

# Public Document Pack



## COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD THURSDAY, 10TH JUNE, 2021

A MEETING of the COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD will be held via MS TEAMS on THURSDAY, 10TH JUNE, 2021 at 2.00 PM

J. J. WILKINSON,  
Clerk to the Council,

3 June 2021

<b>BUSINESS</b>		
1.	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>	
2.	<b>Minute</b> (Pages 5 - 10) Consider Minute of Meeting of the Community Planning Strategic Board held on 4 March 2021. (Attached)	2 mins
3.	<b>Community Planning Partnership - Key Priorities/Action Plan 2020/21</b> (Pages 11 - 40) Consider Key Priorities and Action Plan 2020/21. (Attached)	10 mins
4.	<b>Education &amp; Skills</b> (Pages 41 - 50) Presentation on Learning & Skills Partnership/Young Person Guarantee by the Principal of Borders College and SBC Service Director - Young People, Engagement & Inclusion. (Attached)	20 mins
5.	<b>Economy</b>	
	(a) <b>Draft South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy</b> (Pages 51 - 54) Consider report by SBC Executive Director, Corporate Improvement & Economy, on the draft South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy. (Report attached and draft Strategy to follow after agreement at Regional Economic Partnership meeting on 8 June.)	15 mins
	(b) <b>Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Regional Deal</b> (Pages 55 - 56) Consider report by SBC Executive Director, Corporate Improvement & Economy, on the draft Regional Prosperity Framework. (Report attached and draft Framework to follow)	15 mins
6.	<b>Child Poverty 2020/21 and 2021/22</b> (Pages 57 - 206)	15 mins

	Consider Local Child Poverty Annual Progress Report 2020/21 and Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan 2021/22. (Report and appendices attached)	
7.	<b>Financial Inclusion Landscape</b> (Pages 207 - 218) Consider report by SBC Service Director Customer & Communities. (Attached)	15 mins
8.	<b>Children and Young People</b>	
	(a) <b>Integrated Children and Young People's Plan Progress Report 2019/21</b> (Pages 219 - 246) Consider progress report by SBC Service Director Young People, Engagement and Inclusion. (Attached)	10 mins
	(b) <b>Integrated Children &amp; Young People's Plan 2021/23</b> (Pages 247 - 280) Consider report by SBC Service Director Young People, Engagement & Inclusion. (Attached)	10 mins
9.	<b>Reports for Noting</b>	
	(a) <b>Children's Rights Report</b> (Pages 281 - 306) Report and appendix attached.	
	(b) <b>UNCRC Report</b> (Pages 307 - 312) Report attached.	
10.	<b>Any Other Business</b>	

#### NOTES

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

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**Membership of Board:**

Councillor Mark Rowley\* (Chair)  
Ms Elaine Acaster, Borders College  
Councillor Stuart Bell\*  
Superintendent Debra Forrester, Police Scotland  
Mr Stephen Gourlay, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Prof. Russel Griggs, South of Scotland Enterprise  
Councillor Carol Hamilton\*  
Mrs K. Hamilton, NHS Borders  
Mr Robin Hill, Registered Social Landlords representative (SBHA)  
Mrs M. Hume, Third Sector  
Mr Robin Hill, Scottish Borders Housing Association  
Councillor Robin Tatler\*  
Councillor George Turnbull\*  
\*any 3 from the 5 named SBC Councillors

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**Copies also sent for information to:-**

Mr David Alexander – Eildon Housing  
Mr Jamie McDougall – Scottish Government  
Ms Anna Griffin – SEPA  
Mr Niall Corbett – SNH  
Mr David Gordon – Waverley Housing  
Ms Andrea Hall – Skills Development Scotland  
Mr Colin McGrath – Scottish Borders Community Council Network  
Mr Bill White – Live Borders

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Please direct any enquiries to Jenny Wilkinson, Clerk to the 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:** 4 March 2021 from 2.00 to 4:15 p.m.
- Location:** Via MS Teams
- Attendees:** Councillor Mark Rowley (SBC) [Chair], Councillor Stuart Bell (SBC), Ms Angela Cox (Borders College), Professor Russel Griggs (SOSE), Councillor Carol Hamilton (SBC), Ms Karen Hamilton (NHS Borders), Mrs Marjorie Hume (Third Sector), Mr Stephen Gourlay (Fire & Rescue Service), Ms Michelle Meldrum (Berwickshire Housing Association).
- Also present:  
Also in attendance:** Councillor E. Thornton-Nicol.  
Jenni Craig, John Curry, Rob Dickson, Jenny Wilkinson (all SBC); Nicky Berry (NHS Borders); Nile Istephan (Eildon Housing); Rob McCulloch-Graham (H&SC IJB); Jamie McDougall (Scottish Government); Julia Mulloy (SBHA); Tim Patterson (NHS Borders/SBC – Public Health).

**MINUTE AND ACTION POINTS**

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies had been received from Ms Elaine Acaster (Borders College); Mr Robin Hill (SBHA); Superintendent Angus MacInnes (Police Scotland); Cllrs Robin Tatler and George Turnbull (SBC).

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

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

3. **MINUTE**

- 3.1 The Minute of the Meeting of 19 November 2020 had been circulated.

**DECISION**

**AGREED the Minute.**

- 3.2 The Action Tracker had been circulated.

**Noted.**

4. **COVID-19 – UPDATE FROM NHS BORDERS**

Ms Nicky Berry, Executive Nurse Director, NHS Borders, joined the meeting and gave a presentation updating the Strategic Board on NHS Borders position and remobilisation activities over the following 12 months. The first Covid case in the Borders was on 16 March 2020, with a total of 2,819 positive cases by the end of February 2021. Hospital admissions were a more accurate indication of infection rate, with 2 significant peaks in hospital beds – 8 April 2020 and 21 January 2021 – with over 20% of all BGH beds occupied by Covid patients. Teviot and Berwickshire had had the highest proportion of

positive cases by population, with Cheviot and Tweeddale having the lowest. Workplace settings had seen the highest number of outbreaks, with Health & Social Care staff making up 46% of all staff cases and 20% of all outbreak cases. Director of Public Health, Tim Patterson, confirmed that Hawick had been hit hard with the new variant just before Christmas, with all evidence suggesting that this was about 50% more transmissible and a higher hospitalisation rate, which led to an increased spread in the community. The Berwickshire outbreaks were related to large food producers and had been identified through screening as not all cases were symptomatic. Data was given on potential bed demand with local scenario planning. There had been a 50% fall in emergency department attendance and a 40% fall in emergency medical admissions after the March 2020 lockdown, and a further fall after Phase 2 lockdown in December, but levels were now beginning to rise again. The Covid vaccination programme was continuing apace. There would be an ongoing Covid response over the next 12 months, covering test and protect and vaccination services; local Covid patient transport service; care home leadership and support; enhanced infection control measures; and staff being given the opportunity to rest, recovery and reflect. Details were given of the response programme for acute, mental health and primary & community services over the next 3, 6 and 12 months. It was anticipated that the emergency phase would continue until summer 2021, a stabilisation phase for the remainder of 2021/22, and the recovery phase from 2022/23 onwards. Nicky Berry advised that all this had been a whole system approach with input from GPs, SBC and others.

**Noted.**

5. **DRAFT ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY**

With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of 19 November 2020, copies of the Draft Anti-Poverty Strategy report and 3 appendices had been circulated. Jenni Craig, SBC Service Director Customer & Communities gave an overview of the report which had been developed through a Working Group and approved by the Council the previous week for consultation. Mrs Craig gave details of some of the issues in the Borders in particular. Cllr Thornton-Nicol had joined the meeting as a member of the Working Group and gave apologies from the Chairman, Cllr Tatler, who had been unable to be presented at the meeting. Cllr Thornton-Nicol had been honoured to be part of the Working Group and thanked the other members and officers, as well as the partners and other organisations which had contributed to the development of the Draft Strategy. Everyone knew that poverty existed and impacted on lives and the pandemic had exacerbated this. The Draft Strategy would act as a baseline and was not the final answer but the beginning of the answer. It would be going out to public consultation shortly to develop the way forward ensuring that all information had been captured to help produce an action plan to move people out of poverty. It was important to hear every voice and opinion, especially from those with lived experience of poverty. Work to reduce poverty was ongoing across the Borders and it was vital to bring all actions together to drive poverty out and prevent duplication. Cllr Thornton-Nicol hoped everyone would support the Strategy and participate in the consultation and the development of the action plan. Cllr Rowley praised the Working Group for their achievements in developing the draft Strategy in just a few months, which reflected the seriousness of the issue. Angela Cox, Principal of Borders College, commented that the draft Strategy gave a good understanding of the scale of the challenge, and would benefit from the inclusion of the work of the Learning & Skills Partnership and the creation of the Digital Skills Hub (South of Scotland).

**Noted.**

6. **COMMUNITY JUSTICE OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2020/25**

Copies of a report on the Scottish Borders Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan 2020 – 2025 and the Plan itself had been circulated. The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 required community justice partners to collaborate and produce a local outcomes improvement plan. This was the second such plan for the Borders. Graham Jones, Safer Communities & Community Justice Manager, joined the meeting and presented highlights from the Plan, giving details of the outcomes and performance improvement framework. In response to a question, Mr Jones confirmed that consultation

had been extended across the prison estate and within the Plan one of the keen objectives was to approach those with lived experience, including those serving terms in the community, youth justice, etc. The action plan was refreshed each year and while youth justice and young people would come in to this over time, at the moment it was primarily adults.

## **DECISION**

**AGREED to approve the Community Justice Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2020/25 for publication.**

### **7. ECONOMY – REGIONAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP**

With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of 10 September 2020, SBC Executive Director Rob Dickson gave a presentation updating the Strategic Board on the work of the Regional Economic Partnership, which had met 5 times since September 2020. Its agreed purpose was to secure and enable sustainable, inclusive economic growth across the South of Scotland and the key focus to date had been the development of the new Regional Economic Strategy (RES). At the heart of developing the RESE was the absolute need for meaningful, inclusive and wide-reaching engagement, which included interviews, a business survey, general survey, themed workshops and online community consultation events. This engagement campaign had now been extended to 19 March. It was hoped that a final Strategy, action plan and measurement framework, including endorsement of a communication/launch plan would be presented in June 2021. Information on the RES could be found at <https://sosrep.dumgal.gov.uk> Professor Griggs further advised that a reference group was also in place as a very important part of the work. Julia Mulloy referred to the Housing workshop which had been held that morning which had been really helpful bringing a range of partners together and this would also help build relationships for the future.

**Noted.**

### **8. BUILT ESTATE AND COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENT**

Mr John Curry, Service Director Assets & Infrastructure, and Mr James Lamb, Portfolio Manager, gave a presentation to the Board on Place Making. Reference was made to SBC's Fit for 2024 programme, with themes germane to community planning: enhanced community engagement, participation and empowerment; service reviews; investment in digital services; and making better use of our assets – reducing the overall estate. Rather than engagement about the built estate, the shift in focus was on service redesign through place making. This was a more joined up, collaborative, and participative approach to services, land and buildings, across all sectors within a place, which enabled better outcomes for everyone and increased opportunities for people and communities to shape their own lives. This also related to Cosla's place making principle; national place standard tool; national planning framework; and programme for government. Local engagement was already underway through Borderlands, review of Area Partnerships, learning estates strategy and also through Covid learning with Community Assistance Hubs and Resilience teams. Phase 1 was the preparation and planning stage (Feb to July); phase 2 was the production of initial high level Locality Place Briefs (Aug to October); phase 3 would be the development and agreement of Locality Place programmes (Sept to Nov); and phase 4 would be delivery (November 2021 onwards). At the end of each phase there would be a gateway review. A co-production approach was intended and support was sought from the Community Planning partners. Angela Cox commented that this was a really exciting project with challenging timescales, and asked that in particular engagement was carried out with young people, as the future of communities. In order to reduce the outward migration of young people from the Borders, young people needed to be at the heart of this engagement. The partners considered how best they could be involved in the project.

## **DECISION**

**AGREED that any of the Community Planning partners liaise with the Service Director Assets & Infrastructure on the best way they could become involved in the Place Making programme.**

9. **COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP KEY PRIORITIES AND ACTION PLAN**

With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of 19 November 2020, copies of updated Key Priorities and an Action Plan for 2020/21 had been circulated. Ms Shona Smith, Communities & Partnership Manager, advised that the draft Action Plan had now been updated with progress, although there were still some gaps. There were 3 presentations later on the agenda which were intended to show how the Community Planning Partnership was making a difference. The Chairman suggested that having a RAG status or a graphic to show progress would perhaps focus attention on those areas which needed further scrutiny by the Board in future.

**Noted.**

10. **CPP MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

10.1 **Connecting Scotland**

Frances Eneide, SBC Programme Manager, and Clare Malster, SBC Strategic Community Engagement Officer, gave a presentation on the Connecting Scotland programme. Details were given on the background to the programme including devices for those digitally excluded and on low income, and connectivity and support.

Organisations had been invited to apply for devices on behalf of individuals they supported, and individuals could apply directly, and organisations then took on the role of digital champion to provide assistance to individuals. In the Borders so far, 765 devices had been obtained in phases for vulnerable people. The programme had been very popular, and over-subscribed with a shortfall of 641 devices from applications. A wide range of organisations in the Borders had participated and they needed to ensure they had enough organisational capacity to provide champion support. Clare Malster gave an insight into being a digital champion. Ms Eneide explained that there had been some delays in getting devices delivered and a global issue relating to the supply especially of chrome books. Each phase of the programme that had been rolled out had only had a certain allocation for the Borders which had all be taken up. Jenni Craig confirmed that this had been a really excellent example of partnership working in trying to understand collectively what needed to be done and then tapping in to the funding. As everyone was looking at services coming out of Covid, it was likely these would focus more on digital. The officer group would look for further funding to see if any gaps could be closed.

**Noted.**

10.2 **Internet of Things**

Nile Istephan, Eildon Housing, gave a presentation on the digital future currently being worked on at Eildon, including community wi-fi provision; the "internet of things", deployment of devices, and intelligent use of data; and digital transformation of services. In terms of community wi-fi, this was now considered an essential utility. Eildon had engaged with Social Telecoms and had been piloting community wi-fi within supported housing services (sheltered housing and independent living places). There had been excellent feedback so far and this would be rolled out further in 2021/22. The main focus was it was cheaper than the market, a reliable service, with the additional benefit of it being a stable, high quality wi-fi, which was able to be used operationally as well. The main challenge was that all customers were charged whether they wanted the wi-fi or not so care needed to be taken in implementation to give tenants advice notice regarding their existing bundles/packages. In future, this would be looked at in terms of general needs homes, new builds or the wider community. In terms of the Internet of Things (IOT), Eildon involvement was two-fold: to support the creation of IOT in the Scottish Borders so there was good coverage to facilitate practical use of this technology; and deploy IOT devices and support to care for customers, as well as caring for property assets. This was an exciting and fast-moving area with many other applications for Community Planning partners. The demography and rurality of the Borders meant that this was probably more important and more of an opportunity in the Borders than elsewhere in

Scotland. It was a Scottish Government backed alternative network to broadband and the cellular network with improving coverage. Eildon was assisting by allowing its assets to host 'gateway' devices. Security was built in as reassurance for users. A range of commercial devices already existed and was growing e.g. Alexa, Siri, IOT enabled white goods. While there was a lot of opportunity, the challenge was how to intelligently use these devices and combine them to meet the specific needs of the end users/households/organisations. The IOT programme was being supported through the Civ Tech programme and Eildon had submitted the problem to this programme of how best to enhance infection control for vulnerable people in residential based services. Eildon was working with Wallscope to develop a product called CLARE, which used commercially available existing sensors, linking them to data already held by Eildon and providing a user friendly, intuitive interface. Details were shown of where sensors were located within a property and how this interacted with the needs of the tenant in terms of health and care plans. Once this had been further tested and refined, it could be rolled out further. Eildon was also looking at a new build green pilot using IOT devices to help evaluate different green technologies, using building management solutions for environment management, health and safety, and component performance. This experience could then be shared with partners across the Borders and beyond, including further developing the care support options.

**Noted.**

*Note: Ms Hamilton, Prof. Griggs and Ms Mulloy left the meeting.*

#### 10.3 **BAVS/BHA PROJECT**

Michelle Meldrum, Berwickshire Housing Association, presented details of a project "Let's Get Digital Berwickshire" which had been funded through the Scottish Communities Fund. The aim was to support digital inclusion during the pandemic and a pilot digital lending library had been established. A number of partners had been involved in this – Border Care Voice, BAVS, Chirnside Village Hall, Splash, Coldstream Community Centre, and SBC Local Area Co-ordination team. Fifty devices with unlimited SIM connections had been purchased and distributed and all had had an offer of support from Digital Champions. Early results had been promising with a steady uptake from the community, with devices primarily used to keep social contact, but also looking for employment opportunities, applying for jobs and for educational purposes. The next steps included reflecting on how the world had changed, with digital inclusion now a key priority for communities. Work was underway exploring options for longer term sustainability and also to join up with other similar projects.

**Noted.**

#### 11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of 19 November 2020, Mrs Hume gave an update on the Third Sector Interface (TSI) survey results. The TSI had agreed to carry out a more formal engagement to take action forward and the first session on Mental Health and Wellbeing had taken place the previous Thursday, with over 60 participants. The TSI was now working closely with the chief officers of the Health & Social Care Partnership. A newsletter and a new website were also being planned.

**Noted.**

#### 12. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

It was suggested that an update on "Safer Places, Safer Streets" could be given to a future meeting of the Strategic Board.

**Noted.**

#### 13. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Board noted the dates for future meetings which would be held via MS Teams until further notice –

- Thursday 10 June 2021
- Thursday 9 September 2021

- Thursday 18 November 2021
- Thursday 3 March 2022
- Thursday 16 June 2022

**Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership – Key Priorities and Action Plan 2020/21**

- **Opportunities to deliver re-imagined services in partnership**
- **Minimise the impact on communities**
- **More efficient decision making**
- **Alignment to renewal priorities**
- **Enable a focussed, targeted approach**
- **Faster adoption of new technology, e-commerce and digital skills**

RAG Status:

- Green – complete
- Amber – progressing
- Red - challenges re delivery

Theme	Impacted	Project/Action	Lead <small>* key at bottom of table</small>	What is already in place ?	Update & Timescales
<b>Structure:</b>					
		Develop Locality Model & Hubs  Welfare calls to individuals within our communities  Developing fast/efficient solutions to local issues in partnership	CPP members	Community Assistance Hubs have been set up in each locality:  Whole system & person centred approach has been provided during Covid-19 response without complex systems	Model Framework being developed.  Principles of Framework being developed.  What Matters Hubs now being held virtually. Wellbeing Service are involved in the 12 week pilot  CAH weekly community meetings now taking place virtually – please contact Shona Smith/Clare Richards for meeting invites.  CAH’s now report quarterly to Area Partnerships.

		<p>Linking up services/people more efficiently</p> <p>Continue to build on locality model – improving process/redesign services &amp; set foundations for the future</p> <p>Adopting new technology</p> <p>Emergency funding in place &amp; being distributed as appropriate</p>			<p>JHIT nutritional advice &amp; support included mapping of Government Food Boxes with Eatwell guidance and recipe planning and development of resources (e.g. recipe packs, understanding vitamin D).</p> <p>TSI staff attending meetings regularly and contributing with 3rd sector knowledge and linking services.</p> <p>TSI organisations (Bavs and The Bridge) have invested in new technology in order to continue remote service effectively. VCB invested in training modules for 3rd Sector Org (volunteers) using SG Boost Fund. SBSEC invested in NCFE level 5 social media and app design training to upskill team members.</p> <p>The SBHA Neighbourhood Teams engaging with Hubs and tenants are benefiting from the more connected service offer, particularly those living in complex situations).</p> <p>SBHA weekly welfare calls and working towards implementing a Community Monitoring Tool software to risk assess our tenants' support needs and determine the levels of contact and intervention required.</p> <p>SBHA rolling out Near to Me virtual Appointments and visits. Active member of housing sector project group with SFHA(Scottish Federation of Housing Associations) to roll-out this virtual platform for delivery of housing services to residents remotely.</p>
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Digital:					
	<b>Families</b>	Connecting Scotland Digital Project – Phase 2	SBC/TSI/RSL's/ Live Borders		<p>409 devices being awarded to Scottish Borders in Phase 2. These will support 321 families, 63 care leavers and 25 other vulnerable people.</p> <p>VCB worked with Eildon Housing supporting with volunteers for Digital Champions. SBSEC has been training volunteers and young people.</p>
	<b>Older people and those with disabilities</b>	Connecting Scotland Digital Project - Phase 3.	SBC/TSI/RSL's/ Live Borders	Phase 3 will focus on older people and those with disabilities who are living through social isolation and loneliness	<p>Submissions now being made for Phase 3.</p> <p>TSI to collaborate in raising awareness of 3rd sector organisations supporting the target group.</p>
	<b>TBA</b>	Connecting Scotland - Expansion Project	SBC/SoSE/CPP	Funding has been secured from Financial Inclusion Hardship Fund and SoSE to work in partnership with partners to expand the Connecting Scotland Project borders wide. This will include addressing any shortfall/oversubscription from previous 3 phases	A more coordinated Digital Strategy in Berwickshire is being developed which will see to bring all digital inclusion projects as a network of resources for the local area. Possibility to support the expansion of Connecting Scotland project Borders-wide.

	<b>Community</b>	Digital Access Programme	BAVS/BHA	<p><a href="https://www.berwickshirehousing.org.uk/news/berwickshire-housing-association-secures-78k-funding-from-the-supporting-communities-fund/">https://www.berwickshirehousing.org.uk/news/berwickshire-housing-association-secures-78k-funding-from-the-supporting-communities-fund/</a></p> <p>‘Let’s Get Digital Berwickshire’ lending library is lending tablet devices with unlimited SIMs via community partner orgs across Berwickshire. (Up to 50 devices are available to loan for up six months)</p>	<p><a href="https://www.berwickshirehousing.org.uk/news/helping-tenants-to-get-digitally-connected/">https://www.berwickshirehousing.org.uk/news/helping-tenants-to-get-digitally-connected/</a></p> <p>BHA and BAVS currently working towards expansion of the project across rural communities in Berwickshire. Demand for devices has increased. Collaboration for a Berwickshire Digital Network between other providers in Berwickshire is currently under way which includes Eyemouth Rotary project &amp; Outside the Box Digital Buddies. This will see a more coordinated Digital Strategy in Berwickshire.</p>
	<b>School pupils, student, community, employers</b>	Digital Skills Hubs	Borders College (in partnership with D&G College)	<p>The hub is intended to pull together the careers and required digital learning and skills for the South of Scotland. The hub involves school, college, range of university and innovation centres as well as local and national employers.</p>	<p>So far 4 Workstream project groups have met and agreed priority actions. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Career Long Professional Learning (CLPL) and mentoring</li> <li>• Upskilling and reskilling for business</li> <li>• Educational Pathways</li> <li>• Improving access to Digital Skills</li> </ul> <p>Board and Industry Advisory Group established and have considered the 4 work stream outcomes and priority actions/resource.</p>

				The Hub will form part of the DigiSkills Scotland Network.	Early 'wins' include 'Industry in the Classroom' on cyber security being offered to all schools; integration of Data Science in to other technical subjects at Borders College being shared with D&G college; Staff and pupil/student mentoring scheme and development of progression pathways in Cyber Security to Napier University.
		Digital Inclusion Training	Borders College	Providing free Digital Skills training for individuals looking for work or needing support to access digital resources in supporting their daily lives.	3 cohorts already delivered. Are more being planned ?
	<b>Eildon Tenants/ Residents</b>	Community Wi-Fi pilot	Eildon Housing	Community Wi-Fi installed in 2 Eildon developments – Sheltered Housing and Learning Disability	Working well in two development currently. Plans to roll out to all supported accommodation in Eildon stock this financial year – including new Extra Care Housing development at Gala.  Considering expansion to general needs housing in locations poorly served by broadband.
	<b>Eildon Tenants/ Residents</b>	IOT (Internet of Things) in the Borders	Eildon Housing	Internet of Things – working with SG North to install Gateway Network to enable the network to access smart technology	'CLARE' prototype in stage 2 development and secured access to further COVTECH funding support from SG. Collaborating on a South of Scotland webinar and a SFHA members webinar on IOT opportunities.
	<b>All</b>	Connecting R100 – making broadband progress	SPICe	Delivery of the Scottish Government's "Reaching 100% programme", more commonly known as	<a href="https://spice-spotlight.scot/2020/10/05/connecting-r100-making-broadband-progress/">https://spice-spotlight.scot/2020/10/05/connecting-r100-making-broadband-progress/</a>

				the R100 programme.	
<b>Education and Skills:</b>					
	<b>Young people</b>	DWP Flexible Support Fund Bid (18-24yr olds – digital training and work trials)	Third Sector	<a href="https://www.turn2us.org.uk/Your-Situation/Looking-for-work/Flexible-Support-Fund">https://www.turn2us.org.uk/Your-Situation/Looking-for-work/Flexible-Support-Fund</a>	Through workforce mobility TSI obtained funding through the city deal for free travel pass 16-19 year olds. 16–24-year-old will get 50% of their transport costs funded, further updates on full costs to follow.
	<b>All</b>	Jobs hub portal, dedicated helpline, secondary education programme, webinars & online learning portal (My World of Work)	SDS/PACE	<a href="https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/">https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/</a>	Free online courses for those furloughed:  <a href="https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/learn-and-train/find-free-online-courses">https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/learn-and-train/find-free-online-courses</a>  MyWoW registrations for all Borders secondary pupils is 82%, nationally 74%.
		BLSP Co-chaired by Borders Council and Borders College brings together a range of partners (DYW, DWP, SE, SDS, Schools, College, HW University, Chamber, ESECRD, Employability) to review current and future demand for	Borders Learning & Skills Partnership	Currently meeting every 3 weeks: Structure of BSLP being reviewed. Focus on:  Advanced manufacturing  Digital Skills Hub	New Strategic Board TOR agreed with new name – Borders, Learning, Skills and Employability Partnership. 2 working groups set up focussing on young people and adults (employability) that will feed into Strategic Board. Revisited membership and RSLs will be represented on Strategic Board. Will be co-chaired by Scottish Borders Council and Borders College.  Increased focus on employability in light of economic crisis coming out of pandemic.

		skills and agree actions in response.		Apprenticeship models  Construction  Green jobs  Career pathways  Developing enterprise skills	
	<b>All</b>	Blended core curriculum offer, specific provision to support economic recovery (Pathway to employment, green energy, sustainable construction, Health & Care, Agriculture etc.)	Borders College/SDS/P ACE	<a href="http://www.borderscollege.ac.uk/find-a-course/">http://www.borderscollege.ac.uk/find-a-course/</a>	Economic recovery take up has been limited at the moment because of extension of COVID restrictions and support packages. Still available for when impact starts to be realised but concern about the funding support to deliver.  THE (Tourism, Hospitality and Enterprise) modules in Digital Marketing and Leadership in the Rural Visitor Economy launched in partnership with SRUC College. 18 enrolments. Programme launched 22nd April. Extending to 10 online modules by July 2021.
<b>Place Planning &amp; Built estate:</b>					
	<b>All</b>	Output from the Strategic Property Group to brought to CPP as proposals are developed	SBC Strategic Property Group	Scottish Borders Council 17 12 20 (items 12-14)	<a href="https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&amp;MId=5260&amp;Ver=4">https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&amp;MId=5260&amp;Ver=4</a>
	<b>All</b>	Support to Village Halls - Scottish Government	Third Sector	<a href="http://onlineborders.org.uk/search/apac_hesolr_search/Feder">http://onlineborders.org.uk/search/apac_hesolr_search/Feder</a>	<a href="http://onlineborders.org.uk/news/guidance-for-re-opening-community-buildings-issue-3">http://onlineborders.org.uk/news/guidance-for-re-opening-community-buildings-issue-3</a>

		Guidance for re-opening village halls and community buildings		<a href="#">ation%20of%20Village%20Halls</a>	Consultation around Village Halls took place last month, data is currently being analysed.
	<b>Young People</b>	Under 19 Free Travel	SBC	<p>Under 16s currently pay ½ fares on all local bus services</p> <p>Large numbers of young people currently live off the main bus corridors and therefore may not benefit from the introduction of the scheme</p>	<p>The roll out of under 19 free travel will likely commence from June 2021, with this being extended to under 22's by the end of the current financial year.</p> <p>Ongoing engagement with stakeholders to identify how we can ensure that young people who don't stay on major bus arteries in the Borders have the same opportunities as young people who live in urban areas</p> <p>DRT services may provide an opportunity to link smaller communities into the wider bus network</p> <p>DRT Trial being implemented May/June 2021 on existing SBC DRT services, Possibility of also extending out to involve commercial operators</p>
	<b>Young People</b>	College transport across the region	Borders College/SBC	<p>Remote learning taking place across the region. Pupils are attending practical sessions at College sites in Newtown and Galashiels</p> <p>College bus services were withdrawn at the request of Borders College in 2020 following</p>	<p>Initial discussions have been held with Borders Buses on diverting the service 60 via Eyemouth to assist with transport for pupils to and from Borders College. This needs further analysis as passengers between Berwick and Chirnside will be impacted by the change to a peak service bus.</p> <p>Discussions ongoing with Borders Buses, changes on hold until we have had an opportunity to review patronage when restrictions ease.</p> <p>Possible opportunities to improve bus service connections in Berwickshire area</p>

				<p>changes to the way in which the curriculum was rolled out due to Covid</p> <p>As a result, dedicated college transport officer no longer in post.</p> <p>No direct links from Eyemouth to Borders College for pupils who are undertaking practical classes</p>	<p>Service Level Agreement to be agreed between Borders College and SBC on level of support required from Passenger Transport. Discussions ongoing.</p>
	<b>Young People</b>	Kickstart Scheme 50% Travel Discount	SBC	<p>The Kickstart Scheme provides funding to create new jobs for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long term unemployment.</p> <p>Passenger Transport in partnership with DWP, Local Operators and Paths for all have implemented a scheme which entitles kickstarters</p>	<p>Funding has been secured for 2021/22 to continue funding the 50% ticket discount</p> <p>All Borders operators are engaged and have adopted the scheme</p> <p>Currently 10 young people benefiting from 50% off travel, we expect user numbers to increase from May onwards</p>

				<p>50% off their transport costs to and from employment</p> <p>All Bus operators in the region have signed up to the scheme.</p>	
	<b>Young People</b>	School Transport Planning	SBC	<p>The school planning process is carried out on an annual basis and the process has not changed significantly for a number of years</p> <p>New software is available which can plan routes digitally which will assist us with planning a more efficient network for home to school transport whilst also reducing staff time</p>	<p>Engagement with education and procurement colleagues has taken place and the planning has now commenced.</p> <p>Data is now coming in from schools and we should have a first draft of a network complete by the end of April.</p>
	<b>Vulnerable/ Older People</b>	Community Transport Review	BAVS: Community Transport Development Officer/SBC	<p>Currently 4 named partners operating CT across the Borders</p>	<p>BAVs are currently carrying out a review of CT services</p> <p>Revised level of funding agreed for flow centre, SBC has committed to Supporting the flow centre for a further year beyond which was previously agreed</p>

			Localities Transport Officer	BAVS, The Bridge, RVS and	Work on an service level agreement is almost finalised which will formalise the arrangement between the CT operators and SBC
	<b>ALL</b>	NHS discounted Travel	SBC/NHS Borders	<p>Borders Buses offered free travel to NHS staff throughout the pandemic to keep people connected with the BGH.</p> <p>SBC subsequently submitted a bid to Paths for All to continue this scheme and extend it out to people who were attending the BGH to try and stimulate travel on bus and reduce single occupancy car journeys. Scheme extended to all Borders Operators</p> <p>The scheme will run until September 2021</p>	Analysis shows that there are almost 3000 tickets a month now being sold with journeys peaking between 06:30 and 08:30 with almost 30% of the tickets being sold at this time
	<b>ALL</b>	Local Bus Services	SBC	Current local bus network has seen significant drop in	Opportunity to engage and work with local communities and transport operators in 2021 to develop a new travel network that meets the needs of the communities we serve

				<p>patronage following Covid -19 with levels at around 35% of pre covid levels.</p> <p>Some competition between subsidised and commercial services</p>	<p>Potential to bid into the Bus partnership fund in October 2021 to develop and deliver ambitious schemes which will encourage people to move towards public transport.</p> <p>Bid being prepared for the Community Renewal Fund to implement DRT trials across the Scottish Borders to improve transport links for people who live off core bus routes.</p>
<b>Early Intervention &amp; Prevention:</b>					
	<b>All</b>	Whole System Approach in Eyemouth	Joint Health Improvement Team	<a href="https://www.nhsborder.scot.nhs.uk/healthimprovement">https://www.nhsborder.scot.nhs.uk/healthimprovement</a>	<p>A successful grant application was submitted to enable community engagement work to take place. The Governance Group are now meeting on a regular basis to plan and deliver the community engagement work.</p> <p>Two workshops have taken place involving community members and stakeholders. The first to identify barrier to health weight and the second to develop a vision statement and commence development of an action plan. Outputs to date include an asset map, causal map and identification of priorities. Next steps are to co-produce a draft action plan.</p>
	<b>Vulnerable older people</b>	Community Transport Review	BAVS: Community Transport Development Officer/SBC Community Transport Officer		<p>Berwickshire Wheels provided transport to 57 vaccination appointment in Berwickshire, 100% of passengers are older adults.</p> <p>What Wheely Matters project has been consulting with communities and transport providers around sustainable transport options. The focus of the project is around DRT, Zero Emissions Community Garage and links with e-bikes.</p>

					Conversations around buddy scheme to support the use of public transport networks where this exists. Borders CT providers are working closely and finding solutions around sustainable transport options.
		SBHA Ageing Well Strategy	SBHA		Ageing Well Strategy seeks to ensure sustainable housing for older people
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing (including Mental Health):</b>					
	All	Personalised packages of support to individual volunteers	Third Sector		TSI Borders Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum, led by The Bridge took place in Feb 2021, this brought together Borders 3rd Sector in discussion around how to collaborate and conversation around service commissioning.  Is there any ambition to set up support groups for those suffering from Long Covid ?
	All	Health & Safety measures being put in place re office accommodation etc.	All CPP partners	<a href="https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20014/social_care_and_health/1018/covid-19_business_information/5">https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20014/social_care_and_health/1018/covid-19_business_information/5</a>	SBC Property Recovery Board meeting weekly re access to SBC properties  Support across the Borders for 3rd Sector and village halls has been put in place, this is a collaboration between Bavs and The Bridge to ensure the safeguard of local halls in re-starting face to face activities. A professional risk assessor has been working closely with Village Halls and developing risk assessment plans and delivering training.  SBC Property Recovery Board meeting weekly re access to SBC properties  SBHA developing new flexible blended working arrangement  Workforce Lateral flow Covid testing?

	<b>All</b>	Covid-19 Vaccination Programme	NHS Borders/Scottish Fire & Rescue	<a href="#">Covid-19 Vaccination Programme is operational and managed by NHS Borders.</a>	<p>Delivery of the vaccinations commenced in early December 2020.</p> <p>The programme has offered first doses to all known individuals within JCVI priority cohorts 1-9. Mop ups and second doses are continuing.</p> <p>Now moving into phase 2 of the programme, delivery to the under 50s. All of the adult population will be offered their first dose by the end of July, subject to vaccine supply.</p> <p>Berwickshire Wheels provided transport to 57 vaccinations appointments in Berwickshire.</p>
	<b>Vulnerable Households</b>	Service Champions	SBHA		Trained Neighbourhood Team members with enhanced knowledge of specialist areas (incl. Domestic Abuse, Dementia, Veterans, Addictions, Suicide Prevention, Mental Health, Fuel Poverty, Fire Risk Assessments, and LGBTQX) are supporting and mentoring colleagues in handling of complex cases, promoting appropriate referral pathways.
<b>Poverty:</b>					
	<b>Child Poverty</b>	Child Poverty Action Plan 2020/21	All	Child Poverty Annual Report 2019/20 & Child Poverty Report and Action Plan 2020/21.	<a href="https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/directory/83/strategies_plans_and_policies_directory/category/710">https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/directory/83/strategies_plans_and_policies_directory/category/710</a>

	<b>Foodbanks/ Fareshare</b>	Developing sustainable, local approaches to food security and to further develop FareShare network	Eildon Housing supported by CPP	<a href="https://fareshare.org.uk/what-we-do/">https://fareshare.org.uk/what-we-do/</a>  FareShare Borders depot opened in April 2020 plus 22 FareShare outlets being supported in the Scottish Borders	Eildon Housing and SBC will continue to support FareShare for the immediate future.  Developing approached to longer term food security approach, including bid for community renewal fund.
		Social Housing Fuel Support Fund	RSLs/ Scottish Government		The Borders Housing Network (BHN) recently secured £450,000 from the Scottish Government's Social Housing Fuel Support Fund. In the last month, SBHA has supported 46 Tenants to benefit from this fund, with c£30,000 having already been claimed.
		Warm & Well Project	SBHA/Change works		Established in March 2020 and funded through the Scottish Government's Investing in Communities Fund. Specialist advisor providing support to households in fuel poverty, particularly families, and skills development of colleagues to embed energy advice. To date, 119 tenants have received support and benefited from c£25,000 in financial savings.
		Equalities & Diversity Ambassadors	SBHA/SFHA		Cohort group of team members, Board and tenants undertaking programme of training on equalities and diversity to champion inclusion of services to all.
	<b>Anti-Poverty</b>	Draft Anti-Poverty Strategy being developed	SBC	Draft Strategy being presented to SBC Council 25 February 2021 for approval	Approved by Council 28 02 2021  Consultation now live until 16 May for both individuals and organisations: <a href="https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/">https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/</a>

	<b>Financial Inclusion Hardship Fund</b>	<p>Allocation of the Scottish Government “Addressing future need to support individuals at financial risk 2020/21”</p> <p>Focussing on vulnerable families, digital poverty, food security and other essential emergencies</p>	Scottish Borders Council	<a href="https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s49398/Item%208%20-%20Covid-19%20Responses%20-%20Proposals%20to%20Further%20Support%20Individuals....Committee%20Report.pdf">https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s49398/Item%208%20-%20Covid-19%20Responses%20-%20Proposals%20to%20Further%20Support%20Individuals....Committee%20Report.pdf</a>	<p>Approved by SBC Executive 9 Feb 2021</p>
<b>Employment &amp; Economy:</b>					
	<b>All</b>	<p>SOSE/REP - Furthering the sustainable economic and social development of the South of Scotland &amp; improving the amenity and environment of the South of Scotland:</p> <p>SOSE Operating Plan now published which focusses on: Adaption and</p>	SOSE/REP	<a href="https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/news">https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/news</a>  <a href="https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/media/1187/sos_e_consultation-strategy20_interactive.pdf">https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/media/1187/sos_e_consultation-strategy20_interactive.pdf</a>	<p>SOSE is delivering its Operating Plan 2020/21. An Annual Report and Accounts will be produced at the end of the financial year. REP is meeting monthly. Its priority is the development of a Regional Economic Strategy and consultants have been engaged to assist in this work which will involve widespread engagement with stakeholders.</p> <p>Team SoSE continues to meet regularly to share intelligence on Covid and Brexit and to co-ordinate activity.</p> <p>An Engagement Framework has been published which sets out how SOSE intends to engage with stakeholders, particularly around the development of an Action Plan with longer term priorities for SOSE</p>

		<p>Diversification, Economic Recovery Loan Fund, Crisis, Community Ideas &amp; Community Asset Development</p> <p>REP Economic Strategy &amp; Action Plan being developed: Emphasis on place, Children &amp; poverty, business &amp; wider community support, tourism &amp; blue health</p> <p>£2.7m invested in South of Scotland Destination Alliance</p> <p>Significant SOSE Covid-19 Business Support measures plus 2 Support Programmes which include – Enterprises &amp; hospitality/events/leisure</p> <p>SOSE Consultation Strategy being</p>			
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		developed which will lead to SOSE Action Plan & key priorities longer term priorities for SOSE			
		Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal	The Borderlands Partnership	<a href="https://www.borderlandsgrowth.com/">https://www.borderlandsgrowth.com/</a> <a href="https://www.borderlandsgrowth.com/News">https://www.borderlandsgrowth.com/News</a>	
		Employability Challenge in the Scottish Borders		<a href="https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s49403/Item%2010%20-%20Executive%20report%20on%20Employability.%20090221.pdf">https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s49403/Item%2010%20-%20Executive%20report%20on%20Employability.%20090221.pdf</a>	
	<b>All</b>	Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE)	SDS/DWP/LA/SoSE	<p>National marketing campaign ongoing including a short video on PACE redundancy support:</p> <a href="https://www.ourskillsforce.co.uk/support-with-business-">https://www.ourskillsforce.co.uk/support-with-business-</a>	<p>881 individuals received PACE information between 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021.</p> <p>83 customers received a service from SDS during this time. (These figures do not include clients who received a service from other PACE partners)</p>

				<a href="https://www.scotland.gov.uk/Information/Change/pace-free-advice-on-redundancy/?utm_medium=email&amp;utm_campaign=Making%20Skills%20Work%20-%20Scottish%20Borders%20-%20Feb%2021&amp;utm_content=Making%20Skills%20Work%20-%20Scottish%20Borders%20-%20Feb%2021+CID_e5f274edc89c6afe81e33f19ffc9dc0f&amp;utm_source=Campaign%20Monitor%20email%20campaign&amp;utm_term=PACE%20support">change/pace-free-advice-on-redundancy/?utm_medium=email&amp;utm_campaign=Making%20Skills%20Work%20-%20Scottish%20Borders%20-%20Feb%2021&amp;utm_content=Making%20Skills%20Work%20-%20Scottish%20Borders%20-%20Feb%2021+CID_e5f274edc89c6afe81e33f19ffc9dc0f&amp;utm_source=Campaign%20Monitor%20email%20campaign&amp;utm_term=PACE%20support</a>	Fortnightly PACE meetings around response to redundancies in place, chaired by SDS with representation from SBC, SoSE and DWP
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\*Key

BAVS	Berwickshire Association for Voluntary Service
BHA	Berwickshire Housing Association
CA	Citizen's Advice
CPP	Community Planning Partnership
LAC	Locality Area Co-ordinators
PACE	Partner Action for Continuing Employment
PS	Police Scotland
REP	Regional Economic Partnership
RSL's	Registered Social Landlord's
SBC	Scottish Borders Council
SBHA	Scottish Borders Housing Association
SFRS	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
SDS	Skills Development Scotland
SoSE	South of Scotland Enterprise
TSI	Third Sector Interface

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CPP – Completed/Ongoing Actions

		Develop a Covid-19 Vulnerability Assessment to identify those most in need at Ward level.	SBC to produce initial draft with partner input	Scottish Borders Strategic Assessment: <a href="https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/download/211/strategic_assessment">https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/download/211/strategic_assessment</a>  Scottish Borders ScotPHO	Completed and circulated
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				<p>Vulnerability Index 2020</p> <p>SBHA Tenant Analysis</p> <p>BHA Welfare Calls</p> <p>Shielding Lists</p> <p>Child Poverty Index</p> <p>Third Sector Surveys to establish needs</p>	
	<b>All</b>	Financial inclusion - Money Worries App which will signpost individuals to a variety of support	Health Improvement Team/SBC/CA/RSL's		<p>NHS Borders Money Worries App now live w/c 22 02 2021</p> <p>Successfully launched on 16/03/21, following testing &amp; improvements. Launch week had a combined social media reach of 21,594</p> <p>Reporting processes are currently being agreed. Following testing there have been 141 downloads of the app.</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased emphasis on communications to raise awareness &amp; encourage downloads</li> <li>• Promote in various community settings in including community testing &amp; vaccination</li> </ul> <p>Please find Q1 update:</p> <p> Money Worries App Update.docx</p>

					<p>From April 2020 - March 2021 the Financial Support and Inclusion Team received 430 referrals for pregnant women and families with young children and increased benefits of £1.3m. The majority of these were direct referrals from Health Visitors.</p> <p>We continue to support the Best Start grant scheme. From March 2020 - February 2021 a total claim of £429,889 was gained for Scottish Borders families.</p> <p>In total from December 2018 - February 2021, 4,055 Best Start Grants applications (73%) were authorised in Scottish Borders - this is above the average for Scotland. A total claim of £888,434 was gained for Scottish Borders families over this time period.</p>
	<b>Families</b>	Child Payment for under 6's – Child Heating Allowance – for those with children who have a high rate care requirement	Social Security Local Delivery Service	<a href="https://www.gov.scot/policies/social-security/scottish-child-payment/">https://www.gov.scot/policies/social-security/scottish-child-payment/</a>  <a href="https://www.gov.scot/news/new-benefit-help-with-heating-costs/">https://www.gov.scot/news/new-benefit-help-with-heating-costs/</a>	<p>Child Payment: Applications open Nov 2020, payment Feb 2021. Child Heating Allowance: Dec 2020</p>
	<b>All</b>	Promotion of the Wellbeing Service. Active/Mental Health/ Wellbeing Strategy	Live Borders/ Joint Health Improvement Team/LAC Team	<a href="http://www.nhsborder.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/our-services/general-services/wellbeing-service/">http://www.nhsborder.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/our-services/general-services/wellbeing-service/</a>	<p>Complete &amp; ongoing</p> <p>We continue to seek input from people who are bereaved by suicide in the Borders to shape our work. This year 40 people took part in the Light Up Their Life lantern making project as a way for people to remember those who have died by suicide. Working with Alchemy Film and Arts, the group are also making a video as part of the Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival in May 2021.</p>

					<p>The See Me Schools Mental Health Initiative 120 S6 pupils across Scottish Borders participated in the virtual Emotional Health &amp; Wellbeing toolkit training. We currently have 90 EHWB ambassadors</p> <p>Keeping active/healthy weight: The Healthy Beginnings: MAP of Behaviour Change Learning Programme has been developed as an early intervention and prevention approach to Child Healthy weight in Early Years practitioners in partnership with JHIT, Health Visiting, Early Years Centres and the Oral Health Team and NHS Education Scotland. 5 trainers have delivered multi-agency training to 100 participants.</p> <p>Unicef Breastfeeding Friendly Initiative (BFI): On the 8th December NHS Borders achieved UNICEF- Sustainability Gold Award for Maternity Services. We are the 3rd board across Scotland to achieve this prestigious award, and the initial UNICEF feedback reflected on the submission of an outstanding portfolio.</p> <p>The Wellbeing Service operates across Borders and is part of the new primary care mental health pathway. Appointments have been offered via telephone and near me and a new psychological first aid intervention offered in response to Covid19. Positive outcomes measured in terms of emotional wellbeing , healthy eating and physical activity.</p> <p>The local Mental Health Improvement and Suicide Prevention Action Plan was adapted to respond to Covid19. Training and capacity building was adapted and the availability of online learning was increased.</p>
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					In September 2020 during Suicide Prevention Awareness Week a new Scottish suicide prevention campaign was launched. United to Prevent Suicide calls on people to pledge to help make Scotland the most supportive country in the world. Locally we have developed this into three actions people can take to help prevent suicide.
	<b>Support</b>	Furlough and Job Retention Schemes implemented	All CPP partners as required/appropriate		Complete & ongoing
	<b>Support</b>	Support, advice & guidance to individuals and organisations	Third Sector	<a href="https://onlineborders.org.uk/directory">https://onlineborders.org.uk/directory</a>	Complete & ongoing  Support to new groups and organisations that emerged throughout the COVID19 pandemic is ongoing. This has resulted in many groups changing their legal structure, looking at their governance following OSCR guidelines. This involves SCIOs altering their constitutions to adapt to online meetings and holding of AGMS. An example is the surge of community larders and food provision by third sector organisations. This work is ongoing for all Partners in the TSI. The Bridge and BAVs continue to support thematic areas throughout the Scottish Borders and attend Community Meetings in all localities. Bavs created a Berwickshire resource that is now available to Social Work team in Berwickshire and CAH: <a href="https://www.bavs.org.uk/berwickshire-community-food-projects">https://www.bavs.org.uk/berwickshire-community-food-projects</a>
	<b>Funding</b>	Supporting & distribution of funding programmes & micro grants	Third Sector	<a href="http://onlineborders.org.uk/sites/default/files/thebridge/files/Fallago%20Environment%20Fund%20Covid-">http://onlineborders.org.uk/sites/default/files/thebridge/files/Fallago%20Environment%20Fund%20Covid-</a>	Scheme now closed with 38 awards made to local community projects – COMPLETE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grants obtained and dispersed during COVID19:</li> <li>• National Lottery,</li> <li>• Scottish Government Supporting Communities Fund</li> <li>• Fallago</li> <li>• Scottish Government Wellbeing fund</li> </ul>

				<a href="#">19RecoveryProgGrantsAug2020.pdf</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Village Halls Business support grants</li> <li>Seedcorn fund to social enterprises</li> </ul> <p>These grants were used to respond quickly, and often creatively to the emerging challenges faced by communities in the Scottish Borders.</p>
	<b>All</b>	Online Guidance, Information & Resources	TSI	<a href="http://onlineborders.org.uk/community/thebridge/coronavirus-information-and-resources">http://onlineborders.org.uk/community/thebridge/coronavirus-information-and-resources</a>  <a href="http://www.vcborders.org.uk/">http://www.vcborders.org.uk/</a>  <a href="https://sbsec.org.uk/">https://sbsec.org.uk/</a> (website currently unavailable)  <a href="https://youthborders.org.uk/">https://youthborders.org.uk/</a>  <a href="https://www.bavs.org.uk/covid-19-information-for-the-community-in-berwickshire">https://www.bavs.org.uk/covid-19-information-for-the-community-in-berwickshire</a>	<p>Complete &amp; ongoing.</p> <p>Joint Health Improvement Team developed Covid-19 specific resources for improving and protecting mental health and for preventing suicide which was shared extensively across the partnership.</p> <p>The mental health and wellbeing guide for young people was updated and launched the new guide via a new six week campaign #BordersWellbeing, based on the Six Ways to Be Well, alongside a new health and wellbeing Young Scot microsite and uploaded it to 12,500 Inspire Learning devices.</p> <p>JHIT and the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership have developed online training opportunities to replace existing training plans. Learning is ongoing in terms of technology but online (interactive) training appears to deliver positive learning outcome and increase engagement as the proportion of 'did not attends' has reduced.</p>
	<b>Young People</b>	Young Person Guarantee – No-one left behind	Borders College/SDS/PACE/ Third Sector	<a href="https://www.gov.scot/news/delivering-the-youth-guarantee/">https://www.gov.scot/news/delivering-the-youth-guarantee/</a>	<p>Being delivered 2020/21 – set up complete &amp; ongoing.</p> <p>Annual Participation Measure published in August 2020 showed that 94.5% of Borders 16-19 year olds were participating in</p>

				<p>A collaborative system-wide review announced on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021:</p> <p><a href="https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/news-events/2021/february/building-a-world-class-career-system/">https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/news-events/2021/february/building-a-world-class-career-system/</a></p>	<p>education, training or employment compared to 92.1% nationally.</p> <p><a href="https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/46977/2020_annualparticipationmeasure_scottishborders.pdf">https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/46977/2020_annualparticipationmeasure_scottishborders.pdf</a></p> <p>Monthly Participation Snapshot for 16-17 year olds published in April showed that 95.8% were participating compared to 95.3% nationally –</p> <p><a href="https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/publications-statistics/statistics/monthly-participation-snapshot-for-16-and-17-year-olds/">https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/publications-statistics/statistics/monthly-participation-snapshot-for-16-and-17-year-olds/</a></p> <p>Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber, on behalf of the Borders TSI is a Gateway for the UK government’s Kickstart Scheme, supporting young people into employment and the voluntary sector employers who have the capacity to employ and mentor a young person in the workplace.</p>
	<b>All</b>	Upcycling of digital devices	Newlands Community Development Trust	Donate, refurbish & rehome digital devices	<p><a href="https://renewcrew.org.uk/">https://renewcrew.org.uk/</a></p> <p>COMPLETE - Project now up and running</p>
	<b>Student’s</b>	450 digital devices & data packages distributed	Borders College	<a href="http://www.borderscollege.ac.uk/current-students/">http://www.borderscollege.ac.uk/current-students/</a>	Student Portal continuously being updated with resources, guidance & information & continues to respond to demand. Complete & ongoing.
	<b>Vulnerable older people &amp; shielding group</b>	Connecting Scotland Digital Project – Phase 1	SBC/TSI/RSL’s/ Live Borders	<a href="https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20027/working_for_us/918/latest_news/2">https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20027/working_for_us/918/latest_news/2</a>	Approx. 300 devices delivered in Phase 1 and support provided for 6 months – COMPLETE.

					<p>(Although Phase 1 is complete, an evaluation summary from Connecting Scotland will be shared with CPP as part of future performance reporting)</p> <p>SBSEC has been distributing devices and access to online learning through Connecting Scotland and online centre network.</p> <p>40 Digital Champions trained across SBHA to provide guidance and support for tenants to use devices and get online and devices supplied to 190 Tenants through the Connecting Scotland above.</p>
	<b>Young people</b>	Digital access for young people – Inspire Learning	SBC	Inspire Learning programme: <a href="https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20009/schools_and_learning/913/inspire_learning">https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20009/schools_and_learning/913/inspire_learning</a>	Now rolled out to P4/5 across the Borders - completed

**Best Value Action Plan:**

	<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Timescales</b>	<b>Update</b>
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	Ongoing	Initial discussions have taken place with both the Improvement Service and Scottish Gov't., and SBC will continue to monitor the national position in relation to best practice.
2	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	30 09 2021	Complete - Report to Council 27 08 20 – Area Partnerships are now in the process of making recommendations on how both the Area Partnerships and Community Fund are developed in future: <a href="https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&amp;MId=5138&amp;Ver=4">https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&amp;MId=5138&amp;Ver=4</a>  The recommendations in relation to the Community Fund have been approved and are in process of being implemented.  A further report on Area Partnerships will be taken to Council in Autumn 2021.
3a	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.	31 03 2021	The approach to Participatory Budgeting has now been agreed as part of the ongoing budget process, with a strategic and operational officer group now established.
3b	Evaluation of Localities Bid Fund to be undertaken	31 10 2020	Complete - Report to Council 27 08 20 - Evaluation of Localities Bid Fund: <a href="https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&amp;MId=5138&amp;Ver=4">https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&amp;MId=5138&amp;Ver=4</a>
4	Promote the #your part campaign to recognise the contribution of communities	Ongoing	#your part campaign used extensively throughout Covid response and recovery phases

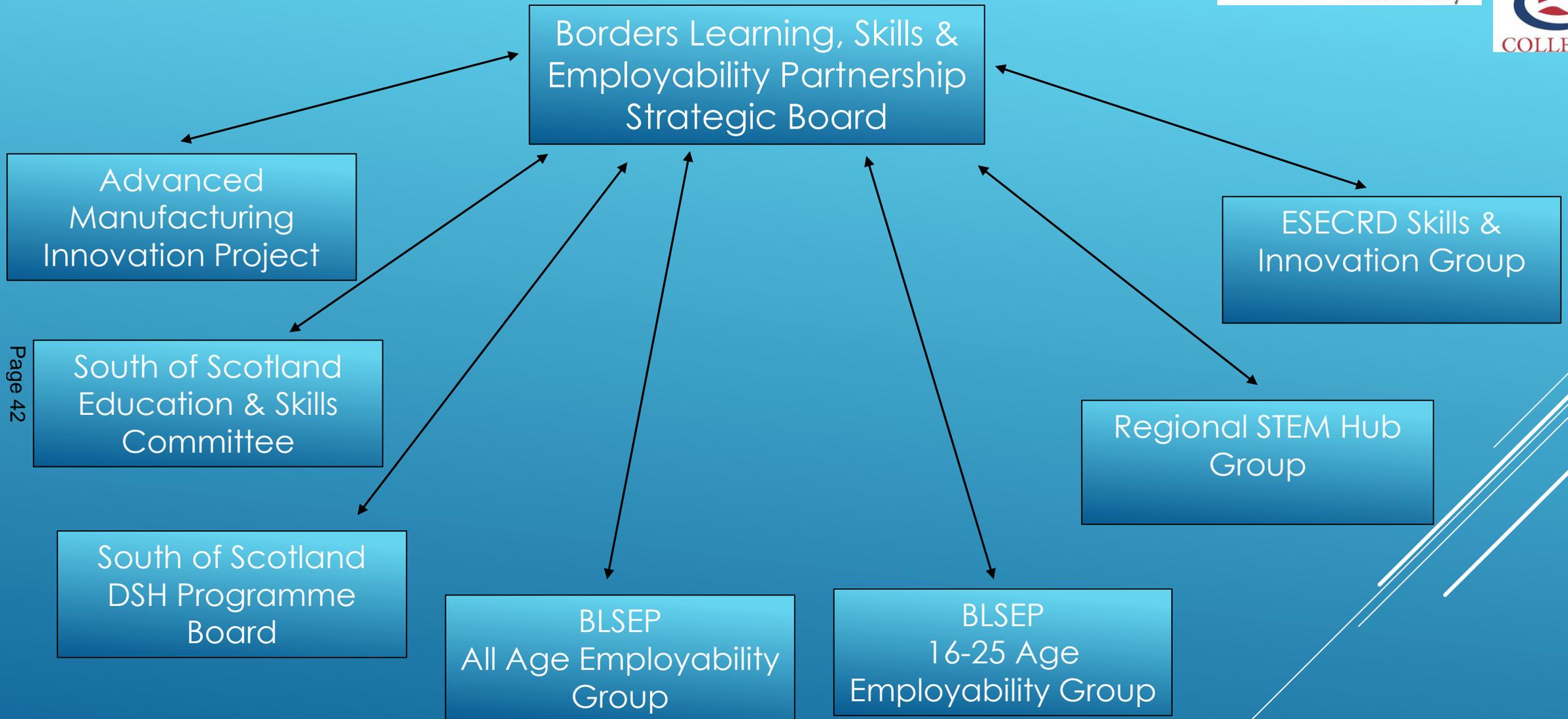
5	Undertake an organisational review under Fit for 2024 of how to best develop community capacity in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> sector and localities	TBC	Ongoing
6a	Review Community Plan and Action Plan to ensure actions align to 2020 Strategic Assessment.	30 06 2020	CPP Key Priorities Plan 2021 will inform a future refreshed Community Plan and Action Plan
6b	Agree Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Performance Management Framework through CPP Joint Programme Board and CPP Strategic Board	31 03 2020	Complete - 2017/2019 Performance Report has been approved by CPP Strategic Board: <a href="https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=185&amp;MId=5235&amp;Ver=4">https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=185&amp;MId=5235&amp;Ver=4</a>  2019/2020 Performance Report now needs to be progressed.
7	Completion and publication of Locality Plans and Action Plans	31 03 2020	Complete - approved by CPP Strategic Board 10 September 2020: <a href="https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=185&amp;MId=5235&amp;Ver=4">https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=185&amp;MId=5235&amp;Ver=4</a>
8	Promote stakeholder engagement through Area Partnerships and community engagement events, with training around leadership/national standards of engagement.	31 12 2021	Area Partnerships will resume virtually in Nov 2020: <a href="https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=421&amp;MId=5295&amp;Ver=4">https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=421&amp;MId=5295&amp;Ver=4</a>
9a	Community Empowerment Act to become standing agenda item at Area Partnerships with information to raise awareness and provide support to communities.	31 Dec 20	Standing item on AP's agenda & support ongoing: <a href="https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=421&amp;MId=5295&amp;Ver=4">https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=421&amp;MId=5295&amp;Ver=4</a>
9b	Research to be undertaken on SBC performance relative to other local authorities	31 12 2020	This has been concluded, SBC are in alignment with other local authorities similar to size and geography.
10	Develop regular reporting of progress of community engagement across the whole council, for inclusion in reports to members and CPP Strategic Board	30 06 2020	Reporting of Citizen Space surveys and consultations is being developed.



# EDUCATION & SKILLS

Community Planning Partnership May 2021 Update

- Borders Learning, Skills & Employability Partnership
- South of Scotland Digital Skills Hub
- Advanced Manufacturing project
- Sustainable futures



# BORDERS LEARNING, SKILLS & EMPLOYABILITY PARTNERSHIP



## Purpose

To facilitate collective leadership and shared commitment across key partners for the learning and skills offering across the Scottish Borders. The partnership will respond to National, South of Scotland (SoS) and Edinburgh & South East City Regional Deal (ESECRD) skills priorities. The partnership will seek to align the education and skills offer in the Scottish Borders with current and future employment opportunities and provide coherent lifelong learning pathways from foundation to degree level qualifications.

## Objectives

- To support the delivery of the education and skills strategy for the Scottish Borders.
- To support the delivery of the Borders Employability strategy
- To drive forward and implement the priorities of the SoS Education and Skills Strategic co-ordination group and ESECRD Skills priorities.
- To drive forward and implement the necessary actions in response to COVID 19, BREXIT and Scottish Government ambitions to ensure that no one is left behind.
- To ensure close alignment of training and employment with current and future employment opportunities.
- To co-ordinate information-sharing and action between strategic and delivery partners.
- To co-ordinate resources to improve opportunities and outcomes

# BLSEP MEMBERSHIP



Borders Council – Education and Employability

Borders College

Heriot Watt University

Developing Young Workforce

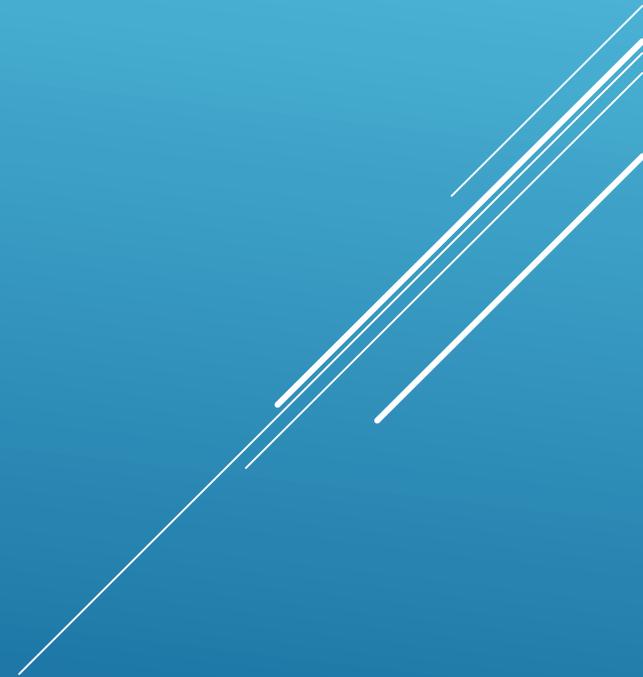
Skills Development Scotland

Registered Social Landlords

South of Scotland Enterprise

Chamber of Commerce

Third Sector



# PARTNERSHIP WORKING OVER LAST YEAR



- Local commitment to ensure no young person was left behind ahead of national campaign
- Over 450 senior phase school pupils on college programmes
- Collaborative Kickstart bid – since October a partnership of public, private and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations have submitted 4 bids to Kickstart on behalf of employers across the region. So far, 108 placements have been approved with 45 of these submitted to DWP for recruitment. 25 placements have been filled with more anticipated in the coming months. One of these placements has already resulted in a permanent job.

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DYW/Borders College- offer of support to school leavers through 'The Pathway to Employment' course, worked in partnership to deliver a virtual 'Do you Care' event to all , especially those interested in Child, Health & Social Care as a career and raise awareness of employers currently recruiting.

- Borders College/Galashiels Academy – webinars offered as part of apprenticeship week with foundation apprentices taking part to raise awareness of the scheme and the benefits of the FA. Employers, parents and potential students attended.
- SDS/Borders College - Apprentice Employer Grant (offered as part of YPG) 21 successful applications and 35 new MA starts in a variety of settings including small businesses.
- Partnerships with Scottish Borders Council – 75 apprenticeship starts in 2020/21 in Healthcare and Childcare.

# SOUTH OF SCOTLAND DIGITAL SKILLS HUB



## Brief overview

Background to the formation of the Digital Skills Hub

Began in November 2020

Led by Borders College and Dumfries & Galloway College

**Aim:** To make the region more competitive by facilitating the delivery of higher level digital skills

**Objectives:** Provide a digital offer which meets the needs of the region's dispersed population to support digital upskilling and retraining for the key sectors of the south of Scotland's economy

**Structure:** A Programme Board and an Industry Advisory Group with over 25 partners from education and industry

# SOUTH OF SCOTLAND DIGITAL SKILLS HUB

## Working with our partners we have:

- identified 'priorities for action.'
- identified four key themes for our work
  - ✓ Educational pathways
  - ✓ Improving access to digital skills
  - ✓ Career Long Professional Learning and mentoring
  - ✓ Upskilling and reskilling for business
- held workstream meetings which identified a 3 year work plan for the Hub
- gained approval for the ESECRD DDI's CPD programme to be rolled out to Dumfries & Galloway College in 2021-22

# SOUTH OF SCOTLAND DIGITAL SKILLS HUB



## Our current focus:

- running a CPD programme for college lecturers on Data Science which starts this month
- introducing 'Cyber Live' sessions into the region's schools in June
- organising a regional dialogue with south of Scotland employers and individuals to take place this summer to inform the development of the Colleges' digital provision
- developing case studies to reflect regional employment opportunities
- Ensuring strategic partners are aware of the work of the DSH
- DSH priorities remain aligned to national policies
- Access funding in order to deliver on 3 year priorities



# AIMS PROJECT

Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders Councils, along with Dumfries and Galloway and Borders Colleges, South of Scotland Enterprise and key stakeholders successfully bid for a funding allocation of £3.3m to deliver the Advancing Innovative Manufacturing in the South of Scotland (AIMS) project.

