

# Public Document Pack



## COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD THURSDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER, 2021

A MEETING of the COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD will be held online via Microsoft Teams on THURSDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER, 2021 at 2.00 PM. The meeting will be livestreamed and the link will be on the SBC website.

J. J. WILKINSON,  
Clerk to the Council,

3 September 2021

<b>BUSINESS</b>		
1.	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>	
2.	<b>Any Other Items Previously Circulated.</b>	
3.	<b>Minute</b> (Pages 3 - 8) Consider Minute of Meeting of the Community Planning Strategic Board held on 10 June 2021. (Attached)	2 mins
4.	<b>Resetting the Community Planning Partnership , Community Plan and Action Plan</b> (Pages 9 - 10) Proposed review of Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership – discussion led by Netta Meadows, SBC Chief Executive. (Attached)	20 mins
5.	<b>Community Planning Partnership - Key Priorities/Action Plan 2020/21</b> (Pages 11 - 44) Update from Shona Smith, SBC Communities & Partnership Manager, on the Key Priorities and Action Plan 2020/21. (Attached)	10 mins
6.	<b>Human and Economic Cost Modelling</b> Presentation by Fraser McKinlay, The Promise Scotland	25 mins
7.	<b>Community Learning and Development Partnership Plan 2021-24</b> (Pages 45 - 112) Consider report and Plan from SBC Service Director Children & Young People's Services. (Attached)	25 mins
8.	<b>Regional Enterprise Partnership</b> Update by Anthony Daye, SOSE.	15 mins

9.	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
10.	<b>Next Meeting</b> The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for 18 November 2021 at 2:00pm online via MS Teams. The meeting will be livestreamed to the public.	

#### 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\* (Chairman)  
Ms Elaine Acaster, Borders College  
Councillor Stuart Bell\*  
Mr Stephen Gourlay, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Prof. Russel Griggs, South of Scotland Enterprise  
Councillor Carol Hamilton\*  
Mrs K. Hamilton, NHS Borders  
Mrs M. Hume, Third Sector  
Superintendent Debra Forrester, Police Scotland  
Mr Robin Hill, Registered Social Landlords representative (SBHA)  
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 Corbet – 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:** 10 June 2021 from 2.00 to 3:50 p.m.

**Location:** Via MS Teams

**Attendees:** Councillor Mark Rowley (SBC) [Chair], Councillor Stuart Bell (SBC), Ms Elaine Acaster (Borders College), Mr Stephen Gourlay (Scottish Fire & Rescue), Professor Russel Griggs (SOSE), Ms Karen Hamilton (NHS Borders), Mrs Marjorie Hume (Third Sector), Mr Ralph Roberts (NHS Borders), Councillor Robin Tatler (SBC), Councillor George Turnbull (SBC).

**Also in attendance:** Netta Meadows, Jenni Craig, John Curry, Rob Dickson, Stuart Easingwood, Jenny Wilkinson (all SBC); Keith Allan (NHS Borders/SBC - Public Health); Ms Angela Cox (Borders College); Nile Istephan (Eildon Housing); Rob McCulloch-Graham (H&SC IJB); Julia Mulloy (SBHA).

**MINUTE AND ACTION POINTS**

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Superintendent D. Forrester (Police Scotland), Councillor C. Hamilton, and Mr Robin Hill (SBHA).

2. **MINUTE**

2.1 The Minute of Meeting of 4 March 2021 had been circulated.

**DECISION**

**AGREED the Minute.**

2.2 Mrs Hume advised that a number of presentations which had been made at the previous meeting had yet to be passed on to members, and officers confirmed this would be done. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute regarding an update on the TSI, Mrs Hume further advised that the new set up was now in place and if any partners wanted anything included in the regular Newsletter then they could make contact.

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

3. **COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP - KEY PRIORITIES/ACTION PLAN 2020/21**

With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of 4 March 2021, copies of an updated CPP Key Priorities and Action Plan 2020/21 had been circulated. Ms Shona Smith, SBC Communities & Partnership Manager, presented the details which gave updates and timescales on projects/actions with an amber RAG status and showed those at green status. No projects had a red status. Ms Hamilton commented that it was really helpful to see the detail and her only observation was that it would be good if it could be more

measurable in terms of what was trying to be achieved. Netta Meadows advised that some of the actions needed to be more specifically measurable and further work would be carried out to allow better monitoring.

#### **DECISION**

**NOTED that further work would be carried out on the Action Plan to ensure it would be more specifically measurable in terms of outcomes which would allow better monitoring.**

#### **4. EDUCATION & SKILLS**

Angela Cox, Principal of Borders College, gave a presentation with an update on Borders Learning, Skills and Employability Partnership (BLSEP); the South of Scotland Digital Skills Hub; the Advanced Manufacturing project; and sustainable futures. Details were given of the governance structure which centred on the Borders Learning, Skills and Employability Partnership Strategic Board. The BLSEP was in place to facilitate local collective leadership and a shared commitment across the region responding to national, South of Scotland and the Edinburgh & South East City Regional Deal skills priorities. Details were given on partnership working over the last year. The Digital Skills Hub, led by Borders College and Dumfries & Galloway College aimed to make the region more competitive by facilitating the delivery of higher level digital skills, supporting digital upskilling and retraining for the key sectors of the south of Scotland's economy. Priorities for action had been identified along with 4 key themes: educational pathways; improving access to digital skills; career long professional learning and mentoring; and upskilling and reskilling for business. Further details were given of the current focus of the Hub. With regard to the Aims Project, Dumfries & Galloway and Scottish Borders Councils, along with D&G and Borders Colleges, SOSE and key stakeholders had received a funding allocation of £3.3m to deliver the Advanced Innovative Manufacturing in the South of Scotland project. This project – for manufacturing SMEs – would provide access to advanced manufacturing technologies, delivered through a regional Hub and Spoke approach, aligned with the Skills and Learning Network. Services would include: training and upskilling the workforce; R& D investment, innovation, concept development; product realisation; and enabling a manufacturing ecosystem. Future ambition was for a partnership response to sustainability through education, knowledge exchange and adoption of technologies. A sustainability summit was planned, Borders College was leading on 3 fringe events at COP26, and work continued with SOSE Energy Transitions Group, College Sector Energy Skills Partnership and the SDS Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan, and Change Works on upskilling local tradespeople. Future priorities included a carbon literacy education programme in schools, college and community; and Sustainability Champions and an Innovation Catalyst Programme. Ms Cox added that while priorities would change, it was about collective leadership and collective willingness to do things together which is what had to be held on to despite the complex ecosystem in which education operated.

#### **DECISION**

**NOTED.**

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

Copies of a report by SBC Executive Director – Corporate Improvement & Economy had been circulated which set out the progress being made in the development of the South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy. The draft Strategy had been developed by the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (REP). The REP aimed to ensure that there was a strong strategic direction for the economic development of the South of Scotland that aligned partner activities with those of the South of Scotland Enterprise. The REP comprised members drawn from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors across the South of Scotland, including from the Scottish Borders. The first main task of the REP had been leading and overseeing the development of a South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy and a draft of this was shown in Appendix 1 to the report. This draft Strategy provided a vision and a set of priority themes for the next 10 years

along with a set of high level actions. These would provide the ambition and intent for the development of a three year action plan that would be updated on an annual basis. This action plan would be developed over the following two months in tandem with a proposed public consultation on the draft Strategy. Mr Dickson gave a presentation on the Strategy, highlighting the context, challenges, strategic framework, and the timeline to the proposed final Strategy. Professor Griggs thanked everyone for all the work which had gone in to the draft Strategy, commenting on the very positive meeting of the REP which had approved it. Members of the Board gave their support to the draft Strategy and consultation.

## **DECISION**

**AGREED to welcome the draft South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, and to support the planned consultation on the Strategy by encouraging and promoting participation through partner networks.**

### **6. EDINBURGH AND SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND CITY REGIONAL DEAL**

Copies of a briefing note by SBC Executive Director, Corporate Improvement and Economy, on the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal “Regional Prosperity Framework Consultation Plan” had been circulated. A six-week consultation was proposed on the Regional Prosperity Framework (RPF) key themes. The overarching aim of the RPF consultation was to create a plan for achieving a fairer, more inclusive and sustainable economy with equity, health and wellbeing of citizens at its core, incorporating the aspirations fed back during the consultation. The main areas for focus were:

- Flourishing – a fairer economy, environment & ecology, households & places
- Resilient – workforce, climate responses, infrastructure & buildings
- Innovative – private sector, third sector & public sector

The RPF would 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. This would ensure that the success of the region could continue to be realised and be a key driver of the Scottish economy. Details of the key dates for the consultation were given with the consultation due to end on 26 July 2021. Mr Dickson confirmed that the RPF sought to address some fundamental challenges and stressed the importance of the Framework due to the influence Edinburgh had on the Borders economy. This balanced nicely with the South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy which together brought a number of opportunities. The RPF would be circulated after the meeting.

## **DECISION NOTED.**

### **7. CHILD POVERTY 2020/21 AND 2021/22**

With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of 19 November 2020, copies of a report by SBC Service Director Customer & Communities, along with a number of appendices, on Local Child Poverty had been circulated. These included 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 which required endorsement by the Strategic Board prior to submission to Scottish Government. The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 required Local Authorities and Health Boards to jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report and an Annual Progress Report. The Annual Progress Report for 2020/21 was the third Annual Report for the Scottish Borders and provided the Community Planning Partnership and Scottish Government with an update on progress made within the Action Plan. Details were given of the background and main categories that drove poverty, along with the national context and measures to assess child poverty in Scotland. A summary was given of the local context and further details going down to Ward level were provided in Appendix 2 to the report. All indicators were showing an increase in poverty and that was without the impact of Covid which was still to come. A further insight from Borders College highlighted student poverty. Although this was a very

challenging environment, a lot of work was already underway to tackle child poverty. New actions had been identified and these were included in the Report and Action Plan for 2021/22. The focus would now move to that Action Plan and also thinking ahead to 2022/23. The Community Planning Partnership needed to consider what more it could do as a partnership given the impending impact of Covid, the effects of which were still to be felt. Reference was made to the links with the Council's work on its Anti-Poverty Strategy. The Chairman invited the partners to contribute to actions for 2022/23 and look beyond simply treating symptoms and try to treat causes to give people the tools to lift them out of poverty longer term.

#### **DECISION**

**AGREED to endorse:**

- (a) the Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Annual Progress Report for 2020/21 for submission to Scottish Government; and**
- (b) the Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan for 2021/22 for submission to Scottish Government.**

#### **8. FINANCIAL INCLUSION LANDSCAPE**

Copies of a report by the SBC Service Director Customer & Communities setting out the current Financial Inclusion Landscape across the Borders had been circulated. The report summarised all the resources across the partnership being put into financial inclusion work to prevent poverty. The advice and support to individuals on how to access the right support at the right time was of critical importance, especially at this time given the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The report provided an understanding of what the Community Planning Partnership organisations offered in respect of financial inclusion advice and support, and to identify any gaps so that resources and activity could be targeted appropriately as well as maximising any funding opportunities. Each organisation and resources were fairly well joined up and best practice was being shared. The report also sought to make appropriate links to 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 brought benefits to those who most needed support. In Early Years, the Service Director undertook to provide a response to a question around the time period for referrals and gains, which had totalled 430 and £1.3m respectively. Officers were feeding back through Cosla, professional groups, and the Housing Federation on the timing of the ending of the furlough scheme and the ending of the £20 Universal Credit top up. Partners were encouraged to lobby through their respective professional groups on retaining both these. Councillor Tatler proposed that a seminar/networking event for practitioners be held to identify any gaps, consider the impact of Covid19 and identify how to ensure people knew where to access help.

#### **DECISION**

**AGREED to:**

- (a) note the financial support and advice that was currently offered by the Community Planning Partnership;**
- (b) note the good links between all of the organisations undertaking financial inclusion work across the partnership and that in most cases referral processes were in place if required;**
- (c) note the concerns in relation to:**
  - (i) The Covid19 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 was an area of focus for the Partnership with many partners providing support through the Connecting Scotland Programme;**
- (d) **note the Council had recently developed a draft Anti-Poverty Strategy, which would be finalised in Autumn 2021. Actions in relation to financial inclusion would be taken forward as part of the Action Plan; and**
- (e) **arrange to hold a seminar/networking event for financial inclusion practitioners to identify any gaps, consider the impact of Covid19 and identify how to ensure people knew where to access help.**

9. **INTEGRATED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN PROGRESS REPORT 2019/21**

Copies of the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan Progress Report 2019/21 by the SCB Service Director, Young People, Engagement and Inclusion had been circulated. SBC Chief Officer Education joined the meeting and presented the report, advising that Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 required each Local Authority, Local Health Board and Partners to prepare a Children's Services Plan and subsequently to prepare and publish a report on how they had delivered on the Plan. This requirement was the responsibility of the Community Planning Partnership which had delegated the task to the Children and Young People's Leadership Group. This Group had prepared the Progress Report to cover the two year period of 2019/20 and 2020/21. The Report set out the actions taken to deliver the Plan and achieve good outcomes for children and young people, and included some alternative actions taken as a result of Covid-19 restrictions. The Chairman thanked officers for the really helpful way that all acronyms had been expressed and made a plea to include a glossary of terms at the back of the Report for reference the next time it came back to the Board for consideration.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to endorse the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan Progress Report for 2019 – 2021 for publication.**

10. **INTEGRATED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2021/23**

Copies of a report by the SBC Service Director Young People, Engagement and Inclusion, on the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan for 2021/23, had been circulated. The Plan set out the strategic direction for the planning and delivery of services for Children & Young People in the Scottish Borders, working in partnership to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and families. It ensured that all services looked 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. The Plan was flexible in the delivery of services and could support additional services and resources where required. The Plan contained 4 priorities and 8 themes. In response to questions, the SBC Chief Officer Education advised that Priority 2 was about supporting emotional and mental wellbeing, recognising a whole systems approach which included that provided by the Third Sector; the diagram on the back page of the Plan was an attempt to make things as simple as possible and was something that could be displayed in public places to show the intent of the Plan.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to endorse the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan for 2021-23 for submission to Scottish Government.**

11. **CHILDREN'S RIGHTS REPORT**

The Board noted the Children's Rights Report.

12. **UNCRC REPORT**

The Board noted the UNCRC Report.

13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Stephen Gourlay advised that a consultation on a 10 year Vision for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was due to begin from Monday 14 June and close on Sunday 18 July. The link to the consultation was - [SFRS Homepage - Working together for a safer Scotland \(firescotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.firescotland.gov.uk)

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

*The meeting concluded at 3.50 pm*

### **Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (CPP) – review proposal**

The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, the subsequent Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, and the Scottish Government's Statutory Guidance on Community Planning set out the statutory provisions, clear principles for effective community planning, and specific long term expectations of how CPP partners and communities will work together to improve life for all who live, work and do business within their communities.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the requirement to refresh the Scottish Borders Community Plan & Action Plan, the new partners who have joined us, and in line with other community planning partnerships across Scotland, there is an opportunity to review the role of community planning and partnership working. There are 5 statutory partners who share the responsibility for leading the Scottish Borders CPP - NHS Borders, Police Scotland, Scottish Borders Council, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and Scottish Enterprise (South of Scotland Enterprise in Scottish Borders)

The **aim** of this review is to understand and address current challenges that Community Planning Partnerships are facing:

- Strengthening of leadership and influence
- Look for innovative approaches to joint planning, service design and resourcing
- Community participation, particularly hard to reach groups, vulnerable and communities of interest
- Effective decision making and good governance
- Availability of high quality local data and insights to support decision making
- Supporting innovation, improvement and sharing of best practice.

The **scope** of the review would include the following:

- Review of the current legislation and policy landscape:
  - Community Planning Improvement Board – Good Community Planning Examples 2019
  - Accounts Commission: Community Planning – Impact Report July 2018
  - Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
  - Accounts Commission – Audit of Scottish Borders Community Planning
  - Scottish Community Development Centre review of Area Partnerships 2019
- Terms of reference, membership and governance arrangements, including:
  - Statutory duties, role, purpose & objectives of both statutory and non-statutory partners
  - Consider training requirements and an ongoing development programme
  - How community voices are brought to the CPP (Youth Parliament, CC Network etc.)
  - Area Partnership function, locality plans and reporting lines into CPP
- Refresh of the Community Plan & Action Plan
  - Key priorities and activities, and how they are reflected in the strategic and local plans of CPP partner organisations
  - Key priorities and actions – including performance measurement and monitoring
  - Accountability – strengthen the effectiveness of the leadership, challenge and scrutiny role at CPP Strategic Board level
  - Resources and budget planning, including participatory budgeting

The **timescales** of the review - it is anticipated that this review would be concluded by the end of 2021 and outcomes presented to the Community Planning Strategic Board in the Spring of 2022

**Recommendation – The Scottish Borders CPP Joint Programme Board agree to this proposal being considered by the CPP Strategic Board on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021, and that Programme Board members brief their appropriate Strategic Board members in advance of the meeting.**

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## 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

*Key to partnership organisations			
BHA	Berwickshire Housing Association	REP	Regional Economic Partnership
CA	Citizen’s Advice	RSL’s	Registered Social Landlord’s
CAH’s	Community Assistance Hubs	SBC	Scottish Borders Council
CPP	Community Planning Partnership	SBHA	Scottish Borders Housing Association
EIL	Eildon Housing Association	SDS	Skills Development Scotland
LAC	Locality Area Co-ordinators	SFRS	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
LB	Live Borders	SoSE	South of Scotland Enterprise
PACE	Partner Action for Continuing Employment	TSI	Third Sector Interface - Berwickshire Association for Voluntary Service, The Bridge, Volunteer Centre Borders, Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber
PS	Police Scotland	WAV	Waverley Housing

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

		<p>Adopting new technology</p> <p>Emergency funding in place &amp; being distributed as appropriate</p>			<p>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). NHOs attending Community Meeting weekly at Cheviot, Teviot and Tweeddale.</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. Welfare Calls are continuing as required. The monitoring tool has changed from the one we were originally going with; alternatives are being investigated.</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. Near Me Pilot was used by our Financial Inclusion Team successfully and has been rolled out to NHOs to offer tenants this form of communication.</p>
<b>Digital:</b>					
	<b>Families</b>	Connecting Scotland Digital Project – Phase 2	SBC/TSI/RSL's/ Live Borders		409 devices being awarded to Scottish Borders in Phase 2. These will support 321 families, 63 care leavers and 25 other vulnerable people.

