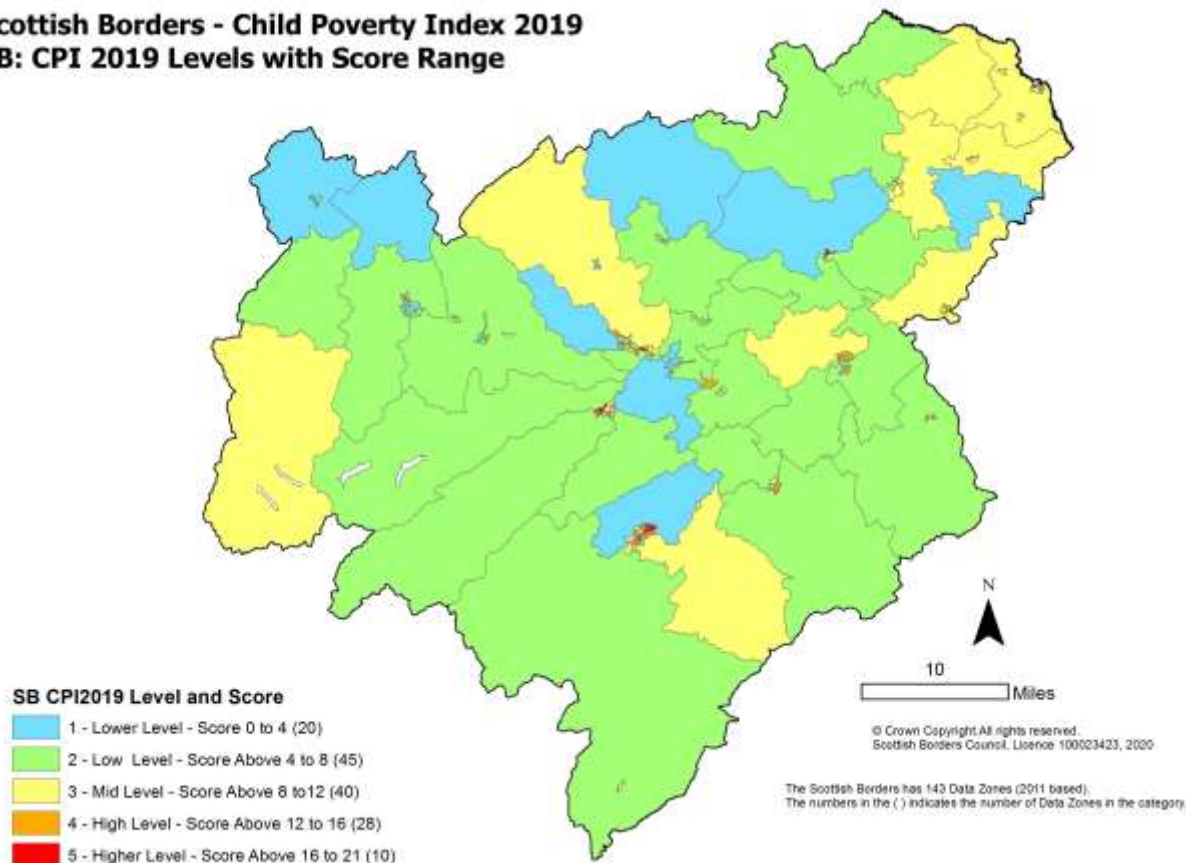
## Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2019 Scores

The graph and map below shows the Scottish Borders data zones based on the SB CPI score, grouped into levels of Child Poverty. Higher level (10 data zones) have a score of above 16 to 21; High level (28 data zones) have a score of above 12 to 16; Midlevel (40 data zones) have a score of above 8 to 12; Low level (45 data zones) have a score of above 4 to 8; and Lower level (20 data zones) have a score of 0 to 4. Every data zone in the Scottish Borders has some element of child poverty.

**Appendix 3: Change in SB CPI Level by Locality** lists the data zones within each locality along with its SIMD2016 decile and the SB CPI level for 2017, 2018 and 2019.



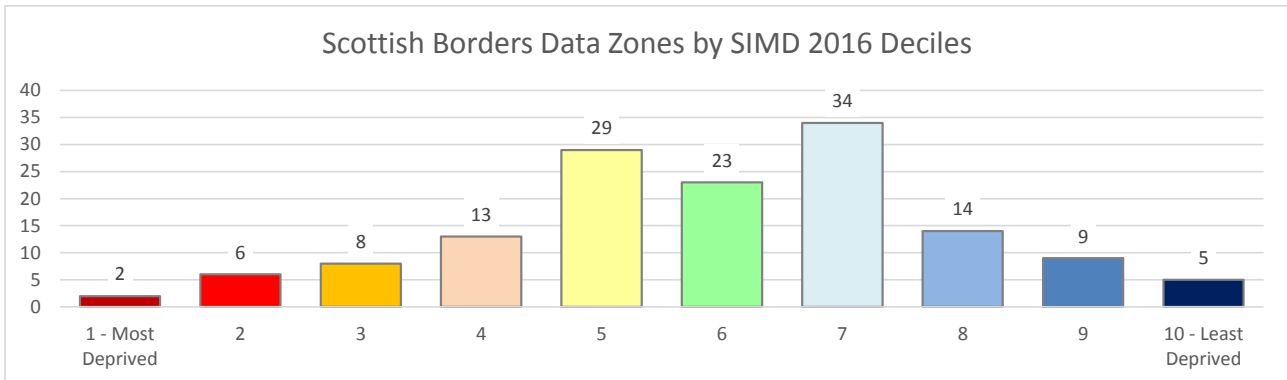
### Scottish Borders - Child Poverty Index 2019 SB: CPI 2019 Levels with Score Range



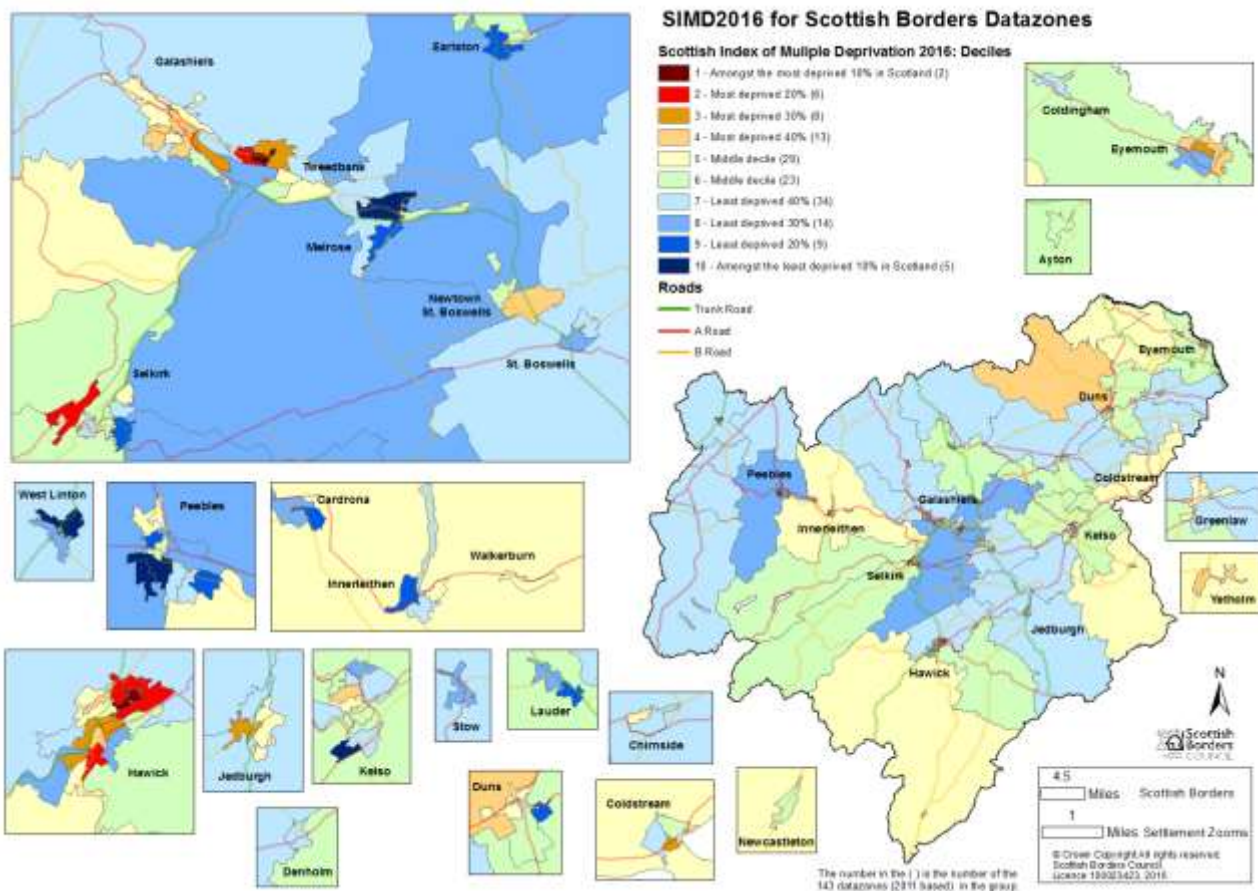
## Comparing Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2018 to SIMD 2016

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a good tool for identifying overall deprivation, however, it is not poverty specific or child focused. The SB CPI is a tactile index created to enable better insight in to child poverty within the Scottish Borders. This is a basic comparison between SIMD2016 Decile and SB CPI Score.

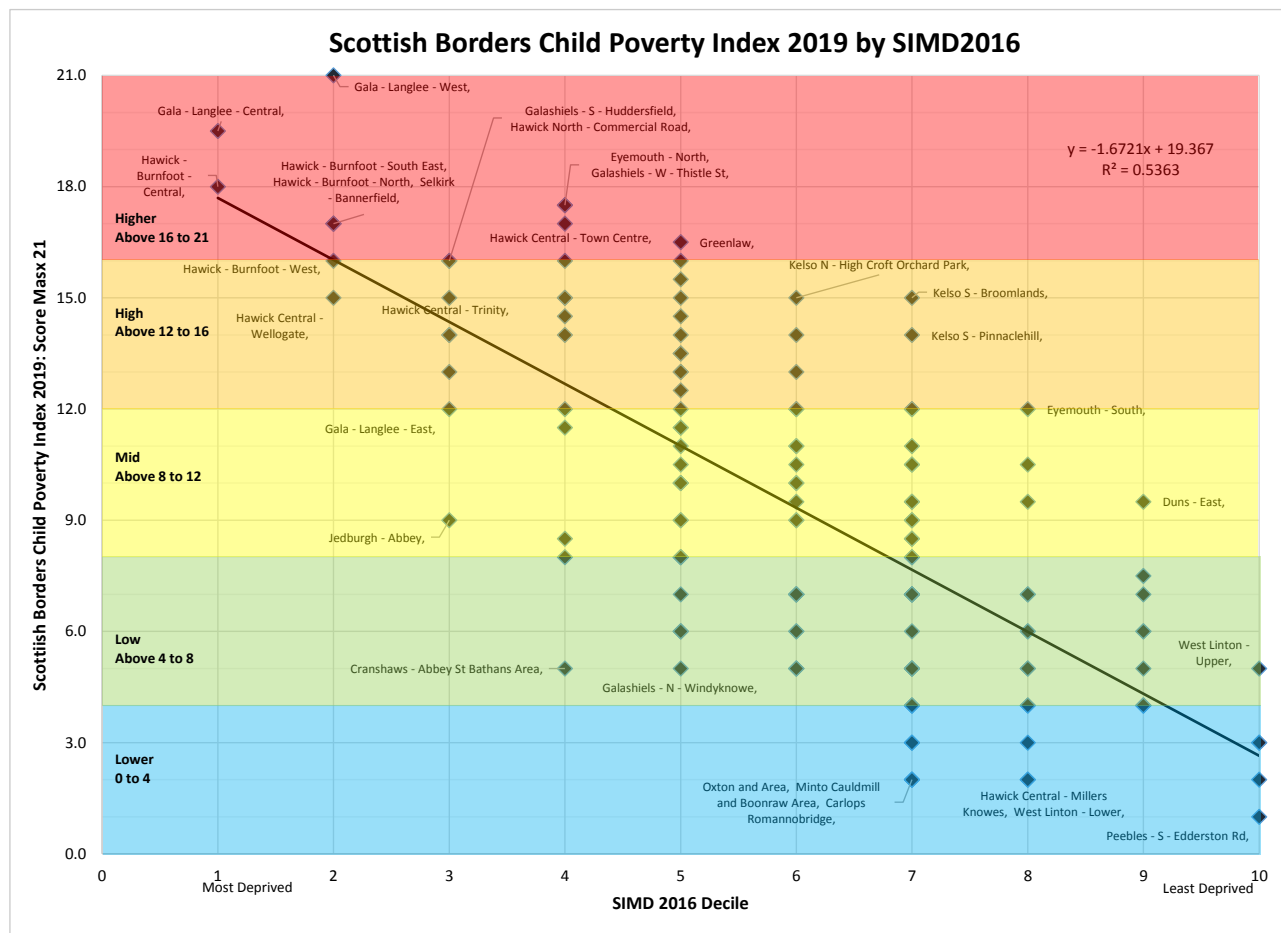
The graph below shows the count of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders by the SIMD 2016 Decile.



The map below shows the Scottish Borders data zones and the SIMD2016 decile.

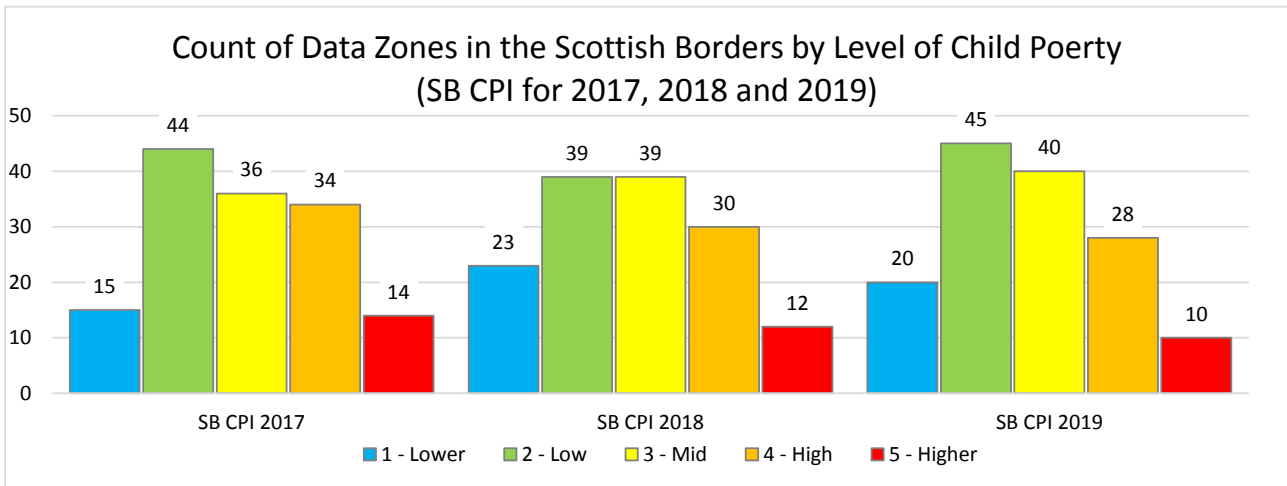


The graph below shows the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders by SB CPI 2019 score and SIMD2016 decile. Although there is a clear relationship between deprivation and child poverty as represented by the data zones in the most deprived decile 1 and decile 2 also having a higher level of child poverty. However, there are several areas in the Scottish Borders where the level of child poverty is higher than expected when looking at SIMD decile. Again, it is important to remember that SIMD looks at the whole population and deprivation (not poverty only) and the SB CPI specifically focuses on children and poverty. The graph below labels the data zones of note.

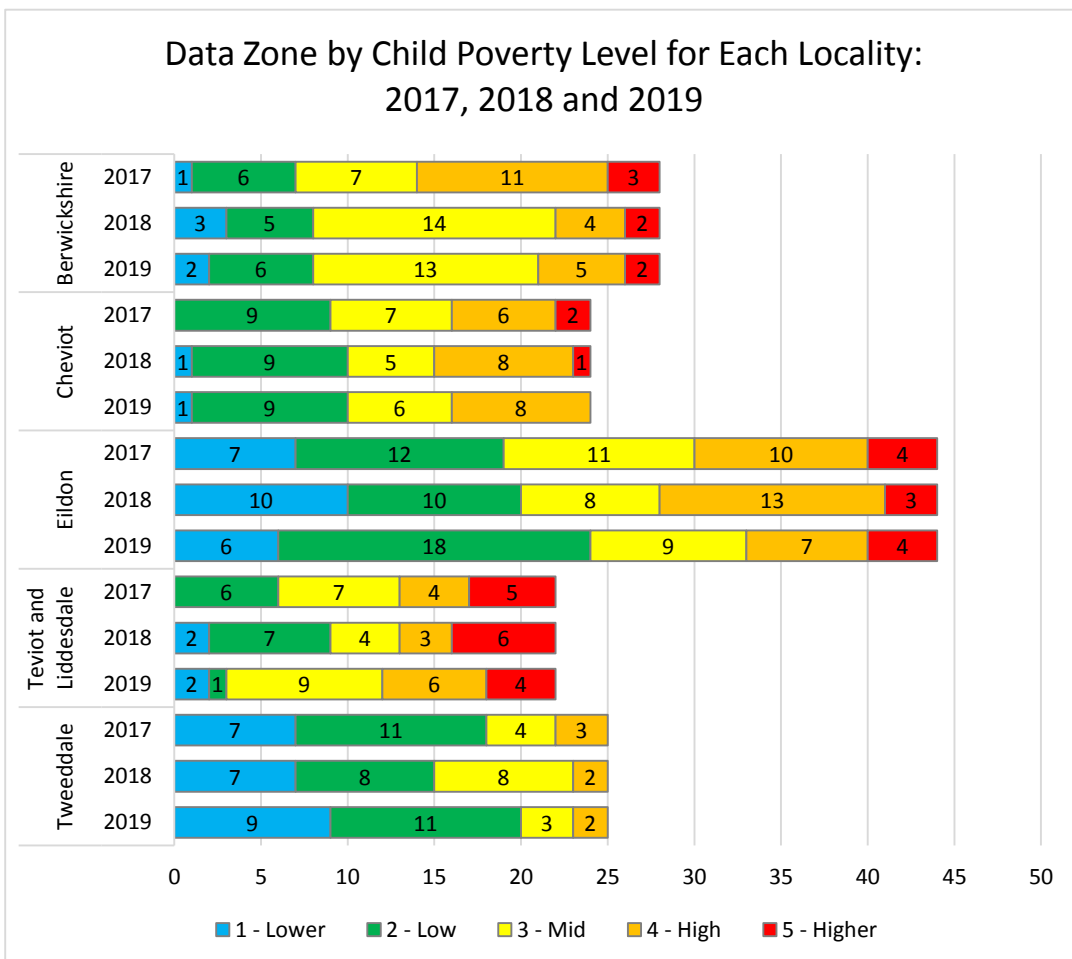


## Scottish Borders Child Poverty Level Change over Time and by Locality

The graph below shows the distribution of data zones by level of child poverty for 2017, 2018 and 2019. The SB CPI 2019 had the fewest data zones in the 'higher' grouping of child poverty. Over the three years the number of data zones in the 'high' or 'higher' grouping as decreased; from 48 in 2017 to 38 in 2019.



The graph below shows the distribution of data zones in each of the localities by level of child poverty for 2017, 2018 and 2019. Compared to 2017 there are fewer data zones with high or higher levels of child poverty in 2019 across all localities.



## Appendix 1: SB CPI 2018 Result for each Data Zone by Best Fit Primary School / Secondary School Catchment

### Berwickshire

Two secondary schools' (Berwickshire High School and Eyemouth High School) catchment area are primarily in Berwickshire locality.

| Best Fit Secondary School            | Best Fit Primary School                | DZ2011 Code and Name                         | % CiLIF 2016 | % Pupils FSM 2019 | % Pupils CG 2019 | % Pupils 16+ EMA 2019 | SB CPI 2019: CiLIF16 | SB CPI 2019: FSM19 | SB CPI 2019: CG19 | SB CPI 2019: EMA19 | SB CPI 2019: Score | CPI2019 Level | SIMD2016 Decile |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Berwickshire High School<br>Page 198 | Chirnside Primary                      | S01012320: Chirnside - West                  | 16.0%        | 13.8%             | 17.0%            | 28.6%                 | 4.0                  | 3.0                | 4.0               | 2.5                | 13.5               | High          | 5               |
|                                      |                                        | S01012321: Chirnside - East                  | 9.9%         | 10.1%             | 12.6%            | 22.7%                 | 2.0                  | 3.0                | 3.0               | 2.5                | 10.5               | Mid           | 7               |
|                                      |                                        | S01012323: Foulden and Area                  | 11.3%        | 14.0%             | 14.0%            | 14.3%                 | 3.0                  | 3.0                | 3.0               | 1.5                | 10.5               | Mid           | 7               |
|                                      | Coldstream Primary                     | S01012324: Birgham and Ladykirk Area         | 14.3%        | 10.1%             | 10.1%            | 9.1%                  | 3.0                  | 3.0                | 3.0               | 1.0                | 10.0               | Mid           | 5               |
|                                      |                                        | S01012325: Coldstream - West                 | 8.8%         | 10.9%             | 14.5%            | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 3.0                | 3.0               | 0.0                | 8.0                | Low           | 7               |
|                                      |                                        | S01012326: Coldstream - South                | 25.5%        | 12.8%             | 25.6%            | 0.0%                  | 5.0                  | 3.0                | 5.0               | 0.0                | 13.0               | High          | 3               |
|                                      |                                        | S01012327: Coldstream - East                 | 16.2%        | 16.3%             | 18.3%            | 16.7%                 | 4.0                  | 4.0                | 4.0               | 2.0                | 14.0               | High          | 6               |
|                                      | Duns Primary                           | S01012302: Cranshaws - Abbey St Bathans Area | 9.9%         | 4.6%              | 6.2%             | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 1.0                | 2.0               | 0.0                | 5.0                | Low           | 4               |
|                                      |                                        | S01012305: Duns - South                      | 2.5%         | 11.2%             | 25.2%            | 9.1%                  | 1.0                  | 3.0                | 5.0               | 1.0                | 10.0               | Mid           | 6               |
|                                      |                                        | S01012306: Duns - West                       | 11.6%        | 14.5%             | 19.7%            | 0.0%                  | 3.0                  | 3.0                | 4.0               | 0.0                | 10.0               | Mid           | 5               |
|                                      |                                        | S01012307: Duns - North                      | 11.0%        | 9.6%              | 11.5%            | 0.0%                  | 3.0                  | 2.0                | 3.0               | 0.0                | 8.0                | Low           | 5               |
|                                      |                                        | S01012308: Duns - East                       | 11.1%        | 7.4%              | 10.8%            | 11.1%                 | 3.0                  | 2.0                | 3.0               | 1.5                | 9.5                | Mid           | 9               |
|                                      | S01012319: Preston and Manderston Area | 7.3%                                         | 12.0%        | 13.3%             | 20.0%            | 2.0                   | 3.0                  | 3.0                | 2.5               | 10.5               | Mid                | 6             |                 |
|                                      | Greenlaw Primary                       | S01012300: Greenlaw                          | 24.5%        | 20.3%             | 20.3%            | 12.5%                 | 5.0                  | 5.0                | 5.0               | 1.5                | 16.5               | Higher        | 5               |
|                                      | Swinton Primary                        | S01012301: Swinton Leithholm and Fogo Area   | 5.6%         | 7.1%              | 11.1%            | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 2.0                | 3.0               | 0.0                | 7.0                | Low           | 7               |
|                                      |                                        | S01012322: Whitsome Allanton and Hutton Area | 7.6%         | 4.9%              | 4.9%             | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 1.0                | 1.0               | 0.0                | 4.0                | Lower         | 7               |

| Best Fit Secondary School | Best Fit Primary School | DZ2011 Code and Name                       | % CiLIF 2016 | % Pupils FSM 2019 | % Pupils CG 2019 | % Pupils 16+ EMA 2019 | SB CPI 2019: CiLIF16 | SB CPI 2019: FSM19 | SB CPI 2019: CG19 | SB CPI 2019: EMA19 | SB CPI 2019: Score | CPI2019 Level | SIMD2016 Decile |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Eyemouth High School      | Ayton Primary           | S01012309: Ayton                           | 11.0%        | 12.5%             | 13.9%            | 0.0%                  | 3.0                  | 3.0                | 3.0               | 0.0                | 9.0                | Mid           | 6               |
|                           |                         | S01012310: St Abbs and Eyemouth Landward   | 7.1%         | 17.0%             | 17.9%            | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 4.0                | 4.0               | 0.0                | 10.0               | Mid           | 6               |
|                           | Cockburnspath Primary   | S01012313: Cockburnspath and Area          | 8.9%         | 7.1%              | 7.1%             | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 2.0                | 2.0               | 0.0                | 6.0                | Low           | 5               |
|                           | Coldingham Primary      | S01012311: Coldingham                      | 18.4%        | 11.8%             | 17.6%            | 0.0%                  | 4.0                  | 3.0                | 4.0               | 0.0                | 11.0               | Mid           | 7               |
|                           | Eyemouth Primary        | S01012314: Eyemouth - Gunsreen             | 15.2%        | 23.0%             | 30.3%            | 0.0%                  | 4.0                  | 5.0                | 6.0               | 0.0                | 15.0               | High          | 4               |
|                           |                         | S01012315: Eyemouth - Seafront Harbour     | 7.2%         | 4.7%              | 12.5%            | 20.0%                 | 2.0                  | 1.0                | 3.0               | 2.5                | 8.5                | Mid           | 4               |
|                           |                         | S01012316: Eyemouth - Central              | 17.9%        | 17.6%             | 17.6%            | 16.7%                 | 4.0                  | 4.0                | 4.0               | 2.0                | 14.0               | High          | 3               |
|                           |                         | S01012317: Eyemouth - South                | 12.3%        | 16.4%             | 21.7%            | 0.0%                  | 3.0                  | 4.0                | 5.0               | 0.0                | 12.0               | Mid           | 8               |
|                           |                         | S01012318: Eyemouth - North                | 21.2%        | 25.2%             | 29.0%            | 25.0%                 | 5.0                  | 5.0                | 5.0               | 2.5                | 17.5               | Higher        | 4               |
|                           | Reston Primary          | S01012312: Reston and Coldingham Moor Area | 10.1%        | 10.9%             | 10.9%            | 14.3%                 | 3.0                  | 3.0                | 3.0               | 1.5                | 10.5               | Mid           | 5               |

## Cheviot

Two secondary schools' (Jedburgh Grammar, Kelso High School) catchment area are primarily in Cheviot locality.

| Best Fit Secondary School | Best Fit Primary School | DZ2011 Code and Name                    | % CiLIF 2016 | % Pupils FSM 2019 | % Pupils CG 2019 | % Pupils 16+ EMA 2019 | SB CPI 2019: CiLIF16 | SB CPI 2019: FSM19 | SB CPI 2019: CG19 | SB CPI 2019: EMA19 | SB CPI 2019: Score | CPI2019 Level | SIMD2016 Decile |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Jedburgh Grammar          | Ancrum Primary          | S01012342: Ancrum and Lanton Area       | 2.4%         | 12.3%             | 13.2%            | 0.0%                  | 1.0                  | 3.0                | 3.0               | 0.0                | 7.0                | Low           | 7               |
|                           |                         | S01012343: Roxburgh Heiton Eckford Area | 9.6%         | 3.0%              | 6.0%             | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 1.0                | 2.0               | 0.0                | 5.0                | Low           | 7               |
|                           | Jedburgh Primary        | S01012341: Oxnam and Camptown Area      | 11.1%        | 4.5%              | 4.5%             | 0.0%                  | 3.0                  | 1.0                | 1.0               | 0.0                | 5.0                | Low           | 7               |
|                           |                         | S01012349: Jedburgh - Howden            | 15.3%        | 19.1%             | 23.5%            | 0.0%                  | 4.0                  | 4.0                | 5.0               | 0.0                | 13.0               | High          | 5               |
|                           |                         | S01012350: Jedburgh - Doom Hill         | 27.6%        | 16.7%             | 19.3%            | 50.0%                 | 5.0                  | 4.0                | 4.0               | 3.0                | 16.0               | High          | 5               |
|                           |                         | S01012351: Jedburgh - East Central      | 18.2%        | 21.3%             | 23.6%            | 0.0%                  | 4.0                  | 5.0                | 5.0               | 0.0                | 14.0               | High          | 5               |
|                           |                         | S01012352: Jedburgh - West Central      | 13.7%        | 18.6%             | 27.1%            | 0.0%                  | 3.0                  | 4.0                | 5.0               | 0.0                | 12.0               | Mid           | 7               |
|                           |                         | S01012353: Jedburgh - Abbey             | 16.0%        | 9.7%              | 14.5%            | 0.0%                  | 4.0                  | 2.0                | 3.0               | 0.0                | 9.0                | Mid           | 3               |

| Best Fit Secondary School | Best Fit Primary School | DZ2011 Code and Name                          | % CiLIF 2016 | % Pupils FSM 2019 | % Pupils CG 2019 | % Pupils 16+ EMA 2019 | SB CPI 2019: CiLIF16 | SB CPI 2019: FSM19 | SB CPI 2019: CG19 | SB CPI 2019: EMA19 | SB CPI 2019: Score | CPI2019 Level | SIMD2016 Decile |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Kelso High School         | Broomlands Primary      | S01012334: Kelso N - High Croft Orchard Park  | 16.0%        | 23.2%             | 25.9%            | 7.1%                  | 4.0                  | 5.0                | 5.0               | 1.0                | 15.0               | High          | 6               |
|                           |                         | S01012335: Kelso N - Hendersyde Oakfield      | 12.1%        | 6.0%              | 12.8%            | 25.0%                 | 3.0                  | 2.0                | 3.0               | 2.5                | 10.5               | Mid           | 8               |
|                           |                         | S01012336: Kelso N - Abbotseat                | 7.1%         | 11.1%             | 11.1%            | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 3.0                | 3.0               | 0.0                | 8.0                | Low           | 7               |
|                           |                         | S01012340: Kelso S - Broomlands               | 22.6%        | 17.8%             | 23.7%            | 8.3%                  | 5.0                  | 4.0                | 5.0               | 1.0                | 15.0               | High          | 7               |
|                           | Edenside Primary        | S01012330: Kelso S - Pinnaclehill             | 15.6%        | 20.3%             | 20.3%            | 0.0%                  | 4.0                  | 5.0                | 5.0               | 0.0                | 14.0               | High          | 7               |
|                           |                         | S01012331: Kelso S - Maxwellheugh             | 4.0%         | 1.6%              | 3.1%             | 0.0%                  | 1.0                  | 1.0                | 1.0               | 0.0                | 3.0                | Lower         | 10              |
|                           |                         | S01012337: Kelso N - Poynder Park             | 18.1%        | 34.4%             | 39.3%            | 0.0%                  | 4.0                  | 6.0                | 6.0               | 0.0                | 16.0               | High          | 4               |
|                           |                         | S01012338: Kelso S - Bowmont and Edenside     | 24.7%        | 9.7%              | 11.3%            | 14.3%                 | 5.0                  | 2.0                | 3.0               | 1.5                | 11.5               | Mid           | 5               |
|                           |                         | S01012339: Kelso S - Abbey                    | 7.1%         | 6.5%              | 10.9%            | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 2.0                | 3.0               | 0.0                | 7.0                | Low           | 6               |
|                           | Ednam Primary           | S01012332: Smailholm Stitchill and Ednam Area | 14.2%        | 10.2%             | 12.5%            | 0.0%                  | 3.0                  | 3.0                | 3.0               | 0.0                | 9.0                | Mid           | 6               |
|                           | Morebattle Primary      | S01012329: Morebattle Hownam and Area         | 9.9%         | 7.1%              | 9.4%             | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 2.0                | 2.0               | 0.0                | 6.0                | Low           | 5               |
|                           | Sprouston Primary       | S01012333: Sprouston and Area                 | 8.3%         | 4.9%              | 4.9%             | 8.3%                  | 2.0                  | 1.0                | 1.0               | 1.0                | 5.0                | Low           | 6               |
|                           | Yetholm Primary         | S01012328: Town Yetholm                       | 12.3%        | 15.1%             | 24.5%            | 25.0%                 | 3.0                  | 4.0                | 5.0               | 2.5                | 14.5               | High          | 4               |



## Eildon

Three secondary schools' (Earlston High School, Galashiels Academy, Selkirk High School) catchment area are primarily in Eildon locality.

| Best Fit Secondary School        | Best Fit Primary School | DZ2011 Code and Name                         | % CiLIF 2016 | % Pupils FSM 2019 | % Pupils CG 2019 | % Pupils 16+ EMA 2019 | SB CPI 2019: CiLIF16 | SB CPI 2019: FSM19 | SB CPI 2019: CG19 | SB CPI 2019: EMA19 | SB CPI 2019: Score | CPI2019 Level | SIMD2016 Decile |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Earlston High School<br>Page 201 | Channelkirk Primary     | S01012299: Oxton and Area                    | 2.5%         | 0.0%              | 1.2%             | 0.0%                  | 1.0                  | 0.0                | 1.0               | 0.0                | 2.0                | Lower         | 7               |
|                                  | Earlston Primary        | S01012268: Earlston and Melrose Landward     | 7.6%         | 9.1%              | 12.1%            | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 2.0                | 3.0               | 0.0                | 7.0                | Low           | 8               |
|                                  |                         | S01012269: Earlston - West                   | 5.4%         | 6.1%              | 7.0%             | 6.3%                  | 2.0                  | 2.0                | 2.0               | 1.0                | 7.0                | Low           | 9               |
|                                  |                         | S01012270: Earlston - East                   | 12.1%        | 4.7%              | 10.3%            | 0.0%                  | 3.0                  | 1.0                | 3.0               | 0.0                | 7.0                | Low           | 6               |
|                                  | Gordon Primary          | S01012304: Gordon and Hume Area              | 4.2%         | 5.4%              | 5.4%             | 0.0%                  | 1.0                  | 2.0                | 2.0               | 0.0                | 5.0                | Low           | 6               |
|                                  | Lauder Primary          | S01012296: Lauder - South                    | 5.6%         | 2.5%              | 3.0%             | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 1.0                | 1.0               | 0.0                | 4.0                | Lower         | 9               |
|                                  |                         | S01012297: Blainslie and Legerwood           | 6.3%         | 1.1%              | 1.1%             | 5.6%                  | 2.0                  | 1.0                | 1.0               | 1.0                | 5.0                | Low           | 6               |
|                                  |                         | S01012298: Lauder - North                    | 12.0%        | 4.5%              | 7.5%             | 0.0%                  | 3.0                  | 1.0                | 2.0               | 0.0                | 6.0                | Low           | 8               |
|                                  | Melrose Primary         | S01012289: Gattonside - Darnick - Chiefswood | 3.9%         | 2.2%              | 2.2%             | 0.0%                  | 1.0                  | 1.0                | 1.0               | 0.0                | 3.0                | Lower         | 7               |
|                                  |                         | S01012290: Melrose - Newstead                | 7.6%         | 8.3%              | 10.0%            | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 2.0                | 3.0               | 0.0                | 7.0                | Low           | 6               |
|                                  |                         | S01012291: Melrose - Dingleton Hill          | 5.8%         | 4.4%              | 6.1%             | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 1.0                | 2.0               | 0.0                | 5.0                | Low           | 9               |
|                                  |                         | S01012292: Melrose - High Street             | 3.1%         | 1.3%              | 1.3%             | 0.0%                  | 1.0                  | 1.0                | 1.0               | 0.0                | 3.0                | Lower         | 10              |
|                                  | Newtown Primary         | S01012344: Newtown St Boswells - South       | 26.0%        | 20.5%             | 21.7%            | 0.0%                  | 5.0                  | 5.0                | 5.0               | 0.0                | 15.0               | High          | 4               |
|                                  |                         | S01012345: Newtown St Boswells - North       | 5.8%         | 18.3%             | 24.3%            | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 4.0                | 5.0               | 0.0                | 11.0               | Mid           | 6               |
|                                  |                         | S01012377: Bowden and Lindean Area           | 2.0%         | 0.0%              | 5.3%             | 0.0%                  | 1.0                  | 0.0                | 2.0               | 0.0                | 3.0                | Lower         | 8               |
|                                  | St Boswells Primary     | S01012346: Dryburgh Charlesfield Maxton Area | 7.8%         | 9.8%              | 12.2%            | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 2.0                | 3.0               | 0.0                | 7.0                | Low           | 7               |
|                                  |                         | S01012347: St Boswells - East                | 4.5%         | 17.3%             | 18.4%            | 0.0%                  | 1.0                  | 4.0                | 4.0               | 0.0                | 9.0                | Mid           | 7               |
|                                  |                         | S01012348: St Boswells - West                | 2.7%         | 7.4%              | 11.7%            | 0.0%                  | 1.0                  | 2.0                | 3.0               | 0.0                | 6.0                | Low           | 8               |
|                                  | Westruther Primary      | S01012303: Westruther and Polwarth Area      | 5.1%         | 2.5%              | 3.8%             | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 1.0                | 1.0               | 0.0                | 4.0                | Lower         | 7               |

| Best Fit Secondary School   | Best Fit Primary School                 | DZ2011 Code and Name                             | % CiLIF 2016 | % Pupils FSM 2019 | % Pupils CG 2019 | % Pupils 16+ EMA 2019 | SB CPI 2019: CiLIF16 | SB CPI 2019: FSM19 | SB CPI 2019: CG19 | SB CPI 2019: EMA19 | SB CPI 2019: Score | CPI2019 Level | SIMD2016 Decile |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Galashiels Academy          | Balmoral Primary                        | S01012276: Galashiels - N - Windyknowe           | 5.4%         | 1.0%              | 6.1%             | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 1.0                | 2.0               | 0.0                | 5.0                | Low           | 5               |
|                             |                                         | S01012279: Galashiels - W - Thistle St           | 28.8%        | 24.7%             | 28.6%            | 25.0%                 | 5.0                  | 5.0                | 5.0               | 2.5                | 17.5               | Higher        | 4               |
|                             |                                         | S01012280: Galashiels - W - Balmoral Rd          | 17.3%        | 22.0%             | 28.0%            | 0.0%                  | 4.0                  | 5.0                | 5.0               | 0.0                | 14.0               | High          | 4               |
|                             |                                         | S01012281: Galashiels - W - Balmoral Pl          | 14.3%        | 13.0%             | 18.8%            | 0.0%                  | 3.0                  | 3.0                | 4.0               | 0.0                | 10.0               | Mid           | 5               |
|                             | Burgh Primary                           | S01012275: Galashiels - N - Town Centre          | 14.4%        | 17.2%             | 22.4%            | 0.0%                  | 3.0                  | 4.0                | 5.0               | 0.0                | 12.0               | Mid           | 4               |
|                             |                                         | S01012277: Galashiels - N - Wood St              | 11.5%        | 24.1%             | 29.7%            | 20.0%                 | 3.0                  | 5.0                | 5.0               | 2.5                | 15.5               | High          | 5               |
|                             |                                         | S01012278: Galashiels - W - Old Town             | 13.5%        | 6.4%              | 14.9%            | 0.0%                  | 3.0                  | 2.0                | 3.0               | 0.0                | 8.0                | Low           | 4               |
|                             | Clovenfords Primary                     | S01012273: Clovenfords and Area                  | 2.8%         | 1.7%              | 1.7%             | 0.0%                  | 1.0                  | 1.0                | 1.0               | 0.0                | 3.0                | Lower         | 7               |
|                             | Fountainhall Primary and Heriot Primary | S01012271: Heriot - Fountainhall - Stow Landward | 7.4%         | 13.9%             | 18.3%            | 4.5%                  | 2.0                  | 3.0                | 4.0               | 0.5                | 9.5                | Mid           | 7               |
|                             | Glendinning Primary                     | S01012274: Galashiels - N - Halliburton          | 12.8%        | 7.9%              | 12.6%            | 0.0%                  | 3.0                  | 2.0                | 3.0               | 0.0                | 8.0                | Low           | 5               |
|                             | Langlee Primary                         | S01012285: Galashiels - S - Glenfield            | 3.8%         | 8.7%              | 15.2%            | 0.0%                  | 1.0                  | 2.0                | 4.0               | 0.0                | 7.0                | Low           | 7               |
|                             |                                         | S01012286: Gala - Langlee - East                 | 16.7%        | 13.8%             | 18.3%            | 7.1%                  | 4.0                  | 3.0                | 4.0               | 1.0                | 12.0               | Mid           | 3               |
|                             |                                         | S01012287: Gala - Langlee - Central              | 39.6%        | 35.8%             | 45.0%            | 14.3%                 | 6.0                  | 6.0                | 6.0               | 1.5                | 19.5               | Higher        | 1               |
|                             |                                         | S01012288: Gala - Langlee - West                 | 36.9%        | 32.7%             | 38.3%            | 33.3%                 | 6.0                  | 6.0                | 6.0               | 3.0                | 21.0               | Higher        | 2               |
|                             | St Peters Primary                       | S01012282: Galashiels - S - Netherdale           | 3.0%         | 5.2%              | 5.2%             | 0.0%                  | 1.0                  | 2.0                | 2.0               | 0.0                | 5.0                | Low           | 8               |
|                             |                                         | S01012283: Galashiels - S - St Peters Sch        | 22.8%        | 12.3%             | 18.7%            | 0.0%                  | 5.0                  | 3.0                | 4.0               | 0.0                | 12.0               | Mid           | 6               |
|                             |                                         | S01012284: Galashiels - S - Huddersfield         | 21.5%        | 12.3%             | 23.5%            | 33.3%                 | 5.0                  | 3.0                | 5.0               | 3.0                | 16.0               | High          | 3               |
|                             | Stow Primary                            | S01012272: Stow                                  | 6.3%         | 1.1%              | 1.1%             | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 1.0                | 1.0               | 0.0                | 4.0                | Lower         | 8               |
|                             | Tweedbank Primary                       | S01012293: Tweedbank - West                      | 6.6%         | 9.7%              | 11.3%            | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 2.0                | 3.0               | 0.0                | 7.0                | Low           | 6               |
|                             |                                         | S01012294: Tweedbank - North                     | 13.5%        | 12.2%             | 22.2%            | 11.1%                 | 3.0                  | 3.0                | 5.0               | 1.5                | 12.5               | High          | 5               |
| S01012295: Tweedbank - East |                                         | 10.4%                                            | 4.8%         | 6.5%              | 0.0%             | 3.0                   | 1.0                  | 2.0                | 0.0               | 6.0                | Low                | 5             |                 |

| Best Fit Secondary School | Best Fit Primary School                     | DZ2011 Code and Name                           | % CiLIF 2016 | % Pupils FSM 2019 | % Pupils CG 2019 | % Pupils 16+ EMA 2019 | SB CPI 2019: CiLIF16 | SB CPI 2019: FSM19 | SB CPI 2019: CG19 | SB CPI 2019: EMA19 | SB CPI 2019: Score | CPI2019 Level | SIMD2016 Decile |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Selkirk High School       | Kirkhope Primary                            | S01012378: Ettrick Water and Bowhill Area      | 5.1%         | 7.4%              | 7.4%             | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 2.0                | 2.0               | 0.0                | 6.0                | Low           | 6               |
|                           | Knowepark Primary                           | S01012380: Selkirk - Shawburn                  | 12.3%        | 16.8%             | 18.4%            | 15.4%                 | 3.0                  | 4.0                | 4.0               | 2.0                | 13.0               | High          | 5               |
|                           |                                             | S01012381: Selkirk - Town Centre               | 14.4%        | 17.5%             | 23.7%            | 22.2%                 | 3.0                  | 4.0                | 5.0               | 2.5                | 14.5               | High          | 5               |
|                           |                                             | S01012382: Selkirk - Hillside Terrace          | 8.1%         | 7.1%              | 7.1%             | 11.1%                 | 2.0                  | 2.0                | 2.0               | 1.5                | 7.5                | Low           | 9               |
|                           |                                             | S01012383: Selkirk - Shawpark                  | 14.0%        | 12.0%             | 15.7%            | 16.7%                 | 3.0                  | 3.0                | 4.0               | 2.0                | 12.0               | Mid           | 7               |
|                           |                                             | S01012384: Selkirk - Dunsdale                  | 9.6%         | 20.6%             | 20.6%            | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 5.0                | 5.0               | 0.0                | 12.0               | Mid           | 6               |
|                           | Lilliesleaf Primary                         | S01012376: Ashkirk Lilliesleaf and Midlem Area | 5.6%         | 7.3%              | 9.7%             | 7.7%                  | 2.0                  | 2.0                | 2.0               | 1.0                | 7.0                | Low           | 8               |
|                           | Philiphaugh Primary                         | S01012385: Selkirk - Heatherlie                | 7.4%         | 10.2%             | 10.2%            | 12.5%                 | 2.0                  | 3.0                | 3.0               | 1.5                | 9.5                | Mid           | 7               |
|                           |                                             | S01012386: Selkirk - Bannerfield               | 28.9%        | 34.4%             | 45.5%            | 0.0%                  | 5.0                  | 6.0                | 6.0               | 0.0                | 17.0               | Higher        | 2               |
| Yarrow Primary            | S01012379: Yarrow Water and Sunderland Area | 19.1%                                          | 3.8%         | 3.8%              | 0.0%             | 4.0                   | 1.0                  | 1.0                | 0.0               | 6.0                | Low                | 6             |                 |

## Teviot and Liddesdale

One secondary school's (Hawick High School) catchment area is primarily in Teviot and Liddesdale locality.

