

Public Document Pack



COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD

THURSDAY, 8TH JUNE, 2023

Date: 8 June 2023
Time: 2.00 pm
Location: Conducted via Microsoft Teams

All attendees, including members of the public, should note that the public business in this meeting will be livestreamed and video recorded and that recording will be available thereafter for public view for 180 days

BUSINESS		
1.	Welcome & Apologies for Absence	2 mins
2.	Minute and Action Tracker (Pages 5 - 16) (a) Consider Minute of meeting held on 9 March 2023. (Copy attached.) (b) Consider Action Tracker. (Copy attached.)	5 mins
THEME 3 - ENJOYING GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING		
3.	Enjoying Good Health & Wellbeing (Pages 17 - 20) Consider progress report from Kirsty Kiln & Claire McIlroy (Public Health). (Copy attached.)	10 mins
4.	Mental Health Improvement & Suicide Prevention Plan (Pages 21 - 38) Consider report from Kirsty Kiln & Claire McIlroy (Public Health). (Copy attached.)	20 mins
5.	The Promise (Pages 39 - 40) Briefing update for noting from Stuart Easingwood, Director Social Work & Practice. (Copy attached.)	2 mins
6.	Young People's Wellbeing Survey (Pages 41 - 238) Update on results of Survey from Christine Brown, Snr Lead Officer, Education & Lifelong Learning. (Copy attached.)	10 mins
7.	Children's Services Plan 2023 - 26 and Annual Report 2022 - 23 (Pages 239 - 328) Consider report from Janice Robertson, Strategic Planning & Policy Manager. (Copy attached.)	10 mins

OTHER ITEMS		
8.	<p>CPP Response to Community Wealth Building Consultation (Pages 329 - 348)</p> <p>Response for noting from Jenni Craig, Director Resilient Communities. (Copy attached.)</p>	5 mins
9.	<p>Local Housing Strategy Consultation (Pages 349 - 450)</p> <p>Consider report from Donna Bogdanovich, Head of Housing Strategy & Development. (Copy attached.)</p>	10 mins
10.	<p>Child Poverty Report 2023 - 24, including Annual Progress Report 2022/23 (Pages 451 - 596)</p> <p>Consider report from Jenni Craig, Director Resilient Communities. (Copy attached.)</p>	10 mins
11.	<p>CPP Task Group Improvement Plan (Pages 597 - 612)</p> <p>Consider update from Jenni Craig, Director Resilient Communities, including refreshed Community Plan priorities for consultation. (Copy attached.)</p>	15 mins
12.	<p>Work Plan Progress Reports (Pages 613 - 650)</p> <p>The following reports are for noting:</p> <p>(a) Theme 1 – Enough Money to Live On (Copy attached.)</p> <p>(b) Theme 2 – Access to Work, Learning & Training (Copy attached.)</p> <p>(c) Theme 4 – A Good Place to Grow Up, Live in and Enjoy a Full Life, including the Lothians & Scottish Borders Local Policing Plan (Copies attached.)</p>	
13.	<p>Theme for Next Meeting</p> <p>Consider change to theme for next meeting.</p>	2 mins
14.	<p>Forward Planner for Future Meetings (Pages 651 - 652)</p> <p>(Copy attached.)</p>	2 mins
15.	<p>Any Other Business</p>	5 mins
16.	<p>Dates of Future Meetings</p> <p>All meetings held at 2pm online via Microsoft Teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 September 2023 • 16 November 2023 • 7 March 2024 • 6 June 2024 	

NOTES

Timings given above are only indicative and not intended to inhibit Members' discussions.

Membership of Board:-

Caroline Cochrane, SBC Councillor* (Chair)

Alan Carson, Police Scotland

John Greenwell, SBC Councillor*

Scott Hamilton, SBC Councillor*

Euan Jardine, SBC Councillor*

Elaine Thornton-Nicol*, SBC Councillor

Cathie Fancy, RSLs

Jan Dowlen-Gilliland, Borders Community Action

Karen Hamilton, NHS Borders

Russel Griggs, South of Scotland Enterprise

Ray McCowan, Borders College

Colin McGrath, Scottish Borders Community Council Network

Hilary Sangster, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

* Any 3 from 5 Councillors

Copies also sent for information to:-

Ms Anna Griffin – SEPA

Mr Crispin Hill – Nature Scotland

Ms Alison Irvine – Scottish Government

Mr David Gordon – Waverley Housing

Ms Shona Mitchell – Skills Development Scotland

Mr Bill White – Live Borders

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**SCOTTISH BORDERS
COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD**

- Date:** 9 March 2023, 2.00 pm.
- Location:** Via Microsoft Teams
- Attendees:** Cllr C. Cochrane (Chair), Superintendent A. Carson (Police Scotland), Prof. R. Griggs (SOSE), Cllr S. Hamilton, Cllr E. Jardine, Ms K. Hamilton (NHS Borders), Mr R. Hill (RSLs), Mr K. Langley (Scottish Fire & Rescue), Mr C. McGrath (SBCCN), Cllr E. Thornton-Nicol.
- Apologies:** Councillor J. Greenwell. Mr R. McCowan (Borders College).
- Also in attendance:** Chief Executive, Director Resilient Communities, Participation Officer, Communities and Partnership Manager, Community Co-ordinator, Localities Development Coordinator, Clerk to the Council, Trainee Democratic Services Officer (all SBC); Chief Inspector V. Fisher (Police Scotland); Ms K. Jackson (SOSE); Mr. C. Easton (Eyemouth & District Community Trust); Mr. C. Myers, Ms. F. Doig, Ms. S. McKenzie (NHS Borders); Mr. D. Dunlop (Borders TSI); Ms. J. Amaral (BAVS); Ms. M. Meldrum (Berwickshire Housing), Ms. A. Hall (SDS).

MINUTE AND ACTION POINTS

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that Item 6(c) (iii) on the agenda, the 'Young People's Wellbeing Survey results' had been deferred and would now be considered at the next meeting of the Board on 8 June 2023. Apologies had been received from Cllr Greenwell (SBC) and Mr R. McCowan (Borders College).

2. MINUTE

2.1 Copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 17 November 2022 had been circulated.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute for signature by the Chair.

2.2 Copies of an updated Action Tracker had also been circulated. Ms Malster provided an update to the tracker. With reference to paragraph 12.1 of the Minute of 17 November 2022, Mr McGrath gave an update on his proposal for each Community Council to set up a Citizen's Panel. Having contacted the Core Group of the Scottish Borders Community Councils Network and met with SBC Director Resilient Communities and SBC Participation Officer, Mr McGrath had discovered there were

over 1,000 groups or organisations already operating across the Borders, with some 205 groups in Hawick alone. In this respect Mr McGrath had written a note to all Community Councils and asked that this note be circulated to the Strategic Board.

DECISION

(a) NOTED the update and the completed actions.

(b) AGREED that Mr McGrath send a copy of his note to the SBC Chief Executive for approval, prior to its circulation to the Board.

Note: Councillor Jardine joined the meeting.

3. REIMAGING THE TSI

3.1 With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of 16 June 2022, Mr Duncan Dunlop (TSI) and Ms Juliana Amaral (BAVS) gave a presentation on the role, function and recent developments within the Borders Third Sector Interface (TSI). Case studies were shared with members to illustrate the recent work of the TSI, focussed around the Warm Spaces initiative and subsequent signposting to further support. The valuable work of local volunteers was highlighted whereby they brought local knowledge of and enthusiasm to support their community. The TSI was able to connect these volunteers with those in need and supported them to maintain momentum so activities happened quickly and safely. The TSI role centred on a collaborative approach to community capacity building which brought statutory, housing and third sector stakeholders together. The work that had been done in the village of Ayton, Berwickshire was highlighted; a Warm Space provision that now supported 90 people on a weekly basis. At present there were 17 projects underway across the Scottish Borders, all based on a similar model of funding and disbursement. National Lottery Match Funding had been made available to communities, along with statutory funding. The learning from the projects was shared across the Borders in order to avoid duplication of effort. The work of the TSI aligned closely with Place Making, social prescribing, community wealth building, financial inclusion and climate emergency action and made improvements towards reducing both health inequalities and reliance on Health and Social Care services. Borders TSI continued to work closely with Dumfries and Galloway TSI to bring back Mental Health & Wellbeing funding to the Borders for 2023/24. Other partners included SOSE, SOSREP and Borderlands.

3.2 Future developments within the TSI were to result in a volunteering hub for all ages, skills and interests, an initial 14 staff members available to all communities with social enterprise development at the heart of economic development, and a name change of the organisation to 'Borders Community Action (BCA)' as of 1 April 2023. The legacy partners Volunteer Centre Borders and The Bridge were to be wound up with all staff retained and incorporated into BCA. BAVS was to continue their community development work and refocus attention on their three charity shops to become zero waste hubs, with this work complementing the work of BCA rather than competing. The Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber was under review as part of an independent evaluation of social enterprise delivery across Scotland. Work was ongoing by The Bridge and BAVS to unite the Community Transport service as per the outcome of the 2021 consultation. It was highlighted that the annual funding award of £309k had been the same over the past 11 years; there was a need to increase this funding to a target of £500k to maximise impact. Borders TSI administration headquarters was to be relocated, with the possibility of an office at Council headquarters in Newtown St Boswells. Consideration was to be given to how a community presence was to be maintained going forward.

DECISION
NOTED the update.

4. CPP TASK GROUP IMPROVEMENT PLAN

4.1 With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of 17 November 2022, Ms Jenni Craig, SBC Director Resilient Communities, gave a presentation updating members on progress by the Task Group on the CPP Improvement plan. The plan comprised three actions: 1) Prioritise - to refresh the Local Outcome Improvement Plan/Community Plan (LOIP) as a result of the pandemic; 2) Governance - to review current Community Planning partnership structures and processes in relation to effective decision making; and 3) Performance - to ensure the Partnership's long term outcomes were supported by a short and medium term performance framework. In terms of actions for Priorities 1 and 3, the proposed 12 month timeline for development of the refreshed Community Plan was shared, with the final draft 'Community Plan and Actions' to be completed by August/September 2023. Currently the Task Group was engaged in data gathering in order to assemble and agree a list of top priorities for the Plan. April and May were to see the development of a draft Plan for review at the Programme Board in May 2023, the creation of a performance management framework for measuring actions and development of both an engagement plan and an IIA. Consultation on the draft CPP Plan with locality groups, third sector partners and key stakeholders was scheduled for June and July, with the final draft of the CPP plan and the IIA to be completed by the end of July 2023. August and September was to see the handover to partnership organisations to deliver the plan and actions, following approval at Council. In terms of Priority 2, mapping of governance arrangements already in existence in other areas was ongoing and was being supported by the Improvement Service.

4.2 Ms Craig also highlighted the statutory reporting requirements of the previous 2018 Community Plan whereby Scottish Government was to be informed of improvements to priority outcomes, the extent to which CPP had participated with community bodies in carrying out its functions, and the extent to which participation had been effective in enabling community bodies to contribute to community planning. A project team had been identified to develop the progress report, the content of which was to be accessible to the public with little or no knowledge of Community Planning. Partners were asked to provide information for the progress report on their theme area as required. Work continued and there were no concerns or exceptions to report at this time. In response to question around the future role of CPPs it was confirmed that evidence was being collated currently by Scottish Government, and Scottish Borders Council would keep a watching brief on this as it evolved and ensure that any significant changes were reported back to the CPP.

DECISION
NOTED the update.

5. PROPOSAL FOR THEMED MEETINGS

There had been circulated copies of a report by Ms Jenni Craig, SBC Director Resilient Communities, which proposed that the quarterly Community Planning Partnership meetings (Joint Programme Board and Strategic Board) were to be structured around the themes of the Community Plan. The four themes were as follows: 1) Enough money to live on; 2) Access to work, learning and training; 3) Enjoying good health and wellbeing; and 4) A good place to grow up, live and enjoy life. The alignment of the meetings to the themes was to enable time for detailed discussion one theme at each meeting, along with progress reports on the

achievement of outcomes identified in the 2022/23 CPP Work Plan. While this would allow a particular focus on each theme, other items would also be considered as part of each agenda.

DECISION

AGREED that meetings were to take a themed approach from Summer 2023 as follows:

- **Summer 2023 - Theme 3 Enjoying good health and wellbeing;**
- **Autumn 2023 – Theme 2 Access to work, learning and training;**
- **Winter 2023 – Theme 1 Enough money to live on; and**
- **Spring 2024 – Theme 4 A good place to grow up, live and enjoy a full life.**

6. WORK PLAN PROGRESS REPORTS

THEME 1 – ENOUGH MONEY TO LIVE ON

6.1 With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of 17 November 2022, copies of a progress report on Theme 1 – Enough money to live on, had been circulated. Ms Jenni Craig, SBC Director Resilient Communities, highlighted that work by both the Strategic Group and Operational Group continued apace to address the challenges faced by communities, funded by the £1.2m Cost of Living Fund. A total of £33,576 had been awarded to 12 community organisations to date which focussed on the provision of warm spaces through individual grants of up to £2k. The allocation of funding was to continue to support local organisations in providing advice and financial assistance to communities and the communications plan had been shared with the multi-agency group to further raise awareness of current support on offer. Most of the fund had been spent and decisions were being taken now with regards to using the remaining balance or for it to be carried forward to 2023/34. A full report on the partnership response to the cost of living crisis was to be brought to the meeting in Winter 2023.

6.2 In terms of the development of a plan that was to support parents into employment, an audit was underway of what support was currently in place or in the pipeline in order that gaps were identified. SBC had implemented a change in HR policy which ensured that Modern Apprentices were to receive the living Wage from 1 April 2023. In terms of community wealth building, in partnership with SOSE and Dumfries & Galloway Council, horizon scanning was underway to consider the establishment of flexible working hubs. Scottish Government was consulting on the legislation that was to put the advancement of community wealth building on a statutory footing and could be accessed via <https://www.gov.scot/publications/building-community-wealth-scotland-consultation-paper/> until the end of April. This was a key consultation for SBC and its partners to respond to collectively. The partnership was to focus on the collaboration of the public sector with private, third and community sectors to ensure that more of the wealth generated by communities was retained therein. The response was to be developed and circulated via email to obtain agreement from the CPP given the tight timescale.

DECISION

- (a) **NOTED** the update; and
- (b) **AGREED** to consider the response to the Scottish Government Community Wealth Building consultation via email.

7. **THEME 2 – ACCESS TO WORK, LEARNING AND TRAINING**

7.1 With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of 17 November 2022, copies of a report providing an update on Theme 2: Access to work, learning and training, had been circulated. Ms Andrea Hall, Skills Development Scotland, reported that in the time since the report had been written, the School Leaver Destination Return (SLDR) had been published on 28 February. This gave details of the percentage of school leavers who had left education between September 2021 and September 2022 and entered into a positive destination. The Scottish Borders had 1252 leavers (0.9% above the National average) which was an increase on previous trends of around 1100, of which 1210 (96.6%) went on to a positive destination (further/higher education, employment, voluntary work). 60% of leavers were S6, 30% were S5 and 10% were S4 which mirrored the National picture. There had been a higher than previous number of S4 and 5 leavers, partly attributed to the buoyant labour market. 20 individuals were currently unemployed and seeking work, while 13 were unemployed and not seeking work. 36.8% of school leavers progressed into higher education (4.4% below the National average). 31.4% of school leavers entered into employment (6.3% above the National average). A follow up SLDR survey was to be conducted on 3 April 2023 to ascertain whether these positions had been sustained.

7.2 A refresh of the Local Employability Partnership (LEP) was underway from now until July 2023 to develop its vision and priorities going forward. The focus of the partnership was on: transitions; an all-age employability support; and targeted interventions of specific groups (geographic or characteristic based) which utilised data on the local labour market and the voice of service users. The recruitment of an Employability Manager was expected to provide leadership of this work stream and facilitate the two way flow of information between the LEP and the CPP. Support groups already existed in the Borders which provided a challenge in the establishment of reporting mechanisms into the CPP. It was noted that a report by James Withers, on his independent review of the skills delivery landscape to ensure the public body landscape for skills remained fit to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future, was due to be published hopefully before the next meeting of the CPP. It was suggested that a discussion on the report's outcomes be held at the most appropriate Strategic Board meeting thereafter.

DECISION

NOTED the update.

8. **THEME 3 – ENJOYING GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

8.1 The Partnership Manager, Ms Clare Malster, reported that there was a vacancy for the lead officer of Theme 3, and it was anticipated a new lead officer would be appointed shortly. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of 17 November 2022, copies of a report providing an update on Theme 3: Enjoying good health and wellbeing had been circulated. Fiona Doig and Steph Mackenzie (NHS Borders) then provided members with an overview of the new Mental Health Improvement & Suicide Prevention Plan, called 'Creating Hope in the Scottish Borders' which was to be discussed in greater depth at the next meeting. Survey templates in all policies for anchor organisations and FSD had been developed and circulated to members of the Joint Programme Board. The vision for the Creating Hope action plan was to increase the number of people in good mental health at every age and stage of life and to reduce the number of suicide deaths in the Scottish Borders, whilst working together with partners and communities to tackle the inequalities that contributed to poor mental health and suicide. A key principle was partnership engagement in the creation and delivery of the plan. The Area Partnerships were included in the engagement process for development of the plan in 2022. Further proactive

engagement with localities was to be undertaken in 2023 around the areas of 'Mentally Healthy Communities' and 'Suicide Safer Communities'. Wider community planning aims and actions were to consider mental health impacts in order to reduce deaths by suicide and support people and communities affected by suicide. Many actions that were effective in reducing suicide and promoting better mental health lay out-with the health sector, within local planning partnerships and other agencies. The integration of mental health and wellbeing into Impact Assessments, along with guidance for promotion of mental health and wellbeing were to be produced in line with the action plan.

- 8.2 Copies of a report and the final draft of the Scottish Borders Health & Social Care Strategic Framework 2023-26, which would inform the Community Planning Partnership and seek its approval to adopt the Framework as the approach of the 'Enjoying good health and wellbeing' theme, had been circulated. It was a statutory duty of the Integration Joint Board to produce a 3 year strategic plan in collaboration with Public Health Scotland, Scottish Borders Council, the Health Board and wider partners. The Strategic Framework had been developed to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes of Borders communities, based on the needs of those communities and to prioritise areas which were considered to have the greatest impact on the health and wellbeing outcomes. Public consultation exercises had been undertaken with particular attention paid to engaging the sectors of society that were usually harder to reach. Findings from consultation and data gathering had been compared against the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes, with all currently below benchmark percentage targets. A risk based approach was undertaken to identify strategic issues that required proactive management. The resulting framework outlined six strategic issues with objectives to improve outcomes: improving access to services; rising to the workforce challenge; focusing on prevention and early intervention; supporting unpaid carers by getting services for the cared for right; improving effectiveness and efficiency; and reducing poverty and inequalities. It was proposed that the collective focus of the CPP Health and Wellbeing group was best placed to efficiently aid the necessary improvements.

DECISION

- (a) **NOTED the update.**
(b) **AGREED to adopt the Health and Social Care Framework as the approach of the 'Enjoying good health and wellbeing' theme.**

9. **THEME 4 – A GOOD PLACE TO GROW UP, LIVE IN AND ENJOY A FULL LIFE**

- 9.1 With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of 17 November 2022, copies of an update on Theme 4: A good place to grow up, live and enjoy a full life, had been circulated. The report proposed that the CPP be invited to endorse the Scottish Borders Climate Change Route Map (CCRM). The CCRM provided a strategic framework for collective action on a just transition to Net Zero and related adaptation action across the Scottish Borders. Chief Inspector Fisher renewed his request to partners to identify an appropriate officer to participate in a partnership Practitioner/Advisory Group which was to provide technical and practical support to the Board on this urgent priority. A workshop supported by Edinburgh Climate Change Institute was to take place on 20 March with a focus on greenhouse gas emissions. Its purpose was to initiate work on establishing an approach to area-wide baseline emissions data, to be used to plan, manage and monitor progress against key emissions sources. Partners were requested to ensure they were represented appropriately at the workshop.

- 9.2 In relation to the cleaner, greener travel outcome, a baseline review of data provided by the 42 bus and community transport routes and journeys had been undertaken. This was to be overlaid on employee postcode data from NHS Borders and Borders College to establish if there were any new travel opportunities. There had been an online public consultation exercise, the results of which were to feed into the local transport network review. The PINGO Demand Responsive Transport pilot was on target to exceed 12000 passengers by the end of March 2023. With further enhancements it was hoped that the trial was to be extended. In relation to Place Making, potential dates were to be identified for the Programme and Strategic Boards to come together for a workshop to be facilitated by Scottish Futures Trust and Scottish Government Place Team. The purpose of the workshop was to reflect on the Borderlands workshops held with communities and the wider engagements in other communities. The workshop should also highlight the role of the new TSI in Place Making. A date in the weeks commencing 17 and 24 April was to be considered. In relation to domestic violence, the DAAS Service Manager was currently preparing a draft infographic to be targeted to the wider community which highlighted the various ways they could 'reach in' and seek support/report.

DECISION

NOTED the update.

10. **INTEGRATED CHILDREN& YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROGRESS REPORT 2021-22**
Copies of the Integrated Children and Young People's Report 2021-22 had been circulated for noting.

11. **FORWARD PLANNER FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**
Copies of a Forward Planner for meetings and items for agendas had been circulated.

DECISION

NOTED.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 12.1 Ms Karen Hamilton (NHS Borders) reported that NHS Borders Board was to hold a public meeting in Jedburgh Town Hall on 30 March. This was the first of a series of meetings across the Borders in 2023 to be widely publicised.
- 12.2 Mr Colin McGrath (SBCCN) suggested another theme which could be added "A Good Place to have your say and influence decisions." The Director Resilient Communities advised that the opportunity to make amendments/suggest new themes was part of the refresh of the Community Plan discussions.

DECISION

NOTED.

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Strategic Board was confirmed as 8 June 2023, taking place online via Microsoft Teams starting at 2:00pm.

Meeting concluded at 3:50 pm

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SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

ACTION SHEET

COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD - November 2021 onwards

Notes:-




Items for which no actions are required are not included

NO.	MINUTE PARAGRAPH NUMBER, TITLE AND DECISION REQUIRING ACTION	ORGANISATION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	OUTCOME
9 March 2023				
1. Action Tracker	Para 2.2 – action (b) AGREED that Mr McGrath send a copy of his note on the number of organisations/groups across the Borders to the SBC Chief Executive for approval, prior to its circulation to the Strategic Board.	SBCCN	Colin McGrath	
2. Proposal for Themed Meetings	Para 5 – AGREED that meetings were to take a themed approach from Summer 2023, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summer 2023 - Theme 3 Enjoying good health and wellbeing;• Autumn 2023 – Theme 2 Access to work, learning and training;• Winter 2023 – Theme 1 Enough money to live on; and• Spring 2024 – Theme 4 A good place to grow up, live and enjoy a full life.	SBC	Clare Malster	Ongoing
3. Theme 1: Enough Money to Live On	Para 6.2 – action (b) AGREED to consider the response to the Scottish Government Community Wealth Building consultation via email.	SBC	Jenni Craig	Ongoing
4. Theme 3: Enjoying Good Health and Wellbeing	Para 8.2 – action (b) AGREED to adopt the Health and Social Care Framework as the approach of the “Enjoying good health and wellbeing’ theme.	SBC	Jenni Craig	Ongoing
17 November 2022				
1. Minute	Para 3.1 – action (b) AGREED that details of the organisations represented on the CP Programme	SBC	Clare Malster	Completed

NO.	MINUTE PARAGRAPH NUMBER, TITLE AND DECISION REQUIRING ACTION	ORGANISATION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	OUTCOME
	Board and the CPP Task Group be sent to Mr McGrath.			
2. CPP Task Group Improvement Plan	Para 4 – AGREED that the SBC Director Resilient Communities would bring an update on the work of the Community Planning Partnership Task Group Improvement Plan to the Regional Economic Partnership.	SBC	Jenni Craig	Completed
3. CPP Work Theme – Enough Money to Live On	Para 5 – AGREED to provide a briefing to the next meeting of the Strategic Board on the cost of living crisis and circular economy.	SBC	Jenni Craig	Completed
4. Food Growing Strategy	Para 10 – AGREED that each of the Community Planning Partnership partners would nominate an officer to work with Scottish Borders Council to identify land and projects for community food growing.	All	All	Completed
5. Any Other Business	Para 12.1 – AGREED that Mr McGrath would develop and submit a proposal on Community Councils each setting up a Citizen’s Panel to the SBC Acting Chief Executive, once the SBCCN had contacted all Community Councils to gauge their enthusiasm for such a move, and that their individual support be included in the proposal.	SBCCN	Colin McGrath	Superceded.
8 September 2022				
1. CPP Task Group – Improvement Plan Update including Work Plan	Para 3.2 – action (a) AGREED the draft Work Plan detailed at Section 4 which presented the key priorities and actions for the partnership over the next 12 months.	All	All	Ongoing
	Para 3.2 – action (b)(i) NOTED that in parallel to the Work Plan, a full review of the current Community Plan was being proposed to be undertaken in 2023-24, including a refreshed Strategic Assessment and the Health Needs Strategic Assessment, which would provide an evidence base for future changes to the Community Plan.	SBC	Jenni Craig	Ongoing
3. The Promise Governance Structure	Para 5.2 – action (a) AGREED to approve the implementation of the Strategic Partnership outlined in the report (which was agreed in	SBC	Stuart Easingwood	Completed

NO.	MINUTE PARAGRAPH NUMBER, TITLE AND DECISION REQUIRING ACTION	ORGANISATION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	OUTCOME
	principle at the Children and Young People's Leadership Group [CYPLG] away day on 30 th June 2022).			
	Para 5.2 – action (b) AGREED that the Promise Strategic Lead Officer, Promise Operational Lead Officer and Promise Implementation Officer be directed to continue to work with the current members of the CYPLG to finalise and implement the new governance structure.	SBC	Stuart Easingwood	Ongoing
	Para 5.2 – action (c) AGREED that additional partners, including AHSCP and ADP, were made aware of the re-organisation of the CYPLG in order to identify areas of cross partnership working in relation to The Promise.	SBC	Stuart Easingwood	Completed
	Para 5.2 – action (d) AGREED that strategic corporate parenting be part of the role of the Scottish Borders' Children and Young People's Promise Oversight and Leadership Board.	SBC	Stuart Easingwood	Ongoing
15 June 2022				
1. Community Planning Partnership Task Group – Improvement Plan Update	Para 3.2 – action (b)(i) NOTED that a further report on a CPP governance structure and performance framework which reflected the Work Plan would also be considered by the CPP Programme Board in August 2022 before being presented for approval to the Strategic Board in September 2022.	SBC	Jenni Craig	Ongoing
18 November 2021				
1. Food Growing Strategy	Para 4.2 – action (b) AGREED that Partner members reflected the Strategy and Action Plan within their own organisational plans and considered how this could contribute to community planning objectives in relation to land use, climate change, health and wellbeing, and community resilience.	All	All	
	Para 4.2 – action (c) AGREED to collaboration between CPP partners to identify resources (land, utilities, funding streams, skills	All	All	Picked up in action 4 from 17/11/2022

NO.	MINUTE PARAGRAPH NUMBER, TITLE AND DECISION REQUIRING ACTION	ORGANISATION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	OUTCOME
	development) to develop community capacity and enable access to community food growing.			
	Para 4.2 – action (e) AGREED to consider the longer term evolution of the Community Food Growing Strategy and how shared objectives may be reflected in the next refresh of the CPP Community Plan.	SBC	Jenni Craig	Consideration underway.
3. Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan	Para 6 – action (b) AGREED that members of the Community Planning Partnership reflected the Strategy and Action Plan within their own organisational plans and considered how this contributed to community planning objectives.	All	All	
	Para 6 – action (c) AGREED to collaboration between CPP Partners to identify resources to deliver the Strategy and Action Plan where appropriate.	All	All	
9 September 2021				
2. Community Learning and Development Partnership Plan 2021-24	Paragraph 6 – action (d) AGREED to receive an annual report on progress of the Plan.	SBC	Lesley Munro	To be considered in 2023

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

THEME: ENJOYING GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Theme lead: Public Health

Group members: To be finalised

Outcomes	Actions	Timeframe	Progress	RAG
<p>Increased health life expectancy</p> <p>More people enjoying good mental health and well being</p> <p>Increasing the number of well-paid and fair jobs for local people</p>	<p>CPP to commit to addressing health and socio-economic inequalities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and completion of a template for baselining status as anchor institutions • Developing and completion of a template for baselining position for paying due regard to the Fairer Scotland Duty • Developing guidance for promoting good health and wellbeing 		<p>Survey templates for anchor organisations and FSD/ health in all Policies have been developed and circulated to members of the Joint Programme Board. Extending the deadline and asking that all partners send this information to the PH mailbox.</p>	
	<p>Partners proactively engage in the Health and Wellbeing Area Partnerships/Locality Working Groups to develop local plans in each of the 5 localities and influence the direction of resource.</p>		<p>Verbal update to be given at meeting</p>	
	<p>The Partnership to effect change by advocating for reducing health inequalities aligning to the</p>		<p>The PH team are analysing health inequalities by reviewing data on uptake of health services and outcomes to identify and understand health</p>	

	overarching purpose of the CPP to reduce inequalities.		inequalities across the Borders. More information on this can be shared in due course.	
Increased volunteering numbers throughout the Borders which will provide additional support to those in need, and increased levels of wellbeing both for volunteers and those who are being supported	Current volunteering landscape to be considered & opportunities to be promoted and maximised.		<p>Volunteer Centre Borders/Third Sector Interface (now Borders Community Action) supported and worked with 70 community groups/charities to recruit volunteers. There are 520 open opportunities for volunteers in the Borders. signposted 97 volunteers to community groups and 104 new volunteers were identified. We held 4 drop-in sessions at Galashiels Jobcentre and 1 in Hawick Jobcentre between November-March for customers to find out more about volunteering and opportunities available. We attended 2 provider events in Galashiels Jobcentre. These events had a 5/6 organisations attending, and 30-40 customers split into 5 or 6 groups rotated around the providers in 10–15-minute slots. We gave an overview on the benefits of volunteering and opportunities available.</p> <p>We continue to encourage referrals from organisations: No One Left Behind (SBC), Developing Young Workforce, Skills Development Scotland (SDS), Community Learning and Development Service (SBC) and the Pastoral staff team in each of the 9 High Schools. We see an increase in young people who want to get involved in volunteering who are under 16 years of age. This is a massive barrier as very little organisations take under 16s due to various restrictions including insurance/PVGs and general worry of risk. We</p>	

			<p>are working with the schools and local youth groups to try and change the opportunities for under 16s. Between January – March we have supported 11 under 16's into formal consistent volunteer placements. During the January - March period our Youth Volunteering Development Officer has given 9 Saltire Awards and Volunteering/opportunities presentations and group talks to young people. Through collaboration with SDS, Developing Young Workforce (DYW) and Education, 7 placements have been currently found by Volunteer Centre Borders and we are working on securing start dates and welcome meetings for all the young people with the organisations.</p>	
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Creating Hope

In the Scottish Borders

Scottish Borders Mental Health Improvement and Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2022 – 2025

Vision – Good mental health and wellbeing for ALL

Our vision for this action plan is to increase the number of people in good mental health at every age and stage of life and to reduce the number of suicide deaths in the Scottish Borders, whilst working together with partners and communities to tackle the inequalities that contribute to poor mental health and suicide.

Principles, Programmes, Outcomes and Areas of Action

<p>Overarching Principle 1: MENTAL HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES</p> <p>Our action plan advocates for all plans and policies in the Scottish Borders to address the social, environmental and individual determinants of mental health. We will do this collectively by integrating mental health and wellbeing into Impact Assessments. Our action plan is trauma informed.</p>			
<p>Overarching Principle 2: PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENT IN CREATION AND DELIVERY OF ACTION PLAN</p> <p>Consultation and engagement is undertaken in developing our priorities and the action plan. Partners and organisations jointly take ownership for the delivery of the plan.</p>			
<p>Programme 1: Promoting mental health and wellbeing</p>	<p>Programme 2: Preventing suicide and self-harm</p>	<p>Programme 3: Reducing mental health inequalities</p>	<p>Programme 4: Improving the lives of people experiencing and recovering from mental ill health</p>
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>The environment and communities we live in promote the conditions that protect against poor mental health and suicide risk and empower people to thrive</p>	<p>Outcome:</p> <p>Our communities have a clear understanding of suicide, risk & protective factors and prevention – people and organisations provide a compassionate, appropriate and timely response</p>	<p>Outcome:</p> <p>Our work targets specific groups in the population known to be more at risk of mental ill health and suicide and advocates for a reduction in mental health inequalities</p>	<p>Outcome:</p> <p>People who experience mental ill health are supported to live well, access community based opportunities that promote wellbeing and recovery and have their physical health needs attended to in accordance with their human rights</p>
<p>Areas of Action</p> <p>1.1 Mentally Healthy Communities</p>	<p>Areas of Action</p> <p>2.1 Suicide Safer Communities</p> <p>2.2 Support for people affected by / bereaved by suicide</p> <p>2.3 Targeted interventions</p>	<p>Areas of Action</p> <p>3.1 Transition Support for Young People</p> <p>3.2 Poverty and Mental Health</p> <p>3.3 Hope and Compassion</p> <p>3.4 Targeted Communities</p>	<p>Areas of Action</p> <p>4.1 Mentally Healthy Communities (PLUS)</p> <p>4.2 The physical health of people with mental health conditions</p>



Ambitions

We have five ambitions for the course of this three year plan:

1. To build a 'Mental Health in all Policy approach' through advocacy over the course of the plan (recognising the move towards a Public Mental Health approach which broadly seeks to address the social, environmental and individual determinants of mental health);
2. To undertake Health Inequalities Impact Assessments on the Action Plan;
3. To ensure our action plan is Trauma Informed; starting with one test project;
4. To widen partnership work and engagement across the Borders and specifically to consult on the priorities in this plan;
5. To develop outcomes for tracking progress and success.

Underpinning work that supports the action plan

- Research, evidence and data including Lived Experience insight;
- Training and capacity building;
- Communications and advocacy of a Public Mental Health approach;
- Monitoring and evaluation.

Introduction

- This action plan has been produced following a twelve month period of engagement with partners and stakeholders. We have listened to partners members of the Scottish Borders Mental Health Improvement and Suicide Prevention steering group and others who have contributed via themed meetings. We have reached out in different ways to engage communities; we put out an online survey, commissioned face to face focus groups and increased our use of social media. We know we have more to do to understand all the issues and will continue to seek an ongoing dialogue throughout the course of this plan, particularly with groups who are at higher risk of mental ill health and suicide.
- Much of our work over the last few years has been in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, adapting our communications and training delivery to more online formats, supporting partner organisations, carrying out research, working with at-risk groups and raising awareness of the variety of support available for mental health in acknowledgement of the impact that Covid-19 has had on the wellbeing of our communities. As we try to move into a longer-term action planning approach, we appreciate that current socio-economic issues and the cost of living crisis is exacerbating many of the risk factors that we know contribute to poor mental health and suicidal thoughts.
- The vision statement is in part drawn from the Scottish Borders Community Plan outcome 'At every age and stage of life, more people in good mental health'. Greater acknowledgement is being made of the need for a whole system and society approach to improve mental health and prevent suicide and we look to our partners in the wider Community Planning Partnership to address key risk factors such as financial difficulties, debt, homelessness, poverty, trauma and social isolation with the impact on mental health in mind.
- We seek to have a strong evidence base to our work and in addition to recognising the wider social determinants that can lead to mental ill health and suicide. We are also taking the lead from the new national suicide prevention strategy and using the Integrated Motivational-Volitional (IMV) Model to guide

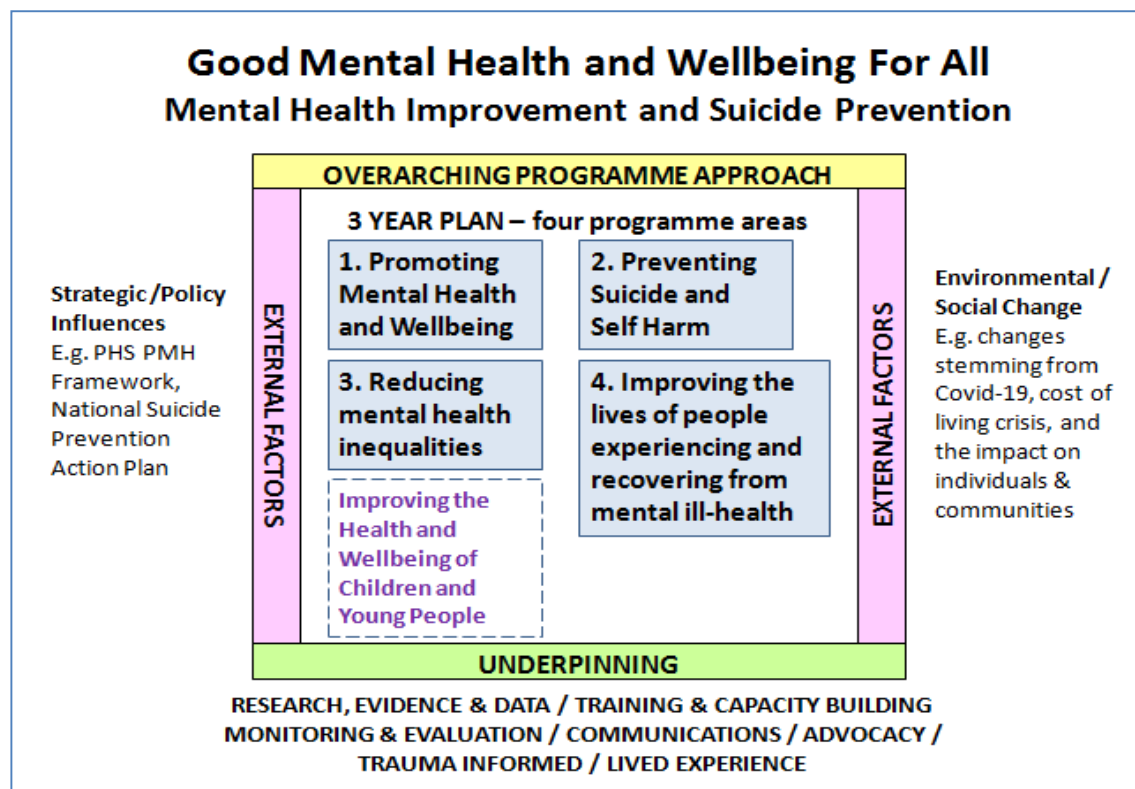


our approach. This model identifies the factors that can motivate suicidal thoughts and although the pathway is complex, hopelessness is a common factor and for this reason we are adopting 'hope' as the overall theme for our action plan and the name 'Creating Hope in the Scottish Borders'.

- We have identified two overarching principles, four key programmes and outcomes for the action plan. We will build action around those four programmes which we will deliver alongside our partners. Some of the actions are very broad and out-with the scope of our own steering group and where that is the case we will seek to work in partnership and influence other parts of the system to take these actions into account. We will develop indicators to measure our progress in delivering the action plan.
- Local leadership and accountability for this action plan sits with the Mental Health Improvement and Suicide Prevention steering group, a sub-group of the Mental Health Partnership Board, and chaired by Public Health. The local leadership and accountability for suicide prevention as stated within the new national action plan sits with Chief Officers in line with public protection guidance.

Our approach

The diagram below summarises our vision and four themed programme areas, examples of the external factors that shape our action plan and the underpinning activities that thread through the whole programme approach.



Focus on adults

This action plan is specifically focused on the adult population of the Scottish Borders. It is recognised in the diagram above that there is a separate programme area for Children and Young people, which sits within separate planning and delivery structures. We work closely with the Children and Young People's structures and as the programme areas are progressed it is important to ensure that the work is aligned and complementary.

National strategies

The Scottish Government has just published a new Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan and is working on producing a new Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan

As mentioned, this plan takes inspiration from the title of the new national Suicide Prevention plan and aligns where appropriate with the outcomes, which are:

1. The environment we live in promotes conditions which protect against suicide risk – this includes our psychological, social, cultural, economic and physical environment.
2. Our communities have a clear understanding of suicide, risk factors and its prevention – so that people and organisations are more able to respond in helpful and informed ways when they, or others, need support.
3. Everyone affected by suicide is able to access high quality, compassionate, appropriate and timely support – which promotes wellbeing and recovery. This applies to all children, young people and adults who experience suicidal thoughts and behaviour, anyone who cares for them, and anyone affected by suicide in other ways.
4. Our approach to suicide prevention is well planned and delivered, through close collaboration between national, local and sectoral partners. Our work is designed with lived experience insight, practice, data, research and intelligence. We improve our approach through regular monitoring, evaluation and review.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy

As a multi-agency steering group we considered the consultation about a new national Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and submitted a response in September 2022. As a participant in the national Public Mental Health Special Interest Group we are aware of a likely move more towards a national strategy that focuses on prevention of mental ill health and the promotion of good mental health as well as the provision of support and services. The new national strategy was expected in Autumn 2022 but has been delayed.

We will keep our local action plan under regular review and adapt as necessary to respond to relevant emergent strategies at both a national and local level.



Mental Health in ALL Policies

Overarching Principle 1

Our action plan advocates for all plans and policies in the Scottish Borders to address the social, environmental and individual determinants of mental health

Context

Mental Health in all Policies is an approach to promote population mental health and wellbeing by initiating and facilitating action within different non-health public policy areas. This recognises the impact of public policies on mental health determinants and strives to reduce mental health inequalities – as an overarching principle it is relevant to all of the actions in this plan. This is the basis for a ‘Public Mental Health’ approach.

We must work with the Community Planning Partnership to strengthen our approach to addressing the wider determinants that cause mental ill health and those that are specific to suicide prevention. We will do this by identifying opportunities to take a ‘mental health in all policies’ approach and include ‘suicide prevention in all policies’ within this.

The Scottish Borders Community Plan has a current work plan that contains four themes that are relevant to Public Mental Health:

1. Enough money to live on;
2. Access to work, learning and training;
3. Enjoying good health and wellbeing;
4. A good place to grow up, live in and enjoy a full life.

We will identify opportunities to take a ‘Mental Health in all Policies’ approach by linking in with other partners and areas of policy. This should include a ‘Suicide Prevention in all Policies’ approach (relevant to the national Suicide Prevention Outcome 1: the environment we live in promotes conditions which protect against suicide risk – this includes our psychological, social, cultural, economic and physical environment).

We will do this collectively by integrating mental health and wellbeing into local Impact Assessments and develop our approach within the context of the Health Inequalities Impact Assessment, the Fairer Scotland Duty and the Community Plan.

What we will keep doing

- ✓ We will identify opportunities to work in partnership and advocate for a Public Mental Health approach that includes Mental Health in All Policies, starting with the Community Plan;
- ✓ We will continue to develop our local guidance for promoting good mental health and wellbeing.



Partnership engagement in creation and delivery of action plan

Overarching Principle 2

Consultation and engagement is undertaken in developing our priorities and the action plan. Partners and organisations jointly take ownership for the delivery of the plan.

Context

We have stated a specific ambition to widen our partnership work and engagement across the Borders in relation to the programme of work for Mental Health Improvement and Suicide Prevention. We have undertaken consultation and engagement on the priorities in this plan and the contributions of all participants has been greatly valued. We are particularly grateful to the support from Borders Care Voice and the Scottish Borders Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum and we recognise that more can always be done as we work towards a more meaningful co-production approach across all areas of action.

Some of the areas of action contained in this plan require many different partners to collaborate and work together on the delivery. There are also many things that individual organisations and groups can do within their own environments and contexts which require them to take action themselves, and where possible we will encourage them and support them to do so.

We recognise that many of the issues raised in the engagement work are beyond the scope of the Mental Health Improvement and Suicide Prevention Steering Group and that many are more related to the mental health services in the Borders. However, these issues are relevant to tertiary prevention and we will identify opportunities to work in partnership with our local mental health services and support and influence future action.

The issues raised included:

- Better collaboration and co-ordination. It was highlighted that action is needed to strengthen the connections and collaboration between services so that the whole system is more effective;
- Mapping and promoting what's available. It was highlighted that action is needed to make it easier for people to find information;
- Access to support and opportunities - It was highlighted that it would be beneficial to have a single point of access for getting help and also from a clinicians point of view, find ways to make it easier for them to socially prescribe.

What we will keep doing

- ✓ We will keep a regular dialogue going with the Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum as we plan and deliver the actions in each of the sections of this plan, involving people with lived experience as much as possible;
- ✓ We will continue to facilitate a multi-agency Mental Health Improvement and Suicide Prevention Steering group to enable partners to come together to discuss, shape and deliver the areas of action contained in this plan.



Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing

Outcome 1

The environment and communities we live in promote the conditions that protect against poor mental health and suicide risk and empower people to thrive

Context

The scope of this programme area is to work to improve population approaches to improving mental health and wellbeing and will consider the evidence about protective and risk factors in relation to population mental health.

The focus of this work will be around prevention - the programme area will specifically consider actions related to Primary Prevention, before any condition occurs, following the principle of proportionate universalism.

In addition to the social and economic determinants, we recognise the relevance of 'place shaping' and that the built and natural environment has a strong impact on mental health and wellbeing. We support positive and safe physical environments including housing and neighbourhoods. We also recognise the design aspects of ensuring our communities are suicide safe places.

There is strong evidence that regular participation in certain types of activities can protect mental health and lead to an improvement in mental health and wellbeing. Belonging to a community, connecting with nature, spending time in quality greenspace, gardening, being physically active and taking part in exercise and sporting activities, being creative and participating in arts and musical activities, learning and having hobbies, volunteering and giving your time to others are all beneficial for mental health. While most people are able to thrive and maintain their own mental wellbeing by taking part in these independently, others need extra support to access these opportunities.