					VCB worked with Eildon Housing supporting with volunteers for Digital Champions. SBSEC has been training volunteers and young people.
	<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	<p>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.</p> <p>LB submission to Financial Hardship Fund submitted to expand Connecting the Borders Project with deliver of wider scheme via CPP/SCVO and supported by library service/team</p>
	<b>Community</b>	Digital Access Programme	BAVS/BHA	<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><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</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>under way which includes Eyemouth Rotary project &amp; Outside the Box Digital Buddies. This will see a more coordinated Digital Strategy in Berwickshire.</p>
	<p><b>School pupils, student, community, employers</b></p>	<p>Digital Skills Hubs</p>	<p>Borders College (in partnership with D&amp;G College)</p>	<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. The Hub will form part of the DigiSkills Scotland Network.</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> <p>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&amp;G college; Staff and pupil/student mentoring scheme and development of progression pathways in Cyber Security to Napier University.</p>

		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. Rolling programme planned for new academic year.  LB Digital Skills via library service for users as part of restarts and ongoing programme.
	<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 Scottish Government. 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 the R100 programme.	<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>
<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 the 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%.
		BLSEP 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 skills and agree actions in response.	Borders Learning, Skills and Employability Partnership	Currently meeting every 3 weeks: Structure of BSLP being reviewed. Focus on:  Advanced manufacturing  Digital Skills Hub  Apprenticeship models  Construction  Green jobs	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.  Agreed priority actions for 2021/22:  1. Develop a skills development pipeline for each of the identified key sectors from school to post graduate and where there are gaps collectively agree a curriculum development programme. (Young People group)

				<p>Career pathways</p> <p>Developing enterprise skills</p>	<p>2. Increase local access to HE programmes, promote and build aspiration. (Borders College, SOSE)</p> <p>3. Develop apprenticeship pathways in key sectors, from foundation to graduate level included Shared models and increase accessibility for under-represented groups and individuals. (SDS, Borders College)</p> <p>4. Map/develop/enhance and deliver employability support to increase participation of marginalised and vulnerable groups. (Adult employability group)</p> <p>5. Increase awareness of labour market interventions to support workforce development, work-based learning reskilling and upskilling options to local employers with links to support. (Adult employability group)</p> <p>6. Create an Enterprise and Innovation ecosystem for the Scottish Borders which encourages social enterprise and expands the engagement with Young Enterprise Scotland across schools. (Young People group)</p> <p>7. Map/develop/enhance skills provision in the East of our region from school to HE level (Borders Council/College)</p>
	<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	<p><a href="http://www.borderscollege.ac.uk/find-a-course/">http://www.borderscollege.ac.uk/find-a-course/</a></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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. Second phase now launched.</p> <p>Increased number of short upskilling sustainable construction programmes now available. These include Insulation, ground source heat pumps, PV Installation, EV installation and repair,</p>

					wind turbine maintenance, conservation and forestry and land-based programmes. Also through CRF bid Carbon Literacy training programme will be provided to all school and college students and offered to community.
<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 Guidance for re-opening village halls and community buildings	Third Sector	<a href="http://onlineborders.org.uk/search/apachesolr_search/Federation%20of%20Village%20Halls">http://onlineborders.org.uk/search/apachesolr_search/Federation%20of%20Village%20Halls</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>  Consultation around Village Halls took place last month, data is currently being analysed.
	<b>Young People</b>	Under 19 Free Travel	SBC	Under 16s currently pay ½ fares on all local bus services  Large numbers of young people currently live off the main bus corridors and therefore may not benefit from the introduction of the scheme	The roll out of under 19 free travel has been delayed pending an request for an impact assessment on the Islands and rural areas  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  DRT services may provide an opportunity to link smaller communities into the wider bus network

					DRT Trial being implemented May/June 2021 on existing SBC DRT services, Possibility of also extending out to involve commercial operators
	<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 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>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>Patronage figures have now been received from Borders Buses to assess impact of diverting the 60 via Eyemouth. This will impact on Foulden residents at peak times as the service will divert. Initial assessments show that patronage numbers are low</p> <p>Possible opportunities to improve bus service connections in Berwickshire area</p> <p>Service Level Agreement to be agreed between Borders College and SBC on level of support required from Passenger Transport. Discussions ongoing.</p> <p>Borders College still require assistance from SBC with regards to transport provision. There is no capacity in the team at present to assist due to insufficient resource since the college transport officer post has been withdrawn</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 50% off their transport costs to and from employment</p> <p>All Bus operators in the region have signed up to the scheme.</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 awaiting confirmation of the number of people using the scheme for transport</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>A paper was approved by CMT in June to move to a new approach for home to school transport in which parents/carers will apply for transport rather than the council providing transport for all entitled pupils.</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>We are currently finalising the existing arrangements for August 2021 and will then move to the planning for a new network based on applications.</p> <p>Closing dates for applications is the 22nd of August 2021 with the new network to be procured and operational by January 2022</p>
	<b>Vulnerable/ Older People</b>	Community Transport Review	BAVS: Community Transport Development Officer/SBC Localities Transport Officer	<p>Currently 4 named partners operating CT across the Borders</p> <p>BAVS, The Bridge, RVS and</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> <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> <p>Draft Service Level Agreement has been circulated around the CT operators and discussions are underway around the content.</p> <p>David Hunter, consultant working with BAVS has submitted an interim 6 month report on the What Wheel Matters project which has outlines the Key objectives of WWM final report should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to provide a roadmap for better collaboration between CT operators</li> </ul>

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to identify and ideally report on some quick wins already achieved (website, SB Transport Forum?)</li> <li>to influence SBC senior management to invest in CT strategically.</li> </ul>
	<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>	<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</p> <p>The NHS reduced ticket deal will come to an end towards the end of July. Comms have been issued focussing on the success of the scheme. We are working with NHS Borders and local transport operators to look at ways to increase patronage and access to public transport.</p>

	<b>ALL</b>	Local Bus Services	SBC	<p>Current local bus network has seen significant drop in patronage following Covid -19 with levels at around 35% of pre covid levels.</p> <p>Some competition between subsidised and commercial services</p>	<p>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. Bus Patronage levels still sitting at 50% despite the recent relaxation of restrictions and evening and weekend services are still significantly reduced</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>The DRT project is awaiting final approval from UK government, expected mid to end of July.</p>
<b>Early Intervention &amp; Prevention:</b>					
	<b>All</b>	Whole System Approach in Eyemouth	Joint Health Improvement Team	<p><a href="https://www.nhsborder.scot.nhs.uk/healthimprovement">https://www.nhsborder.scot.nhs.uk/healthimprovement</a></p>	<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>Three workshops have taken place involving community members and stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify barriers to healthy weight</li> <li>• second to develop a vision statement, community priorities and a draft action plan</li> <li>• consolidated the draft action plan in preparation for phase 2 funding by agreeing the top three community priorities. Stakeholder agreed on 'quick wins' that were either already happening or could be readily met and they reached a consensus on the top three key priorities for action in phase 2.</li> </ul> <p>Top 3 Community Priorities include:</p>

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications via a What's On &amp; or Community Newsletter</li> <li>• Outdoor Activities – linked to Greenspace development and including cooking/physical activity options for children and for families</li> <li>• Family Participation &amp; Learning</li> </ul> <p>The working group are planning for priority theme meetings.</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> <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.</p>
		SBHA Ageing Well Strategy	SBHA		Ageing Well Strategy seeks to ensure sustainable housing for older people and was approved by SBHA Board May 2021 and in Year 1 of 5 Year Action Plan.
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing (including Mental Health):</b>					
	<b>All</b>	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.

					<p>LB engaging with NHS Long Covid Lead to support planned programme of support/treatment and links to LB Health Team and already signposting to Creative Health offer (see below)</p> <p>LB Creative Writing for Wellbeing programme in partnership with NHS/Creative Scotland 110 participants. Extended for further 3 mths to build evidence of outcomes and support integrating into core programme of creative health programmes</p> <p>Walking &amp; Reading Groups established in key locations across Borders</p>
	<b>All</b>	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>	<p>SBC Property Recovery Board meeting weekly re access to SBC properties</p> <p>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.</p> <p>SBC Property Recovery Board meeting weekly re access to SBC properties</p> <p>SBHA developing new flexible blended working arrangement</p> <p>Workforce Lateral flow Covid testing?</p>
	<b>All</b>	Covid-19 Vaccination Programme	NHS Borders	<a href="#">Covid-19 Vaccination Programme is operational and managed by NHS Borders.</a>	<p>Delivery of the vaccinations commenced in early December 2020. The Programme has offered first doses to all know individuals aged 18 and over. Second doses are now continuing and will be completed by mid-September. Mop up for Covid</p>

					<p>vaccination dose 1 and dose 2 will be on going to those that come forward.</p> <p>We are now planning for Tranche 2 Flu vaccination and Covid Booster. Delivery assumptions for Covid boosters are to be confirmed nationally.</p> <p>Berwickshire Wheels provided transport to 57 vaccinations appointments in Berwickshire.</p> <p>LB assisting and supporting with use of site/teams.</p>
	<b>Vulnerable Households</b>	Service Champions	SBHA		<p>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. Training for Neighbourhood Teams will continue, however this will focus on Dementia, Veterans, Fire Risk Assessment and LGBTQX as Training for the remaining ones has already taken place (Domestic Abuse, Addictions, Suicide Prevention and Mental Health).</p>
<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.	<p><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></p>

	<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, 255 tenants have received support and benefited from c£75,000 in financial savings. Additional Funding received from Scottish Government to help with Fuel Debt of £100,000, still have £50,000 to spend.
		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. . This was completed on 3 June 2021. Action Plan to be developed.
	<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>	Allocation of the Scottish Government “Addressing future need to support individuals at financial risk 2020/21”  Focussing on vulnerable families, digital poverty, food security and other essential emergencies	Scottish Borders Council	<a href="https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s49398/Item%20%20-%20Covid-19%20Responses%20-%20Proposals%20to%20Further%20Support%20Individuals...Committee%20Report.pdf">https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s49398/Item%20%20-%20Covid-19%20Responses%20-%20Proposals%20to%20Further%20Support%20Individuals...Committee%20Report.pdf</a>	Approved by SBC Executive 9 Feb 2021
<b>Employment &amp; Economy:</b>					
	<b>All</b>	SOSE/REP - Furthering the sustainable economic and social development of the South of Scotland & improving the amenity and environment of the South of Scotland:  SOSE Operating Plan now published which	SOSE/REP	<a href="https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/news">https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/news</a>  <a href="https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/media/1187/sose_consultation_strategy20_interactive.pdf">https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/media/1187/sose_consultation_strategy20_interactive.pdf</a>	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.  Team SoSE continues to meet regularly to share intelligence on Covid and Brexit and to co-ordinate activity.  An Engagement Framework has been published which sets out how SOSE intends to engage with stakeholders, particularly

		<p>focuses on: Adaption and 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>around the development of an Action Plan with longer term priorities for SOSE</p>
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		SOSE Consultation Strategy being 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://scottishborder.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s49403/Item%2010%20-%20Executive%20report%20on%20Employability.%20090221.pdf">https://scottishborder.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s49403/Item%2010%20-%20Executive%20report%20on%20Employability.%20090221.pdf</a>	Interactive leaflet created by YPG partnership and circulated to all school leavers highlighting options and support available
	<b>All</b>	Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE)	SDS/DWP/LA/SoSE	National marketing campaign ongoing including a short video on PACE redundancy support:	<p>881 individuals received PACE information between 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021. 37 between 1 April 2021 – 15 July 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 or where an individual has received multiple</p>

			<p><a href="https://www.ourskillsforce.co.uk/support-with-business-change/pace-free-advice-on-redundancy/?utm_medium=email&amp;utm_campaign=Making%20Skills%20Work%20-%20Scottish%20Borders%20-%20Feb%202021&amp;utm_content=Making%20Skills%20Work%20-%20Scottish%20Borders%20-%20Feb%2021+CIDe5f274edc89c6afe81e33f19ffc9dc0f&amp;utm_source=Campaign%20Monitor%20email%20campaign&amp;utm_term=PACE%20support">https://www.ourskillsforce.co.uk/support-with-business-change/pace-free-advice-on-redundancy/?utm_medium=email&amp;utm_campaign=Making%20Skills%20Work%20-%20Scottish%20Borders%20-%20Feb%202021&amp;utm_content=Making%20Skills%20Work%20-%20Scottish%20Borders%20-%20Feb%2021+CIDe5f274edc89c6afe81e33f19ffc9dc0f&amp;utm_source=Campaign%20Monitor%20email%20campaign&amp;utm_term=PACE%20support</a></p>	<p>engagements from SDS). 7 individuals received a PACE service from SDS between 1 April 2021 – 15 July 2021</p> <p>Fortnightly PACE Strategy Group meetings are ongoing around response to redundancies, chaired by SDS Pace Chair. Representation from SBC, SDS, SoSE and DWP and including the newly appointed PACE Single Point of Contact (SPOC)</p> <p>PACE webinars are ongoing with additional local content added.</p>
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		Develop a Covid-19 Vulnerability Assessment to identify those most in need at Ward level.	SBC to produce initial draft with partner input	<p>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></p> <p>Scottish Borders ScotPHO 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>	Completed and circulated
	<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>App Downloads            Launch to 31st March 2021: 141            Q1 April to June 2021: 127            Total Downloads: 268</p> <p>Reporting processes are currently being agreed.</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 including community testing &amp; vaccination</li> </ul> <p>April to June Training has taken place with community testing colleagues who are raising awareness of support through conversations and signposting people to the App.</p> <p>Q1 (April to June) Consultation has taken place with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer Testers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HLN Volunteers</li> <li>• Regional Early Years Network colleagues</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>In Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respondents rated the App 4.32 stars out of 5</li> <li>• 46/48 respondents said they would use/promote/signpost people to the App in the future.</li> </ul> <p>Promotional Posters have been updated to include QR codes and we are working in partnership with West Coast Motors to promote at bus stations and on bus screens.</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>
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					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.
	<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>	Child Payment: Applications open Nov 2020, payment Feb 2021. Child Heating Allowance: Dec 2020
	<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>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</p>

					<p>a video as part of the Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival in May 2021.</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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					<p>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.</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</p>
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					<p>capacity building was adapted and the availability of online learning was increased.</p> <p>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.</p>
	<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>	<p>Complete &amp; ongoing</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Bavs created a Berwickshire resource that is now available to Social Work team in Berwickshire and CAH:</p> <p><a href="https://www.bavs.org.uk/berwickshire-community-food-projects">https://www.bavs.org.uk/berwickshire-community-food-projects</a></p>
	<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">http://onlineborders.org.uk/sites/default/files/thebridge/files/Fallago%20Environment</a>	<p>Scheme now closed with 38 awards made to local community projects – COMPLETE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grants obtained and dispersed during COVID19:</li> <li>• National Lottery,</li> </ul>

				<a href="#">ment%20Fund%20Covid-19RecoveryProgramsAug2020.pdf</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Government Supporting Communities Fund</li> <li>• Fallago</li> <li>• Scottish Government Wellbeing fund</li> <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/coronaviruses-information-and-resources">http://onlineborders.org.uk/community/thebridge/coronaviruses-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>  A collaborative system-wide review announced on 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2021:  <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>	Being delivered 2020/21 – set up complete & ongoing.  Annual Participation Measure published in August 2020 showed that 94.5% of Borders 16-19 year olds were participating in education, training or employment compared to 92.1% nationally.  <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>  Monthly Participation Snapshot for 16-17 year olds published in May showed that 96.1% were participating compared to 95.7% nationally –  <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>  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.
	<b>All</b>	Upcycling of digital devices	Newlands Community Development Trust	Donate, refurbish & rehome digital devices	<a href="https://renewcrew.org.uk/">https://renewcrew.org.uk/</a>  COMPLETE - Project now up and running
	<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>	<p>Approx. 300 devices delivered in Phase 1 and support provided for 6 months – COMPLETE.</p> <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	<p>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;MIId=5138&amp;Ver=4">https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&amp;MIId=5138&amp;Ver=4</a></p> <p>The recommendations in relation to the Community Fund have been approved and are in process of being implemented.</p> <p>A further report on Area Partnerships will be taken to Council in Autumn 2021.</p>
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;MIId=5138&amp;Ver=4">https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&amp;MIId=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.
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## **SCOTTISH BORDERS COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD**

### **Community Learning and Development Plan 2021-24**

#### **Report by Service Director Children and Young People's Services**

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**9 September 2021**

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

- 1.1 **This report proposes that the Community Planning Partnership approves the Community Learning and Development Partnership Plan for 2021-24 for publication in September 2021.**
- 1.2 The Plan is a statutory duty on local authorities [*The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013*] the purpose is to "identify the CLD needs of target individuals and groups within the local authority area" and they must "publish plans every 3 years containing information about the provision of community learning and development".
- 1.3 This Plan aims to benefit:
  1. Young people, most impacted by Covid-19, with a particular focus on supporting positive transitions in a broad range of contexts.
  2. Adults of all ages, most impacted by Covid-19, with a particular focus on those most at risk of isolation or experiencing multiple disadvantage.
  3. Geographic communities – most impacted by Covid-19 as identified in the Scottish Borders Covid-19 Index.
- 1.4 The Scottish Borders CLD Strategic Partnership aims to improve outcomes for learners and communities through the provision of co-ordinated, collaborative and targeted CLD interventions. It will do this by partners working together to deliver actions that address the agreed improvement priorities in this Plan.
- 1.5 The Objectives of the Plan are:
  1. Reducing Inequalities
  2. Covid-19 Recovery
  3. Development of the CLD Partnership)
- 1.6 The Improvement Priorities of the Plan are:

1. Learning and Employability
  2. Health Inequalities
  3. Digital Inclusion
  4. Covid-19 impact and recovery
  5. Participation and engagement
  6. Workforce Development
- 1.7 The Partnership will monitor progress using the CLD outcomes framework. Measures and lead organisations have been agreed for most actions. Partners will work together over the coming months to finalise monitoring and evaluation processes, which will include the setting of targets.
- 1.8 Covid-19 has impacted on the Partnership's ability to involve learners and communities directly in developing this Plan. Evidence of need has been drawn from a range of surveys of Borders residents and extrapolated from national data. Additional community/learner engagement will take place in year one of the Plan which will inform priorities and action in years two and three.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **2.1 I recommend that the Strategic Board:-**

- (a) approves the CLD Strategic Partnership Plan 2021-24 and recognises that it supports delivery of key CPP priorities for learners and communities in the Scottish Borders;**
- (b) agrees that Partner members reflect this Plan within their own organisational plans and continue to make available the existing resources which are required for delivery of the Plan;**
- (c) reflects on the statement of unmet need and supports CLD partners to explore how these areas of need could be addressed throughout the lifetime of the Plan;**
- (d) receives an annual report on progress of the Plan;**
- (e) considers the contribution of the CLD sector and how our shared objectives may be reflected in the next refresh of the CPP Community Plan; and**
- (f) recognises how a locality partnership approach to planning has supported successful community based delivery of CLD and consider how this approach may be best embedded in future locality partnership planning models.**

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 CLD is a field of professional practice that enables people to identify their own individual and collective goals, to engage in learning and take action to bring about change for themselves and their communities. It includes Youth Work, Adult and Family Learning, Community Development and Capacity Building, and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). It is delivered by both the Public and Third Sector.
- 3.2 In the Scottish Borders, CLD activity is supported, planned and improved through a multi-agency partnership. The CLD Strategic Partnership meets 4 times each year, currently chaired by Susan Hunter of YouthBorders.
- 3.3 The Plan is a statutory duty on local authorities [*The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013*]. The purpose is to “identify the CLD needs of target individuals and groups within the local authority area” and they must publish partnership “plans every 3 years containing information about the provision of community learning and development”.
- 3.4 The CLD Strategic Plan 2021-24 has been developed by the CLD Partnership over the past 6 months through small working groups and inter-agency engagement and data sharing. It has been informed by national guidance from HMIE/Education Scotland on the development of the 2021-24 plans. There is an expectation that Local Authority Plans will adapt over the first year as the sector and communities recover from Covid-19. Community/Learner engagement can also take place in Year 1 due to the restricted opportunities for face-to-face CLD which support quality participation and engagement.
- 3.5 The Scottish Borders CLD Strategic Partnership has agreed that the focus of this Plan will be on partnership working, and by this we mean three or more partners involved in delivery of improvement priorities.
- 3.6 This CLD Plan and Partnership approach will be subject to scrutiny through the HMIE Inspection cycle for Community Learning and Development; including through annual HMIE engagement with the local authority.

### **4 BENEFICIARIES**

- 4.1 The Partnership recognises that CLD activity can support, enable and empower learners and communities to fully realise their potential. They also recognise the important preventative role that universal provision, such as community-based youth work, can have on achieving positive outcomes and impact. However, the Partnership wishes to direct collective resources and energies in a targeted manner, informed by data, local insight and learner voice and experience.

4.2 The intentions of this Plan will benefit:

- a) **Young people**, most impacted by Covid-19, with a particular focus on **supporting positive transitions** in a broad range of contexts.
- b) **Adults of all ages**, most impacted by Covid-19, with a particular focus on those **most at risk of isolation or experiencing multiple disadvantage**.
- c) **Geographic communities** – most impacted by Covid-19 as identified in the Scottish Borders Covid-19 Index.