| Best Fit Secondary School | Best Fit Primary School                 | DZ2011 Code and Name                                    | % CiLIF 2016 | % Pupils FSM 2019 | % Pupils CG 2019 | % Pupils 16+ EMA 2019 | SB CPI 2019: CiLIF16 | SB CPI 2019: FSM19 | SB CPI 2019: CG19 | SB CPI 2019: EMA19 | SB CPI 2019: Score | CPI2019 Level | SIMD2016 Decile |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Hawick High School        | Burnfoot Primary                        | S01012359: Hawick - Burnfoot - South East               | 36.8%        | 29.8%             | 40.5%            | 0.0%                  | 6.0                  | 5.0                | 6.0               | 0.0                | 17.0               | Higher        | 2               |
|                           |                                         | S01012360: Hawick - Burnfoot - Central                  | 35.9%        | 37.9%             | 46.0%            | 0.0%                  | 6.0                  | 6.0                | 6.0               | 0.0                | 18.0               | Higher        | 1               |
|                           |                                         | S01012361: Hawick - Burnfoot - West                     | 28.1%        | 25.8%             | 33.7%            | 0.0%                  | 5.0                  | 5.0                | 6.0               | 0.0                | 16.0               | High          | 2               |
|                           |                                         | S01012362: Hawick - Burnfoot - North                    | 24.0%        | 33.0%             | 42.4%            | 0.0%                  | 5.0                  | 6.0                | 6.0               | 0.0                | 17.0               | Higher        | 2               |
|                           | Denholm Primary                         | S01012356: Denholm                                      | 12.9%        | 3.8%              | 10.1%            | 14.3%                 | 3.0                  | 1.0                | 3.0               | 1.5                | 8.5                | Mid           | 7               |
|                           |                                         | S01012358: Bonchester Bridge and Chesters Area          | 9.6%         | 7.4%              | 16.2%            | 11.1%                 | 2.0                  | 2.0                | 4.0               | 1.5                | 9.5                | Mid           | 6               |
|                           | Drumlanrig St Cuthberts Primary         | S01012355: Teviothead and Hermitage Area                | 13.5%        | 8.6%              | 12.9%            | 0.0%                  | 3.0                  | 2.0                | 3.0               | 0.0                | 8.0                | Low           | 5               |
|                           |                                         | S01012363: Hawick Central - Wellogate                   | 25.0%        | 21.2%             | 25.4%            | 0.0%                  | 5.0                  | 5.0                | 5.0               | 0.0                | 15.0               | High          | 2               |
|                           |                                         | S01012365: Hawick Central - Millers Knowes              | 5.5%         | 0.0%              | 0.0%             | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 0.0                | 0.0               | 0.0                | 2.0                | Lower         | 8               |
|                           |                                         | S01012366: Hawick Central - Town Centre                 | 29.1%        | 40.3%             | 45.2%            | 0.0%                  | 5.0                  | 6.0                | 6.0               | 0.0                | 17.0               | Higher        | 4               |
|                           |                                         | S01012368: Hawick West End - Wilton Dean                | 11.8%        | 6.4%              | 6.4%             | 14.3%                 | 3.0                  | 2.0                | 2.0               | 1.5                | 8.5                | Mid           | 7               |
|                           |                                         | S01012369: Hawick West End - Crumhaughill and Parkdaill | 10.2%        | 9.7%              | 10.7%            | 12.5%                 | 3.0                  | 2.0                | 3.0               | 1.5                | 9.5                | Mid           | 8               |
|                           |                                         | S01012370: Hawick Central - Drumlanrig                  | 8.0%         | 13.5%             | 16.2%            | 23.1%                 | 2.0                  | 3.0                | 4.0               | 2.5                | 11.5               | Mid           | 5               |
|                           |                                         | S01012371: Hawick West End - Crumhaugh                  | 14.5%        | 16.5%             | 21.5%            | 16.7%                 | 3.0                  | 4.0                | 5.0               | 2.0                | 14.0               | High          | 3               |
|                           | Newcastleton Primary                    | S01012372: Hawick North - Commercial Road               | 22.4%        | 28.1%             | 34.4%            | 0.0%                  | 5.0                  | 5.0                | 6.0               | 0.0                | 16.0               | High          | 3               |
|                           |                                         | S01012354: Newcastleton                                 | 18.5%        | 13.4%             | 17.1%            | 0.0%                  | 4.0                  | 3.0                | 4.0               | 0.0                | 11.0               | Mid           | 6               |
|                           | Stirches Primary                        | S01012357: Minto Cauldmill and Boonraw Area             | 7.2%         | 0.0%              | 0.0%             | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 0.0                | 0.0               | 0.0                | 2.0                | Lower         | 7               |
|                           |                                         | S01012374: Hawick North - Stirtches                     | 10.5%        | 4.9%              | 13.1%            | 16.7%                 | 3.0                  | 1.0                | 3.0               | 2.0                | 9.0                | Mid           | 5               |
|                           | Trinity Primary                         | S01012364: Hawick Central - Trinity                     | 16.3%        | 26.0%             | 34.2%            | 0.0%                  | 4.0                  | 5.0                | 6.0               | 0.0                | 15.0               | High          | 3               |
|                           |                                         | S01012367: Hawick Central - Weensland                   | 14.2%        | 14.4%             | 18.0%            | 66.7%                 | 3.0                  | 3.0                | 4.0               | 3.0                | 13.0               | High          | 6               |
| Wilton Primary            | S01012373: Hawick North - Wilton Hill   | 17.1%                                                   | 11.6%        | 16.1%             | 5.9%             | 4.0                   | 3.0                  | 4.0                | 1.0               | 12.0               | Mid                | 5             |                 |
|                           | S01012375: Hawick North - Silverbuthall | 8.2%                                                    | 11.8%        | 22.7%             | 11.1%            | 2.0                   | 3.0                  | 5.0                | 1.5               | 11.5               | Mid                | 4             |                 |

## Tweeddale

One secondary school's (Peebles High School) catchment area is primarily in Tweeddale locality.

| Best Fit Secondary School | Best Fit Primary School           | DZ2011 Code and Name                           | % CiLIF 2016 | % Pupils FSM 2019 | % Pupils CG 2019 | % Pupils 16+ EMA 2019 | SB CPI 2019: CiLIF16 | SB CPI 2019: FSM19 | SB CPI 2019: CG19 | SB CPI 2019: EMA19 | SB CPI 2019: Score | CPI2019 Level | SIMD2016 Decile |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Peebles High School       | Broughton Primary                 | S01012249: Broughton and Upper Tweed           | 8.0%         | 11.4%             | 14.8%            | 9.1%                  | 2.0                  | 3.0                | 3.0               | 1.0                | 9.0                | Mid           | 7               |
|                           | Eddleston Primary                 | S01012247: Eddleston and Area                  | 5.0%         | 4.7%              | 4.7%             | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 1.0                | 1.0               | 0.0                | 4.0                | Lower         | 7               |
|                           | Kingsland Primary                 | S01012250: Glentress and Manor Valley          | 6.6%         | 2.2%              | 5.1%             | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 1.0                | 2.0               | 0.0                | 5.0                | Low           | 8               |
|                           |                                   | S01012251: Peebles - N - Connor St             | 14.4%        | 17.1%             | 22.8%            | 12.5%                 | 3.0                  | 4.0                | 5.0               | 1.5                | 13.5               | High          | 5               |
|                           |                                   | S01012252: Peebles North - Dalatho             | 10.8%        | 6.6%              | 14.5%            | 9.1%                  | 3.0                  | 2.0                | 3.0               | 1.0                | 9.0                | Mid           | 5               |
|                           |                                   | S01012253: Peebles - N - Cuddyside             | 6.8%         | 6.0%              | 11.9%            | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 2.0                | 3.0               | 0.0                | 7.0                | Low           | 6               |
|                           |                                   | S01012254: Peebles - N - March St              | 4.9%         | 4.7%              | 6.3%             | 0.0%                  | 1.0                  | 1.0                | 2.0               | 0.0                | 4.0                | Lower         | 9               |
|                           | S01012255: Peebles - N - Eastgate | 9.0%                                           | 2.3%         | 4.6%              | 0.0%             | 2.0                   | 1.0                  | 1.0                | 0.0               | 4.0                | Lower              | 8             |                 |
|                           | Newlands Primary                  | S01012248: Stobo - Blyth Bridge - Skirling     | 10.8%        | 1.2%              | 7.1%             | 0.0%                  | 3.0                  | 1.0                | 2.0               | 0.0                | 6.0                | Low           | 7               |
|                           | Priorsford Primary                | S01012256: Peebles - S - Calvalry Park         | 7.0%         | 6.1%              | 6.1%             | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 2.0                | 2.0               | 0.0                | 6.0                | Low           | 9               |
|                           |                                   | S01012257: Peebles - S - Gallow Hill           | 4.9%         | 6.9%              | 9.9%             | 0.0%                  | 1.0                  | 2.0                | 2.0               | 0.0                | 5.0                | Low           | 7               |
|                           |                                   | S01012258: Peebles - S - Edderston Rd          | 1.4%         | 0.0%              | 0.0%             | 0.0%                  | 1.0                  | 0.0                | 0.0               | 0.0                | 1.0                | Lower         | 10              |
|                           |                                   | S01012259: Peebles - S - Caledonian-Springhill | 0.0%         | 1.0%              | 1.0%             | 0.0%                  | 0.0                  | 1.0                | 1.0               | 0.0                | 2.0                | Lower         | 10              |
|                           |                                   | S01012260: Peebles - S - Victoria Park         | 12.1%        | 9.4%              | 9.9%             | 0.0%                  | 3.0                  | 2.0                | 2.0               | 0.0                | 7.0                | Low           | 7               |
|                           | S01012261: Cardrona               | 7.0%                                           | 5.6%         | 7.9%              | 0.0%             | 2.0                   | 2.0                  | 2.0                | 0.0               | 6.0                | Low                | 9             |                 |
|                           | St Ronans Primary                 | S01012262: Tweeddale East Landward             | 9.0%         | 5.5%              | 5.5%             | 6.5%                  | 2.0                  | 2.0                | 2.0               | 1.0                | 7.0                | Low           | 5               |
|                           |                                   | S01012264: Innerleithen - North                | 6.4%         | 2.5%              | 7.6%             | 0.0%                  | 2.0                  | 1.0                | 2.0               | 0.0                | 5.0                | Low           | 7               |
|                           |                                   | S01012265: Innerleithen - East                 | 26.6%        | 22.0%             | 26.0%            | 0.0%                  | 5.0                  | 5.0                | 5.0               | 0.0                | 15.0               | High          | 5               |
|                           |                                   | S01012266: Innerleithen - South                | 14.9%        | 6.5%              | 8.7%             | 0.0%                  | 3.0                  | 2.0                | 2.0               | 0.0                | 7.0                | Low           | 7               |
|                           | S01012267: Innerleithen - West    | 0.8%                                           | 3.0%         | 5.1%              | 0.0%             | 1.0                   | 1.0                  | 2.0                | 0.0               | 4.0                | Lower              | 9             |                 |
| Walkerburn Primary        | S01012263: Walkerburn             | 14.9%                                          | 11.5%        | 29.5%             | 0.0%             | 3.0                   | 3.0                  | 5.0                | 0.0               | 11.0               | Mid                | 5             |                 |
| West Linton Primary       | S01012244: Carlops Romannobridge  | 6.0%                                           | 0.0%         | 0.0%              | 0.0%             | 2.0                   | 0.0                  | 0.0                | 0.0               | 2.0                | Lower              | 7             |                 |
|                           | S01012245: West Linton - Lower    | 3.3%                                           | 0.0%         | 1.0%              | 0.0%             | 1.0                   | 0.0                  | 1.0                | 0.0               | 2.0                | Lower              | 8             |                 |
|                           | S01012246: West Linton - Upper    | 4.4%                                           | 5.3%         | 6.8%              | 0.0%             | 1.0                   | 2.0                  | 2.0                | 0.0               | 5.0                | Low                | 10            |                 |

## Appendix 2: Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index (SB CPI) 2019: Primary School Ranking

The table below ranks the non-denominational primary schools in the Scottish Borders by the 'Average of SB CPI Score' for the primary school based best fit data zones. The components of the SB CPI 2019 are:

- Percent of Children in Low Income Families (CiLIF) 2016 from HMRC
- Percent of Pupils in Receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) 2019 from SBC's SEEMIS
- Percent of Pupils in Receipt of Clothing Grant (CG) 2019 from SBC's SEEMIS
- Percent of Pupils Aged 16+ in Receipt of Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) 2019 from SBC's SEEMIS

Each primary school is allocated into a SB CPI level based on the school's score.

| Scottish Borders                |                          | 12.6%                           | 11.6%                        | 15.2%                       | 5.0%                       |                                 |                                   |                          | 20    | 45  | 40  | 28   | 10     | 143                 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|-----|-----|------|--------|---------------------|
|                                 |                          |                                 |                              |                             |                            |                                 | SB CPI 2019 Level                 |                          |       |     |     |      |        |                     |
| SB CPI 2019 Primary School Rank | Secondary School         | Primary School                  | Average of CiLIF 2016 (HMRC) | Average of % FSM 2019 (SBC) | Average of % CG 2019 (SBC) | Average of % 16+ EMA 2019 (SBC) | School SB CPI 2019 Score (Max 21) | School SB CPI 2019 Level | Lower | Low | Mid | High | Higher | Count of Data Zones |
| 1                               | Hawick High School       | Burnfoot Primary                | 31.2%                        | 31.6%                       | 40.6%                      | 0.0%                            | 18.0                              | Higher                   |       |     |     | 1    | 3      | 4                   |
| 2                               | Berwickshire High School | Greenlaw Primary                | 24.5%                        | 20.3%                       | 20.3%                      | 12.5%                           | 16.5                              | Higher                   |       |     |     |      | 1      | 1                   |
| 3                               | Galashiels Academy       | Langlee Primary                 | 24.3%                        | 22.8%                       | 29.2%                      | 13.7%                           | 16.5                              | Higher                   |       | 1   | 1   |      | 2      | 4                   |
| 4                               | Hawick High School       | Trinity Primary                 | 15.3%                        | 20.2%                       | 26.1%                      | 33.3%                           | 16.0                              | High                     |       |     |     | 2    |        | 2                   |
| 5                               | Selkirk High School      | Philiphaugh Primary             | 18.2%                        | 22.3%                       | 27.8%                      | 6.3%                            | 15.0                              | High                     |       |     | 1   |      | 1      | 2                   |
| 6                               | Kelso High School        | Yetholm Primary                 | 12.3%                        | 15.1%                       | 24.5%                      | 25.0%                           | 14.5                              | High                     |       |     |     | 1    |        | 1                   |
| 7                               | Galashiels Academy       | Balmoral Primary                | 16.5%                        | 15.2%                       | 20.4%                      | 6.3%                            | 14.0                              | High                     |       | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1      | 4                   |
| 8                               | Eyemouth High School     | Eyemouth Primary                | 14.8%                        | 17.4%                       | 22.2%                      | 12.3%                           | 13.5                              | High                     |       |     | 2   | 2    | 1      | 5                   |
| 9                               | Galashiels Academy       | Burgh Primary                   | 13.1%                        | 15.9%                       | 22.3%                      | 6.7%                            | 13.0                              | High                     |       | 1   | 1   | 1    |        | 3                   |
| 10                              | Hawick High School       | Drumlanrig St Cuthberts Primary | 15.6%                        | 16.0%                       | 19.2%                      | 7.4%                            | 13.0                              | High                     | 1     | 1   | 3   | 3    | 1      | 9                   |
| 11                              | Jedburgh Grammar         | Jedburgh Primary                | 17.0%                        | 15.0%                       | 18.7%                      | 8.3%                            | 13.0                              | High                     |       | 1   | 2   | 3    |        | 6                   |

| SB CPI 2019<br>Primary<br>School Rank | Secondary School         | Primary School                          | Average of<br>CiLIF 2016<br>(HMRC) | Average of<br>% FSM 2019<br>(SBC) | Average of<br>% CG 2019<br>(SBC) | Average of<br>% 16+ EMA<br>2019 (SBC) | School SB<br>CPI 2019<br>Score (Max<br>21) | School SB<br>CPI 2019<br>Level | Lower | Low | Mid | High | Higher | Count of<br>Data Zones |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|-----|-----|------|--------|------------------------|
| 12                                    | Berwickshire High School | Coldstream Primary                      | 16.2%                              | 12.6%                             | 17.1%                            | 6.4%                                  | 12.0                                       | Mid                            |       | 1   | 1   | 2    |        | 4                      |
| 13                                    | Kelso High School        | Broomlands Primary                      | 14.5%                              | 14.5%                             | 18.4%                            | 10.1%                                 | 11.5                                       | Mid                            |       | 1   | 1   | 2    |        | 4                      |
| 14                                    | Berwickshire High School | Chirnside Primary                       | 12.4%                              | 12.6%                             | 14.5%                            | 21.9%                                 | 11.5                                       | Mid                            |       |     | 2   | 1    |        | 3                      |
| 15                                    | Selkirk High School      | Knowepark Primary                       | 11.7%                              | 14.8%                             | 17.1%                            | 13.1%                                 | 11.5                                       | Mid                            |       | 1   | 2   | 2    |        | 5                      |
| 16                                    | Galashiels Academy       | St Peters Primary                       | 15.8%                              | 9.9%                              | 15.8%                            | 11.1%                                 | 11.5                                       | Mid                            |       | 1   | 1   | 1    |        | 3                      |
| 17                                    | Eyemouth High School     | Coldingham Primary                      | 18.4%                              | 11.8%                             | 17.6%                            | 0.0%                                  | 11.0                                       | Mid                            |       |     | 1   |      |        | 1                      |
| 18                                    | Hawick High School       | Newcastleton Primary                    | 18.5%                              | 13.4%                             | 17.1%                            | 0.0%                                  | 11.0                                       | Mid                            |       |     | 1   |      |        | 1                      |
| 19                                    | Peebles High School      | Walkerburn Primary                      | 14.9%                              | 11.5%                             | 29.5%                            | 0.0%                                  | 11.0                                       | Mid                            |       |     | 1   |      |        | 1                      |
| 20                                    | Hawick High School       | Wilton Primary                          | 12.7%                              | 11.7%                             | 19.4%                            | 8.5%                                  | 11.0                                       | Mid                            |       |     | 2   |      |        | 2                      |
| 21                                    | Kelso High School        | Edenside Primary                        | 13.9%                              | 14.5%                             | 17.0%                            | 2.9%                                  | 10.5                                       | Mid                            | 1     | 1   | 1   | 2    |        | 5                      |
| 22                                    | Eyemouth High School     | Reston Primary                          | 10.1%                              | 10.9%                             | 10.9%                            | 14.3%                                 | 10.5                                       | Mid                            |       |     | 1   |      |        | 1                      |
| 23                                    | Earlston High School     | Newtown Primary                         | 11.3%                              | 12.9%                             | 17.1%                            | 0.0%                                  | 10.0                                       | Mid                            | 1     |     | 1   | 1    |        | 3                      |
| 24                                    | Hawick High School       | Denholm Primary                         | 11.3%                              | 5.6%                              | 13.2%                            | 12.7%                                 | 9.5                                        | Mid                            |       |     | 2   |      |        | 2                      |
| 25                                    | Galashiels Academy       | Fountainhall Primary and Heriot Primary | 7.4%                               | 13.9%                             | 18.3%                            | 4.5%                                  | 9.5                                        | Mid                            |       |     | 1   |      |        | 1                      |
| 26                                    | Eyemouth High School     | Ayton Primary                           | 9.1%                               | 14.7%                             | 15.9%                            | 0.0%                                  | 9.0                                        | Mid                            |       |     | 2   |      |        | 2                      |
| 27                                    | Peebles High School      | Broughton Primary                       | 8.0%                               | 11.4%                             | 14.8%                            | 9.1%                                  | 9.0                                        | Mid                            |       |     | 1   |      |        | 1                      |
| 28                                    | Kelso High School        | Ednam Primary                           | 14.2%                              | 10.2%                             | 12.5%                            | 0.0%                                  | 9.0                                        | Mid                            |       |     | 1   |      |        | 1                      |
| 29                                    | Peebles High School      | St Ronans Primary                       | 11.5%                              | 7.9%                              | 10.6%                            | 1.3%                                  | 8.5                                        | Mid                            | 1     | 3   |     | 1    |        | 5                      |
| 30                                    | Galashiels Academy       | Tweedbank Primary                       | 10.2%                              | 8.9%                              | 13.3%                            | 3.7%                                  | 8.5                                        | Mid                            |       | 2   |     | 1    |        | 3                      |

| SB CPI 2019<br>Primary<br>School Rank | Secondary School         | Primary School        | Average of<br>CiLIF 2016<br>(HMRC) | Average of<br>% FSM 2019<br>(SBC) | Average of<br>% CG 2019<br>(SBC) | Average of<br>% 16+ EMA<br>2019 (SBC) | School SB<br>CPI 2019<br>Score (Max<br>21) | School SB<br>CPI 2019<br>Level | SB CPI 2019 Level |     |     |      |        | Count of<br>Data Zones |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----|-----|------|--------|------------------------|
|                                       |                          |                       |                                    |                                   |                                  |                                       |                                            |                                | Lower             | Low | Mid | High | Higher |                        |
| 31                                    | Berwickshire High School | Duns Primary          | 8.9%                               | 9.9%                              | 14.5%                            | 6.7%                                  | 8.0                                        | Low                            |                   | 2   | 4   |      |        | 6                      |
| 32                                    | Galashiels Academy       | Glendinning Primary   | 12.8%                              | 7.9%                              | 12.6%                            | 0.0%                                  | 8.0                                        | Low                            |                   | 1   |     |      |        | 1                      |
| 33                                    | Earlston High School     | St Boswells Primary   | 5.0%                               | 11.5%                             | 14.1%                            | 0.0%                                  | 8.0                                        | Low                            |                   | 2   | 1   |      |        | 3                      |
| 34                                    | Peebles High School      | Kingsland Primary     | 8.8%                               | 6.5%                              | 10.9%                            | 3.6%                                  | 7.5                                        | Low                            | 2                 | 2   | 1   | 1    |        | 6                      |
| 35                                    | Selkirk High School      | Lilliesleaf Primary   | 5.6%                               | 7.3%                              | 9.7%                             | 7.7%                                  | 7.0                                        | Low                            |                   | 1   |     |      |        | 1                      |
| 36                                    | Earlston High School     | Earlston Primary      | 8.4%                               | 6.6%                              | 9.8%                             | 2.1%                                  | 6.5                                        | Low                            |                   | 3   |     |      |        | 3                      |
| 37                                    | Jedburgh Grammar         | Ancrum Primary        | 6.0%                               | 7.6%                              | 9.6%                             | 0.0%                                  | 6.0                                        | Low                            |                   | 2   |     |      |        | 2                      |
| 38                                    | Eyemouth High School     | Cockburnspath Primary | 8.9%                               | 7.1%                              | 7.1%                             | 0.0%                                  | 6.0                                        | Low                            |                   | 1   |     |      |        | 1                      |
| 39                                    | Selkirk High School      | Kirkhope Primary      | 5.1%                               | 7.4%                              | 7.4%                             | 0.0%                                  | 6.0                                        | Low                            |                   | 1   |     |      |        | 1                      |
| 40                                    | Kelso High School        | Morebattle Primary    | 9.9%                               | 7.1%                              | 9.4%                             | 0.0%                                  | 6.0                                        | Low                            |                   | 1   |     |      |        | 1                      |
| 41                                    | Peebles High School      | Newlands Primary      | 10.8%                              | 1.2%                              | 7.1%                             | 0.0%                                  | 6.0                                        | Low                            |                   | 1   |     |      |        | 1                      |
| 42                                    | Hawick High School       | Stirches Primary      | 8.9%                               | 2.5%                              | 6.6%                             | 8.3%                                  | 6.0                                        | Low                            | 1                 |     | 1   |      |        | 2                      |
| 43                                    | Berwickshire High School | Swinton Primary       | 6.6%                               | 6.0%                              | 8.0%                             | 0.0%                                  | 6.0                                        | Low                            | 1                 | 1   |     |      |        | 2                      |
| 44                                    | Selkirk High School      | Yarrow Primary        | 19.1%                              | 3.8%                              | 3.8%                             | 0.0%                                  | 6.0                                        | Low                            |                   | 1   |     |      |        | 1                      |
| 45                                    | Earlston High School     | Gordon Primary        | 4.2%                               | 5.4%                              | 5.4%                             | 0.0%                                  | 5.0                                        | Low                            |                   | 1   |     |      |        | 1                      |
| 46                                    | Peebles High School      | Priorsford Primary    | 5.4%                               | 4.8%                              | 5.8%                             | 0.0%                                  | 5.0                                        | Low                            | 2                 | 4   |     |      |        | 6                      |
| 47                                    | Kelso High School        | Sprouston Primary     | 8.3%                               | 4.9%                              | 4.9%                             | 8.3%                                  | 5.0                                        | Low                            |                   | 1   |     |      |        | 1                      |
| 48                                    | Earlston High School     | Lauder Primary        | 8.0%                               | 2.7%                              | 3.8%                             | 1.9%                                  | 4.5                                        | Low                            | 1                 | 2   |     |      |        | 3                      |
| 49                                    | Peebles High School      | Eddleston Primary     | 5.0%                               | 4.7%                              | 4.7%                             | 0.0%                                  | 4.0                                        | Lower                          | 1                 |     |     |      |        | 1                      |
| 50                                    | Earlston High School     | Melrose Primary       | 5.1%                               | 4.1%                              | 4.9%                             | 0.0%                                  | 4.0                                        | Lower                          | 2                 | 2   |     |      |        | 4                      |
| 51                                    | Galashiels Academy       | Stow Primary          | 6.3%                               | 1.1%                              | 1.1%                             | 0.0%                                  | 4.0                                        | Lower                          | 1                 |     |     |      |        | 1                      |
| 52                                    | Earlston High School     | Westruther Primary    | 5.1%                               | 2.5%                              | 3.8%                             | 0.0%                                  | 4.0                                        | Lower                          | 1                 |     |     |      |        | 1                      |
| 53                                    | Galashiels Academy       | Clovenfords Primary   | 2.8%                               | 1.7%                              | 1.7%                             | 0.0%                                  | 3.0                                        | Lower                          | 1                 |     |     |      |        | 1                      |
| 54                                    | Peebles High School      | West Linton Primary   | 4.6%                               | 1.8%                              | 2.6%                             | 0.0%                                  | 3.0                                        | Lower                          | 2                 | 1   |     |      |        | 3                      |
| 55                                    | Earlston High School     | Channelkirk Primary   | 2.5%                               | 0.0%                              | 1.2%                             | 0.0%                                  | 2.0                                        | Lower                          | 1                 |     |     |      |        | 1                      |



## Appendix 3: Change in SB CPI Level by Locality

### Berwickshire

| Settlement (Best Fit)                | Data Zone 2011 Code and Name                 | SIMD2016 Decile | SB CPI 2017 Level | SB CPI 2018 Level | SB CPI 2019 Level |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Ayton                                | S01012309: Ayton                             | 6               | Low               | Mid               | Mid               |
| Chirside                             | S01012320: Chirside - West                   | 5               | Higher            | Higher            | High              |
|                                      | S01012321: Chirside - East                   | 7               | High              | Mid               | Mid               |
| Coldingham                           | S01012311: Coldingham                        | 7               | Higher            | High              | Mid               |
| Coldstream                           | S01012325: Coldstream - West                 | 7               | Low               | Lower             | Low               |
|                                      | S01012326: Coldstream - South                | 3               | High              | Mid               | High              |
|                                      | S01012327: Coldstream - East                 | 6               | Higher            | High              | High              |
| Duns                                 | S01012305: Duns - South                      | 6               | Low               | Low               | Mid               |
|                                      | S01012306: Duns - West                       | 5               | High              | Mid               | Mid               |
|                                      | S01012307: Duns - North                      | 5               | High              | Mid               | Low               |
|                                      | S01012308: Duns - East                       | 9               | Mid               | Mid               | Mid               |
| Eyemouth                             | S01012314: Eyemouth - Gunsgreen              | 4               | High              | Mid               | High              |
|                                      | S01012315: Eyemouth - Seafront Harbour       | 4               | Mid               | Lower             | Mid               |
|                                      | S01012316: Eyemouth - Central                | 3               | High              | Mid               | High              |
|                                      | S01012317: Eyemouth - South                  | 8               | High              | Mid               | Mid               |
|                                      | S01012318: Eyemouth - North                  | 4               | High              | Higher            | Higher            |
| Greenlaw                             | S01012300: Greenlaw                          | 5               | High              | High              | Higher            |
| Rural - Berwickshire                 | S01012301: Swinton Leithholm and Fogo Area   | 7               | Low               | Low               | Low               |
|                                      | S01012302: Cranshaws - Abbey St Bathans Area | 4               | Mid               | Mid               | Low               |
|                                      | S01012303: Westruther and Polwarth Area      | 7               | Lower             | Lower             | Lower             |
|                                      | S01012304: Gordon and Hume Area              | 6               | Low               | Low               | Low               |
|                                      | S01012310: St Abbs and Eyemouth Landward     | 6               | Mid               | Mid               | Mid               |
|                                      | S01012312: Reston and Coldingham Moor Area   | 5               | High              | Low               | Mid               |
|                                      | S01012313: Cockburnspath and Area            | 5               | Low               | Mid               | Low               |
|                                      | S01012319: Preston and Manderston Area       | 6               | High              | Mid               | Mid               |
|                                      | S01012322: Whitsome Allanton and Hutton Area | 7               | Mid               | Low               | Lower             |
|                                      | S01012323: Foulden and Area                  | 7               | Mid               | High              | Mid               |
| S01012324: Birgham and Ladykirk Area | 5                                            | Mid             | Mid               | Mid               |                   |

## Cheviot

| Settlement (Best Fit)           | Data Zone 2011 Code and Name                  | SIMD2016 Decile | SB CPI 2017 Level | SB CPI 2018 Level | SB CPI 2019 Level |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Jedburgh                        | S01012349: Jedburgh - Howden                  | 5               | High              | High              | High              |
|                                 | S01012350: Jedburgh - Doom Hill               | 5               | High              | High              | High              |
|                                 | S01012351: Jedburgh - East Central            | 5               | High              | Mid               | High              |
|                                 | S01012352: Jedburgh - West Central            | 7               | Low               | Mid               | Mid               |
|                                 | S01012353: Jedburgh - Abbey                   | 3               | Mid               | High              | Mid               |
| Kelso                           | S01012330: Kelso S - Pinnaclehill             | 7               | High              | High              | High              |
|                                 | S01012331: Kelso S - Maxwellheugh             | 10              | Low               | Lower             | Lower             |
|                                 | S01012334: Kelso N - High Croft Orchard Park  | 6               | Higher            | High              | High              |
|                                 | S01012335: Kelso N - Hendersyde Oakfield      | 8               | Mid               | Low               | Mid               |
|                                 | S01012336: Kelso N - Abbotseat                | 7               | Mid               | Mid               | Low               |
|                                 | S01012337: Kelso N - Poynder Park             | 4               | High              | High              | High              |
|                                 | S01012338: Kelso S - Bowmont and Edenside     | 5               | Mid               | High              | Mid               |
|                                 | S01012339: Kelso S - Abbey                    | 6               | Mid               | Mid               | Low               |
| S01012340: Kelso S - Broomlands | 7                                             | High            | Higher            | High              |                   |
| Rural - Cheviot                 | S01012329: Morebattle Hownam and Area         | 5               | Mid               | Low               | Low               |
|                                 | S01012332: Smailholm Stitchill and Ednam Area | 6               | Mid               | Mid               | Mid               |
|                                 | S01012333: Sprouston and Area                 | 6               | Low               | Low               | Low               |
|                                 | S01012341: Oxnam and Camptown Area            | 7               | Low               | Low               | Low               |
|                                 | S01012342: Ancrum and Lanton Area             | 7               | Low               | Low               | Low               |
|                                 | S01012343: Roxburgh Heiton Eckford Area       | 7               | Low               | Low               | Low               |
|                                 | S01012346: Dryburgh Charlesfield Maxton Area  | 7               | Low               | Low               | Low               |
| St Boswells                     | S01012347: St Boswells - East                 | 7               | Low               | Low               | Mid               |
|                                 | S01012348: St Boswells - West                 | 8               | Low               | Low               | Low               |
| Yetholm                         | S01012328: Town Yetholm                       | 4               | Higher            | High              | High              |

## Eildon

| Settlement (Best Fit)            | Data Zone 2011 Code and Name                     | SIMD2016 Decile | SB CPI 2017 Level | SB CPI 2018 Level | SB CPI 2019 Level |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Darnick and Gattonside           | S01012289: Gattonside - Darnick - Chiefswood     | 7               | Low               | Lower             | Lower             |
| Earlston                         | S01012269: Earlston - West                       | 9               | Low               | Lower             | Low               |
|                                  | S01012270: Earlston - East                       | 6               | Mid               | Low               | Low               |
| Galashiels                       | S01012274: Galashiels - N - Halliburton          | 5               | Mid               | Low               | Low               |
|                                  | S01012275: Galashiels - N - Town Centre          | 4               | Mid               | High              | Mid               |
|                                  | S01012276: Galashiels - N - Windyknowe           | 5               | Lower             | Low               | Low               |
|                                  | S01012277: Galashiels - N - Wood St              | 5               | High              | High              | High              |
|                                  | S01012278: Galashiels - W - Old Town             | 4               | High              | High              | Low               |
|                                  | S01012279: Galashiels - W - Thistle St           | 4               | Higher            | High              | Higher            |
|                                  | S01012280: Galashiels - W - Balmoral Rd          | 4               | High              | High              | High              |
|                                  | S01012281: Galashiels - W - Balmoral Pl          | 5               | High              | High              | Mid               |
|                                  | S01012282: Galashiels - S - Netherdale           | 8               | Lower             | Lower             | Low               |
|                                  | S01012283: Galashiels - S - St Peters Sch        | 6               | High              | High              | Mid               |
|                                  | S01012284: Galashiels - S - Huddersfield         | 3               | High              | High              | High              |
|                                  | S01012285: Galashiels - S - Glenfield            | 7               | Lower             | Lower             | Low               |
|                                  | S01012286: Gala - Langlee - East                 | 3               | High              | High              | Mid               |
|                                  | S01012287: Gala - Langlee - Central              | 1               | Higher            | Higher            | Higher            |
| S01012288: Gala - Langlee - West | 2                                                | Higher          | Higher            | Higher            |                   |
| Lauder                           | S01012296: Lauder - South                        | 9               | Low               | Lower             | Lower             |
|                                  | S01012298: Lauder - North                        | 8               | High              | Mid               | Low               |
| Melrose and Newstead             | S01012290: Melrose - Newstead                    | 6               | Low               | Low               | Low               |
|                                  | S01012291: Melrose - Dingleton Hill              | 9               | Low               | Low               | Low               |
|                                  | S01012292: Melrose - High Street                 | 10              | Lower             | Lower             | Lower             |
| Newtown St Boswells              | S01012344: Newtown St Boswells - South           | 4               | High              | High              | High              |
|                                  | S01012345: Newtown St Boswells - North           | 6               | Low               | High              | Mid               |
| Rural - Eildon                   | S01012268: Earlston and Melrose Landward         | 8               | Low               | Low               | Low               |
|                                  | S01012271: Heriot - Fountainhall - Stow Landward | 7               | Low               | Mid               | Mid               |
|                                  | S01012297: Blainslie and Legerwood               | 6               | Low               | Lower             | Low               |
|                                  | S01012299: Oxtton and Area                       | 7               | Lower             | Lower             | Lower             |
|                                  | S01012376: Ashkirk Lilliesleaf and Midlem Area   | 8               | Mid               | Low               | Low               |
|                                  | S01012377: Bowden and Lindean Area               | 8               | Lower             | Lower             | Lower             |
|                                  | S01012378: Ettrick Water and Bowhill Area        | 6               | Low               | Low               | Low               |
|                                  | S01012379: Yarrow Water and Sunderland Area      | 6               | Low               | Mid               | Low               |
| Selkirk                          | S01012380: Selkirk - Shawburn                    | 5               | Mid               | High              | High              |
|                                  | S01012381: Selkirk - Town Centre                 | 5               | Mid               | Mid               | High              |
|                                  | S01012382: Selkirk - Hillside Terrace            | 9               | Low               | Low               | Low               |
|                                  | S01012383: Selkirk - Shawpark                    | 7               | Mid               | High              | Mid               |
|                                  | S01012384: Selkirk - Dunsdale                    | 6               | Mid               | Mid               | Mid               |
|                                  | S01012385: Selkirk - Heatherlie                  | 7               | Mid               | Mid               | Mid               |
|                                  | S01012386: Selkirk - Bannerfield                 | 2               | Higher            | Higher            | Higher            |
| Stow                             | S01012272: Stow                                  | 8               | Lower             | Lower             | Lower             |
| Tweedbank                        | S01012293: Tweedbank - West                      | 6               | Mid               | Low               | Low               |
|                                  | S01012294: Tweedbank - North                     | 5               | High              | Mid               | High              |
|                                  | S01012295: Tweedbank - East                      | 5               | Mid               | Mid               | Low               |

## Teviot and Liddesdale

| Settlement (Best Fit)                   | Data Zone 2011 Code and Name                           | SIMD2016 Decile | SB CPI 2017 Level | SB CPI 2018 Level | SB CPI 2019 Level |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Denholm                                 | S01012356: Denholm                                     | 7               | Low               | Low               | Mid               |
| Hawick                                  | S01012359: Hawick - Burnfoot - South East              | 2               | Higher            | Higher            | Higher            |
|                                         | S01012360: Hawick - Burnfoot - Central                 | 1               | Higher            | Higher            | Higher            |
|                                         | S01012361: Hawick - Burnfoot - West                    | 2               | Higher            | Higher            | High              |
|                                         | S01012362: Hawick - Burnfoot - North                   | 2               | Higher            | Higher            | Higher            |
|                                         | S01012363: Hawick Central - Wellogate                  | 2               | High              | High              | High              |
|                                         | S01012364: Hawick Central - Trinity                    | 3               | Mid               | Mid               | High              |
|                                         | S01012365: Hawick Central - Millers Knowes             | 8               | Low               | Lower             | Lower             |
|                                         | S01012366: Hawick Central - Town Centre                | 4               | Higher            | Higher            | Higher            |
|                                         | S01012367: Hawick Central - Weensland                  | 6               | High              | High              | High              |
|                                         | S01012368: Hawick West End - Wilton Dean               | 7               | Low               | Lower             | Mid               |
|                                         | S01012369: Hawick West End - Crumhaughill and Parkdail | 8               | Mid               | Low               | Mid               |
|                                         | S01012370: Hawick Central - Drumlanrig                 | 5               | Mid               | Mid               | Mid               |
|                                         | S01012371: Hawick West End - Crumhaugh                 | 3               | High              | Mid               | High              |
|                                         | S01012372: Hawick North - Commercial Road              | 3               | High              | Higher            | High              |
|                                         | S01012373: Hawick North - Wilton Hill                  | 5               | Mid               | Mid               | Mid               |
| S01012374: Hawick North - Stirtches     | 5                                                      | Low             | Low               | Mid               |                   |
| S01012375: Hawick North - Silverbuthall | 4                                                      | Mid             | Low               | Mid               |                   |
| Newcastleton                            | S01012354: Newcastleton                                | 6               | Mid               | High              | Mid               |
| Rural - Teviot and Liddesdale           | S01012355: Teviothead and Hermitage Area               | 5               | Mid               | Low               | Low               |
|                                         | S01012357: Minto Cauldmill and Boonraw Area            | 7               | Low               | Low               | Lower             |
|                                         | S01012358: Bonchester Bridge and Chesters Area         | 6               | Low               | Low               | Mid               |

## Tweeddale

| Settlement (Best Fit) | Data Zone 2011 Code and Name                   | SIMD2016 Decile | SB CPI 2017 Level | SB CPI 2018 Level | SB CPI 2019 Level |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cardrona              | S01012261: Cardrona                            | 9               | Lower             | Low               | Low               |
| Innerleithen          | S01012264: Innerleithen - North                | 7               | Low               | Low               | Low               |
|                       | S01012265: Innerleithen - East                 | 5               | High              | High              | High              |
|                       | S01012266: Innerleithen - South                | 7               | Mid               | Mid               | Low               |
|                       | S01012267: Innerleithen - West                 | 9               | Lower             | Low               | Lower             |
| Peebles               | S01012251: Peebles - N - Connor St             | 5               | High              | High              | High              |
|                       | S01012252: Peebles North - Dalatho             | 5               | Low               | Mid               | Mid               |
|                       | S01012253: Peebles - N - Cuddyside             | 6               | Low               | Low               | Low               |
|                       | S01012254: Peebles - N - March St              | 9               | Low               | Mid               | Lower             |
|                       | S01012255: Peebles - N - Eastgate              | 8               | Low               | Low               | Lower             |
|                       | S01012256: Peebles - S - Calvalry Park         | 9               | Low               | Lower             | Low               |
|                       | S01012257: Peebles - S - Gallow Hill           | 7               | Low               | Mid               | Low               |
|                       | S01012258: Peebles - S - Edderston Rd          | 10              | Lower             | Lower             | Lower             |
|                       | S01012259: Peebles - S - Caledonian-Springhill | 10              | Lower             | Lower             | Lower             |
|                       | S01012260: Peebles - S - Victoria Park         | 7               | Mid               | Mid               | Low               |
| Rural - Tweeddale     | S01012244: Carlops Romannobridge               | 7               | Lower             | Lower             | Lower             |
|                       | S01012247: Eddleston and Area                  | 7               | Low               | Lower             | Lower             |
|                       | S01012248: Stobo - Blyth Bridge - Skirling     | 7               | Mid               | Mid               | Low               |
|                       | S01012249: Broughton and Upper Tweed           | 7               | Mid               | Mid               | Mid               |
|                       | S01012250: Glentress and Manor Valley          | 8               | Low               | Low               | Low               |
|                       | S01012262: Tweeddale East Landward             | 5               | Low               | Low               | Low               |
| Walkerburn            | S01012273: Clovenfords and Area                | 7               | Low               | Lower             | Lower             |
| West Linton           | S01012263: Walkerburn                          | 5               | High              | Mid               | Mid               |
|                       | S01012245: West Linton - Lower                 | 8               | Lower             | Lower             | Lower             |
|                       | S01012246: West Linton - Upper                 | 10              | Lower             | Low               | Low               |

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# **Qualitative evaluation of the Summer Holiday Programmes in the Scottish Borders 2019**

**Prepared by Catherine Jeffery, Public Health Registrar, NHS Borders**

**Qualitative evaluation of the Summer Holiday Programmes in the Scottish Borders  
Summer 2019**

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**Qualitative evaluation of the Summer Holiday Programmes in the Scottish Borders  
Summer 2019**

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## **Qualitative evaluation of the Summer Holiday Programmes in the Scottish Borders** **Summer 2019**

### **Executive summary**

This summary highlights the key findings on the impact of the four Scottish Borders School Holiday programmes and areas for improvement. The findings are informed by interviews and focus groups and a graffiti wall undertaken with parents, children, volunteers and staff involved in the Holiday Programmes in Eyemouth, Hawick, Galashiels, and Selkirk.

The evaluation has found that the programmes play a significant role in addressing food insecurity, providing enriching activities for children and promoting child development, reducing social isolation and increasing family wellbeing and community cohesion. By consequence they are contributing to reducing or mitigating inequalities in the Borders and are well aligned with related NHS Borders, Scottish Borders Councils and National strategies.

### **Socialising and wellbeing**

Overwhelmingly, the opportunity to socialise and play were a major motivation for families attending the programmes and were identified as a significant impact of the programmes by parents. Parents described that the programme offered the opportunity for children to socialise with existing friends, make new friends, and meet new people from outside their communities, contributing to social development and confidence.

Parents also overwhelmingly described that the holiday programmes also offered parents an opportunity to socialise, meet new people, enjoy 'adult conversation' and benefit from informal social support from peers. Parents described how this reduced their social isolation and loneliness, particularly those who didn't live in the immediate area or were new to the area, demonstrating the role of the programmes in addressing social isolation in the Borders. Some parents without significant family support and parents with mental health problems or with low confidence described that the programme had helped them with these challenges, variously giving them confidence, motivation and support, explaining that without it they felt that they would be worse off. Parents and staff also commented that some parents who had previously been considered isolated within their communities had found friends and a support network through attending the programme.

Attitudes towards the accessibility for children with additional needs varied. Only a couple of parents mentioned explicitly that their children had additional support needs. Some staff and volunteers saw there were significant benefits for children with additional support needs of attending the programme. One parent described the programme as a safe place for children with sensory needs but they, and other parents said that more could be done to make the programme accessible and promoted to children with additional support needs. Some parents and staff mentioned that concerns about child's behaviour in particular might be a barrier to attendance.

Parents overwhelmingly described the environment at programmes as friendly and welcoming by both parents and staff however they suggested that some parents may lack attendance to attend and might be intimidated or lack confidence to attend alone and fear of 'cliqueness' and 'bitchiness' could deter attendance, reflecting on their own experiences of joining new groups. Parents consistently suggested using photos of children and parents enjoying activities on Facebook and posters to show non-attending parents what the activities are like and encourage attendance. Another reason that might discourage families from attending was how busy the programmes are.

### **Access to activities**

Parents were not explicitly asked about the barriers their families faced in accessing enriching activities for the children, but described a range of barriers to their children participating in

## **Qualitative evaluation of the Summer Holiday Programmes in the Scottish Borders** **Summer 2019**

other activities over the summer including the cumulative cost of summer holiday activities, lack of availability of affordable activities locally, being working parents or single parents and having limited family support, having a low income, limited transport and the closure of several regular groups over summer holidays. Parents highlighted that the close proximity and low cost of activities in the programmes addressed these barriers and were key reasons supporting participation.

Parents indicated that a significant impact of the programme was that attending holiday programmes gave children something to do. The programmes enabled them to get out of the house over the summer holidays, reducing boredom, introducing children to new sports and creative activities. They also helped families to participate in activities that they would not necessarily be able to do at home such as cooking (due to small kitchen size). Sport, craft and outdoor activities were particular valued and often, but not always, preferences were expressed along gender lines. Staff and parents reported that parents appreciated the messy activities.

Some parents highlighted the lack of activities for older children as an issue and others identified that age-group specific/sensitive activities might encourage greater participation. Parents suggested a range of assets and activities that programmes could make more use of ranging from sports, outside activities and day trips, creative and food based activities, activities for children with additional support needs, learning opportunities and other community assets.