What we will keep doing

- ✓ We will continue to support a primary prevention approach through our communications and social media work, promoting information, resources and activities that are universally available.
- ✓ We will continue to work with existing stakeholders in the Mental Health Improvement and Suicide Prevention steering group to develop our partnership actions and support efforts to improve mental health across organisations and sectors.
- ✓ We will continue to collect data related to mental health in the Borders to monitor and identify trends, adjusting our actions accordingly.



Areas of action

ACTION 1.1

Mentally Healthy Communities

We will work proactively to develop 'mentally healthy communities'. We know that social connection is a key protective factor and all of our engagement work supported the development of a community based approach that enables and empowers people to access opportunities that support good mental health and wellbeing. The online survey highlighted 'friendly and welcoming social places and activities that are open to everyone and are free' as a priority and a strong theme in the focus groups was the participation in local community groups - social, physical, creative or peer groups.

We will build on the resources we already have in place to improve self-help and signposting, reflecting the feedback from our engagement work that there is a need for some form of directory of service/activities available within the Scottish Borders and local promotion.

For those who experience barriers in accessing these activities and opportunities we will work with partners across the system to improve the provision of social prescribing in the Borders and make the most of the natural and community assets that we have. This will have good and meaningful opportunities for people to be involved e.g. strong peer and volunteering basis (building on the emerging peer support worker collaborative), skilling up volunteers and robust pathways for participants to volunteer, develop their skills, obtain and maintain employment. Our engagement work has highlighted the need to have support available for people who need extra help to access community based opportunities and be accessible for people who may have sensory, physical or other disabilities.

There was overwhelming support in our online survey for challenging stigma and we will make this a key part of our work on developing mentally healthy communities.

This area of action links across to other relevant activities:

- ✓ The development of 'Suicide Safer Communities' in Outcome 2;
- ✓ The Wellbeing Service, Local Area Co-ordination link worker service and other local and national developments related to social prescribing and new mental health and wellbeing services in Primary Care;
- ✓ Existing appropriate community based activity such as that funded by the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, for example the Clubsports 'Headstrong' approach in local sports clubs;
- ✓ A 'no wrong door' approach for first points of contact in communities e.g. job centres, housing associations and libraries.



Preventing Suicide and Self-Harm

Outcome 2

Our communities have a clear understanding of suicide, risk & protective factors and prevention – people and organisations provide a compassionate, appropriate and timely response

Context

The focus of this work is around prevention, early intervention and postvention (support after a suicide or suicide attempt). There is a strong national context to the work which we will incorporate where appropriate into this action plan and prioritise locally in order to achieve our vision of reducing the number of suicide deaths.

Similarly to Outcome 1, we recognise that socio-economic issues, such as the cost of living crisis, have the potential to exacerbate many of the factors we know contribute to suicide. There is a need to work with Community Planning Partnership to address financial inequity, debt, homelessness and child poverty, among other factors.

Throughout our work we will consider targeted interventions to groups of the population more at risk of suicide and self-harm. At risk groups include men, people who have previously self-harmed, people with mental illness, those in touch with the criminal justice system, Veterans, particular age groups and people bereaved by suicide. As a rural area, our population that is more at risk includes those who live and work in more socially isolated situations such as the farming and agricultural community. Our programme will be based on evidence around actions most likely to prevent suicide and local knowledge, with lived experience insight valued as an important part of our evidence.

As set out in the introduction, we are using the Integrated Motivational-Volitional (IMV) Model to guide our approach. This model identifies the factors that can motivate suicidal thoughts and the pathway to suicidal behaviour. Defeat, humiliation and entrapment are common factors along the pathway and getting people the help they need and having a sense of hope are key tools in overcoming these factors. The Time, Space and Compassion principles and approach offer an effective way of achieving a sense of hope and we will build this into our work across settings and communities to make them 'Suicide Safer'.

What we will keep doing

- ✓ We will continue to develop our information and promote sources of support for people in crisis;
- ✓ We will continue to raise awareness of suicide prevention and offer learning opportunities and training to a wide audience, and implement the recommendations of our training support review;
- ✓ We will continue to work with the After A Suicide Working Group to ensure a strong voice of lived experience in our work;
- ✓ We will continue to monitor data and trends related to suicide and self-harm both nationally and locally and liaise with national, regional and local contacts;
- ✓ We will continue to develop our practice locally, such as our Sudden Death Reviews and strengthening our trauma informed approach to suicide prevention.



Areas of action

ACTION 2.1

Suicide Safer Communities

Having 'Suicide Safer Communities' was a high priority in our engagement work and we will work with people with lived experience in the Borders to determine how we define this locally. This action is related to Action 1.2 Mentally Healthy Communities but requires additional consideration of issues such as:

- Developing public awareness of actions to prevent suicide;
- Proactive engagement with local media around Samaritans guidelines, building on the work that has already been done;
- Public awareness training at the Informed Level; and
- Developing a network of suicide prevention champions.

This action is relevant to the national Suicide Prevention Action Plan Outcome 2: Our communities have a clear understanding of suicide, risk factors and its prevention – so that people and organisations are more able to respond in helpful and informed ways when they, or others, need support.

We will work proactively with partners and people with lived experience to take this action forward, within the context of the national strategy and incorporating hope as well as Time, Space and Compassion.

ACTION 2.2

Support for people affected by / bereaved by suicide

We will work to further develop informal support opportunities and resources for people who are affected by suicide in the Borders. This includes but is not limited to people bereaved by suicide. Feedback from people bereaved by suicide suggested that the following aspects of support and resources are important and we will continue to work with people with lived experience to develop our provision:

- Timely access to therapies and resources;
- Having someone to talk to and who would actively listen;
- Peer support and helpline options;
- Resources to help when someone is suicidal and when managing the first response;
- Support, tools and resources to help with shock, grief and feelings of guilt, and helplessness;
- Having support and understanding in the workplace;
- Suicide bereavement training.

This action is relevant to the national Suicide Prevention Action Plan Outcome 3: Everyone affected by suicide is able to access high quality, compassionate, appropriate and timely support – which promotes wellbeing and recovery – and we will work closely with national colleagues to deliver this action locally. This action applies to all children, young people and adults who experience suicidal thoughts and behaviour, anyone who cares for them, and anyone affected by suicide in other ways. Help and information - further develop the suicide prevention information hub with information for individuals and professionals. This could include support information for people experiencing suicidal thoughts and for their carers



ACTION 2.3

Targeted interventions

We will target our work at groups of the population more at risk of suicide and self-harm and will do this in a way that is designed with lived experience insight, practice, data, research and intelligence.

The groups at greater risk of suicide and self-harm in the Scottish Borders include those detailed in the context section above: men, people who have previously self-harmed, people with mental illness, those in touch with the criminal justice system, Veterans, particular age groups and people bereaved by suicide. The focus of this secondary type of prevention work will change as the action plan is progressed, in line with capacity.

An example of this type of targeting is the “Hearing the Voices of Men” mental health research project and the subsequent development of activities to support men in the Scottish Borders in line with findings.



Reducing Mental Health Inequalities

Outcome 3

Our work is targeted to specific groups in the population known to be more at risk of mental ill health and suicide and advocates for a reduction in mental health inequalities

Context

Mental ill health is not equally distributed across the population – it is strongly linked to health and social inequalities and is affected by environmental and social factors. The link between social status and mental health problems is the level, frequency and duration of stressful experiences and the extent to which these are buffered by social and individual resources and sources of support. These stressful experiences (including poverty, family conflict, poor parenting, childhood adversity, unemployment, chronic health problems and poor housing) occur across the life course and contribute to a greater risk of mental ill health problems if they are multiple in nature and if there are no protective factors to mitigate against their negative impact.

Although everybody was affected by Covid-19, the impact was experienced very differently by different groups in society, exacerbating pre-existing inequalities and disproportionately affecting some groups of the population. The cost of living crisis is currently tipping more of our households into poverty. Living in poverty is difficult and stressful, and fuel-poor households face financial, time and resource restraints, which worsens mental health and impacts the ability to live healthily. Fuel poverty exacerbates health inequalities by impacting physical and mental health for adults and children alike (Institute of Health Equity, 2022). At the time of writing, as the crisis worsens, the mental health inequalities that exist in the Borders are likely to be worsening.

The focus of this work will be around prevention and early intervention. The programme area is distinct from population approaches to improving mental health and wellbeing as it considers what should be done differently for groups at risk, in order to close the gap between those with good and poor mental health. Where we have not adequately engaged with particular communities in accordance with our Health Inequalities Impact Assessment, we will continue to seek opportunities to strengthen approaches that work. Specific attention is given in Outcome 2 to groups more at risk of suicide and self-harm.

The Mental Health Foundation advocates taking action at three different levels to reduce mental health inequalities. This involves taking action around structural measures, strengthening community assets and increasing individual and group resilience. The Foundation also identifies principles for action to reduce mental health inequalities which include taking a whole community approach (see actions 1.2 and 2.1), prioritising poverty and income inequality, providing adequate housing and access to green/blue space, protecting people from discrimination, abuse and other adversity, reducing substance and alcohol misuse and, improving the educational attainment of young people.

What we will keep doing

- ✓ We will continue to monitor the mental health impact of Covid-19 and the cost of living crisis and provide information and resources relating to protective and risk factors and accessing support;
- ✓ We will continue to keep our Health Inequalities Impact Assessment of this action plan up to date as the plan is taken forward.



Areas of action

ACTION 3.1

Transition Support for Young People

Our steering group identified ‘transition support for young people’ as a top priority in reducing mental health inequalities. As stated in the introduction, the focus of this plan is on adults and there is a separate programme area for Children and Young people which sits within separate planning and delivery structures. However, the transition years are recognised as a key ‘at risk’ period and our local DBI Service, (Distress Brief Intervention, part of a national approach), includes a pathway for 16-17 years olds.

We work closely with the Children and Young People’s structures to review the information and support available during ‘transition’ stage for young people to further mitigate potential risks around mental health. This should include preventing suicide and self-harm, taking into account our existing local work on ‘What’s the Harm?’

ACTION 3.2

Poverty and Mental Health

We will work proactively to develop work related to poverty and mental health. We know that poverty increases the risk of mental ill health and it is also a consequence of living with poor mental health. Our online survey identified that ‘Having a warm and safe place to live’ and ‘Making sure that people have enough money to live off’ are priorities in relation to having good mental health and our local mental health service providers also highlighted ‘Tackling financial inclusion – ensure basic needs are being met’ and ‘Timely advice and guidance – welfare benefits, money and debt advice information on housing, foodbanks etc’.

We will further extend the reach of our activity to address poverty and income inequality and mitigate mental health impact through links to the Anti-Poverty Strategy and building on developments such as the Money Worries App. In accordance with the data we have gathered this will mean targeting some activities towards areas where there are higher levels of deprivation in the Borders. It is also important to make sure that people with mental ill health are able to access information, advice and support in maximising their entitled benefits.

ACTION 3.3

Hope and Compassion

Offering support for people when they experience adverse adulthood events (e.g job loss, debt, relationship breakdown, bereavement) was identified as a key priority in the online survey we carried out. These are also types of situation relevant to the motivational phase of Integrated Motivational-Volitional (IMV) Model of suicidal behaviour and interruptions to the pathway of ‘defeat → entrapment → suicidal ideation → suicidal behaviour’ can offer hope and support and save lives. This type of approach is in line with the Scottish Government investment in the ‘Distress



Brief Intervention' (DBI) service which offers connected and compassionate support to people experiencing distress.

We will work with partners to identify the touchpoints where presentations of adverse adult experiences are common and where there are opportunities to build and develop an approach based on hope, Time, Space and Compassion, learning from the work so far by the DBI team in the Borders.

ACTION 3.4

Targeted Communities

We will work to build on our approach with groups at higher risk of poor mental health, in order to close the gap between those with good and poor mental health. This will begin with (but not be limited to) the two groups where we had less success in our engagement work:

- Support for good mental health within the LGBTQ community – follow up the Café Polari report highlighting the importance for this community of being able to connect and develop friend groups in safe spaces;
- Engagement with Black, Asian, Mixed, Other communities in support of good mental health. In accordance with our Health Inequalities Impact Assessment, we will increase our efforts and continue to seek opportunities to strengthen our engagement with Black, Asian, Mixed, Other communities, to ensure that any mental health inequalities experienced by these communities are not further compounded by difficulties in engagement efforts.



Improving the lives of people experiencing and recovering from mental ill health

Outcome 4

People who experience mental ill health are supported to live well, access community based opportunities that promote wellbeing and recovery and have their physical health needs attended to in accordance with their human rights

Context

A report by the Scottish Cross-Party Parliamentary Group on Mental Health in 2021 stated that people with mental ill health are at a higher risk of being denied their rights; including the rights to accessing adequate healthcare, work opportunities, a decent standard of living, and participation in communities. They continue to have the lowest employment rate of all people with disabilities in Scotland and can experience increased stigma and poorer treatment due to a lack of diversity in the mental health sector.

These difficulties have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and contribute to differentials in life expectancy (healthy life expectancy is about 20% below the rest of the population), increased risk / prevalence of diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease and cancer. There is a strong socio-economic gradient in mental health, with people of lower socio-economic status having a higher likelihood of developing and experiencing mental ill health.

The scope of this theme has particular reference to the tertiary level of prevention of mental ill health and mental wellbeing promotion. This means the:

- prevention of relapse and impacts of mental ill health; and,
- promotion of mental wellbeing in people with longstanding poor mental wellbeing.

The evidence related to protective and risk factors in relation to mental health and wellbeing is of prime importance to people who experience severe and/or enduring mental illness. We return here to the necessity of creating hope, empowerment, and the key principles of Time, Space and Compassion that are relevant and important to recovery and wellbeing.

From our engagement work we know that participation and access to local groups – for physical, creative and social activities – is very important; along with having strong peer, buddy or linkworker support that helps with accessing activities, opportunities and appointments; feeling safe and included; having volunteering and employment opportunities and support to sustain involvement in these; overcoming barriers associated with cost, transport, parking, digital; and tackling attitudes and stigma. Education about mental health, access to good information and signposting, having a single point of access and contact for services and being able to access longer term support which is person centred, innovative, creative and based on ‘what works’ was all highlighted in terms of being important to the tertiary level of prevention.



What we will keep doing

- ✓ We will continue to build on the inclusion of the voice of people with lived experience in this work;
- ✓ We will continue to use our communications work to challenge and tackle stigma;
- ✓ We will continue to participate in national development work and respond to and update our local action planning as the new national Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy is published;
- ✓ We will continue to promote a Public Mental Health approach across the wider mental health system so that tertiary prevention and the physical health needs of people with mental ill health are given a higher prominence.

Areas of action

ACTION 4.1

Mentally Healthy Communities (PLUS)

Action 1.2 is about developing mentally healthy communities at a primary prevention level and this inclusive and localised type of approach is also a key area of action in relation to tertiary prevention: a long-term integrated and supported community based approach to living with mental ill health is fundamental to empowering people to live well, support recovery and prevent relapse. Support for the development of new and innovative measures that are truly person-centred was identified as a top priority by mental health service providers.

It will be important to support and build on the positive developments that are already starting to happen, for example the recovery community network, peer support worker collaborative, the Staying Well Action Plan and the Recovery and Wellbeing courses. Helping people to stay mentally well, access information, advice and support when they experience difficulties, and supporting recovery and living well with mental health conditions are all part of a mentally healthy community.

This action is not different from Action 1.2 but will require us to develop and adapt what we have in the Borders to support people with more severe and / or enduring needs in local communities, for longer (or more flexibly when they need it), with supported access to employment, volunteering, nature/gardening, arts, music and occupational therapies – a ‘therapeutic communities’ type approach based in localities. Peer support, an enhanced social prescribing model, hope, empowerment, Time, Space and Compassion are all key elements.

ACTION 4.2

The physical health of people with mental health conditions

This action works to address a key inequality within this population. Research has shown differences in life expectancy which cannot solely be attributed to suicide figures. In treating the individual in a holistic manner, we look to acknowledge the circular nature of the relationship between physical and mental health. This action operates within the tertiary prevention level but it should be noted that these individuals will also benefit from improvements made within primary and secondary prevention. Improvement of physical health will be compiled of four pillars:

- Improved Communication
- Improved Infrastructure
- Access to Appropriate Training
- Sensitivity to Issues of Capacity

These pillars will aim to address barriers to access in mainstream and preventative healthcare, thereby providing a smoother journey and improved experience for the patient. The lead for this work sits with the NHS Borders Physical Health Steering Group and we will work in partnership to ensure that opportunities are maximised for addressing this inequality.

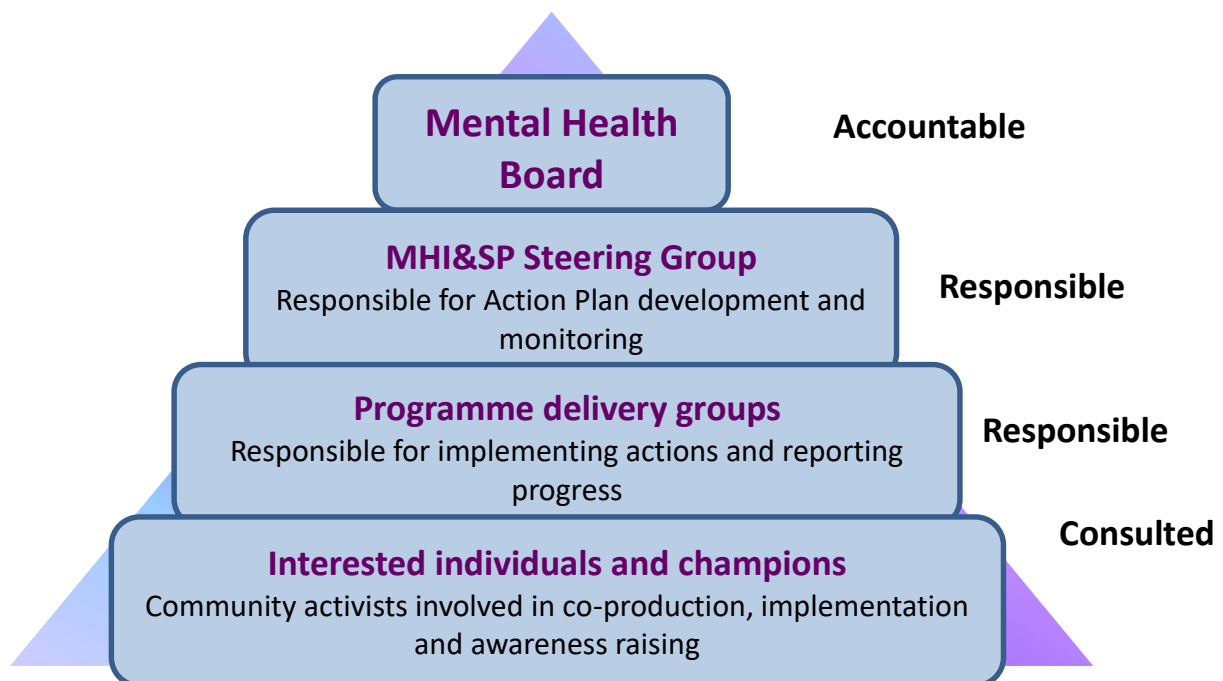


Delivery

The next steps are to put in place more detailed programmes of work and structures for each of the areas of action identified in the action plan.

The basic accountability for this plan is with the Mental Health Partnership Board and our current delivery structure is illustrated in the triangle below. The Mental Health Improvement and Suicide Prevention Steering Group has responsibility for overseeing the delivery of this plan and involves partners including from the local Third Sector, Housing Associations, Borders College, NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council. There are other groups with overlapping responsibilities and we will put in place an implementation plan that will be more detailed where there are shared actions.

We are aware that the local leadership and accountability for suicide prevention as stated within the new national action plan sits with Chief Officers in line with public protection guidance and we will keep our accountability arrangements under close review.



This action Plan was produced by the Scottish Borders Joint Health Improvement Team, Public Health.

If you'd like to join our mailing list or talk to us about this plan you can get in touch with us by emailing health.improvement@borders.scot.nhs.uk

VISIT NHS BORDERS WELLBEING POINT and SUICIDE PREVENTION HUB

- Find out more about improving your wellbeing at www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/wellbeingpoint
- Find out more about suicide prevention resources at www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/suicideprevention



For our updates on Facebook please follow [NHS Borders Small Changes, Big Difference](#)

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Scottish Borders' Promise Update Briefing for the Community Planning Partnership Strategic Board

CYPPP Update

- Inaugural Board Meeting took place on 21.04.2023 and next meeting is on 29.05.2023
- 3 of the 4 multi-agency Network Chairs have been nominated and have their Induction session on 29.05.2023
- The Children and Young People's Services Plan 2023 – 2026 was signed off by the CYPPP on 23.05.2023. This plan will underpin the work of the Networks going forwards.

Other Promise updates

- 'Scottish Borders' Reframing Our Language' guide was published in February 2023;
- The Champions Board Annual Report was published in February 2023 and endorsed by full Council on 30.03.2023;
- A multi-agency approach to embedding the National Trauma Training Programme is being developed by the Integrated Psychological Trauma Steering Group;
- The Advocacy Planning Group is continuing to undertake the preparatory work for the development of a new children and young people's advocacy service
- Engagement and participation work with children and young people with quieter voices is being progressed through the development of our Champions Board approach and our Article 12 at the Heart Project
- The Promise Team continue to deliver Promise and Corporate Parenting awareness raising training for multi-agency partners
- The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund will be used as part of our approach to Whole Family Support under the new CYPPP
- A report is being created about the 'Loving Relationships' Work at Wheatlands. This approach has been recognised nationally via the SSSA Awards and the Care Inspectorate.

Stuart Easingwood, 29.05.2023

Scottish Borders

HEALTH & WELLBEING CENSUS 2022

Executive Summary



Health and Wellbeing Census 2022 – Executive Summary

In March 2022, Scottish Borders schools took part in a Health and Wellbeing Census for P5-7 children in primary schools and S1-S6 young people in secondary schools. The data below indicates the percentage of children and young people who took part overall, within each year group, primary school cluster and secondary school.

There are three data packs providing overall data for Scottish Borders:

1. **Primary School** data broken down into year groups and primary clusters.
Scottish Borders: Health and Wellbeing Census Data : Primary Schools : March 2022
2. **Secondary School** data broken down by each year group and each school.
Scottish Borders: Health and Wellbeing Census Data : Secondary Schools : March 2022
3. The **Substance Use** questionnaire, completed separately by S4 young people only, gives overall findings and is not broken down by school.
Scottish Borders: Health and Wellbeing Census Data: S4 Substance Use Questionnaire: March 2022

Percentage/numbers of children P5-P7 undertaking survey within Scottish Borders.

Stage	Pupils			Census Responses			% Census Responses of Pupils		
	Female	Male	Grand Total	Female	Male	Grand Total	Female	Male	Grand Total
P5	595	600	1195	484	489	973	81%	82%	81%
P6	564	631	1195	477	509	986	85%	81%	83%
P7	593	635	1228	497	509	1006	84%	80%	82%
Grand Total	1752	1866	3618	1458	1507	2965	83%	81%	82%

School Cluster	Pupils	Census Responses	% Census Responses of Pupils
Berwickshire	318	237	75%
Earlston	481	408	85%
Eyemouth	261	204	78%
Galashiels	590	461	78%
Hawick	540	448	83%
Jedburgh	181	159	88%
Kelso	324	290	90%
Peebles	713	587	82%
Selkirk	210	171	81%
Grand Total	3618	2965	82%

Percentage/numbers of young people S1-S6 undertaking survey within Scottish Borders.

Stage	SBC Pupils			Census Responses			% Census Responses of Pupils		
	Female	Male	Grand Total	Female	Male	Grand Total	Female	Male	Grand Total
S1	601	632	1233	446	471	917	74%	75%	74%
S2	626	611	1237	431	412	843	69%	67%	68%
S3	647	616	1263	449	399	848	69%	65%	67%
S4	578	636	1214	320	351	671	55%	55%	55%
S5	476	504	980	235	233	468	49%	46%	48%
S6	411	374	785	160	126	286	39%	34%	36%
Grand Total	3339	3373	6712	2041	1992	4033	61%	59%	60%

School Name	Pupils	Census	% Census Responses of Pupils
Berwickshire High School Total	636	392	62%
Earlston High School Total	1133	769	68%
Eyemouth High School Total	505	258	51%
Galashiels Academy Total	856	373	44%
Hawick High School Total	802	449	56%
Jedburgh Grammar Campus	366	237	65%
Kelso High School Total	594	370	62%
Peebles High School Total	1386	903	65%
Selkirk High School Total	434	282	65%
Grand Total	6712	4033	60%

Substance Use Questionnaire

36% of Scottish Borders S4 pupils responded to the survey (440 of 1214).

Additional areas to be considered:

S2-S6 survey asked the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale questions

(more information p35 onwards in secondary data pack). It is important to note the comparison data is from pre covid-19 pandemic, however, it does indicate that our young people's wellbeing has been affected over the past few years.

WEMWBS Score Grouping	A. High Wellbeing	B. Average Wellbeing	C. Low Wellbeing	Respondents To Question
S2	8%	64%	28%	736
S3	5%	60%	34%	748
S4	5%	54%	41%	606
S5	4%	52%	44%	421
S6	6%	61%	33%	248
Grand Total	6%	59%	35%	2759
UK Average (Pre Covid-19 Pandemic)	15%	70%	15%	

S2 – S6 survey included the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SQD).

This is a behavioural screening questionnaire for children and adolescents ages 2 through to 17 years old (more information p49 onwards in secondary data pack). It is important to note the comparison data is from pre covid-19 pandemic. Similar to WEMWBS information indicating a decrease in overall wellbeing across the young people in the Borders.

Total Difficulties score	A. Close to Average	B. Slightly Raised	C. High	D. Very High	Respondents To Question
S2	53%	13%	6%	27%	698
S3	50%	18%	8%	24%	732
S4	50%	16%	10%	25%	584
S5	51%	20%	7%	22%	394
S6	58%	19%	7%	16%	238
Grand Total	52%	17%	7%	24%	2646
UK Average (Pre Covid-19 Pandemic)	80%	10%	5%	5%	

Prosocial score	A. Close to Average	B. Slightly Lowered	C. Low	D. Very Low	Respondents To Question
S2	63%	13%	12%	11%	741
S3	60%	15%	12%	13%	760
S4	56%	17%	12%	15%	603
S5	60%	15%	13%	12%	410
S6	68%	16%	11%	6%	247
Grand Total	61%	15%	12%	12%	2761
UK Average (Pre Covid-19 Pandemic)	80%	10%	5%	5%	

Four key areas have been identified which will be actioned by Education and Lifelong Learning and have been included in the Education Improvement Plan 2022/23.

Each area will have a work plan to support improvement through session 2022-23. This will work will involve children, young people, parents, education staff and stakeholders.

1. Bullying
2. Caring Responsibilities
3. Body Image
4. Loneliness, stress and worry

Bullying (summary data)

Have you been bullying in the last year?

Q27. Have you been bullied in the last year?	1. Yes	2. No	3. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	46%	39%	16%	944
P6	42%	44%	14%	954
P7	38%	51%	12%	972
Grand Total	42%	45%	14%	2870

Survey Stage	1. Yes	2. No	3. Prefer not to say	Sub Total	9. Not Answered	Grand Total
S1	33%	55%	12%	85%	129	874
S2	28%	63%	9%	83%	151	901
S3	25%	69%	6%	86%	118	847
Grand Total	29%	62%	9%	85%	398	2622

Bullying	Primary	Secondary
Additional information	Primary data pack pages 54-59.	Secondary data pack pages 72-80.

Caring Responsibilities (summary data)

Do you care for, or look after, someone?

(Primary survey -The caring questions were only asked in the P7 survey.)

P7 Q41. Do you care for, or look after, someone?	1. Yes	2. No	3. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	29%	62%	10%	73
Earlston	29%	63%	9%	126
Eyemouth	40%	40%	19%	57
Galashiels	26%	62%	11%	141
Hawick	38%	50%	12%	136
Jedburgh	29%	57%	14%	56
Kelso	22%	62%	16%	94
Peebles	30%	62%	9%	213
Selkirk	42%	51%	8%	53
Grand Total	31%	58%	11%	949

Survey Stage	1. Yes	2. No	3. Prefer not to say	Sub total	9. Not Answered	Grand Total
S1	20%	69%	11%	80%	171	874
S2	21%	71%	8%	79%	191	901
S3	16%	73%	11%	83%	145	847
S4	12%	79%	9%	91%	60	663
S5	12%	83%	5%	85%	68	468
S6	10%	85%	5%	83%	49	280
Grand Total	16%	75%	9%	83%	684	4033

Caring Responsibilities	Primary	Secondary
Additional information	Primary data pack page 62.	Secondary data pack pages 85-86.

Body Image (summary data)

I am happy with my body and the way I look.

(Primary survey –body images questions only asked to P7)

P7 Only Q15. Please say how much you agree or disagree with this sentence: "I am happy with my body and the way I look".	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	19%	37%	16%	11%	5%	11%	73
Earlston	17%	32%	25%	12%	3%	11%	128
Eyemouth	13%	34%	16%	13%	10%	13%	61
Galashiels	18%	30%	27%	12%	6%	7%	138
Hawick	26%	25%	16%	8%	10%	15%	140
Jedburgh	19%	24%	25%	15%	5%	12%	59
Kelso	17%	31%	17%	19%	7%	9%	96
Peebles	21%	33%	20%	13%	5%	7%	215
Selkirk	25%	22%	18%	20%	6%	10%	51
Grand Total	20%	30%	21%	13%	6%	10%	961

Survey Stage	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Sub Total	9. Not Answered	Grand Total
S1	14%	37%	20%	12%	8%	9%	95%	40	874
S2	12%	32%	24%	17%	10%	6%	92%	75	901
S3	10%	31%	24%	17%	13%	5%	93%	59	847
S4	9%	27%	24%	22%	15%	3%	94%	40	663
S5	8%	26%	24%	22%	16%	4%	92%	36	468
S6	9%	29%	29%	19%	10%	4%	95%	13	280
Grand Total	11%	31%	23%	17%	12%	6%	93%	263	4033

Body Image	Primary	Secondary
Additional Information	Primary data pack – page 30.	Secondary data pack pages 38-39.

Loneliness, Stress and Worry (summary data)

How often do you feel lonely?

Q26. How often do you feel lonely?	1. Hardly ever or never	2. Sometimes	3. Often or always	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	40%	40%	10%	10%	870
P6	44%	41%	9%	6%	880
P7	45%	38%	14%	4%	935
Grand Total	43%	40%	11%	7%	2685

Survey Stage	1. Hardly ever or never	2. Some of the time	3. Often or always	4. Prefer not to say	Sub-Total	9. Not Answered	Grand Total
S1	49%	36%	12%	3%	100%	17%	874
S2	45%	36%	17%	2%	100%	19%	901
S3	43%	38%	17%	2%	100%	15%	847
S4	41%	39%	17%	2%	100%	10%	663
S5	37%	41%	21%	1%	100%	13%	468
S6	39%	44%	16%	1%	100%	15%	280
Grand Total	43%	38%	16%	2%	100%	15%	4033

How pressured (stressed) do you feel by the schoolwork you have to do?

(Primary survey – question only asked to P7)

P7 Only Q6. How pressured (stressed) do you feel by the schoolwork you have to do?	1. Not at all	2. A little	3. Some	4. A lot	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	19%	31%	39%	4%	7%	74
Earlston	22%	43%	24%	9%	3%	129
Eyemouth	27%	42%	17%	13%	2%	64
Galashiels	11%	37%	37%	10%	5%	145
Hawick	18%	39%	30%	8%	5%	141
Jedburgh	16%	39%	31%	8%	5%	61
Kelso	17%	42%	29%	7%	4%	99
Peebles	19%	46%	22%	12%	2%	217
Selkirk	15%	40%	25%	21%	0%	53
Grand Total	18%	41%	28%	10%	4%	983

Survey Stage	1. Not at all	2. A little	3. Some	4. A lot	5. Prefer not to say	Sub Total	9. Not Answered	Grand Total
S1	12%	38%	33%	15%	2%	99%	9	874
S2	10%	36%	35%	16%	2%	100%	4	901
S3	7%	31%	39%	22%	2%	99%	6	847
S4	6%	20%	33%	41%	0%	99%	7	663
S5	3%	16%	28%	53%	1%	99%	7	468
S6	6%	20%	29%	44%	1%	100%	1	280
Grand Total	8%	29%	34%	27%	1%	99%	34	4033

There are lots of things that I worry about in my life

Q11.6. There are lots of things that I worry about in my life	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
P5	19%	24%	22%	22%	12%	913
P6	16%	24%	25%	24%	11%	931
P7	18%	23%	28%	24%	7%	967
Grand Total	18%	24%	25%	23%	10%	2811

(Secondary survey – question only asked to S1)

S1 Q11.6. There are lots of things that I worry about in my life	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	20%	29%	18%	29%	4%	55
Earlston High School	18%	27%	24%	25%	5%	157
Eyemouth High School	17%	21%	26%	29%	8%	66
Galashiels Academy	18%	24%	28%	23%	7%	104
Hawick High School	10%	22%	42%	19%	7%	118
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary						0
Kelso High School	17%	25%	33%	21%	4%	76
Peebles High School	19%	26%	25%	24%	7%	187
Selkirk High School	19%	29%	38%	13%	2%	48
Grand Total	17%	25%	29%	23%	6%	811

Loneliness, stress and worry	Primary	Secondary
Additional Information	Primary data pack – pages 14, 27, 53.	Secondary data pack – pages 16, 30, 33, 63.

Summary of Additional Data

Below is **some** of the additional high-level information for areas identified within the census data.

At multi-agency forums, local authority, cluster and school level this information will be analysed and used within Improvement Planning, focus group discussions and work with other stakeholders moving forward.

There are many areas not included in this summary, which could be discussed further to support additional work within schools and across agencies.

(*denotes which page and survey to find the breakdown of additional information e.g. stage, cluster, school).

School and Learning

	Primary - P5-7	Secondary – S1-S6
I feel like I have a choice in what I am learning in school.	47% (*page 6 onwards – primary data)	40% (*page 10 onwards- secondary data)
My teachers listen to what I have to say.	84% (*P6 onwards- primary data)	57% (*P10 onwards.– secondary data)
I have an adult to talk to at school if I am worried about something.	78% (*P6 onwards– primary data)	65% (*P10 onwards – secondary data)
I feel my teachers treat me fairly.	84% (*P6 onwards – primary data)	65% (*P10 onwards – secondary data)
I feel confident to speak up in class, ask questions and share my opinion.	60% (*p6 onwards – primary data)	52% (*p10 onwards - secondary data)
Most of the time, I am happy at school.	67% (*p6 onwards– primary data)	50% (*p10 onwards - secondary data)

Attitudes to life

	Primary - P5-7	Secondary – S1 – S6
My life is just right.	Disagree/strongly disagree 9% (*p19 onwards – primary data)	Disagree/Strongly disagree 16% (*p27 onwards – secondary data)
I have what I want in life.	Disagree/strongly disagree 12% (*p28 onwards – primary data)	Disagree/strongly agree 13% (*p29 onwards – secondary data)
Even if I'm having a difficult time, I feel like I will be OK.	Disagree/strongly disagree 13% (*p28 onwards – primary data)	
Most of the time, I have enough money to do the same things as my friends.	Disagree/strongly disagree 12% (*p50 onwards – primary data)	

Eating and Drinking

	Primary P5-7	Secondary S1 – S6
Some children and young people go to school or to bed hungry. How often does it happen to you?	Always /often – P7 only 10% (*page 35 – primary data)	Always/often 8% (*page 43 onwards - secondary data)
I never have breakfast during weekdays	7% (* page 33 onwards – primary data)	23% (* page 44 onwards – secondary data)
How often do you usually drink Energy drinks (e.g, Red Bull, Lucozade, Monster	Never 71% (*page 35 onwards – primary data)	Never 57% (*page 46 onwards – secondary data)

Relationships with Adults

	Primary P5-7	Secondary S1-S6
I have an adult to talk to at school if am worried about something.	Strongly agree/agree 78% (* page 11 onwards – primary data)	Strongly agree/agree 65% (*page 12 onwards – secondary data)
Do you have an adult in your life who you can trust and talk to about any personal problems?	Yes, I always do 71% (*page 63 onwards – primary data)	Yes, I always do 63% (*page 87 onwards – secondary data)

Substance Use – S4 only

Summary Information		
Smoking tobacco	69% have never smoked. 6% say they have 1 cigarette or more in the last 7 days.	Additional information contacted in Substance Use data report pages1-10.
E-cigarettes/vaping	54% have never used e-cigarettes or vaped.	
Alcohol	63% report that they have had an alcoholic drink.	
Drugs	83% report they have never taken illegal drugs.	

Where I live

	Primary P5-7	Secondary S1-6
Generally speaking, I feel safe in the area I live ..	Always/most of the time 88% (*page 74 onwards – primary data)	Always/most of the time 92% (*pages 98 onwards – secondary data)
Do you think that the area in which you live is a good place to live?	Yes it's good/it's ok 95% (*page 75 onwards –primary data)	Yes it's good/it's ok 97% (* page 99 onwards – secondary data)
Are there places near where you live where you can play outdoors?	Yes-lots/yes- some 95% (*page 76 onwards – primary data)	Yes- lots/yes- some 97% (*page 99 onwards – secondary data)

Health and Wellbeing Census - considerations moving forward:

1. March is not an ideal time in particular for secondary schools with preparations for SQA diet of examinations at this time. Proposal would be to undertake the census in the November rather than March.
2. Proposal would be undertake the census on a bi-annual basis, which would allow us to track improvement over time, using the 2022 census as a baseline.

Scottish Borders – Primary Schools

HEALTH & WELLBEING CENSUS DATA

MARCH 2022



Contents

1. Primary School Health and Wellbeing 2022 – Context Scottish Borders	4
Responses by Stage and Cluster	4
% by Stage	4
% by Cluster	4
Representation of Survey Responses by Factors	4
Clothing Grant	4
Children Looked After	5
Free School Meals	5
Level of English	5
Disabled Status	5
Additional Support Needs	6
Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 – Decile	6
2. School and Learning	8
Agreements of School and Learning Statements – Overall	8
Agreement of School and Learning Statements – Stages	9
Agreement of School and Learning Statements – Clusters	11
Schoolwork Pressure - P7 only	16
After leaving School – P7 Only	16
3. Physical Activity	17
Physical Activity Yesterday	17
Physically Active outside school hours	18
4. Health	19
General Health	19
Long-term health condition	20
Life Statements	21
Feeling Statements	24
Feeling Confident	29
Body Image questions – P7 Only	30
5. Sleeping	31
Going to Bed	31
Waking Up	32
6. Breakfast and Food	33
Eating Breakfast	33
Frequency of Eating or Drinking	35
Being Hungry (P7 Survey Only)	35
7. Relationship with Adults	36

8. Electronic Devices and the Internet	38
Devices	38
Time on Internet	39
Weekdays	39
Weekends	40
Online Activity	41
9. Friendships and Loneliness	42
Number of Friends	42
Friendship Statements	43
“Left Out” and loneliness	49
10. Bullying	51
Been Bullied	51
Where Bullied?	52
How Bullied?	53
Online Bullying – P7 Only	53
Report Bullying?	54
Reporting Bullying Results	54
Take part in bullying	55
11. Home Life	56
Family Meals	56
Enjoy being with the people you live with	57
12. Caring (P7 only)	58
13. People you can trust and talk to	59
Trusted adult to talk to	59
Talk to by Stage	60
Talk to by Cluster	62
14. Where you live	69
Feels Safe	69
Good Place to live	70
Outdoor play areas	71

1. Primary School Health and Wellbeing 2022 - Context Scottish Borders

This section provides a context for the Health and Wellbeing 2022 results, showing the base percentage representation by attribute. Overall 2965 (82%) pupils responded to the Health and Wellbeing census 2022.

Responses by Stage and Cluster

% Pupils by Stage

The response rate for P5, P6 and P7 pupils was consistent across the stages and gender.

Stage	F	M	Grand Total
P5	81%	82%	81%
P6	85%	81%	83%
P7	84%	80%	82%
Grand Total	83%	81%	82%

% Pupils by Cluster

There was some variance in response rate by cluster, ranging from 75% for Berwickshire to 90% for Kelso.

Cluster	F	M	Grand Total
Berwickshire	76%	74%	75%
Earlston	88%	82%	85%
Eyemouth	79%	77%	78%
Galashiels	82%	75%	78%
Hawick	80%	86%	83%
Jedburgh	88%	87%	88%
Kelso	94%	86%	90%
Peebles	82%	82%	82%
Selkirk	83%	79%	81%
Grand Total	83%	81%	82%

Representation of Survey Responses by Factors

82% of the Scottish Borders primary 5,6, 7 pupils responded to the Health and Wellbeing. The tables below show the number of pupils and responses for each factor and the percentage of responses of all pupils.

Clothing Grant

82% of the Scottish Borders primary 5,6, 7 pupils responded to the Health and Wellbeing. The tables below show the number of pupils and responses for each factor and the percentage of responses of all pupils.

Clothing Grant	Pupils (P5-P7)	HWB Census	% HWB of Pupils
No	2878	2402	83%
Yes	740	563	76%
Grand Total	3618	2965	82%

Children Looked After

Proportionally fewer pupils who are children looked after (76%) are respondents compared who are not (82%).

Looked After	Pupils (P5-P7)	HWB Census	% HWB of Pupils
No	3540	2906	82%
Yes	78	59	76%
Grand Total	3618	2965	82%

Free School Meals

Proportionally fewer pupils who received free school meals (75%) are respondents compared who do not (83%).

Free School Meals	Pupils (P5-P7)	HWB Census	% HWB of Pupils
No	2987	2491	83%
Yes	631	474	75%
Grand Total	3618	2965	82%

Level of English

This table show the proportion of responses to the Health and Wellbeing survey based on the pupils' level of English.

Level of English	Pupils (P5-P7)	HWB Census	% HWB of Pupils
Competent	40	32	80%
Developing Competence	82	65	79%
Early Acquisition	28	20	71%
First-Language	3426	2818	82%
Fluent	31	25	81%
Limited communication	1		0%
New to English	8	4	50%
Not assessed	2	1	50%
Grand Total	3618	2965	82%

Disabled Status

Proportionally fewer pupils who have a disabled status (46%) are respondents compared who are not (82%).

Disabled	Pupils (P5-P7)	HWB Census	% HWB of Pupils
No	3590	2952	82%
Yes	28	13	46%
Grand Total	3618	2965	82%

Additional Support Needs

Proportionally fewer pupils who have additional support needs (78%) are respondents compared who are not (85%).

Additional Support Needs	Pupils (P5-P7)	HWB Census	% HWB of Pupils
No	2082	1771	85%
Yes	1536	1194	78%
Grand Total	3618	2965	82%

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 – Decline

This table shows the number and proportion of responses for each of the SIMD2020 Decile. The proportion of responses by SIMD2020 Decile ranges from 76% to 88%.