## 5 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

<b>Aim</b>	<b>The Scottish Borders CLD Strategic Partnership aims to improve outcomes for learners and communities through the provision of coordinated, collaborative and targeted CLD interventions.</b>		
<b>Objectives</b>	A. To <b>reduce inequalities</b> in our communities through the provision of early intervention and prevention activities which are life-wide, life-long and centred on the needs and aspirations of our learners and communities.	B. To support a CLD sector which is resilient and sustainable as it <b>recovers from the impacts of Covid-19</b>	C. To <b>develop our CLD workforce</b> and partnership activity to increase collaboration and recognition within and between agencies and services.
<b>Improvement Priorities for 2021-24</b>	1. Creating additional opportunities and support for <b>learning, employability and creating local wealth</b> .	4. Understanding the <b>impact of Covid-19 and Covid-19 recovery planning</b> on the CLD sector and on the individuals and communities that are our partners in learning and development.	6. Our <b>workforce will be skilled, supported, empowered</b> to plan, delivery and evaluate quality CLD activities and interventions.
	2. Protecting and improving <b>health and wellbeing outcomes</b> for young people, adults and families	5. <b>Involving learners and communities</b> in the design, delivery, evaluation and improvement of our CLD activity; ensuring that this is meaningful and supports learning and development of individuals and communities; striving towards co-production.	
	3. Addressing <b>digital poverty</b> , ensuring learners have the necessary tools, skills and support to access digital learning and services.		

## **6 EXAMPLES OF PLANNED ACTIONS**

- 6.1 Develop a partnership community-based employability offer for adults, initially targeting those communities identified through the Covid-19 vulnerability index.
- 6.2 Develop a local, community-based health and wellbeing offer, to run alongside the employability offer, initially targeting those communities identified through the Covid-19 vulnerability index.
- 6.3 Develop a co-ordinated approach to provide earlier intervention and a continuum of employability support for young people 14-24 years, involving key partners and including provision which supports the increased use of the Youth Work Skills Framework.
- 6.4 Support community-based learners to access and use digital devices through the Connecting Scotland and Connecting Borders programmes.
- 6.5 Share learning and knowledge and develop a coordinated approach across the Partnership to support Third Sector committees/trustees through Covid-19 Recovery.
- 6.6 Further develop Adult Learner and Parent Voice models, to increase their influence in shaping services and decision making.
- 6.7 Further develop young people's voice model, sharing practice and intelligence across partners to improve reach, quality and reduce consultation fatigue.
- 6.8 Pathways to CLD – including qualification, progression, succession planning, grow our own workers, supported employment, industry profile.
- 6.9 Establish a Regional Youth Workers Forum to support professional recognition, peer support, practice sharing, and CPD needs.
- 6.10 Create capacity and infrastructure which supports CLD student placements in the Scottish Borders.

## **7 STATEMENT OF UNMET NEED (this is a specific requirement of the CLD regulation)**

- 7.1 The CLD Strategic Partnership does not have any shared resources. Outcomes of this Plan will be achieved through existing partners' resources. This Plan focuses on the added value that can be achieved through effective collaboration, joint planning, shared outcomes, and the contribution of each partners own resource (usually staff/volunteer time).
- 7.2 All members of the CLD Partnership are working in contexts of reducing resource either through budget saving or loss of income. The CLD

Partnership recognises that there is a widening gap between need and ability to provide services which meet these needs.

- 7.3 Many CLD partners have had to focus activity on targeted and time limited interventions – there is a risk that community-based universal provision is weakened as a result of reduced budgets.
- 7.4 Annualised reducing budgets and the absence of multi-year funding arrangements for the Third Sector restrict the possibilities of both the CLD Partnership and individual CLD partners to make long-term commitments to sustainable CLD service provision and workforce development and succession planning.
- 7.5 As a Partnership we have discussed areas of potential innovation and development which could address some of the need we have identified which will not be met by current actions in this Plan. Areas for development which would require additional financial resource include:
  - 7.5.1 Provision of high-quality street/**detached youth work** in targeted communities
  - 7.5.2 Increase the availability and sustainability of **universal CLD activities for young people, adults and families**
  - 7.5.3 Capacity to support the **development and coordination of local data** across the Partnership’s activity
  - 7.5.4 Resource to develop, embed, and **build capacity for youth social action** across all Partners
  - 7.5.5 Development of **Employer Supported Volunteering** across all Partners
  - 7.5.6 **Digital literacy education and data privacy rights** for vulnerable children, young people, and adults of all ages
  - 7.5.7 **Participatory budgeting** as a means of tackling inequalities and building community capacity

## **8 IMPLICATIONS**

### **8.1 Financial**

- a) Actions detailed within the CLD Plan 2021 -24 will be carried out with existing resources.
- b) Areas for development which would address unmet need have been identified which would require additional resource. The Partnership is seeking support for CLD partners to explore how these areas of need could be addressed throughout the lifetime of the Plan.

### **8.2 Risk and Mitigations**

Risks associated with this Plan include:

- a) Potential for widening of inequalities during Covid-19 recovery, as those individuals who were disadvantaged prior to the pandemic are likely to be even more disadvantaged during recovery. In mitigation, CLD partners aim to further develop their understanding of the impact of the pandemic on disadvantage in Scottish Borders in year one and amend actions in year two and three as a result
- b) Change to resources available to CLD partners would impact on the capacity to work in partnership and deliver actions. Partners in the Third Sector are reliant on external funding. Mitigation: multi-year allocation of grants (at least 3 years) increases capacity of the sector for more effective partnership planning.

### 8.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

An integrated impact assessment has been carried out for the CLD Plan 2021-24. Implementation of the Plan should have a positive impact on most of the equalities groups (with the exception of marriage/civil partnership) and will reduce socio-economic disadvantage.

### 8.4 Sustainable Development Goals

Actions around Improvement Priorities 1-5 will contribute towards achievement of Sustainable Development Goals as detailed below:

Sustainable Development Goals	CLD Plan Improvement Priorities
1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all potential 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	<b>1: Creating additional opportunities and support for learning, employability and creating local wealth.</b>
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages	<b>2: Protecting and improving health and wellbeing outcomes for young people, adults and families</b>
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation	<b>3. Addressing digital poverty, ensuring learners have the necessary tools, skills and support to access digital learning and services</b>
10. Reduce inequalities within and among countries	<b>4. Understanding the impact of Covid-19 and Covid-19 recovery planning on the CLD sector and on the individuals and communities that are our partners in learning and development.</b> <b>5. Involving learners and</b>

	<b>communities</b> in the design, delivery, evaluation and improvement of our CLD activity; ensuring that this is meaningful and supports learning and development of individuals and communities; striving towards co-production.
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	<b>4. Understanding the impact of Covid-19 and Covid-19 recovery</b> planning on the CLD sector and on the individuals and communities that are our partners in learning and development. <b>5. Involving learners and communities</b> in the design, delivery, evaluation and improvement of our CLD activity; ensuring that this is meaningful and supports learning and development of individuals and communities; striving towards co-production.
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development	<b>5. Involving learners and communities</b> in the design, delivery, evaluation and improvement of our CLD activity; ensuring that this is meaningful and supports learning and development of individuals and communities; striving towards co-production.

## 8.5 Climate Change

CLD partners will work together to improve health and wellbeing of disadvantaged individuals and communities, including promotion of the concessionary travel scheme for young people (Jan 2022) and the health benefits of sustainable travel. The CLD Plan aims to support local employment, create opportunities for learning in local communities, build the capacity of local volunteer involving organisations and create career routes which support young people to live and work in the Borders. The Plan aims to make best use of local resources by improving joint planning and reducing duplication of effort and resource. The Plan aims to support the CLD sector to continue to adapt and change to future demands.

## 8.6 Rural Proofing

The Plan will focus some Partnership activity in year one on those communities identified by the Covid-19 vulnerability index as most in need of support during Covid-19 recovery, which includes Coldstream and area (accessible rural classification). At the same time there is also a recognition that disadvantage can exist right across Scottish Borders and partnership effort will be focused on building capacity across the CLD sector to sustain universal provision.

## 8.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

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

## 8.8 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.

## 9 CONSULTATION

9.1 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 and any comments received will need to be incorporated into the final report.

### Approved by

**Lesley Munro**

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

### Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Oonagh McGarry	CLD Team leader (adult learning) 01835 824000 ext 8012
Susan Hunter	Chief Executive Officer YouthBorders

**Background Papers:** CLD Strategic Plan 2021-24

**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. Oonagh McGarry can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Oonagh McGarry, Scottish Borders Council, Council HQ, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose TD6 0SZ Tel: 01835 824000 ext 8012

[omcgarry@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:omcgarry@scotborders.gov.uk)

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# Scottish Borders CLD Strategic Partnership Plan 2021-24

By Scottish Borders CLD Strategic Partnership

September 2021



**DRAFT – 20 AUGUST 2021**

## Foreword

Cllr Rowley Scottish Borders Council Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Finance  
& Cllr Hamilton Scottish Borders Council Executive Member for Children and Young People.

We are delighted to introduce the Scottish Borders Community Learning and Development (CLD) Strategic Partnership Plan 2021-24 which was approved by the Community Planning Partnership on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

The CLD sector supports individuals, families and communities in Scottish Borders to improve life chances for all ages through lifelong learning, personal development and active citizenship. The role and contribution of CLD practitioners (paid and voluntary) during the unprecedented challenges of the previous 18 months in supporting our most vulnerable and isolated individuals and communities has been one of the positive consequences of Covid-19. The CLD sector quickly identified and adapted to new ways of engaging with learners and communities. It is testament to the diversity and vibrancy of the sector that it was able to respond in this way. The Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact on local communities and the CLD sector itself needs to recover from the pandemic and remain resilient for the future. It is with these considerations that the Partnership has refreshed the current CLD Strategic Partnership Plan 2018-2021.

The Partnership's aspiration to develop a healthier, fairer and more prosperous Borders community acknowledges the remarkable assets that we have in our community including skilled people, committed volunteers, engaged lifelong learners and enterprising organisations. It is by utilising and supporting the workforce, in youth work, adult and family learning, and community development, who understand the ongoing need within our communities, that we will be able to provide support to those who need it most including young people, adults of all ages and geographical communities who have been impacted upon most by Covid-19.

We fully support the commitment of the Partnership to improve outcomes for learners and communities as we recover from Covid-19 and are pleased to approve this Plan.

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***“We will be a region of opportunity – where natural capital propels green growth, quality of life is unmatched, communities are empowered and cultural identity is cherished, attracting a new generation to live, work, visit, learn and invest in the South of Scotland, and enabling those already here to thrive”. (Draft Regional Economic Strategy, 2021)***

## Our Community Learning and Development (CLD) Strategic Partnership Plan on a Page

<b>Aim</b>	<b>The Scottish Borders CLD Strategic Partnership aims to improve outcomes for learners and communities through the provision of coordinated, collaborative and targeted CLD interventions.</b>		
<b>Objectives</b>	A. To reduce inequalities in our communities through the provision of early intervention and prevention activities which are life-wide, life-long and centred on the needs and aspirations of our learners and communities.	B. To support a CLD sector which is resilient and sustainable as it recovers from the impacts of Covid-19	C. To develop our CLD workforce and partnership activity to increase collaboration and recognition within and between agencies and services.
<b>Improvement Priorities for 2021-24</b> Page 59	1. Creating additional opportunities and support for learning, employability and creating local wealth.	4. Understanding the impact of Covid-19 and Covid-19 recovery planning on the CLD sector and on the individuals and communities that are our partners in learning and development.	6. Our workforce will be skilled, supported, empowered to plan, delivery and evaluate quality CLD activities and interventions.
	2. Protecting and improving health and wellbeing outcomes for young people, adults and families	5. Involving learners and communities in the design, delivery, evaluation and improvement of our CLD activity; ensuring that this is meaningful and supports learning and development of individuals and communities; striving towards co-production.	
	3. Addressing digital poverty, ensuring learners have the necessary tools, skills and support to access digital learning and services.		

## Section 1: Context

Community learning and development (CLD) activity in the Scottish Borders is a key contributor to the social and economic development of our region, for young people, adults, and communities. The CLD workforce of paid staff and volunteers in youth work, adult learning and community capacity building are skilled, competent and ethical – working in a way which reflects a core set of values (see fig.1).

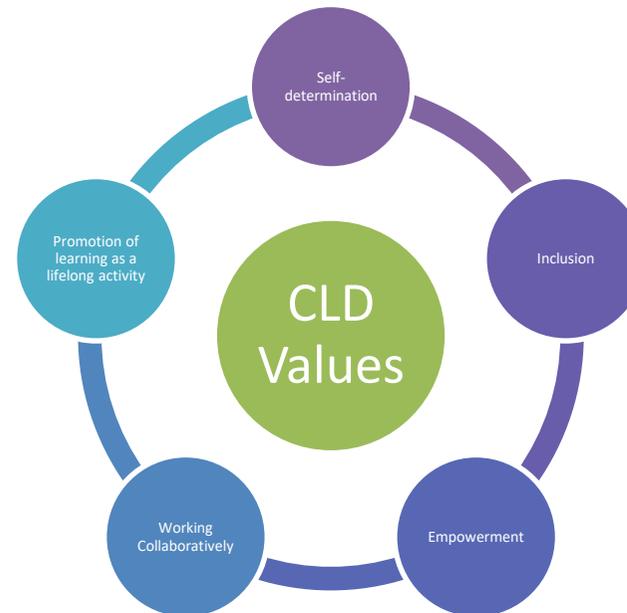
### What is CLD?

CLD is a field of professional practice that enables people to identify their own individual and collective goals, to engage in learning and take action to bring about change for themselves and their communities. CLD uses a range of formal and informal methods of learning and social development with individuals and groups in their communities. CLD programmes and activities are developed in dialogue with communities and participants, working particularly with those excluded from participation in the decisions and processes that shape their lives. (CLD Standards Council for Scotland: [What is Community Learning and Development \(CLD\)? | CLD Standards Council for Scotland](#))

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**CLD ‘plays a central part in ensuring individuals, families and communities across Scotland reach their potential through lifelong learning, mutual self-help and community organisation - and that the available support and opportunities are community-led, built around people’s aspirations.’**

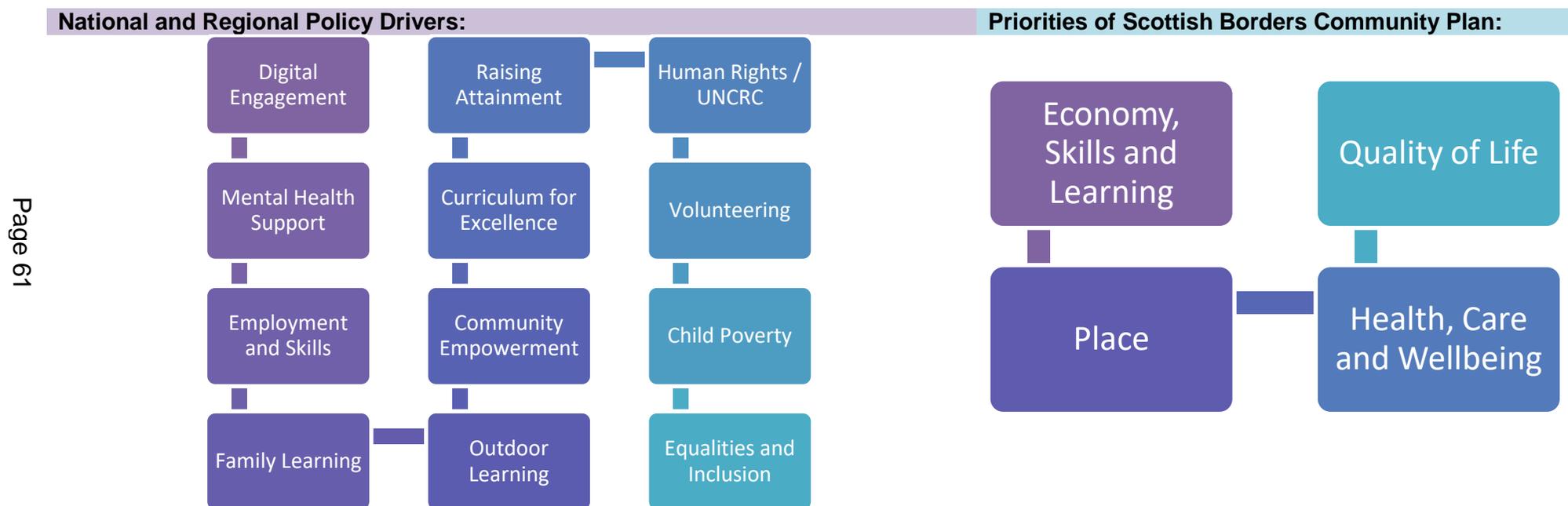
In the Scottish Borders, CLD activity is supported, planned and improved through a multi-agency partnership. This CLD Strategic Partnership, with the education authority as the lead partner, is required by statute [*The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013*] to “identify the CLD needs of target individuals and groups within the local authority area” and they must “publish plans every 3 years containing information about the provision of community learning and development”. This Plan sets out these needs, the provision of CLD activity, and our intentions for the next three years, 2021-24 – and will focus this planning within the context of community and personal recovery from the impacts of Covid-19.



## CLD and Regional and National Policy

This CLD Strategic Partnership Plan for 2021-24 sits within a regional strategic context which includes our Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership, the local authority Strategic and Corporate Plan, our integrated Children and Young People’s Services Plan 2021-23, and our regional employment and skills partnership. Alongside this the Scottish Borders plays a collaborative role within the South East Improvement Collaborative (SEIC), and the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership, Borderlands and the City-Region Deal. This Plan seeks to recognise these drivers of strategic planning and governance, without restating them, and instead intends to recognise the unique CLD contribution to our many shared agendas for improving outcomes for learners and communities in the Scottish Borders.

CLD’s contribution to the national and regional policy drivers is established – and includes but is not limited to the areas identified in Figure 2.



*Regional and National Policy Drivers for CLD provision (Figure 2.)*

We have developed this plan through 2021 at which time the Scottish Government and its national partners and agencies are developing national strategies for youth work and adult learning. The Scottish Government’s Programme for Government commits to a national Lifelong Learning Framework. It is anticipated that our Scottish Borders plan will flex and respond to these national strategies in the later years of this plan. However, we approach this current plan from the outset with a clear commitment to learning which is inclusive to all, lifelong, life-wide, and person centred.

## Who provides CLD?

In the Scottish Borders, CLD activity is undertaken in a wide range of settings, and the competencies of the skilled workforce are utilised by staff and volunteers in a range of organisations across the public and third sector. Most evidently this includes the local authority Community Learning and Development Service (Youth Learning and Adult Learning Teams), community capacity builders, third sector youth workers, school-based youth workers, community development workers, adult educators, and community health improvement specialists. Collectively this workforce and the organisations who enable them are furthering the national **Outcomes Framework for Youth Work, Adult Learning and Community Development** (Figure 3.)

General Themes	Youth Work	Adult Learning	Community Development
Confidence, Resilience and Optimism	Young people are confident, resilient and optimistic for the future	Adult learners are confident, resilient and optimistic for the future	Communities are confident, resilient and optimistic for the future
Relationships, Networks and Connections	Young people manage personal, social and formal relationships	Adult learners develop positive networks and social connections.	Communities manage links within communities and other communities and networks
Applied Learning and Skills	Young people create, describe and apply their learning and skills.	Adult learners apply their skills, knowledge and understanding across the four areas of life.	Community members identify their capacities, learning and skills, enhance the and apply them to their own issues
Participation, Inclusion and Equality	Young people participate safely and effectively in groups	Adult learners participate equally, inclusively and effectively	Community members form and participate equally, inclusively and effectively in accountable groups
Decision Making	Young people consider risk, make reasoned decisions and take control.	Adult learners are equipped to meet key challenges and transitions in their lives.	Communities consider risk, make reasoned decisions and take control of agendas
Empowerment and Social Responsibility	Young people express their voice and demonstrate social commitment	Adult learners express their voices, co-design their learning and influence local and national policy	Communities express their voice and demonstrate commitment to social justice and action to achieve it
Positive Experiences and Reflections	Young people's perspectives are broadened through new experiences and thinking	Adult learners critically reflect on their experiences and make positive changes for themselves and their communities	Community members' perspectives are broadened through new and diverse experiences and connections.

*CLD Outcomes (Figure 3.)*

## The Scottish Borders CLD Strategic Partnership and Achievements 2018-21

The Scottish Borders CLD Strategic Partnership (hereafter known as the Partnership) creates a forum for leadership and strategic development for organisations engaged in the provision or development of CLD activity. The Partnership is convened quarterly under the stewardship of the local authority CLD Service but with multi-agency membership including:

<b>Public Sector</b>	<b>Third Sector</b>
Scottish Borders Council NHS Borders Borders College Skills Development Scotland DWP RSL Forum Scottish Fire and Rescue	YouthBorders Live Borders Borders Third Sector Interface: The Bridge Berwickshire Association of Voluntary Services Volunteer Centre Borders Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber

Working as partners with schools, our college, third sector organisations and our community planning partners the Partnership has responsibility to ensure our CLD services and activities are both adequate and efficient. It is the collective effort, energies, skills and knowledge of this Partnership and the workforce, communities and organisations that they represent that will drive forward this plan, utilising existing resources to add value through collaborative and joint working.