### **Good food**

Parents cited that the provision of food, in particular healthy and low cost or free of charge food, was a significant impact of the programme and that children and families have enjoyed sharing food together. Parents and staff highlighted that the programme has also been successful in supporting the introduction of new healthy foods like fruits and vegetables into children and family's diets, including foods that parents and children previously disliked. This was viewed as a positive impact of the programme by parents. Sharing mealtimes with peers who are also eating different foods, was cited as a reason for children trying. The provision of fruit and vegetables to take home at the programmes (or promoted through the programme) and the cooking classes in the timetable of programmes were also factors supporting introduction of new foods.

However, whilst it had a significant impact, the provision of food was not reported to be a major factor that motivated families to attend, rather a supplementary benefit, with the opportunity to get out of the house, socialise and have something to do being much more significant factors encouraging participation. This was echoed by staff but no parents explicitly mentioned stigma associated with food provision, or any perceived benefits from co-provision of food alongside activities. However staff described current stigmatising narratives in relation to 'free food', circulating in the communities where the programmes are provided. One volunteer described increased uptake of free of charge community vegetables due to co-provision at the programme rather than through the community hub alone.

Staff have adopted a range of approaches to mitigate stigma, and promote alternative narratives around the provision of food, to encourage uptake. One example is the environmental benefit of avoiding food waste; another approach is the set-up of an un-manned market stall with recipe cards to enable people to take what they wish, and promoting free of charge food as 'encouraging a healthy diet' rather than explicitly addressing food insecurity. Such approaches appear to be successful in encouraging uptake of fruit and vegetables and breakfast and lunches.

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### **Getting out and ‘letting off steam’**

A significant impact identified by parents was that the programme encouraged families to get out of the house and get fresh air after being indoors for extended periods. Some parents described that if they weren't at the programme they would still be in their pyjamas and having the focus of attending the programme gives them a good reason to get up and out in the holidays. Another overwhelmingly significant impact is that the programmes enabled the children to 'let off steam' which tired them out, relaxing them and improving sleep. This had an added advantage of allowing the parents a break particularly the subsequent morning.

Sport was one of the most popular activities offered by the programme reported by parents and creating the opportunity to 'let off steam' and 'run about' were significant impacts of the programme. Parents suggested that a broader variety of sports activities would be appreciated. And more activities outside, including day trips.

### **Addressing financial pressures**

Some parents described that without the holiday programme children would otherwise simply not participate in these, activities. Others described how attending the holiday programme helped financially through the availability of free of charge, low cost and reduced price activities, that reduced the total expenditure that parents might otherwise have borne for these. The provision of food has also helped families financially with the cost of a healthy diet over the summer holidays.

### **Child development**

Parents cited that the programme supported children to develop over the summer holiday, particularly in terms of social development and confidence and child behaviour. Other areas of development referred to were diverse ranging from speech, potty and toilet training, sport skills and creativity. A staff member commented that it was an opportunity to support the child to be ready to go back to school. Some parents suggested that more learning activities would be an added benefit for the programme

### **Community cohesion**

An extremely wide range of community actors and resources contribute to the delivery of the programmes, as described by parents and staff, with different types of actors involved in different programmes and considerable input from volunteers in programme delivery ranging from churches, farms, supermarkets, cafes, musicians, cinemas, artists, beaches, gardens, countryside, community justice, sporting groups, volunteers and many others. Staff and volunteers expressed particular pride at the diversity of community actors involved and the way partners had worked together. Parents explained that the programmes reinforced a sense of community, 'family' and coming together, building on a sense of community pride that already existed. Parents and staff also expressed a significant impact of the programme was bringing together members of communities that might not otherwise mix including families from different areas, income levels and ages, breaking down barriers between sections of communities.

Volunteers are a major asset to the programmes, with all of the programmes having at least one volunteer, contributing a wide range of roles to support and enable the delivery of the programme. Some of the volunteers have been heavily involved in the programme, shaping its development since its inception. Volunteers had a wide range of motivations for participating in the programmes, and derived different benefits. A common theme, was the sense of being part of the community that volunteers felt from contributing. Volunteers

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explained that volunteering provided an opportunity to get out of the house, to enjoy the company of other volunteers and to see the children enjoying themselves. Some volunteers also saw volunteering as an opportunity to develop confidence, learn, strengthen their CVs and prepare for working.

At some programmes, staff described that older people were very involved in programme delivery, whilst at other programmes, volunteers expressed that there were more opportunities to integrate age groups at the programmes, for example through bringing together groups for the elderly with the programmes.

Parents expressed a desire for even greater involvement, particularly in volunteer roles. The over-riding suggestion was to simply ask and encourage parents if they would like to get more involved, suggesting an opportunity for increasing parent engagement in the programme delivery. When asked, some parents and staff felt it was difficult to get involved in the running and planning of the programme, either due to the need to supervise children, being working parents, or due to a perceived lack of skills or confidence. Other parents explained that they did feel very involved in the day to day running of the programmes through simply tidying up or helping, and they had informal input into the planning of the programmes and felt a sense of pride in the combined efforts of communities, parents and services to create a successful programme. Parents suggested, when asked directly, several ways parents could become more involved in programme planning including, informal focus groups over a meal and small working groups.

### **Wellbeing and Family relationships**

Parents commented that the programmes gave them something to look forward to. It also offers variety and breaks the week up, helping to counter or prevent boredom. Some parents also commented that it is also valuable in socialising children who are due to go to nursery. The most common word illustrated on the children's graffiti wall at Galashiels in response to 'how does coming to the programme make you feel?' was 'happy'. Parents and volunteers also expressed joy at observing the children happy.

Parents also explained that family relationships were improved through participation in the programmes for example through getting out the house, giving parents time to do something with the children, creating an opportunity to do something together as a family and improved child behaviour.

### **Connection to services and routine**

Parents commented that the closure of other 'groups' over the holiday creates a change in people's routine and the loss of places for children to go. An impact of the programme reported by parents, is that children benefitted from a routine offered by attending the programme. Parents appreciated that attending the programme enabled them to be connected to services and professional support, this was identified as a significant impact of the programme, despite not significantly featuring in previous research on challenges faced by families over the holidays or evaluations of holiday programmes, suggesting this is particularly valued aspect of the programmes in Borders. Explanations of the benefits varied but included: keeping in touch with the school and early years centre; finding out about NHS services and finding out about other community groups.

### **Childcare and working parents – an area for development**

Working was raised as a potential barrier to attendance at the programme due to parents being exhausted. However, in contrast, some parents attending were working parents and had described how they had just finished a night shift and come straight to the programme so their

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children could participate in activities, before they had to go to sleep to prepare for their next shifts. Whilst no parents suggested that childcare should be an element of the programme to facilitate working, some staff and some parents suggested that childcare, particularly of young children might be a barrier to attendance at programmes. Parents also raised that grandparents in the role of caregiver, whilst parents are working, may not be as aware of the programme, or feel it is open to them thus limiting access to the programme for children of working parents.

Staff and parents suggested that provision of a crèche or childcare within activities (e.g. the live borders sessions) at the programmes might benefit parents variously through allowing parents the chance to relax with friends; to spend time with other children also participating at the programme; to allow parents the opportunity to participate in adult learning and development.

Despite the programme not offering childcare per se, parents did express that a significant benefit of the programme was that they didn't have to worry about their children, as someone else was usually looking out for them, either a staff member, an older child, or other parent. This offered an opportunity to relax a bit, and enjoy adult conversation with other parents, offering parents respite and improving their wellbeing.

### **Availability and access to programmes**

Parents identified that families might not participate in programmes for example if they lived far from the programmes, and didn't have access transport, potentially limiting the benefits for children in families with a low income living outside the locations where the holiday programmes are offered. In addition parents highlighted that there is scope to expand holiday programmes further, although there were not strong themes arising from the comments which included increasing the frequency to more than one day (for one programme) to offering programmes in other holidays too.

### **Summary recommendations for strengthening the programmes in future years**

These recommendations are derived from the input by parents, volunteers and staff.

1. Promote holiday programmes to increase attendance by non-attending families, particularly through a Facebook strategy and posters in key locations. The benefits of programmes should be promoted in publicity materials and all caregivers should be made to feel welcome, including grandparents.
2. Expand the delivery of holiday programmes to address unmet need e.g. access for families in rural areas; families with children with additional support needs; families in areas where programmes are infrequent and older children.
3. Support the promotion and development of alternative community based activities over holidays to address unmet need for affordable holiday activities and reduce reliance on holiday programmes.
4. Promote and provide healthy food and activities alongside one another, to meet family needs and to support families to address food insecurity with dignity whilst promoting healthy diets and reducing food waste.
5. Adapt local programmes to address the needs identified by parents including making all activities accessible to girls and boys, addressing the gender preferences towards particular activities; expanding the range of physical activities offered; increasing fun learning activities.

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6. Continue to work closely with, and make use of, community assets in the delivery of programmes including older people and parents and family friends with particular skills. Through the programmes, seek to connect communities to services and resources in their communities.
7. Promote parent involvement in holiday programmes including day to day helping, volunteering and planning.
8. Review the benefits and disbenefits of providing a crèche/childcare to support adult learning, time with older children and as an opportunity to support parents to work.

# **Qualitative evaluation of the Summer Holiday Programmes in the Scottish Borders Summer 2019**

## **Introduction**

During the summer of 2019, in collaboration with families attending the four Borders Summer Holiday Programmes and volunteers and staff, a qualitative evaluation of these holiday programmes was undertaken.

This report presents the feedback from programme participants, volunteers and staff, highlighting the many positive impacts of the programmes and also offering suggestions for strengthening programmes further.

## **Aims and Objectives**

The qualitative evaluation was commissioned to understand the value of four summer holiday programme's for Borders families, and, to identify areas for improvement and development, as identified by families, volunteers, children and staff involved in the holiday programmes specifically to:

1. Develop an understanding how the holiday programmes have impacted children, parents, families and volunteers in the Borders.
2. Develop an understanding of why some families do not participate in the holiday programmes.
3. Use an asset-based, participatory-engagement approach to service improvement through engaging families in identifying areas for development of the programmes; understanding views on current and potential for parental involvement in programme planning and delivery; identifying available community assets.

## **Overview of the Holiday programmes in the Scottish Borders**

In the Scottish Borders Summer holiday programmes have developed over time in the Galashiels, Selkirk, Eyemouth and Hawick through collaborations with the Scottish Borders Council (SBC) Community Learning and Development (CLD) team and the NHS/SBC Healthy Living Network (HLN), and a diverse range of community actors to address the need for food and enriching activities for children up to age 8, from low-income families in the summer holidays.

The programmes share some similarities including similar ethos, staff input from SBC and for some programmes Public Health, inclusion of enriching and physical activities and food and healthy diet components, and work together to share learning. However, they are diverse in the frequency and hours of operation and content of programmes, each of which has developed with the intention of addressing local needs.

## **Background to the programmes**

Evidence describes how children from low-income families are often unable to participate in enriching activities and experience food insecurity and sub-optimal diet over the summer holidays<sup>1</sup>. A complex interplay of factors including low income, welfare cuts, family food insecurity, lack of free school meals and inadequate childcare are all identified as contributory factors. The Poverty and Inequality Commission (2018) identified a wide range of additional challenges faced by families on a low income over the holidays. These challenges contribute to inequalities in the health and wellbeing and educational outcomes for children from families with a low income due to malnourishment, social isolation and physical inactivity.

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<sup>1</sup> Stewart, H., Watson, N. and Campbell, M. (2018).



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### **Findings from Poverty and Inequality Commission (2018) – Advice on poverty in school holidays**

- Holidays can contribute to financial pressures, including food costs, fuel costs, costs for activities or transport.
- Food insecurity over holidays can result in children having inadequate food or parents going without to provide for their children.
- Cost and availability and reliability of transport are a barrier to accessing activities and a lack of suitable places for children to play.
- Lengthy holidays can contribute to family conflict
- Over holidays parents may struggle to get a break.
- Children may struggle with the absence of routine.
- Holiday times can create particular challenges for lone parents, parents of children with additional needs and parents with mental health problems.
- Closure of nurseries, play groups and other services can reduce play opportunities, exacerbate social isolation and increase parenting stresses.
- Parents find it is not affordable to work due to the cost of childcare over the holiday
- Social isolation can affect both parents and children over the summer, exacerbated by the stopping of other activities over the summer holiday
- Difficulties feeding extra children, or concern about the home are barriers to friends coming over.
- Lack of provision for high school age young people.
- Vulnerability of children at risk of abuse and neglect may increase during holiday periods
- There could be delays in concerns being identified by statutory agencies.

A recent report to the UK Government by All Parliamentary Inquiry into Hunger in the United Kingdom (2018) recommended the UK government to eradicate holiday hunger by enacting a statutory requirement for local authorities to implement food and fun programmes over the holidays. In Scotland the Poverty and Inequality Commission (2018) report on advice for the Scottish government on addressing poverty in school holidays recommended the development of a coordinated package of school holiday support to address pressures experienced by families with low income, with nutritious food as a core element.

There is no mandatory obligation to provide school holiday programmes in UK, including Scotland, however, the Scottish Government has committed to developing a new strategic framework for after school and holiday childcare before the end of this parliament and has made some funding available in recent years<sup>2</sup>. The Scottish Borders communities supported by CLD, HLN and others are demonstrating leadership in addressing the needs of low income families over the summer holidays through provision of holiday programmes.

There is limited good quality research on the impact of holiday programmes making it difficult to decide how best to implement holiday programmes that address these needs. This evaluation seeks to understand at a local level how the programmes are addressing needs, and how they can be strengthened to meet families needs further.

### **Methods**

Semi-structured interviews and a graffiti wall were used to obtain the views of parents, volunteers and children attending the holiday programmes. A staff focus group was undertaken with CLD and HLN staff. 26 parents were interviewed, 6 volunteers and 7 staff participated in the focus group.

The aim of the research was to seek to identify the impact on families as expressed by parents, rooted in their own experience of the programme. This contrasts with research which aims to

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<sup>2</sup> Poverty and Inequality Commission (2018)

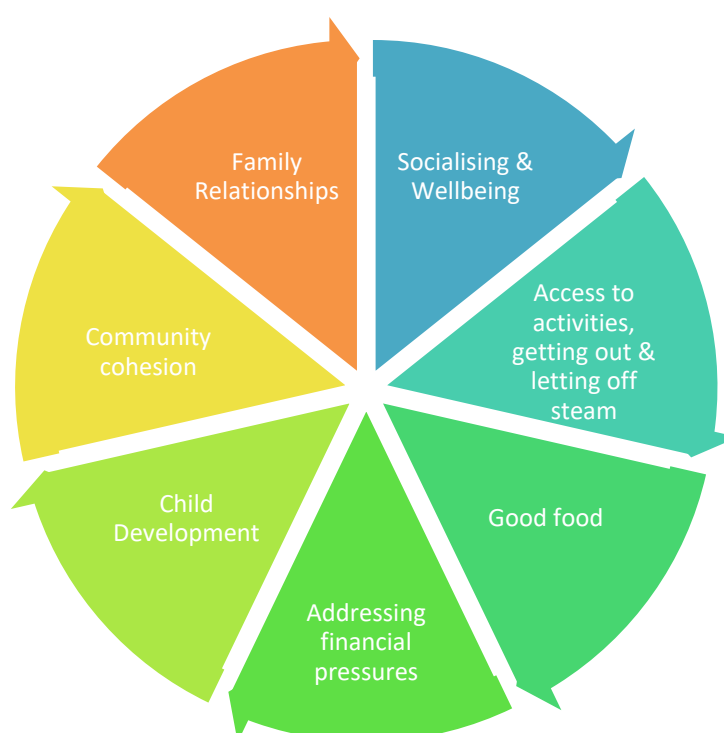
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explore the experience and impact in relation to certain public health or learning objectives or outcomes of the programme e.g. health, wellbeing, diet, physical activity. To achieve this, grounded theory was used as a method of inquiry. This means that research was undertaken without reference to any preconceived notions of the types of impact the programme might have rather the ‘impacts’ emerged from the responses elicited from evaluation participants, and were themed by thematic analysis of these responses.

An initial familiarisation visit to the Galashiels programme was undertaken and staff and volunteers consulted to understand the nature of the programme and the opportunities to discuss the programme with the parents.

### Findings

The programme has a wide range of significant impacts for families, as described by parents, children, staff and volunteers. The themes arising from the evaluation relate to:



The most widely recognised impacts are summarised in the table below, by theme. These are explored more fully in this section of the report.

| <b>Theme</b>                          | <b>Impact</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Socialising and Wellbeing             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children can interact and mix with their friends and new children</li> <li>• Children play, are stimulated and are happy</li> <li>• Improved child and parent mood</li> <li>• Parents have an opportunity to relax and have adult time</li> <li>• Parents benefit from peer support</li> <li>• Reduced social isolation and improved mental health, confidence amongst parents</li> </ul> |
| Access to Activities, getting out and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children are introduced to new activities they can enjoy</li> <li>• Children are physically active</li> <li>• Children let off steam</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| letting off steam              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children are tired out and sleep well</li> <li>• Activities offer good value for money</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Good Food                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have a healthy diet and are well fed</li> <li>• Children and families can try and enjoy new (healthy) foods</li> <li>• Food offers good value for money</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                             |
| Addressing financial pressures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial burden of the summer holiday is reduced</li> <li>• Children can participate in activities that would be otherwise unaffordable</li> <li>• Reduced inequalities in access to healthy food and activities</li> </ul>                                                                                            |
| Child Development              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helps children develop a range of skills</li> <li>• Helps children increase confidence and social skills</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Community Cohesion             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities mix and work together</li> <li>• Volunteers and community contribute to community development</li> <li>• Volunteers and parents develop skills and capabilities</li> <li>• Volunteer connectedness and satisfaction</li> <li>• Community cohesion and resilience</li> <li>• Breaks down barriers</li> </ul> |
| Family Relationships           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and families enjoy time together</li> <li>• Families are connected to services and can access support</li> <li>• Family relationships and family skills are strengthened</li> </ul>                                                                                                                            |

A wide range of further feedback and areas for development were also provided by evaluation participants. These are summarised below, and more fully in this section of the report.

| <b><i>Theme</i></b>                                     | <b><i>Feedback and areas for development</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Socialising and Wellbeing                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The environment and staff are welcoming and friendly</li> <li>• Fear of attending and fear of cliqueness may prevent some families from attending e.g. young parents, grandparents</li> <li>• Make all families and caregivers feel welcome when promoting the programme</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Access to Activities, getting out and letting off steam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There's lots of variety</li> <li>• It is greatly valued</li> <li>• There are no other alternative (and affordable) activities in the areas where programmes are available</li> <li>• Sports, crafts, messy activities are the favourites!</li> <li>• Lack of awareness may prevent families from attending</li> <li>• Lack of awareness of timetables may result in children missing activities available</li> <li>• Promote on Facebook and posters using photos of families enjoying the programmes</li> <li>• Needs of older children are less well met by the programme</li> <li>• Girls and boys prefer different activities. There is scope to make craft more accessible to boys and sport more accessible to girls.</li> <li>• More consideration of the needs of different age groups would be valued e.g. different activities or adapted activities for younger children</li> <li>• The needs of children with special needs are not always met by the programme</li> <li>• Smaller groups may be better for children with special needs</li> <li>• There are a wide range of community assets and additional sports that could be utilised/offered by the programme</li> </ul> |

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|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good location and being local makes the programmes accessible</li> <li>• Lack of transport/ local access may prevent children who would benefit from attending (i.e. living further away, at different schools). Transport could help.</li> <li>• It would be good to have it more days</li> <li>• It would be good to have it in other holidays</li> <li>• Sometimes it is too busy, this may deter some people from attending</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Good Food            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The programmes are addressing stigma around free food</li> <li>• Offering food and activities together promote access to food</li> <li>• The food is greatly valued</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Child Development    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More educational activities would be useful</li> <li>• Anti-bullying could be useful before returning to school</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Community cohesion   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents are keen to be more involved in the planning of future holiday programmes</li> <li>• Parents are open to volunteering to help with the day to day running of programmes and volunteering</li> <li>• Parents could be encouraged to help with simple things like tidying up</li> <li>• Parents welcome the opportunity to be approached to help/participate</li> <li>• There are barriers and challenges around parents volunteering/ assisting e.g. responsibility for the care of their own children attending the programme, working etc.</li> <li>• It would be good to include intergenerational activities</li> </ul> |
| Family Relationships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A crèche would help free up parents for adult learning</li> <li>• A crèche would give parents time for themselves</li> <li>• A crèche would help parents participate with their older children rather than caring for their young children</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**Socialising and wellbeing**

Overwhelmingly, the opportunity to socialise and play were a major motivation for families attending the programmes and were identified as a significant impact of the programmes by parents. Parents described that the programme offered the opportunity for children to socialise with existing friends, make new friends, and meet new people from outside their communities, contributing to social development and confidence.

'It helps them to get out and interact and they come for socialising with kids around their age' (Parent)

'It helps my daughter to socialise – she can have friends to play with' (Parent)

'We live in a small cul de sac, there's nothing much else around us. The kids are mixing with other types of kids from other areas. My daughter loves it. We'd never go to anyone else's and play with other kids....' (Parent)

Parents also overwhelmingly described that the holiday programmes also offered parents an opportunity to socialise, meet new people, enjoy 'adult conversation' and benefit from informal social support from peers.

'It's fun to converse with adults other than my girlfriend. Here, we have a common interest already.' (Parent)

'You can speak to people and have adult conversations' (Parent)

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'I've enjoyed having a coffee, meeting new parents, socialising. Some people I've met before but you also meet people you wouldn't normally meet.' (Parent)

'I've made quite a few new friends out of it. I feel like I could go to anyone for support. I feel very welcomed which is great.' (Parent)

'If you're having a low day you can speak to a member of staff or other parent' (Parent)

Parents described this reduced their social isolation and loneliness, particularly those who didn't live in the immediate area or were new to the area, demonstrating the role of the programmes in addressing social isolation in the Borders.

'We're new to the community, just moved here ten weeks ago. We didn't know anyone with young kids before. It's great for the kids to socialise and also great for the parents.' (Parent)

'It helps with loneliness. Especially if you've not got a lot of family involved'. (Parent)

'X is X's support worker, she said why don't you come along as I'm very isolated where we are and it's been really good for that and we go to baby club after. It's really welcoming it feels like a real family.... I've been down here a year now, trying to find my feet and social networks. It's being difficult really – to make friends.'

'A parent been living in langlee for a year and she didn't know anyone. I saw her later sitting with others at the indoor picnic, and children playing together. She was smiling and happy' (CLD staff member)

Some parents without significant family support and parents with mental health problems or with low confidence described that the programme had helped them with these challenges, variously giving them confidence, motivation and support, explaining that without it they felt that they would be worse off. Parents and staff also commented that some parents who had previously been considered isolated within their communities had found friends and a support network through attending the programme.

'I am more confident in myself - being around other people and sharing experiences... I'm just glad it was on – otherwise my depression would have come back. I'm happy.' (Parent /Volunteer)

'I suffer from anxiety and depression. This is a big thing. We did it... It's been massive, getting out the house. I've learned how to control my anxiety. I've enjoyed the adult conversation.' (Parent)

'I've got a bit more confidence and a sense of community. Being here, with everyone else, seeing people you wouldn't have spoken to... This is good for mental health and it's motivating.' (Parent)

'Confidence is definitely an impact. Parents are trying drama or trying a new food for the first time. It's given some parents the confidence to speak in public... Before long we had a circle, introducing themselves. Some of the older women were saying I would never speak in front of people, it's nice to do.' (CLD Staff member)

Attitudes towards the accessibility for children with additional needs varied. Only a couple of parents mentioned explicitly that their children had additional support needs. Some staff and volunteers saw there were significant benefits for children with additional support needs of attending the programme.

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'He has X. This is a safe place for him. He likes sensory and there are sensory things for him to do. It could be better.' (Parent of child with additional needs)

'My grandchildren are older – I wish I'd known about it. My grandson has autism; it would have been great for him.' (Volunteer)

'Families who have children who have additional support needs... Some of the families that I've been working with are terrified of holidays and what they're going to do with parents during that time. (CLD Staff member)

One parent described the programme as a safe place for children with sensory needs but they, and other parents said that more could be done to make the programme accessible and promoted to children with additional support needs.

'I'd like more sensory activities' (Parent of child with additional needs)

'Smaller groups would allow easier socialising [mentioned her son had ADHD and is better in smaller groups]' (Same Parent of child with additional needs)

'What about kids with disabilities? I know there is a special needs department at the school' (Parent)

'It's good the school's involved. It is 'all inclusive', it's a special needs unit – although we don't do much on this.' (Parent/Volunteer)

Some parents and staff mentioned that concerns about child's behaviour in particular might be a barrier to attendance.

'Something with children with additional support needs is missing. They were worried about going along to something like this, because they were worried about other parents judging the parenting skills... it's something to work on for future years' (CLD Staff member)

'It could be embarrassed about their kid's behaviour. Let them know it's alright if your bairn doesn't behave.' (Parent/Volunteer)

Parents overwhelmingly described the environment at programmes as friendly and welcoming by both parents and staff however they suggested that some parents might be intimidated or lack confidence to attend alone and fear of 'cliqueness' and 'bitchiness' could deter attendance, reflecting on their own experiences of joining new groups. Parents consistently suggested using photos of children and parents enjoying activities on facebook and posters to show non-attending parents what the activities are like and encourage attendance.

'I'm able to speak to people. I'm always worried about being judged. Here you fit in straight away. Everyone's understanding, parents and workers. And the kids are so friendly.' (Parent)

'She's come from a long way and worried it would be cliquey as they don't know her. She's making an effort.' (Parent)

'It took me a year to go to baby group. You have an idea that it's going to be judging, older mums, cliquey, I'm not going to fit in.' (Parent)

'Bitchiness... cliqueness can stop people coming along I ignore it, I laugh it off.' (Parent)

'If people see the children in the playground, if we took more photos and posted them every week then they would (know what it's like).' (Parent)

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'...Working with the vulnerable families – I'd like to be more strategic about building them up to attending.' (CLD Staff member)

One reason that parent's might be discouraged from attending was how busy the programmes are.

'Some folk don't like the crowdedness' (Parent)

'I like it like this – when its not overly busy.' (Parent)

'It can be too busy – especially when it is sunny' (Parent)

### **Access to activities**

Parents were not explicitly asked about the barriers their families faced in accessing enriching activities for the children, but described a range of barriers to their children participating in other activities over the summer including the cumulative cost of summer holiday activities, lack of availability of affordable activities locally, being working parents or single parents and having limited family support, having a low income, limited transport and the closure of several regular groups over summer holidays. Parents highlighted that the close proximity and low cost of activities in the programmes addressed these barriers and were key reasons supporting participation.

'I'm a single parent – there's nothing else to do. It gives them something to do.' (Parent)

'I can't find any sports for them to do – nothing else in the summer holidays...I was running out of ideas and put up on facebook asking if anyone had any ideas...' (Parent)

'We come to meet new people, get out... and there is a not a lot to do over the summer.' (Parent)

'It's an outlet for the children. They do kids things – some don't have that, like craft.' (Volunteers)

'My kids go to rugby, football. Other kids don't have access – this is breaking down the barriers' (Parent)

'They're involved in extra-curricular activities, which not lots of people can afford 'cause its bloody expensive.' (Parent Group)

Parents indicated that a significant impact of the programme was that attending holiday programmes gave children something to do. The programmes enabled them to get out of the house over the summer holidays, reducing boredom, introducing children to new sports and creative activities. They also helped families to participate in activities that they would not necessarily be able to do at home such as cooking (due to small kitchen size). Sport, craft and outdoor activities were particular valued and often, but not always, preferences were expressed along gender lines. Staff and parents reported that parents appreciated the messy activities.

'He enjoys painting and wotnot, activities, being amongst his friends. He's' loved all the sports and painting, he's more of an outdoors kids.' (Parent group)

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My daughter likes the craft but the boys don't get into the craft as much. They like physical stuff like building bricks, building things and ride on toys. (Parent)

My older daughter loved the tie dye and everything crafty. She's not so keen on the sport, but she's joined in and done her bit. It's great if they don't want to take part (staff) – they'll find something else for her to do (Parent)

'They like playing and getting messy. I have OCD and at home she's not allowed to do it – here she can do it all' (Parent)

'It was really messy. I don't care what parents say... having that space to be able to do that without the fear of mess is great.' (CLD Staff member)

A couple of parents highlighted the lack of activities for older children as an issue and others identified that age-group specific/sensitive activities might encourage greater participation.

'There should be more opportunities for teenagers – there is not something for them to do here. I've got 3 nephews with ADHD – there's nothing in the community. They are stuck in the house with not enough activities for their day and they get into trouble.' (Parent/Volunteer)

'The activities are focused on all ages so things are focused broadly. Activities suitable for the age groups would be good.' (Parent)

'The basketball is a bit big - better to do something for young kids' (Parent)

### **Good food**

Parents cited that the provision of food and in particular healthy and low cost (or free of charge) food was a particularly significant impact of the programme and that children and families have enjoyed sharing food together.

'There is free food, healthy food not bad food' (Parent)

'The children can play, socialise, enjoy food and eat something decent' (Parent)

'The vegetables at the front door are great. Taking pack lunches away is amazing.' (Parent)

'Love the breakfast and sitting with friends and eating. Have a sense of being together.' (Parent)

'A significant proportion (of families) don't have tables, so would not eat at a table or the food. It was amazing.' (CLD Staff Member)

'It's nice to see the helpers help set up the table... and teaching parents to cook with the children, seeing everyone getting involved. Seeing everyone together and sharing the same food. And everyone eating...' (Community food worker)

Parents and staff highlighted that the programme has also been successful in supporting the introduction of new healthy foods like fruits and vegetables into children and family's diets, including foods that parents and children previously disliked. This was viewed as a positive impact of the programme by parents. Sharing mealtimes with peers, who are also eating different foods, was cited as a reason for children trying. The provision of fruit and vegetables to take home at the programmes (or promoted through the programme) and the cooking classes in the timetable of programmes were also factors supporting introduction of new foods.



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'She's a lot better eating fruit and trying new things – everyone else is eating it so she does (Parent/Volunteer)'

'Knowing that she eats certain things, and tries different things.' (Parent – in response to a question on the impact of the programme)

'X (cafe) came in once a week. They cooked a hot meal and got the kids involved with the chopping and the cooking... One week they made a pasta with big chunks of sweet potato. Parents were saying I can't believe that my child has just eaten big chunks of sweet potato and mushroom.' (HLN staff member)

'The children will eat what's there. Parents will often to say they wouldn't eat this back home. Being with peers encourages them to eat different things' (Community food workers)

'We had bought fresh pineapples to make a summer fruit crush. I said, pineapples are really cheap at the moment, they're 75p and you can get so much fruit. One of the mums said I hate pineapple I can't stand it. She tried the fresh pineapple... she said it was so nice. They're learning to eat different things with children, and these are things they thought they didn't like' (Community food workers)

However, whilst it had a significant impact, the provision of food was not reported to be a major factor that motivated families to attend, rather a supplementary benefit, with the opportunity to get out of the house, socialise and have something to do being much more significant factors encouraging participation. This was echoed by staff but no parents explicitly mentioned stigma associated with food provision, or any perceived benefits from co-provision of food alongside activities. However staff described current stigmatising narratives in relation to 'free food', circulating in the communities where the programmes are held and one volunteer described increased uptake of free of charge community vegetables due to co-provision at the programme rather than through the community hub alone.

'The parish church were doing the food – breakfast and lunches. I knew people would come for the food but the reason they said they came back was because it was really good fun. (CLD staff member)

'A partner put on a free lunch. With the activities, the food is secondary.' (HLN staff member)

Staff have adopted a range of approaches to mitigate stigma, and promote alternative narratives around the provision of food, to encourage uptake. One example is the environmental benefit of avoiding food waste. Another approach is the set-up of an un-manned market stall with recipe cards to enable people to take what they wish, and promoting free of charge food as 'encouraging a healthy diet' rather than explicitly addressing food insecurity. Such approaches appear to be successful in encouraging uptake of fruit and vegetables and breakfast and lunches.

'In X there's quite a lot of stigma around free food. Very mixed feelings in the town about where food is on offer. A lot of parents are commenting on that's maybe for 'targeted' families. We had to work to say it's about food waste reduction....it's about saving it from landfill. When we are doing cooking activities with families, playing down from the aspect that it was about food poverty.' (HLN Staff member)

'We ran a market stall – all fresh vegetables that folk take away. We really encourage others to take away to encourage healthy eating.' (HLN staff member)

### **Getting out and 'letting off steam'**

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A significant impact identified by parents was that the programme encouraged families to get out of the house and get fresh air after being indoors for extended periods. Some parents described that if they weren't at the programme they would still be in their pyjamas and having the focus of attending the programme gives them a good reason to get up and out in the holidays.

'It is getting us out of the house, interacting with other kids.' (Parent)

'We're getting fresh air and breathing outside' (Parent)

'Overall it's good; you enjoy looking forward to it after you've been in the house all week...' (Parent)

'It's had a good impact on us and other families like us who would otherwise be in their jammies.' (Parent)

Another overwhelmingly significant impact is that the programmes enabled the children to 'let off steam' which tired them out, relaxing them and improving sleep. This had an added advantage of allowing the parents a break particularly the subsequent morning.

'It's some time for them to blow off some steam. But I'm busy with the baby.' (Parent)

'He's more relaxed – goes for a sleep.' (Parent)

'It's helped him a lot – we're out for hours, it tires him out.' (Parent)

'It is good for me because of her burning off steam' (Parent)

'It lets me lie in on a Friday morning ('cause they're asleep)' (Parent Group)

'The kids are sleeping at night, the kids are tired... a massive thing to happen in the summer break... to have the knowledge your child is going to go to bed at night.' (CLD Staff member)

Sport was one of the most popular activities offered by the programme reported by parents and creating the opportunity to 'let off steam' and 'run about' were significant impacts of the programme. Parents suggested that a broader variety of sports activities would be appreciated.

'Every week it's Live Borders' ? (Parent)

'My son likes football, he plays in Eyemouth. There is no football in the programme.' (Parent)

'Gymnastics/sports for free – at smaller cost. In Peebles and Gala its £25 a day for kids to do gymnastics... Something like a sports day for a day. Folk could do it.' (Parent)

'...football, gymnastics, dance class, taekwondo, boxing' (Parent group)

'A swimming thing would be good, for a swimming lesson' (Parent)

'Athletics, that kind of thing? Touch rugby? I don't know about the rules these days though.' (Parent)

And more activities outside, including day trips.

'Going outside – they could do parachutes or rounders in a big field.' (Parent)

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'More days out/trips. Even if we had to pay its still an option – not expecting everything to be free. For example Harestanes or something like that.' (Parent)

'Multi-courts. There's a brand new play park – you can lock the kids in. There are lots of walks – but don't know what the staffing is like to do that.' (Parent)

'One or two day trips to a park – something for them to enjoy' (Parent)

### **Addressing financial pressures**

Some parents described that without the holiday programme children would otherwise simply not participate in these, activities. Others described how attending the holiday programme helped financially through the availability of free of charge, low cost and reduced price activities, that reduced the total expenditure that parents might otherwise have borne for these.

'I was thinking is there anything that you don't have to pay for because I don't have any loose change. I was really hoping that when I came today you don't have to pay as I literally have no money today.' (Parent)

'There's a deal going with the swimming pool – that's good. If you've got 3-4 kids that's good. Even 50% off the inflatable's.' (Parent)

'It is a chance to spend time with the kids. We do that with them anyway but it keeps them going through the holiday. Its hard (in the holiday) as a parent. You have to spend money all the time – doing lots of activities...' (Parent)

'It's free and easy to get to – it is good for poor people' (Parent)

And the provision of food has helped families financially with the cost of a healthy diet over the summer holidays

'Not everyone has money for holidays, like parents struggling with money... the lunches are good for people not working' (Parent)

Sandwiches and fruits are good. With four or more, it costs more food wise in the holidays.' (Eyemouth Parent 3)

'The amount of food we had donated... parents were really able to benefit from the free lunches. Even parents that are a bit better off compared to other families still said it helped.' (HLN staff member)

'It became their main meal and then they just had to do 'lunches' for tea. It was a massive financial draw.' (CLD staff member)

'One parent said that they saved around £30 per week through getting breakfast and lunch with four kids – a real bonus for them.' (CLD staff member)

'We can provide breakfast and lunch. Parents/carers make lunch together. Abundant Borders is part of it. Oblo have been helping make lunches on a Tuesday. To feed a family, large families, is expensive. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday lunch is provided. Food is a big part.' (Volunteer)

### **Child development**

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Parents cited that the programme supported children to develop over the summer holiday, particularly in terms of social development and confidence and child behaviour. Other areas of development referred to were diverse ranging from speech, potty and toilet training, sport skills and creativity. A staff member commented that it was an opportunity to support the child to be ready to go back to school.

'It's brought them out of their shells – usually they don't bother playing with other kids, now they get stuck in' (Parent)

'It's made us better – something we look forward to, she's a lot more confident. She used to be more reserved.' (Parent)

'She's got more confidence. It's brought her on. I've been told she's advanced for her age.' (Parent/Volunteer)

'My daughter has been slow with her speech. It's bringing on her speech, interacting with other kids.' (Parent)

'One child had got so much out of drama... I've referred her to a local group... there are things to do about the funding. I noticed a key thing was how she was interacting This was a child who was not communicating at the beginning. The forum of drama was enabling her to communicate with others.' (CLD Staff member)

An opportunity to keep the brain active, so that you come in after the six weeks holiday so your brain is ready to learn.' (CLD Staff member)

Some parents suggested that more learning activities would be an added benefit for the programme

'Homework club – would be handy for the parents.' (Parent)

'We've started to use the book club at the other group... More for older children not toddlers. Fun education – science experiment.' (Parent)

'Anti-bullying, especially when going back to school' (Parent Group)

### **Community cohesion**

An extremely wide range of community actors and resources contribute to the delivery of the programmes, as described by parents and staff, with different types of actors involved in different programmes and considerable input from volunteers in programme delivery ranging from churches, farms, supermarkets, cafes, musicians, cinemas, artists, beaches, gardens, countryside, community justice, sporting groups, volunteers and many others.

Staff and volunteers expressed particular pride at the diversity of community actors involved and the way partners had worked together. Parents explained that the programmes reinforced a sense of community, 'family' and coming together, building on a sense of community pride that already existed.

'I appreciate it's not the best area, it's got a reputation, but there's nothing wrong with this place. I couldn't ask for a better place. This (the programme) has just topped it off.' (Parent)

'I'm grateful our community came together and helped us and let us be part of the summer programme' (Parent)

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'It is a community thing – I meet people here and then I can stop and have a conversation in the street, a blether not just nod and say hello...It brings the community together... it's so valuable, good what folks have done.' (Parent/Volunteer)

'A highlight was how each partner agencies worked together' (CLD Staff member)

When asked directly, parents, volunteers and staff identified some opportunities to engage more community actors and assets in programme delivery, most of which were sporting and outdoors resources described above and in detail in Appendix 2.

Parents and staff also expressed a significant impact of the programme was bringing together members of communities that might not otherwise mix including families from different areas, income levels and ages, breaking down barriers between sections of communities.

'It's good for community – it brings together people from across the town.... Last year it was just X, now from all town. They see others from other schools.' (Parent Group)

'It is not stereotypical – all types of parents come.' (Parent)

The other highlight I would say is that all the church volunteers and a significant proportion of attending parents... each group commented on how the preconceptions of the other group had been absolutely destroyed. They were saying 'What a wonderful bunch of people. What a great vibe.' (CLD Staff member)

'There is a wide mixture of activities and wide range of people coming – single parents, families, grandparents, and friends. People don't know each other, and people come from outside... Parents from PTA are involved as participants so it is a really good mix. It is really good this year.' (Volunteer)

Volunteers are a major asset to the programmes, with all of the programmes having at least one volunteer, contributing a wide range of roles to support and enable the delivery of the programme. Some of the volunteers have been heavily involved in the programme, shaping its development since its inception. Volunteers had a wide range of motivations for participating in the programmes, and derived different benefits. A common theme, was the sense of being part of the community that volunteers felt from contributing. Volunteers explained that volunteering provided an opportunity to get out of the house, to enjoy the company of other volunteers and to see the children enjoying themselves. Some volunteers also saw volunteering as an opportunity to develop confidence, learn, strengthen their CVs and prepare for working.

'I am more confident in myself- being around other people and sharing experiences.... it has got me back into the working role to build up CV for when I do go back' (Parent/Volunteer)

'The volunteers feel very valued by the local community... they were instrumental in the beginning. They see this every year now and they are chuffed. They can see this is something that they did.' (HLN Staff member)

'I like working with kids, I get a lot out of it, see what's going on....I like getting involved with the community.' (Volunteer)

'Sense of community... [community] is worth it... company... to get out of the house' (Volunteers)

## **Qualitative evaluation of the Summer Holiday Programmes in the Scottish Borders Summer 2019**

'It is good being with [other volunteers] and put something back in the community and learning stuff.' (Volunteer)

'It has rewards – I can see the children thrive, have fun doing outside activities, and community based.' (Volunteer/ also a staff member)

At some programmes, staff described that older people were very involved in programmes delivery, whilst at other programmes, volunteers expressed that there were more opportunities to integrate age groups at the programmes through for example bringing together groups for the elderly with the programmes.

'It's good for me, especially at my age, getting older... I think some of the children like someone like a grandmother.' (Volunteer)

'All of the café volunteers were older. We have photos of every single one of them holding a baby. Mums were like 'brilliant' and off they went.' (CLD Staff member)

'There is a volunteer group with the elderly. [It would be good to have] a group with the elderly to mingle with the kids. It's difficult to persuade them to come in. Some of the elderly don't have families.' (Parent/Volunteer)

Parents expressed a desire for even greater involvement, particularly in volunteer roles. The over-riding suggestion was to simply ask and encourage parents if they would like to get more involved, suggesting an opportunity for increasing parent engagement in the programme delivery.

'I didn't know about the volunteering. I didn't know I could help. There is nothing to say come and help. If it wasn't for them saying 'would you like to 'and you can bring your child... [I wouldn't be a volunteer].' (Parent)

'Perhaps parents could pick a day to do something like the drinks or food – but you'd need to consider the health and safety aspect. Some things might not be viable – you need to be trained e.g. the multi-sport, even for the planning. Parents could be asked to come forward with ideas in the first week (an idea hat or idea ball?) that a professional could then take forward.' (Parent)

'There should be rules stating it is self clean. This should be explained to people.' (Parent)

'People with specific skills. But it takes a certain type of person. I couldn't do it, I'd be crippled with anxiety. Athletes, or people who have succeeded. I think parents have skills they could pass on. Ask them maybe. I'm a chef. My neighbour does army training. They could play outside - physical education is a massive part– get them outside, get them running, not getting used to sitting indoors.' (Parent)

'Some parents have no knowledge about looking after children...people think they'll get something wrong or people will look at them funny' (Volunteers)

When asked, some parents and staff felt it was difficult to get involved in the running and planning of the programme, either due to the need to supervise children, being working parents, or due to a perceived lack of skills or confidence.

'Some parents would find it hard because they work' (Parent)

'For parents with so many kids its hard.' (Parent)

## **Qualitative evaluation of the Summer Holiday Programmes in the Scottish Borders Summer 2019**

'Everyone's in their own world as a parent.' (Parent)

'I'm quite shy I wouldn't help' (Parent)

Other parents explained that they did feel very involved in the day to day running of the programmes through simply tidying up or helping, and they had informal input into the planning of the programmes and felt a sense of pride in the combined efforts of communities, parents and services to create a successful programme.

'Everyone's pretty involved people have spoken to X individually (about what they'd like included). Everyone just gets involved – pulling out tables. It's a bit of respect back, tidying up.'

'Just keep doing what you're doing. Listen to parents. The parents are asked a lot for input.'

Parents suggested, when asked directly, several ways parents could become more involved in programme planning including, informal focus groups over a meal and small working groups.

'maybe a group chat on facebook - I think people say what they think more on facebook.' (Parents)

'10 minutes in a room next year to ask parents to volunteer their ideas – think they would be interested.' (Parents)

Night time meetings? Like a curry night/pizza night? (Parents)

### **Wellbeing and Family relationships**

Parents commented that it gave them something to look forward to. It also offers variety and breaks the week up, helping to counter or prevent boredom. Some parents also commented that it is also valuable in socialising children who are due to go to nursery.

'he knows the group is on, it's something he looks forward to and breaks the week up.' (Parent)

'It's only me and her. I don't work. It's something to look forward to over the summer.' (Parent)

'I come because it is fun. She (my daughter) gets bored at home and needs constant playing with and I find this hard' (Galashiels parent 1)

'It has made them less bored – getting them together, tiring them out. Especially in the bad weather' (Hawick Parent 3)

'It's good for socialising, normally groups stop for summer – little one is going to nursery after summer. It's good for her to be around a big group.' (Parent)

The programme's makes children happy. The most common word illustrated on the children's graffiti wall at Galashiels in response to 'how does coming to the programme make you feel?' was 'happy'. Parents and volunteers also expressed joy at observing the children happy.

'It gives me the experience of seeing kids doing something they enjoy' (Parent)

'seeing my wee boy happy' Parent Group (in response to a question on what he gets out of the programme as a parent)

## **Qualitative evaluation of the Summer Holiday Programmes in the Scottish Borders Summer 2019**

'It has rewards – I can see the children thrive, have fun doing outside activities, and its community based.' (Volunteer)

Parents also explained that family relationships were improved through participation in the programmes for example through getting out the house, giving parents time to do something with the children, creating an opportunity to do something together as a family and improved child behaviour.