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This project is for manufacturing SMEs in the South of Scotland and will provide access to advanced manufacturing technologies, delivered through a regional hub and spoke approach aligned with the Skills and Learning Network launched by Borders College and Dumfries and Galloway College.

Services will include:

- Training and upskilling the workforce
- R&D investment/innovation/concept development
- Product realisation
- Enabling a manufacturing ecosystem

# OUR FUTURE AMBITION...



## A PARTNERSHIP RESPONSE TO SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND ADOPTION OF TECHNOLOGIES

### Progress to date

- Sustainability Summit planned with Eildon Housing, Borders Council & College
- Borders College leading on 3 Fringe events at COP 26
- Working with SOSE Energy Transitions Group, College Sector Energy Skills Partnership and SDS Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan
- Working with Change Works on upskilling local tradespeople

### Future priorities

- Carbon literacy education programme in schools, college and community
- Sustainability Champions and Innovation Catalyst Programme




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## **DRAFT SOUTH OF SCOTLAND REGIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY**

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

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## **SCOTTISH BORDERS COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP**

**10 JUNE 2021**

### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 **This report to the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (CCP) Board sets out the progress being made in the development of the South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy and agrees to support the planned consultation on the draft Strategy.**
- 1.2 The draft South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy has been developed by the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (REP). The REP aims to ensure that there is a strong strategic direction for the economic development of the South of Scotland that aligns partner activities with those of the South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE). The REP comprises members drawn from the public, private, voluntary, and community sectors from across the South of Scotland. Councillor Rowley currently chairs the REP and Scottish Borders Council's other REP members comprise Councillors Haslam, Mountford and Bell with Councillor Robson as a substitute. There is also representation on the from some other organisations in the Scottish Borders CCP including Borders College and the Registered Social Landlords (RSLs).
- 1.3 The first main task of the REP has been leading and overseeing the development of a South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy. The draft Strategy shown in Appendix 1 (not yet attached) provides a vision and set of priority themes for the next 10 years and set of high level actions. These will provide the ambition and intent for the development of a three year action plan that is updated on an annual basis. This action plan will be developed in the next two months in tandem with the proposed public consultation.

### **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Community Planning Partnership Board notes the draft South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy in Appendix 1 (not yet attached) and agrees to support the planned consultation on the Strategy by encouraging and promoting participation through partner networks**

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 31 October 2019, Scottish Borders Council agreed to support the establishment of the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (REP). Briefly its aims are to ensure that there is a strong strategic direction for the economic development of the South of Scotland that aligns partner activities with those of the South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE), and to effectively link into the Convention of the South of Scotland.
- 3.2 The REP comprises members of Scottish Borders Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, SOSE, 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.
- 3.3 The membership of the REP from Scottish Borders Council comprises Councillors Haslam, Rowley, Mountford and Bell with Councillor Robson as a substitute. The chair of the REP rotates annually between Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC) and Scottish Borders Council (SBC). Currently, Councillor Rowley chairs the REP. Its main task has been leading and overseeing the development of a South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy.
- 3.4 As indicated in the report to Scottish Council's Executive on 15 September 2020 the first full meeting REP was delayed until September 2020. The reason for the delay in starting was the scale of the COVID-19 pandemic and the requirement to re-focus staff resources for to meet the immediate needs of businesses.

### **4 DRAFT SOUTH OF SCOTLAND REGIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY**

- 4.1 The main task of the REP is to set the strategic direction for the regional economy in the South of Scotland by developing the South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy. At its initial meeting the REP expressed a strong desire to see this Strategy developed as quickly as possible. The consultants RSM were commissioned by SOSE, DGC and SBC together with Scottish Government to support the production of the Strategy.
- 4.2 This work on the Strategy commenced in early December 2020 and has involved a considerable amount of engagement with community and voluntary organisations, public and private organisations and the wider public. There has also been comprehensive analyses of economic, social and other data and other studies pertaining to the South of Scotland. The REP has met regularly often on a monthly basis to oversee this work, supported by a smaller Reference Group chaired by Councillor Rowley.
- 4.3 The draft Strategy is a ten-year strategy. It seeks to maximise the economic opportunities in the South Scotland, whilst taking account of its key challenges. It is shaped by the engagement of organisations and people across the region together with the members of the REP. Its vision recognises the unique strengths of the South of Scotland in relation to its natural capital, the quality of its communities and cultural identity and looks to increase the

working population and attract visitors to the region. Inclusivity, sustainability, innovation and creativity, and making the most of everyone's potential have been key elements in influencing the vision and the priority themes.

4.4 From this vision the Strategy identifies a set of high level actions under six priority themes. These are:

- Skilled and Ambitious People
- Innovative and Enterprising
- Rewarding and Fair Work
- Cultural and Creative Excellence
- Green and Sustainable Economy
- Thriving and Distinct Communities

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## **Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership Board**

**10 June 2021**

### **Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal**

#### **Regional Prosperity Framework Consultation Plan**

##### **1. Objectives**

To attract consultation responses from members of the public, Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal partner organisations, Scottish and UK Governments, regional & national enterprise & commerce agencies, large community groups (Area Partnerships, community councils), local tourism partnerships, industry bodies & professional bodies of the six week consultation on Regional Prosperity Framework (RPF) key themes.

The overarching aim of the RPF consultation is to create a plan for achieving a fairer, more inclusive and sustainable economy with equity, health and wellbeing of citizens at its core – across the City Region Deal area – incorporating the aspirations fed back by stakeholders during the consultation process. The main areas we are focusing on are:

- FLOURISHING – a fairer economy, environment & ecology, households & places
- RESILIENT – workforce, climate responses, infrastructure & buildings
- INNOVATIVE – private sector, third sector & public sector

The RPF will inform future approaches, strategies and policies across sustainability, transport, planning, housing and economic development to enable the region to generate and spread sustainable inclusive growth and to transition to a low carbon economy. In doing so, it seeks to ensure that the success of the region can continue to be realised and that it continues to be a key driver of the Scottish economy. It seeks to identify how regional partners can build on the opportunities created by the City Region Deal.

##### **2. Key dates:**

- Approval of RPF sought from City Region Deal Joint Committee Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June
- If given the go-ahead, partners will issue communications to the media week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> June in readiness for the consultation commencing on the 14<sup>th</sup> June
- Consultation and communications activity launch goes live Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June
- Consultation concludes Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July
- Theme leads will continue to meet weekly and the Elected Member Oversight Committee monthly.

##### **3. Background**

The decision to prepare a Regional Growth Framework was taken in September 2019, prior to COVID-19 and the United Kingdom's exit from

the European Union. Ambitions and action on climate change have also intensified and come more to the fore, with COP26 also due to take place later this year. In a very short period of time there has been significant change in the world that has impacted and will continue to impact our regional economy and our way of life in an unprecedented way.

Our response to these factors is on-going, and the timeline for recovery and nature of renewal is still uncertain. Developing a Regional Framework in this context is challenging. The direction of all strategic policy, strategy and associated interventions is adapting to, and is rapidly being shaped by, these wider circumstances. Our regional ambitions now need to address pre-existing issues as well as current and future challenges and opportunities. We need to be flexible and adaptable in how we collaborate and plan for the future, and our circumstances may rapidly change again.

The Consultation Draft Regional Prosperity Framework has been developed in a consultative and collaborative way with the Regional Enterprise Council and Elected Member Oversight Committee. At this stage, it aims to provide a framework for wider stakeholders to reflect on where the region has come from, to discuss where it is now, and to envision where it should go in future. It also sets out the new ways of working required to deliver regional prosperity.

The Consultation Draft Regional Prosperity Framework signposts, but does not present a fixed view of, the region's future priorities. It sets out to engage people and to stimulate thoughts, ideas, opinions and, importantly, consultation responses, on how the main challenges and opportunities should be addressed, pursuant to the identification of a preferred way forward.

Following the consultation, the final version of the document will change as a result of responses received. It will also be shaped by the strategic context as it evolves over time, to ensure a strategic fit is achieved, including with the new Scottish Government Administration.

**Scottish Borders Council's Executive Director Corporate Improvement and Economy**



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## **Local Child Poverty Annual Progress Report 2020/21 and Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan 2021/22**

**Report by Service Director Customer & Communities**

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### **COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD**

**10 June 2021**

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

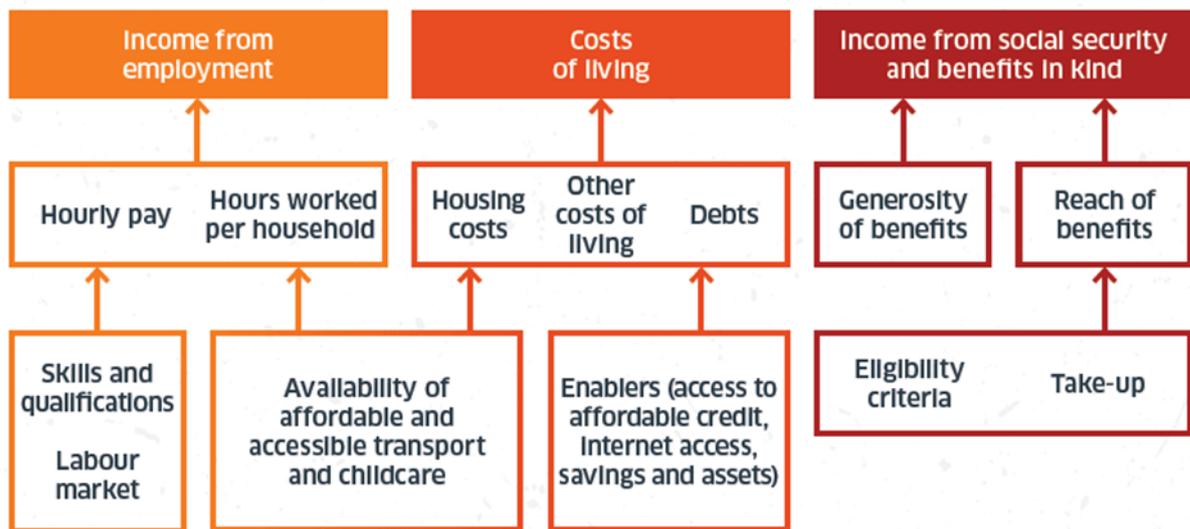
- 1.1 This report presents the Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Annual Progress Report for 2020/21 and the Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan for 2021/22 for endorsement before submission to Scottish Government.**
- 1.2 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 requires Local Authorities and Health Boards to jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report and an Annual Progress Report.
- 1.3 The Annual Progress Report for 2020/21 is the third 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.
- 1.4 The Report and Action Plan for 2021/22 provides the Community Planning Partnership and Scottish Government with a Report on Local Child Poverty Actions proposed for 2021/22.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 I recommend that the Community Planning Strategic Board:**
  - a) Endorse the Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Annual Progress Report for 2020/21 before submission to Scottish Government.**
  - b) Endorse the Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan for 2021/22 before submission to Scottish Government.**

### 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 Child Poverty Planning Group (CPPG) manages the implementation of the Local Child Poverty Reports and is accountable to the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (CPP). The CPPG is a strategic group with senior multi-agency membership.
- 3.3 The direct drivers of poverty fall in to three main categories – income from employment, costs of living and income from social security. The relationship of these drivers to wider thematic areas is summarised below.



### 4 NATIONAL CONTEXT

- 4.1 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 does not specifically define ‘poverty’, instead it uses four income-based targets as measures.  
<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/child-poverty-scotland-bill>

In March 2021 the Scottish Government updated the measures used to assess child poverty in Scotland<sup>1</sup>, Table 1 below shows the results for the most recent two years along with the 2023 and 2030 targets.

<sup>1</sup> The Scottish Government references the Family Resources Survey and Understanding Society Survey in the [publication](#), this is separate to the DWP/HMRC [children in low income families statistics](#).

Child Poverty Measures For Scotland	Previous Statistics	Latest statistics	2023 target	2030 target
% of children in relative poverty	23% (2018/19)	26% (2019/20)	18%	10%
% of children in absolute poverty	20% (2018/19)	23% (2019/20)	14%	5%
% of children in low income + material deprivation	12% (2018/19)	12% (2019/20)	8%	5%
% of children in persistent poverty after housing costs	15% (2014-2018)	16% (2015-2019)	8%	5%

Table 1 - Source: <https://data.gov.scot/poverty/cpupdate.html>

4.2 In spring 2021 the Scottish Parliament unanimously supported the UNCRC Incorporation (Scotland) Bill – which places a duty on public bodies to respect and protect children’s rights in all the work that they do. The Bill also says that public authorities must not act in a way that is incompatible with the UNCRC requirements. Most directly the UNCRC says that children and young people:

- Have a right to the best health possible, this includes adequate and nutritious food (article 24)
- Have the right to social security and for this to be fully realised (article 26)
- Have the right to a standard of living that allows them to develop physically, mentally, spiritually and socially (article 27)

4.3 The relationship between Child Poverty and the emerging impact of Covid-19 at a national level is shown in Appendices 1(a) and 2(a). Some stand-out observations include:

- One in five households with dependent children report serious financial difficulties
- In-work poverty is more prevalent, driven by underemployment ie. Not working as many hours as a person would like with low pay adding to the issue.
- The number of hours worked in Scotland reduced as a result of the pandemic. Mean hours worked per week reduced from 32 at the start of 2019 to 25 by June 2020.
- Emergency protections have assisted in the short term, but long term issues include those out of work and redundant, lack of job vacancies, dwindling savings, increased debt, threats of eviction = pulling more households into poverty.
- Scottish Welfare Fund crisis grant applications were 46% higher in the first quarter of 2020-2021 than in the same quarter of the previous year.

- The Covid-19 pandemic halted construction, resulting in the 50,000 affordable homes (incl 35,000 social homes) becoming unachievable by May 2021.
- One quarter of adults reported being very or somewhat worried about affording enough food for themselves or their households.
- The shift towards digital learning has impacted different groups in different ways. Online learning is a benefit for students who have fluctuating health conditions, but poses a challenge in making learning accessible for disabled students.

## **5 LOCAL CONTEXT**

### **5.1 Local Child Poverty Annual Progress Report 2020/21**

The Local Child Poverty Annual Progress Report for 2020/21 is shown in Appendices 1 and 1(b). Good progress has been made against the actions set out despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. Highlights include:

- Services have adapted working practices to enable them to continue to offer food, support, employment opportunities, digital devices and many other initiatives, as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions
- The Borders Additional Needs Group continued to provide weekly Additional Support Needs (ASN) Youth Groups to 14-19 year olds to support the transition out of education and enhance employability opportunities for ASN young people.
- The Community and Learning Development (CLD) service switched their support to parents to online, telephone, and one to one outdoor meetings so that they could continue to help with issues raised such as provision of free school meals, looking after children's needs whilst shielding, domestic abuse and many others.
- The Parental Employability Support programme has already had success with 35 referrals since October 2020, with some parents already gaining employment.
- Monetary gains for those claiming benefits increased in 2020/21 despite a lower number of referrals due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Youth work holiday programmes were delivered, despite reduced capacity and opportunity due to Covid-19, and were enhanced by online activities, including cooking workshops.
- The Connecting Scotland programme supported vulnerable people online, helping 382 families, 65 care leavers and 34 other vulnerable people.
- The Borders Housing Network secured £450k from the Scottish Government's Social Housing Fuel Support Fund. This allowed the four housing associations to support those in fuel debt.

### **5.2 Local Covid-19 Challenges**

The impact of Covid-19 at a local level is yet to be fully understood, however it is likely that children, young people and their families who are already experiencing hardship may be affected further. Early observations include:

- Unemployment figures in the Scottish Borders rose from 1755 in December 2019 to 3505 by December 2020. The unemployment figures in the Scottish Borders based on the Claimant Count detailed in the Office of National Statistics, NOMIS Report, as at 30 April 2021 was 3615.  
Source: [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk)
- Within the Scottish Borders 7300 workers were furloughed as at 28 February 2021. The provisional number of furloughed workers in the Scottish Borders as at 31 March 2021 was 6300.  
Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-statistics-december-2020/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-statistics-december-2020#furloughing-by-local-authority-and-parliamentary-constituency-at-31-october-including-gender-breakdown>
- Couples on benefits of £281 per week with two children after housing costs were £120 per week short of the 60% median income poverty level of around £400 per week. In order to surpass the poverty line each parent would need to work 22 hours per week at minimum wage or have their benefits increased by 40% if unemployed. (The Scottish Child Payment per week for aged 6 and under increased benefits by an average of 5%).
- With the closure of schools and the impact of losing sight of children and young people, hidden poverty and the pressures pushing families into greater need have been highlighted. On reopening the pressures to provide school uniforms increased.
- £350,000 in hardship and discretionary funding to students was delivered by Borders College.
- Third sector youth organisations provided support to 253 young people with food parcels and through significant contributions from community based youth groups: including Cheviot Hub, TD1 Youth Club, Rowland's, Tweeddale Youth Action and Connect Berwickshire. Collectively an estimated 10,000 food parcels were dispersed to households.

### 5.3 Children in Low Income Families

Table 2 below shows the proportion of children in Relative and Absolute low income families for the financial years ending (FYE) 2015 to 2020. Note that there has been a greater change in the Scottish Borders compared to Scotland for both relative and absolute. The table also shows the figures for Dumfries and Galloway, showing the challenges for the South of Scotland Region.

Type	Area - Type	FYE 2015	FYE 2016	FYE 2017	FYE 2018	FYE 2019	FYE 2020 (p)	% Change
Relative	Scotland	14%	15%	16%	18%	18%	19%	4.5%
	Scottish Borders	13%	14%	16%	18%	17%	18%	5.2%
	Dumfries and Galloway	16%	17%	18%	21%	20%	22%	6.0%
Absolute	Scotland	14%	14%	13%	15%	15%	16%	1.3%
	Scottish Borders	13%	13%	13%	14%	14%	15%	1.6%
	Dumfries and Galloway	16%	16%	15%	17%	16%	19%	2.2%

Source: DWP / NRS

Table 2 - Source: [Annual Official Statistics on the number of children living in low income families across the UK for financial years ending \(FYE\) 2015 to 2020](#)

Relative low income is defined as a family in low income Before Housing Costs (BHC) in the reference year.

Absolute low income is defined as a family in low income Before Housing Costs (BHC) in the reference year in comparison with incomes in financial year ending 2011.

Further details are shown in Appendix 2 including a comparison of Local Government Benchmarking Authorities and the percentage of children living in relative low income families broken down to Ward level.

#### 5.4 The Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index

The Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index (SB CPI) provides additional insight into Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders. The SB CPI works alongside the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). 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 provides an indication of child poverty levels based on four components - Children in Low Income Families (**CiLIF**), Free School Meals (**FSM**), Clothing Grant (**CLG**) and Educational Maintenance Allowance (**EMA16+**).

Table 3 below shows the results for the Scottish Borders for 2017 to 2020

SB CPI Components / Year	For SB CPI 2017	For SB CPI 2018	For SB CPI 2019	For SB CPI 2020
Children in Low Income Families - CiLIF (DWP) ^	19.8%	21.8%	20.6%	<b>22.5%</b>
Free School Meals - FSM (SBC)	10.0%	10.4%	11.6%	<b>15.7%</b>
Clothing Grant - CLG (SBC)	14.6%	15.1%	15.2%	<b>18.1%</b>
Educational Maintenance Allowance 16+ - EMA16+ (SBC) *	8.2%	6.2%	3.8%	<b>16.0%</b>

The full Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index is shown in Appendix 1(d)

#### 5.5 Student Poverty: Borders College

Poverty amongst the student body is an ongoing concern further impacted due to the ongoing Covid-19 health pandemic and the resulting enforced restrictions. Further pressure came during the early part of 2021 when already financially stretched students found themselves back in a second lockdown. During this period students were finding meeting the costs for heating due to the winter weather, along with additional food bills as dependents or siblings normally in school were at home, particularly difficult. We also saw a second wave of need for IT/Digital support as the demand on home broadband systems and existing equipment increased due to home schooling and other household members working from home.

To help mitigate some of the financial pressures, over 500 laptop loans were provided along with data packages to ensure access to appropriate Broadband. In addition significant levels of discretionary and hardship funding was awarded to help with increased living costs exacerbated by the pandemic.

## 5.6 Financial Inclusion

Scottish Borders Council offer a range of different Financial Inclusion services and are involved in several different work streams with a variety of partners. The total gains for the communities in the Borders from this service in 2020/21 totaled £4,237,007.

There are generally good links between all of the organisations undertaking Financial Inclusion work and in most cases referral processes are in place if required. There are concerns about solutions to food poverty and fuel poverty and there is an increasing emphasis on doing more than providing the 'sticking plasters' of Crisis Grants, energy top ups or food parcels. Organisations are encouraging more sustainable long-term solutions e.g., improving energy efficiency, applying for benefits/grants, or signposting to employability services which will increase income and reduce the possibility of a crisis occurring in the future. There is support for some fuel emergencies but there are concerns about the impact when Covid related financial support ends.

## 5.7 Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan 2021/22

Community Planning Partners and members of the Child Poverty Planning Group have contributed to the Scottish Borders Child Poverty Report and Action Plan for 2021/22. (Appendices 2 and 2(b)). Actions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic are set out which begin to address the impact on income from employment, job loss, loss of income, income from benefits and costs of living. A broad range of activity is shown in the Action Plan which is designed to help alleviate child poverty in different ways through various services and organisations.

# 6 IMPLICATIONS

## 6.1 Financial

Actions within the Child Poverty Action Plans are met from existing resources.

## 6.2 Risk and Mitigations

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.

The 2020/21 Child Poverty Annual Report outlines the progress made to alleviate child poverty in the Scottish Borders, and the 2021/22 Report and Action Plan focusses on the impact of Covid-19 to ensure that an appropriate response is made to the unprecedented challenge facing the Local Authority, Health Board and other partners.

## 6.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

An integrated impact assessment has been carried out for this report and there are no specific implications.

#### 6.4 **Sustainable Development Goals**

In considering each of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the following may be considered to make a difference:

- End poverty in all its forms – Local action is reported in both the 2020/21 Annual Report and the 2021/22 Report and action plan which contribute to this goal.
- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition – Local action is reported in both the 2020/21 Annual Report and the 2021/22 Report and action plan which contribute to this goal. The 2020/21 Report shows progress made in areas such as cooking skills and recipe cards and reports on food poverty specifically, whilst the 2021/22 Report contains actions planned around food security.
- Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages – activities are outlined in both reports which contribute to healthy lives eg. Summer holiday programmes provided by a range of partners. These programmes offer a variety of different activities including sports, culture, arts, cooking lessons, and often supply food to families to take home.
- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all – pupil equity funding allows schools to design programmes to close the poverty related attainment gap. Individual plans are drawn up for vulnerable children to ensure they are given the best opportunity to learn. The cost of the school day is constantly under review to ensure that trips and activities are affordable for all children. The Youth Guarantee operates to ensure that all school students applying for college are offered a suitable course to study. Other partners offer volunteering roles which build up confidence in young people so they can apply for jobs later on. Partners offer modern apprenticeship roles to young people furthest from the job market.
- Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all – housing tenants are supported with energy debt and advice is available on the best tariffs etc. Affordable homes are built and planned for tenants, and vulnerable groups are identified and supported with specific issues.
- Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all – the Parental employability scheme provides opportunities for parents to train for roles as well as gain employment. The intensive family support service targets specific families to support them into employment.

#### 6.5 **Climate Change**

There is no impact on climate change as a result of this report.

#### 6.6 **Rural Proofing**

There are no rural proofing implications contained in this report.

#### 6.7 **Data Protection Impact Statement**

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

#### 6.8 **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 report.

## 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 any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

### Approved by

**Jenni Craig**

**Signature .....**

**Service Director Customer and Communities**

### Author(s)

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**Background Papers: n/a**

**Previous Minute Reference:** Community Planning Strategic Board 19.11.20  
Community Planning Strategic Board 10.09.20

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

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**Scottish Borders**  
**Local Child Poverty Action Report**  
**Annual Progress Report 2020/21**

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## **Background**

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets out the Scottish Government's statement of intent to eradicate child poverty in Scotland by 2030.

Although the greatest impact on child poverty will occur through nationally set policies and strategies, it is recognised that local agencies and communities have much to contribute to achieving the outcomes desired. As a result, the Act requires Local Authorities and Health Boards to jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report and an Annual Progress Report. The annual progress report should describe activities undertaken and planned locally to contribute towards the child poverty targets set out in the Act.

This report for 2020/21 is the third Annual Report for the Scottish Borders and provides Scottish Government with an update on progress against activities within the Action Plan. The Child Poverty Planning Group and the Community Planning Partnership thank all partners for their input to the report.

## **Accountability and Governance**

The Child Poverty Planning Group (CPPG) manages the implementation of the Plan and is accountable to the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (CPP). The CPPG is a strategic group with senior multi-agency membership.

The CPPG reports to the CPP through the Children and Young People's Strategic Leadership Group (CYPSLG) on the following:

- Key strategic priorities in relation to statutory requirements and local needs
- Progress reports and updates against the high level priorities contained within the Child Poverty Plan, including annual reports for submission to Scottish Government
- The group also reports at least annually to the governance bodies of the key partners e.g. Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders Board etc.

## **Participation and Engagement**

During 2020/21 relationships have continued with stakeholders who have an interest in eradicating Child Poverty.

A multi-agency Child Poverty Planning Group meets regularly on the Child Poverty Agenda and is made up of representatives from Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders as well as the Third Sector and RSLs. Group members have made significant contributions to this report.

# What is poverty?

According to the [Joseph Rowntree Foundation \(JRF\)](#), Poverty is when your resources are well below your minimum needs.

## How does JRF define poverty in the UK?

Poverty affects millions of people in the UK. Poverty means not being able to heat your home, pay your rent, or buy the essentials for you or your children. It means waking up every day facing insecurity, uncertainty, and impossible decisions about money. It means facing marginalisation – and even discrimination – because of your financial circumstances. The constant stress it causes can lead to problems that deprive people of the chance to play a full part in society.

## Child Poverty

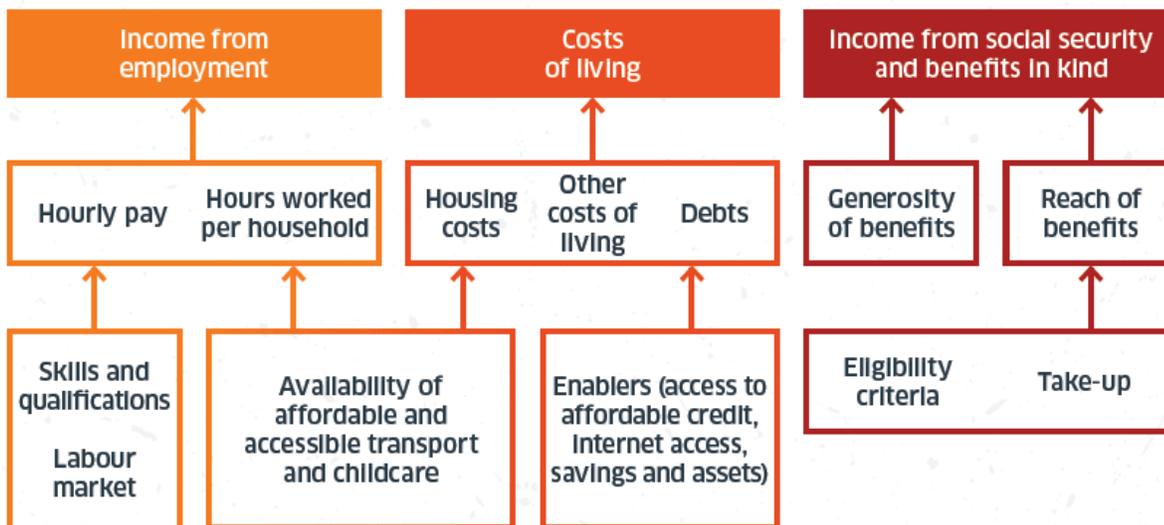
Around one in four children in Scotland lives in poverty.

We find this figure unacceptable, especially in a modern, thriving country like ours. That is why we are working hard to reduce child poverty.

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/poverty-and-social-justice/child-poverty/>

## Drivers of Child Poverty

The direct drivers of poverty fall in to three main categories – income from employment, costs of living and income from social security. The relationship of these drivers to wider thematic areas is summarised below.



Source: [Tackling child poverty delivery plan 2018-2022: annex 2 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

## Key risk groups and targeted interventions

Child poverty action reports are expected to describe measures taken in relation to children living in households where income and/or expenditure are adversely affected as a consequence of a member or members in a household having one or more protected characteristics. The national Child Poverty Delivery Plan also identifies certain priority groups to be targeted as beneficiaries (see Figure 1 below), and notes the need to take account of local geography and demographic profile. For the Scottish Borders, rurality is a key factor. There is also a requirement to report on income maximisation measures taken in the area to provide pregnant women and families with children with information, advice and assistance about eligibility for financial support; and assistance to apply for financial support. This includes work by the NHS Borders and partners to embed financial inclusion referral pathways in health care settings, as well as other settings.

*Figure 1 - Nationally identified priority groups at high risk of poverty*



## National Context

Scottish Government – Current Child Poverty Targets, measures and figures

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 does not specifically define ‘poverty’, instead it uses four income-based targets as measures.

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/child-poverty-scotland-bill>

In March 2021 the Scottish Government updated the measures used to assess child poverty in Scotland<sup>1</sup>, the table below shows the results for the most recent two years along with the 2023 and 2030 targets.

Child Poverty Measures For Scotland	Previous Statistics	Latest statistics	2023 target	2030 target
% of children in relative poverty	23% (2018/19)	26% (2019/20)	18%	10%
% of children in absolute poverty	20% (2018/19)	23% (2019/20)	14%	5%
% of children in low income + material deprivation	12% (2018/19)	12% (2019/20)	8%	5%
% of children in persistent poverty after housing costs	15% (2014-2018)	16% (2015-2019)	8%	5%

Source: <https://data.gov.scot/poverty/cpupdate.html>

## Scottish Government Measures Definitions

### Relative Poverty

Scottish Government defines relative poverty as: “a household earning less than 60% of average UK household income **for the year (after housing costs), taking account of the size and composition of the household.**”

### Absolute Poverty

Scottish Government defines absolute poverty as a household with “less than 60% of average UK household income **for the financial year beginning 1 April 2010**”

### Low Income and Material Deprivation

Scottish Government defines “low income and material deprivation” as “less than 70% of average UK household income for the reference year” and “material deprivation” as “when families are unable to afford three or more items out of a list of basic necessities”.

<sup>1</sup> The Scottish Government references the Family Resources Survey and Understanding Society Survey in the [publication](#), this is separate to the DWP/HMRC [children in low income families statistics](#).

## **Persistent Poverty**

Scottish Government defines persistent child poverty as where a child has lived in relative poverty for three out of the last four years. The Scottish Government target states that less than 5% of children should live in persistently-poor households by 2030.

## **Food Security**

In 2019/20, 25% of Scottish children lived in households that did not enjoy “high” food security. 7% of children lived with “very low” food security. This rises to 14% of children who are living in relative poverty and 15% of children living in absolute poverty.

## **National Context in Relation to Covid-19 and Child Poverty**

Appendix 1(a) sets out some national findings in relation the drivers of child poverty, also taking into account the impact of Covid-19. Information about the nationally identified priority groups at high risk of poverty is also shown.

## **Public Health Scotland**

Public Health Scotland was formed in April 2020 and promotes six national Public Health Priorities. These priorities are intended to support national and local partners across Scotland to work together to improve healthy life expectancy and reduce health inequalities in our communities.

- Priority 1 - A Scotland where we live in vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities
- Priority 2 - A Scotland where we flourish in our early years
- Priority 3 - A Scotland where we have good mental wellbeing
- Priority 4 - A Scotland where we reduce the use of and harm from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
- Priority 5 - A Scotland where we have a sustainable, inclusive economy with equality of outcomes for all
- Priority 6 - A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active

## **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Child Poverty**

In spring 2021 the Scottish Parliament unanimously supported the UNCRC Incorporation (Scotland) Bill – which places a duty on public bodies to respect and protect children’s rights in all the work that they do. The Bill also says that public authorities must not act in a way that is incompatible with the UNCRC requirements.

It is said that a Children’s Rights framework ought to be used by the Scottish Government to shape their work towards achieving their targets as set out in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017. The Children’s Rights framework would allow consideration to be given to the barriers presented by policy areas that may not immediately seem relevant to child poverty, for example, housing, education, health, transport, employment, discrimination, disability and family life.

Most directly the UNCRC says that children and young people:

- Have a right to the best health possible, this includes adequate and nutritious food (article 24)
- Have the right to social security and for this to be fully realised (article 26)
- Have the right to a standard of living that allows them to develop physically, mentally, spiritually and socially (article 27)

## Local Context

The need to tackle damaging impacts of child poverty is in sharper focus since the Covid-19 pandemic, and the wide reaching impacts are yet to be fully understood. The impact of Covid-19 is likely to be unequal and may affect children and young people and their families who are already experiencing hardship more than others.

Set out below are some of the actions taken and the challenges faced during 2020/21 by Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and Partners.

### The 2020/21 Action Plan Progress Report

Good progress has been made against the actions set out in the 2020/21 Action Plan despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. This is shown in detail in Appendix 1(b). Highlights include:

- Services have adapted working practices to enable them to continue to offer food, support, employment opportunities, digital devices and many other initiatives, as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions
- The Borders Additional Needs Group continued to provide weekly Additional Support Needs (ASN) Youth Groups to 14-19 year olds to support the transition out of education and enhance employability opportunities for ASN young people.
- The Community and Learning Development (CLD) service switched their support to parents to online, telephone, and one to one outdoor meetings so that they could continue to help with issues raised such as provision of free school meals, looking after children's needs whilst shielding, domestic abuse and many others.
- The Parental Employability Support programme has already had success with 35 referrals since October 2020, with some parents already gaining employment.
- Monetary gains for those claiming benefits increased in 2020/21 despite a lower number of referrals due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- New homes were built, and whilst others were paused due to the pandemic, most have started up again.
- Youth work holiday programmes were delivered, despite reduced capacity and opportunity due to COVID-19, and were enhanced by online activities, including cooking workshops.
- Students at Borders College were given online mentoring support.
- Borders College disseminated in excess of £350k in hardship and discretionary funding to students to support living costs and mitigate effects of COVID-19 restrictions.
- The Connecting Scotland programme supported vulnerable people online, helping 382 families, 65 care leavers and 34 other vulnerable people.
- The Borders Housing Network secured £450k from the Scottish Government's Social Housing Fuel Support Fund. This allowed the four housing associations to support those in fuel debt.
- At least 250 young people were supported through the receipt of food parcels by third sector youth organisations throughout 2020/21.

As well as the progress shown in Appendix 1(b), we have some case studies shown in Appendix 1(f) which demonstrate the wide range of activities undertaken by services to help to alleviate child poverty in the Scottish Borders.

## Local Covid-19 position

Income from Employment	Job Loss	<p>Youth Pathway to Employment, involving Borders College, DYW, SDS, Youth Borders and SBC was designed and developed in anticipation of need from learners who were at risk of not having a positive destination post-school, particularly those who would have left school for employment.</p> <p>Live Borders was unable to provide work experience opportunities as majority of staff were furloughed.</p> <p>Unemployment figures in the Scottish Borders rose from 1755 in December 2019 to 3505 by December 2020. The unemployment figures, based on the Claimant Count, rose to 3615 as at 30 April 2021.</p>
Income from Employment	Loss of income	<p>Within the Scottish Borders 3300 workers were furloughed as at 31 October 2020. By 28 February 2021 the number increased to 7300 Scottish Borders workers and then reduced to 6300 by 31 March 2021.</p>
Income from Benefits	Benefits	<p>Couples on benefits of £281 per week with two children after housing costs were £120 per week short of the 60% median income poverty level of around £400 per week. In order to surpass the poverty line each parent would need to work 22 hours per week at minimum wage or have their benefits increased by 40% if unemployed. (The Scottish Child Payment per week for aged 6 and under increased benefits by an average of 5%).</p> <p>Within Scottish Borders a single parent with two children receiving benefits of £238 per week after housing costs was £60 per week short of the 60% median income poverty level of around £300 per week. To ensure the weekly income reached the poverty line the single parent would need to be employed for seven hours per week at minimum wage or without employment, have their benefits increased by 25%.</p> <p>The referral e-form to the Financial Inclusion Team was delayed during the pandemic and shall be introduced in 2021-2022.</p>
Costs of living	Impact on families	<p>Scottish Borders Council Social Work Department continued contact with families and reported increased numbers of referrals from families not previously known who were facing emotional and financial issues due to the pandemic.</p> <p>The Community and Learning Development (CLD) Team at Scottish Borders Council supported 94 parents between April and June 2020 with various issues including financial inclusion, food insecurity, and children's needs, and held cooking demonstrations.</p> <p>Live Borders facilities were closed from March 2020 impacting on free access to services and Holiday Programmes were postponed. The delivery of usually face to face Holiday Programmes were converted and provided virtually and in creative ways by partners involved in the Joint Health Improvement Team.</p> <p>With the closure of schools and the impact of losing sight of children and young people, hidden poverty and the pressures pushing families into greater need have been highlighted. On reopening the pressures to provide school uniforms increased.</p> <p>Third sector youth work organisations supported young people with free online and in-person activities throughout 2020/21: including craft sessions, photography, cooking and baking, youth media, day trips, mountain biking and sports.</p>

Costs of living	Housing and household costs	<p>£350,000 in hardship and discretionary funding to students was delivered by Borders College.</p> <p>Although the Financial Inclusion Pilot to be held in Galashiels Health Centre's midwifery clinic was postponed due to Covid-19, NHS Health Visitors enquired at each core visit about financial inclusion.</p> <p>BHA - Fuel debt of tenants increased by 36%.</p> <p>The Early Years Centre in Galashiels used produce to top up 300 food parcels for children and families.</p> <p>SBHA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No-one evicted in 13 month period</li> <li>• Had 66 persons lodged in court, engaging with 60 with repayment arrangements introduced. Prior to the pandemic the figures would have been reversed.</li> </ul>
Costs of living	Food insecurity	<p>Foodbank/Foodshare outlets across the Scottish Borders increased from 17 to 25. Supported financially via the Financial Inclusion Fund, these means have included the introduction of the Eyemouth Food Partnership which is now being considered as a pilot for expansion Borders wide. The alliance between the Joint Improvement Health Board with Berwickshire Association of Voluntary Services (BAVS), and funding from SBC, has contributed to ensuring children and families have access to food networks. The Community Larder, funded by the National Lottery allocation to BAVS and the Financial Inclusion Fund is a further initiative utilised by families in the Berwickshire area. BAVS distributed £65,000 in community response. Borders College supported students experiencing food adversity with £450 of supermarket vouchers.</p> <p>Third sector youth organisations provided support to 253 young people with food parcels and through significant contributions from community based youth groups: including Cheviot Hub, TD1 Youth Club, Rowland's, Tweeddale Youth Action and Connect Berwickshire. Collectively an estimated 10,000 food parcels were dispersed to households.</p> <p>Burnfoot Community Futures - From 27.05.2020 – 29.06.2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distributed 298 recipes</li> <li>• 228 persons benefitted</li> <li>• Distributed 296 ready meals</li> </ul> <p>Single parents with a number of children were discouraged from shopping by some supermarkets. Deliveries from Foodshare and support from Early Years Centres provided life lines to families with young children in the Scottish Borders. Over 500 food parcels were delivered during the first 15 weeks of lockdown.</p>
Costs of living	Digital exclusion	<p>Prior to the emergence of COVID-19, timescales to deploy devices to teachers and students were already challenging, and subsequently due to the pandemic needs greatedened and deployments were completed ahead of original timescales. During 2019-2020 devices were provided to teachers and students in all secondary settings by March 2020, three months ahead of schedule. During May 2020 540 iPads were distributed over a three day period to primary school teachers and a further 3,600 iPads delivered to the homes of students based within primaries 6 and 7 and S1 to deliver home school learning from 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020. This particular rollout was eleven months ahead of the original programme. Extending the project scope to include primaries 4 and 5 pupils with the provision of 2,400 iPads was conducted prior to the October break.</p> <p>Both teachers and students were supported in the use of the devices and from a</p>

		<p>technical perspective whilst ensuring equity of access and raising attainment levels. Scottish Borders infrastructure and resources contributed to remote learning solutions for those within the P4 to S6 settings - unique within the United Kingdom.</p> <p>The Inspire Learning Project is partnered with SBC's IT partner CGI alongside XMA and Apple. Having competed in the Local Government Chronicle (LCG) Awards in 2020 within two categories, future places and public/private partnership, Inspire Learning won both.</p> <p>Borders College mentored 20 senior phase students and provided equipment such as laptops, desks and chairs to ensure commencement of studies. The College partook in the Scottish Government's Youth Guarantee and shall continue to do so in 2021-2022. 500 laptops loans were given to students and 75 WiFi dongles or mobile data packages given to those experiencing financial or access difficulties.</p> <p>As part of the Connecting Scotland Programme, Scottish Borders Council's Homelessness Service supported 10 homeless households and 237 Registered Social Landlord's tenants be become digitally included. Live Borders provided a lending library with 35+ devices loaned and a further 15 progressing.</p> <p>Early Years Centres – Spotlight on Success utilised the Connecting Scotland Programme by supporting 19 families with access to free devices and mifi.</p> <p>Third sector youth organisations assisted young people and their families with the provision of regular data top-ups and loan devices to ensure young people could continue to access online youth work opportunities.</p>
Costs of Living	Fuel Poverty	<p>In March 2020, as a joined up response to COVID 19, Scottish Borders Council put in place Community Assistance Hubs within each of the five localities across the Borders.</p> <p>Working with our partners across the Borders, the Community Assistance Hubs have provided support to their communities through a single point of contact for those who were elderly or otherwise vulnerable. They have assisted with the distribution of PPE to care providers, supported the organisation and delivery of food and medication, provided practical support in relation to pre-paid cards that could be used for the payment of food, fuel (including electricity, gas, petrol and diesel) signposted to services and support groups (including referrals into financial inclusion services) and also coordinated the volunteer response by local community groups.</p> <p>For those who receive support through the Hubs, benefits include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ problems are resolved effectively through partnership working.</li> <li>▪ good relationships are formed, with some people receiving weekly welfare phone calls.</li> <li>▪ people are able to be connected quickly to the support that they need, when they need it; whether that was by a community group, volunteer support or social care and health.</li> <li>▪ staff and volunteers were able to follow up all calls to find out if any other support was required e.g. if someone had to self-isolate, did they need support to get their food shopping organised, medication, assistance with fuel payments or need care or health support.</li> </ul> <p>The Community Assistance Hubs have also highlighted clear benefits of collaborative working, along with the importance of the role of the Third Sector, Registered Social Landlords, local Resilience Groups, Community Learning &amp; Development, Communities &amp; Partnership staff and other volunteers.</p>

## Involvement of people with direct lived experience

The Poverty and Inequality Commission Review of Local Child Poverty Action Reports in November 2019 recommended that consideration should be given as to how to involve people with direct lived experience. People's voices should be heard and should be used to help shape agendas.

Scottish Borders Council have recently carried out a consultation on their draft Anti-Poverty Strategy. People were asked how they were managing financially before and after the Covid-19 Pandemic. The outcome of the consultation will be reported as part of the Anti-Poverty Strategy work, however many of the replies are relevant to families and children, therefore can be taken into account in our Child Poverty Work.

Below are some of the comments made by families in the Scottish Borders:

- *More affordable child care provision to allow people to work more easily*
- *More trustworthy advice about how to access financial help or financial support to improve your house - i.e. windows, heating. Don't know who to trust.*
- *Stop using children's DLA as part of household income - this is to support the kids disability to replace things they break and to make their life easier.*
- *Stop handing money to those who stay at home anyway (on benefits etc) who receive free school meals and help families who are struggling with the increased cost of everything.*
- *Offer Poverty stigma training*
- *Less stigma & more understanding about what poverty actually is & who could be affected.*
- *There is too much red tape and it's made really hard to access by criteria aimed at stopping those that need it getting it.*

## Current position of the Poverty Drivers in the Scottish Borders

Appendix 1(c) shows evidence in relation to the Scottish Borders position on the three drivers of child poverty, high priority risk groups and protected characteristics. Key messages are set out below:

1. Income from employment
  - Scottish Borders average earnings remain lower than the Scottish average by £111 and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest out of the 32 Scottish Local Authority areas which presents a challenge.
  - A higher proportion of Scottish Borders young adults aged 16-19 entered employment, training or education when compared to Scotland.
  - 18% of children in the Scottish Borders were living in relative low income families in 2020.
2. Costs of living
  - 47.6% of children in Scottish Borders live in areas classified as “Rural” (Accessible-rural or Remote-rural) which presents a difficulty in terms of access to employment and services due to the cost of transport.
  - The use of food banks increased by 8% in the Scottish Borders in 2020 when compared to the previous year, possibly due to the cost of food combined with lower earnings.
  - When compared to Scotland higher fuel poverty figures are reported in the Scottish Borders impacting on 16,000 households.
  - Children in the Scottish Borders are living with limited resources. Data shows those children living with limited resources before housing costs are higher than the Scottish average as are those living with limited resources after housing costs, with the Scottish Borders rated at 6<sup>th</sup> highest and 4<sup>th</sup> highest respectively across the 32 Local Authority areas.
3. Income from social security and benefits in kind
  - Scottish Borders Council offer a range of different Financial Inclusion services and are involved in several different work streams with a variety of partners. The total gains for the communities in the Borders from this service in 2020/21 totaled £4,237,007. Financial Inclusion enquiries and referrals are received from sources such as Social Work, Education, Community Assistance Hubs, Self-Isolation Support Grant enquiries and external partner organisations.

## The Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index

The Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index (SB CPI) provides additional insight into Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders. The SB CPI works alongside the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). 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 provides an indication of child poverty levels based on four components. Each area receives a score based on the result of each component with maximum points of 20, where the higher the points the higher the levels of child poverty. These components are:

- Children in Low Income Families (**CiLIF**) – Source is [DWP/HMRC](#). Relative low-income is defined as a family whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of contemporary median income.
- Free School Meals (**FSM**) – Source is SBC. The proportion of pupils recorded for Free School Meals of all pupils in area for school year.
- Clothing Grant (**CLG**) - Source is SBC. The proportion of pupils recorded for Clothing Grant of all pupils in area for school year.
- Educational Maintenance Allowance (**EMA16+**) – Source is SBC. The proportion of pupils who are aged 16 or older (before 01 March of school year) who receive EMA.

The table below shows the results for the Scottish Borders for 2017 to 2020

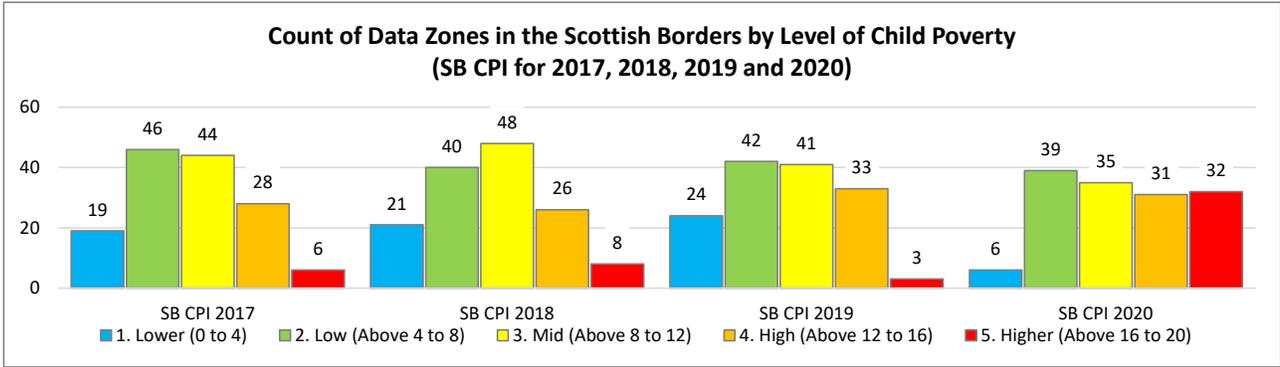
SB CPI Components / Year	For SB CPI 2017	For SB CPI 2018	For SB CPI 2019	For SB CPI 2020
Children in Low Income Families - CiLIF (DWP) ^	19.8%	21.8%	20.6%	<b>22.5%</b>
Free School Meals - FSM (SBC)	10.0%	10.4%	11.6%	<b>15.7%</b>
Clothing Grant - CLG (SBC)	14.6%	15.1%	15.2%	<b>18.1%</b>
Educational Maintenance Allowance 16+ - EMA16+ (SBC) *	8.2%	6.2%	3.8%	<b>16.0%</b>

^ CiLIF: Financial Year End. The calculation of proportion of Children in Low Income Families for the purpose of the Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index differs to 'official statistics' due to the availability of the data from Stat-Xplore. The children in Stat-Xplore are defined as dependent individuals aged under 16; or aged 16 to 19 in full-time non-advanced education or in unwaged government training. The figure for all children is then expressed as proportion of those aged 0 to 15 as published by NRS. It is recognised that this calculation is imperfect, but practical for the purpose of the SB CPI.

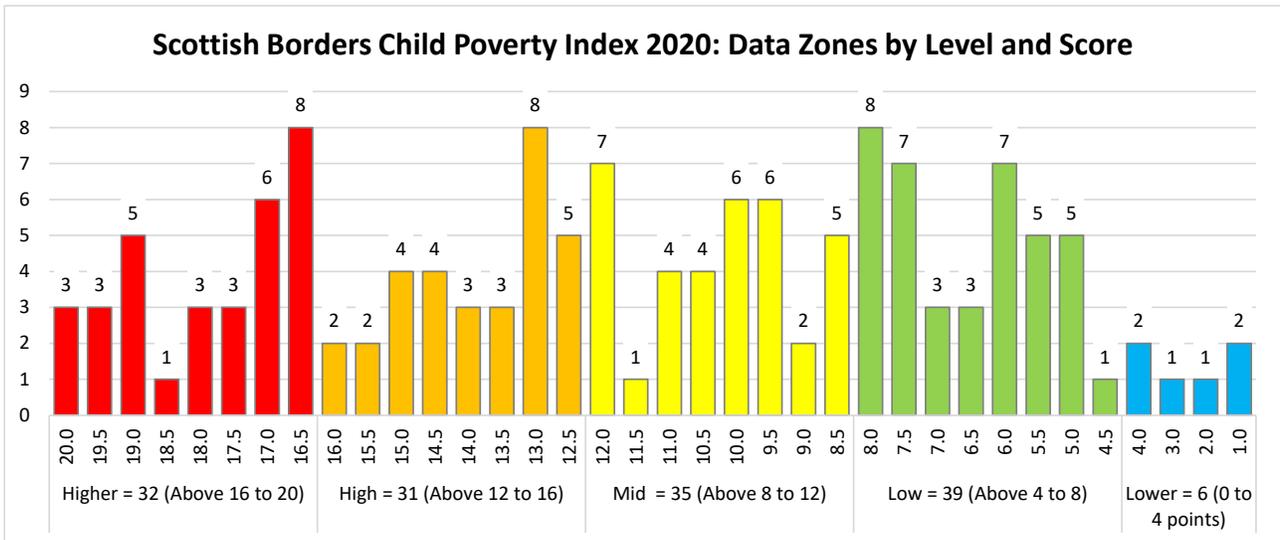
\* EMA16+: Pupils that are aged 16 before the 1st of March of the school year

The results for 2020 show some of the Covid-19 Pandemic impact, with an increase in the proportion of pupils receiving free school meals, clothing grant and educational maintenance allowance. It is important to note that the children in low income families relates to 2019/20, so the full impact of Covid-19 pandemic is not reflected in these figures; this will be reflected in the 2021 SB CPI.

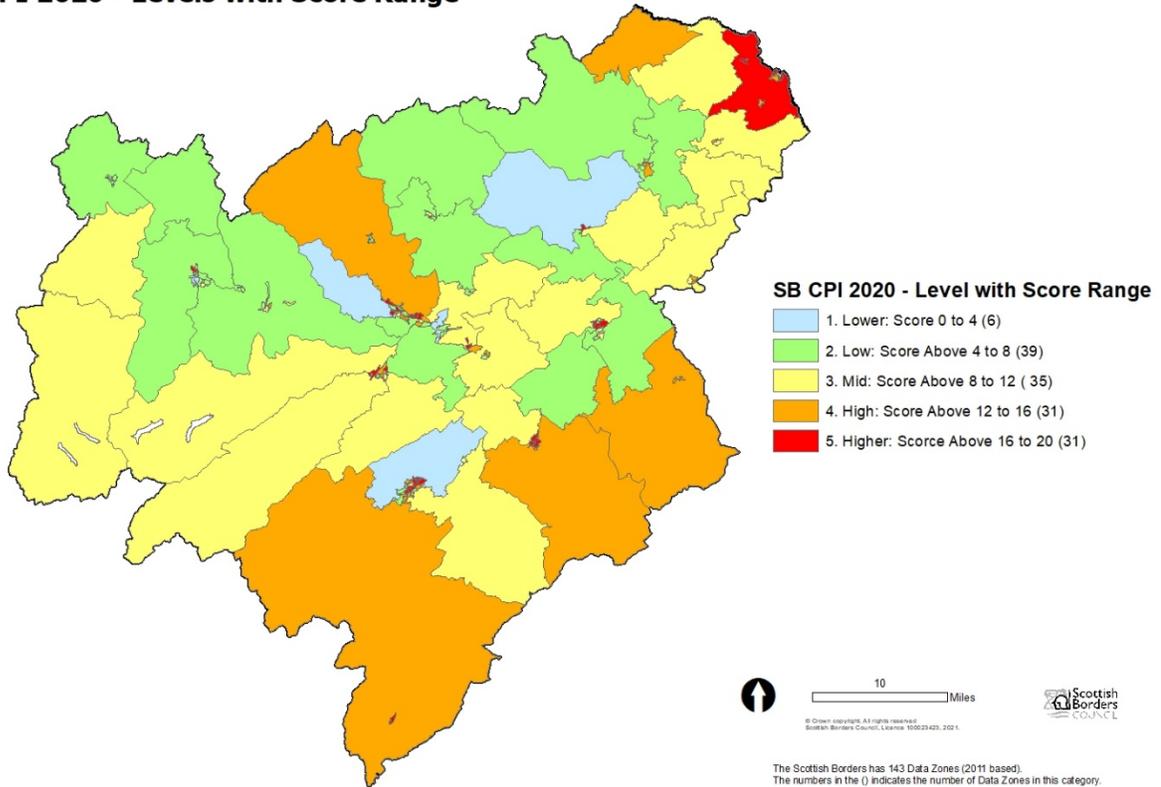
The graph below shows the distribution of data zones by level of child poverty for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. Between 2017 and 2019 the number of data zones in the 'high' and 'higher' level decreased. However, in the SB CPI 2020 the impact of Covid19 is evident, with 63 of the 143 (44%) data zones in the Scottish Borders having 'high' or 'higher' level of child poverty.



The graph and map below shows the Scottish Borders data zones based on the SB CPI 2020 score, grouped into levels of Child Poverty. Higher level (32 data zones) have a score of above 16 to 20; High level (31 data zones) have a score of above 12 to 16; Mid-level (35 data zones) have a score of above 8 to 12; Low level (39 data zones) have a score of above 4 to 8; and Lower level (6 data zones) have a score of 0 to 4. Every data zone in the Scottish Borders has some element of child poverty.



**Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020**  
**SB CPI 2020 - Levels with Score Range**



Greater detail of SB CPI 2020 can be seen in appendix 1(d) Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020.

## Scottish Borders Council Children and Families Social Work Service

Poverty is only one factor in abuse and neglect, but perhaps the most pervasive. Evidence suggests that direct and indirect impacts of poverty can both operate separately and also interact with other factors to increase or reduce the chances of abuse and neglect. It is within this sphere that children and families social work focus their day to day interactions and interventions.

Children and Families social work (C&FSW) fulfils specific statutory duties to children and young people in the Scottish Borders, primarily contained in the following pieces of legislation:

- Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007
- Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011
- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

C&FSW provides a range of functions and interventions linked to the impact of poverty including:

- an initial response to referrals, investigating concerns that children may be at significant risk of abuse and neglect;
- a comprehensive service for all looked after children, children on the child protection register and those who are at high risk of becoming so;
- work with children affected by disabilities and their families;
- recruitment of and support to foster carers and prospective adopters and assessment of kinship carers;
- residential provision for young people and a satellite unit for young people in transition to independent living;
- support to young people who were previously looked after and;
- specialist assessment and support to young people who have offended and their families.

The statutory role of C&FSW necessitates focussing on those children, young people and families assessed as most in need, supporting them to navigate complex systems which frequently place them in positions of disadvantage, and supporting children and their families who experience poverty to access services or resources that they may not have been able to. Examples include charity applications; sourcing essentials items such as food, household goods, and clothing; the provision of practical support; the provision of funding for utilities such as gas and electricity.

Advice is provided by staff within the service to support budgeting on a long term basis, and support is provided to ensure income maximisation and access to correct benefit payments. Where a child is placed with kinship carers, the set up costs to purchase bed, bedding, clothes and other equipment is offered to assist the successful commencement of the placement. C&FSW also fund childminding where it is assessed to be in the child/family's best interest.

Self-directed support, where families have increased choice about the support they receive, is currently primarily focused on children with disabilities, however this is a developing area of practice and Scottish Borders C&FSW will continue to engage with Scottish Government to explore options to extend self-directed support to other families.

Scottish Borders C&FSW also commission or purchase a number of services including:

- Aberlour Child Care Trust are commissioned to provide residential respite and day respite play scheme during school holiday periods for children affected by disabilities, and the Sustain Service

- for children and young people at risk of becoming looked after.
- Who Cares? Scotland are commissioned to provide an independent advocacy services for children and young people who are within external placements.
- Children 1st are jointly commissioned by C&FSW and the Children & Young People's Leadership Group to provide an Abuse and Trauma Recovery Service for children and young people who have been the victims of abuse.
- C&FSW also make a contribution to Children Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS) for hospice care services.
- Purchased services include a number of foster placements from independent providers and placements for children and young people who require intensive support in a residential setting.

#### Impact of Covid-19 During lockdown

Additional support has been needed during this time for people who have been on reduced incomes, those who have lost jobs, the increase in food parcels and access to food banks etc. The impact on employment, the impact on mental health which can impact the ability of an individual to access employment but also their ability to access support possibly pushing them further into poverty. Children and families social work services are working to support people experiencing these difficulties.

### **Children's Hearings**

Children's Hearings are usually conducted on a face to face basis with payments made to Parents for mileage payments, public transport fares and on occasion accommodation depending on the circumstances. These expenses are paid without the requirement to demonstrate financial hardship.

As hearings are currently being conducted virtually, this has provided the ability to cover costs of data for families to be able to participate in children's hearings.

### **Police Scotland**

Provision of training to all frontline officers was provided to assist in the identification of families affected by poverty, addiction and financial hardship.

Police Scotland continued to participate, consult and contribute to the Local Child Poverty Reports and Action Plans and SBC's Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan, whilst working collaboratively with Public Protection Unit Staff to identify issues of poverty amongst other child protection concerns leading to referrals to partners for support and inter agency discussions to progress.

### **Student Poverty: Borders College**

Poverty amongst the student body is an ongoing concern further impacted this academic year due to the ongoing Covid-19 health pandemic and the resulting enforced restrictions.

Many students rely on part-time employment to boost their student funding income. Young people in particular are more likely to be on casual or temporary employment contracts in some of the worst hit sectors, e.g. hospitality, therefore may experience limited access to the job retention schemes in place. This relates equally to mature students and those returning to education following family breaks. Others are experiencing household incomes at much lower levels than normal, again due to business restrictions, redundancies or furlough.

In practical terms, as education moved to an online platform to enable the continuation of meaningful learning, digital poverty has been another major challenge. Access to suitable IT equipment and broadband access is critical in ensuring all students have been able to participate and continue learning on a remote basis.

Further pressure came during the early part of this year when already financially stretched students found themselves back in a second lockdown. During this period students were finding meeting the costs for heating due to the winter weather, along with additional food bills as dependents or siblings normally in school were at home, particularly difficult. We also saw a second wave of need for IT/Digital support as the demand on home broadband systems and existing equipment increased due to home schooling and other household members working from home.

Over the last academic year Borders College have mobilised resources to help support our students and as far as possible, help mitigate some of the additional financial pressures due to COVID. This included the provision of around 500 laptop loans and providing students with data dongles or funding to boost mobile data packages to ensure access to appropriate Broadband.

In addition significant levels of Discretionary and Hardship funding (circa £350K) has been awarded to help mitigate the increased living costs and address Student hardship exacerbated by the pandemic and resulting restrictions and lockdown.

Food poverty remains an ongoing issue. We have addressed this in part by the issue of supermarket vouchers to those in need. This has gone some way to replacing our previous, Student Association led food initiative, which provided basic meal kits, and a food bank on Campus.

## Contributions from Strategies, Plans, Budgets and Funding

Several Strategies, Plans and Budgets have contributed to the Local Child Poverty Action Plan for the Scottish Borders. Significant contributions include:

### Budgets

Funding was allocated by Scottish Borders Council in February 2020 to specific budget headings intended to help address the impact of child poverty.

Budget	2020/21
Crisis Grants	£88,188
School clothing grants	£247,800
Free sanitary products in schools and workplaces	£52,000
Educational Maintenance Allowance	£335,814

Budgets for various key services were also used in 2020/21 – Holiday programmes c£15.5k for staff time and resources.

An SBC CLD/TD1 Youth Hub Food Insecurity holiday activity was undertaken in Galashiels which was part of a Scottish Government national pilot. Funding of £10,000 was received from Youthlink Scotland via the Scottish Government for this pilot.

At the emergence of COVID-19, society became cashless with the increased use and preference shifting to online purchasing and banking cards. As a Council we are duty bound by the Social Work Scotland Act 1968 and The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 to ensure the risks of financial crisis faced by vulnerable service users and the general public are minimised. Pre-pandemic this would take the form of money being dispensed from locality Social Work offices but due to restrictions, the introduction of All Pay Cards and online banking were introduced in April 2020 to combat the risks posed and to act as a first response when tackling poverty and hardship, and these practices remain.

By adapting operations, the core fundamentals of practice were transferred to assist in accessing and distributing financial support from Cash For Kids, in supporting the reactive commencement of Community Assistance Hubs and utilised by Community Learning Development staff.

Cash for Kids, STV Winter Fund, Youth Scotland Winter Fund, Borders Children's Charity were all utilised by community organisations to support families in need. Some national third sector organisations were able to utilise their own crisis funding for Borders families, including Action for Children and Children 1<sup>st</sup>.

Between April 2020 and June 2020 Cash For Kids funded £2627.20. Working collaboratively with Children and Families Social Work this ensured 36 families totalling 77 children, aged from birth to 18 years impacted by COVID-19 were provided with financial support using All Pay Cards.

In April and May 2020 All Pay Cards were used by five area Community Assistance Hubs to purchase a total of £1640.00 supermarket vouchers to be dispensed to those in financial crisis.

### **Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)**

In 2020/21, £1,798,854 of Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) was allocated to Scottish Borders schools. Allocations are calculated by Scottish Government, based on the number of enrolled learners claiming Free School Meals. For each eligible learner the school is allocated £1,200. Headteachers use the fund to provide additional and targeted support for all children and young people affected by poverty. As well as Free School Meals data, schools look at other indicators of poverty-related disadvantage in decision-making around use of the additional funding. Their choices of intervention are based on evidence of what works in raising attainment in literacy and numeracy, as well as wellbeing.

In 2020/21 schools have needed to adapt their plans for use of PEF in light of the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on plans to support the most disadvantaged learners. This has included monitoring engagement in home learning and engagement with learning hubs, working with community partners and families to provide additional support where needed and putting re-engagement plans in place for vulnerable children and young people during school re-opening phases. Although no formal data was gathered to measure progress (in line with government guidance in response to Covid-19 pressures) we have monitored support for our most vulnerable children and young people to adapt and change support in light of the various challenges they have faced. Headteachers have worked with colleagues in the Central Education Team to ensure that necessary changes to plans were still driven by a focus on raising attainment and improving wellbeing for children and young people affected by poverty. This involved ongoing analyses of needs, identification of appropriate interventions and flexible and responsive planning to measure the impact of each intervention. This work has been further supported by an Attainment Advisor from Education Scotland.

An Equity & Inclusion Lead Officer within Scottish Borders Council has now been appointed to support this ongoing work and help schools to capture impact and progress data now that children and young people have returned to school. This will inform ongoing PEF work, and identify where further targeted interventions are required.

## Housing Needs and Aspirations of Young People

Over 2020/21, work has been undertaken regarding the delivery of the Housing Needs and Aspirations of Young People 5 Year Action Plan – April 2019. Young People are being enabled to make more successful and sustainable transitions into their own housing and there has been a commitment from a range of partners to facilitate. There is currently work taking place to ensure that SBC and Partners continue to work closely with each other to ensure that this is delivered. The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted on the progress of some pieces of work.