The Partnership is maturing, and its previous successes and achievements in our previous Plan 2018-21 are evident.

<b>Youth Work</b>	<b>Adult and Family Learning</b>	<b>Community Development</b>
<p>A regional stakeholder event in 2019 co-hosted by YouthBorders and SBC CLDS informed the development of the forthcoming National Youth Work Strategy.</p> <p>Accredited learning for young people via youth awards is delivered in partnership by SBC CLDS, YouthBorders, Youth Scotland and involves a broad range of youth work organisations in all localities.</p> <p>Our third sector youth work workforce is supported by quality training and professional learning through YouthBorders.</p> <p>In 2019/20: 24 sessions – 252 attendees            In 2020/21: 25 sessions – 261 attendees</p> <p>Youth Work VQ is approved for delivery by Borders College to support Youth Work apprenticeships.</p>	<p>Adult Learners and practitioners have contributed to the development of the National Adult Learning Strategy through online surveys, attendance at events and consultation exercises.</p> <p>Adult learner consultation, surveys and events in 2018, 2019 and 2020 gathered feedback which has been used to influence delivery of the CLD service's learning programmes. Parent Voice members in Galashiels have contributed to the implementation of SBC's Partnership with Parents Framework across schools and early years settings.</p> <p>The achievement of Adult Learners was recognised and celebrated through the annual Scottish Borders Adult Learners</p>	<p>There are Nine Mens' Sheds in the Scottish Borders in Eyemouth, Duns, Coldstream, Lauderdale, Kelso, Galashiels, Hawick, Jedburgh and Peebles. All fully operational sheds have workshops with a range of equipment, tools and materials, workbenches and storage space. There are also spaces to relax with a cuppa. The sheds played a key role making and supplying PPE in the early stages of the pandemic.</p> <p>The Bridge and the Federations of Village and Community Halls produced the Village Halls Handbook for the Scottish Borders (June 2020), with guidance now reflecting covid-19 safe working.</p> <p>Concerned about the impact of the pandemic on Third Sector organisations, BAVS secured</p>

<p>Strategically community-based universal youth work is commissioned via the Children and Young People's Leadership Group using an established locality model: the Scottish Borders Youth Work Partnership. This same Partnership has delivered early intervention wellbeing support through community based youth work, funded by NLCF, in the Stepping Stones project since 2018.</p> <p>Third Sector Youth Work in the Scottish Borders has been consistently recognised by the National Youth Work Awards. With winners and finalists in categories such as Equality and Diversity; Arts &amp; Creativity; Youth Justice &amp; Prevention.</p> <p>Young people's achievements, volunteering efforts, and resilience during Covid-19 was recognised by the 2020 Inspire Awards delivered in partnership by Volunteer Centre Borders, YouthBorders and SBC CLDS.</p> <p>The Scottish Borders Youth Work Partnership, led by YouthBorders, in partnership with CLD secured investment from the Youth Work Education Recovery Fund for targeted youth work interventions during spring, summer and autumn 2021 for young people most disadvantaged by the impacts of Covid-19.</p>	<p>Awards in 2019 and 2020. A total of 44 individuals and 14 groups (63 individuals) were nominated.</p> <p>The Border Older People's Partnership (BOPP) has been established, bringing together older people and service providers to share information, experience and plan together. During Covid-19, BOPP planned and carried out a survey of 487 people over 60yrs, to understand their experience of the pandemic. Volunteers were trained to conduct interviews by phone as well as using an online survey.</p> <p>Multi-agency Early Years Summer programmes supported families in Burnfoot, Eyemouth, Langlee and Selkirk to engage children and families in health improving activities including good food sessions, physical activity and family learning opportunities. The programmes gained sponsorship to provide free lunches and snacks in 2019 and attendance increased to 145 families attended in 2019. This included 35 invited families.</p> <p>Borders College continued to offer a community and open learning programme across the Borders, alongside specific programmes aimed at increasing employability and creating gateways to career pathways. The development of the Digital hub and spoke model is facilitating digital learning in rural areas.</p>	<p>funding to cover the costs of support intervention to Third Sector leaders. The Virtual Action Learning sets provided coaching facilitation to more than 15 Third Sector leaders across the Scottish Borders.</p> <p>BAVS started the What Wheelie Matters project in October 2020, looking sustainable transport solutions in the Scottish Borders. The Borders Community Transport Service have been working closely with Scottish Borders Council and NHS passenger transport discussing transport provisions and contracts.</p> <p>BAVS obtained two years' funding from the National Lottery for the About Berwickshire project, which aims to create community capacity as a recovery plan to re-build community life.</p> <p>Borders Third Sector Interface (TSI) partners produced a Borders Third sector survey and have recruited the first Communications Officer for the Borders TSI. Collectively, the 4 partner organisations worked to re-brand the Borders TSI with a new logo, the launch of the Borders TSI newsletter and a new Borders TSI website: <a href="https://borderstsi.org.uk/">https://borderstsi.org.uk/</a>. TSI Forums were re-established prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown.</p> <p>Borders Community Transport Service BCTS delivered a collective 31,358 client journeys through the voluntary contribution of 60 volunteer drivers (2018/19). The Partnership Flow Centre has facilitated a significant increase in shared journeys and a reduction to near zero for declined journeys, as well as</p>
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		<p>enabling closer working with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and others.</p> <p>A LEADER funded post: Enterprise Facilitator (The Bridge/BAVS) supported Community Development Trusts.</p> <p>Locally the CLD Strategic Partnership has been supported by CLD Learning Community Partnerships and during the Covid-19 pandemic by the establishment of Community Assistance Hubs (CAHs). Local Area Partnerships also play a significant role in the democratic engagement of communities in the Scottish Borders. Working groups have recently been established to further support engagement of local people in decision making including in the assessment of community funds.</p>
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**Covid-19 Response**

**Volunteer and community group response to pandemic:** in many communities the infrastructure to support volunteer activity was already in place enabling groups to recruit, train and co-ordinate volunteering to meet basic needs and support community well-being. Volunteer Centre Borders (VCB) put out a call for volunteers in the early stages of the pandemic. In total 605 individuals responded: 204 from Eildon; 158 from Tweeddale; 79 from Berwickshire; 60 from Teviot & Tweeddale and 104 from Cheviot. Ongoing dialogue between volunteers, third sector and public sector is helping improve well-being outcomes within the community.

**Community Assistance Hubs (CAHs) and development of locality approach:** collaboration with partners and flexible operating models were key in being able to co-ordinate support through the CAHs. The intention is to work with communities to develop and improve the model which will in turn inform our Community and Locality Plans.

**Digital inclusion:** Borders College provided 550 additional laptops and 60 dongles to enable students to undertake online study. Every student of the college was offered a device if they needed one. Third sector youth work organisations provided online youth work delivery throughout the pandemic, adapting delivery models and continuing to be responsive to the needs and interests of young people. This included the provision of devices, financial support for data packages, and online safety information to young people and their families. CLD Partners have been involved in the operationalisation of Connecting Scotland.

**Third Sector Support:** Borders TSI and YouthBorders provided trusted information and support to changing guidance for community groups and organisations. Where appropriate these organisations have sought to inform and influence national and regional decision-making and approaches to covid-19 response and recovery.

*The Bridge* conducted four surveys of community groups and organisations which they used to inform their offer of capacity building support. Borders TSI continue to issue guidance for halls re-opening, providing posters and risk assessment templates. They supported local groups and organisations with microgrants to 48 projects and community groups. All village halls were supported to apply for a temporary closure fund. Over 90 village halls in Scottish Borders were supported by The Bridge and BAVS to get Scottish Government Covid-19 Small Business Grants of £10K, with a number of halls receiving a grant of £25K.

*Berwickshire Association of Voluntary Services (BAVS)* worked closely with Health and Social Care teams as part of the Community Assistance Hubs, maintaining an up to date database of local services. Community transport was used to provide meals deliveries, medication collections, shopping delivery services to the most vulnerable all free of charge. Charity shops contributed by making donations to those most in need. 62 grants totalling £60k were distributed in microgrants to 42 projects. 2,500 welfare calls were made to the most vulnerable in our communities, offering assistance when needed and reassurance. BAVS used Supporting Communities Fund to set up a dedicated support service for Berwickshire's 27 village halls, to help them plan to re-open safely and risk assess their activities.

*YouthBorders* weekly membership e-bulletin keeps third sector youth organisations informed of Covid-19 and is supported by a dedicated Padlet resource alongside 1:1 risk assessment and pre-opening support. Policy templates for digital youth work, covid-19 procedures, and pre-opening risks checklists were developed for member groups. Wellbeing Packs were prepared for 40 youth clubs and groups to support youth workers, volunteers and young people. Funding was made available to support membership fees and insurance for grassroots and volunteer led youth clubs and groups. Training for outdoor youth work delivery was provided. The managers of seven locality community-based youth work organisations were supported with fortnightly peer support sessions; and additional membership network events were convened to support leaders of youth organisations during unprecedented times. Advocacy for access to community buildings for youth work activities was also undertaken on behalf of specific members within the network.

## Case Study: Connecting Scotland

In 2020/21 834 individuals benefited from digital devices distributed through the Connecting Scotland programme. Where needed, digital champions supported individuals to set up, get connected and develop the skills to access digital learning and services.

*“Yesterday we had the most amazing day giving out i-pads and a Chromebook to current and former Tweeddale Youth Action members now living independently in Galashiels. With so many opportunities only available online, access to devices like tablets and laptops are essential for completing college work, applying for jobs and in a couple of cases yesterday, writing business plans. It's perhaps unsurprising to hear that doing this on a mobile phone with limited data excludes young people who most need support from accessing the opportunities that will help them move forward. Huge thanks to Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber for supplying these devices funded by Connecting Scotland and the Online Learning Centre; this really will make a whole world of difference!!”*

Dave Hodson, Locality Manager, Tweeddale Youth Action.



Community Profile Summary (see detail in Appendix 2)

<p>Population <b>115,510</b></p>	<p><b>1,827</b> square miles</p>		<p><b>9 (6%)</b> of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders are part of the <b>20% most deprived</b> data zones in Scotland.</p>	 <p><b>Income</b></p>	<p><b>8 (6%)</b> of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the <b>20% most income deprived</b> data zones in Scotland.</p>
<p><b>700</b> people of non-working age for every <b>1,000</b> of working age</p>	<p><b>48.1%</b> of the population live in <b>rural areas</b></p>	 <p><b>Employment</b></p>	<p><b>10 (7%)</b> data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the <b>20% most employment deprived</b> data zones in Scotland..</p>	 <p><b>Education</b></p>	<p><b>8 (6%)</b> data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the <b>20% most education deprived</b> data zones in Scotland..</p>
<p><b>Volunteering rates were high (pre-covid):</b> <b>36%</b> of adults provided unpaid help to organisations or groups</p>	<p>Areas potentially needing most support to recover from Covid-19: <b>Burnfoot, Langlee, Coldstream and Area, Jedburgh, Hawick Central and Hawick North</b></p>	 <p><b>Health</b></p>	<p><b>9 (6%)</b> data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the <b>20% most health deprived</b> data zones in Scotland..</p>	 <p><b>Access to Services</b></p>	<p><b>46 (32%)</b> data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the <b>20% most geographically access deprived</b> data zones in Scotland..</p>
<p><b>97%</b> of residents rate Scottish Borders as a <b>very/fairly good place to live</b></p>	<p><b>Loneliness was reported less</b> than across Scotland (pre-covid)</p>	 <p><b>Crime</b></p>	<p><b>20 (14%)</b> data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the <b>20% most crime deprived</b> data zones in Scotland..</p>	 <p><b>Housing</b></p>	<p><b>3 (2%)</b> data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the <b>20% most housing deprived</b> data zones in Scotland..</p>

## Section 2: Aims and Objectives

### Aim

*The Scottish Borders CLD Strategic Partnership aims to improve outcomes for learners and communities through the provision of coordinated, collaborative and targeted CLD interventions.*

### Objectives

1. To reduce inequalities in our communities through the provision of early intervention and prevention activities which are life-wide, life-long and centred on the needs and aspirations of our learners and communities.
2. To support a CLD sector which is resilient and sustainable as it recovers from the impacts of Covid-19
3. To develop our CLD workforce and partnership activity to increase collaboration and recognition within and between agencies and services.

### Improvement priorities

#### **Supporting Objective 1: we will improve outcomes for targeted individual and groups through focusing our resource in the following priority areas:**

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1. Creating additional opportunities and support for learning, employability and creating local wealth.
2. Protecting and improving health and wellbeing outcomes for young people, adults and families
3. Addressing digital poverty, ensuring learners have the necessary tools, skills and support to access digital learning and services.

Our intentions to support this improvement priority are set out in **Section 3** of this Plan. These intentions are informed by established national evidence that outcomes can be improved through the provision of community-based adult learning, youth work and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Language) across the Scottish Borders area. A feature of each of these improvement priorities will be providing and supporting opportunities for volunteering, which is key to “creating a more successful country with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish through increased wellbeing, and sustainable and inclusive economic growth” ([Volunteering for All National Framework, 2019](#)).

#### **Supporting Objectives 2 and 3: we will improve the way that we work as a Partnership in the following priority areas:**

4. Understanding the impact of Covid-19 and Covid-19 recovery planning on the CLD sector and on the individuals and communities that are our partners in learning and development.
5. Involving learners and communities in the design, delivery, evaluation and improvement of our CLD activity; ensuring that this is meaningful and supports learning and development of individuals and communities; striving towards co-production.
6. Our Workforce will be skilled, supported, empowered to plan, delivery and evaluate quality CLD activities and interventions.

Our intentions to support this improvement priority are set out in **Section 4** of this Plan. These intentions are focused on individuals and organisations (our volunteer and paid workforce / our sector) who provide community-based adult learning, youth work and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Language) across the Scottish Borders area.

### Why these priorities?

Our priorities are informed by data, our understanding of our community profile, and the depth of experience of all Partners. Covid-19 has had a disproportionate impact on those living in deprived communities and the Scottish Borders Covid-19 Recovery Index informs the identification of our priority communities. We recognise that the CLD sector and Partnership members need to recover and prepare for the future. Going forward, the Partnership will further involve practitioners, learners and communities in reviewing the impacts of the pandemic and future planning for CLD.

### Who will benefit?

The Partnership recognises that CLD activity can support, enable and empower learners and communities to fully realise their potential. We also recognise the important preventative role that universal provision, such as community-based youth work, can have on achieving positive outcomes and impact. However, our Partnership must direct our collective resources and energies in a targeted manner, informed by data, local insight and learner voice and experience.

The intentions of this plan will benefit:

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- Young people, most impacted by Covid-19, with a particular focus on supporting positive transitions in a broad range of contexts
- Adults of all ages, most impacted by Covid-19, with a particular focus on those most at risk of isolation or experiencing multiple disadvantage
- Geographic communities – most impacted by Covid-19 as identified in the Scottish Borders Covid-19 Index.

### Governance

The CLD Strategic Partnership meets quarterly, with the Plan being instrumental to agenda setting and reporting. The lead agency for the Partnership is Scottish Borders Council and the Plan is within the remit of the Director for Children, Young People, Engagement and Inclusion who has a portfolio which includes reducing inequalities through education interventions, youth work, adult learning, learning communities and integrated services.

The Partnership and its plan utilise the quality improvement framework: How Good is our Community Learning and Development? The Partnership and its Plan is subject to Education Scotland scrutiny through annual engagement with HMIE and a three-year inspection cycle.

To be developed within the life of this Plan is the establishment of a Regional Youth Workers Forum; and a mechanism for Learner Voice.

The Partnership is represented on the South East Improvement Collaborative (SEIC) for education by the Partnership Chair, who shares this role with the CLD Manager for Midlothian Council. YouthBorders and Scottish Borders CLD service are members of the South East and Central CLD CPD Consortium which aims to upskill the CLD workforce across the region. As the SEIC boundary is not co-terminus with the regional Consortium, Scottish Borders is represented, along with Fife, Mid and East Lothian, on a SEIC CLD Network.

# Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership

CLD Strategic Partnership

How Good is our CLD?

SEIC

Regional Youth Workers Forum  
(to be developed in 2021-24)

Learner Voice (to be developed in 2021-24)

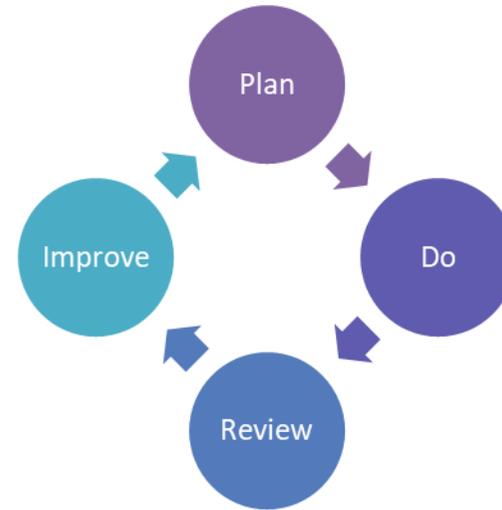
South East CLD Consortium

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How will we know the partnership is making a difference?

- The Partnership will use data, insight, and self-evaluation to report on progress against our Improvement Priorities every 6 months. This will include monitoring our progress for all learners and communities reflecting principles of equity, inclusion, rights and equality.
- Learner Voice will be further developed during the lifetime of this Plan and learner experience will be instrumental to our planning, delivery and resource decisions.
- Professional reflection and supported self-evaluation by the CLD workforce using HGIOCLD
- HMIE, including annual engagement between the local authority and HMIE
- Practice sharing in team 'South of Scotland' and through SEIC and the SE CLD CPD Consortium.
- Review of research findings and best practice across Scotland and beyond

The information gathered through the evaluation processes above will be used to inform the Partnership's annual evaluation and improvement planning cycle.



## Section 3: Improving outcomes for targeted individuals and groups

### 1. Creating additional opportunities and support for learning, employability and creating local wealth.

#### **We know this is important to our communities because ...**

- The Participation Rate in education, training or employment for 16-17yr olds is 96.1%, higher than the Scottish average of 95.7%. For Langlee and Burnfoot the rate drops below 85%. ([SDS Monthly Participation Measure](#)) It is important to our Partnership to reduce inequalities. We are mindful of emerging new groups in Scottish Borders who may require additional support to access learning and/or gain employment such as refugees, unaccompanied asylum seekers and our Gypsy/Traveller community. We note the implementation of concessionary travel to be introduced for young people aged 5-22 years in January 2022 and will review the impact of this in Scottish Borders.