SIMD 2020 Decile	Pupils (P5-P7)	HWB Census	% HWB of Pupils
D01 - Most Deprived	107	81	76%
D02	191	148	77%
D03	107	88	82%
D04	417	334	80%
D05	496	379	76%
D06	780	633	81%
D07	677	585	86%
D08	428	358	84%
D09	243	214	88%
D10 - Least Deprived	140	120	86%
D99 - Not Recorded	32	25	78%
Grand Total	3618	2965	82%



2. School and Learning

Agreements of School and Learning Statements - Overall

Question	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Q4.1. I enjoy learning new things	31%	52%	13%	2%	1%	2%	2921
Q4.2. I feel like I have a choice in what I am learning in school	14%	34%	29%	15%	4%	5%	2884
Q4.3. Getting an education is important to me	57%	31%	7%	2%	1%	2%	2888
Q4.4. My teachers listen to what I have to say	42%	41%	11%	2%	1%	2%	2874
Q4.5. I have an adult to talk to at school if I am worried about something	43%	35%	10%	4%	2%	6%	2890
Q5.1. I feel like my teachers treat me fairly	40%	44%	11%	2%	1%	3%	2896
Q5.2. My parents (or carers) really care about my education	70%	24%	4%	1%	0%	2%	2878
Q5.3. I feel confident to speak up in class, ask questions and share my opinion	25%	35%	19%	11%	5%	5%	2872
Q5.4. Most of the time, I am happy at school	26%	41%	18%	7%	4%	5%	2869
Q5.5. I feel positive about my future	46%	34%	11%	3%	2%	4%	2871

The percent who strongly agree / agree are:

- 83% - I enjoy learning new things
- 47% - I feel like I have a choice in what I am learning in school
- 88% - Getting an education is important to me
- 84% - My teachers listen to what I have to say
- 78% - I have an adult to talk to at school if I am worried about something
- 84% - I feel like my teachers treat me fairly
- 94% - My parents (or carers) really care about my education
- 60% - I feel confident to speak up in class, ask questions and share my opinion
- 67% - Most of the time, I am happy at school
- 80% - I feel positive about my future

Agreements of School and Learning Statements – Stages

Q4.1. I enjoy learning new things	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	38%	49%	8%	1%	1%	3%	949
P6	31%	53%	14%	1%	0%	1%	974
P7	25%	54%	17%	2%	1%	1%	998
Grand Total	31%	52%	13%	2%	1%	2%	2921

Q4.2. I feel like I have a choice in what I am learning in school	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	15%	35%	25%	13%	5%	7%	933
P6	13%	32%	31%	16%	4%	5%	966
P7	12%	34%	32%	16%	4%	2%	985
Grand Total	14%	34%	29%	15%	4%	5%	2884

Q4.3. Getting an education is important to me	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	60%	28%	6%	2%	1%	3%	937
P6	58%	31%	7%	1%	1%	2%	965
P7	53%	34%	9%	2%	1%	1%	986
Grand Total	57%	31%	7%	2%	1%	2%	2888

Q4.4. My teachers listen to what I have to say	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	46%	38%	10%	3%	1%	3%	931
P6	44%	42%	9%	2%	1%	2%	962
P7	37%	45%	14%	2%	1%	2%	981
Grand Total	42%	41%	11%	2%	1%	2%	2874

Q4.5. I have an adult to talk to at school if I am worried about something	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	47%	33%	9%	3%	2%	6%	936
P6	44%	36%	9%	3%	2%	6%	965
P7	38%	35%	14%	5%	3%	5%	989
Grand Total	43%	35%	10%	4%	2%	6%	2890

Q5.1. I feel like my teachers treat me fairly	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	45%	41%	8%	1%	1%	4%	945
P6	39%	46%	10%	1%	1%	3%	969
P7	35%	45%	14%	3%	1%	1%	982
Grand Total	40%	44%	11%	2%	1%	3%	2896

Q5.2. My parents (or carers) really care about my education	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	69%	23%	4%	1%	1%	3%	938
P6	70%	26%	3%	0%	0%	1%	966
P7	70%	25%	4%	0%	0%	1%	974
Grand Total	70%	24%	4%	1%	0%	2%	2878

Q5.3. I feel confident to speak up in class, ask questions and share my opinion	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	28%	33%	16%	11%	5%	7%	934
P6	25%	36%	20%	9%	6%	4%	960
P7	22%	37%	22%	12%	5%	3%	978
Grand Total	25%	35%	19%	11%	5%	5%	2872

Q5.4. Most of the time, I am happy at school	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	35%	38%	15%	4%	3%	5%	931
P6	24%	43%	17%	7%	4%	5%	960
P7	20%	42%	22%	9%	3%	3%	978
Grand Total	26%	41%	18%	7%	4%	5%	2869

Q5.5. I feel positive about my future	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	51%	29%	8%	3%	2%	8%	933
P6	48%	35%	10%	2%	1%	4%	962
P7	40%	37%	16%	3%	2%	2%	976
Grand Total	46%	34%	11%	3%	2%	4%	2871

Agreements of School and Learning Statements – Clusters

Q4.1. I enjoy learning new things	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	36%	54%	9%	1%	0%	0%	231
Earlston	32%	51%	13%	2%	0%	1%	408
Eyemouth	26%	60%	11%	3%	1%	1%	200
Galashiels	29%	53%	14%	2%	1%	2%	449
Hawick	31%	52%	12%	1%	1%	1%	437
Jedburgh	35%	53%	8%	1%	1%	2%	158
Kelso	28%	53%	15%	1%	0%	3%	287
Peebles	33%	49%	15%	1%	1%	1%	580
Selkirk	30%	50%	13%	2%	1%	4%	171
Grand Total	31%	52%	13%	2%	1%	2%	2921

Q4.2. I feel like I have a choice in what I am learning in school	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	14%	34%	32%	13%	2%	5%	230
Earlston	15%	33%	33%	11%	5%	3%	404
Eyemouth	12%	43%	25%	13%	3%	4%	197
Galashiels	15%	33%	26%	16%	5%	5%	442
Hawick	17%	32%	26%	15%	4%	6%	427
Jedburgh	9%	28%	29%	23%	5%	5%	158
Kelso	11%	32%	30%	18%	4%	6%	282
Peebles	11%	34%	32%	15%	4%	3%	576
Selkirk	17%	35%	28%	12%	3%	6%	168
Grand Total	14%	34%	29%	15%	4%	5%	2884

Q4.3. Getting an education is important to me	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	61%	27%	7%	2%	0%	2%	230
Earlston	60%	30%	7%	2%	0%	1%	400
Eyemouth	55%	33%	9%	2%	1%	1%	197
Galashiels	56%	29%	8%	1%	2%	3%	441
Hawick	55%	32%	7%	2%	0%	4%	433
Jedburgh	60%	32%	8%	0%	0%	0%	156
Kelso	55%	30%	9%	3%	0%	2%	283
Peebles	58%	33%	6%	1%	1%	1%	578
Selkirk	56%	31%	8%	2%	1%	2%	170
Grand Total	57%	31%	7%	2%	1%	2%	2888

Q4.4. My teachers listen to what I have to say	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	46%	40%	10%	2%	0%	2%	228
Earlston	46%	41%	9%	0%	1%	2%	404
Eyemouth	40%	43%	11%	2%	3%	2%	196
Galashiels	43%	40%	11%	2%	1%	3%	440
Hawick	43%	42%	9%	3%	0%	3%	428
Jedburgh	35%	47%	10%	3%	2%	3%	154
Kelso	37%	41%	16%	3%	1%	3%	280
Peebles	41%	43%	11%	3%	0%	2%	577
Selkirk	48%	36%	12%	1%	1%	3%	167
Grand Total	42%	41%	11%	2%	1%	2%	2874

Q4.5. I have an adult to talk to at school if I am worried about something	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	42%	39%	9%	3%	2%	6%	228
Earlston	46%	35%	11%	2%	2%	4%	404
Eyemouth	40%	38%	9%	4%	4%	5%	197
Galashiels	44%	35%	10%	2%	2%	7%	444
Hawick	45%	36%	7%	3%	3%	6%	430
Jedburgh	37%	35%	13%	7%	3%	6%	156
Kelso	46%	30%	13%	5%	2%	5%	283
Peebles	41%	34%	12%	5%	1%	7%	578
Selkirk	41%	38%	9%	6%	1%	5%	170
Grand Total	43%	35%	10%	4%	2%	6%	2890

Q5.1. I feel like my teachers treat me fairly	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	44%	44%	9%	1%	0%	2%	228
Earlston	37%	45%	12%	3%	1%	2%	402
Eyemouth	37%	48%	10%	3%	2%	2%	200
Galashiels	40%	41%	10%	4%	1%	3%	450
Hawick	40%	44%	9%	1%	2%	3%	434
Jedburgh	40%	45%	9%	1%	1%	3%	156
Kelso	38%	43%	12%	3%	1%	3%	282
Peebles	39%	45%	12%	2%	0%	2%	577
Selkirk	44%	44%	8%	1%	1%	2%	167
Grand Total	40%	44%	11%	2%	1%	3%	2896

Q5.2. My parents (or carers) really care about my education	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	68%	25%	6%	0%	0%	1%	226
Earlston	72%	25%	2%	1%	0%	1%	402
Eyemouth	69%	27%	3%	0%	1%	1%	196
Galashiels	73%	21%	3%	1%	0%	1%	445
Hawick	67%	24%	4%	1%	0%	4%	432
Jedburgh	71%	23%	3%	1%	1%	2%	156
Kelso	65%	28%	4%	1%	0%	2%	278
Peebles	72%	22%	4%	0%	0%	1%	578
Selkirk	64%	30%	3%	1%	1%	2%	165
Grand Total	70%	24%	4%	1%	0%	2%	2878

Q5.3. I feel confident to speak up in class, ask questions and share my opinion	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	30%	35%	19%	8%	4%	5%	226
Earlston	28%	35%	23%	8%	2%	4%	401
Eyemouth	21%	38%	20%	11%	5%	5%	195
Galashiels	22%	33%	22%	12%	7%	4%	445
Hawick	25%	36%	14%	12%	6%	8%	431
Jedburgh	22%	32%	19%	17%	8%	3%	155
Kelso	21%	36%	19%	13%	8%	3%	278
Peebles	27%	38%	19%	8%	3%	3%	575
Selkirk	20%	33%	23%	11%	8%	5%	166
Grand Total	25%	35%	19%	11%	5%	5%	2872

Q5.4. Most of the time, I am happy at school	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	31%	42%	17%	7%	2%	2%	228
Earlston	25%	45%	18%	5%	3%	4%	401
Eyemouth	27%	42%	18%	6%	4%	4%	198
Galashiels	22%	41%	19%	8%	4%	6%	442
Hawick	26%	39%	15%	7%	7%	6%	429
Jedburgh	29%	36%	15%	12%	3%	6%	154
Kelso	26%	39%	21%	8%	1%	4%	277
Peebles	27%	42%	19%	6%	3%	3%	574
Selkirk	27%	40%	19%	5%	3%	5%	166
Grand Total	26%	41%	18%	7%	4%	5%	2869

Q5.5. I feel positive about my future	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	54%	29%	8%	2%	2%	4%	226
Earlston	51%	35%	9%	2%	0%	2%	402
Eyemouth	42%	36%	14%	4%	2%	3%	197
Galashiels	43%	31%	13%	5%	2%	7%	444
Hawick	47%	33%	9%	3%	1%	7%	429
Jedburgh	45%	33%	11%	4%	2%	6%	155
Kelso	43%	37%	11%	4%	1%	4%	278
Peebles	47%	35%	12%	2%	2%	3%	574
Selkirk	41%	34%	16%	2%	2%	4%	166
Grand Total	46%	34%	11%	3%	2%	4%	2871

Schoolwork Pressure – P7 only

Only the P7 survey asked about stress and the future.

P7 Only Q6. How pressured (stressed) do you feel by the schoolwork you have to do?	1. Not at all	2. A little	3. Some	4. A lot	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	19%	31%	39%	4%	7%	74
Earlston	22%	43%	24%	9%	3%	129
Eyemouth	27%	42%	17%	13%	2%	64
Galashiels	11%	37%	37%	10%	5%	145
Hawick	18%	39%	30%	8%	5%	141
Jedburgh	16%	39%	31%	8%	5%	61
Kelso	17%	42%	29%	7%	4%	99
Peebles	19%	46%	22%	12%	2%	217
Selkirk	15%	40%	25%	21%	0%	53
Grand Total	18%	41%	28%	10%	4%	983

Page 68 After leaving School – P7 only

P7 Only Q7. Now looking ahead, when do you think you want to leave school / full-time education?	1. I want to leave school as soon as I can (e.g. at the end of S4)	2. I want to continue with my full-time education (e.g. stay on into S5 or go to college)	3. I'm not sure at the moment	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	4%	50%	39%	7%	74
Earlston	6%	58%	33%	3%	129
Eyemouth	8%	61%	31%	0%	64
Galashiels	8%	48%	39%	5%	145
Hawick	10%	50%	36%	4%	136
Jedburgh	10%	51%	39%	0%	61
Kelso	6%	55%	33%	6%	99
Peebles	5%	53%	41%	1%	212
Selkirk	6%	43%	51%	0%	53
Grand Total	7%	52%	38%	3%	973

3. Physical Activity

Physical Activity Yesterday

Q6. For this next question, add up all the time you spent doing physical activity yesterday?	1. None	2. Less than half an hour	3. Between half an hour and 1 hour	4. 1 to 2 hours	5. 2 hours or more	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	7%	9%	21%	28%	28%	8%	234
Earlston	3%	8%	16%	27%	41%	5%	404
Eyemouth	6%	10%	18%	30%	34%	4%	200
Galashiels	5%	8%	18%	28%	35%	7%	451
Hawick	6%	11%	19%	24%	30%	10%	434
Jedburgh	3%	8%	19%	31%	35%	4%	156
Kelso	2%	8%	24%	26%	35%	6%	287
Peebles	4%	8%	18%	31%	34%	5%	583
Selkirk	5%	7%	23%	25%	34%	5%	169
Grand Total	4%	8%	19%	28%	34%	6%	2918

Q6. For this next question, add up all the time you spent doing physical activity yesterday?	1. None	2. Less than half an hour	3. Between half an hour and 1 hour	4. 1 to 2 hours	5. 2 hours or more	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P6	5%	11%	19%	25%	31%	9%	950
P8	4%	6%	19%	30%	34%	6%	970
P7	4%	8%	19%	29%	37%	4%	998
Grand Total	4%	8%	19%	28%	34%	6%	2918

Physically Active Outside School Hours

Q7. How often do you usually do any physical activity in your free time (outside school hours) so much that you get out of breath or sweat?	1. Every day	2. 4 to 6 times a week	3. 2 to 3 times a week	4. Once a week	5. At least once a week but not every day	6. At least once a month but not every week	7. Less than once a month	8. Never	9. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	46%	10%	8%	2%	20%	2%	0%	1%	10%	229
Earlston	47%	10%	8%	2%	25%	2%	1%	1%	4%	402
Eyemouth	43%	9%	8%	2%	26%	4%	1%	3%	7%	200
Galashiels	41%	8%	10%	3%	23%	3%	2%	3%	8%	444
Hawick	47%	8%	7%	3%	19%	3%	1%	4%	8%	433
Jedburgh	47%	8%	9%	0%	22%	1%	2%	3%	8%	152
Kelso	46%	8%	10%	2%	23%	3%	0%	2%	6%	284
Peebles	43%	14%	11%	3%	20%	2%	0%	1%	6%	578
Selkirk	35%	20%	16%	8%	8%	3%	1%	3%	5%	169
Grand Total	44%	10%	9%	3%	21%	3%	1%	2%	7%	2891

Q7. How often do you usually do any physical activity in your free time (outside school hours) so much that you get out of breath or sweat?	1. Every day	2. 4 to 6 times a week	3. 2 to 3 times a week	4. Once a week	5. At least once a week but not every day	6. At least once a month but not every week	7. Less than once a month	8. Never	9. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	53%	1%	1%	0%	31%	3%	1%	2%	8%	937
P6	50%	2%	1%	1%	33%	2%	1%	2%	7%	958
P7	30%	27%	25%	7%	1%	3%	1%	2%	5%	996
Grand Total	44%	10%	9%	3%	21%	3%	1%	2%	7%	2891

4. Health

General Health

Q8. In general, how would you say your health is?	1. Excellent	2. Good	3. Fair	4. Poor	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	33%	49%	12%	2%	4%	233
Earlston	31%	50%	13%	1%	4%	407
Eyemouth	24%	56%	16%	0%	4%	203
Galashiels	29%	50%	15%	2%	5%	453
Hawick	32%	45%	15%	2%	7%	437
Jedburgh	24%	45%	18%	3%	10%	157
Kelso	25%	50%	18%	1%	6%	288
Peebles	30%	53%	13%	1%	4%	583
Selkirk	31%	47%	17%	2%	3%	169
Grand Total	29%	50%	15%	2%	5%	2930

Q8. In general, how would you say your health is?	1. Excellent	2. Good	3. Fair	4. Poor	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	33%	49%	11%	2%	5%	959
P6	31%	48%	15%	1%	5%	975
P7	25%	52%	17%	2%	5%	996
Grand Total	29%	50%	15%	2%	5%	2930

Long-term Health Condition

Q9. Do you have a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?	1. Yes	2. No	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	14%	73%	14%	233
Earlston	12%	76%	13%	405
Eyemouth	14%	73%	13%	202
Galashiels	11%	66%	23%	449
Hawick	17%	69%	15%	430
Jedburgh	20%	66%	14%	158
Kelso	12%	69%	19%	283
Peebles	12%	74%	14%	582
Selkirk	18%	68%	14%	168
Grand Total	14%	71%	16%	2910

Q9. Do you have a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?	1. Yes	2. No	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	16%	69%	15%	954
P6	12%	70%	18%	966
P7	13%	73%	14%	990
Grand Total	14%	71%	16%	2910

Life Statements

	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Q10.1. My life is just right							
Berwickshire	41%	36%	14%	2%	2%	4%	230
Earlston	36%	34%	18%	5%	1%	5%	404
Eyemouth	40%	34%	13%	6%	2%	4%	202
Galashiels	33%	33%	20%	6%	3%	5%	448
Hawick	36%	33%	14%	7%	4%	6%	431
Jedburgh	36%	32%	16%	6%	1%	9%	157
Kelso	33%	36%	15%	6%	2%	7%	285
Peebles	35%	37%	18%	5%	2%	3%	579
Selkirk	39%	28%	18%	7%	4%	4%	168
Grand Total	36%	34%	17%	6%	3%	5%	2904

Page		1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
7	Q10.1. My life is just right							
	P5	43%	32%	12%	4%	2%	6%	955
	P6	36%	35%	16%	6%	2%	5%	962
	P7	29%	36%	21%	6%	3%	5%	987
	Grand Total	36%	34%	17%	6%	3%	5%	2904

Q10.2. I wish I had a different kind of life	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	5%	6%	7%	21%	51%	10%	227
Earlston	4%	5%	13%	19%	49%	10%	398
Eyemouth	4%	9%	15%	25%	41%	7%	197
Galashiels	5%	8%	12%	24%	42%	8%	440
Hawick	7%	10%	11%	22%	40%	10%	424
Jedburgh	5%	9%	14%	20%	43%	9%	156
Kelso	4%	10%	13%	21%	40%	12%	280
Peebles	3%	8%	11%	25%	47%	6%	575
Selkirk	2%	8%	13%	22%	48%	5%	165
Grand Total	4%	8%	12%	23%	45%	8%	2862

Q10.2. I wish I had a different kind of life	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	5%	7%	9%	22%	48%	9%	938
P6	4%	6%	11%	22%	47%	9%	948
P7	4%	10%	15%	24%	39%	7%	976
Grand Total	4%	8%	12%	23%	45%	8%	2862

	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Q10.3. I have what I want in life							
Berwickshire	40%	32%	15%	4%	2%	7%	225
Earlston	32%	40%	18%	3%	2%	5%	401
Eyemouth	35%	38%	16%	4%	1%	6%	197
Galashiels	34%	32%	19%	7%	3%	5%	442
Hawick	33%	33%	17%	8%	2%	7%	424
Jedburgh	34%	35%	17%	8%	1%	5%	155
Kelso	32%	37%	17%	6%	3%	6%	279
Peebles	31%	39%	18%	5%	2%	5%	576
Selkirk	34%	34%	21%	4%	4%	4%	166
Grand Total	33%	36%	18%	5%	2%	6%	2865

	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Q10.3. I have what I want in life							
P5	35%	33%	16%	6%	2%	7%	933
P6	35%	37%	15%	5%	2%	6%	955
P7	30%	37%	21%	5%	2%	4%	977
Grand Total	33%	36%	18%	5%	2%	6%	2865

Feeling Statements

	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
Q11.1. In general, I like who I am						
Berwickshire	48%	36%	12%	1%	3%	231
Earlston	44%	37%	14%	3%	2%	402
Eyemouth	37%	40%	18%	4%	1%	201
Galashiels	39%	39%	14%	5%	3%	440
Hawick	40%	38%	11%	7%	3%	429
Jedburgh	42%	37%	16%	3%	2%	153
Kelso	34%	40%	17%	6%	2%	279
Peebles	41%	41%	12%	4%	2%	572
Selkirk	44%	35%	11%	6%	4%	166
Grand Total	41%	39%	13%	5%	2%	2873

Page		1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
Q11.1. In general, I like who I am							
P5		51%	35%	9%	3%	3%	936
P6		42%	40%	12%	4%	2%	951
P7		31%	40%	19%	7%	3%	986
Grand Total		41%	39%	13%	5%	2%	2873

	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
Q11.2. I am proud of the things I can do						
Berwickshire	58%	30%	9%	1%	1%	233
Earlston	49%	37%	11%	2%	1%	401
Eyemouth	46%	41%	10%	3%	1%	199
Galashiels	48%	36%	12%	3%	1%	442
Hawick	49%	38%	10%	1%	2%	428
Jedburgh	49%	40%	6%	3%	1%	154
Kelso	44%	43%	8%	3%	1%	279
Peebles	48%	39%	9%	3%	1%	569
Selkirk	53%	36%	6%	3%	2%	165
Grand Total	49%	38%	10%	2%	1%	2870

	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
Q11.2. I am proud of the things I can do						
P5	56%	34%	7%	2%	1%	931
P6	51%	38%	8%	2%	1%	956
P7	40%	42%	13%	4%	2%	983
Grand Total	49%	38%	10%	2%	1%	2870

	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
Q11.3. When I do something, I try my hardest						
Berwickshire	49%	38%	11%	1%	1%	232
Earlston	44%	41%	12%	2%	1%	402
Eyemouth	41%	42%	13%	5%	1%	200
Galashiels	40%	40%	17%	2%	1%	439
Hawick	49%	35%	12%	2%	2%	427
Jedburgh	51%	34%	12%	3%	1%	153
Kelso	40%	42%	14%	3%	1%	276
Peebles	38%	43%	17%	2%	0%	570
Selkirk	47%	42%	9%	1%	1%	165
Grand Total	43%	40%	14%	2%	1%	2864

Q11.3. When I do something, I try my hardest	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
P5	50%	38%	10%	1%	1%	928
P6	45%	38%	13%	2%	1%	956
P7	36%	43%	18%	3%	1%	980
Grand Total	43%	40%	14%	2%	1%	2864

Q11.4. I feel like I can make decisions in my life	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	43%	42%	10%	3%	2%	231
Earlston	36%	47%	14%	1%	1%	401
Eyemouth	36%	46%	12%	5%	1%	198
Galashiels	35%	45%	14%	4%	2%	431
Hawick	38%	41%	14%	4%	3%	422
Jedburgh	38%	38%	16%	6%	1%	146
Kelso	34%	47%	15%	4%	0%	278
Peebles	34%	45%	15%	3%	2%	568
Selkirk	30%	47%	15%	5%	4%	162
Grand Total	36%	45%	14%	3%	2%	2837

Q11.4. I feel like I can make decisions in my life	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
P5	40%	41%	13%	4%	3%	919
P6	37%	46%	13%	3%	2%	946
P7	31%	47%	16%	4%	1%	972
Grand Total	36%	45%	14%	3%	2%	2837

Q11.5. Generally, I feel cheerful and I am in a good mood	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	35%	43%	15%	6%	2%	232
Earlston	33%	38%	22%	6%	1%	403
Eyemouth	30%	35%	26%	7%	2%	198
Galashiels	27%	39%	23%	8%	4%	435
Hawick	32%	38%	17%	9%	4%	426
Jedburgh	37%	37%	18%	5%	3%	149
Kelso	27%	38%	27%	6%	2%	272
Peebles	30%	43%	19%	6%	2%	566
Selkirk	32%	37%	19%	8%	4%	164
Grand Total	31%	39%	20%	7%	3%	2845

Q11.5. Generally, I feel cheerful and I am in a good mood	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
P5	37%	37%	16%	6%	3%	923
P6	30%	40%	20%	6%	3%	944
P7	25%	40%	24%	8%	3%	978
Grand Total	31%	39%	20%	7%	3%	2845

Q11.6. There are lots of things that I worry about in my life	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	17%	24%	28%	24%	7%	229
Earlston	16%	24%	25%	23%	12%	398
Eyemouth	14%	21%	28%	26%	11%	195
Galashiels	20%	23%	23%	24%	9%	433
Hawick	21%	25%	20%	22%	11%	416
Jedburgh	22%	30%	20%	19%	9%	152
Kelso	19%	27%	24%	19%	11%	274
Peebles	15%	20%	30%	26%	9%	553
Selkirk	16%	27%	23%	25%	8%	161
Grand Total	18%	24%	25%	23%	10%	2811

Q11.6. There are lots of things that I worry about in my life	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
P5	19%	24%	22%	22%	12%	913
P6	16%	24%	25%	24%	11%	931
P7	18%	23%	28%	24%	7%	967
Grand Total	18%	24%	25%	23%	10%	2811

Q11.7. Even if I'm having a difficult time, I feel like I will be OK	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	30%	43%	19%	4%	4%	228
Earlston	23%	46%	19%	9%	4%	401
Eyemouth	23%	43%	22%	9%	4%	199
Galashiels	21%	38%	25%	9%	7%	433
Hawick	28%	38%	17%	9%	8%	425
Jedburgh	26%	43%	20%	7%	5%	152
Kelso	20%	46%	19%	10%	5%	279
Peebles	22%	43%	25%	6%	4%	568
Selkirk	24%	42%	22%	5%	7%	165
Grand Total	24%	42%	21%	8%	5%	2850

Q11.7. Even if I'm having a difficult time, I feel like I will be OK	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
P5	30%	41%	17%	7%	5%	925
P6	22%	46%	19%	7%	6%	945
P7	19%	39%	27%	9%	5%	980
Grand Total	24%	42%	21%	8%	5%	2850

Feeling Confident

Q12. Over the past 2 weeks, how often have you been feeling confident?	1. None of the time	2. Rarely	3. Some of the time	4. Often	5. All of the time	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	4%	11%	28%	34%	23%	232
Earlston	2%	13%	29%	39%	18%	403
Eyemouth	6%	17%	28%	36%	14%	200
Galashiels	4%	13%	34%	34%	15%	439
Hawick	6%	15%	32%	30%	18%	434
Jedburgh	5%	13%	29%	34%	18%	153
Kelso	4%	15%	28%	35%	17%	281
Peebles	4%	10%	25%	47%	13%	579
Selkirk	5%	17%	30%	27%	21%	168
Grand Total	4%	13%	29%	37%	17%	2889

Q12. Over the past 2 weeks, how often have you been feeling confident?	1. None of the time	2. Rarely	3. Some of the time	4. Often	5. All of the time	Respondents to Question
P5	6%	11%	28%	35%	21%	939
P6	3%	12%	30%	38%	17%	962
P7	4%	16%	30%	37%	12%	988
Grand Total	4%	13%	29%	37%	17%	2889

Body Image Questions – P7 only

Questions asked in the P7 survey.

P7 Only Q15. Please say how much you agree or disagree with this sentence: "I am happy with my body and the way I look".	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	19%	37%	16%	11%	5%	11%	73
Earlston	17%	32%	25%	12%	3%	11%	128
Eyemouth	13%	34%	16%	13%	10%	13%	61
Galashiels	18%	30%	27%	12%	6%	7%	138
Hawick	26%	25%	16%	8%	10%	15%	140
Jedburgh	19%	24%	25%	15%	5%	12%	59
Kelso	17%	31%	17%	19%	7%	9%	96
Peebles	21%	33%	20%	13%	5%	7%	215
Selkirk	25%	22%	18%	20%	6%	10%	51
Grand Total	20%	30%	21%	13%	6%	10%	961

P7 Only Q16. Please say how much you agree or disagree with this sentence: "My body and the way I look affects how I feel about myself".	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	8%	21%	20%	25%	15%	10%	71
Earlston	12%	31%	15%	14%	16%	12%	121
Eyemouth	18%	25%	21%	21%	5%	9%	56
Galashiels	10%	30%	26%	17%	9%	8%	136
Hawick	14%	21%	20%	18%	18%	9%	137
Jedburgh	17%	24%	24%	10%	14%	10%	58
Kelso	9%	31%	22%	16%	16%	6%	95
Peebles	10%	28%	24%	23%	10%	5%	212
Selkirk	16%	28%	22%	18%	8%	8%	50
Grand Total	12%	27%	22%	18%	13%	8%	936

5. Sleeping

Going to Bed

Q13. When do you usually go to bed if you have to go to school the next morning?	1. Before 9.00 pm	2. At 9.00 pm or later, but before 10.00 pm	3. At 10.00 pm or later, but before 11.00 pm	4. At 11.00 pm or later, but before midnight	5. At midnight or later	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	38%	37%	10%	2%	3%	9%	234
Earlston	36%	39%	13%	4%	3%	5%	404
Eyemouth	29%	32%	21%	9%	3%	6%	199
Galashiels	31%	33%	17%	6%	6%	7%	445
Hawick	31%	35%	16%	5%	4%	9%	437
Jedburgh	29%	36%	15%	5%	6%	9%	155
Kelso	32%	38%	15%	4%	5%	6%	286
Peebles	36%	39%	13%	4%	3%	6%	579
Selkirk	38%	30%	15%	5%	5%	6%	168
Grand Total	33%	36%	15%	5%	4%	7%	2907

3

Q13. When do you usually go to bed if you have to go to school the next morning?	1. Before 9.00 pm	2. At 9.00 pm or later, but before 10.00 pm	3. At 10.00 pm or later, but before 11.00 pm	4. At 11.00 pm or later, but before midnight	5. At midnight or later	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	46%	32%	7%	2%	4%	9%	955
P6	35%	37%	14%	3%	3%	7%	963
P7	19%	39%	23%	8%	5%	5%	989
Grand Total	33%	36%	15%	5%	4%	7%	2907

Waking Up

Q14. When do you usually wake up on school mornings?	1. Before 5.00 am	2. At 5.00 am or later, but before 6.00 am	3. At 6.00 am or later, but before 7.00 am	4. At 7.00 am or later, but before 8.00 am	5. At 8.00 am or later	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	3%	7%	38%	45%	4%	3%	232
Earlston	2%	8%	30%	53%	5%	2%	399
Eyemouth	6%	9%	28%	47%	9%	3%	200
Galashiels	2%	6%	30%	50%	7%	5%	440
Hawick	4%	5%	27%	52%	7%	4%	429
Jedburgh	4%	8%	32%	44%	7%	5%	154
Kelso	3%	6%	27%	58%	4%	3%	279
Peebles	3%	6%	29%	55%	5%	3%	574
Selkirk	2%	7%	33%	49%	6%	3%	167
Grand Total	3%	7%	30%	52%	6%	3%	2874

Page 84

Q14. When do you usually wake up on school mornings?	1. Before 5.00 am	2. At 5.00 am or later, but before 6.00 am	3. At 6.00 am or later, but before 7.00 am	4. At 7.00 am or later, but before 8.00 am	5. At 8.00 am or later	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	5%	7%	28%	47%	7%	5%	945
P6	2%	6%	30%	54%	5%	3%	951
P7	2%	6%	31%	54%	5%	2%	978
Grand Total	3%	7%	30%	52%	6%	3%	2874

6. Breakfast and Food

Eating Breakfast

Q15. How often do you usually have breakfast on weekdays (more than a glass of milk or fruit juice)?	1. I never have breakfast during weekdays	2. One or two days	3. Three or four days	4. Every day	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	6%	7%	8%	74%	5%	233
Earlston	3%	7%	8%	78%	4%	402
Eyemouth	13%	11%	13%	58%	6%	198
Galashiels	9%	9%	7%	71%	5%	445
Hawick	9%	10%	7%	69%	5%	436
Jedburgh	6%	8%	13%	68%	5%	154
Kelso	7%	10%	8%	68%	6%	285
Peebles	6%	6%	7%	76%	5%	574
Selkirk	9%	9%	8%	70%	4%	169
Grand Total	7%	8%	8%	72%	5%	2896

Q15. How often do you usually have breakfast on weekdays (more than a glass of milk or fruit juice)?	1. I never have breakfast during weekdays	2. One or two days	3. Three or four days	4. Every day	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	5%	7%	6%	75%	7%	950
P6	7%	7%	7%	74%	4%	959
P7	10%	10%	11%	66%	3%	987
Grand Total	7%	8%	8%	72%	5%	2896

Q16. How often do you usually have breakfast at weekends (more than a glass of milk or fruit juice)?	1. I never have breakfast during the weekend	2. I usually have breakfast on only one day of the weekend (Saturday or Sunday)	3. I usually have breakfast on both days of the weekend (Saturday and Sunday)	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	5%	9%	78%	7%	225
Earlston	6%	8%	82%	4%	398
Eyemouth	13%	12%	69%	6%	196
Galashiels	8%	10%	75%	7%	436
Hawick	12%	9%	71%	8%	425
Jedburgh	7%	16%	71%	6%	150
Kelso	6%	13%	74%	7%	277
Peebles	5%	11%	79%	5%	570
Selkirk	12%	10%	70%	7%	166
Grand Total	8%	11%	76%	6%	2843

Q16. How often do you usually have breakfast at weekends (more than a glass of milk or fruit juice)?	1. I never have breakfast during the weekend	2. I usually have breakfast on only one day of the weekend (Saturday or Sunday)	3. I usually have breakfast on both days of the weekend (Saturday and Sunday)	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	6%	9%	76%	9%	925
P6	6%	10%	78%	5%	942
P7	10%	13%	73%	4%	976
Grand Total	8%	11%	76%	6%	2843

Frequency of Eating or Drinking

How often do you usually eat or drink....	1. Never	2. Once a week or less	3. 2-4 days a week	4. 5-6 days a week	5. At least once a day	Respondents to Question
Q17.1. Fruit	3%	10%	20%	22%	45%	2813
Q17.2. Vegetables	9%	12%	20%	24%	36%	2746
Q17.3. Fruit juice or smoothies	14%	22%	23%	18%	23%	2743
Q17.4. Sweets or chocolate	2%	22%	35%	19%	22%	2760
Q17.5. Cakes or biscuits	6%	39%	30%	13%	12%	2778
Q17.6. Crisps	6%	19%	26%	25%	24%	2796
Q17.7. Chips or fried potatoes	8%	35%	32%	15%	11%	2763
Q17.8. Water	3%	6%	7%	21%	63%	2771
Q17.9. Coke or other soft drinks that contain sugar	17%	40%	23%	10%	10%	2733
Q17.10. Energy drinks (e.g. Red Bull, Lucozade, Monster)	71%	18%	6%	2%	3%	2774

Being Hungry (P7 Survey Only)

P7 Q22. Some children and young people go to school or to bed hungry. How often does this happen to you?	1. Always	2. Often	3. Sometimes	4. Never	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	3%	3%	27%	60%	7%	73
Earlston	3%	5%	23%	65%	4%	130
Eyemouth	8%	13%	30%	46%	3%	61
Galashiels	3%	10%	28%	56%	4%	140
Hawick	7%	4%	30%	55%	4%	141
Jedburgh	2%	7%	24%	64%	3%	58
Kelso	1%	5%	29%	60%	4%	96
Peebles	2%	8%	31%	55%	3%	215
Selkirk	2%	10%	29%	58%	2%	52
Grand Total	3%	7%	28%	58%	4%	966

7. Relationship with Adults

Q18.1. Adults are good at listening to what I say	1. Agree	2. Neither agree nor disagree	3. Disagree	4. Don't know	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	78%	14%	3%	6%	228
Earlston	76%	15%	2%	6%	403
Eyemouth	75%	15%	2%	8%	195
Galashiels	74%	15%	2%	8%	441
Hawick	75%	11%	4%	9%	434
Jedburgh	75%	15%	2%	8%	152
Kelso	70%	17%	4%	10%	277
Peebles	75%	15%	3%	6%	574
Selkirk	75%	13%	3%	9%	167
Grand Total	75%	15%	3%	8%	2871

Q18.1. Adults are good at listening to what I say	1. Agree	2. Neither agree nor disagree	3. Disagree	4. Don't know	Respondents to Question
P5	76%	12%	3%	9%	936
P6	77%	12%	3%	8%	954
P7	72%	20%	2%	6%	981
Grand Total	75%	15%	3%	8%	2871

Q18.2. Adults are good at taking what I say into account	1. Agree	2. Neither agree nor disagree	3. Disagree	4. Don't know	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	67%	17%	3%	13%	217
Earlston	67%	21%	1%	11%	396
Eyemouth	63%	17%	3%	16%	186
Galashiels	66%	17%	3%	14%	427
Hawick	63%	17%	3%	18%	418
Jedburgh	60%	19%	3%	18%	146
Kelso	59%	19%	4%	18%	269
Peebles	63%	22%	4%	12%	555
Selkirk	65%	15%	6%	14%	157
Grand Total	64%	19%	3%	14%	2771

Q18.2. Adults are good at taking what I say into account	1. Agree	2. Neither agree nor disagree	3. Disagree	4. Don't know	Respondents to Question
P5	64%	14%	3%	19%	903
P6	66%	16%	3%	15%	919
P7	62%	25%	3%	9%	949
Grand Total	64%	19%	3%	14%	2771

8. Electronic Devices and the Internet

Devices

Q19. Do you have access to the internet at home, on a phone, or another device?	1. Yes	2. No	3. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	97%	1%	3%	230
Earlston	98%	1%	1%	405
Eyemouth	98%	1%	1%	195
Galashiels	96%	1%	3%	442
Hawick	97%	1%	2%	438
Jedburgh	95%	3%	2%	153
Kelso	97%	1%	2%	281
Peebles	98%	1%	2%	576
Selkirk	98%	0%	2%	168
Grand Total	97%	1%	2%	2888

age

Q19. Do you have access to the internet at home, on a phone, or another device?	1. Yes	2. No	3. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	94%	2%	4%	948
P6	97%	1%	2%	954
P7	99%	0%	1%	986
Grand Total	97%	1%	2%	2888

Time on Internet

In your free time, how long do you usually spend using electronic devices such as computers, tablets (like iPad) or smart phones?

Weekdays

Q20.1. Weekdays Device Time	1. None at all	2. Some time (up to 2 hours a day)	3. Quite a bit of time (about 3 hours a day or more)	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	5%	55%	39%	220
Earlston	5%	60%	35%	392
Eyemouth	6%	48%	46%	191
Galashiels	4%	52%	43%	424
Hawick	6%	48%	46%	420
Jedburgh	7%	52%	41%	145
Kelso	8%	52%	40%	268
Peebles	7%	63%	29%	566
Salisbury	9%	54%	38%	164
Grand Total	6%	55%	39%	2790

Q20.1. Weekdays Device Time	1. None at all	2. Some time (up to 2 hours a day)	3. Quite a bit of time (about 3 hours a day or more)	Respondents to Question
P5	10%	57%	33%	907
P6	6%	56%	38%	924
P7	3%	52%	45%	959
Grand Total	6%	55%	39%	2790

Weekends

Q20.2. Weekends Device Time	1. None at all	2. Some time (up to 2 hours a day)	3. Quite a bit of time (about 3 hours a day or more)	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	4%	31%	65%	197
Earlston	3%	34%	63%	380
Eyemouth	5%	29%	66%	183
Galashiels	5%	31%	64%	408
Hawick	6%	28%	66%	396
Jedburgh	6%	36%	58%	142
Kelso	5%	35%	60%	249
Peebles	5%	41%	55%	537
Selkirk	8%	37%	55%	156
Grand Total	5%	34%	61%	2648

Q20.2. Weekends Device Time	1. None at all	2. Some time (up to 2 hours a day)	3. Quite a bit of time (about 3 hours a day or more)	Respondents to Question
P5	8%	38%	54%	852
P6	4%	34%	62%	871
P7	2%	30%	68%	925
Grand Total	5%	34%	61%	2648

Online Activity

Which of the following activities have you done online in the last 2 weeks, even if not very often?	Q21.1. Watching videos online	Q21.2. Playing games online	Q21.3. Listening to music online	Q21.4. Looking things up to help with schoolwork	Q21.5. Updating your pictures, status or 'story' on social media	Q21.6. Browsing other people's pictures, status or 'stories' on social media	Q21.7. Messaging, chatting or video-chatting using social media	Q21.8. Something else	Grand Total
Berwickshire	83%	82%	62%	51%	24%	25%	75%	41%	237
Earlston	76%	80%	58%	42%	24%	21%	62%	33%	408
Eyemouth	83%	79%	66%	37%	26%	23%	71%	25%	204
Galashiels	79%	80%	62%	40%	21%	22%	62%	38%	461
Hawick	78%	80%	58%	37%	31%	26%	64%	33%	448
Jedburgh	84%	74%	57%	32%	27%	27%	64%	34%	159
Kelso	73%	74%	53%	32%	26%	27%	68%	34%	290
Peebles	76%	76%	65%	42%	22%	20%	61%	32%	587
Selkirk	77%	83%	61%	42%	29%	30%	64%	34%	171
Grand Total	78%	79%	61%	40%	25%	23%	65%	34%	2965

Page 58

Which of the following activities have you done online in the last 2 weeks, even if not very often?	Q21.1. Watching videos online	Q21.2. Playing games online	Q21.3. Listening to music online	Q21.4. Looking things up to help with schoolwork	Q21.5. Updating your pictures, status or 'story' on social media	Q21.6. Browsing other people's pictures, status or 'stories' on social media	Q21.7. Messaging, chatting or video-chatting using social media	Q21.8. Something else	Grand Total
P5	72%	75%	53%	40%	18%	13%	48%	34%	973
P6	78%	81%	60%	41%	23%	21%	66%	35%	986
P7	84%	81%	68%	38%	34%	36%	80%	32%	1006
Grand Total	78%	79%	61%	40%	25%	23%	65%	34%	2965

9. Friendships and Loneliness

Number of Friends

Q22. How many close friends would you say you have?	1. None	2. One	3. Two	4. Three or more	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	1%	7%	13%	73%	7%	228
Earlston	1%	6%	14%	75%	4%	403
Eyemouth	2%	4%	15%	74%	5%	196
Galashiels	2%	5%	14%	75%	4%	442
Hawick	1%	5%	12%	75%	7%	436
Jedburgh	0%	4%	14%	76%	7%	152
Kelso	2%	6%	13%	72%	7%	282
Peebles	1%	6%	10%	78%	5%	577
Selkirk	1%	4%	9%	79%	6%	170
Grand Total	1%	5%	13%	75%	5%	2886

Response

Q22. How many close friends would you say you have?	1. None	2. One	3. Two	4. Three or more	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	1%	5%	13%	74%	6%	946
P6	1%	4%	11%	77%	7%	957
P7	2%	6%	13%	75%	4%	983
Grand Total	1%	5%	13%	75%	5%	2886

Friendship Statements

Q23.1. I have a lot of fun with my friends	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	65%	26%	6%	2%	0%	229
Earlston	65%	25%	7%	1%	1%	401
Eyemouth	61%	30%	8%	0%	1%	194
Galashiels	63%	28%	6%	2%	0%	437
Hawick	69%	24%	6%	0%	1%	434
Jedburgh	62%	28%	9%	1%	1%	150
Kelso	62%	31%	4%	1%	2%	273
Peebles	66%	26%	7%	1%	0%	573
Selkirk	60%	31%	7%	1%	2%	168
Grand Total	64%	27%	7%	1%	1%	2859

Q23.1. I have a lot of fun with my friends	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
P5	65%	25%	6%	2%	1%	942
P6	67%	25%	7%	1%	1%	945
P7	61%	31%	7%	1%	1%	972
Grand Total	64%	27%	7%	1%	1%	2859

Q23.2. I am confident in sharing my opinions with my friends	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	39%	36%	15%	5%	4%	228
Earlston	42%	36%	15%	5%	2%	399
Eyemouth	32%	40%	16%	10%	3%	192
Galashiels	38%	34%	18%	7%	2%	431
Hawick	42%	38%	11%	6%	4%	427
Jedburgh	44%	32%	16%	5%	3%	149
Kelso	36%	39%	15%	7%	2%	272
Peebles	36%	43%	14%	4%	2%	566
Selkirk	41%	37%	13%	5%	4%	166
Grand Total	39%	38%	15%	6%	3%	2830

Q23.2. I am confident in sharing my opinions with my friends	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
P5	41%	36%	12%	7%	3%	930
P6	39%	40%	14%	6%	2%	937
P7	37%	38%	18%	5%	2%	963
Grand Total	39%	38%	15%	6%	3%	2830

Q23.3. My friends treat me well	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	47%	41%	10%	1%	0%	229
Earlston	48%	37%	10%	3%	2%	395
Eyemouth	46%	41%	11%	2%	1%	193
Galashiels	47%	34%	15%	3%	1%	433
Hawick	48%	37%	11%	2%	1%	423
Jedburgh	48%	34%	14%	1%	3%	149
Kelso	45%	35%	17%	0%	3%	269
Peebles	46%	39%	12%	2%	1%	564
Selkirk	48%	39%	8%	1%	3%	165
Grand Total	47%	37%	12%	2%	1%	2820

Q23.3. My friends treat me well	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
P5	50%	34%	12%	2%	2%	930
P6	50%	37%	11%	2%	1%	937
P7	41%	41%	15%	2%	1%	953
Grand Total	47%	37%	12%	2%	1%	2820

Q23.4. I feel my friends make me do things I don't want to do	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	7%	10%	16%	33%	35%	221
Earlston	7%	6%	18%	32%	37%	397
Eyemouth	5%	7%	14%	41%	33%	192
Galashiels	6%	9%	18%	36%	31%	429
Hawick	11%	8%	14%	32%	35%	423
Jedburgh	5%	11%	18%	32%	34%	148
Kelso	3%	12%	17%	32%	35%	271
Peebles	5%	7%	18%	33%	37%	567
Selkirk	6%	6%	20%	34%	34%	161
Grand Total	6%	8%	17%	34%	35%	2809

Q23.4. I feel my friends make me do things I don't want to do	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
P5	10%	10%	16%	28%	36%	920
P6	5%	7%	16%	33%	38%	931
P7	5%	7%	19%	39%	30%	958
Grand Total	6%	8%	17%	34%	35%	2809

Q24.1. If a friend was being bullied, I would help them or tell someone who would help them	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	73%	21%	4%	1%	1%	224
Earlston	74%	22%	3%	1%	1%	397
Eyemouth	77%	21%	1%	1%	1%	193
Galashiels	73%	21%	4%	1%	0%	435
Hawick	73%	22%	2%	1%	2%	433
Jedburgh	74%	25%	1%	0%	1%	152
Kelso	66%	28%	4%	1%	1%	275
Peebles	67%	28%	3%	1%	1%	573
Selkirk	74%	23%	1%	1%	1%	164
Grand Total	72%	24%	3%	1%	1%	2846

Q24.1. If a friend was being bullied, I would help them or tell someone who would help them	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
P5	74%	21%	3%	1%	1%	935
P6	74%	22%	3%	1%	1%	944
P7	67%	28%	4%	1%	1%	967
Grand Total	72%	24%	3%	1%	1%	2846

Q24.2. My friends will help me if I need it	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	55%	34%	9%	1%	0%	222
Earlston	52%	36%	9%	2%	1%	399
Eyemouth	53%	36%	9%	2%	1%	191
Galashiels	52%	35%	10%	2%	1%	436
Hawick	56%	33%	7%	3%	2%	429
Jedburgh	49%	36%	9%	3%	3%	150
Kelso	48%	40%	9%	1%	1%	270
Peebles	48%	39%	9%	2%	1%	570
Selkirk	47%	41%	7%	3%	2%	164
Grand Total	51%	37%	9%	2%	1%	2831

Q24.2. My friends will help me if I need it	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
P5	56%	33%	7%	2%	2%	925
P6	51%	37%	9%	2%	1%	942
P7	47%	40%	10%	3%	1%	964
Grand Total	51%	37%	9%	2%	1%	2831

Q24.3. I am happy with the friends that I have	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	72%	22%	4%	1%	0%	224
Earlston	70%	22%	6%	2%	1%	397
Eyemouth	73%	20%	5%	1%	1%	192
Galashiels	68%	22%	7%	2%	1%	433
Hawick	70%	23%	6%	0%	1%	431
Jedburgh	74%	20%	4%	0%	2%	149
Kelso	67%	24%	7%	1%	1%	269
Peebles	67%	24%	7%	2%	1%	567
Selkirk	61%	31%	5%	1%	2%	163
Grand Total	69%	23%	6%	1%	1%	2825

Q24.3. I am happy with the friends that I have	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
85	72%	21%	5%	1%	1%	927
86	71%	22%	6%	1%	1%	939
89	64%	25%	8%	1%	1%	959
Grand Total	69%	23%	6%	1%	1%	2825

Q24.4. Most of the time, I have enough money to do the same things as my friends	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	36%	37%	18%	6%	3%	218
Earlston	35%	37%	20%	5%	3%	389
Eyemouth	37%	32%	16%	11%	5%	189
Galashiels	36%	29%	21%	10%	4%	425
Hawick	40%	30%	16%	10%	4%	421
Jedburgh	33%	33%	22%	5%	5%	147
Kelso	31%	30%	25%	10%	4%	265
Peebles	33%	35%	22%	7%	4%	561
Selkirk	28%	37%	21%	8%	6%	161
Grand Total	35%	33%	20%	8%	4%	2776

Q24.4. Most of the time, I have enough money to do the same things as my friends	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
P5	33%	30%	21%	10%	7%	903
P6	35%	32%	22%	8%	3%	922
P7	37%	37%	17%	6%	3%	951
Grand Total	35%	33%	20%	8%	4%	2776

Q24.5. I feel supported by my friends	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	61%	28%	8%	2%	2%	224
Earlston	61%	27%	8%	2%	2%	394
Eyemouth	60%	30%	8%	1%	1%	194
Galashiels	58%	27%	11%	4%	1%	432
Hawick	60%	28%	7%	2%	3%	426
Jedburgh	58%	32%	7%	2%	2%	149
Kelso	55%	31%	11%	2%	2%	273
Peebles	55%	32%	9%	2%	2%	563
Selkirk	56%	30%	9%	1%	4%	163
Grand Total	58%	29%	9%	2%	2%	2818

Q24.5. I feel supported by my friends	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents to Question
P5	63%	25%	8%	2%	3%	921
P6	60%	29%	7%	2%	2%	937
P7	51%	34%	11%	2%	2%	960
Grand Total	58%	29%	9%	2%	2%	2818

"Left Out" and Loneliness

Q25. How often do you feel left out of things?	1. Hardly ever or never	2. Sometimes	3. Often or always	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	38%	45%	9%	9%	229
Earlston	37%	45%	9%	8%	402
Eyemouth	41%	46%	7%	6%	191
Galashiels	36%	46%	10%	8%	439
Hawick	40%	43%	10%	8%	433
Jedburgh	29%	50%	11%	10%	151
Kelso	40%	45%	9%	5%	277
Peebles	39%	48%	9%	4%	574
Selkirk	34%	47%	10%	9%	168
Grand Total	38%	46%	9%	7%	2864

Q25. How often do you feel left out of things?	1. Hardly ever or never	2. Sometimes	3. Often or always	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	38%	43%	9%	11%	935
P6	40%	45%	8%	7%	954
P7	35%	50%	12%	4%	975
Grand Total	38%	46%	9%	7%	2864

Q26. How often do you feel lonely?	1. Hardly ever or never	2. Sometimes	3. Often or always	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	47%	38%	9%	6%	217
Earlston	43%	42%	9%	6%	378
Eyemouth	40%	43%	12%	6%	181
Galashiels	39%	39%	12%	9%	412
Hawick	42%	39%	11%	8%	392
Jedburgh	37%	49%	7%	8%	142
Kelso	44%	41%	10%	5%	258
Peebles	46%	37%	11%	5%	541
Selkirk	41%	38%	16%	4%	164
Grand Total	43%	40%	11%	7%	2685

Q26. How often do you feel lonely?	1. Hardly ever or never	2. Sometimes	3. Often or always	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	40%	40%	10%	10%	870
P6	44%	41%	9%	6%	880
P7	45%	38%	14%	4%	935
Grand Total	43%	40%	11%	7%	2685

10. Bullying

Been Bullied

Q27. Have you been bullied in the last year?	1. Yes	2. No	3. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	39%	42%	19%	229
Earlston	38%	47%	14%	401
Eyemouth	38%	49%	13%	191
Galashiels	38%	48%	13%	439
Hawick	51%	35%	14%	436
Jedburgh	52%	36%	12%	151
Kelso	44%	46%	10%	278
Peebles	38%	48%	15%	577
Selkirk	45%	43%	12%	168
Grand Total	42%	45%	14%	2870

Q27. Have you been bullied in the last year?	1. Yes	2. No	3. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	46%	39%	16%	944
P6	42%	44%	14%	954
P7	38%	51%	12%	972
Grand Total	42%	45%	14%	2870

Where Bullied?