## Financial Inclusion

A Financial Inclusion group was formed and is chaired by NHS Borders. This group has partners from Early Years, Health, Third sector, Social Security Scotland (SSS) and Community and Learning Development (CLD).

**Scottish Borders Council** offer a range of different Financial Inclusion services and are involved in several different work streams with a variety of partners. The total gains for the communities in the Borders from this service in 2020/21 totaled **£4,237,007**.

Financial Inclusion enquiries and referrals are received from sources such as Social Work, Education, Community Assistance Hubs, Self-Isolation Support Grant enquiries and external partner organisations.

Specific Services	
SBC	Partner Organisations
Financial Inclusion Officers	CAB
Macmillan Welfare Benefits	NHS Borders
Early Years	Registered Social Landlords
Homelessness	Borders College
Scottish Welfare Fund	Home Energy Scotland
Discretionary Housing Payments	DWP
Community Assistance Hubs	Social Security Scotland
Free school meals and Education Maintenance Allowance	Food banks/FareShare/Community Larders & Fridges
Covid-19 Response – Proposals to further support individuals facing financial hardship	Charities and Voluntary Organisations

There are generally good links between all of the organisations undertaking Financial Inclusion work and in most cases referral processes are in place if required.

There are concerns about solutions to food poverty and fuel poverty and there is an increasing emphasis on doing more than providing the 'sticking plasters' of Crisis Grants, energy top ups or food parcels. Organisations are encouraging more sustainable long-term solutions e.g., improving energy efficiency, applying for benefits/grants, or signposting to employability services which will increase income and reduce the possibility of a crisis occurring in the future.

Digital inclusion is another factor and a recent study estimated that one in seven adults in Scotland was experiencing 'data poverty' and those on low incomes try to juggle buying food, fuel and having access to the internet.

There is support for some fuel emergencies but there are concerns about the impact when Covid related financial support ends.

A mapping exercise is currently underway to set out all the work streams that the Council is involved in, along with partners and other organisations. This will include specific funding streams, mapping the services that are available, increase awareness of support offered and give advice on signposting.

### Best Start Grants

The Scottish Borders has one of the highest application success rates in the country for Best Start Grants. The excellent network we have in the Borders, facilitated by the advice/information given to all of the midwives, early years centres and other groups has contributed to this success.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/best-start-grant-and-best-start-foods-high-level-statistics-to-28-february-2021/>

## **Employability and Skills**

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) has worked with Scottish Borders Council, Borders College, the Borders Learning and Skills Partnership and SOSE and have shared regional COVID-19 labour market insights. There are currently discussions taking place between SDS and partners across the Scottish Borders and the South of Scotland in order for targeted responses to impacts of Covid-19 to be supported.

SDS has provided a focus on where there are employment opportunities and discussions are underway to explore a package of labour market measures such as Youth Guarantee and digital literacy pathfinder to support transitions into training, education and employment.

The full **Regional Skills Assessment** for the Scottish Borders, which was published in March 2021, can be seen via the following link:

<https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/47100/rsa-infographic-scottish-borders.pdf>

A piece of work was undertaken regarding the Employability Challenge in the Scottish Borders and to set out Scottish Borders Council's approach to employability and training in response to existing and new employability measures introduced by the Scottish and UK Governments.

The full reports can be seen at the following link:

<https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s49403/Item%2010%20-%20Executive%20report%20on%20Employability.%200090221.pdf>

## **EU Exit**

Alongside COVID, the need to adjust to life outside the EU presents a concurrent challenge. Free movement of citizens between the UK and EU has ended and the UK is no longer part of the EU customs union and single market. Instead, it has a Co-operation and Trade Agreement that allows zero tariffs and zero quotas trading of goods on the basis of an agreed set of rules. While some initial trading and bureaucratic issues have eased, and can be expected to ease further as businesses become more familiar with new processes, it is unlikely that they will disappear completely. Among a range of requirements, new Customs & VAT requirements, health and rules of origin checks are a function of the Trade Agreement between the UK and EU. Unless those elements are superseded by

new arrangements, they are likely to be permanent liabilities and a potential drag on businesses and business recovery. This has caused experts to predict that the UK economy will be much smaller going forward. It remains difficult to predict the precise impact of this on the Scottish Borders, but it has potential implications for everyone, most of all for the socially and economically vulnerable. Moreover, as already noted, businesses are not dealing only with the consequences of EU Exit, but also with the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and successive lockdowns, and the significant damage to the national and local economies these have already wrought.

Demographic groups that were already disadvantaged before the pandemic are more likely to experience negative effects in many different areas of their life, including in educational opportunities, employment prospects, financial security, social outcomes and health and wellbeing. Among the most impacted groups are children and young people; older people who are isolated; people with pre-existing mental health problems; people with long-term disabling physical health conditions; unemployed people and those in insecure employment; Black, Asian, and minority ethnic communities; single parents and women.

The number of children in the most deprived deciles was limited. However, there was significant evidence to suggest that Scottish Borders have a higher proportion than comparable rural areas of children and young people who fall into the category of being at risk of falling in poverty. This matters because COVID-19 and EU Exit have made it much more likely that our economy going forward will be much smaller than it was. This has implications with respect to the number of jobs, and how well paid they are. Fewer poorer paid jobs equals more children deprived or at risk of deprivation.

It also likely where children and families are in poverty, their situation is more complex on average than it may have been previously. This reflects the range of factors at play – parents/carers/young people being out of work or, in-work poverty, rising food prices, potential pressure on energy prices, issues over transport access and wider deprivation in relation to connectivity, including digitally.

There is some expectation of a consumer driven economic bounce as we emerge from COVID. Whether that will be sustained and the ability of those families are struggling to catch the wave must be in doubt, however.

The UK Government's Levelling Up funds are, as the title suggests, intended to drive better outcomes for communities that have historically done less well. The Scottish Borders is one of the 13 priority Category 1 areas identified in Scotland under the Community Renewal and it is also priority under the Levelling Up Fund, but the funding arrangements are still 'challenge funds', and it remains an open question as to whether this is the best method of targeting resources to where they are most needed even within regions identified as broadly in need.

## **Fairer Scotland Duty**

The Fairer Scotland Duty (the Duty) places a legal responsibility on particular public bodies in Scotland to actively consider how they can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage when making strategic decisions. To support public bodies in implementing the Duty, the Scottish Government produced interim guidance in March 2018 and is now looking to finalise the guidance through a consultation, which is going on at the present moment. Importantly from a Borders' perspective, South of Scotland Enterprise has been added to the list of public bodies covered by the duty (the Scottish National Investment Bank being the other).

The key issue is how influential the FSD is in practical impact on the services and support to those suffering inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage. The implementation of the Duty remains a work in progress but,

In theory, the FSD should make a difference for communities when socio economic factors have been a consideration, however Scottish Borders Council will need to develop and nurture the practical aspects, as currently only the basics are in place. Poverty and its associated factors are well known in the Borders (and Scotland as a whole), it's the how and what needs to be done to truly meet the merits of the duty that remains a challenge for SBC and Scotland's other 31 councils.

There has been an enormous change since the Council's Corporate Plan was agreed in May 2018. Evidence suggests that nationally and locally our health, economy, societal and cultural outcomes have been deeply negatively impacted and continue to worsen on account of COVID, the Climate and Nature Emergencies, EU Exit. The Refresh seeks to promote a strengthening of the Council's values and vision, and in a unifying mission which builds on the commitments under the four themes of the Corporate Plan. These values, vision and mission require to be set against a refreshed set of strategic priorities. These also require to be translated into action and, ultimately, results. These steps are being pursued through development of Service Plans and a Review of Performance Management.

A specific goal of the Refresh is to construct:

- A set of values, which includes: a People-focus and Inclusion;
- A vision of 'happier and healthier people and places'; and
- A mission to 'optimise wellbeing' including 'Fairness and equality based on the notions of personal freedom, equality of treatment, respect for all human beings and a belief that one's views matter'.

The goal is to ensure that equality and inclusion are fundamental ways of 'doing' which are built into the fabric of all and everything that Scottish Borders Council does. Thus, the Refresh will not relate to a group or groups with specific protected characteristics. The key issue is how influential the FSD is in practical impact on the services and support to those suffering inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage. The implementation of the Duty remains a work in progress but it is intended to strengthen the culture of the organisation in ensuring that all of our activities are informed by values and vision built on fairness and equality with a mission, which includes actively promoting equality and inclusion outcomes.

## **Challenge Poverty Week – October 2020**

Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and other partners supported Challenge Poverty Week in October 2020 by highlighting the wide range of information, advice and support that is available to support people experiencing financial hardship. In previous years, various workshops and events were held, however due to Covid-19 restrictions, the campaign was publicised through social media channels. The social media plan is shown in Appendix 1(e).

## 2021-2022 Report and Action Plan

The Child Poverty Planning Group recently met to discuss high level actions for the 2021/22 Action Plan and the group is in the process of developing these. The Report and Action Plan will be presented to the Community Planning Strategic Board in June 2021 for approval.

The impact of Covid-19 and the recovery from the pandemic will continue to feature as a key priority of the 2021/22 Action Plan and many of the actions reflect this.

The Child Poverty Planning Group has identified the following headings for inclusion in the 2021/22 Action Plan:

- Impact of Covid-19 pandemic including local issues
- Addressing Food insecurity
- Financial Inclusion including mapping current services and promoting awareness of these
- Employability opportunities including the Parental Employment Project, the Intensive Family Support Service and modern apprenticeships in Early Years
- Costs of the school day
- Housing services working with tenants to prevent and alleviate homelessness, avoid rent arrears and manage fuel debt
- Holiday programmes with specific ring-fenced funding from Scottish Government
- The continuation of the successful Connecting Scotland Programme to get people online

## Conclusion

In accordance with The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017, the Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Annual Report for 2020/21 describes the activities undertaken and planned locally to contribute towards Child Poverty targets set out in the Act. These are very important and ambitious targets which are designed to reduce child poverty by 2030. Without intervention and mitigation at both a national and local level, these will be difficult to achieve. Current levels suggest that 1 in 4 Scottish children are affected by child poverty and Local Child Poverty Action Plans must address this.

It is clear from the Annual Progress Report for 2021/21 that Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders is an important issue which Partners take seriously. This is illustrated in the tremendous amount of work undertaken in 2020/21 in challenging circumstances. The Covid-19 pandemic has forced services to think differently so that they could continue to carry out their actions in response to child poverty, and many children and families have benefitted as a result, and will continue to do so in 2021/22.

The Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index, the continuation of Scottish Government PEF Funding, Financial Inclusion work, food security work and other important actions will all assist the Local Authority, Health Board and partners to continue to develop plans to address child poverty in the Scottish Borders, so that they can make a difference to children and families experiencing hardship.

We will continue to raise the profile of our collective need to reduce child poverty as we develop the Action Plan for 2021/22, particularly recognising the impact of Covid-19 and the Community Planning Partnership's Key Priorities and Actions.

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**National Context in Relation to Covid-19 and Child Poverty.**

National context is set out in the table below and shown against the Drivers of Child Poverty

Information is also shown for the nationally identified priority groups at high risk of poverty

Income from Employment	Job Loss	<p>One quarter of adults concerned about providing for their families.</p> <p>One in five households with dependent children reported serious financial difficulty.</p> <p>Lower income households are twice as likely to have increased debts.</p> <p>Ethnic minority groups with high representation in lower paid and high in-work poverty sectors eg accommodation and food services. Single parents, most likely female, more likely work in these sectors, also working part time resulting in higher poverty rates.</p> <p>In-work poverty driven by underemployment ie not working as many hours as would like. Main factor of underemployment is pay, ie low pay adding to the issue.</p> <p>Those in accommodation and food services, retail and health sectors see higher underemployment figures.</p> <p>Families in Scotland pay less for childcare costs but difficulties arise to access childcare in conjunction with working hours.</p> <p>Scotland has one of the lowest provision of childcare for full-time working parents compared to rest of UK.</p> <p>JRF research identifies families on low incomes work atypical hours, resulting in difficulties accessing childcare.</p> <p>Low-paid workers, underemployed workers, women and ethnic minorities impacted by pandemic.</p> <p>Inequality as those on lowest-paid sectors most likely furloughed and made redundant.</p> <p>In May 2020 household incomes had fallen across the UK by 4.5% compared with the previous year.</p> <p>More people now claiming benefits – Nov 2020 count was 210,750 – reason principally of being unemployed.</p> <p>Prior to pandemic in-work poverty in Scotland was 10% in</p>
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		<p>2018-2019, lowest in the UK with those in food and wholesale, and retail faced with highest in-work poverty rates by industry. Over four in ten workers are employed in these sectors.</p> <p>Pre pandemic, underemployment in Scotland was approximately 10%, and more problematic in different geographical areas due to job proportion.</p> <p>From March to June 2020, median hourly pay rate for Scotland was £12.74. Scotland has some of the lowest median hourly pay rates by industry.</p> <p>Family and Childcare Trust – for a part time place at Scottish nursery for children under two costs on average £111.26 per week. This is the lowest rate in the United Kingdom but more than those on low incomes can afford.</p> <p>Number of hours worked in Scotland reduced, as it did in the UK. Mean hours worked per week reduced from 32 at start of 2019 to 25 up to June 2020.</p> <p>By July 2020, UK households with earnings of over £35,000 had increased net bank balances.</p>
Income from Benefits	Benefits	<p>Increase in welfare payments have mitigated falls in income for some lower income households.</p> <p>Increase in welfare payments dampened by policies such as the benefits cap and the two child limit.</p> <p>Wait for Universal Credit can take at least five weeks.</p> <p>Key financial support measures to be reversed in April 2021.</p> <p>Scottish Government introduced Job Retention Scheme (JRS) to support jobs.</p> <p>Scottish Government supplemented policies by extending eligibility for the Self Employed Income Support Scheme.</p> <p>Government increase in Universal Credit of £20 per week.</p> <p>Pre coronavirus half of those in poverty in Scotland lived in families in receipt of income-related benefits.</p> <p>Children living within households in receipt of income-related benefits are three times more likely to live in poverty that those not in receipt.</p> <p>Scottish Government’s Tackling Child Poverty delivery plan – the introduction of the Scottish Child Payment to low-income families with children aged under six.</p> <p>Low quality and precarious jobs, or those living in areas</p>

		<p>where furlough is high have contributed to UC claims.</p> <p>Younger workers aged under 30 accounted for a third of all claimants due to sector shut downs or zero hour contracts.</p> <p>Difficulties faced in establishing what support available and entitled to and using multiple systems eg DWP, HMRC, Social Security Scotland and local government.</p> <p>DWP's Great Britain-wide disability benefits system identified as source of anxiety as reluctance to apply due to stressful medical assessments, not being believed, future reviews and benefit disruption.</p> <p>In September's Programme for Government 2020-2021 Scottish Government announced further boost to Discretionary Housing Payments (extra funding up to £8 million) and intention to start a Tenants Hardship Loan Fund worth £10 million. Anticipated to be available from November 2020 to support those not eligible for DHP and SWF as not eligible for UC, JRF to conduct research by consulting tenants to establish if mix of grants and loans are meeting their needs.</p> <p>Emergency protections assist in short term, but long term issues faced include those out of work and redundant, lack of job vacancies, dwindling savings, increased debt, threats of eviction = pulling more households into poverty.</p> <p>Prior to pandemic one million people in Scotland in poverty, crisis will have meant deeper poverty with new poverty experiences for many.</p> <p>Parental Employment Support Fund (PESF) received investment. Provides intensive person centred employability support for low income parents in and out of work, with a focus on equalities. This is small in relation to other commitments in reducing child poverty. PESF includes support for disabled parents should continue to rise and the programme be extended to end of next parliamentary term in 2026.</p> <p>Discretionary Housing Payments, protocols and mediation, tenant loans may not be sufficient in supporting low income households.</p> <p>Gaps in benefits can be filled by Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) and the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF).</p> <p>In October 2020 473,500 persons in Scotland receiving Universal Credit, increase of 94% since January 2020, increase of 109% since October 2019.</p> <p>Scottish Welfare Fund crisis grant applications 46% higher in the first quarter of 2020-2021 than in the same quarter of the previous year.</p>
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		<p>Universal Credit applications increased. By May 2020 there was a 65% increase in number of households in receipt of UC compared to start of year.</p> <p>UC claimants in employment increased to 34%.</p> <p>UK Government increased local housing allowance and Scottish Government introduced Discretionary Housing Payments. 47,000 more households claimed support with housing costs in May 2020 than in Feb 2020, increase of 10%.</p>
Costs of living	Impact on Families	<p>Living costs accounts for a large proportion of income.</p> <p>Lower income households to be twice as likely to have increased debts, save less and increased use of credit cards.</p> <p>Entered pandemic with significant numbers of households in temporary or unsuitable accommodation, including families with children.</p> <p>An increase in borrowing creates future problems. As the furlough scheme ends, borrowing levels may increase to plug the gap between income and expenditure. Creates long term debt problems and possible eviction.</p> <p>To reduce risk of eviction, Scottish Government extended emergency protection for renters until March 2021 (subject to Parliamentary approval)</p> <p>Currently limited evidence on level and severity of Private Rental Sector arrears and possession proceedings. PayProp data, source referred to in Scottish Government report, recorded from Jan to May 2020 those in rent arrears increased from 8% to 14% during that period.</p> <p>Scottish Government support directed at supporting jobs and businesses. Supported housebuilders and Registered Social Landlords with loans, decreased regulatory burdens and extra grant funding.</p> <p>Homeless stats from August 2020 showed there were 31,333 households assessed as homeless in 2019-2020. An increase of 4% on previous year. 11,665 households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2020, increase of 6% including 7,820 children ie 7% more than the previous year.</p> <p>Scotland 2019, 31% of renters had no savings, with 21% with less than £1000. JRF's June poll showed 9% of all PRS had borrowed money.</p>
Costs of living	Housing and household	<p>Direct and immediate economic effects are falling disproportionately.</p>

	costs	<p>Prior to pandemic, poverty rates in private sector (PRS) had fallen from 36% in 2011-2014 to 33% in 2016-2019.</p> <p>50,000 fewer people in private renting were in poverty by 2016-2019 compared to 5 years previously. This was due to real terms fall in housing costs. The income spent on rent in the private sector increased marginally from 28% to 29% between 2014-2019.</p> <p>JRF believe lower income households are spending in excess of 30% of incomes on rent, cutting back on essentials.</p> <p>40,000 social renters in poverty by 2016-2019 due to policies such as benefit freeze, benefit cap and two-child limit.</p> <p>Poverty rates in Social Rental Sector and Private Rental Sectors in Scotland are high although lower than England and Wales.</p> <p>Greater availability of Social Rental Sector housing assists in lower poverty rates in Scotland.</p> <p>Steps taken by Scottish Government and housing providers to accommodate homeless and implemented the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group recommendations.</p> <p>Coronavirus halted construction, resulting in the 50,000 affordable homes (incl 35,000 social homes) becoming unachievable by May 2021.</p> <p>Constraints on supply of housing results in further demands placed on local housing and homelessness services. Ways to ensure tenants experiencing financial difficulties required and challenges in accessing lower cost housing for families with children living in unaffordable accommodation.</p> <p>Discretionary Housing Payments increased by 13% between June 2019 and June 2020.</p> <p>Not known if Discretionary Housing Payments are meeting the needs of those under financial pressure.</p> <p>Lack of money increases family's inability to purchase materials. Living in overcrowded households, cold or damp, disadvantaged neighbourhood, difficulties in accessing food.</p> <p>48% of households using more fuel since social distancing introduced.</p> <p>A third of households in Scotland, 34%, were financially vulnerable in 2016-2018 ie not enough savings to cover basic living costs for three months. This increased to 55% of households in the lowest 10% income grouping and just 12% of those in the highest income group.</p>
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		<p>In July 2020 58% of Scottish adults agreed pandemic would have financial impact on selves and family with a quarter concerned about paying bills.</p> <p>Social Rented Sector (SRS) rent arrears from £150 million in April 2020 to £163 million by July 2020.</p> <p>In June 2020 26% renters surveyed by Citizens Advice Bureau concerned re making payments, compared to 19% of mortgage holders.</p> <p>Poverty rates in social renting sector (SRS) increased from 35% in 2012-2015 to 40% in 2016-2019, mostly due to rising rents, with housing costs rising by 9%.</p> <p>In August 2020 social landlords issued 647 notice of proceedings for rent arrears, recovering 30 properties.</p> <p>Lower housing costs in Scotland has lessened the shortfall between income and expenditure. By June 2020 5% of households in Scotland were behind on their housing costs compared to 5% in Northern Ireland, 6% in England and 8% in Wales.</p> <p>Cheaper SRS rents in Scotland (20% lower than in England over the last decade) have assisted families to stay afloat. Income reductions have resulted in 32% of SRS fallen into arrears, 15% council tax, 12% rent (YouGov poll conducted by JRF in June 2020).</p> <p>Scotland has smaller proportion living in Private Rental Sector of 14% than compared to England and a larger proportion in Social Rental Sector of 24%.</p> <p>Scottish Housing Regulator depicted by August 2020 total arrears in SRS increased to over £165 million, averaging 6.37% compared to £137.3 million for the full year to March 2019. 48% of SRS tenants have seen income drop during pandemic.</p> <p>PRS been hit hard – JRF’s June poll concluded 45% of PRS tenants had drop in incomes since March, much higher proportion than those with a mortgage 36% or rented through a housing association or local authority 27%. Although on 3% of PRS renters fell behind on rent, a quarter of these households fell behind on bills.</p>
Costs of living	Food insecurity	<p>One quarter of adults reported being very or somewhat worried about affording enough food for themselves or households.</p> <p>Scottish Government financial support contributed to a further 53,000 children becoming eligible for free school meals (FSM) during pandemic. With additional £12.6 million available to provide support during summer holidays.</p>

		<p>Based on projections, Food Foundation estimates between 252,000 and 337,000 working aged adults will become food insecure in the six months from September 2020.</p>
Costs of living	Digital exclusion	<p>Young persons are first stage adopters of social media and smart phones, which may be to their advantage.</p> <p>Excessive media coverage of COVID-19 may have negative impacts on children and young people, as does exposure to online predators, cyberbullying and harmful content.</p> <p>Increased screen time can be associated with health issues, eg obesity, snacking.</p> <p>Social media is a vital tool for young persons to have contact.</p> <p>Disadvantages noted by young people include overload of screen time due to schooling, socialising, games.</p> <p>Reliance of technology raises issues with inequalities of access eg equipment, broadband, data packages and mobile phone credit.</p> <p>Low income families disadvantaged.</p> <p>Digital access, or lack of it, impacts on social connection and education.</p> <p>Workshops held in Scotland identified differential access to digital technology as a source of inequality.</p> <p>Barrier to social engagement and educational development.</p> <p>UK wide survey – within secondary schools 54% of pupils had own electronic device, 43% shared one and 3% had no access. Scottish participants reported 47% had own device, 50% shared devices and 3% had no access.</p> <p>69% of young people in UK aged 12-15 years have a social media profile.</p> <p>2018 Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HSBC) reported 95% of young people owned wi-fi connected smartphones.</p> <p>In households where parents were unemployed, covering all age groups, 9% of students did not have access to device, compared with 3% of those whose parents/carers were employed or employed and furloughed.</p> <p>UK Co-Space survey concluded 42.8% of parents reporting child's screen time as a main source of stress.</p> <p>Scottish Online in Lockdown Survey – 24% of young people</p>

		<p>experienced bullying online during first lockdown.</p> <p>Survey of parents/carers established 84% of secondary students needed access to a computer.</p> <p>Lack of access impacted on attainment. 30% of teachers and school staff in a Young Minds survey were not confident pupils had appropriate resources for online learning.</p> <p>Office for National Statistics (ONS) reported 9% of parents/carers identified lack of devices as main reason for child struggling with home learning, particularly the case in one-adult households</p>
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Lone Parents	<p>Single parents, most likely female, more likely work in food and wholesale, and retail sectors, also working part time resulting in higher poverty rates as are ethnic minorities.</p> <p>Lack of access impacted on attainment. 30% of teachers and school staff in a Young Minds survey were not confident pupils had appropriate resources for online learning. Office for National Statistics (ONS) reported 9% or parents/carers identified lack of devices as main reason for child struggling with home learning. Particularly the case in one-adult households. Barrier to social engagement and educational development.</p>
Disabled	<p>No progress in reducing poverty rate for those with a disability in recent years.</p> <p>DWP's Great Britain-wide disability benefits system identified as source of anxiety as reluctance to apply due to stressful medical assessments, not being believed, future reviews and benefit disruption.</p> <p>Parental Employment Support Fund (PESF) received investment. Provides intensive person centred employability support for low income parents in and out of work, with a focus on equalities. This is small in relation to other commitments in reducing child poverty. PESF includes support for disabled parents should continue to rise and the programme be extended to end of next parliamentary term in 2026.</p> <p>The shift towards digital learning will impact different groups in different ways. Online learning will be a benefit for students who have fluctuating health conditions, but poses a challenge in making learning accessible for disabled students.</p> <p>Poverty amongst disabled people – rate is higher in Scotland than UK. 23% of people have disability or long-term illness in 2016-2019 compared to UK percentage of 21%.</p>
Ethnic Minority	<p>Ethnic minority groups with high representation in lower paid and high in-work poverty sectors eg accommodation and food services.</p> <p>Women, single parents and ethnic minorities more likely to work in high poverty sectors.</p>

	<p>Low-paid workers, underemployed workers, women and ethnic minorities impacted by pandemic.</p> <p>Home learning where English is an additional language or where children have additional needs have experienced additional barriers. Online survey parents who believed their children would be behind in their learning on return to school increase from 16% in Week 1 to 25% in Week 4.</p>
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Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
<b>Employability</b>					
Launch Intensive family support service	1	City Region Deal SBC	Number of participants  Number of employment opportunities	Families who are geographically isolated from existing services  Young parent families  Families where parents are aged 30-39	Start delayed due to pandemic. Planned start now April/May 2021
Engage with the Job Centre to support and advise individuals affected by COVID-19 or facing redundancy	1	Volunteer Centre Borders (VCB)	Number of participants	Young People and families	In 2020, due to Covid, intervention in this area had to be put on hold due to emergency support needed for those suffering from redundancy or reduced income due to the Pandemic. Engagement with Job centre should commence in Summer 2021 to deliver workshop sessions and a possible Partnership Fair to support a wider range of people.
Work experience opportunities promoted via networks for young people	1	Live Borders	Number of work experience opportunities available and taken up	Young People	From March 2020 and ongoing majority of staff furloughed and no further recruitment across the organisation
Promote the Youth Volunteering Ambassadors Project and the Saltire Awards Scheme to all young people under the age of 25.	1	VCB	Number of participants	Young People under the age of 25	The Ambassador project and recruitment of volunteers was moved online due to the covid-19 pandemic. We had 9 active ambassadors from April – December 2020 and 7 have stayed on and are still in the role now. They took part in multiple projects over the course of 2020 including take over days, wellbeing promotions, training, good news videos of stories of amazing volunteering, community empowerment, project development or fundraising efforts from children from right across the region, they shared their experiences and connected with the primary school's team's platform.

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Support Skills Development Scotland and Activity Agreements to find opportunities for young people who may be vulnerable or lacking in confidence	1	VCB	Number of participants	Vulnerable young people	Due to restrictions, it has been challenging to continue this work, however as organisations have become more resilient, opportunities began to open up on a virtual basis, and 10 young people have been placed since October 2020 in opportunities who are still volunteering now. We have signposted 14 young people to organisations. These young people have either been referred to VCB by school, SDS or activity agreement or Quarriers. From March 2020 - October 2020 we placed another 25 referred young people to local opportunities.
Encourage participation in the Borders College Youth Pathway Project	1	VCB YouthBorders	Number of participants	Young People	Youth Pathway to Employment, involving Borders college, DYW, SDS, Youth Borders and SBC was designed and developed – in anticipation of need from learners who were at risk of not having a positive destination post school, particularly those who would have left school for employment. The pathway was not delivered in 2020/21 but remains available for future delivery.
Engagement with Community Job Scotland opportunities for young people's employment	1	Third Sector Youth Organisations (YouthBorders)	Number of opportunities	Young People	At least 5 opportunities were created in Third Sector Youth Organisations. CJS Opportunities were provided by Cheviot Youth, Stable Life, Tweeddale Youth Action and TD1 Youth Hub.
Provide a weekly ASN Youth Group for 14-19 year olds to support the transition out of education and enhancing employability of ASN young people	1	Borders Additional Needs Group	Number of opportunities	ASN young people	From July 2020 – March 2021  Total number of sessions: <b>30</b> Outdoor sessions: <b>10</b> Indoor Sessions: <b>2</b> Online Sessions: <b>18</b> Total YP engagements: <b>165</b> Average #YP per session: <b>5.5</b>
Work with local partners to address the impact of Covid-19 on the local economy to deliver a range of support measures to sustain	1	South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE)	Number of opportunities Sustained employment	ALL	South of Scotland Enterprise's primary focus for 2020/21 was to do everything it could to help the South of Scotland respond and recover from the impacts of Covid-19. Through the funding that it provided to businesses and community

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businesses and jobs and address growth opportunities.					organisations, SOSE safeguarded or supported the creation of over 3,700 jobs.
Promote the principles of 'Fair Work', encouraging organisations to meet the expectations of the living wage	1	SOSE	Number of jobs paying the living wage	ALL	South of Scotland Enterprise promotes Fair Work to the businesses that it works with. Applicants for South of Scotland Enterprise funds must evidence in grant applications how the business is addressing the Fair Work Agenda. All SOSE grant appraisals include an assessment of how the business is addressing the Fair Work Agenda and officials identify where improvements can be made, or where examples of good practice are in place.
<b>Education</b>					
Run family learning programmes targeted at 18 of our primary schools where there are the highest levels of poverty	1,3	SBC CLD	Maximised income for families, enhanced financial capabilities and increasing their income levels through improved employment	Families, children and young people	Jul –Dec 2020: 66 parents took part in learning opportunities. Of these learning opportunities, 41 resulted in achievement of one or more positive outcomes for their family.  Severely impacted due to Covid 19 and lockdowns. Work is still in place with the identified 18 primary schools. Some work was transferrable to remote learning approaches but many courses not deliverable in this way.
Provide telephone/online support to parents/carers. This includes support/signposting and learning around financial inclusion and delivering programmes to develop employability skills	1	SBC Adult Learning Team	Number of participants	Parents and carers	The CLD service have provided support for parents via phone, online via Teams and occasionally through one to one meetings outdoors when Covid-19 restrictions allowed. April – June 2020: <b>94 parents</b> contacted (phone, Facebook/messenger, Whatsapp). Deliveries of Fareshare food to vulnerable families in Selkirk area. Cooking videos, demonstrating how to use some of the Foodbank/Fareshare food were created and posted on Facebook.  Issues raised by parents included:; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of free school meals</li> </ul>

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children with additional support needs, including return to school</li> <li>• Looking after young children's needs while shielding; having no garden for children to play in, children visiting parents in different homes</li> <li>• Marriage break-up</li> <li>• Police involvement with family member</li> <li>• Domestic/ sexual abuse (current and historic)</li> <li>• Pregnancy</li> <li>• Foster care</li> <li>• No access to Council and other services</li> <li>• Return to school, including transitions</li> <li>• Post-natal depression</li> </ul> <p>The Adult Learning team continued their telephone/online support to parents/carers throughout the pandemic despite the restrictions they have worked with 142 learners, 90 of whom completed courses that developed employability skills.</p>
Recruit 2 Parental Employability Support Workers (Government Funded) aiming to increase parental income through employment	1	SBC	Increased parental income and employment	Parents	<p>Workers recruited and programme started Oct 2020. 35 referrals</p> <p>Employment outcomes: 2 parents gained employment. Further learning outcomes: 2 parents enrolled on "Prepare to Care" course at Borders College; 15 expressed interest in "Introduction to Childcare" course at Borders College starting April 21.</p> <p>4 parents enrolled on Open University Access course. Financial advice: 15 parents referred to SBC Welfare Benefits Advisor</p>
Support the reduction of costs of the school day by facilitating and contributing to school uniform swaps and clothing banks	2	Third Sector Youth Organisations (YouthBorders)  Early Years Centres	Reduced cost to families	Children and families	<p>At least 5 Third Sector Youth Organisations supported this action.</p> <p>Some organisations facilitated clothing swaps or provided vouchers for clothing and school equipment. There are also clothing rails in some schools.</p> <p>Organisations noted the impact of building/school closures due to Covid-19 impacting on uptake of this support.</p>

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					Early Years Centres have been supporting the operation of Clothes Banks as one of their key areas of work.
Draw up individual school plans for targeted intervention to close the poverty related attainment gap	2	SBC  Education Scotland	Indicators on attainment	School children	Every school in SBC which qualifies for Pupil Equity Fund has developed plans which outline the key interventions they are putting in place to identify, close and mitigate all poverty-related attainment gaps. In addition two of our schools have been identified as Scottish Attainment Challenge schools and have received additional funding targeted at supporting the attainment of their most disadvantaged learners. Planning across all of our schools include a strong focus on developing literacy and numeracy skills, as these are recognised as gateways to achievement and attainment across the curriculum. We have also incorporated planning to support learner wellbeing, to ensure that children and young people are ready to learn and set up to succeed.
Roll out poverty related training to all staff in Education Service	2	SBC	Indicators on attainment	School children	This was re-prioritised to inclusion and nurture training. This programme is in the process of being rolled out to all staff.
Create an equity network and link to other Local Authorities to share best practice in education for children and young people affected by poverty	2	SBC  Other Local Authorities	Uptake to sharing best practice	School children	Now led by our Equity and inclusion Officer who links to SEIC colleagues and relevant national networks.
The CLD service and third sector partners provide targeted programmes to support disadvantaged young people to succeed and achieve.	1	SBC Third Sector Youth Organisations YouthBorders	Success in obtaining non-formal qualifications and becoming employable	Disadvantaged young people	At least 103 young people achieved a SCQF credit-rated qualification through Third Sector Youth Organisations. These include Youth Achievement and Dynamic Youth Awards. This activity was delivered by organisations including: TD1 Youth Hub, Beyond Earlstoun, Eat Sleep Ride, Rowland's, Stable Life and Cheviot Youth.  Again the delivery of this had been impacted by Covid 19 particularly the school lockdowns which is where most of the

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
					work is done by CLD staff. 165 young people participated in 179 courses.
Participate in Scottish Government's Youth Guarantee by the offer of an appropriate study programme for all school leavers who apply	1	Borders College	Uptake Numbers enrolled Numbers successfully completing	All school leavers	This is an ongoing initiative and will continue for AY21-22. Working with partners we offer the most appropriate option to enable YP to access further education and participate in courses leading to a recognised qualification
<b>Information &amp; Advice</b>					
Provide benefits advice and support to children with families. This service is aimed at Pre-natal through to secondary school and is carried out by a dedicated Early Years Welfare Benefits Assistant.  Continue to deliver the Early years Pathway Project – improving access to benefits information, advice and support for early years families.	3	SBC Financial Inclusion Team	Increased awareness of the benefits available Assistance to claim, including challenging negative benefit application decisions where appropriate	Early Years Families	Monetary gains have increased in 2020/21 despite a lower number of referrals due to Covid restrictions. Face to face meetings have not been possible and the majority of enquiries are dealt with by phone.  The Financial Inclusion Group promotes the Health Scotland eLearning Child Poverty Health and Wellbeing <a href="http://www.healthscotland.scot/learning-resources/child-poverty-health-and-wellbeing">http://www.healthscotland.scot/learning-resources/child-poverty-health-and-wellbeing</a>  The new Parental Employability Support Team (PES) started up at the latter end of last year and a Welfare Benefits Assistant provides benefit advice to referred unemployed young families where required. Cases can be referred to the Team where benefit claimants are unemployed and want help in finding employment. Most of the families are simply looking to check their existing benefits and most think they have their full entitlement but with the introduction of the new Scottish payments and grants, many were surprised to find that they had additional entitlement and benefits for the cases referred totalled around £50,000 over the 5 month period to March 2021.
Continue to ensure that the Welfare Benefits Assistant builds up networks within the	3	NHS Midwifery NHS GP Surgeries	Quarterly statistical reporting on referral	Vulnerable families	The HVs are asking about financial inclusion at all core visits and recording signposting and referrals on NHS Borders database (EMIS) - quarterly data report in place

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
Early Years Centres, local primary & secondary schools, NHS health visitors, GP surgeries, dental services etc to ensure that access to benefits advice is readily available across a range of services who are already supporting vulnerable families.		NHS Health Visitors NHS Dental Services Education Services RSL's Social Work	numbers and monetary gains Number of referrals from Partners		
Deliver the Financial Inclusion Pilot in Galashiels Health centre where money advisor support is provided during midwifery clinic. Covid-19 restrictions caused this to be put on hold. This will re-start when the situation allows.	3	SBC NHS Borders	Increase take up	Pregnant women	The pilot has been paused due to COVID19.
Continue to promote Take up campaigns for Scottish Government benefits eg Best Start Grants in schools, health centres and early years centres.	3	SBC NHS Borders	Increased take up Number of grants authorised and total income paid out	Families	The promotion of the Best Start Grants and Scottish Child Payment is a Quick Link on the NHS Borders Money Worries App and Social Media  Scottish Child Payment commenced in February 2021 SBC Best Start Grants - Applications 1.925 Authorised 74% Income £458k
Continue to promote the SBC website pages on Welfare Benefits for Families with children.	3	SBC	Increased income into the poorest households	Families	Additional content has been added to include details of the Social Security Scotland benefits and website has been used to promote hardship payments funded by Scottish Government for families who are entitled to free school meals which has also led to an increase in take up for free school meals and clothing grants.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
<p>Finalise and launch a Money Worries app to provide information on benefits/support available. (Supported by Scottish Government Financial Inclusion Funding)</p> <p>Money worries resources made available for midwives and health visitors.</p> <p>Continue to develop systems to record conversations/response to money worries enquiries</p>	3	SBC  NHS Health Improvement Team	Number of downloads of the Money Worries App	Families	The Money Worries App was successfully launched on 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2021, following a period of testing and improvements. Launch week communications has demonstrated a combined social media reach of 21,594. Reporting processes are currently being agreed.
<p>Introduce e-form for referrals to Financial Inclusion</p>	3	SBC NHS Borders	Uptake of use of e-form	Families	Progress has been delayed due to Covid but will be introduced in 21/22.
<p>Commitment to free access to family days out in museums service and outdoor play area (Harestanes Park) and active promotion of low/no-cost access to family days out</p>	2	Live Borders	Number of participants	Families	From March 2020 facilities/sites closed. Partial reopening in July 2020 with access to parks/play areas. Further closure at the end of year and only partial reopening of free access facilities.
<p>Accessing emergency funds for families in crisis via routes such as Borders Children's Charity, Cash for Kids, or organisation specific crisis funds</p>	2	Third Sector Youth Organisations YouthBorders NHS Borders C&F SW	Number of awards applied for	All families in crisis	<p>From a sample of Third Sector Youth Organisations, 70% had accessed emergency funding for families. This sample of organisations had sought funds to assist 223 families.</p> <p>Between April 2020 and June 2020, Cash for Kids funded £2627.20 to C&amp;F SW. This ensured 36 families totalling 77 children, aged from birth to 18 years impacted by Covid-19 were provided with financial support using All Pay Cards.</p>

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					Cash for Kids, STV Winter Fund, Youth Scotland Winter Fund, Borders Children's Charity were all utilised by community organisations to support families in need. Some national third sector organisations were able to utilise their own crisis funding for Borders families, including Action for Children and Children 1 <sup>st</sup> .
Raise awareness of specific information on welfare benefits, social security Scotland and all relevant information regarding finances, hearing and carers allowances to ASN families	3	Borders Additional Needs Group	Increased benefits	ASN families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Distributed National Lottery Funding £10,000 to 23 children</li> <li>- Distributed RRR foundation Scotland funding of £1,500 to 14 families</li> <li>- Supported 8 families claim DLA</li> <li>- Held 2 workshops on ILF Transition Funding and supported 5 families apply for funding</li> <li>- Supported 10 families with Food parcels</li> </ul>
Create a dedicated website for ASN parents and carers to improve access to specific information	3	Borders Additional Needs Group	Increased benefits	ASN families	Website and ASN monthly Bulletin produced.
Promote Challenge Poverty Week 5 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	1,2,3	SBC NHS Partners	Uptake of various promoted schemes	All	Scottish Borders Council and Partners supported Challenge Poverty Week by highlighting the wide range of information, advice and support that is available to support people experiencing financial hardship. A news release was used to launch the week's activities and different messages were posted on social media each day.
Continue to raise awareness of Child Poverty by holding a Child Poverty Partnership Event	1,2,3	All Partners	Creation of effective Action Plan with input from Partners	All	A virtual Child Poverty Workshop was held in July 2020. Child Poverty Planning Group Partners attended along with other key groups and services. The workshop gave all partners the opportunity to provide an update on their work relating to child poverty. The Group then submitted their actions for inclusion in the 2020/21 Report and Action Plan.
Improve the use of the Neglect Toolkit by the Child Protection Delivery Group in	3	SBC Child Protection Delivery Group	Audit activity	Children and young people most at risk of	Taking cognisance of the learning from the Neglect audit (2020) practitioners have subsequently been provided with new materials to better support their use of the toolkit.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
<p>relation to income maximisation support for families.</p> <p>Collation of what income maximisation support is being offered to families and when, as well as following up on what difference the support has made</p>			Child Protection Indicators	needing the Child Protection System	<p>Materials were disseminated in November 2020: a Neglect Toolkit pathway providing clarity around expectations of the use of the Neglect Toolkit as well as a learning aid powerpoint / accompanying notes (for managers to deliver in lieu of Covid-19 impacting on delivery of training). Poverty is discussed in our CP/AP training briefly but we intend to strengthen this as we go forward.</p> <p>The quarterly Child Protection Minimum Dataset now includes reporting on the relationship between children on the Child Protection Register and deprivation. This data suite, with accompanying analysis, is considered and scrutinised by the CPDG, Public Protection Committee and then the Critical Services Oversight Group (CSOG). The Financial Inclusion Team are undertaking a project to map out available services. This will be used by the CPDG once available.</p>
<p>Award discretionary funding to students in financial hardship as a result of family circumstances for housing and food costs</p>	3	Borders College	Number of awards	Students in financial hardship	Borders College disseminated in excess of £350K in hardship and discretionary funding to its students to support living costs and mitigate effects of COVID19 restrictions.
<b>Housing &amp; Energy</b>					
<p>New Affordable Housing: Deliver an estimated 122 new homes during 2020-2021</p> <p>Through the Local Housing Strategy (LHS), continue to monitor the level of affordable housing being built</p>	2 2 2	SBC and all RSL's	<p>Number of affordable homes completed</p> <p>Number of people receiving housing support</p>	All families and young people in housing need	<p>108 affordable homes delivered throughout the Scottish Borders, some projects having been delayed as a result of Covid.</p> <p>Scottish Borders Housing Association completed a new development of four three bed family homes at Heriotfield in Oxtun. These homes feature air source heating: an energy-efficient, low-carbon home energy solution for off-grid homes, allowing tenants to both heat their homes economically and reduce their impact on the environment.</p>

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
Through the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP), set out the strategic investment priorities for affordable housing over a 5 year period.					<p>The 2021/26 SHIP proposed delivery of 1,125 new affordable homes, under-pinned by an estimated investment of £166m</p> <p>The SHIP 2021/26 includes proposals for Scottish Borders Housing Association to build 4 homes as part of a collaboration with Aberlour to provide a specialist young person's service facility.</p> <p>SBHA's Development Programme will deliver 22 new build affordable homes early 2021-22.</p> <p>SBHA will seek to maximise our financial capacity to increase our contribution to new homes in the coming years and will confirm further in 2021-22.</p>
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 plan has developed a range of policy and practical responses, with commitment from a range of partners. This will enable young people to make more successful and sustainable transitions into their own housing.</p> <p>Work is currently underway towards ensuring these actions are delivered and Scottish Borders Council continue to work closely with our partners.</p> <p>Progress on some of the actions has been delayed somewhat due to the pandemic and the impact upon staffing resource that this has had.</p>
Implement the Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plan	2	Borders Homelessness and Health Strategic Partnership & LHS Partnership Group	Number accessing Housing Options service	All, particularly those at risk of homelessness	<p>CAB – Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and policies put in place to stop evictions etc there was less risk of people being made homeless.</p> <p>Through our Warm &amp; Well Borders Project in partnership with SBC &amp; Changeworks we have assisted approx. 250 people with income maximisation and energy issues.</p> <p>Also worked in partnership with NHS/Healthy living network, SBC and others to devise and launch NHS Borders Money worries App.</p>
SBHA continue to increase lets to homeless people. (60% year to date for 2020/21 compared to 43% for 2019/20)	2	CAB	% of unintentionally homeless household accessing settled accommodation		

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
		Healthy Living Network  SBHA	Annual reporting against KPI's established in the Action Plan  Increased % of lets to homeless people		Throughout the last year we have continue to offer a service by telephone and e-mail with the majority of our advisers working remotely.
The Regeneration of Beech Avenue, Galashiels	2	Waverly Housing/SBC	More people living independently in affordable and sustainable homes  More people able to afford to heat their homes	Waverley Housing tenants and families (existing and future)	<p>Although full application of RRTP resources were delayed due to the COVID-19 emergency the following key actions where achieved;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part one of the Crisis Intervention Fund aimed at supporting households who face homelessness due to rent arrears was launched</li> <li>• Organisations were invited to tender for the delivery of Housing First support service.</li> <li>• Increase in temporary accommodation to manage the additional demand brought about by the Covid-19 emergency</li> <li>• Successful applications submitted to the Connecting Scotland programme supported 10 homeless households and 237 RSL tenants become digitally included.</li> <li>• EHA adopted a new allocations policy in October 2020 which includes platinum pass for statutory homeless and other key priority groups.</li> </ul> <p>SBHA is a partner in the Borders Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) and through this work we are now making 42% of our lets to homeless households (this compares to 29% in 2018-19).</p> <p>During 2020/21 the Council used Second Homes Council Tax to Waverley Housing to progress the regeneration of Beech Avenue Galashiels. There are 229 homes in the study area and the proposals envisage the demolition of 159 homes and provision of 109 new build energy efficient homes for social rent.</p>

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
					<p>The project also includes the refurbishment of 68 homes, which is now substantially complete. The refurbishment element of the project comprises the installation of external wall insulation ('EWI'), work being undertaken to properties along with roof repairs, replacement main doors and entry systems.</p> <p>Contract work started on site in January 2020 based upon a 30 week notional timescale. Due to Covid-19 restrictions the programme of work was interrupted, and the revised completion date for these refurbishment works is April 2021.</p>
Deliver the New Home development programme	2	Berwickshire Housing Association (BHA)	Statutory compliance measures relating to improved energy efficiency and performance of homes	BHA tenants	<p>Springfield Phase 1, Duns completed 29 new homes, with handover and sign ups commencing on 9/12/20. Further developments include;</p> <p>Ayton Beanburn Phase 1 – which is on site. Phase 1 started on site 6/1/20 and will deliver 31 new homes by June 2021.</p> <p>3 further sites are within planning phases and could deliver a further 80+ new homes within Berwickshire within the development programme.</p>
Planned major improvement to existing homes	2	BHA	Statutory compliance measures relating to improved energy efficiency and performance of homes	BHA tenants	Major works were halted for much of 2020/21 owing to Scottish Government guidelines. BHA have rolled capital budget forward into 2021/22 to ensure we meet all statutory compliance targets and measures within the revised delivery timescales.
Provide financial support to third sector partners and social enterprises on community capacity building	2	BHA	<p>Increased local and accessible opportunities to grow and develop – building confidence and capacity across our communities</p> <p>Number of participants</p>	BHA tenants	Berwickshire Housing Association provides a wide range of financial support and undertake a variety of initiatives in the Community. These are detailed in Appendix 1(f).

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
<p>Provide funding and sponsorship of specific projects including school food events, access to recreational activities, intergenerational initiatives and tenant run pilot projects eg. Berwickshire Swap</p> <p>Provide funding and support to existing local projects that engage directly with children impacted by poverty and low income</p>			Parents and guardians are reliably supported to improve their prospects and the environment they nurture children within		
<p>Deliver full EESSH (Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing) compliance. Current compliance is 96.2% from under 30% in 2016.</p>	2	Scottish Borders Housing Association (SBHA)	Full compliance (100%)	SBHA Tenants	Since 2015 SBHA's investment programme has improved the warmth of our homes to EESSH standards from 31% in 2015-16 to 98.3% at the end of 2021-22 - this has significantly impacted on families. Going forward we expect to make significant investment to raise our homes to EESSH 2.
<p>Develop a vulnerability assessment toolkit to identify the most at risk households. This will support plans to be put in place to enhance tenancy sustainment and improve life choices.</p>	2	SBHA	Number of tenants managing to sustain tenancies	SBHA tenants at risk	The percentage of SBHA Tenants who sustained their tenancy for more than a year increased by 2% in 2020-21. SBHA will develop a Wellbeing Framework which will enable us to identify Tenants with specific needs and target our services appropriately. SBHA will introduce emergency community monitoring tool software in 2021-22 which will risk assess our tenants' support needs and determine the levels of contact and intervention required.
<p>Implement a toolkit to measure the impact of social housing in Scotland with a specific aim of supporting Scottish Government's child poverty targets.</p>	2	SBHA	Additional social housing	SBHA tenants	In 2021-22, SBHA will implement a Social Value Impact toolkit, developed with SFHA, to measure the social value attributed to support services accessed by Tenants. A pilot will commence in May on the impact of the Social Housing Fuel Support Fund.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>					
Explore options for early intervention models, including an intensive family support service (via Citydeal), and family group decision making to support families to become more resilient and determine their own solutions to issues.	1,2,3	SBC Children & Families Social Work	No of participants New employment	Families in need of support from Children & Families Social Work services	Pilot project for family group agreed. Decision has been drafted and will be progressed.
Children & Families Social Work are focussing on the impact that COVID-19 is having on children and Families struggling through the Pandemic. The service is exploring opportunities for collaboration focused on outcomes. This involves listening to, and involving children, young people and their families with lived experience of poverty in shaping their response.	1,2,3	SBC Children & Families Social Work	Opportunities taken up	Families in need of support from Children & Families Social Work services	Ongoing interaction and contact with families. Families are having additional emotional and financial issues throughout the pandemic. There is also an increase in new families that have not previously used the C&F SW Service.
Provide Holiday clubs for Additional Special Needs (ASN) families with free lunches (funded by Scottish Government School Hunger Programme)	2	Borders Additional Needs Group	Number of lunches provided	ASN families	Received no funding from Scottish Government Hunger Programme in this financial year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Held Social outings at Farm x 4 weeks</li> <li>- 8 week Forest School for youths</li> <li>- Created Online video and music session x 6</li> <li>- Filmmaking opportunities for ASN youths</li> </ul>
Provide sensory toys and cleaning materials for families with an ASN child	2	Borders Additional Needs Group	Number of items bought and given out	ASN families	Distributed support to 39 families with sensory toys and sensory equipment

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
who may be sensory seeking/bed wetting					
Continue to promote online videos to mothers on support for weaning through the Early Years Centres.	2	SBC NHS Borders	Uptake of scheme	Mothers with babies	<p>Weaning video clips on Facebook: 17 video clips were released; they have reached 16,138 people, with 825 video views and 194 reactions, comments shares.</p> <p>Weaning Plus video clips on Facebook: 8 video clips were released; they have reached 4315 people, with 276 video views and 114 reactions, comments shares.</p>
Issue wellbeing packs to young people identified by CLD Youth Learning Staff	2	CLD Youth Learning Staff	Number of packs issued	Targeted children and young people	No progress was made in this area in 2020/21. There are plans to undertake this action 2021/22.
Co-ordination and development of Holiday Programmes for children and young people which include provision of positive and engaging activities and food	2	<p>Community Learning &amp; Development</p> <p>Health Improvement</p> <p>Live Borders</p> <p>YouthBorders</p>	<p>No of programmes</p> <p>No of participants</p> <p>Evaluation of Programmes</p>	Targeted communities	<p>Some Holiday programmes paused due to the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Face to face holiday programmes have been translated into the virtual food environments &amp; activities in many creative ways across partners.</p> <p>Meals &amp; More funding has been offered to Early Years Centres.</p> <p>Due to Lockdown restrictions no programmes happened in October or Easter but discussions and planning are underway for Summer 2021. Limited Programmes due to furlough, demand and restrictions</p> <p>Scottish Borders Council worked in partnership with TD1 Youth Hub. The programme was delivered primarily online, with STEM sessions, baking, photography and self-care. Young people and their family received a food parcel each week, with themed meals recipes. All young people had the chance to start a Youth Achievement Award or Dynamic Youth Award.</p>

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
					A case study in Appendix 1(f) highlights youth work and food insecurity through a programme delivered by TD1 Youth Hub in with the Community and Learning Development Service (CLD).
Specific Project in Burnfoot to encourage greater participation in sport/physical activity for the whole family group	2	Live Borders SBC	Evaluation framework of participants	Targeted communities	From March 2020 and ongoing majority of staff furloughed. No further progress at present
Active Schools Holiday Camps Programme to actively support children and families to have affordable child care options during school holidays	2	Live Borders SBC	Number of participants Number of programmes Healthier, Happier, Stronger in-house evaluation methodology	All	From March 2020 and ongoing majority of staff furloughed. No further progress at present
Provide free or low cost access to activities, experiences and trips during evenings, weekends and school holiday periods	2	Third Sector Youth Organisations YouthBorders	Number of participants Service user feedback	Young People (8+)	<p>From a sample of 13 Third Sector Youth Organisations, they provided free or low-cost activities to 711 young people. This is a quarter of the YouthBorders network, so this figure could be as many as 2800 as a projection. This is half of the total number of young people associated with the YouthBorders network in our annual membership census. Opportunities and activities were impacted by Covid-19 restrictions for a large part of the year.</p> <p>Feedback from Young People involved in community-based Youth Work activity:  <i>“I like being part of groups where people are interested in the same things as me because then we can talk and I feel comfortable”.</i></p> <p><i>“I like the opportunities we get. You help us find things we are interested in, and it helps for the future.”</i></p>

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
					"I join in with group stuff now and feel welcome and listened to."
Deliver an outdoor activity/nurture summer holiday programme to young people entitled to free school meals or LAC.	2	CLD Youth Workers Cashback for Communities	Number of participants	Young people entitled to free school meals or looked after children	Due to Lockdown restrictions no programmes happened in October or Easter but discussions and planning are underway for Summer 2021 to improve inclusion rates in summer programmes for those that require additional support.
Promote the development of Young Scot membership and rewards which support wellbeing, provision of trusted information, and provide opportunities and experiences to young people	2	CLD Youth Learning  YouthBorders  JHIT	Uptake	Anyone aged 11-25	The #BordersWellbeing campaign in autumn 2020 saw the development of local content focused on 6 ways to be well. The campaign increased Young Scot membership in the Borders by 45 users; reached 20k users on across social media platform; and offered 27 new Young Scot rewards; 40% of which were claimed by young people in SIMD 1 and 2.  Outline programme discussed with Young Scot. Funding to develop this requires to be agreed.
Undertake a mentoring initiative to support those most at risk of disengagement to successfully transition through senior phase of school to college	2	Borders College	Uptake	Care experienced young people, those in rural areas, social isolation, young carers and school refusers	As school pupils did not access the College physically this AY due to COVID restrictions the resource was diverted to support those senior phase pupils who had received support last year with additional assistance to ensure their enrolment and commencement of their studies was fully supported. 20 senior phase pupils who have transitioned to college are care experienced, young carers or from the most deprived postcodes, and at most risk of poverty, received this mentoring support which included ensuring they were provided with the materials they required to commence their studies as well as equipment such as laptops and desks and chairs were made available.
Undertake 'Care Aware' initiative to provide support and a named person for care experienced young people and student carers. The	2	Borders College	Number of participants Successful income maximisation	Care experienced young people and student carers	88 care experienced students and 61 student with caring responsibilities enrolled on College programmes AY 20-21 all offered a named person for 1-1 contact whenever required and ensured that they were receiving maximum student funding packages.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
initiative works to address barriers and provide information to maximise funding, access learning support and nurture.					
Continue to provide free sanitary products to students in need through a sustainable partnership whereby products are delivered to students rather than them collecting them.	3	Borders College	Uptake	Students in need of sanitary products	This is an ongoing programme. Around 100 students took advantage of this scheme during AY 20-21
<b>Communities &amp; Partnerships</b>					
Launch Capital Credit Union Schools programme pilot at Burnfoot Community School		Capital Credit Union SBC Burnfoot Community School	Uptake of pilot	Children (and families) associated with Burnfoot Community School	Paused due to Covid-19 pandemic. Plans were in place to pilot April 2020.
<b>Tackling Digital Exclusion</b>					
Connecting Scotland Programme - £15M funding - national investment to help 22,000 households get online.  SBHA have distributed 46 devices and a further 45 are pending delivery – (phase 1 shielding and older people)	2	SBC NHS Borders  SBHA		Households with children including pregnant women with no child in the household  Care leavers up to the age of 26 eligible for aftercare support	SBC participating in Connecting Scotland Programme which was launched in response to the pandemic to help support vulnerable people online.  People are gifted an appropriate device and access to connectivity and paired with a digital champion to help provide support.  The total number of devices for Scottish Borders for this phase were: - 481 – 238 ipads - 235 Chromebooks - 460 MiFis

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					<p>This helped support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 382 families</li> <li>- 65 care leavers</li> <li>- 34 other vulnerable people</li> </ul> <p>SBHA has distributed a total of 190 IT devices to Tenants to improve digital inclusion and 40 Digital Champions in SBHA teams support this programme. Feedback from Families with school-age children who have benefited from this has been overwhelming.</p>
Device lending library of ipad/chromebook devices for excluded families	2	Live Borders	Uptake	Families with no access to electronic devices	Completed via Connecting Scotland Programme 35+ Devices and further 15+ progressing
Free access to digital content for children and families as part of library offer	2	Live Borders	Uptake	Children and families	Further investment in digital content. Significant growth during pandemic
Inspire Learning Programme – roll out of iPads to Primary 4 and 5 pupils	2,3	SBC	Number of iPads distributed	All	2400 iPads were delivered to P4 and P5 prior to the October break 2020.
Provide laptop loans and wifi provision to all students who require to engage in online studies	3	Borders College	Number of laptop loans	Students who do not own a laptop	Approximately 500 laptop loans were mobilised by Borders College during AY20-21 to ensure that all students who required IT kit to engage in their studies had access to this. A further 75 WiFi dongles or mobile data packages provided for those who could not afford suitable broadband or data packages or for those who did not have access at the time.
<b>Fuel related activity</b>					
Deliver the Warm and Well Project to tackle fuel poverty		SBC Home Energy Scotland	More people able to afford to heat their homes	Families with young children	Home Energy Scotland - The Warm & Well Project is now in its second year. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic the delivery model and staffing requirements had to adapt. Colleagues were creative and flexible and were able to

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
		SBHA NHS Borders Scottish Government			<p>respond by offering support digitally, on line, over the phone etc. and tailoring advice accordingly.</p> <p>The scheme has seen significant savings with over 300 households having been supported with benefit checks, new benefits secured and energy advice and sign posting to grants to improve affordable warmth. Over £300,000 has been secured to support those experiencing fuel poverty.</p> <p>The Warm &amp; Well Project was established in March 2020 and funded through the Scottish Government's Investing in Communities Fund. This is central to our future commitment to supporting people in fuel poverty, particularly families. This has established an in-house Warm &amp; Well Co-ordinator, in partnership with Changeworks, to provide specialist advice and train SBHA Team members to expand our energy advice offer. He will support 1,015 SBHA households living in fuel poverty. To date, 119 tenants have received support and benefited from c£25,000 in financial savings. In addition, the Borders Housing Network (BHN) recently secured £450,000 from the Scottish Government's Social Housing Fuel Support Fund. As at the end of April 2021, SBHA has supported 46 Tenants to benefit from this fund, with c£40,000 having already been claimed.</p>
Continue to engage with the Scottish Borders Home Energy Forum.	2	NHS Borders Home Energy Scotland	Number of vouchers given out	Early years families	<p>Home Energy Scotland - The Forum continues to ensure that a strategic, multi-agency approach is taken to help reduce fuel poverty, improve energy efficiency and improve health and well-being in the Scottish Borders, particularly for the most vulnerable households within the region.</p> <p>The Partnership comprises organisations representing housing associations, statutory bodies, advisory groups, bodies associated with energy, affordable warmth, health and income maximisation.</p>

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
					<p>The Forum has acted as a catalyst for building collective support for ongoing strategies including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EES:ABS and the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (ESSH)</li> <li>• Funding opportunities</li> <li>• Joint proposals have been planned and submitted</li> <li>• Upcoming funding opportunities are discussed</li> <li>• Has facilitated the establishment of a new Construction Sector and Supply Chain Forum</li> </ul> <p>Served as a platform to promote and facilitate measures and schemes that target alleviating fuel poverty and increasing energy efficiency in households; as well as improving health and wellbeing.</p>
<p>PO1124</p> <p>Deliver the Home Energy Efficiency Programme</p>	2	<p>SBC</p> <p>Home Energy Scotland</p> <p>Changeworks</p>	<p>Households living in fuel poverty</p> <p>Number of private sector energy efficiency measures installed</p> <p>Number of households provided with energy advice/information</p>	Tenants	<p>The HEEP:ABS was renamed the Energy Efficient Scotland Area Based Scheme (EES:ABS). There were significant challenges to delivery due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. There were still opportunities to support households and applications of interest have been taken forward into the next scheme delivery year to ensure to one who is eligible for support misses out.</p> <p>In the financial year 2019-20 SBC were awarded £1.34m in EES:ABS funding. No installations were able to take place between March and July 2020 and following the nationwide lockdown restrictions remained on works taking place inside people's homes. It was still possible to install 100 of the planned 278 energy efficiency measures supporting over 75 households.</p> <p>For the 2020/21 programme (expected to complete in December 2021) SBC have been allocated over £1.7m, a record allocation for the Borders. Renewable technology including Air Source Heat Pumps and PV and Battery storage will be part of the measures delivered.</p>

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
<b>Food related activity</b>					
Continue to support Third Sector partners financially to provide community based food schemes and support groups	2	SBC CLD	Reviews and evaluations of schemes  Participation, achievement and attainment	Children and families	CLD service have been heavily involved in the Community Assistance Hubs and supporting community food schemes in partnership with the Communities and Partnership team.  7 CLD staff have either provided the lead for a CAH or worked in one. They worked within the Community Assistance Hubs providing support and assistance to those in need, including those that have been shielding. This has included food provision, assistance with fuel costs & clothing, referrals into financial inclusion support. Families and individuals have been given short term emergency support to those who have been in crisis. However, the referral in to services that can provide longer term sustainable support will be key to income maximisation and pathways out of poverty.  Financial support has been given to Foodbanks & FareShare outlets to assist with practical issues – white goods etc.
Provide recipes to align with available produce and food distributed to Early Years Centres	2	NHS Joint Health Improvement Team	Review and evaluation	Families with young children attending Early Years Centres	Appendix 1(f) shows details of 'Spotlight on Success – Early Years Centres, supporting families during the pandemic'
Address food insecurity through the provision of food to individuals and families via Fareshare and other food distribution schemes including food growing and community cafes	2	Third Sector Youth Organisations YouthBorders	Number of referrals Number of food parcels Sustained engagement	Young People (8+)	At least 253 young people were supported through the receipt of food parcels. Over the year at least 10,000 food parcels were distributed by Third Sector Youth Organisations. The organisations which made most provision were Cheviot Youth, TD1 Youth Hub, Rowland's, Connect Berwickshire. <i>These figures exclude young people who took part in online cooking workshops within youth work programmes and where ingredients were provided</i>

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
Promote Free school meals and increase uptake	2	SBC	Increased % uptake of free school meals	Eligible children	This has been promoted as part of the holiday support payments for eligible FSM families 190 new families signed up for FSMs
Deliver a breakfast programme for S1-S4 young people entitled to free school meals.	2	CLD Youth Workers	Uptake of programme	S1-S4 young people entitled to free school meals	Funding has been secured to develop this but it has not been a priority for schools this year due to the Pandemic
Continue to establish breakfast clubs in schools. Breakfast clubs are established in a number of schools in areas of greatest need but the aim is to have one in every school.	2	SBC Schools	Children from poorer households will have had at least two nutritional meals per day whilst at school.	All children and young people	Funding has been secured to develop this but it has not been a priority for schools this year due to the Pandemic
Provide recipes and information to community assistance hubs for people in receipt of food boxes, contributing to food security.	2	Joint Health Improvement Team	Review and evaluation	All	This work is complete. All community hubs were offered support.
Support extended food distribution schemes in partnership with Criminal Justice Services Social Work	2	Joint Health Improvement Team	Review and evaluation	All	Funding has been allocated for the financial year 2021/22 to continue with the development of our Greenhouse Project.  This includes partnership work with Action for Children & Children First.
Support food distribution work in communities with funding, recipes and practical support to provide meal bags for children and families	2	Joint Health Improvement Team	Review and evaluation	All	Funding from SBC to LINKS Eyemouth is ongoing via a partnership with BAVS as an anchor agency. This is helping to grow this children & families food network.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
Enhance community food support available via Burnfoot Community Futures	2	Joint Health Improvement Team	Review and evaluation	All	NHS Borders funded BCF during furlough phase to support staff hours for food distribution activities. This project is complete.
Set up a Scottish Borders Food Network to promote and raise awareness of opportunities for children and families	2	SBC NHS Borders	Uptake to network Number of participants	All	At the start of the pandemic there were approximately 17 foodbank/FareShare outlets in the Scottish Borders. This has now increased to 25, with other informal community larders etc in very rural and remote locations across the Borders. The Foodbank/FareShare outlets have been supported through the Financial Inclusion Fund. The Eyemouth Food Partnership has also been supported via this fund, and is being considered as a pilot to test this approach, and if it could be expanded Borders-wide in the future.
Continue with 'Food Friday' to provide students with food bags to make a dinner. Tesco and Asda contribute to this initiative run by the Students Association at Borders College	3	Borders College Students Association	Number of food bags provided	Students in need of food	Up until lockdown in March, the Students Association had managed an initiative which saw Tesco and Asda supply almost sell by produce to them for dissemination amongst our student cohort. This was also supported by recipe packs being made up so that students had all the ingredients and instructions for a simple meal. After lockdown College purchase supermarket vouchers so that we could provide these to any students experiencing food hardship. We have disseminated around £450 worth of these.