#### **Learning opportunities**

- 84% of adult learners (n=58) surveyed in Oct 2020 wanted to re-engage with learning. Learners wanted to learn about building confidence and personal development (55%), supporting mental health and dealing with emotions (50%), getting qualifications (47%), reading, writing, talking and listening (41%) child development and positive family relationships (41%), maths (29%), finding and keeping a job (24%), money, debt and budgeting (21%) ([CLDS survey of adult learners Sep 2020](#)).
- Some learners face barriers to successful learning: Borders College report that LGBT students consistently have lower success rates than those who describe themselves as heterosexual; young students (16-19yrs) are least likely to be successful across all age groups (although rates are improving year on year); students who have declared one disability are less likely to be successful. However, students declaring multiple disabilities are more likely to be successful (likely due to wrap around learning support); students declaring only mental health as a disability are less likely to be successful than those with declaring mental health issues along with one or more other disabilities.
- Youth work contributes to preventing learning loss by maintaining young people's skills, motivation and engagement with education in holiday periods. 80% of young people who participated in a 2020 pilot programme exploring youth work, food insecurity and learning loss were "looking forward to returning to school<sup>1</sup>"; whilst 96% has learned how to work with others; to be more confident (94%); learned how to ask for help (87%) "

#### **Employability**

##### **Rurality:**

- 100 Department of Work and Pensions customers stated that lack of public transport had prevented them from applying or taking up a job. (34%) *Source: Travel Survey of Universal Credit Customers in the Scottish Borders, DWP 2020*

<sup>1</sup> [Food insecurity pilot demonstrates youth work benefits in tackling learning loss \(youthlinkscotland.org\)](#)

- Young people who participated in SBC's Transport Consultation identified that accessing part time jobs in other areas is difficult due to the routes of local bus services and roads being too dangerous to cycle. Their highest priority in a bus service is price followed by more regular services.
- The percentage of employed people in remote rural areas who have a second job (8%) is more than double that of employed people in in the rest of Scotland (3%). A higher proportion of employed people in rural areas are 'homeworkers' compared to the rest of Scotland. This is the case for both women and men. ([Rural Scotland Key Facts 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/documents/2021/04/Rural_Scotland_Key_Facts_2021.pdf))

#### **Employment Deprivation:**

- TD1 and TD9 postcodes had the highest number of claimants aged 16-24yrs in May 2021, 199 and 222 respectively ([Source Scottish Borders Claimant Distribution](#))
- Langlee and Burnfoot were the two intermediate zones with the highest number of people of working age identified as employment deprived in 2018 (*Source Picture of Poverty 2021*)

#### **Impact of Covid-19:**

- Across all age groups the Scottish Borders had a **higher change in count of Out-of-Work claimants** compared to Scotland Dec 2019- Dec 20 Source: NOMIS/ONS
- In December 2020, the Scottish Borders had a **higher proportion of population aged 18-24 claiming Out-of-Work benefits** compared to Scotland.
- Between December 2019 and December 2020 there was a **112% increase in the number of women claiming Out-of-Work benefits** in the Scottish Borders, higher than the increase for men in the Scottish Borders (88%) and for both men (86%) and women (88%) in Scotland.
- Four intermediate zones are identified as having higher numbers of **employees in Covid-19 vulnerable industries** (2018): Chirnside and area, Cheviot East, Cheviot West and Hawick North. (*Source Picture of Poverty 2021*)

#### **Regional Skills Assessment for the Scottish Borders** (Skills Development Scotland, July 2021) reported:

- The number of **Universal Credit claimants** in the Scottish Borders continued to **increase by 9%** (700) from 7,900 in May 2020 to 8,600 in May 2021.
- **3,300 jobs furloughed** in the Scottish Borders (May 2021), accounting for 1.7% of Scotland's furloughed workforce.
- The SDS Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE) aims to help minimise the impact for people and businesses facing redundancy. During 2020/21 **PACE** has engaged with **881** individuals and **19** employers, an increase of 395% and 58% on 2019/20.

#### **Creating local wealth**

##### **Low wages:**

- The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings produced by ONS and published on NOMIS<sup>2</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).

##### **Income deprivation:**

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

- Langlee and Burnfoot were the most income deprived intermediate zones in in Scottish Borders in 2018 (*Source Picture of Poverty 2021*)

### **Volunteering:**

- Volunteering participation in Scotland has increased by 26% due to COVID-19 (from 48% to 74%). Befriending (68%), food shopping (57%) and helping with household tasks (30%) have the highest volunteering participation. Compared to the SHS 2018 data, all types of volunteering are expected to be higher after the COVID-19 crisis is over. (Volunteer Scotland, July 2020 [https://www.volunteerscotland.net/media/1642735/ipsos-mori\\_survey\\_-\\_summary\\_presentation.pdf](https://www.volunteerscotland.net/media/1642735/ipsos-mori_survey_-_summary_presentation.pdf) )

### **Right-based practice**

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child affords children and young people the right to access education to the highest level possible and learning experiences which further develop their mind, body and talents – youth work and informal learning is recognised as a key contributor to the education of young people to reach their full potential. All children and young people have the right to an adequate standard of living (article 27) and to benefit from social security (article 26) – our CLD activity should seek to maximise income, deliver free and inclusive opportunities, and further develop our local economies and community wealth.

### **What has been achieved 2018-21**

- 805 young people and 963 adults took part in community-based learning delivered by the CLD service during 2018-21. Of these, 275 (34%) young people and 172 (18%) adults increased their employability.
- Borders College supported 484 learners through commercial short courses and certificated part time courses from August 2020 – May 2021. This included subjects such as Elementary Food Hygiene, Customer Service, Higher and National Qualifications, Data Science and Data Citizenship. For the year 2020/21 308 new apprentices started. 34 of these were in response to the Apprentice Employer Grant as part of the Young Persons Guarantee.
- An estimated 5000 young people engage with third sector youth work each year in the Scottish Borders, these organisations provide community-based youth work, targeted support and interventions, and thematic and issue-based activities. This includes rural youth clubs, youth arts, environmental projects, equalities work, mental health support, befriending, young carers, and employability work.
- Switch to offering online and blended learning opportunities by CLD learning providers during Covid-19. This included blended approaches to youth work delivery including online zoom cooking, use of Discord for group work, 1:1 intervention, and online community arts sessions.
- Borders Learning, Skills and Employability Partnership has restructured to create a multi-agency approach to planning and evaluating the use of significant new and existing funding streams to support young people and adults' employability
- Third sector organisations have participated in the Community Job Scotland scheme to provide supported employment to young people – this includes the creation of jobs within several youth organisations including Tweeddale Youth Action, Rowland's (Selkirk), and Cheviot Youth.
- Third Sector Employability Programmes – Works+; Eat, Sleep Rides; Branching Out are providing CLD provision which supports preparation for employment and transition to independence. ReTweed provide routes into employment. Newcastleton & District Community Trust facilitated a Women's Enterprise Scotland Business Course designed for women.

## What this means for CLD practice ...

When designing learning opportunities, these must be “clearly based on identified learner needs, priorities and aspirations...informed and developed in discussion with learners and communities....opportunities for achievement and progression are well planned and integral to the learning offer” (*How Good is Our Community Learning and Development 4*)

To develop employability, learning opportunities must be aligned to evidenced local priorities. Educational guidance will support learners to make informed choices that meet their individual needs, ranging from developing broader meta-skills (for those further from the job market) through to practical skills such as driving a tractor or moving and handling (for those who are job ready). Learning pathways will be clear, offer flexible routes to achievement and support learners to progress towards longer term careers in growth sectors. Partnership working will support an aspirational culture for young people and their families and encourage thinking differently about working in growth sectors, including yet to be created opportunities in the green economy.

## The priority actions we will undertake are:

1. Develop a local community based employability offer for adults, initially targeting those communities identified through the Covid-19 vulnerability index (Hawick, Jedburgh, Galashiels, Selkirk, Coldstream and area)
2. Link to, and expand, the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Youth Hub model to include multi-agency partners, targeting those geographic communities identified by regional data and local intelligence
3. Develop a coordinated approach to provide earlier intervention and a continuum of employability support for young people 14-24 years, involving all key partners and including provision which supports the increased use of the Youth Work Skills Framework
4. Develop our Partnership understanding of the CLD role in creating local wealth

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CLD Outcome	Unique CLD Partnership action	Who will be involved	Measure	Reporting
Adult learners apply their skills, knowledge and understanding across the four areas of life	1. Develop a partnership community based employability offer for adults, initially targeting those communities identified through the Covid-19 vulnerability index	Borders Learning, Skills and Employability Partnership (adults), <b>CLDS (lead)</b> , Community Assistance Hubs, Learning Community Partnerships.	Number of adults who report increased employability	Six monthly report to CLD Strategic Partnership
Adults are confident, resilient and optimistic for the future			Number of adults who build their confidence and self-esteem through volunteering	Six monthly report to CLD Strategic Partnership

Young people create, describe and apply their learning and skills	2. Link to, and expand, the DWP Youth Hub model to include multi-agency partners, targeting those geographic communities identified by regional data and local intelligence	<b>DWP (lead)</b> , Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber, Borders Learning, Skills and Employability Partnership (young people)	Number of young people participating (SDS Participation measure)	Six monthly report to CLD Strategic Partnership
Young people are confident, resilient and optimistic for the future				
Young people create, describe and apply their learning and skills	3. Develop a co-ordinated approach to provide earlier intervention and a continuum of employability support for young people 14-24 years, involving key partners and including provision which supports the increased use of the Youth Work Skills Framework	Borders Learning, Skills and Employability Partnership (young people), SDS, CLDS, Schools, DYW, Third Sector Youth Work, Volunteer Centre Borders, <b>lead tbc</b>	Number of young people participating (SDS Participation measure)  Number of youth work/youth learning opportunities provided by partners with an early intervention employability focus.	Six monthly report to CLD Strategic Partnership
Young people's perspectives are broadened through new experiences and thinking				
Community members identify their capacities, learning and skills, enhance them and apply them to their own issues and needs	4. Develop our Partnership understanding of the CLD role in creating local wealth	<b>CLD Strategic Partners (lead)</b> , SOSE, SB Economic Strategy partners, anti-poverty strategy partners	Identification of unique CLD contributions with the aim of building capacity and investing in local organisations for longer term sustainability	Six monthly report to CLD Strategic Partnership
Communities are confident, resilient and optimistic for the future				

## 2. Protecting and improving health and wellbeing outcomes for young people, adults and families

### **We know this is important to our communities because ...**

The [Marmot Report](#)<sup>3</sup> outlines that socio-economic factors (e.g., education, employment, and income) contribute to our health more than individual health behaviours. However, ill-health and premature death disproportionately affects people living in poorer areas, e.g., the rate of mental ill-health and coronary heart disease are higher in more deprived areas in Scotland and people in those areas are more likely to be admitted to hospital with alcohol and/or drug problems compared to the least deprived areas.

#### **Health Inequalities:**

The Scottish Government's Chief Statistician has published the Scottish Health Survey 2019, providing information on the health, and factors relating to health, of adults and children in Scotland. This includes the first estimate of the national prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in adults - in 2019, 15% of adults reported having experienced four or more ACEs and those in the most deprived areas were almost twice as likely as those in the least deprived areas to have experienced four or more ACEs. Volunteering can improve individual physical and mental health and well-being. We know that volunteering strengthens social networks and bonds within and between communities and can help to create experiences and connections that lead to better lives. ([Volunteering, Health & Wellbeing, Volunteer Scotland, Dec 2018](#)). [Making it Easy – a Health Literacy Plan for Scotland \(2014\)](#) set out the ambition for Scotland to be a health-literate society that enables all of us to have the confidence, knowledge, understanding and skills to maintain good health.

#### **Impact of Covid-19:**

##### **Young people's views about long-term impacts of COVID-19 on their lives:**

When asked if their educational establishment had reopened in a safe way, young people in more affluent areas agreed with this statement more than those in other areas. Young people aged 11 & 12 were most concerned about missing out on learning or having difficulty with online learning. Respondents over 18 also mostly expressed difficulty with learning online, with much more responses for this theme compared to others. Male respondents were substantially more likely to agree that they felt good about their mental health & wellbeing (59%) than female respondents (34%) and respondents who identified as non-binary or in a different way (18%). When asked for any further thoughts on employment, young people who had a long-term illness or disability expressed concern about job security in their industry and the inability/difficulty to find a job slightly more than the other group. Young carers were less likely to agree that they had a good relationship with their family than others (74% of respondents who were young carers compared with 84% who were not. When asked if they were happy to be back to learning in person, BAME respondents were less likely to agree than White respondents.

<https://youngscot.net/news-database/demographic-breakdown-lockdownlowdown>

#### **Covid-19 inequalities:**

Covid-19 disproportionately affects certain groups but within 2 years and 4 months, more people will die from avoidable causes: suicide, drugs and inequalities than would die from an *unmitigated* Covid pandemic. This is the equivalent of 4 unmitigated Covid pandemics in 10 years

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/fair-society-healthy-lives-the-marmot-review>

[\(McCartney et al \(2020\), Scaling COVID-19 against inequalities: should the policy response consistently match the mortality challenge?\).](#)

People experience healthcare differently and in Scottish Borders the most vulnerable groups have been most affected by Covid. Universal Credit cases in the Borders have increased from 3,731 in October 19 to 7,899 in October 20 which is an increase of 112%. Even though some of the increases are due to migration from other benefits, it does reflect an increasing number of people relying on benefits. Crisis Grant awards have increased from £47,914 in November 2019 to £76,585 in November 2020. An increase of 37%. Free school meal awards have increased from 1,659 in September 2019 to 2,075 in September 2020 which is an increase of 20%. Six intermediate zones in Scottish Borders are identified in the most vulnerable quintile for Covid-19 Recovery for overall health reasons: Coldstream and area, Kelso South, Langlee, Burnfoot, Hawick Central, Hawick West End. (Source Picture of Poverty 2021)

### **Mental Health and wellbeing is important to individuals in Borders:**

**Older People's experiences of lockdown:** 487 people over 60yrs responded to a survey by the Borders Older People's partnership. Of these, over 80% reported lockdown affected their social activity negatively; 54% reported a negative effect on their mental health and emotional wellbeing. The most important things now are: staying safe and having the confidence and support to get back out to activities and see family and friends (52%); having access to buildings and services again (35%) [[Understanding Older People's Experience of Lockdown Dec 2020](#)]

### **Adult learners:**

55% of adult learners (n=58) surveyed said they want to learn about building confidence and personal development; 50% want to learn about supporting mental health and dealing with emotions ([CLDS survey of adult learners Sep 2020](#)).

### **Supporting men's mental health provides particular challenges:**

The recent survey of men's mental health in Scottish Borders found that men were more likely to be engaged in activities which maintained their physical and mental health eg sleeping 6-9hrs, being physically active and eating a balanced diet. Men were less likely to report being engaged with "Be aware", "Belong" or "Enjoy and learn" statements eg being involved in group activities, volunteering to help others. Men wanted to be involved in learning and developing ways to self-manage symptoms and understanding of mental health conditions ([Hearing the Voices of Men, 2021](#))

**Eyemouth Whole Systems Approach** is one of five early adopter areas in Scotland who are using systems thinking to engage community stakeholders in type 2 diabetes prevention planning. The main aim of this work is to increase healthy weight across the local population with a focus on children and health inequalities through the development of a community led plan. Community stakeholders have identified communications, outdoor activities and family participation and learning as their top priorities

**Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Services and Supports Framework** is being implemented in the Scottish Borders. This framework is informed by the needs of young people for responsive, flexible and adaptive community services and supports. Mental health and wellbeing is one of four priorities of our regional Children and Young People's Services plan. Our Partnership will be guided by the findings of this review and will work in partnership with the Children and Young People's Leadership Group to ensure that youth work plays a pivotal role in prevention, early intervention and specialist service provision.

### **Rights based practice:**

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child affords every child the right to the best possible health (article 24). This right says that children and young people have the right to be both physically and mentally fulfilled. Children and young people also have a right to information about their health. Youth work can be a key provider of activities and information which promotes and supports emotional wellbeing

and provides young people with access to trusted and reliable information. A 2018 study of youth work<sup>4</sup> in Scotland found evidence that a high quality informal, voluntary, youth-adult (youth worker) relationship is consistently associated with improvement in adolescent health, academic performance and wider positive development, with trusted adult relationships being explicitly identified by youth as a contributory factor.

## What has been achieved 2018-21

- 669 (83%) young people and 786 (82%) adults taking part in community based learning delivered by the SBC CLD service improved their health and wellbeing in 2018-21.
- Programmes delivered in partnership and ongoing and policies strengthened across **Joint Health Improvement** including: The See Me Schools Mental Health Initiative, C-card Scheme, Mental Health in All Policies, Tackling Social Isolation and Loneliness, The Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival -May 2019, Scottish Borders Diversity Week - September 2019, Better Mental Health Communications & Engagement Plan, The After A Suicide Working Group (AASWG), Training & Capacity Building, YouthBorders Health and Wellbeing Development Officer, Wellbeing Service & Resilient Communities Toolkit.
- **Stepping Stones programme built capacity across the community-based youth work sector** to support young people's emotional health and wellbeing, led by the Scottish Borders Youth Work Partnership funded by National Lottery Community Fund. Working to deliver early intervention youth work support to young people aged 10-18 across the Scottish Borders.
- Development of **Money Worries App**: This new App was developed with partners at NHS Borders, Scottish Borders Council, Community Advice Bureau, TD1 Early Steps parents and the Department for Work & Pensions. The App is a digital information directory with four main sections: Health, Money, Housing & Work and a quick links feature for promotions. The App provides access to national and local quality assured information and support and can be downloaded from the Apple App Store or Google Playstore. The App was officially launched on 16/03/21.
- **Good Mood. Good Health. Good Food**: resource pack to help youth workers deliver practical and realistic health and cookery sessions during the Covid-19 lockdown. Created in partnership by Joint Health Improvement Team and YouthBorders. Resource pack produced, electronic circulation to 41 youth groups and 41 physical copies distributed to youth groups in the YouthBorders network.
- **Multi-agency Early Years Summer programmes in 2018 and 2019** supported families in Burnfoot, Eyemouth, Langlee and Selkirk to engage children and families in health improving activities including good food sessions, physical activity and family learning opportunities. 145 families attended in 2019.
- **#BordersWellbeing** is a partnership digital campaign which supports the publication of the [Young People's Guide to Mental Health and Wellbeing](#). The campaign was delivered by a Partnership of Scottish Borders Joint Health Improvement Team (NHS Borders/Scottish Borders Council), YouthBorders, Scottish Borders Youth Voice (CLDS) and national partners Young Scot. The Partnership worked with 18 supporting organisations to widen the reach of the campaign, which took place for 6 weeks Nov/Dec 20. Social Media content from lead partners YB and Scottish Borders Youth Voice reached 21k users; Campaign Microsite had 420 visits; 26 young people received Young Scot Rewards (11 of which were from SIMD 1-4); 45 additional Young Scot Reward Members from Scottish Borders.
- **Freedom to Change event Oct 2019**: delivered by the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs and Galashiels Learning Community Partnership, 59 people took part in the event, supporting the process of engaging with

<sup>4</sup> [impact-of-community-based-universal-youth-work-in-scotland-november-2018.pdf \(youthlinkscotland.org\)](#)

the wider community and beginning to plan changes to improve the lives of families, people who use substances and those in recovery.

- **Scottish Borders Inspire Awards 2020** delivered in partnership by CLDS, Volunteer Centre Borders and YouthBorders. Partners were committed to recognising and celebrating the positive impact and outstanding contributions made by young people in their communities, homes and schools during 2020. 70 Nominations were made to recognise 194 young people. Inspire Awards twitter following grew by 180. Inspire and 20Under20 social campaign to celebrate and recognise young people reached 260K users between October 20 and January 21. Feedback from Judging Panel: *“What I’ve noticed most is the determination of the young people who have been nominated. Their practical skills are great. They are going out there and doing things...and really showing what they can do by looking at where help is needed.”* Feedback from Parent of Inspire Award Recipient: *“So lovely that you have still been able to celebrate our young people’s achievements despite the circumstances. We have one very happy boy in this house tonight, thanks you!”*
- **A Local Information System for Scotland (ALISS):** Number of registrations by CLD partners increased in all Learning Communities Oct 2018- Aug 2019, reaching the target of 120 records in 4 LCs
- **Berwickshire Housing Association:** have undertaken a range of programmes and approaches to support and enhance emotional wellbeing across Berwickshire, with a focus on creating networks of support. Activities include: Supporting Communities and Covid Recovery Funding <https://www.berwickshirehousing.org.uk/news/bha-calculates-social-value-of-community-programmes-during-covid-pandemic/>; BeWell 18-month **pilot tenancy support service in partnership with Penumbra**; **BeFriend project** has secured a further 3-years funding from the National Lottery Communities fund to reduce loneliness and isolation for people over the age of 55; ‘Let’s Get Digital Berwickshire’ lending library is well underway with 50 devices purchased and 45 now distributed to people in the community via partner organisations; provided further funding to **Horse Time** to widen access to their Trauma programmes including via local Mental Health Teams; installed a **Breathing Space bench** at Springfield in Duns
- The **Borders Community Capacity Building Project (BCCBP)** has been responsible for a substantial range of developments that have maintained older people’s health and inclusion in their communities and transformed the way preventative services are delivered.