28. Where have you been bullied?	Q28.1. At school	Q28.2. Somewhere else (including on the way to or from school)	Q28.3. Online / Social media / gaming platform	Grand Total
Berwickshire	32%	15%	10%	237
Earlston	30%	15%	10%	408
Eyemouth	29%	12%	7%	204
Galashiels	28%	17%	13%	461
Hawick	40%	22%	16%	448
Jedburgh	43%	22%	13%	159
Kelso	32%	16%	14%	290
Peebles	30%	13%	10%	587
Selkirk	34%	18%	17%	171
Grand Total	33%	17%	12%	2965

Page 184

28. Where have you been bullied?	Q28.1. At school	Q28.2. Somewhere else (including on the way to or from school)	Q28.3. Online / Social media / gaming platform	Grand Total
P5	35%	18%	12%	973
P6	34%	17%	12%	986
P7	30%	15%	12%	1006
Grand Total	33%	17%	12%	2965

How Bullied?

29. How were you bullied?	Q29.1. Name calling	Q29.2. Rumours spread	Q29.3. Hurtful comments	Q29.4. Threats	Q29.5. Pictures or videos of you shared with others	Q29.6. Embarrassed or made to feel foolish	Q29.7. Physically hurt	Grand Total
Berwickshire	29%	11%	23%	14%	5%	15%	16%	237
Earlston	27%	13%	25%	10%	3%	15%	13%	408
Eyemouth	24%	10%	21%	13%	2%	10%	12%	204
Galashiels	27%	14%	24%	12%	6%	17%	14%	461
Hawick	39%	17%	30%	20%	6%	23%	20%	448
Jedburgh	32%	13%	26%	13%	8%	18%	29%	159
Kelso	31%	14%	24%	16%	6%	17%	17%	290
Peebles	25%	11%	22%	10%	3%	15%	13%	587
Selkirk	35%	15%	29%	18%	4%	18%	18%	171
Grand Total	30%	13%	25%	14%	5%	17%	16%	2965

29. How were you bullied?	Q29.1. Name calling	Q29.2. Rumours spread	Q29.3. Hurtful comments	Q29.4. Threats	Q29.5. Pictures or videos of you shared with others	Q29.6. Embarrassed or made to feel foolish	Q29.7. Physically hurt	Grand Total
P5	30%	10%	25%	14%	4%	16%	16%	973
P6	30%	13%	25%	14%	4%	16%	16%	986
P7	29%	16%	25%	13%	6%	18%	15%	1006
Grand Total	30%	13%	25%	14%	5%	17%	16%	2965

Online Bullying – P7 Only

Only the P7 Survey asked about online bullying.

P7 Only Q35. How often do other children pick on you by sending emails, through messaging or posting something online?	1. Most days	2. About once a week	3. About once a month	4. Every few months	5. Never	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	0%	4%	13%	22%	61%	0%	23
Earlston	6%	11%	6%	15%	55%	8%	53
Eyemouth	0%	0%	7%	20%	60%	13%	15
Galashiels	10%	8%	10%	18%	41%	14%	51
Hawick	4%	11%	5%	21%	45%	14%	56
Jedburgh	4%	0%	4%	29%	50%	13%	24
Kelso	5%	7%	15%	22%	34%	17%	41
Peebles	3%	6%	14%	13%	54%	11%	71
Selkirk	32%	5%	0%	23%	23%	18%	22
Grand Total	6%	7%	9%	19%	47%	12%	356

Report Bullying?

Q30. Did you report the bullying to anyone?	1. Yes	2. No	3. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	65%	21%	13%	89
Earlston	67%	24%	9%	154
Eyemouth	64%	19%	16%	73
Galashiels	60%	23%	18%	168
Hawick	60%	24%	16%	221
Jedburgh	64%	17%	19%	78
Kelso	52%	34%	13%	122
Peebles	66%	19%	14%	216
Selkirk	59%	18%	23%	74
Grand Total	62%	23%	15%	1195

Q30. Did you report the bullying to anyone?	1. Yes	2. No	3. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
85	64%	19%	17%	427
86	63%	19%	18%	402
87	59%	30%	11%	366
Grand Total	62%	23%	15%	1195

Reporting Bullying Results

Q31. Did reporting the bullying to anyone...?	1. Make the situation better	2. Make the situation worse	3. Nothing changed	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	54%	16%	16%	14%	56
Earlston	63%	9%	25%	4%	102
Eyemouth	58%	11%	24%	7%	45
Galashiels	55%	9%	25%	11%	100
Hawick	53%	13%	24%	10%	130
Jedburgh	51%	6%	35%	8%	49
Kelso	49%	17%	26%	8%	65
Peebles	52%	7%	25%	16%	140
Selkirk	44%	14%	28%	14%	43
Grand Total	54%	11%	25%	10%	730

Q31. Did reporting the bullying to anyone...?	1. Make the situation better	2. Make the situation worse	3. Nothing changed	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	52%	9%	25%	14%	266
P6	55%	10%	24%	10%	248
P7	55%	13%	26%	6%	216
Grand Total	54%	11%	25%	10%	730

Take Part in Bullying

Q32. How often have you taken part in bullying another pupil(s) at school in the past couple of months?	1. Not at all	2. Once or twice	3. Around two or three times a month	4. About once a week	5. Several times a week	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	75%	13%	3%	0%	2%	8%	229
Earlston	84%	7%	2%	0%	1%	6%	402
Eyemouth	84%	11%	2%	0%	1%	3%	192
Galashiels	75%	16%	2%	0%	0%	7%	435
Hawick	69%	16%	3%	0%	1%	10%	429
Jedburgh	81%	11%	3%	1%	1%	5%	152
Kelso	82%	12%	2%	1%	1%	3%	277
Peables	82%	12%	1%	1%	1%	4%	576
Salkirk	79%	10%	1%	1%	2%	7%	168
Grand Total	78%	12%	2%	0%	1%	6%	2860

Q32. How often have you taken part in bullying another pupil(s) at school in the past couple of months?	1. Not at all	2. Once or twice	3. Around two or three times a month	4. About once a week	5. Several times a week	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	76%	12%	2%	1%	1%	8%	936
P6	80%	11%	2%	0%	1%	6%	953
P7	79%	14%	2%	0%	1%	4%	971
Grand Total	78%	12%	2%	0%	1%	6%	2860

11. Home Life

Family Meals

Q33. How often do you and the people you live with usually have meals together?	1. Every day	2. Most days	3. About once a week	4. Less than once a week	5. Never	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	59%	27%	6%	2%	4%	2%	225
Earlston	58%	29%	5%	3%	1%	4%	398
Eyemouth	50%	35%	5%	4%	3%	4%	191
Galashiels	54%	28%	5%	4%	4%	4%	436
Hawick	53%	30%	6%	3%	4%	4%	432
Jedburgh	58%	26%	5%	2%	7%	2%	151
Kelso	56%	28%	7%	3%	3%	3%	275
Peebles	52%	32%	6%	3%	3%	3%	575
Selkirk	50%	28%	8%	5%	5%	4%	166
Grand Total	55%	30%	6%	3%	3%	4%	2849

Q33. How often do you and the people you live with usually have meals together?	1. Every day	2. Most days	3. About once a week	4. Less than once a week	5. Never	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	54%	27%	7%	4%	4%	5%	934
P6	56%	31%	5%	4%	2%	3%	949
P7	54%	31%	5%	3%	4%	3%	966
Grand Total	55%	30%	6%	3%	3%	4%	2849

Enjoy being with the people you live with

Q34. How often do you enjoy being with the people you live with?	1. Always	2. Often	3. Sometimes	4. Never	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	71%	17%	8%	0%	4%	225
Earlston	57%	32%	9%	1%	1%	398
Eyemouth	61%	24%	13%	0%	3%	191
Galashiels	63%	24%	10%	1%	2%	431
Hawick	67%	21%	8%	2%	2%	424
Jedburgh	69%	21%	7%	1%	1%	146
Kelso	61%	23%	12%	1%	2%	274
Peebles	55%	32%	9%	1%	3%	569
Selkirk	62%	27%	10%	0%	2%	168
Grand Total	62%	26%	9%	1%	2%	2826

Q34. How often do you enjoy being with the people you live with?	1. Always	2. Often	3. Sometimes	4. Never	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	67%	21%	7%	1%	3%	924
P6	61%	27%	9%	1%	2%	937
P7	57%	29%	11%	1%	2%	965
Grand Total	62%	26%	9%	1%	2%	2826

12. Caring (P7 only)

The caring questions were in the P7 survey only.

P7 Q41. Do you care for, or look after, someone?	1. Yes	2. No	3. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	29%	62%	10%	73
Earlston	29%	63%	9%	126
Eyemouth	40%	40%	19%	57
Galashiels	26%	62%	11%	141
Hawick	38%	50%	12%	136
Jedburgh	29%	57%	14%	56
Kelso	22%	62%	16%	94
Peebles	30%	62%	9%	213
Selkirk	42%	51%	8%	53
Grand Total	31%	58%	11%	949

P7 Q42. Do you help care for, or look after, them....	1. Every day	2. A couple of times a week	3. Once in a while	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	57%	19%	19%	5%	21
Earlston	55%	34%	3%	8%	38
Eyemouth	38%	29%	29%	4%	24
Galashiels	43%	24%	30%	3%	37
Hawick	43%	31%	18%	8%	51
Jedburgh	50%	38%	13%	0%	16
Kelso	32%	27%	36%	5%	22
Peebles	40%	25%	30%	5%	63
Selkirk	38%	46%	8%	8%	24
Grand Total	44%	30%	21%	5%	296

13. People you can trust and talk to

Trusted adult to talk to

Q35. Do you have an adult in your life who you can trust and talk to about any personal problems?	1. No, I don't	2. Yes, I sometimes do	3. Yes, I always do	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	6%	19%	69%	6%	229
Earlston	2%	15%	76%	8%	401
Eyemouth	3%	20%	73%	5%	192
Galashiels	4%	21%	68%	6%	437
Hawick	3%	21%	70%	6%	429
Jedburgh	3%	24%	69%	3%	149
Kelso	4%	24%	65%	7%	275
Peebles	2%	19%	74%	5%	573
Selkirk	4%	27%	65%	4%	168
Grand Total	3%	20%	71%	6%	2853

Q35. Do you have an adult in your life who you can trust and talk to about any personal problems?	1. No, I don't	2. Yes, I sometimes do	3. Yes, I always do	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	5%	21%	67%	7%	933
P6	2%	17%	75%	6%	953
P7	3%	23%	70%	4%	967
Grand Total	3%	20%	71%	6%	2853

Talk to by Stage

Q36.1. Talk to Friend(s)	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
P5	72%	23%	5%	882
P6	73%	23%	4%	926
P7	72%	23%	4%	932
Grand Total	72%	23%	5%	2740

Q36.2. Talk to Mum / female carer	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
P5	88%	9%	3%	900
P6	88%	10%	2%	929
P7	86%	12%	2%	940
Grand Total	87%	10%	2%	2769

Q36.3. Talk to Dad / male carer	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
P5	79%	13%	7%	884
P6	77%	17%	6%	917
P7	72%	22%	7%	936
Grand Total	76%	18%	7%	2737

Q36.4. Talk to Brother(s) / Sister(s)	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
P5	48%	35%	17%	877
P6	43%	40%	16%	911
P7	46%	38%	16%	927
Grand Total	46%	38%	17%	2715

Q36.5. Talk to Counsellor	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
P5	32%	18%	50%	823
P6	29%	16%	55%	873
P7	23%	20%	57%	897
Grand Total	28%	18%	54%	2593

Q36.6. Talk to GP or Nurse	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
P5	41%	25%	33%	818
P6	36%	25%	40%	866
P7	31%	25%	44%	897
Grand Total	36%	25%	39%	2581

Q36.7. Talk to Teacher(s)	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
P5	69%	26%	5%	874
P6	62%	33%	5%	910
P7	54%	41%	6%	924
Grand Total	61%	33%	5%	2708

Q37.1. Talk to Neighbour(s)	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
P5	32%	36%	33%	846
P6	23%	40%	36%	888
P7	20%	39%	41%	914
Grand Total	25%	38%	37%	2648

Q37.2. Talk to Youth Worker	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
P5	19%	22%	59%	823
P6	18%	23%	59%	855
P7	16%	24%	60%	888
Grand Total	18%	23%	59%	2566

Q37.3. Talk to Other family members (e.g. grandparent(s))	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
P5	78%	16%	6%	866
P6	76%	18%	6%	904
P7	71%	23%	7%	920
Grand Total	75%	19%	6%	2690

Q37.4. Talk to Social Worker	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
P5	20%	24%	56%	819
P6	18%	22%	61%	851
P7	15%	20%	65%	877
Grand Total	18%	22%	61%	2547

Q37.5. Talk to Another adult you trust	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
P5	77%	16%	8%	859
P6	76%	17%	7%	880
P7	67%	22%	10%	909
Grand Total	73%	18%	8%	2648

Q37.6. Talk to Club or Group leader	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
P5	40%	27%	32%	828
P6	38%	29%	33%	860
P7	30%	30%	40%	884
Grand Total	36%	29%	35%	2572

Talk to by Cluster

Q36.1. Talk to Friend(s)	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	73%	24%	3%	217
Earlston	74%	23%	4%	386
Eyemouth	75%	20%	4%	183
Galashiels	70%	26%	4%	419
Hawick	72%	21%	7%	416
Jedburgh	77%	18%	4%	146
Kelso	75%	20%	5%	262
Peebles	68%	27%	5%	551
Selkirk	74%	23%	3%	160
Grand Total	72%	23%	5%	2740

Q36.2. Talk to Mum / female carer	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	86%	13%	2%	224
Earlston	89%	10%	2%	389
Eyemouth	85%	13%	2%	184
Galashiels	86%	12%	2%	428
Hawick	87%	10%	4%	417
Jedburgh	93%	5%	1%	148
Kelso	89%	10%	2%	264
Peebles	88%	10%	2%	552
Selkirk	85%	12%	4%	163
Grand Total	87%	10%	2%	2769

Q36.3. Talk to Dad / male carer	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	76%	19%	5%	221
Earlston	76%	19%	5%	386
Eyemouth	77%	16%	7%	184
Galashiels	75%	17%	7%	418
Hawick	78%	14%	9%	410
Jedburgh	79%	10%	12%	147
Kelso	73%	20%	6%	264
Peebles	76%	19%	5%	547
Selkirk	72%	23%	5%	160
Grand Total	76%	18%	7%	2737

Q36.4. Talk to Brother(s) / Sister(s)	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	50%	37%	13%	218
Earlston	44%	43%	13%	387
Eyemouth	51%	34%	15%	181
Galashiels	47%	37%	16%	417
Hawick	49%	34%	17%	406
Jedburgh	45%	37%	18%	145
Kelso	46%	37%	17%	259
Peebles	40%	40%	20%	543
Selkirk	43%	35%	22%	159
Grand Total	46%	38%	17%	2715

Q36.5. Talk to Counsellor	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	31%	19%	50%	199
Earlston	27%	19%	54%	376
Eyemouth	39%	19%	42%	174
Galashiels	27%	18%	54%	390
Hawick	32%	15%	53%	396
Jedburgh	33%	17%	50%	133
Kelso	30%	18%	52%	253
Peebles	20%	20%	60%	522
Selkirk	24%	19%	57%	150
Grand Total	28%	18%	54%	2593

Q36.6. Talk to GP or Nurse	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	40%	29%	32%	200
Earlston	34%	28%	38%	376
Eyemouth	40%	25%	34%	174
Galashiels	36%	27%	36%	395
Hawick	40%	20%	41%	387
Jedburgh	50%	23%	27%	135
Kelso	32%	26%	42%	247
Peebles	30%	24%	45%	515
Selkirk	34%	21%	45%	152
Grand Total	36%	25%	39%	2581

Q36.7. Talk to Teacher(s)	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	64%	32%	4%	219
Earlston	61%	35%	4%	387
Eyemouth	56%	38%	6%	179
Galashiels	61%	33%	5%	415
Hawick	65%	28%	7%	410
Jedburgh	67%	28%	5%	138
Kelso	63%	33%	4%	258
Peebles	57%	38%	5%	542
Selkirk	59%	32%	9%	160
Grand Total	61%	33%	5%	2708

Q37.1. Talk to Neighbour(s)	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	25%	36%	38%	201
Earlston	25%	38%	38%	377
Eyemouth	27%	37%	36%	178
Galashiels	21%	43%	35%	405
Hawick	31%	31%	38%	398
Jedburgh	28%	36%	37%	138
Kelso	28%	37%	35%	255
Peebles	20%	42%	37%	539
Selkirk	23%	42%	35%	157
Grand Total	25%	38%	37%	2648

Q37.2. Talk to Youth Worker	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	17%	20%	63%	195
Earlston	15%	24%	61%	363
Eyemouth	16%	28%	57%	167
Galashiels	18%	24%	58%	393
Hawick	24%	21%	55%	393
Jedburgh	15%	25%	60%	137
Kelso	23%	22%	55%	251
Peebles	13%	24%	63%	516
Selkirk	17%	21%	62%	151
Grand Total	18%	23%	59%	2566

Q37.3. Talk to Other family members (e.g. grandparent(s))	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	75%	21%	4%	214
Earlston	70%	22%	7%	379
Eyemouth	74%	21%	5%	183
Galashiels	79%	16%	5%	414
Hawick	76%	17%	7%	403
Jedburgh	80%	16%	3%	147
Kelso	80%	16%	4%	257
Peebles	72%	22%	7%	541
Selkirk	70%	20%	11%	152
Grand Total	75%	19%	6%	2690

Q37.4. Talk to Social Worker	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	24%	20%	56%	194
Earlston	18%	22%	60%	363
Eyemouth	21%	25%	53%	173
Galashiels	19%	24%	57%	394
Hawick	21%	17%	61%	379
Jedburgh	17%	26%	56%	133
Kelso	17%	24%	59%	245
Peebles	10%	22%	67%	515
Selkirk	17%	18%	66%	151
Grand Total	18%	22%	61%	2547

Q37.5. Talk to Another adult you trust	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	72%	20%	9%	205
Earlston	71%	19%	10%	372
Eyemouth	79%	14%	7%	179
Galashiels	76%	18%	6%	409
Hawick	75%	18%	7%	401
Jedburgh	80%	14%	6%	144
Kelso	77%	13%	10%	257
Peebles	68%	22%	10%	528
Selkirk	69%	22%	9%	153
Grand Total	73%	18%	8%	2648

Q37.6. Talk to Club or Group leader	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	43%	22%	35%	197
Earlston	35%	30%	35%	369
Eyemouth	36%	28%	36%	172
Galashiels	35%	31%	34%	396
Hawick	36%	28%	36%	382
Jedburgh	43%	24%	33%	138
Kelso	36%	25%	39%	246
Peebles	33%	31%	36%	519
Selkirk	37%	31%	32%	153
Grand Total	36%	29%	35%	2572

14. Where You Live

Feels Safe

Q38. Generally speaking, I feel safe in the area where I live...	1. Always	2. Most of the time	3. Sometimes	4. Rarely or Never	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	63%	28%	4%	1%	4%	230
Earlston	65%	26%	6%	1%	2%	392
Eyemouth	66%	26%	4%	2%	2%	187
Galashiels	58%	27%	7%	4%	4%	434
Hawick	60%	23%	10%	3%	5%	429
Jedburgh	62%	23%	8%	3%	4%	149
Kelso	64%	26%	6%	2%	3%	270
Peebles	64%	29%	3%	2%	2%	569
Selkirk	58%	25%	14%	1%	2%	168
Grand Total	62%	26%	6%	2%	3%	2828

Part 1

Q38. Generally speaking, I feel safe in the area where I live...	1. Always	2. Most of the time	3. Sometimes	4. Rarely or Never	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	61%	24%	6%	3%	5%	923
P6	63%	27%	7%	1%	2%	945
P7	62%	28%	6%	3%	2%	960
Grand Total	62%	26%	6%	2%	3%	2828

Good Place to Live

Q39. Do you think that the area in which you live is a good place to live?	1. Yes, it's good	2. It's OK	3. No, it's not good	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	76%	18%	3%	4%	225
Earlston	79%	18%	2%	2%	390
Eyemouth	75%	23%	1%	2%	187
Galashiels	71%	24%	3%	3%	432
Hawick	68%	25%	4%	4%	424
Jedburgh	72%	23%	1%	3%	149
Kelso	75%	19%	3%	3%	273
Peebles	83%	15%	1%	1%	570
Selkirk	73%	23%	2%	2%	166
Grand Total	75%	20%	2%	2%	2816

Q39. Do you think that the area in which you live is a good place to live?	1. Yes, it's good	2. It's OK	3. No, it's not good	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	77%	18%	3%	3%	915
P6	75%	21%	1%	3%	940
P7	75%	21%	2%	2%	961
Grand Total	75%	20%	2%	2%	2816

Outdoor Play Areas

Q40. Are there places near where you live where you can play outdoors?	1. Yes - lots	2. Yes - some	3. No	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
Berwickshire	67%	28%	3%	2%	225
Earlston	72%	24%	3%	2%	389
Eyemouth	72%	24%	4%	1%	185
Galashiels	64%	30%	3%	2%	429
Hawick	62%	32%	4%	2%	429
Jedburgh	65%	29%	3%	2%	147
Kelso	61%	33%	4%	1%	270
Peebles	73%	23%	3%	2%	568
Selkirk	60%	35%	4%	1%	165
Grand Total	67%	28%	3%	2%	2807

Q40. Are there places near where you live where you can play outdoors?	1. Yes - lots	2. Yes - some	3. No	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents to Question
P5	64%	29%	4%	3%	925
P6	67%	29%	3%	1%	944
P7	70%	25%	3%	1%	938
Grand Total	67%	28%	3%	2%	2807

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Scottish Borders – Secondary Schools

HEALTH & WELLBEING CENSUS DATA

MARCH 2022



Contents

1. Secondary School Health and Wellbeing 2022 – Context Scottish Borders	5
Responses by Stage and School	5
% Pupils by Stage	5
% Pupils by Secondary School	5
% of Pupils by School and Stage	6
Representation of Survey Responses by Factors	7
Clothing Grant	7
Children Looked After	7
Free School Meals	7
Level of English	7
Disabled Status	8
Additional Support Need Status	8
Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 – Decile	8
2. School and Learning	10
Agreements of School and Learning Statements - Overall	10
Agreements of School and Learning Statements – Stages	11
Agreements of School and Learning Statements – Schools	14
Schoolwork Pressure	17
After Leaving School S1-4 Only	18
After Leaving Secondary Education	20
3. Physical Activity	21
Physical Activity Yesterday	21
Free Time Physical Activity	22
Time Sitting	23
Sitting – Weekdays	23
Sitting – Weekends	24
4. Health and Feeling	25
General Health	25
Long-term Health	26
Attitude to Life	27
Life is Just Right	27
I wish I had a different life	28
I have what I want in life	29
5. S1 Health and Wellbeing	30
S1 Health and Wellbeing Statements	30
S1 Feeling Confident	34
6. S2-S6 Health and Wellbeing	35
S2-S6 Health and Wellbeing Statements	35
S2-S6 WEMWBS Grouping	36
Will Be OK	37

7. Body Image	38
8. Sleeping	40
Going to Bed	40
Waking Up	41
Hours Slept Last Night	42
9. Eating and Drinking	43
Hungry	43
Weekday Breakfast	44
Weekend Breakfast	45
Food	46
10. Relationship with Adults	47
11. Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (S2-S6)	49
Total Difficulties score and Prosocial score by Stage	50
Total Difficulties score and Prosocial score by School	50
Emotional problems score	51
Conduct problems score	52
Hyperactivity score	53
Peer problems score	54
12. Electronic Devices and the Internet	55
Access to Internet	55
Time on Internet	56
Weekdays	56
Weekends	57
Internet Activities	58
Social Media	59
13. Friends and Loneliness	60
Close Friends	60
Feel Left Out	61
Feeling lonely	62
14. S1-S3 Friendship statements	63
S1-3 Friendship statements by stage	63
S1-3 Friendship statements by school	65
15. S1-S3 Bullying	70
Been Bullied	70
Where Bullied?	70
How Bullied?	71
Online Bullied?	72
Report Bullying?	73
Result of Reporting Bullying	74
Take part in bullying	75
Take part in online bullying	76
Support Groups	77
16. S3, S5, S6 - Gambling	78

17. Home Life and Caring	79
Family Meals	79
Enjoy being with the people you live with	80
People with conditions	81
In Caring Role	82
Time Caring	83
18. S2, S4 - Smoking and Alcohol	84
Smoke Tobacco	84
E-cigarettes / vaping	85
Alcohol	86
19. People you can trust and talk to	87
Trusted Adult to talk to	87
People to talk to about worries	88
Talk to by Stage	88
Talk to by School	92
20. Where you live	98
Feels Safe	98
Good place to live	99
S1, S2 - Outdoor play areas	99

1. Secondary School Health and Wellbeing 2022 - Context Scottish Borders

This section provides a context for the Health and Wellbeing 2022 results, showing the base percentage representation by attribute.

Responses by Stage and School

% Pupils by Stage

Overall 60% of the Scottish Borders secondary school pupils responded to the Health and Wellbeing census in 2022. It is noticeable that the proportion of pupils responding to the census decreases between S1 and S6.

Stage	F	M	Grand Total
S1	74%	75%	74%
S2	69%	67%	68%
S3	69%	65%	67%
S4	55%	55%	55%
S5	49%	46%	48%
S6	39%	34%	36%
Grand Total	61%	59%	60%

% Pupils by Secondary School

The proportion of responses by school ranges from Earlston High School (68%) compared Galashiels Academy (44%).

School	F	M	Grand Total
Berwickshire High School	65%	58%	62%
Earlston High School	71%	64%	68%
Eyemouth High School	50%	52%	51%
Galashiels Academy	48%	40%	44%
Hawick High School	58%	54%	56%
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	64%	66%	65%
Kelso High School	60%	65%	62%
Peebles High School	65%	66%	65%
Selkirk High School	62%	68%	65%
Grand Total	61%	59%	60%

% Pupils by School and Stage

The tables below show the number of response from each school and each stage and what proportion of all pupils responded to the surveys.

School Name	Stage	Count of Responses			Responses as % of Pupils		
		F	M	Grand Total	F	M	Grand Total
Berwickshire High School	S1	39	25	64	70%	52%	62%
	S2	30	33	63	61%	53%	57%
	S3	43	34	77	64%	59%	62%
	S4	44	38	82	71%	67%	69%
	S5	27	29	56	60%	50%	54%
Berwickshire High School Total		209	183	392	65%	58%	62%
Earlston High School	S1	75	88	163	76%	81%	79%
	S2	91	65	156	76%	79%	77%
	S3	77	81	158	81%	76%	79%
	S4	53	61	114	60%	59%	59%
	S5	51	49	100	72%	60%	65%
Earlston High School Total		403	366	769	71%	64%	68%
Eyemouth High School	S1	37	31	68	80%	74%	77%
	S2	37	32	69	76%	64%	70%
	S3	41	25	66	69%	61%	66%
	S4	10	15	25	20%	32%	26%
	S5	6	11	17	17%	32%	25%
Eyemouth High School Total		133	125	258	50%	52%	51%
Galashiels Academy	S1	51	60	111	64%	63%	63%
	S2	67	59	126	71%	66%	68%
	S3	48	38	86	69%	48%	57%
	S4	12	14	26	18%	18%	18%
	S5	12	12	24	24%	17%	20%
Galashiels Academy Total		190	183	373	48%	40%	44%
Hawick High School	S1	62	61	123	75%	73%	74%
	S2	31	35	66	42%	54%	47%
	S3	43	43	86	50%	56%	53%
	S4	48	28	76	67%	38%	52%
	S5	30	26	56	58%	49%	53%
Hawick High School Total		239	210	449	58%	54%	56%
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	S1	34	24	58	81%	80%	81%
	S2	18	19	37	55%	53%	54%
	S3	24	29	53	75%	81%	78%
	S4	16	28	44	53%	72%	64%
	S5	17	7	24	46%	32%	41%
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary Total		121	116	237	64%	66%	65%
Kelso High School	S1	36	46	82	73%	82%	78%
	S2	35	39	74	76%	72%	74%
	S3	40	29	69	63%	57%	61%
	S4	33	42	75	61%	74%	68%
	S5	27	21	48	59%	46%	52%
Kelso High School Total		183	187	370	60%	65%	62%
Peebles High School	S1	90	106	196	79%	80%	80%
	S2	100	91	191	78%	74%	76%
	S3	96	91	187	76%	72%	74%
	S4	77	88	165	69%	65%	67%
	S5	46	68	114	46%	62%	54%
Peebles High School Total		432	471	903	65%	66%	65%
Selkirk High School	S1	22	30	52	69%	81%	75%
	S2	22	39	61	69%	80%	75%
	S3	37	29	66	76%	71%	73%
	S4	27	37	64	64%	80%	73%
	S5	19	10	29	50%	36%	44%
Selkirk High School Total		131	151	282	62%	68%	65%
Grand Total		2041	1992	4033	61%	59%	60%

Representation of Survey Responses by Factors

Overall 60% of the Scottish Borders secondary school pupils responded to the Health and Wellbeing Surveys. The tables below show the number of pupil and response for each factor and the percentage of responses of all pupils.

Clothing Grant

Proportionally fewer pupils who receive clothing grant (46%) are respondents compared to those who do not receive clothing grant (63%).

Clothing Grant	Pupils	Responses	% Responses of Pupils
No	5672	3552	63%
Yes	1040	481	46%

Children Looked After

Proportionally fewer pupils who are 'Children Looked After' (35%) are respondents compared to those pupils who are not (61%).

Children Looked After	Pupils	Responses	% Responses of Pupils
No	6536	3972	61%
Yes	176	61	35%

Free School Meals

Proportional fewer pupils who receive free school meals (44%) responded to the surveys compared to those pupils who do not (63%).

Free School Meals	Pupils	Responses	% Responses of Pupils
No	5845	3654	63%
Yes	867	379	44%

Level of English

This table shows the proportion of responses to the Health and Wellbeing survey based on the pupils' level of English.

Level of English	Pupils	Responses	% Responses of Pupils
Competent	137	78	57%
Developing Competence	44	22	50%
Early Acquisition	10	1	10%
First-Language	6407	3868	60%
Fluent	100	59	59%
Limited communication	2	1	50%
New to English	8	3	38%

Disabled Status

Proportional fewer pupils who have a disabled status (40%) compared to those pupils who do not (60%).

Disabled Status	Pupils	Responses	% Responses of Pupils
No	6621	3997	60%
Yes	91	36	40%

Additional Support Need Status

Proportional fewer pupils who have an additional support needs status (51%) compared to those pupils who do not (66%).

Additional Support Need Status	Pupils	Responses	% Responses of Pupils
No	4071	2699	66%
Yes	2641	1334	51%

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 – Decile

This table shows the number and proportion of responses for each of the SIMD2020 Decile. It is interesting to note that pupils in SIMD2020 deciles 7 to 10 were more likely to respond compared to those living in SIMD2020 decile 1 to 3.

SIMD 2020 Decile	Pupils	Responses	% Responses of Pupils
D01 - Most Deprived 10%	146	60	41%
D02	287	139	48%
D03	170	79	46%
D04	654	354	54%
D05	912	514	56%
D06	1412	840	59%
D07	1308	850	65%
D08	958	632	66%
D09	420	284	68%
D10 - Least Deprived 10%	331	215	65%
Not Recorded / Outwith SB	114	66	58%
Grand Total	6712	4033	60%



2. School and Learning

Agreements of School and Learning Statements - Overall

Question	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Q4.1. I enjoy learning new things	18%	60%	18%	3%	1%	1%	4,021
Q4.2. I feel like I have a choice in what I am learning in school	7%	33%	32%	21%	6%	1%	3,990
Q4.3. Getting an education is important to me	46%	43%	8%	1%	0%	1%	4,001
Q4.4. My teachers listen to what I have to say	9%	48%	31%	8%	3%	1%	3,997
Q4.5. I have an adult to talk to at school if I am worried about something	22%	43%	21%	8%	4%	2%	4,009
Q5.1. I feel like my teachers treat me fairly	12%	53%	25%	7%	2%	1%	3,984
Q5.2. My parents (or carers) really care about my education	62%	32%	4%	1%	0%	1%	3,965
Q5.3. I feel confident to speak up in class, ask questions and share my opinion	13%	39%	26%	15%	7%	1%	3,968
Q5.4. Most of the time, I am happy at school	10%	40%	28%	13%	6%	2%	3,976
Q5.5. I feel positive about my future	22%	47%	22%	5%	3%	2%	3,971

The percent who strongly agree / agree are:

- 78% - I enjoy learning new things
- 40% - I feel like I have a choice in what I am learning in school
- 89% - Getting an education is important to me
- 57% - My teachers listen to what I have to say
- 65% - I have an adult to talk to at school if I am worried about something
- 65% - I feel like my teachers treat me fairly
- 94% - My parents (or carers) really care about my education
- 52% - I feel confident to speak up in class, ask questions and share my opinion
- 50% - Most of the time, I am happy at school
- 68% - I feel positive about my future

Agreements of School and Learning Statements – Stages

Q4.1. I enjoy learning new things	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	22%	54%	21%	2%	1%	1%	912
S2	17%	59%	19%	3%	1%	1%	843
S3	14%	64%	19%	3%	1%	0%	847
S4	14%	60%	21%	4%	1%	1%	669
S5	19%	64%	14%	1%	1%	1%	466
S6	25%	64%	11%	0%	0%	0%	284
Grand Total	18%	60%	18%	3%	1%	1%	4,021

Q4.2. I feel like I have a choice in what I am learning in school	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	8%	30%	34%	21%	6%	0%	902
S2	7%	28%	33%	24%	7%	1%	839
S3	7%	35%	32%	20%	5%	1%	839
S4	6%	32%	31%	23%	7%	1%	664
S5	6%	39%	29%	20%	6%	1%	462
S6	10%	42%	24%	18%	6%	0%	284
Grand Total	7%	33%	32%	21%	6%	1%	3,990

Q4.3. Getting an education is important to me	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	51%	38%	8%	1%	1%	1%	907
S2	49%	39%	9%	1%	1%	1%	841
S3	45%	46%	8%	1%	0%	0%	840
S4	39%	47%	11%	2%	0%	1%	662
S5	40%	51%	7%	1%	0%	1%	465
S6	47%	45%	6%	2%	0%	0%	286
Grand Total	46%	43%	8%	1%	0%	1%	4,001

Q4.4. My teachers listen to what I have to say	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	16%	47%	29%	4%	2%	1%	908
S2	9%	49%	31%	7%	3%	2%	838
S3	6%	46%	36%	8%	3%	1%	837
S4	6%	47%	30%	11%	4%	1%	666
S5	6%	48%	33%	9%	2%	1%	463
S6	12%	54%	26%	6%	0%	1%	285
Grand Total	9%	48%	31%	8%	3%	1%	3,997

Q4.5. I have an adult to talk to at school if I am worried about something	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	31%	40%	18%	6%	2%	3%	910
S2	24%	40%	20%	8%	5%	3%	841
S3	20%	44%	23%	8%	5%	1%	845
S4	17%	44%	22%	10%	6%	2%	666
S5	14%	47%	22%	13%	3%	2%	461
S6	19%	45%	25%	9%	2%	0%	286
Grand Total	22%	43%	21%	8%	4%	2%	4,009

Q5.1. I feel like my teachers treat me fairly	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	17%	54%	22%	4%	2%	1%	899
S2	10%	53%	24%	10%	2%	1%	834
S3	10%	49%	30%	8%	3%	1%	841
S4	8%	52%	28%	9%	2%	1%	662
S5	10%	60%	21%	7%	1%	0%	463
S6	18%	53%	20%	7%	1%	0%	285
Grand Total	12%	53%	25%	7%	2%	1%	3,984

Q5.2. My parents (or carers) really care about my education	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	70%	25%	3%	0%	0%	1%	894
S2	65%	29%	4%	0%	0%	1%	831
S3	64%	31%	4%	1%	0%	0%	835
S4	55%	37%	6%	1%	0%	0%	659
S5	53%	38%	8%	1%	0%	1%	462
S6	59%	35%	5%	1%	0%	0%	284
Grand Total	62%	32%	4%	1%	0%	1%	3,965

Q5.3. I feel confident to speak up in class, ask questions and share my opinion	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	14%	39%	26%	13%	7%	2%	897
S2	15%	36%	25%	16%	7%	1%	830
S3	12%	37%	26%	18%	7%	1%	837
S4	10%	41%	27%	14%	7%	1%	657
S5	10%	44%	25%	15%	6%	0%	462
S6	18%	39%	25%	12%	5%	0%	285
Grand Total	13%	39%	26%	15%	7%	1%	3,968

Q5.4. Most of the time, I am happy at school	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	13%	43%	28%	9%	4%	2%	897
S2	10%	41%	26%	12%	7%	3%	834
S3	11%	41%	28%	13%	6%	1%	837
S4	7%	39%	28%	16%	9%	1%	661
S5	6%	37%	29%	21%	6%	1%	462
S6	13%	37%	34%	12%	4%	1%	285
Grand Total	10%	40%	28%	13%	6%	2%	3,976

Q5.5. I feel positive about my future	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	30%	46%	16%	4%	2%	2%	894
S2	24%	47%	18%	5%	3%	2%	833
S3	22%	47%	23%	4%	2%	1%	837
S4	15%	47%	25%	7%	4%	1%	660
S5	12%	46%	29%	9%	3%	1%	462
S6	19%	48%	26%	5%	2%	0%	285
Grand Total	22%	47%	22%	5%	3%	2%	3,971

Agreements of School and Learning Statements – Schools

Q4.1. I enjoy learning new things	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School Total	17%	65%	16%	2%	1%	0%	391
Earlston High School Total	19%	58%	19%	3%	0%	1%	768
Eyemouth High School Total	18%	58%	18%	4%	2%	1%	257
Galashiels Academy Total	16%	66%	16%	1%	1%	0%	372
Hawick High School Total	14%	59%	23%	3%	1%	1%	448
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary Total	23%	57%	18%	1%	1%	0%	237
Kelso High School Total	14%	58%	21%	4%	1%	1%	366
Peebles High School Total	19%	59%	18%	3%	1%	0%	900
Selkirk High School Total	20%	60%	16%	3%	1%	0%	282
Grand Total	18%	60%	18%	3%	1%	1%	4,021

Q4.2. I feel like I have a choice in what I am learning in school	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School Total	6%	40%	30%	20%	5%	0%	391
Earlston High School Total	8%	32%	31%	23%	6%	1%	763
Eyemouth High School Total	10%	36%	31%	17%	5%	1%	255
Galashiels Academy Total	6%	28%	40%	20%	7%	0%	367
Hawick High School Total	5%	30%	38%	21%	5%	1%	443
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary Total	9%	37%	29%	19%	5%	1%	237
Kelso High School Total	6%	33%	28%	25%	7%	2%	365
Peebles High School Total	8%	31%	30%	24%	7%	0%	890
Selkirk High School Total	6%	35%	34%	17%	5%	1%	279
Grand Total	7%	33%	32%	21%	6%	1%	3,990

Q4.3. Getting an education is important to me	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School Total	41%	47%	8%	2%	1%	1%	391
Earlston High School Total	50%	41%	7%	1%	0%	1%	762
Eyemouth High School Total	40%	46%	12%	1%	0%	1%	257
Galashiels Academy Total	51%	44%	4%	1%	0%	0%	372
Hawick High School Total	47%	41%	9%	2%	0%	1%	446
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary Total	47%	40%	8%	2%	1%	1%	236
Kelso High School Total	40%	44%	11%	2%	1%	2%	363
Peebles High School Total	45%	44%	9%	1%	1%	0%	896
Selkirk High School Total	43%	46%	10%	0%	1%	0%	278
Grand Total	46%	43%	8%	1%	0%	1%	4,001