#### \*Poverty Drivers

- 1 – Income from Employment
- 2 – Costs of living
- 3 – Income from Social Security and benefits in kind

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## Statistical evidence

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

#### Earnings

- Scottish Borders median gross weekly pay (workplace based) in 2020 for full-time workers was **£481** a week. (Nomis)<sup>1</sup>
- This is **£111 lower** than the Scottish average of **£593** and is the 2nd lowest out of the 32 Scottish Local Authority areas.(Nomis)

#### Skills and qualifications

- An estimated **6.3%** of working-age people in the Annual Population survey had no qualifications in 2020. This is better than the Scottish average of **8.0%**. (Nomis)
- **95%** of Scottish Borders 16-19 year olds were participating in employment, education or training in 2020, according to Skills Development Scotland (SDS) data. This is slightly higher than the Scottish average of **92%**.<sup>2</sup>
- **72%** of Scottish Borders young adults aged 16-19 participated in Education in 2020; similar to the Scottish average of **72%**.(SDS)
- **222%** of Scottish Borders young adults aged 16-19 entered employment, training or another positive destination other than education in 2020. This is similar to the Scottish average of **20%** (SDS)

#### 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.<sup>3</sup>

#### Childcare

- 5,370 children were registered by the Care Inspectorate for Early Learning and Childcare in 2019 in the Scottish Borders. This is **28.2%** of all children, slightly higher than the Scottish average of **27.2%**.<sup>4</sup>

#### Food insecurity and food costs

- The January 2020 Independent Food Aid Network<sup>5</sup> 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. Following the outbreak of Covid-19, IFAN analysed data from independent food banks in Scotland comparing February to July 2019 with February to July 2020. The table below shows the results for Scotland.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/47100/rsa-infographic-scottish-borders.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://statistics.gov.scot/home>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/statistics-and-analysis>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk/scotland-food-bank-data>

Table 2: The number of people supported by independent food banks in Scotland (February to July in 2019 and 2020)

Month	2019	2020
February	9,209	10,137
March	9,483	12,614
April	9,279	19,613
May	9,778	18,897
June	8,972	17,415
July	9,470	17,060

#### Internet access

- The Scottish Household Survey estimates that **90%** of households in Scottish Borders had home internet access in 2019, an increase of 2% since 2018. This has been steadily increasing year after year and is now higher than the Scottish average of **88%**.<sup>6</sup>

#### Fuel Poverty

- Around **29%** of all households in the Scottish Borders are fuel poor, equivalent to approximately 16,000 households. There seems to be a higher level of fuel poverty in the Scottish Borders compared to Scotland (25%), although it is not statistically different.<sup>7</sup>
- Households with higher levels of fuel poverty in the Scottish Borders are those that are Older (38%) and those in Social Housing (51%).
- Around **15%** of all households in the Scottish Borders are in extreme fuel poverty, which is not significantly different to the 12% for Scotland.

#### Children in families with Limited Resources<sup>8</sup>

- **20.4%** of children in the Scottish Borders are living with limited resources **before** housing costs compared to 17.3% for Scotland. 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, compared to 20.7% for Scotland. The Scottish Borders is still 4th-highest out of the 32 Local Authority areas.

#### Children in Low Income families<sup>9</sup>

- **18%** of children in Scottish Borders were living in relative low income families for the financial year end 2020, similar to 19% for Scotland.

<sup>6</sup> <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sg-scottish-household-survey-data-explorer/>

<sup>7</sup> [Scottish House Condition Survey: Local Authority Analyses to 2016-2018 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-house-condition-survey-local-authority-analyses-to-2016-2018-gov.scot)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/children-in-families-with-limited-resources/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics#contents>

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

- **8.1%** (or 4,241) of Scottish Borders households in the 2011 Census<sup>10</sup> were a lone-parent family. This is a lower proportion than the Scottish average of 11.1% of households (263,360 households)
- The Scottish Borders has a lower crude rate of teenage pregnancies (per 1,000 females aged 15 – 19) of **27.2** compared to 30.5 for Scotland.<sup>11</sup>
- According to SBC's internal Education Management Information System SEEMIS, 95.4% of pupils have English as their "First-Language".
- According to Scottish Government statistics<sup>12</sup>, there were 187 children in the Scottish Borders in 2020 who were Looked After by the Local Authority in a variety of settings, equal to which 0.7% of the population aged 0 to 17, compared to 1.4% for Scotland. Of the children looked after by Scottish Borders Council 18% are aged under 5, similar to the 19% for Scotland.

## 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).

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/>

<sup>11</sup> [https://scotland.shinyapps.io/ScotPHO\\_profiles\\_tool/](https://scotland.shinyapps.io/ScotPHO_profiles_tool/)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/childrens-social-work-statistics-2019-20/>

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# Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020

May 2021

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

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## SB CPI: Purpose, Reason for Reboot 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 alongside 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 and which is a requirement of the Child Poverty Act (Scotland) 2017.

The SB CPI was first developed for 2017 and then updated for both 2018 and 2019. Then in 2020 the component sourced from HMRC “Children in Low Income Families” changed significantly meaning that a ‘reboot’ was required for 2020 including redoing the SB CPI results for 2017, 2018 and 2019. Additionally, in early 2020 the Scottish Government updated the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). This means that the SIMD2020 is a better comparison to SB CPI.

The index ‘reboot’ is based on data related to four components for area in the Scottish Borders. These components are:

- Children in Low Income Families (**CiLIF**) – Source is [DWP/HMRC](#).<sup>1</sup> Relative low-income is defined as a family whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of contemporary median income. Gross income measure is Before Housing Costs (BHC) and includes contributions from earnings, state support and pensions. For the SB CPI uses the most recent available year’s data, currently there is an one year lag e.g for SB CPI 2020 uses the CiLIF data for 2019/20.
- Free School Meals (**FSM**) – Source is SBC. The proportion of pupils recorded for Free School Meals of all pupils in area for school year.
- Clothing Grant (**CLG**) - Source is SBC. The proportion of pupils recorded for Clothing Grant of all pupils in area for school year.
- Educational Maintenance Allowance (**EMA16+**) – Source is SBC. The proportion of pupils who are aged 16 or older (before 01 March of school year) who receive Educational Maintenance Allowance of those pupils in SBC School of all pupils aged 16 or older (before 01 March of school year).

The table below shows the results for Scottish Border for 2017 to 2020

SB CPI Components / Year	For SB CPI 2017	For SB CPI 2018	For SB CPI 2019	For SB CPI 2020
<b>Children in Low Income Families - CiLIF (DWP) ^</b>	19.8%	21.8%	20.6%	<b>22.5%</b>
<b>Free School Meals - FSM (SBC)</b>	10.0%	10.4%	11.6%	<b>15.7%</b>
<b>Clothing Grant - CLG (SBC)</b>	14.6%	15.1%	15.2%	<b>18.1%</b>
<b>Educational Maintenance Allowance 16+ - EMA16+ (SBC) *</b>	8.2%	6.2%	3.8%	<b>16.0%</b>

^ CiLIF: Data is one year lag ; e.g. for 2020 the DWP data is for 2019

\* EMA16+: Pupils that are aged 16 before the 1st of March of the school year

The results for 2020 show some of the Covid-19 pandemic impact, with an increase in the proportion of pupils receiving free school meals, clothing grant and educational maintenance allowance. It is important to

<sup>1</sup> The calculation of proportion of Children in Low Income Families for the purpose of the Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index differs to ‘official statistics’ due to the availability of the data from Stat-Xplore. The children in Stat-Xplore are defined as dependent individuals aged under 16; or aged 16 to 19 in full-time non-advanced education or in unwaged government training. (Not just those aged under 16 – unable to group into age bands). The figure for all children is then expressed as proportion of those aged 0 to 15 as published by NRS. It is recognised that this calculation is imperfect, but practical for the purpose of the SB CPI.

note that the children in low income families relates to 2019/20, so the full impact of Covid-19 pandemic is not reflected in these figures; this will be reflected in the 2021 SB CPI.

The table below shows the score that an area will receive based on the result for each component. The SB CPI allows for an area to have a score ranging from 0 to 20, where 0 indicates no element of child poverty and 20 the highest levels of child poverty.

Children in Low Income Families (DWP)	Free School Meals (SBC)	Clothing Grant (SBC)	Educational Maintenance Allowance 16+ (SBC)
0 / 0: None	0 : None	0 : None	0: None
1: Under 10%	1 : Under 5%	1 : Under 5%	0.5: Under 5%
2 : 10% to Under 20%	2 : 5% to Under 10%	2 : 5% to Under 10%	1.0: 5% to Under 10%
3 : 20% to Under 30%	3 : 10% to Under 15%	3 : 10% to Under 15%	1.5: 10% to Under 15%
4 : 30% to Under 40%	4 : 15% to Under 20%	4 : 15% to Under 20%	2.0: 15% to Under 20%
5 : 40% or More	5 : 20% to Under 30%	5 : 20% to Under 30%	2.5: 20% to Under 30%
	<b>6 30% or More</b>	<b>6 30% or More</b>	<b>3.0: 30% or More</b>

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

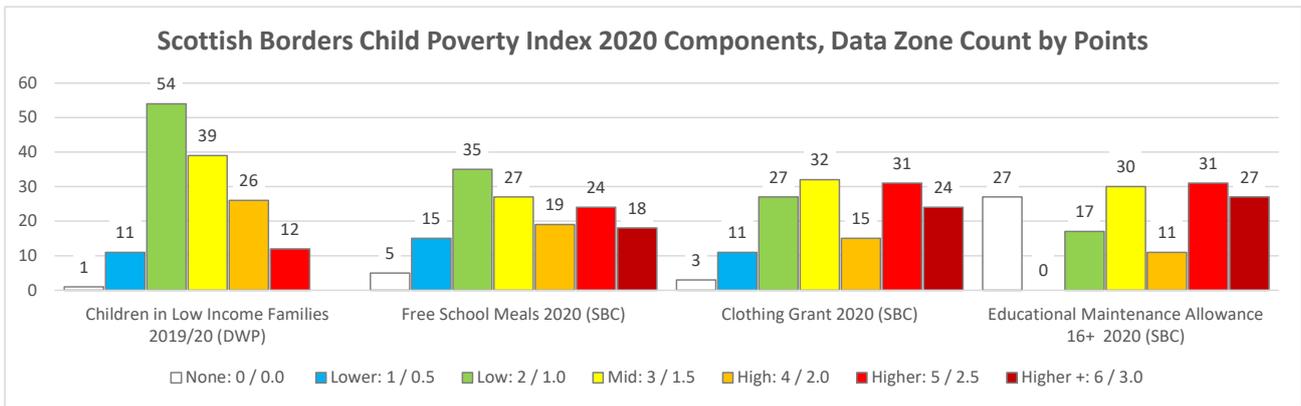
A summary position for each primary school may be seen in: **Appendix 1: Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index (SB CPI) 2020: Primary School Ranking.**

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 1 data zones that does not have that specific component. However, every data zone in the Scottish Borders has some evidence of child poverty.

SB CPI Score for 2020 by Scottish Borders Data Zones - Count	Children in Low Income Families 2019/20 (DWP)	Free School Meals 2020 (SBC)	Clothing Grant 2020 (SBC)	Educational Maintenance Allowance 16+ 2020 (SBC)
None: 0 / 0.0	1	5	3	27
Lower: 1 / 0.5	11	15	11	0
Low: 2 / 1.0	54	35	27	17
Mid: 3 / 1.5	39	27	32	30
High: 4 / 2.0	26	19	15	11
Higher: 5 / 2.5	12	24	31	31
<b>Higher +: 6 / 3.0</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>
SBC Data Zones	143	143	143	143

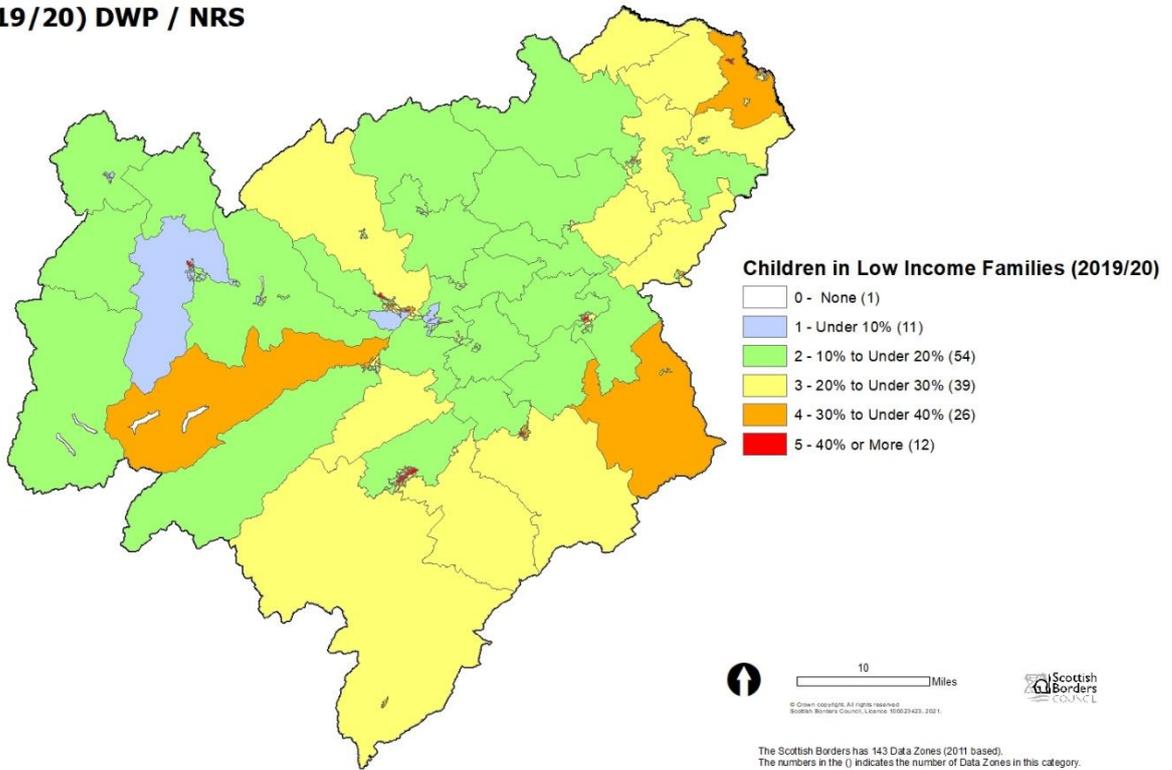
  

SB CPI Score for 2020 by Scottish Borders Data Zones - Percent	Children in Low Income Families 2019/20 (DWP)	Free School Meals 2020 (SBC)	Clothing Grant 2020 (SBC)	Educational Maintenance Allowance 16+ 2020 (SBC)
None: 0 / 0.0	0.7%	3.5%	2.1%	18.9%
Lower: 1 / 0.5	7.7%	10.5%	7.7%	0.0%
Low: 2 / 1.0	37.8%	24.5%	18.9%	11.9%
Mid: 3 / 1.5	27.3%	18.9%	22.4%	21.0%
High: 4 / 2.0	18.2%	13.3%	10.5%	7.7%
Higher: 5 / 2.5	8.4%	16.8%	21.7%	21.7%
<b>Higher +: 6 / 3.0</b>		<b>12.6%</b>	<b>16.8%</b>	<b>18.9%</b>
SBC Data Zones	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

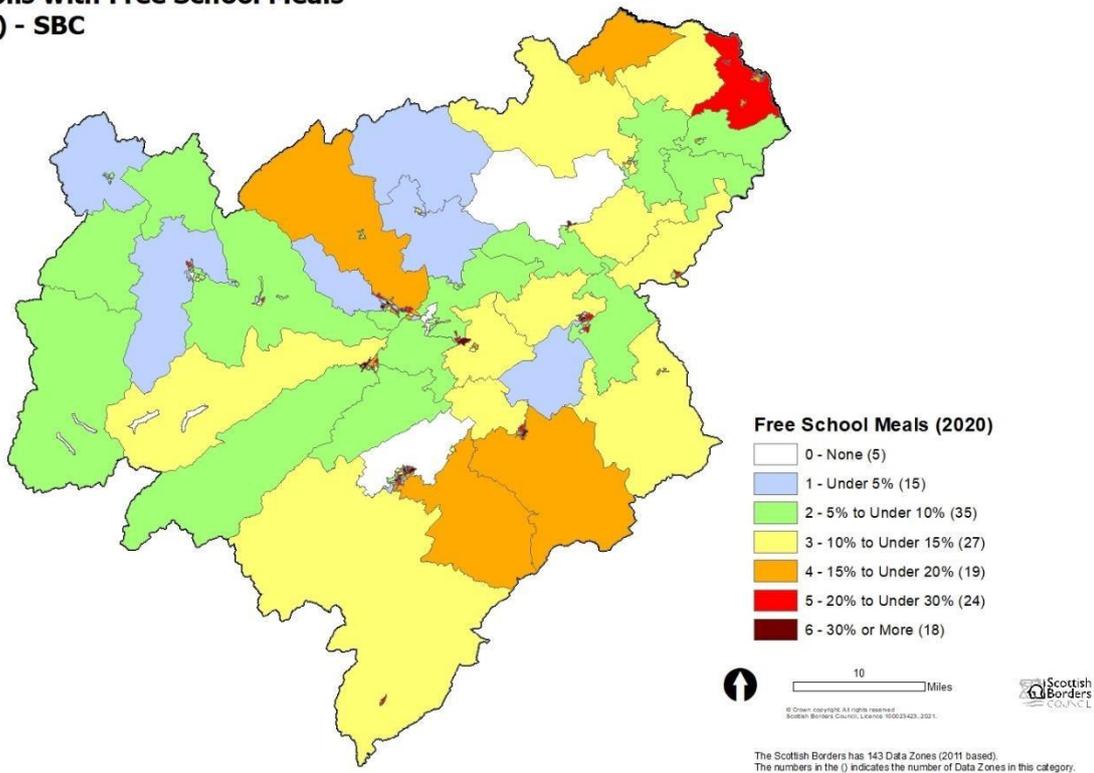


Below are the maps for each component, showing the results for each of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders.

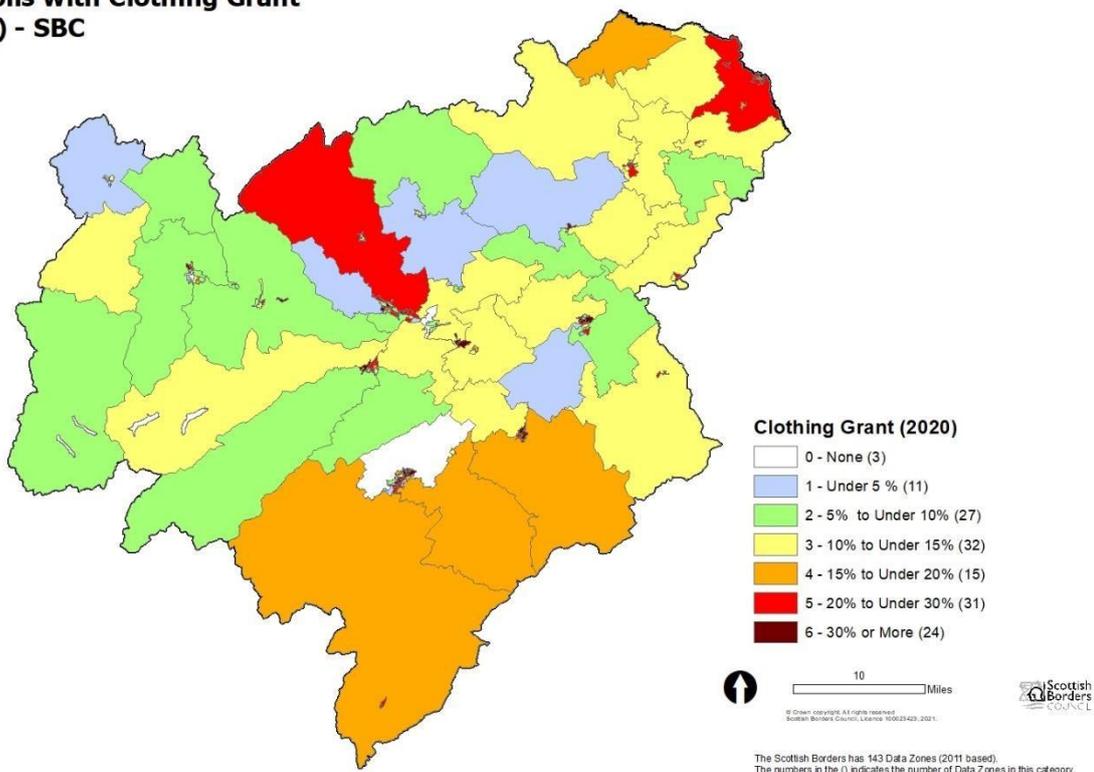
### Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020 % Children in Low Income Families (2019/20) DWP / NRS



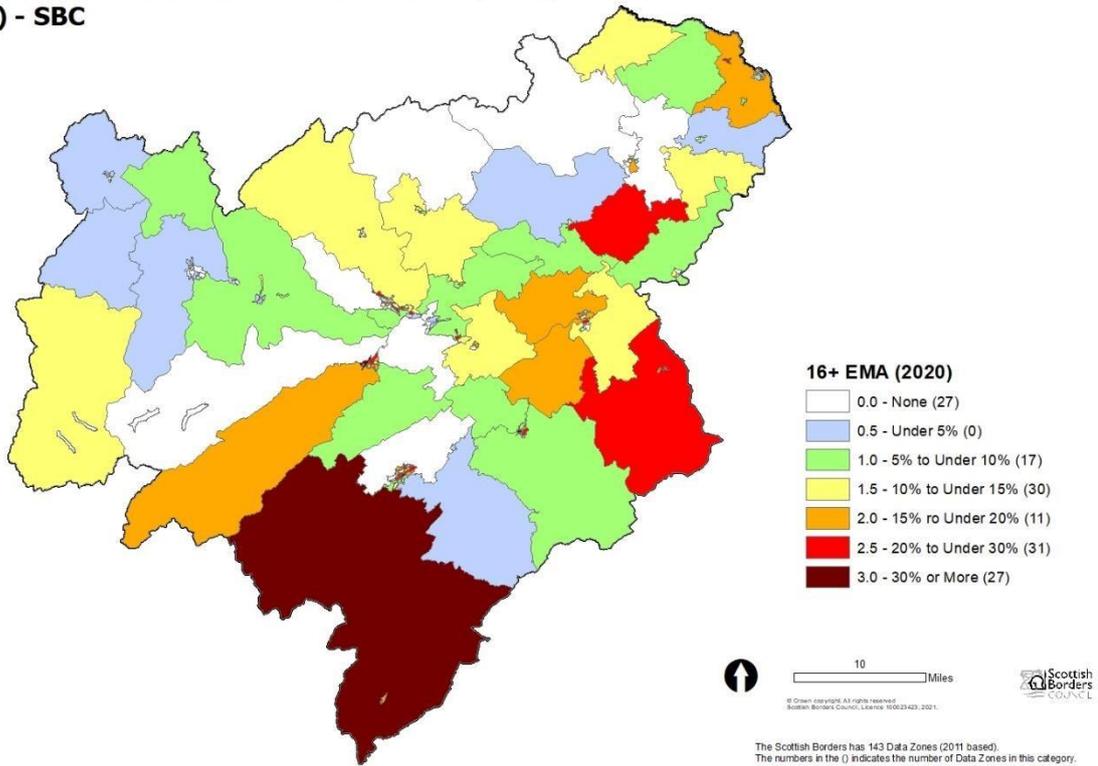
**Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020**  
**% Pupils with Free School Meals**  
**(2020) - SBC**



**Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020**  
**% Pupils with Clothing Grant**  
**(2020) - SBC**



**Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020**  
**% Educational Maintenance Allowance Pupils Aged 16+**  
**(2020) - SBC**

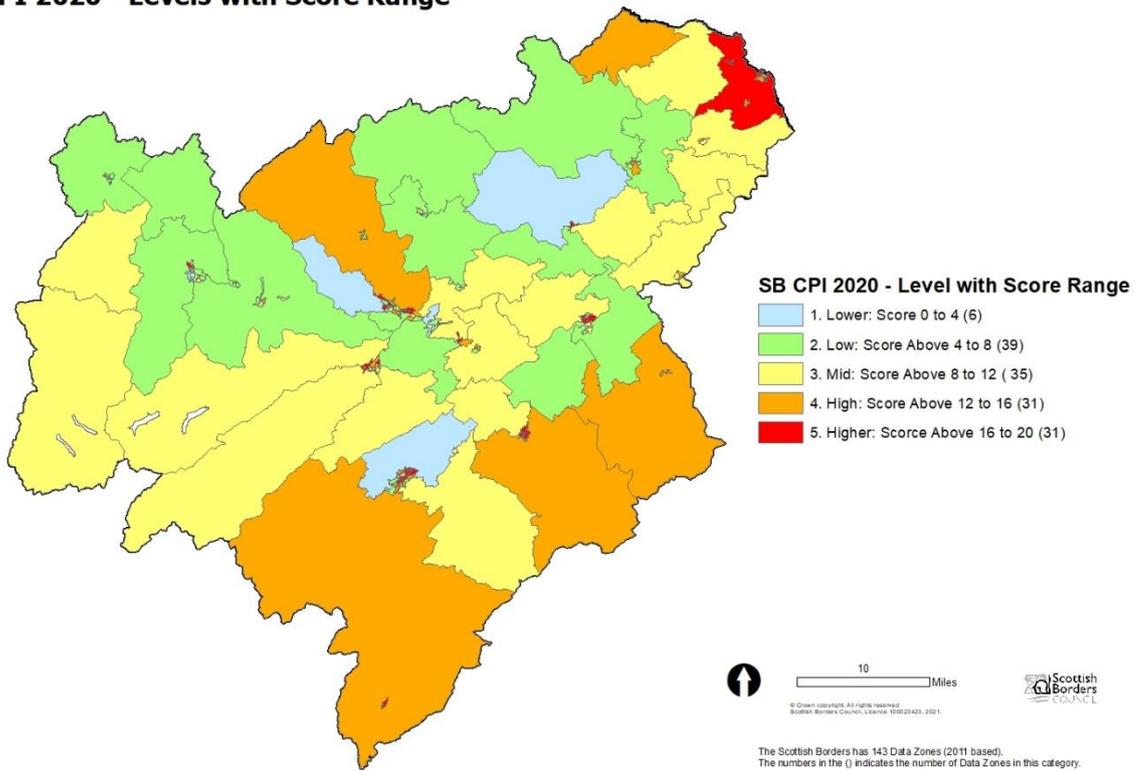


## Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020 Scores

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 (32 data zones) have a score of above 16 to 20; High level (31 data zones) have a score of above 12 to 16; Mid level (35 data zones) have a score of above 8 to 12; Low level (39 data zones) have a score of above 4 to 8; and Lower level (6 data zones) have a score of 0 to 4. Every data zone in the Scottish Borders has some element of child poverty.

**Appendix 2: Change in SB CPI Level by Locality** lists the data zones within each locality along with its SIMD2020 decile and the SB CPI level for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

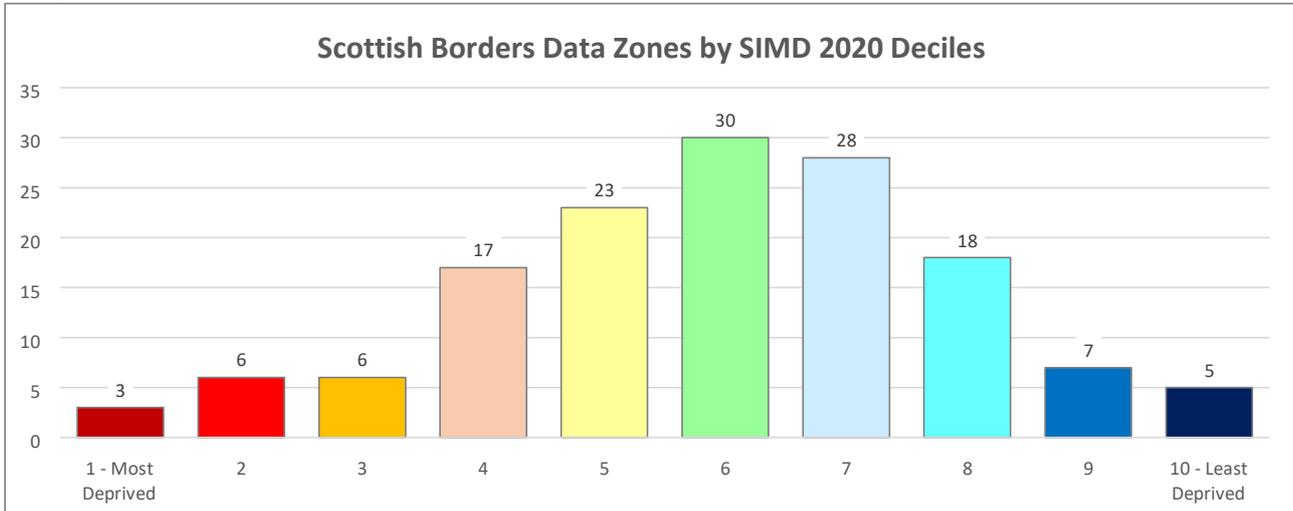
### Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020 SB CPI 2020 - Levels with Score Range



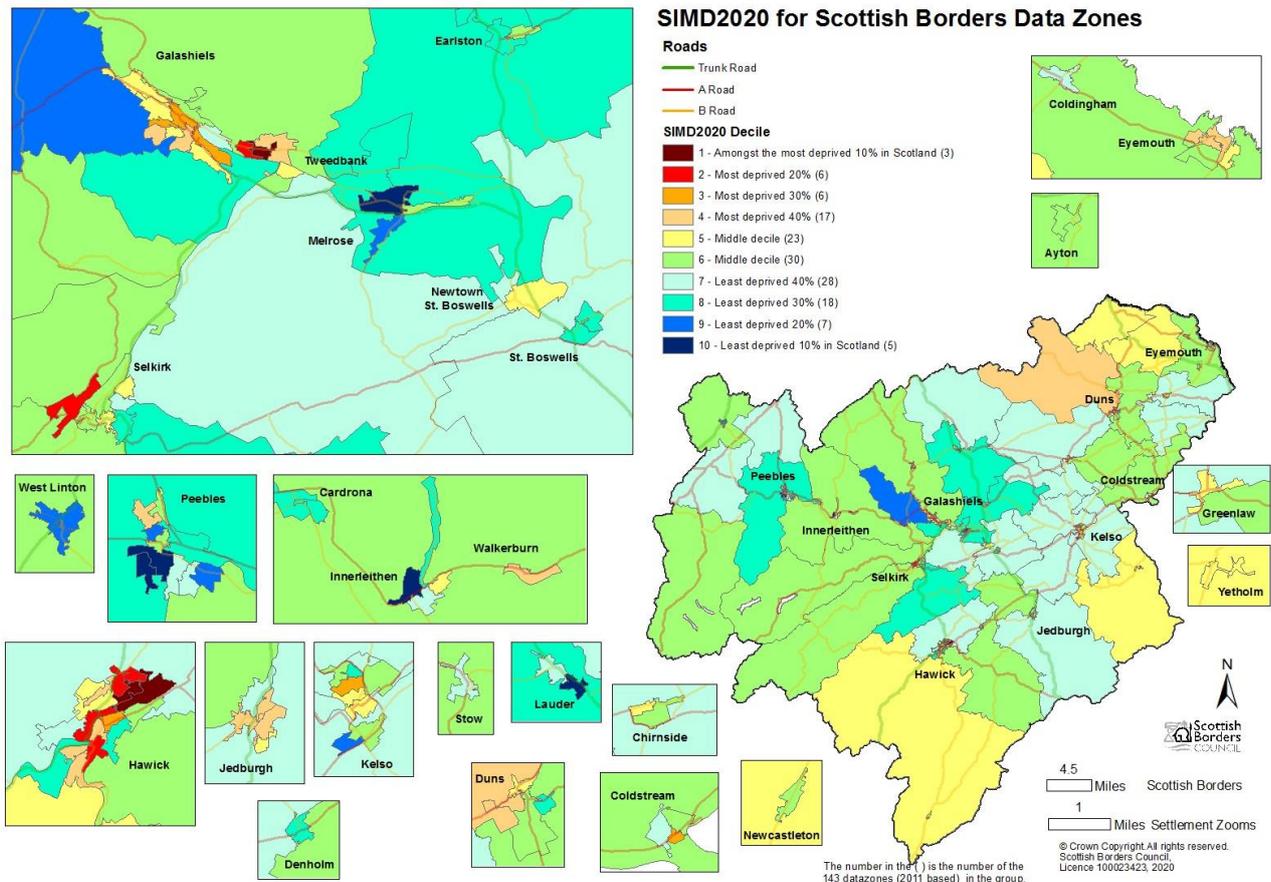
## Comparing Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020 to SIMD 2020

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 SIMD2020 Decile and SB CPI Score.

The graph below shows the count of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders by the SIMD 2020 Decile.

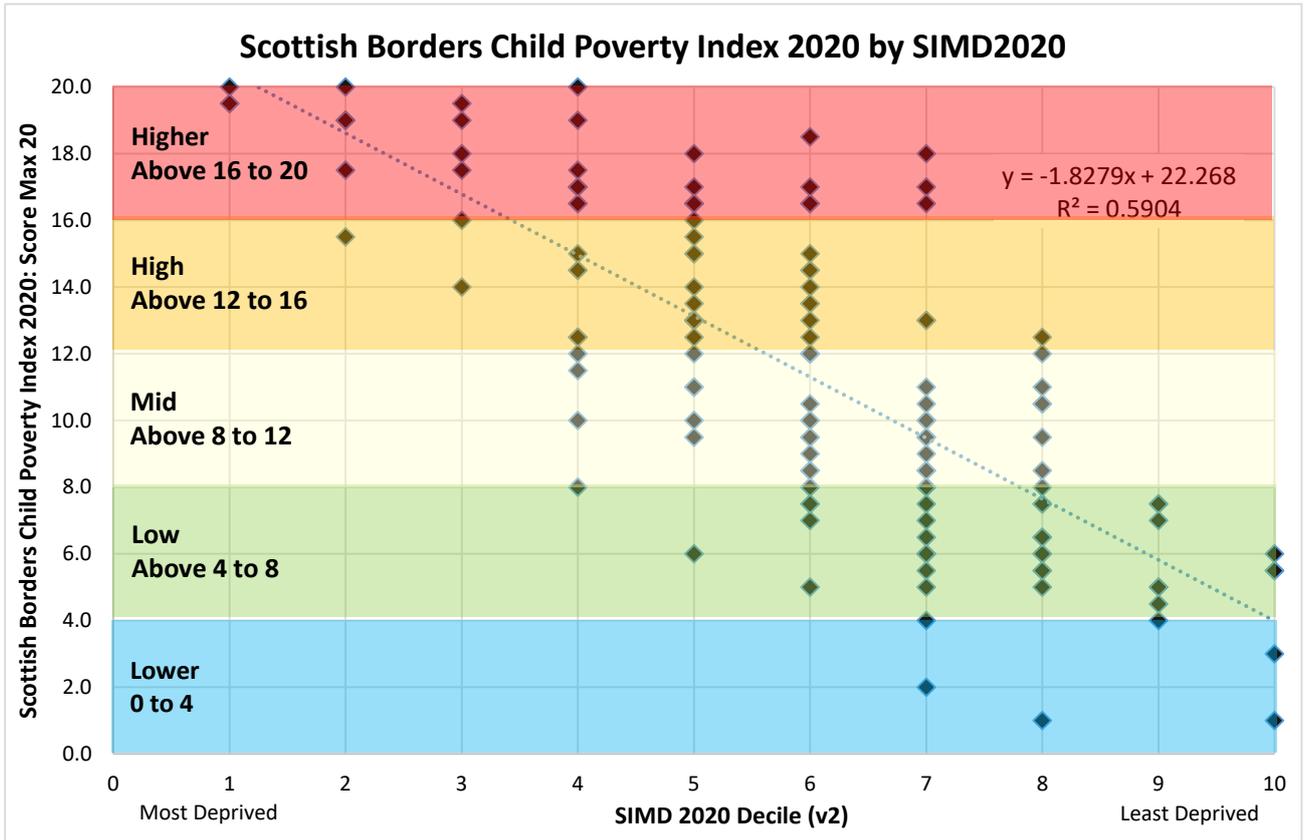


The map below shows the Scottish Borders data zones and the SIMD2020 decile.



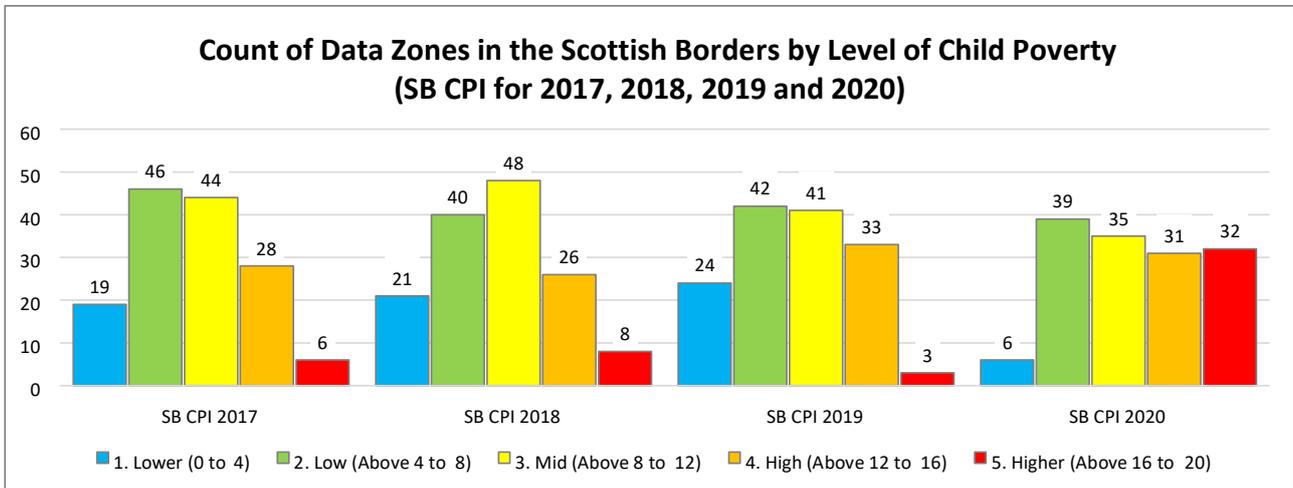
The graph below shows the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders by SB CPI 2020 score and SIMD2020 decile. Although there is a clear relationship between deprivation and child poverty as represented by the data zones in the most deprived decile 1 and decile 2 also having a higher level of child poverty. 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 show that the data zones with the higher level of child poverty can have an SIMD2020 decile of 7.

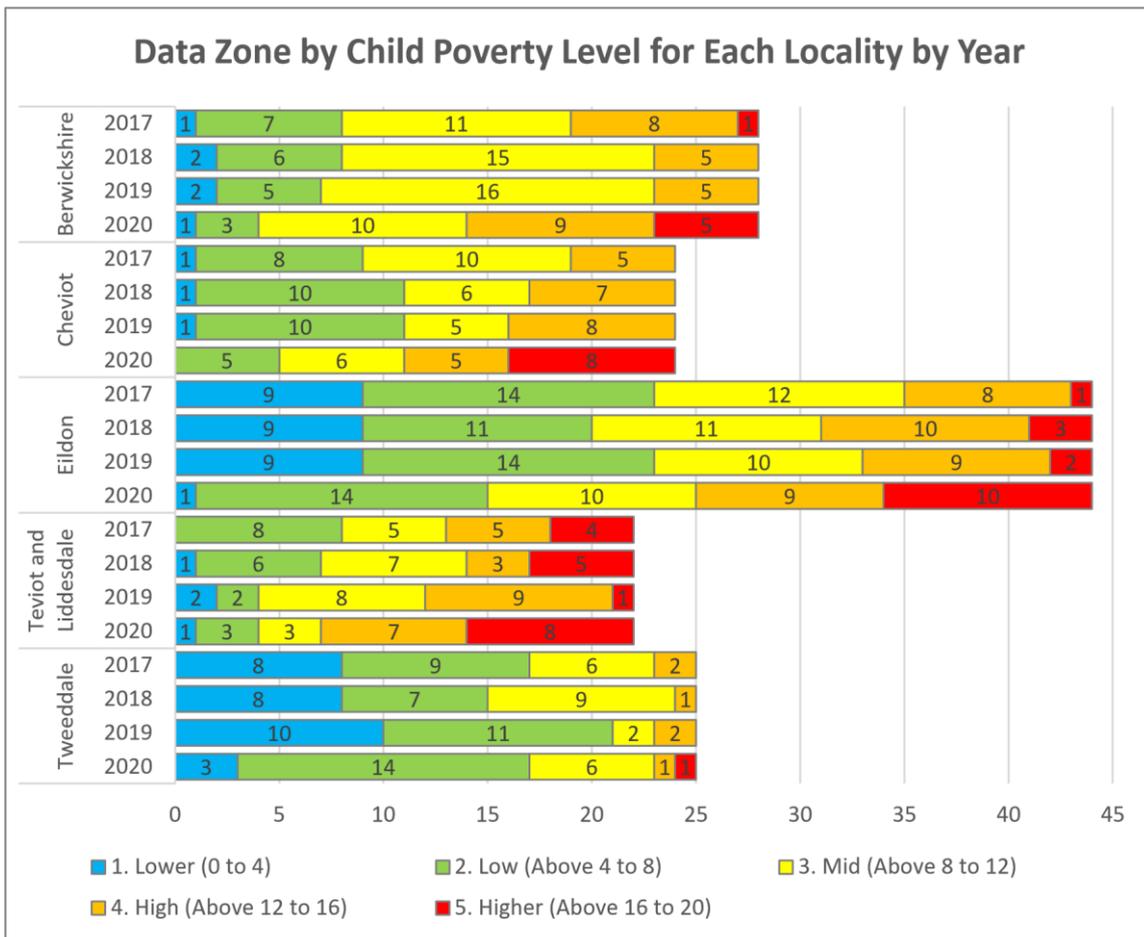


## Scottish Borders Child Poverty Level Change Over Time and By Locality

The graph below shows the distribution of data zones by level of child poverty for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. Between 2017 and 2019 the number of data zones in the 'high' and 'higher' level decreased. However, in the SB CPI 2020 the impact of Covid19 is evident, with 63 of the 143 (44%) data zones in the Scottish Borders having 'high' or 'higher' level of child poverty.



The graph below shows the distribution of data zones in each of the localities by level of child poverty for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. Again between 2017 and 2019 the number of data zones with 'high' or 'higher' levels of child poverty decreased. However, in 2020 the impact of Covid19 can be seen in all areas of the Scottish Borders. In 2019 46% of the data zones had 'lower' or 'low' levels of child poverty that reduced to 31% in 2020.



## Appendix 1: Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020: 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 2020 are:

- Percent of Children in Low Income Families (CiLIF) 2019/20 from DWP / NRS
- Percent of Pupils in Receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) 2020 from SBC's SEEMIS
- SEEMIS Percent of Pupils in Receipt of Clothing Grant (CG) 2020 from SBC's
- Percent of Pupils Aged 16+ in Receipt of Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) 2020 from SBC's SEEMIS

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

Scottish Borders	22.5%	15.7%	18.1%	16.0%	13.0	3. Mid	6	39	35	31	32	143
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SB CPI 2020 Primary School Rank	Secondary School	Primary School	Average of % CiLIF 2019/20 (DWP)	Average of % FSM 2020 (SBC)	Average of % CLG 2020 (SBC)	Average of % EMA16+ 2020 (SBC)	School SB CPI 2020 Score (Max 20)	School SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level					Count of Data Zones
									Lower	Low	Mid	High	Higher	
1	Hawick High School	Burnfoot Primary	39.5%	44.5%	49.6%	31.5%	19.0	Higher					4	4
2	Eyemouth High School	Coldingham Primary	47.5%	20.4%	24.5%	40.0%	18.0	Higher					1	1
3	Galashiels Academy	Langlee Primary	33.7%	25.2%	30.4%	29.4%	17.5	Higher		1			3	4
4	Hawick High School	Newcastleton Primary	31.4%	23.2%	23.2%	33.3%	17.0	Higher					1	1
4	Jedburgh Grammar	Jedburgh Primary	31.3%	25.1%	28.5%	31.6%	17.0	Higher				2	4	6
4	Selkirk High School	Philiphaugh Primary	25.0%	25.6%	30.1%	39.6%	17.0	Higher		1			1	2
4	Berwickshire High School	Greenlaw Primary	21.0%	30.4%	30.4%	16.7%	17.0	Higher					1	1
8	Galashiels Academy	Burgh Primary	39.3%	22.1%	29.1%	24.6%	16.5	Higher			1		2	3

Scottish Borders

22.5%	15.7%	18.1%	16.0%	13.0	3. Mid	6	39	35	31	32	143
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SB CPI 2020 Primary School Rank	Secondary School	Primary School	Average of % CiLIF 2019/20 (DWP)	Average of % FSM 2020 (SBC)	Average of % CLG 2020 (SBC)	Average of % EMA16+ 2020 (SBC)	School SB CPI 2020 Score (Max 20)	School SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level					Count of Data Zones
									Lower	Low	Mid	High	Higher	
9	Hawick High School	Trinity Primary	37.8%	18.3%	23.5%	63.3%	16.0	High				1	1	2
10	Eyemouth High School	Eyemouth Primary	31.0%	19.2%	22.6%	15.1%	15.0	High			1	2	2	5
10	Eyemouth High School	Ayton Primary	29.9%	21.4%	21.4%	19.9%	15.0	High				1	1	2
10	Earlston High School	Newtown Primary	20.2%	22.8%	24.5%	19.9%	15.0	High		1		1	1	3
10	Kelso High School	Yetholm Primary	12.7%	20.0%	28.0%	33.3%	15.0	High				1		1
14	Hawick High School	Drumlanrig St Cuthberts Primary	28.1%	18.6%	21.0%	23.2%	14.5	High		3		4	2	9
14	Galashiels Academy	Balmoral Primary	27.7%	22.4%	26.1%	13.7%	14.5	High		1		1	2	4
14	Kelso High School	Broomlands Primary	25.5%	19.2%	22.0%	23.4%	14.5	High		1	1		2	4
14	Kelso High School	Edenside Primary	25.0%	17.3%	20.0%	22.4%	14.5	High		1	2		2	5
14	Selkirk High School	Knowepark Primary	24.2%	18.3%	20.3%	27.4%	14.5	High			1	3	1	5
14	Galashiels Academy	Fountainhall Primary and Heriot Primary	20.7%	19.7%	22.2%	20.0%	14.5	High				1		1
20	Eyemouth High School	Cockburnspath Primary	29.2%	15.2%	15.2%	20.0%	13.5	High				1		1
21	Kelso High School	Morebattle Primary	32.2%	11.1%	13.3%	37.5%	13.0	High				1		1
21	Berwickshire High School	Coldstream Primary	24.8%	18.3%	21.3%	7.8%	13.0	High			2	2		4
23	Hawick High School	Wilton Primary	20.4%	12.8%	16.4%	23.8%	12.5	High			1	1		2

Scottish Borders

22.5% 15.7% 18.1% 16.0% 13.0 3. Mid 6 39 35 31 32 143

SB CPI 2020 Primary School Rank	Secondary School	Primary School	Average of % CILIF 2019/20 (DWP)	Average of % FSM 2020 (SBC)	Average of % CLG 2020 (SBC)	Average of % EMA16+ 2020 (SBC)	School SB CPI 2020 Score (Max 20)	School SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level					Count of Data Zones
									Lower	Low	Mid	High	Higher	
24	Galashiels Academy	St Peters Primary	18.9%	15.1%	18.5%	19.9%	12.0	Mid		1		2		3
25	Berwickshire High School	Duns Primary	23.8%	12.2%	15.4%	11.7%	11.5	Mid		2	2	2		6
25	Peebles High School	Walkerburn Primary	18.8%	7.6%	30.3%	12.5%	11.5	Mid			1			1
27	Berwickshire High School	Chirnside Primary	25.2%	12.9%	15.6%	6.8%	11.0	Mid			2	1		3
27	Eyemouth High School	Reston Primary	24.0%	11.3%	11.3%	15.4%	11.0	Mid			1			1
27	Berwickshire High School	Swinton Primary	20.4%	9.1%	10.3%	30.0%	11.0	Mid			2			2
27	Kelso High School	Ednam Primary	19.5%	11.9%	14.9%	31.6%	11.0	Mid			1			1
27	Earlston High School	St Boswells Primary	16.2%	14.9%	15.3%	15.5%	11.0	Mid		1	1	1		3
32	Selkirk High School	Yarrow Primary	33.3%	14.0%	14.0%	0.0%	10.0	Mid			1			1
32	Hawick High School	Denholm Primary	29.3%	14.7%	14.7%	8.0%	10.0	Mid			2			2
32	Selkirk High School	Kirkhope Primary	20.0%	6.5%	9.7%	33.3%	10.0	Mid			1			1
32	Peebles High School	Kingsland Primary	18.4%	11.7%	15.3%	5.5%	10.0	Mid		4	1		1	6
36	Galashiels Academy	Tweedbank Primary	19.3%	9.9%	12.9%	21.0%	9.5	Mid		1	1	1		3
37	Selkirk High School	Lilliesleaf Primary	22.6%	8.8%	9.6%	12.5%	8.5	Mid			1			1
37	Hawick High School	Stirches Primary	20.6%	5.7%	8.6%	13.3%	8.5	Mid	1			1		2
37	Peebles High School	Newlands Primary	15.2%	9.2%	11.8%	10.0%	8.5	Mid			1			1
37	Peebles High School	Broughton Primary	14.7%	9.0%	9.0%	20.0%	8.5	Mid			1			1
37	Peebles High School	St Ronans Primary	12.6%	9.8%	12.7%	11.5%	8.5	Mid		3	1	1		5
42	Galashiels Academy	Glendinning Primary	19.9%	10.3%	12.0%	0.0%	8.0	Low		1				1
42	Earlston High School	Earlston Primary	19.5%	7.6%	9.6%	16.8%	8.0	Low		1	2			3
42	Jedburgh Grammar	Ancrum Primary	15.1%	7.3%	7.8%	18.8%	8.0	Low		1	1			2
42	Earlston High School	Lauder Primary	14.1%	6.5%	6.8%	17.6%	8.0	Low		2	1			3
42	Kelso High School	Sprouston Primary	12.8%	5.4%	5.4%	18.8%	8.0	Low		1				1
42	Peebles High School	Eddleston Primary	11.3%	8.2%	8.2%	15.4%	8.0	Low		1				1
48	Earlston High School	Gordon Primary	15.9%	5.1%	5.1%	11.1%	7.5	Low		1				1
49	Earlston High School	Melrose Primary	12.6%	6.8%	6.9%	3.5%	6.5	Low	1	2	1			4
49	Peebles High School	Priorsford Primary	10.5%	6.5%	7.5%	2.2%	6.5	Low	2	3	1			6
51	Galashiels Academy	Stow Primary	13.4%	6.4%	6.4%	0.0%	6.0	Low		1				1
51	Peebles High School	West Linton Primary	8.9%	5.8%	6.3%	6.5%	6.0	Low		3				3
53	Earlston High School	Channelkirk Primary	19.8%	3.9%	5.3%	0.0%	5.0	Low		1				1
54	Earlston High School	Westruther Primary	13.8%	0.0%	0.7%	9.5%	4.5	Low	1					1
55	Galashiels Academy	Clovenfords Primary	13.1%	3.3%	3.3%	0.0%	4.0	Low	1					1

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## Appendix 2: Change in SB CPI Level by Locality

### Berwickshire

SETTLEMENT (Best Fit)	Data Zone 2011 Code and Name	SIMD2020 Decile v2	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level
Ayton	S01012309: Ayton	6	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High
Chirnside	S01012320: Chirnside - West	5	4. High	4. High	4. High	4. High
	S01012321: Chirnside - East	6	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
Coldingham	S01012311: Coldingham	7	5. Higher	4. High	3. Mid	5. Higher
Coldstream	S01012325: Coldstream - West	7	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid
	S01012326: Coldstream - South	3	4. High	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
	S01012327: Coldstream - East	6	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High
Duns	S01012305: Duns - South	6	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High
	S01012306: Duns - West	4	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High
	S01012307: Duns - North	5	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
	S01012308: Duns - East	8	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
Eyemouth	S01012314: Eyemouth - Gunsgreen	5	4. High	3. Mid	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012315: Eyemouth - Seafront Harbour	4	2. Low	1. Lower	3. Mid	3. Mid
	S01012316: Eyemouth - Central	4	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High
	S01012317: Eyemouth - South	6	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High
	S01012318: Eyemouth - North	4	4. High	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
Greenlaw	S01012300: Greenlaw	5	4. High	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
Rural - Berwickshire	S01012301: Swinton Leithholm and Fogo Area	6	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012302: Cranshaws - Abbey St Bathans Area	4	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012303: Westruther and Polwarth Area	7	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower
	S01012304: Gordon and Hume Area	7	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012310: St Abbs and Eyemouth Landward	6	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid	5. Higher
	S01012312: Reston and Coldingham Moor Area	5	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
	S01012313: Cockburnspath and Area	5	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	4. High
	S01012319: Preston and Manderston Area	6	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low
	S01012322: Whitsome Allanton and Hutton Area	7	3. Mid	2. Low	1. Lower	3. Mid
	S01012323: Foulden and Area	7	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
	S01012324: Birgham and Ladykirk Area	6	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid

### Cheviot

SETTLEMENT (Best Fit)	Data Zone 2011 Code and Name	SIMD2020 Decile v2	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level
Jedburgh	S01012349: Jedburgh - Howden	5	4. High	3. Mid	4. High	4. High
	S01012350: Jedburgh - Doom Hill	4	4. High	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012351: Jedburgh - East Central	4	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012352: Jedburgh - West Central	7	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012353: Jedburgh - Abbey	4	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	5. Higher
Kelso	S01012330: Kelso S - Pinnaclehill	6	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	3. Mid
	S01012331: Kelso S - Maxwellheugh	9	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012334: Kelso N - High Croft Orchard Park	6	4. High	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012335: Kelso N - Hendersyde Oakfield	7	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low
	S01012336: Kelso N - Abbotseat	8	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012337: Kelso N - Poynder Park	3	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012338: Kelso S - Bowmont and Edenside	5	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	5. Higher
	S01012339: Kelso S - Abbey	5	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
S01012340: Kelso S - Broomlands	6	4. High	4. High	4. High	5. Higher	
Rural - Cheviot	S01012329: Morebattle Hownam and Area	5	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low	4. High
	S01012332: Smailholm Stitchill and Ednam Area	7	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012333: Sprouston and Area	7	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012341: Oxnam and Camptown Area	7	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	4. High
	S01012342: Ancrum and Lanton Area	6	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012343: Roxburgh Heiton Eckford Area	7	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
St Boswells	S01012346: Dryburgh Charlesfield Maxton Area	7	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012347: St Boswells - East	8	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High
Yetholm	S01012348: St Boswells - West	8	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012328: Town Yetholm	5	4. High	4. High	3. Mid	4. High

# Eildon

SETTLEMENT (Best Fit)	Data Zone 2011 Code and Name	SIMD2020 Decile v2	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level
Darnick and Gattonside	S01012289: Gattonside - Darnick - Chiefswood	8	2. Low	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower
Earlston	S01012269: Earlston - West	8	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012270: Earlston - East	6	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012274: Galashiels - N - Halliburton	6	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
Galashiels	S01012275: Galashiels - N - Town Centre	3	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012276: Galashiels - N - Windyknowe	5	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012277: Galashiels - N - Wood St	5	4. High	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012278: Galashiels - W - Old Town	4	4. High	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid
	S01012279: Galashiels - W - Thistle St	3	5. Higher	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012280: Galashiels - W - Balmoral Rd	4	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012281: Galashiels - W - Balmoral Pl	5	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
	S01012282: Galashiels - S - Netherdale	8	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012283: Galashiels - S - St Peters Sch	5	4. High	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
	S01012284: Galashiels - S - Huddersfield	3	4. High	4. High	4. High	4. High
	S01012285: Galashiels - S - Glenfield	7	2. Low	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012286: Gala - Langlee - East	4	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	5. Higher
	S01012287: Gala - Langlee - Central	1	4. High	5. Higher	5. Higher	5. Higher
	S01012288: Gala - Langlee - West	2	4. High	5. Higher	5. Higher	5. Higher
	Lauder	S01012296: Lauder - South	10	2. Low	1. Lower	1. Lower
S01012298: Lauder - North		7	3. Mid	3. Mid	1. Lower	3. Mid
Melrose and Newstead	S01012290: Melrose - Newstead	6	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012291: Melrose - Dingleton Hill	9	2. Low	2. Low	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012292: Melrose - High Street	10	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low
Newtown St Boswells	S01012344: Newtown St Boswells - South	5	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
	S01012345: Newtown St Boswells - North	7	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	5. Higher
Rural - Eildon	S01012268: Earlston and Melrose Landward	8	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012271: Heriot - Fountainhall - Stow Landward	6	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High
	S01012297: Blainslie and Legerwood	8	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012299: Oxtou and Area	7	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012376: Ashkirk Lilliesleaf and Midlem Area	8	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012377: Bowden and Lindean Area	7	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012378: Etrick Water and Bowhill Area	6	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012379: Yarrow Water and Sunderland Area	6	1. Lower	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
Selkirk	S01012380: Selkirk - Shawburn	5	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012381: Selkirk - Town Centre	5	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High	4. High
	S01012382: Selkirk - Hillside Terrace	8	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012383: Selkirk - Shawpark	7	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
	S01012384: Selkirk - Dunsdale	6	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High
	S01012385: Selkirk - Heatherlie	6	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low
Stow	S01012386: Selkirk - Bannerfield	2	4. High	5. Higher	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012272: Stow	7	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
Tweedbank	S01012293: Tweedbank - West	6	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	4. High
	S01012294: Tweedbank - North	5	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
	S01012295: Tweedbank - East	7	3. Mid	2. Low	1. Lower	2. Low

## Teviot and Liddesdale

SETTLEMENT (Best Fit)	Data Zone 2011 Code and Name	SIMD2020 Decile v2	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level
Denholm	S01012356: Denholm	8	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
Hawick	S01012359: Hawick - Burnfoot - South East	1	5. Higher	5. Higher	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012360: Hawick - Burnfoot - Central	1	5. Higher	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012361: Hawick - Burnfoot - West	2	4. High	5. Higher	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012362: Hawick - Burnfoot - North	2	5. Higher	5. Higher	5. Higher	5. Higher
	S01012363: Hawick Central - Wellogate	2	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High
	S01012364: Hawick Central - Trinity	3	4. High	3. Mid	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012365: Hawick Central - Millers Knowes	8	2. Low	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012366: Hawick Central - Town Centre	4	5. Higher	5. Higher	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012367: Hawick Central - Weensland	6	4. High	4. High	4. High	4. High
	S01012368: Hawick West End - Wilton Dean	7	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low
	S01012369: Hawick West End - Crumhaughill and Parkdale	8	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012370: Hawick Central - Drumlanrig	4	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High
	S01012371: Hawick West End - Crumhaugh	4	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High
	S01012372: Hawick North - Commercial Road	2	4. High	5. Higher	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012373: Hawick North - Wilton Hill	5	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
	S01012374: Hawick North - Stirtches	5	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High
S01012375: Hawick North - Silverbuthall	4	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	
Newcastleton	S01012354: Newcastleton	6	2. Low	4. High	3. Mid	5. Higher
Rural - Teviot and Liddesdale	S01012355: Teviothead and Hermitage Area	5	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High
	S01012357: Minto Cauldmill and Boonraw Area	7	2. Low	3. Mid	1. Lower	1. Lower
	S01012358: Bonchester Bridge and Chesters Area	6	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid

## Tweeddale

SETTLEMENT (Best Fit)	Data Zone 2011 Code and Name	SIMD2020 Decile v2	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level
Cardrona	S01012261: Cardrona	8	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
Innerleithen	S01012264: Innerleithen - North	8	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012265: Innerleithen - East	5	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High
	S01012266: Innerleithen - South	7	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012267: Innerleithen - West	10	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
Peebles	S01012251: Peebles - N - Connor St	4	4. High	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012252: Peebles North - Dalatho	6	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012253: Peebles - N - Cuddyside	6	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012254: Peebles - N - March St	9	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012255: Peebles - N - Eastgate	8	2. Low	2. Low	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012256: Peebles - S - Calvalry Park	9	2. Low	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012257: Peebles - S - Gallow Hill	7	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012258: Peebles - S - Edderston Rd	10	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower
	S01012259: Peebles - S - Caledonian-Springhill	10	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower
	S01012260: Peebles - S - Victoria Park	7	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
Rural - Tweeddale	S01012244: Carlops Romannobridge	6	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012247: Eddleston and Area	7	2. Low	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012248: Stobo - Blyth Bridge - Skirling	7	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012249: Broughton and Upper Tweed	6	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
	S01012250: Glentress and Manor Valley	8	2. Low	2. Low	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012262: Tweeddale East Landward	6	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012273: Clovenfords and Area	9	2. Low	2. Low	1. Lower	1. Lower
Walkerburn	S01012263: Walkerburn	4	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
West Linton	S01012245: West Linton - Lower	9	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012246: West Linton - Upper	9	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low

## Challenge Poverty Week – 5-11 October 2020

DATE	Messaging
Mon	This week we're supporting Challenge Poverty Week by highlighting the wide range of information, advice and support that is available across the region to support people experiencing financial hardship #ChallengePoverty <a href="https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/news/article/3935/council_to_mark_challenge_poverty_week_by_raising_awareness_of_support_that_is_available">www.scotborders.gov.uk/news/article/3935/council_to_mark_challenge_poverty_week_by_raising_awareness_of_support_that_is_available</a>
Tue	The Scottish Welfare Fund helps families and people in Scotland who are on low incomes through Crisis Grants and Community Care Grants. Find out more at: <a href="https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20000/benefits_and_grants/471/community_care_grant_and_crisis_grant">https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20000/benefits_and_grants/471/community_care_grant_and_crisis_grant</a> #ChallengePoverty
Wed	Did you know Citizens Advice Bureau could help with income maximisation and advice on bills? Visit their website to find your nearest CAB office: <a href="https://www.cas.org.uk">https://www.cas.org.uk</a> #ChallengePoverty
Thurs	If you're worried about your energy bills or struggling to stay warm at home, contact Home Energy Scotland. They offer a free and impartial service and are committed to keeping you warm. Call them for free on 0808 808 2282 or visit: <a href="https://www.homeenergyscotland.org">https://www.homeenergyscotland.org</a> #ChallengePoverty
Fri	If you receive Housing Benefit or Universal Credit (housing element) but still struggle to meet the shortfall in your rent, you may be eligible for Discretionary Housing Payment. Find out more at: <a href="http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/dhp">www.scotborders.gov.uk/dhp</a> #ChallengePoverty
Sat	Did you know you can receive financial help during pregnancy and with a child up to school age? Check our website to see what financial support is available – including our Financial Help in the Early Years information sheet <a href="https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20075/help_applying_for_benefits/301/how_can_the_financial_support_and_inclusion_team_help">https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20075/help_applying_for_benefits/301/how_can_the_financial_support_and_inclusion_team_help</a> #ChallengePoverty
Sun	We are continuing make sure that the most vulnerable people in our communities receive the support they need through our Community Assistance Hubs. Find out how they could help you or someone you know at: <a href="http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/cahs">www.scotborders.gov.uk/cahs</a> #ChallengePoverty

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## Case Studies

### YOUTH WORK AND FOOD INSECURITY

Tackling food insecurity is an ongoing challenge for those who live with the shadow of poverty and low wages. This affects a significant number of children and young people, and puts unacceptable barriers in place to their wellbeing, education and future life path and happiness. YouthLink Scotland has been working with Scottish Government Tackling Food Insecurities Unit to explore the benefit of working with the youth work sector to address the impacts of food insecurity. The pilot involved six projects delivered across the school summer holiday period. These took place in Moray, Dundee, South Lanarkshire, East Ayrshire, Falkirk and Scottish Borders. We look at the practical approach taken in the Borders. TD1 Youth Hub delivered the programme on behalf of the Community Learning and Development Service at Scottish Borders Council.