### What this means for CLD practice ...

Inequalities make a huge difference to health outcomes for individuals and communities. CLD partners need to have a shared understanding of health inequalities, and their impact, across the Borders and use this knowledge to underpin planning all our Partnership CLD activity.

### The priority actions we will undertake are:

1. **Develop a local, community based health and wellbeing offer, to run alongside the employability offer, initially targeting those communities identified through the Covid-19 vulnerability index (Hawick, Jedburgh, Galashiels, Selkirk, Coldstream and area).**
2. **Contribute to the implementation and evaluation of the Eyemouth Whole Systems Approach to tackling childhood obesity**
3. **Upskill volunteer and paid staff through roll out of the Mental Health Framework (children and young people) and Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Training Framework (adults) [See workforce development]**
4. **Develop leaders’ understanding of the impact of health inequalities in Scottish Borders [See workforce development]**

CLD Outcome	Unique CLD Partnership action	Who will be involved	Measure	Reporting
Young people and adults are confident, resilient and optimistic for the future	Develop a local, community based health and wellbeing offer	<b>JHIT, CLDS (joint leads)</b> , Wellbeing College, Health In Mind, Volunteer Centre Borders, Third Sector Youth Work.	Number of young people and adults reporting improved health and wellbeing as a result of taking part	Six monthly report to CLD Strategic Partnership
CLD partners increase their understanding of the impact of a Whole Systems Approach on Health and Wellbeing	Contribute to the implementation and evaluation of the Eyemouth Whole Systems Approach to tackling childhood obesity	<b>JHIT (lead)</b> , CLDS, SPLASH.	CLD partners use learning from the approach to inform future H&WB activity	Report to CLD Strategic Partnership

### 3. Addressing digital poverty, ensuring learners have the necessary tools, skills and support to access digital learning and services

#### **We know this is important to our communities because ...**

Digital literacy has become an essential skill for all in terms of engagement with Scottish Government services, broader citizenship engagement and employment. In addition, the pandemic has highlighted the limited access many people in the most deprived communities have to ICT equipment and connectivity. Addressing digital poverty will be key to building back better. *CLD Standards Council Scotland Engage, Educate, Connect, Empower: CLD, Resilience and Recovery July 2020*

There is a need to develop **skills**:

- 65% of shielding/clinically vulnerable recipients (n=48) of a digital device through the Connecting Scotland Digital Inclusion programme in 2020/21 classed their skill level as beginner; 54% of older people/disabled recipients (n=80) classed their skill level as low.
- 28% of adult learners (n=58) surveyed said that learning basic computer skills was a priority for them; 16% said learning to use the internet was a priority ([CLDS survey of adult learners Sep 2020](#)).

There is a need to improve **connectivity**:

- 81.3% of households have home internet access in the Scottish Borders compared to 85% for Scotland in 2018 (Picture of Poverty 2021)

Anecdotally we know that **affordability** is a barrier, particularly amongst more vulnerable individuals:

Scottish Borders Council's Throughcare and Aftercare Team identified 50 young people leaving care requiring a digital device and connectivity through the Connecting Scotland programme. "We are aware of many of these young people going without food and utilities to be in a position to afford devices and connection at present, so their inclusion in this programme would assist them greatly".

Subscription services add costs to monthly household bills. Digital devices are not always suitable to access services eg parents on the Parental Employability Support programme are trying to use mobile phones to apply for jobs and to study online.

### **Inclusion:**

Feedback from CLD providers is highlighting issues around the need for access to multiple devices in households, mitigating risks of dominant individuals controlling access and breaching confidentiality. Adaptive technology needs to be widely understood and available to ensure inclusive use. CLD practitioners need to be knowledgeable and confident to use digital technology to deliver services effectively, whilst managing the balance of risk and safety to all involved. Eildon Housing is piloting community Wi-Fi within its supported housing services due to Wi-Fi being considered essential utility for households. The scheme is to be rolled out further in 2021/22. 72% of Village Halls surveyed have no broadband or internet access (The Bridge)

### **Organisation Capacity: Digital and Cyber Security:**

There is a need to improve IT infrastructure and data security for organisations. Covid-19 has increase organisational reliance and necessity for digital working. It is important to our Partnership that CLD organisations have the necessary support to be “cyber aware”. This requires the building of knowledge, capacity, skills, expertise and resources within organisations or through local networks to exchange experience and develop good and positive practice for organisations of all sizes. 70% of Village Hall respondents reported that they were very/extremely familiar in using digital technology. 29% of community organisations surveyed were seeking advice and support to make better use of digital technology (The Bridge).

### **What has been achieved 2018-21**

CLD practitioners have enhanced their skills knowledge, understanding and confidence to use digital technology for their work and to deliver learning to individuals and communities. 159 hours of professional learning was delivered to CLD practitioners through the STEM Professional Learning (Digital) programme in 2020/21.

Connecting Scotland Digital Inclusion Programme:

Supporting individuals to obtain and use a digital device has been an integral part of CLD practice which enables learning to continue and empowers learners to be in control of their lives.

<b>Programme phase</b>	<b>No of devices awarded</b>
Phase 1 – Shielding & clinically vulnerable group	217 awarded (iPads & Chromebooks)
Phase 2 – Families & Care Leavers	473 (iPads & Chromebooks)
Winter support package – People who are older and/or disabled	144 (iPads only)
Totals	834

A range of organisations in the Borders have been awarded devices, including:

Berwickshire Housing Association	One Step Borders	Ability Borders SCIO
Scottish Borders Housing Association Ltd	Action for Children	Live Borders
Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber C.I.C.	Borders College	Scottish Borders Council
Health in Mind	Alzheimer Scotland	Eildon Housing
Interest Link Borders	Borders Care Voice	

Quotes from Digital Champions:

- “Today we managed to set up an account for repeat prescriptions with the GP Practice - I hadn't really considered how useful that is if you don't want always to have to ask for help to get a prescription. Another benefit of being connected.”
- “xxx is now confident with their digital skills so we have moved onto resuming Adult Literacies work, as that had to be abruptly halted with the COVID lockdown. I am supporting her to complete her Communications course and get her qualifications.”
- “I'm enjoying encouraging learners to explore new opportunities through their iPads. Conversations around what they have learned have been very uplifting. Having these devices has created stronger connections with their family members across the generations in sharing learning around using an iPad, but also enabling contact with family members they have not seen face to face for a long time.”

**What this means for CLD practice...**

Digital technology can make communication and access to professional learning easier for paid and volunteer staff in CLD. We know that there is work to be done to continue to upskill staff and to harmonise systems. The SEIC CLD Network has identified digital learning as one of the priorities for workforce development across the Network. Digital technology can extend the reach of learning to individuals who previously couldn't access learning. We know that online learning is not the answer for everyone. 34% of adult learners said they would not like to take part in learning online (CLDS adult learners survey Sep 2020). This is supported by CLD Managers Scotland members who recommend blended learning, based on learner needs, as the way forward (CLD Managers Scotland survey Aug 2020). Borders College hub and spoke model is facilitating digital learning in rural areas.

**Digital Rights-based Practice:**

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child affords every child has the right to access information from the media (article 17), and the right to privacy (article 16). As we expand digital service provision and take action to promote digital inclusion, we must also be mindful of the rights of children and young people which extend in to online spaces. This includes keeping children and young people safe from harm. The Partnership will work to develop understanding of young people's digital rights<sup>5</sup>: the right to remove; right to know; right to safety and support; right to informed and conscious use; and right to digital literacy.

**The priority actions we will undertake are:**

1. Support community based learners to access local digital learning opportunities
2. Support community based learners to access and use digital devices through the Connecting Scotland and Connecting Borders programmes
3. Raise awareness of cyber security, online privacy and data protection in community based organisations providing CLD
4. Continue to upskill volunteer and paid staff to use digital technology effectively [see workforce development]

CLD Outcome	Unique CLD Partnership action	Who will be involved	Measure	Reporting
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<sup>5</sup> [Your 5Rights | Digital Rights | Young Scot](#)

Young people create, describe and apply their learning and skills	1. Support community based learners to access local digital learning opportunities	<b>CLD Strategic Partnership (lead),</b> YouthBorders members, CLDS, Live Borders, Borders College, TSI members	Number of young people and adults who report increased digital skills	Six monthly report to CLD Strategic Partnership
Adult learners apply their skills, knowledge and understanding across the four areas of life				
Community members identify their capacities, learning and skills, enhance them, and apply them to their own issues				
Young people participate safely and effectively in groups	2. Support community based learners to access and use digital devices through the Connecting Scotland and Connecting Borders programmes	<b>Live Borders (lead)</b> YouthBorders members, CLDS, TSI members, Borders College	Number of young people and adults accessing a digital device	Six monthly report to CLD Strategic Partnership
Adult learners participate equally, inclusively and effectively				
Community members form groups equally, inclusively and effectively in accountable groups				
Communities are confident, resilience and optimistic for the future	3. Raise awareness of cyber security, online privacy and data protection in community-based organisations providing CLD	Awaiting outcome of funding application - tbc		
Communities consider risk, make reasoned decisions and take control of agendas				

## Section 4: Improving the way we work as a Partnership

### 4. Understanding the impact of Covid-19 and Covid-19 recovery planning on the CLD sector and on the individuals and communities that are our partners in learning and development.

#### What will we do?

Share local, regional and national data about the impact of Covid-19 and analyse this to develop our Partnership understanding of the impact on disadvantaged individuals and communities in Scottish Borders. We will use the insights gained to plan future actions to mitigate the widening of inequalities during the Covid-19 recovery period. We will continue to share resources, learning and intelligence that sustain flexibility in the CLD sector, allowing us to adapt to rapidly changing circumstances and to meet emerging needs. We aim to be agile and responsive to opportunities which present themselves which will further the objectives of this Plan and which would benefit learners and communities in the Scottish Borders.

#### Why is this a priority?

The pandemic inevitably presented challenges for Scotland's more vulnerable learners - digital poverty resulted in people being unable to access learning due to a lack of digital awareness, skills, devices or connectivity. In addition, the priorities of some learners changed from learning and development to a focus on health and wellbeing; and accessing essential services such as food, medicine or money advice. CLD workers have been widely recognised as key workers during the pandemic, continuing to engage with young people, families, adult learners and community organisations, particularly in our most disadvantaged communities. The Scottish Government recognise that CLD practitioners will have a vital role to play in rebuilding from the pandemic and responding to the new challenges ahead. The impact of Covid-19 in Scotland, and around the world, reminds us that the role of CLD and empowerment can help people engage in learning in our communities, schools, colleges, third sector and voluntary organisations as we move to recover from the pandemic.

There is an expectation that education authorities will take appropriate steps to:

- Ensure that adequate and efficient CLD support is made available to assist disadvantaged communities to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic;
- Consider the impacts on disadvantaged learners and communities as part of an ongoing assessment and reflect any changes in the planning and review process in 2021-22;
- Embed priorities for recovery and renewal of local CLD services within Local Outcomes Improvement Plans (LOIP) and other relevant local plans. (*CLD Plans Guidance Note 2021-24, Scottish Government*)

#### **Impact of Covid-19 on individuals in Scottish Borders:**

A range of local surveys has been conducted which confirm the negative impact of Covid-19, particularly on those individuals who were disadvantaged prior to the onset of the pandemic. Data has been shared with the Partnership that detail impacts on individuals (see improvement priorities), including: adult learners ([CLDS survey of adult learners Sep 2020](#)), older people ([Understanding Older People's Experience of Lockdown Dec 2020](#)), men's mental health ([Hearing the Voices of Men, 2021](#)), [Regional Skills Assessment](#), Covid-19

Vulnerability Index ([Picture of Poverty in the Scottish Borders 2021](#)), data from implementation of the Connecting Scotland Digital Inclusion programme.

The [Social Renewal Advisory Board Listening Event](#) gathered feedback from 12 young people about their experiences during the first lockdown. Experiences were mixed, with some young people enjoying being at home, going for walks, having time with family and speaking to neighbours. For others lack of opportunities, missing friends, poor/no wifi, lack of money and uncertainty about the future characterised the period. Rowland's (Selkirk) a community based youth work organisation conducted a survey with 47 young people - the majority of young people were concerned or slightly concerned about their own physical or mental health four weeks into the Covid-19 lockdown. Many were worried about employment and the likelihood of them being able to get a job as well as the worries of parents losing their jobs and what this would mean for their family overall.

The SBC CLD service's adult learning team report that the majority of learners they have contact with still need support rather than learning and this is confirmed by a drastic fall in the number of adults engaged in learning programmes 2020/21 (60% on 2019/20 and 70% on 2018/19 -last full year).

Anecdotally, through Community Assistance Hubs, organisations report the negative impact on people with disabilities, unpaid carers, older people, young people, people who are socially isolated, seeking, on low income, facing mental health issues, facing barriers such as literacy, language, digital exclusion, domestic abuse.

#### **Impact of Covid-19 on communities in Scottish Borders:**

A range of local surveys has been carried out which confirm the impact of Covid-19. Organisations adapted and changed the way they delivered services, with some finding this easier than others. Third Sector organisations were (and continue to be) supported to adapt and change by infrastructure organisations including The Bridge, Berwickshire Association of Voluntary services, Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber, YouthBorders. Staffing and resourcing continues to be challenging across all sectors as businesses and services continue to provide emergency support and plan for / implement Covid recovery. A clear message is emerging about the need for safe access to community venues and social activities. This will require organisations to continue to adapt to meeting uncertain and rapidly changing needs.

Data has been shared with the Partnership that detail impacts on communities, including:

- 132 **community organisations** responded to a [Covid-19 survey issued by The Bridge](#). The major concerns about the future were continued cancellation of bookings and events (74%) and ongoing closure of recreation and leisure facilities (53%). 41% of organisations were looking for funding to cover loss of income, 38% general advice and 29% advice and support to make better use of technology. The survey indicated a level of resilience in the sector: 50% of organisations had the capacity to respond to Covid-19 and 45% indicated they will suffer significantly but will likely succeed. However 8% indicated they may need to close for good.
- 65 **Village Halls** responded to a [Covid-19 survey from The Bridge](#). The majority (84%) are run entirely by volunteers and were meeting the challenge of installing Covid-19 cleaning stations at entrances (73%), aware of Test and protect data collection duties (80%) and adapting Hall Hire agreements (57%). Many face challenges such as no broadband or internet access (72%) and no recreational land/garden or outdoor space to offer community groups (50%).
- 84 community organisations responded to a [Covid-19 digital survey](#) issued by the Bridge. 80% were already using some digital technology, although 62% wanted to explore digital solutions for delivering their services differently. Just under half were seeking

additional resources/support on new ways of working using digital solutions, with the most common ask being information and training on options.

- The [Social Renewal Advisory Board Listening Event](#) report from Scottish Borders recognised the tremendous local community volunteer effort and the positive partnership working that had resulted between volunteer groups and statutory services during the first lockdown. The report also reflected the challenges being faced by unpaid carers at the time.
- YouthBorders experience an 8% growth in membership as community-based youth organisation sought peer support and networking opportunities in unprecedented times.

The Partnership needs to map fully what local data is available about the impact of Covid-19 on disadvantaged individuals and communities, identify gaps and analyse what the collated data tells us about the need for CLD.

**Rights-based Practice:**

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child affords every child the right that adults should think about the best interests of children and young people when making choices which affect them (article 3). This is particularly important as decision are made and resources allocated at all levels and by all partners in Covid-19 recovery. The interests of children and young people should be respected at all levels of society. Covid-19 has had detrimental impact on childhood, children and young people’s education, play, health, standard of living, and family life. The Observatory of Children’s Human Rights Scotland conducted an independent Children’s Rights Impact Assessment on the response to Covid-19 in Scotland. Our Partnership along with the CYPLG should advocate for the use of Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessments and Equality Impact Assessments in Covid-19 recovery planning.

**How will we know we are making a difference?**

Partnership members will have a shared understanding of the impact of Covid-19 on disadvantaged learners and communities which will be reflected in Partnership planning. The Partnership will review progress on the measures for this priority annually, identifying strengths, areas for improvement and developing an action plan. This self-evaluation will be shared with HMIE inspectors during the annual engagement process

CLD Outcome	Unique CLD Partnership action	Who will be involved	Measure	Reporting	
Impact of Covid-19 on disadvantaged individuals and communities is understood and acted upon	Analyse data on the impact of Covid-19 on disadvantaged individuals and communities in the Scottish Borders.	<b>CLD Partnership</b> Community Partnership	<b>Strategic (lead),</b> Planning	CLD Partnership actions for 2022-24 developed/amended	Six monthly report to the CLD Strategic Partnership
Communities are confident, resilient and optimistic for the future	Identify those who have been impacted most by lockdown by sharing data and knowledge gathered and support them to re-	CLD Strategic Partnership <b>(lead tbc)</b>	Development of a community profile in each locality Number of learners re-engaging in learning	Six monthly report to the CLD Strategic Partnership	

	engage with learning through local community approaches		Evaluation of local approaches used	
Adult learners critically reflect on their experiences and make positive changes for themselves and their communities	Share learning and knowledge and develop a coordinated approach across the Partnership to support committees/trustees through Covid-19 Recovery	TSI ( <b>lead</b> ) CLD Strategic Partnership, CLDS, YouthBorders	Number of committees / trustees engaged with Number of volunteers supported Development of a model of support used across a range of sectors	Six monthly report to the CLD Strategic Partnership

**5. Involving learners and communities in the design, delivery, evaluation and improvement of our CLD activity; ensuring that this is meaningful and supports learning and development of individuals and communities; striving towards co-production.**

**What will we do?**  
Partnership members will share learning about what works when involving and engaging young people, adults and communities. Partnership members will develop their use of the National Standards of Community Engagement and develop a more coordinated approach to focus effort where it is needed and avoid consultation fatigue.

**Why is this a priority?**  
The Social Renewal Advisory Report (January 2021) contained 20 recommendations, aiming to renew Scotland as we start to emerge from the pandemic. **Communities and Collective Endeavour** is one of three guiding principles in the report “We believe that we need to work together to deliver a fairer society and we need to give more power to people and communities and empower frontline teams.” During 2020/21, disadvantaged communities were among those most affected by the pandemic. The experience of the Community and Partnerships Team (SBC) was that communities across the Borders focussed their resources on supporting the vulnerable in their towns and villages rather than community led activities such as asset transfer and participation requests. In 2019 SBC commissioned the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) to undertake a review of the Area Partnership and Community Fund processes. The final report included recommendations to strengthen implementation of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Many organisations and services are involving service users in design, delivery, evaluation, and improvement. Learning from these processes is not effectively and consistently shared. Planning for consultations across Borders (and beyond) is fragmented, resulting in the some individuals, groups and practitioners suffering from consultation fatigue and a failure to engage effectively with people considered by some as “hard to reach’. Models such as the national Children in Scotland ‘evidence bank’ should be promoted and contributed to by organisation in the Scottish Borders. We aspire to the good practice illustrated in **How Good Is Out Community Learning and Development 4** : 2.1 Empowered Communities “Public services are increasingly working with community organisations to identify and agree shared priorities, making budget decisions and co-design and deliver services. Community representatives are valued as equal partners at all levels of community and locality planning. As a result, community planning is increasingly able to identify and address key priorities.” 4.2 Delivery of community learning CLD “provision is informed and developed in discussion with learners and communities. Learners are actively involved in shaping both their own and the wider

learning offer. This ensures provision continues to meet the changing needs of learners and communities and results in clearly demonstrable and positive changes.”

## What has been achieved 2018-21

- Working groups made up of representatives from community organisations and services have been established in each of the Council’s five Area Partnerships to progress the funding and Area Partnership model. All five working groups have identified a method for assessing and distributing community grants in their area.
- **28** informal and formal asset transfer enquiries have been made during this period.
- Consultations, events and surveys have gathered feedback from adult learners which has been used to influence delivery of the CLD service’s learning programmes (**99** responses during this period)
- **18** Parent Voice members in Galashiels have contributed to the implementation of SBC’s Partnership with Parents Framework across schools and early years settings
- Older People’s experiences of lockdown: **487** people over 60yrs responded to a survey by the Borders Older People’s partnership Understanding Older People’s Experience of Lockdown Dec 2020
- Single agency service user surveys, service ambassadors, service user committees/reference groups have been developed in several Third Sector organisations. For example, the TD1 Youth Hub Ambassadors, the Rowland’s Lockdown Survey, YouthBorders supporting young people as Grant Makers with Corra Foundation, BANG ASN family surveys and parent carer focus groups.