'They are young – I was just talking to one of their grandparents – she said that out of the home environment they are better behaved – so different in this setting. (Volunteer)

'I would say it's improved their behaviour' (Parent)

'I actually think it has brought us all closer – they understand they have to listen' (Parent)

'Me and my partner are getting along – with me not in the house constantly under his feet. It has brought us closer.' (Parent)

'As a family, we are here doing something together. Usually mum and dad would be doing something separately...or dad would be away.' (Parent)

### **Connection to services and routine**

Parents commented that the closure of other 'groups' over the holiday creates a change in people's routine and the loss of places for children to go. An impact of the programme reported by parents, is that children benefitted from a routine offered by attending the programme,

'It also gives her routine/ is the same place as the nursery.' (Parent)

'It gets us in a routine, going out to see people.' (Parent)

'Parents saying summers a really long time, and the routine just melts away over the summer.' (CLD Staff member)

'Coming to the school is positive – it is a positive environment, it gives them routine, it is familiar, it makes them think of coming to school in a positive way' (Parent)

Parent's appreciated that attending the programme enabled them to be connected to services and professional support, this was identified as a significant impact of the programme, despite not significantly featuring in previous research on challenges faced by families over the holidays or evaluations of holiday programmes, suggesting this is particularly valued aspect of the programmes in Borders. Explanations of the benefits varied but included: keeping in touch with the school and early years centre; finding out about NHS services and finding out about other community groups.

'Helps them know what is going on in the early years (centre).' (Parent)

'Seeing teachers is a better relationship. Its beneficial.' (Parent)

'Childsmile – has been good for parents - It has given them more knowledge of what they didn't know. Sometimes they come to school, but the kids don't pass this on.' (Parent Group)

I've found out (at the programme) about the redbull cafe – twice a month – so I can go and meet people there too. (Parent Group)



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'There are quite a few groups like cooking on a budget – I'm going to go along to them. X's going to keep me in the loop.' (Parent Group)

'From a professional school point of view, it helps to keep in contact over the summer, and they can talk to you about issues – provides a support service. I can have a relationship (with the children) not a break where I don't see them, so I am up to date.' (Volunteer/also a staff member)

### **Childcare and working parents – an area for development**

Working was raised as a potential barrier to attendance at the programme due to parents being exhausted. However, in contrast, some parents attending were working parents and had described how they had just finished a night shift and come straight to the programme so their children could participate in activities, before they had to go to sleep to prepare for their next shifts.

'Both my partner and I are working it is good to come up to the school - I've been working since 5am' (Parent)

'It's focussed on families on the dole, but there are also families on low income- families that are working. A packed lunch is good.... I've just come off a night shift and come straight here. My wife works until one so when I go home I'll have a rest and be back to work tonight.' (Parent)

Whilst no parents suggested that childcare should be an element of the programme to facilitate working, some staff and some parents suggested that childcare, particularly of young children might be a barrier to attendance at programmes. Parents also raised that grandparents in the role of caregiver, whilst parents are working, may not be as aware of the programme, or feel it is open to them thus limiting access to the programme for children of working parents.

'I tried to contact some families at the early years centre. Spoke to some people who didn't come. About 3 families. Their views were the ages of children – had very young babies. One had just had a baby. Would be too much to try to get to the programmes and manage everything. One mum spoke about she didn't have the confidence to come with the different ages.' (HLN Staff member)

'Maybe more than 1 child makes it hard to get out.' (Parent)

Staff and parents suggested that provision of a crèche or childcare within activities (e.g. the live borders sessions) at the programmes might benefit parents variously through allowing parents the chance to relax with friends; to spend time with other children also participating at the programme; to allow parents the opportunity to participate in adult learning and development.

'Crèche for part of the sessions especially for the younger ones – so we can play with the older ones. Can be a bit of a problem, Especially when you can't get involved. -just a little part of the session.' (Parent)

'its a great thing for the kids. Should do a crèche to give the adults a quick half hour to themselves.' (Parent)

'Its some time for them to blow off some steam. But I'm busy with the baby.'

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'If there were a crèche in place, the opportunities would be limitless. Crèche could happen whilst parents are getting accreditation... not detracting or taking away from what is already in existence... allowing adult learning to happen.' (CLD Staff member)

'Live borders were really keen for the child to be left. That left some parents hanging around – what do they do? We provided a space for them to use. There's potential to do a range of different things in a big chunk of time.' (HLN Staff member)

Despite the programme not offering childcare per se, parents did express that a significant benefit of the programme was that they didn't have to worry about their children, as someone else was usually looking out for them, either a staff member, an older child, or other parent. This offered an opportunity to relax a bit, and enjoy adult conversation with other parents, offering parents respite and improving their wellbeing.

'It gives us a break. It's somebody else's problem – the older kids look after him so we don't worry about him so much.' (Parent)

'Everyone looks out for each other. If you lose your kids (at the programme) someone else looks out for them.' (Parent)

'It gives my 5 minutes to myself even to feed the baby' (Parent)

### **Availability and access to programmes**

Parents identified that families might not participate in programmes for example if they lived far from the programmes, and didn't have access transport, potentially limiting the benefits for children in families with a low income living outside the locations where the holiday programmes are offered.

'Previously I couldn't afford bus travel previously as we were on benefits. This is an issue. If you can't afford to get there it is sad because there are lots of opportunities. Now I can afford it as my husband has a job.' (Parent)

'My area has nothing whatsoever for us. Thankfully I can drive.' (Parent)

'I know some people will like to be picked up and dropped off.' (CLD Staff member)

In addition to expanding geographical reach, parents highlighted that there is scope to expand holiday programmes further, although there were not strong themes arising from the comments which included increasing the frequency to more than one day (for one programme) to offering programmes in other holidays too.

'More than 1 day would be good. You don't get play groups these days. Been good that it's been every week.' (Parent)

'thank you – it would be good if it was on in October too.' (Parent)

'There is no programme in Easter, so you are not going anywhere, and it is raining.' (Parent)

### **Programmes are greatly valued**

With parents commenting on the good staff, friendly atmosphere, all the toys, the locations and the variety of activities.

The activities we do I thought it was amazing and the food, especially for free. (Parent)

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'You can come with your child, there's so much to do. Everything is here for you... Its been so good' (Parent)

'It is really really good. A lot better than I thought it would be. I didn't expect all the snacks.' (Parent)

'Its wonderful. Everyone is friendly. Enjoyed the food and the company. Its been really enjoyable.' (Parent)

'It's really good, a lot of work goes into it.' (Volunteer)

### **Discussion**

Whilst there is a body of research on the 'costs' of the summer holidays for low income family, there is less available research on 'what works' to mitigate some of the challenges faced by low income families over this period, this makes designing policies and programmes that are effective challenging.

This evaluation is useful because it brings together insights from people closest to the local programmes including families, volunteers and staff, on the programmes' impacts and how they can be strengthened, based on personal experiences and observations. The evaluation also aims to ensure that knowledge and decisions about community based programmes are generated and informed by local communities, particularly those with direct knowledge of the programmes, and to ensure that future holiday programmes can draw on the available 'assets' in the community in their delivery.

Social isolation can affect both children and parents over the summer. Closure of nurseries, play groups and other services can reduce play opportunities, exacerbate social isolation and stress associated with parenting. Difficulties feeding extra children, or concern about the home are barriers to friends coming over<sup>3</sup>. Through facilitating a welcoming friendly environment which promotes social interaction and community mixing for both parents and children, the holiday programmes in the Borders are playing a significant role in mitigating social isolation and promoting social integration. This impact is particularly significant for lone parents, parents of children and parents with mental health problems for whom holiday times can also create particular challenges<sup>4</sup>, who expressed that the holiday programme had helped them to overcome or mitigate some of the challenges they experience.

However, efforts should be made to address the concerns and fears that non-attending families may have about the programmes, which could deter attendance, thus reinforcing social isolation. The programmes should be actively promoted as social, welcoming places for parents to enjoy a coffee and adult conversation. Paerents who are unsure or lack confidence to attend should be supported to attend. A first time or 'try it out' session could help encourage attendance. Parents of children with additional needs are also known to face challenges over holidays, and there appear to be opportunities to strengthen the programmes to ensure they are accessible, and promoted to children with additional support needs, where appropriate, which should be explored.

There are marked inequalities in children's participation in fun and enriching activities over the summer holidays<sup>5</sup>. Parents highlighted that there were limited affordable alternative local activities available for children apart from the holiday programmes, indicating that programmes

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<sup>3</sup> Poverty and Inequality Commission (2018)

<sup>4</sup> Poverty and Inequality Commission (2018)

<sup>5</sup> Stewart, H., Watson, N. and Campbell, M. (2018).

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are meeting a significant need for summer holiday enriching activities and mitigating unequal access to these activities over the summer. Early years are a crucial time for child development and also the key age group who are provided with free school meals which cease over the summer, justifying the provision for this age group. However, we know adolescence is also a crucial time for development and need to consider how gaps in availability of enriching activities for young people could be addressed better in the community.

Lengthy holidays can contribute to family conflict with families spending extended periods together. Children may struggle without the routine of school or nursery and parents may struggle to get a break<sup>6</sup>. Feedback from parents, demonstrates the positive impact of the programmes on family relationships and child wellbeing.

Food insecurity and poor diet are a significant risk for children from low income families over the summer, due to an interplay of factors including low income and welfare cuts exacerbated by absence of school meals. Parent's comments indicate that the programmes contribute to mitigating food insecurity and child poverty amongst low income families attending the programmes through the provision of a low cost healthy breakfast and a free of charge lunch each day of operation. A further benefit is the effective promotion of healthy eating amongst attending families. The programme's successes of co-providing food and activities is consistent with other research that has suggested that the provision of fun and enriching activities alongside the provision of healthy food, can be an effective approach to address the needs of children without the stigma associated with free food provision<sup>7</sup> The programmes have adopted sensitive approaches to promoting uptake of food, countering negative narratives around free food provision.

Families with a low-income are at risk of extended periods of inactivity over the summer holiday. Parent feedback provides evidence that the existence of the programme motivates families to get out of the house, and through structured physical and stimulating activities and unstructured play, the programme reduces sedentary behaviour for participating children helping them to relax and sleep. Only a few parents explicitly described physical activity opportunities as a driver for participation, but benefits associated with participating in physical activity including children 'letting off steam' and 'running about' were described as important impacts of the programme.

Summer learning loss in UK is an under-researched area but evidence from the US suggests that in term-time children learn at similar rates, but on returning to school after the summer children from families with a low-income have typically fallen weeks or months behind peers from higher income groups as measured on standardised tests before and after the holiday period<sup>8</sup>. The impacts of the programmes on child development described by parents, including improved speech and confidence, are all potentially factors that could indicate that the programme is contributing to mitigating summer learning loss. However, participants did not provide any significant insights into how the programme affected learning of particular subjects such as mathematics or reading. Some parents indicated that more fun learning activities would be beneficial, indicating this could be an area for future development.

Holidays can contribute to financial pressures, including food costs, fuel costs, costs for activities or transport in the absence of school and after school clubs<sup>9</sup>. Parents comments in relation to free of charge and low cost foods and activities, demonstrate that the programme is successful in easing financial pressures for some families and contributing to reducing child poverty through this reduction in outgoings.

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<sup>6</sup> Poverty and Inequality Commission (2018)

<sup>7</sup> Stewart, H., Watson, N. and Campbell, M. (2018).

<sup>8</sup> Stewart, H., Watson, N. and Campbell, M. (2018).

<sup>9</sup> Stewart, H., Watson, N. and Campbell, M. (2018).

## **Qualitative evaluation of the Summer Holiday Programmes in the Scottish Borders** **Summer 2019**

Additional childcare costs over the summer holiday can also place additional financial burdens on families over the summer holidays<sup>10</sup>. Parents can find it unaffordable to work due to these costs<sup>11</sup>, this could be a barrier to full-time employment of mothers, perpetuating low family income. It is hypothesised that holiday programmes could play a role in supporting parents to work over the summer<sup>12</sup>. The programmes in the Borders require parents or a carer to attend with the child, so do not provide direct child care, and in that way do not directly support parents to work. Provision of childcare as part of the programme is an area for consideration in the design of future programmes, for reasons proposed by parents and staff (to allow parent education, to allow time with older children, to allow parents respite) and also as an opportunity to support parent employment. However, these benefits should be balanced against the benefits associated with family participation in programmes described above.

Improved community cohesion is a reported benefit of holiday programmes and this was also evident in the Border's programmes, highlighting the important role of the programmes in strengthening community resilience and social integration. Research indicates that integrating interaction between older people and children could add considerable co-benefits for younger and older age groups and is a potential area for development<sup>13</sup>. This was also suggested by volunteers involved in programme delivery and should be considered.

Whilst programmes have undoubtedly had a significant impact for families who have participated, it is significant that parents highlighted that many families are unable to access programmes due to geographical and transport barriers to access, also recognised in the Poverty and Inequality Commission (2018). In the Borders, the SBC Child Poverty Index illustrates that there are families in poverty in each intermediate zone, and each locality has a proportion of children who experience greater poverty, indicating the dispersed distribution of child poverty in the Borders<sup>14</sup>. The remoteness and rurality of the Borders further exacerbates this, consequently many children are still unable to access programmes, and these families are perhaps most likely to also be disadvantaged by a lack of local activities in their areas. Expanding geographical locations of the programme might be one solution to addressing this, as might providing transport for families to attend central locations.

Whilst the programme has contributed to reducing food insecurity, providing access to enriching activities, reducing financial pressures and other benefits, the scale of impact of the programme in some locations is constrained by its frequency, with some programmes operating only once per week and all programmes only operating during the summer holidays and not in other holidays when families with a low income face similar challenges. To contribute more significantly to reducing the challenges faced by families over the summer, particularly with regards to food insecurity, the frequency of holiday provision would need to be increased to meet needs. However there do appear to be some benefits associated with holiday programmes not running every day of the week, particularly as parents attending programmes with fewer days of operation commented that the programme gives families and children something to look forward to in the week. Further consultation with parents might elicit what would be a good balance of provision, and allow efficient allocation of resources across programmes.

The findings in this evaluation are broadly consistent with the findings from evaluations of other programmes, and demonstrate emphatically how they are addressing the identified

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<sup>10</sup> Stewart, H., Watson, N. and Campbell, M. (2018).

<sup>11</sup> Poverty and Inequality Commission (2018)

<sup>12</sup> Poverty and Inequality Commission (2018)

<sup>13</sup> Stanford Centre on Longevity (2016).

<sup>14</sup> NHS Borders (2019) Scottish Borders Child Poverty Action Plan

## **Qualitative evaluation of the Summer Holiday Programmes in the Scottish Borders Summer 2019**

needs of low income families in the Borders<sup>15</sup>. The successes of programmes in introducing children and parents to new healthy foods, promoting family relationships and child and parent wellbeing, and the value of volunteer involvement for volunteers and communities, appear to be relatively unique benefits identified for the Borders. The evaluation has also highlighted possible opportunities to promote attendance by families and has established a wide range of areas to strengthen programmes further, through an asset based approach.

The findings of the evaluation indicate delivering holiday programmes in the way that they are delivered in the Borders is aligned strategically with, and contributing to achieving Scottish Government Public Health Priorities, Scottish Borders Director of Public Health Report, the Scottish Borders' Children and Young People's plan and Child Poverty Action Plans.

### **Recommendations**

These recommendations are derived from the input by parents, volunteers and staff.

- 1. Promote holiday programmes to increase attendance by non-attending families, particularly through a Facebook strategy and posters in key locations. The benefits of programmes should be promoted in publicity materials and all caregivers should be made to feel welcome, including grandparents.**
  - a. A strategy should be developed to promote the existence of the programme on facebook not just through early years centre's posts but crucially through re-sharing by staff, families, volunteers and other community organisations. The activities available on each day, and the timings, should be clearly advertised to all families and children who may benefit from these activities, together with photos of families participating.
  - b. Posters in key locations frequented by families who would most benefit from the programme should supplement facebook advertising and bag drops.
  - c. Ensure holiday programmes are promoted as welcoming, friendly, places, open to all; for parents to have a coffee and meet new people and have someone to talk to. Programmes should be promoted as a place where children can interact, play, participate in a variety of activities and let off some steam as these are qualities of the programme that are particularly valued by parents.
  - d. Consider ways to promote the programme to grandparents who are caregivers over the holidays.
  
- 2. Expand the delivery of holiday programmes to address unmet need e.g. access for families in rural areas; families with children with additional support needs; families in areas where programmes are infrequent and older children.**
  - a. Address the holiday needs of families living in parts of the Borders beyond the central programme locations. Transport requirements should be considered as part of holiday programme provision.
  - b. Review and, where appropriate, extend the frequency of programme provision across the four programmes, in summer and other holidays where food insecurity and access to enriching activities could result in particular challenges to families.
  - c. Address the holiday needs of families and children with additional support needs including promoting programmes that already exists to meet these needs through the Summer Holiday programmes
  - d. Review how the holiday needs of older children and their families could be addressed over the holidays either within the programme, or as a separate provision, including promoting programmes that already exists to meet these needs through the Summer Holiday programmes.

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<sup>15</sup> Poverty and Inequality Commission (2018); Forsey, A. (2018); Welsh Local Government Association (2016).

## **Qualitative evaluation of the Summer Holiday Programmes in the Scottish Borders Summer 2019**

- 3. Promote and provide healthy food and activities alongside one another, to reduce food insecurity with dignity, whilst promoting healthy diets and reducing food waste.**
  - a. Work with community actors to ensure availability of free of charge fruits and vegetables and other foods to take home.
  - b. As far as possible ensure food provision is environmentally friendly, reduces food waste and promotes a healthy diet, and ensure that families and communities are aware of these positive benefits.
  
- 4. Adapt local programmes to address the needs identified by parents including making all activities accessible to girls and boys, addressing the gendered preferences towards particular activities; expanding the range of physical activities offered; increasing fun learning activities.**
  - a. Recognise the popularity of the sports, crafts and messy activities, including and in addition to outdoor activities, when designing future programme timetables.
  - a. Consider what can be done to make craft activities more attractive to boys e.g. building type activities, involving men's sheds.
  - b. Expand the range of sporting activities offered including sports more accessible for girls, considering local assets in the community e.g. rugby clubs, football club, gymnastics clubs etc.
  - c. Increase fun learning activities to address summer learning loss/ attainment gap and support children with holiday homework.
  
- 5. Continue to work closely with and make use of existing 'assets' in communities, in the delivery of programmes including parents and family friends with particular skills and older people. And through the programmes, seek to connect communities to services and resources in their communities**
  - a. Use holiday programmes to promote other services that might benefit families with a low income, with mental health problems or who are socially isolated.
  - b. Consider how elderly groups could be included in the delivery of the programme to promote inter-generational activities.
  - c. Parents with skills that could benefit in the holiday programme for example, sport or cookery should be identified and supported to volunteer, and offered capacity building opportunities where they feel that they don't have sufficient skills to share their knowledge.
  
- 6. Promote parent involvement in holiday programmes including day to day helping, volunteering and planning**
  - a. Put in place a mechanism for community members and parents to be consistently and formally involved in the planning of holiday programmes, as equal partners e.g. through a planning committee held over a community meal.
  - b. Actively request parents to help informally with day to day activities from cleaning up after themselves and children for example through posters and encouraging parents politely and setting expectations at the beginning of holidays and reinforcing this.
  - c. The opportunity to volunteer to help with the day to day running of the programme should be promoted to parents, when additional volunteers would help to improve the quality or capacity of the programme, either by asking directly or on Facebook. The reported benefits of volunteering should be emphasised when discussing volunteering.
  
- 7. Review the benefits and disbenefits of providing a crèche/ childcare to support adult learning, time with older children and as an opportunity to support parents to work**

## **Conclusion**

## **Qualitative evaluation of the Summer Holiday Programmes in the Scottish Borders Summer 2019**

Our research with these groups has found that the Border's holiday programmes deliver an impressive range of positive impacts for children and also for parents and communities. The programmes address many of the needs identified in previous research on the challenges generated by holidays for families with a low income. Programmes are also highly valued by participating families.

The programmes play a significant role in addressing food insecurity, providing enriching activities for children and promoting child development, reducing social isolation and increasing family wellbeing and community cohesion. By consequence they are contributing to reducing or mitigating inequalities in the Borders and are well aligned with related NHS Borders, Scottish Borders Councils and National strategies.

A number of opportunities for strengthening the programme have been identified by parents, volunteers, children and staff, some of which go beyond the auspices of the holiday programme, requiring more strategic consideration and some of which will need to attract additional funding to be delivered. As child poverty and families facing challenges over summer holidays are geographically dispersed across the Borders, priorities must be to seek to address non-attendance by families, and to reduce inequalities in access to holiday programmes for families that live far from the locations where programmes are delivered, to ensure the benefits of the programmes are not concentrated on the currently participating families but have a Borders wide impact.



## **Qualitative evaluation of the Summer Holiday Programmes in the Scottish Borders Summer 2019**

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**Qualitative evaluation of the Summer Holiday Programmes in the Scottish Borders  
Summer 2019**

**Appendix 1. Question guide adapted for interviews with parents, staff and volunteers**

1. Can you tell me a bit about which activities you come to and why you come? (how many sessions have you been to/ how often do you come?)
2. And can you tell me a bit about what your child and you get out of it? What sort of an impact has it had?
3. What do you like about the activities – what is good? (for child/parent)
4. What could we improve? What would make the programme better for you/ your child?
5. Are there other things in the community we could make better use of in the programmes e.g. skills, groups, organisations, places?
6. Can you tell me what you think about how we could get parents and community members more involved in the programme e..g helping, organising, volunteering?
7. Can you tell me a bit about what you think stops some families from coming to the programme?
8. Do you have any other comments or feedback about the programme?

**Qualitative evaluation of the Summer Holiday Programmes in the Scottish Borders  
Summer 2019**

**Appendix 2. Suggested assets and activities to include in future programmes**

Parents suggested a range of assets and activities that programmes could make more use of ranging from sports, outside activities and day trips, creative and food based activities, activities for children with additional support needs, learning opportunities and other community assets. The box below describes all these suggestions.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Sport and physical activities available in the community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Athletics</li> <li>- Touch Rugby</li> <li>- Multi-courts</li> <li>- Sport other than live borders</li> <li>- Rounders outdoors</li> <li>- Football</li> <li>- Gymnastics</li> <li>- Taekwondo</li> <li>- Dance</li> <li>- Boxing</li> <li>- Swimming</li> </ul> | <p><b>Creative and food activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ride on toys</li> <li>- Making parachutes</li> <li>- Building things</li> <li>- More messy activities</li> <li>- More cooking</li> <li>- More arts and crafts</li> </ul> | <p><b>Other community assets</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Get the men sheds involved</li> <li>- People in the community with specific skills</li> <li>- Parents with specific skills e.g. summer are chefs</li> <li>- Get other groups involved e.g. older peoples</li> <li>- Doing something for the carnival</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Green assets: outside activities/ day trips</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Getting outside</li> <li>- Day trips to parks</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p><b>Activities for children with additional support needs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More sensory activities</li> </ul>                                                                                                              | <p><b>Learning opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Homework club</li> <li>- Number club</li> <li>- Anti-bullying session before returning to school</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                     |

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### Finalist place for Jedburgh Schools Cluster

The Jedburgh Schools Cluster is delighted to have secured one of three places in the finals of the Community Learning and Development Category of the 2020 Scottish Education Awards.

These are just some of the initiatives that impressed the judges and helped to earn that coveted place in the finals, with more details below about two which have been particularly successful:

- Morning breakfast/nurture club
- Lunchtime wellbeing group
- Active girls' fitness group
- Gardening, arts and craft and woodworking group
- Summer activity programme
- Step up transition program
- Wednesday night youth club
- School residential.

In addition, a successful funding bid has allowed the project to train 10 members of staff to deliver Seasons for Growth grief, change and loss programmes to young people across the cluster while 75 young people have achieved either Dynamic Youth Awards or Hi 5 Awards.

#### **Breakfast nurture club**

The breakfast/nurture club offers a good start to young people. It was initially available three mornings a week but thanks to donations from local organisations, is now provided every day during the school term. The aim is to make sure young people are set up for the day and more ready to learn. The club provides a safe, nurturing environment where young people feel confident about speaking within the group and sharing their opinions. The workers create a welcoming atmosphere in a non-classroom setting where young people have adults they can talk to about any concerns they may have, whether that relates to their school or personal lives.

#### **Summer activity programme**

An eight day programme delivered over four weeks of last year's summer holidays saw ten P7 and ten S1 pupils participating in a variety of activities and challenges aimed at building their confidence and self-esteem. The sessions were done in partnership with Cheviot Youth and saw young people participating in rock climbing, canoeing, hill walking, art activities, swim sessions, cookery, horse care and riding. They also took part in a rope course, jail break activity and enjoyed a popular and well attended barbecue.

#### **Susan Oliver, Jedburgh Grammar Headteacher**

"This nomination highlights the fantastic work that our CLD worker, Donna Wood and PEF Youth Worker Heather Lothian have carried out to support children, young people and families right across our school community. The work has been supported by the Pupil Equity Fund and has focused on initiatives to improve health and wellbeing in a wide variety of innovative, creative and extremely beneficial ways.

"We are incredibly proud to have had national recognition of our efforts"

#### **More information**

- The awards ceremony was cancelled this year due to COVID-19.

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| <b>Scottish Borders: Challenge Poverty Event</b> |                                                                         |                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019</b>     |                                                                         |                                     |
| <b>SBC Council Chambers</b>                      |                                                                         |                                     |
| <b>1-4:30pm</b>                                  |                                                                         |                                     |
| <b>Chair: Allyson McCollam</b>                   |                                                                         |                                     |
| <b>Time</b>                                      | <b>Programme</b>                                                        | <b>Speaker</b>                      |
| Morning<br>10-12am                               | ➤ Credit Union: Conversation about the possibilities<br>Invitation Only | Oonagh McGarry<br>CLD               |
| Afternoon<br>1pm                                 | ➤ Welcome, Introduction<br>➤ Background & Policy Context                | Allyson McCollam<br>Public Health   |
| 1:15pm                                           | ➤ Challenge Poverty Week                                                | Irene Tortajada<br>Poverty Alliance |
| 1:35pm                                           | ➤ Extent of poverty in the Scottish Borders                             | Erin Murray, SBC                    |
| 1:50pm                                           | ➤ Poverty proofing School<br>➤ Local School Initiatives                 | Peter Macklin, SBC                  |
| 2:15pm                                           | ➤ Comfort Break/Networking                                              |                                     |
| 2:30pm                                           | ➤ Summer Holiday Programme                                              | Nichola Sewell, JHIT                |
| 2:40pm                                           | ➤ Impact on children, young people and families                         | Catherine Jeffery,<br>Public Health |
| 3:10pm                                           | ➤ SB Home Energy Forum: Home Energy Scotland                            | Rosin Hurst, HES                    |
| 3:30pm                                           | ➤ Income Maximisation                                                   | Sharron Elsdon, SBC                 |
| 3:50pm                                           | ➤ Discussion                                                            | Carole Anderson, JHIT               |
| 4:20- 4:30pm                                     | ➤ Evaluation & Close                                                    | Allyson McCollam,<br>Public Health  |

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**BEST VALUE ASSURANCE REPORT 2019**


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**Report by Service Director, Customer & Communities**


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**SCOTTISH BORDERS COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP  
STRATEGIC BOARD**
**10 September 2020**


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**1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 **This report presents the findings of the 2019 Best Value Assurance of Scottish Borders Council, and the findings that relate to Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (CPP).**
- 1.2 The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 introduced the statutory duty of Best Value. The Best Value Assurance audit of Scottish Borders Council and the Scottish Borders CPP in 2019 has been undertaken by Audit Scotland, with the Controller of Audit presenting the report to the Accounts Commission as part of the requirement to do so at least once during the five-year audit appointment.
- 1.3 The 2019 Scottish Borders Council Best Value Assurance Report (Appendix 1, page 40, para's 129-145) provides a range of findings for the CPP following an intensive process of scrutiny of the Governance, Community Plan 2018, Draft Locality Plans, Participation & Asset Transfer Requests, Engagement and Participatory Budgeting.
- 1.4 The Community Planning Partnership welcomed the scrutiny of the 2019 Best Value Assurance audit, providing an opportunity to further strengthen our ambitious Community Plan and Draft Locality Plans with valuable external perspectives.
- 1.5 In response to the audit findings, Senior Officers have developed an Action Plan and this is detailed at Appendix 2.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership agrees:**
- (a) **To note the findings contained within the Scottish Borders Council Best Value Assurance Report dated October 2019 (Appendix 1, page 40, para's 129 -145) which relate to the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership.**

- (b) To accept the recommendation detailed at (Appendix 1, page 51) within the Best Value Assurance Report for the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership.**
- (c) To note the Best Value Audit Action Plan (Appendix 2), which contains 10 proposed actions for the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership.**
- (d) Whilst there has been an impact to the timescales within the Best Value Audit Action Plan due to Covid-19, that these 10 actions are now progressed by the CPP Joint Programme Board, and that progress on these actions are reported on an annual basis to the CPP Strategic Board for scrutiny.**
- (e) To also ensure that progress and performance reports to the CPP and the public are more comprehensive and accessible.**

### **3 BEST VALUE ASSURANCE AUDIT**

- 3.1 The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 introduced the statutory duty of Best Value. The Best Value Assurance Audit which included Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership in 2019 has been undertaken by Audit Scotland, with the Controller of Audit presenting the report to the Accounts Commission.
- 3.2 Key areas of focus for the audit were:
- a) Governance
  - b) Community Plan & Draft Locality Plans
  - c) Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
  - d) Engagement
  - e) Performance
  - f) Participatory Budgeting
- 3.3 The audit approach included:
- a) Interviewing Elected Members, Senior Officers and CPP partners
  - b) Observing a Community Planning Partnership Strategic Board Meeting
  - c) Reviewing the Community Plan and draft Locality Plans
  - d) Meeting focus groups within localities
- 3.4 Key elements of the Accounts Commission's Best Value Assurance Report (Appendix 1), can be found as follows:
- a) Findings are on page 5 of the Commission's Report and key messages are on pages 8 & 9 of the Commission's Report
  - b) Parts 1 to 5 of the Commission's Report provide an assessment of the key areas of focus for the audit
  - c) Recommendations can be found on Page 51 of the Commission's Report.

### **4 REPORT FINDINGS**

- 4.1 The report (Appendix 1, page 51) contained one recommendation for the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership:
- Improve how the CPP involves communities and the third sector, through greater involvement in local decision making and by accelerating implementation of the Community Empowerment Act (2015) Scotland.
- 4.2 10 actions to address this recommendation have been developed by Senior Officers, and are proposed at Appendix 2.

- 4.3 It is proposed that these 10 actions are progressed by the CPP Joint Programme Board, and that progress on these actions are reported on an annual basis to the CPP Strategic Board for scrutiny.

**Approved by**

**Jenni Craig**

**Service Director, Customer & Communities Signature.....**

**Author(s)**

| <b>Name</b> | <b>Designation and Contact Number</b> |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Shona Smith | Communities & Partnership Manager     |

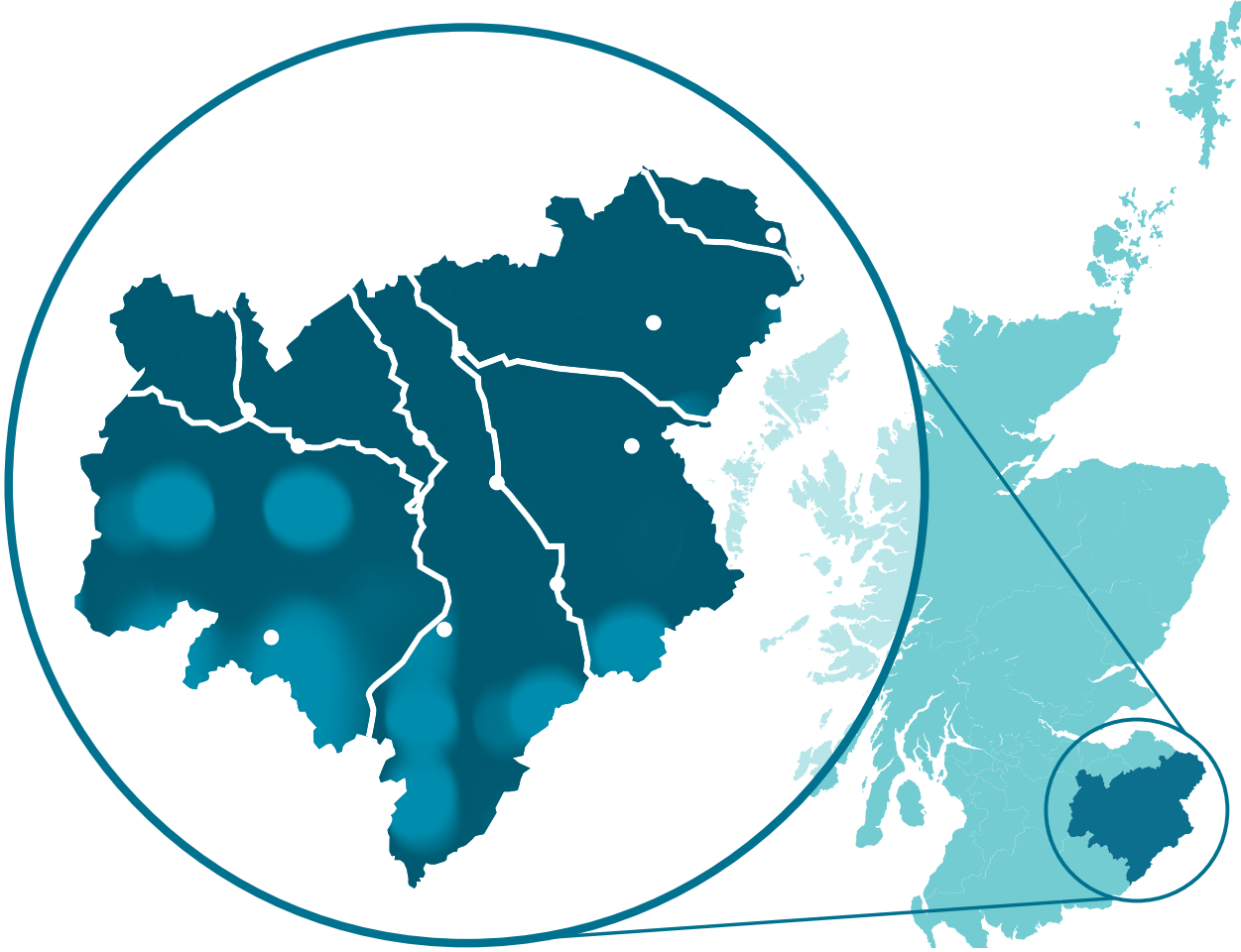
**Background Papers:**

**Previous Minute Reference:**

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

Contact us at Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose TD6 0SA. Tel 01835 824000.

# Scottish Borders Council



ACCOUNTS COMMISSION 

Prepared by Audit Scotland  
October 2019


# The Accounts Commission

The Accounts Commission is the public spending watchdog for local government. We hold councils in Scotland to account and help them improve. We operate impartially and independently of councils and of the Scottish Government, and we meet and report in public.

We expect councils to achieve the highest standards of governance and financial stewardship, and value for money in how they use their resources and provide their services.

Our work includes:

- securing and acting upon the external audit of Scotland's councils and various joint boards and committees
- assessing the performance of councils in relation to Best Value and community planning
- carrying out national performance audits to help councils improve their services
- requiring councils to publish information to help the public assess their performance.

You can find out more about the work of the Accounts Commission on our website: [www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/about-us/accounts-commission](http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/about-us/accounts-commission) 

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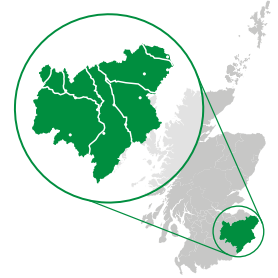
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## Links

-  PDF download
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# Key facts



**1,827**  
square  
miles

Area



**115,300**

Population



**3,568**

Workforce  
(number of full-time  
equivalent employees)



**34**

Elected members  
14 Scottish Conservative and  
Unionist  
9 Scottish National Party  
9 Independent  
2 Scottish Liberal Democrats



**None**

Council houses



**£284**  
million

2019/20  
revenue budget<sup>1</sup>



**£386**  
million

2019/20–2028/29  
capital budget<sup>2</sup>



**£30**  
million

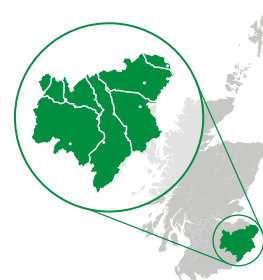
2019/20–2023/24  
Savings required

1. The revenue budget covers day-to-day costs such as wages and the provision of services.

2. The capital budget covers the cost of major projects such as building schools and town centre regeneration projects.



# Commission findings




- 1** The Commission accepts the Controller of Audit's report on Best Value in Scottish Borders Council. We endorse the recommendations set out by the Controller of Audit in his report and expect the council to act upon them.
- 2** We note that the council has steadily improved overall since our last Best Value audit in 2010 and has made some good progress with its transformation agenda since then. Its 'Fit for 2024' programme is, however, an ambitious next step in this agenda which will require further refinement and planning. It is early days in such a challenging programme and there are critical elements of Best Value that the council will need to develop further.
- 3** Members and officers should continue working well together to provide the leadership required to deliver further change. It will be important for the council to assure itself that it has the senior officer capacity to fulfil its ambitions. It is also crucial that the council demonstrates, through longer-term organisation-wide planning, how its workforce will be equipped for the future. Equally, progress with a development programme for members should help them to fulfil their responsibilities and enhance their skills.
- 4** It is encouraging that some key services have performed well and improved – particularly in education, aspects of social work, and in the council's extensive economic development activity.
- 5** The council should, however, be more effective in evaluating, managing and reporting its performance, bringing greater clarity on where and how its services need to improve. It also needs to get better at the reporting of performance – both in terms of information considered by members and in reporting to the public.
- 6** Such elements should support a stronger culture of continuous improvement throughout the organisation. Another significant element of such a culture is staff ownership of the council's ambitions for change – we urge the council to develop how it engages its staff in planning and delivering change.
- 7** Collaborative and partnership working will be key to advancing the ambitions of the council. Such working with NHS Borders and through the health and social care integration joint board needs to improve. The council now needs to make better progress with its community planning partners in delivering crucial elements of their community empowerment obligations, including resourced locality plans which identify community need and help community wellbeing.
- 8** We commend the council in taking the next steps in its ambitious transformation. Progress will be reported through the annual audit, and the Controller of Audit will update the Commission as appropriate.

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# Audit approach

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**1.** The statutory duty of Best Value was introduced in the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003. The audit of Best Value is a continuous process that forms part of the annual audit of every council. Findings are reported each year through the [Annual Audit Report](#) . In addition, the Controller of Audit will present a Best Value Assurance Report to the Accounts Commission at least once during the five-year audit appointment for each council.

**2.** This is the first assurance report on Scottish Borders Council. The findings from a previous Best Value report on the council in 2010 are summarised in [Exhibit 12 \(page 49\)](#). This report aims to provide the Commission with assurance on the council's statutory duty to deliver Best Value, with a focus on the Commission's strategic audit priorities. We are looking for councils to demonstrate Best Value by showing continuous improvement in how they deliver services. The pace and depth of this improvement is key to how well councils meet their priorities in future.

**3.** Our audit approach is proportionate and risk-based and so reflects the context, risks and performance of the individual council. It also draws on the intelligence from audit and scrutiny work in previous years. In keeping with this approach, we conducted some initial work to identify risks and council initiatives to build into the scope of our audit. This included a review of previous audit and inspection reports and intelligence, a review of key council documents, initial meetings with senior officers and reflection on our wider public sector knowledge and experience.

**4.** [Exhibit 1 \(page 7\)](#) shows the areas we decided to focus on. Our detailed audit work was undertaken between January and May 2019 and included:

- interviewing elected members, senior officers and council partners
- observing a range of council and committee meetings
- discussion with trade unions
- reviewing documents and analysing data
- meeting focus groups.

**5.** We gratefully acknowledge the cooperation and assistance provided to the audit team by elected members, officers and the council's partner organisations. As part of the annual audit of the council, our future work will follow up the findings and recommendations in this report. It will also include more detailed audit work on other Best Value areas as appropriate.

## Exhibit 1

### Key areas of focus for our audit

The audit considered a broad range of issues.



#### **Vision and strategic direction (Part 1)**

The council's vision and strategic direction. This includes how well its leadership works together to deliver priorities set out in the council's *Corporate Plan 2018–2023 : Our plan and your part in it*.<sup>1</sup>



#### **Performance (Part 2)**

- An assessment of how the council monitors trends in outcomes/ performance and the reporting of these, including the council's public performance reporting.
- The link between the council's self-evaluation, improvement actions and changes in outcomes for local people.



#### **Use of resources (Part 3)**

- Financial management.
- Procurement.
- How effectively the council uses workforce planning to support the delivery of its priorities.



#### **Partnership working (Part 4)**

- How well the council delivers services through partnership and collaborative working, including: the Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board, arm's-length external organisations, the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region Deal and community empowerment.



#### **Continuous improvement (Part 5)**

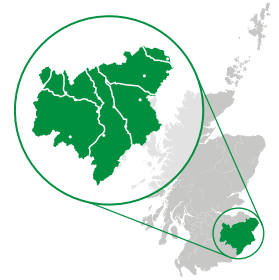
- Progress of the council's ongoing transformation programme.
- Progress against key judgements in the 2010 Best Value report.

Source: Audit Scotland

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# Key messages

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- 1** The council has made steady progress overall since the 2010 Best Value audit. It has more to do to demonstrate Best Value on some matters including embedding and sustaining a culture of continuous improvement by implementing a corporate approach to self-evaluation and benchmarking. This would help it to more clearly evidence progress on its corporate and partnership-related objectives.
- 2** In 2017, the council saw many new elected members and offered a coordinated approach to induction. It now needs to support elected members through individual training plans. The council's vision for 2017–22 prioritises six strategic themes, reflecting long-standing challenges. Members and officers demonstrate a strong commitment to working together for the fulfilment of the vision, while effective governance arrangements ensure opportunity for challenge and scrutiny.
- 3** Since 2010 the council has made good progress with its transformation agenda. Recognising a need to increase its pace of change and be more innovative, the council began its challenging Fit for 2024 corporate transformation programme in February 2019. This is intended to be a five-year rolling programme that will improve how the council is managed and save a further £30 million. The council should continue to ensure there is sufficient capacity to implement this programme while continuing to deliver public services.
- 4** Performance is good or improving in the key service areas of education and social work. The council is below average on many other national indicators and reports that its performance is improving on around half of its own performance indicators. Residents are more satisfied with their council's services than national data suggest. Performance reporting to members and the public should be more comprehensive and clearer about why performance has deteriorated and what action is being taken.
- 5** The council demonstrates effective financial planning and management. It has a good track record of making savings but its financial outlook, like most other councils', remains challenging. Workforce management has developed slowly and planning the future workforce remains a key issue. The council has begun a programme to improve communication with staff but must do more to understand and act on their views.

- 6** The council is a key partner in complex and ambitious economic initiatives. Significant leadership and resources will be required to achieve their objectives. Partnership working with NHS Borders, through the integration joint board, could be improved. The council has made good progress with other aspects of joint working and recognises there are further opportunities for this. Where it provides services through arm's-length external organisations, the council recognises that the risk of potential conflicts of interest needs to be carefully managed.
  - 7** Implementation of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 has been slow in some respects. The council and the Scottish Borders community planning partnership need to finalise and implement its locality plans. It also needs to implement a performance management framework that can measure progress against the community plan and locality plans.
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# Part 1

## Does the council have clear strategic direction?



From 2010 to 2018 the council made good progress with its transformation agenda.

In 2017, the council saw many new elected members and offered a coordinated approach to induction. It now needs to support elected members through individual training plans.

Members and officers demonstrate a strong commitment to working together for the fulfilment of the vision, while effective governance arrangements ensure opportunity for challenge and scrutiny. The council vision for 2017–22 prioritises six strategic themes, reflecting long-standing challenges.

The council should ensure there is sufficient capacity to implement its challenging Fit for 2024 corporate transformation programme while continuing to deliver public services.

### The local context

**6.** The Scottish Borders covers 1,827 square miles and has a population of 115,300.<sup>2</sup> It is mostly rural, with dispersed settlements and no cities. Around a third of the population lives in settlements with fewer than 1,500 people. The Scottish Borders is one of the most sparsely populated Scottish council areas, with an average population density of 63 people per square mile, considerably lower than the Scottish average of 180.<sup>3</sup> The economy largely depends on the public sector, agriculture, residual traditional industries and numerous small businesses.

**7.** The profile of deprivation across the Scottish Borders suggests relatively few households are sited in extremely deprived areas. Overall, 6.6 per cent of the population live in the 20 per cent most deprived of Scotland's 7,000 population datazones, with pockets of deprivation in Galashiels, Hawick and Selkirk.<sup>4</sup> Data zones are small areas with roughly equal populations. Focusing on small areas helps to highlight the different issues in each neighbourhood.<sup>5</sup>

**8.** Demographic change in the Scottish Borders will have a significant impact on the demand for council services. The population forecast for 2016–41 expects changes including:

- The total population of the Scottish Borders is forecast to increase by 2.4 per cent (compared with 5.3 per cent for Scotland overall).
- The number of children (aged 0-15) is forecast to decrease by 0.6 per cent (compared with a 1.5 per cent decrease in Scotland as a whole).
- The number of people of working age is forecast to decrease by 5.6 per cent (compared with a 1.1 per cent increase in Scotland as a whole).
- The number of people of pensionable age is forecast to increase by 23.1 per cent (compared with a 25.1 per cent increase in Scotland as a whole).
- The number of people aged 75 or over is forecast to increase by 80.0 per cent (compared with an increase of 78.6 per cent in Scotland as a whole).<sup>6</sup>

**9.** The council's challenges also include:

- ensuring effective transport infrastructure, particularly across the road network and bus services, which affect access to education, employment and markets
- delivering services such as roads, schools, care for the elderly and waste management in dispersed, remote and rural communities.

**Since the last Best Value audit in 2010, the council has made good progress with its transformation agenda**

**10.** The council's Business Transformation Programme (BTP) for 2010–15 led to budget savings of £17.8 million. It was superseded by the Corporate Transformation Programme (CTP) in 2015, based around four themes: making best use of our people; working with our partners; looking after the Borders, and business process transformation. The CTP's 14 projects were reduced to five strands in 2018:

- digital transformation
- workforce transformation
- children and young people
- corporate landlord (including property assets and energy efficiency)
- health and social care (including adult services).

**11.** Progress with the BTP and the CTP was monitored by the corporate management team (CMT) and reported quarterly to the council's Executive Committee, with annual reports to full council meetings. In 2015/16–2018/19, the council reported £49.0 million of savings from its revenue budget, including £35.1 million of recurring savings ([Part 3](#)).