Young people were identified through the crisis support TD1 workers provided during lockdown and from referrals made by the school pastoral team prior to lockdown. Given the restrictions in place, the programme was delivered mainly online. Activities provided a range of opportunities for young people to develop skills, engage with their peers and improve health and wellbeing. This included STEM sessions, baking, photography and self-care. All young people were offered the opportunity to work towards a Youth Achievement Award or Dynamic Youth Award, to recognise their learning and achievement during the programme. In collaboration with school, TD1 workers will provide ongoing support to allow young people to complete these awards now they have returned to school.

Alongside the activities and group work, all young people were offered one-to-one support via what's app, texts and phone. Each week a food parcel was delivered to participants. This provided food for both the young person and their family, recipe suggestions based on a weekly theme and included any equipment the family needed to cook the meals. Digital poverty has meant some young people do not have a home WiFi connection or access to home technology. TD1 workers sought to overcome these barriers by providing a mobile device (Raspberry Pi). Where it has not been possible to connect digitally, TD1 youth workers continued support by phone or on the doorstep during initial lockdown. Towards the end of the summer programme TD1 workers were able to meet outdoors with those young people who were vulnerable or had struggled with the digital side of the project. Those trusted relationships built with youth workers ensured young people were supported, reducing anxieties and helping prepare for the return to school.

*“Over the period my son has been working with TD1, it has had a phenomenal impact on my son, his confidence and self-belief has increased massively. The support provided by TD1 has been first class and for me as a parent having access to these resources through the food, the STEM kits, the coding project has been so helpful. I would not have been able to provide all these activities to my son. It has also helped him catch up with schoolwork as the coding was something they had been doing at school, but he was struggling. Providing a device and weekly sessions has allowed him to catch up and he is now a lot more confident about the move back to school. I can't thank TD1 Youth Hub enough for all their support to my son.”* Parent of young man, aged 13

*"I have loved doing all the cooking stuff over the summer, I wasn't really into cooking or that, but over the summer TD1 would drop me stuff to cook with. It was actually really easy as you joined the Zoom session if you wanted to extra help - which I always needed. It was good though as a video was posted online showing you what to do and an ingredients/how to do it sheet was with the pack. I felt really buzzed that I was cooking food which even my parents liked and would eat it too! I even cooked a few times using the same recipe on my own as I was getting really confident with it. I don't know what I would have done all summer without doing this, was highlight of my week every week!"* Participant, aged 15

*"There's a lot of young people and families that are very proud and will not actually open up and share that they've got difficulties. There's a lot of affluent areas in Galashiels, but there's a lot of deprived areas. My worry is that some young people are overlooked, and we wouldn't necessarily know that there was actually any kind of issues with regards to food in the local community".*

Teacher, Scottish Borders

*"With shielding, and the delivery of food parcels for shielding, I think that was reducing the stigma of people asking for help, because people were seeing food parcels being delivered in the community".*

Youth Worker, Scottish Borders

*"I think the good thing is we've got engagement, I think the worry was having that time out away from school, with young people not necessarily returning, particularly with attendance being a strong issue within that locality, especially in that postcode area, attendance is fairly poor on the whole. But attendance has been very good from the young people that have been involved in the programme".*

Teacher, Scottish Borders

*"One pupil really struggles with writing. He doesn't like to admit that, and he doesn't like anyone to know that he's struggling. So that wasn't really an issue in the project because they allowed the young people to take photos of things, like take photos of the steps that they were doing. So there wasn't really a pressure to write things down".*

Teacher, Scottish Borders

*"Forget the programme, the biggest key part here was the relationship that TD1 have got with families in the community... They have got a phenomenal relationship, they're really well-known, they go over and above for young people. So there was trust there from the parents from the beginning. TD1 had full buy-in and the support, whether that be food, whether that be the activity packs, whether it be online sessions, there was trust there, and that was key".*

Teacher, Scottish Borders

*"A multi-agency approach was definitely key, it meant that no young people were missed out".*

Teacher, Scottish Borders

## GREENHOUSE PROJECT

The Joint Health Improvement Team works in partnership with Scottish Borders Council's Community Justice Team to grow a wide range of seasonal produce at a Greenhouse site in Galashiels. Produce is distributed back into the community through service settings and activities that support children and families.

The project has developed incrementally to offer new activities:

- REHIS training & cooking classes with Community Justice Clients
- Live cookery classes in early years settings
- Recipe bags to support home cooking and healthier meals
- Welfare boxes & food distribution during COVID
- Distribution of plants to encourage home growing

### **Produce distributed included:**

Spring onions, onions, leeks, rocket, mint, coriander, sage, rosemary, fennel, oregano, spinach, parsley, basil, cucumbers, sweet peppers, carrots, beetroot, radish, pea pods, jalapeno chilli, rhubarb, courgettes, thyme, cayenne chilli, broad beans, tomatoes, potatoes.

### **Galashiels Early Years Centre:**

The Early Years Centre used the produce to top up 300 food parcels for children and families. Families reported:

- Eating more varied and healthier diets
- Tasting new foods
- Cooking more home-made meals

New partnerships have developed in the last year with:

- Children 1st
- Action for Children
- LINKS Eyemouth

Feedback from all services suggests the produce helped:

- Families to cook healthier meals & grow their own produce
- Services to maintain connections with families

### **Quotes from families & staff confirm the benefits:**

*"Thank you so much for the fresh veg last week, I managed to make a pan of soup and a tomato sauce for pasta. We are currently in rent arrears and struggling to get through the week, your food top ups make a huge difference." (Parent)*

*"Overall I am extremely glad and grateful for the opportunity to work with Mos, the Gala Greenhouse project, and the NHS health Team, I hope the partnership will continue. (EYC Manager)*

*"Being part of this project has been an especially wonderful experience for our service during the lockdown – the fresh vegetables were highly appreciated by the families we support (single mothers especially found it difficult to go grocery shopping, and receiving those herbs and vegetables made their day); it also gave us at Children 1<sup>st</sup> an opportunity to see them and keep connected during times of lockdown, even if just at their doorstep" (Children 1<sup>st</sup> Staff Member)*

## BURNFOOT COMMUNITY FUTURES

Feedback received: Great ideas for making different foods and enjoy making the recipes as some people never cook.

Week commencing	Pick ups	Deliveries	Total	Average daily
23 - 29 March	74		74	15
30 March - 6 April	171		171	34
7 - 13 April	92	12	104	21
14 - 20 April	166	8	174	35
21 - 27 April	131	36	167	33
28 April - 3 May	130	52	182	36
4 - 10 May	110	53	163	33
11 - 17 May	94	49	143	29
18 -24 May	85	52	137	27
25 - 31 May	92	57	149	30
1 - 7 June	95	57	152	30
8 - 14 June	67	60	127	25
15 - 21 June	59	55	114	23
22 - 28 June	82	55	137	27
29 June - 5 July	78	78	156	31
6 July - 12 July	65	56	121	24
13 July - 19 July	37	78	115	23
20 July - 26 July				
Totals so far	1628	758	2386	

We also distributed 50 bags of seed potatoes in April and a further 30 since.

During the period 27 May 2020 to 29 June 2020 the Fareshare and Foodshare Service received produce given from local shops and purchased produce to make various recipe packs and ready meals. Recipes provided totalled 298, benefitting 228 people, with 296 ready meals created. Of the ready meals available 262 had these delivered whilst 1053 recipients collected as part of their daily exercise.

*“Great ideas for making different foods and enjoy making the recipes as some people never cook” “Felt good to get outside and be productive while picking up groceries”*

## MONEY WORRIES APP

Early Steps parents said, “We would love to have our stamp on it and work in partnership with those who are willing to go forward and create this app”.

Good financial health has a positive impact on our overall health and wellbeing. To mitigate the impact of ongoing welfare reform and the wider impact of COVID-19 we developed a Money Worries App.

The App is intended to help people access quality assured information and support to prevent money worries escalating. The App is a digital directory with quality assured national and local information and links to help with:

- Money
- Health
- Housing
- Work

Download the NHS Borders Money Worries App Today.



### Key Outcomes:

- The App
- The App
- The App reflects the voice of parents living in the Scottish Borders
- 55 people signed up as a volunteer to test the App during the testing phase
- The App was successfully launched on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### Launch Week Impact Data:

Media Release & Social Media Asset	Reach	Engagement	Shares
NHS Borders Social Media	10,478	123	28
Scottish Borders Council Social Media	6,353	29	10
CAB Video Clip	4,763	388	14

### Next Steps for the Project Team:

- Generate a series of video clips to increase awareness from a Housing, Health & Work perspective
- Reconnect with partners to confirm launch and build further engagement through conversations



The impact of this programme is measured by:  
**Monitoring** Social Media Data

**Listening** to the **verbal feedback** from users and partners

## SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS – EARLY YEARS CENTRES

### Key aim

To develop new and effective ways of supporting families with young children, so they felt less isolated and had confidence in their ability to manage their families and their own health and wellbeing while attendance at an Early Years Centre was not possible.

### Who are we trying to reach?

The four Early Years Centres supported families with young children in their immediate community. They supported families with access to food to feed their family, information and advice on a range of topics relating to health and wellbeing and managing their children, and practical support outdoors for their own mental wellbeing.

### **Outcome 1: Children will have nutritious hot meals made by their parent**

The single most urgent thing dealt with throughout 2020 was the access to food for families. The deliveries from Foodshare, neighbourly and other local excess food sources became critical for many parents. Single parents with a number of children were initially discouraged and sometimes barred from shopping together by some supermarkets. Unable to leave the house to shop, and struggling with paying for online shopping, the food parcel deliveries were a life line for many families. As restrictions eased and families were able to go out and shop, they were also encouraged to come to the centre door to collect a food parcel, with only those still shielding continuing to have deliveries.

The impact of this service is measured through verbal feedback from families on using the food parcels distributed and the number of families supported.

Over 500 food parcels were distributed in the first fifteen weeks of the lockdown. An average of 10 families per week are still being supported from each Centre.

*“I used the sausages to make meatballs from the recipe on the wee label, the kids weren’t sure at first but they tried them and like them”*

*“The wee yoghurt drinks were good for the kids”*

*“It cooked really quickly and smells so good!”*

### **Outcome 2: Families will have a greater repertoire of easily made family meals that can be made from ingredients provided through food parcel. There will be less waste of distributed food**

Teams became a key way of delivering programmes and meeting up with groups of people and supported healthy eating by giving parents ideas and showing them how to make meals with their children.

The impact of the service is measured through observing parents joining in with, and watching sessions, Verbal feedback and pictures shared on Facebook. Cook-a-Long sessions and Face Book cooking films were very popular with a regular 6-8 families attending the teams sessions live every week, with many more, over 90 views watching the films on Facebook.

*“I have only just started cooking and I have totally enjoyed it but I find cooking very stressful but hopefully the coming weeks it will get easier for me”*

**Outcome 3: Families will be able to successfully engage with virtual support from The Early Years Centre sessions**

Keeping a connection with individual families was very important, regular contact was kept up through text and phone calls whether this is a simple check in: How are you doing?, a request for a doorstep visit or the delivery of a food parcel, many parents found this the easiest way to keep in touch. Group work was delivered through TEAMS, sessions like Christmas for Less included craft making and keeping safe, and was all delivered on Teams.

The Early years centres also promoted other online support programmes with families able to access, breast feeding and weaning sessions through links on the centre Facebook page. The impact of the service is measured through listening to people and responding to their needs. Verbal feedback on the impact on families and monitoring information shared on Facebook pages. Initially uptake was low, parents were scared of this new way of working and wary of people 'seeing' their houses. Parents also reported that without crèche, trying to engage with sessions while having a toddler in the house was not easy. In response short film clips were made and posted on line. There was a regular level of engagement with a core number of families every week and feedback from these families is very positive.

For some parents access to devices and WIFI were barriers to them engaging, through the Connecting Scotland programme early years centres have been able to support 19 families with access to free devices and mifi so that they could be included.

*"Teams was hard to begin with as I haven't used it before, I wish I could change the settings so I can see everyone and not just the loudest person, but once I got used to Teams I loved it"*

*"I really enjoyed Christmas for Less, I know how to use Teams as I do Cook-Along on Wednesdays. It was nice to chat to folk and not feel judged, the recipes and crafting was really nice"*

*"You have no idea how much this has helped me, it put me in the right mind set for Christmas, and I've made new friends. The gift for the kids at the end was really appreciated too"*

**Outcome 4: Parents will feel the benefit of regular exercise and will have increasing confidence in their ability to manage simple improvements in their health and well being**

As restrictions eased outdoor sessions booked in advance, enabled the EYCM to meet face to face with one family at a time and parents were encouraged to walk and engage in exercise outdoors. The sessions were popular and quickly booked up. Across the four centres the following have been offered; *Sole Mates Walks, Walk It, Wednesday Wanders, Buddy Walks, Social Strolls*, all an opportunity for fresh air, a bit exercise and a chat. Step challenges were completed in one centre and walks to places of interest were planned.

One EYCM met a parent and child an outside play area for one mum this was her only time outwith her family home. As the weather deteriorated, the EYCM and the parent and child would walk at a local café. Parents welcomed the support of the EYCM in taking their young child into a social space as they were often too scared their child would not behave. For some parents this was their only socialising with another adult in the week.

The impact of the service was measured through spaces being booked and verbal feedback from families.

*“Love my weekly walk” “Enjoy the blether” “It gets me out the house” “I enjoyed having adult conversation” “I started walking a lot more due to the step counting challenge and walks” “I have totally enjoyed Meet and Play on a Wednesday morning as it’s really good fun, I enjoy the activities, I wouldn’t change it for anything else. It’s totally helped me with my anxiety going out and doing things with my family” “I enjoyed being able to get my exercise early in the morning with nice company and being able to chat, it really set me up for the day”*

### **Outcome 5: Parents will receive practical support at Christmas**

Applications were made to a range of different charities and organisations to help families struggling at Christmas and through the winter period. Children received winter coats through an application to Border Children’s Charity and Cash for Kids supported with supermarket vouchers.

Mission Christmas and The Salvation Army gave Christmas presents. The Salvation Army provided food hampers along with an extra bag of Christmas supplies mainly mince pies, crisps and crackers. Local organisation and charities donated books, vouchers, money for craft materials, food stuff and toiletries. Craft bags were made up and available at Halloween, Christmas and Easter.

Managers set up and managed community cupboards and larders with non-perishable food stuff, sanitary products and recycled clothing. Families could request / order from these and either pick up or have delivered.

The impact of the service was measured by verbal feedback, pictures of children in coats and numbers of families supported

Over a 150 families were supported across the four centres with Christmas presents. 15 families were given a £100 ASDA voucher per child to use on gifts, food, clothing etc. 17 children got a new padded winter coat.

*“Thank you so, so much for the gifts for my tow. They are wonderful and a huge help” “Was not expecting that much I genuinely thought it was going to be one little gift I’m a bit emotional”*

### **Next Steps**

Relaunch the Early Years Centres from session 2021/22

- Engage with families in the immediate community to develop support and advice which will have a positive impact on family’s health and wellbeing.
- Develop specific targeted intervention and prevention support sessions based on needs in the community
- Continue to develop the virtual platform, enabling families where ever they are in Scottish Borders, to access support from the centres.

Promote a healthy life style by

- Developing an alternative outside base and planning and facilitating a family learning offer
- Developing opportunities for families to work together such as gardening, cooking and craft
- Listening to parents and facilitating opportunities for parents to improve their own health and wellbeing, both physical and mental.

Empower parents to take responsibility for themselves and their families by

- Engaging parents to develop support networks with each other
- Leading and supporting sessions for others
- Directing parents to learning opportunities to enhance their employability

## **COMMUNITY FOOD HUBS WORK**

In the March 2020 JHIT was contacted to support community assistance hubs responding to the Covid 19 crisis and lockdown. Request made to provide nutritional information and advice for the government food welfare boxes and additional food items offered by SBC.

In May further request was made to support the community hubs with more food related information.

### **Welfare Food Boxes & Additional Food Items**

Nutritional advice and support given included:

- Mapping the government food boxes and additional food items against the Eat well Guide
- Identifying the gaps
- Recommending the alternatives where appropriate
- Advise on selecting appropriate nutritional food items
- Developing appropriate recipes to accompany the welfare food boxes taking into account nutritional value, assumed limited resources and budgeting issues, health literacy and readability.
- Developing the recipes into easy read postcard size resource

Appropriate recipes to accompany the welfare food boxes were developed taking into account nutritional value, assumed limited resources, budgeting issues, health literacy and readability. These were then made into easy read postcard size resources.

E.g. Couscous, Tuna Pasta Bake, Fishcakes, Vegetable Biryani, Potato & Tomato Bake, Vegetable Rice, Tinned Fruit Crumble and Tomato Pasta

The work was reported back to our SBC colleagues with an offer of added input and support if required.

### **Further requested support**

After a short consultation with SBC colleagues it was decided that this information would be based on the experience of staff and volunteers involved in the distribution of food parcels. And who had taken onboard comments and noted patterns of behaviour from clients. This included food waste, food storage and unfamiliar ingredients.

JHIT responded by creating and developing resources and regularly keeping in touch with SBC colleagues, taking on board any further direction or feedback. Information sheets, nutrition leaflets, recipes for different living situations were shared on a weekly basis with SBC community hub colleagues who were able to further distribute inc food projects like the salvation army.

Some resources redeveloped, created and shared inc:

- Govt food box recipes (resent)
- Microwave recipe booklet
- Easy canned food recipes – Bake Beans Quesadillas, Chana Chaat, Easy Minestrone soup, Tuna pasta salad, Chicken rice casserole, Peach layer delight
- Food safety for canned food
- Cooking for one – 15 recipes – Patata Bravas, Bubble & Squeak Patties, Spaghetti hoops, Lemon/Lime roasted sardines, tuna pasta, Carrot & orange soup, Tasty tortilla

wrap, Cheesy beans & sweet corn cakes with salsa, Weekend eggs, Easy minestrone, Pasta in a mug, Make a pizza, Savoury rice, Fruit crumble, Yogurt fruit layer

- Cooking for one from fresh, frozen or canned - recipe tips and ideas
- Top tips to eat healthily
- Healthy hydration
- How to use and store herbs
- Tinned and canned food information sheet
- Tips and ideas for tinned tomatoes

#### Challenges & Success:

The main challenge for this work was the short time frame and turnaround of the information required. All involved had to use their expertise under pressure while responding to other demands of work and changing work environments.

As there was not an opportunity to do the work that would normally involve consulting service users and clients, the work had to develop with assumptions, experience and expertise of all. With limited food items and lack of variety in the welfare food boxes it was exceptionally challenging to put a recipe together and therefore assumptions had to be made on store cupboard ingredients. Although alternative options were given for some ingredients for this reason. No information was available about the additional food items available as this was randomly based on what was available to the Hubs. Once again the recipes were based on general assumptions and observations from Food Hub colleagues on most frequently received items.

The feedback from SBC colleagues was positive. However further information and work is required to gauge what worked and what needs to improve so that we are in a better responsive position should such a need arise again.

An email was sent out with the opportunity through our SBC colleagues to feedback. However no response was received directly from projects.

#### Recommendations for future:

- Align all recipes to same format in JHIT
- More info around budgeting
- Nutrition investigation /sheet etc on eating canned food etc
- Videos to support recipes (this was requested but we could not fulfil)
- Basic cooking technique videos etc.
- Take on any opportunity to get feedback from clients in receipt of information
- Liaise with SBC colleagues on gathering more info and best ways to support and respond.

## **COMMUNITY GROWING STRATEGY**

Funding from SBC to LINKS Eyemouth is ongoing via a partnership with BAVS as an anchor agency. This is helping to grow this children & families food network.

### **Case Study for Community Growing Strategy 26/02/21**

**Priority 6: A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active**

#### **Big Eyemouth Eat Better 5 Day Challenge**

The Big Eyemouth Eat Better Feel Better 5 Day Challenge took place over five days in January 2020. The concept of the challenge was simple, to ask parents to challenge their families to try a different vegetable and Eat Better Feel Better recipe each day for 5 days.

Participation data demonstrates the level of community engagement with the challenge:

Total no. of families: 18

Total no. of children: 47

Age range of children: 6 months to 15 years

The Eat Better Feel Better 5 day challenge programme has developed over the last three years and has been strengthened by:

Taking a universal, community led health approach

The role of the LINKS Eyemouth Project Support Worker (who had participated in the first 5 day challenge in 2017)

The use of Social Media to engage and communicate with parents

Less reliance on physical attendance at healthy eating sessions

Provision of incentive foods, with lots of fruit & vegetables (reducing the stigma of free foods)

A full programme evaluation has been undertaken, this clearly shows an increase in the amount of fruit and vegetables that families ate during the challenge. The aim and objectives of the programme were met in full.

Families were positive about the impact of the challenge and level of peer support:

*"It's social, it's sharing and it's encouraging".*

## EYEMOUTH LINKS PROJECT

*“Firstly I would just like to say thank you so much for all your help with funding for the batch cook. It has been a crazy few weeks getting this sorted. We have had a whopping 81 families sign up and register via a registration form. The information we have received is incredible. Today I have paid for the milk from co-op, the 10% lean beef mince from the local butcher. He gave us an amazing deal with 80 packs of 500g at £260. That’s £3.25 per family on meat. 75p cheaper than I thought it would be. I have ordered all the veg from Fresh Choice in Eyemouth. They also gave us a 20% discount and it came to £129. This was delivered to the church today. We are delivering this tomorrow and everyone is so excited about it. We did not expect this to be so big but with this being such a huge need and importance to the local families we have now used the £500 funding. We are doing lasagna this time. I done a Facebook poll and this was what was wanted”.*

## **EARLY YEARS WELFARE BENEFITS ASSISTANT POST Case Study:**

**Case study which illustrates the importance and value of joint working: (may need to anonymise further if it is to be publicly published)**

*I had one particularly satisfying case with the Parental Employability Support Team (PES) last year where a domestic abuse case was referred to me for a benefit check. The claimant involved was an unemployed EU National and therefore unable to claim benefits if she separated from her abusive husband. The PES team were however confident that a part time job could be secured and this would then lead to full benefit cover. The Homeless Team were contacted to check on her entitlement to alternative accommodation and they also agreed to help her. She was therefore advised that she and her children could now escape the abusive relationship with the support of a job, a new home and full benefit entitlement in support. She was delighted and relieved on hearing this news. I have had a number of similar cases in the past where the outcomes were not so positive but with this joined up approach on employment, housing and benefits I now hope for better ones in the future.*

### **COVID example:**

*I was able to alleviate some quite desperate situations during Covid by advising young families about their entitlement to the new Scottish Grants and payments. There were surprisingly quite a number and sums of £600 to £250 were an absolute lifeline to them particularly around Christmas last year.*

## **BERWICKSHIRE HOUSING ASSOCIATION**

There was a successful joint bid between 4 Border RSL's (with Eildon, Waverley and SBHA) to secure 450k of SG Fuel Poverty funding. BHA has a pro-rata share of 72k to help alleviate fuel poverty for our tenants.

Financial Inclusion: the total benefits gains for the year 2020/21 is £1,004,805 - a significant increase of income for BHA customers, especially in such a challenging year for so many.

Continued roll out of 'BeWell', a pilot wellbeing & mental health tenancy support service between BHA and Penumbra.

Distribution of £25k of SG Covid-19 Recovery funding to support communities recover from the pandemic.

Piloting use of HACT social value tool highlight impact of community activity and value from money in SFHA report.

Most activities are continuing online across our many community partner organisations where possible with further emphasis on providing localised support in this new period of lockdown. Online and other non-contact supports are likely to continue for the foreseeable future with digital lending library devices supporting access to online groups for some people. Supporting Communities Funding and Covid-19 Recovery Funding (CRF) secured via SFHA have been distributed in partnership with BAVS to the following community groups:

- Berwickshire Swap
- Allanbank Creative Hub
- Horse Time
- Splash
- Eat, Sleep Ride
- BAVS (neighbourhood bus / digital workshops for village halls)

<https://www.berwickshirehousing.org.uk/news/local-groups-benefit-from-communities-recovery-fund/>

BHA staff have made a number of direct referrals to Horse Time and the workshops are now full with a small waiting list to fill any vacancies that may arise. BHA has also been in discussion with Public Health Scotland and Horse Time to highlight partnership working that may feature in a national trauma case studies project.

'Let's Get Digital Berwickshire' is well underway with 50 devices purchased and 45 now distributed to people in the community via partner organisations. A handover to BAVS has been agreed from mid-May to enable the project to expand and be sustained through recent TNL funding secured by BAVS. This will include a mobile facility and workshops in village halls to promote digital skills. It is hoped this project can provide a working template for future Border-wide digital developments with SBC and Connecting Scotland.

BeWell is now engaging with around 12 tenants experiencing a range of mental health and other support needs. Most are regularly engaging with support offered however some will take longer due to fluctuating mental health conditions and substance misuse issues. Agreements to repay rent arrears, tenancy management and providing comprehensive support with other services are some of the positive outcomes achieved so far. Penumbra have welcomed the ability to provide services flexibly as some people have required more intensive support at times.

BHA has remained part of the Berwickshire Community Assistance Hub which is now moved from 'recovery' to 'response' mode due to new lockdown restrictions. CAH activity remains low, reflecting that most people are managing with local reliance groups and community larders well stocked to support as necessary. However, this may change rapidly especially if online deliveries are unable to keep up with demand. BeFriend are now attending a similar weekly forum tailored to individual and case specific responses.

BeFriend staff and volunteers are currently visiting people, outdoors and walking with some people, in line with Covid guidance. Current guidance indicates indoor visits can resume from 17<sup>th</sup> May.

BeFriend also recently helped support older people in Duns with afternoon tea delivered to homes with a small contribution from the Community Initiatives fund.

<https://www.berwickshirehousing.org.uk/news/bha-supports-duns-senior-citizens-club-with-easter-treats/>

BHA is working in partnership with other Border services to promote and improve mental health and wellbeing through several projects. BHA is an active member of several forums has widely promoted positive mental health messages through our social media channels. The installation of a 'Breathing Space' bench in partnership with the Springfield Group and NHA 24 is a recent example of BHA's commitment to raising mental health awareness and adding value to our estate environment. This was featured as part of national Breathing Space Day on 1<sup>st</sup> February through a promotional video and BHA press release:

<https://breathingspace.scot/news/2021/its-national-breathing-space-day/>

<https://www.berwickshirehousing.org.uk/news/breathing-space-bench-offers-place-for-reflection/>

A further Breathing Space bench is planned for the Community Garden in Duns and BHA will look to install further benches as a visible and permanent commitment to supporting mental health and wellbeing.

### **Hygge**

The HYGGE programme is now underway in Eyemouth delivering seasonal groups online to around 30 local people. Originating from Scandinavia, the Hygge programme is an activity-based group focusing on aspects of wellbeing and mutual support. This group suspended its spring season programme due to Covid-19, however SCF funding has expanded reach via online support to promote wellbeing and maintain connectedness. The newly developed Hygge@home programme will continue to expand its membership across the community and pilot the use of the short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-Being Scale to measure change before and after participation. The group is now a constituted organisation that remains a BHA tenant led innovation.

### **Allanbank Arts- Creative Hub**

Allanbank Arts- Creative Hub are creating a network using social media platforms to support adults and young people who struggle with anxiety, including young people with disabilities affected through isolation or anxiety by Covid-19. Activities include production of 5/6 YouTube videos featuring artists and their work; delivery of art and craft materials to all participants and group and one-to-one zoom calls with participants and their families where possible to enjoy a "live" studio experience. Allanbank will work with up to 15 people to build resilience, a sense of community and ongoing connections should further periods of lockdown occur. For more information please see:

<https://www.berwickshirehousing.org.uk/news/support-for-allanbank-arts-creative-hub-resilience-project/>

### **Abundant Borders**

Abundant Borders teaches people to grow food in a sustainable way through training courses, workshops and supported learning in the network of community food gardens to address food insecurity at fundamental levels. Restrictions put in place in March meant that the community gardens (two of which are owned by BHA) were closed to visitors and volunteers and all training courses and workshops were suspended. Abundant Borders subsequently moved all training courses on-line and with courses on Sustainable Growing. To date, over 350 people have joined the on-line courses and there have been thousands of downloads of course material. SCF funding will allow further expansion of on-line courses with a new 'seed circle' 7-module course. This attracted 45 new participants and is likely generate several longer-term outcomes that will increase participation and engagement when restrictions are eased.

### **The Learning Space**

The Learning Space is an independent resource that works with Scottish Borders Council Education and Social departments for around 30 young people within the Berwickshire area. The project is expanding access and infrastructure of its outside Nature Space by extending their current garden area and creating a calm nature and nurture wildlife space where the young people can observe and engage with nature, plant and use fruit, vegetables and herbs and build empathy and respect for the wildlife around them. The Learning Space currently have several young people who find it extremely challenging to be part of any organised social event that would give them this experience, however, through building upon positive relationships they will be able to offer these experiences to them. SCF funding has accelerated activities to allow more young people access to walks in the woods and to local nature areas which may otherwise be a challenge. In addition, new partnerships have been formed with local groups attracting more interest and volunteers.

### **Splash**

Splash is a dynamic community project in Eyemouth that is working in partnership with local volunteers to deliver a food and wellbeing project in the Community. The service has enabled people in the community to ease back into day to day life due to the impact of Covid-19. During the pandemic Splash have worked in partnership with Eyemouth Response Team, East Berwickshire Food Bank, Eyemouth rotary, Links Eyemouth and local businesses. Over 70 volunteers have helped provide food items, meals, shopping, support phone calls and delivery of prescriptions to people in isolation and those struggling with food poverty; something which has been highlighted over the course of the pandemic. Over 50 families receive regular food support and over 1,000 grocery bags have been distributed.

In addition, Splash are an active partner organisation for 'Let's Get Digital Berwickshire' supporting people to get online via the digital lending library. This is will support their ongoing commitment to reducing social isolation for vulnerable people.

### **Berwickshire Swap**

The result of the Covid-19 pandemic will mean there will be many more children in poverty in the future. This BHA tenant led community enterprise project will produce 50 Emergency Clothing Parcels to children in the Berwickshire area on referral through BHA, health visitors, social workers, schools etc. Each clothing parcel is packed up as a gift for the children with a full 7-day wardrobe for each child including, "new in packaging" pants and socks. The clothing for these parcels comes from swap items stored between swaps (except pants and socks), these clothes will be washed, dried, and ironed by volunteers. In addition, the project will offer 15 re-usable cloth nappy packs to parents to try before they decide to cloth

nappy their child. Social media has helped promote this resource with over 3500 views and local schools and other groups have been directly contacted. BHA is currently looking at providing no cost storage facilities for this new start up community project.

**Scottish Borders  
Local Child Poverty Action Report  
2021/22**

DRAFT

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## Introduction

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets out the Scottish Government's statement of intent to eradicate child poverty in Scotland by 2030.

Although the greatest impact on child poverty will occur through nationally set policies and strategies, it is recognised that local agencies and communities have much to contribute to achieving the outcomes desired. As a result, the Act requires Local Authorities and Health Boards to jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report describing activities planned locally to contribute towards the child poverty targets set out in the Act.

The national Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-2022, 'Every Child, Every Chance', recognises that poverty comes about as a result of three main drivers: household income, living costs, and social security arrangements. The national Delivery Plan uses these three drivers as the focus for action. It also recognises the importance of preventative measures to improve children's quality of life and help families manage the impacts of poverty. Even if these actions have no immediate impact on the targets, building children's resilience in the face of poverty and other adversity is expected to boost their long-term outcomes.

This Action Report for 2021/22 sets out planned activities to help alleviate Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders, and in particular, provides specific actions in relation to the impact of, and recovery from COVID-19.

We recognise that partnerships are key to the achievement of the outcomes we plan for our children, young people and families in the Scottish Borders and thank the Child Poverty Planning Group and the Community Planning Partnership for their contribution to the Plan.

## National Context

### Scottish Government – Current Child Poverty Targets, measures and figures

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 does not specifically define ‘poverty’, instead it uses four income-based targets as measures.

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/child-poverty-scotland-bill>

In March 2021 the Scottish Government updated the measures used to assess child poverty in Scotland<sup>1</sup>, the table below shows the results for the most recent two years along with the 2023 and 2030 targets.

Child Poverty Measures For Scotland	Previous Statistics	Latest statistics	2023 target	2030 target
% of children in relative poverty	23% (2018/19)	26% (2019/20)	18%	10%
% of children in absolute poverty	20% (2018/19)	23% (2019/20)	14%	5%
% of children in low income + material deprivation	12% (2018/19)	12% (2019/20)	8%	5%
% of children in persistent poverty after housing costs	15% (2014-2018)	16% (2015-2019)	8%	5%

Source: <https://data.gov.scot/poverty/cpupdate.html>

### Scottish Government Measures Definitions

#### Relative Poverty

Scottish Government defines relative poverty as: “a household earning less than 60% of average UK household income **for the year (after housing costs), taking account of the size and composition of the household.**”

#### Absolute Poverty

Scottish Government defines absolute poverty as a household with “less than 60% of average UK household income **for the financial year beginning 1 April 2010**”

#### Low Income and Material Deprivation

Scottish Government defines “low income and material deprivation” as “less than 70% of average UK household income for the reference year” and “material deprivation” as “when families are unable to afford three or more items out of a list of basic necessities”.

<sup>1</sup> The Scottish Government references the Family Resources Survey and Understanding Society Survey in the [publication](#), this is separate to the DWP/HMRC [children in low income families statistics](#).

## **Persistent Poverty**

Scottish Government defines persistent child poverty as where a child has lived in relative poverty for three out of the last four years. The Scottish Government target states that less than 5% of children should live in persistently-poor households by 2030.

## **Food Security**

In 2019/20, 25% of Scottish children lived in households that did not enjoy “high” food security. 7% of children lived with “very low” food security. This rises to 14% of children who are living in relative poverty and 15% of children living in absolute poverty.

## **National Context in Relation to Covid-19 and Child Poverty**

Appendix 2(a) sets out some national findings in relation the drivers of child poverty, also taking into account the impact of Covid-19. Information about the nationally identified priority groups at high risk of poverty is also shown.

## **Public Health Scotland**

Public Health Scotland was formed in April 2020 and promotes six national Public Health Priorities. These priorities are intended to support national and local partners across Scotland to work together to improve healthy life expectancy and reduce health inequalities in our communities.

- Priority 1 - A Scotland where we live in vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities
- Priority 2 - A Scotland where we flourish in our early years
- Priority 3 - A Scotland where we have good mental wellbeing
- Priority 4 - A Scotland where we reduce the use of and harm from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
- Priority 5 - A Scotland where we have a sustainable, inclusive economy with equality of outcomes for all
- Priority 6 - A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active

## **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Child Poverty**

In spring 2021 the Scottish Parliament unanimously supported the UNCRC Incorporation (Scotland) Bill – which places a duty on public bodies to respect and protect children’s rights in all the work that they do. The Bill also says that public authorities must not act in a way that is incompatible with the UNCRC requirements.

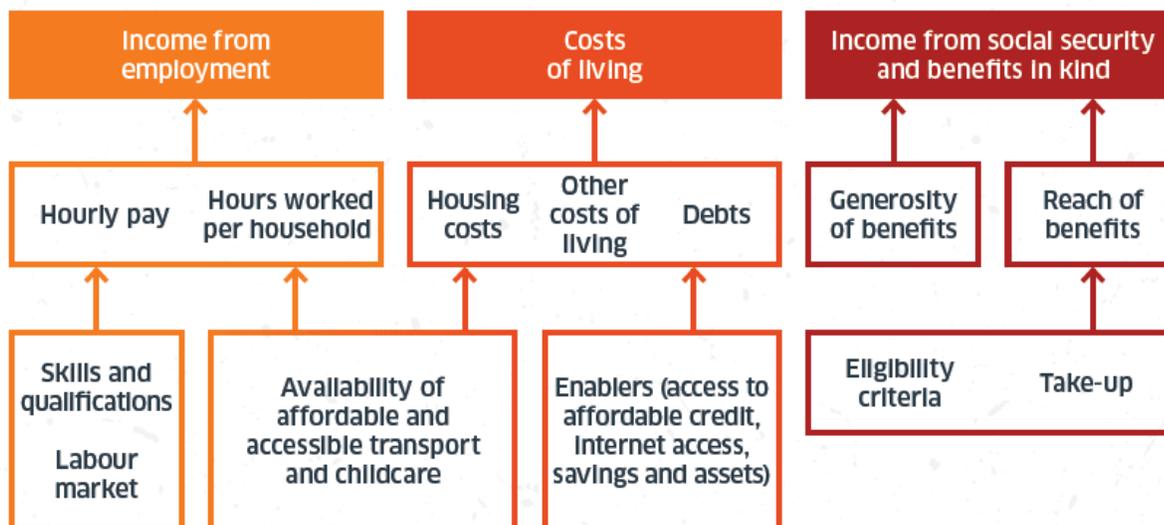
It is said that a Children’s Rights framework ought to be used by the Scottish Government to shape their work towards achieving their targets as set out in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017. The Children’s Rights framework would allow consideration to be given to the barriers presented by policy areas that may not immediately seem relevant to child poverty, for example, housing, education, health, transport, employment, discrimination, disability and family life.

*Article 24 - ‘I have the right to good quality health care, to clean water and good food’, Article 26 ‘My family should get the money they need to help bring me up’ and Article 27 - ‘I have the right to have a proper house, food and clothing’* are relevant to our Child Poverty work and an action to ensure that UNCRC and Children’s Rights are taken into account is included within our Action Plan.

## Drivers of Child Poverty

The direct drivers of poverty fall in to three main categories – income from employment, costs of living and income from social security. The relationship of those drivers to wider thematic areas is summarised in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1 – Direct drivers of poverty



Source: [Tackling child poverty delivery plan 2018-2022: annex 2 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2018-2022/annex-2/pages/100.aspx)

## Key risk groups and targeted interventions

Child poverty action reports are expected to describe measures taken in relation to children living in households where income and/or expenditure are adversely affected as a consequence of a member or members in a household having one or more protected characteristics. The national Child Poverty Delivery Plan also identifies certain priority groups to be targeted as beneficiaries (see Figure 2 below), and notes the need to take account of local geography and demographic profile. For the Scottish Borders, rurality is a key factor. There is also a requirement to report on income maximisation measures taken in the area to provide pregnant women and families with children with information, advice and assistance about eligibility for financial support; and assistance to apply for financial support. This includes work by the NHS Borders and partners to embed financial inclusion referral pathways in health care settings, as well as other settings.

Figure 2 - Nationally identified priority groups at high risk of poverty



## Covid-19 and implications for Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders

Income from Employment	Job Loss	<p>South of Scotland Enterprise will work with local partners to address the impact of Covid-19 on the local economy whilst delivering support measures to sustain businesses, jobs and growth opportunities.</p> <p>Partnership working between Volunteer Centre Borders and Job Centre was put on hold due to emergency support needed to those suffering redundancy or reduced income. The engagement is planned in Summer 2021 to deliver workshops as the number of redundancies are recognised.</p> <p>Live Borders will commit to offering only contracts and not casual hours going forward. This provides certainty for people to have work for a contracted time period</p> <p>Scottish Government's Youth Guarantee programme remains an ongoing initiative by Borders College and shall continue in 2021-2022.</p>
Income from Employment	Loss of income	<p>The Joint Health Improvement Team will promote the NHS Borders Money Worries App and introduce a pilot scheme in Burnfoot Primary School relating to debt management and savings, whilst supporting the Parental Employability Project and Cost of the School Day programme.</p> <p>As the furlough scheme ends, borrowing levels may increase to ease the gap between income and expenditure potentially creating long term debt problems and possible eviction.</p>
Income from Benefits	Benefits	<p>The referral e-form to Scottish Borders Council's Financial Inclusion Team was delayed during the pandemic and shall be introduced in 2021-2022.</p> <p>Borders Additional Needs Group created and continue to provide a website containing benefits information, also giving opportunities to be signposted to partner agencies such as SBC's Financial Inclusion Team, CAB and Carers Centre. Additionally assistance in completing ILF funding and DLA applications will continue.</p> <p>The Financial Inclusion in the Early Years Partnership Group will continue to ensure referral pathways increase. Although the Financial Inclusion Pilot to be held in Galashiels Health Centre's midwifery clinic was paused due to Covid-19, this will be started again in 2021/22. There are plans to extend the pilot with community midwifery services to increase referrals and ensure accessibility to benefits.</p>

Costs of living	Impact on families	Community Assistance Hubs were introduced in 2020 as a demand led response to COVID-19. Due to the experience gained and the support given the identification of future needs will shape and influence forthcoming policies and strategies eg Community Planning Partnership Key Actions and Priorities.
Costs of living	Housing and household costs	<p>Energy Efficient Scotland provided £1.7 million funding to Scottish Borders Council for the 2020-2021 programme which should be concluded by December 2021.</p> <p>Funding from NHS Borders allocated to SBC's Early Years Centres was identified and shall be utilised in 2021-2022 as is the Meals and More funding allocation.</p> <p>Partnership working between the Joint Improvement Health Board and Social Work's Justice Services Team has contributed to the development of the Greenhouse Project with further funding for 2021-2022 provided.</p> <p>BHA plan to distribute £78,000 to Third Sector partners, some of which are targeted at children, continue their financial inclusion work; and improve heating systems in properties.</p> <p>The Borders Housing Network will distribute £450k of funds for extreme fuel debt from the Scottish Government's Social Housing Fuel Support Fund.</p> <p>Borders College will provide discretionary hardship funding for students facing financial issues relative to housing and food expenses and provide free sanitary products.</p> <p>SBHA is a partner in the Borders Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) and have increased lets to homeless households by 25% to 42% in the past 3 years and secured £10,580 funding from the Crisis Intervention Fund for families in debt residing within SBHA properties. The Warm and Well project remains a future commitment.</p> <p>Third sector youth organisations were involved in responding to many Covid-19 impacted issues facing young people and their families including fuel and data poverty. Although delivery was not included in the 2020-2021 Plan, it is envisaged this will continue in 2021-2022 and that organisations will be mindful of increased need as the furlough scheme ends.</p>
Costs of living	Food insecurity	Food distribution work in communities - funding from SBC to LINKS Eyemouth is ongoing via a partnership with BAVS as an anchor agency. This is helping to grow this children & families food network. Early Years Centres to develop their virtual platform to encourage engagement and access to support mechanisms. An average of 10 families per week continue to receive support from the four Early Years Centres in the Scottish Borders.
Costs of living	Digital exclusion	<p>Borders College will provide laptop loans and broadband provision to allow continued engagement with studies.</p> <p>Partners will continue to support the Connecting Scotland Programme.</p> <p>Volunteer Centre Borders foresees future digital volunteering</p>

	<p>opportunities becoming available.</p> <p>SBHA distributed 190 devices to tenants with the support of 40 Digital Champions within SBHA Teams in 2020-2021 and plan to work in conjunction with Registered Social Landlords to expand and continue.</p> <p>SBC's Homelessness Service plan to support homeless and those becoming potentially homeless access to digital equipment and data.</p> <p>Live Borders shall utilise the Community Renewal Fund to progress with the device lending library of ipads and chromebooks to excluded families.</p> <p>SOSE has provided £75,000 funding to Scottish Borders Council to allow it to extend its Connecting Scottish Borders Programme (Digital Inclusion) activity in 2021/22.</p>
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## Children in Low Income Families

On 25 March 2021 the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) published “[Annual Official Statistics on the number of children living in low income families across the UK for financial years ending \(FYE\) 2015 to 2020.](#)” This publication provides the number and percentage of children (aged under 16) living in both Relative and Absolute low income families for Local Authorities and wards for the FYE 2015 to 2020.<sup>2</sup> **It is very important to note that there is no material impact of COVID-19 on the data used in this release.**

The difference between Relative and Absolute low income is:

**Relative low income** is defined as a family in low income Before Housing Costs (BHC) in the **reference year**. A family must have claimed Child Benefit and at least one other household benefit (Universal Credit, tax credits or Housing Benefit) at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics.

**Absolute low income** is defined as a family in low income Before Housing Costs (BHC) in the reference year in comparison with incomes in **financial year ending 2011**. A family must have claimed Child Benefit and at least one other household benefit (Universal Credit, tax credits or Housing Benefit) at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics.

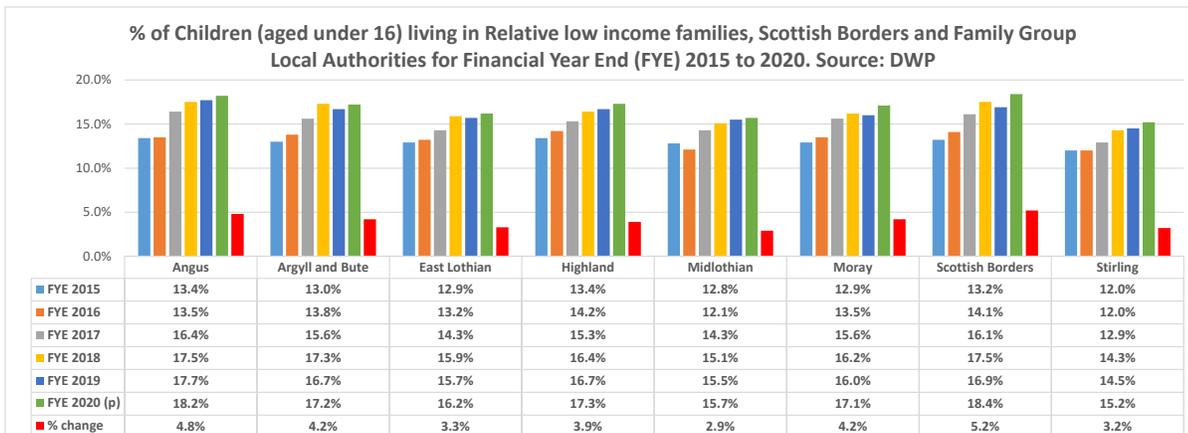
The table below show the proportion of children in Relative and Absolute low income families for the financial years ending (FYE) 2015 to 2020. Note that there has been a greater change in the Scottish Borders compared to Scotland for both relative and absolute. The table below also shows the figures for Dumfries and Galloway, showing the challenges for the South of Scotland Region.

Type	Area - Type	FYE 2015	FYE 2016	FYE 2017	FYE 2018	FYE 2019	FYE 2020 (p)	% Change
Relative	Scotland	14%	15%	16%	18%	18%	19%	4.5%
	Scottish Borders	13%	14%	16%	18%	17%	18%	5.2%
	Dumfries and Galloway	16%	17%	18%	21%	20%	22%	6.0%
Absolute	Scotland	14%	14%	13%	15%	15%	16%	1.3%
	Scottish Borders	13%	13%	13%	14%	14%	15%	1.6%
	Dumfries and Galloway	16%	16%	15%	17%	16%	19%	2.2%

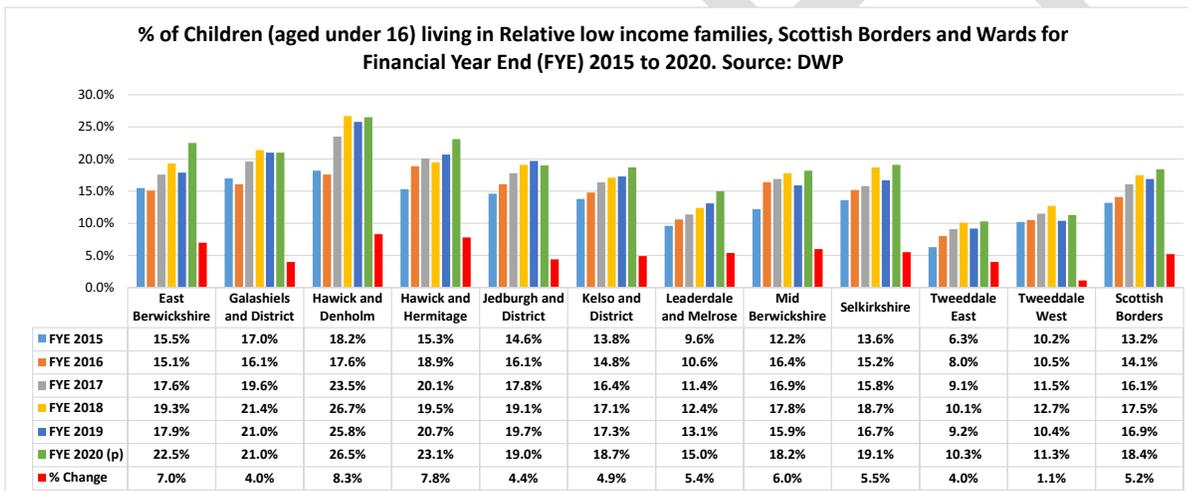
Source: DWP / NRS

The Scottish Borders is in a Local Government Benchmarking Group with seven other Scottish Local Authorities. The graph with table below show the proportion of children in Relative low income families FYE 2015 to 2020 and the percentage change between 2015 and 2020. It should be noted that the Scottish Borders has had the largest increase children in Relative low income families of 5.2% compared to the others. In FYE 2020 the Scottish Borders had the highest proportion of children in low income families of 18.4% compared to the family group.

<sup>2</sup> The figures for Scotland have been derived from summing up the Scottish Local Authorities numbers and applying the NRS aged 0 to 15 population.



Within the Scottish Borders the percent of children (aged under 16) living in Relative low income families ranges between 10.3% for Tweeddale East compared to 26.5% for Hawick and Denholm for FYE 2020. The graph with table below show the proportion of children (aged under 16) living in Relative low income families for each ward in the Scottish Borders between FYE 2015 and 2020 as well as the change between 2015 and 2020.



This is before the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic is taken into account which is likely to make the situation worse.

Other local management information which adds further detail to the picture of child poverty in the Scottish Borders is shown in Appendix 1(c).

## Budgets

Funding was allocated by Scottish Borders Council in February 2021 to specific budget headings intended to help address the impact of child poverty.

Budget	2021/22
Crisis Grants	£88,188
School clothing grants	£247,800
Free sanitary products in schools and workplaces	£52,000
Educational Maintenance Allowance	£335,814
Pupil Equity Funding	£1,876,026

Budgets for various key services will also be used in 2021/22 – Holiday programmes c£15.5k for staff time and resources.

SBC have been notified of funding for enhanced provision of summer activities: “A Targeted Summer Offer - £15 million is being made available to local authorities to deliver enhanced holiday activities and experiences, integrating food and wider family support where needed, and targeted at low income families, children and young people”. The SBC expected amount is £353k and this is a one off grant.

## The Scottish Borders Integrated Children and Young People’s Services Plan 2021-23

The Integrated Children and Young People’s Services Plan 2021-23 sets out the strategic direction for the planning and delivery of services for children and young people in the Scottish Borders from 2021-23. The Plan expresses the commitment of the Children and Young People’s Leadership Group to use its combined resources and to work in partnership to achieve the best possible outcomes for all our children and families.

The Plan focusses on four priorities. Priority one is ‘keeping children and young people safe’, with an outcome attached – ‘more children and young people will be protected from abuse, harm or neglect and will be living in a supportive environment, feeling secure and cared for’.

One of the themes of this priority is ‘to address child poverty’. Partners will understand the impact of child poverty of life chances, in particular on educational attainment, health and child protection outcomes of children and young people. Echoing national research, there is an association within the Scottish Borders between poverty and child abuse health outcomes and neglect. Poverty is only one factor, but perhaps the most pervasive.

The Partnership will plan and deliver services in ways which promote equity and where possible challenge the root causes of poverty and deprivation. Actions and activities associated with this Plan will seek to maximise family income and their available resources and deliver services in a way which is free from stigma or discrimination.

The Partnership will influence and monitor progress on child poverty via the Child Poverty Planning Group.

## The Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index

The Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index (SB CPI) provides additional insight into Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders. The SB CPI works alongside 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 provides an indication of child poverty levels based on four components. Each area receives a score based on the result of each component with a maximum points of 20, where the higher the points the higher the levels of child poverty. These components are:

- Children in Low Income Families (**CiLIF**) – Source is [DWP/HMRC](#). Relative low-income is defined as a family whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of contemporary median income.
- Free School Meals (**FSM**) – Source is SBC. The proportion of pupils recorded for Free School Meals of all pupils in area for school year.
- Clothing Grant (**CLG**) - Source is SBC. The proportion of pupils recorded for Clothing Grant of all pupils in area for school year.
- Educational Maintenance Allowance (**EMA16+**) – Source is SBC. The proportion of pupils who are aged 16 or older (before 01 March of school year) who receive EMA.

The table below shows the results for Scottish Border for 2017 to 2020

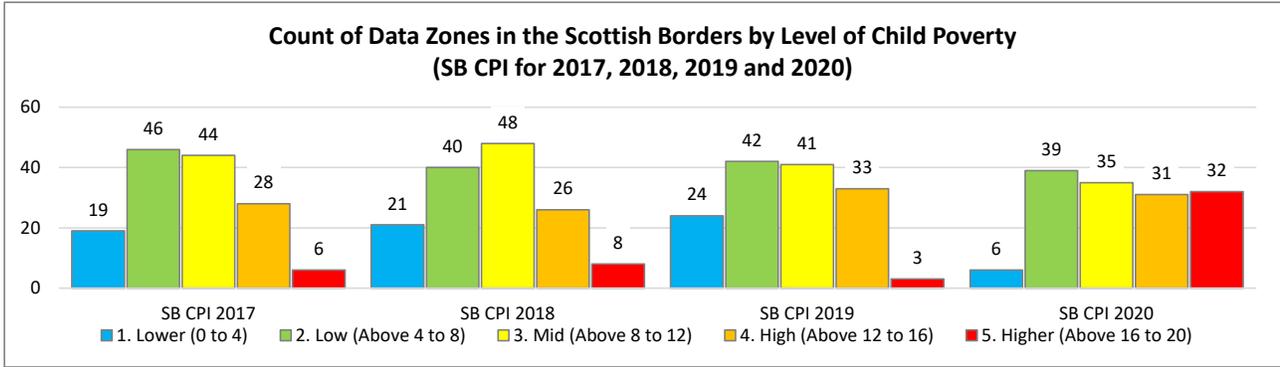
SB CPI Components / Year	For SB CPI 2017	For SB CPI 2018	For SB CPI 2019	For SB CPI 2020
Children in Low Income Families - CiLIF (DWP) ^	19.8%	21.8%	20.6%	<b>22.5%</b>
Free School Meals - FSM (SBC)	10.0%	10.4%	11.6%	<b>15.7%</b>
Clothing Grant - CLG (SBC)	14.6%	15.1%	15.2%	<b>18.1%</b>
Educational Maintenance Allowance 16+ - EMA16+ (SBC) *	8.2%	6.2%	3.8%	<b>16.0%</b>

^ CiLIF: Financial Year End. The calculation of proportion of Children in Low Income Families for the purpose of the Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index differs to 'official statistics' due to the availability of the data from Stat-Xplore. The children in Stat-Xplore are defined as dependent individuals aged under 16; or aged 16 to 19 in full-time non-advanced education or in unwaged government training. The figure for all children is then expressed as proportion of those aged 0 to 15 as published by NRS. It is recognised that this calculation is imperfect, but practical for the purpose of the SB CPI.

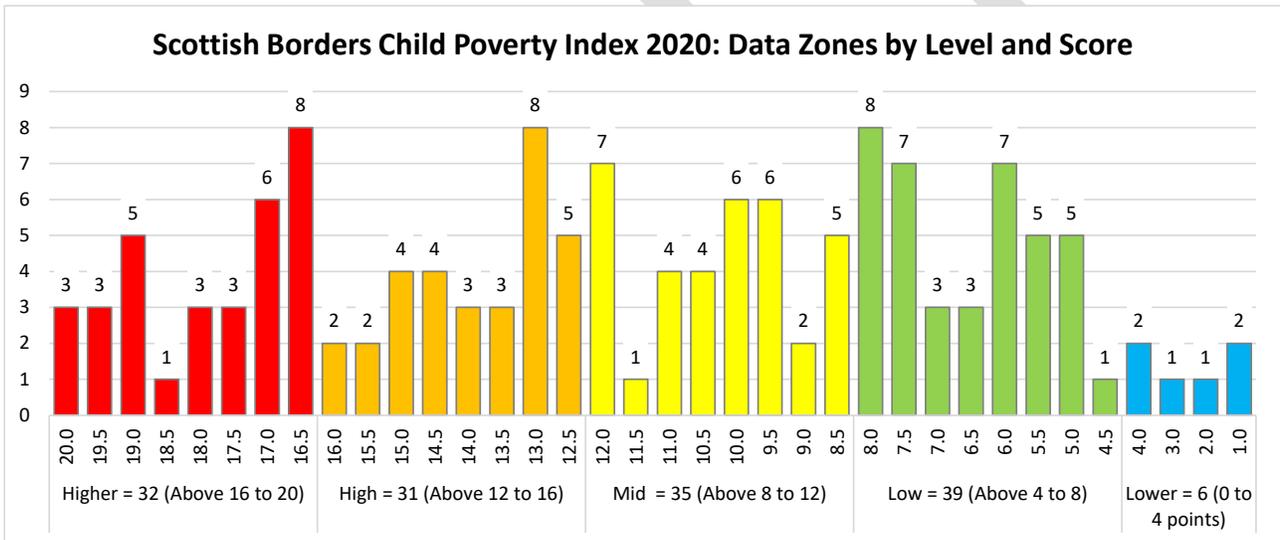
\* EMA16+: Pupils that are aged 16 before the 1st of March of the school year

The results for 2020 show some of the Covid-19 pandemic impact, with an increase in the proportion of pupils receiving free school meals, clothing grant and educational maintenance allowance. It is important to note that the children in low income families relates to 2019/20, so the full impact of Covid-19 pandemic is not reflected in these figures; this will be reflected in the 2021 SB CPI.

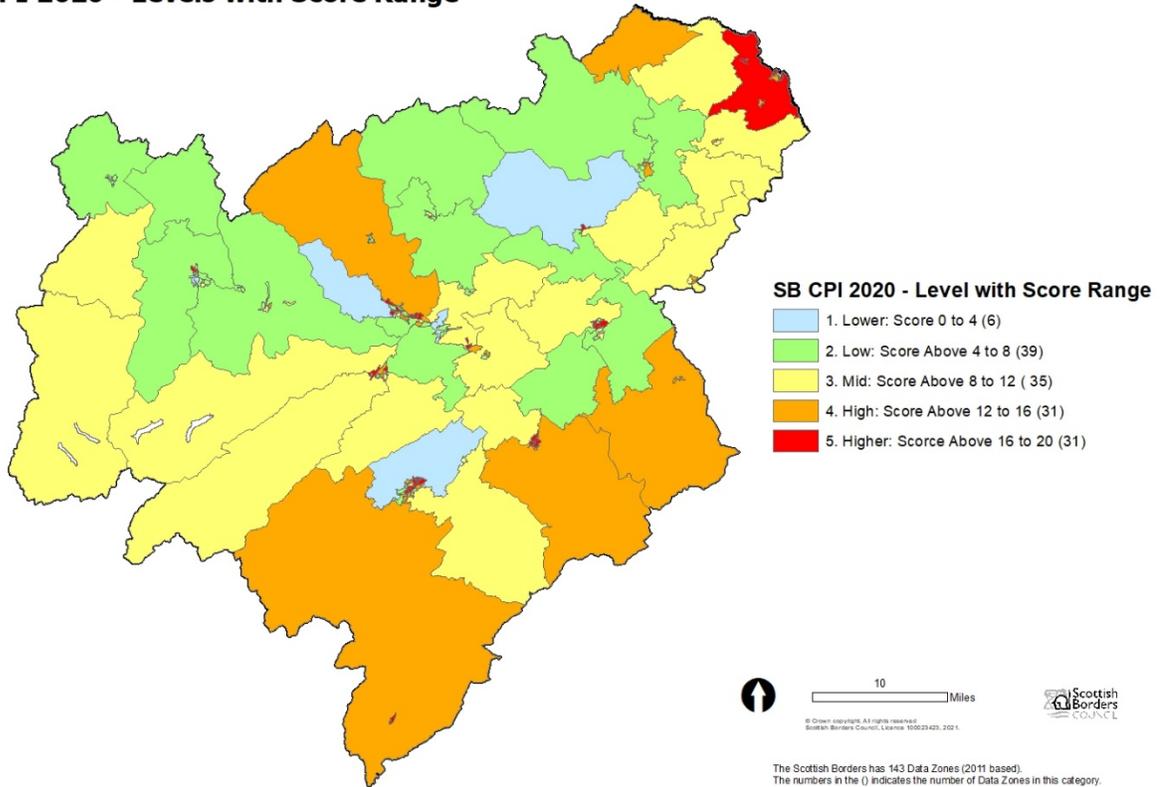
The graph below shows the distribution of data zones by level of child poverty for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. Between 2017 and 2019 the number of data zones in the 'high' and 'higher' level decreased. However, in the SB CPI 2020 the impact of Covid19 is evident, with 63 of the 143 (44%) data zones in the Scottish Borders having 'high' or 'higher' level of child poverty.



The graph and map below shows the Scottish Borders data zones based on the SB CPI 2020 score, grouped into levels of Child Poverty. Higher level (32 data zones) have a score of above 16 to 20; High level (31 data zones) have a score of above 12 to 16; Mid level (35 data zones) have a score of above 8 to 12; Low level (39 data zones) have a score of above 4 to 8; and Lower level (6 data zones) have a score of 0 to 4. Every data zone in the Scottish Borders has some element of child poverty.



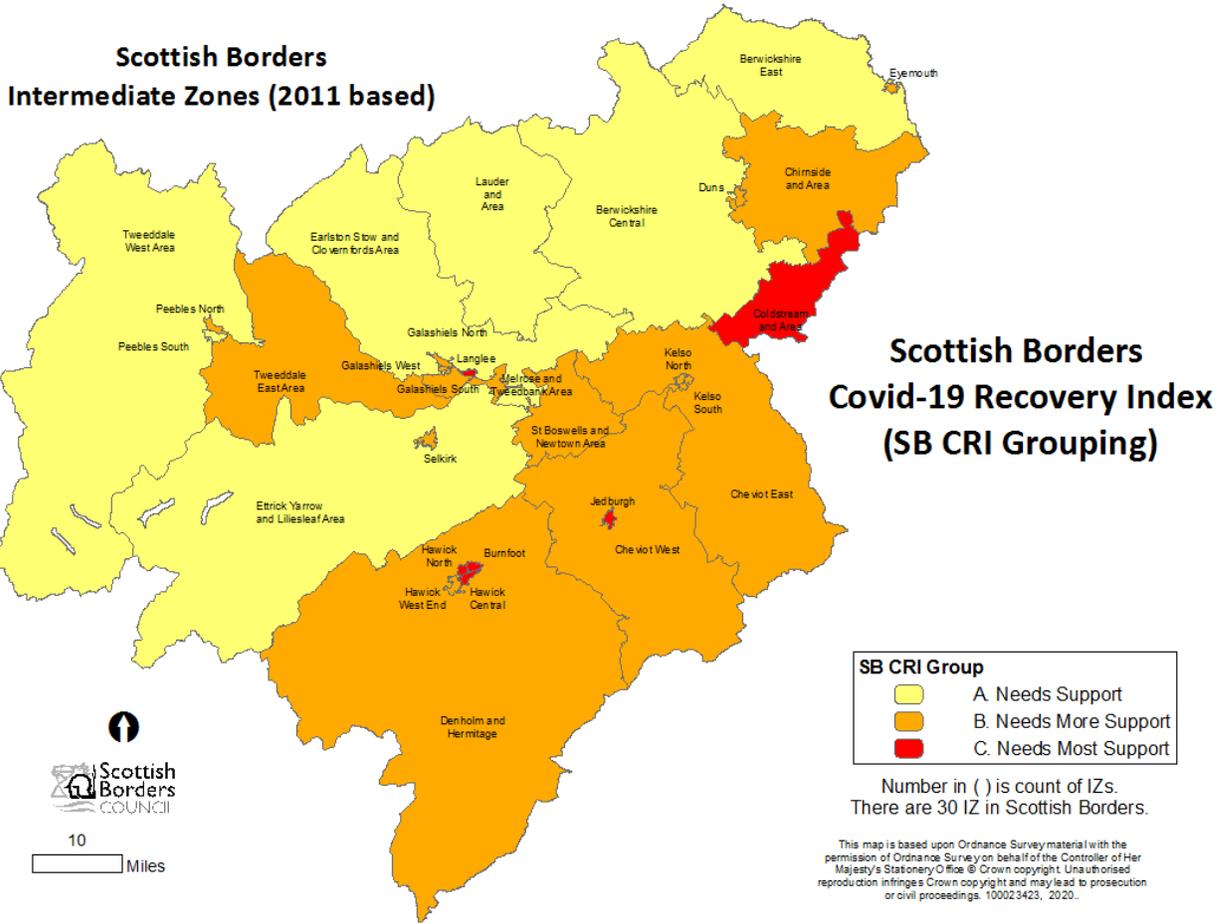
**Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020**  
**SB CPI 2020 - Levels with Score Range**



Greater detail of SB CPI 2020 can be seen in Appendix 1(d) Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020.