### Rights-based Practice:

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child affords every child the right to be listened to and taken seriously (article 12). The views and opinions of children and young people should be considered when people make decisions which involve them. It is also crucial that children and young people are given the information they need to make informed choices and good decisions. Youth workers can play a key role in the provision of information, advocacy, and facilitation for decision making. Our Partnership will advocate for increased understanding of the national standards for community engagement and ensure that these are interpreted to include the engagement of children and young people of all ages and their evolving capacity to express their view.

## How will we know we are making a difference?

The Partnership will review progress on the measures for this priority annually, identifying strengths, areas for improvement and developing an action plan. This self-evaluation will be shared with HMIE inspectors during the annual engagement process.

CLD Outcome	Unique CLD Partnership action	Who will be involved	Measure	Reporting
Communities consider risk, make reasoned decisions and take control of agendas	1. Communities are involved in shaping local decision making processes and structures	<b>SBC Communities and Partnerships team (lead)</b> , Area Partnerships, Community Council	Number of people engaged in consultations	Report to Community Planning Partnership

	through Area Partnerships  2. Local assessment panels to make funding recommendations to Area Partnerships	Network, Third Sector, SBC	Number of community members involved in key design and decision making functions	Annual Report to CLD Strategic Partnership
Communities express their voice and demonstrate commitment to social justice and action to achieve it	3. Communities are supported to participate in local networks and contribute to Locality plans including Area Partnerships, Learning Community Partnership Plans and Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plans	<b>SBC Communities and Partnerships team (lead)</b> , Area Partnerships, Learning Community Partnerships, Community Councils	Number of people engaged in decision making opportunities in their communities	
Communities express their voice and demonstrate commitment to social justice and action to achieve it	4. Map engagement with the Community Empowerment Act (CEA) and build the capacity of less empowered groups and individuals to make use of the opportunities of the Act	<b>SBC Communities and Partnerships team (lead)</b> , TSI	Number of groups engaging with the CEA  Number of groups who take forward opportunities provided by the CEA	
CLD partners understand the National Standards for Community Engagement and embed them in their practice	5. Develop a shared understanding of the National Standards for Community Engagement  6. Develop a coordinated approach to engagement across the CLD Partnership	CLD Strategic Partnership, TSI, SBC (Communities and Partnerships team), CLD partners, <b>(lead tbc)</b>	Number of CLD partners reporting increased understanding of the Standards  Annual calendar of planned consultations amongst members	Annual Report to CLD Strategic Partnership
Adult learners express their voices, co-design their learning and	7. Further develop Adult Learner and Parent Voice models	<b>CLDS (adult learning) lead</b> , Schools, Borders College	Number of adults and taking part in influence and engagement activity through CLD	Annual report to CLD Strategic Partnership

influence local and national policy			Increase in partners involved	Annual report to CLD Managers Scotland
Young people express their voice and demonstrate social commitment	8. Further develop young people's voice model, sharing practice and intelligence across partners to improve reach, quality and reduce consultation fatigue, linking into CYPLG	<b>CLDS (youth learning) lead,</b> MSYPs, YouthBorders, Borders College, Schools	<p>Number of young people participating and engaging in: Champions Board (Corporate Parenting) Scottish Youth Parliament</p> <p>Number of young people participating in consultations around themes including: Climate change and sustainability South of Scotland Economic Strategy</p>	

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**6. Our Workforce will be skilled, supported, empowered to plan, delivery and evaluate quality CLD activities and interventions**

**What will we do?**  
 Our workforce is one of our key assets and as a Partnership provides us with our capacity and resource to provide learning and activities. Our workforce is, however, diverse and involves a significant number of volunteers and individuals, some of whom may not proactively identify themselves as CLD practitioners. As a partnership we will work to increase recognition of the CLD role across all partners and promote the CLD values, competences, and national occupational standards. We will work with the CLD Standards Council for Scotland to make progress in this area, and to promote the benefits of professional registration. We will support our CLD workforce to be skilled, supported and empowered to plan, deliver and evaluate activities and interventions for learners and communities. We will also take steps to develop entry routes in to CLD for volunteers, employment and for young people/apprentices.

## Why is this a priority?

The experience of learners is shaped by the skills, knowledge and competence of the workforce facilitating and enabling CLD activity. It is therefore essential that we have a clear pathway in to our sector (such as grow your own youth workers), that our workforce is valued and supported, and that we invest in training and development. The CLD Standards Council recommends that members engage in the equivalent number of learning hours per year as they work in one week. E.g. for a full time member of staff employed 35 hours per week, they would engage in 35 professional learning and development hours each year. We therefore need to ensure that we have locally available, high quality, flexible learning opportunities for our workforce which support our plan and the needs of our learners and communities. We are also ambitious to balance knowledge based thematic learning alongside opportunities for skills and practice development through networking, evaluation for improvement, student placement/supervision, professional dialogue and reading, and supporting sector specific qualifications at all levels.

In 2018 a national research study to understand the workforce working with Scotland's communities was undertaken by the CLD Standards Council for Scotland (CLDSC). This found:

- There is a gender pay gap in the CLD workforce and male workers are underrepresented in the sector overall.
- Women make up 75% of the CLD workforce. Men tend to hold higher-paid positions.
- There is an ageing CLD workforce and around 25% of the workforce intend to retire or leave the profession in the next five years.
- Ethnic diversity is low in the CLD workforce.
- The CLD workforce is highly qualified.
- Most public sector employers require CLD specific qualifications for staff while many third sector employers do not.
- The CLD workforce is highly committed but stressed.
- There are staff development needs that employers are concerned they may not be able to address. Practitioners and employers both identified that leadership and management skills and digital skills are the most common development needs of the CLD workforce.

In 2021, YouthBorders commissioned The Lines Between to research the third sector youth workforce force, their research found in the YouthBorders network:

- Women make up 71% of the workforce.
- 30% of the workforce is under 35, and 20% is over 54 years old.
- Ethnic diversity is low in the workforce.
- Staff identifying as having a disability or long term health condition made up 17% of the workforce.
- 42% of staff were on temporary or fixed-term contracts of employment; 33% of the workforce are paid hourly.
- 42% of managers have little or no confidence in being able to recruit youth work staff with the appropriate skills and experiences.
- 54% of the workforce have completed youth work qualifications as part of their role in the past few years.
- 11% of organisations required employees or volunteers to register with the CLD Standards Council.
- Barriers to organisations supporting the workforce to undertake training and qualification include: time capacity (84%); lack of available budget (68%); cost of courses/qualifications (63%); availability of suitable course/qualification (63%); travel (53%).

## What has been achieved 2018-21

- 43 CLD practitioners registered with the CLD Standards Council for Scotland at June 2021; and increase from 33 in September 2019.
- A Force for Good: Third Sector Youth Work Workforce Research study commissioned by YouthBorders, supported by SOSE, delivered by The Lines Between.
- 329 Hours of digital learning for the CLD workforce through an Education Scotland STEM Professional learning grant
- Engagement with the South East CLD CPD Consortium by SBC CLDS and YouthBorders
- Engagement with South East Improvement Collaborative (SEIC) locally (Borders SEIC Forum) and regionally (CLD SEIC Network)
- Our third sector youth work workforce is supported by quality training and professional learning through YouthBorders.  
In 2019/20: 24 sessions – 252 attendees  
In 2020/21: 25 sessions – 261 attendees
- Youth Work VQ is approved for delivery by Borders College to support Youth Work apprenticeships
- The SBC CLD service support workers (paid and voluntary) to access a wide range of professional learning opportunities. Paid staff report that “continuing professional development learning enables me to reflect on and improve my practice” (average 4 stars) and 90% report having regular opportunities to undertake leadership and development roles.

## How will we know we are making a difference?

CLD partners will have an improved understanding of the unique contribution that CLD makes to improving outcomes for individuals and communities. Practitioners across the CLD sector will have an increased awareness of the range of CLD practice in Scottish Borders and recognise and value their contribution to this field of professional practice. The Partnership will review progress on the measures for this priority annually, identifying strengths, areas for improvement and developing an action plan. This self-evaluation will be shared with HMIE inspectors during the annual engagement process.

CLD Outcome	Unique CLD Partnership action	Who will be involved	Measure	Reporting
Communities are confident, resilient and optimistic for the future	Create capacity and infrastructure which supports CLD student placements in the Scottish Borders.	<b>CLD Strategic Partnership working group (lead).</b> Partners to include: SBC CLDS YouthBorders FE/HE SOSE	Number of CLD students undertaking placements in the Scottish Borders	Annually to CLD Strategic Partnership
Community members identify their capacities, learning and skills,	Pathways to CLD – including qualification, progression, succession planning, grow our own	<b>CLD Strategic Partnership working group (lead).</b> Partners to include:	Number of workforce achieving accredited CLD qualification at any level.	

enhance them and apply to their own issues.	workers, supported employment, industry profile.	YouthBorders SDS SBC CLDS DYW Borders Borders College		
Communities manage links within communities and other communities and networks	Increase registration of CLDSC and support the workforce to achieve recommended annual CPD requirements.	<b>CLD Strategic Partnership working group (lead).</b> Partners to include: SBC CLDS YouthBorders TSI Partners Borders College	Number of CLDSC registrations in third sector in Scottish Borders	Number of CLDSC registration in local authority in Scottish Borders
Communities manage links within communities and other communities and networks	Establish a Regional Youth Workers Forum to support professional recognition, peer support, practice sharing, and CPD needs.	<b>CLD Strategic Partnership working group (lead).</b> Partners to include: YouthBorders SBC CLDS Youth Learning Schools Uniformed Youth Organisations	Number of practitioners engaged in Forum.	
	Digital Learning / knowledge and skills	<b>CLD Strategic Partnership working group (lead).</b> Partners to include: SBC CLDS TSI Partners Borders College	TBC	
Community members identify their capacities, learning and skills, enhance them and apply to their own issues.	Our workforce will be supported to be confident in identifying and evaluating for improvement using the national framework of CLD outcomes.	<b>CLD Strategic Partnership working group (lead).</b> Partners to include: SBC CLDS YouthBorders	Number of training and development session on evaluation for improvement.	Number of partner organisations engaged in evaluation for improvement activity.

			Number of practitioners engaged in Partnership peer evaluation programme.	
Community members identify their capacities, learning and skills, enhance them and apply to their own issues.	Roll out of the Mental Health Framework (children and young people)	SBC Education and all Partners. <b>Lead tbc</b>	TBC	
Community members identify their capacities, learning and skills, enhance them and apply to their own issues.	Roll out of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Training Framework (adults)	<b>Joint Health Improvement Team (lead)</b> with all Partners	TBC	
Community members identify their capacities, learning and skills, enhance them and apply to their own issues.	CLD Leaders' increase their understanding of the impact of health inequalities in Borders and use this to inform planning of CLD activities	<b>Joint Health Improvement Team (lead)</b> with all Partners	TBC	

## Section 5: Statement of unmet need

The CLD Strategic Partnership does not have any shared resources – so this plan focuses on the added value and joint working that can be achieved through effective collaboration, joint planning, shared outcomes, and the contribution of each partners own resource (usually staff/volunteer time). As a Partnership we are very aware of the increased need for CLD provision across our communities. We also understand that for our most vulnerable learners, these needs are likely to be greater and more complex than previously because of the impact of Covid-19. All members of our Partnership are also working in contexts of reducing resource either through budget saving or loss of income. Our Partnership recognises that there is a widening gap between need and ability to provide services which meet these needs. In particular, many CLD partners have had to focus activity on targeted and time limited interventions – there is a risk that community-based universal provision is weakened as a result of reduced budgets. This will have a detrimental impact on our ability to support early intervention and deliver prevention activity – which is a core value of CLD provision. Annualised reducing budgets and the absence of multi-year funding arrangements for the Third Sector restrict the possibilities of both the Partnership and individual partners to make long-term commitments to sustainable CLD service provision and workforce development and succession planning.

As a Partnership we have discussed areas of potential innovation and development which could address some of the need we have identified which will not be met by current actions in this Plan. Areas for development which would require additional financial resource include:

- Provision of high-quality street/detached youth work in targeted communities
- Increase the availability and sustainability of universal CLD activities for young people, adults and families
- Capacity to support the development and coordination of local data across the Partnership's activity
- Resource to develop, embed, and build capacity for youth social action across all Partners
- Development of Employer Supported Volunteering across all Partners
- Digital literacy education and data privacy rights for vulnerable children, young people, and adults of all ages
- Participatory budgeting as a means of tackling inequalities and building community capacity

Covid-19 recovery focus places an unprecedented set of challenges on the CLD sector in the Scottish Borders. Our Partnership recognises that community organisations, adult learners and young people require support to recover – and some members of our community will need more support than most. We must not allow inequalities to widen, and our Partnership will advocate for a community informed approach to Covid-19 recovery. The Partnership will throughout year 1 of this plan try to create positive influence and provide practical support on the reopening of community venues; resumption of paused services and CLD provision; reintroduction of vulnerable learners to group learning opportunities; supporting the employability for those negatively impacted by Covid-19; continued provision of digital inclusion activities; and support the recruitment and retention of volunteers across all CLD partners.

## Section 6: Integrated/Equalities Impact Assessment

An Integrated Impact Assessment has been initiated for the CLD Plan 2021-24. Implementation of the Plan should have a positive impact on most of the equalities groups (with the exception of marriage/civil partnership) and will reduce socio-economic disadvantage. The Assessment will be updated as further consultation with disadvantaged individuals and groups takes place during the lifetime of the Plan. The Assessment and any future amendments will be published on the Scottish Borders Council website. ([hyperlink to be inserted](#))

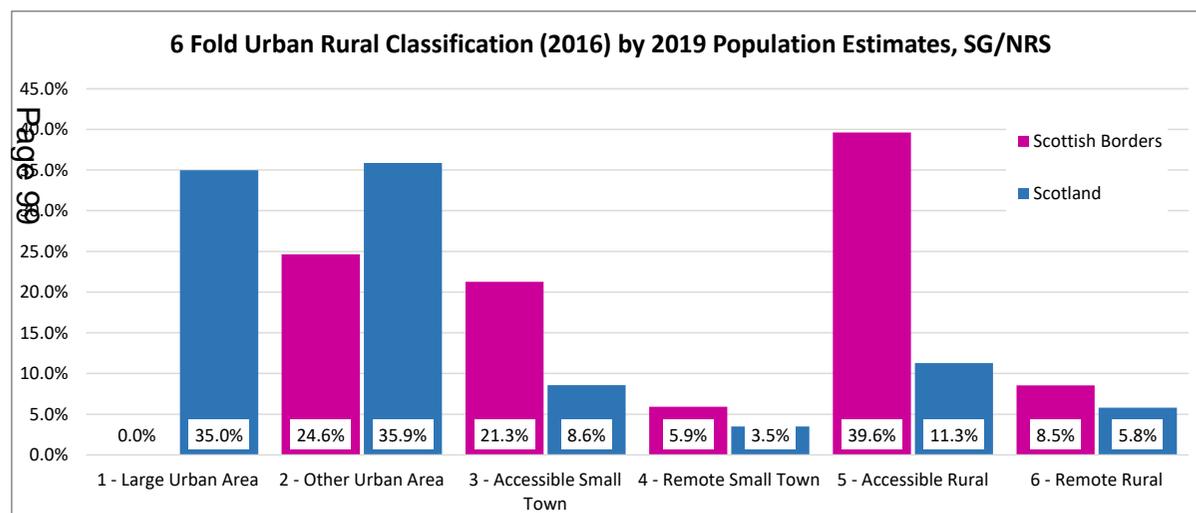
## Appendices:

### Appendix 1: Community Profile

The Scottish Borders is a rural local authority. There are five towns with a population of between 5,000 and 15,000 (Hawick, Galashiels, Peebles, Kelso and Selkirk) and a further five towns with a population of 2,000 to 5,000 (Jedburgh, Eyemouth, Innerleithen, Duns and Melrose). According to the Scottish Government's 6-fold urban-rural classification (2016):

- 48.1% of the population of the Scottish Borders live in **rural areas** compared to 17.1% for all of Scotland
- 27.2% of the population live in **small towns** compared to 12.1% for Scotland
- 24.6% of the Scottish Borders population live in **urban areas** compared to Scotland's 70.8%.

The graph below shows the variance in detail for the 2019 population.



Scottish Borders has vibrant and caring communities, as demonstrated by the community response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Pre-pandemic **volunteering rates were higher than across Scotland as a whole**: 36% of males provided unpaid help to organisations or groups in the last 12 months (significantly greater than 24% Scotland) and 36% females (28% Scotland) *Source: Scottish Household Survey 2019*

The majority (97%) of residents rate Scottish Borders as a **very/fairly good place to live**, significantly greater than across Scotland (94%). *Source: Scottish Household Survey 2019*

**Loneliness was reported less** than across Scotland (pre-covid): 10% of people aged 60+ years old reported feeling lonely, some of the time, in the last week, significantly lower than Scotland (17%); 88% of 40-59 year olds reported feeling lonely, none or almost none of the time, in the last week, significantly higher than Scotland (78%). *Source: Scottish Household Survey 2019*

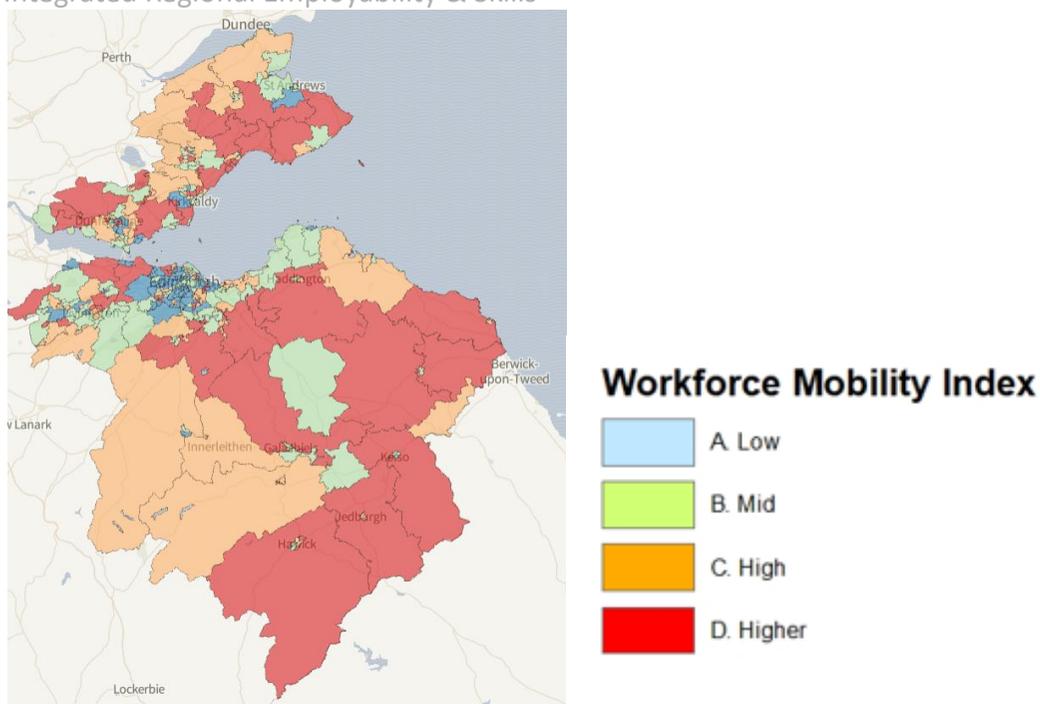
The rural nature of the Scottish Borders can lead to additional challenges for those experiencing inequalities. Availability and cost of transport limits access to a wide range services. **46 (32%)** data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most geographically access deprived. There are good examples of local solutions such as voluntary sector youth work supporting with theory test preparation for young drivers. A more strategic approach is needed to tackle this systemic barrier. The expansion of concessionary transport should be maximised over the three years of the CLD Plan to support access to youth work, adult and community learning opportunities.