**12.** As well as participating in significant regional development projects over the last decade, including the reopening of the Borders Railway in 2015, the council has led numerous other developments, including:

- outsourcing information and communications technology to CGI
- developing a Digital Customer Access platform, which will help make the council more accessible to the public
- building three new primary schools, two new secondary schools and a new special school
- forming the Live Borders sport and leisure trust
- setting up SB Cares to provide adult social care services.

### In 2017, the council saw many new elected members

**13.** The council has 34 elected members (members) across 11 multi-member wards. Like many Scottish councils, Scottish Borders Council lost a significant number of experienced members following the 2017 local government elections. Eighteen members were newly elected, ten of whom were in the new administration. The administration is a coalition between the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party and an independent alliance, currently comprising four of the nine independent members ([Exhibit 2](#)).

**14.** With such a significant change in administration, the CMT has had an important role in supporting both administration and opposition members. It can take time for new members to fully understand and take ownership of policy direction. Over two years into their five-year term of office, many members told us they were still 'getting to grips' with their roles and responsibilities.

## Exhibit 2

### Changes in the council's political administration

Coalition administrations are a feature of the council.

|                       | Current administration 2017–22                                                   | Previous administration 2012–17                                                  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Leader</b>         | <b>Scottish Conservative and Unionist</b>                                        | <b>Independent</b>                                                               |
| <b>Administration</b> | 14 - Scottish Conservative and Unionist<br>4 - Independent                       | 9 - Scottish National Party<br>7 - Independent<br>6 - Scottish Liberal Democrats |
| <b>Opposition</b>     | 9 - Scottish National Party<br>5 - Independent<br>2 - Scottish Liberal Democrats | 9 - Scottish Conservative and Unionist<br>3 - Independent                        |

Source: Scottish Borders Council



## The council's priorities have evolved since 2010

### The political administration for 2012–17 prioritised four key areas

**15.** Following the 2012 elections, members in the council reached agreement on four key areas:

- general issues relating to the workings of Scottish Borders Council
- ensuring that economic development is a key driver for the administration
- investing in children and young people
- improving life in the Scottish Borders.

**16.** In 2013, the council's corporate plan for 2013–18 detailed a further eight priorities.

**17.** In 2014, the chief executive reported to a meeting of the full council that *'After two years, just over 70 per cent of commitments covered in the (2012 Ambitious for the Borders) Agreement have either been achieved fully or significant progress has been made. There is further work to do over the next three years to ensure that all the commitments made are addressed.'* The council adopted an updated Ambitious for the Borders document in 2015 with sustainable economic development as its top priority and produced an updated corporate plan for 2013–18.

**18.** In 2014, the council also led a strategic assessment of the Scottish Borders for the community planning partnership (CPP), which includes the council. The assessment identified three priorities: growing the economy, reducing inequalities, and maximising the impact of the low-carbon economy. An updated strategic assessment in 2016 took stock in relation to the Scottish Government's 16 national outcomes and reiterated the same three CPP priorities as in 2014.

### The council's vision for 2017–22 prioritises six strategic themes, reflecting long-standing challenges

**19.** In 2017, the new political administration published *Connected Borders 2017–22: the vision of Scottish Borders Council's Administration*. It drew on evidence such as demographic and employment information, although it did not explain how the views of communities had been incorporated. The six themes relate to:

- connected communities
- communities of enterprise
- communities of beauty
- communities of wellbeing
- communities of caring
- communities that are empowered.

**20.** Four principles underpin the commitments made to realise the vision: consensus, equality, innovation and community. This document was formally adopted as the council's vision in September 2017.<sup>7</sup> It reflects long-standing

challenges in the area, such as its predominantly rural geography, transport networks and the importance of education in relation to economic development.

**21.** In February 2018, the council produced its current *Corporate Plan: Our plan for 2018–2023 and your part in it*.<sup>8</sup> It covers an overlapping period from the Connected Borders vision statement, with four related themes which cover issues similar to the six strategic themes adopted by the council five months earlier:

- our services for you
- independent, achieving people
- empowered, vibrant communities
- a thriving economy with opportunities for everyone.

**22.** The council also led the production of the CPP's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) for people in the Borders, in May 2018 ([Part 4](#)). Termed the 'Community Plan' by the council and its partners, its four themes are related to those in the council's current vision and corporate plan.

### **Members and officers demonstrate a strong commitment to working together for the fulfilment of the vision, while effective governance arrangements ensure opportunity for challenge and scrutiny**

#### **The council adopted a new executive and scrutiny structure in 2015**

**23.** Two of the council's key committees are the Executive Committee and the Audit and Scrutiny Committee. Currently, the Executive Committee comprises members of the political administration and is the key decision-making and monitoring committee. For example, quarterly budget monitoring reports are presented to this committee for monitoring and control purposes, including the year-end financial position. The Audit and Scrutiny Committee has both administration and opposition members. As part of its scrutiny function, it reviews the implementation of policy decisions on a wide range of topics, such as the implementation of the council's information technology strategy and its handling of major property issues. Both committees operate effectively. The council also appoints members to the Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board (IJB) ([Part 4](#)).

#### **The council plans and delivers services in five geographical localities**

**24.** The five localities are Berwickshire, Cheviot, Eildon, Teviot and Liddesdale, and Tweeddale. They also form the basis of the council's leadership of community planning in the Scottish Borders, and of the work of NHS Borders and the IJB. Each locality has an area partnership that aims to bring together key organisations, groups, businesses and individuals from across the public, private and third sectors and local communities. Meetings of the area partnerships are attended by council members and are open to the public, with their documents on the council's website.

#### **Scrutiny works well**

**25.** In committee and full council meetings, we observed the effective scrutiny and challenge of officers' reports. Some members told us that their council work would benefit from more concise committee reports being provided sooner than the current one week in advance of a meeting, to allow more time for consideration. They recognised this is not always feasible. Working relationships between members and officers are respectful and constructive. Members have good access to the CMT and other officers for queries, guidance and information.

### **Risk management has room for improvement**

**26.** In 2018, the Audit and Scrutiny Committee approved a refreshed risk management policy and a three-year risk management strategy. The corporate risk register and all service risk registers are reviewed quarterly, with good arrangements for reporting on risk to the CMT and members. In May 2019, the council's Internal Audit function reported to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee that:


- There was a gap in linking corporate and service risk registers to business plans and the business planning process.
- Where mitigating actions were required, they should be matched to relevant risks so that managers have an overview of all key performance indicators, actions and risks in one place.
- This will require ongoing engagement with risk owners.

### **Service planning is effective**

**27.** In 2016/17, the council had three-year business plans for each key service. From 2018/19, financial, business and people planning was integrated, with a focus on meeting significant financial savings. The integrated plans were refreshed for 2019/20. Each service area detailed its spending and savings plans along with an explanatory narrative. The integrated plans could be improved through adopting a consistent approach to plans between departments, and sharing of best practice.

### **Training and support for members needs tailored to their individual needs, based on previous induction and briefing events**

**28.** The induction of members elected in 2017 was well organised by officers and was appreciated by members. Members who were elected to the council for the first time faced a steep learning curve. Some induction events were available to all members while participation was mandatory for members of certain committees, such as on licencing and planning matters. Subsequently, support for all members has primarily involved officers offering members a series of briefings.<sup>9</sup> Many members told us that they found the briefings topical. However, they could be made more accessible to members by being made available online.

**29.** At the time of the audit, the council had not developed individualised training plans for members – something it should have made more progress on. In 2016 our report [\*How councils work: Roles and responsibilities in councils – Are you still getting it right?\*](#)  explained the importance of continuing professional development (CPD) in equipping members with the skills and tools they need. The council intended to start a members' development programme in September 2019. Discussions were also under way with the Improvement Service to use its members' CPD framework and to include personal development plans for members.

### **Recognising a need to increase its pace of change and be more innovative, the council began its Fit for 2024 corporate transformation programme in February 2019**

#### **Fit for 2024 is a challenging programme of work**

**30.** Fit for 2024 is intended to be a five-year rolling programme of corporate transformation aimed at improving how the council is managed and achieving a further £30 million of budget savings.<sup>10</sup> It emphasises the importance of a cross-

cutting approach and of the programme being driven corporately. Its seven main aspects are covered more fully in [Part 5](#):

- a whole-council service review and redesign programme
- enhancing community engagement, participation and empowerment
- making best use of physical assets, assisted by a corporate landlord model
- investing in well-planned and designed digital solutions
- developing the workforce's skills, flexibility and working patterns
- optimising partnership resources
- making process and productivity improvements.

“ It is a fair assessment to suggest that the outlook for the council remains extremely challenging... It should be recognised that Fit for 2024 raises fundamental questions about the future shape of Scottish Borders Council.

Fit for 2024

”

**The council has been proactive in providing direct support to partnership initiatives through secondments but must ensure it has capacity to implement the Fit for 2024 programme while continuing to deliver public services**

**31.** The council has been proactive in supporting wider partnership initiatives through secondments of some of its senior officers. The council views these opportunities as providing unique insight and access to shape economic development, and as a means of the council realising its ambitions for the area.

**32.** Both the council's executive directors spend the majority of their time on secondment in lead roles within other organisations. The Executive Director for Commercial Activity is also the managing director of SB Cares four days a week [Exhibit 3 \(page 17\)](#). This arm's-length external organisation (ALEO) was established by the council to provide adult social care services.

**33.** The Executive Director for Strategic Partnerships is seconded to the Scottish Government for three days a week to help establish the South of Scotland Enterprise Agency.

**34.** The CMT also has roles in two ongoing major economic development initiatives: the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region Deal and the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal [\(Part 4\)](#).

**35.** While this is a positive and innovative approach aimed at realising the council's wider ambitions, it must continue to ensure that there is sufficient capacity to deliver local services and its Fit for 2024 programme commitments in a sustainable way.

### Exhibit 3

#### Corporate management team structure

CMT members have lead roles plus cross-cutting roles that they manage in the council and with its partners.

|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|    | <h4>Statutory officers</h4>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <h4>Other or cross-cutting roles include</h4>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                   |  |
|                                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief executive officer</li> <li>• Chief social work officer</li> <li>• Chief financial officer</li> <li>• Monitoring officer</li> </ul>                                                               | <br>                                                                                                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-</li> <li>Public protection</li> <li>Business improvement</li> <li>-</li> </ul>                                                                                              |  |
|    | <h4>Executive directors</h4>                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <h4>Other or cross-cutting roles include</h4>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                   |  |
|                                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial</li> <li>• Strategic partnerships</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                | <br>                                                                                                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managing director of SB Cares</li> <li>Economic development</li> </ul>                                                                                                        |  |
|   | <h4>Service directors</h4>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <h4>Other or cross-cutting roles include</h4>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                  |  |
|                                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assets and infrastructure</li> <li>• Children and young people</li> <li>• Customer and communities</li> <li>• Human resources, transformation, communication</li> <li>• Regulatory services</li> </ul> | <br><br><br> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximising capital investment through collaboration and partnership</li> <li>Reducing inequalities</li> <li>Community engagement</li> <li>Employability</li> <li>-</li> </ul> |  |
|  | <h4>Joint roles with NHS Borders</h4>                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <h4>Other or cross-cutting roles include</h4>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                 |  |
|                                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief officer, health and social care integration</li> <li>• Director of public health</li> </ul>                                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-</li> <li>-</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |

Source: Scottish Borders Council

#### The council needs its staff to buy in to implementing Fit for 2024

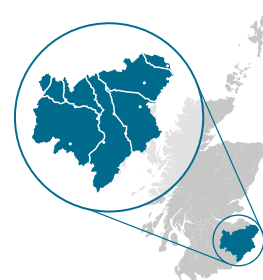
36. The success of Fit for 2024 will depend on the active participation of staff from across the council. They need to feel informed, involved, valued and motivated. We found evidence of staff lacking awareness of their role in the programme and how it affects them. Staff who are not office-based, such as those in roads maintenance depots and waste services, are at greater risk of feeling disconnected and disengaged.

**37.** The CMT recognises that it needs to increase its visibility and engagement with staff at this critical time to drive progress. In particular it is aware of the need for more and better-quality engagement with staff about their role in Fit for 2024. Practical steps to enhance communication are at an early stage and at the time of the audit:

- The council had developed an online staff e-magazine, with contributions from CMT members.
- A staff web page about Fit for 2024 had been set up.
- In July 2019, over 100 staff attended a briefing on Fit for 2024, led by CMT members, in the council's headquarters. Staff had an opportunity to ask questions and raise their concerns.
- CMT members and other senior officers were involved in an ongoing series of staff engagement events, including visits to depots and other local facilities.

# Part 2

## How well is the council performing?



Performance is good or improving in the key service areas of education and social work.

The council's performance was maintained or improved on 68 per cent of national indicators relevant to its priorities and services between 2013/14 and 2017/18. Its performance remained below the national average on many.

The council reports improvements on around half of its own performance indicators.

Residents are more satisfied with their council's services than national data suggest.

The council needs to embed a culture of continuous improvement by implementing a corporate approach to self-evaluation and benchmarking.

Public performance reporting should be clearer and more comprehensive about why performance has deteriorated and what action is being taken.

### Performance is good or improving in the key service areas of education and social work

**38.** The Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) enables a council to compare its performance with that of other councils and the average for all councils. Performance relative to other councils can be gauged by considering how all councils are performing, from highest to lowest for each indicator, and dividing relative performance into four equal bands or quartiles. Quartile 1 contains the best-performing councils and quarter 4 contains the poorest-performing councils.

### Education services continue to perform well overall. Outcomes for children are above the national average and improving

**39.** The council's performance against the LGBF indicator for the proportion of pupils entering 'positive destinations' improved from an already-high level, from 94.4 per cent in 2013/14 to 95.8 per cent in 2016/17. Positive destinations include higher education, further education, training, voluntary work and employment.

**40.** Performance improved for pupils' average total educational tariff. Also improved was the proportion of pupils from the most-deprived areas, who gained five or more awards at both Scottish Qualifications Framework (SQF) Level 5 and Level 6.<sup>11</sup> Indicators of school attendance and exclusion rates improved from 2010/11–2016/17.

**41.** Education Scotland inspected community learning and development (CLD) services in the Scottish Borders in 2017. Key strengths included leadership, impact for participants and focus on equality.

**42.** In April 2018, Education Scotland found there was strong strategic leadership in education and children's services and increasing strengths in the council's approach to quality improvement.<sup>12</sup> The council had appropriate governance for ensuring educational provision was well organised and well led. Scrutiny outcomes, including inspections, were positive overall. Outcomes for children and young people were often above the national average and generally improving.

**43.** In October 2018, Education Scotland reported very good progress on its follow-up to a validated self-evaluation of educational psychology services (EPS) in August 2017.<sup>13</sup>

### **Social work and social care services' performance is mixed but improving**

**44.** From 2013/14 to 2016/17, three LGBF indicators improved:

- the proportion of children being looked after in the community improved from 84.4 to 88.6 per cent and from seventh to fourth in the family group
- the proportion of child protection re-registrations within 18 months improved from 13.9 to 3.9 per cent and from seventh to third in the family group
- the proportion of looked after children with more than one placement in the last year improved from 20.7 per cent to 18.9 per cent and from third to first in the family group.

**45.** The council's performance on the proportion of people aged 65 or over who have long-term care needs and receive personal care at home was sustained between 61 per cent and 64 per cent, with some variations year-to-year. Although above the family group median in 2013/14, the council's performance fell below it during this period.

**46.** The Community Planning Outcomes Profile (CPOP) helps to assess whether the lives of people in a community are improving, using a set of core measures of important life outcomes. Of the six CPOP indicators linked to social care and wellbeing, three improved from 2013/14 to 2017/18 including wellbeing, fuel poverty and emergency hospital admissions. The rate of improvement in emergency admissions and in fuel poverty was better than for the family group. By contrast, performance on three CPOP indicators declined, including early mortality, the fragility index and unplanned hospital attendances – which rose by 19.3 per cent, and by more than for the council's family group overall. The fragility index is compiled from three measures: overall depopulation in a community, the ratio of older people to the working age population and rural depopulation. It indicates the size of challenge presented by a changing population in a CPP's area.



**47.** In June 2016, the Care Inspectorate reported positively overall on an inspection of services for children and young people.<sup>14</sup> Its recommendations were addressed in the CPP's integrated children and young people's plan 2017–20 and in its action plan for 2018–19. Unfortunately, an updated integrated children and young people's plan for 2018–21 did not specify timescales for planned improvements.<sup>15</sup>

**48.** The Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland inspected health and social work services for older people, from October 2016 to February 2017.<sup>16</sup> The delivery of key processes, strategic planning and plans to improve services, leadership and direction were assessed as 'weak'. The IJB has since developed an improvement plan to address the inspection's recommendations. A progress report in May 2018 showed some improvement actions needed completion deadlines. A progress review by Healthcare Improvement Scotland and the Care Inspectorate is under way.

**49.** In April 2019, the Care Inspectorate reported on a criminal justice social work inspection, which focused on people subject to community payback orders. The council was 'good' in terms of its impact on people who have committed offences, and at assessing and responding to risk and need. Operational managers supported staff well. Areas assessed as 'weak' were: improving the life chances and outcomes for people subject to a community payback order, and leadership of improvement and change. There was a lack of governance and oversight from senior officers and elected members and no performance management structure in place to drive service improvement.<sup>17</sup>

### **Economic development services' performance is good and improving**

**50.** The economy has been a long-standing council priority and the council reports that performance has improved against a number of indicators including:

- The number of businesses supported by the Business Gateway increased from 1,085 in 2016/17 to 1,497 in 2018/19, an improvement of 38 per cent.
- Twenty-six contracts containing community benefit clauses were awarded in 2018/19, an increase of five (24 per cent) from the 21 awarded in 2017/18.
- The number of affordable homes delivered was substantially above the council's annual target of 128 homes – 145 in 2017/18 and 191 in 2018/19.

**51.** On ten relevant LGBF indicators, performance improved on five, remained the same for two indicators, and declined on three. The average time to process a business or industry planning application improved and the council remained first in its family group, although performance declined for the cost per application. The proportion of immediately available development land as a percentage of total land nearly trebled from 13 per cent in 2014/15 to 37 per cent in 2017/18.

**52.** The number of Business Gateway start-ups per 10,000 population decreased slightly from 20.4 in 2013/14 to 19.5 in 2017/18. While the council remained fourth in its family group, its performance in 2017/18 was substantially above that for Scotland. There was more investment in economic development and tourism, but performance remained below the Scottish average and in the bottom three councils of its family group.

**53.** Performance improved for four economy-related CPOP indicators and declined for one, between 2013/14 and 2017/18. The indicators for which performance improved were the proportion of people receiving out-of-work benefits, the employment rate, median earnings and the proportion of business start-ups surviving. The business survival rate for the council's area is similar to that for its family group and for Scotland overall.

**54.** Economic development is a council priority, and the employment rate improved slightly from 74.1 per cent to 74.8 per cent. This was above the level for Scotland overall at 73.6 per cent, although national and family group improvement was faster over the same period.

### Performance has been maintained or improved on 68 per cent of national performance indicators between 2013/14 and 2017/18

**55.** We analysed the council's performance for 44 LGBF indicators that are relevant to its priorities and services, and which have been reported on consistently from 2013/14 to 2017/18. In this period, the council's performance was maintained or improved on 25 (68 per cent) of the 44 indicators, in absolute terms ([Exhibit 4](#)). National LGBF data for 2018/19 have not yet been published.




## Exhibit 4

### Changes in the council's performance from 2013/14 to 2017/18

From a total of 44 comparable LGBF indicators, performance improved for 25 and declined for 14.






#### Long-term performance, 2013/14 to 2017/18

|                                                                                                              | Indicators |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
|                                                                                                              | Number     | Percentage |
|  Improving performance    | 25         | 57%        |
|  No change in performance | 5          | 11%        |
|  Declining performance    | 14         | 32%        |



#### Performance compared to Scottish average, 2017/18

|                                                                                                                                                      | Indicators |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
|                                                                                                                                                      | Number     | Percentage |
|  Better performance (by over 10 per cent)                         | 8          | 18%        |
|  Similar performance (within 10 per cent of the Scottish average) | 16         | 36%        |
|  Worse performance (by over 10 per cent)                          | 20         | 46%        |

#### Notes:

Our analysis excluded:

1. Indicators for the cost of providing a service – because the size of the cost could be ambiguous. A higher cost could indicate investment in higher quality, and a lower cost may not mean better value for money.
2. The indicator for the proportion of the highest-paid five per cent of employees who are women – because it does not have a bearing on the quality of a council's public services.
3. Five indicators related to housing – because Scottish Borders Council does not own council houses.

Source: Improvement Service

**56.** From 2013/14 to 2017/18, the council's performance declined for 14 indicators and declined by a margin of ten per cent or over on the following four indicators:

- quality ratings for children's early years' service providers – performance declined from 97.5 per cent of providers graded 'good' or 'better' for all quality themes, to 87.5 per cent
- the proportion of invoices sampled that were paid within 30 days – performance declined from 90.2 per cent to 78.0 per cent
- the proportion of procurement spent on local small/medium enterprises – performance declined from 28.5 per cent to 23.1 per cent
- the proportion of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition – performance declined from 91.6 to 62.1 per cent.

**57.** In 2017/18, the council performed above the Scottish average by ten per cent or more for eight indicators (18 per cent) but was over ten per cent below average for 20 indicators (46 per cent), including:

- the proportion of unemployed people assisted into work by council-funded or operated employability programmes – 4.2 per cent (Scotland average 14.4 per cent)
- investment in economic development and tourism per 1,000 population – £43,132 (Scotland average £91,779).

### **The council's performance was below the national average on most indicators between 2013/14 and 2017/18**

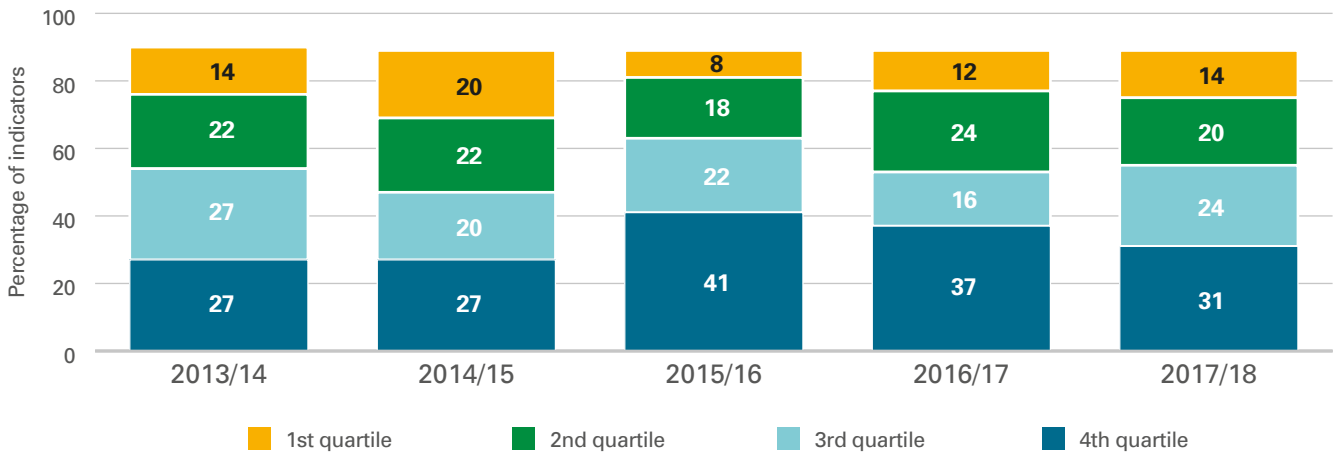
**58.** The council's performance has varied over time. [Exhibit 5 \(page 24\)](#) uses the same 44 indicators as [Exhibit 4 \(page 22\)](#). The proportion of the council's indicators in the upper two quartiles improved from 36 per cent in 2013/14 to a peak of 42 per cent in 2014/15 before falling back to 34 per cent in 2017/18. This means that the council consistently performed below the Scottish average for most of the 44 LGBF indicators we analysed.

**59.** Budget pressures influenced performance in services where the council reduced funding. These included leisure services, where budget reductions affected service quality – something the council had anticipated.

## Exhibit 5

### The council's LGBF relative performance, 2013/14 to 2017/18

During this period, the council's performance was below average for a majority of indicators.



Notes:

1. Measuring the council's performance involved considering how all councils performed, from lowest to highest for each indicator. From this, it was possible to see how one council compared with all others. Relative performance against other councils was divided into four equal bands, or quartiles. The first quartile contained the best-performing councils for that indicator and the fourth quartile contained the poorest-performing councils.
2. The figures in each column do not total to 100 per cent because of rounding effects and because five LGBF indicators for the performance of housing services do not apply to this council, as it does not own council houses.

Source: Audit Scotland; and Improvement Service

### The council reports improvements on around half of its own performance indicators

**60.** Since 2018/19, the council has aligned its performance management framework with its current corporate plan, and it presented its first quarterly report in this revised format to the Executive Committee in September 2018. The 2018/19 summary report rated the council's performance as 'green' ('improved') for 26 (52 per cent) of the 50 indicators it used [Exhibit 6 \(page 25\)](#).

Performance was 'amber' ('deteriorated') for 17 indicators (34 per cent) and was 'grey' ('flat' or no comparator existed) for seven indicators (14 per cent).

### Local residents are more satisfied with council services than national data suggest

**61.** The LGBF uses nine indicators of service users' satisfaction with council services. These are based on national surveys such as the Scottish Household Survey (SHS).

## Exhibit 6

### The council's performance in 2018/19

In 2018/19, the council rated 52 per cent of its 50 indicators as green, meaning 'improved performance'.

| Priority                                          | Number of indicators |           |           | Total      |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
|                                                   | →                    | ↓         | ↑         |            |
| Our services for you                              | 2                    | 8         | 10        | 20         |
| Independent, achieving people                     | 3                    | 4         | 6         | 13         |
| Thriving economy, with opportunities for everyone | 2                    | 2         | 4         | 8          |
| Empowered, vibrant communities                    | -                    | 3         | 6         | 9          |
| <b>Overall (number)</b>                           | <b>7</b>             | <b>17</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>50</b>  |
| <b>Overall (per cent)</b>                         | <b>14</b>            | <b>34</b> | <b>52</b> | <b>100</b> |

Note: Since the previous year: Amber arrow = performance was 'flat' or no comparator existed. Red arrow = performance deteriorated. Green arrow = improved performance.

Source: Scottish Borders Council

**62.** Recent national data shows that satisfaction has declined across Scotland for all council services and this is also the case in the Scottish Borders ([Exhibit 7, page 26](#)). Satisfaction with the council's services declined from 2012–18 on eight of the nine indicators and declined for four services at a faster rate than the national average. In 2018, the council was rated among the eight weakest councils on five indicators, including four indicators for which it was among the three weakest councils. This includes satisfaction with parks and open spaces, leisure facilities, libraries and museums and galleries. The council needs to better understand the reasons behind its relatively poor performance.

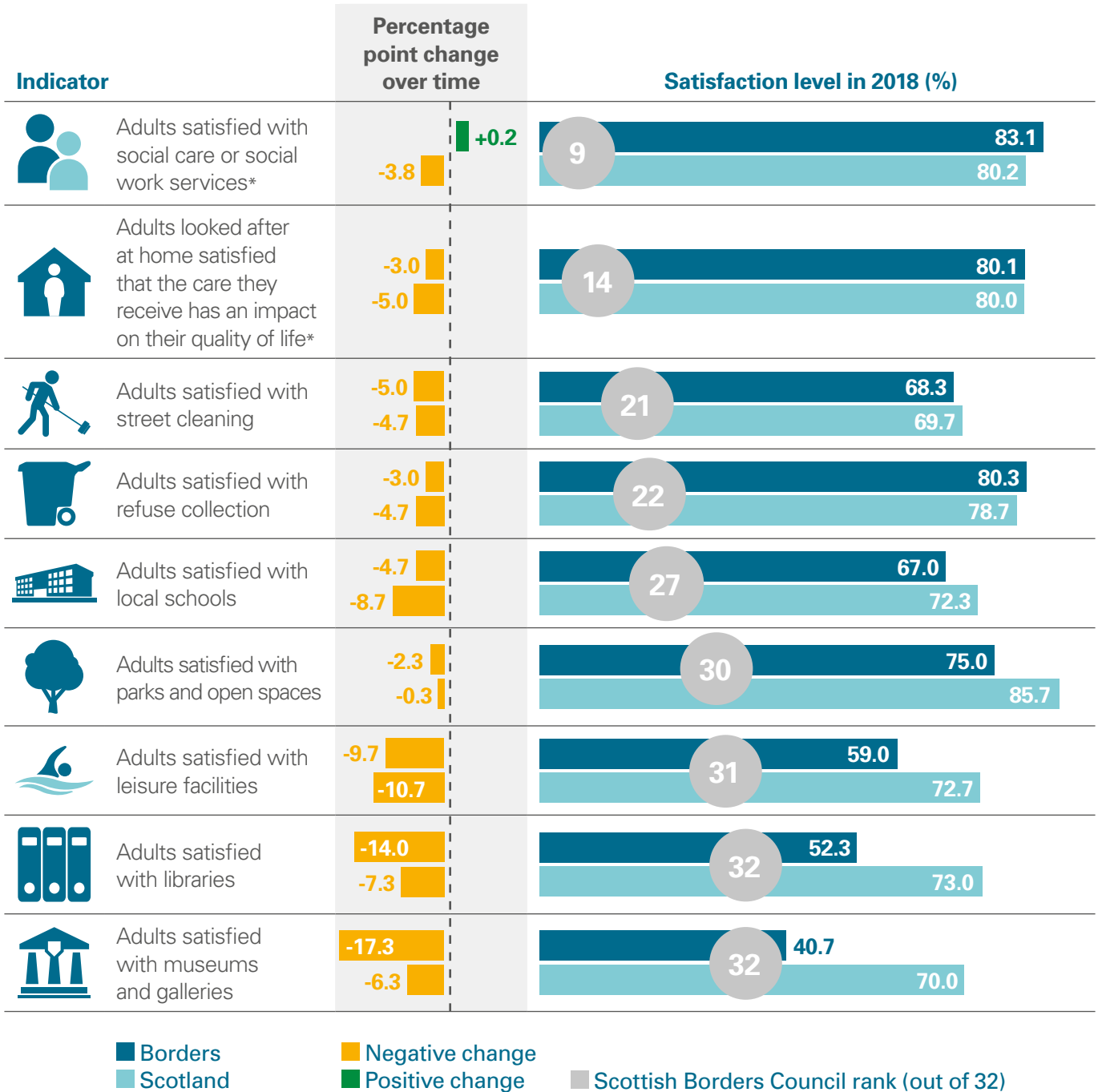
**63.** Since 2006, Scottish Borders Council has conducted a household survey to gather customer views of council services and life in the Scottish Borders. In the 2018 survey, 905 responses were received. The results were reported to the council's Executive Committee in February 2019.<sup>18</sup> Feedback included:

- 55 per cent rated Scottish Borders Council as 'good' or 'excellent'
- 55 per cent 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that the council is good at letting people know how well it is performing
- 54 per cent 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that the council provides high-quality services
- 40 per cent 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that the council does the best it can with the money available (compared to 39 per cent for the Scotland average in the Scottish Household Survey)
- 31 per cent 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that the council designs services for the people who use them.

### Exhibit 7

#### Customer satisfaction with council services, 2012–2018

Satisfaction with council services declined faster than the national average on four LGBF indicators.



Note: Indicators marked ‘\*\*’ are from the Scottish Health and Care Experience Survey and presented for 2014/15 and 2017/18, ranked by 2017/18 data. A rank of 1 shows the best performing Scottish council and 32 shows the weakest one.

Source: Improvement Service

**64.** In individual services, results from the council's survey included:

- 83 per cent of respondents were satisfied with the kerbside waste collection service, whereas the LGBF data showed 80 per cent of adults were satisfied with refuse collection
- 77 per cent of respondents were satisfied with sport and leisure facilities, compared with 59 per cent for the corresponding LGBF indicator
- 59 per cent of respondents were satisfied with libraries, compared with 52 per cent for the corresponding LGBF indicator
- satisfaction with schools ranged from 68 per cent of respondents in Berwickshire to 81 per cent in Cheviot, compared with 67 per cent for the Scottish Borders overall according to the corresponding LGBF indicator.

**65.** The council found that a lower budget for parks and open spaces impaired its ability to conduct maintenance consistently at previous levels. Policy changes in 2018, such as changing the grass-cutting cycle from every ten days to every 20 days, partly explain the fall in satisfaction. The council has met with community councils and groups to discuss service changes and understand their impact.

**66.** The delivery of leisure facilities, libraries, museums and galleries is the remit of Live Borders, an ALEO established by the council. Live Borders does not survey customer satisfaction directly. Since 2018, its service managers have reviewed a quarterly 'net promoter score survey' and customer feedback to establish how services are viewed. Visitors to museums and galleries are encouraged to give feedback online through TripAdvisor.

## **The council needs to embed a culture of continuous improvement throughout the organisation**

### **Benchmarking practice is inconsistent across the council**

**67.** The Accounts Commission requires councils to report their performance using the national LGBF data. Although the council does this, it is unclear how it utilises the data to pursue service performance improvements systematically. Benchmarking is applied in some service areas including education and complaints handling, but the council should embed proactive, systematic use of this approach to drive performance improvements across all services.

### **There is room to improve performance reporting**

**68.** Officers submit quarterly performance reports to the Executive Committee and an annual report in June each year. Members' scrutiny of the information reported to them is generally good. The Executive Committee has no opposition members, but opposition members can publicly scrutinise and challenge performance information in a meeting of all members in full council meetings.

**69.** In addition, officers invite all members to attend a private annual briefing on the council's performance. However, in January 2019, fewer than half of members (15 of 34) attended a briefing arranged by officers and no meeting record was kept.

**70.** Performance reports to the Executive Committee highlight activities that will affect performance in each corporate theme. However, they lack a clear, succinct

overview of the council's position. Also, and the number of indicators and the amounts of performance information provided vary significantly across the four corporate themes. There is insufficient explanation of areas identified for improvement.

**71.** The council's graphical public performance reporting (PPR) summary for 2018/19 makes it difficult for members and the public to gain a clear overview of the council's changing performance. It would be helpful to distinguish actual performance on an indicator from the performance trend to clarify, for example, situations where:

- performance was at a very high level and a small decrease is acceptable
- performance was adequate, and remains relatively unchanged over time
- performance was poor and any deterioration is not acceptable.

**72.** There is scope for performance reporting to more clearly and consistently include concise information on reasons for under-performance and actions to address these, helping drive planned continuous improvement. Although the council compares itself against its family groups for relevant LGBF indicators, this material is not part of the PPR summary and is not published on the council's website in a timely way.



# Part 3

## Is the council using its resources effectively?



The council demonstrates effective financial planning and management. It has a good track record of making savings but the financial outlook remains challenging.

Workforce management has developed gradually and workforce planning remains challenging. The council has begun a programme to improve communication with staff but must do more to understand and act on their views.

Procurement performance is good and improving.

### The council demonstrates effective financial planning and management

#### Budget scrutiny is effective

**73.** Scrutiny of financial performance is delegated to the council's Executive Committee, which receives quarterly revenue and capital monitoring reports from officers. Financial reports include: commentary on performance, details of how performance differs from budgets, reasons for the variances and any necessary changes to budgets or reserve balances. These comprehensive reports facilitate transparency and openness. There is sufficient monitoring of financial information during the year, with members providing effective scrutiny.

#### A revenue plan with a five-year timespan is updated annually

**74.** The council has developed five-year revenue plans annually since 2013/14. The 2017/18 external audit recommended that the council should introduce high-level, longer-term scenario planning for the next ten years. This began with the 2018/19 revenue budget.

#### The council consults stakeholders online about its budget

**75.** The budget-setting process includes input from services and contributions from stakeholders and residents, with the council using an online Dialogue Community Engagement Tool to seek ideas and comments. The 2019/20 budget was discussed at meetings of all five locality partnerships ahead of the full council meeting that set the budget in February 2019.

#### A capital planning strategy spanning ten years is updated annually

**76.** A ten-year capital plan is prepared annually as part of the budget-setting process. The capital investment strategy for 2019/20 links the council's

investment priorities to the themes of the current corporate plan. Although there has been some slippage each year, the council has generally implemented its capital plans effectively.

**77.** The capital plan for 2019/20–2028/29 anticipates £386 million of investment, including £171 million in the three-year operational plan and the remaining £215 million within a seven-year strategic plan. The largest items of spend are roads and bridges infrastructure (£80 million), the Hawick flood protection scheme (£52 million) and the new Hawick High School (£40 million). The plan will be funded by the general capital grant (£155 million), Scottish Government grants (£70 million), developer contributions (£1.2 million), external grants (£16 million), capital receipts (£5.0 million), the plant and vehicle replacement fund (£20 million), the synthetic pitch replacement fund (£4.2 million) and borrowing (£115 million).

### **The council has a clear policy for managing its reserves**

**78.** The council reviews the level of its uncommitted financial reserves when setting its budget each year. The review is based on an assessment of corporate risks, with each risk being assigned a likely financial value as well as a likelihood of the risk occurring. The council expects that it is unlikely all risks would transpire simultaneously. Earmarked reserves are maintained to fund specific initiatives, such as the council's energy efficiency fund.

**79.** The 2019/20 budget planned to maintain an unallocated General Fund reserve of £6.3 million. The unallocated balance projected at 31 March 2019 equated to 2.2 per cent of the council's net revenue expenditure and was sufficient to cover 54 per cent of the risks identified in the finance risk register should they be realised.

**80.** The council has largely maintained its level of usable reserves in recent years, with a total General Fund balance of £17.5 million in 2018/19 compared to £17.2 million in 2013/14. The council is in the third quartile of councils for its level of usable reserves compared to its net revenue stream. However, the council considers its level of reserves provides sufficient contingency for unforeseen costs.

### **Asset management planning works well**

**81.** Asset management plans align with the objectives and priorities detailed in the council's current corporate plan. The council is adopting a corporate landlord model that centralises all estate-related budgets, decision-making and activities within one core team. Council service departments now need to make a business case for the property that they wish to deliver a service from, which helps the council to provide sufficient space but no more space than is required. This approach applies to all capital and revenue investment proposals.

**82.** The Executive Committee agreed in January 2015 to adopt a long-term, strategic approach to the council's school estate. A report to the committee in September 2016 identified the need for a phased School Estate Review, following nine consultation events in high schools in March 2016.

**83.** In April 2017, the council undertook a statutory consultation process about proposals to build increased school capacity in Jedburgh. This is to replace the town's nursery, primary and secondary schools and ensure additional support needs provision. After extensive consultation work, the council agreed in December 2017 to establish a multi-purpose intergenerational learning campus in Jedburgh, which is on track to open in spring 2020 as the Jedburgh Grammar Campus.

### **The outsourcing of ICT services proved to be a challenging journey**

**84.** In March 2016, the council decided to outsource its ICT services to an external company, CGI UK Ltd (CGI), as part of a 13-year contract worth £92 million. The contract was based on a contract previously negotiated between the City of Edinburgh Council and CGI under Public Sector Partner procurement guidelines. Through its contract with Scottish Borders Council, CGI is responsible for implementing a range of major ICT changes including:

- replacing the council's hardware systems
- replacing its finance and human resources systems with a new integrated system: Business World enterprise and resource planning system (ERP)
- providing enhanced cyber security arrangements and new offsite back-up facilities
- developing a digital customer access (DCA) system to help the public access council services more easily, and at lower cost to the council.

**85.** The agreement with CGI has allowed the council to access the technical expertise and support of a major international company, as well as address risks with recruiting and retaining ICT staff in the area. The new Business World ERP system was implemented from April 2017, cyber security arrangements have been improved and replacement of the council's hardware is ongoing. The council has experienced problems with the full delivery of the benefits expected from the CGI contract. The implementation of the DCA was delayed and issues arose when the Business World ERP system was first introduced. Problems with third party service providers led to their removal and other contractors were required to rectify problems, although at no extra cost to the council.

**86.** Council staff told the audit team that the new computer systems are often sluggish and that helpdesk support by CGI can be unresponsive. Overall, the forecast benefits from the ICT contract have not materialised as soon as the council expected. The council's new ICT arrangements should bring benefits in time. It expects that a CGI ICT service delivery centre in the Borders will boost the local economy.

**87.** The Inspire Learning Programme is an innovative £16 million investment in a digital learning environment for school pupils. The project has been developed by a partnership of the council, CGI, XMA and Apple. The project is a key part of the council's Digital Learning Strategy and aims to transform teaching and learning in schools. It includes plans for iPads to be provided to all P6-S6 pupils and shared devices for P1-P5 pupils too. Secondary teachers received their iPads before the summer break in 2019. The roll-out to high school pupils will occur from August 2019 through to June 2020. An Inspire Learning Board oversees the project and is chaired by the council's chief executive. A project manager and project team work with the council's technology partners and schools to deliver the programme. It is too soon to gauge the impact of the Inspire Learning Programme.

**The council has a good track record of making savings, but the financial outlook remains challenging**

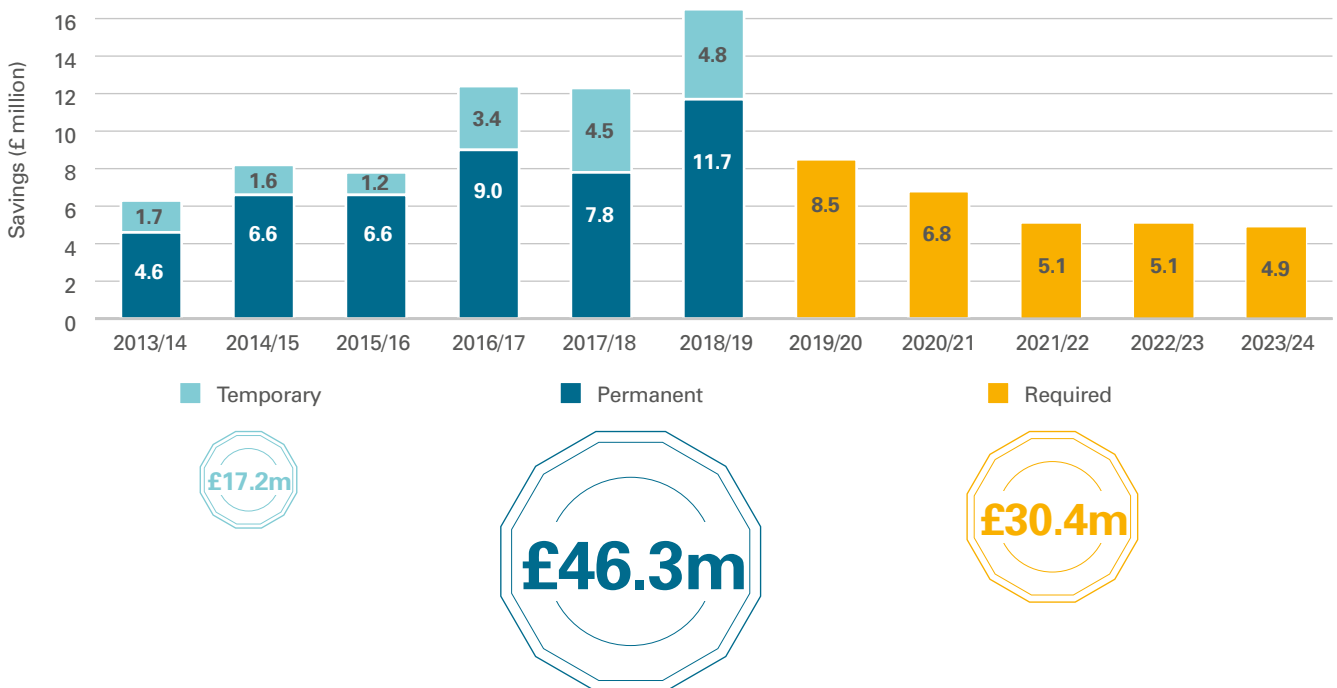
88. The council reports that from 2013/14–2018/19, it made £46.3 million of permanent (annually recurring) cost reductions and £17.2 million of temporary (non-recurring) savings (Exhibit 8).

89. The council’s revenue budget for 2019/20–2023/24 forecasts required savings totalling £30.4 million over this period. The council has a good record of achieving savings and has reflected the impact of demographic change on demands for services and pay increases for council staff, in its financial plans. However, in common with all other councils, the financial outlook remains a significant challenge.

**Exhibit 8**

**Savings achieved, and forecast savings required over 2019/20 to 2023/24**

The council has forecast that it needs to save more than £30 million over five years.



Source: Scottish Borders Council

**Workforce management has developed gradually and workforce planning remains challenging. The council should do more to understand and act on the views of staff**

**The council recognises that workforce planning needs to be developed further**

90. The council faces a number of workforce challenges. For example, the age profile of the council’s workforce has implications for its evolving composition in future and the recruitment activity that will be needed to replace retirees. It may

be more difficult to attract and retain officers to senior management roles than for a larger and more urban council. The council also faces private sector competition for staff with transferable skills at lower grades.

**91.** The 2010 Best Value audit found that workforce planning needed to be developed further and applied across the council. There have since been improvements. For example:

- A medium-term strategic people plan for 2016–21 is in place. It recognises the challenges of geographical location and in terms of succession planning.
- People plans are more integrated with the business and financial planning cycle. The council intends to integrate workforce priorities into each service's team plan to help them plan for the future, meet their service objectives, stay within budget, meet savings requirements and maintain a suitable workforce that is fit for the future.
- Progress is being made with new initiatives such as WorkFlex Borders, which is being trialled to improve the use of bank and casual staff, and with a 'grow your own' approach to recruiting and retaining teaching staff.
- One of the seven strands in the council's Fit for 2024 programme focuses on the development of workforce skills, flexibility and working patterns.

**92.** The council still needs to develop longer-term workforce plans and ensure this work is integrated into individual service plans.

#### **The staff appraisal process is being revised**

**93.** The staff appraisal process is being refreshed to link it with the corporate plan. A competency framework has been developed for staff, with each competency linked to the corporate plan. New annual performance appraisal documentation, introduced during 2019, will be recorded on the Business World ERP system.