# The Scottish Borders COVID-19 Recovery Index

The Scottish Borders Covid-19 Recovery Index has been developed to provide a way to identify areas within the Scottish Borders that may need support to recover from the wider impact of Covid-19. There are several publicly available resources which provide a context but it was felt that a Scottish Borders specific tool would be useful and the matrix developed may inform decisions that will help the Scottish Borders recover from Covid-19. The matrix will be used in conjunction with the Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index to pinpoint areas where children and families are in specific need of support.



## Money Worries App

The Money Worries App was produced collaboratively by NHS Borders, Scottish Borders Council, Citizen's Advice Bureau, TD1 Youth Club and Early Steps Parents Group. In order to reproduce the voice of parents residing within the Scottish Borders, testing and improvements were conducted by 55 volunteers resulting in the successful launch of the App on 16th March 2021. During the launch week communications demonstrated a combined social media reach of 21,594.

To mitigate the impact of welfare reform and reduce the growth of money worries, the App provides access to a digital directory containing quality assured information. National and local material is available covering a range of topics including money, health, housing and work.

Further awareness improvements are to include video clips from a Housing, Health and Work perspective, relinking with partners and to expand on engagement.

### Launch Week Impact Data:

Media Release & Social Media Asset	Reach	Engagement	Shares
NHS Borders Social Media	10,478	123	28
Scottish Borders Council Social Media	6,353	29	10
CAB Video Clip	4,763	388	14

## Specific Themes

Appendix 2(b) sets out current actions that Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and Community Planning Partners plan to deliver. The Action Plan shows a wide range of activities which all contribute to the aim of eradicating Child Poverty. Specific examples to highlight the multi-agency approach are:

<b>Employability</b>	<p>The Parental Employability Project will provide employment opportunities and thus increased income for parents. SBC and NHS Borders support this project.</p> <p>Various projects and initiatives are planned for 2021/22 across Partners. These projects range from volunteering to increase confidence in young people, to modern apprenticeship opportunities in the Early Years Team for those furthest from the job market.</p>
<b>Education</b>	<p>SBC Education Services will continue to review the cost of the school day for families with regards to any financial costs around accessing trips or curriculum activities. Collaborative working with SBC, Education Scotland, Third Sector organisations will assist in the provision of support to parents and carers and the facilitation of school uniform swaps to reduce the costs of the school day.</p>
<b>Information &amp; Advice</b>	<p>Through the delivery of the Early Years Pathway Project involving SBC, NHS Borders and Registered Social Landlords benefits advice and support will be provided from pre-natal through to secondary school. Scottish Government benefits including Best Start Grants and other new Children's Payments will be promoted via these channels.</p>

<b>Housing &amp; Energy</b>	<p>SBC Homelessness team will review the delivery of services, develop housing and support pathways with the aim of preventing and alleviating homelessness for individuals with drug and alcohol issues, individuals who were previously looked after by the local authority (up to age 26), individuals with an offending history and victims of domestic abuse.</p>
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>	<p>SBHA intend to continue contacting tenants in relation to income maximisation and welfare rights using a wellbeing framework. SBHA shall continue with their adopted “we will call you approach” and with the provision of funding to recruit a new post whose role will be to train front line staff to identify issues and provide advice to tenants, shall contribute to the positive building and forming relationships with tenants with increased engagement.</p> <p>Borders College will undertake a mentoring initiative to support those most at risk of disengagement to successfully transition through school to college.</p>
<b>Communities &amp; Partnerships</b>	<p>Community Partnership meetings are conducted weekly across all locality areas where SBC, external organisations and voluntary sector representatives discuss issues adopting the whole family approach.</p>
<b>Tackling Digital Exclusion</b>	<p>National investment of £15 million provided to the Connecting Scotland Programme shall be utilised by several partners including SBC, NHS Borders, Live Borders and Borders College to provide devices to combat digital exclusion.</p>
<b>Food related activity</b>	<p>The Citizens Advice Bureau will continue to promote closer working relationships with local food banks.</p> <p>SBC and the Third Sector will continue to address food insecurity through the provision of food via Fareshare and other food distribution schemes such as food growing and community cafes.</p>
<b>Financial Inclusion</b>	<p>Borders College use a discretionary hardship fund to award funds to students experiencing financial difficulties.</p> <p>Borders Additional Needs Group will continue with ASN families to ensure they have access to specific funding and support</p> <p>The Early Years Welfare Benefits Service will work with Early Years families to help them maximise their income.</p> <p>The Financial Inclusion in the Early Years Partnership Group, with partners from NHSB, SBC, 3rd Sector and SSS, has a full work plan.</p>

## Involvement of People with Direct Lived Experience

The Poverty and Inequality Commission Review of Local Child Poverty Action Reports in November 2019 recommended that consideration should be given as to how to involve people with direct lived experience. People's voices should be heard and should be used to help shape agendas.

Scottish Borders Council have recently carried out a consultation on their draft Anti-Poverty Strategy. People were asked how they were managing financially before and after the Covid-19 Pandemic. The outcome of the consultation will be reported as part of the Anti-Poverty Strategy work, however many of the replies are relevant to families and children, therefore can be taken into account in our Child Poverty Work.

Below are some of the comments made by families in the Scottish Borders:

- *More affordable child care provision to allow people to work more easily*
- *More trustworthy advice about how to access financial help or financial support to improve your house - i.e. windows, heating. Don't know who to trust.*
- *Stop using children's DLA as part of household income - this is to support the kids disability to replace things they break and to make their life easier.*
- *Stop handing money to those who stay at home anyway (on benefits etc) who receive free school meals and help families who are struggling with the increased cost of everything.*
- *Offer Poverty stigma training*
- *Less stigma & more understanding about what poverty actually is & who could be affected.*
- *There is too much red tape and it's made really hard to access by criteria aimed at stopping those that need it getting it.*

## Financial Inclusion

**Scottish Borders Council** offer a range of different Financial Inclusion services and are involved in several different work streams with a variety of partners. The total gains for the communities in the Borders from this service in 2020/21 totaled **£4,237,007**, and it is anticipated that this figure will rise in 2021/22 as the implications of Covid-19 become clearer.

Financial Inclusion enquiries and referrals are received from sources such as Social Work, NHS Borders (Health Visitors and Midwives), Education, Community Assistance Hubs, Self-Isolation Support Grant enquiries and external partner organisations.

<b>Specific Services</b>	
<b>SBC</b>	<b>Partner Organisations</b>
Financial Inclusion Officers	CAB
Macmillan Welfare Benefits	NHS Borders
Early Years	Registered Social Landlords
Homelessness	Borders College
Scottish Welfare Fund	Home Energy Scotland
Discretionary Housing Payments	DWP
Community Assistance Hubs	Social Security Scotland
Free school meals and Education Maintenance Allowance	Food banks/FareShare/Community Larders & Fridges
Covid-19 Response – Proposals to further support individuals facing financial hardship	Charities and Voluntary Organisations

There are generally good links between all of the organisations undertaking Financial Inclusion work and in most cases referral processes are in place if required.

There are concerns about solutions to food poverty and fuel poverty and there is an increasing emphasis on doing more than providing the 'sticking plasters' of Crisis Grants, energy top ups or food parcels. Organisations are encouraging more sustainable long-term solutions e.g., improving energy efficiency, applying for benefits/grants, or signposting to employability services which will increase income and reduce the possibility of a crisis occurring in the future.

There is support for some fuel emergencies but there are concerns about the impact when Covid related financial support ends.

## Fairer Scotland Duty

The Fairer Scotland Duty (the Duty) places a legal responsibility on particular public bodies in Scotland to actively consider how they can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage when making strategic decisions. To support public bodies in implementing the Duty, the Scottish Government produced interim guidance in March 2018 and is now looking to finalise the guidance through a consultation, which is going on at the present moment. Importantly from a Borders' perspective, South of Scotland Enterprise has been added to the list of public bodies covered by the duty (the Scottish National Investment Bank being the other).

The key issue is how influential the FSD is in practical impact on the services and support to those suffering inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage. The implementation of the Duty remains a work in progress but,

In theory, the FSD should make a difference for communities when socio economic factors have been a consideration, however Scottish Borders Council will need to develop and nurture the practical aspects, as currently only the basics are in place. Poverty and its associated factors are well known in the Borders (and Scotland as a whole), it's the how and what needs to be done to truly meet the merits of the duty that remains a challenge for SBC and Scotland's other 31 councils.

There has been an enormous change since the Council's Corporate Plan was agreed in May 2018. Evidence suggests that nationally and locally our health, economy, societal and cultural outcomes have been deeply negatively impacted and continue to worsen on account of COVID, the Climate and Nature Emergencies, EU Exit. The Refresh seeks to promote a strengthening of the Council's values and vision, and in a unifying mission which builds on the commitments under the four themes of the Corporate Plan. These values, vision and mission require to be set against a refreshed set of strategic priorities. These also require to be translated into action and, ultimately, results. These steps are being pursued through development of Service Plans and a Review of Performance Management.

A specific goal of the Refresh is to construct:

- A set of values, which includes: a People-focus and Inclusion;
- A vision of 'happier and healthier people and places'; and
- A mission to 'optimise wellbeing' including 'Fairness and equality based on the notions of personal freedom, equality of treatment, respect for all human beings and a belief that one's views matter'.

The goal is to ensure that equality and inclusion are fundamental ways of 'doing' which are built into the fabric of all and everything that Scottish Borders Council does. Thus, the Refresh will not relate to a group or groups with specific protected characteristics. The key issue is how influential the FSD is in practical impact on the services and support to those suffering inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage. The implementation of the Duty remains a work in progress but it is intended to strengthen the culture of the organisation in ensuring that all of our activities are informed by values and vision built on fairness and equality with a mission, which includes actively promoting equality and inclusion outcome.

An action relevant to the Fairer Scotland Duty is included in our Action Plan at Appendix 2(b).

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## National Context in Relation to Covid-19 and Child Poverty

National context is set out in the table below and shown against the Drivers of Child Poverty

Information is also shown for the nationally identified priority groups at high risk of poverty

Income from Employment	Job Loss	<p>Ethnic minority groups with high representation in lower paid and high in-work poverty sectors eg accommodation and food services. Single parents, most likely female, more likely work in these sectors, also working part time resulting in higher poverty rates.</p> <p>In-work poverty driven by underemployment ie not working as many hours as would like. Main factor of underemployment is pay, ie low pay adding to the issue.</p> <p>Families in Scotland pay less for childcare costs but difficulties arise to access childcare in conjunction with working hours.</p> <p>Scotland has one of the lowest provision of childcare for full-time working parents compared to rest of UK.</p> <p>JRF research identifies families on low incomes work atypical hours, resulting in difficulties accessing childcare.</p> <p>Full economic effects not fully known – initial impact not evenly spread as dependant on geographical area.</p> <p>Recovery shall require:          Vacancies, people faced with competitive job market, lack of skills and experiences, barriers to work lifted, good pay to alleviate in-work poverty;          Affordable transport and childcare required to improve labour markets;          Increase to funded childcare and early learning which is accessible to low-income families</p> <p>Work offering a secure route out of poverty – Programme for Government responds to jobs lifeline via Modern Apprenticeships, Flexible Workforce Development Fund, Green Jobs Fund, Job Start Grant. National Training Transition Fund announced for up to 10,000 people made redundant or at risk of losing job. These all appear inadequate to meet surge in unemployment.</p> <p>Lower income households – twice as likely to have increased debts.</p> <p>Unemployment expected to rise in medium term.</p> <p>Family and Childcare Trust – for a part time place at Scottish nursery for children under two costs on average £111.26 per week. This is the lowest rate in the United Kingdom but more than those on low incomes can afford.</p>
Income from Benefits	Benefits	<p>Planned changes to benefits in April 2021 result in prediction of increase in numbers in relative poverty in the UK in 2021-2022 by one million. Should the income lifelines of UC and Working Tax Credit continue beyond April 2021 and extend to those receiving legacy benefits ie Jobseekers Allowance, Employment Support Allowance and Income Support, JRF estimate 1.2 million people of all ages in Scotland will benefit from this, with 25,000 fewer children living in</p>

		<p>poverty. A further 100,000 people would benefit if the same measure were extended to legacy benefits such as Jobseekers Allowance, Employment Support Allowance and Income Support. Combining the first phase of the Scottish Child Payment in 2021-2022 JRF estimate 25,000 fewer children would be in poverty.</p> <p>Scottish Government's Tackling Child Poverty delivery plan – the introduction of the Scottish Child Payment to low-income families with children aged under six. Scottish Child Payment introduction is trade-off against the introduction of new disability and carer benefits ie those in these areas continue to face poverty risks. Scottish Government set clear priority by opening applications for Scottish Child Payments – being an opportunity to turn tide on child poverty, although not open to those with children over age of 6 for a further two years. Interim alternative by building on Free School Meals, School Clothing Grant and Education Maintenance Allowance.</p> <p>Increase in welfare payments have mitigated falls in income for some lower income households but have been dampened by policies such as the benefits cap and the two child limit.</p> <p>Wait for Universal Credit can take at least five weeks.</p> <p>Difficulties faced in establishing what support available and entitled to and using multiple systems eg DWP, HMRC, Social Security Scotland and local government.</p> <p>DWP's Great Britain-wide disability benefits system identified as source of anxiety as reluctance to apply due to stressful medical assessments, not being believed, future reviews and benefit disruption.</p> <p>Barriers to be reduced as Scottish Government and COSLA working to extend automation of local payments, extend legislative principles, develop online benefits checker all of which should reduce barriers to income security.</p> <p>Gaps in benefits can be filled by Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) and the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF). Discretionary Housing Payments, protocols and mediation, tenant loans may not be sufficient in supporting low income households.</p> <p>Emergency protections assist in short term, but long term issues faced include those out of work and redundant, lack of job vacancies, dwindling savings, increased debt, threats of eviction = pulling more households into poverty.</p> <p>Parental Employment Support Fund (PESF) received investment. Provides intensive person centred employability support for low income parents in and out of work, with a focus on equalities. This is small in relation to other commitments in reducing child poverty. PESF includes support for disabled parents should continue to rise and the programme be extended to end of next parliamentary term in 2026.</p>
Cost of living	Impact on families	<p>Lower income households to be twice as likely to have increased debts, save less and increased use of credit cards.</p> <p>When evictions ban and mortgage holidays end predicted increase debt associated with housing.</p>

		<p>An increase in borrowing creates future problems. As the furlough scheme ends, borrowing levels may increase to plug the gap between income and expenditure. Creates long term debt problems and possible eviction.</p> <p>Scottish Government support directed at supporting jobs and businesses. Supported house builders and Registered Social Landlords with loans, decreased regulatory burdens and extra grant funding.</p> <p>Housing investment should be evaluated by Scottish Government to contribute to reducing child poverty.</p> <p>Ambitions of Housing 2040 (homes not wealth) should be evaluated by scale, impact and geographical distribution of grant subsidies, with planning, tax and land reform considered to improve affordability and equality of access for low income households whilst addressing needs of high risk poverty groups ie lone parents, disabled people, BME and gypsy traveller communities.</p>
<p>Cost of living</p>	<p>Housing and household costs</p>	<p>Direct and immediate economic effects are falling disproportionately.</p> <p>Scotland has lower social rents than England and Wales and a larger social housing sector, boosted by £3 billion of public investments to build 50,000 affordable homes including 35,000 new social homes during the current Parliamentary term. This is key to ensure housing costs, especially for children are lower. JRF concluded to achieve child poverty reduction targets, housing needs to have manageable rents, housing supply increased, improved access to high quality social housing for low income families with children. Affordability challenges continue as the proportion of new households requiring below market rent has increased from 46% in 2015 to 62%. A further 10,600 affordable homes would be required every year from 2021-2026 (53,000 in total) with public investment of £3.4 billion needed. Coronavirus halted construction, resulting in the 50,000 affordable homes (incl 35,000 social homes) becoming unachievable by May 2021.</p> <p>Poverty rates in Social Rental Sector and Private Rental Sector in Scotland are high although lower than England and Wales.</p> <p>Scotland has smaller proportion living in PRS, 14% than England and a larger proportion in SRS, 24%.</p> <p>Greater availability of SRS in Scotland assists in lower poverty rates in Scotland.</p> <p>Constraints on supply of housing results in further demands placed on local housing and homelessness services. Ways to ensure tenants experiencing financial difficulties required and challenges in accessing lower cost housing for families with children living in unaffordable accommodation.</p> <p>Not known if Discretionary Housing Payments are meeting the needs of those under financial pressure.</p> <p>To reduce child poverty in next three years Governments need to increase level of ambition and bring forward solutions to match the scale of the task. Bold action needed where 150,000 children are in families experiencing in-work poverty. Housing needs gaps closed</p>

		between Before Housing Costs and After Housing Costs as additional 30,000 children in Scotland are in poverty due to housing costs.
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Lone Parents	<p>Single parents, most likely female, more likely work in food and wholesale, and retail sectors, also working part time resulting in higher poverty rates.</p> <p>Women, single parents and ethnic minorities more likely to work in high poverty sectors.</p> <p>Ambitions of Housing 2040 (homes not wealth) should be evaluated by scale, impact and geographical distribution of grant subsidies, with planning, tax and land reform considered to improve affordability and equality of access for low income households whilst addressing needs of high risk poverty groups ie lone parents, disabled people, BME and gypsy traveller communities.</p>
Disabled	<p>No progress in reducing poverty rate for those with a disability in recent years.</p> <p>Scottish Child Payment introduction is trade-off against the introduction of new disability and carer benefits ie those in these areas continue to face poverty risks.</p> <p>DWP's Great Britain-wide disability benefits system identified as source of anxiety as reluctance to apply due to stressful medical assessments, not being believed, future reviews and benefit disruption.</p> <p>Poverty amongst disabled people – rate is higher in Scotland than UK.</p> <p>Parental Employment Support Fund (PESF) received investment. Provides intensive person centred employability support for low income parents in and out of work, with a focus on equalities. This is small in relation to other commitments in reducing child poverty. PESF includes support for disabled parents should continue to rise and the programme be extended to end of next parliamentary term in 2026.</p> <p>The shift towards digital learning will impact different groups in different ways. Online learning will be a benefit for students who have fluctuating health conditions, but poses a challenge in making learning accessible for disabled students.</p>
Ethnic Minority	<p>Ethnic minority groups with high representation in lower paid and high in-work poverty sectors eg accommodation and food services.</p> <p>Women, single parents and ethnic minorities more likely to work in high poverty sectors.</p> <p>Low-paid workers, underemployed workers, women and ethnic minorities impacted by pandemic.</p>

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group
<b>Employability</b>				
Deliver Parental Employability Project	1	SBC	Increased parental income and employment	Parents
Implementation of Intensive Family Support Service (IFSS)	1	City Region Deal SBC	Number of participants Number of employment opportunities	Young parent families Families where parents are aged 30-39
Promote the Youth Volunteering Ambassadors Project	1	Volunteer Centre Borders (VCB)	Number of opportunities	Children and young people
Promote the Saltire awards Scheme	1	VCB	Number of opportunities	Children and young people
Match young people remotely in each of the 9 high schools (plus anyone else under age 25) to opportunities that will support career aspirations	1	VCB	Number of opportunities	Children and young people
Deliver a 'removing youth volunteer barriers' project	1	VCB	Number of opportunities	Children and young people
Support services such as Skills Development Scotland and Activity agreements	1	VCB	Number of opportunities	Children and young people
Participate in the Borders College Youth Pathway Project	1	VCB	Number of opportunities	Children and young people
Engage with the Job Centre to support and advise individuals affected by COVID-19 or facing redundancy	1	VCB	Number of participants	Young people and families
Continue to create modern apprentice opportunities in the Early Years Team	1	SBC Early Years Team	Number of opportunities	Young people furthest from the job market
Engagement with Community Job Scotland and other supported employment opportunities for young people	1	Third Sector	Number of opportunities	Young people

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group
Commitment to offering only contracts and not casual hours – provides certainty for people to have work for a contracted time period	1	Live Borders	Number of opportunities	All
Championing Fair Work - Scottish Ministers have sent guidance to all public bodies to focus on delivering the Government's vision for Scotland to be a leading Fair Work Nation by 2025, where high quality and fair work is the norm in workplaces across Scotland. SOSE will attach Fair Work First criteria to all its grants, procurements and other funding	1	SOSE	Number of funded organisations that engage in new Fair Work practices	All
Encouraging Job Creation - Through its funding and development support for businesses and other organisations, SOSE will help organisations to expand and innovate, resulting in growth and the safeguarding and/or creation of jobs	1	SOSE	Number of jobs safeguarded or created through its funding	All
Meeting Skills Needs - SOSE will support the work of the SoS Regional Economic Partnership's Education and Skills Strategic Group and the implementation of South of Scotland Regional Skills Investment Plan (RSIP)	1	SOSE	To be confirmed	Targeted Group
<b>Education</b>				
Implement a pilot of debt management/savings scheme with children in Burnfoot Primary School	2	SBC NHS Borders	Uptake of scheme	Children
Review the Cost of the School Day	2	SBC NHS Borders	Reduced costs to families	Children and families
Participate in Scottish Government's Youth Guarantee by securing an appropriate study programme for all school leavers who apply	1	Borders College	Uptake, successful completion of study and progression thereafter	All school leavers
Undertake a mentoring initiative to support those most at risk of disengagement to successfully transition through senior phase of school to college and for those at greatest risk of disengagement during their first year at College	1	Borders College	Uptake, successful completion of study and progression thereafter	All school leavers

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group
Undertake College's 'Care Aware' initiative to provide support and a named person for care experienced young people and student carers. The initiative works to address barriers and provide information to maximise funding, access learning support and nurture	3	Borders College	Uptake, successful completion of study and progression thereafter	Students
Proactively promote free school meals (FSM) and clothing grant provision	2,3	SBC Education	Increased uptake	School children
Work in partnership with third sector and Live Borders on accessible Summer programmes which also help with food insecurity	2	SBC Education	uptake	Targeted children and families
Complete roll out of poverty related training to all staff in Education Service	2	SBC Education	Indicators on attainment	School children
The CLD service and third sector partners provide targeted learning programmes to support disadvantaged young people to succeed and achieve	1	CLD Third Sector Youth Organisations (YouthBorders)	Evaluation against Scotland's Youth Work Outcomes Completion of Youth Awards.	Targeted young people.
Run family learning programmes targeted at 18 of our primary schools where there are the highest levels of poverty	1,3	SBC CLD	Maximised income for families, enhance financial capabilities and increasing their income levels through improved employment	Families, children and young people
<b>Information &amp; Advice</b>				
Commitment to free access to family days out in museums service and outdoor play area (Harestanes Park) and active promotion of low/no-cost access to family days out	2	Live Borders	Number of participants	Families
Awareness Raising through social media, e-mail, telephone	2,3	CAB	No. of clients, Demographic information (if given), Client financial gain	All
Registered as the gateway for kickstart for young people	1,2,3	SBSEC	Work with CEF, the ALLIANCE, SCVO and	All

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group
			Inclusion Scotland to utilise tools	
Map all Financial Inclusion services and promote awareness	2,3	SBC Financial Inclusion NHS Borders	Monetary gains Reduced costs to families	All
Ensure UNCRC and Children's Rights are taken into account in Child Poverty work in the Scottish Borders	3	SBC NHS Borders Partner organisations	Compliance with legislation	All
Ensure duties under the Fairer Scotland Duty are taken into account in Child Poverty work in the Scottish Borders	3	SBC NHS Borders Partner organisations	Compliance with legislation	All
Delivery of TD1 Early Steps Programme for young parents and their children using a youth work approach	2,3	TD1 Youth Hub	Participation and Engagement data. Programme impact evaluation report	Young Parents in Eildon
Continued use of the Neglect Toolkit by the Child Protection Delivery Group in relation to income maximisation support for families	3	SBC Child Protection Delivery Group	Audit activity Child Protection Indicators	Children and young people most at risk of needing the child protection system
<b>Housing &amp; Energy</b>				
Borders Housing Network - Fuel Poverty Funding	2,3	Berwickshire Housing Association	ESSH compliance meet standards and aim to achieve 100% compliance with Scottish Government standards within 2021/22.	BHA Tenants
Supporting Communities Funding	2,3	Berwickshire Housing Association	Tracked and evaluated using the Scottish Federation Housing Associations (SFHA) social value toolkit	BHA Tenants
Covid Recovery Funding	2,3	Berwickshire Housing Association	Tracked and evaluated using the Scottish Federation Housing Associations (SFHA) social value toolkit	BHA Tenants

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group
EESSH compliance	2	Berwickshire Housing Association	Tracked and evaluated using the Scottish Federation Housing Associations (SFHA) social value toolkit	BHA Tenants
Financial Inclusion Team	2,3	Berwickshire Housing Association	Tracked and evaluated using the Scottish Federation Housing Associations (SFHA) social value toolkit	BHA Tenants
BeWell Tenancy Sustainability Pathfinder	1,2,3	Berwickshire Housing Association	Tracked and evaluated using the Scottish Federation Housing Associations (SFHA) social value toolkit	BHA Tenants
Page 199 Community Partnership Working across BHA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Berwickshire Swap</li> <li>• Allanbank Creative Hub</li> <li>• Horse Time</li> <li>• Splash</li> <li>• Eat, Sleep Ride</li> <li>• BAVS (neighbourhood bus / digital workshops for village halls)</li> </ul>	1,2,3	Berwickshire Housing Association	Tracked and evaluated using the Scottish Federation Housing Associations (SFHA) social value toolkit	BHA Tenants
Work with SBC Community Assistance Hubs to provide support and advice to tenants	1,2,3	Berwickshire Housing Association	Tracked and evaluated using the Scottish Federation Housing Associations (SFHA) social value toolkit	BHA Tenants
Provide a Warm Affordable Home and advice to keep warm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing the supply of affordable homes</li> <li>• Meeting Housing Need for families</li> <li>• SBHA HELP (Home Expenses - Lessening the Pinch) Project</li> <li>• Warm &amp; Well Project</li> </ul>	2,3	SBHA	No of tenants supported	SBHA Tenants
The Borders Housing Network (BHN) recently secured £450,000 from the Scottish Government's Social Housing Fuel Support Fund. Disperse funds to support those in fuel debt	2,3	Borders Housing Network	No of tenants supported	Housing Tenants

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group
Reduce the risk of eviction by using Triage Tool	2,3	SBHA	Less tenants evicted	SBHA Tenants
Support Digital Inclusion for SBHA Tenants	2,3	SBHA	Uptake of scheme	SBHA Tenants
Continue with the Transitions Project to support young people	2,3	SBHA	No of young people supported	SBHA Tenants
Review the delivery of services, develop housing and support pathways for the following groups, with the aim of preventing or alleviating homelessness for; (a) Individuals with Drug and Alcohol (d) Individuals up to the age of 26 who were previously looked after by the Local Authority (e) individuals with an offending History (f) Victims of domestic abuse	3	SBC Homelessness	The Scottish Housing Network monitor RRTP performance by local authority annually, providing a national benchmarking framework	All
Review and improve the advice and support to people who are subject to a Section 11 notice	3	SBC Homelessness	The Scottish Housing Network monitor RRTP performance by local authority annually, providing a national benchmarking framework	All
Implement a pilot, Housing First model that meets the needs of people with multiple needs in the Scottish Borders and which, as far as is possible in a rural context, conforms with the 7 principles of Housing First'	3	SBC Homelessness	The Scottish Housing Network monitor RRTP performance by local authority annually, providing a national benchmarking framework	All
Support homeless and potentially households to access digital equipment and data	2,3	SBC Homelessness	The Scottish Housing Network monitor RRTP performance by local authority annually, providing a national benchmarking framework	All
Review the existing processes for the provision of furniture and goods to homeless households	2,3	SBC Homelessness	The Scottish Housing Network monitor RRTP performance by local authority annually, providing a national benchmarking framework	All

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group
Review existing processes to ensure applications for DHP are maximised to prevent homelessness and/or to achieve positive outcomes for people who are Homeless or threatened with homelessness	2,3	SBC Homelessness	The Scottish Housing Network monitor RRTP performance by local authority annually, providing a national benchmarking framework	All
Work with Home Energy Scotland to refer families that are struggling to eat or heat	2,3	SBSEC Work with CEF, the ALLIANCE, SCVO and Inclusion Scotland to utilise tools	Number of referrals	Scottish Borders Tenants
SBHA's Development Programme will deliver 22 new build affordable homes early 2021-22	2	SBHA	Number of affordable homes completed	All families and young people in housing need
SBHA will seek to maximise financial capacity to increase their contribution to new homes in the coming years and will confirm further in 2021-22	2	SBHA	Number of affordable homes completed	All families and young people in housing need
SBHA will introduce emergency community monitoring tool software which will risk assess tenants' support needs and determine the levels of contact and intervention required	2	SBHA	Number of tenants managing to sustain tenancies	SBHA Tenants at risk
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>				
Continue to provide free sanitary products to students in need through a sustainable partnership whereby products are delivered to students rather than them collecting them	2	Borders College	Uptake, successful completion of study and progression thereafter	Students
Co-ordination and development of Holiday Programmes for children and young people which include provision of positive and engaging activities and food (subject to access to schools estate and COVID-19 restrictions)	2	Live Borders SBC NHS Borders	Uptake of programme	Targeted communities
Delivery of Youth Work Education Recovery Fund – Youth Work holiday programmes in April, Summer, October 2021 to young people most impacted by Covid-19	2	YouthBorders / CLD	Evaluation of programme against Scotland's Youth Work Outcomes	Targeted young people most impacted by Covid-19.
Scoping targeted Project in Burnfoot to encourage greater participation in sport/physical activity for the whole family group	2	Live Borders SBC	Evaluation framework of participants	Targeted communities

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group
Provide free or low cost access to activities, experiences and trips during evenings, weekends delivered by community-based youth work organisations	2	Third Sector Youth Organisations (YouthBorders)	uptake	Children and young people
Develop the promotion and development of Young Scot membership and rewards which support wellbeing, provision of trusted information, and provide opportunities and experiences to young people	2	CLD Youth Learning YouthBorders JHIT	Uptake	Anyone aged 11-25
<b>Communities &amp; Partnerships</b>				
Three Locality Co-ordinators working within the Community Assistance Hubs will continue provide support and assistance to those in need, including those that have been shielding. This includes food provision, assistance with fuel costs & clothing, referrals into financial inclusion support. Give financial support to foodbanks & FareShare outlets to assist with practical issues – white goods etc	2,3	SBC Communities & Partnership Team	No performance indicators – demand led response during pandemic and beyond	All
Support to Community-led Projects - SOSE provides funding to community groups, community organisations and social enterprises to initiate new ideas or develop existing activity that will create measurable social, community, local economic and/or environmental impact and seeks to be enterprising and sustainable in the long term	2, 3	SOSE	Number of organisations funded whose activities indirectly or directly address child poverty	All
<b>Tackling Digital Exclusion</b>				
Support Connecting Scotland Programme (Digital Inclusion)	2,3	SBC NHS Borders	No of devices and people benefitting	Targeted groups
Provide laptop loans and broadband provision to all students in need to enable them to engage in their studies	2,3	Borders College	Uptake, successful completion of study and progression thereafter	students
Device lending library of ipad/chromebook devices for excluded families. Community Renewal Fund application to progress this with children/families in poverty and integrated referral pathway to include other aspects of health and wellbeing offer	2,3	Live Borders	Uptake	Families with no access to electronic devices

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group
Digital Inclusion - SOSE has provided £75,000 funding to Scottish Borders Council to allow it to extend its Connecting Scottish Borders Programme (Digital Inclusion) activity in 2021/22	2, 3	SOSE SBC	Align with measures adopted by SBC	Targeted Groups
<b>Fuel related activity</b>				
Continue to engage with the Scottish Borders Home Energy Forum.	2	NHS Borders Home Energy Scotland	Number of vouchers given out	Early years families
Deliver the Home Energy Efficiency Programme	2	SBC Home Energy Scotland Changeworks	Households living in fuel poverty Number of private sector energy efficiency measures installed Number of households provided with energy advice/information	Tenants
<b>Food related activity</b>				
Establish and promote closer working with local foodbanks	2,3	CAB	No. of clients, Demographic information (if given), Client financial gain	All
Continue to supply food to various towns and food schemes across the Scottish Borders as well as clothes for children and books	2,3	SBSEC	Work with CEF, the ALLIANCE, SCVO and Inclusion Scotland to utilise tools	Children and families
Address food insecurity through the provision of food to individuals and families via Fareshare and other food distribution schemes including food growing and community cafes	2	SBC Third Sector	uptake	All
Deliver a breakfast programme for S1-S4 young people entitled to free school meals	2	CLD Youth Workers	Uptake of programme	S1-S4 young people entitled to free school meals
Continue to establish breakfast clubs in schools. Breakfast clubs are established in a number of schools in areas of greatest need but the aim is to have one in every school	2	SBC Schools	Children from poorer households will have had at	All children and young people

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group
			least two nutritional meals per day whilst at school	
<b>Financial Inclusion</b>				
Increase referral pathways from Health Visitors and Family Nurse Partnership for financial inclusion	2,3	SBC Financial Inclusion NHS Borders	Financial gains uptake	Mothers and pregnant women
Extend Galashiels pilot with community midwifery services to increase referrals	2,3	SBC Financial Inclusion NHS Borders	Financial gains uptake	Mothers and pregnant women
Introduce e-form for referrals to Financial Inclusion	3	SBC Financial Inclusion NHS Borders	Uptake of use of e-form	Families
Award discretionary funding to students in financial hardship as a result of family circumstances for housing and food costs	2	Borders College	Uptake, successful completion of study and progression thereafter	Students
Continue supporting local community responses during the pandemic through our distribution of microgrants, support to community development and empowering local organisations offering input to children and families with governance, funding and promoting network and collaboration	2,3	BAVS	Ongoing monitoring for outcomes report for Scottish Government	All
Contact every school in the Scottish Borders to promote The Scottish Government MTT Project to offer Financial Health checks to every family – income maximisation and ensuring families are receiving everything they are entitled to	2,3	CAB	No. of clients, Demographic information, Client financial gain	Parents and families
Help children and families with travel costs	2	SBSEC	Work with CEF, the ALLIANCE, SCVO and Inclusion Scotland to utilise tools	All children
Support with 'Seedcorn Fund' to help projects that can help deliver support	2	SBSEC	Work with CEF, the ALLIANCE, SCVO and Inclusion Scotland to utilise tools	All

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group
Distribute funding to ASN Families	2	Borders Additional Needs Group (BANG)	Amount of funds distributed	ASN Families
Support parents with DLA Applications	2,3	BANG	Amount of DLA applications	ASN Families
Access emergency funds for families in crisis via routes such as Borders Children's Charity, Cash for Kids, or organisation specific crisis funds	2	SBC NHS Borders Third Sector	Uptake of funds/schemes	Families
Continue support for Early Years from the Welfare Benefits Assistant	2,3	SBC Early Years	Monetary gains Food parcels given out Uptake of schemes	Early years families
Mapping signposting of all assistance available and link with partners	3	SBC	Record gains made, monitor national child poverty levels, Monitor Scottish Government benefit statistics (benefit take up, SWF and DHP spending, etc)	All
Financial Inclusion resources for Early Years to maximise take up of benefits	3	SBC	Record gains made, monitor national child poverty levels, Monitor Scottish Government benefit statistics (benefit take up, SWF and DHP spending, etc)	Early Years Families
Increasing awareness of benefits among parents of primary and secondary pupils	3	SBC	Record gains made, monitor national child poverty levels, Monitor Scottish Government benefit statistics (benefit take up, SWF and DHP spending, etc)	Parents of primary and secondary pupils
Support Employability Team to maximise income from benefits	3	SBC	Record gains made, monitor national child poverty levels, Monitor Scottish Government benefit statistics (benefit take up, SWF and DHP spending, etc)	All

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group
Increase take up of free school meals and clothing grants as well as awareness of other benefits (such as Best Start Grant and Scottish Child Payment)	3	SBC	Record gains made, monitor national child poverty levels, Monitor Scottish Government benefit statistics (benefit take up, SWF and DHP spending, etc)	All
Increase awareness of Scottish Welfare Fund	3	SBC	Record gains made, monitor national child poverty levels, Monitor Scottish Government benefit statistics (benefit take up, SWF and DHP spending, etc)	All
<b>Money Worries</b>				
Increase money worries conversations across all staff working in early years and promote the benefits available to families widely	2,3	NHS Borders CAB	Monetary gains, support given	All
Encourage people to get advice if worried about debt and meeting their financial commitments	2,3	CAB	No. of clients, Demographic information (if given), Client financial gain	All
Promote the Citizens Advice Money Map Tool through Social media	2,3	CAB	No. of clients, Demographic information (if given), Client financial gain	All

#### \*Poverty Drivers

1 – Income from Employment

2 – Costs of living

3 – Income from Social Security and benefits in kind




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## **FINANCIAL INCLUSION LANDSCAPE**

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

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### **COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD**

**10 June 2021**

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

- 1.1 This report sets out the current Financial Inclusion Landscape across the Scottish Borders for discussion.**
- 1.2 In the work that all partners are engaged in to prevent poverty, the advice and support to individuals on how to access the right support at the right time is of critical importance and especially at this time given the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.3 It provides an understanding of what the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) organisations offer in respect of financial inclusion advice and support, and to identify any gaps so that resources and activity may be targeted appropriately as well as maximising and funding opportunities.
- 1.4 It also seeks to make appropriate links to both the CPP Child Poverty Report and Action Plan and Scottish Borders Council's Draft Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan to ensure that financial inclusion resources and activity brings benefits to those who most need support.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Community Planning Strategic Board:-**
  - a) Notes the financial support and advice that is currently offered by the Community Planning Partnership.**
  - b) Notes the good links between all of the organisations undertaking financial inclusion work across the partnership and in most cases referral processes are in place if required.**
  - c) Notes the concerns in relation to:**
    - (i) The Covid-19 benefits support ending, and the demand on support services across the Partnership;**
    - (ii) Food poverty and fuel poverty – providing long term solutions; and**

**(iii) Digital inclusion – this is an area of focus for the Partnership, with many partners providing support through the Connecting Scotland Programme.**

**d) Notes the Council have recently developed a draft Anti-Poverty Strategy, which will be finalised in Autumn 2021. Actions in relation to financial inclusion will be taken forward as part of the Action Plan.**

### 3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Community Planning Partnership offers a range of different Financial Inclusion services and are involved in several different work streams with a variety of partners. The total gains for the communities in the Borders from these services in 2020/21 totalled £4,237,007.
- 3.2 Financial Inclusion enquiries and referrals to the Partnership are received from sources such as Social Work, Education, Community Assistance Hubs, Self-Isolation Support Grant enquiries and other external partner organisations.
- 3.3 Community Care Assessors, Customer Service Advisors, and Housing Support Officers who meet people face to face or deal with calls are trained to provide basic advice about benefits, signpost and further refer to Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) or other specialists.
- 3.4 Officers making decisions on Discretionary Housing Payments and Scottish Welfare Fund can signpost and provide advice on benefits and other types of financial assistance.
- 3.5 Officers across the partnership also refer to third parties such as Home Energy Scotland, DWPs visiting team, Social Security Scotland, and other partners (Registered Social Landlords etc.) if this is more suitable for the person's circumstances.

### 4 CURRENT SUPPORT, ADVICE AND SERVICES PROVIDED

- 4.1 **Scottish Borders Council** provides and supports a range of financial inclusion services that work closely with community planning partners and other external organisations. These include:
  - 4.1.1 **Financial Inclusion Officers** - there are currently two Financial Inclusion Officers. They work on appeals and more complex benefit cases. This includes helping people from abroad, legal challenges, preparing appeal submissions, representing at hearings, and providing support for other advisors. They also provide financial advice to hospital patients suffering with mental health issues.
  - 4.1.2 **Macmillan Welfare Benefits** – a financial inclusion service is provided specifically for those affected by cancer patients in the Borders. An Officer, funded by Macmillan, co-ordinates referrals, provides advice on complex enquiries and assists with appeals. The Officer is assisted by five Community Care Assessors who also complete financial assessments for people who receive care at home or move into residential care. They provide income maximisation advice and assist with applications for benefits such as Pension Credit, Attendance Allowance and Personal Independence Payments. Prior to Covid-19 restrictions, staff were available at The Margaret

Kerr Centre at Borders General Hospital to provide financial advice and support. This service is currently provided remotely. There are plans to re-instate a face-to-face service in the near future.

**4.1.3 Early Years** - a Welfare Benefits Assistant provides support to parents throughout the Borders who have children up to 8 years old. Advice and support are provided in Family Centres and to anyone who is referred through the various channels which are available. The role is intrinsically linked to our ability to progress some of the child poverty actions within the Council's Child Poverty Plan. A pilot project was carried out at Galashiels Health Centre one morning per week where the benefits assistant helped to provide benefit advice to new mothers who were coming in for various clinics. The pilot was very successful, and many clients benefitted from this approach. This has not been operating since March 2020, however there are plans to pilot this service at another Health Centre in the future. The choice of location will be based on various factors such as demand and throughput of clients. NHS Borders are a partner in this work and are involved in considering different options for the roll out of this service. The Welfare Benefits Assistant also works closely with Social Security Scotland and there has been successful work in promoting the new Scottish Government benefits for new-born and pre-school children. There is a project being undertaken relating to a Parental Employability Support Fund and working with families within the Family Centres. Due mainly to the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic, both referrals and gains increased over the year. Referrals totalled 430, reflecting gains of £1.3m.

**4.1.4 Homelessness** - the Council's Homelessness Services provide housing advice and support to homeless or potentially homeless households. As part of the assessment process Homelessness Case Officers identify unmet support needs in a variety of areas and regularly signpost or refer to specialised services when needed. Additionally, the Homelessness Service operates an in-house and commissioned housing support service. Housing support services provide housing support to homeless or potentially homeless households. Included within a wider support package housing support officers will;

- i. Support customers to initiate claims for Universal Credit, Community Care Grants, Crisis Grants, Housing Benefit and Discretionary Housing Benefit. They will provide a range of supporting statements and evidence and will assist customers to raise any appeals if required;
- ii. Support customers to access the digital equipment needed to make these claims when no other options are available to the applicant;
- iii. Support customers to navigate the Universal Credit application with the aim of increasing customer knowledge, skills, and confidence to enable them to do this unsupported in the future;
- iv. Directly support customers with budgeting and income and expenditure to improve life skills in this area;
- v. Identify and refer to specialist service for complex benefit applications and income maximisation assessments.

- 4.1.5 **Scottish Welfare Fund** - the Scottish Welfare Fund is available for people on low incomes who can apply for:
- i. A Crisis Grant if they experience a disaster (like a fire or flood), or an emergency (like losing money, not getting a payment which was expected, or incurring an unexpected expense);
  - ii. A Community Care Grant to help someone start to live, or to carry on living, a settled life in the community;
  - iii. A Self-Isolation Support Grant after being asked to self-isolate by Test and Protect because of coronavirus (Covid-19) where those applying will lose earnings;

After the application has been assessed, staff also signpost to other agencies if other types of assistance could be available.

- 4.1.6 **Discretionary Housing Payments** – these help claimants who already receive Housing Benefit or Universal Credit (housing element) but require further assistance to meet their housing costs such as deposits, removal expenses or to reduce the shortfall between rent charges and benefits received. Applicants are also signposted to other services to help meet any longer-term needs.

- 4.1.7 **Community Assistance Hubs** - the Hubs currently offer supermarket vouchers and food options for emergency situations and other advice, including referrals to Home Energy Scotland for tops ups. The team also chair weekly meetings for each locality area where updates are provided by a number of organisations including those involved with financial inclusion.

- 4.1.8 **Free school meals and Education Maintenance Allowance** – Parents who have a low income can apply for clothing grants once a year. Free school meals are provided to all children in P1 to P3, but parents of children from P4 to S6 who have a low income can also apply for free school meals. Children aged 16 to 19 may also receive an Education Maintenance Allowance if their parents have a low income.

- 4.1.9 **Covid-19 Response** – a report was approved at the Council's Executive Committee on 9th February 2021, which presented a number of proposals for the allocation of the Scottish Government 'Addressing future need to support individuals at financial risk 2020/21' fund. It also outlined further measures to provide wider financial support to those individuals who require additional help. The report can be viewed from the hyperlink below:

<https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=161&MIId=5147&Ver=4> (item 5)

Scottish Borders Council was allocated £330k for supporting individuals at financial risk and £111k for free school meals from the Scottish Government Fund. A Financial Insecurity Group was set up to discuss the fund and claims were to be made by 31st March 2021. Funding was allocated to:

- i. The expansion of the Connecting Scotland Project to address the shortfall at a local level;
- ii. One-off emergency payments to vulnerable families across the Borders;

- iii. A range of existing third sector networks, community planning partners, RSL's and other partnerships and organisations already working with vulnerable individuals to assist with essentials, based on the principles of digital, fuel and food poverty and other emergency essentials;
- iv. Provide payments to families with disabled children under 18 years old who are not eligible for the Child Winter Heating Assistance Payment.

4.2 **Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)** are contracted, by Scottish Borders Council, to provide benefit advice support and debt assistance to customers across the Borders. This includes benefit entitlement checks, assisting with applications and mandatory reconsiderations (MR). If the customer is unsuccessful at MR stage, this can be referred back to an SBC Financial Inclusion Officer for appeal/tribunal representation. They also offer support with applications for Universal Credit. CAB chair the Welfare Benefits Liaison Group which has amalgamated with the Universal Credit (UC) Operational Group and is attended by most of the partner organisations in the Borders who deal with financial inclusion such as SBC, DWP, Social Security Scotland, Registered Social Landlords, MP/MSP case workers, etc. Those attending share updates and current issues. The group also highlight and discuss policy issues.

4.3 **NHS Borders** have established and chair an Early Years Pathway Group which is chaired by NHS Borders and is referred to in the Local Child Poverty Action Report. NHS Borders have also led on the Money Worries App which is now live and was developed with a number of partners including SBC and CAB allowing people to access information on the range of support available on benefits, wellbeing, and housing within the Scottish Borders.

4.4 **Registered Social Landlords** all provide a financial inclusion services but these vary. They all have designated financial inclusion staff and offer money advice and benefit checks. Other services provided include signposting to specialist agencies, impartial advice, and support on a range of benefits and tax credits, assistance with applications or appeals and advice on energy bills. The Borders Housing Network (BHN) recently secured £450k from the Scottish Government's Social Housing Fuel Support Fund. This is split between the four Housing Associations and is to help alleviate fuel debt of up to £1000 per client:

4.4.1 **Berwickshire Housing Association** - the Financial Inclusion Team offers a service to all Berwickshire Housing Association tenants and their families who may be experiencing difficulties paying their rent and managing their money. The team works closely with their tenants to maximise their income and encourage a rent first culture. They offer:

- i. An appointment to all new tenants at the beginning of their tenancy;
- ii. Free impartial advice and support on a range of benefits and tax credits;
- iii. Representation and guidance with benefit appeals;
- iv. Assistance with grant applications;
- v. Casework support with ongoing queries;

- vi. Money guidance advice and signposting to specialist agencies;
- vii. Guidance on energy bills and signposting where necessary.

All referrals are allocated a financial inclusion expert who will undertake a financial assessment focusing on benefit entitlement and budgeting. They will work with individuals to address issues that may be impacting on their ability to make adequate rent payments.

**4.4.2 Eildon Housing Association** - the Tenancy Sustainment Team provides an income maximisation service and offers advice on grants and benefits as well as support for referrals to other agencies. They work closely with tenants to establish and maintain relationships, and this model has been adapted under Covid-19 restrictions to ensure that the welfare of their tenants (particularly those who are most vulnerable), is still a priority. They provide:

- i. Impartial advice and support on a range of welfare benefits;
- ii. Work closely with housing colleagues on various tenancy issues such as property condition and anti-social behaviour;
- iii. Assist new tenants with tenancy set up including grants for furniture etc;
- iv. Offer basic budgeting and money management advice;
- v. Advice and referrals on issues with fuel bills, new tariffs, and fuel debt;
- vi. Signpost, refer and work alongside other services and agencies.

The service explores many different issues and carries out preventative work to ensure that tenants can maintain their properties.

**4.4.3 Scottish Borders Housing Association** - have provided a Welfare Benefits Service since 2003 and following the appointment of a Financial Support Worker in 2013, expanded the offer to include a range of support and advice to develop skills that help tenants manage their finances, preventing hardship from recurring. The offer was further expanded in 2016 with a successful partnership with Changeworks, providing energy advice to tenants. Recognising the need to mainstream this, in October 2020, SBHA appointed a Warm and Well Co-ordinator, tasked with building capacity across front line teams to provide energy advice to tenants - ranging from setting tariffs, support on fuel debt, getting best use of systems and preparing for the installation of new systems. The FI Team are also involved in specific projects such as:

- i. 16+ Transitions – a partnership with Scottish Borders Council since 2010 to support looked after young people providing intensive tenancy support to build skills to enable them to live independently – including exploring housing options, gaining employment and creating pathways to Further Education;
- ii. Digital connectivity – the work of the team supported the distribution of 190 devices to get Tenants online during the Covid-19 Pandemic;
- iii. SBHA use a Triage Model where more complex cases are managed by the FI Team and have recently developed a Wellbeing Framework to ensure consistency of approach, which proved very effective during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The FI Team offer:

1. Welfare benefits advice focusing on income maximisation and support to claim benefits;
2. Financial support such as money management and developing budgeting skills;
3. Individual support plans and affordable payment agreements for Tenants in arrears;
4. Affordable warmth work to help tenants heat their homes;
5. Early intervention and prevention work to promote tenancy sustainment by tailoring services to meet need.

4.4.4 **Waverley Housing** - has a self-funded Welfare Benefits Advisors post which supports tenants to maximise income. In 2020/21, 350 referrals were received, around half of whom did not fully engage in the support available. There has been around a 25% increase in referrals made during the year, compared to the previous year, due mainly to the Covid Pandemic and issues arising from furlough, job losses etc. The total funds recovered on behalf of tenants, which can be directly recorded as attributable to the service, amounted to £157,718. An active caseload of 36 tenants was carried forward into 2021/22.

- 4.5 **Borders College** - students can apply for Bursaries or Education Maintenance Allowance, but additional support is available including help with travel costs, discretionary funds, and childcare funds. Students studying relevant courses are sent details of how to apply for Bursary and Educational Maintenance Allowance funds prior to starting their course. Within their application they can request help with childcare costs. If a student has money troubles while studying, they can apply for help from the college discretionary fund. They also help students who have been affected financially due to the current Covid-19 Pandemic and have disseminated in excess of £350K in hardship and discretionary funding to students to support living costs and mitigate effects of Covid-19 restrictions.
- 4.6 **Home Energy Scotland** - is funded by Scottish Government and helps people in Scotland create warmer homes, reduce their energy bills, and lower their carbon footprint. They work with people and organisations to help tackle fuel poverty. They have a regional centre and provide emergency top ups and advice on a number of areas, such as saving energy and keeping warm at home, funding options including Scottish Government grants, interest free loans and installing renewable energy at home. They provide training and work closely with SBC's Energy Efficiency Strategy and Policy Officer and Changeworks, who also provide support with energy related issues, including advice on fuel poverty, reducing energy costs and disagreements with energy suppliers.
- 4.7 **Department for Work & Pensions** - administer benefits and provide support through work coaches for those who apply for and receive Universal Credit. Prior to the Covid-19 restrictions they also provided a visiting service to assist the most vulnerable people applying for DWP benefits. Most organisations have direct contact with the DWP Partnership Manager who will assist with any issues relating to DWP benefits. There are also direct escalation routes for SBC staff to use if they have a customer experiencing benefit issues which allows a quicker resolution.

- 4.8 **Social Security Scotland** – has committed to a local delivery set up. There will be support services in every Local Authority area in Scotland. As the rollout of new benefits continues, assistance will be available in person for anyone who needs support to apply for or maintain a benefit which is administered by Social Security Scotland. In addition, they will signpost people to other organisation’s services which might also be applicable.
- 4.9 **Food Banks/FareShare/Community Larders & Fridges** - the provision of food security varies in the Borders. There are a variety of organisations who provide food parcels, including community groups, charities, faith-based groups, etc. Some offer other support, money advice or signposting, but they may also limit the number of times they provide assistance. These organisations have been supported by community planning partners, who have provided both resources, vehicles and funding.
- 4.10 **Charities and Voluntary Organisations** - other organisations such as community groups, Red Cross, Penumbra, Borders Care Voice, Border Women’s Aid, The Bridge, Shelter and Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) provide advice or support to people in the Borders to apply for benefits or maintain claims and signpost to other organisations if required.

## 5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 There are generally good links between all of the organisations undertaking Financial Inclusion work across the partnership and in most cases referral processes are in place if required.
- 5.2 However, there are concerns about solutions to food poverty and fuel poverty and there is an increasing emphasis on doing more than providing the ‘sticking plasters’ of Crisis Grants, energy top ups or food parcels. Organisations are encouraging more sustainable long-term solutions e.g., improving energy efficiency, applying for benefits/grants, or signposting to employability services which will increase income and reduce the possibility of a crisis occurring in the future.
- 5.3 Digital inclusion is another factor, and some partners are piloting initiatives such as free devices and connectivity as the lack of internet access can be a barrier to education, employment or maintaining a benefit claim. A recent study estimated that one in seven adults in Scotland was experiencing ‘data poverty’ and those on low incomes try to juggle buying food, fuel and having access to the internet.
- 5.4 There is support for some fuel emergencies such as energy arrears or meter top ups, but there is a potential gap for people with ‘old style’ oil and gas heating systems which require upfront payments of around £300 to £400 depending on the market rate at the time.
- 5.5 There are concerns about the impact when Covid-19 related financial support ends. The Furlough Scheme and a £20 per week Universal Credit top up are both due to end on 30 September 2021. This is likely to have a significant impact and potentially increase the demand on support services in the last three months of 2021.

- 5.6 There are also concerns about the impact of losing benefit entitlement on other forms of assistance. For example, where a parent is eligible for free school meals, they will also receive a clothing grant for each child. In 2021/22 they will receive 3 payments of £100 per child, which are funded by Scottish Government. The implications of a slight increase in income can result in losing this assistance and other benefits/grants such as Best Start Grant, Scottish Child Payment and Education Maintenance Allowance, so good advice and maximising take up is really important.
- 5.7 A mapping exercise is currently underway to set out all the work streams that the Council is involved in, along with partners and other organisations. This will include specific funding streams, mapping the services that are available, increase awareness of support offered and give advice on signposting.
- 5.8 The Council have recently developed a draft Anti-Poverty Strategy, and work is underway to produce an Action Plan. The finalised Strategy and Action Plan will be presented to Council in the Autumn for approval. Actions around Financial Inclusion will be taken forward as part of the Action Plan.

## **6 IMPLICATIONS**

### **6.1 Financial**

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

### **6.2 Risk and Mitigations**

There is a risk that individuals do not realise what benefits and support is available to them. Failure to ensure that the financial landscape of Scottish Borders Council and community planning partners is known to individuals may result in benefits being under-claimed and people experiencing financial difficulties. Actions to assist with the identification of benefits will be included in the Anti-Poverty Strategy Action Plan.

### **6.3 Integrated Impact Assessment**

An Integrated impact assessment has been carried out on this report. There are no specific implications.

### **6.4 Sustainable Development Goals**

In considering each of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the following may make a difference:

- i. End poverty in all its forms – changes to service provision, improving local income and taking local action through the Anti-Poverty Strategy and action plan and the Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan;
- ii. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture – these issues are likely to be addressed in the Anti-Poverty Strategy and action plan as well as the Council’s Food Growing Strategy;
- iii. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages – taking local action, changes to service provision such as actions outlined in the registered social landlords paragraphs above (para 4.4);

- iv. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities – opportunities are offered as part of early years advice given around parental support and employment opportunities;
- v. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all – gaps are identified to affordable energy, particularly to vulnerable groups and housing tenants;
- vi. Reduce inequalities – identify and tackle poverty and exclusion through the Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan, the Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan, and through income maximisation opportunities.

**6.5 Climate Change**

There is no impact on climate change as a result of this report.

**6.6 Rural Proofing**

There are no rural proofing implications as a result of this report.

**6.7 Data Protection Impact Statement**

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

**6.8 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.

**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 any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

**Approved by**

**Name: Jenni Craig**

**Signature .....**

**Title: Service Director Customer and Communities**

**Author(s)**

Name	Designation and Contact Number
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**Background Papers:** N/A

**Previous Minute Reference:** N/A

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## **Integrated Children and Young People's Plan Progress Report 2019-21**

**Report by Service Director Young People, Engagement and Inclusion**

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### **Community Planning Strategic Board**

**10 June 2021**

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

- 1.1 **This report presents the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan Progress Report for 2019-2021 for endorsement before publication.**
- 1.2 Part 3 of The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires that each Local Authority, Local Health Board and Partners prepare a Children's Services Plan and subsequently prepare and publish a report on how they have delivered on its plan as soon as practicable after the end of each one-year period (April to March).
- 1.3 This requirement is the responsibility of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) who have delegated the task to the Children and Young People's Leadership Group (CYPLG).
- 1.4 The CYPLG have prepared a Progress Report on the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan 2018/21 for the Scottish Borders to cover the two year period of 2019/20 and 2020/21. Covid-19 has had an impact on the capacity of the CYPLG to prepare a single year report for 2019/20, hence the two year reporting period. The report sets out actions taken to deliver the Plan and achieve good outcomes for our children and young people, and includes some of the alternative actions taken as a result of Covid-19 restrictions.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Community Planning Strategic Board endorse the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan Progress Report for 2019-2021 before publication.**

### 3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 An integrated approach to service planning by partners is a requirement under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. This is delivered through the Scottish Borders Integrated Children and Young People's Plan, which is the responsibility of the Community Planning Partnership, delegated to the Children and Young People's Leadership Group.
- 3.2 Under the Children & Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014 (Part 3 – Children's Services Planning) there is a duty to prepare and publish an Annual Report.
- 3.3 The report should set out progress on:
- Children's services in a one-year period (April to March) provided in accordance with the Integrated Plan
  - What that provision has achieved
  - Aims of Children's Services planning
  - Outcomes focused on the wellbeing of children and young people in the area.

### 4 INTEGRATED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN PROGRESS REPORT 2019-2021

- 4.1 The Integrated Children and Young People's Plan in the Scottish Borders Progress Report for 2019-2021 is set out in Appendix 1.

The CYPLG works with the following four shared priorities to deliver meaningful and sustainable improvements to the lives of all our children and young people, to ensure that *everyone* can reach their full potential.

1. Keeping children and young people safe
2. Improving health and well-being and reducing inequalities
3. Targeting support to maximise life experiences and opportunities and ensuring inclusion
4. Increasing participation and engagement

- 4.2 Despite restrictions caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic, progress has been made against each of the four priorities above by a range of partners. The Report in Appendix 1 sets these out in detail. Highlights set out below demonstrate the breadth of activity undertaken and the significant progress made.

'Programme for Government' funding allowed for **commissioning of additional CAPSM (children affected by parental substance misuse) Link Workers** to work more closely with families with higher levels of need. The

Link Workers provide a service to CAPSM children (up to age 18), parents, expectant mothers and (usually kinship) carers.

Our Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) service have **now fully implemented 1140 hours** of nursery provision. The expansion continues to ensure that quality is at the heart of service delivery and that children are given the best start in life.

Scottish Borders are the first local authority in Scotland to commit to taking **a whole authority approach to Emotional Health and Wellbeing training in schools**, and are working with partners across Scottish Borders to deliver the project.

BANG (**Borders Additional Needs Group**) Holiday Camp was held in August 2019, providing a combination of physical, health and wellbeing activities for children and families.

The **Community Learning and Development (CLD)** service has increased its range of SQA courses available to its learners and pre-pandemic saw an increase in accreditations on employability courses.

## **5 IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Financial**

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

### **5.2 Risk and Mitigations**

There are no specific risks to be addressed as a result of this report.

### **5.3 Integrated Impact Assessment**

An Integrated Impact Assessment has been carried out in relation to this report. There are no significant implications.

### **5.4 Sustainable Development Goals**

In considering each of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan Progress Report may make a difference to the following:

- End poverty in all its forms – local action is being taken through a Local Child Poverty Report and action plan, as well as an Anti-Poverty Strategy. Child Poverty actions are included and reported on in this progress report.

- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition – local action is taken in various forms through the multi-agency approach to this progress report.
- Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages - local action is taken in various forms through the multi-agency approach to this progress report.
- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all – the progress report sets out details of opportunities offered to individuals
- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls – priority one of this progress report is 'keeping children safe'
- Reduce inequalities – local actions to tackle poverty and exclusion are set out in the Local Child Poverty Report and action plan and the Anti-Poverty Strategy. These actions are reported in this progress report.

**5.5 Climate Change**

There is no impact on climate change as a result of this report.

**5.6 Rural Proofing**

There is no rural proofing actions required as a result of this report.

**5.7 Data Protection Impact Statement**

There are no personal data implications arising from this report.

**5.8 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 this report.

**6 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 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.

**Approved by**

**Lesley Munro**  
**Service Director Young People, Engagement & Inclusion**

**Signature .....**

**Author**

Name	Designation and Contact Number
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**Background Papers: n/a**

**Previous Minute Reference: n/a**

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# Integrated Children and Young People's Plan in the Scottish Borders

## Progress Report 2019-21

DRAFT



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## Introduction

Welcome to the 2019-21 Progress Report of our Integrated Children & Young People's Plan for the Scottish Borders. The report reflects progress made in relation to the delivery of shared partnership priorities as set out in the 2018-2021 plan.

The Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (CPP) is committed to safeguarding, supporting, and promoting the well-being of all children and young people across the Scottish Borders. We translate this commitment into action through the work of the Children and Young People's Leadership Group (CYPLG).

The plan is informed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as well as a range of legislation and national policy.

Under the Children & Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014 (Part 3 – Children's Services Planning) there is a duty to prepare and publish an Annual Report.

The report should set out progress on:

- Children's services in a one-year period (April to March) provided in accordance with the Integrated Plan
- What that provision has achieved
- Aims of Children's Services planning
- Outcomes focused on the wellbeing of children and young people in the area.

The report spans two years instead of one, and covers the unprecedented Covid-19 Pandemic in 2020/21, which has undoubtedly had an impact on our ability to deliver actions and services fully. Many of the planned actions have been affected by the Pandemic, in particular those that provide face to face contact with children and families, however, the Leadership Group have also benefitted from new ways of working as a result.

The Children and Young People's Leadership Group brings together partners from Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Police Scotland, the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, and the Third Sector. The group has a key role in linking the work and plans of partners to achieve the best outcomes we can for our children and young people.