Q4.4. My teachers listen to what I have to say	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School Total	9%	47%	32%	9%	2%	0%	391
Earlston High School Total	12%	52%	28%	5%	2%	1%	763
Eyemouth High School Total	11%	48%	27%	10%	2%	1%	256
Galashiels Academy Total	8%	50%	30%	8%	3%	2%	371
Hawick High School Total	7%	51%	32%	7%	2%	1%	442
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary Total	16%	42%	33%	5%	3%	1%	236
Kelso High School Total	5%	41%	36%	9%	6%	3%	360
Peebles High School Total	7%	46%	34%	9%	3%	1%	897
Selkirk High School Total	12%	49%	27%	8%	3%	2%	281
Grand Total	9%	48%	31%	8%	3%	1%	3,997

Q4.5. I have an adult to talk to at school if I am worried about something	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School Total	19%	42%	24%	10%	4%	1%	392
Earlston High School Total	23%	40%	22%	9%	3%	2%	767
Eyemouth High School Total	25%	40%	19%	7%	7%	2%	257
Galashiels Academy Total	23%	40%	23%	5%	6%	2%	372
Hawick High School Total	25%	44%	20%	8%	2%	2%	444
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary Total	22%	44%	18%	9%	5%	2%	235
Kelso High School Total	16%	40%	25%	10%	5%	4%	365
Peebles High School Total	22%	45%	20%	8%	3%	2%	898
Selkirk High School Total	20%	48%	18%	9%	4%	1%	279
Grand Total	22%	43%	21%	8%	4%	2%	4,009

Q5.1. I feel like my teachers treat me fairly	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School Total	14%	53%	25%	7%	2%	0%	388
Earlston High School Total	13%	57%	23%	6%	1%	1%	765
Eyemouth High School Total	16%	54%	24%	5%	2%	0%	254
Galashiels Academy Total	10%	52%	29%	6%	2%	1%	367
Hawick High School Total	11%	53%	26%	7%	2%	1%	442
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary Total	15%	47%	29%	6%	3%	0%	236
Kelso High School Total	7%	46%	30%	12%	4%	2%	361
Peebles High School Total	11%	55%	22%	9%	2%	1%	892
Selkirk High School Total	13%	54%	24%	6%	3%	0%	279
Grand Total	12%	53%	25%	7%	2%	1%	3,984

Q5.2. My parents (or carers) really care about my education	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School Total	54%	38%	5%	1%	1%	1%	388
Earlston High School Total	65%	30%	3%	1%	0%	1%	763
Eyemouth High School Total	60%	32%	6%	1%	0%	1%	254
Galashiels Academy Total	70%	26%	4%	0%	0%	0%	364
Hawick High School Total	66%	29%	3%	1%	0%	1%	438
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary Total	60%	35%	3%	0%	1%	0%	231
Kelso High School Total	56%	38%	5%	1%	0%	1%	360
Peebles High School Total	64%	29%	6%	1%	0%	0%	889
Selkirk High School Total	60%	33%	6%	0%	0%	1%	278
Grand Total	62%	32%	4%	1%	0%	1%	3,965

Q5.3. I feel confident to speak up in class, ask questions and share my opinion	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School Total	10%	41%	26%	17%	5%	1%	387
Earlston High School Total	14%	39%	26%	15%	5%	1%	761
Eyemouth High School Total	16%	35%	23%	17%	9%	1%	253
Galashiels Academy Total	11%	32%	33%	15%	8%	1%	366
Hawick High School Total	11%	38%	29%	15%	7%	1%	440
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary Total	15%	42%	22%	11%	9%	1%	233
Kelso High School Total	11%	35%	25%	18%	11%	1%	361
Peebles High School Total	14%	43%	23%	13%	5%	1%	890
Selkirk High School Total	17%	38%	24%	13%	6%	1%	277
Grand Total	13%	39%	26%	15%	7%	1%	3,968

Q5.4. Most of the time, I am happy at school	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School Total	8%	42%	28%	14%	6%	1%	387
Earlston High School Total	11%	41%	29%	13%	5%	1%	764
Eyemouth High School Total	12%	40%	27%	13%	8%	1%	254
Galashiels Academy Total	9%	40%	33%	11%	7%	1%	366
Hawick High School Total	9%	37%	33%	13%	6%	2%	440
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary Total	13%	39%	29%	12%	6%	2%	233
Kelso High School Total	5%	34%	32%	17%	10%	3%	362
Peebles High School Total	13%	44%	23%	14%	5%	1%	891
Selkirk High School Total	8%	41%	25%	14%	9%	2%	279
Grand Total	10%	40%	28%	13%	6%	2%	3,976

Q5.5. I feel positive about my future	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School Total	23%	44%	22%	7%	2%	1%	385
Earlston High School Total	20%	46%	24%	7%	2%	1%	762
Eyemouth High School Total	25%	39%	25%	5%	5%	1%	255
Galashiels Academy Total	23%	49%	20%	4%	2%	2%	366
Hawick High School Total	23%	50%	19%	5%	2%	1%	439
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary Total	26%	50%	15%	3%	5%	2%	234
Kelso High School Total	19%	48%	21%	7%	3%	1%	361
Peebles High School Total	21%	48%	21%	6%	2%	2%	890
Selkirk High School Total	18%	47%	27%	4%	3%	2%	279
Grand Total	22%	47%	22%	5%	3%	2%	3,971

Schoolwork Pressure

Q6. How pressured (stressed) do you feel by the schoolwork you have to do?	1. Not at all	2. A little	3. Some	4. A lot	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	12%	38%	32%	14%	2%	907
S2	10%	36%	36%	17%	2%	840
S3	7%	31%	38%	22%	2%	842
S4	6%	20%	33%	40%	0%	664
S5	3%	16%	28%	53%	1%	461
S6	6%	19%	30%	44%	1%	285
Grand Total	8%	29%	34%	27%	1%	3,999

Q6. How pressured (stressed) do you feel by the schoolwork you have to do?	1. Not at all	2. A little	3. Some	4. A lot	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Derwickshire High School Total	9%	26%	33%	32%	1%	387
Earlston High School Total	5%	27%	37%	30%	1%	767
Edinburgh High School Total	11%	33%	30%	24%	2%	257
Galashiels Academy Total	12%	34%	38%	15%	1%	368
Hawick High School Total	8%	30%	34%	26%	2%	444
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary Total	9%	32%	34%	22%	2%	234
Kelso High School Total	10%	25%	31%	32%	2%	368
Peebles High School Total	7%	29%	32%	30%	1%	895
Selkirk High School Total	9%	30%	34%	25%	2%	279
Grand Total	8%	29%	34%	27%	1%	3,999

After Leaving School S1 - 4 Only

Q7. Now looking ahead, when do you think you want to leave school / full-time education?	1. I want to leave school as soon as I can (e.g. at the end of S4)	2. I want to continue with my full-time education (e.g. stay on into S5 or go to college)	3. I'm not sure at the moment	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	7%	57%	34%	1%	901
S2	6%	67%	26%	1%	831
S3	7%	72%	21%	1%	831
S4	11%	71%	17%	1%	649
Grand Total	7%	66%	25%	1%	3212

Q7. Now looking ahead, when do you think you want to leave school / full-time education?	1. I want to leave school as soon as I can (e.g. at the end of S4)	2. I want to continue with my full-time education (e.g. stay on into S5 or go to college)	3. I'm not sure at the moment	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Perthshire High School Total	8%	66%	26%	0%	278
Carlston High School Total	4%	74%	21%	1%	587
Fyemouth High School Total	9%	62%	28%	1%	219
Galashiels Academy Total	5%	63%	30%	2%	342
Hawick High School Total	7%	67%	23%	2%	341
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary Total	14%	58%	28%	0%	189
Kelso High School Total	15%	55%	29%	1%	295
Peebles High School Total	5%	69%	25%	1%	724
Selkirk High School Total	9%	64%	25%	2%	237
Grand Total	7%	66%	25%	1%	3212

After Leaving Secondary Education

Q8. What do you think you will be doing as soon as you leave secondary education (usually in S4, S5 or S6)?	1. University	3. Apprenticeship or Trade	2. Further Education College	4. Youth Training or Skill Seekers	5. Employment	6. Unemployed	7. Don't know	8. Other	9. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	39%	9%	4%	1%	5%	0%	36%	5%	2%	904
S2	45%	11%	6%	1%	3%	0%	29%	4%	1%	836
S3	45%	12%	8%	0%	4%	0%	26%	3%	1%	834
S4	43%	17%	12%	0%	4%	0%	19%	4%	1%	662
S5	51%	16%	6%	0%	5%	0%	17%	2%	2%	460
S6	63%	11%	5%	0%	9%	0%	6%	4%	1%	284
Grand Total	45%	12%	7%	1%	5%	0%	25%	4%	1%	3,980

Q8. What do you think you will be doing as soon as you leave secondary education (usually in S4, S5 or S6)?	1. University	3. Apprenticeship or Trade	2. Further Education College	4. Youth Training or Skill Seekers	5. Employment	6. Unemployed	7. Don't know	8. Other	9. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School Total	43%	18%	5%	0%	1%	6%	23%	3%	1%	385
Earlston High School Total	53%	10%	5%	1%	0%	5%	22%	3%	1%	765
Eymouth High School Total	40%	12%	8%	0%	0%	7%	27%	4%	2%	257
Galashiels Academy Total	42%	13%	3%	1%	1%	5%	30%	5%	1%	363
Halick High School Total	41%	16%	8%	1%	0%	3%	26%	3%	2%	443
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary Total	39%	19%	11%	0%	0%	5%	23%	2%	1%	233
Kelso High School Total	41%	12%	11%	0%	0%	4%	26%	5%	1%	365
Peebles High School Total	50%	8%	6%	1%	0%	4%	26%	5%	0%	892
Selkirk High School Total	39%	13%	11%	0%	0%	5%	23%	4%	4%	277
Grand Total	45%	12%	7%	1%	0%	5%	25%	4%	1%	3,980

3. Physical Activity

Physical Activity Yesterday

Q9. For this next question, add up all the time you spent doing physical activity yesterday?	1. None	2. Less than half an hour	3. Between half an hour and 1 hour	4. 1 to 2 hours	5. 2 hours or more	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	5%	7%	19%	31%	34%	4%	907
S2	4%	7%	19%	35%	31%	3%	835
S3	6%	8%	18%	33%	33%	2%	832
S4	8%	9%	21%	31%	29%	2%	655
S5	9%	13%	23%	29%	23%	3%	460
S6	7%	17%	23%	30%	22%	2%	282
Grand Total	6%	9%	20%	32%	30%	3%	3,971

Q9. For this next question, add up all the time you spent doing physical activity yesterday?	1. None	2. Less than half an hour	3. Between half an hour and 1 hour	4. 1 to 2 hours	5. 2 hours or more	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	11%	10%	21%	29%	26%	4%	379
Earlston High School	5%	8%	21%	33%	31%	2%	762
Eyemouth High School	5%	10%	19%	33%	30%	3%	258
Galashiels Academy	5%	8%	18%	36%	31%	2%	366
Hawick High School	5%	8%	17%	31%	34%	5%	438
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	8%	10%	21%	31%	26%	3%	235
Kelso High School	4%	8%	18%	30%	37%	2%	365
Peebles High School	7%	9%	21%	34%	28%	2%	891
Selkirk High School	5%	14%	21%	29%	27%	4%	277
Grand Total	6%	9%	20%	32%	30%	3%	3,971

Free Time Physical Activity

Q10. How often do you usually do any physical activity in your free time (outside school hours) so much that you get out of breath or sweat?	1. Every day	2. 4 to 6 times a week	3. 2 to 3 times a week	4. Once a week	5. At least once a month but not every week	6. Once a month	7. Less than once a month	8. Never	9. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	24%	32%	27%	6%	0%	1%	2%	2%	5%	904
S2	21%	33%	28%	8%	2%	0%	2%	2%	5%	836
S3	16%	30%	32%	10%	0%	2%	2%	4%	4%	832
S4	14%	28%	36%	9%	3%	0%	3%	5%	3%	657
S5	12%	25%	34%	14%	5%	0%	2%	4%	4%	461
S6	14%	28%	34%	11%	5%	0%	2%	3%	3%	283
Grand Total	18%	30%	31%	9%	2%	1%	2%	3%	4%	3,973

Q10. How often do you usually do any physical activity in your free time (outside school hours) so much that you get out of breath or sweat?	1. Every day	2. 4 to 6 times a week	3. 2 to 3 times a week	4. Once a week	5. At least once a month but not every week	6. Once a month	7. Less than once a month	8. Never	9. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	14%	29%	34%	10%	2%	1%	2%	4%	5%	380
Earlston High School	19%	30%	30%	10%	3%	1%	1%	3%	3%	763
Eyemouth High School	15%	30%	32%	10%	2%	1%	2%	4%	3%	256
Galashiels Academy	21%	26%	30%	11%	1%	1%	4%	2%	5%	365
Hawick High School	18%	26%	35%	7%	1%	0%	1%	5%	7%	442
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	19%	33%	24%	10%	3%	0%	4%	3%	5%	235
Kelso High School	19%	33%	29%	6%	1%	1%	2%	4%	5%	365
Peebles High School	16%	33%	32%	8%	2%	1%	2%	2%	3%	890
Selkirk High School	22%	27%	29%	10%	1%	1%	3%	2%	5%	277
Grand Total	18%	30%	31%	9%	2%	1%	2%	3%	4%	3,973

Time Sitting

Outside school hours, how many hours a day do you usually spend sitting (e.g. watching TV, using a computer or mobile phone, travelling in a car or by bus, sitting and talking, eating, studying)? Please be aware that if activities take place at the same time (e.g. watching TV whilst talking) then these only count once.

Sitting Weekdays

Q11.1. Sitting - Weekdays	1. None at all	2. About half an hour a day	3. About 1 hour a day	4. About 2 hours a day	5. About 3 hours a day	6. About 4 hours a day	7. About 5 hours a day	8. About 6 hours a day	9. About 7 hours or more a day	Respondents To Question
S1	1%	5%	14%	21%	22%	15%	10%	6%	5%	870
S2	1%	4%	11%	19%	22%	20%	10%	6%	7%	808
S3	1%	2%	6%	17%	21%	18%	16%	8%	10%	814
S4	1%	2%	8%	20%	21%	19%	13%	6%	10%	647
S5	1%	2%	5%	14%	20%	24%	15%	9%	11%	454
S6	1%	0%	2%	12%	26%	19%	17%	10%	12%	275
Grand Total	1%	3%	9%	18%	22%	19%	13%	7%	8%	3,868

Page 14

Q11.1. Sitting - Weekdays	1. None at all	2. About half an hour a day	3. About 1 hour a day	4. About 2 hours a day	5. About 3 hours a day	6. About 4 hours a day	7. About 5 hours a day	8. About 6 hours a day	9. About 7 hours or more a day	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	2%	2%	4%	19%	21%	22%	14%	8%	9%	365
Earlston High School	1%	3%	10%	18%	22%	17%	13%	7%	9%	743
Eyemouth High School	0%	4%	10%	18%	22%	20%	13%	5%	7%	253
Galashiels Academy	1%	4%	11%	16%	23%	18%	12%	6%	9%	353
Hawick High School	2%	3%	11%	18%	25%	17%	14%	5%	6%	429
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	2%	7%	9%	17%	21%	17%	8%	10%	8%	231
Kelso High School	2%	1%	8%	17%	18%	20%	16%	8%	11%	356
Peebles High School	1%	3%	8%	19%	22%	19%	12%	7%	9%	868
Selkirk High School	1%	4%	9%	21%	20%	17%	10%	9%	7%	270
Grand Total	1%	3%	9%	18%	22%	19%	13%	7%	8%	3,868

Sitting Weekends

Q11.2. Sitting Weekends	1. None at all	2. About half an hour a day	3. About 1 hour a day	4. About 2 hours a day	5. About 3 hours a day	6. About 4 hours a day	7. About 5 hours a day	8. About 6 hours a day	9. About 7 hours or more a day	Respondents To Question
S1	1%	4%	7%	12%	17%	17%	14%	10%	18%	823
S2	2%	2%	5%	12%	15%	16%	16%	13%	19%	765
S3	1%	1%	4%	7%	13%	16%	18%	16%	24%	784
S4	2%	1%	3%	7%	15%	19%	19%	16%	19%	613
S5	1%	1%	4%	7%	11%	17%	18%	17%	24%	433
S6	0%	0%	3%	7%	15%	21%	19%	14%	20%	267
Grand Total	1%	2%	5%	9%	14%	17%	17%	14%	21%	3,685

Q11.2. Sitting Weekends	1. None at all	2. About half an hour a day	3. About 1 hour a day	4. About 2 hours a day	5. About 3 hours a day	6. About 4 hours a day	7. About 5 hours a day	8. About 6 hours a day	9. About 7 hours or more a day	Respondents To Question
Perthshire High School	2%	1%	3%	6%	12%	20%	18%	12%	27%	347
Carlston High School	0%	1%	5%	9%	16%	18%	16%	16%	19%	705
Eyemouth High School	2%	5%	5%	9%	17%	16%	19%	13%	15%	241
Calashiels Academy	1%	2%	4%	9%	13%	15%	21%	12%	23%	340
Hawick High School	1%	2%	5%	10%	14%	15%	16%	15%	21%	404
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	2%	5%	6%	10%	14%	14%	13%	13%	23%	222
Kelso High School	1%	1%	3%	10%	10%	16%	15%	14%	28%	337
Peebles High School	1%	2%	5%	9%	17%	18%	19%	14%	16%	841
Selkirk High School	2%	2%	3%	10%	15%	21%	12%	15%	20%	248
Grand Total	1%	2%	5%	9%	14%	17%	17%	14%	21%	3,685

4. Health and Feeling

General Health

Q12. In general, how would you say your health is?	1. Excellent	2. Good	3. Fair	4. Poor	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	24%	52%	18%	3%	3%	903
S2	20%	53%	21%	4%	2%	833
S3	18%	51%	25%	5%	2%	827
S4	17%	53%	22%	6%	2%	654
S5	15%	53%	27%	5%	1%	460
S6	20%	58%	18%	2%	2%	281
Grand Total	19%	53%	22%	4%	2%	3958

Q12. In general, how would you say your health is?	1. Excellent	2. Good	3. Fair	4. Poor	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	13%	55%	25%	3%	4%	371
Earlston High School	18%	56%	21%	4%	2%	758
Eyemouth High School	18%	47%	23%	8%	3%	257
Galashiels Academy	21%	52%	22%	3%	2%	364
Hawick High School	19%	55%	19%	5%	1%	443
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	23%	55%	18%	2%	2%	235
Kelso High School	19%	47%	28%	4%	2%	365
Peebles High School	23%	52%	20%	4%	2%	890
Selkirk High School	17%	52%	23%	4%	3%	275
Grand Total	19%	53%	22%	4%	2%	3958

Long-term Health

Q13. Do you have a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?	1. Yes	2. No	3. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	11%	74%	15%	887
S2	11%	75%	13%	827
S3	14%	72%	14%	821
S4	15%	70%	14%	656
S5	17%	69%	14%	458
S6	18%	68%	14%	280
Grand Total	14%	72%	14%	3929

Q13. Do you have a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?	1. Yes	2. No	3. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	14%	69%	17%	368
Earlston High School	13%	72%	15%	757
Fyemouth High School	17%	67%	16%	255
Galashiels Academy	14%	74%	12%	363
Hawick High School	14%	74%	12%	438
Edinburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	16%	70%	14%	234
Kelso High School	12%	72%	17%	362
Peebles High School	13%	75%	12%	877
Selkirk High School	12%	72%	17%	275
Grand Total	14%	72%	14%	3929

Attitude to Life

Life is Just Right

	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Q14.1. My life is just right							
S1	23%	38%	25%	8%	2%	3%	891
S2	15%	39%	28%	10%	5%	3%	828
S3	12%	40%	30%	13%	4%	2%	822
S4	10%	35%	34%	14%	5%	2%	653
S5	5%	34%	38%	16%	5%	2%	456
S6	11%	30%	41%	13%	3%	2%	282
Grand Total	14%	37%	31%	12%	4%	2%	3932

	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Q14.1. My life is just right							
Perth High School	9%	38%	36%	10%	4%	3%	369
Earlston High School	12%	35%	34%	14%	3%	2%	760
Eyemouth High School	15%	37%	27%	10%	6%	5%	253
Galashiels Academy	17%	44%	26%	9%	3%	1%	360
Hawick High School	15%	39%	30%	12%	3%	1%	439
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	18%	38%	30%	9%	3%	2%	234
Kelso High School	13%	35%	30%	12%	5%	4%	364
Peebles High School	14%	36%	31%	13%	4%	3%	879
Selkirk High School	12%	38%	28%	14%	4%	3%	274
Grand Total	14%	37%	31%	12%	4%	2%	3932

I wish I had a different life

Q14.2. I wish I had a different kind of life	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	4%	12%	21%	26%	32%	4%	883
S2	4%	14%	25%	28%	24%	4%	822
S3	5%	16%	26%	30%	21%	3%	817
S4	7%	18%	30%	26%	16%	2%	650
S5	5%	21%	32%	27%	12%	3%	453
S6	5%	13%	35%	28%	17%	2%	281
Grand Total	5%	15%	27%	28%	22%	3%	3906

Q14.2. I wish I had a different kind of life	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	4%	17%	29%	27%	19%	4%	366
Earlston High School	4%	17%	24%	32%	20%	3%	756
Plymouth High School	6%	15%	28%	22%	26%	4%	253
Galashiels Academy	6%	12%	24%	27%	29%	3%	358
Paull High School	5%	14%	27%	29%	23%	2%	437
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	7%	13%	25%	23%	27%	4%	231
Kelso High School	2%	17%	27%	29%	21%	4%	359
Peebles High School	7%	15%	27%	27%	22%	3%	875
Selkirk High School	3%	17%	33%	24%	20%	3%	271
Grand Total	5%	15%	27%	28%	22%	3%	3906

I have what I want in life

Q14.3. I have what I want in life	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	24%	42%	23%	6%	1%	3%	884
S2	15%	41%	31%	7%	3%	4%	822
S3	13%	39%	30%	12%	3%	2%	819
S4	9%	37%	36%	13%	3%	2%	648
S5	5%	33%	39%	17%	4%	2%	454
S6	11%	34%	38%	13%	2%	2%	281
Grand Total	14%	39%	31%	10%	3%	3%	3908

Q14.3. I have what I want in life	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	11%	42%	31%	11%	2%	3%	365
Carlston High School	12%	38%	34%	12%	2%	2%	754
Eyemouth High School	18%	36%	33%	7%	3%	4%	257
Galashiels Academy	18%	37%	32%	10%	2%	1%	355
Hawick High School	16%	38%	32%	8%	4%	2%	436
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	15%	49%	23%	7%	3%	3%	232
Kelso High School	13%	36%	33%	10%	4%	4%	360
Peebles High School	14%	38%	29%	13%	3%	3%	877
Selkirk High School	13%	40%	32%	10%	2%	3%	272
Grand Total	14%	39%	31%	10%	3%	3%	3908

5. S1 Health and Wellbeing

S1 Health and Wellbeing Statements

S1 Survey asked different health and wellbeing questions to those asked in the S2-S6 surveys.

S1 Health and Wellbeing Questions	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
S1 Q15.1. In general, I like who I am	22%	46%	22%	8%	2%	820
S1 Q15.2. I am proud of the things I can do	31%	49%	15%	4%	1%	820
S1 Q15.3. When I do something, I try my hardest	26%	45%	23%	5%	1%	823
S1 Q15.4. I feel like I can make decisions in my life	25%	51%	19%	4%	1%	820
S1 Q15.5. Generally, I feel cheerful and I am in a good mood	17%	43%	28%	9%	2%	819
S1 Q15.6. There are lots of things that I worry about in my life	17%	25%	29%	23%	6%	811
S1 Q15.7. Even if I'm having a difficult time, I feel like I will be OK	13%	42%	31%	11%	3%	809

The S1 pupils at Jedburgh Grammar Campus responded to the S2 survey, as a result there are no responses for Jedburgh Grammar Campus for these questions.

S1 Q15.1. In general, I like who I am	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	18%	52%	21%	9%	0%	56
Earlston High School	20%	43%	24%	8%	4%	157
Eyemouth High School	24%	40%	22%	9%	4%	67
Galashiels Academy	29%	47%	16%	7%	1%	107
Hawick High School	23%	43%	24%	8%	2%	119
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary						0
Kelso High School	19%	45%	25%	9%	1%	77
Peebles High School	21%	49%	22%	6%	2%	189
Selkirk High School	15%	50%	25%	6%	4%	48
Grand Total	22%	46%	22%	8%	2%	820

S1 Q15.2. I am proud of the things I can do	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	26%	56%	12%	4%	2%	57
Earlston High School	34%	44%	16%	4%	1%	158
Eyemouth High School	34%	48%	13%	4%	0%	67
Galashiels Academy	39%	47%	10%	4%	0%	107
Hawick High School	29%	49%	18%	3%	1%	118
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary						0
Kelso High School	26%	51%	19%	3%	1%	77
Peebles High School	27%	52%	15%	4%	1%	189
Selkirk High School	26%	51%	19%	2%	2%	47
Grand Total	31%	49%	15%	4%	1%	820

S1 Q15.3. When I do something, I try my hardest	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	20%	50%	23%	5%	2%	56
Earlston High School	27%	46%	20%	5%	1%	158
Eyemouth High School	27%	43%	25%	3%	1%	67
Galashiels Academy	36%	42%	21%	1%	1%	107
Hawick High School	24%	51%	21%	2%	3%	119
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary						0
Kelso High School	21%	40%	29%	9%	1%	78
Peebles High School	26%	46%	22%	6%	0%	190
Selkirk High School	27%	40%	27%	6%	0%	48
Grand Total	26%	45%	23%	5%	1%	823

S1 Q15.4. I feel like I can make decisions in my life	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	28%	44%	18%	9%	2%	57
Earlston High School	25%	48%	22%	3%	1%	157
Eyemouth High School	29%	41%	25%	3%	1%	68
Galashiels Academy	29%	51%	13%	4%	3%	107
Hawick High School	26%	58%	12%	3%	1%	119
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary						0
Kelso High School	16%	57%	21%	5%	1%	76
Peebles High School	23%	55%	18%	3%	2%	188
Selkirk High School	27%	40%	29%	4%	0%	48
Grand Total	25%	51%	19%	4%	1%	820

S1 Q15.5. Generally, I feel cheerful and I am in a good mood	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	16%	46%	27%	9%	2%	56
Earlston High School	19%	42%	24%	11%	3%	158
Eyemouth High School	21%	38%	24%	12%	5%	66
Galashiels Academy	21%	48%	24%	5%	3%	107
Hawick High School	14%	50%	30%	4%	2%	118
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary						0
Kelso High School	14%	32%	38%	13%	3%	78
Peebles High School	16%	43%	30%	10%	2%	189
Selkirk High School	13%	45%	34%	9%	0%	47
Grand Total	17%	43%	28%	9%	2%	819

S1 Q15.6. There are lots of things that I worry about in my life	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	20%	29%	18%	29%	4%	55
Earlston High School	18%	27%	24%	25%	5%	157
Eyemouth High School	17%	21%	26%	29%	8%	66
Galashiels Academy	18%	24%	28%	23%	7%	104
Hawick High School	10%	22%	42%	19%	7%	118
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary						0
Kelso High School	17%	25%	33%	21%	4%	76
Peebles High School	19%	26%	25%	24%	7%	187
Selkirk High School	19%	29%	38%	13%	2%	48
Grand Total	17%	25%	29%	23%	6%	811

S1 Q15.7. Even if I'm having a difficult time, I feel like I will be OK	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	15%	36%	31%	16%	2%	55
Earlston High School	14%	41%	28%	12%	5%	155
Eyemouth High School	24%	35%	26%	13%	1%	68
Galashiels Academy	10%	50%	30%	8%	1%	105
Hawick High School	11%	41%	40%	6%	2%	117
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary						0
Kelso High School	12%	36%	31%	19%	3%	78
Peebles High School	11%	45%	30%	10%	4%	184
Selkirk High School	6%	45%	32%	17%	0%	47
Grand Total	13%	42%	31%	11%	3%	809

S1 Feeling Confident

S1 Q16. Over the past 2 weeks, how often have you been feeling confident?	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	18%	52%	21%	9%	0%	56
Earlston High School	20%	43%	24%	8%	4%	157
Eyemouth High School	24%	40%	22%	9%	4%	67
Galashiels Academy	29%	47%	16%	7%	1%	107
Hawick High School	23%	43%	24%	8%	2%	119
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary						0
Kelso High School	19%	45%	25%	9%	1%	77
Peebles High School	21%	49%	22%	6%	2%	189
Selkirk High School	15%	50%	25%	6%	4%	48
Grand Total	22%	46%	22%	8%	2%	820

6. S2-S6 Health and Wellbeing

S2 –S6 Survey asked the [Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale \(WEMWBS\)](#) questions. The Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing scale was developed to enable the monitoring of mental wellbeing in the general population and the evaluation of projects, programmes and policies which aim to improve mental wellbeing. It consists of 14 positively worded items designed to assess: positive affect (optimism, cheerfulness, relaxation) and satisfying interpersonal relationships and positive functioning (energy, clear thinking, self-acceptance, personal development, mastery and autonomy). It is scored by summing the response to each item answered on a 1 to 5 Likert scale ('none of the time', 'rarely', 'some of the time', 'often', 'all of the time'). The table below shows the results for each statement for those pupils in S2 – S6 who responded to the S2 –S6 surveys.

S2-S6 Health and Wellbeing Statements

WEMWBS - Statements (S2 - S6 Surveys)	1. None of the time	2. Rarely	3. Some of the time	4. Often	5. All of the time	Respondents To Question
S2-6 Q15.1. I've been feeling optimistic about the future	4%	18%	41%	29%	7%	2963
S2-6 Q15.2. I've been feeling useful	4%	19%	43%	29%	5%	2967
S2-6 Q15.3. I've been feeling relaxed	5%	24%	37%	28%	6%	2971
S2-6 Q15.4. I've been feeling interested in other people	6%	16%	37%	34%	8%	2942
S2-6 Q15.5. I've had energy to spare	8%	22%	34%	29%	7%	2963
S2-6 Q15.6. I've been dealing with problems well	6%	19%	35%	33%	7%	2953
S2-6 Q15.7. I've been thinking clearly	6%	17%	36%	33%	8%	2966
S2-6 Q16.1. I've been feeling good about myself	6%	19%	34%	33%	8%	2949
S2-6 Q16.2. I've been feeling close to other people	3%	13%	31%	42%	12%	2946
S2-6 Q16.3. I've been feeling confident	7%	21%	34%	30%	7%	2935
S2-6 Q16.4. I've been able to make up my own mind about things	3%	11%	29%	42%	15%	2933
S2-6 Q16.5. I've been feeling loved	2%	6%	23%	42%	27%	2932
S2-6 Q16.6. I've been interested in new things	4%	16%	34%	35%	12%	2932
S2-6 Q16.7. I've been feeling cheerful	4%	15%	38%	34%	8%	2928

The total score ranges from 14 to 70 with higher scores indicating greater wellbeing. WEMWBS scores approximate to a normal distribution, permitting parametric analysis. So the most statistically efficient approach to analysing data is to calculate means and standard deviations and compare results using Students T-test. UK Population norms have been published and can be used as comparators for your scores [\[WEMWBS population norms Health Survey for England 2011\]](#).

The Statistical approach to WEMWBS puts the cut points at plus or minus one standard deviation. This approach puts approximately 15% of the participants into high wellbeing and 15% into low wellbeing categories. Using this approach, UK population samples put score ranges as follows:

UK WEMWBS Score and Grouping		Important Note: These groupings were set before the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns.
WEMWBS Score	WEMWBS Group	
60- 70 (15%)	High Wellbeing	
43 – 59 (70%)	Average Wellbeing	
14 – 42 (15%)	Low Wellbeing	

S2-S6 WEMWBS Grouping

WEMWBS Score Grouping	A. High Wellbeing	B. Average Wellbeing	C. Low Wellbeing	Respondents To Question
S2	8%	64%	28%	736
S3	5%	60%	34%	748
S4	5%	54%	41%	606
S5	4%	52%	44%	421
S6	6%	61%	33%	248
Grand Total	6%	59%	35%	2759
UK Average (Pre Covid-19 Pandemic)	15%	70%	15%	

WEMWBS Score Grouping	A. High Wellbeing	B. Average Wellbeing	C. Low Wellbeing	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	2%	59%	39%	273
Earlston High School	6%	58%	36%	537
Eyemouth High School	8%	53%	39%	174
Galashiels Academy	5%	63%	31%	226
Hawick High School	6%	60%	34%	296
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	8%	60%	32%	152
Kelso High School	4%	51%	45%	260
Peebles High School	7%	61%	32%	636
Selkirk High School	7%	57%	36%	205
Grand Total	6%	59%	35%	2759
UK Average (Pre Covid-19 Pandemic)	15%	70%	15%	

Will be OK

S2-6 Q17. Please say how much you agree or disagree with this sentence: "Even if I am having a difficult time, I feel like I will be OK"	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S2	12%	44%	29%	7%	4%	4%	801
S3	12%	43%	29%	10%	4%	3%	805
S4	12%	42%	30%	11%	3%	2%	645
S5	10%	44%	30%	9%	4%	3%	436
S6	14%	48%	27%	7%	1%	3%	260
Grand Total	12%	43%	29%	9%	4%	3%	2947

S2-6 Q17. Please say how much you agree or disagree with this sentence: "Even if I am having a difficult time, I feel like I will be OK"	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	9%	45%	31%	9%	3%	3%	292
Earlston High School	10%	46%	29%	10%	3%	4%	580
Eyemouth High School	12%	41%	30%	8%	5%	4%	184
Galashiels Academy	12%	42%	31%	9%	4%	2%	242
Hawick High School	12%	41%	30%	8%	5%	3%	307
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	13%	44%	28%	9%	3%	3%	174
Kelso High School	12%	45%	26%	11%	5%	2%	278
Peebles High School	14%	42%	29%	9%	3%	4%	668
Selkirk High School	11%	44%	28%	9%	5%	3%	222
Grand Total	12%	43%	29%	9%	4%	3%	2947

7. Body Image

Q18. Please say how much you agree or disagree with this sentence: "I am happy with my body and the way I look".	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	14%	38%	20%	11%	8%	9%	874
S2	11%	31%	24%	18%	10%	6%	771
S3	10%	31%	24%	17%	13%	5%	789
S4	10%	27%	24%	21%	15%	3%	629
S5	8%	26%	24%	22%	16%	4%	432
S6	9%	29%	29%	19%	10%	4%	275
Grand Total	11%	31%	23%	17%	12%	6%	3770

Q18. Please say how much you agree or disagree with this sentence: "I am happy with my body and the way I look".	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	8%	30%	24%	19%	13%	6%	344
Carlston High School	10%	29%	25%	19%	12%	5%	739
Eyemouth High School	14%	27%	23%	15%	14%	7%	243
Galashiels Academy	11%	31%	22%	16%	13%	7%	338
Hawick High School	13%	29%	24%	15%	11%	7%	421
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	12%	31%	27%	18%	9%	3%	225
Kelso High School	8%	33%	22%	20%	11%	6%	347
Peebles High School	12%	35%	21%	16%	11%	5%	847
Selkirk High School	10%	32%	26%	17%	11%	5%	266
Grand Total	11%	31%	23%	17%	12%	6%	3770

Q19. Please say how much you agree or disagree with this sentence: "My body and the way I look affects how I feel about myself".	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	13%	30%	25%	17%	8%	7%	859
S2	16%	37%	23%	13%	5%	5%	789
S3	18%	35%	24%	15%	4%	4%	788
S4	17%	38%	27%	12%	5%	2%	635
S5	21%	45%	20%	8%	4%	3%	429
S6	17%	40%	22%	12%	7%	3%	273
Grand Total	17%	36%	24%	14%	6%	4%	3773

Q19. Please say how much you agree or disagree with this sentence: "My body and the way I look affects how I feel about myself".	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	16%	34%	25%	14%	6%	5%	340
Earlston High School	18%	40%	22%	13%	4%	3%	744
Plymouth High School	20%	28%	25%	13%	7%	7%	243
Galashiels Academy	17%	35%	26%	13%	5%	4%	337
Hawick High School	14%	32%	27%	16%	6%	5%	419
Ledburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	13%	42%	27%	12%	5%	2%	226
Kelso High School	16%	38%	19%	17%	6%	4%	347
Peebles High School	18%	35%	24%	12%	5%	5%	850
Selkirk High School	14%	39%	22%	13%	6%	6%	267
Grand Total	17%	36%	24%	14%	6%	4%	3773

8. Sleeping

Going to Bed

Q20. When do you usually go to bed if you have to go to school the next morning?	1. Before 9.00 pm	2. At 9.00 pm or later, but before 10.00 pm	3. At 10.00 pm or later, but before 11.00 pm	4. At 11.00 pm or later, but before midnight	5. At midnight or later, but before 1.00 am	6. At 1.00 am or later, but before 2.00 am	7. At 2.00 am or later	8. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	8%	35%	32%	12%	5%	2%	2%	3%	883
S2	3%	22%	37%	19%	10%	3%	4%	3%	806
S3	2%	15%	32%	29%	11%	5%	4%	2%	801
S4	1%	10%	29%	32%	13%	7%	5%	2%	639
S5	1%	7%	26%	35%	20%	6%	4%	1%	435
S6	3%	5%	30%	30%	21%	5%	3%	3%	274
Grand Total	4%	18%	32%	24%	12%	5%	4%	2%	3838

Q20. When do you usually go to bed if you have to go to school the next morning?	1. Before 9.00 pm	2. At 9.00 pm or later, but before 10.00 pm	3. At 10.00 pm or later, but before 11.00 pm	4. At 11.00 pm or later, but before midnight	5. At midnight or later, but before 1.00 am	6. At 1.00 am or later, but before 2.00 am	7. At 2.00 am or later	8. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Perthshire High School	3%	13%	30%	27%	15%	6%	3%	3%	345
Earlston High School	3%	19%	32%	25%	12%	5%	2%	2%	752
Eyemouth High School	7%	21%	31%	17%	10%	5%	7%	2%	251
Galashiels Academy	3%	21%	35%	21%	10%	3%	3%	3%	345
Hawick High School	5%	15%	31%	31%	9%	3%	2%	3%	428
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	3%	18%	32%	25%	11%	3%	5%	2%	232
Kelso High School	4%	17%	30%	22%	17%	5%	3%	3%	355
Peebles High School	3%	20%	32%	24%	11%	5%	4%	1%	860
Selkirk High School	2%	20%	30%	23%	9%	6%	5%	4%	270
Grand Total	4%	18%	32%	24%	12%	5%	4%	2%	3838

Waking Up

Q21. When do you usually wake up on school mornings?	1. Before 5.00 am	2. At 5.00 am or later, but before 6.00 am	3. At 6.00 am or later, but before 7.00 am	4. At 7.00 am or later, but before 8.00 am	5. At 8.00 am or later	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	1%	4%	34%	57%	3%	1%	876
S2	1%	5%	29%	58%	6%	1%	805
S3	2%	4%	27%	61%	6%	0%	800
S4	1%	2%	31%	57%	8%	0%	641
S5	1%	3%	24%	63%	9%	0%	432
S6	1%	2%	24%	61%	11%	1%	273
Grand Total	1%	4%	29%	59%	7%	1%	3827

Q21. When do you usually wake up on school mornings?	1. Before 5.00 am	2. At 5.00 am or later, but before 6.00 am	3. At 6.00 am or later, but before 7.00 am	4. At 7.00 am or later, but before 8.00 am	5. At 8.00 am or later	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Perthshire High School	1%	4%	37%	54%	3%	1%	347
Carlston High School	1%	3%	31%	61%	3%	1%	750
Syemouth High School	2%	5%	27%	59%	6%	1%	249
Galashiels Academy	1%	4%	24%	64%	6%	0%	345
Hawick High School	0%	2%	28%	63%	6%	0%	426
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	1%	4%	32%	53%	8%	2%	230
Kelso High School	2%	6%	25%	56%	10%	1%	353
Peebles High School	1%	3%	30%	58%	7%	0%	857
Selkirk High School	2%	4%	21%	59%	13%	1%	270
Grand Total	1%	4%	29%	59%	7%	1%	3827

Hours Slept Last Night

Q22. How many hours sleep did you have last night?	1. Less than 3 hours	2. 3 to 5 hours	3. 6 to 8 hours	4. 9 to 11 hours	5. 12 to 14 hours	6. 15 hours or more	7. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	2%	8%	46%	38%	2%	0%	3%	872
S2	2%	9%	56%	28%	1%	0%	3%	802
S3	1%	12%	64%	21%	1%	1%	2%	797
S4	3%	12%	68%	15%	0%	0%	2%	639
S5	2%	12%	74%	10%	0%	0%	2%	434
S6	1%	12%	73%	12%	0%	0%	1%	273
Grand Total	2%	10%	61%	23%	1%	0%	2%	3817

Q22. How many hours sleep did you have last night?	1. Less than 3 hours	2. 3 to 5 hours	3. 6 to 8 hours	4. 9 to 11 hours	5. 12 to 14 hours	6. 15 hours or more	7. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	3%	14%	64%	16%	1%	0%	1%	343
Carlston High School	1%	10%	63%	23%	1%	0%	2%	748
Eyemouth High School	2%	13%	53%	27%	1%	1%	2%	245
Galashiels Academy	1%	12%	58%	25%	1%	0%	3%	342
Hawick High School	1%	6%	65%	22%	2%	1%	3%	427
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	2%	9%	58%	25%	2%	1%	3%	234
Kelso High School	3%	10%	58%	26%	1%	0%	3%	352
Peebles High School	2%	10%	61%	25%	1%	0%	1%	857
Selkirk High School	1%	12%	59%	23%	0%	1%	3%	269
Grand Total	2%	10%	61%	23%	1%	0%	2%	3817

9. Eating and Drinking

Hungry

Q26. Some children and young people go to school or to bed hungry. How often does this happen to you?	1. Always	2. Often	3. Sometimes	4. Never	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	1%	5%	29%	62%	3%	848
S2	2%	6%	26%	64%	2%	785
S3	3%	6%	27%	60%	3%	791
S4	3%	8%	22%	65%	2%	635
S5	1%	3%	22%	69%	4%	429
S6	3%	4%	21%	71%	2%	269
Grand Total	2%	6%	25%	64%	3%	3757

Q26. Some children and young people go to school or to bed hungry. How often does this happen to you?	1. Always	2. Often	3. Sometimes	4. Never	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Perthshire High School	2%	5%	24%	67%	2%	333
Earlston High School	2%	5%	28%	63%	2%	743
Eyemouth High School	2%	7%	23%	61%	6%	247
Galashiels Academy	3%	7%	24%	62%	3%	327
Hawick High School	2%	7%	24%	63%	3%	422
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	3%	7%	23%	65%	2%	233
Kelso High School	1%	6%	25%	64%	3%	341
Peebles High School	2%	4%	24%	68%	2%	842
Selkirk High School	3%	7%	32%	55%	3%	269
Grand Total	2%	6%	25%	64%	3%	3757

Weekday Breakfast

S4 Survey did not ask questions about breakfast.

Q23. How often do you usually have breakfast on weekdays (more than a glass of milk or fruit juice)?	1. I never have breakfast during weekdays	2. One or two days	3. Three or four days	4. Every day	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	16%	11%	11%	58%	4%	876
S2	23%	9%	10%	55%	3%	800
S3	26%	13%	11%	49%	2%	798
S5	28%	13%	13%	45%	2%	435
S6	29%	13%	10%	47%	1%	272
Grand Total	23%	11%	11%	52%	2%	3181

Q23. How often do you usually have breakfast on weekdays (more than a glass of milk or fruit juice)?	1. I never have breakfast during weekdays	2. One or two days	3. Three or four days	4. Every day	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	24%	13%	11%	49%	3%	263
Earlston High School	21%	11%	11%	55%	2%	644
Eyemouth High School	25%	16%	13%	43%	3%	228
Galashiels Academy	26%	10%	12%	49%	2%	317
Hawick High School	24%	12%	8%	53%	3%	352
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	23%	13%	10%	52%	3%	189
Kelso High School	26%	9%	12%	52%	2%	277
Peebles High School	21%	11%	11%	55%	2%	707
Selkirk High School	22%	11%	12%	52%	4%	204
Grand Total	23%	11%	11%	52%	2%	3181

Weekend Breakfast

S4 Survey did not ask questions about breakfast.

Q24. How often do you usually have breakfast at weekends (more than a glass of milk or fruit juice)?	1. I never have breakfast during the weekend	2. I usually have breakfast on only one day of the weekend (Saturday or Sunday)	3. I usually have breakfast on both days of the weekend (Saturday and Sunday)	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	12%	15%	70%	3%	866
S2	17%	17%	63%	3%	798
S3	20%	22%	56%	2%	798
S5	18%	26%	55%	1%	433
S6	21%	16%	61%	2%	274
Grand Total	17%	19%	62%	2%	3169

Q24. How often do you usually have breakfast at weekends (more than a glass of milk or fruit juice)?	1. I never have breakfast during the weekend	2. I usually have breakfast on only one day of the weekend (Saturday or Sunday)	3. I usually have breakfast on both days of the weekend (Saturday and Sunday)	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	19%	22%	58%	2%	259
Darlington High School	17%	17%	64%	2%	641
Dumfries High School	18%	19%	58%	5%	225
Edinburgh Academy	18%	22%	58%	2%	315
Edinburgh High School	18%	18%	61%	3%	350
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	19%	15%	63%	4%	189
Kelso High School	23%	16%	58%	3%	278
Peebles High School	12%	20%	66%	2%	705
Selkirk High School	16%	22%	60%	2%	207
Grand Total	17%	19%	62%	2%	3169

Food

S4 Survey did not ask questions about food eating frequency.