#### **Sickness absence levels are similar to those for other councils**

**94.** LGBF data for 2017/18 show sickness absence levels are similar to the Scottish average. In Scottish Borders Council, the sickness absence level for non-teachers was virtually unchanged from 11.0 days in 2013/14 to 11.1 days in 2017/18, compared to 11.4 days for Scotland overall. The level for teachers improved from 6.7 days in 2013/14 to 6.1 days in 2017/18, when it was only marginally worse than the 5.9 days for Scotland overall.

**95.** Over the past six years, the human resources (HR) Advisory Team (now a Case Management Team) has helped managers to tackle sickness absence. Concentrated HR support helps specific areas of the organisation to deal with attendance. However, the LGBF sickness absence data suggest the new arrangements have made a modest impact overall.

#### **The council should do more to understand the views of staff**

**96.** We reported in 2010 that employees were concerned about the extent and pace of change. During this audit, staff told us that they saw limited engagement between the CMT and the workforce and that the CMT lacks visibility. Wider staff views are unclear because there has been no council-wide staff survey since 2010.

**97.** The council should be proactive in seeking the views of the whole workforce more regularly and provide staff with feedback. This could be challenging for staff groups with limited access to office technology. The CMT is aware of the need to improve communication with staff and began a staff engagement programme during this audit. An ongoing series of roadshows for staff across the Scottish Borders is being used to explain the Fit for 2024 programme and to seek the views of staff. Some further information is now available to staff online and a council-wide staff survey is planned for late 2019.

### **The council conducts effective options appraisals**

**98.** There is evidence that the council undertakes effective options appraisals when tackling significant decisions. Options appraisals and business cases for changes to services – such as the outsourcing of ICT, setting up a trust for delivering cultural services and developing a long-term approach to the school estate – are presented to members for consideration. The Audit and Scrutiny Committee, in respect of its scrutiny functions, examines key decisions, including assessing whether projects have achieved their stated aims and achieved predicted savings. For example, the council's investment in superfast broadband was assessed and reported on at the end of 2018 and the outsourced ICT contract was scrutinised in April 2019.

### **Procurement performance is good and improving**

**99.** Procurement is handled by a central team. Its Commercial and Commissioned Services Strategy sets out a five-year approach and includes sustainable procurement policies. Performance against the strategy is reported annually.

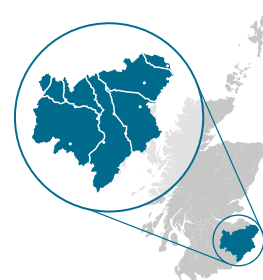
**100.** The council spent £157.4 million with third party suppliers in 2017/18. Of this, £30.7 million of expenditure was through 105 regulated contracts, including £16.5 million with local suppliers. Regulated procurement activity is governed by the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014. The council has adopted the Scottish Living Wage (SLW) and facilitated payment of the SLW to care and support workers across the Scottish Borders.

**101.** Scotland Excel is the national centre of procurement expertise for the local government sector. The council participates in 55 (93 per cent) of Scotland Excel's framework contract agreements. Scotland Excel's Procurement and Commercial Improvement Programme (PCIP) assesses a council's procurement performance, with a focus on the policies and procedures driving procurement performance as well as the results they deliver. It includes an element of self-evaluation, so the onus is on a council to be open and transparent. The council's PCIP performance improved from 72 per cent in 2016 to 78 per cent in 2018, remaining in the top performance band (for performance of over 70 per cent). Scotland Excel identified a small number of areas for improvement and plans to assess the council's procurement performance again by June 2021.

**102.** A contract management framework for the council is being developed by a working group, established in 2018. The framework is intended to give the CMT and managers assurance that contract-related risks are being considered and managed effectively. The council expected to implement its new framework in the course of 2019.

# Part 4

## Is the council working well with its partners?



The council is a key partner in a number of complex and ambitious economic initiatives. Leadership capacity will continue to be required to drive them forward.

Partnership working with NHS Borders, through the IJB, could be improved. The council has made good progress with other aspects of joint working.

Where the council provides services through ALEOs, the risk of potential conflicts of interest needs to be carefully managed.

With leadership from the council, the CPP needs to finalise and implement its locality plans. It also needs corresponding arrangements for performance management and reporting.

### Complex and ambitious regional economic initiatives will continue to require leadership capacity to drive them forward

#### The Borders Railway reopened successfully in 2015

**103.** The Borders Railway is the longest new domestic railway built in the UK for over 100 years. It was developed in partnership with the Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise, Transport Scotland, VisitScotland and the City of Edinburgh and Midlothian councils. Since it reopened, the railway has spurred economic development and driven housebuilding, and increased demand for some council services. Evaluations by Transport Scotland say that the railway is achieving the investment objectives set out in its original business case. The railway continues to be a key feature in the region's economic development.

#### The Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region Deal was formally signed off in 2018

**104.** This is a partnership between six councils (Scottish Borders plus the City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Fife, Midlothian and West Lothian) together with universities and colleges, the Scottish and UK Governments and the third and private sectors. The UK and Scottish governments will jointly invest £600 million over the next 15 years, with regional partners committed to contributing over £70 million.<sup>19</sup> An outline agreement between the partners was agreed in July 2017 and the deal was formally agreed by partners in August 2018.



#### City Region Deal

An agreement between the UK government, Scottish Government and one or more councils to invest in cities and their regions.

**105.** A joint committee, which includes leaders from all the councils, oversees the implementation and monitoring of the deal, supported by a programme management office and several advisory boards. The joint committee meets quarterly and reports to the Scottish and UK governments via a joint delivery board. Deal partners plan to review governance arrangements every six months.

**106.** As part of the deal, the council approved a business case for the Central Borders Innovation Park in Tweedbank, in January 2019. This evolved from the council's masterplan for Tweedbank, to maximise the economic impact of the Borders Railway. It will be funded by £15.0 million from the deal over a 15-year period and £14.1 million from other sources including £5.0 million from the council.

### **The Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal began in 2018**

**107.** In September 2018, a bid was submitted to the UK and Scottish governments by five councils that straddle the border between Scotland and England: Scottish Borders, Dumfries & Galloway, Carlisle City, Cumbria County and Northumberland County. The Scottish Government announced, in March 2019, a commitment of £85 million towards the deal over a decade. The UK Government then unveiled a £260 million contribution the same month. The deal partners, including the councils and the UK and Scottish governments, anticipate their overall investment of £395 million could generate 5,500 new jobs.<sup>20</sup>

**108.** Funding has been confirmed for some projects, subject to full business cases, including up to £19 million from the UK Government for a mountain biking innovation centre in the Scottish Borders. In addition, up to £5 million will be made available by each government to progress the evidence base, the options appraisal and the feasibility work for extending the Borders Railway from Tweedbank to Carlisle.<sup>21</sup> The outline agreement was published in June 2019.

### **The South of Scotland Enterprise Agency could be operational in 2020**

**109.** As part of its Enterprise and Skills Review, the Scottish Government committed to create the South of Scotland Enterprise Agency covering the Scottish Borders plus Dumfries & Galloway. In 2017, the Scottish Government set up the South of Scotland Economic Partnership (SoSEP) as an interim solution to ensure that the south of Scotland benefits from economic development as soon as possible. The SoSEP involves representatives from business, the third sector, further and higher education, and key public sector partners.<sup>22</sup> The aim is for the agency to be operational by April 2020.

## **Partnership working with NHS Borders could be improved**

### **A proposal for a single public authority was not progressed**

**110.** The council and NHS Borders serve the same geographical area and they have worked well in partnership on a number of issues over time, such as their joint appointment of the Director of Public Health, one of the first in Scotland.

**111.** In response to the Scottish Government's national review of local governance in 2018/19, the council proposed the exploration of a single public authority for the Scottish Borders area.<sup>23</sup> It was described as a starting point for dialogue with the Scottish Government and COSLA. However, while the proposal was reported to full council in September 2018, it did not receive the full support of the wider public sector community in Scottish Borders at that time and has not been progressed.



### **The Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board recognises it has more to do and developed a detailed improvement plan**

**112.** The Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Partnership Integration Joint Board (IJB) assumed responsibility for the planning and commissioning of health and social care services from April 2016. It includes adult social care, community health services and those hospital services typically associated with the emergency care pathway (also known as unscheduled care). It is jointly funded by the council and NHS Borders, from which it also commissions services. The IJB's strategic plan for 2018–21 was renewed in 2018/19.

**113.** NHS Borders is at level four out of five in the NHS performance scale (meaning 'at significant risk'). It received Scottish Government support of £10 million to help it break even in 2018/19. A similar budget shortfall is anticipated in 2019/20. This has serious implications for financial planning by the IJB, which has yet to set its 2019/20 budget. It also has implications for the council, which is a partner in the IJB and appoints members to its board.

**114.** In March 2019, the Scottish Government's Ministerial Strategic Group for Health and Community Care (MSG) issued a self-evaluation template to health and social care partnerships as part of an evaluation of progress with the integration of health and social care. The IJB worked with the council and NHS Borders to carry out the self-evaluation and submitted a return to the MSG in May 2019. The self-evaluation was carried out against proposals, with each proposal being assessed as either 'not yet established', 'partly established', 'established' or 'exemplary'. The IJB evaluated itself as being not yet established in one area, partly established in 15 areas, established in six areas and exemplary in none. The area assessed as not yet established relates to agreeing budgets timeously. The IJB has identified improvement actions it needs to take forward.

**115.** Working with partners, and in particular the council, the IJB has brought in new ways of working and providing services, for example the development of the 'step-down' facility at Craw Wood (now Gardenview) and a hospital-to-home service. In 2018/19, the IJB introduced a real-time directory of available care home beds and specialist services, to allow these to be matched to patients. These developments are part of a programme of work to reduce delayed discharges in the NHS environment. However, financial constraints and an NHS board which is needing to focus on its financial sustainability mean that the IJB has made less progress than it might have.

### **The IJB's governance arrangements would be strengthened by regular attendance at board meetings**

**116.** The IJB is governed by a board. Two meetings of the board, at the end of 2018 and beginning of 2019, were inquorate (not enough board members attended) and important decisions were deferred to subsequent meetings. Inconsistent attendance at board meetings may indicate a lack of commitment and it risks undermining the board's effectiveness. Challenges have also arisen from the rapid turnover of senior IJB officers. There have been four chief officers since the IJB was established in 2016, and no permanent chief financial officer. The lack of continuous leadership has impaired the IJB's progress. However, there is now continuity in the position of chief officer and a refreshed effort by the council, NHS Borders and IJB to address their shared challenges cooperatively.

**117.** The IJB receives quarterly performance updates and is required to produce an annual performance report. An Integration Performance Group (IPG) was

established in mid-2018, with performance leads from the health board and council. It coordinates performance information for the IJB and has led on developing indicators for the IJB's performance reporting. A performance management framework was developed by the IPG and introduced in early 2019. It aims to build a culture focused on longer-term trends and continuous improvement.

### **The council has made good progress with other aspects of joint working and recognises there are further opportunities**

**118.** The 2010 Best Value audit found that some jointly provided services were in place. These included services for people with mental health and learning difficulties, and for community safety, criminal justice and town centre regeneration. The Community Health Care Partnership (since superseded by the IJB) had made progress with joint commissioning teams for mental health, drugs and alcohol-related services.

#### **The council works with Midlothian Council**

**119.** In November 2017, the council agreed to a shared chief internal auditor post with Midlothian Council. The post leads both councils' internal audit teams at a strategic level and is supported operationally by principal auditors in each council. In November 2018, the council agreed to continue to share internal audit services permanently, after a pilot demonstrated positive outcomes including the sharing of expertise, knowledge and best practice across both organisations.

#### **The council works with Police Scotland**

**120.** In April 2018, a community action team (CAT) was launched to tackle antisocial behaviour in the Scottish Borders. A team of police officers funded by the council reports to Police Scotland's local area commander. Their work is normally coordinated by the Scottish Borders Safer Communities team in the council's HQ, using local intelligence to address specific community issues. Progress reports are submitted to the Police, Fire and Rescue and Safer Communities Board, whose membership includes council members. The success of the CAT saw the council identify funds in its 2019/20 budget for a second community action team.

#### **The council is involved in other successful joint working**

**121.** Further examples of joint working that have developed over time with other public and third sector organisations include:

- The alarm monitoring and out-of-hours social work service – the team works in cooperation with other council services and with agencies such as the Police, health services and SB Cares. Benefits include access to a well-established service using modern technology, at a competitive cost. Clients benefit from a quality service.
- Mobile library service – Live Borders manages this service for Scottish Borders, Midlothian and East Lothian councils. Vehicles regularly visit communities without a permanent library, and their routes are visible online.
- Galashiels Resource Centre – this day centre for adults with mental health needs is run jointly with NHS Borders, using a shared budget for equipment.

- The Scottish Borders Diabetes Prevention Partnership – it aims to help prevent diabetes by offering activities and programmes that promote healthy lifestyles, and to raise awareness of the risk factors.

### The council recognises opportunities for further joint working

**122.** In its Fit for 2024 change programme the council considers that, with financial pressures increasing, there are still ‘significant opportunities’ for greater sharing of resources, assets and expertise with a range of partner organisations. The council has committed to developing a framework for joint working with partners, alongside targets for clear benefits and savings to be achieved, including:

- options for shared back-office services with partners
- increased co-location of key staff, particularly those in joint services
- income opportunities for the council to deliver key functions for others
- opportunities to commission key functions from partners.

### Where the council provides services through arm’s-length external organisations , the risk of potential conflicts of interest needs to be managed carefully

**123.** The bodies in [Exhibit 9](#) are part of the Scottish Borders Council group. The statutory code of practice on ‘funding external bodies and following the public pound’ cautions councils about appointing councillors or officers to the board of management of an arm’s-length external organisation (ALEO). This can limit the body’s ability to operate ‘at arm’s length’ and raises the risk of a conflict of interest.<sup>24</sup> A board member risks having divided loyalties between their council and board roles. The code says councils must ensure that officers and members are properly advised of their responsibilities to the council and the ALEO.



#### Arm’s-length external organisation (ALEO)




A separate organisation that is established by a council to provide services on its behalf.

Source: *Councils' use of ALEOs*,   
June 2018

## Exhibit 9

### Main bodies in the Scottish Borders Council group

The council has established a range of ALEOs to provide services on its behalf.


| Name                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Type                                                           | Purpose                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
|  <b>Live Borders</b>                                                                                                                   | <b>Charitable trust</b>                                        | <b>Culture and leisure</b>             |
|  SB Cares – comprising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Borders Cares</li> <li>• Scottish Borders Supports</li> </ul> | Limited liability partnership<br>Limited liability partnership | Adult social care<br>Adult social care |
|  <b>Bridge Homes</b>                                                                                                                   | <b>Limited liability partnership</b>                           | <b>Affordable housing</b>              |

### Live Borders is a charitable trust

**124.** Live Borders was established by the council in 2016 as a charitable trust to deliver a broad range of services and manages arts centres and venues, libraries and archives, museums and galleries, and sport and leisure services. The board of management includes the council convener. Performance reports are presented to the council's Executive Committee twice yearly. Reports published on the council's website show performance against targets and include summary financial information. There is clear accountability between the trust and the council.

### SB Cares is the trading name of two limited liability partnerships

**125.** Two limited liability partnerships (LLPs) form SB Cares: Scottish Borders Cares LLP and Scottish Borders Support LLP and the council is the only shareholder of both. SB Cares employs around 880 staff to provide adult social care services. The council considers that SB Cares enables it to achieve greater efficiency and flexibility through a more commercial approach under a specialist board; and to generate income through providing additional services.


**126.** The managing director of SB Cares (0.8 whole time equivalent (WTE)) is also an executive director of the council (0.2 WTE). SB Cares has its own branding and board of management and its external auditor is a private firm. SB Cares officers meet quarterly with the council's Major Contracts' Governance Group, which exercises review and scrutiny, and its papers are published on the council's website. There is potential for a conflict of interest between the postholder's responsibilities as managing director of an ALEO and their council executive director role. The council acknowledges this risk and arrangements are in place for the managing director of SB Cares to provide an annual assurance statement to the council chief executive. Nevertheless, as stated previously, this contradicts the guidance on [Councils' use of ALEOs](#)  and the arrangements which give rise to this unusual line of accountability should be subject to periodic review.

### Bridge Homes is wholly owned by the council

**127.** With the support of the Scottish Futures Trust Investments Ltd (SFT), the council established a council-led house building programme to deliver more affordable housing for the rental market in the Scottish Borders. Bridge Homes LLP is wholly owned by the council. The council has provided Bridge Homes LLP with a loan facility of up to £18.8 million to enable it to deliver affordable homes in line with the council's housing strategy.

**128.** The board of Bridge Homes has two senior council officers and one SFT senior officer. It meets quarterly and the financial viability of projects requires approval by all three directors. The council established these arrangements to minimise the exposure of officers to a potential conflict of interest.

### The CPP's governance arrangements have evolved over the years

**129.** The council has a statutory, central leadership role in the **community planning partnership (CPP)** . Before September 2016 the CPP had a strategic board with representatives from the council, other public bodies and other sectors. Meetings were attended by observers from the Scottish Government and community councils. The arrangement was a pragmatic way for the council to administer CPP meetings and it ensured that decisions of the strategic board became formal council decisions. However, decision-making risked being protracted. If a matter could not be decided by the strategic board, it had to be raised through the appropriate governance arrangements of individual



#### Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs)

Statutory forums for councils, NHS boards and other public and third sector bodies, such as charities and voluntary groups, to work with local communities to plan and deliver better services.

partner bodies and then returned to the Strategic Board for a final decision at a later date.

**130.** In September 2016, a new CPP structure and membership were adopted. A large consultative group now informs the CPP's strategic direction. It meets annually and it is no longer a council committee. A smaller strategic board makes decisions and ensures that the CPP's strategic direction is followed. Its papers are published transparently and accessibly on the council's website. It normally meets quarterly and remains a formal council committee for administrative purposes. Formal business is concluded within a meeting of the strategic board or at separate, additional board meetings. The Joint Delivery Team has become the Joint Programme Board, supporting the strategic board and consultative group.

**131.** Five area partnerships correspond to the locality plan areas used by the council and the IJB: Berwickshire, Cheviot, Eildon, Teviot and Liddesdale, and Tweeddale. Council members find these partnerships important for listening to local stakeholders' views on key themes.

**132.** Over the past two years, the council has met 68 community councils across the Scottish Borders. These jointly have one representative on the CPP consultancy group. The council is considering how community councils can be engaged and heard in order to better inform planning at locality and CPP-wide levels, and aid planning by the council itself. Community councils have a statutory role, on planning matters in particular, that pre-dates the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The council recognises scope for the council and the CPP to improve their engagement with the third sector, which has one representative on each of the strategic board and consultative group.

### **The CPP has been slow to implement the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015**

**133.** The Act aims to give communities more influence over how their council and its partners plan and provide services. It also establishes ways for residents to get more involved in local decision-making and service provision. A council is required to work with its community planning partners to engage with community bodies and improve local outcomes. Joint efforts and resources should be targeted on areas of greatest need to reduce inequalities.

### **The CPP's local outcomes improvement plan was produced late**

**134.** Each CPP must publish a local outcomes improvement plan (LOIP). This plan should prioritise geographical areas for improving outcomes, the improvements it aims to achieve and the timescales. It should also link with outcomes set out in the National Performance Framework. Work to develop the Scottish Borders LOIP was led primarily by the council. The LOIP, termed the community plan by the CPP, was first produced in November 2017. It included a vision, four themes, 15 target outcomes and was updated in May 2018.

### **The CPP's locality plans are two years late and incomplete**

**135.** The Act requires a CPP to prioritise the areas of a council that have the poorest outcomes and publish one or more 'locality plans' to improve target outcomes for those areas. A locality plan should be co-produced with the community; prioritise which local outcomes will be improved; and have timescales for improvements. Statutory guidance required locality plans to be in place by October 2017.

**136.** Over the past few years the council has undertaken extensive engagement with stakeholders including 68 community councils, third sector bodies, registered social landlords and economic development bodies. This engagement has improved the understanding that the council and its CPP partners have of the communities they serve.

**137.** The CPP's strategic board decided to commission a locality plan for each of all five Borders localities simultaneously. It did not prioritise localities or communities with the worst levels of deprivation or the poorest outcomes on issues such as health and education. All five locality plans remained in draft when they were considered by the CPP's strategic board in June 2019. Although they reflect the themes of the community plan, they will not be integrated with the community plan until they are finalised. Ambitions in locality plans have not been costed and are therefore not yet reflected in budgets of the council or its CPP partners. The strategic board was not advised when the locality plans would be finalised.

**138.** The IJB has its own set of locality plans, covering the period 2017–19. The IJB and the council recognise the benefits of merging their two sets of locality plans. The decision whether to merge the plans will be considered when the locality plans are due to be refreshed. No timescale has yet been set for refreshing the CPP's locality plans.

### **Community Asset Transfers (CATs), participation requests and participatory budgeting are all at an early stage**

**139.** Since January 2017 community groups have had a right to ask relevant public authorities to transfer land or buildings that they feel they could use more effectively. The council developed its own guidance on CATs in 2011. Council officers and the council's CPP partners have worked with community groups over the past two years to build capacity to encourage CATs. The CPP has also funded a Men's Shed Development Officer to build capacity on this specific issue.

**140.** Nonetheless, the scale of CATs has been limited. There have been over 30 enquiries regarding CATs during the past two years. Of these, three have progressed to the submission of a formal application and one has been approved. The council recognises it is responsible for ensuring that CATs are viable and sustainable. It appreciates that progressing CATs is at an early stage and will require further promotion and support by the council and its CPP partners.

**141.** From April 2017, communities have had a say in how the council should spend money locally. In October 2017, the Scottish Government and COSLA agreed a joint framework to support councils moving towards at least one per cent of their budgets being subject to participatory budgeting (PB) by 2021.

**142.** The council allocated £500,000 to its Localities Bid Fund (LBF) for piloting participatory budgeting. The LBF is split across the five locality areas (according to their population) to support community projects and initiatives. Round 1 saw £204,000 distributed across 18 projects in 2018. In 2019, Round 2 distributed £296,000 across 40 projects.

**143.** The council has received seven participation requests. Three have been agreed. In its 2019/20 budget, the council pooled £1.2 million from numerous pre-existing community funds into a single, centralised community fund. Its

purpose is to support communities in taking forward locally-agreed community priorities and solutions. Fit for 2024 anticipates that equipping each locality with its own share of the Community Fund will help provide community groups with a single point of entry for making PB requests.

### **The CPP has been slow to empower and engage communities**

**144.** While the council engaged communities as it developed the CPP's community plan and locality plans, limited progress with community asset transfers, participation requests and participatory budgeting shows there is room for improvement.

The council's corporate plan for 2018-23 sets out how it plans to engage with and support communities. Enhanced community engagement, participation and empowerment is a key strand of the Fit for 2024 programme. It will be important for the CMT to report regularly on progress regarding community engagement to council members and the CPP's strategic board.

### **The council and its CPP partners need to be able to measure progress against the community plan and locality plans**

**145.** It is difficult for the council and its partners to determine progress because some indicators and measures in the community plan are not measurable or lack short-term and medium-term targets. Progress reporting includes little analysis of how activities drive performance or deliver improvements for local people. There are no arrangements to track the implementation of locality plans and these are not linked to either the CPP's community plan or the council's plans. A comprehensive performance management framework is needed.

# Part 5

## Is the council demonstrating continuous improvement?



Since the 2010 Best Value report, the council has made steady progress. However, it now recognises it needs to up the pace of change.

By developing the Fit for 2024 programme, the council recognises the degree of transformational change required to meet its challenges. Progress will require good leadership by council members and the CMT, and by fostering staff ownership of the programme.

Embedding and sustaining a consistent approach to self-evaluation and performance management will help the council to manage its transformation programme and deliver improved outcomes for local people.

### The council has made steady progress since 2010 and recognises its needs to up the pace of change

**146.** The last Best Value audit in 2010 found that the council had a good awareness of its own capacity and need for improvement, clear strategic direction and had a coherent business transformation programme.

**147.** The Accounts Commission urged the council to develop fully the mechanisms for testing and scrutinising value for money across its services, and its capacity to present robust options appraisal. It had set a challenging efficiency savings target, and its processes for managing performance needed to become firmly established to support the delivery of this target. The council needed to ensure that it had the capacity to deliver its programme.

### The council has made good progress on some issues but more limited progress on others

**148.** The Business Transformation Programme (BTP) for 2010–15 overlapped the previous administration's term of office from 2012 to 2017 and led to budget savings of £17.8 million. It was succeeded by the Corporate Transformation Programme (CTP) in 2015. In 2015/16–2018/19, the council reported £49.0 million of savings



from its revenue budget, including £35.1 million of recurring savings ([Part 3](#)). Financial management and planning works well, and the council conducts options appraisals effectively.

**149.** The 2010 audit reported that workforce planning and staff appraisal needed to be further developed across the organisation. Workforce management has since developed slowly and planning the workforce remains challenging. The council's staff appraisal process is being refreshed in order to link it with the council's corporate plan. A competency framework has been developed for staff, with each competency linked to the corporate plan. New annual performance appraisal documentation, introduced during 2019, will be recorded on the council's Business World ERP system. The council has begun a programme to improve communication with staff but should do more to understand their views.

**150.** The public's satisfaction with certain council services has declined, for example in leisure and recreation. This was anticipated by the council as a consequence of budget reductions and their impact on service quality. National indicators show that from 2013/14–2017/18, the council's performance was mostly good and improving in the key areas of education and social care, although it was mixed overall.

**151.** The 2010 audit urged the council to develop mechanisms for testing and scrutinising value for money across services and that its process for managing performance needed to become more firmly established. The most recent revision in its approach to performance management, in 2018, was a further step in the right direction but there remains scope to adopt a more consistent, corporate approach to self-evaluation and benchmarking to drive continuous improvement. Pace has also been relatively slow in implementing the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act.

**152.** While the council has good foundations in place, there is more to do to fully embed and demonstrate Best Value.

### **The council's Fit for 2024 transformation programme is wide-ranging. Its implementation needs buy-in from staff and an action plan to help drive and demonstrate progress**

**153.** The council launched the Fit for 2024 corporate transformation programme in February 2019, recognising action is needed to meet future challenges ([Exhibit 10, page 46](#)). The programme aims to make the council more innovative and increase the pace of change. It addresses a comprehensive range of improvement activities that the council needs to undertake.

**154.** Fit for 2024 is a significant programme that will require leadership from members and senior officers to secure staff engagement, which will be key to its success. A measurable and realistic action plan needs to be developed to monitor delivery of the programme and provide a basis for transparent reporting and accountability to members, the council's partners and the public.

## Exhibit 10

### Fit for 2024 programme

In February 2019 the programme set out seven wide-ranging areas of work.

#### Areas of work



#### 1. Whole-council service review and redesign

There is now a need for a more consistent approach, across every council service, that is designed to meet future demands. This will be sponsored by the relevant service director but will be led by an objective review team, which includes officers from key corporate services and other non-service specific challenge. A comprehensive plan/timetable for these reviews will be developed, which prioritises those services which offer the greatest scope for change, improvement and financial savings. Every service review will have clear targets in terms of anticipated benefits, including financial savings, service improvements and capacity to meet future demands.



#### 2. Enhanced community engagement, participation and empowerment

There must be a greater focus on supporting communities to participate in the shaping and enhancing of community resilience and quality of life across the Scottish Borders. This will require a different approach: building capacity and supporting communities' participation in local decision-making, with further investment and greater coordination of efforts and resources across the council and all our partners and local communities.



#### 3. Best use of physical assets, assisted by the council's Corporate Landlord model

Fit for 2024 will drive innovation and creativity in how investment is used to best effect. The council will need to be bolder and braver in its estate decisions, engaging communities and partners in dialogue about how, together, we meet changing customer needs and community demands. Along with our partners and the communities, a joint approach is required to rethink and reshape the collective property portfolio.



#### 4. Investment in well-planned and designed Digital solutions

Working with the council's strategic IT partner, CGI, Fit for 2024 will take a long-term approach to develop future-proof digital solutions that offer greatest value and maximum benefits. The council recognises the need to realise more benefits from its investment in new systems such as through the Digital Customer Access project and the roll-out of Office 365 across all IT users in the council. Fit for 2024 will ensure the full Digital Programme will align with corporate priorities to enable changes, improvements and savings in the Financial Plan to be achieved.

Cont.

## Exhibit 10 (continued)

### Areas of work



#### 5. Development of the workforce's skills, flexibility and working patterns

- Demand-led working – demands for all services and a re-alignment of resources and working patterns.
- Talent management and development to increase flexibility for individuals and staffing resources.
- Increased opportunities for cross-departmental and inter-agency sharing of skills and officers.



#### 6. Optimising partnership resources

There are significant opportunities for still greater sharing of resources, assets and expertise with a range of partner organisations. Fit for 2024 will develop a clear framework for shared services with partners, coupled with targets for tangible benefits and savings to be achieved from these arrangements. Specific areas that will be further explored immediately are:

- Options for shared back-office services with local partners.
- Increased co-location of key staff, particularly those in joint services.
- Income opportunities from the council delivering key functions for other bodies.
- Opportunities to 'commission' key functions from partners.



#### 7. Process improvements and productivity

Fit for 2024 will set out an ambitious programme of process improvement and productivity work that enables the council to sustain or enhance both service delivery and quality levels, while requiring less input of resources. This council-wide programme will streamline back-office activity and increase the productivity levels of frontline services. Much of this work will be underpinned by digital investment and automation opportunities but it will also aim to stop activity that adds no value to the council's customers. This work will use both internal and external skills to:

- Systematically review every resource-intensive or high-volume back-office process across the council.
- Explore areas of potential increased productivity in all services, particularly those areas with greatest spend or resource requirements.
- Automate processes where possible; cease activities where no value is ultimately added to customers or services.

Source: Scottish Borders Council

## Internal Audit has also recommended improvements that the council should act on

**155.** Internal Audit plays an important role in the council's overall system of internal control. Internal Audit findings and recommendations on specific issues are reported during the year to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Audit function), as is the annual statutory audit opinion within the Internal Audit Assurance Report. These reports informed the council's Annual Governance Statement 2018/19, the draft of which was reported to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee and included areas for improvement ([Exhibit 11](#)).

### Exhibit 11

#### Annual Governance Statement

In May 2019, the council's draft Annual Governance Statement identified scope for improvement in eight areas.

#### Areas of work



Commence a more ambitious change and transformation programme through a consistent approach to enable delivery of efficient and effective services to customers in a sustainable way, collaboration with communities and other partners, optimised utilisation of assets across localities, digitally led process improvement, and focus on delivering positive outcomes.



Consolidate and refine procedures and practices to ensure comprehensive data and information management across the council and within each service in all relevant aspects of service delivery to ensure ongoing compliance with legislation and regulations.



Continue implementing the performance management framework which will include the full application of appropriate and proportionate self-assessment processes in all council services as a self-evaluation tool to demonstrate achievement of Best Value.



Continue to ensure that financial, people and business plans are developed concurrently and continue to be aligned to the council's corporate plan and priorities, thus managing service users' expectations effectively with regard to determining priorities and making the best use of the resources available.



The ongoing implementation of the Business World Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system to maximise use of its functionality, specified in solution design documents, and ongoing review of policies, procedures and guidelines of the key financial planning, management and administration processes linked to the financial regulations and of the HR procedures and guidelines associated with the implementation of the new Business World ERP System. Alignment with other computer-based systems and automation of routine processes.



Realise full benefits arising from the implementation of the corporate landlord model to review strategic asset management plans to inform investment in assets and infrastructure to ensure they are fit for the future and reduce the council's property footprint.



Continue to monitor the contract performance outcomes of strategic external service providers, in particular in light of the changing landscape for the public sector.



Review of the complaints handling procedure to ensure consistency of approach across the council for dealing with complaints including raising staff awareness of customer care to fully utilise customer information and improve services through digital customer access.

**156.** Some of these proposals overlap with the Fit for 2024 programme [Exhibit 10 \(page 46\)](#). It will be important for these to be reflected in the implementation of the Fit for 2024 programme.

**157.** [Exhibit 12](#) compares findings from the 2010 audit to judgements from this audit.

## Exhibit 12

### A comparison of 2010 Accounts Commission findings and 2019 audit judgements.

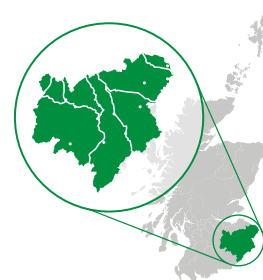
The council has made good progress since 2010 but there is room for improvement in a number of areas.

| Accounts Commission finding                                                                                                                                                                   | 2010 | Controller of Audit judgement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 2019                                                                                                                                                 | View                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Strategic direction</b>                                                                                                                                                                    |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                      |                        |
| The council benefits from strong, political and management leadership and has effective governance.                                                                                           |      | Members and officers demonstrate a strong commitment to working together for the fulfilment of the council's vision.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Effective governance arrangements ensure opportunity for challenge and scrutiny.                                                                     | <a href="#">Part 1</a> |
| The council has a good awareness of its own capacity and need for improvement and has set out a clear strategic direction.                                                                    |      | The council's vision for 2017–22 prioritises six strategic themes, reflecting long-standing challenges.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | The council needs to embed and sustain a culture of continuous improvement by implementing a corporate approach to self-evaluation and benchmarking. | <a href="#">Part 1</a> |
| <b>Performance</b>                                                                                                                                                                            |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                      |                        |
| The council delivers services which are generally of good quality, have improved in recent years and are well regarded by the local community.                                                |      | Performance is good or improving in the key service areas of education and social work. However, the council is below average on many other national indicators. The council reports, in respect of its own indicators, performance is improving on around half. Residents are more satisfied with the council's services than national data would suggest. |                                                                                                                                                      | <a href="#">Part 2</a> |
| The Commission particularly welcomes evidence of good and improving service delivery within social work and education services.                                                               |      | Performance is good or improving in the key service areas of education and social work.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Education services continue to perform well overall. Outcomes for children are above the national average and improving.                             | <a href="#">Part 2</a> |
| Progress has been slow on improvement on some important areas highlighted in the 2007 Best Value audit of the council, such as regulatory and technical services, roads and asset management. |      | The council has made steady progress overall since the 2010 Best Value audit but has more to do to demonstrate Best Value on some matters. The council needs to embed and sustain a culture of continuous improvement by implementing a corporate approach to self-evaluation and benchmarking.                                                             |                                                                                                                                                      | <a href="#">Part 2</a> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                               |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Cont.</b>           |

| Accounts Commission finding                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Controller of Audit judgement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | View                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Performance/resources</b></p> <p>We would urge the council to ensure that it develops fully the mechanisms for testing and scrutinising value for money across its services, and its capacity to present robust options appraisal.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>The council needs to embed and sustain a culture of continuous improvement by implementing a corporate approach to self-evaluation and benchmarking.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p><a href="#">Part 2</a></p> <p><a href="#">Part 3</a></p> |
| <p><b>Resources</b></p> <p>The Commission particularly welcomes the council's simplified staff grading system, which will potentially increase opportunities for more flexible working and development. Workforce planning and staff appraisal do, however, need to be further developed and applied across the organisation.</p>                                                                                                                    | <p>Workforce management has developed gradually and planning the future workforce remains challenging. The council has begun a programme to improve communication with staff but must do more to understand and act on their views.</p> <p>The council's Fit for 2024 programme includes a workforce focus.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p><a href="#">Part 3</a></p>                               |
| <p>The council has had a coherent Business Transformation Programme (BTP), although progress against it has been slower than anticipated. The council needs to ensure it has the capacity to deliver its programme.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>From 2010–2018 the council made good progress with its transformation agenda.</p> <p>Recognising a need to further increase the pace of change and be more innovative, the council embarked on Fit for 2024, a corporate transformation programme, in February 2019. This is intended to be a five-year rolling programme that will improve how the council is managed and save £30 million.</p> <p>The council should ensure there continues to be sufficient capacity to implement this programme while continuing to deliver public services.</p> | <p><a href="#">Part 3</a></p>                               |
| <p>The council has set a very challenging efficiency savings target, and its processes for managing performance need to become firmly established to support the delivery of this target.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>The council has a good track record of making savings.</p> <p>It demonstrates effective financial planning and management arrangements.</p> <p>In common with other public sector bodies, its financial outlook is challenging.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p><a href="#">Part 3</a></p>                               |
| <p><b>Partnership</b></p> <p>The council works well with its partners and we welcome evidence of effective collaboration on services such as health improvement, jointly funded social care, community safety and child protection.</p> <p>The Commission welcomes particularly notable examples of partnership working such as the co-location of services in Peebles and the equalities and diversity officer jointly funded with NHS Borders.</p> | <p>Partnership working with NHS Borders, through the integration joint board, needs to improve.</p> <p>The council has made good progress with other aspects of joint working and recognises there are further opportunities for this.</p> <p>The council is a key partner in complex and ambitious economic initiatives.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p><a href="#">Part 4</a></p>                               |

Source: Audit Scotland

# Recommendations



## The council should:

Embed a culture of continuous improvement by implementing a corporate approach to self-evaluation and benchmarking. ([paragraph 67](#))

Seek to improve partnership working with NHS Borders in order to support the strategic objectives of the Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board. ([paragraphs 112–116](#))

Improve how the Scottish Borders community planning partnership involves communities and the third sector, through greater involvement in local decision-making and by accelerating implementation of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. ([paragraphs 133–144](#))

Establish a structured programme of ongoing staff consultation and engagement. ([paragraphs 36–37, 96–97, 153–154](#))



Update its people plan for 2017–21 and ensure longer-term workforce plans are reflected in service and financial plans. ([paragraphs 90–92, 149](#))

Support members' continuing professional development by tailoring training to meet their individual needs, and use technology to make training more accessible. ([paragraphs 28–29](#))

Ensure performance reports to members and the public are more comprehensive and balanced, and that they cover service performance and delivery of the Fit for 2024 programme. ([paragraphs 71–72, 145–151](#))

# Endnotes

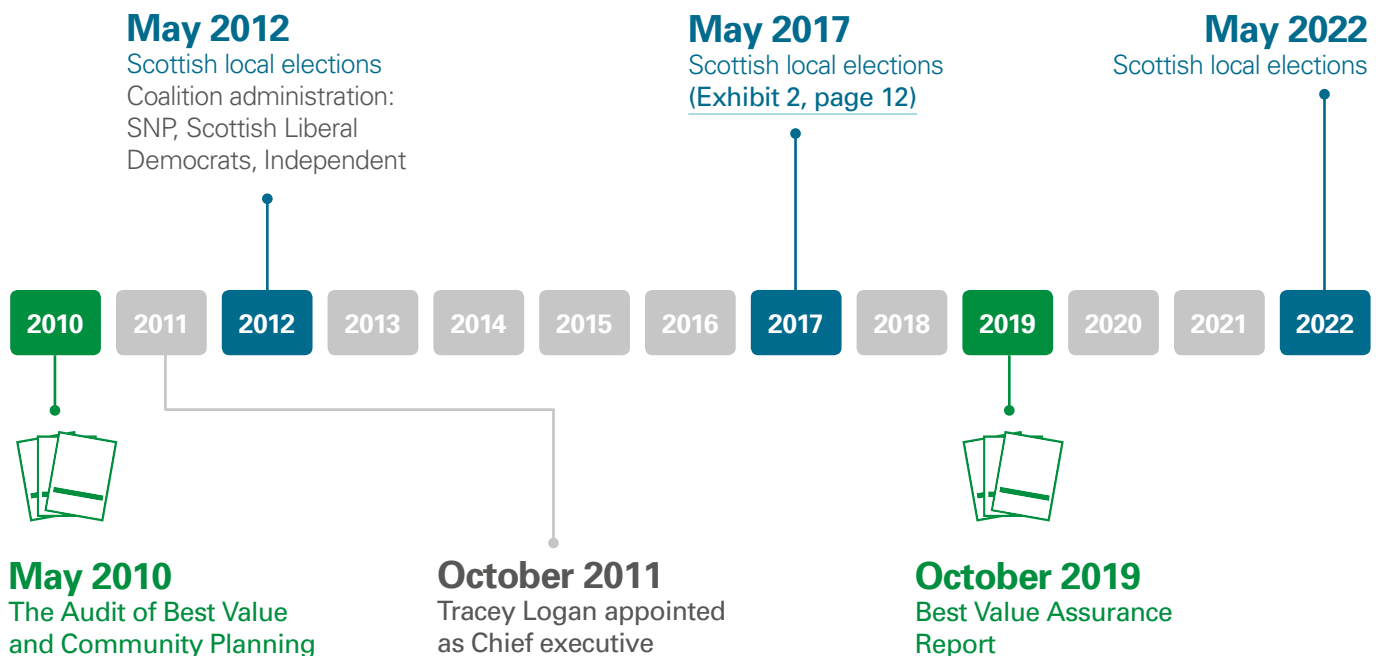


- 1 *Corporate Plan for 2018-2023: Our plan and your part in it*, Scottish Borders Council, February 2018.
- 2 *Land area and population density by administrative area, mid-2018*, National Records of Scotland, April 2019.
- 3 *Mid-2017 population estimate Scotland*, National Records of Scotland, June 2018.
- 4 *Scottish Borders Community Plan 2018*, Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership, May 2018.
- 5 *Introducing the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016*, Scottish Government website at 9 August 2019.
- 6 *Projected percentage change in population (2016-based), by age structure and Scottish area, selected years*, National Records of Scotland, April 2018.
- 7 *Connected Borders 2017–2022: the vision of Scottish Borders Council’s Administration*, item 4, Scottish Borders Council meeting on 28 September 2017.
- 8 *Corporate Plan for 2018–2023: Our Plan and your part in it*, Scottish Borders Council, February 2018.
- 9 *Annual governance statement 2018/19*, Audit and Scrutiny Committee, Scottish Borders Council, 13 May 2019.
- 10 *Fit for 2024, item 1*, Scottish Borders Council meeting on 28 February 2019.
- 11 Education glossary: <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/my-school/Education%20glossary> .
- 12 [Scottish Borders Council Local Scrutiny Plan 2018/19](#) , Audit Scotland, April 2018.
- 13 *Validated self-evaluation: Scottish Borders Council – Continuing engagement*, Educational Psychology Services, Education Scotland, October 2018.
- 14 *Services for children and young people in Scottish Borders*, Care Inspectorate, June 2016.
- 15 *Integrated children and young people’s plan in the Scottish Borders 2018–2021*, Scottish Borders Council meeting, 29 November 2018.
- 16 *Services for older people in Scottish Borders, Report of a joint inspection of adult health and social care services*, Care Inspectorate and Health Improvement Scotland, September 2017.
- 17 *Inspection of justice social work services in Scottish Borders Council*, Care Inspectorate, April 2019.
- 18 *Household survey results – 2018, item 7, Executive Committee meeting*, 12 February 2019.
- 19 *City Regional Deal – accelerating growth*, Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, August 2018.
- 20 *Heads of Terms agreement*, Borderlands Growth Deal, July 2019.
- 21 *Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal*, Borderlands partnership, 1 July 2019.
- 22 *South of Scotland Enterprise Bill (stage 3)*, Rural Economy Committee, Scottish Parliament, 5 June 2019.
- 23 *Report to Council – A proposal for a single public authority in the Scottish Borders*, 25 September 2018.
- 24 *Code of practice on funding external bodies and following the public pound*, 1996.



# Appendix

## Best Value audit timeline



### May 2010. Best Value 2 pathfinder audit

The Commission found the council benefited from strong political and management leadership and had effective governance.

### October 2019. Best Value Assurance Report


The Controller of Audit will present a Best Value Assurance Report to the Accounts Commission at least once during the five-year audit appointment for each council.

This is the first assurance report on Scottish Borders Council. The report seeks to provide the Commission with assurance on the council's statutory duty to deliver Best Value, with a focus on the Commission's strategic objectives.