This report is based on the shared vision of the Integrated Children & Young People's Plan for the Scottish Borders 2018-2021:

**'Working together we will ensure all children and young people have a sense of belonging, self-worth and self-confidence to achieve their unique potential'**

The Children and Young People's Leadership Group works with shared priorities to deliver meaningful and sustainable improvements to the lives of all our children and young people, to ensure that *everyone* can reach their full potential, and the report outlines progress on the following agreed priorities -

1. Keeping children and young people safe
2. Improving health and well-being and reducing inequalities
3. Targeting support to maximise life experiences and opportunities and ensuring inclusion
4. Increasing participation and engagement

## Highlights

Despite the Covid-19 Pandemic, progress has been made against all priorities and their outcomes. Each of the four priorities are set out in detail in the subsequent pages of the report, and some of the highlights are set out below which demonstrate the breadth of actions undertaken:

- A range of **Child Protection Training** has been undertaken, keeping our front line practitioners up to date with current issues so that they can enhance the safety and well-being of our children.
- 'Programme for Government' funding allowed for **commissioning of additional CAPSM (children affected by parental substance misuse) Link Workers** to work more closely with families with higher levels of need. The Link Workers provide a service to CAPSM children (up to age 18), parents, expectant mothers and (usually kinship) carers.
- Our Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) service have **now fully implemented 1140 hours** of nursery provision. The expansion continues to ensure that quality is at the heart of service delivery and that children are given the best start in life.
- Scottish Borders are the first local authority in Scotland to commit to taking a **whole authority approach to Emotional Health and Wellbeing training in schools**, and are working with partners across Scottish Borders to deliver the project.
- Our school pupils have benefitted from the **Inspire Learning Programme**, with the majority now having access to an iPad.
- Our high schools continue to work towards **LGBT Charter Mark Status** and Earlston High School was awarded the Gold Standard in June 2020.
- **Successful holiday programmes** for early years families were run by multi-agency partnerships in Burnfoot, Eyemouth, Langlee and Selkirk in 2019. **All delivered clear impacts for families**. Programme uptake was high across localities with a combined total of 523 participants.
- **BANG (Borders Additional Needs Group) Holiday Camp** was held in August 2019, providing a combination of physical, health and wellbeing activities for children and families.
- The **Corporate Parenting Strategy** for 2018-21 was implemented and Annual Reports produced.
- An **Intensive Family Support Service** has been established, relating to family support, income maximisation and employability for families who have suffered from generational poverty.
- **MSYPs are supported on Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) related work**. They are supported in meeting with their local MSPs and MPs. Meetings include discussions on the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill and other issues such as disability rights.
- Scottish Borders participated in **National Youth Commission** work on care experience. The commission began in 2018 with the intention of making Scotland a better place for LGBT young people growing up in care.
- The **Community Learning and Development (CLD)** service has increased its range of SQA courses available to its learners and pre-pandemic saw an increase in accreditations on employability courses

<b>Priority 1 - Keeping children and young people safe</b>			
<b>Outcome</b> - More children and young people will be protected from abuse, harm or neglect and will be living in a supportive environment, feeling secure and cared for			
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>What we have achieved</b>
Adopting the principles of joint working, work in partnership with the Child Protection Committee to produce a modernised strategy for public protection, recognising the role of communities and families	Implement the proposed new Public Protection arrangements	Chief Public Protection Officer	<p>The Scottish Borders Public Protection Committee (PPC) was established in January 2020, which represented the culmination of planning and preparation over the previous year, in pursuit of an even more 'joined up' approach to working with vulnerable children and adults, recognising that some of them are in the same families.</p> <p>The development of the co-located Public Protection Service is a significant milestone, providing a stable platform to consider risk through the lens of a 'think family' approach. There is a determination and strong commitment across all partners involved to ensure that the most vulnerable in society are protected.</p>
Establish a partnership Early Intervention Programme to prevent risks escalating in families where there are significant and/or multiple challenges	Continue with current good practice in relation to chronologies, neglect toolkit training, safe and together training and the family nurse partnership	Relevant practitioners	<p>The use of chronologies continues to be monitored across Children and Families Social Work. Chronologies training is now mandatory for all social workers and scrutiny of chronologies and their use in practice is audited every 6 months.</p> <p>A range of Child Protection Training has been undertaken, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Essential Issues in Child Protection Practice Training (Level 1)</li> <li>2. Roles and Responsibilities in Child Protection (Level 2)</li> <li>3. A Child's Journey through Child Protection (Level 3)</li> <li>4. Neglect Toolkit and Child Sexual Exploitation training.</li> </ol>

	Continue the roll-out of 1140 hours of early years provision including vulnerable 2's	Early Years Provision	<p>Front line practitioners also attended the four day, core training for 'Safe and Together' – the model which aims to provide a framework for partnering with domestic abuse survivors and intervening with domestic abuse perpetrators in order to enhance the safety and well-being of children – and a group of managers and policy-makers took part in a one day overview session.</p> <p>'Safe and Together' was also adopted as the basis for multi-agency work on Domestic Abuse in the Scottish Borders and training continues to support implementation of the model locally.</p> <p>'Programme for Government' funding allowed for commissioning of additional CAPSM (children affected by parental substance misuse) Link Workers to work more closely with families with higher levels of need. The Link Workers provide a service to CAPSM children (up to age 18), parents, expectant mothers and (usually kinship) carers as well as raising awareness of the impact of alcohol and drug use on children and develop understanding of resilience and the protective factors that may help the children and the family with practitioners. The Link Workers work closely with Children and Families Social Work Duty Team and Long-Term service and takes a whole family approach. The caseload reflects more in-depth and complex issues around public protection (e.g. child protection, vulnerable young people, domestic violence, custody, and housing issues).</p> <p>Scottish Borders fully implemented 1140 hours from August 2020. During COVID restrictions, Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) was only available to children of key workers and invited children but all settings are now back at full capacity and delivering 1140 hours for all children whose parents have requested it. The expansion continues to ensure that quality is at the heart of service delivery and that children are given the best start in life.</p>
Provide young people with the support and advice they need to ensure they have the skills and confidence at key life stages to assess risk and make appropriate choices.	Maintain commission to youth organisations	CYP Leadership Group	<p>Community-based youth work organisations are commissioned across 7 locality areas in the Scottish Borders to provide early intervention and prevention work with young people. Funding from the Children and Young People's Leadership Group is matched by the National Lottery Community Fund to deliver "Stepping Stones." Throughout 2019/20 and 2020/21, Stepping Stones worked with 266 young people to improve outcomes including equipping young people to deal with risky behaviours that impact on their future life chances. This project is delivered by the Scottish Borders Youth Work Partnership and coordinated by YouthBorders and is funded until August 2024.</p> <p>Youth Borders and NHS Borders commissioned 'The Tea Play' – a live theatre production which was delivered in all nine secondary schools in September 2019. The play explores themes of consent, contraception, and sexual health, and connects young people to the C-Card service available in localities.</p>
	Continue with mental health training in	Practitioners	<p>Scottish Borders are the first local authority in Scotland to commit to taking a whole authority approach to mental health training in schools, and are working with partners across Scottish Borders to deliver the project.</p>

	<p>schools for students and staff</p> <p>Launch Drugs, alcohol, and tobacco GLOW site for education staff</p>	<p>Education Service</p> <p>JHIT Youth Borders</p>	<p>Various initiatives and training programmes continue to be undertaken by students and staff in schools and partner organisations. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 'See Me' programme</li> <li>• Scottish Mental Health First Aid Training (completed by 90 S6 pupils across all nine high schools in the Scottish Borders in 2019.</li> <li>• The development of an ambassador model, enabled 80 young people to become Mental Health ambassadors/peer supporters.</li> <li>• An introduction to Mental Health Awareness Sessions was developed, and delivered by the See Me Ambassadors to S6 pupils between June-September 2019.</li> <li>• In excess of a 100 multi-agency partners participated in the 'What's the Harm' Self-harm awareness training</li> <li>• Significant investment resulted in the establishment of a commissioned service aimed at providing counselling support for our young people which delivered by Quarriers.</li> <li>• 'Growing Confidence' is a training programme reaching all students and staff in our schools. It focuses on Mental Health and Resilience and is now entering its third year.</li> <li>• #Borders Wellbeing, a partnership digital campaign which supported the publication of the <i>Young People's Guide to Mental Health and Wellbeing</i> was delivered in autumn 2020. The guide was available on all high school pupils' Inspire Learning IPad.</li> </ul> <p><b>Substance Use in Education (SUE)</b>  A short-life multiagency group led by the Joint Health Improvement Team, Alcohol and Drugs Support Team, and partners in Education included membership from Primary and Secondary Schools, Quarriers and Police Scotland and successfully produced a new Substance Use in Education (SUE) resource. SUE contains materials which are age and stage appropriate and linked to Curriculum for Excellence experiences and outcomes and benchmarks and is available on GLOW. The materials are informed by evidence-based guidelines.</p> <p>As well as age 3-18 resources SUE also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· A parental information leaflet linked to age and stage</li> <li>· Consideration of children affected by parental substance use</li> <li>· Information on Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder</li> </ul>
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	<p>Use technology eg. Inspire learning</p> <p>Continue to develop internet safety and grooming advice for teachers to deliver to P6&amp;7 pupils</p>	Education service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Information on where young people can access support</li> <li>· Latest drug trends from Police Scotland/Crew</li> </ul> <p>Since its launch in November 2019 there have been 14,700 visits to the SUE site and evaluation of the resource will follow.</p> <p><b>Oh Lila</b> Oh Lila is a programme developed by Alcohol Focus Scotland for 3 to 5 year old children with an aim to build resilience and protective factors. Early years workers attend a half day training programme which supports introducing materials in nurseries and early years establishments.</p> <p>Commitment was made for attendance at nine training session from across Borders and four of these were delivered. Sessions scheduled for March 2020 were postponed and are now being progressed remotely due Covid-19.</p> <p>Inspire learning is now established. The majority of our school pupils now have access to an iPad, and this is supported by a comprehensive training programme for all staff, pupils, and parents. Pupils, parents, carers, and staff have all reported the benefits of having an iPad, especially during periods of lockdown due to Covid-19 when schools were closed.</p> <p>The Inspire learning programme curricular links to the technologies curriculum which includes internet safety cyber resilience. SBC are working with Education Scotland to develop a national toolkit in this area which will include the Young Scot 'Did you know?' ambassador programme</p> <p>The 'Always Be Wary' resource was developed in partnership with pupils. 172 young people took part in the training, and it sits as an available resource for schools.</p>
Review and refresh current approaches to interventions delivered within schools and communities by all partners to help young people stay safe	Launch 'Go Safe Borders' in all High Schools in the Scottish Borders	Education service	Work is complete within all our schools now offering 'Go Safe' as part of the curriculum within their Personal and Social Education offer.

## Priority 2 - Improving Health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities

**Outcome** - Inequalities in the health and wellbeing of young people are reduced

Objective	Action	Lead	What we have achieved
Play a key part in the development of the Scottish Borders Child Poverty action plan - leading to changes in practice across all partners that impact on the drivers of child poverty	Form a Strategic Group to ensure that the actions of the Local Child Poverty Action Plan are carried out	CPP	<p>A Child Poverty Planning Group regularly meets to plan actions and report progress in tackling child poverty across the Scottish Borders. The group is a multi-agency group made up of partners from SBC, NHS Borders, Third Sector, and a range of other relevant organisations. A Child Poverty Annual Progress Report was produced in 2019/20 and the 2020/21 Report is in progress. Both reports show progress made across partners.</p> <p><a href="#">Child Poverty annual report 2019-20   Scottish Borders Council (scotborders.gov.uk)</a></p> <p><a href="#">2020-21 report and action plan   Scottish Borders Council (scotborders.gov.uk)</a></p>
Continue to build capacity in universal services to improve health and wellbeing of all children and young people, including their emotional health and well-being and healthy lifestyles – diet, physical activity, alcohol, drugs and tobacco and sexual health	<p>Consider and address inequalities utilising an Equalities and Human Rights approach within our practice</p> <p>Work towards the Foundation LGBT Charter Mark (SBC)</p>	All partners Education, Social Work, Criminal Justice & CLD	<p>Scottish Borders Council Human Resources Team have worked with LGBT Youth Scotland to update their policy on Equality, Diversity and Human Rights: <a href="https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/3675/equality_diversity_and_human_rights_policy">https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/3675/equality_diversity_and_human_rights_policy</a></p> <p>LGBT Youth Scotland have worked with high schools on LGBT Charter Mark and delivered training to teachers and staff. Feedback from the training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Asking about pronouns/not making assumptions</i></li> <li>• <i>Better understanding and awareness of support for parents</i></li> <li>• <i>Really helpful and hopefully provide more focus on embedding LGBT identities</i></li> </ul> <p>Earlston High School were awarded Silver Charter Status in 2019 and Gold in June 2020 <a href="https://www.earlstonhighschool.org.uk/school/diversity-and-inclusion">https://www.earlstonhighschool.org.uk/school/diversity-and-inclusion</a></p> <p>Eyemouth High awarded Bronze – July 2020 Galashiels Silver - July 2019 Kelso High School - July 2019 Selkirk High School - July 2019</p>

			<p><b>Programme for Government - Breastfeeding</b>  The Joint Health Improvement Team received 'Programme for Government' funding to increase breastfeeding rates and reduce breast feeding drop off rates at 6-8 weeks following birth. The funding covers three areas of work:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raising awareness of breastfeeding in Eyemouth: a whole community approach</li> <li>2. Breastfeeding in the Borders Peer Support Programme (BiBs)</li> <li>3. Work towards Baby Friendly Accreditation by supporting the current Infant Feeding Advisor with education, audit, evaluation of audit findings, and implementation of recommendations with the aim of achieving sustainability in 2020</li> </ol> <p><b>Child Healthy Weight</b>  The Scottish Government's Standards for the delivery of Tier 2 and Tier 3 weight management services for children and young people in Scotland were published in 2019. The standards aim to ensure a consistent, equitable and evidence-based approach to the treatment of overweight and obesity for children and young people up to the age of 18 years in Scotland by March 2020.</p> <p>Planning structures were established in the Scottish Borders, including a multi-agency Child Healthy Weight Steering Group. Social marketing research was undertaken to inform the group and the findings and recommendations from the research, focus groups and interviews have allowed the group to agree a pathway. Significant progress has been made in developing the programme for children aged 3-5 yrs and primary school children including the offer of Healthy Start vitamins for women and children and community food groups.</p> <p><b>Sexual Health: Ccard Scheme</b>  We continue to support healthy relationships and our Ccard scheme was delivered across 68 sites in Borders and have supported the roll out of the Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood resource to schools (<a href="http://www.rshp.scot">www.rshp.scot</a>).</p> <p>No Excuses! (SBRCC) designed and delivered capacity building sessions to 35 Youth Workers. The training and resources aim to provide youth workers with knowledge and confidence to lead discussions with young people about consent and healthy relationships and to respond effectively to any incidences of sexual violence.</p>
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	Maintain commission to youth organisations	<p>YouthBorders (with funding from NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council) invested in a Health and Wellbeing Development Officer for 12 months, to support the delivery of health related training for the youth work sector; this included training awareness raising sessions on issues such as gambling education, gaming, games and physical activity, and youth awards.</p> <p>All Commissions to our youth work organisations have been maintained supporting a network of community-based drop-in youth clubs and specialist youth provisions. This has been challenging during the Covid-19 Pandemic, however all services have adapted well and offered online services to ensure that our children and young people were still supported.</p>
Influence the local housing strategy, to focus on the needs of vulnerable young people and families	Work with SBC Regulatory Services to implement 'The housing needs and aspirations of young people Scottish Borders 5 year action plan'	<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>Key highlights and significant achievements -</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 whether there is interest and capacity within communities to enable new community led housing development</li> <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>Ensure that play is an integral part of life for our children</p> <p>Promote opportunities and the use of local spaces for young people to spend free time with friends</p>	<p>Implement the Scottish Borders Play Strategy</p> <p>Review holiday programmes to identify opportunities for effective collaboration and coordination of resources across partners</p> <p>Continue Arts and Health Wellbeing work</p>	<p>CYPLG</p> <p>CLD</p> <p>Borders Additional Needs Group</p> <p>Third Sector Youth Organisations</p>	<p>The Scottish Borders Play Strategy has not progressed into a published document and will be incorporated into the new Integrated Children and Young People's Plan for 2021-23 which is currently under development.</p> <p>Successful holiday programmes for early years families were run by multi-agency partnerships in Burnfoot, Eyemouth, Langlee and Selkirk in 2019. Key partner organisations involved were: Healthy Living Network (HLN), Community Learning and Development service (CLDS), Early Years Centres, Primary Schools, Live Borders, and a range of local partners. The models varied according to need, resource, and capacity but all delivered clear impacts for families. Programme uptake was high across localities with a combined total of 523 participants. This included 356 children and 167 adults. Some children and families were invited to attend head teachers and agencies who thought summer programmes may provide additional support during the school holiday period. An evaluation of the Summer 2019 programme was carried out by NHS Borders Public Health Registrar.</p> <p>Families described the programme as positive and parents/carers progressed into other learning and community opportunities as a result of taking part.</p> <p>BANG Holiday Camp Aug 2019 – a combined child/adult camp providing a combination of physical, health and wellbeing activities for children and families  <a href="https://www.bordertelegraph.com/news/17853364.additional-needs-summer-camp-goes-bang/">https://www.bordertelegraph.com/news/17853364.additional-needs-summer-camp-goes-bang/</a></p> <p>Community-based youth work organisations provided Summer Programmes in 2020, delivered in line with Covid-19 Guidance setting out permitted youth work activity at that time.</p> <p>TD1 Youth Hub with CLD Youth Learning team, delivered online and in person youth work activity as part of a Scottish Government pilot to tackle the impacts of food insecurity using a youth work approach.</p> <p>Scottish Borders Strategic Youth Work Partnership and CLD Youth Learning team made a successful bid to the Scottish Government's Youth Work Education Recovery Fund in autumn 2020; this funding will deliver youth work holiday provision through 2021 for young people most impacted by Covid-19.</p> <p>Active schools Programmes continue to be delivered across the Scottish Borders</p>
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	Explore options for a Live Borders reduced rate access card		Pilot Gaming/E-sports session – Heart of Hawick (Nov 2019) further work to develop concept with young people  Scoped but no further action taken
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### Priority 3 - Targeting support to maximise life experiences and opportunities and ensuring inclusion

**Outcome** - Life experiences and opportunities are improved for children and young people who require our targeted support

Objective	Action	Lead	What we have achieved
<p>Focus on ensuring positive outcomes for children who are living at home but subject to statutory measures (and are therefore Looked After Children at home)</p>	<p>Implement the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-21 and Action Plan and produce an Annual Report</p>		<p>Corporate Parenting has progressed throughout 2020 and corporate parents have worked together in taking forward the Action Plan.  <a href="#">Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-21   Scottish Borders Council (scotborders.gov.uk)</a>  <a href="#">Annual Report 2019-20   Scottish Borders Council (scotborders.gov.uk)</a></p> <p>Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Core Commitment 1</b> - In order to meet their responsibilities, corporate parents will listen and respond to the voices of children and families/carers, a full audit of participation practices was carried out across corporate parents. Pockets of excellent practice were recognised, but it was also clear that there is a lack of consistent, systematic inclusion of children, young people and their families in strategic and practice developments across services. In response to these challenges a clear strategic approach and plan for relaunching participation work with care experienced young people going forwards, which is monitored and reviewed regularly is currently being written and funding for the development of participation was identified for 2020-21. The aim is to develop a Champions Board (using the learning from existing models across Scotland).</li> <li>• <b>Core Commitment 2</b> - All looked after children and care experienced young people will be treated fairly, have equality of opportunity, and have a sense of belonging in their communities – in terms of educational attainment, improvements in academic achievement, attendance, positive destinations, and reductions in exclusions for looked after children. The continuation of the ‘Virtual School’ approach has clearly influenced these</li> </ul>

			<p>improvements. In terms of permanence planning for children, there has also been continuous improvement in reducing timescales for securing permanence for looked after children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Core Commitment 4</b> - Children and young people will be supported to improve their physical, emotional, and mental health and wellbeing - the Joint Health Improvement Team have led on 2 initiatives for vulnerable young people over the past year: work on self-harm included delivery of 'What's the Harm' training for partners across Borders. What's the Harm Training was delivered to 100 multi-agency staff; and the 'See Me' schools programme (funded by Scottish Government &amp; Comic Relief) which aims to help young people understand the importance of good mental health, recognise how it affects young people, and builds confidence to talk openly about mental health.</li> <li>• <b>Core Commitment 5</b> - Young people making the transition to adulthood will be supported to achieve their full potential – a series of improvements and initiatives relating to accommodation and housing; health and wellbeing and employability initiatives for looked after and care experienced young people have been taken forward. These have included the on-going success of Albert Place (see later Action), C-Card training for staff on sexual health, improvements in the number of modern apprenticeships for care experienced young people and, Skills Development Scotland's 'Next Steps' initiative.</li> </ul>
Identify and address the barriers that get in the way of individuals and families feeling included and supported within communities across the Scottish Borders	<p>Identify vulnerable excluded families and engage with them to provide support for their specific needs</p> <p>Continue to work with the Parent Council Chairs Forum (PCCF) to redesign engagement processes. Report on working groups already formed for the Dyslexia Strategy, Drugs, Alcohol</p>	<p>Relevant practitioners</p> <p>Education service</p>	<p>Work has progressed in establishing an Intensive Family Support Service (funded by the Edinburgh and South of Scotland City Deal). The service proposal was successful (August 2020) and a small service focusing on specific outcomes relating to family support, income maximisation and employability for families who have suffered from generational poverty started in January 2021.</p> <p>Engagement processes with parents have developed. The Dyslexia group produced communication tools in partnership with parents. Parents continue to be involved in other groups and Inspire Ambassadors have been recruited to develop parental engagement in the Inspire Programme. The Education Service has invested heavily in a new Inclusion Framework and training programme for all staff. Much of this work moved online in 2020 in a bid to ensure that such initiatives could continue.</p>

	<p>and tobacco, and literacy and numeracy.</p> <p>Implement the requirements of the Young Carer's Strategy including the provision of a Young Carer's Statement</p>	<p>Education service/Action for Children commission</p>	<p>The Young Carer's Strategy is used to guide schools, parents and carers, and young carers on what advice and support is available to them, including the offer of preparing a Young Carer's Statement. The statement sets out their individual circumstances, and allows services to provide appropriate support to them. Action for Children's CHIMES Service was commissioned to support young carers with their statements and schools and other organisations refer young carers to them for assistance. This has been successful and more young carers are now taking the opportunity to do a statement. A record is kept of those who take up the offer and those who don't.</p>
<p>Using new opportunities e.g. through the South of Scotland Economic Partnership, design approaches to support all young people moving into adulthood - healthcare, housing, tenancy sustainment, income maximisation, employability. This should include mentoring and expansion of the 16+ transitions project, priorities identified by the CPP Reducing Inequalities Delivery Team</p>	<p>Continue to implement the 16+ Transitions Project to improve outcomes for care leavers by providing targeted support on a range of issues including employability and expanding the provision of accommodation for this vulnerable group.</p>	<p>Social Work service</p>	<p>Albert Place Supported Accommodation Project for vulnerable young Care Leavers celebrated its tenth birthday in March 2020 having opened on the 10th of March 2010. It is a joint Scottish Borders Council (Throughcare Aftercare and Homeless Teams) and Scottish Borders Housing Association (SBHA) initiative which provides semi-supported accommodation for care experienced young people. Albert Place has had significant success in providing support and accommodation for care experienced young people and enabled many of them to sustain permanent tenancies of their own following the period of transitional support. Having had the opportunity to take their first steps towards independent living within Albert Place, 33 young care leavers out of 36 have been successful in maintaining a tenancy for 12 months or more. This equates to a success rate of 91.66% which is exceptional in terms of outcomes.</p> <p>As stated in the previous Action, one of the focus groups for the Intensive Family Support Service, which became operational in January 2021, is young parents (aged approximately 17–21). This group was identified in the initial project proposal discussions in January 2020 as being particularly vulnerable to the cumulative effects of poverty, unemployment, and parenting difficulties.</p>

## Priority 4 - Increasing participation and engagement

**Outcome** - All our children and young people will be encouraged to be involved in the planning, provision and delivery of services and their rights will be respected.

Objective	Action	Lead	What we have achieved
<p>Co-produce a robust and effective Children's Rights and Participation Strategy which raises their awareness of children's rights and encourages children and young people to become involved, including establishing a Young Borders Action Team</p>	<p>Support our young people to attend events such as Policy seminars held by Youth Link Scotland and Scottish Government around UNCRC incorporation into Scots law and Youth Work.</p> <p>Form a Young Borders Action Team</p>	<p>CYPLG</p> <p>Relevant practitioners</p> <p>CLD</p>	<p>YouthBorders provided information to their network and partners about relevant opportunities for young people to have their say in national consultations and developments; this included the development of the national youth work strategy.</p> <p>Youth groups are supported to find the best platform for them to address their issues. For example, the Youth Ambassadors for Sustainability to attend the council's sustainability committee and presenting at the next series of area partnerships.</p> <p>The Education Executive representatives are supported to identify any issues they wish to raise to attend council meetings.</p> <p>We are working on a consultation from the Scottish Government for young people to have their say on National Planning Framework 4 and other national consultations.</p> <p>CYPLG members and strategic leaders participated in a Learning Session with Together, the Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights, to explore the developments in Children's Rights legislation in Scotland.</p>

<p>Further develop peer support models to encourage children and young people to become involved</p>	<p>Support our three members of Youth Parliament</p> <p>National Youth commissions LGBT Youth Scotland will support young people to be actively involved with the three National Youth Commissions on Gender Recognition, Housing and Homelessness, Care Experienced Youth Commission.</p>	<p>CLD</p> <p>LGBT Youth Scotland</p>	<p>MSYPs are supported to work on any Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) related work such as campaigns, the manifesto consultations and they are helped to prepare for SYP national sittings. They are supported in meeting with their local MSPs and MPs. These meetings include discussions on the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill and other issues such as disability rights.</p> <p><b>LGBTYS Care Experienced Youth Commission</b> – Scottish Borders participated in National Youth Commission work on care experience. The commission began in 2018 with the intention of making Scotland a better place for LGBT young people growing up in care.  <a href="https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/news/2020/youth-commission-on-care-experience-alex-s-journey/">https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/news/2020/youth-commission-on-care-experience-alex-s-journey/</a>  <a href="https://www.celcis.org/knowledge-bank/search-bank/blog/2020/10/listening-voices-care-experienced-lgbt-people-scotland/">https://www.celcis.org/knowledge-bank/search-bank/blog/2020/10/listening-voices-care-experienced-lgbt-people-scotland/</a></p> <p>Short Film -  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvCpijs0vCc&amp;feature=emb_title">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvCpijs0vCc&amp;feature=emb_title</a></p> <p><b>LGBTYS GRA Youth Commission</b>  12 young people have engaged with the Gender Recognition Youth Commission, a national programme to influence decision-making on GRA reform. Young trans and non-binary people have met with MSPs and produced a range of resources to inform and influence changes in legislation and future public consultations. In addition, young people participating in the GRA Youth Commission contributed to writing the Life in Scotland report where they talked about their experiences.  <a href="https://sway.office.com/iENhWAHV4APK3bN?ref=Link">https://sway.office.com/iENhWAHV4APK3bN?ref=Link</a></p> <p><b>LGBTYS Housing and Homeless Commission:</b></p>
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			<p>This year, 10 young people engaged specifically with frontline practitioners, policy leads and service managers from across the housing sector as well as key staff from Health, Policing and Criminal Justice, Social Work and Third Sector organisations. Two young people from the Scottish Borders were involved in this work and they have also been instrumental on leading consultations with LGBT young people across Scotland.</p> <p>The Scottish Housing Regulator recently published new <a href="#">regulations</a> which came in to force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019, outlining an expectation that <i>“landlords must collect data relating to each of the protected characteristics for their existing tenants, new tenants, people on waiting lists, governing body members and staff. Local authorities must also collect <b>data on protected characteristics</b> for people who apply to them as homeless.”</i> It is essential therefore that services have an understanding of appropriate language and terminology, recognise their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and understand how to reduce barriers and include LGBT people in service and policy development.  <a href="https://www.housingregulator.gov.scot/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-work/equalities-statement-2019-2022">https://www.housingregulator.gov.scot/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-work/equalities-statement-2019-2022</a></p>
<p>Establish a range of effective methods to engage with parents and make schools accessible</p>	<p>Continue with the development and design of Parental involvement/engagement including strategic engagement with Parent Council Chairs</p> <p>Develop a group to support parents of LGBT young people</p>		<p>A Partnership with Parents Framework is now complete and signed off by Scottish Borders Council’s Corporate Management Team and Education Executive Committee. Work has begun with all schools regarding implementation. We have completed a Parental Involvement and Engagement Census which gives us baseline strategic data in our work with parents for the first time. Strategic engagement with Parent Council Chairs has improved to include training offers and a greater frequency of meetings facilitated by Microsoft teams.</p> <p>A group has been set up called Transparents Borders: A parent led group which supports the parents and carers of transgender young people</p>

	Provide tools and support for all Scottish Borders High Schools to offer a safe inclusive space for LGBT pupils and allies		<p>All schools which have worked towards the LGBT Charter have met the criteria to provide a safe space within schools. Some schools have an equality group with others developing a specific LGBT Space.</p> <p>“Developing a Gender and Sexual Orientation Alliance (GSA): a toolkit for young people and teachers,” our comprehensive and easy-to-follow guide to establishing GSAs in Scottish Schools. This has been designed to take young people, supported by their teachers, through the steps and considerations required in the journey towards establishing an effective and organised GSA.</p> <p><a href="https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/media/1290/developing-a-gsa.pdf">https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/media/1290/developing-a-gsa.pdf</a></p>
Encourage stronger partnerships with the third sector and other partners to support alternative learning and achievement routes	Work with Borders College, NHS Borders and the third sector to encourage a greater take up of alternative learning routes and a wider range of SQA accredited courses.	Education service	The Community Learning and Development (CLD) service has increased its range of SQA courses available to its learners and pre-pandemic saw an increase in accreditations on employability courses. There has also been an expansion of MA opportunities. Consultation with Borders College and young people has taken place on the range of courses offered by the College. Project Search has been established with NHS Borders for young people with Learning Difficulties.

## Conclusion

The Children and Young People's Leadership Group are proud of the work done in 2019/20 and 2020/21 under the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan for 2018-2021.

Working in partnership, Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Police Scotland, the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, and the Third Sector have delivered key actions to support each priority and achieve outcomes which have made and will continue to make a difference to the lives of all our children and young people, despite the setbacks and challenges of Covid-19.

The Children and Young People's Leadership Group have developed a new Integrated Children and Young People's Plan for 2021/23. The new Plan will build on previous actions and reflect what needs to be done in partnership to tackle the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic for our children, young people and their families.

We will continue to work towards enhancing the lives of our children, young people and their families throughout the life of the new plan for 2021/23 and beyond.

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## **Integrated Children & Young People's Plan 2021-23**

### **Report by Service Director Young People, Engagement and Inclusion**

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## **Community Planning Strategic Board**

**10 June 2021**

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### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 **This report presents the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan for 2021-23 for endorsement before submission to Scottish Government.**
- 1.2 Part 3 of The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires that each Local Authority, Local Health Board and Partners prepare a Children's Services Plan.
- 1.3 This requirement is the responsibility of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) who have delegated the task to the Children and Young People's Leadership Group (CYPLG).

### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Community Planning Strategic Board endorse the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan for 2021-23 before submission to Scottish Government.**

### 3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 An integrated approach to service planning by partners is a requirement under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. This is delivered through the Scottish Borders Integrated Children and Young People's Plan, which is the responsibility of the Community Planning Partnership, delegated to the Children and Young People's Leadership Group.
- 3.2 The current plan for 2018-21 has been refreshed to cover the two year period of 2021-23 to align it with other Integrated Children's Services Plans in Scotland, and sets out the strategic direction for the planning and delivery of services for Children & Young People in the Scottish Borders.
- 3.3 The Plan expresses the commitment of the Children and Young People's Leadership Group to use its combined resources and to work in partnership to achieve the best possible outcomes for all our children and families. It ensures that all our services look to support children, young people and families at the earliest point possible to prevent adverse childhood and family experiences through an early intervention and prevention approach.
- 3.4 The new plan continues the current vision of:  
*'Working together we will ensure all children and young people have a sense of belonging, self-worth and self-confidence to achieve their unique potential'.*
- 3.5 The plan is based on four shared priorities which are designed to deliver meaningful and sustainable improvements to the lives of our children, young people and their families to ensure that everyone can reach their full potential:
  1. Keeping children and young people safe
  2. Improving health and well-being and reducing inequalities
  3. Targeting support to maximise life experiences and opportunities and ensuring inclusion
  4. Increasing participation and engagement

### 4 INTEGRATED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2021-2023

- 4.1 The Integrated Children and Young People's Plan in the Scottish Borders for 2021-2023 is set out in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 The Children and Young People's Leadership Group are committed to using their combined resources to create a Strategic Plan to deliver the best possible services they can. The plan is designed to support all children, young people and their families in the Scottish Borders and help them achieve good outcomes. The plan is flexible in the delivery of services and can support additional services and resources where required.
- 4.3 The plan aligns to the outcomes in the Scottish Government's **National Performance Framework** 2018 (and in particular the outcome relating to Children and Young People: 'We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential') and locally, to the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership's (CPP) Key Priorities and Actions. Additionally the plan addresses other key requirements of:

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- Child Poverty (in conjunction with the Child Poverty Planning Group)
- Covid-19
- The Promise
- Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework

4.4 The Children and Young People’s Leadership Group ensures that leadership is provided to services through collaborative partnership working using a whole systems approach. The plan is designed to work with children, young people and their families to ensure that their needs are understood and listened to, and that our decision making is informed and influenced by such actions. To maintain stability, this plan will continue with the same strategic priorities as the previous plan (2018-21) as these are still relevant, whilst the themes and actions in the plan reflect new and emerging opportunities.

4.5 The strategic priorities maintain a strong focus on early intervention and prevention and the GIRFEC approach and UNCRC are also embedded within the plan. It is important that children’s rights are at the forefront of our work around the four priorities and an illustration of how the rights of children are connected to our priorities is shown on page 8 of the Plan in Appendix 1.

4.6 To further the priorities of the plan, eight themes have been identified which apply at all stages of childhood and recognise that children and young people have different needs, interests, views and experiences. The themes are considered deliverable within the lifespan of this plan and are outlined below and further details are shown on page 11 of the Plan in Appendix 1:

<b>Priority 1:</b> Keeping children and young people safe	<b>Theme A</b> – Addressing Child Poverty <b>Theme B</b> – Trauma Informed Practice
<b>Priority 2:</b> Improving health and well-being and reducing inequalities	<b>Theme A</b> – Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health <b>Theme B</b> – Trusted Adults
<b>Priority 3:</b> Targeting support to maximise life experiences and opportunities and ensuring inclusion	<b>Theme A</b> – Delivering The Promise <b>Theme B</b> – Supporting Transitions
<b>Priority 4:</b> Increasing participation and engagement	<b>Theme A</b> – Children and Young People’s Participation and Engagement Strategy <b>Theme B</b> – Communication and social research with children, young people and their families

4.7 The delivery of the plan requires an integrated approach to service planning by partners. The Children and Young People’s Leadership Group provides strategic leadership and direction to partners to enable this and also monitors progress against the plan. The governance of the Leadership Group (shown on page 13 of Appendix 1) illustrates the various

relationships it has with other relevant groups, all of which have an input to the delivery of the plan.

- 4.8 A range of targeted services are commissioned and delivered through statutory and third sector services. These complement universal services and provide additional specialist support to children, young people and their families. The range of commissioned services are outlined in the plan in Appendix 1.
- 4.9 In order to ensure that outcomes are being met within the four priorities and eight themes, and that actions are making a difference to our children, young people and their families, various mechanisms are used to monitor, evaluate and report on the plan. This is a key task of the Children and Young People's Leadership Group.

## **5 IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Financial**

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

### **5.2 Risk and Mitigations**

There are no specific risks to be addressed as a result of this report.

### **5.3 Integrated Impact Assessment**

An integrated impact assessment has been carried out in relation to this report. There are not specific implications.

### **5.4 Sustainable Development Goals**

In considering each of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan may make a difference to the following:

- End poverty in all its forms – local action is being taken through a Local Child Poverty Report and action plan, as well as an Anti-Poverty Strategy. Child Poverty actions are included as a theme within this plan.
- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition – local action is taken in various forms through the multi-agency approach to service delivery in this plan.
- Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages - local action is taken in various forms through the multi-agency approach to working with partners outlined in this plan.
- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all – vulnerable and marginalised individuals are offered support and given opportunities in this plan.
- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls – priority one of this plan is 'keeping children safe' and may help to tackle violence and harmful practices towards women and girls
- Reduce inequalities – local actions to tackle poverty and exclusion are set out in the Local Child Poverty Report and action plan and the Anti-Poverty Strategy. These actions are part of a specific theme in this plan.

### **5.5 Climate Change**

There is no impact on climate change as a result of this report.

**5.6 Rural Proofing**

There are no rural proofing actions required as a result of this report.

**5.7 Data Protection Impact Statement**

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

**5.8 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.

**6 CONSULTATION**

6.1 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 the final report.

**Approved by**

**Lesley Munro**

**Service Director Young People, Engagement and Inclusion**

**Signature .....**

**Author**

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Janice Robertson	Strategic Planning & Policy Manager, 01835 824000

**Background Papers: n/a**

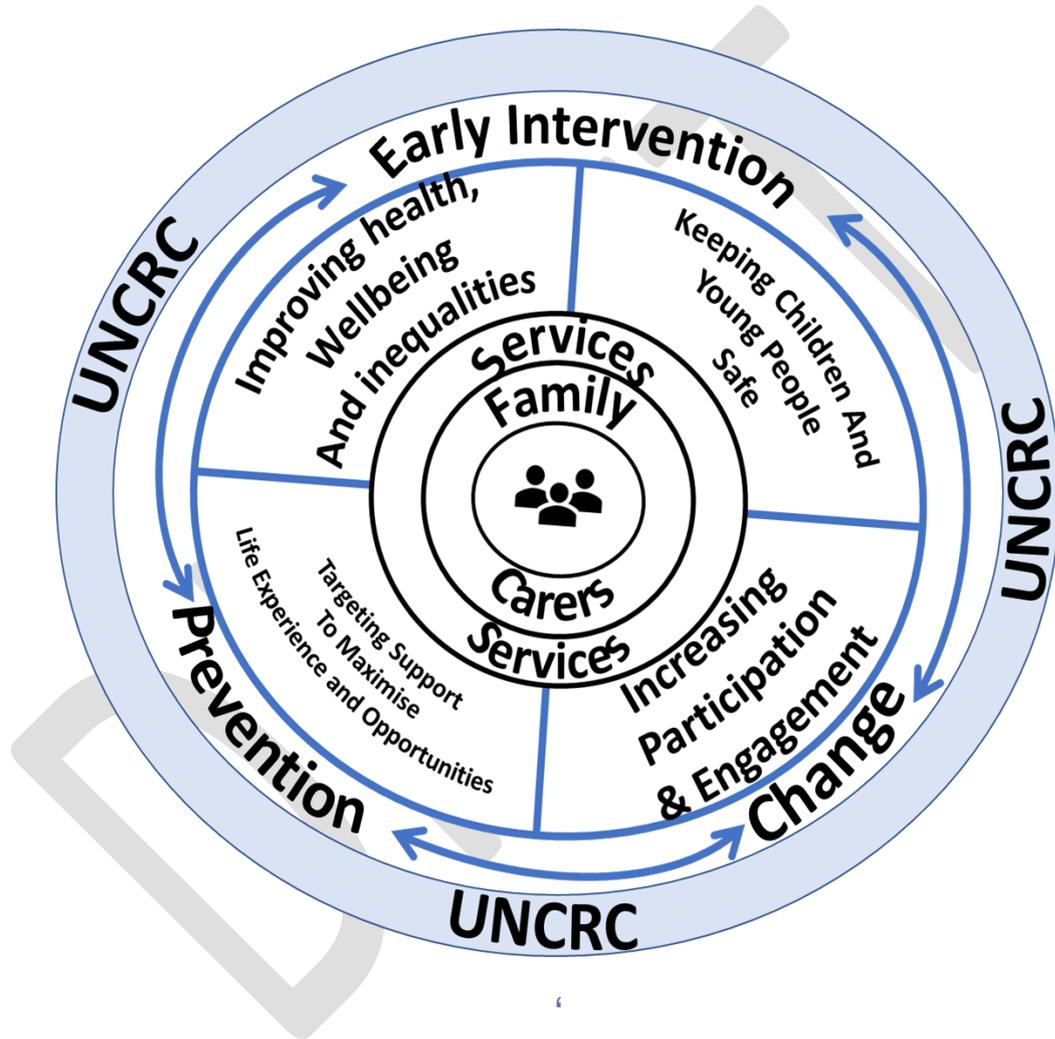
**Previous Minute Reference: Community Planning Strategic Board 22.11.18**

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

Contact us at Janice Robertson, Council HQ, Newtown St.Boswells, Melrose, TD6 OSA, 01835 824000, jrobertson@scotborders.gov.uk

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# Integrated Children and Young People's Services Plan For the Scottish Borders 2021-2023



 #ourpart in their great future



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## Foreword

The Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (CPP) is committed to safeguarding, supporting and promoting the well-being of all children and young people across the Scottish Borders. This commitment is turned into action through the work of the Children and Young People's Leadership Group (established in 2014) which brings together partners from Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Police Scotland, the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and the Third Sector. The Group focuses on shared priorities to deliver meaningful and sustainable improvements to the lives of all our children and young people, to ensure that *everyone* can reach their full potential.

The Children and Young People's Leadership Group have refreshed the current Integrated Children and Young People's Plan 2018-2021 and this new Plan covers 2 years for 2021-23 which aligns it with other Integrated Children's Services Plans in Scotland.

We are proud of the way we work in partnership in the Scottish Borders to achieve a holistic and joined up approach to tackling issues for children and families and we will ensure that this new Plan takes account of work that is planned to recover from Covid-19. We recognise the importance of **early intervention and prevention** and of **reducing inequalities**, as the key priorities which underpin the Community Plan and the work of the CPP. This refreshed Plan continues to work towards closing the gap between our most deprived and least deprived families and communities and targets resources to support our most vulnerable children and young people.

The Community Planning Partnership is pleased to approve this plan which sets out a clear vision and priorities for the future, highlighting our full commitment to working together in partnership to pursue our goal of making a difference to the lives of children, young people, and their families.

**Councillor Mark Rowley**

Chair of Community Planning Partnership

## Introduction

This Scottish Borders Integrated Children and Young People's Services Plan 2021-23 sets out the strategic direction for the planning and delivery of services for Children and Young People in the Scottish Borders over the next 2 years from 2021-2023. The subsequent plan will span 3 years to cover 2023-2026 and allows realignment with other local authorities and health boards in Scotland.

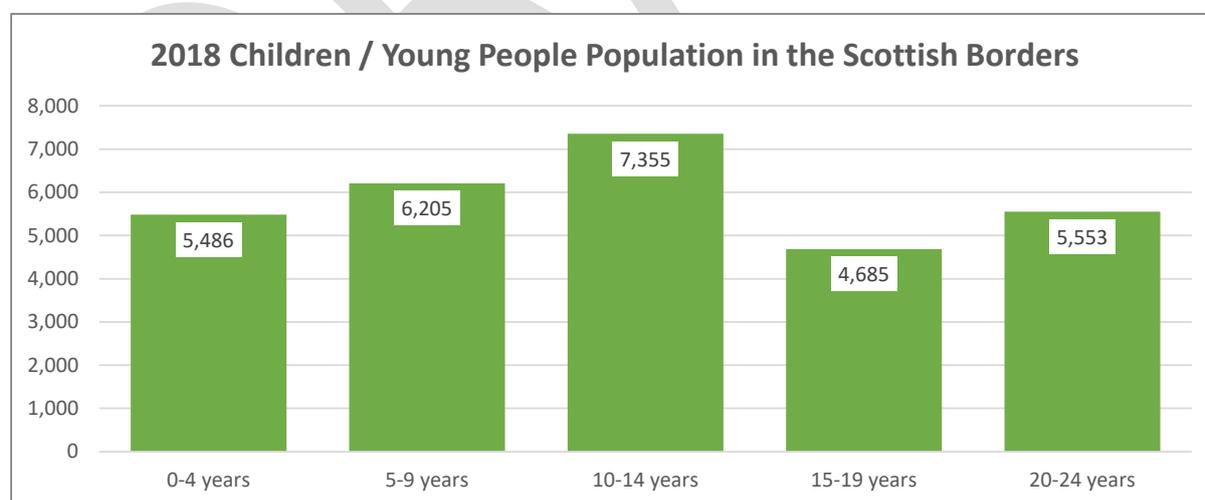
An integrated approach to service planning by partners is a requirement under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. *"The Act seeks to improve outcomes for all children and young people in Scotland by ensuring that local planning and delivery of services is integrated, focused on securing quality and value through preventative approaches, and dedicated to safeguarding, supporting and promoting child wellbeing<sup>1</sup>."*

The Children and Young People's Leadership Group (CYPLG) are committed to using their combined resources to create a Strategic Plan to deliver the best possible services they can, for children and young people, working with the following vision:

*'Working together we will ensure all children and young people have a sense of belonging, self-worth and self-confidence to achieve their unique potential.'*

The Plan is designed to support all children and young people in the Scottish Borders and help them achieve good outcomes. The Plan is also adaptable, and supports additional services and resources where required.

The graph below shows the number of children / young people by age group. In 2018<sup>2</sup>, there were 19,046 children and young people aged 0 to 15 and a further 10,238 aged 16 to 24, representing 16.5% and 8.9% of the population of the Scottish Borders, respectively.



<sup>1</sup> Scottish Government (2020). Children's Services Planning: Guidance.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2018>

## A New Context

The plan aligns to the outcomes in the Scottish Government's **National Performance Framework 2018** (and in particular the outcome relating to Children and Young People: 'We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential') and locally, to the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership's (CPP) Key Priorities and Actions.

The plan also addresses requirements of, and takes cognisance of the following:

### United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

In spring 2021 the Scottish Parliament unanimously supported the UNCRC Incorporation (Scotland) Bill – which places a duty on public bodies to respect and protect children's rights in all the work that they do. The Bill also says that public authorities must not act in a way that is incompatible with the UNCRC requirements.

This Plan is informed by the universal rights afforded to all children and young people. The Plan will identify priority actions where we can focus our partnership work and resources on those who need additional, enhanced or targeted supports and interventions, whilst at the same time, recognising our responsibility to ensure that all children and young people are supported through universal provisions in education, health and the third sector.

There are four articles in the Convention that are seen as special. They are known as the "General Principles," and they help to interpret all the other articles and play a fundamental role in realising all the rights in the Convention for all children. They are:

1. Non-discrimination (article 2)
2. Best interest of the child (article 3)
3. Right to life survival and development (article 6)
4. Right to be heard (article 12)

The Plan priorities will be developed and delivered in a way which recognises these General Principles and the Convention more broadly.

### Child Poverty

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets out the Scottish Government's statement of intent to eradicate child poverty in Scotland by 2030. The Act requires Local Authorities and Health Boards to jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report and an Annual Progress Report. This requirement is delegated to the Child Poverty Planning Group.

This Plan also contributes to Child Poverty Reporting and is committed to addressing child poverty as set out in the Plan priorities.

### Covid-19

The Children & Young People's Leadership Group recognises the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic has had on everyone and the greater impact it has had on some of our families.

Services have had to be responsive, adaptive, and creative to this unprecedented challenge. In developing this Children and Young People's Services Plan, the continued pressure on services, and changed ways of working have been recognised. As well as building on the many positive developments from Covid-19 such as Inspire Learning, Community Assistance Hubs, and digital transformation, the Plan has also been informed by national

research, including the experiences of children and young people (see Appendix A) during the pandemic.

## **The Promise**

The Independent Care Review was commissioned by the Scottish Government in February 2018. The remit was to take a broad ranging, holistic view of the care system and the care experience of children and young people. This included individual care experiences, a holistic review of multi-agency practice, the care process, legislation, and legal context. As part of the review, over 5,500 individual responses were received, over half of which were from looked after or care experienced children and young people.

The Review was concluded in 2019 and published in February 2020. The main findings are contained within 'The Promise.'

The report has identified five foundations for change, with over 80 specific changes that must be made to transform how Scotland cares for children and families as well as the unpaid and paid workforce.

1. Voice - voice of the children must be heard at all stages;
2. Family - what all families need to thrive;
3. Care - care, that builds childhoods for children who Scotland has responsibility
4. People - people, with a relentless focus on the importance of relationships, and
5. Scaffolding - scaffolding, so that the structure is there to support children and families when needed.

This Plan recognises the importance of The Promise and this commitment is reflected in the Plan priorities.

## **Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework**

The Framework, introduced in January 2020, aims to set out a clear, broad approach that supports children and young people to access mental health and emotional wellbeing support within their community.

The framework specifically addresses establishing or developing community supports and services that target issues of mental and emotional distress and wellbeing rather than mental illness and other needs that may be more appropriately met through CAMHS.

It supports an approach based on prevention and early intervention in order to deliver more sustainable, effective, and easily accessible community supports and services to address mental and emotional wellbeing.

It will assist with the commissioning and establishment of new local community mental health and wellbeing supports or services or the development of existing supports and services, in line with the national framework.

## **Formation of Public Protection Committee**

The Scottish Borders Public Protection Committee (PPC) was established in January 2020, which represented the culmination of planning and preparation over the previous year, in pursuit of an even more 'joined up' approach to working with vulnerable children and adults, recognising that some of them are in the same families.

There is a determination and strong commitment across all partners involved to ensure that the most vulnerable in society are protected.

## **Our Approach**

This Plan has been developed to ensure that the best possible services for children, young people and their families are provided to allow them to flourish.

The CYPLG is committed to collaborative partnership working, and to providing leadership to services to ensure that they target children and families who need the most support, using a whole systems approach, using data and local intelligence, understanding the principles of equity and inequality, and in the context of emerging from the impact of Covid-19, and planning recovery.

To enable this support to be effective, we need to involve children, young people, and families, listen to them, and understand them, and let them inform our decision making. We will work with children, young people, and families to gain an understanding of their direct lived experience, and this will influence the Plan.

To maintain stability, this Plan will continue with the same strategic priorities as the previous plan (2018-2021). These high-level priorities are still relevant, and the themes and actions contained within them reflect new and emerging opportunities and allow for flexibility and responsiveness.

Health impact assessments will be used to help us plan effective and responsive services which are inclusive and equitable for all children and young people.

We will continue to work with other services to influence wider policies such as housing, health, economic development, employability, and transport.

## **Priorities of the Integrated Children & Young People's Services Plan 2021-23**

In pursuit of our vision, we will strive to improve the health, well-being and life chances of all our children, young people, and families by providing high quality, integrated services delivered through the actions set out within four priorities.

We are committed to and focused on ensuring that all our children and young people living in the Scottish Borders have a good childhood and are prepared for adulthood.

We will maintain a strong focus on early intervention and prevention, building resilience and supporting children, young people, and families to develop the skills and capabilities that enable them to navigate the challenges of modern life.

In delivering these priorities we will ensure that the GIRFEC approach and UNCRC is embedded within the work required to achieve our aims. This includes making sure that the voices of children and young people are considered as part of the planning process.

The Integrated Children and Young People's Services Plan for 2021-2023 will focus on the following four priorities. These priorities are informed by our understanding of Children's

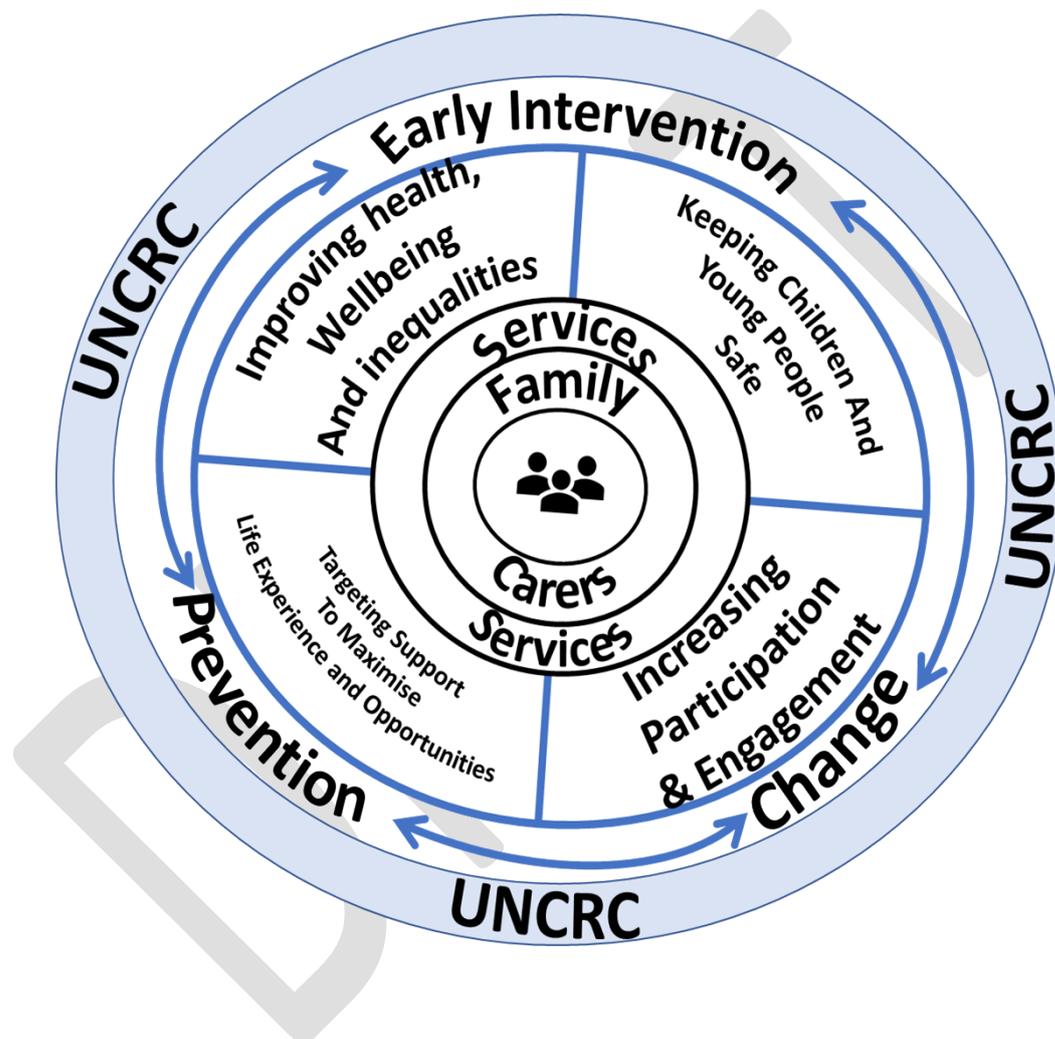
Rights and Fig 1 provides an illustration of how the rights of children are connected to our regional priorities.

<p><b>Priority 1: Keeping children and young people safe</b></p>	<p><b>Priority 2: Improving health and well-being and reducing inequalities</b></p>
<p><i>Article 19: "I have the right to be protected from being hurt or treated badly."</i></p> <p><i>Article 39: "I have the right to get help if I have been hurt, neglected or badly treated."</i></p> <p><i>Article 21: "I have the right to have the best care if I am adopted or fostered or living in care."</i></p> <p><i>Article 25: "I have the right to have my living arrangements checked regularly if I am looked after away from home".</i></p>	<p><i>Article 15: "I have the right to meet with friends and to join groups."</i></p> <p><i>Article 24: "I have the right to good quality health care."</i></p> <p><i>Article 25: "I have the right to a good enough standard of living. This means I should have food, clothes and a place to live."</i></p>
<p><b>Priority 3: Targeting support to maximise life experiences and opportunities and ensuring inclusion</b></p>	<p><b>Priority 4: Increasing participation and engagement</b></p>
<p><i>Article 20: "I have the right to special protection and help if I can't live with my own family."</i></p> <p><i>Article 23: "If I have a disability, I have the right to special care and education."</i></p>	<p><i>Article 12: "I have the right to be listened to and taken seriously."</i></p> <p><i>Article 17: "I have the right to get information in lots of ways, so long as it's safe."</i></p> <p><i>Article 29: "I have the right to education which tries to develop my personality and abilities as much as possible and encourages me to respect other people's rights and values and to respect the environment."</i></p>

Figure 1: CYP Plan Priorities with a selection of related UNCRC articles using CYPCS Simplified Articles.

## Themes into Actions

Children and young people, along with their families and carers, are at the centre of what we do. Our four priorities should impact positively on their lives but be influenced by an approach which sees us intervene as early as possible and focus on prevention. We have shown the links in the diagram below:



To further the priorities of this plan, we will work to develop activities, actions, services and responses around the following 8 themes specifically related to the existing priorities.

These themes apply at all stages of childhood: early years (including peri-natal); school aged children; youth; and young adulthood.

These themes and plan recognise that children and young people are not a homogenous group and that their needs, interests, views and experiences will differ.

Priority 1: SAFETY: Keeping children and young people safe

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

**Theme A: Addressing Child Poverty**

Partners will understand the impact of child poverty of life chances, in particular on educational attainment, health, and child protection outcomes of children and young people.

Echoing national research, there is an association within the Scottish Borders between poverty and child abuse health outcomes and neglect. Poverty is only one factor, but perhaps the most pervasive.

The Partnership will plan and deliver services in ways which promote equity and where possible challenge the root causes of poverty and deprivation. Actions and activities associated with this Plan will seek to maximise family income and their available resources and deliver services in a way which is free from stigma or discrimination.

The Partnership will influence and monitor progress on child poverty via the Child Poverty Planning Group.

**Theme B: Trauma Informed Practice**

The Transforming Psychological Trauma framework is designed to increase understanding of trauma and its impact across the workforce

We know, from listening to the experiences of those who have lived through trauma as well as from the findings of scientific research, that traumatic life experiences can have a significant impact on people's lives, increasing the risk of poorer physical and mental health and poorer social, educational and criminal justice outcomes.

Everyone has a role to play in understanding and responding to people affected by trauma.

We will embed the [Transforming Psychological Trauma Knowledge and Skills Framework](#) to support our workforce and to influence the design and delivery of services across the Partnership and this Plan

Priority 2: WELLBEING: Improving health and well-being and reducing inequalities

Outcome: Inequalities in the health and wellbeing of children and young people are reduced.

**Theme A: Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health**

We will prioritise the emotional wellbeing and mental health of our children and young people through the local implementation of the Community Support and Services Framework. We understand that improving outcomes related to emotional wellbeing and mental health must be taken in the context of wider inequalities. Wherever possible we will support prevention activities which promote wellbeing, including play, youth work, physical activity, arts and creativity. We will provide coordinated early intervention services for children, young people and

**Theme B: Trusted Adults**

Trusted Adults, sometimes known as 'one good adult' is a description given to an adult that a child or young person may turn to for help. Trusted adults are chosen by the child or young person and play a supportive, caring and nurturing role in their lives. This might be a parent or caregiver, older sibling, family friend, youth worker, teacher, or support worker. This Plan will support children, young people and adults to understand the positive impact of having or being a Trusted Adult. This is an informal relationship, but one which is based on trust, confidentiality, patience, respect and empathy. Research indicates that the

<p>families who need enhanced support. We will work as a Partnership to provide a targeted response for those children and young people experiencing mental illness, and in times of crisis and distress. We will work during this Plan to make such supports and services available and accessible.</p>	<p>presence of a Trusted Adult positively affects life satisfaction, self-esteem, resilience, belonging, and optimism.</p>
<p><b>Priority 3: INCLUSION: Targeting support to maximise life experiences and opportunities and ensuring inclusion</b></p> <p>Outcome: Life experiences and opportunities are improved for children and young people who require our targeted support.</p>	
<p><b>Theme A: Delivering The Promise</b></p> <p>Delivering The Promise in the Scottish Borders will require leadership, workforce development and cultural changes. The Promise should be at the forefront of our service design and delivery for improved outcomes for Care Experienced young people and their families. Regional governance of delivering The Promise will be provided by the Strategic Corporate Parenting Group supported by all Corporate Parents. The CYPLG will provide leadership and capacity to drive cultural change across all partners at all levels.</p>	<p><b>Theme B: Supporting Transitions</b></p> <p>Children and young people's experiences of transition should be well planned, coordinated and supported. This will require partners to work together with children, young people, their families and community. Additional and focused interventions for transitions will be required for some. Approaches to transitions should be led by the needs of children and young people. Where required support should continue post-transition. Our understanding of transitions should be holistic. Supporting effective transitions at times of change, including but not limited to: in the early years, in primary to secondary, secondary to post-school, for any child or young person with an additional support need, for care experienced children and young people, for young people moving from child to adult health services.</p>
<p><b>Priority 4: PARTICIPTION: Increasing participation and engagement</b></p> <p>Outcome: All our children and young people will be encouraged to be involved in the planning, provision and delivery of services and their rights will be respected.</p>	
<p><b>Theme A: Children and Young People's Participation and Engagement Strategy</b></p> <p>Collectively we will further Article 12 of the UNCRC for all children and young people in the Scottish Borders through the co-design of a Participation and Engagement Strategy. We will utilise our partnership resources and relationships to listen to the voice and experience of children and young people, and their families, particularly those who are seldom heard (e.g children in the</p>	<p><b>Theme B: Communication and Social Research with Children, Young People and their families.</b></p> <p>To design and deliver services we will be informed by data and research from local children, young people and their families. We will improve our direct communication with children, young people and their families as we deliver this plan and co-design the subsequent plan. We seek insight, qualitative and quantitative data</p>

early years, disabled children and young people, LGBTI young people, young travellers, young carers etc.). We will provide information prior to participation and we will build capacity of organisations and individuals to participate and engage locally, regionally, and nationally so that children and young people are heard and understood.

from our community through quality social research. We will work as a Partnership to share research, impact and evaluation which helps us to better understand the needs and experiences of children, young people and their families in Scottish Borders from pre-birth onwards.

## Our role as a Children & Young People's Leadership Group

The CYPLG is Strategic Planning Partnership made up of key stakeholders who deliver services for Children and Young People in the Scottish Borders and includes Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Police Scotland, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) and the third sector (Youth Borders). The group is chaired by the Service Director, Young People, Engagement and Inclusion from Scottish Borders Council.

The key aim of the Group is to safeguard, support and promote the wellbeing of children and young people and improve their life chances.

As well as coming together to make things happen and change practice, the members are decision makers within their respective organisations whose work has an impact on the lives of children and young people in the Scottish Borders. The members join together through a shared vision and set of priorities.

The Plan is informed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as well as a range of legislation and national policy, and the Children and Young People's Leadership Group has a key role in linking the work and plans of our Partners to achieve the best outcomes we can for our children and young people.

The Leadership Group meets monthly to discuss key issues and has established sub groups and other working groups to progress specific actions of the Plan.

Our Approach described on page 7 enables the Leadership Group to focus on the principles of:

- Early intervention and prevention to support children, young people, and their families, where and when they need it most
- Engaging with, and listening to children, young people, and their families to increase our understanding of their issues and vulnerabilities
- Working with children, young people, and their families to help them strengthen their own relationships, and their relationships with services available to them
- Access to services and ensuring children and young people know about what is available

The Group works together to:

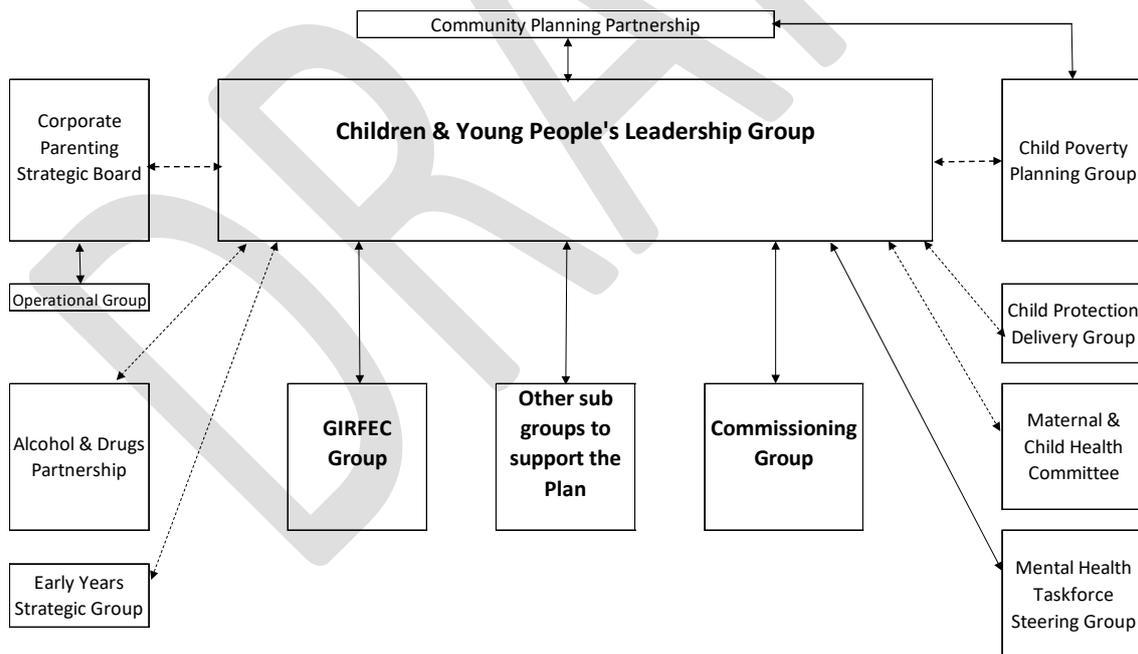
- Provide strategic leadership and direction

- Identify and provide solutions to emerging topics and issues
- Implement strategies and plans where relevant to the Leadership Group
- Engage effectively and listen to the needs of children and young people
- Commission partner organisations to provide specialist services
- Build effective partnerships in addressing priorities
- Monitor progress against the Integrated Plan actions
- Review data and statistics to inform actions
- Promote best practice
- Provide best value
- Enable better communications of successes and priorities
- Promote joint staff training and development

## Governance

An integrated approach to service planning by partners is a requirement under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. This is the responsibility of the Community Planning Partnership and is delegated to the Children and Young People's Leadership Group.

The Governance of the Leadership Group and the relationship it has with other relevant groups is shown in the chart below.



## Key Plans and Strategies

As well as the delegated responsibility for the production and delivery of the Integrated Children and Young People’s Plan, the CYPLG produces a range of other Plans and Strategies and contributes to many others across their partner organisations. Key Plans and strategies are shown in Fig 2 below.

Children and Young People’s (Scotland) Act 2014	GIRFEC Approach	Public Health Priorities for Scotland
Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017	Key Plans, Strategies and Legislation	UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill
Scottish Borders Child Poverty Report and Action Plan	Community Planning Partnership Key Priorities 2020/21	Scottish Borders Council’s Corporate Plan 2018/23
National Performance Framework	NHS Clinical Strategy	Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Strategy 2020-23
The Promise	No-one left Behind	Corporate Parenting Strategy
CLD Strategic Plan	Regional Economic Strategy	Scottish Borders Director of Public Health Report (2018)

Figure 2 – Key Plans and Strategies  
Key: Green (National Legislation), Blue (National Strategy), Pink (Local Plans)

## Workforce Planning and Development

To deliver improved outcomes for children and young people we rely on a knowledgeable, experienced and caring workforce who provide a variety of services across the Scottish Borders.

As a Leadership Group, we value the workforce and we will continue to invest in and support staff at all levels through multi-agency training, information sharing and briefing to increase skill levels and knowledge and support delivery of our priorities. We will work with the third sector and other partners, supporting their training and skills delivery on the ground to build capacity across all sectors, thereby developing stronger and more robust support to children and young people at a local level.