Food Item / Frequency	1. Never	2. Once a week or less	3. 2-4 days a week	4. 5-6 days a week	5. At least once a day	Respondents To Question
Q25.1. Fruit	3%	10%	30%	21%	36%	3110
Q25.2. Vegetables	4%	8%	23%	25%	40%	3091
Q25.3. Fruit juice or smoothies	13%	23%	28%	18%	18%	3088
Q25.4. Sweets or chocolate	2%	16%	41%	24%	18%	3099
Q25.5. Cakes or biscuits	6%	34%	36%	15%	9%	3101
Q25.6. Crisps	9%	27%	31%	20%	13%	3108
Q25.7. Chips or fried potatoes	5%	35%	41%	14%	5%	3103
Q25.8. Water	2%	4%	7%	14%	72%	3111
Q25.9. Coke or other soft drinks that contain sugar	15%	31%	31%	13%	10%	3094
Q25.10. Energy drinks (e.g. Red Bull, Lucozade, Monster)	57%	23%	12%	4%	4%	3120

10. Relationship with Adults

Q27.1. Adults are good at listening to what I say	1. Agree	2. Disagree	3. Don't know	Respondents To Question
S1	74%	6%	20%	849
S2	65%	12%	23%	781
S3	61%	16%	23%	787
S4	62%	14%	25%	635
S5	63%	16%	21%	425
S6	61%	16%	23%	266
Grand Total	65%	12%	22%	3743

Q27.1. Adults are good at listening to what I say	1. Agree	2. Disagree	3. Don't know	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	66%	13%	21%	333
Earlston High School	68%	11%	21%	735
Plymouth High School	65%	9%	26%	245
Galashiels Academy	67%	11%	22%	324
Fawick High School	66%	11%	23%	421
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	70%	13%	17%	230
Kelso High School	54%	14%	32%	344
Peebles High School	65%	15%	20%	844
Selkirk High School	63%	11%	26%	267
Grand Total	65%	12%	22%	3743

Q27.2. Adults are good at taking what I say into account	1. Agree	2. Disagree	3. Don't know	Respondents To Question
S1	64%	8%	28%	837
S2	55%	15%	30%	773
S3	52%	20%	28%	780
S4	53%	18%	29%	628
S5	50%	22%	28%	425
S6	52%	19%	29%	267
Grand Total	55%	16%	29%	3710

Q27.2. Adults are good at taking what I say into account	1. Agree	2. Disagree	3. Don't know	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	55%	16%	29%	332
Earlston High School	57%	15%	28%	733
Eyemouth High School	56%	13%	31%	242
Galashiels Academy	58%	13%	28%	321
Hawick High School	58%	13%	29%	411
Hedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	57%	16%	27%	228
Kelso High School	51%	15%	35%	336
Peebles High School	54%	20%	26%	840
Selkirk High School	51%	17%	31%	267
Grand Total	55%	16%	29%	3710

11. Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (S2-S6)

S1 Survey did not include the Strengths and Difficulties questions. Like the WEMWBS the groupings for the SDQ scored were established before the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The [Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire \(SDQ\)](#) is a behavioural screening questionnaire for children and adolescents ages 2 through 17 years old, developed by child psychiatrist Robert N. Goodman in the United Kingdom. The SDQ asks 25 questions across five domains.

Domain	SDQ Score
Emotional problems – 5 Questions	These 4 domains are combined to provide a 'Total difficulties score' Each domain has a score
Conduct problems – 5 Questions	
Hyperactivity – 5 Questions	
Peer problems – 5 Questions	
Prosocial – 5 Question	Prosocial score

Total Difficulties score and Prosocial score by Stage

Total Difficulties score	A. Close to Average	B. Slightly Raised	C. High	D. Very High	Respondents To Question
S2	53%	13%	6%	27%	698
S3	50%	18%	8%	24%	732
S4	50%	16%	10%	25%	584
S5	51%	20%	7%	22%	394
S6	58%	19%	7%	16%	238
Grand Total	52%	17%	7%	24%	2646
UK Average (Pre Covid-19 Pandemic)	80%	10%	5%	5%	

Prosocial score	A. Close to Average	B. Slightly Lowered	C. Low	D. Very Low	Respondents To Question
S2	63%	13%	12%	11%	741
S3	60%	15%	12%	13%	760
S4	56%	17%	12%	15%	603
S5	60%	15%	13%	12%	410
S6	68%	16%	11%	6%	247
Grand Total	61%	15%	12%	12%	2761
UK Average (Pre Covid-19 Pandemic)	80%	10%	5%	5%	

Total Difficulties score and Prosocial score by School

Total Difficulties score	A. Close to Average	B. Slightly Raised	C. High	D. Very High	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	48%	18%	10%	24%	261
Earlston High School	55%	17%	7%	21%	522
Eyemouth High School	43%	16%	10%	32%	167
Galashiels Academy	54%	11%	9%	25%	202
Hawick High School	49%	17%	7%	27%	285
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	50%	17%	9%	25%	157
Kelso High School	44%	21%	4%	31%	228
Peebles High School	58%	14%	7%	21%	621
Selkirk High School	48%	24%	6%	22%	203
Grand Total	52%	17%	7%	24%	2646

Prosocial score	A. Close to Average	B. Slightly Lowered	C. Low	D. Very Low	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	58%	14%	16%	12%	270
Earlston High School	66%	14%	10%	10%	557
Eyemouth High School	56%	17%	13%	14%	175
Galashiels Academy	55%	14%	13%	17%	211
Hawick High School	57%	21%	13%	9%	291
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	61%	16%	10%	13%	165
Kelso High School	51%	16%	18%	16%	232
Peebles High School	67%	12%	10%	10%	646
Selkirk High School	54%	17%	10%	19%	214
Grand Total	61%	15%	12%	12%	2761
UK Average (Pre Covid-19 Pandemic)	80%	10%	5%	5%	

Emotional problems score

Emotional problems score	A. Close to Average	B. Slightly Raised	C. High	D. Very High	Respondents To Question
S2	55%	11%	13%	21%	734
S3	53%	12%	10%	25%	754
S4	51%	11%	10%	28%	609
S5	46%	11%	11%	32%	410
S6	52%	12%	11%	25%	243
Grand Total	52%	11%	11%	26%	2750
UK Average (Pre Covid-19 Pandemic)	80%	10%	5%	5%	

Emotional problems score	A. Close to Average	B. Slightly Raised	C. High	D. Very High	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	45%	9%	15%	31%	271
Earlston High School	51%	12%	11%	25%	549
Plymouth High School	48%	13%	10%	28%	173
Galashiels Academy	53%	11%	12%	25%	209
Hawick High School	51%	12%	11%	27%	294
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	50%	13%	8%	28%	165
Kelso High School	50%	12%	11%	27%	238
Peebles High School	56%	11%	9%	23%	642
Selkirk High School	56%	10%	11%	23%	209
Grand Total	52%	11%	11%	26%	2750
UK Average (Pre Covid-19 Pandemic)	80%	10%	5%	5%	

Conduct problems score

Conduct problems score	A. Close to Average	B. Slightly Raised	C. High	D. Very High	Respondents To Question
S2	71%	11%	8%	10%	725
S3	73%	11%	8%	8%	756
S4	76%	11%	7%	5%	609
S5	83%	10%	4%	3%	410
S6	90%	5%	3%	2%	247
Grand Total	76%	10%	7%	7%	2747
UK Average (Pre Covid-19 Pandemic)	80%	10%	5%	5%	

Conduct problems score	A. Close to Average	B. Slightly Raised	C. High	D. Very High	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	81%	9%	5%	4%	269
Earlston High School	78%	10%	7%	5%	549
Evemouth High School	67%	11%	8%	14%	173
Galashiels Academy	73%	9%	7%	11%	208
Hawick High School	73%	11%	8%	8%	292
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	79%	7%	9%	5%	165
Kelso High School	70%	12%	8%	11%	240
Peebles High School	79%	10%	5%	5%	639
Selkirk High School	75%	12%	8%	5%	212
Grand Total	76%	10%	7%	7%	2747
UK Average (Pre Covid-19 Pandemic)	80%	10%	5%	5%	

Hyperactivity score

Hyperactivity Score	A. Close to Average	B. Slightly Raised	C. High	D. Very High	Respondents To Question
S2	55%	12%	12%	21%	727
S3	53%	13%	11%	24%	754
S4	54%	13%	10%	23%	605
S5	57%	15%	8%	20%	410
S6	59%	9%	13%	19%	244
Grand Total	55%	13%	11%	22%	2740
UK Average (Pre Covid-19 Pandemic)	80%	10%	5%	5%	

Hyperactivity Score	A. Close to Average	B. Slightly Raised	C. High	D. Very High	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	52%	14%	12%	23%	271
Earlston High School	58%	12%	10%	20%	544
Eyemouth High School	50%	13%	13%	24%	173
Galashiels Academy	54%	15%	10%	20%	211
Hawick High School	57%	13%	10%	20%	291
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	56%	9%	12%	24%	163
Kelso High School	47%	15%	11%	27%	237
Peebles High School	56%	10%	10%	23%	639
Selkirk High School	54%	17%	9%	19%	211
Grand Total	55%	13%	11%	22%	2740
UK Average (Pre Covid-19 Pandemic)	80%	10%	5%	5%	

Peer problem score

Peer problems score	A. Close to Average	B. Slightly Raised	C. High	D. Very High	Respondents To Question
S2	54%	18%	11%	16%	730
S3	61%	15%	11%	13%	757
S4	53%	19%	10%	18%	609
S5	58%	17%	12%	13%	406
S6	57%	20%	11%	11%	244
Grand Total	57%	17%	11%	15%	2746
UK Average (Pre Covid-19 Pandemic)	80%	10%	5%	5%	

Peer problems score	A. Close to Average	B. Slightly Raised	C. High	D. Very High	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	47%	22%	17%	15%	268
Earlston High School	61%	17%	12%	11%	546
Evemouth High School	51%	19%	10%	21%	172
Galashiels Academy	58%	15%	9%	18%	210
Hawick High School	54%	18%	11%	16%	293
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	52%	19%	12%	17%	164
Kelso High School	50%	19%	12%	19%	240
Peebles High School	65%	15%	8%	12%	640
Selkirk High School	52%	19%	12%	17%	213
Grand Total	57%	17%	11%	15%	2746
UK Average (Pre Covid-19 Pandemic)	80%	10%	5%	5%	

12. Electronic Devices and the Internet

Access to Internet

Q33. Do you have access to the internet at home, on a phone, or another device?	1. Yes	2. No	3. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	99%	0%	1%	854
S2	99%	0%	0%	747
S3	99%	0%	0%	766
S4	99%	0%	0%	623
S5	99%	0%	0%	421
S6	99%	0%	1%	262
Grand Total	99%	0%	0%	3673

Q33. Do you have access to the internet at home, on a phone, or another device?	1. Yes	2. No	3. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Derwickshire High School	99%	0%	1%	324
Carlston High School	100%	0%	0%	729
Eyemouth High School	99%	0%	1%	242
Galashiels Academy	100%	0%	0%	308
Hawick High School	98%	1%	1%	418
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	100%	0%	0%	229
Kelso High School	99%	0%	0%	326
Peebles High School	100%	0%	0%	835
Selkirk High School	99%	1%	0%	262
Grand Total	99%	0%	0%	3673

Time on Internet

In your free time, how many hours a day do you usually spend using electronic devices such as computers, tablets (like iPad) or smart phones?

Weekdays

Q34.1. Devices - Weekdays	1. None at all	2. About half an hour	3. About 1 hour a day	4. About 2 hours a day	5. About 3 hours a day	6. About 4 hours a day	7. About 5 hours a day	8. About 6 hours a day	9. About 7 hours or more a day	Respondents To Question
S1	0%	4%	12%	19%	22%	15%	11%	7%	10%	834
S2	0%	2%	7%	14%	23%	22%	14%	7%	11%	737
S3	0%	1%	3%	12%	17%	23%	17%	11%	15%	755
S4	1%	0%	6%	12%	21%	19%	18%	9%	14%	612
S5	0%	0%	2%	10%	18%	26%	19%	10%	13%	416
S6	0%	0%	1%	10%	19%	22%	23%	12%	12%	258
Grand Total	0%	2%	6%	14%	20%	21%	16%	9%	12%	3612

Q34.1. Devices - Weekdays	1. None at all	2. About half an hour	3. About 1 hour a day	4. About 2 hours a day	5. About 3 hours a day	6. About 4 hours a day	7. About 5 hours a day	8. About 6 hours a day	9. About 7 hours or more a day	Respondents To Question
Perthshire High School	0%	2%	4%	11%	17%	22%	19%	11%	14%	314
Earlston High School	0%	2%	7%	14%	20%	23%	14%	10%	10%	725
Eyemouth High School	1%	1%	6%	15%	24%	18%	14%	9%	13%	239
Galashiels Academy	0%	2%	6%	13%	20%	21%	16%	7%	14%	303
Hawick High School	0%	1%	6%	12%	23%	21%	17%	8%	10%	410
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	0%	4%	7%	15%	16%	21%	13%	11%	12%	226
Kelso High School	1%	1%	5%	11%	19%	15%	19%	12%	19%	317
Peebles High School	0%	2%	8%	14%	20%	21%	16%	8%	11%	819
Selkirk High School	1%	1%	6%	19%	20%	20%	14%	6%	15%	259
Grand Total	0%	2%	6%	14%	20%	21%	16%	9%	12%	3612

Weekends

Q34.2. Devices -Weekends	1. None at all	2. About half an hour	3. About 1 hour a day	4. About 2 hours a day	5. About 3 hours a day	6. About 4 hours a day	7. About 5 hours a day	8. About 6 hours a day	9. About 7 hours or more a day	Respondents To Question
S1	0%	2%	5%	11%	18%	16%	15%	12%	21%	784
S2	1%	1%	3%	9%	12%	18%	19%	14%	23%	715
S3	0%	1%	1%	5%	10%	14%	20%	17%	32%	733
S4	1%	1%	2%	6%	10%	18%	19%	17%	26%	591
S5	0%	0%	1%	4%	10%	14%	20%	20%	29%	405
S6	0%	0%	1%	7%	8%	20%	21%	19%	25%	252
Grand Total	1%	1%	2%	7%	12%	16%	19%	16%	26%	3480

Q34.2. Devices -Weekends	1. None at all	2. About half an hour	3. About 1 hour a day	4. About 2 hours a day	5. About 3 hours a day	6. About 4 hours a day	7. About 5 hours a day	8. About 6 hours a day	9. About 7 hours or more a day	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	1%	1%	1%	5%	9%	15%	20%	17%	32%	304
Carlston High School	0%	1%	2%	6%	14%	16%	20%	17%	24%	690
Dumfries High School	1%	3%	3%	7%	11%	21%	19%	13%	23%	229
Galashiels Academy	1%	0%	2%	9%	10%	10%	20%	16%	31%	289
Hawick High School	1%	1%	3%	5%	9%	17%	18%	18%	28%	396
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	0%	2%	7%	7%	15%	14%	14%	13%	27%	216
Kelso High School	0%	0%	1%	8%	9%	12%	19%	15%	35%	307
Peebles High School	0%	1%	2%	9%	15%	19%	18%	17%	19%	799
Selkirk High School	2%	1%	2%	10%	13%	18%	16%	13%	25%	250
Grand Total	1%	1%	2%	7%	12%	16%	19%	16%	26%	3480

Internet Activities

Which of the following activities have you done online in the last 2 weeks, even if not very often?

Q35 - Internet Activities (% of all survey respondents)	Q35.1. Watching videos online	Q35.2. Playing games online	Q35.3. Listening to music online	Q35.4. Looking things up to help with schoolwork	Q35.5. Updating your pictures, status or 'story' on social media	Q35.6. Browsing other people's pictures, status or 'stories' on social media	Q35.7. Messaging, chatting or video-chatting using social media	Q35.8. Something else
S1	75%	69%	66%	49%	38%	46%	80%	22%
S2	72%	64%	70%	48%	37%	52%	78%	23%
S3	74%	62%	79%	54%	37%	56%	80%	21%
S4	75%	59%	81%	63%	38%	58%	82%	18%
S5	78%	58%	85%	72%	37%	61%	83%	16%
S6	73%	51%	85%	73%	38%	65%	85%	18%
Grand Total	74%	62%	76%	56%	38%	54%	81%	20%

Q35 - Internet Activities (% of survey respondents)	Q35.1. Watching videos online	Q35.2. Playing games online	Q35.3. Listening to music online	Q35.4. Looking things up to help with schoolwork	Q35.5. Updating your pictures, status or 'story' on social media	Q35.6. Browsing other people's pictures, status or 'stories' on social media	Q35.7. Messaging, chatting or video-chatting using social media	Q35.8. Something else
Perthshire High School	64%	56%	72%	54%	32%	49%	73%	14%
Earlston High School	81%	68%	83%	68%	42%	64%	87%	22%
Eyemouth High School	76%	65%	77%	58%	45%	55%	83%	22%
Galashiels Academy	68%	61%	66%	47%	37%	49%	72%	23%
Hawick High School	73%	63%	72%	49%	36%	51%	81%	18%
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	72%	61%	79%	54%	40%	49%	81%	23%
Kelso High School	72%	61%	74%	49%	36%	54%	77%	25%
Peebles High School	77%	60%	75%	61%	36%	55%	84%	20%
Selkirk High School	78%	63%	78%	46%	38%	50%	79%	19%
Grand Total	74%	62%	76%	56%	38%	54%	81%	20%

Social Media

We are interested in your experience with social media. The term social media refers to social network sites (e.g. Facebook, Instagram) and instant messengers (e.g. WhatsApp, Snapchat, Skype, Facebook messenger). During the past year, have you...

These questions were not asked in the S4 survey.

	Q36.1.regularly found that you can't think of anything but the moment that you will be able to use social media again?	Q36.2.regularly felt dissatisfied because you wanted to spend more time on social media?	Q36.3.often felt bad when you could not use social media?	Q36.4.tried to spend less time on social media, but failed?	Q36.5.regularly neglected other activities (e.g. hobbies, sport) because you wanted to use social media?	Q36.6.regularly had arguments with others because of your social media use?	Q36.7.regularly lied to your parents or friends about the amount of time you spend on social media?	Q36.8.often used social media to escape from negative feelings?	Q36.9.had serious conflict with your parents, brother(s) or sister(s) because of your social media use?
Q36 - Social Media (Not S4)									
S1	17%	14%	16%	28%	12%	14%	10%	36%	7%
S2	14%	13%	16%	30%	11%	14%	13%	36%	9%
S3	13%	15%	19%	31%	13%	15%	9%	39%	9%
S5	6%	9%	10%	30%	10%	8%	8%	40%	6%
S6	9%	6%	9%	36%	12%	3%	7%	33%	4%
Grand Total	13%	13%	16%	30%	12%	13%	10%	37%	8%

Page 183

	Q36.1.regularly found that you can't think of anything but the moment that you will be able to use social media again?	Q36.2.regularly felt dissatisfied because you wanted to spend more time on social media?	Q36.3.often felt bad when you could not use social media?	Q36.4.tried to spend less time on social media, but failed?	Q36.5.regularly neglected other activities (e.g. hobbies, sport) because you wanted to use social media?	Q36.6.regularly had arguments with others because of your social media use?	Q36.7.regularly lied to your parents or friends about the amount of time you spend on social media?	Q36.8.often used social media to escape from negative feelings?	Q36.9.had serious conflict with your parents, brother(s) or sister(s) because of your social media use?
Q36 - Social Media (Not S4)									
Berwickshire High School	10%	11%	13%	25%	10%	9%	11%	35%	8%
Earlston High School	13%	15%	17%	38%	13%	15%	11%	47%	8%
Eyemouth High School	16%	15%	18%	28%	12%	15%	10%	39%	9%
Galashiels Academy	15%	10%	11%	26%	9%	13%	10%	30%	6%
Hawick High School	18%	16%	16%	32%	12%	13%	10%	33%	8%
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	11%	9%	13%	28%	12%	7%	9%	33%	8%
Kelso High School	14%	16%	20%	24%	12%	15%	9%	34%	9%
Peebles High School	10%	10%	15%	29%	11%	11%	10%	37%	7%
Selkirk High School	17%	15%	16%	33%	13%	14%	10%	36%	7%
Grand Total	13%	13%	16%	30%	12%	13%	10%	37%	8%

13. Friends and Loneliness

Close Friends

Q37. How many close friends would you say you have?	1. None	2. One	3. Two	4. Three or more	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	2%	3%	11%	82%	2%	809
S2	2%	5%	12%	78%	3%	710
S3	1%	4%	11%	82%	2%	741
S4	2%	6%	13%	74%	5%	619
S5	2%	5%	15%	76%	2%	410
S6	2%	4%	16%	76%	2%	249
Grand Total	2%	4%	12%	79%	3%	3538

Q37. How many close friends would you say you have?	1. None	2. One	3. Two	4. Three or more	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Perthshire High School	1%	6%	15%	76%	3%	302
Earlston High School	2%	4%	13%	79%	2%	709
Plymouth High School	3%	3%	14%	78%	3%	235
Galashiels Academy	1%	4%	12%	81%	2%	289
Hawick High School	2%	4%	13%	78%	3%	402
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	1%	6%	12%	77%	4%	223
Kelso High School	2%	6%	17%	72%	3%	309
Peebles High School	1%	3%	9%	85%	2%	807
Selkirk High School	2%	8%	11%	75%	5%	262
Grand Total	2%	4%	12%	79%	3%	3538

Feels Left Out

Q40. How often do you feel left out of things?	1. Hardly ever or never	2. Some of the time	3. Often or always	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	43%	47%	8%	3%	788
S2	38%	51%	9%	2%	695
S3	45%	45%	9%	1%	731
S4	42%	45%	11%	2%	616
S5	35%	49%	14%	1%	411
S6	38%	49%	11%	2%	247
Grand Total	41%	47%	10%	2%	3488

Q40. How often do you feel left out of things?	1. Hardly ever or never	2. Some of the time	3. Often or always	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	39%	48%	11%	2%	295
Earlston High School	40%	50%	9%	1%	702
Eyemouth High School	39%	44%	13%	3%	231
Galashiels Academy	39%	51%	8%	2%	283
Hawick High School	42%	46%	9%	2%	398
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	47%	40%	11%	2%	217
Kelso High School	40%	46%	12%	3%	301
Peebles High School	44%	46%	9%	1%	801
Selkirk High School	34%	51%	12%	4%	260
Grand Total	41%	47%	10%	2%	3488

Feeling Lonely

Q41. How often do you feel lonely?	1. Hardly ever or never	2. Some of the time	3. Often or always	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	49%	36%	12%	3%	762
S2	44%	36%	17%	2%	679
S3	43%	38%	17%	2%	720
S4	41%	39%	18%	2%	604
S5	37%	41%	21%	1%	406
S6	39%	45%	15%	1%	246
Grand Total	43%	38%	16%	2%	3417

Q41. How often do you feel lonely?	1. Hardly ever or never	2. Some of the time	3. Often or always	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	38%	43%	17%	1%	292
Earlston High School	39%	41%	18%	2%	693
Edinburgh High School	43%	30%	22%	4%	223
Galashiels Academy	44%	39%	15%	3%	273
Hawick High School	48%	37%	12%	3%	385
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	48%	36%	15%	1%	209
Kelso High School	38%	39%	20%	2%	297
Peebles High School	49%	36%	13%	2%	787
Selkirk High School	40%	40%	18%	2%	258
Grand Total	43%	38%	16%	2%	3417

14. S1-S3 Friendship Statements

The friendship statements were asked in the S1 to S3 surveys.

Q41. How often do you feel lonely?	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
S1-3 Q38.1. I have a lot of fun with my friends	54%	39%	6%	1%	1%	2231
S1-3 Q38.2. I am confident in sharing my opinions with my friends	36%	44%	14%	4%	1%	2221
S1-3 Q38.3. My friends treat me well	39%	45%	14%	1%	1%	2203
S1-3 Q38.4. I feel my friends make me do things I don't want to do	4%	6%	18%	45%	28%	2207
S1-3 Q39.1. If a friend was being bullied, I would help them or tell someone who would help them	51%	40%	7%	1%	1%	2199
S1-3 Q39.2. My friends will help me if I need it	39%	46%	13%	2%	1%	2201
S1-3 Q39.3. I am happy with the friends that I have	53%	37%	9%	1%	1%	2196
S1-3 Q39.4. Most of the time, I have enough money to do the same things as my friends	39%	37%	16%	6%	2%	2191
S1-3 Q39.5. I feel supported by my friends	41%	42%	13%	2%	1%	2193

S1-3 Friendship statements by stage

S1-3 Q38.1. I have a lot of fun with my friends	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
S1	61%	33%	4%	1%	1%	790
S2	50%	42%	6%	1%	1%	704
S3	50%	42%	7%	1%	0%	737
Grand Total	54%	39%	6%	1%	1%	2231

S1-3 Q38.2. I am confident in sharing my opinions with my friends	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
S1	39%	43%	13%	4%	2%	790
S2	33%	45%	16%	5%	2%	704
S3	35%	44%	15%	4%	1%	737
Grand Total	36%	44%	14%	4%	1%	2231

S1-3 Q38.3. My friends treat me well	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
S1	45%	42%	11%	1%	1%	780
S2	36%	46%	17%	1%	1%	690
S3	36%	48%	14%	2%	1%	733
Grand Total	39%	45%	14%	1%	1%	2203

S1-3 Q38.4. I feel my friends make me do things I don't want to do	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
S1	4%	6%	18%	42%	30%	783
S2	3%	8%	17%	45%	27%	692
S3	4%	5%	19%	47%	26%	732
Grand Total	4%	6%	18%	45%	28%	2207

S1-3 Q39.1. If a friend was being bullied, I would help them or tell someone who would help them	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
S1	62%	33%	4%	1%	0%	775
S2	46%	43%	8%	2%	1%	695
S3	45%	45%	8%	1%	1%	729
Grand Total	51%	40%	7%	1%	1%	2199

S1-3 Q39.2. My friends will help me if I need it	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
S1	44%	43%	10%	2%	1%	776
S2	35%	46%	16%	3%	1%	697
S3	36%	49%	13%	2%	1%	728
Grand Total	39%	46%	13%	2%	1%	2201

S1-3 Q39.3. I am happy with the friends that I have	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
S1	60%	31%	7%	1%	1%	776
S2	46%	42%	10%	1%	1%	693
S3	52%	37%	9%	2%	0%	727
Grand Total	53%	37%	9%	1%	1%	2196

S1-3 Q39.4. Most of the time, I have enough money to do the same things as my friends	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
S1	39%	38%	16%	5%	1%	770
S2	39%	37%	16%	7%	2%	694
S3	39%	38%	15%	6%	2%	727
Grand Total	39%	37%	16%	6%	2%	2191

S1-3 Q39.5. I feel supported by my friends	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
S1	49%	39%	9%	2%	1%	774
S2	37%	44%	15%	3%	1%	692
S3	37%	44%	15%	2%	1%	727
Grand Total	41%	42%	13%	2%	1%	2193

S1-3 Friendship statements by School

S1-3 Q38.1. I have a lot of fun with my friends	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	57%	36%	7%	0%	1%	138
Earlston High School	54%	38%	7%	1%	0%	439
Eyemouth High School	49%	42%	7%	1%	1%	186
Galashiels Academy	57%	37%	4%	1%	1%	246
Hawick High School	51%	42%	5%	1%	1%	239
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	54%	35%	8%	1%	1%	136
Kelso High School	54%	38%	6%	2%	0%	181
Peebles High School	56%	38%	6%	0%	0%	508
Selkirk High School	47%	44%	5%	2%	1%	158
Grand Total	54%	39%	6%	1%	1%	2231

S1-3 Q38.2. I am confident in sharing my opinions with my friends	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	31%	49%	14%	4%	2%	138
Earlston High School	35%	44%	15%	6%	1%	438
Eyemouth High School	36%	39%	17%	5%	3%	185
Galashiels Academy	34%	45%	17%	4%	0%	246
Hawick High School	34%	46%	14%	5%	1%	235
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	42%	42%	12%	2%	2%	137
Kelso High School	29%	48%	16%	4%	2%	180
Peebles High School	43%	42%	12%	3%	1%	505
Selkirk High School	31%	45%	16%	5%	3%	157
Grand Total	36%	44%	14%	4%	1%	2221

S1-3 Q38.3. My friends treat me well	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	41%	46%	11%	1%	1%	138
Earlston High School	39%	45%	14%	2%	0%	434
Eyemouth High School	37%	45%	14%	3%	2%	186
Galashiels Academy	41%	43%	14%	1%	1%	242
Hawick High School	41%	44%	13%	1%	1%	232
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	42%	46%	11%	1%	1%	134
Kelso High School	35%	47%	16%	1%	1%	178
Peebles High School	40%	44%	14%	1%	1%	504
Selkirk High School	32%	50%	15%	2%	1%	155
Grand Total	39%	45%	14%	1%	1%	2203

S1-3 Q38.4. I feel my friends make me do things I don't want to do	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	4%	9%	18%	41%	29%	137
Earlston High School	2%	6%	17%	46%	29%	435
Eyemouth High School	1%	7%	19%	41%	31%	181
Galashiels Academy	6%	4%	14%	43%	33%	245
Hawick High School	6%	6%	18%	49%	21%	232
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	7%	7%	21%	38%	27%	136
Kelso High School	3%	6%	17%	47%	28%	180
Peebles High School	3%	5%	20%	46%	26%	504
Selkirk High School	3%	11%	17%	45%	24%	157
Grand Total	4%	6%	18%	45%	28%	2207

S1-3 Q39.1. If a friend was being bullied, I would help them or tell someone who would help them	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	54%	39%	4%	1%	1%	134
Earlston High School	53%	39%	7%	1%	0%	435
Eyemouth High School	54%	39%	4%	2%	1%	184
Galashiels Academy	51%	40%	7%	1%	1%	240
Hawick High School	48%	45%	5%	1%	1%	234
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	55%	32%	13%	0%	1%	136
Kelso High School	49%	40%	9%	2%	1%	175
Peebles High School	51%	41%	7%	1%	0%	503
Selkirk High School	46%	43%	8%	2%	2%	158
Grand Total	51%	40%	7%	1%	1%	2199

S1-3 Q39.2. My friends will help me if I need it	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	40%	46%	10%	2%	1%	134
Earlston High School	39%	46%	13%	1%	1%	436
Eyemouth High School	42%	40%	15%	2%	1%	184
Galashiels Academy	35%	48%	14%	2%	1%	240
Hawick High School	39%	45%	12%	3%	1%	236
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	48%	35%	14%	2%	1%	136
Kelso High School	35%	46%	15%	3%	1%	175
Peebles High School	38%	47%	13%	2%	0%	503
Selkirk High School	37%	52%	7%	4%	1%	157
Grand Total	39%	46%	13%	2%	1%	2201

S1-3 Q39.3. I am happy with the friends that I have	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	57%	33%	7%	3%	0%	134
Earlston High School	51%	36%	10%	1%	1%	432
Eyemouth High School	52%	38%	8%	1%	1%	184
Galashiels Academy	55%	37%	6%	1%	1%	239
Hawick High School	54%	34%	9%	2%	0%	236
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	60%	30%	10%	0%	0%	136
Kelso High School	52%	38%	9%	1%	0%	174
Peebles High School	52%	38%	9%	1%	0%	503
Selkirk High School	49%	41%	8%	1%	1%	158
Grand Total	53%	37%	9%	1%	1%	2196

S1-3 Q39.4. Most of the time, I have enough money to do the same things as my friends	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	35%	36%	21%	5%	3%	134
Earlston High School	37%	40%	14%	7%	2%	435
Eyemouth High School	44%	28%	21%	5%	1%	183
Galashiels Academy	43%	38%	13%	5%	2%	240
Hawick High School	44%	38%	13%	4%	1%	232
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	42%	38%	15%	3%	2%	135
Kelso High School	32%	41%	17%	8%	2%	175
Peebles High School	41%	37%	14%	7%	1%	502
Selkirk High School	30%	39%	23%	6%	1%	155
Grand Total	39%	37%	16%	6%	2%	2191

S1-3 Q39.5. I feel supported by my friends	1. Strongly agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly disagree	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	43%	42%	10%	4%	1%	134
Earlston High School	38%	43%	15%	2%	1%	434
Eyemouth High School	43%	39%	15%	1%	2%	185
Galashiels Academy	43%	41%	12%	2%	2%	241
Hawick High School	45%	39%	10%	3%	2%	231
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	48%	35%	14%	3%	1%	136
Kelso High School	42%	41%	14%	3%	1%	174
Peebles High School	39%	45%	13%	2%	0%	502
Selkirk High School	37%	48%	9%	4%	1%	156
Grand Total	41%	42%	13%	2%	1%	2193

15. S1-S3 Bullying

Bullying questions asked in S1, S2 and S3 surveys.

Been Bullied

S1-3 Q42. Have you been bullied in the last year?	1. Yes	2. No	3. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	34%	55%	12%	785
S2	28%	63%	9%	694
S3	25%	69%	6%	730
Grand Total	29%	62%	9%	2209

S1-3 Q42. Have you been bullied in the last year?	1. Yes	2. No	3. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	26%	63%	10%	134
Earlston High School	29%	63%	8%	436
Plymouth High School	24%	68%	8%	184
Galashiels Academy	34%	59%	7%	241
Hawick High School	43%	50%	7%	237
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	25%	65%	10%	134
Kelso High School	21%	65%	14%	180
Peebles High School	25%	67%	9%	504
Selkirk High School	35%	54%	11%	159
Grand Total	29%	62%	9%	2209

Where Bullied?

S1-3 Q43 - Where have you been bullied? (% of all responses)	S1-3 Q43.1. At school	S1-3 Q43.2. Somewhere else (including on the way to or from school)	S1-3 Q43.3. Online / Social media / gaming platform
S1	26%	8%	10%
S2	20%	6%	7%
S3	20%	7%	10%
Grand Total	22%	7%	9%

S1-3 Q43 - Where have you been bullied? (% of all responses)	S1-3 Q43.1. At school	S1-3 Q43.2. Somewhere else (including on the way to or from school)	S1-3 Q43.3. Online / Social media / gaming platform
Berwickshire High School	14%	4%	7%
Earlston High School	25%	9%	11%
Eyemouth High School	21%	7%	11%
Galashiels Academy	22%	7%	9%
Hawick High School	32%	9%	12%
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	21%	5%	10%
Kelso High School	16%	2%	4%
Peebles High School	20%	6%	6%
Selkirk High School	26%	11%	11%
Grand Total	22%	7%	9%

How Bullied?

Page 19 S1-3 Q44 - How were you bullied? (% of all responses)	S1-3 Q44.1. Name calling	S1-3 Q44.2. Rumours spread	S1-3 Q44.3. Hurtful comments	S1-3 Q44.4. Threats	S1-3 Q44.5. Pictures or videos of you shared with others	S1-3 Q44.6. Embarrassed or made to feel foolish	S1-3 Q44.7. Physically hurt
	S1	21%	12%	17%	8%	5%	11%
S2	18%	11%	15%	7%	5%	12%	5%
S3	17%	12%	16%	6%	6%	12%	4%
Grand Total	19%	12%	16%	7%	5%	12%	7%

S1-3 Q44 - How were you bullied? (% of all responses)	S1-3 Q44.1. Name calling	S1-3 Q44.2. Rumours spread	S1-3 Q44.3. Hurtful comments	S1-3 Q44.4. Threats	S1-3 Q44.5. Pictures or videos of you shared with others	S1-3 Q44.6. Embarrassed or made to feel foolish	S1-3 Q44.7. Physically hurt
Berwickshire High School	14%	8%	14%	5%	1%	11%	4%
Earlston High School	23%	14%	16%	7%	6%	13%	7%
Eyemouth High School	17%	13%	16%	7%	9%	14%	7%
Galashiels Academy	20%	14%	18%	11%	7%	13%	8%
Hawick High School	27%	16%	17%	10%	9%	15%	9%
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	12%	9%	14%	7%	4%	11%	3%
Kelso High School	12%	7%	11%	4%	4%	5%	4%
Peebles High School	16%	9%	15%	5%	3%	10%	6%
Selkirk High School	24%	14%	23%	7%	5%	16%	9%
Grand Total	19%	12%	16%	7%	5%	12%	7%

Online Bullied?

S1-3 Q45. How often do other children pick on you by sending emails, through messaging or posting something online?	1. Most days	2. About once a week	3. About once a month	4. Every few months	5. Never	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	5%	7%	8%	16%	51%	13%	257
S2	4%	9%	7%	19%	49%	11%	192
S3	5%	8%	7%	24%	47%	10%	180
Grand Total	5%	8%	7%	19%	49%	12%	629

S1-3 Q45. How often do other children pick on you by sending emails, through messaging or posting something online?	1. Most days	2. About once a week	3. About once a month	4. Every few months	5. Never	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	9%	0%	0%	37%	46%	9%	35
Earlston High School	2%	7%	12%	22%	43%	13%	125
Eyemouth High School	9%	16%	5%	20%	32%	18%	44
Galashiels Academy	6%	8%	5%	23%	50%	9%	80
Hawick High School	7%	5%	10%	11%	49%	17%	98
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	3%	6%	6%	16%	59%	9%	32
Kelso High School	3%	11%	5%	14%	43%	24%	37
Peebles High School	3%	7%	5%	20%	62%	4%	123
Selkirk High School	5%	15%	7%	15%	49%	9%	55
Grand Total	5%	8%	7%	19%	49%	12%	629

Report Bullying?

S1-3 Q46. Did you report the bullying to anyone?	1. Yes	2. No	3. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	55%	31%	14%	261
S2	49%	44%	7%	191
S3	50%	39%	12%	179
Grand Total	52%	37%	11%	631

S1-3 Q46. Did you report the bullying to anyone?	1. Yes	2. No	3. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	69%	23%	9%	35
Earlston High School	47%	38%	14%	125
Eyemouth High School	44%	47%	9%	45
Galashiels Academy	71%	23%	6%	79
Hawick High School	48%	34%	17%	99
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	52%	42%	6%	33
Kelso High School	38%	41%	22%	37
Peebles High School	48%	44%	8%	124
Selkirk High School	52%	39%	9%	54
Grand Total	52%	37%	11%	631

Result of Reporting Bullying

S1-3 Q47. Did reporting the bullying to anyone...?	1. Make the situation better	2. Make the situation worse	3. Nothing changed	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	57%	9%	25%	10%	141
S2	38%	10%	42%	10%	92
S3	46%	13%	33%	8%	90
Grand Total	48%	10%	32%	9%	323

S1-3 Q47. Did reporting the bullying to anyone...?	1. Make the situation better	2. Make the situation worse	3. Nothing changed	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	13%	17%	58%	13%	24
Earlston High School	50%	16%	29%	5%	58
Eymouth High School	25%	15%	45%	15%	20
Galashiels Academy	54%	5%	30%	11%	56
Hawick High School	62%	4%	26%	9%	47
Haddingburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	63%	6%	25%	6%	16
Kelso High School	29%	14%	29%	29%	14
Peables High School	50%	8%	33%	8%	60
Selkirk High School	57%	14%	25%	4%	28
Grand Total	48%	10%	32%	9%	323

Take Part in Bullying

S1-3 Q48. How often have you taken part in bullying another pupil(s) at school in the past couple of months?	1. Not at all	2. Once or twice	3. Around two or three times a month	4. About once a week	5. Several times a week	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	83%	11%	2%	0%	0%	4%	773
S2	80%	12%	1%	1%	1%	5%	686
S3	82%	11%	1%	1%	1%	4%	725
Grand Total	82%	11%	1%	1%	1%	4%	2184

S1-3 Q48. How often have you taken part in bullying another pupil(s) at school in the past couple of months?	1. Not at all	2. Once or twice	3. Around two or three times a month	4. About once a week	5. Several times a week	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	83%	11%	2%	0%	0%	4%	132
Earlston High School	81%	12%	2%	1%	0%	4%	434
Eyemouth High School	80%	12%	1%	0%	1%	6%	184
Galashiels Academy	85%	10%	2%	0%	1%	2%	237
Hawick High School	83%	12%	0%	0%	0%	4%	232
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	80%	14%	0%	0%	1%	5%	132
Kelso High School	81%	8%	3%	1%	2%	5%	175
Peebles High School	83%	12%	1%	1%	0%	4%	500
Selkirk High School	77%	10%	1%	1%	1%	9%	158
Grand Total	82%	11%	1%	1%	1%	4%	2184

Take Part in Online Bullying

S1-3 Q49. In the past couple of months, how often have you taken part in online bullying?	1. I have not bullied another person online in the past couple of months	2. It has happened once or twice	3. Two or three times a month	4. About once a week	5. Several times a week	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	81%	9%	1%	0%	0%	9%	750
S2	82%	9%	1%	1%	1%	6%	669
S3	84%	8%	1%	0%	1%	5%	720
Grand Total	82%	9%	1%	0%	1%	6%	2139

S1-3 Q49. In the past couple of months, how often have you taken part in online bullying?	1. I have not bullied another person online in the past couple of months	2. It has happened once or twice	3. Two or three times a month	4. About once a week	5. Several times a week	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	83%	9%	1%	0%	2%	5%	129
Carlston High School	81%	11%	1%	0%	1%	6%	424
Clyemouth High School	81%	10%	1%	0%	1%	6%	176
Galashiels Academy	80%	12%	1%	2%	0%	6%	233
Hawick High School	88%	5%	0%	0%	0%	6%	225
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	80%	9%	0%	1%	1%	10%	129
Kelso High School	75%	10%	2%	0%	2%	10%	173
Peebles High School	87%	6%	1%	0%	0%	5%	496
Selkirk High School	81%	8%	1%	1%	1%	8%	154
Grand Total	82%	9%	1%	0%	1%	6%	2139

Support Groups

S1-3 50. Which, if any, of these things have you done in the last year? (% of all responses)	S1-3 Q50.1. Taken part in a buddying/mentoring programme at school	S1-3 Q50.2. Done voluntary work	S1-3 Q50.3. Taken part in a charity event	S1-3 Q50.4. Taken part in a drama / acting / singing / dancing group	S1-3 Q50.5. Taken part in a religious activity	S1-3 Q50.6. Attended a youth organisation	S1-3 Q50.7. Duke of Edinburgh	S1-3 Q50.8. Sports clubs	S1-3 Q50.9. None of the above
S1	8%	17%	19%	20%	7%	19%	1%	56%	12%
S2	6%	20%	19%	18%	5%	13%	0%	53%	14%
S3	4%	29%	16%	12%	5%	11%	23%	52%	20%
Grand Total	6%	22%	18%	17%	6%	14%	8%	54%	15%

S1-3 50. Which, if any, of these things have you done in the last year? (% of all responses)	S1-3 Q50.1. Taken part in a buddying/mentoring programme at school	S1-3 Q50.2. Done voluntary work	S1-3 Q50.3. Taken part in a charity event	S1-3 Q50.4. Taken part in a drama / acting / singing / dancing group	S1-3 Q50.5. Taken part in a religious activity	S1-3 Q50.6. Attended a youth organisation	S1-3 Q50.7. Duke of Edinburgh	S1-3 Q50.8. Sports clubs	S1-3 Q50.9. None of the above
Berwickshire High School	4%	14%	11%	17%	2%	6%	9%	40%	13%
Birlston High School	6%	29%	22%	17%	7%	17%	13%	61%	13%
Blythburgh High School	6%	29%	17%	24%	7%	13%	11%	55%	20%
Calashiels Academy	4%	16%	16%	13%	3%	8%	6%	45%	14%
Carleton High School	4%	14%	16%	13%	3%	18%	1%	47%	22%
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	7%	23%	26%	12%	7%	11%	5%	57%	20%
Kelso High School	6%	19%	17%	16%	7%	14%	5%	50%	15%
Peebles High School	7%	23%	17%	21%	7%	18%	9%	62%	13%
Selkirk High School	8%	28%	18%	11%	4%	14%	6%	53%	17%
Grand Total	6%	22%	18%	17%	6%	14%	8%	54%	15%

16. S3, S5, S6 - Gambling

The S3, S5, and S6 surveys asked: Have you spent any of YOUR money on any of the following in the last month? We want to know about games you played yourself.