# Best Value Assurance Report



## Scottish Borders Council

This report is available in PDF and RTF formats,  
along with a podcast summary at:  
[www.audit-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk) 

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# Appendix 2

## Best Value Audit Action Plan

**Audit Recommendation:**      *Embed a culture of Continuous improvement by implementing a corporate approach to self evaluation and benchmarking*

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| Actions Proposed |                                                                                                                                                      | Timescales | Lead Officer          | Report Ref |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| 1                | Adopt PSIF as a corporate approach to self evaluation where no service-specific model is not already in place. Ensure read-across with all services. | 31 Mar 20  | J Craig               | 67         |
| 2                | As part of regular Corporate Management Team performance monitoring, review service self-evaluation arrangements, including use of peer evaluations. | 30 Jun 20  | J Craig               |            |
| 3                | Incorporation of self-evaluation and benchmarking data into annual planning process, ensuring learnings inform planned actions.                      | 30 Apr 20  | D Robertson / J Craig |            |

**Audit Recommendation:** *Seek to improve partnership working with NHS Borders in order to support the strategic objectives of the Integration Joint Board*

| Actions Proposed |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Timescales | Lead Officer         | Report Ref |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|
| 1                | Bring together a joint approach to transformation and evaluation process across the organisations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 28 Feb 20  | C Hepburn / J Smythe | 112 – 116  |
| 2                | Raise visibility of key policies and decisions across respective governance groups including Executive Management Team and Corporate Management Team.                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 31 May 20  | R McCulloch-Graham   |            |
| 3                | Explore co location and shared services opportunities as part of Fit for 2024 and corresponding NHS programmes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 30 Sep 20  | M Joyce              |            |
| 4                | Enhance governance arrangements and clarity of role of respective partnership groups including IJB Board , Executive Management Team and Strategic Planning Group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ improving quality and availability of reports outlining proposals to enable these groups to plan and take decisions more effectively.</li> </ul> | 31 May 20  | R McCulloch-Graham   |            |
| 5                | Develop a model for localities that adopts a single structure for the management and provision of joint health and Social services.                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 30 Jun 20  | R McCulloch-Graham   |            |
| 6                | Ensure a joint financial and service plan that is fully endorsed by respective partners is prepared for IJB on an annual basis.                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 30 Apr 20  | R McCulloch-Graham   |            |

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**Audit Recommendation:** *Improve how the Community Planning Partnership involves communities and the third sector, through greater involvement in local decision making and by accelerating implementation of the Community empowerment act*

| Actions Proposed |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Timescales | Lead Officer | Report Ref |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| 1                | Work with the Improvement Service and Scottish Gov't to provide guidance and support to gain insight into best practice in the implementation of the community empowerment act.                                                                              | 30 Apr 20  | J Craig      | 133 - 144  |
| Page 318         | Conduct a review of the operation of local area partnerships to inform the development of enhanced local decision making service provision and the allocation of resources.                                                                                  | 31 Jan 20  | J Craig      |            |
| 3                | Use the experience of the budget consultation process 2020/21 to develop the approach to mainstreaming participatory budgeting. Work with communities to identify priority areas within current budgets. Evaluation of Localities Bid Fund to be undertaken. | 31 Oct 20  | J Craig      |            |
| 4                | Promote the #your part campaign to recognise the contribution of communities.                                                                                                                                                                                | 31 Dec 20  | J Craig      |            |
| 5                | Undertake an organisational review under Fit for 2024 of how to best develop community capacity in the 3rd sector and localities.                                                                                                                            | TBC        | J Craig      |            |

Continued overleaf

**Audit Recommendation:** *Improve how the Community Planning Partnership involves communities and the third sector, through greater involvement in local decision making and by accelerating implementation of the Community empowerment act*

| Actions Proposed (Continued from previous page) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Timescales             | Lead Officer | Report Ref |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|------------|
| 6                                               | Review Community Plan and Action Plan to ensure actions align to 2020 Strategic Assessment.<br>Agree Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Performance Management Framework through CPP Joint Programme Board and CPP Strategic Board. | 30 Jun 20<br>31 Mar 20 | J Craig      | 133 - 144  |
| Page 319                                        | Completion of Locality Plans and Action Plans.                                                                                                                                                                                        | 31 Mar 20              | J Craig      |            |
| 8                                               | Promote stakeholder engagement through Area Partnerships and community engagement events, with training around leadership/national standards of engagement.                                                                           | 31 Dec 20              | J Craig      |            |
| 9                                               | Community Empowerment Act to become standing agenda item at Area Partnerships with information to raise awareness and provide support to Communities. Research to be undertaken on SBC performance relative to other authorities.     | 31 Dec 20 / ongoing    | J Craig      |            |
| 10                                              | Develop regular reporting of progress on Community Engagement across the whole council, for inclusion in reports to members and CPP Strategic Board.                                                                                  | 30 Jun 20              | J Craig      |            |

**Audit Recommendation:**      *Establish a structured programme of ongoing staff consultation and engagement*

Page 320

| Actions Proposed |                                                                                                                                 | Timescales | Lead Officer | Report Ref                        |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1                | Continue the process of engagement sessions with staff under the Fit for 2024 programme.                                        | 30 Jun 20  | C Hepburn    | 36 - 37,<br>96 - 97,<br>153 - 154 |
| 2                | Hold 2 CMT meetings per quarter in council premises outwith HQ.                                                                 | 30 Jun 20  | J McDonald   |                                   |
| 3                | Develop a communications plan for staff engagement and undertake a structured survey of all staff using the online survey tool. | 30 Jun 20  | C Hepburn    |                                   |



**Audit Recommendation:** *Update its people plan for 2017 -21 and ensure longer term workforce plans are reflected in service and financial plans*

| Actions Proposed |                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Timescales          | Lead Officer | Report Ref      |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1                | Launch a new appraisal process for staff based on the updated competency framework.                                                                                                                                           | 31 Mar 20           | C Hepburn    | 90 – 92,<br>149 |
| 2                | Ensure each department has a 5 year people plan which aligns with the corporate plan and Fit for 2024 principles.                                                                                                             | 30 Sep 20           | C Hepburn    |                 |
| 3                | People planning to be undertaken using a consistent approach as part of Fit For 2024, taking into account Fit for 2024 design principles, staff turnover, succession planning, talent management and future operating models. | Start now / ongoing | C Hepburn    |                 |

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**Audit Recommendation:**      *Support members Continuing Professional Development by tailoring training to meet their individual needs and use technology to make training more accessible*

Page 322

| Actions Proposed |                                                                                                                      | Timescales | Lead Officer | Report Ref |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| 1                | Use improvement service Member CPD to allow members to evaluate their continuing professional development needs.     | 31 Mar 20  | J Craig      | 28 - 29    |
| 2                | Undertake a review of induction training with members to establish any gaps.                                         | 31 Dec 20  | J Craig      |            |
| 3                | Develop a members section of SBLearn where specific materials linked to Councillor responsibilities could be housed. | 31 Dec 20  | J Craig      |            |
| 4                | Survey with the members to identify skills gaps.                                                                     | 31 Mar 20  | J Craig      |            |

**Audit Recommendation:** *Ensure performance reports to members and the public are more comprehensive balanced and that they cover service performance and the delivery of the Fit for 2024 programme*

Page 323

| Actions Proposed |                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Timescales                                           | Lead Officer | Report Ref                    |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 1                | Redevelop the performance management framework to reflect Fit for 2024 priorities and demonstrate best value within performance reporting.                                                             | 31 Aug 20                                            | J Craig      | 71 - 72,<br>145 – 151,<br>152 |
| 2                | Ensure that benchmarking data and longer term trend info is included within performance reports and is used to identify improvement priorities.                                                        | 30 Jun 20                                            | J Craig      |                               |
| 3                | Align the approach & sequencing of performance monitoring for Executive Committee, Corporate Management Team and Directorate Management Team’s, incorporating a programme of service level deep dives. | Agree approach<br>30 Mar 20<br>Commence 31<br>May 20 | J Craig      |                               |
| 4                | Ensure performance reports include adequate commentary on reasons for underperformance and actions to address.                                                                                         | 30 Mar 20                                            | J Craig      |                               |

## Additional planned actions

| Actions Proposed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Timescales           | Lead Officer | Report Ref |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 Review the potential for earlier visibility of meeting / Committee content, for members.                                                                                                                                                              | 31 Mar 20            | J Craig      | 25         |
| 2 Ensure that resourcing of Fit for 2024 does not adversely impact on business as usual service delivery. Rebalance senior portfolio's or use of secondments, backfill, recruitment and/or consultancy as appropriate.                                  | Ongoing              | C Hepburn    | 35         |
| 3 Review content of customer satisfaction surveys, engaging with partner organisations/providers as required, to maximise opportunities for insight and ensure appropriate questioning & results analysis in future Scottish Borders Household Surveys. | 30 Jun 20            | J Craig      | 62         |
| 4 Ensure relevant officers are reminded of their responsibilities to the council and Arm's Length External Organisation(s) at appointment and on a regular basis thereafter.                                                                            | 30 Mar 20 / Ongoing  | R Dickson    | 123        |
| 5 Develop regular progress reporting on Fit for 2024 for FF24 Board, Corporate Management Team and Executive/Public Performance Reporting.                                                                                                              | 30 Mar 20            | C Hepburn    | 154        |
| 6 Review Fit for 2024 implementation plans in light of the council's Annual Governance Statement.                                                                                                                                                       | 30 Mar 20 / Annually | C Hepburn    | 155-156    |

## Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership

**Meeting Date:** 10 September 2020

|                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Report By</b>  | <i>Tim Patterson</i> |
| <b>Contact</b>    | <i>Fiona Doig</i>    |
| <b>Telephone:</b> | <i>07825523603</i>   |

### DRAFT ALCOHOL AND DRUGS PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC PLAN REFRESH

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Purpose of Report:</b> | <p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• seek approval for the ADP Strategic Plan Refresh (Appendix 1) for 2020 onwards</li> </ul> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                         |                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Recommendations:</b> | <p>The Community Planning Partnership is asked to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>a) Approve the Strategic Plan Refresh</i></p> |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                   |                                                  |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Personnel:</b> | Staffing is provided within the agreed resource. |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------|

|                |                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Carers:</b> | A previous needs assessment for affected family members was carried out in 2019 and this informs the draft Strategic Plan Refresh. |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                    |                                                                    |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Equalities:</b> | A Health Inequalities Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 2. |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Financial:</b> | <p>ADP funding from Scottish Government is contingent on delivery of Ministerial Priorities.</p> <p>There is no additional financial commitment assumed within the draft Strategic Plan Refresh.</p> <p>Although not funded by ADP budgets the NHS Borders Pharmacy budget for supervising dispensing of Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) is overspent due to increasing numbers of people on the Borders Addiction Service caseload. This issue is unresolved and will be presented as a future agenda item for IJB.</p> |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| <b>Legal:</b> | N/A |
|---------------|-----|

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Risk Implications: | <p>There are no immediate risks to delivery of actions, however, the timescales for year one of the refreshed plan have been revisited in light of COVID.</p> <p>Engagement with this particular client group can be challenging and many social and economic influences outside the control of the ADP will impact on the success of the initiatives.</p> <p>If statutory agencies fail to prioritise this area of work outcomes may not be achieved.</p> |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## 1. ADP Strategic Plan Refresh

### 1.1 Purpose

Alcohol and Drugs Partnerships (ADP) are required to provide an updated strategic plan from April 2020. The draft plan is attached for information and approval from CPP (Appendix 1).

Borders ADP is a partnership of agencies and services involved with drugs and alcohol. It provides strategic direction to reduce the impact of problematic alcohol and drug use. It is chaired by the Director of Public Health and the Vice Chair is the Chief Social Work & Public Protection Officer. Membership includes officers from NHS Borders, Scottish Borders Council, Police Scotland and Third Sector.

Scottish Government has requested that Alcohol and Drugs Partnerships develop a locally agreed strategic plan which sets out the long term measureable outcomes and priority actions for the local area, focussing on preventing and reducing the use of and harm from alcohol and drug use and the associated health inequalities. This should be based on a clear and collective understanding of the local system in particular its impact, how it is experienced by local communities, and how effectively it ensures human rights are met.

It is expected that people with experience of alcohol/drug use and those affected are involved in the planning, development and delivery of services. This is in parallel with adopting a human rights approach.

ADP's are required to ensure a quality improvement approach to service planning and delivery is in place and clear governance and oversight arrangements are in place which enable timely and effective decision making about service planning and delivery; and enable accountability to local communities.

This locally agreed Strategic Plan and associated Delivery Plan should be in place by September 2020.

The current ADP Strategy 2015-20 expired at the end of March 2020 and the ADP refreshed its strategic plan in line with the framework required above.

ADP approved this strategic plan in March 2020 and is required to seek approval from NHS/SBC Interface group prior to IJB thereafter.

## **1.2 Key Issues**

During the term of the strategy there was a significant unanticipated workload associated firstly with the 22% reduction in ADP funding in 2016-17 and then the award of an additional £357,000 in 2018-2019. In order to implement the 22% reduction in funding, the ADP commissioned a consultant to engage with people with lived experience, staff and wider stakeholders in assessing gaps and areas for improvement in the ADP.

In response to the December 2018 announcement of additional funding for 2018-19, the ADP used the findings from the above work to support engagement with stakeholders, staff and people using services in how to allocate the funding in response to Ministerial Priorities and funding requirements. The proposals developed from this engagement process were approved by IJB in February 2019.

## **1.3 Assessment**

There has been clear progress made in delivering the actions committed to in the 2015-20 strategy, however, there is significant concern about the number of drug related deaths. There is increased work at a national level to review alcohol related deaths and this is reflected in the Strategic Plan Refresh. The ADP is aware of the change to Public Protection procedures locally and the commitment to ensure oversight of drug related deaths is at a significantly senior level and that alcohol and drug services are appropriately engaged.

Local actions to understanding and responding to individuals with co-morbid experience of alcohol and/or drug use and mental health concerns are considered within the mental health transformation work, however, it will be an expectation for the ADP to consider their support/input to this work.

There is work to do to improve the voice of lived experience in planning and delivery of services and conversations are currently taking place on how to do this effectively. People with lived experience continue to experience stigma and the ADP awaits with interest support from Scottish Government on adopting a rights approach and how best to deliver anti-stigma messages. There is currently a draft Stigma Strategy developed by the national Drug Death Task Force which will inform local actions.

The Partnership Delivery Framework is clear in its expectation of statutory partners as key players in this arena. These are namely: Children's Planning Partnership (Children and Young People's Leadership Group); Community Justice Board and Integrated Joint Board. The ADP must ensure that these

statutory partners continue to develop and share actions and responsibilities relating to alcohol and drug use; this is not the job of the ADP Support Team and Commissioned Services alone. This is likely to include a commitment to workforce development.

Summary of gaps/areas for improvement:

- Involvement of lived experience
- Further development of recovery communities
- Alcohol pathways
- Co-morbidity with mental health and long-term conditions
- Stigma
- Strategic partnerships

#### **1.4 Recommendation**

This paper recommends that the Community Planning Partnership approve the ADP Strategic Plan Refresh for 2020 onwards.



**Appendix One**  
ADP Strategic Plan Refresh 2020

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## **Foreword**

The ADP aims to improve the health and quality of life for all of us by working to ensure that individuals, families and communities live in an area where fewer people are using alcohol and drugs and, for those that do, recovery is a realistic option.

Since the publication of our 2015-2020 strategy<sup>1</sup> significant changes have taken place in terms of legislation and guidance and these are outlined in Section 3. Significant progress has been made locally in developing our services to provide earlier access to treatment and also we are proud of our growing recovery community led by Serendipity. However, this progress is overshadowed by the continuing and shocking rise in drug related deaths. The number of drug related deaths in Scotland reached its highest ever in 2018 and it is expected that 2019 will be even higher. Borders is no different; in the first four years of our strategy (2015-2018) we lost 47 people to drug deaths (2019 data not available).

Responding to the Public Health emergency of drug related deaths requires a whole system approach, we are confident that our alcohol and drugs services in Borders are performing well and changing practice in respond to need. I would also ask key partners to become more involved in addressing the needs of some of our most vulnerable individuals and families.

We were pleased to see the inclusion of a rights based approach to the recent alcohol and drugs strategy<sup>2</sup> and a reminder that people have the right to health and life – free from the harms of alcohol and drugs.

This strategy provides context and a high level overview of where our identified gaps and areas for improvement are in Borders. We have also agreed a two year delivery plan which outlines the new actions we will take. This strategy was developed in consultation with colleagues and people with lived and living experience of alcohol and drug use. I extend my thanks to them for their commitment, insight and wisdom.

**Update:** This document was finalised by Borders Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) in March 2020 subject to approval via local governance arrangements. At that time we were starting to deliver a response to COVID-19 which, of necessity, put final approval on hold and which has interrupted

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<sup>1</sup> Borders Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Strategy

[http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/our-services/general-services/alcohol-and-drugs-partnership-\(adp\)-support-team/key-documents/local-adp-strategies/](http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/our-services/general-services/alcohol-and-drugs-partnership-(adp)-support-team/key-documents/local-adp-strategies/)

<sup>2</sup> Rights, respect and recovery: Scotland's strategy to improve health by preventing and reducing alcohol and drug use, harm and related deaths

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/rights-respect-recovery/>

delivery of some of the actions described in section 7. Timescales for these will be updated in the ADP Delivery Plan 2020-22.

Tim Patterson  
ADP Chair  
Joint Director of Public Health

## 1 Introduction

The Scottish Borders Alcohol & Drugs Partnership (ADP) is tasked with delivering a reduction in the level of drug and alcohol related problems amongst young people and adults in the Borders, and reducing the harmful impact on families and communities. We are committed to working with the Scottish Government, colleagues, people with lived experience and local communities to tackle the problems arising from substance use.

This refreshed Strategic Plan builds on the work directed by the previous ADP Strategy and reflects current local context, new Ministerial Priorities and updated national strategies<sup>3</sup> as outlined in Section 4 below and is a response to the national Partnership Delivery Framework for ADPs<sup>4</sup>.

In line with the national strategies our refreshed Strategic Plan is aligned to the chapter headings in Rights, Respect and Recovery as follows:

- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Developing Recovery Orientated Systems of Care
- Getting it right for children, young people and families
- Public Health Approach in Justice

## 2 ADP membership

The ADP is made up of representatives from the following organisations:

- NHS Borders (Public Health, Mental Health, NHS Borders Addiction Service)
- Scottish Borders Council (Elected Members, Social Work, Safer Communities Team)
- Police Scotland
- Drug & Alcohol Third Sector organisations

The ADP is currently chaired by the Joint Director of Public Health for NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council (SBC). The Vice Chair is the Chief Social Work Officer for SBC.

## 3 Context

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<sup>3</sup> Alcohol Framework, 2018, next steps on changing our relationship with alcohol

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/rights-respect-recovery/>

<sup>4</sup> Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Delivery Framework available at:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/partnership-delivery-framework-reduce-use-harm-alcohol-drugs/>

Our 2015-2020 Strategy was underpinned by previous strategic documents related specifically to alcohol and drugs as well as the introduction of the Children's and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014<sup>5</sup>. At the time of writing that strategy the process of Health and Social Care Integration was taking place which has led to a different local landscape including the way in which ADP funding is reported.

During the timeline of the 2015-20 Strategy a series of significant national developments took place which impacted on ADPs:

- December 2015: ADP's were informed of 22.4% reduction to ring-fenced funding from 2016-17.
- January 2016: introduction of new Chief Medical Officer alcohol guidelines
- January- July 2016: the Care Inspectorate undertook a 'validated self-assessment' of ADPs in line with the Quality Principles.<sup>6</sup>
- April 2017: introduction of new Health and Social Care Standards
- Programme for government 2018: ADP's were informed of additional funding for 2018-19 which was confirmed in August 2019
- November 2018: publication of Rights, Respect and Recovery (RR&R)<sup>(ii)</sup> and the Alcohol Framework<sup>(ii)</sup>
- July 2019: publication of Partnership Delivery Framework for ADPs
- November 2019: publication of RR&R Action Plan
- January 2020: draft monitoring framework for RR&R issued<sup>7</sup>

Various legislative changes have also taken place:

- May 2015: Introduction of Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015 (consideration of licensing objectives and over provision)
- May 2016: Introduction of Psychoactive Substance Act 2016
- May 2019: Introduction of Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Act 2012
- October 2019: New drug driving offence

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<sup>5</sup> The Quality Principles: Standard Expectations of Care and Support in Drug and Alcohol Services available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/quality-principles-standard-expectations-care-support-drug-alcohol-services/>

<sup>6</sup> The Health and Social Care Standards available at: <http://www.newcarestandards.scot/>

<sup>7</sup> RR&R Monitoring Framework available at: TBC

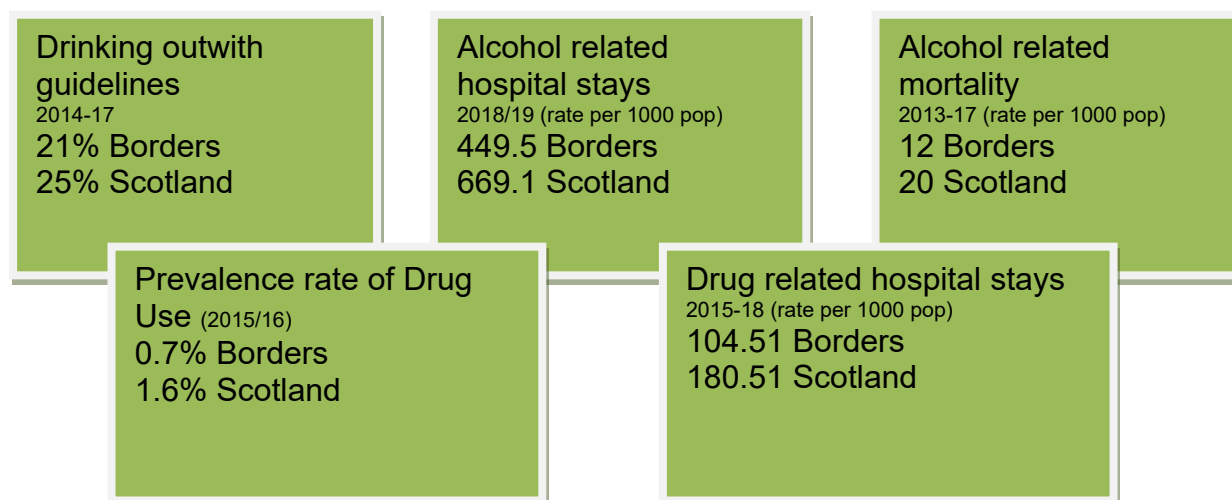
In addition to 'business as usual' the ADP and its Support Team was required to respond to each of these developments and/or changes, at a time when all partners continue to work in a landscape where public sector services are required to make year on year efficiency savings within increasingly constrained budgets.

#### 4 Context – Rights, Respect and Recovery

The following infographic from Rights, Respect and Recovery (reproduced with permission from Scottish Government) clearly illustrates the national context in which ADPs and partners are working.



## 5 Local Data (May 2020)



For more information on data relating to Borders please see ADP Technical Report available [here](#)

## 6 Drugs Deaths – a Public Health Emergency

Significant concern has been raised locally and nationally about the increase in drug related deaths and the ADP is keen to report on local work to reduce deaths. Scotland's drug related deaths have continued to increase and reached 1,187 in 2018, the highest number ever recorded and a 27% increase on 2017 figures. In Scottish Borders the trend overtime is increasing and reflects the national picture. Every death is a tragedy and impacts on families and friends. National Records of Scotland reported 22 drug deaths for Scottish Borders. Scottish Borders Drug Death Review Group (DDRG) examined 21 drug deaths for 2018. The remaining one death was out with the remit of the DDRG.

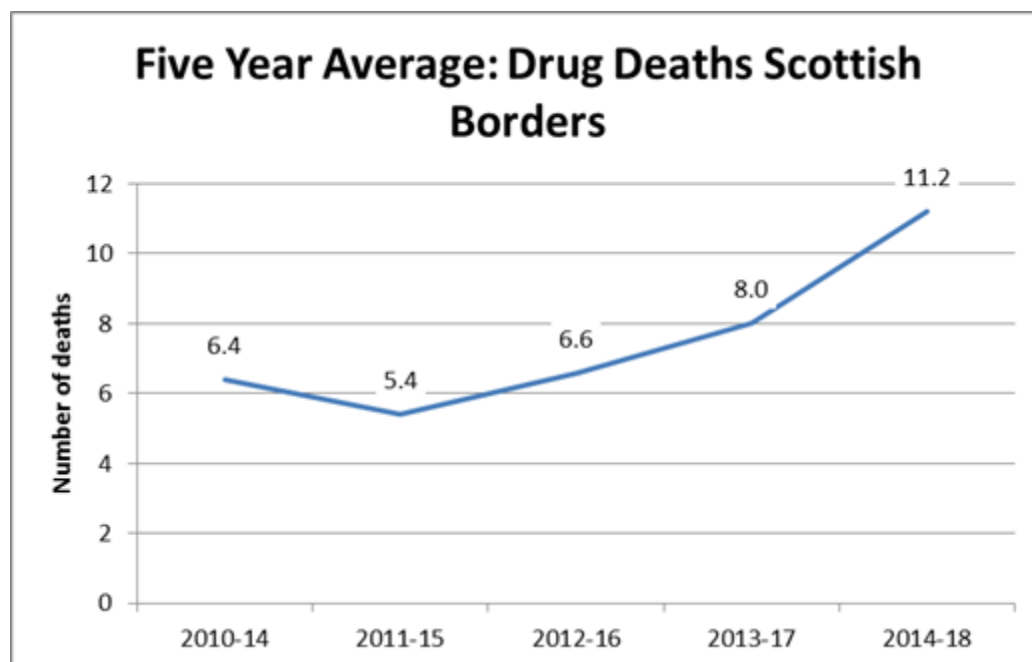
The following table sets out how Borders death rates based on estimated prevalence of drug users compare with seven similar local authority areas.

| Area             | Estimated number of problem drug users (2015/16) | Number of drug deaths according to NRS (2018) | Drug deaths as a percentage of the population at risk |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Scottish Borders | 510                                              | 22                                            | 4.3%                                                  |
| Moray            | 270                                              | 17                                            | 6.3%                                                  |
| Highland         | 1400                                             | 36                                            | 2.6%                                                  |



|               |      |    |      |
|---------------|------|----|------|
| East Lothian  | 920  | 18 | 2.0% |
| Argyll & Bute | 560  | 9  | 1.6% |
| Stirling      | 1000 | 19 | 1.9% |
| Midlothian    | 760  | 14 | 1.8% |
| Angus         | 800  | 13 | 1.6% |

The annual average number of deaths investigated by DDRG for the five year period 2014 – 2018 was 11.2, an increase on the 2010 – 2014 average of 6.4 deaths.



At the time of writing, the data for 2019 was not available. This is due to a delay in national toxicology processes which are outwith local control. However, based on local intelligence we expect another year where we sadly lose another significant number of people.

In our last strategy we highlighted the actions we would take to reduce drug related deaths. We have taken the following actions forward since the last strategy:

- The local Naloxone Co-ordinator provides overdose prevention training within the ADP Workforce Directory and also offers a bespoke service.

- Participants in all ADP training and events are provided with a drugs deaths briefing which outlines risk factors and circumstances for drug deaths.
- Provision of Take Home Naloxone has extended to Addaction\*, pharmacies providing injecting equipment and Accident and Emergency. Funding has been agreed for ensuring all community pharmacies have access to naloxone for use in an emergency situation.
- Alcohol and drug service make proactive contact with families who have been bereaved by drugs deaths.
- Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs provide 'Bereaved by substance use' training as part of the ADP Workforce Development Directory All first appointment letters contain information about (SFAD) helplines.

\*NB Addaction rebranded to 'We are with you' as of 26 February 2020.

Actions relating to the service previous to the rebranding will be noted as Addaction. Future actions will be recorded as 'We are with you'.

In 2018, in response to the concerning higher numbers of deaths, a specific group was set up in response to the increase in deaths in Borders to allow a closer look at service responses. Actions arising from the group were as follows: review of Risk assessments, review of potential barriers to accessing services and an audit of adult concern forms. No apparent 'missed opportunities' or areas of concern were noted.

In January 2020 a briefing was issued by Scottish Government of evidence based emergency responses to drug related deaths; the table below provides a high level assessment of Borders progress at May 2020.

| Evidence based strategy           | Borders Assessment                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Targeted distribution of naloxone | Since March 2011 first supplies of naloxone have been provided to 75% of out estimated targeted population. |

|                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                               | Going forward we will look to expand naloxone supply into Mental Health Settings.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Implement immediate response pathway for non-fatal overdoses and target people most at risk                                                   | <p>A local protocol is in place between Scottish Ambulance Service and Borders Addiction Service, however, referrals are low.</p> <p>Borders Addiction Service and Addaction deliver an Assertive Engagement Service which aims to make rapid contact with individuals who are not or have ceased engaging with services.</p> <p>Going forward this team will lead on developing improved alcohol and drug pathways for patients attending acute hospital.</p> |
| Optimise use of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) – this involves low barrier access to treatment (e.g. methadone); appropriate dose levels | <p>Borders Addiction Service and Addaction are trialling ‘drop-in’ clinics for those at highest risk and successfully initiating the majority of prescriptions within 7 days (48%* same day).</p> <p>*Quarter 3 2019-20</p> <p>Going forward we will work towards implementing MAT Standards once published.</p>                                                                                                                                               |
| Ensure equivalence of support for people in the Criminal Justice System                                                                       | There is no prison in Borders and the majority of Borders citizens tend to be released from HMP Edinburgh. Positive relationships are in place between local services and the Justice Service.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

Our emergency response: Drug Death Task Force January 2020

On 26 February 2020 a Drugs Death Workshop was held in Borders. This was facilitated by SDF and linked to the Staying Alive Toolkit. Immediate actions arising from this workshop are being followed up. A report was received from SDF in May and it was agreed at the DDRG that an action plan would be developed and progressed by the ADP Quality Principles sub-group which next meets in September 2020.

Scottish Government has convened a Drugs Death Task Force which has as its primary role to co-ordinate and drive action to improve the health outcomes for people who use drugs, reducing the risk of harm and death. The ADP Support Team is represented on the Task Force.

The ADP believes it is taking a robust approach to reducing drug deaths and this will continue in 2020 and beyond.

## **7 Areas for Improvement**

While the high level outcome areas and aims are set through RR&R, we have identified gaps/areas for improvement which the ADP is required to address within this high level Strategic Plan. Over the period of the last strategy significant work was done to assess current performance and gaps/needs in our system particularly in response to the removal of ADP funding and the investment of new monies released in 2018-19.

In preparation for refreshing this Strategic Plan a progress report was developed which updated on work related to objectives in the previous strategy. This was presented to the ADP Executive group. The ADP Executive Group agreed an approach to refreshing the Strategic Plan through consultation on gaps/areas for improvement with key partners including people with lived experience. This inclusive approach acknowledged the significant previous engagement work. An updated progress report<sup>8</sup> was shared with and discussed with people with lived experience and wide stakeholders to help develop this refreshed Strategic Plan. This report was updated throughout the process in response to findings.

A list of groups involved in the refresh is included in Appendix one.

Based on this consultation work the following areas for improvement have been identified and shared by partners.

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## **7.1 Prevention and early intervention:**

Stigma continues to be a concern for people affected by alcohol and drugs. Stigma can lead to prejudice and discrimination and prevent people with problems, and their families (including carers), from seeking help. It can also impact on the help provided.

In addition, stereotypical reporting of drug and alcohol use in printed and social media can perpetuate stigma while there is little reporting on positive recovery.

The incidence of childhood adverse experiences and experience of trauma in people using alcohol and drugs is well evidenced, however, the portrayal of some of our most vulnerable people via printed and social media can compound the difficulties experienced.

Reducing stigma will be of benefit to individuals, families (including carers) and communities experiencing impact of alcohol and drug use.

## **7.2 Developing Recovery Orientated Systems of Care (ROSC)**

### **7.21 Co-morbidity**

In the foreword to this Strategic Plan Refresh the ADP Chair noted the developments and improvements in service delivery and options for people with alcohol and drugs problems. An improvement approach, however, requires us to consider where services can be further developed. Locally we have identified a need to improve responses for people with co-occurring alcohol and/or drug use and mental health problems and also clarity of pathways for responding to alcohol care, particularly post hospital discharge.

We have also identified that people with alcohol and/or drug use are more likely to experience physical ill-health and co-occurring long term conditions.

Public Health England<sup>9</sup> note that alcohol and drug problems are common among people with mental health problems and cite evidence that people with co-occurring conditions are often unable to access the care they need from both mental health and addiction services. Locally staff and people with lived experience have reported that it is not always possible to readily access correct support for people who have concurrent alcohol and/or drug problems and mental health concerns. Some initial scoping work has been undertaken to try to confirm the extent to which individuals within our relevant services self-report (or are diagnosed) with co-occurring problems. Mental health services in Borders are undergoing significant transformation and understanding and addressing the needs of this cohort are part of that work with which the ADP will want to be involved.

## **7.22 Alcohol Pathways**

During our consultation staff and people with lived experience described missed opportunities for intervention relating to people's alcohol consumption, in particular relating to people who may have emergency hospital admissions for a variety of conditions but where there is an underlying contributory factor from their alcohol use.

It is also the case that initial work on an Alcohol Related Brain Damage (ARBD) pathway including awareness raising and training is still to be fully implemented and it is anticipated that this work will continue during the lifetime of this strategy.

A stakeholder workshop to review alcohol pathways and identify areas for improvement was planned for May 2020. This was postponed due to COVID

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<sup>9 9</sup> Better care for people with co-occurring mental health and alcohol/drug use conditions available at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/625809/Co-occurring\\_mental\\_health\\_and\\_alcohol\\_drug\\_use\\_conditions.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/625809/Co-occurring_mental_health_and_alcohol_drug_use_conditions.pdf)

and will take place in Autumn 2020. Actions arising from this work will be included in the ADP Delivery Plan 2020-2022.

### **7.23 Recovery opportunities**

As well as accessing high quality services for treatment and support to reduce harm from alcohol and drug use, a ROSC requires opportunities for people to both address wider aspects of their lives and also take steps towards recovery which is away from the harm experienced towards a healthier and more fulfilling life. While recovery remains a contested term and will mean different things for individuals there is recognition that recovery activities and communities can reduce social isolation, provide peer and mutual support, allow safe spaces to connect with others and help reduce stigma as people see visible recovery.

Activists in rural areas such as Borders face particular challenges. A challenge for many services in Borders is transport, however local activists potentially experience increased stigma as people are less 'anonymous' than in cities. Also, there is a smaller population from which to develop activists. In Borders, however, Borders Recovery Community has sustained the Serendipity Cafe in Galashiels and are ambitious to spread their success. In December 2019 Serendipity and Addaction hosted their first joint Christmas party.

The ADP has funded a whole time post in We Are With You to support development of recovery opportunities in partnership with the local recovery community.

There is a role for ADP partners to support this work through providing training and capacity building opportunities for activists and ensuring that they remain up to date with the work of the community.

### **7.24 Involvement of lived and living experience in planning of services**

Over time Borders ADP has tried different approaches to involving people with lived experience (e.g. people who have used substances, family members and carers) in developing and planning services and while services have made improvements in their recruitment and client feedback, we have not found a consistent, regular and meaningful way of finding a way to have the voices of people with lived experience influencing the work of the ADP.

At a meeting of the ADP Executive Group in December 2019 people with lived experience discussed an approach which will be further explored in early 2020.

This is a workstream requiring to be prioritised in this strategic plan.

### **7.3 Getting it right for children, young people and families**

At the time of writing the governance and structure for the Children and Young People's Leadership Group (local Children's Planning Partnership) is under review. The CYPLG is a statutory consultee in developing this Strategic Plan. The expected arrangements for the CYPLG will include oversight of alcohol, drugs and tobacco work and the needs of impacted children.

Local protection arrangements have also recently been reviewed in order to deliver Public Protection Services (PPS) where co-located children and adult protection; domestic abuse and community safety staff will adopt a 'think family' approach to their work. ADP Support Team is represented on the Delivery Groups for the PPS and the Assertive Engagement Team is a confirmed link to operational work.

The ADP considers a key role to continue to raise awareness of the needs of children impacted by another's alcohol and/or drug use. During Spring-Summer 2020 training in Oh Lila (learning for children age 3 to 5 years which aims to build resilience and protective factors in young children, helping them to develop social skills and encouraging them to communicate) was commissioned for all local authority early years staff. This is a significant



investment but will provide assurance that the needs and responses to this group are highlighted in this session. The delivery of these sessions is incomplete due to COVID. The training provided is exploring how best to deliver the remaining sessions.

The ADP is supportive of Alcohol Focus Scotland's work to support children's right to an alcohol free childhood and will continue to support the local Licensing Board to support its Licensing Objectives including protecting and improving public health and protecting children and young people from harm.

A new package of resources held on Glow (School Intranet) was launched in November 2019 for teachers across Scottish Borders Schools (Primary and Secondary) on drugs, alcohol and tobacco education and prevention. These resources are age and stage appropriate and linked to Curriculum for Excellence, experiences and outcomes and benchmarks held on GLOW. At time of writing this strategy there has been 12,800 visits to the site.

The next stage of this work will be to consider education-based approaches that are delivered in line with evidence-based practice to reach our children and young people not present in traditional settings, such as Youth Groups and Community Learning and Development. This work will align with any national recommendations from Scottish Government.

#### **7.4 A Public Health Approach in Justice**

A partnership between Borders Community Justice, Statutory Justice Social Work Services and NHS Borders Public Health is developing a Wellbeing Worker post. The focus of the post will be to assist people who find themselves within the Justice System, many of whom present as socially and financially disadvantaged, to overcome barriers with regard to the attainment of healthier life styles. Advice, signposting and 1:1 or group learning opportunities will be offered to all those who are made subject to a Community Payback Order or other community disposal. Outcomes will be focused on the

improvement of dental hygiene, physical and mental wellbeing and drug and alcohol related issues.

## **7.5 Crosscutting work**

### Strategic Partnerships

Throughout the discussions in developing this Strategic Plan the significant progress and innovation from the alcohol and drugs services was acknowledged. ADP members and partners continue to have a role to ensure the needs and rights of our client groups are addressed and to ensure appropriate priority is given to the needs of people with alcohol and/or drug related problems particularly during this challenging time in public services.

## **7.6 Summary of gaps/areas for improvement:**

- Involvement of lived experience
- Further development of recovery communities
- Alcohol pathways
- Co-morbidity with mental health and long term conditions
- Strategic partnerships

## **8 Monitoring progress**

Supporting this strategy is an ADP Delivery Plan 2020-22 (and subsequent two-year plans) which sets out key activities, indicators and timescales against each of the Core Outcomes listed to address our strategic aims.

Progress will be monitored via the following mechanisms:

- Monthly reporting on alcohol and drugs service waiting times target
- Monthly reporting on ABI target
- Quarterly performance report to ADP and ADP Executive Group
- Quarterly financial report to the ADP and ADP Executive Group
- A minimum of six monthly contract monitoring meetings with commissioned services

- Bi-annual Alcohol Profile updates will collate local information relating to alcohol related harm
- Annual Reports based on the Strategy and Delivery Plan will be submitted to the IJB, CPP and Scottish Government.
- Regular feedback and engagement with people with lived experience based on agreed future ways of working

In future we will be expected to report on the MERRR framework. At time of writing the process for this is not confirmed.

## **9 Conclusions**

Locally there has been significant progress from our previous strategy, however, there are identified gaps areas for improvement requiring attention of ADP partners as outlined above. The strategic approach outlined above informs our 2020-2022 Delivery Plan.

## **Appendix Groups Consulted**

Discussions to inform this strategy were held with the following groups:

- Children and Young People's Leadership Group
- Community Justice Board
- Integrated Joint Board Leadership Group
- People with lived experience – We Are With You (previously Addaction)
- Serendipity Recovery Cafe members
- Staff from alcohol and drugs services

## Appendix 2 Health Inequalities Impact Assessment Report

### ADP Strategy Refresh – Reporting Template

#### Scoping workshop report

**Policy/service title: Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) Strategy Refresh**

**Date of workshop: 7 August 2020**

**Location: via MSTeams**

**Policy lead: Fiona Doig**

**Equality and diversity lead: Nic White**

**Report Author: Fiona Doig**

**Date of Report: 10 August 2020**

This is a report of the findings from a workshop held to identify potential impacts of this policy, including differential impacts on different population groups. The workshop was the first stage of a Health Inequalities Impact Assessment of the policy. Findings are based on the knowledge and experience of those present at the workshop.

This report is not a definitive statement or assessment of impacts but presents possible impacts that may require further consideration. The report also identifies some questions to be addressed to understand the impacts further. The purpose of further work following this scoping stage is to inform recommendations to improve impacts on health and enhance actions to reduce health inequalities, avoid discrimination and take action to improve equality and enhance human rights.

**People present:** Lorna Peddie, Nic White, Fiona Doig

#### **Rationale and aims of policy:**

The Scottish Borders Alcohol & Drugs Partnership (ADP) is tasked with delivering a reduction in the level of drug and alcohol related problems amongst young people and adults in the Borders, and reducing the harmful impact on families and communities. It is responsible for working with the Scottish Government, colleagues, people with lived experience and local communities to tackle the problems arising from substance use.

The ADP is made up of representatives from NHS Borders, Scottish Borders Council, Police Scotland and alcohol and drugs Third Sector organisations.

The refreshed Strategic Plan builds on the work directed by the previous ADP Strategy and reflects current local context, new Ministerial Priorities and updated national strategies

The Strategy is formed to align with chapter headings in the national alcohol and drugs treatment strategy Rights, Respect and Recovery as follows:

- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Developing Recovery Orientated Systems of Care
- Getting it right for children, young people and families
- Public Health Approach in Justice

**1. Who will be affected by this policy?**

- People with alcohol and drugs concerns and/or problems
- Family members impacted by another’s alcohol and drug use including children
- Staff in alcohol and drugs services
- Children and Young People in young people’s settings e.g. education, youth sector
- Members of the public

**2. How will the policy impact on people?**

The group sought to identify potential differential impacts of the policy on different population groups. These impacts are noted below.

| Population groups and factors contributing to poorer health                            | Potential Impacts and explanation why                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Recommendations to reduce or enhance such impacts                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Age:</b> older people; middle years; early years; children and young people.</p> | <p>The Strategy covers all age groups. There will be a positive impact on children and young people. Chimes service provides support to children and young people impacted by parental substance use, support to parent in understanding and mitigating the impact of their substance use and support to kinship parents of impacted children. Quarriers Resilience for Wellbeing Service provides support for children and young people in relation to alcohol and drugs and emotional wellbeing. Quarriers and Chimes work closely together</p> <p>We Are With You (WAWY) has an identified young person’s worker who leads on developing young people appropriate engagement and service provision and works with Quarriers and Borders Addiction Service (BAS) to ensure</p> | <p>Continue to monitor outcomes of commissioned alcohol and drugs and Children and Young People’s Leadership Group services to ensure fitting local need.</p> |

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|                                                                                                                              | <p>support for children and young people experiencing problems from their use of alcohol and/or drugs.<br/>ADP delivers a workforce development programme including introduction to alcohol and drugs and Children affected by Parental Substance Misuse (CAPSM)briefing.</p> <p>Substance use education for schools has been developed. In addition to specific SUE resources, Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood resource also includes sections relating to impact of drug and alcohol use on quality of young people’s relationships; Peaches and Aubergine resource also supports this work and these are supported by education and wider youth sector; What’s the Harm training is relevant in this context. These resources develop skills and knowledge for children and young people.</p> <p>Alcohol Brief interventions are delivered to people over the age of 16 in the NHS priority settings based on clinical presentation and opportunistic screening and in wider settings. This will include identification of older adults who are harmful or hazardous drinkers.</p> | <p>Explore new methods of delivery in response to impact of COVID on face to face learning</p> <p>Evaluation of SUE planned for 2020-21 school year. Seek opportunities to enable access to youth sector.</p> <p>Adult services are briefed on the specific needs of older adults and although there is not a specific service interventions are delivered to respond to need e.g. home visits.</p> |
| <p><b>Disability:</b> physical, sensory and learning impairment; mental health conditions; long-term medical conditions.</p> | <p>Overall this plan is positive for people with disability since it directly impacts on those individuals with substance misuse issues.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                          | <p>It is challenging to find any UK data relating to prevalence of substance misuse in people with physical and/or learning disabilities. There is a suggestion the people with learning disabilities are likely to present similar rates of alcohol use to those of the general population and ADP Strategic Lead attends Mental Health and Wellbeing Board.</p> <p>Strategy is positive for people with experiencing mental ill-health. These are often intertwined with substance use issues. WAWY staff attend the Mental Health Forum to promote positive relationship ensure good communications, access to services and feedback from people with lived experience.</p> <p>Strategy impact is positive for people with alcohol and drugs concerns who may attend ED with unrelated or related issues. Alcohol and Drugs Liaison Nurse works within acute hospital to support individuals and pathways.</p> <p>Alcohol and drugs service have a role to play in supporting emotional and physical wellbeing e.g. healthy lifestyles. Use of Star Outcomes tool allows people in service to identify health goals.</p> | <p>Healthier Me delivery offers an opportunity to explore any support required by third sector learning disability providers to support concerns relating to alcohol and drug use.</p> <p>Take forward local work to examine ‘co-morbidity’ needs and responses in relation to substance use and mental ill-health.</p> <p>Review Alcohol and Non-fatal Overdose pathways to ensure access to specialist services for those attending the acute hospital or seen by Scottish Ambulance Service</p> <p>Recommendation to scope additional resources for services staff re healthy eating, physical activity.</p> |
| <p><b>Gender Reassignment:</b> people undergoing gender reassignment</p> | <p>Stigma is experienced by people using alcohol and drugs, however, the additional stigma experienced by trans people can further</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>Ensure services are sighted on emerging data.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |



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|                                                                                                               | compound people's avoidance of services. Although there is no dedicated service in Borders for LGBT alcohol and drugs issues, all services are available confidentially and all commissioned alcohol and drugs services are required to have an Equality and Diversity policy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Recommendation to scope training needs in relation to LGBT, stigma, unconscious bias within alcohol and drugs services                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Marriage &amp; Civil Partnership:</b> people who are married, unmarried or in a civil partnership.         | No specific impacts in relation to this characteristic.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Pregnancy and Maternity:</b> women before and after childbirth; breastfeeding.                             | The impact on this group is positive: Alcohol Brief Interventions (ABI's) are delivered by midwives in antenatal settings and Health Visitors.<br><br>CHIMES supports pregnant women to understand impact of alcohol and drug use                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Continue to review ABI performance, awareness raising of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, commissioned services outcome monitoring.<br><br>Continue positive relationships between alcohol and drugs services and social work; Health Visitors and Early Years Centres.                                                         |
| <b>Race and ethnicity:</b> minority ethnic people; non-English speakers; gypsies/travellers; migrant workers. | There are no specific interventions within the plan relating to minority ethnic people, non-English speakers, gypsies/travellers; migrant worker. While the impact of the strategy is positive in that services are open to all it is recognised that barriers may be experienced for people in this group.<br><br>Currently there is no local evidence of unmet or unrecognised needs in relation to alcohol and drugs. Any anecdotal suggestion of such will be acted upon within current planning structures including ADP Board Meetings. | Commissioned services are required to give due consideration to engaging with and supporting people for whom English is not a first language. Translation services are available in Borders.<br><br>Recommendation that alcohol and drugs service review existing materials and scope potential for offering in other languages. |