We will work within the framework of the *Common Core of Skills, Knowledge and Understanding, and Values* for the Children’s Workforce in Scotland (Scottish Government 2012) to strengthen our shared understanding and practice across different services to meet needs and improve outcomes for children young people and families.

**Essential Characteristics of those who work with children, young people and families in Scotland**

	UNCRC guiding principles			
	Non-discrimination	Best interests of the child	Right to life, survival & development	Respect the views of the child
	<i>As an employee or a volunteer you will:</i>			
<b>Context A: Relationships with children, young people and families</b>	<p>A1. Recognise that the needs and strengths of children, young people and families are unique and will be influenced by their environment, backgrounds and circumstances</p> <p>A2. Understand your impact on children, young people and families and how they might perceive you. Adapt your tone, language and behaviour to suit the circumstances</p>	<p>A3. Help identify and work with the needs and strengths in parents, carers and their networks in the interests of children and young people for whom they care</p> <p>A4. Ensure children, young people and families understand what information will be kept in confidence; and why some information from or about them may be shared</p>	<p>A5. Be aware of how children and young people develop, seek to understand vulnerability and promote resilience</p> <p>A6. Understand appropriate child protection procedures and act accordingly</p> <p>A7. Consider the needs and potential risks for each child &amp; young person in the context of where they live, their relationships and their wider world</p>	<p>A8. Include children, young people and families as active participants, listening to them, offering choices</p> <p>A9. Explain decisions and ensure families fully understand them and their implications, especially if the final decision isn't what they hoped for</p> <p>A10. Keep children, young people &amp; families informed of progress</p>
<b>Context B: Relationships between workers</b>	<p>B1. Be aware of who can help when provision for the needs or promotion of the strengths of children, young people or families is affected by their environment, backgrounds and circumstances</p> <p>B2. Be aware of who can help when you cannot communicate effectively with children, young people or families for any reason</p>	<p>B3. Understand the extent of your own role and be aware of the roles of other workers</p> <p>B4. Respect and value the contribution of other workers</p> <p>B5. Know what information to share, when to share it and with whom</p> <p>B6. Be aware of who can help parents or carers identify their own needs or strengths</p>	<p>B7. Know who to contact if you have a concern or wish to make a positive recommendation about a child, young person or family</p> <p>B8. Contribute to assessing, planning for and managing risks in partnership with others</p>	<p>B9. Seek to support children, young people and families in partnership with them, their networks and other workers</p> <p>B10. Recognise that timely, appropriate and proportionate action is appreciated by children, young people and families as well as other workers</p>

We recognise the challenges and demands on staff time and available capacity and resources across our partners, however, this does not lessen our commitment to ensuring that our children and young people are supported by a knowledgeable, experienced, and caring workforce. We are committed to continue to deliver the training and development needed to sustain progress on the priorities in this plan and the programmes that underpin it.

## Commissioned Services

We want to ensure that the best possible services are provided for children and young people. To complement our universal services and provide additional support, a range of targeted services for children and young people are commissioned and delivered through statutory and third sector services.

Our current Commissioning Strategy (2017-2022), sets out the following principles which we apply to commissioning services:

- Focus on early intervention and prevention; ensuring we target families early enough
- Ensure that children and families' needs are at the centre of service design and delivery
- Ensure reducing inequalities is a priority across all services but that we get an appropriate balance between resourcing targeted and universal services
- Improve integrated working and focus on combined resources
- Work with and empower communities
- Improve outcomes for every child and their families.

The Strategy identifies a number of areas to be addressed through targeted commissioned services, these are:

- Positive emotional & mental health wellbeing of children and young people
- Availability, access, and support for young carers
- Consistency of access to quality youth work services
- Supporting choices:
  - Equality & inclusion
  - Positive life choices
- Availability and access of advocacy services
- Support to children and families who are affected by parental substance use

Appropriate commissioned services have been appointed to deliver these targeted areas, making best use of statutory, independent and third sector provision.

Additional sources of funding to commission services have been awarded by individual partners and this is used to complement current resources.

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

Work will begin in the autumn of 2021 on a new Commissioning Strategy and a review of the current commissions. This Plan will help to inform the Strategy through the four priorities, their outcomes, and actions.

## Current Commissioned Services – commissioned to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

- The provision of significant funding in Children and Families Social Work Service, which allows for the delivery of early intervention work with children and families on a non-statutory basis.
- A service which provides a holistic model of generic support for children and young people aged 10 to 18 years to improve and promote emotional health and wellbeing for those who are vulnerable or are involved in risk taking activity, utilising psychologically informed approaches such as alcohol support.
- A sustainable model which offers consistency of access to quality Youth Work services in addition to and supporting positive life choices, equality & inclusion with a focus on targeted work to support the most vulnerable young people.
- Funding to contribute to Youth Community Officers within Police Scotland. The Police Officers work as part of the Locality Team, addressing local problems and issues through partnership working. They are protected from 'routine' operational duties and their role is to complement the school curriculum of personal and social development and support service users through successful interventions to prevent offending or re-offending.
- Ongoing support of children and young people with caring responsibilities; providing a service with improved availability and access to enhance the quality of life as a child and young person.
- A service to provide support to children and families who are affected by parental substance use.
- A service for children and young people who have complex health needs and enables them to be cared for as close to home as possible. It is a holistic model of nursing support and provides supported transition to Adult Services as well as advice to parents and carers to enable children and young people to participate in education.
- A service for children and young people who have experienced sexual, physical and/or emotional abuse and where there is an impact of parental issues. Through 1:1 support, the service aims to minimise the impact of sexual, physical and/or emotional abuse to support recovery.
- A service for LGBTI Young People who require an additional level of support and would benefit from opportunities to build networks with other LGBTI young people. Through a range of activities such as youth groups and 1:1 support, the service supports LGBTI Young People to be more confident and increase their levels of self-esteem.

## Monitoring, evaluating and reporting

To enable the delivery of the key actions within the four priorities, the Children and Young People's Leadership Group must ensure that appropriate work is being undertaken and more importantly that it is making a difference and results in outcomes being met.

Various mechanisms are used to monitor, evaluate and report as outlined below -

### Outcome focused reporting

Many of the actions within the priorities require reporting mechanisms for a specific purpose and these are also used to update the Leadership Group. For example, a requirement of the Child Poverty Act (Scotland) 2017 is the production of an Annual Report to Scottish Government. This will also be considered by the Leadership Group as evidence that the work is being undertaken by partners to achieve desired outcomes.

### Self-evaluation

The Leadership Group carries out an ongoing process of gathering evidence of the effectiveness of each action and priority by visiting service providers, attending celebratory events and other activities. This is an important duty of the group and provides networking opportunities as well as a sense of achievement.

Commissioned Services are required to submit a self-evaluation report every 6 months. This report is to provide an update to the group in terms of what the service have used their funds to achieve, what outcomes they are working towards and whether their activity is still appropriate and in line with their service specification.

### Evaluation

The Leadership Group provides opportunities for groups shown on the Governance Chart (page 13) to present their work to them. This gives the Leadership group the chance to ensure that these groups are making progress against actions in the Plan.

Sub groups of the Leadership Group have reporting responsibilities as outlined in the terms of reference of the Leadership Group.

Evidence based decision making is used to develop services developed based on local need, and Health Inequalities Impact Assessments (HIIA) inform this practice.

External verification – Joint inspections of services for children and young people are carried out by the Care Inspectorate. They take account of the experiences and outcomes of such children and young people by looking at services provided for them by community planning partnerships in each local authority area. This includes the work of health visitors, school nurses, teachers, doctors, social workers, police officers and other people who work with children, young people, and their families. They also evaluate the effectiveness of collaborative leadership.

## Appendix A: Covid-19 Research and Evidence

This Plan is supported by evidence found in the following links:

[The impact of COVID-19 on children and young people - 10 to 17-year-olds - Downloads - Public Health Scotland](#)

[COVID-19 Early Years Resilience and Impact Survey \(CEYRIS\) – findings from Round 2 - Downloads - Public Health Scotland](#)

[Dec2020-LockdownLowdown-Voice-Seldom-Heard-Groups-COVID19-Pandemic-Updated-December-2020.pdf \(syp.org.uk\)](#)

[Children & Young People's Evidence Bank](#)

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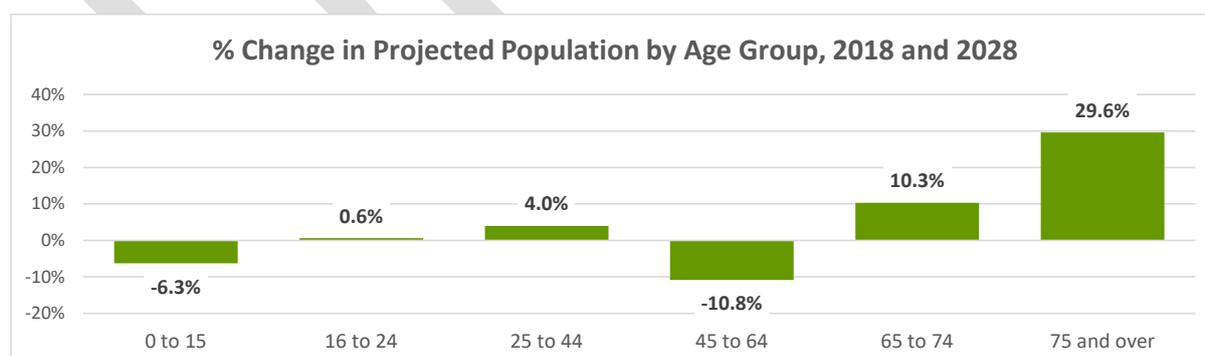
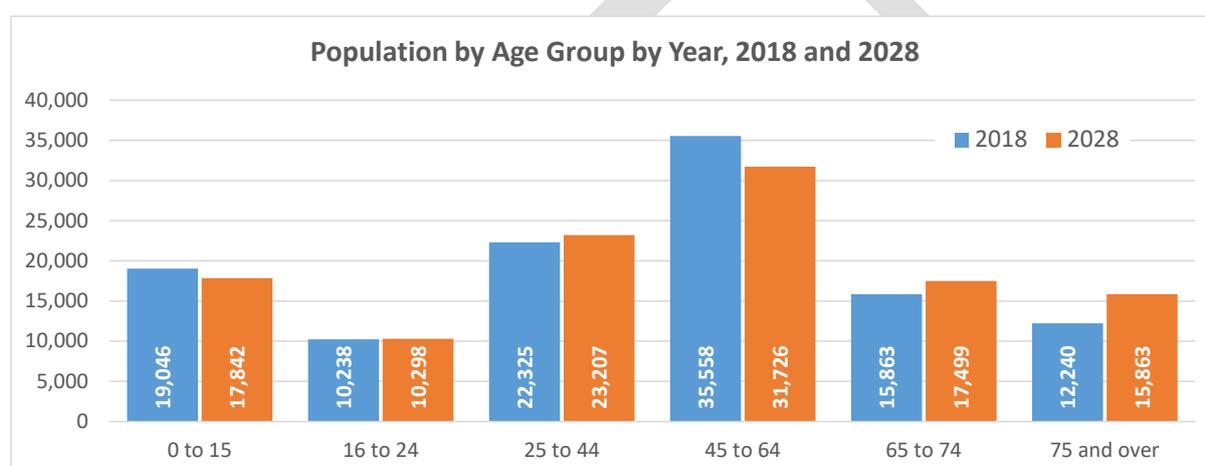
## Appendix B: Understanding our demographics and data

### Population

According to the NRS profile for the [Scottish Borders](#) the population in 2018 was 115,270 and is projected to increase by 1.0% to 116,435 by 2028.

The graphs below show the number of people by age group for both 2018 and 2028 and the percentage change between the two years. In 2018, there were 19,046 children and young people aged 0 to 15 and a further 10,238 aged 16 to 24, representing 16.5% and 8.9% of the population of the Scottish Borders, respectively.

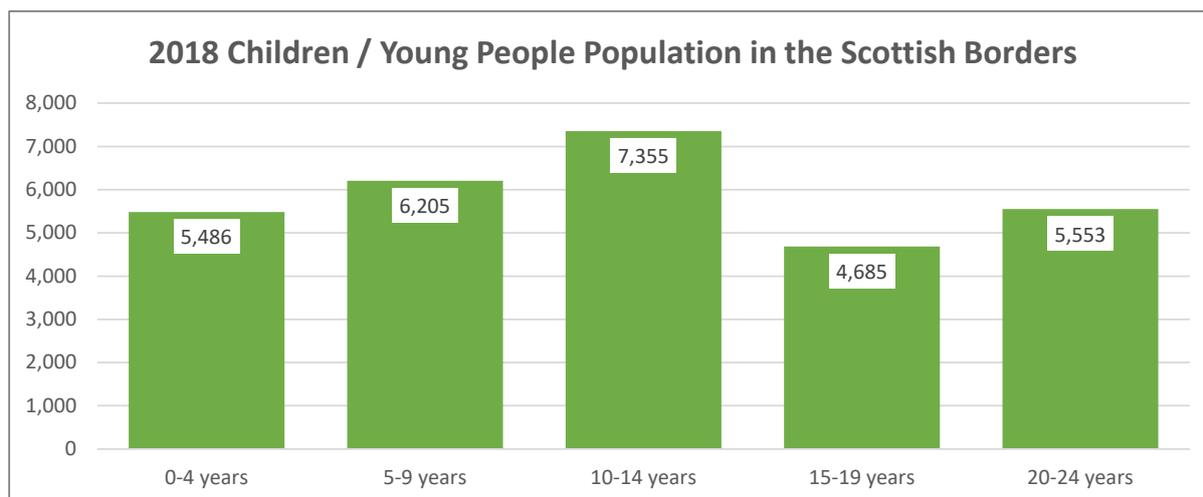
**It is important to note that the number of children is projected to decrease by 6.3% to 17,842 in 2028.**



The graph below shows the number of children / young people by age group and gender. In 2018<sup>3</sup>, there were 19,046 children and young people aged 0 to 15 and a further 10,238 aged

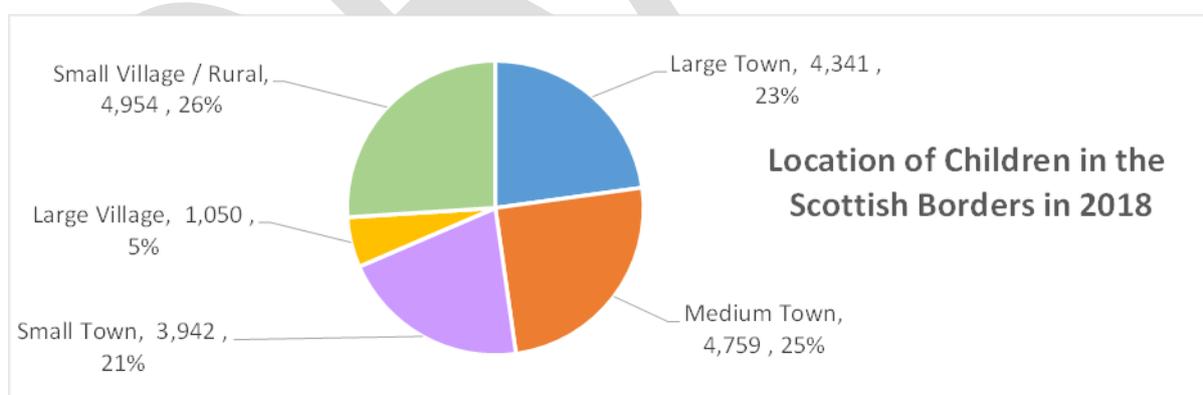
<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2018>

16 to 24, representing 16.5% and 8.9% of the population of the Scottish Borders, respectively.



Of the 19,046 children in the Scottish Borders:

- **23%** live in settlements of 10,000 or more (Hawick and Galashiels)
- **25%** live in settlements of between 3,000 and 9,999 (Peebles, Kelso, Selkirk, Eyemouth, Jedburgh, Innerleithen)
- **21%** live in settlements of between 1,000 and 2,999 (e.g. Duns, Lauder, Melrose, Coldstream)
- **6%** live in settlements of between 500 and 999 (e.g. Cardrona, Newcastleton, Stow, Yetholm)
- **26%** live in settlements with fewer than 500 people or more rural environs

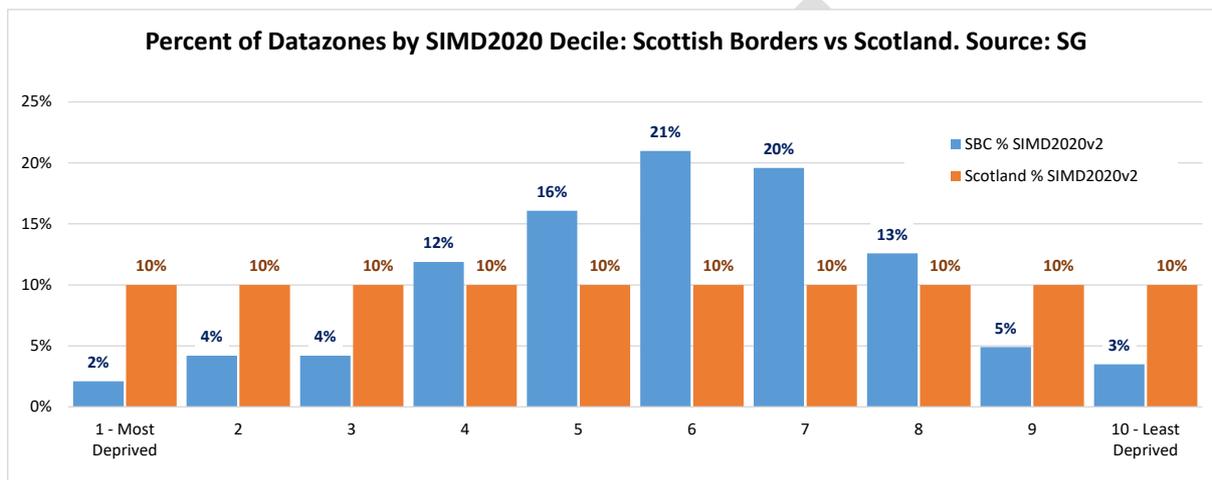


Over a quarter of children and young people are therefore likely to experience some level of “access deprivation,” affecting their ability to participate in activities out with the school day and at weekends.

## Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

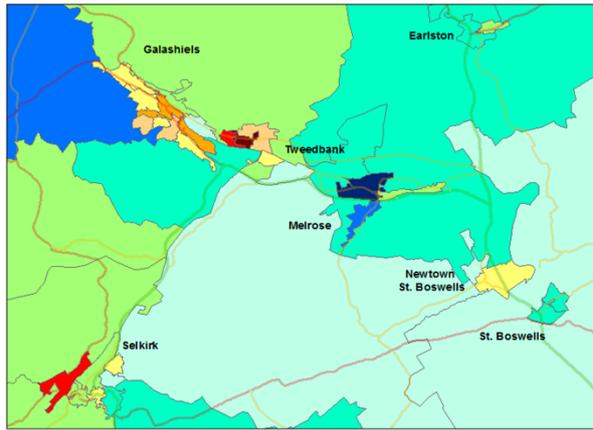
The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the official tool for finding the most deprived areas in Scotland<sup>4</sup>. The [SIMD2020](#) consists of over 30 indicators across 7 Domains: Employment, Income, Education, Health, Access, Crime and Housing.

The SIMD2020 shows that the 6% (9) of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders are part of the 20% most deprived of all of Scotland. A further 16% (24) of the data zones in the Scottish Borders are amongst the 21-40% most deprived in Scotland. The distribution of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders can be seen in the graph and map below.



<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>

# SIMD2020 for Scottish Borders Data Zones

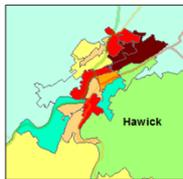
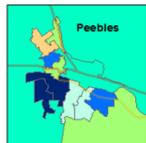


## Roads

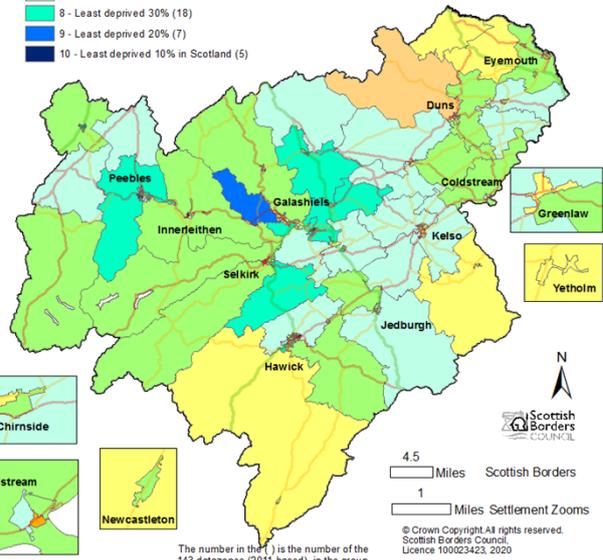
- Trunk Road
- A Road
- B Road

## SIMD2020 Decile

- 1 - Amongst the most deprived 10% in Scotland (3)
- 2 - Most deprived 20% (6)
- 3 - Most deprived 30% (6)
- 4 - Most deprived 40% (17)
- 5 - Middle decile (23)
- 6 - Middle decile (30)
- 7 - Least deprived 40% (28)
- 8 - Least deprived 30% (18)
- 9 - Least deprived 20% (7)
- 10 - Least deprived 10% in Scotland (5)



The number in the ( ) is the number of the 143 datazones (2011 based) in the group.



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## Scottish Borders Data

The following information shows our local situation in relation to the four priorities identified within this plan:

<p><b>Priority 1 – keeping children and young people safe</b></p> <p><b>8.5 out of 1,000 children</b> were Looked After in 2019, down from <b>9.1</b> the previous year.</p> <p><b>5.8 out of 1,000 children</b> were referred to the Children’s Reporter for care and protection in 2018/19, down from <b>9.4</b> the previous financial year.</p> <p><b>5 out of 1,000 children</b> were referred to the Children’s Reporter for offences in 2018/19, up from <b>4.3</b> the previous financial year</p>	<p><b>Priority 2 – improving health and well-being and reducing inequalities</b></p> <p><b>23.2 out of 100 maternities</b> had maternal obesity in the 3-year period up to 2020, the same as the previous 3-year period up to 2019.</p> <p><b>16.2 out of 1,000 maternities</b> had maternal recreational drug use in the 3-year period up to 2020, more than <b>11.8</b> the 3-year period up to 2019.</p> <p><b>83 out of 100 babies</b> were born a healthy weight in the 3-year period up to 2020, down from <b>84</b> in the previous 3 year period up to 2019.</p> <p><b>25 out of 100 Primary 1 children</b> were not a healthy weight in 2019/20, up from <b>23</b> the previous year.</p>
<p><b>Priority 3 – targeting support to maximise life experiences and opportunities and ensuring inclusion</b></p> <p><b>22.5 out of 100 children</b> lived in low-income families in 2019, up from <b>20.6</b> the previous year.</p> <p><b>3.2 in every 100 households with dependent children</b> had no adults in work in 2019, up from <b>2.5</b> in the previous year.</p> <p><b>15.7 out of 100 children</b> received free school meals in 2020, up from <b>11.6</b> the previous year.</p> <p><b>16 out of 100 children</b> received a clothing &amp; footwear grant in 2020, up from <b>15.2</b> the previous year.</p> <p><b>16 out of 100 pupils aged 16+</b> received Educational Maintenance Allowance in 2020 to encourage them to stay on at school. This is much higher than <b>3.8</b> the previous year.</p>	<p><b>Priority 4 – increasing participation and engagement</b></p> <p><b>8 out of 10 adults living with children</b> lived within a 5-minute walk of a green or blue space in 2019, same as in previous years</p> <p><b>58 out of 100</b> school pupils engaged in “Active Schools” extra-curricular sports participation in 2019-20. This varied between <b>65 out of 100</b> in Eildon West learning community and <b>48 out of 100</b> in Berwickshire learning community</p> <p><b>80 out of 100 Primary 7</b> pupils participated in “Active Schools” extra-curricular sports activities in 2018-19. By S4, only <b>37 out of 100</b> pupils did so. This is similar to the previous year.</p>

## Wages

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings produced by ONS and published on NOMIS<sup>5</sup> contains information on wages. The median gross weekly pay (workplace based) for full time workers in the Scottish Borders has consistently been below the level for Scotland (83% between 2002 and 2020).

In 2020, the median gross weekly pay (workplace based) for full time workers in the Scottish Borders was £481, **£111 below** the £593 for Scotland or 81%.

## Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan 2021/22

Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and Partners have prepared a Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan for 2021/22. Within the report there are details of:

- Children in Low Income Families
- Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index
- Scottish Borders Covid-19 Recovery Matrix and Index

This information is relevant to this Plan and the link is shown below.

**Insert link to Child poverty Plan here**

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

Appendix C: The Integrated Children and Young People’s Services Plan 2021-23 – “The Plan on a Page”

## Draft Integrated Children and Young People’s Plan 2021-23 Priorities, Outcomes and Themes

### 1. Keeping Children & Young People Safe

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

**Themes:**

1. Addressing Child Poverty
2. Trauma Informed Practice

### 2. Improving Health & Wellbeing and Reducing Inequalities

**Outcome** - Inequalities in the health and wellbeing of young people are reduced

**Themes:**

1. Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health
2. Trusted Adults

### 3. Targeting Support to Maximise Life Experiences and Opportunities Ensuring Inclusion

**Outcome** - Life experiences and opportunities are improved for children and young people who require our targeted support

**Themes:**

1. Delivering The Promise
2. Supporting Transitions

### 4. Increasing Participation and Engagement

**Outcome** – All our children and young people will be encouraged to be involved in the planning, provision and delivery of services and their rights respected

**Themes:**

1. Children and Young People’s Engagement Strategy
2. Social Research and Communications

**UNCRC 4 Guiding Principles**

<b>Non discrimination (Article 2)</b>	<b>Best Interest of the child (Article 3)</b>
<b>UNCRC General Principles</b>	
<b>Right to life, survival and development (Article 6)</b>	<b>Right to be heard (Article 12)</b>



## Appendix D: Glossary

CPP	Community Planning Partnership
CYPLG	Children and Young People's Leadership Group
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the rights of the Child
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
PPC	Public Protection Committee
GIRFEC	Getting it right for every child
CYPCS	Children and young People Commissioner Scotland
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex
SCRA	Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
HIIA	Health Inequalities Impact Assessment
NRS	National Records of Scotland
SIMD	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation
ONS	Office for National Statistics
NOMIS	National online manpower information system (office for national statistics)

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## **Children's Rights**

### **Report by Service Director Young People, Engagement and Inclusion**

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## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**18 May 2021**

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### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise on what initiatives Scottish Borders Council has implemented in the past 3 years (2017-20), and the measures planned over the next 3 years (2020-23) to further the rights of children and young people living in the Scottish Borders.
- 1.2 Part 1 of The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires Public Authorities to report 'as soon as practicable' after the end of each three year period on the steps they have taken to secure better or further effect the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
- 1.3 Scottish Borders Council have prepared a joint report with NHS Borders to comply with the requirement of the Act and it is shown in Appendix 1. The Act requires that the Children's Rights Report is published on the local authority website.
- 1.4 The report is split into 2 parts. Part one sets out actions implemented within the past 3 years, namely, from 2017 (when the duties first commenced) to 2020. Part two comprises of an Action Plan of the measures being taken forward covering the period 2020 until 2023.

### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Committee:**
  - (a) **Approve the Children's Rights Report for 2017-2020**
  - (b) **Approve the Action Plan of measures for 2020-2023**

### 3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Part 1 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires Public Authorities to report, "as soon as practicable" after the end of each 3 year period, on the steps they have taken to secure better or further effect of the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
- 3.2 There are four articles in the Convention that are seen as special. They are known as the "General Principles" and they help to interpret all the other articles and play a fundamental role in realising all the rights in the Convention for all children. They are:
1. Non-discrimination (article 2)
  2. Best interest of the child (article 3)
  3. Right to life survival and development (article 6)
  4. Right to be heard (article 12)
- 3.3 For the purposes of Children's Rights Reports there are 9 clusters, which help facilitate reporting, and these include definitions of the child, civil rights and freedoms, family environment and alternative care.
- 3.4 The Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child's life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It makes clear how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.
- 3.5 The Convention must be understood as a whole: all rights are linked and no right is more important than any other. The right to relax and play (article 31) and the right to freedom of expression (article 13) are as important as the right to be safe from violence (article 19) and the right to education (article 28).
- 3.6 Scottish Borders Council committed to embedding the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG) at a full Council meeting in August 2019, which have a strong resonance with the UNCRC, particularly inclusive and equitable education, and promote lifelong learning for all.

#### **4 INITIATIVES IMPLEMENTED BY SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL, NHS BORDERS AND PARTNERS TO IMPROVE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN THE PAST 3 YEARS (2017-2020)**

- 4.1 Over the 3-year period, a number of initiatives have been undertaken which have recognised Children's Rights and so have enabled children and young people an opportunity to state their views. These are set out in the full Children's Rights Report (Appendix 1B) Some notable highlights are as follows:
- (a) The development of a Champions' Board as part of the Council's Corporate Parenting Strategy to better represent the voice of looked after and care experienced children and young people in service provision and development.
  - (b) Scottish Borders Council were given a presentation by Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament on their campaign "Right Here Right Now" in April 2018 which seeks to promote the rights of young people in Scotland. They outlined the background to the setting up of the Youth Parliament and advised that the topic for the campaign had been chosen following a survey of 5000 young people across Scotland, including 800 from the Scottish Borders.
  - (c) In partnership with NHS Borders, programmes such as 'Growing in Confidence' and 'Peaches & Aubergines' were rolled out across school and other settings. These were launched in September 2018 and promoted as a healthy relationship resource, comprising of 3 short films made by young people for young people, looking at matters relevant to them around healthy relationships, consent and respect.
  - (d) The Healthy Living Network and Community Learning developed and put in place a summer activity programme in 2019. Activities included good food sessions, physical activity and family learning support. Events took place in Burnfoot, Langlee, Eyemouth and Selkirk and were attended by 305 children.
  - (e) Under the Locality Partnership Model, and as a result of COVID-19, 16 childcare hubs were opened for the families of key workers, identified children and vulnerable young people.

#### **5 ACTIONS PROPOSED BY SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL AND NHS BORDERS IN THE 3 YEARS (2020-2023)**

- 5.1 Over the three year period from 2020/21, a number of measures are proposed which recognise Children's Rights and will enable children and young people to state their views. These are set out in the full Children's Rights Report (Appendix 1C). Highlights are as follows:

- (a) Review the impact of Incorporation of Children’s Rights into Scots Law in relation to the current Parliamentary Bill and review the impact of incorporation and amend our policies appropriately.
- (b) Strengthening networks between the Council, NHS Borders and their partners. The emphasis being on supporting all children and young people to realise their rights through the decisions, priorities and actions of public bodies, local authorities and their partners who must ensure that they act in accordance with UNCRC requirements.
- (c) Review of the Getting it Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) Information Sharing Protocol of confidential information and consent to support children and young people’s wellbeing between NHS Borders, Council, Police and Child Protection.
- (d) Implementation of the findings of the Independent Care Review’s ‘The Promise’ (2020) across corporate parent organisations in the Scottish Borders. Developments will be led through the Scottish Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-24 and informed by the on-going participation of looked after and care experienced children and young people.

## **6 IMPLICATIONS**

### **6.1 Financial**

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

### **6.2 Risks and Mitigations**

In accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill, Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders must ensure that Children’s Rights are upheld in any decision making. Failure to do so leaves the Council at risk of breaching children’s rights.

### **6.3 Integrated Impact Assessment**

An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been completed for this report. Any other Policies and strategies in relation to Children’s Rights will also require an IIA as they are developed.

### **6.4 Acting Sustainably**

There are no economic, social or environmental effects associated with this report.

### **6.5 Carbon Management**

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

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

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

## 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 any comments have been incorporated into the Final Report.

### Approved by

**Lesley Munro**  
**Service Director Young People, Engagement & Inclusion**

**Signature .....**

### Author(s)

Janice Robertson	Strategic Planning & Policy Manager
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**Background Papers:** N/A

**Previous Minute Reference:** N/A

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

Contact us at Scottish Borders Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, Tel 01835 824000, [performance@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:performance@scotborders.gov.uk).

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**Scottish Borders**

**CHILDREN'S RIGHTS REPORT**

**2017-2020**

**2021-2023**

DRAFT

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## 1. Introduction

Part 1 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires Public Authorities to report, “as soon as practicable” after the end of each 3-year period, on the steps they have taken to secure better or further effect of the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Using the UNCRC as the framework for reporting, Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders have prepared a joint report which sets out:

1. actions implemented in the past 3 years (2017-20), when the duties first commenced) and:
2. an Action Plan of the proposed measures to be taken forward in the next 3 years (2020-23) to further the rights of children living in the Scottish Borders.

In preparing this report, we have consulted with children and young people to ensure they have a say about matters that are important to them. This has included various consultations on a variety of topics, e.g. school holidays and Jedburgh school provision. We are committed to involving children and young people in preparing Child’s Rights Reports in the future, as well as in the design of our services, policies and plans.

Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders Services have also been consulted and have provided various examples of their commitment to securing and furthering Children’s Rights.

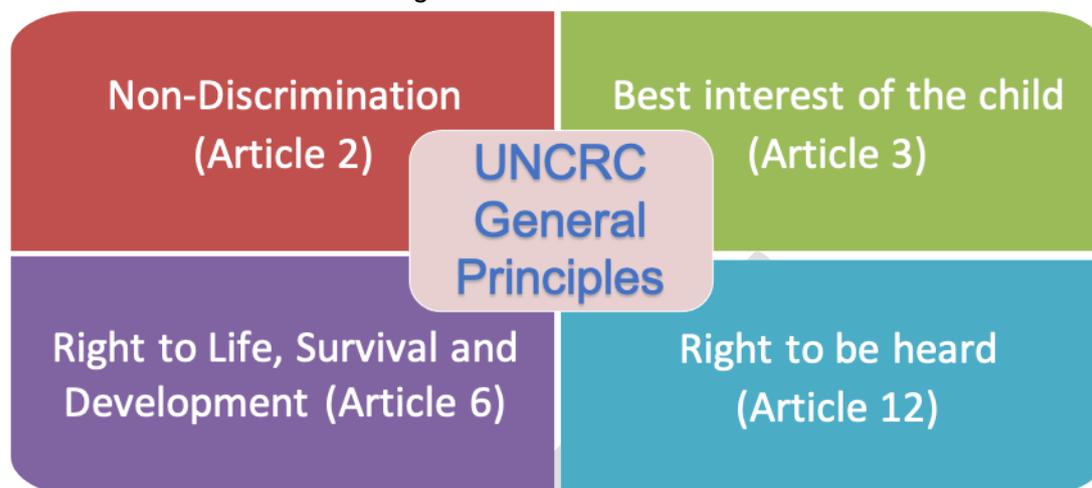
## 2. What is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)?

The UNCRC sets out the human rights of every person under the age of 18 and is the most complete statement on children’s rights treaty in history. It was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989 and is the most widely adopted international human rights treaty in history. Progress on implementation of the UNCRC is monitored by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child’s life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It makes clear how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights. (See appendix 1A).

The Convention must be understood as a whole: all rights are linked, and no right is more important than any other. The right to relax and play (article 31) and the right to freedom of expression (article 13) are as important as the right to be safe from violence (article 19) and the right to education (article 28).

There are 4 Guiding Principles of the Convention. These Guiding Principles help to interpret all the other articles of the Convention and play a fundamental role in realising all the rights for all children. As set out in the diagram below:



Article 2: states all children have the rights set out in the UNCRC, and individual children and young people should not be discriminated against when these rights are realised. This covers both direct and indirect discrimination.

Article 3: states that the interests of children and young people should be thought about at all levels of society, and that their rights should be respected by people in power. In other words, it says adults should think about the best interests of children and young people when making choices that affect them.

Article 6: recognises that all children and young people have the right to survive and the right to develop. It says that children and young people should be able to grow up in conditions that do not negatively impact on their physical and mental wellbeing.

Article 12: states that the opinions of children and young people should be considered when people make decisions about things that involve them. Their opinions should not be dismissed on the grounds of age. Children and young people's views should be taken seriously, with their evolving capacities taken into account. Children and young people should be given the information they need to make good decisions.<sup>1</sup>

These lead onto the three P's of Provision, Protection and Participation and represent the underlying requirements for all rights to be realised (see table below).

**Provision**  
(survival needs, food and nutrition, health and shelter, an education)

These are rights to the resources, skills and contributions necessary for the survival and full development of the child. They include rights to adequate food, shelter, clean water, formal

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from CYPCS.org.uk

education, primary health care, leisure and recreation, cultural activities, and information about their rights. These rights require not only the existence of the means to fulfil the rights but also access to them. Specific articles address the needs of child refugees, children with disabilities and children of minority or indigenous groups.

## Protection

(from all forms of harm and exploitation)

These rights include protection from all forms of child abuse, neglect, exploitation and cruelty, including the right to special protection in times of war and protection from abuse in the criminal justice system.

## Participation

(as an active agent in their own lives and in society)

Children are entitled to the freedom to express opinions and to have a say in matters affecting their social, economic, religious, cultural and political life. Participation rights include the right to express opinions and be heard, the right to information and freedom of association. Engaging these rights as they mature helps children bring about the realisation of all their rights and prepares them for an active role in society.

The Convention can be [read in full](#) or accessed in an alternative [simplified formats](#) prepared by the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland.

### 3. Background to UNCRC in Scotland

UNCRC is an international human rights treaty, which sets out the rights every child has. Scotland is in the unique position of introducing legislation that provides legal protections of these rights in Scots Law. This has been progressed through the Scottish Parliament as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill<sup>2</sup>. Importantly, calls for incorporation came from children and young people too.

Children aged 9-13 who took part in the Children's Parliament consultation sessions demonstrated a clear understanding of the key issues, and expressed concerns that "Children's rights might be forgotten about". They also expressed that they felt rights and duties were important for public services including police, schools and social work. There was a clear call from children to "enforce children's rights instead of just letting it be optional to people".

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<sup>2</sup> [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Incorporation Scotland Bill – Bills \(proposed laws\) – Scottish Parliament | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

## 4. The Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

However, Ministers have a duty to keep the UNCRC ‘under consideration’, to raise ‘awareness and understanding’ of its principles and provisions, ‘take account’ of views of children and local authorities must submit a report to the Scottish Parliament every three years on the changes that have been made to UNCRC implementation over the period. It also contains a duty on public bodies to report on UNCRC implementation.

The Bill became the newly named ‘Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014’ and while it fell short of incorporation, it provided a focal point for children’s rights discourse. The key point of the Scottish Government’s plan was to make Scotland the best place in the world for children to grow up.

## 5. The Children and Young People’s Commissioner Scotland

The Commissioner’s powers are set out in The Commissioner for Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2003 and amended by The Children and Young People Act 2014. Before the 2014 Act became law the Commissioner could only look into cases that involved human rights of groups of children and young people. As a result of the 2014 Act, the Commissioner can now investigate cases that affect the human rights of individual children and young people.

The role of the Commissioner is as follows:

- Protects the rights for children and young people under 18 or up to 21 if in care or care experienced
- Works to ensure that laws are fair and will challenge people in authority to ensure that they have done what they have promised to do. To ensure that all children and young people grow up in an environment of happiness, love and understanding
- Helps children and young people to understand that importance of children’s rights and that children and young people can demand change if their rights or rights of others are not being respected
- Also ensures adults in Scotland are aware of children’s rights so that they know where they need to make changes

## 6. UNCRC Incorporation (Scotland) Bill

In April 2019, the First Minister committed to incorporating the UNCRC into law in Scotland and they are set to be implemented 6 months after Royal Assent, currently 2021. This means children’s rights will be legally protected in Scotland and public authorities must take steps to represent children’s rights in their decisions and actions. It also means that children, young people, and their representatives will be able to use courts in Scotland to enforce their rights.

<https://www.togetherscotland.org.uk/about-childrens-rights/monitoring-the-uncrc/incorporation-of-the-un-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>

Scottish Borders Council committed to embedding the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG) at a full Council meeting in August 2019, which have a strong resonance with the UNCRC, particularly inclusive and equitable education and promote lifelong learning for all. Also, to end poverty in all its forms everywhere, with children’s rights forming the basis on any decision making.

## 7. Role of Children and Young People

**Article 12** states that children have the right to express their views in all matters affecting them and to encourage adults to listen to the opinions of children and involve them in decision-making. All children and young people have the right to be involved in decisions that involve them and have the right to have their voices heard about issues affecting them, taking into account the child's age and maturity. The UNCRC encourages parents, judges, social workers, childcare workers and other adults responsible for children to consider the child's view and to use that information to make decisions that will be in the child's best interests.

The interest of children in rights issues and the way in which parents handle these issues, will vary according to the age of the child. Helping children understand their rights does not mean pushing them to make choices with consequences they are too young to appreciate or understand. The UNCRC encourages parents to deal with rights issues with their children "... in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child ..." (Article 5). The issues which are discussed, the way parents answer questions or the methods of discipline they use, will differ depending on the age of the child.

## 8. The Cluster Approach

The different Articles of the UNCRC are grouped into clusters. This is the structure that is recommended for reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. There are nine clusters, which help facilitate reporting for Children's Rights and these are detailed in the table below. In Scottish Borders we will use this cluster approach to report on Child Right's and to inform our future plans and activity.

Cluster	Description	Meaning	Example
1	General measures of implementation;	Any initiatives that raise awareness of Children's Rights	Children and young people having their say on the way Council Services are delivered and planning decisions on play parks/new schools.
2	Definition of the child; articles tabled	Child or young person under 18	For personal learning planning pupils, take responsibility by setting their own learning targets on a regular basis in their learning journeys or through a learning conversation, whatever is appropriate for age and stage.
3	General principles of UNCRC	Any Policy made in the best interests of the child and/or schemes introduced to stop discrimination.	Through Curriculum of Excellence, children and young people develop their spiritual, social, moral and cultural values. Looked after children's right to independent advocacy

4	Civil rights and freedoms	Primary/high school involves pupils in all aspect of their education	Curriculum for Excellence is now being implemented across Scotland for all 3-18 year olds wherever they learn. It aims to raise standards, prepare our children for a future they do not yet know and equip them for jobs of tomorrow in a fast changing world.
5	Violence against children	The Scottish Government's law on making it a criminal offence for a parent/carer to use physical punishment against a child.	The Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 which removed common law defence of "reasonable chastisement" from law on 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2020.
6	Family environment and alternative care;	Children and Young People have the right to go into care, and have their rights respected when they are there. There should be independent checks to make sure their rights are respected, especially if disabled or a refugee.	Development of Champions' Board approach in Scottish Borders Corporate Parenting to better represent the voice of looked after and care experienced children and young people in service provision and development.
7	Disability, basic health and welfare;	Any Policy that focuses on the health & welfare of all children and the consideration of children with a disability rights	The Inclusion Policy, which outlines the Scottish Borders Framework for Staged Intervention, that has been designed to enable staged and proportionate intervention to meet the additional support needs of children and young people within educational establishments in the Borders.
8	Education, leisure and cultural activities;	The right of all children to an education that will help them to achieve their potential without discrimination	In teaching mathematics, primary 6 pupils of Priorsford were asked what interested them, the response was horses and the countryside. Therefore, the school adapted their maths syllabus around these 2 topics to make the subject relevant to the children

9	Special protection measures	This focuses on groups of vulnerable and marginalised children who require special protection for example asylum-seeking and refugee children, child victims of trafficking exploitation and children in trouble with the law.	The Scottish Borders refugee resettlement scheme developed in 2015, the aim of which was to resettle 10 Syrian families in the Scottish Borders over 4 years. All eligible looked after children have been actively supported to achieve European Union Settled Status (EUSS)
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## 9. What do children and young people know about their rights?

A short survey was circulated to a group of young people to obtain their views about children's rights and the results show that some young people are aware that they have rights about issues that matter to them. Here are some of their comments:

*Yes, I feel my comments are heard and I have been able to implement a number of things, for example a suggestion box for pupils*

*Yes, I have been able to get additional benches to sit on outside due to COVID*

*Through Scottish Borders Council Youth Voice have been supported to voice my thoughts on climate crisis*

*Felt teachers were open to listening*

*Found most people respect their rights*

*Often found problems brought up are forgotten about, usually because a member of staff has to talk to another member of staff and so on*

*One pupil struggled with maths all through primary school and it was not until studying for National 5 maths that dyslexia was mentioned and told it was too late for support*

*Yes and no, if adult thinks it is important they will be more engaged; otherwise, it will be disregarded for example recycling bins in school*

*We are lucky to be living in a country that's tries to take our rights and views into account when making decisions. For example Young Scot 5Rights Group which is a focus group on technology and digital rights.*

*Mostly teachers listen but when I looked into recycling bins at my school, I was told nothing could happen*

*In most case, but cases involving staff and mental health of students problematic as a lot of children and young people feel they are not taken seriously especially during panic attacks*

## PART ONE

### What have Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and partners done to improve Children’s Rights in the past 3 years (2017-2020)?

Over the 3-year period, a number of initiatives have been undertaken which have recognised Children’s Rights and so have enabled children and young people an opportunity to state their views.

Significant highlights are detailed below, and the full list is shown in Appendix 1B attached:

The Integrated Children and Young People’s Plan for 2018/2021 focused on the following 4 priorities. The priorities are written with Children’s Rights in mind.

<b>PRIORITY 1</b> Keeping children and young people safe	<b>OUTCOME</b> More children and young people will be protected from abuse, harm or neglect and will be living in a supportive environment, feeling secure and cared for.
<b>PRIORITY 2</b> Improving health and well-being and reducing inequalities	<b>OUTCOME</b> Inequalities in the health and wellbeing of young people are reduced
<b>PRIORITY 3</b> Targeting support to maximise life experiences and opportunities and ensuring inclusion	<b>OUTCOME</b> Life experiences and opportunities are improved for children and young people who require our targeted support
<b>PRIORITY 4</b> Increasing participation and engagement	<b>OUTCOME</b> All our children and young people will be encouraged to be involved in the planning, provision and delivery of services and their rights respected

1. Scottish Borders Council were given a presentation by Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament on their campaign “Right Here Right Now” in April 2018 which seeks to promote the rights of young people in Scotland. They outlined the background to the setting up of the Youth Parliament and advised that the topic for the campaign had been chosen following a survey of 5000 young people across Scotland, including 800 from the Scottish Borders.
2. The Councils’ Inclusion Policy 2018 covers the key principle of a child’s right to education with a commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Policy provides guidance to all learning establishments in promoting positive relationships and ensuring that the needs of all children and young people are met, which is important to Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC), the successful delivery of the Curriculum for Excellence and reducing the poverty related attainment gap.

3. Participation model - The Additional Support for Learning Policy sets out the definitions, background and legislative framework of Additional Support Needs and Additional Support for Learning. It specifies the services available, the processes for accessing these services, what service users can expect and the rights of parents and young people who use these services.
4. A resource was developed by S3 from Galashiels Academy on behalf of the Child Protection Committee which was shared with all secondary schools. The short clip provides a stark and meaningful message to all people about internet safety.

## PART TWO

### What would Children and Young People like to see in the Scottish Borders?

In addition to asking children and young people about their rights, we also sought their ideas about what they would like to see improve in the Scottish Borders.

Responses included:

Digital connectivity

Recycling and climate change

Free public transport

Education and children's rights

Activities for young people

Mental health

## 10. Next steps proposed by the Council, NHS Borders and Partners

The Council, NHS Borders and their partners will continue to take forward measures to improve the wellbeing of all children living in the Scottish Borders and to ensure that their rights are fully realised and protected. The emphasis being on supporting all children and young people to realise their rights through the decisions, priorities and actions of public bodies. Local authorities and their partners must ensure that they act in accordance with UNCRC requirements.

Significant highlights are detailed below, and the full list is shown in Appendix 1C attached:

1. Incorporation of Children's Rights into Scots Law in relation to the current Parliamentary Bill and what incorporation would mean for public bodies. The Council and NHS Borders will review its policies to ensure compatibility with the rights of the child; and supporting the development of future strategies and services which will work to further the UNCRC for children and young people in the Scottish Borders.
2. Implementation of the findings of the Independent Care Review's 'The Promise' (2020) across corporate parent organisations in the Scottish Borders. Developments will be led through the Scottish Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-24 and informed by the on-going participation of looked after and care experienced children and young people.

3. For children and young people identified as young carers, current procedures are being updated to encompass directions about offering plans or statements to young carers of people with terminal illness quickly. This is because the powers to issue these regulations can only set timescales from once an offer is accepted. The guidance from the Scottish Government will therefore help to achieve the original policy intention of timescales running from when the authority was first aware of a young carer of someone who is terminally ill.
4. The Council has purchased the British Sign Language (BSL) teaching pack from Highland Council. Once staff have completed the training all schools within the Scottish Borders will be asked to consider learning BSL.
5. The introduction of Mind of My Own (MOMO) – a web-based communication App - to ensure that children who are receiving a service have the right and ability to express their views independently of a Practitioner and/or parent/Guardian.

## 11. How will the Council and NHS Borders know they have made a difference?

The Council and NHS Borders measure the impact of the work carried out for Children's Rights in a variety of ways such as:

- Listening and working with children and young people as partners in measuring progress made by the Council, NHS Borders and their partners
- Implementing actions from the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan
- The work of the Children and Young People's Leadership Group
- Annual Progress Reports in CLD Services, Social Work and Education Services.
- The Scottish Borders Corporate Parenting Annual Report
- Performance indicators and monitoring reports
- Children and young people Case studies
- Using surveys to gather information
- Forum meetings with children and young people and reports that provide information on Children's Rights
- Feedback from parent forums, namely parent partnerships

## 12. Conclusion

In accordance with Part 1 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 the Council, NHS Borders and their partners have worked together on a number of initiatives to further children's rights over the past three years and continue to do so in their planned actions for the future. The wide range of activity shown demonstrates a clear awareness of the need to embed Children's Rights in our work. As a result of Children's Rights being incorporated into Scots Law, services provided by the Council, NHS Borders and partners will need to ensure that children's rights are embedded into all appropriate policies, plans and strategies and that our decision-making and service delivery is compatible with the rights afforded to children and young people by the Convention. This work has already commenced and demonstrates our ongoing commitment to Children and Young People in the Scottish Borders.

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## Appendix 1A

<h3><u>Summary of the articles</u></h3> <p><u>Full content- <a href="#">Children's rights articles</a></u></p>	
<p><u>Four General principle of United Nation of Children’s Rights Convention</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-Discrimination (2)</li> <li>• Best interests of the child (3)</li> <li>• Life, survival and development (6)</li> <li>• Respect for the views of the child (12)</li> </ul>
<p><u>Civil rights and freedom</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birth registration, name, nationality, care (7)</li> <li>• Protection and preservation of identity (8)</li> <li>• Freedom of expression (13)</li> <li>• Freedom of thought, conscience and religion (14)</li> <li>• Freedom of association (15)</li> <li>• Right to privacy (16)</li> <li>• Access to information; mass media (17)</li> </ul>
<p><u>Violence against children</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection from all forms of violence (19)</li> <li>• Right to Education (28 (2))</li> <li>• Sexual exploitation (34)</li> <li>• Inhumane treatment and detention (37(a))</li> <li>• Recovery and rehabilitation of child victims (39)</li> </ul>
<p><u>Family environment and alternative care</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parental guidance and a child’s evolving capacities (6)</li> <li>• Separation from parents (9)</li> <li>• Family reunification (10)</li> <li>• Abduction and non-return of children (11)</li> <li>• Parental responsibilities and state assistance (18 (1, 2))</li> <li>• Children deprived of a family (20)</li> <li>• Adoption (21)</li> <li>• Review of treatment in care (25)</li> <li>• Adequate standard of living (27(4))</li> </ul>

<u>Disability, basic health &amp; welfare</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life, survival and development (16)</li> <li>• Parental responsibilities and state assistance (18(3))</li> <li>• Children with disabilities (23)</li> <li>• Health and health services (24)</li> <li>• Social Security (26)</li> <li>• Adequate standard of living (27(1-3))</li> <li>• Drug abuse (33)</li> </ul>
<u>Education, leisure and cultural activities</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Right to education (28)</li> <li>• Goals of education (29)</li> <li>• Children of minorities/indigenous groups (30)</li> <li>• Leisure, play and cultural (31)</li> </ul>
<u>Special protection measures</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refugee children (22)</li> <li>• Children of minorities/indigenous group (30)</li> <li>• Child labour (32)</li> <li>• Drug abuse (33)</li> <li>• Abduction, sale and trafficking (35)</li> <li>• Other forms of exploitation (36)</li> <li>• Inhumane treatment and detention (37(b-d))</li> <li>• War and armed conflicts (38)</li> <li>• Recovery and rehabilitation of child victims (39)</li> <li>• Juvenile justice (40)</li> </ul>
<u>Optional protocol to the UNCRC on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict</u>	Governments to ensure children under 18, who are members of the Armed Forces, do not taken part in armed conflict – any recruitment of a child under 18 must be voluntary and with the consent of the parents/carers
<u>Optional protocol to the UNCRC on the sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography</u>	Governments must ban the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and recognise the vulnerability of child victims, protect their privacy, provide appropriate support services and ensure their safety.

## Appendix 1B

**What have Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and partners done to further Children's Rights in the past 3 years (2017-2020)?**  
**These are some examples of initiatives carried out**

1	Partners have developed a planned programme that covers suicide awareness, intervention skills, mental health awareness, dealing with change, promoting wellbeing and resilience to increase emotional wellbeing and resilience of children and young people, which was started in 2018.
2	Galashiels Academy developed actions to promote universal approaches, take on early intervention ways to support emotional wellbeing for all, and work to tackle drug and alcohol misuse across all communities.
3	In partnership with NHS Borders the roll out of programmes such as 'Growing in Confidence' and 'Peaches & Aubergines' which was launched in September 2018. This was seen as a healthy relationship resource, comprising of 3 short films made by young people for young people, and looks at matters relevant to them around healthy relationships, consent and respect.
4	Piloted in one primary school, training on the dangers of sexting and grooming was provided in partnership with the Chairs of the Parent Partners, a local Youth Group and High School pupils.
5	Delivered senior S6 school leaver Child Protection Awareness Raising across our 9 High Schools.
6	Child Protection Committee (CPC) Training Officers made links with Rowlands Youth Club over summer 2019 and in autumn at Selkirk High School to engage more young people in creating a pilot training programme aimed at upper primary school age pupils in order to prevent, protect and report online abuse. Pupils spoke to the Chairs of Scottish Borders Council Parent Partnership to take on board their views about delivering child protection training to younger aged pupils and in so doing incorporated primary 5 pupils into the pilot. The results of the training highlighted that young people are being contacted online by strangers and by putting privacy settings on their accounts they can reduce the risk of this contact. In this pilot, primary 5 aged pupils (age 9-10 years) were identified as being targeted by strangers more than primary 6.
7	The Healthy Living Network and Community Learning developed and put in place a summer activity programme in 2019. Activities included good food sessions, physical activity and family learning support. Events took place in Burnfoot, Langlee, Eyemouth and Selkirk and were attended by 305 children.
8	Under the Locality Partnership Model and as a result of COVID 19, 16 childcare hubs were opened for the families of key workers, identified children and vulnerable young people.
9	The Children and Young People's Leadership Group commissioned the Quarriers Service to put in place a resilience and wellbeing practitioner in each of our 9 high schools.
10	Implemented procedures in relation to mental health and wellbeing for pupils and staff.
11	Self-harm awareness information available for parents and young people. Guidance and training introduced on self-harm and where to access help when required.
12	The Inspire Team worked with a network of school leavers and digital ambassadors in secondary schools to plan and develop high quality professional learning which supports changing the way learning is delivered in schools
13	The addition of Wellbeing Ambassadors in secondary schools in partnership with the

	third sector created an App for students to assist them in changing the attitudes of peers' independent from initiatives of adults in the school community.
14	The Council has signed up to the LGBT Charter, which enables them to proactively include LGBTI people in every aspect of services the Council provide, protecting staff and providing a high-quality service to children and young people and customers of Scottish Borders Council
15	Earlston High School achieved the LGBT Youth Scotland Gold Charter mark by creating an inclusive learning outcome for all and special thanks to students and teachers for making this happen
16	Childsmile is a national health improvement Programme designed for the health of Children in Scotland and reduces inequalities both in dental health and access to dental services
17	Child poverty - Financial inclusion in early years ensuring children and young people have a right to food and shelter through the provision of advice and support to families who may be entitled to benefits
18	UNICEF Baby Friendly Gold award - Maternity Services - helping mothers to give their children the best start in life by encouraging breastfeeding
19	Development and embedding of the Housing Options Protocol, a joint Scottish Borders Council – Registered Social Landlord initiative to ensure care leavers are not registered as homeless in order to secure independent accommodation
20	Identifying young carers and ensuring they are receiving the support they require to ensure mental wellbeing and offering young carers a statement that outlines the support they need
21	Policy, procedure and guidance review and updating of Scottish Borders Permanence procedures (now concluded) to ensure appropriate, permanent arrangements are made for children in a timeous manner.
22	A 6 monthly Children and Families Quality Assurance Report developed to ensure quality of service, including the rights of children, young people and their families, are delivered at a high standard.
23	Introducing a nurturing approach to the classroom, developing an inclusive practice so staff become practitioners and understand their personal responsibility to develop inclusion and nurturing of children and young people across the Scottish Borders
24	Commissioning of the Aberlour Sustain service – an 'edge of care' service aimed at retaining vulnerable children within their families and communities (where appropriate).

## Appendix 1C

**Next steps proposed by the Council, NHS Borders and partners for 2020-2023**

1	To produce a Children's Rights and Participation Strategy to raise awareness of Children's Rights and encourage children and young people to participate and involved, including the establishment of a Young Borders Action Team
2	Development of Scottish Borders Community Plan – Whereby the Council, NHS Borders and their partners work together with local communities to improve the quality of life for all who live, work or study in the Scottish Borders.
3	The Council's Corporate Plan is being reviewed (with the existing one being 2018-2023). These developments are likely to feature children's rights prominently, especially with developments around incorporation of UNCRF.
4	Review NHS Borders Clinical Strategy
5	Refresh Scottish Borders Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-24 incorporating play and parenting
6	A refresh of the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan 2021-23 incorporating play and parenting. The plan will be a Child's Rights Led Plan.
7	Roll out of transforming Trauma Informed Practice
8	Review the Children & Young Peoples Forum so that children and young people can participate in decisions that affect their lives
9	Virtual Headteacher - the Virtual School acts as a local authority champion to promote the educational achievement, attainment and experience of all of our looked after and care experienced children and young people. As a member of the corporate parenting group, the Virtual School works alongside our colleagues in Social Work, Health and other agencies to advocate for learners and provide educational support and direction.
10	Workforce development: multi-agency training and development courses for staff to develop skills and knowledge in supporting young people's emotional health.
11	Building the resilience of children and young people: training for young people and peer support. Providing information and resources for families and young people.
12	Development of pathways so that young people can get the right information, advice and support at the right time.
13	Opportunities for children and young people to get involved in Participatory Budgeting
14	Continuing to raise awareness of the impact of adverse childhood experiences and child poverty on emotional health and Wellbeing.
15	Build on the Childcare Hubs that were implemented as a result of COVID 19 and support engagement and look at ways of improving the services provided in conjunction with children and young people
16	The Inspire Learning Programme will be rolling out iPads to all primary 4 and 5 pupils. Also in partnership with Borders College provide on loan, laptops to students who do not own a laptop.
17	Development of the Locality Model with all agencies coming together for multi-disciplinary meetings to support vulnerable and young people and developing What Matters Hubs. The idea being anyone can access services by contacting the virtual office and be transferred to the agency that can provide the help they require at that time, namely education, social work or welfare benefits etc. Before the service is rolled out across the Scottish Borders a pilot will be run in one of the 5 localities.
18	Family nurse partnership - A home visiting programme for first time mums and their families helping them to achieve the best start for children.
19	Development of initiatives for children and young people to be involved in the way Council services are delivered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Children and Families Social Work to introduce a strengths-based approach in how we work with families, with a particular focus on the introduction of Family Group Decision Making,</li> <li>ii) Improve Transitions planning and processes across all service areas (using a co-production approach with children, young people and their families).</li> </ul>

20	As part of Global Day for Climate Action 2021 on 19 March, the Scottish Borders' Youth Ambassadors for Sustainability launched their #OurPromiseToThePlanet campaign for the coming year.
21	Review the Getting it Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) Information sharing Protocol of confidential and consent to support children and young people's wellbeing between NHS Borders, Council, Police and Child Protection.
22	Scottish Borders Council is among a range of organisations who have participated in the Connecting Scotland digital programme providing devices to those most in need so that they are able to connect online. Participating organisations, including the Council, identified people facing barriers to digital inclusion to benefit from the scheme, including households with pre-school and school age children and young care leavers on low incomes. The total number of devices for Scottish Borders for this phase was 481 – 238 iPads, 235 Chromebooks and 460 MiFis helping to support 382 families, 65 care leavers and 34 other vulnerable people.
23	Scottish Borders CLD Strategic Partnership Plan 2020-22 engagement and implementation.

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## **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Update**

**Report by Service Director Young People, Engagement and Inclusion**

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### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**18 May 2021**

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

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise on the potential impact of the Scottish Government's proposed Bill on Children's Rights for Scottish Borders Council and Partners.
- 1.2 Scotland is set to become the first part of the United Kingdom (UK) to directly incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into domestic law. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament on 1 September 2020 and places a duty on public bodies to respect and protect children's rights in all the work that they do. The Bill also says that public authorities must not act in a way that is incompatible with the UNCRC requirements. The Bill was passed unanimously by the Scottish Parliament on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
- 1.3 However, the UK Government has referred the Bill to the Supreme Court under section 33 of the Scotland Act 1998 due to concerns that certain sections of the Bill would affect the UK Parliament's power to make laws for Scotland. The referral to the Supreme Court relates to legislative competence, and not the policy intentions of the Bill. The Supreme Court will decide whether the Scottish Parliament has gone beyond its powers.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **2.1 I recommend that the Committee:**

- (a) Agree that the Council review the potential impact of Incorporation of Children’s Rights into Scots Law in relation to the current Parliamentary Bill**
- (b) Agree that the Council review the implications of Incorporation and amend any Council policies appropriately.**

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In April 2019, the First Minister committed to incorporating the UNCRC into law in Scotland and this is set to be implemented 6 months after Royal Assent. The Bill achieving Royal Assent will be delayed while the matter is considered by the Supreme Court.
- 3.2 Under the proposal, Scotland will become the first part of the United Kingdom (UK) to directly incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into domestic law. This means children's rights will be legally protected in Scotland and public authorities must take steps to represent children's rights in their decisions and actions.
- 3.3 The UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill will make it unlawful for public authorities to act in conflict with the incorporated UNCRC requirements. It also means that children, young people, and their representatives will be able to use courts in Scotland to enforce their rights.
- 3.4 The key policy aims of the Bill are to:
1. Ensure that the child's best interests are at the centre of any contact, residence, or Children's Hearing;
  2. Ensure that the views of the child are heard;
  3. Ensure further compliance with the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC);
  4. Further protect victims of domestic abuse and their children
- 3.5 The Scottish Government expects that all aspects of the Bill will affect the way that Local Authorities in Scotland listen to children and young people and take their rights into account. Including UNCRC in Scot's law will enable children and young people to be involved in the decisions that affect their lives, and ensure that children's rights are appreciated, safeguarded and realised by public authorities.
- 3.6 Part 1 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires Public Authorities to report, "as soon as practicable" after the end of each 3 year period, on the steps they have taken to secure better or further effect of the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). A Children's Rights Report has been prepared for Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders and is reported separately to Executive Committee.

## **4 ACTIONS FOR SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**

- 4.1 The Bill is set to be implemented in the near future, dependent on the Supreme Court decision. To meet the requirements of the Bill, Scottish Borders Council will need to plan an approach. The incorporation of Children's Rights into Scot's Law will affect many services within the Council, therefore a review of the implications of incorporation is required to ensure compatibility with the rights of the Child. It is likely that some Council Policies, Strategies and Procedures will need to be amended to ensure that they include Children's Rights where appropriate. An awareness campaign will also be helpful.

## **5 IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 **Financial**  
There are no specific costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.
- 5.2 **Risks and Mitigations**  
In accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill, Scottish Borders Council must ensure that Children's Rights are upheld in any decision making. Failure to do so would leave the Council at risk of breaching children's rights.
- 5.3 **Integrated Impact Assessment**  
An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been completed for this report. Any other Policies and strategies relating to Children's Rights will also require an IIA as they are developed.
- 5.4 **Acting Sustainably**  
There are no economic, social or environmental effects associated with this report.
- 5.5 **Carbon Management**  
There are no effects on carbon emissions as a result of this report.
- 5.6 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**  
There are no changes to the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of this report.

## **6 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 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 have been incorporated into the Final Report.

**Approved by**

**Lesley Munro**  
**Service Director Young People, Engagement & Inclusion**

**Signature .....**

**Author(s)**

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**Background Papers:** N/A

**Previous Minute Reference:** N/A

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

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