S356 Q51. Have you spent any of YOUR money on any of the following in the last month?	S356 Gambling Q51.1. Taking part in a lottery for example National Lottery Lotto	S356 Gambling Q51.2. Personally placing a bet at a betting shop for example visiting a bookies to bet on football or horse racing	S356 Gambling Q51.3. Gambling websites or apps where you can win real money or other prizes	S356 Gambling Q51.4. Fruit machines (puggies, slot machines) at an arcade, pub or club	S356 Gambling Q51.5. Private betting with friends for example playing cards or placing a private bet for money on the outcome of an event	S356 Gambling Q51.6. Bingo at a bingo club or somewhere else, for example social club, holiday park	S356 Gambling Q51.7. Visiting a betting shop to play gaming machines	S356 Gambling Q51.8. Visiting a casino to play casino games	S356 Gambling Q51.9. Any other type of gambling	S356 Gambling Q51.10. None of the above	Grand Total
S3	2%	2%	2%	3%	5%	2%	1%	1%	2%	66%	848
S5	1%	1%	1%	2%	5%	1%	0%	0%	1%	69%	468
S6	2%	1%	1%	1%	8%	0%	0%	0%	2%	62%	286
Grand Total	2%	1%	1%	2%	5%	1%	1%	0%	2%	66%	1602

Page 202 S356 Q51. Have you spent any of YOUR money on any of the following in the last month?	S356 Gambling Q51.1. Taking part in a lottery for example National Lottery Lotto	S356 Gambling Q51.2. Personally placing a bet at a betting shop for example visiting a bookies to bet on football or horse racing	S356 Gambling Q51.3. Gambling websites or apps where you can win real money or other prizes	S356 Gambling Q51.4. Fruit machines (puggies, slot machines) at an arcade, pub or club	S356 Gambling Q51.5. Private betting with friends for example playing cards or placing a private bet for money on the outcome of an event	S356 Gambling Q51.6. Bingo at a bingo club or somewhere else, for example social club, holiday park	S356 Gambling Q51.7. Visiting a betting shop to play gaming machines	S356 Gambling Q51.8. Visiting a casino to play casino games	S356 Gambling Q51.9. Any other type of gambling	S356 Gambling Q51.10. None of the above	Grand Total
Berwickshire High School	1%	0%	0%	2%	5%	1%	0%	0%	1%	57%	183
Earlston High School	2%	1%	1%	3%	5%	1%	0%	0%	1%	70%	336
Eyemouth High School	3%	2%	2%	5%	10%	3%	2%	0%	4%	69%	96
Galashiels Academy	2%	2%	1%	1%	3%	1%	1%	2%	2%	72%	110
Hawick High School	2%	3%	3%	2%	5%	2%	2%	2%	1%	67%	184
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	3%	6%	3%	1%	7%	2%	0%	1%	0%	68%	98
Kelso High School	1%	1%	1%	6%	4%	2%	1%	1%	3%	58%	139
Peebles High School	0%	1%	1%	2%	6%	1%	1%	0%	2%	66%	351
Selkirk High School	4%	1%	0%	0%	3%	1%	0%	1%	0%	69%	105
Grand Total	2%	1%	1%	2%	5%	1%	1%	0%	2%	66%	1602

17. Home Life and Caring

Family Meals

Q51. How often do you and the people you live with usually have meals together?	1. Every day	2. Most days	3. About once a week	4. Less than once a week	5. Never	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	57%	30%	5%	4%	2%	2%	762
S2	55%	32%	5%	3%	3%	2%	678
S3	49%	33%	7%	5%	4%	1%	712
S4	49%	33%	7%	4%	5%	2%	612
S5	42%	36%	10%	5%	6%	1%	407
S6	44%	39%	9%	4%	3%	1%	248
Grand Total	51%	33%	7%	4%	4%	2%	3419

Q51. How often do you and the people you live with usually have meals together?	1. Every day	2. Most days	3. About once a week	4. Less than once a week	5. Never	6. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Derwickshire High School	47%	32%	8%	5%	6%	1%	291
Earlston High School	53%	34%	6%	3%	2%	1%	694
Eyemouth High School	47%	31%	10%	5%	5%	2%	226
Galashiels Academy	53%	28%	7%	8%	3%	1%	273
Hawick High School	49%	33%	8%	4%	5%	1%	395
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	56%	29%	5%	5%	3%	2%	207
Kelso High School	47%	34%	6%	5%	5%	3%	296
Peebles High School	51%	34%	6%	4%	4%	2%	782
Selkirk High School	52%	33%	7%	2%	4%	2%	255
Grand Total	51%	33%	7%	4%	4%	2%	3419

Enjoy being with the people you live with

Q52. How often do you enjoy being with the people you live with?	1. Always	2. Often	3. Sometimes	4. Never	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	51%	36%	10%	1%	2%	764
S2	40%	40%	17%	2%	2%	677
S3	36%	39%	22%	2%	1%	713
S4	33%	42%	22%	2%	2%	610
S5	25%	46%	27%	1%	1%	408
S6	25%	49%	26%	0%	1%	247
Grand Total	38%	40%	19%	1%	1%	3419

Q52. How often do you enjoy being with the people you live with?	1. Always	2. Often	3. Sometimes	4. Never	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Perwickshire High School	36%	43%	19%	1%	0%	288
Earlston High School	36%	44%	18%	1%	1%	695
Remouth High School	36%	36%	24%	2%	2%	225
Galashiels Academy	43%	36%	16%	2%	2%	269
Hawick High School	43%	35%	20%	1%	1%	395
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	46%	36%	15%	0%	2%	211
Kelso High School	31%	44%	21%	2%	2%	297
Peebles High School	35%	43%	20%	1%	1%	782
Selkirk High School	39%	37%	21%	1%	2%	257
Grand Total	38%	40%	19%	1%	1%	3419

People with conditions

Q53. Does anyone who you live with have any of the following?	Q53.1. A disability	Q53.2. A long-term illness	Q53.3. A mental health problem	Q53.4. None of the above	Grand Total
S1	9%	6%	10%	55%	917
S2	7%	6%	13%	50%	843
S3	9%	8%	15%	54%	848
S4	9%	10%	16%	58%	671
S5	9%	9%	21%	53%	468
S6	9%	10%	17%	53%	286
Grand Total	9%	8%	15%	54%	4033

Q53. Does anyone who you live with have any of the following?	Q53.1. A disability	Q53.2. A long-term illness	Q53.3. A mental health problem	Q53.4. None of the above	Grand Total
Berwickshire High School	6%	5%	13%	50%	392
Earlston High School	9%	9%	16%	55%	769
Plymouth High School	12%	11%	16%	52%	258
Galashiels Academy	8%	5%	14%	47%	373
Bawick High School	9%	7%	14%	57%	449
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	10%	11%	17%	57%	237
Kelso High School	8%	6%	15%	51%	370
Peebles High School	7%	6%	12%	58%	903
Selkirk High School	12%	11%	19%	51%	282
Grand Total	9%	8%	15%	54%	4033

In Caring Role

Q54. Do you care for, or look after, someone? For example, because they have a disability, an illness, a drug or alcohol problem, a mental health problem, or problems related to old age.	1. Yes	2. No	3. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	20%	69%	11%	741
S2	21%	71%	9%	657
S3	16%	73%	11%	703
S4	13%	78%	9%	607
S5	12%	83%	5%	400
S6	10%	86%	4%	241
Grand Total	16%	75%	9%	3349

Q54. Do you care for, or look after, someone? For example, because they have a disability, an illness, a drug or alcohol problem, a mental health problem, or problems related to old age.	1. Yes	2. No	3. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	13%	79%	8%	287
Earlston High School	17%	75%	9%	680
Eyemouth High School	21%	69%	10%	218
Galashiels Academy	20%	70%	10%	270
Hawick High School	18%	72%	10%	390
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	23%	71%	6%	203
Kelso High School	15%	75%	10%	286
Peebles High School	13%	80%	7%	765
Selkirk High School	15%	73%	12%	250
Grand Total	16%	75%	9%	3349

Time Caring

Q55. Do you help care for, or look after, them....	1. Every day	2. A couple of times a week	3. Once in a while	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	36%	37%	19%	9%	152
S2	29%	36%	29%	6%	137
S3	32%	41%	23%	4%	115
S4	36%	32%	25%	8%	76
S5	33%	35%	24%	8%	49
S6	25%	46%	29%	0%	24
Grand Total	33%	37%	24%	7%	553

Q55. Do you help care for, or look after, them....	1. Every day	2. A couple of times a week	3. Once in a while	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Perthshire High School	34%	42%	21%	3%	38
Earlston High School	32%	29%	31%	7%	112
Wemyss High School	27%	48%	20%	5%	44
Galashiels Academy	30%	41%	24%	6%	54
Hawick High School	35%	32%	25%	8%	72
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	43%	40%	13%	4%	47
Kelso High School	41%	28%	26%	4%	46
Peebles High School	23%	42%	24%	12%	101
Selkirk High School	41%	38%	21%	0%	39
Grand Total	33%	37%	24%	7%	553

18. S2, S4 - Smoking and Alcohol

The questions about smoking and alcohol were only asked in the S2 and S4 surveys.

Smoke Tobacco

S24 Q56. How often do you smoke tobacco at present?	1. Every day	2. At least once a week, but not every day	3. Less than once a week	4. I do not smoke	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S2	1%	0%	1%	94%	3%	680
S4	2%	2%	3%	88%	4%	608
Grand Total	2%	1%	2%	91%	4%	1288

S24 Q56. How often do you smoke tobacco at present?	1. Every day	2. At least once a week, but not every day	3. Less than once a week	4. I do not smoke	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Perthshire High School	0%	2%	2%	88%	7%	123
Carlston High School	2%	2%	2%	92%	3%	240
Nyemouth High School	3%	0%	1%	93%	3%	76
Galashiels Academy	1%	2%	2%	95%	0%	100
Hawick High School	3%	1%	2%	90%	3%	125
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	0%	2%	0%	92%	6%	63
Kelso High School	5%	1%	3%	85%	6%	129
Peebles High School	1%	1%	2%	92%	4%	313
Selkirk High School	1%	1%	2%	95%	2%	119
Grand Total	2%	1%	2%	91%	4%	1288

E-cigarettes / vaping

S24 Q57. How often do you use e-cigarettes / vape at present?	1. Every day	2. At least once a week, but not every day	3. Less than once a week	4. I do not use e-cigarettes / vape	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S2	1%	2%	2%	88%	7%	677
S4	6%	4%	6%	77%	7%	610
Grand Total	3%	3%	4%	83%	7%	1287

S24 Q57. How often do you use e-cigarettes / vape at present?	1. Every day	2. At least once a week, but not every day	3. Less than once a week	4. I do not use e-cigarettes / vape	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	5%	3%	6%	76%	11%	123
Earlston High School	5%	2%	5%	80%	7%	241
Eyemouth High School	3%	0%	0%	91%	7%	75
Galashiels Academy	1%	7%	4%	86%	2%	101
Hawick High School	5%	4%	3%	82%	6%	125
Leith Edinburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	2%	3%	6%	84%	5%	62
Kelso High School	6%	5%	2%	79%	8%	130
Peebles High School	2%	2%	3%	86%	7%	311
Selkirk High School	2%	2%	4%	88%	4%	119
Grand Total	3%	3%	4%	83%	7%	1287

Alcohol

S24 Q58. How often do you USUALLY have an alcoholic drink?	1. More than once a week	2. About once a week	3. About once a fortnight	4. About once a month	5. Only a few times a year	6. I never drink alcohol now	Respondents To Question
S2	1%	2%	4%	7%	27%	60%	671
S4	2%	14%	11%	17%	23%	32%	609
Grand Total	1%	8%	7%	12%	25%	47%	1280

S24 Q58. How often do you USUALLY have an alcoholic drink?	1. More than once a week	2. About once a week	3. About once a fortnight	4. About once a month	5. Only a few times a year	6. I never drink alcohol now	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	3%	11%	7%	16%	25%	39%	122
Earlston High School	1%	4%	5%	9%	32%	49%	237
Eyemouth High School	1%	1%	7%	16%	21%	53%	75
Galashiels Academy	0%	2%	4%	6%	29%	59%	100
Hawick High School	1%	14%	8%	12%	21%	44%	125
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	0%	10%	8%	15%	26%	42%	62
Kelso High School	2%	11%	11%	15%	27%	34%	131
Peebles High School	1%	7%	8%	11%	22%	51%	309
Selkirk High School	3%	7%	8%	13%	24%	46%	119
Grand Total	1%	8%	7%	12%	25%	47%	1280

19. People you can trust and talk to

Trusted Adult to talk to

Q59. Do you have an adult in your life who you can trust and talk to about any personal problems?	1. No, I don't	2. Yes, I sometimes do	3. Yes, I always do	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	3%	23%	71%	3%	747
S2	6%	28%	62%	4%	676
S3	5%	29%	63%	4%	706
S4	6%	30%	60%	4%	611
S5	7%	34%	56%	3%	405
S6	7%	33%	58%	3%	243
Grand Total	5%	28%	63%	4%	3388

Q59. Do you have an adult in your life who you can trust and talk to about any personal problems?	1. No, I don't	2. Yes, I sometimes do	3. Yes, I always do	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	7%	31%	59%	3%	287
Earlston High School	6%	26%	64%	4%	688
Eyemouth High School	7%	29%	59%	5%	221
Galashiels Academy	6%	27%	65%	2%	269
Hawick High School	4%	26%	67%	3%	394
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	3%	32%	60%	5%	202
Kelso High School	6%	36%	53%	5%	294
Peebles High School	5%	27%	66%	3%	779
Selkirk High School	4%	30%	62%	4%	254
Grand Total	5%	28%	63%	4%	3388

People to talk to about worries

The survey asked “How easy is it for you to talk to any of the following people about things that really bother you?”

Talk to by Stage

Q60.1. Friend(s)	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
S1	78%	18%	4%	730
S2	76%	20%	3%	654
S3	79%	18%	3%	699
S4	73%	23%	4%	599
S5	73%	24%	3%	393
S6	79%	21%	1%	238
Grand Total	76%	20%	4%	3313

Q60.2. Mum / female carer	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
S1	84%	13%	3%	735
S2	77%	21%	2%	655
S3	75%	20%	4%	698
S4	75%	22%	3%	602
S5	68%	29%	3%	396
S6	73%	26%	1%	238
Grand Total	76%	21%	3%	3324

Q60.3. Dad / male carer	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
S1	71%	22%	8%	729
S2	61%	34%	6%	651
S3	58%	33%	9%	696
S4	59%	33%	8%	603
S5	46%	42%	12%	398
S6	53%	41%	7%	236
Grand Total	60%	32%	8%	3313

Q60.4. Brother(s) / Sister(s)	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
S1	50%	36%	14%	730
S2	43%	44%	12%	646
S3	48%	39%	13%	696
S4	48%	40%	12%	591
S5	44%	45%	11%	395
S6	53%	38%	9%	234
Grand Total	47%	40%	12%	3292

Q60.5. Counsellor (someone who is trained to listen and give you advice about your problems or help you manage your feelings)	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
S1	24%	26%	49%	712
S2	21%	36%	44%	638
S3	17%	32%	50%	688
S4	17%	30%	52%	597
S5	15%	33%	52%	389
S6	20%	30%	50%	234
Grand Total	19%	31%	49%	3258

Q60.6. GP or Nurse	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
S1	29%	30%	41%	712
S2	27%	36%	37%	644
S3	23%	37%	40%	688
S4	26%	33%	40%	594
S5	24%	38%	39%	387
S6	29%	40%	30%	230
Grand Total	26%	35%	39%	3255

Q60.7. Teacher(s)	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
S1	40%	50%	11%	721
S2	33%	57%	11%	644
S3	28%	55%	17%	693
S4	26%	61%	13%	595
S5	27%	61%	12%	394
S6	37%	55%	8%	231
Grand Total	32%	56%	12%	3278

Q61.1. Neighbour(s)	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
S1	20%	47%	33%	711
S2	15%	53%	32%	635
S3	16%	50%	34%	687
S4	13%	52%	35%	595
S5	11%	57%	31%	392
S6	13%	59%	28%	235
Grand Total	15%	52%	33%	3255

Q61.2. Youth Worker	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
S1	20%	28%	52%	703
S2	11%	33%	56%	625
S3	10%	30%	60%	685
S4	11%	27%	62%	594
S5	7%	35%	58%	388
S6	9%	30%	62%	233
Grand Total	12%	30%	58%	3228

Q61.3. Other family members (e.g. grandparent(s))	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
S1	68%	24%	8%	718
S2	57%	33%	10%	639
S3	55%	31%	14%	692
S4	53%	36%	11%	598
S5	40%	48%	12%	392
S6	42%	44%	15%	234
Grand Total	55%	34%	11%	3273

Q61.4. Social Worker	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
S1	15%	26%	58%	699
S2	9%	31%	59%	620
S3	8%	26%	66%	684
S4	9%	25%	66%	587
S5	6%	31%	63%	391
S6	6%	25%	70%	231
Grand Total	9%	28%	63%	3212

Q61.5. Another adult you trust	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
S1	65%	23%	13%	713
S2	53%	31%	16%	629
S3	53%	27%	20%	684
S4	52%	27%	21%	593
S5	44%	35%	21%	387
S6	46%	35%	19%	232
Grand Total	54%	28%	18%	3238

Talk to Q61.6. Club or Group leader (e.g. sports coach, girl guides, boys brigade, scouts, etc.)	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
S1	34%	32%	34%	697
S2	26%	37%	36%	623
S3	26%	32%	42%	683
S4	19%	30%	50%	592
S5	17%	31%	52%	391
S6	22%	32%	46%	232
Grand Total	25%	33%	42%	3218

Talk to by School

Q60.1. Friend(s)	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	75%	23%	1%	284
Earlston High School	76%	21%	3%	679
Eyemouth High School	73%	24%	4%	216
Galashiels Academy	81%	16%	3%	265
Hawick High School	77%	19%	4%	391
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	74%	22%	5%	195
Kelso High School	73%	22%	5%	276
Peebles High School	78%	19%	3%	763
Selkirk High School	77%	18%	5%	244
Grand Total	76%	20%	4%	3313

Q60.2. Mum / female carer	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	74%	25%	0%	284
Earlston High School	77%	20%	3%	680
Eyemouth High School	72%	25%	3%	214
Galashiels Academy	77%	19%	4%	265
Hawick High School	80%	19%	1%	390
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	74%	21%	6%	197
Kelso High School	75%	20%	4%	281
Peebles High School	76%	21%	3%	766
Selkirk High School	81%	17%	3%	247
Grand Total	76%	21%	3%	3324

Q60.3. Dad / male carer	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	57%	36%	7%	285
Earlston High School	56%	37%	8%	682
Eyemouth High School	54%	35%	10%	215
Galashiels Academy	63%	28%	10%	260
Hawick High School	67%	23%	10%	387
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	58%	31%	11%	198
Kelso High School	58%	35%	7%	276
Peebles High School	62%	33%	5%	766
Selkirk High School	60%	30%	11%	244
Grand Total	60%	32%	8%	3313

Q60.4. Brother(s) / Sister(s)	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	47%	44%	9%	283
Earlston High School	46%	42%	12%	674
Eyemouth High School	45%	45%	10%	213
Galashiels Academy	47%	40%	13%	262
Hawick High School	49%	37%	14%	387
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	50%	34%	16%	195
Kelso High School	38%	48%	14%	278
Peebles High School	51%	37%	12%	759
Selkirk High School	50%	37%	13%	241
Grand Total	47%	40%	12%	3292

Q60.5. Counsellor (someone who is trained to listen and give you advice about your problems or help you manage your feelings)	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	20%	30%	50%	281
Earlston High School	18%	36%	46%	677
Eyemouth High School	15%	40%	46%	210
Galashiels Academy	20%	28%	52%	257
Hawick High School	21%	32%	47%	382
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	25%	26%	48%	190
Kelso High School	18%	28%	54%	275
Peebles High School	18%	28%	53%	750
Selkirk High School	23%	31%	46%	236
Grand Total	19%	31%	49%	3258

Q60.6. GP or Nurse	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	25%	38%	37%	282
Earlston High School	23%	39%	38%	671
Eyemouth High School	24%	38%	38%	210
Galashiels Academy	25%	35%	40%	256
Hawick High School	27%	36%	37%	379
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	34%	34%	32%	191
Kelso High School	23%	33%	44%	274
Peebles High School	30%	30%	40%	755
Selkirk High School	24%	35%	41%	237
Grand Total	26%	35%	39%	3255

Q60.7. Teacher(s)	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	28%	63%	9%	279
Earlston High School	27%	61%	12%	677
Eyemouth High School	35%	53%	12%	211
Galashiels Academy	33%	53%	14%	257
Hawick High School	35%	52%	13%	380
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	37%	48%	14%	194
Kelso High School	22%	64%	15%	277
Peebles High School	36%	54%	10%	762
Selkirk High School	34%	51%	15%	241
Grand Total	32%	56%	12%	3278

Q61.1. Neighbour(s)	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	9%	57%	34%	283
Earlston High School	15%	56%	29%	668
Eyemouth High School	19%	49%	33%	209
Galashiels Academy	17%	52%	31%	254
Hawick High School	18%	47%	35%	378
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	19%	44%	37%	194
Kelso High School	10%	53%	37%	276
Peebles High School	16%	52%	32%	752
Selkirk High School	18%	46%	35%	241
Grand Total	15%	52%	33%	3255

Q61.2. Youth Worker	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	8%	30%	62%	284
Earlston High School	10%	33%	57%	658
Eyemouth High School	12%	35%	54%	205
Galashiels Academy	11%	30%	59%	249
Hawick High School	18%	28%	53%	376
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	15%	28%	57%	192
Kelso High School	9%	34%	57%	275
Peebles High School	12%	26%	62%	749
Selkirk High School	14%	30%	56%	240
Grand Total	12%	30%	58%	3228

Q61.3. Other family members (e.g. grandparent(s))	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	50%	38%	12%	284
Earlston High School	52%	39%	10%	672
Eyemouth High School	57%	33%	10%	211
Galashiels Academy	59%	31%	10%	252
Hawick High School	64%	27%	9%	383
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	53%	32%	14%	194
Kelso High School	53%	35%	13%	278
Peebles High School	53%	34%	13%	754
Selkirk High School	60%	29%	11%	245
Grand Total	55%	34%	11%	3273

Q61.4. Social Worker	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	7%	24%	68%	283
Earlston High School	9%	30%	62%	657
Eyemouth High School	10%	33%	57%	205
Galashiels Academy	9%	29%	62%	250
Hawick High School	10%	27%	63%	371
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	15%	25%	60%	187
Kelso High School	10%	30%	60%	275
Peebles High School	9%	24%	67%	746
Selkirk High School	10%	30%	60%	238
Grand Total	9%	28%	63%	3212

Q61.5. Another adult you trust	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	54%	28%	18%	281
Earlston High School	51%	34%	15%	666
Eyemouth High School	57%	30%	13%	211
Galashiels Academy	55%	27%	18%	249
Hawick High School	58%	24%	19%	379
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	58%	25%	17%	189
Kelso High School	49%	31%	20%	275
Peebles High School	51%	28%	22%	748
Selkirk High School	60%	25%	15%	240
Grand Total	54%	28%	18%	3238

Talk to Q61.6. Club or Group leader (e.g. sports coach, girl guides, boys brigade, scouts, etc.)	1. Easy	2. Difficult	3. Does not apply to me	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	21%	30%	49%	285
Earlston High School	25%	37%	38%	660
Eyemouth High School	27%	34%	39%	208
Galashiels Academy	27%	30%	43%	248
Hawick High School	26%	30%	44%	374
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	27%	28%	46%	188
Kelso High School	19%	37%	44%	276
Peebles High School	28%	31%	41%	746
Selkirk High School	22%	33%	45%	233
Grand Total	25%	33%	42%	3218

20. Where you live

Feels Safe

Q62. Generally speaking, I feel safe in the area where I live...	1. Always	2. Most of the time	3. Sometimes	4. Rarely or Never	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	66%	26%	6%	1%	1%	746
S2	59%	34%	5%	1%	1%	658
S3	60%	31%	6%	1%	1%	699
S4	58%	32%	7%	2%	1%	605
S5	60%	31%	7%	1%	1%	402
S6	61%	33%	4%	1%	1%	240
Grand Total	61%	31%	6%	1%	1%	3350

Q62. Generally speaking, I feel safe in the area where I live...	1. Always	2. Most of the time	3. Sometimes	4. Rarely or Never	5. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	55%	34%	10%	1%	0%	287
Earlston High School	64%	29%	5%	1%	1%	686
Wemyss High School	52%	36%	8%	2%	1%	217
Galashiels Academy	58%	31%	9%	1%	1%	262
Hawick High School	54%	35%	9%	1%	1%	394
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	67%	26%	4%	1%	3%	198
Kelso High School	64%	28%	5%	1%	1%	289
Peebles High School	64%	30%	3%	1%	1%	762
Selkirk High School	61%	30%	7%	1%	2%	255
Grand Total	61%	31%	6%	1%	1%	3350

Good place to live

Q63. Do you think that the area in which you live is a good place to live?	1. Yes, it's good	2. It's OK	3. No, it's not good	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	76%	23%	1%	0%	745
S2	74%	24%	2%	1%	657
S3	69%	26%	4%	1%	706
S4	64%	30%	5%	1%	600
S5	66%	32%	2%	1%	404
S6	68%	28%	3%	1%	241
Grand Total	70%	27%	3%	1%	3353

Q63. Do you think that the area in which you live is a good place to live?	1. Yes, it's good	2. It's OK	3. No, it's not good	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	62%	35%	3%	0%	287
Earlston High School	76%	21%	2%	1%	687
Eyemouth High School	62%	34%	4%	1%	220
Galashiels Academy	67%	29%	4%	0%	261
Harwick High School	61%	35%	3%	1%	397
Leith Edinburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	71%	25%	1%	3%	202
Kelso High School	70%	27%	2%	1%	283
Peebles High School	76%	21%	3%	1%	762
Selkirk High School	69%	28%	2%	1%	254
Grand Total	70%	27%	3%	1%	3353

Outdoor play areas

S12 Q64. Are there places near where you live where you can play outdoors?	1. Yes - lots	2. Yes - some	3. No	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
S1	70%	28%	2%	0%	735
S2	65%	31%	3%	1%	645
Grand Total	67%	30%	2%	1%	1380

S12 Q64. Are there places near where you live where you can play outdoors?	1. Yes - lots	2. Yes - some	3. No	4. Prefer not to say	Respondents To Question
Berwickshire High School	59%	37%	4%	1%	82
Earlston High School	72%	25%	2%	1%	270
Eyemouth High School	64%	31%	4%	0%	115
Galashiels Academy	66%	31%	3%	0%	157
Hawick High School	55%	42%	2%	1%	164
Jedburgh Grammar Campus - Secondary	74%	25%	0%	1%	73
Kelso High School	63%	33%	4%	1%	110
Peebles High School	76%	22%	2%	0%	309
Selkirk High School	63%	35%	1%	1%	100
Grand Total	67%	30%	2%	1%	1380

Scottish Borders

S4 SUBSTANCE USE QUESTIONNAIRE (2022)



Contents

Introduction	3
Key findings	4
Smoking Tobacco	6
Smoking Tobacco Status	6
Getting cigarettes / tobacco	6
Purchase of cigarettes / tobacco in the last 4 weeks	7
Cigarettes in last 7 days	7
E-Cigarettes / Vaping	8
E-Cigarette / Vaping Status	8
Getting e-cigarettes / vapes	8
Alcohol	9
Had a proper Alcoholic drink	9
Alcoholic drink frequency	9
How often drunk?	10
Usually get alcohol	10
Where usually drink	11
Allowed to drink at home	11
Provider of last alcoholic drink	12
Drugs	13
Ever taken illegal drugs	13
Frequency of drug use	13
Illegal drugs in the last year	14
Types of Drugs	14

Introduction

Results of the Scottish Borders Council’s responses to the “Scottish Health and Wellbeing Census 2022: Substance Use Questionnaire: S4 Pupils”. 36% of Scottish Borders S4 pupils responded to the survey (440 of 1214).

The table below shows the distribution of responses by sex and SIMD2020¹ quintile.

SIMD2020 Quintile	1. Female	2. Male	3. Prefer not to say	Grand Total	% SIMD2020 Quintile
1 - Most Deprived	12	11	1	24	5%
2	24	22	1	47	11%
3	53	69	4	126	29%
4	66	61	3	130	30%
5 - Least Deprived	16	14	1	31	7%
Unknown	39	39	4	82	19%
Grand Total	210	216	14	440	100%
% Sex	48%	49%	3%	100%	

The results are presented by sex and by SIMD2020 quintile.

¹SIMD2020 – [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020](#).

Key findings

There were 440 responses, representing 36% of the 1,214 of the Scottish Borders S4 pupils. Below are the key findings from the questionnaire.

Smoking Tobacco

- 69% have never smoked
- 14% have tried tobacco smoke once
- 3% say friends give the cigarettes/tobacco
- 2% say they bought cigarettes / tobacco in a shop, supermarket or van.
- 6% say they have 1 cigarettes or more in the last seven days.

E-Cigarettes / Vaping

- 54% have never used e-cigarettes or vaped
- 12% use e-cigarettes or vaped once a week or more
- 6% say that friends give them e-cigarettes / refills
- 3% say they buy e-cigarettes / vapes on the internet

Alcohol

- 63% report that they have had an alcoholic drink
- 15% or more pupils drink beer or lager, alcopops, spirits or cider once a month or more
- 18% report never being drunk
- 20% report that they get drunk once a month or more
- 21% usually get their alcohol at home
- The most common place to drink is in a private residence (own home, someone else's home or party)
- 53% report being allowed to drink alcohol at home sometimes or always
- 26% report that their 'mother / father / carer' bought their last alcoholic drink

Drugs

- 83% report they have never taken illegal drugs
- 6% report taking drugs once a year or more
- 9% report taking drugs in the last year
- 8% have used cannabis, followed by 3% have used cocaine



Smoking Tobacco

Smoking Tobacco Status

S4 respondents were asked which best described their smoking tobacco status. Overall 69% said they have 'never smoked', with 14% having 'tried it once'.

Q4. Smoking tobacco status	S4 All Responses	Sex			SIMD2020					
	Grand Total	1. Female	2. Male	3. Prefer not to say	1 (Most Deprived)	2	3	4	5 (Least Deprived)	Unknown
1. I have never smoked	69%	67%	72%	43%	63%	77%	73%	72%	68%	55%
2. I have only ever tried smoking once	14%	15%	12%	36%	21%	13%	12%	11%	23%	17%
3. I used to smoke sometimes but I never smoke a cigarette now	3%	4%	3%	0%	4%	4%	2%	4%	0%	5%
4. I sometimes smoke cigarettes now but I don't smoke as many as one a week	5%	5%	4%	0%	0%	0%	2%	8%	0%	9%
5. I usually smoke between one and six cigarettes a week	1%	1%	1%	0%	4%	0%	2%	1%	0%	0%
6. I usually smoke more than six cigarettes a week	3%	0%	4%	7%	0%	0%	3%	2%	3%	5%
7. Prefer not to say	5%	6%	3%	14%	8%	4%	4%	2%	6%	7%
9. Not Answered	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%	2%	2%	1%	0%	2%
Grand Total	440	210	216	14	24	47	126	130	31	82

Getting cigarettes / tobacco

The table below shows that very few S4 pupils get cigarettes / tobacco, with only 15 (3%) saying "Friends give me cigarettes/tobacco".

Q5. How do you usually get your cigarettes/tobacco?	Count	% of 440
Q5.1. I buy them from a supermarket	1	0%
Q5.2. I buy them from a newsagent, tobacconist or a sweet shop	2	0%
Q5.3. I buy them from a garage shop	1	0%
Q5.4. I buy them from a van, such as an ice cream van or burger van	1	0%
Q5.5. I buy them from some other type of shop	1	0%
Q5.6. I buy them from a street market	1	0%
Q5.7. I buy them on the internet	4	1%
Q5.8. I buy cigarettes/tobacco from friends or relatives	3	1%
Q5.9. I buy cigarettes/tobacco from someone else	3	1%
Q5.10. I ask someone else under the age of 18 to buy me cigarettes/tobacco	5	1%
Q5.11. I ask an adult I know to buy me cigarettes/tobacco	5	1%
Q5.12. I ask an adult I don't know to buy me cigarettes/tobacco	1	0%
Q5.13. Friends give me cigarettes/tobacco	15	3%
Q5.14. My brother or sister gives me cigarettes/tobacco	1	0%
Q5.15. My mother, father or carer gives me cigarettes/tobacco	2	0%
Q5.16. I take cigarettes/tobacco without asking	7	2%
Q5.17. I get cigarettes/tobacco in some other way	6	1%

Purchase of cigarettes / tobacco in the last 4 weeks

2% of the S4 pupils that responded to the survey said “Yes – I brought cigarettes / tobacco from a shop, supermarket or van”. Notably 92% of respondents did not answer this question.

Q6. In the last 4 weeks, have you bought or tried to buy cigarettes/tobacco from any kind of shop, supermarket or van?	Grand Total
1. Yes – I bought cigarettes/tobacco from a shop, supermarket or van	2%
2. Yes – I tried to buy cigarettes/tobacco from a shop, supermarket or van but was refused	0%
3. No – I did not buy or try to buy cigarettes/tobacco from a shop, supermarket or van	2%
4. No – I have never tried to buy cigarettes/tobacco from a shop, supermarket or van	4%
9. Not Answered	92%
Grand Total	440

Cigarettes in the last 7 days

92% of respondents did not answer this question. Whereas, 6% of S4 pupils said they had 1 cigarette or more in the last 7 days.

Q7. How many cigarettes (if any) did you smoke on average each day in the last 7 days?	Grand Total
1. None	3%
2. 1-2	2%
3. 3-4	1%
4. 5-6	1%
5. 7-8	0%
7. More than 10	2%
9. Not Answered	92%
Grand Total	440

E-Cigarettes / Vaping

E-Cigarette / Vaping Status

S4 respondents were asked which best described their e-cigarette. Overall 54% said they have 'never used an e-cigarette / vape' compared to 12% who 'use e-cigarettes / vapes once a week or more'

Q8. E-Smoking status	S4 All Responses	Sex			SIMD2020					
	Grand Total	1. Female	2. Male	3. Prefer not to say	1 (Most Deprived)	2	3	4	5 (Least Deprived)	Unknown
1. I have never used an e-cigarette / vape	54%	48%	60%	50%	54%	66%	61%	56%	45%	37%
2. I used to use e-cigarettes / vapes but don't use them anymore	3%	3%	3%	0%	0%	2%	3%	3%	6%	2%
3. I have tried an e-cigarette / vape once	8%	10%	7%	0%	17%	9%	9%	6%	6%	9%
4. I have tried e-cigarettes / vapes a few times	14%	16%	11%	29%	13%	9%	8%	15%	16%	24%
5. I use e-cigarettes / vapes sometimes, but no more than once a month	4%	4%	3%	7%	0%	6%	3%	2%	10%	4%
6. I use e-cigarettes / vapes once a week or more	12%	12%	12%	7%	8%	4%	13%	12%	10%	17%
7. Prefer not to say	4%	6%	3%	7%	8%	2%	2%	5%	6%	6%
9. Not Answered	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Grand Total	440	210	216	14	24	47	126	130	31	82

Getting e-cigarettes / vapes

12% report that they buy their e-cigarettes / vapes

Q9. How do you usually get your E -cigarettes/vapes?	Count	% of 440
Q9.1. I buy them from a supermarket	2	0%
Q9.2. I buy them from a newsagent, tobacconist, vape shop or a sweet shop	7	2%
Q9.3. I buy them from a garage shop	2	0%
Q9.4. I buy them from a van, such as an ice cream van or burger van	2	0%
Q9.5. I buy them from some other type of shop	4	1%
Q9.6. I buy them from a street market	2	0%
Q9.7. I buy them on the internet	15	3%
Q9.8. I buy e-cigarettes/refills from friends or relatives	11	3%
Q9.9. I buy e-cigarettes/refills from someone else	8	2%
Q9.10. I ask someone else under the age of 18 to buy me e-cigarettes/refills	8	2%
Q9.11. I ask an adult I know to buy me e-cigarettes/refills	4	1%
Q9.12. I ask an adult I don't know to buy me e-cigarettes/refills	5	1%
Q9.13. Friends give me e-cigarettes/refills	27	6%
Q9.14. My brother or sister gives me e-cigarettes/refills	3	1%
Q9.15. My mother, father or carer gives me e-cigarettes/refills	2	0%
Q9.16. I take e-cigarettes/refills without asking	2	0%
Q9.17. I get e-cigarettes/refills in some other way	12	3%

Alcohol

Had a proper Alcoholic Drink

S4 pupils was asked, "Have you ever had a proper alcoholic drink - a whole drink, not just a sip?" Overall 63% of respondents have had a proper alcoholic drink. The proportion ranges from 45% in areas of SIMD Quintile 2 to 67% for SIMD Quintiles 3 and 4.

Q10. Alcohol Status	S4 All Responses	Sex			SIMD2020					
	Grand Total	1. Female	2. Male	3. Prefer not to say	1 (Most Deprive)	2	3	4	5 (Least Deprive)	Unknown
1. Yes	63%	63%	64%	50%	58%	45%	67%	67%	61%	65%
2. No	33%	34%	31%	36%	38%	45%	31%	31%	32%	29%
3. Prefer not to say	3%	3%	4%	7%	4%	11%	2%	2%	0%	5%
9. Not Answered	1%	0%	1%	7%	0%	0%	1%	0%	6%	1%
Grand Total	440	210	216	14	24	47	126	130	31	82

Alcoholic drink frequency

S4 pupils were asked, "At present, how often do you drink anything alcoholic, such as beer, wine or spirits? Try to include even those times when you only drink a small amount." The table below shows the frequency S4 pupils drink specific alcoholic drinks. The last column shows the proportion of S4 pupils saying they have an alcoholic drink monthly or more. Cider is the most frequent at 24%, followed by Alcopops at 21%, then spirits 18% and the beer or lager at 15%.

Q11. At present, how often do you drink anything alcoholic, such as beer, wine or spirits?	1. Every day	2. Every week	3. Every month	4. Rarely	5. Never	9. Not Answered	Grand Total	Monthly or More
Q11.1. Beer or lager	1%	6%	8%	20%	21%	44%	440	15%
Q11.2. Wine or champagne	1%	1%	4%	23%	25%	46%	440	7%
Q11.3. Alcopops (e.g. Smirnoff Ice, Bacardi Breezer, WKD)	1%	6%	14%	20%	16%	44%	440	21%
Q11.4. Spirits (e.g. whisky, vodka, rum)	1%	5%	12%	18%	18%	45%	440	18%
Q11.5. Cider	1%	6%	17%	21%	12%	44%	440	24%
Q11.6. Fortified (strong) wine (e.g. sherry, martini, port, Buckfast)	1%	2%	5%	12%	33%	48%	440	8%
Q11.7. Any other drink that contains alcohol	1%	6%	12%	19%	15%	48%	440	19%

How often drunk?

S4 pupils were asked, "How often would you say you get drunk?" Although 37% of respondents did not answer the question, 20% say they get drunk once a month or more, and 18% say they have never been drunk.

Q12. How often would you say you get drunk?	S4 All Responses	Sex			SIMD2020					
	Grand Total	1. Female	2. Male	3. Prefer not to say	1 (Most Deprived)	2	3	4	5 (Least Deprived)	Unknown
1. I have never been drunk	18%	15%	21%	7%	8%	15%	25%	21%	19%	7%
2. Less than once a month	18%	15%	19%	29%	8%	11%	17%	17%	26%	23%
3. Once or twice a month	14%	17%	12%	0%	17%	11%	12%	16%	6%	18%
4. Once a week	5%	4%	6%	0%	13%	0%	5%	4%	3%	7%
5. Twice a week or more	1%	0%	2%	14%	0%	2%	2%	1%	3%	0%
6. Don't know	5%	7%	4%	0%	13%	6%	3%	6%	3%	5%
7. Prefer not to say	2%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	3%	2%	0%	4%
9. Not Answered	37%	38%	35%	50%	42%	55%	33%	34%	39%	35%
Grand Total	440	210	216	14	24	47	126	130	31	82

Usually get alcohol

S4 pupils were asked, "Where do you USUALLY get your alcohol from?" Over 20% usually get their alcohol at home with 4% usually purchasing their alcohol. They could only choose one.

Q13. Where do you USUALLY get your alcohol from? (one only)	S4 All Responses	Sex			SIMD2020					
	Grand Total	1. Female	2. Male	3. Prefer not to say	1 (Most Deprived)	2	3	4	5 (Least Deprived)	Unknown
01. I buy it in a pub or bar	1%	0%	1%	0%	4%	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%
02. I buy it in a club or disco	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
04. I buy it from a shop	2%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	3%	1%
05. I buy it from a supermarket	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	4%
07. I get it from a friend	9%	10%	8%	0%	0%	4%	4%	12%	6%	17%
08. I get it from a relative	10%	11%	8%	7%	17%	9%	12%	8%	6%	9%
09. From home (either with or without permission)	21%	21%	20%	36%	13%	19%	26%	28%	13%	10%
10. Some other way	3%	2%	4%	0%	8%	4%	2%	2%	0%	6%
11. Prefer not to say	15%	11%	19%	7%	17%	6%	17%	12%	32%	15%
99. Not Answered	39%	40%	37%	50%	42%	55%	37%	35%	39%	37%
Grand Total	440	210	216	14	24	47	126	130	31	82

Where usually drink

S4 pupils were asked, "When you drink alcohol, where are you USUALLY?" They could tick all that apply. The most common places to drink were in a private residence (own home, someone else's home, or party).

Q14. When you drink alcohol, where are you USUALLY?	S4 All Responses	Sex			SIMD2020					
	Grand Total	1. Female	2. Male	3. Prefer not to say	1 (Most Deprived)	2	3	4	5 (Least Deprived)	Unknown
Q14.1. In a pub or bar	4%	2%	5%	7%	4%	0%	5%	4%	3%	4%
Q14.2. In a club or disco	2%	0%	3%	7%	4%	0%	2%	2%	6%	0%
Q14.3. At a party with friends	29%	34%	25%	14%	33%	13%	25%	35%	26%	33%
Q14.4. At my home	34%	36%	31%	43%	38%	26%	37%	35%	29%	34%
Q14.5. At someone else's home	28%	31%	25%	21%	21%	19%	29%	26%	32%	34%
Q14.6. Out on the street, in a park or other outdoor area	12%	11%	13%	14%	8%	6%	12%	12%	10%	17%
Q14.7. Somewhere else	7%	4%	9%	7%	4%	2%	8%	6%	16%	5%
Grand Total	440	210	216	14	24	47	126	130	31	82

Allowed to drink at home

S4 pupils were asked, "Do your parents/carers allow you to drink alcohol at home?" 53% of pupils report that they are allowed to drink alcohol at home sometimes or always.

Q15. Do your parents/carers allow you to drink alcohol at home?	S4 All Responses	Sex			SIMD2020					
	Grand Total	1. Female	2. Male	3. Prefer not to say	1 (Most Deprived)	2	3	4	5 (Least Deprived)	Unknown
1. Yes, always	12%	13%	11%	14%	13%	9%	13%	15%	0%	15%
2. Yes, sometimes	41%	40%	43%	29%	42%	32%	43%	43%	48%	37%
3. No, never	6%	5%	7%	0%	4%	2%	5%	5%	10%	11%
4. Prefer not to say	4%	3%	4%	7%	0%	2%	6%	4%	3%	1%
9. Not Answered	37%	39%	35%	50%	42%	55%	33%	34%	39%	37%
Grand Total	440	210	216	14	24	47	126	130	31	82

Provider of last alcoholic drink

S4 pupils were asked, "The last time someone bought you alcohol, who was it?" Although 38% respondents did not answer this question, 26% say that their 'mother/ father/ carer' bought their last alcoholic drink.

	S4 All Responses	Sex			SIMD2020					
Q16. The last time someone bought you alcohol, who was it?	Grand Total	1. Female	2. Male	3. Prefer not to say	1 (Most Deprived)	2	3	4	5 (Least Deprived)	Unknown
01. No one has ever bought me alcohol	6%	5%	6%	7%	0%	2%	7%	8%	3%	4%
02. My brother or sister	2%	2%	2%	0%	8%	2%	0%	2%	3%	2%
03. A friend of my own age	3%	4%	2%	0%	4%	2%	1%	3%	0%	7%
04. A friend older than me	5%	3%	6%	0%	4%	0%	2%	6%	10%	6%
06. My boyfriend/girlfriend	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	3%	2%
07. My mother, father or carer	26%	27%	25%	36%	21%	26%	29%	27%	19%	26%
08. My father's partner or mother's partner	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
09. Someone I knew of, but didn't know personally	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
10. A stranger	2%	0%	2%	7%	0%	0%	2%	2%	3%	2%
11. Someone else	3%	3%	4%	0%	4%	4%	5%	2%	0%	5%
12. Prefer not to say	14%	15%	14%	0%	17%	6%	18%	16%	19%	7%
99. Not Answered	38%	40%	36%	50%	42%	55%	36%	35%	39%	37%
Grand Total	440	210	216	14	24	47	126	130	31	82

Drugs

Ever taken illegal drugs

S4 pupils were asked, "Have you ever taken illegal drugs, drugs formerly known as legal highs, solvents or prescription drugs that were not prescribed to you?" 83% of respondents have not taken illegal drugs.

	S4 All Responses	Sex			SIMD2020					
Q17. Have you ever taken illegal drugs, drugs formerly known as legal highs, solvents or prescription drugs that were not prescribed to you?	Grand Total	1. Female	2. Male	3. Prefer not to say	1 (Most Deprived)	2	3	4	5 (Least Deprived)	Unknown
1. Yes	9%	6%	13%	7%	8%	4%	8%	12%	3%	13%
2. No	83%	86%	81%	71%	92%	89%	83%	85%	87%	72%
3. Prefer not to say	5%	5%	6%	14%	0%	2%	8%	2%	6%	11%
9. Not Answered	2%	3%	1%	7%	0%	4%	2%	2%	3%	4%
Grand Total	440	210	216	14	24	47	126	130	31	82

Frequency of drug use

S4 pupils were asked, "How often do you use drugs?" 90% did not answer the question; 6% of pupil say they have taken drugs a few times a year or more.