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| <p><b>Religion and belief:</b> people with different religions or beliefs, or none.</p> | <p>Stigma is experienced by people using alcohol and drugs, however, the additional stigma experienced by people with some religious beliefs may further compound people’s avoidance of services.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>Commissioned services are required to give due consideration to engaging with and supporting people with different beliefs or customs and to reduce barriers for access.</p> <p>Service providers will ensure that clients’ wishes to have appointments with a staff member of a specific gender will be fulfilled.</p> |
| <p><b>Sex:</b> men; women; experience of gender-based violence.</p>                     | <p>This strategy will have a positive impact on all groups by providing services and interventions for people seeking support for alcohol and drugs concerns and also prevention and early intervention activity (e.g. ABIs, education).</p> <p>Men are more likely to experience problems associated with alcohol and drug use and this is shown in service uptake data as well as the demographics of those experiencing drug related deaths.</p> <p>Staff have been trained in gender-based violence awareness and adult services have implemented routine enquiry for domestic abuse. ADP Support Team represented in Violence Against Women Partnership structures.</p> <p>WAWY facilitates a Women’s Group.</p> <p>Services participate in MARAC meetings processes.</p> | <p>Continue to review staff training needs in relation to gender based concerns including briefing for Drug Death Review Group.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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| <p><b>Sexual orientation:</b> lesbian; gay; bisexual; heterosexual.</p>   | <p>Stigma is experienced by people using alcohol and drugs, however, the additional stigma experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual can further compound people's avoidance of services.</p> <p>LGBT people have higher prevalence of alcohol and drug use than the population as a whole. Daily drinking in those aged 65 and over is significantly higher than the population as a whole.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>Ensure services are sighted on emerging data. Services are required to have an Equality and Diversity policy.</p> <p>Recommendation to scope training needs in relation to LGBT, stigma, unconscious bias within alcohol and drugs services.</p> <p>Ensure the current project with LGBT Forum and Joint Health Improvement Team supporting health and wellbeing includes consideration of impact and support for people with alcohol and/or drug use concerns.</p> |
| <p><b>Looked after (incl. accommodated) children and young people</b></p> | <p>This strategy will have a positive impact on all groups by providing services for children and young people impacted by parental substance use which can be a factor contributing to the person being looked after or accommodated. Chimes service provides support to children and young people impacted by parental substance use, support to parent in understanding and mitigating the impact of their substance use and support to kinship parents of impacted children. Joint working with BAS and WAWY ensures appropriate level of treatment for young people with higher substance use needs.</p> <p>Alcohol and drugs services are sighted on and involved with the revised Public Protection Services developments.</p> | <p>Continue to maintain positive relationships exist between the Transitions Team and commissioned services. WAWY deliver bespoke sessions with transitions clients.</p> <p>ESTeam to continue to build networks and capacity with key services.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p><b>Carers:</b> paid/unpaid, family members.</p>                        | <p>This strategy will have a positive impact on this group by providing access to support for adults impacted by another's substance use via the Concerned Other Group and access to structured</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Continue to provide support for concerned others and maintain links with carers services.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

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|                                                                                                       | <p>support on an individual basis using evidence based approach (CRAFT). Often people in this group do not see themselves as carers and may seek support initially from alcohol and drugs services rather than carer specific services.</p> <p>Serendipity Recovery Café is open to and accessed by family members.</p> <p>CHIMES service provides support for young carers. This group is often reluctant to disclose family substance use, the joint nature of this service ensures staff are able to provide support for this issue.</p> <p>Borders Carers Centre works with impacted family members and has confirmed links with alcohol and drugs services.</p> | <p>Continue to promote SFAD information via appointment letters and other service literature.</p> <p>WAWY have established links with local Kinship Carers Support Group and will raise any concerns arising from the group with relevant colleagues are sighted on this.</p> |
| <b>Homelessness:</b> people on the street; staying temporarily with friends/family; in hostels, B&Bs. | <p>This strategy will have a positive impact on this group. Borders Addiction Services Support Workers are employed with Social Work services. Use of Star Outcomes tool allows people in service to identify accommodation issues and to chart progress.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>Commissioned services continue to maintain positive relationships with homelessness services.</p> <p>ESTeam to continue to build networks and capacity with key services.</p>                                                                                              |
| <b>Involvement in the criminal justice system:</b> offenders in prison/on probation, ex-offenders.    | <p>This strategy will have a positive impact on this group. Use of Star Outcomes tool allows people in service to identify accommodation issues and to chart progress.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>Continue to maintain positive relationships with Justice Services.</p> <p>Borders Addiction Service to continue to explore support for people during and at liberation from HMP Edinburgh.</p>                                                                             |

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|                                                                         | Justice Social Work commission Borders Addiction Service to provide Drug Testing and Treatment Order service (DTTO).<br>Cross representation between Community Justice Board and ADP Board.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Addictions and substance misuse</b>                                  | This strategy will have a positive impact on people experiencing, impacted by or at risk of developing addictions and substances use concerns.<br>The strategy is based on consultation with key stakeholders including people with lived experience; it is evidence based and follows the strategic aims and objectives of the national alcohol and drugs strategies.                                                                                                                                                                                                      | ADP to continue to monitor quarterly performance reports.<br>ADP Support Team to ensure involvement in national (e.g. ADP Leads Meeting; Drug Death Co-ordinators) and local opportunities to ensure our local plans fit needs.<br>ADP to continue to pursue a mechanism for lived experience involvement. |
| <b>Staff:</b> full/part time; voluntary; delivering/accessing services. | Staff in services were involved in informing development of this policy so impact is positive as it reflects system needs and staff experience.<br><br>ADP delivers a workforce development programme to support staff to feel equipped to work with this client group. This includes locally developed and commissioned sessions as well as external specialists providers (e.g. Scottish Drugs Forum, Alcohol Focus Scotland, Crews) and on-line opportunities.<br><br>The requirement to wear PPE for face-to-face work may not align with specific religious practices. | Ensure staff are aware of finalised strategy and associated Delivery Plan and are able to identify any development needs.<br><br>Explore new methods of delivery in response to impact of COVID on face to face learning<br><br>Services to follow national guidance.                                      |

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| <p><b>Low income</b></p>                                                                                                                         | <p>This strategy will have a positive impact on this group. People experiencing problems associated with alcohol and drug use are more likely to be experiencing health inequalities and low income. Alcohol and drug problems can lead to people being less likely to be in employment than the general population.</p> <p>During COVID-19 services responded by offering digital/remote opportunities for accessing support. This requirement is likely to remain in place for some time. While this can be seen potentially as a positive development e.g. reduction in need to travel, for some people less able to access digital responses e.g. due to lack of connectivity or hardware this may be problematic. Commissioned services have accessed small grants during this time to enable provision of e.g. telephones and data credit.</p> | <p>Ensure service provision reduces barriers to access particularly in relation to COVID-19 response and move towards digital/remote appointments by ensuring there are alternative options available for those less able to use digital solutions.</p> |
| <p><b>Low literacy / Health Literacy:</b> includes poor understanding of health and health services as well as poor written language skills.</p> | <p><b>There are no specific impacts in relation to this characteristic although it is recognised that impact could be negative if services are not able to support both access to and treatment for people with low literacy/health literacy.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p><b>Ensure services are able to support people in this group through considering e.g. service materials, appointment lengths and communication methods. People are able to attend an appointment with another if they wish.</b></p>                   |

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|                                                            | <p><b>All services will accept self-referral and also referrals from health professionals. Information about services is available on line.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p><b>Living in deprived areas</b></p>                     | <p>This strategy will have a positive impact on people living in deprived areas</p> <p>People experiencing problems associate with alcohol and drug use are more likely to be experiencing health inequalities and live in deprived areas. Services are available in each Borders locality e.g. via GP clinics and/or drop-ins. CHIMES services are available based on Learning Community clusters.</p> <p>During COVID-19 services responded by offering digital/remote opportunities for accessing support. This requirement is likely to remain in place for some time. While this can be seen potentially as a positive development e.g. reduction in need to travel, for some people less able to access digital responses e.g due to lack of connectivity or hardware this may be problematic. Commissioned services have accessed small grants during this time to enable provision of e.g. telephones and data credit</p> | <p>Ensure service provision reduces barriers to access particularly in relation to COVID-19 response and move towards digital/remote appointments by ensuring there are alternative options available for those less able to use digital solutions. .</p> |
| <p><b>Living in remote, rural and island locations</b></p> | <p>This strategy will have a positive impact on people living in remote and rural locations. Service are available in each Borders locality e.g via GP clinics and/or drop-ins. CHIMES services</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Ensure service provision reduces barriers to access particularly in relation to COVID-19 response and move towards digital/remote appointments by ensuring there are alternative</p>                                                                   |

|                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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|                                    | <p>are available based on Learning Community clusters.</p> <p>During COVID-19 services responded by offering digital/remote opportunities for accessing support. This requirement is likely to remain in place for some time. While this can be seen potentially as a positive development e.g. reduction in need to travel, for some people less able to access digital responses e.g. due to lack of connectivity or hardware this may be problematic. Commissioned services have accessed small grants during this time to enable provision of e.g. telephones and data credit</p> | <p>options available for those less able to use digital solutions.</p> <p>Continue to monitor referral route and sources of commissioned alcohol and drugs and Children and Young People's Leadership Group services to ensure fitting local need.</p> |
| <b>Discrimination/stigma</b>       | <p>This strategy aims to reduce people experiencing discrimination/stigma in relation to their own or another's alcohol and/or drug use.</p> <p>Evidence of stigma experienced by people using alcohol and drugs impacts on likelihood of accessing services, by making this a key priority for the term of the strategy there is likely to be positive impact.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>ADP to continue to pursue a mechanism for meaningful lived experience in the work of the ADP.</p>                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Refugees and asylum seekers</b> | <p>No specific impacts in relation to this characteristic.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>ADP members to ensure that any evidence or concerns for people in this group are brought to the attention of the ADP Board and services to ensure an appropriate response.</p>                                                                      |

### 3. How will the policy impact on the causes of health inequalities?



The group identified the following potential impacts of the policy on the causes of health inequalities

| Will the policy impact on?                                                                                                                                                                     | Potential impacts and any particular groups affected                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Recommendations to reduce or enhance such impacts                                                                                                                                          |
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| <p><b>Income, employment and work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Availability and accessibility of work, paid/ <b>unpaid employment, wage levels</b>, job security.</li> </ul> | <p>This strategy will have a positive impact on this cause of health inequality. WAWY Re-integration Service employs an Employability Worker who helps support adults who have experience of alcohol and drugs problems to access support with e.g. CV writing, applications for college and jobs. Volunteering opportunities including peer workers are available.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>ADP to continue to pursue a mechanism for meaningful lived experience in the work of the ADP.</p>                                                                                       |
| <p><b>The physical environment and local opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tobacco, alcohol and substance use.</li> </ul>                                           | <p>ADP membership includes the convenor of the Licensing Board. The ADP produces a bi-annual Alcohol Profile which aims to support the Licensing Board by providing evidence to support decision making and inform development of future Licensing Policy Statement and supporting the Licensing Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preventing crime and disorder</li> <li>- Securing public safety</li> <li>- Preventing public nuisance</li> <li>- Protecting children and young people from harm</li> <li>- Protecting and improving public health</li> </ul> | <p>Continue to monitor alcohol license applications. Support engagement in communities via the Local Licensing Forum. Engage in any future consultations relating to licensing reform.</p> |
| <p><b>Education and learning</b></p>                                                                                                                                                           | <p>n/a</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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| <p><b>Access to services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of health and social care services, transport, housing, education, cultural and leisure services.</li> <li>• Ability to afford, access and navigate these services.</li> <li>• Quality of services provided and received.</li> </ul>                                             | <p>This strategy will have a positive impact on this cause of health inequality.</p> <p>The development of the Assertive Engagement Service and locality drop-ins/Hubs remove barriers to alcohol and drugs services and allow potential for access to wider services e.g. sexual health, via these structures.</p> | <p>Continue to develop and evaluation the drop-in/Hub model.</p>                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p><b>Social, cultural and interpersonal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social status.</li> <li>• Social norms and attitudes.</li> <li>• Tackling discrimination.</li> <li>• Community environment.</li> <li>• Fostering good relations.</li> <li>• Democratic engagement and representation.</li> <li>• Resilience and coping mechanisms.</li> </ul> | <p>This strategy will have a positive impact on this cause of health inequality by taking forward action to address stigma for people with alcohol and drugs problems.</p>                                                                                                                                          | <p>ADP members and their constituent organisations to respond to national stigma strategy when published.</p> <p>Continue to produce ADP Bulletins, Annual Report and proactive media campaigns e.g. Festive Safety</p> |

#### 4. Potential impacts on human rights

The group identified the following potential human rights impacts.

| Articles                                         | Potential impacts and any particular groups affected                                                                                                                                                          | Recommendations to reduce or enhance such impacts                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>The right to life</b> (absolute right)</p> | <p>Yes. Evidence supporting alcohol and drug treatment as a protection factor in preventing drug related deaths.</p> <p>Provision of Take Home Naloxone (THN), implementing non-fatal overdose policy and</p> | <p>Ensure implementation of Delivery Plan and examine and implement as appropriate and recommended interventions from emerging evidence.</p> |

|                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                        |
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|                                                                                                    | harm reduction are evidence based in interventions to reduce drugs deaths.                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                        |
| <b>The right not to be tortured or treated in an inhuman or degrading way</b> (absolute right)     | Yes. Evidence of stigma experienced by people using alcohol and drugs impacts on likelihood of accessing services, by making this a key priority for the term of the strategy there is likely to be positive impact. | ADP members and their constituent organisations to respond to national stigma strategy when published. |
| <b>The right to liberty</b> (limited right)                                                        | n/a                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                        |
| <b>The right to a fair trial</b> (limited right)                                                   | n/a                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                        |
| <b>The right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence</b> (qualified right) | n/a                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                        |
| <b>The right to freedom of thought, belief and religion</b> (qualified right)                      | n/a                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                        |
| <b>The right to freedom of expression</b> (qualified right)                                        | n/a                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                        |
| <b>The right not to be discriminated against</b>                                                   | Yes. Evidence of stigma experienced by people using alcohol and drugs impacts on likelihood of accessing services, by making this a key priority for the term of the strategy there is likely to be positive impact. | Respond to national stigma strategy when published.                                                    |
| <b>Any other rights relevant to this policy.</b>                                                   | n/a                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                        |

##### 5. Will there be any cumulative impacts as a result of the relationship between this policy and others?

The impact of this Strategy will be enhanced by implementation of: Community Justice Board Action Plan, Mental Health Strategy, Child Poverty Action Plan, CPP Strategic Plan, HSCP Strategic Plan and Integrated Children's Services Plan.

##### 6. What sources of evidence have informed your impact assessment?

| Evidence type | Evidence available | Gaps in evidence |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------|
|---------------|--------------------|------------------|

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| <p><b>Population data</b> e.g. demographic profile, service uptake.</p>                                                         | <p>National Alcohol and Drug Profile <a href="http://www.scotpho.org.uk/">http://www.scotpho.org.uk/</a> (site collates a variety of sources including– demographics, hospital admissions and mortality; prevalence, access to treatment). This data is used to produce an annual Technical Report to complement the ADP Annual Report.</p> <p>Borders Alcohol Profile<br/><a href="https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/2739/alcohol_profile">https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/2739/alcohol_profile</a></p> <p>A quarterly report is presented to the ADP which includes service uptake; outcomes and key performance indicators.</p> | <p>Due to the demographics of Borders it is not possible to present data relating to each of the protected characteristics.</p> <p>The most recent publication of Borders specific SALSUS data in relation to alcohol and drug use in children and young people was last published in 2013. An updated publication is delayed by COVID-19.</p> |
| <p><b>Consultation and involvement findings</b> e.g. any engagement with service users, local community, particular groups.</p> | <p>Prior to the development of this Strategy consultation work had previously taken place in relation to reduction in ADP Funding, additional funding was received in 2018-19 and additional consultation was performed with people using services and with lived experience to inform decisions relating to the new funding. This strategy builds on the finding of above. Prior to developing the strategy we consulted with people with lived experience with the help of We Are With You and also via attendance with Serendipity Recovery Cafe members.</p>                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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| <p><b>Research</b><br/>e.g. good practice guidelines, service evaluations, literature reviews.</p>                                       | <p>Rights Respect and Recovery – Scotland Alcohol and Drugs Treatment Strategy<sup>10</sup>,<br/>Clinical care and prescribing is guided by the UK Department of Health’s Drug misuse and dependence: UK guidelines on clinical management<sup>11</sup>,<br/>LGBT in Britain – Health Report, Stonewall<sup>12</sup> ,<br/><a href="https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/lgbt_in_britain_-_health_report_final.pdf">https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/lgbt_in_britain_-_health_report_final.pdf</a><br/>LGBT in Britain – Trans Report<sup>13</sup><br/><a href="https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/lgbt_in_britain_-_trans_report_final.pdf">https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/lgbt_in_britain_-_trans_report_final.pdf</a></p> |  |
| <p><b>Participant knowledge</b><br/>e.g. experiences of working with different population groups, experiences of different policies.</p> | <p>Staff represented in the workshop include the Service Manager of We Are With You alcohol and drugs treatment and re-integration service; Health Improvement Equality Lead and Sexual Health Improvement Specialist; Head of Health Improvement and Strategic Lead ADP. This group therefore comprises expertise on alcohol and drugs service delivery; equality and diversity; young people; strategic policy development and implementation.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/rights-respect-recovery/>

<sup>11</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/673978/clinical\\_guidelines\\_2017.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673978/clinical_guidelines_2017.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/lgbt\\_in\\_britain\\_health.pdf](https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/lgbt_in_britain_health.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/lgbt\\_in\\_britain\\_-\\_trans\\_report\\_final.pdf](https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/lgbt_in_britain_-_trans_report_final.pdf)

## 7. Summary of key impacts, research questions and evidence sources

The following is a summary of the key areas of impact identified at the workshop, some possible questions to address in order to understand these, and suggested evidence sources to answer these research questions.

This is not a definitive or necessarily complete list of research questions and some may turn out on further assessment not to be relevant. The list is put forward as a starter to inform the next stage of the impact assessment, and is likely to be amended by the steering group.

The work done to explore these questions should be proportionate to the expected benefits and potential to make changes as a result.

Evidence-informed recommendations are central to a robust impact assessment; however, 'evidence' to support the development of recommendations can be thought of more widely than just formal research. Furthermore, a lack of available robust evidence should not lead to the impact assessment process being delayed or stopping altogether. Often there is poor or insufficient evidence about the links between a proposal and health; there may, however, be plausible theoretical grounds to expect an impact.

| Area of impact | Research questions | Possible evidence sources |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| n/a            |                    |                           |

## 8. Who else needs to be consulted?

The group agreed that no additional stakeholders need be involved or consulted in the process.

## 9. Suggested initial recommendations

During the workshop participants identified some initial suggestions to improve the policy. Most of these will be informed by the suggested work to address the questions identified above. The suggestions are noted below but will need discussion and refinement by the steering group.

- Review any training needs of commissioned services as in relation to protected characteristics and inequalities
- Continue to monitor outcome and impacts of commissioned services
- Ensure services consider impact of any changing practice relating to COVID-10 response

## 10. Conclusions

During the HIIA Scoping Workshop the participants considered the potential impacts arising from implementing this policy. These potential impacts have been summarised above. As a result of this workshop we conclude (select the most appropriate conclusion).

- ❖ No major changes required to the policy

**Fiona Doig, Head of Health Improvement/Strategic Lead ADP, NHS Borders**

## **Community Planning Partnership**

**Title: COVID-19 Recovery Planning - Whole Systems Approach**

**Director: Jenni Craig, Customer & Communities**

**Date: 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

### **1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Community Planning Partnership are asked to**

- (a) note the submission of a grant application to the East Region Diabetes Prevention Partnership to progress phase 1 of an Eyemouth Whole Systems community led approach to improve diet and healthy weight, within a post COVID-19 community context; and**
- (b) support the work through the provision of existing resources within Eyemouth.**

This includes:

- The submission of a grant application of up to £60,000 (£10k in Phase 1 and £50k in Phase 2) to test and design a pilot project in Eyemouth to explore a range of levers and opportunities to identify barriers to a healthy diet and weight with a focus on children and health inequalities.

This includes two stakeholder engagement and workshop sessions, the first to map the local barriers and issues; and the second to co-create an action and implementation plan. Workshops will be creative, virtual engagement events with key community stakeholders who have been active in Eyemouth during the COVID phase, contributing funding and practical support (Eyemouth Response Team, LINKS Eyemouth, SPLASH (EDCT), Abundant Borders, Early Years Centre, Eyemouth Food Bank, BAVS, SBSEC, Berwickshire Housing Association, The Rotary Club of Eyemouth & District, local retailers, churches & other community groups) alongside new and existing community volunteers & our locality Community Assistance Hubs who can advocate from a public health perspective and bring knowledge & understanding of lived experience. This event will identify & agree the most important community priorities based on recent experiences of working through the pandemic crisis.

- All outputs will be co-produced and include community led plans with priority actions & leads. This will include an indication of how phase 2 funding will be allocated across Eyemouth to deliver on diet & healthy weight priorities.
- This work will be led at locality level by the Joint Health Improvement Team Health Improvement Specialist who will report into the SBC Whole Systems Partnership governance group.

### **2 MAIN POINTS/ISSUES**

Having a healthy weight, being active and having good emotional and mental health are some of the most important aspects of reducing health inequalities and improving population health. The Scottish Government has set an ambition to halve childhood obesity by 2030<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>A Healthier Future: Scotland's Diet & Healthy Weight Delivery Plan (2018) [www.gov.scot/publications/healthier-future-scotlands-diet-healthy-weight-delivery-plan](http://www.gov.scot/publications/healthier-future-scotlands-diet-healthy-weight-delivery-plan)

From a local perspective, NHS Borders, Scottish Borders Council & Third Sector have made a commitment to reducing inequalities and improving health and wellbeing, in partnership.

A Whole Systems Approach (WSA) is one method of delivering on these ambitions and can be defined as applying systems thinking and tools that enable *an ongoing, flexible approach by a broad-range of stakeholders to identify and understand current and emerging public health issues where, by working together, we can deliver sustainable change and better lives for the people of Scotland*<sup>2</sup>. The Scottish Borders is one of three Early Adopter Areas who have been identified to develop and test a whole systems approach to diet and healthy weight. The WSA methodology has been used successfully in England, Scottish Government has provided funding to access training from Leeds Beckett University for early adopter sites. NHS Health Scotland will be involved in evaluating the WSA process to find out if this methodology can be applied to other public health priorities.

Scotland has six public health priorities, the WSA work in Eyemouth will deliver primarily on Public Health Priority Six:

*A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active*

However, it will also make a contribution to all other public health priorities. The WSA will be community led and asset based, therefore Eyemouth will make further moves towards a good food & physically active culture together.

We have seen a change in the way things are done throughout COVID in Scotland, the Scottish Borders and in Eyemouth, with the community centre adapting its practice to become a food distribution site, almost overnight. There has been other good examples of similar adaptations across a range of settings in Eyemouth. This has brought partners together to respond to community priorities in a way they would not have been able to do previously. This new way of working should be enhanced and developed further beyond the crisis phase of the pandemic. Eyemouth has successfully responded to the need for emergency support and other activities that have helped their communities to “stay at home, protect NHS Scotland and save lives”.

There are many significant strengths in Eyemouth including:

- Good size town
- Thriving Community
- Range of Community Groups & Activities (across life stages)
- Good Partnership Working
- Increase in participation levels – Active Schools work
- Children & families regularly use settings based activities
- Good Food Partnership
- Volunteering Culture
- Infant Feeding Programme

However, it is also recognised that there are some specific challenges. Profile data provides an insight into why a Whole Systems Approach would be a positive development to support better health outcomes across the lifestages. We know that child poverty is a growing concern in Scotland and this is reflected across many areas, including Eyemouth with 15.6% of children living in low income families and 14.3% of the population income deprived.

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<sup>2</sup>Public Health Reform. 2019. *Enable a Whole System Approach to Public Health*. Available from: <https://publichealthreform.scot/media/1520/phob-enabling-the-whole-system-to-deliver-the-public-health-priorities-paper-22.pdf> [Accessed 12 October 2019]



Other important considerations for health improvement work in Eyemouth include making a difference to primary 1 dental health and preventing early deaths from Coronary Heart Disease.

There is a long history of public sector partnership work with the Eyemouth community, practitioners have used a raft of creative ways to engage people in health improving activities. It is recommended that the community response to COVID is nurtured, enhanced and invested in to improve health outcomes.

Partnership working between NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council has demonstrated the positive impact on the health of families and communities for example, School Holiday programmes. These programmes reflect collaboration from locality to strategic planning level with the buy in of participants, volunteers, community groups, business, agency partners and community benefits.

A Whole Systems approach in Eyemouth will help build a collective understanding, commitment and leadership approach to moving forward with a shared community plan that reflects their pandemic resilience.

### **3 IMPLICATIONS**

#### 3.1 Financial

There are no financial implications other than the support of existing public sector workers who already have a commitment to working in this locality. Grant funding will reduce any financial risk, providing the opportunity to test out what works with a view to replicating this across other areas where a community plan is required.

#### 3.2 Risk & Mitigations

There are a range of risks relating to progression of a community plan using a WSA in the post COVID community context including:

##### COVID fatigue:

Partners have been working to a crisis response for a sustained period of time. *This could be right time to offer partnership support to work in partnership and build on the success of the Eyemouth community response*

##### Timing:

Recovery & renewal are on everyone's agenda, discussion is required to agree what this looks like for Eyemouth, it may be difficult to progress collectively without an agreed approach

##### Virtual Engagement:

It is more difficult to facilitate a participatory approach using technology *National research should be considered to ensure everyone has a voice (Kelly McBride & Kevin Ditcham, The Democratic Society (Scotland): Creating online spaces for deliberation)*

##### Sustaining Locality Engagement:

In the absence of a physical presence it is more difficult to nurture and sustain a community led approach.

*Digital support is working well in Eyemouth and people are engaging.*

##### Support from Early Adopters:

East Region is one of the three Early Adopter sites for WSA to diet and healthy weight (includes Dundee and Ayrshire & Arran). A national group has been set up

in partnership with SG, Public Health Scotland and Obesity Action Scotland to encourage partners from across sites to share best practice and learn from other areas. Support will also be provided by the East Region Diabetes Programme Team and includes training in WSA with Leeds Beckett University.

Nichola Sewell  
Health Improvement Lead  
September 2020

Penny Oliver  
Health Improvement Specialist



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## **FIT FOR 2024 - REVIEW OF AREA PARTNERSHIPS - NEXT STEPS**

**Report by Service Director, Customer & Communities**

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### **SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**

**27 August 2020**

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#### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report outlines the next steps in evolving the Area Partnerships and, community capacity building arrangements, taking into account the recommendations of the report which was commissioned from the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC).**
- 1.2 At its meeting on 25 June 2020 the Council discussed, and agreed to note the results, findings and subsequent recommendations of the SCDC Report on the review of Area Partnerships and the Community Fund subject to a further report being brought to Council in August 2020.
- 1.3 It is proposed that the arrangements in each locality are developed at a grass roots level using a bottom up approach. Therefore this paper does not propose how the next steps, to the further development of the Area Partnerships, will take place but supports the empowerment of each Area Partnership to discuss, agree and implement improvement mechanisms for this in each locality.
- 1.4 The Council is continuing to respond to the current Covid-19 pandemic and there has been a great deal of learning and experience of working with our communities through the Community Assistance Hubs. This ongoing learning should be taken into account in these next steps and how ongoing arrangements evolve.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

##### **2.1 I recommend that Scottish Borders Council:-**

- (a) Agrees that the findings of the report by the Scottish Community Development Centre continues to be fed back, via a range of stakeholders, to the wider community for their consideration;**
- (b) Approves the Action Plan outlined in Appendix 1;**

- (c) Request that each Area Partnership establishes, at their next meeting, a mechanism to review the findings and make recommendations for further public consultation within each locality;**
- (d) Agrees to receive a further report from the Service Director Customer & Communities on the outcome and next steps.**

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 25 June 2020 the Council discussed, and agreed to note the results, findings and subsequent recommendations of the report produced by the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) on the review of Area Partnerships and the Community Fund subject to a further report being brought to Council in August 2020 which outlines the next steps in evolving the Area Partnership and Community Fund arrangements. For clarity, and ease of discussion, this has been split in to two reports covering Area Partnerships and the Community Fund separately.
- 3.2 Following the meeting on 25 June 2020, SCDC's Report was distributed to:
- a) Area Partnerships
  - b) Community Councils
  - c) Community Fund grant recipients
  - d) Community groups
  - e) Festival Committees
  - f) Localities Bid Fund applicants
  - g) Scottish Borders Community Councils' Network
  - h) Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership
  - i) Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership's People's Panel
  - j) Third Sector Interface (TSI)
  - k) Village Halls (via the TSI)
- 3.3 Scottish Borders Community Council Network, individual Community Councils and the Third Sector Interface have been consulted during the preparation of this report. Responses have been reflected in this report and the accompanying Action Plan and will be fed into the work undertaken by each of the Area Partnerships.

### **4 REVIEW FINDINGS – AREA PARTNERSHIPS**

- 4.1 Although discussed at the meeting on 25 June 2020, the findings are presented here to provide context for the proposals.
- 4.2 The findings of the consultation tell us that after 18 months of operation, the Area Partnerships have yet to realise the level of community engagement and involvement that was envisaged when they were established. In general, results overall are mixed although the majority, of those that expressed a view, felt that the partnerships were very good/good or acceptable. Comments made include:
- a) "I have found the meetings informative and inclusive with everyone given a chance to discuss specified topics." (Berwickshire online survey response).
  - b) "Little usable feedback – or sense of progress." (Berwickshire Focus Group).
  - c) "I feel that the Area Partnership and its role is still evolving so expect to see greater impact as the partnership evolves." (Online survey response).

- 4.3 The recommendations from SCDC set out the need to involve Community Councils, along with other community groups, to shape the Area Partnerships going forward. The need for improved community engagement, support to enable a wider range of people to attend the meetings, agenda setting, meeting structure and ways in which the meetings are facilitated are all areas highlighted in the recommendations.
- 4.4 It is acknowledged that not one size fits all and that, through continued engagement with communities, separate operational and governance arrangements may develop across the five areas.
- 4.5 Good and real community empowerment is central to the success of the Area Partnerships. There is a desire from communities to be involved in shaping the Area Partnerships to ensure that they are effective forums for supporting and delivering the locality plans and wider community planning agenda. The Action Plan at Appendix 1 sets out the steps that will be required to develop an Improvement Framework for Area Partnerships.
- 4.6 As it is recognised that arrangements may differ between localities, it is proposed that each locality agrees and establishes a mechanism, with support from appropriate Officers, to consider improvements to the Area Partnerships. Each Area Partnership will develop an Improvement Framework to reflect local circumstances. It is proposed that this work should include Elected Members and Community Councillors with the numbers, and additional members, agreed by each Area Partnership. Options may include, but are not limited to:
- a) A short life working group
  - b) All discussions and decisions taking place at Area Partnership meetings
  - c) Workshops
  - d) Focus groups
  - e) Surveys/questionnaires
- 4.7 Following the receipt of SCDC's Report, it was possible to start to make changes to Area Partnerships, including:
- a) The inclusion of an update on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 as a standing agenda item. A process was being put in place, prior to the Covid-19 emergency, to ask Area Partnership members what they would like covered as part of the update. This will resume as Area Partnership meetings are rescheduled.
  - b) The opportunity for those attending to say what they would like to be covered at the next, and future, Area Partnership meetings. Ideas can be submitted both at, and after, each meeting.
- 4.8 To evolve and develop the Area Partnerships, taking into account the recommendations of the SCDC report, the following actions are proposed

- 4.8.1 To share the SCDC Report as widely as possible with stakeholders in the next two months, seeking thoughts/comments/ideas on how we can progress the findings of the report in partnership.
- 4.8.2 Feedback from this wider consultation to be presented at the November Area Partnerships (or as soon as possible thereafter given the current situation).
- 4.8.3 That each Area Partnership, at their next meeting, establish a mechanism to review the findings and make recommendations at a local level for further public consultation within each locality.
- 4.8.4 Start to build a new Area Partnership model in Spring 2021. It is envisaged that this model will develop and evolve differently within each locality.

## 5 REVIEW FINDINGS – COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

- 5.1 Community capacity building is described as “the activities, resources and support that strengthen the skills, abilities and confidence of people and community groups to take effective action and leading roles in the development of communities.”<sup>1</sup> It is key to a sustainable, empowered community. We are aware that the level of community capacity varies widely across the Scottish Borders. It is therefore essential that community capacity building is available to support all our communities to play a central role in Area Partnerships.
- 5.2 Participants in the review process felt that there is not enough community capacity building support to sustain local activity. Comments included:
- a) “We no longer have the community workers we used to have and I think people have really suffered from the fact that they no longer have the support from these posts. We need many more development and community workers to help with work on the ground and the voluntary sector are being asked to do too much.” **Local resident – Focus Group.**
  - b) “The capacity building is not what the Council’s delivering in the Borders. What I mean by Community Capacity Building CCB ... is standing alongside the community and helping to animate people to become activists to support everyone in their community and build their skills and confidence, knowledge and experience to take their ideas forward. This really isn’t happening in most places and the TSI hasn’t got the reach or resources to do it all. These gaps really restrict how communities can be involved in local structures and policy influencing roles.” **Local resident – Focus Group.**
  - c) “I think we need a common understanding of what CCB and empowerment means and how it links to inclusion and equality.” **Local resident – Focus Group.**

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<sup>1</sup> Strengthening Communities, S Skinner, CDF Publications 2006

- 5.3 A Fit for 2024 review is already underway which will consider the recommendations within the report and will look at a range of options to improve capacity building within communities.

## **6 BEST VALUE ASSURANCE REPORT**

- 6.1 The Best Value Assurance audit of Scottish Borders Council in 2019 was noted at the Council meeting on 19 December 2019. The Commission findings included:

The Council now needs to make better progress with its community planning partners in delivering crucial elements of their community empowerment obligations, including resourced locality plans which identify community need and help community wellbeing.

- 6.2 With the subsequent recommendation:

Improve how the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership involves communities and the third sector, through greater involvement in local decision-making and by accelerating implementation of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

- 6.3 A number of recommendations within the SCDC report are in line with the 2019 Best Value Assurance Audit and these will be taken forward through actions already agreed at that meeting in the Best Value Audit Action Plan.

## **7 LEARNING AND OPPORTUNITIES FROM COVID-19 RESPONSE**

- 7.1 The experience from setting up the five Community Assistance Hubs (CAH) has already provided significant learning and benefits, which we need to build on and maximise the opportunities for the future. Some of the benefits are:

- a) Our customers have been at the centre and focus of every CAH interaction;
- b) A flexible and proactive, solution based response was created;
- c) Multi agency working groups have been output/outcome focussed – these groups have worked together and complemented each other;
- d) A flatter structure with less barriers – leadership and direction was clear and focussed;
- e) Less process and formality in how we have worked with communities – navigation through systems has been quicker and more efficient;
- f) Regular and ongoing dialogue and then quickly adapting the response according to the feedback;
- g) Trust and relationships have been developed by working in partnership to achieve common goals;
- h) Community groups have taken ownership and, because they could see the need and demand, have developed solutions supported by Scottish Borders Council and other partners;
- i) The emergency response has created a very different type of engagement and enabled new voices to be heard;



- j) Direct contact between staff and customers, that may not usually have direct contact with the Council, has been taking place.

7.2 The findings from the SCDC Report, together with the benefits and experience of the Covid-19 response, provide a range of new opportunities. These should be considered as part of the work the Area Partnerships carry out and include the following:

- a) A reinvigorated Community Planning approach based on different ways of engagement and feedback;
- b) Services redesigned to reflect user and community needs/requirements in light of the pandemic;
- c) Locality Plans refreshed to reflect what communities require whilst both in recovery mode and longer term;
- d) How to build on the ways in which communities have been working which has seen them taking ownership to deliver Covid-19 related assistance in ways which best suit their town/village;
- e) Engagement with the wider community beyond the formal Area Partnership model;
- f) Live broadcast of meetings, building on experience of the broadcast of Council committee meetings and public feedback.

## **8 RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN**

8.1 The recommendations and accompanying actions have been grouped within the Action Plan to reflect the Area Partnerships, Community Capacity Building and other findings. Recommendations and actions relating to the Community Fund and Participatory budgeting have been removed and will be considered in a separate report at the meeting on 27 August 2020.

8.2 A number of recommendations are in line with the 2019 Best Value Assurance Audit (see Section 6) and these will be taken forward through actions already agreed by Council on 19 December 2019 in the Best Value Audit Action Plan.

8.3 All actions and recommendations are numbered for ease of cross-referencing between the SCDC Report and attached Action Plan.

## **9 IMPLICATIONS**

### **9.1 Financial**

Staff resources will be required to support each of the Area Partnerships in the work being asked of them.

### **9.2 Risk and Mitigations**

- a) Not acting upon the findings in the name of SCDC's Report would have a negative impact on the Area Partnerships and the Council's reputation as an organisation that listens to the community.

- b) Area Partnerships have not met for some time due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Arrangements are being considered on how to best facilitate the next round of meetings currently scheduled to take place in November.

### 9.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

- a) An Integrated Impact Assessment has been carried out on the proposals contained in this report and it is anticipated that there will be no negative impacts under either the Equality Duty or the Fairer Scotland Duty.
- b) IIA scoping has identified that in line with one of the recommendations contained within the SCDC Report, Area Partnerships will be involved in the co-production “of an enhanced equality impact assessment [Integrated Impact Assessment] which explores the extent to which community Empowerment processes, including Area Partnerships, deliver on equality duties and Community Empowerment Act requirements to tackle inequality.” The Scottish Borders Strategic Assessment 2020 will be used to inform the IIA and identify if targeted measures are required in any areas in the region.
- c) The aim is for the evolution of the Area Partnerships to be done at grass roots level. In order for this to happen, there can be no predetermined shape for the work to take, but rather the community representatives will be empowered to do this. Although the outcomes generated through this work are not known, it is anticipated that they, and the implementation of the wider recommendations, will identify and overcome any inequalities and/or discrimination, perceived or otherwise, that may exist.

### 9.4 Acting Sustainably

A sustainable development assessment has been carried out on the proposals contained in this report and it is anticipated that there will be a positive effect on the following community and participation outcomes:

- a) involve the community in developing and implementing the project;
- b) take into account under-represented or excluded groups;
- c) take into account equal opportunities;
- d) improve community quality of life;
- e) improve community capacity;
- f) encourage local action and decision making.

### 9.5 Carbon Management

There are no anticipated effects on carbon emissions as a result of the recommendations made in this report.

### 9.6 Rural Proofing

Not applicable.

### 9.7 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

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

## **10 CONSULTATION**

10.1 The Executive Director (Finance & Regulatory), the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Service Director HR & Communications, the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into this report.

10.2 The Corporate Equalities and Diversity Officer has been consulted during the Integrated Impact Assessment of this report.

10.3 Scottish Borders Community Councils' Network, individual Community Councils and the Third Sector Interface have been consulted on the results of the SCDC review and inclusion of information in this report.

### **Approved by**

**Jenni Craig**

**Service Director, Customer & Communities**

**Signed .....**

### **Author(s)**

| Name          | Designation and Contact Number                           |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
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| Clare Malster | Strategic Community Engagement Officer, 01835 826626     |

**Background Papers:** None

**Previous Minute Reference:** Scottish Borders Council, 25 June 2020

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

Contact us at: Clare Malster, Scottish Borders Council, Council HQ, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose TD6 0SA. Tel: 01835 826626 Email: [cmalster@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:cmalster@scotborders.gov.uk)

## Appendix 1: Area Partnership Action Plan

### Action Plan by theme

| Action reference | Recommendation number | SCDC Recommendations for Area Partnerships                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Action                                                                                                                                                      | Timescales          |
|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| A                | 1                     | Establish a short life working group, including Scottish Borders Council (SBC) staff, Community Planning Partnership (CPP) partner reps and local community reps, to feedback the results of the research via a local seminar and look at short term improvements to the Area Partnerships                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Each Area Partnership to agree a mechanism to review findings and recommend improvements (support to be provided)                                           | Short term          |
| B                | 2                     | <p>Establish a longer-term working group of community reps, officers and Elected Members to discuss how APs can be more effective using the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) research to guide discussions.</p> <p>The working group should look at issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The relationship to the Scheme of Administration</li> <li>- Increasing transparency of decision making</li> <li>- Engaging the community in setting the agenda for the meetings</li> <li>- Extending decision making to community groups/representative</li> <li>- Ensuring that the contribution of community members, officers and Councillors are accurately recorded and publicised</li> </ul> | Agree proposals for any required working group once Area Partnerships have agreed their recommendations. This will be covered in further report to Council. | Medium term         |
| C                | 3<br>4                | <p>The short life working groups and the overarching reference group should also consider the following SCDC recommendations within the improvement framework:</p> <p>Each AP should consider whether fixed locations or rotating the venue increases access to the process. In doing so they should consult with potential participants and not just those who attend regularly.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Recommendations from actions to be considered by each Area Partnership & longer-term working group, if required.                                            | Short & Medium term |

|   |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                      |             |
|---|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
|   | 5  | Area Partnerships should consider the impact of their boundaries on local participation and have clearer relationships with more local community-based organisations and partnerships in their areas.                                             |                                                      |             |
|   | 6  | APs should also be encouraged to seek assistance or views from other local engagement processes to take forward issues they are dealing with and pay due regard to local experience.                                                              |                                                      |             |
|   | 8  | Opportunities should be created to help this wider range of local stakeholders feed into locality plans.                                                                                                                                          |                                                      |             |
|   | 9  | They should improve communication with well-established community councils and community groups at more local levels to more effectively link local concerns to the agenda of the Area Partnerships.                                              |                                                      |             |
|   | 13 | They should also involve other local groups including those working on specific issues, local service developments and those representing people experiencing inequality or discrimination                                                        |                                                      |             |
|   | 14 | Look at ways to remove transport and finance barriers to ensure people can attend.                                                                                                                                                                |                                                      |             |
|   | 15 | Consider the support needs of those who want to attend, and how these can be resourced e.g. BSL interpreting, language interpreting, advocacy support.                                                                                            |                                                      |             |
|   | 18 | Co-produce an enhanced equality impact assessment which explores the extent to which Community Empowerment processes, including the Area Partnerships, deliver on equality duties and Community Empowerment Act requirements to tackle inequality |                                                      |             |
|   |    | Encourage greater networking and shared learning between Area Partnerships and other groups in each area.                                                                                                                                         |                                                      |             |
| D | 1  | A new participation and engagement model to be established from the outcomes of the Improvement Framework                                                                                                                                         | SBC Officers to develop alongside Area Partnerships. | Medium term |



| Action reference | Recommendation number | SCDC recommendations linked to Best Value (these are in line with the findings of the 2019 Best Value Assurance Audit of Scottish Borders Council and these recommendations will be taken forward through actions already agreed by Council on 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2019 in the Best Value Audit Action Plan) | Action                                                                                                                                                                              | Timescales |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| G                | 7                     | Reforming and strengthened Area Partnerships should be part of a broader discussion about delivering community empowerment in the SBC area as described in the SCDC report.                                                                                                                                        | Work with the Improvement Service and Scottish Government to provide guidance and support to gain insight into best practice in the implementation of the Community Empowerment Act | April 2021 |
|                  | 10                    | Community empowerment action should not always require issues to be initiated at AP meetings. Mechanisms should be found for ideas and proposals to emerge from local community-led processes and seek support from the AP to achieve change.                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                     |            |
|                  | 30                    | Use the Audit Scotland principles to develop discussion involving community representatives, partner organisations, Elected Members and others to develop local principles for community empowerment.                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                     |            |
|                  | 31                    | Co-produce a local scrutiny process which builds confidence in the empowerment processes for community planning, including the Area Partnerships, and which provide routes to raise issues and resolve disputes.                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                     |            |
|                  | 32                    | Develop a local programme of key knowledge for Community Empowerment, engagement and deliberative democracy aimed at local people, officers, partner agencies and Elected Members.                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                     |            |
|                  | 33                    | Develop a programme of learning visits to other areas of Scotland where good practice may be developing as described above, and lessons are being learnt.                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                     |            |
| H                | 39                    | Identify, audit and promote existing opportunities for engagement and empowerment as part of an ongoing improvement plan linked to the Community Planning Partnership's (CPP) aims and responding to the recent Best Value Review.                                                                                 | Develop regular reporting of progress on Community Engagement across the whole council, for inclusion in reports to members                                                         | June 2021  |

|   |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                             |               |
|---|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
|   |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | and CPP Strategic Board.                                                                                                                                    |               |
| I | 11 | Continue to develop a range of innovative facilitative techniques for use in the APs and broader participation environment.                                                                                                    | Promote stakeholder engagement through Area Partnerships and community engagement events, with training around leadership/national standards of engagement. | December 2021 |
|   | 12 | Commission training for partners in using good deliberative dialogue techniques. Here are useful <a href="#">training opportunities</a> and <a href="#">facilitation tools</a> which could be explored.                        |                                                                                                                                                             |               |
|   | 17 | Provide joint training for councillors, community reps and officers on the National Standards for Community Engagement.                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                             |               |
|   | 32 | Develop a local programme of key knowledge for Community Empowerment, engagement and deliberative democracy aimed at local people, officers, partner agencies and Elected Members.                                             |                                                                                                                                                             |               |
| K | 16 | The Council and its partners should review how communities are supported to participate in the partnerships and participate more generally in terms of community capacity building support.                                    | As part of the Fit for 2024 programme undertake a review to consider how best to improve community capacity building across the Borders.                    | June 2021     |
|   | 21 | The shortage of capacity building support for organisations seeking funding, identified in this research, should be further explored and addressed. Solutions should be explored with capacity building organisations locally. |                                                                                                                                                             |               |
|   | 24 | Review the local Community Learning & Development Plan to assess where the relative strengths challenges in Community Capacity Building (CCB) are.                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                             |               |
|   | 25 | Develop a CCB working group involving Community Representatives the TSI, SBC other CPP partners e.g. NHS health improvement.                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                             |               |
|   | 26 | Consider strategic investment by SBC in capacity building services.                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                             |               |
|   | 27 | Initiate discussion with CPP partners, Scottish Government and other possible funders about where resources to support increased local CCB could be sourced.                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                             |               |
|   | 28 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                             |               |



|  |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |  |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
|  | <p>29</p> <p>38</p> <p>41</p> | <p>Support communities themselves to access resources to develop their own community capacity building resources.</p> <p>Lay the foundations for a holistic community development strategy for the Borders with corresponding local iterations linked to the Community Learning &amp; Development Partnerships.</p> <p>Review existing community capacity support across the CPP with a view to improving co-ordination and increasing resources to support community empowerment at grassroots level - and participation in wider decision-making processes.</p> <p>Additional resources for removing barriers to participation and delivering community capacity building should be identified by the CPP as a whole as well as SBC. In recognition of severe pressure on public sector budgets this may require bids to external funder.</p> |  |  |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|

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