### Workforce Mobility Index (WFI)

This Index captures rurality and other factors that make accessing employment, training or education challenging. It includes SIMD data on access to services, income and employment deprivation as well as education attainment. When all of these factors are considered, people living in well over half of the Borders face the highest level of challenge to accessing paid employment.

Source: Workforce Mobility Project – Integrated Regional Employability & Skills

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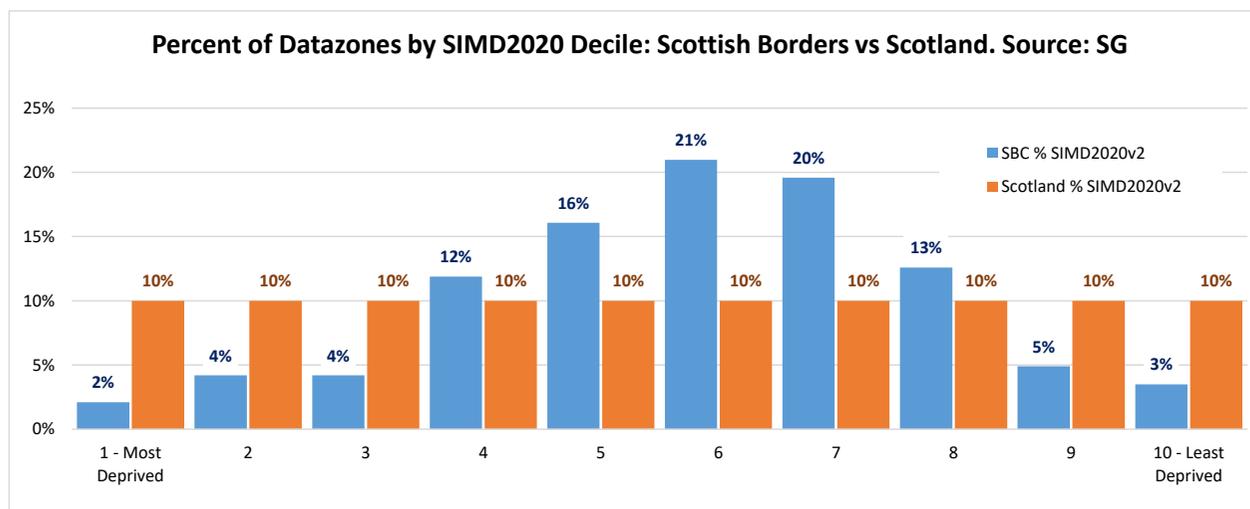
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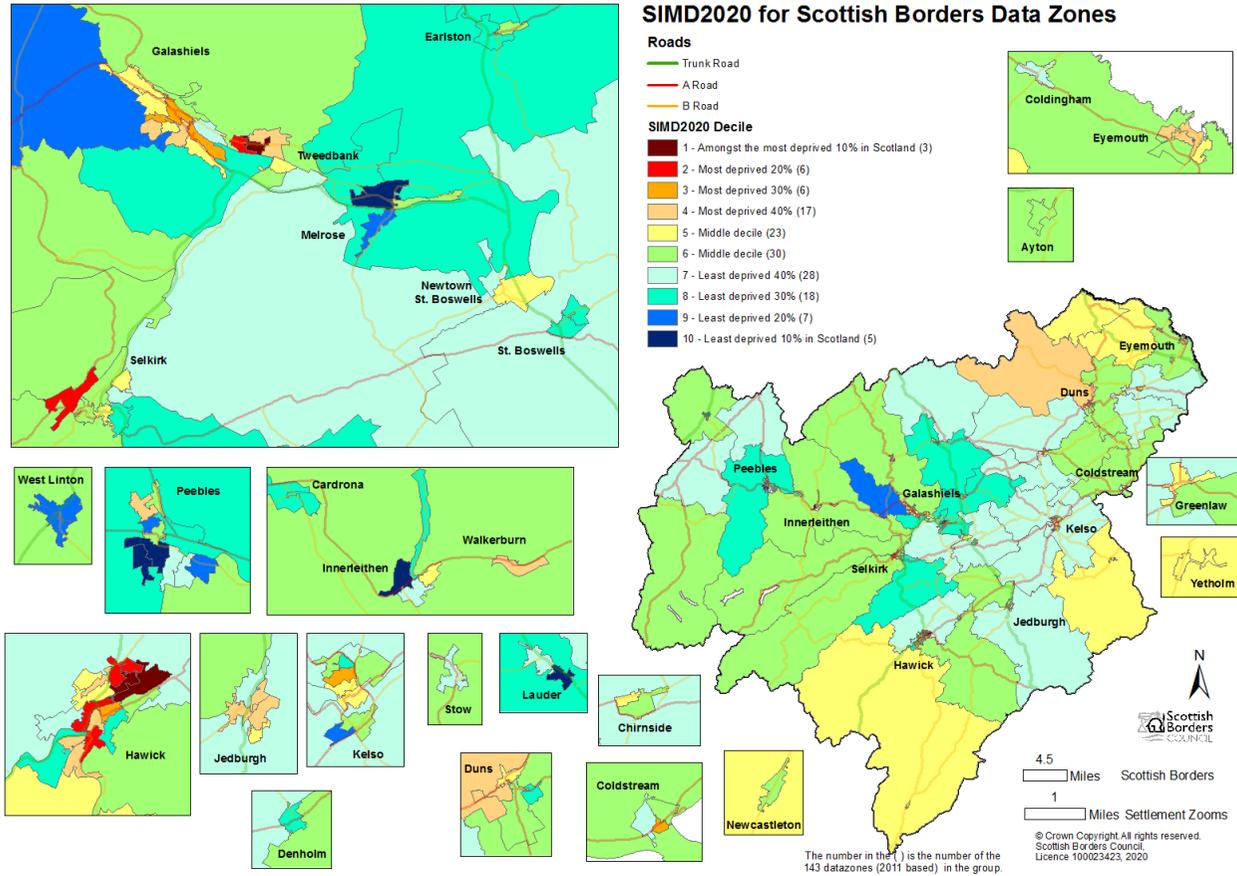
## Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the official tool for finding the most deprived areas in Scotland<sup>6</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>6</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>

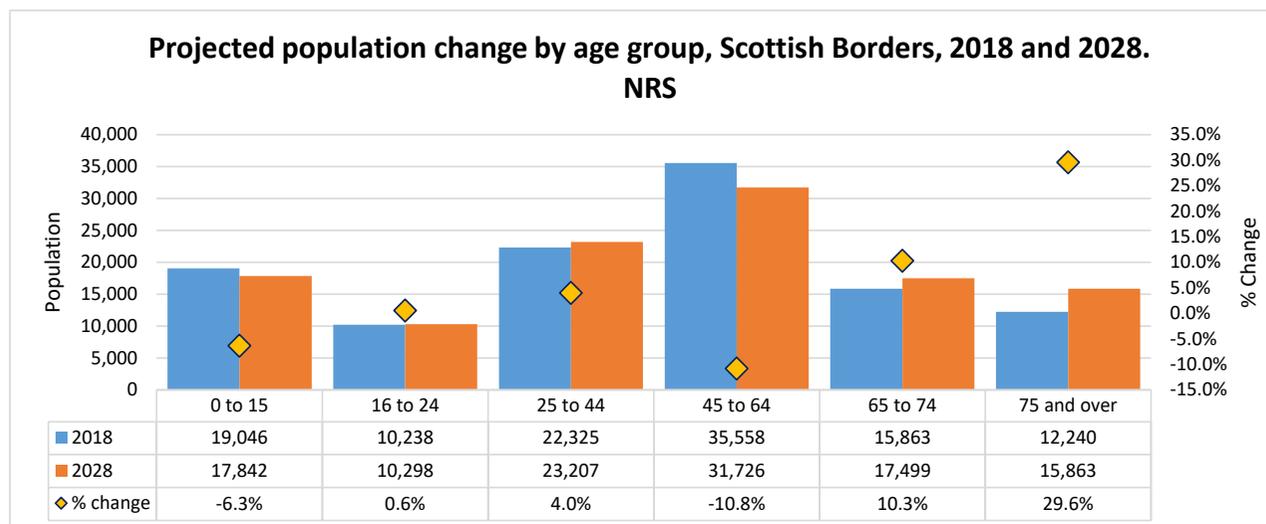


When specifically looking at the income and employment domain 9% of the Scottish Borders population is income deprived compared to 12% for Scotland. 8% for the Scottish Borders working age population is employment deprived compared to 9% for Scotland. Within the domains of the SIMD the proportion of data zones that are in the 20% most deprived of Scotland varies.

	<p><b>9 (6%)</b> of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders are part of the 20% most deprived data zones in Scotland</p>	 <p><b>Income</b></p>	<p><b>8 (6%)</b> of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most income deprived data zones in Scotland.</p>
 <p><b>Employment</b></p>	<p><b>10 (7%)</b> data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most employment deprived data zones in Scotland.</p>	 <p><b>Education</b></p>	<p><b>8 (6%)</b> data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most education deprived data zones in Scotland.</p>
 <p><b>Health</b></p>	<p><b>9 (6%)</b> data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most health deprived data zones in Scotland.</p>	 <p><b>Access to Services</b></p>	<p><b>46 (32%)</b> data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most geographically access deprived data zones in Scotland.</p>
 <p><b>Crime</b></p>	<p><b>20 (14%)</b> data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most crime deprived data zones in Scotland.</p>	 <p><b>Housing</b></p>	<p><b>3 (2%)</b> data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most housing deprived data zones in Scotland.</p>

## Demographic Challenge

According to NRS<sup>7</sup> the population of the Scottish Borders is expected to increase by 1% (from 115,270 to 116,435), below the 1.8% for Scotland. However, the population changes within different age groups shows a different story; a 6.3% reduction in those aged 0 to 15 and a 10.8% reduction in those aged 45 to 64 compared to a 10.3% increase in those aged 65 to 74 and a 29.6% increase in those aged 75 and older, as seen in the graph below.



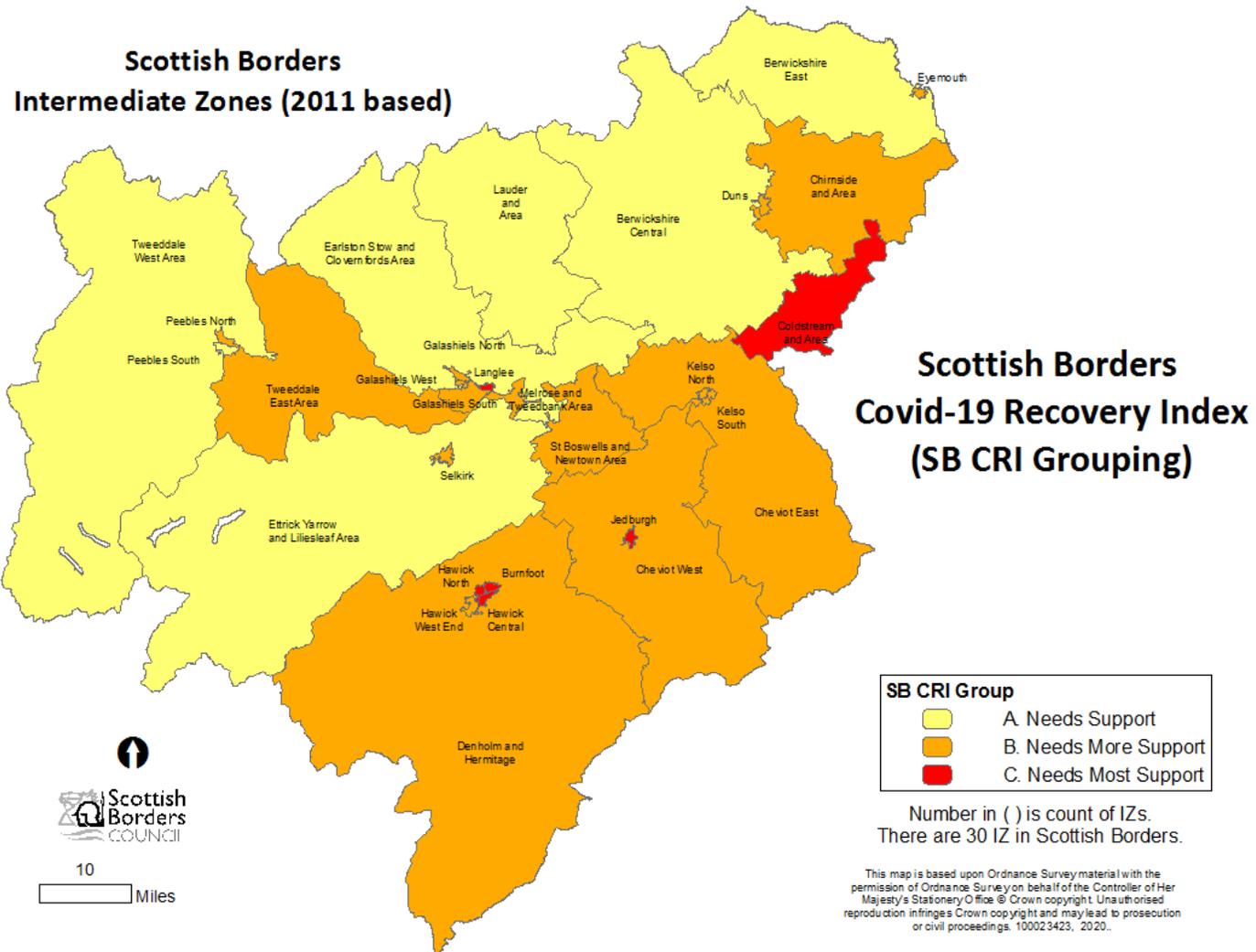
The change in population impacts on the dependency ratio for the Scottish Borders. The dependency ratio considers the non-working age (0-15 years and 65+) population compared to those of working age. A ratio of 70% (Scottish Borders for 2018) means that for every 1,000 people of working age there are 700 of non-working age. By 2043, it is estimated that will increase to 80% for the Scottish Borders compared to 60% for Scotland. (*Picture of Poverty July 2021*)



<sup>7</sup> [National Records of Scotland – Scottish Borders profile](#)

# SB Covid-19 Recovery Index

Within the Scottish Borders the areas potentially needing the most support to recover from Covid-19 are: **Burnfoot, Langlee, Coldstream and Area, Jedburgh, Hawick Central and Hawick North.** ([Picture of Poverty in the Scottish Borders 2021](#))



Appendix 2: Links to other Plans

Plan/Strategy	Priorities/Themes	CLD Plan Improvement Priority					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Scottish Borders Community Plan (LOIP)</b>	Economy, skills and learning Place Health, care and wellbeing Quality of Life						
<b>Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership Priorities</b>	Education and skills Employment and economy H&WB/Mental Health Early Intervention and prevention Develop a Covid-19 Vulnerability Assessment to identify those most in need at Ward level Structure: Connecting Borders						
<b>Borders College Strategic Ambition 2020-25</b>	High quality learning and training opportunities which are relevant, enabling and flexible Proactively engage with our community and stakeholders to ensure our practice reflects their needs Take a leading role in enabling an inclusive, resilient and sustainable Scotland						
<b>SEIC Improvement Plan 2021</b>	Drive high quality learning, teaching and assessments Support inclusion, wellbeing and equity Develop the use of digital pedagogy						
<b>Borders Learning, Skills and Employability Partnership</b>	No One Left Behind Parental Employability (target groups: Child Poverty Action Plan) Young Person's Guarantee Kickstart Partnership Action for Continuing Employability (PACE)						
<b>Anti Poverty Strategy</b>	Pockets Prospects Places						
<b>Child Poverty Action Plan</b>	Target groups: Lone parents						

	<p>Disabled  Minority ethnic  Child under 1yr  Mother aged under 25yrs  3+ children</p>					
<b>Scottish Borders Economic Strategy</b>	<p>Increasing growth  Tackling inequality</p>					
<b>South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy</b>	<p>Skilled and ambitious people  Innovative and enterprising  Rewarding and fair work  Green and sustainable economy  Thriving and distinct communities</p>					
<b>City Deal</b>	<p>Skills and Learning</p>					
<b>Public Health Priorities for Scotland</b>	<p>1. Alcohol, drugs and tobacco  2. Mental health  3. Early Years  4. Physical activity and healthy weight  5. Economy  6. Place and community  Immediate focus is on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covid recovery</li> <li>• Mental health</li> </ul>					
<b>Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework</b>	<p>Every child and young person in Scotland will be able to access local community services which support and improve their mental health and emotional wellbeing.  Every child and young person and their families or carers will get the help they need, when they need it, from people with the right knowledge, skills and experience to support them. This will be available in the form of easily accessible support close to their home, education, employment or community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universal youth work provision for early intervention, prevention, positive relationships and facilitating peer to peer support</li> <li>• Targeted interventions for specific groups - e.g. LGBT+ young people, deaf communities, young parents and carers, children and young people with learning disabilities, or complex needs;</li> <li>• Supportive work with family members;</li> </ul>					

<b>Scottish Borders Integrated Children and Young People's Plan</b>	Targeting Support to Maximise Life Experiences and Opportunities Ensuring Inclusion Improving Health & Wellbeing and Reducing Inequalities Keeping Children and Young People Safe Increasing Participation and Engagement						
<b>Social Renewal Advisory Report Jan 2021</b>	<b>1. Money and Work</b> – We believe that everyone should have a basic level of income from employment and social security. <b>2. People, Rights and Advancing Equality</b> – We believe that everyone should see their rights realised and have access to a range of basic rights, goods and services. <b>3. Communities and Collective Endeavour</b> – We believe that we need to work together to deliver a fairer society and we need to give more power to people and communities and empower frontline teams.						
<b>Scottish Borders Council Digital Strategy (Feb 2021)</b>	Reducing digital exclusion and improving inclusivity						
<b>SBC Corporate Plan 2018-2023 'Our Plan, and Your Part in it'</b>	Communities are involved in local initiatives and have their say on shaping local plans						
<a href="#"><u>Growing the Learning Culture in CLD</u></a>	CLD Standards Council: Culture of learning in the CLD Sector						

### Appendix 3: CLD Managers Scotland (pilot): Key Performance Indicators reported for Scottish Borders 2019/20

CLD Managers Scotland gathered KPI data from CLD services across Local Authorities in Scotland. Once evaluation of this pilot is complete, it is envisaged that this exercise will become annual and be expanded to include those CLD partners who wish to contribute to the national picture.

Scottish Borders Council CLD Service KPI 2019/20					
KPI number	KPI description	CLDS Adult Learning	CLDS Youth Learning	CLD Learning Community Partnerships	CLDS Total
<b>Adult Learning (16+, post school)</b>					
1	Number of adults engaged in CLD activity	402			402
2	Number of adults receiving completed nationally recognised awards through CLD activity	32			32
3	Number of adults gaining wider achievement awards, local awards and those not nationally recognised, through CLD activity	25			25
4	Number of adults engaged in family learning through CLD activity	313			313
5	Number of children/young people engaged in family learning through CLD activity	432			432
<b>Youth Work: children (aged 5 to 9) and young people (aged 10 to 18 - except for D of E where the upper age limit is 25)</b>					
6a	Number of children engaged in CLD activity		0		0
6b	Number of young people engaged in CLD activity		382		382
7a	Number of children receiving completed nationally recognised awards through CLD activity		0		0
7b	Number of young people receiving completed nationally recognised awards through CLD activity		156		156
7c	Number of young people receiving sectional certificates towards above Awards (sectional certificates only to be included if full award not completed)		Not recorded		Not recorded
8	Number of young people gaining wider achievement awards, local awards and those not nationally recognised, through CLD activity		66		66
<b>Improved mental health and wellbeing</b>					
9	Number of adults with improved mental health and wellbeing outcomes through CLD Activity	391			391

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10	Number of children and young people with improved mental health and wellbeing outcomes through CLD activity		366		366
<b>Community Development</b>					
11	Number of community groups receiving capacity building support through CLD activity	Not recorded	Not recorded		Not recorded
12	Number of adults and young people taking part in influence and engagement activity through CLD	35	46	161	242
<b>Wider engagement</b>					
13	Number of adults and young people reached and engaged with through one off promotional events / drop-ins / community events / engagements / etc	Not recorded	Not recorded		Not recorded

#### Appendix 4: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

To be inserted prior to publication