Q18. How often do you use drugs?	Grand Total
1. I have only taken drugs once	1%
2. I used to take drugs sometimes but I don't take them anymore	1%
3. I take drugs a few times a year	2%
4. I take drugs once or twice a month	1%
5. I take drugs at least once a week or more	2%
6. Prefer not to say	2%
9. Not Answered	90%
Grand Total	440

Illegal drugs in the last year

A4 pupils were asked, "Have you taken any drugs in the last year?" 90% of pupils did not answer this question, 9% said they had taken drugs in the last year.

Q19. Have you taken any drugs in the last year?	Grand Total
1. Yes	9%
2. No	0%
3. Prefer not to say	0%
9. Not Answered	90%
Grand Total	440

Types of Drugs

S4 pupils were asked, "Which (if any) of these drugs have you taken in the last year?", and asked to tick all that apply. The table below shows count by drug type and as a % of S4 respondents. The drugs with the most frequent use are cannabis (8%) followed by cocaine (3%).

20. Which (if any) of these drugs have you taken in the last year?	Count	% of 440
Q20.1. Cannabis (Weed, Skunk, Green, Hash, Blow, Joints, Marijuana)	35	8%
Q20.2. Gas, Glue or Other Solvents	9	2%
Q20.3. Amphetamines (Speed, Whizz, Sulph, Paste)	8	2%
Q20.4. Ecstasy (E, Eccies, XTC, Pills)	8	2%
Q20.5. Cyroban (Cy, Cyber, CBan)	5	1%
Q20.6. Benzos (Valium, Vallies, Blues, Whites, Yellows, Xanax)	7	2%
Q20.7. Heroin (Smack, Kit, H, Brown, Skag)	5	1%
Q20.8. Magic Mushrooms (Shrooms)	5	1%
Q20.9. Methadone (Physeptone, Meth)	4	1%
Q20.10. MDMA crystals/crystals (Mandy, Molly, Madman)	7	2%
Q20.11. Cocaine (Coke, Charlie, C, Proper, Council)	13	3%
Q20.12. Anabolic Steroids (Roids)	5	1%
Q20.13. Unknown White Powders (Gear)	6	1%
Q20.14. Ketamine (Ket, K)	7	2%
Q20.15. Synthetic Cannabinoids (SPICE, RedExodus, Mamba)	7	2%
Q20.16. LSD (Acid, Blotters)	8	2%
Q20.17. 2C (2CB, 2CI, 2CE)	5	1%
Q20.18. Diet Pills	6	1%
Q20.19. Tanning Pills	4	1%
Q20.20. Other drugs including prescription drugs not prescribed to you	9	2%



CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES PLAN 2023-26 AND INTEGRATED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2022/23

Report by Director – Social Work and Practice

COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD

8 June 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents the Children & Young People's Services Plan 2023-26 and the Integrated Children & Young People's Plan Annual Progress Report 2022-23 for endorsement before submission to Scottish Government.**
- 1.2 Part 3 of The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires that each Local Authority, Local Health Board and Partners prepare a Children's Services Plan and subsequently prepare and publish a report on how they have delivered on its plan as soon as practicable after the end of each one-year period (April to March).
- 1.3 This requirement is the responsibility of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) who have delegated the task to the Children and Young People's Planning Partnership (CYPPP), previously the Children and Young People's Leadership Group (CYPLG).

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

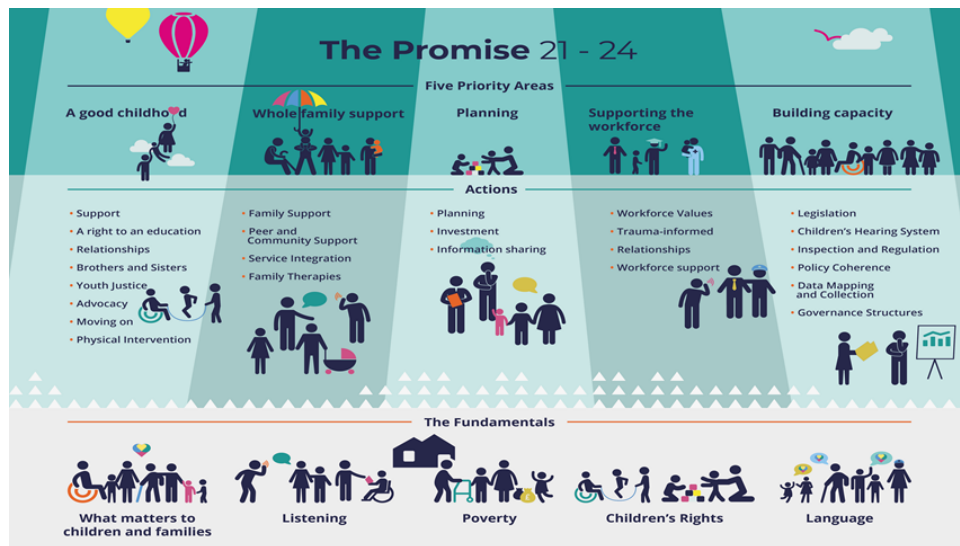
- 2.1 I recommend that the Community Planning Strategic Board endorse the Children & Young People's Services Plan 2023-26 and the Integrated Children & Young People's Plan Annual Progress Report 2022-23 before submission to Scottish Government.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 An integrated approach to service planning by partners is a requirement under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. This is delivered through the Scottish Borders Children & Young People's Services Plan, which is the responsibility of the Community Planning Partnership, delegated to the Children & Young People's Planning Partnership (CYPPP), previously the Children & Young People's Leadership Group (CYPLG).
- 3.2 There is also a duty to prepare and publish an Annual Report. The report should set out progress on:
- Children's services in a one-year period (April to March) provided in accordance with the Integrated Plan
 - What that provision has achieved
 - Aims of Children's Services planning
 - Outcomes focused on the wellbeing of children and young people in the area.
- 3.3 The Children & Young People's Services Plan 2023-26 recognises the need to continue to deliver against key priorities within previous plans whilst also making a fundamental shift to placing 'The Promise' at the heart of future planning. The Plan expresses the commitment of the Children & Young People's Planning Partnership to use its collective resources to create a Strategic Plan to deliver the best possible services they can for children, young people and their families.
- 3.4 The 2022-23 Progress Report of the Integrated Children & Young People's Plan reflects progress made in relation to the delivery of shared partnership priorities as set out in the [2021-2023 plan](#), and is the final progress report of this 2021-23 Plan. The report also sets out progress made on local delivery of work relating to the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund.

4 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES PLAN 2023-26

- 4.1 The Children & Young People's Services Plan 2023-26 for the Scottish Borders is set out in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 The Promise, published in March 2020, reflects what Scotland must do to make sure its most vulnerable children feel loved and have the childhood they deserve, and states that Scotland has an ambition '*to be the best place in the world to grow up*' so that children are '*loved, safe, and respected and realise their full potential*'. The vision of the Scottish Borders Children's Services Plan 2023-26, '*working together we will ensure all children and young people have a sense of belonging, self-worth and self-confidence to achieve their own unique potential*' is continued from the 2021-23, as the CYPPP agree that this is still relevant, and has synergy with The Promise.
- 4.3 The Plan aligns to Scottish Government's [National Performance Framework](#) and is informed by UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) and GIRFEC (Getting it right for every child). The Plan is also based on the five priorities of The Promise, and rests on the foundation of five 'fundamentals' as shown below:



- 4.4 Listening and understanding what matters to children, young people and their families should be a key element of strategic planning and decision making in the Scottish Borders. A variety of valuable formal and informal engagement exercises undertaken with children and young people are listed in appendix 1F, and these have been used to inform this Plan.
- 4.5 The Children & Young People’s Planning Partnership has now replaced the Children & Young People’s Leadership Group and will provide strategic leadership for Children and Young People’s Services across the Partnership and will also act as the Strategic Corporate Parenting Steering Group. The Partnership reports directly to the Community Planning Partnership and is a multi-agency group of senior managers and executives, with responsibility for leading the strategic direction of The Promise.
- 4.6 The strategic priorities of the Plan were agreed by multi-agency partners, building on the previous plan and provide a strong foundation for developing the best support for children, young people and families. They align to the priorities of The Promise and are set out in detail in appendices 1A to 1D.



- 4.7 A key task of the CYPPP is to monitor, evaluate and report on the delivery of the plan. Various mechanisms will be used to achieve this, including outcome focused reporting, self-evaluation and external verification. In addition, the Partnership will receive reports and updates from the priority networks of The Promise, who will lead on the development of a work plan directly informed by the priorities of the Plan. These action plans will incorporate performance measures and set measurable targets for new activities, to monitor their implementation, and keep plans under regular review.

5 INTEGRATED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2022/23

- 5.1 The Integrated Children & Young People's Plan Annual Progress Report 2022-23 is set out in Appendix 2.

- 5.2 The Children & Young People's Leadership Group (CYPLG) have worked together in 2022/23 with shared priorities to deliver meaningful and sustainable improvements to the lives of all our children and young people. Progress is reported on the following agreed priorities:

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

5.3 **Priority 1 – keeping children and young people safe**

During 2022/23, a joint psychological trauma steering group was established which will help to destigmatise trauma and advocate that all people in contact with our services receive a compassionate human response. Informed by people with lived experience, the group will provide a co-ordinated approach to trauma training across our workforce to ensure robust governance and consistency is in place.

5.4 **Priority 2 – improving health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities**

A Project Board has continued to oversee the delivery of the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework. Kooth and Togetherall are digital platforms covering the 10-18 year old age group & 16+ age group. Children and young people use the services throughout the year, with an average of 50% accessing this online support out with working hours. The main areas where support is offered are; anxiety, depression or low mood, suicidal thoughts, and self-harm. Current registrations for Kooth and Togetherall are circa.4500 and 850.

5.5 **Priority 3 – targeting support to maximise life experiences and opportunities and ensuring inclusion**

A range of developments to support implementation of The Promise were undertaken, including the Brothers and Sisters project. The project worked with 12 families throughout the year to identify solutions for families to support brother and sister relationships. The Wheatlands Children's House received a grade 6 (excellent) from the Care Inspectorate following their unannounced visit in May 2022.

Work around transitions has continued, with a refresh of the 14+ framework to reflect national developments in transitions for additional support needs (ASN) young people. Partnership working is particularly strong in this area, with SBC, Borders College and SDS (Skills Development Scotland) working closely to achieve good outcomes for our young people.

5.6 Priority 4 – Increasing participation and engagement

The Champions Board approach has continued to develop over the year with care experienced children and young people. The board have worked with schools and colleges to set up support hubs for students and staff. Scottish Borders pupils have participated in the Scottish Schools Health and Wellbeing Improvement Research Network (SHINE) between October 2022 and January 2023, and a Health and Wellbeing Census in March 2022. The outcomes of this research will be used by the Mental Health and Wellbeing Project Board to support improvements in young people's wellbeing.

5.7 Whole Family Wellbeing Funding

Appendix 2A reports progress on Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF). This is a specific Scottish Government template and enables the integration of progress reporting on all aspects of the WFWF to take place within the statutory annual Children's Services Plans reporting cycle. Activities undertaken to date include the setting up of the new governance structure (CYPPP) and a Whole Family Support Network which will have oversight of the WFWF.

6 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial

Significant funding which contributes directly and indirectly to the delivery of Children and Young People's Services within the Scottish Borders is set out in Appendix 1.

6.2 Risk and Mitigations

- a) Risks associated with this report relate to the non-delivery of actions set out within the priorities of the Children & Young People's Services Plan 2023-26, and the potential impact this may have on children, young people and families.
- b) Appendix 2 outlines the progress made against priorities in the 2022-23 Annual Progress Report, which demonstrate a commitment to the delivery of actions to support children, young people and families.
- c) The establishment of a new governance structure (CYPPP) will help to mitigate any risks through the implementation of a robust reporting regime.

6.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

An integrated impact assessment has been carried out in relation to this report and is attached as Appendices 3 and 4. The Plan and Report are fully inclusive of all, therefore there are no specific implications.

6.4 Sustainable Development Goals

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

- a) **Goal 1 - End poverty in all its forms** – Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and Partners have prepared a Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan for 2023/24 and an Anti-Poverty Strategy is in place. Progress against poverty is reported in these, demonstrating a commitment to end poverty in all its forms.
- b) **Goal 2 - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture** – local action is taken in various forms through the multi-agency approach to service delivery in this plan. Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and Partners have prepared a Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan for 2023/24 which outlines actions in relation to food security.
- c) **Goal 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages** – local action is taken in various forms through the multi-agency approach to working with partners outlined in this plan. The Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework incorporates work in relation to emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people. It is supported by on-going and enhanced commissioning of a number of services, including Quarriers Resilience for Wellbeing Service, Action for Children Young Carers and support for children and young people impacted by parental substance use, and Children 1st Abuse and Trauma Recovery Service.
- d) **Goal 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all** – vulnerable children and young people are offered support and given opportunities in this plan. The Promise is at the forefront of service design and delivery for improved outcomes for all children and young people and their families.

Supporting effective transitions including but not limited to: in the early years, in primary to secondary, secondary to post-school, for any child or young person with an additional support need, for care experienced children and young people, for young people moving from child to adult health services are all referenced within the Plan.

Young people are represented at Scottish Borders Council Education Sub Committee and have their voices heard on issues.

- e) **Goal 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls** – our engagement with children, young people and families is inclusive of all, ensuring that everyone has a voice. Our 'Article 12 at the heart' work is designed to ensure children and young people with quieter voices are at the heart of decision making in the Scottish Borders.
- f) **Goal 10 – Reduce inequalities** – This Plan continues to work towards closing the gap between our most deprived and least deprived families and communities and targets resources to support our most vulnerable children and young people. The Partnership will plan and deliver services in ways which promote equity and where possible challenge the root causes of poverty and deprivation. Actions and activities associated with this Plan will seek to maximise family

income and their available resources and deliver services in a way which is free from stigma or discrimination.

- g) **Goal 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe resilient and sustainable** - Partnership opportunities such as meetings with local green organisations, local MP discussion, and food growing initiatives all contribute to this goal.

6.5 Climate Change

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

6.6 Rural Proofing

There are no rural proofing implications contained within this report.

6.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

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

6.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

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

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Director (Finance & Corporate Governance), the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Stuart Easingwood
Director Social Work and Practice

Signed

Author(s)

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

Background Papers: n/a

Previous Minute Reference: Community Planning Strategic Board 10.06.21

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

Contact us at Janice Robertson, Council HQ, Newtown St.Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA, 01835 824000, jrobertson@scotborders.gov.uk

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Scottish Borders Children & Young People's Services Plan 2023-26



Table of Contents

Foreword.....	2
Introduction	3
Our Children and Young People’s Services Plan on a Page	4
Our Children and Young People	5
National Context	6
Local Context	11
Engagement with Children and Young People	12
Our Children & Young People’s Planning Partnership.....	13
Key Plans and Strategies.....	15
Covid-19 Recovery	16
Priorities of the Children & Young People’s Services Plan 2023-26.....	17
Resources.....	22
Monitoring, evaluating and reporting.....	23
Appendix 1A - A good childhood.....	24
Appendix 1B - Whole family support.....	28
Appendix 1C - Planning and Building Capacity	31
Appendix 1D - Supporting the Workforce	34
Appendix 1E - Understanding our demographics and data	36
Appendix 1F - Engagement	43
Appendix 1G - Glossary.....	44

Foreword

Scotland has an ambition ‘to be the best place in the world to grow up’ so that children are ‘loved, safe, and respected and realise their full potential.’ The Promise, published in March 2020, reflects what Scotland must do to “make sure its most vulnerable children feel loved and have the childhood they deserve”.

The Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (CPP) play their part in keeping The Promise in the Scottish Borders through the work of the newly established Children and Young People’s Planning Partnership. This new multi-agency strategic board for children’s services planning replaces the Children and Young People’s Leadership Group and incorporates strategic governance of corporate parenting. It will focus on an accountable and streamlined approach to children’s services design, development, and commissioning.

The cost-of-living crisis, along with unacceptable levels of child poverty present major issues for some of our children, young people, and their families. We are proud of the way we work in partnership in the Scottish Borders to achieve a holistic and joined up approach to tackling such issues and we will ensure that this new Plan takes account of work that is planned to support children, young people, and their families.

The Community Planning Partnership is pleased to approve this plan which sets out a clear vision and refreshed priorities for the future, highlighting our full commitment to working together in partnership to pursue our goal of making a difference to the lives of children, young people, and their families.

Councillor Caroline Cochrane – Chair of Community Planning Partnership

Stuart Easingwood – Chair of Children & Young People’s Planning Partnership

Councillor Carol Hamilton – Executive Member for Developing our Children & Young People

David Robertson – Chief Executive, Scottish Borders Council

Ralph Roberts – Chief Executive, NHS Borders

Sarah Horan – Strategic Lead, NHS Borders

Introduction

Over the last year Scottish Borders children's services partner agencies have been working together to develop thinking around our children and young people's service planning, vision, outcomes, and priorities for the three years ahead (2023-2026).

An integrated approach to service planning by partners is a requirement under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. "*The Act seeks to improve outcomes for all children and young people in Scotland by ensuring that local planning and delivery of services is integrated, focused on securing quality and value through preventative approaches, and dedicated to safeguarding, supporting and promoting child wellbeing*¹."

All partners have made a considerable commitment to participate in the development of this new three-year plan, as well as to a new governance model to ensure strategic oversight and operational delivery of the plan.

We are publishing a plan which recognises the need to continue to deliver against key priorities within previous plans whilst also making a fundamental shift to placing 'The Promise' at the heart of future plans. As such, Year one will focus on strengthening the foundations to deliver 'The Promise' in the Scottish Borders.

Our approach continues to be rooted in the national 'Getting it right for every child' (GIRFEC) wellbeing framework and includes a number of priorities which we believe will make a significant contribution to achieving the wellbeing outcomes set out.

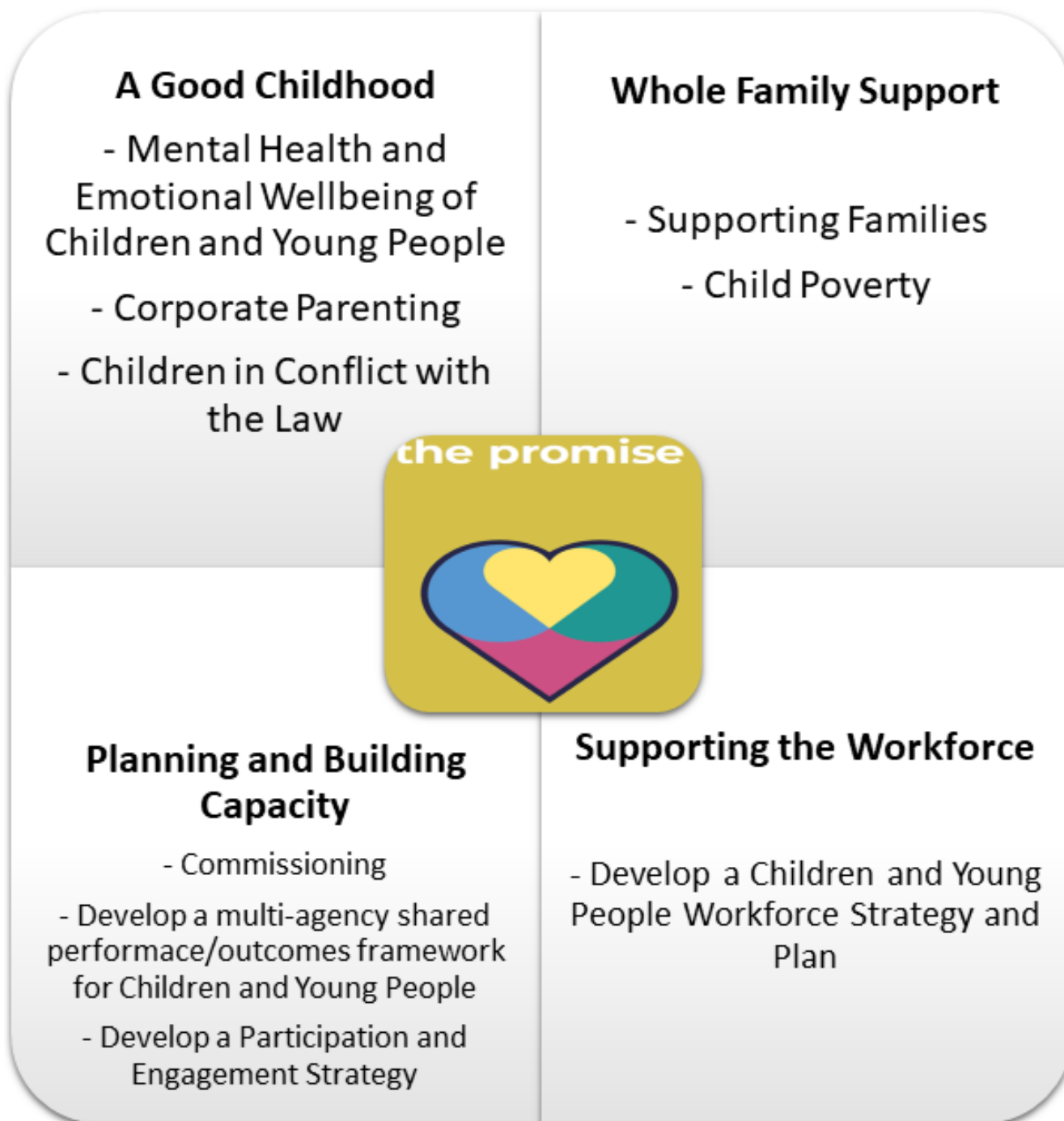
The Children and Young People's Planning Partnership (CYPPP) are committed to using their collective resources to create a Strategic Plan to deliver the best possible services they can, for children and young people, working with the following vision:

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

We want all children, young people, carers, and families in the Scottish Borders to know that their needs and concerns are at the heart of what we do, and we will ensure that this is the case for the life of this plan and beyond by continuing to communicate with them around the contents of the plan.

We recognise there is much to do to ensure we include and involve children and young people in decisions about their lives and protect their rights, and we are committed to deliver actions to address this in this Plan.

¹ Scottish Government (2020). Children's Services Planning: Guidance.



Our Children and Young People

All Children and Young People	
28,800 people aged 0-24 (2021)	Under 25s make up a quarter of the Scottish Borders population
A quarter live in Galashiels or Hawick, half live in smaller towns and large villages and a quarter live in small villages or in the countryside	Population by age band: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-4s - 4,988 • 5-9s- 6,190 • 10-14s - 6,323 • 15-19s - 5,900 • 20-24s - 5,399
There were 852 live births in 2021	846 White non-UK pupils (6% of roll) and 429 BAME pupils (3% of roll)
Children's Health and Wellbeing	
13% of mothers-to-be smoked during pregnancy (up to 2021/22)	15% of mothers smoked when their baby was 6-8 weeks old (up to 2021/22)
49.6% of babies exclusively breastfed at the first visit (2022)	40% of babies exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks (up to 2021/22)
97% of babies received their "6-in-1" immunisation by 24 months (up to 2021)	11% of toddlers had a developmental concern at their 27–30-month assessment (up to 2021)
70% of Primary 1 children were within a healthy weight range (2020/21)	87% of S3 girls took up the HPV vaccine (up to 2020)
Vulnerable Children	
1,115 pupils lived in SIMD Quintile 1 (8% of roll)	There was a 38% deprivation attainment gap in literacy and a 34% gap in numeracy between Primary pupils in SIMD Quintile 1 and SIMD Quintile 5 (2021/22)
14% of all school pupils received Free School Meals in 2022	109 children referred to Children's Reporter in 2021/22
198 children were Looked After as at June 2022	346 children were in families that were homeless or threatened with homelessness in 2021/22
39 children were on the Child Protection Register as of June 2022	
Education and Economic Activity	
2022 School roll = 14,309 (Primary - 7,758, Secondary - 6,551)	79 languages were listed as a main language across all schools
There was a 5% attendance gap between Primary pupils in SIMD Quintile 1 and SIMD Quintile 5 (2021/22)	There was a 7.7% attendance gap between Secondary pupils in SIMD Quintile 1 and SIMD Quintile 5 (2021/22)
93% of 16–19-year-olds participated in Education, Employment or Training (2022)	Employment rate for 16–24-year-olds was 53.9% (2022)

National Context

National Performance Framework

Achieving our priorities, and the actions contained within them, will contribute to The Scottish Government's [National Performance Framework](#)'s **vision for children and young people:**

“We do all we can to ensure our children grow up in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding. We enhance their life chances through our early years provision and by supporting families when they need it. We ensure childhood is free from abuse, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, poverty, and hunger. Our children are not left worried or isolated. We include and involve children in decisions about their lives and world, and protect their rights, dignity, and wellbeing.

Our communities are safe places where children are valued, nurtured, and treated with kindness. We provide stimulating activities and encourage children to engage positively with the built and natural environment and to play their part in its care. We provide the conditions in which all children can be healthy and active. Our schools are loving, respectful and encouraging places where everyone can learn, play, and flourish. We provide children and young people with hope for the future and create opportunities for them to fulfil their dreams.”

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

In spring 2021 the Scottish Parliament unanimously supported the UNCRC Incorporation (Scotland) Bill – which places a duty on public bodies to respect and protect children's rights in all the work that they do. The Bill also says that public authorities must not act in a way that is incompatible with the UNCRC requirements. The Scottish Government remains absolutely committed to incorporating the UNCRC into Scots law, as far as that is possible within devolved competence, and to doing so as soon as practicable.

This Plan is informed by the universal rights afforded to all children and young people. The Plan will identify priority actions where we can focus our partnership work and resources on those who need additional, enhanced, or targeted supports and interventions, whilst at the same time, recognising our responsibility to ensure that all children and young people are supported through universal provisions in education, health and the third sector.

There are four articles in the Convention that are seen as special. They are known as the “General Principles,” and they help to interpret all the other articles and play a fundamental role in realising all the rights in the Convention for all children and young people. They are:

1. Non-discrimination (article 2)
2. Best interest of the child (article 3)
3. Right to life survival and development (article 6)
4. Right to be heard (article 12)

The Plan priorities will be developed and delivered in a way which recognises these General Principles and the Convention more broadly.



GIRFEC

Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) is Scottish Government's commitment to provide all children, young people, and their families with the right support at the right time. This is so that every child and young person in Scotland can reach their full potential.

Through GIRFEC, everyone in Scotland can work together to build the scaffold of support children and young people need to grow up loved, safe and respected. Some children and young people may need additional help to develop their wellbeing. Where possible, children's needs are met by universal or universal plus service provision such as health professionals and education staff who have a role to nurture wellbeing. A small but significant number of children and young people need targeted support, and an even smaller number may require access to Specialist and intensive services to meet their needs.

The key professional's role is critical within this. There is a single pathway that supports agencies and organisations to work together to assess, plan and assist children, young people and their families and ensure the most timely and proportionate support is available.

GIRFEC provides Scotland with a consistent framework and shared language to promote, support and safeguard the wellbeing of children and young people. It is locally embedded by partners across Children's Services Planning Partnerships, with a focus on changing culture, systems, and practice for the benefit of babies, infants, children, young people, and their families.

The Promise

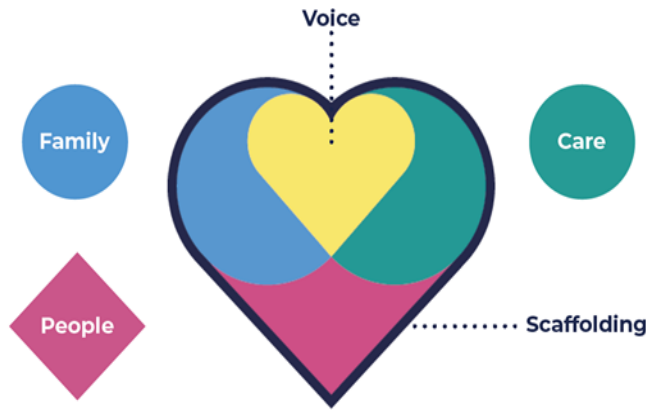
In October 2016, after meeting with, and listening to children and young people in care, Scotland's First Minister announced, "an independent, root and branch review of the care system" to look at "the underpinning legislation, practices, culture and ethos" of that system.

The Independent Care Review began its work in February 2017, and heard from over 5,500 care experienced infants, children, young people, and adults about their experiences of the 'care system' in Scotland. It listened to their views about what needed to change, concluding its research in February 2020. Seven reports were produced which address the Independent Care Review's findings, financial implications and a 10-year plan going forward. The overall finding was that the care system was broken and required a radical change to make sure our care experienced children and young people enjoy the same opportunities and rights as every other child.

One of the reports the review produced is called 'The Promise' which sets out an overall view of what the new approach should be around 5 foundation principles they identified which are highlighted below. As a local authority and Community Planning Partnership we have been asked to sign up to the 'Promise' and the associated findings.

The review identified five foundations for change, with over 80 specific changes that must be made to transform how Scotland cares for children and families as well as the unpaid and paid workforce by 2030. These foundations must be at the heart of any re-organisation of how Scottish Borders thinks, plans and prioritises for children, young people, and their families.





The five foundations are:

Voice: When children speak, adults must really listen to them. Adults must make sure that children are included in decisions about their lives.

Family: If children are living with their family and are safe and feel loved, they should stay there. Their family should be given all the help they need to stay together. If they need extra help when things get difficult, they should get it.

Care: If children cannot stay with the adults in their family, they will stay with their brothers and sisters. The home they live in together will be a place where they feel safe and loved. It should be their home for as long as they want and need it to be.

People: Relationships are important. Adults must make sure children are able to stay close to the people they want to and keep in contact with them. Adults must also help children make new relationships as they grow up. Sometimes adults need some help too. The adults who are close to children must get the help they need to make sure they can do their best for children.

Scaffolding: Help and support must be there for children and families whenever they need it. It must also be there for the adults who are close to children and families. It is important everyone knows where to go for help and that it is ready when it is asked for.

The Promise Plan 2021-2024

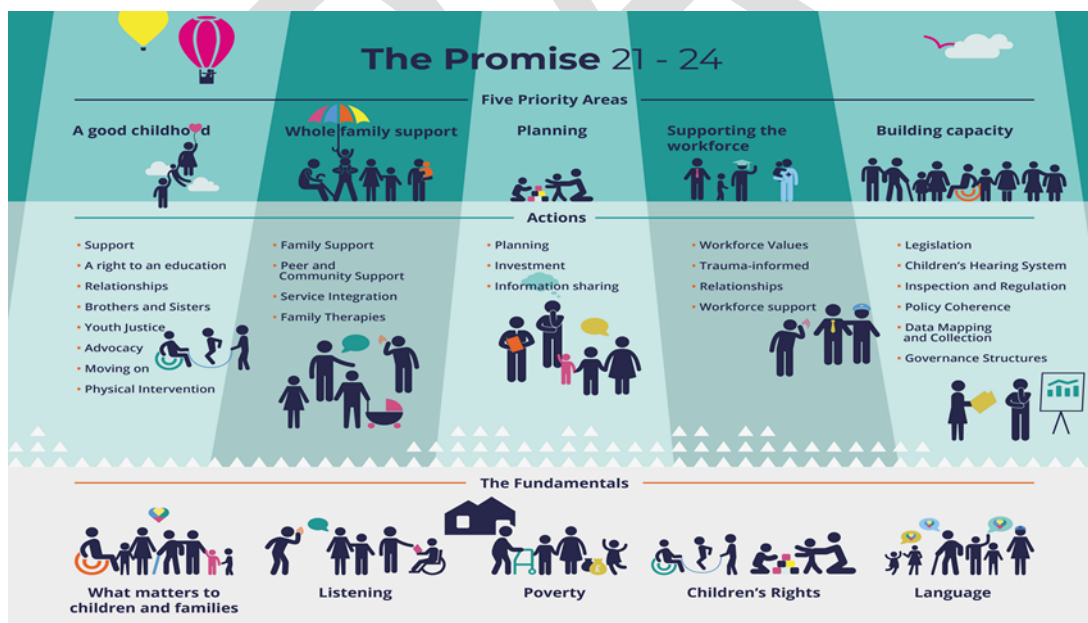


By 2030, the Care Review's vision will be fully realised through a new way of working together resulting in a new 'Business as Usual'



Work to #KeepThePromise between 2021 and 2030 is being shaped by a series of three Plans, each lasting for three years and outlining the priorities and action across that period. Each Plan will build on the progress made by the one before it to make sure transformational change happens across all the Care Review's conclusions.

Taken from The Plan, the diagram below highlights the time plan until 2030, and highlights we are sitting in Years 2-4 phase. By 2030 we aim for the Care Review's vision to be fully realised - that (as Scotland) we will have developed a new "business as usual" which ensures positive outcomes for all Scotland's children, young people, and families.



The Promise Plan 2021 – 2024 outlines Scotland's route map, providing key priorities and areas of focus under which organisations will work to achieve the required change over the next three years. This Plan is based on five priorities and rests on the foundation of five 'Fundamentals.'



The Fundamental principles of **‘What matters to children and families’**, **‘Listening’**, **‘Poverty’**, **‘Children’s Rights’** and **‘Language’** should be woven into the fabric of how all our organisations in the Scottish Borders work with children, young people and families.

The five priorities are: **‘A Good Childhood’**, **‘Whole Family Support’**, **‘Planning’**, **‘Supporting the Workforce’** and **‘Building Capacity’**. The Plan gives further clarity for each priority in terms of the areas that we need to look at.

In the Scottish Borders, we will work collectively to deliver the Promise, improving the experiences and outcomes of those who experience care, those who may be described as on the ‘edge of care,’ and those who have a requirement for additional services to support them to live safely at home.

We see the Promise as our umbrella policy driver for *all* our work with children, young people and families. This commitment is reflected in the Plan priorities and through the structure of our new strategic Children and Young People’s Planning Partnership and its networks.

Child Poverty

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets out the Scottish Government’s statement of intent to eradicate child poverty in Scotland by 2030. The national delivery plan 2022 to 2026, [Best Start, Bright Futures](#) sets out how we will work together to deliver on Scotland’s national mission to tackle child poverty.

National Trauma Training Programme/Knowledge and Skills Framework

The Scottish Government has pledged to develop *‘A trauma informed and responsive nation and workforce, that is capable of recognising where people are affected by trauma and adversity, that is able to respond in ways that prevent further harm and support recovery, and can address inequalities and improve life chances’*

The National Trauma Training Programme (NTTP) is part of the Scottish Government’s work to support prevention of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and trauma across the life-course; and to develop trauma-informed responses for children, young people and adults affected by adversity and trauma.

To support the NTTP, NHS Education Scotland (NES) developed a Knowledge and Skills Framework which details the different competencies needed by workers across four practice levels. These levels include:

- (1) trauma informed, which includes all members of the workforce
- (2) trauma skilled, which includes all workers who are likely to come into contact with people who are affected by trauma
- (3) trauma enhanced, which includes all workers with a remit to respond to people who are affected by trauma
- (4) trauma specialist, which includes workers with a remit to provide evidence-based interventions and treatment to those affected with trauma.

The Training Plan is a practical tool designed to be used in conjunction with the Knowledge and Skills Framework to support organisations to develop trauma informed practice.



In the Scottish Borders, a multi-agency steering group involving individuals with lived experience of trauma has been established to help drive forward this agenda and promote trauma informed practice within local services for all children, young people, adults, and older adults with lived experience of trauma.

Local Context

There are a number of local plans, strategies and reports which all contribute to delivering our priorities for Children and Young People's Services across the Scottish Borders.

[The Scottish Borders Council Plan](#)

The [Council Plan](#) from April 2023 sets out a strategic framework for Council decision-making and operations. Their strategic context and vision align well with the priorities set out in this plan.

[Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report](#)

Local Authorities and Health Boards are required to jointly prepare a [Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report](#) and an Annual Progress Report. Tackling child poverty in the Scottish Borders remains a priority of this plan.

[Anti-Poverty Strategy](#)

The Scottish Borders [Anti-Poverty Strategy](#) sets out the way in which the Council and its partners will aim to work together to help reduce poverty across the region and recognises that Child Poverty is included in this aim.

[Children's Rights](#)

Our [Children's Rights Report 2021-2023](#) reports on the steps we have taken to fulfil the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

[Community Planning Partnership Priority Themes](#)

The Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership work with four priority themes to support communities. These are:

- Enough money to live on
- Access to work, learning and training
- Enjoying good health and wellbeing
- A good place to grow up, live in and enjoy a full life

These themes align with aspects of our Children and Young People's Services Plan.

[Equity Strategy](#)

Our [Education Equity Strategy 2021-2026](#) has been developed to ensure increased excellence, accelerated progress and embedded equity in our schools and settings to reduce the poverty related attainment gap and improve outcomes for care experienced children and young people (The strategy coordinates the Attainment Scotland Funding streams; Pupil Equity Funding, Strategic Equity Funding and CECYP Funding to ensure maximum impact.

[Education Improvement Plan](#)

Our [Education Improvement Plan 2022-2023](#) sets out key strategic improvement priorities for our schools and settings. The National Improvement Framework 2022 (NIF) requires each local authority to prepare and publish annual plans and reports describing the steps

they intend to take each academic year to reach each of the five strategic priorities below:

- Placing the human rights and needs of every child and young person at the centre of education
- Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children
- Improvement in children's health and wellbeing
- Improvement in employability skills and sustained positive school leave destinations for young people

Engagement with Children and Young People

Listening and understanding what matters to children and young people needs to be at the heart of all our strategic decision making in the Scottish Borders. Appendix F details a range of different formal engagement exercises which were undertaken with children and young people between 2020 and 2022.

Scottish Borders Youth Voice work continues to be led by the Community Learning and Development team. Over the last eighteen months we have been working to embed a Champions Board approach in the Scottish Borders for care experienced children and young people. The Champions Board is designed to provide a forum that is flexible, accessible and has young people at the forefront of any decision making. It gives a space for care experienced young people to come together and voice their views on issues they may have encountered whilst being a Looked After young person, and also develop stronger relationships with corporate parents. The approach is still early in its development, and work is currently being undertaken to develop Champions Board Hubs in two schools in the Scottish Borders and Borders College.

'Article 12 at the Heart' workshops are being developed for children and young people who have quieter voices, e.g., children and young people not attending school, children and young people with additional support needs, unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people and other children and young people with protected characteristics. It is hoped that some of the young people involved with this project will become involved in the new CYPSP Strategic Board and networks as co-chairs; however, this will be discussed with the young people once the project is established.

A new Youth Autism Advisory Group is due to be launched in Spring/Summer 2023 for autistic young people aged 16 – 24 to support the engagement and inclusion of Autistic Youth Voices in local Autism Strategy work.

In order to ensure we have a consistent and streamlined approach to participation and engagement activities across multi-agency children and young people's services, a Youth Participation and Engagement Strategy which is co-produced with children and young people needs to be developed. This is one of the actions under 'Planning and Building Capacity' within this 2023 – 2026 plan.

Our Children & Young People's Planning Partnership

In order to fully and effectively implement The Promise in the Scottish Borders, we recognise the need for a clear, strategic governance structure.

The previous arrangements under the Children and Young People's Leadership Group did not facilitate nor enable strategic leadership, monitoring and development of corporate parenting and The Promise. Strategic planning needed to be more joined up to prevent duplication of networks and ensure a more accountable and streamlined approach to children and young people's services design, development, and commissioning.

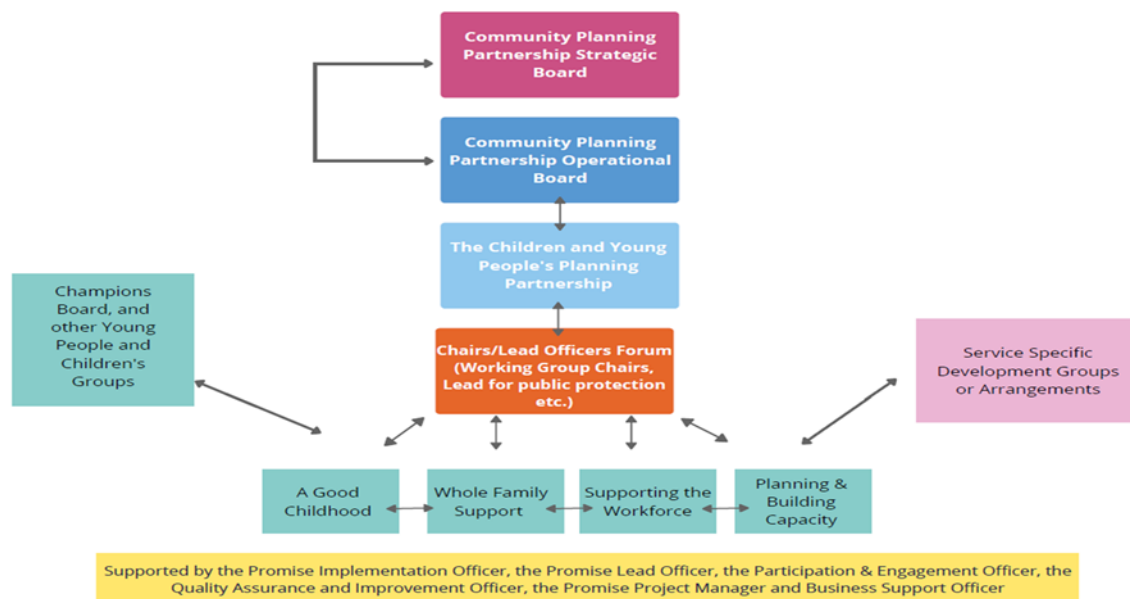
The Children & Young People's Planning Partnership has now replaced the Children & Young People's Leadership Group and will provide strategic leadership for Children and Young People's Services across the Partnership and will also act as the Strategic Corporate Parenting Steering Group. The Partnership reports directly to the Community Planning Partnership and is a multi-agency group of senior managers and executives, with responsibility for leading the strategic direction of The Promise.

The Partnership will receive reports and updates from the priority networks of The Promise. These networks align to the five priority areas set out in the Plan 2021-2024:

- **A Good Childhood** – Support, A Right to an Education, Relationships, Brothers and Sisters, Youth Justice, Advocacy, Moving on, and Physical Intervention.
- **Whole family support** – Family Support, Peer and Community Support, Service Integration, and Family Therapies
- **Planning and Building Capacity** – Planning, Investment, and Information Sharing, Legislation, Children's Hearing System, Inspection and Regulation, Policy Coherence, Data Mapping and Collection, and Governance Structures
- **Supporting the Workforce** – Workforce Values, Trauma Informed, and Relationships, Workforce Support

In 2023-24, each network chair will lead on the development of a work plan directly informed by the priorities of the Children & Young People's Services Plan 2023-26. These action plans will incorporate performance measures and set measurable targets for new activities, to monitor their implementation, and keep plans under regular review.

Children & Young People's Planning Partnership Structure Chart



Children & Young People's Planning Partnership Core Membership

Strategic Lead for The Promise (Chair – no vote)
 2 -3 Child/Young person representatives
 Scottish Borders Council Elected Member
 NHS Borders Board Member
 Director of Education
 Youth Borders Chief Officer
 NHS Borders Strategic Lead
 Locality Reporter Manager SCRA (Scottish Children's Reporter Administration)
 Local Area Commander Police Scotland

In Attendance

Chair of the Corporate Parenting Operational Group & Operational Lead for The Promise
 The Promise Lead Officer
 The Promise Implementation Officer
 The Promise Project Worker
 Child & Adult Protection Lead Officer
 Chair of the 'A Good Childhood' Working Group
 Chair of the 'Whole Family Support' Working Group
 Chair of the 'Supporting the Workforce' Working Group
 Chair of the 'Planning and Building Capacity' Working Group

Key Plans and Strategies

As well as the delegated responsibility for the production and delivery of the Children and Young People’s Services Plan, the Children & Young People’s Planning Partnership are responsible for a range of other Plans and Strategies and make a contribution to many others across their partner organisations. Key Plans and strategies are shown in the table below.

Key Plans, Strategies and Legislation		
Children and Young People’s (Scotland) Act 2014	GIRFEC Approach	Corporate Parenting Strategy
Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017	National Performance Framework	NHS Clinical Strategy
UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill	The Promise	Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Strategy 2020-2023
	Public Health Priorities for Scotland	Scottish Borders Director of Public Health Report (2018)
	No-one left Behind	Regional Economic Strategy
	Best Start, Bright Futures	CLD Strategic Plan
	Young Person’s Guarantee	Local Child Poverty Report and action plan
		Anti-Poverty Strategy
		Education Equity Strategy 2021-2026
		Education Improvement Plan 2022-2023

Key: Green (National Legislation), Blue (National Strategy), Pink (Local Plans)

Covid-19 Recovery

COVID-19 has been the catalyst to fundamental changes to how we engage with children, families, and partner agencies e.g., the “virtualisation” of work through the increased use of digital technology.

The necessity of operating differently has given us the opportunity to understand what we can do, and what we may want to continue doing whilst exploring changes to demand and opportunities for collaboration. As we move forward, a balance between utilising technology and face-to-face approaches is required to best meet the needs of children, young people, and families and to ensure we maintain a focus on relationship-based engagement, where we provide emotionally intelligent, empathic, and compassionate support.

COVID-19 has had a significant emotional impact on children, young people, and their families, and on staff across services. The lack of socialisation has impacted greatly on children and young people and services are experiencing more and more distressed and traumatised children and young people within an increasingly pressurised environment; this pressure is now being added to by the cost-of-living crisis and further funding pressures being experienced across services.

Public Health Scotland reported in 2022 that almost half of parents felt that COVID-19 had a negative impact on their child’s physical activity levels and three quarters felt they had more screen time. These findings are echoed in a [report](#)² raising concern about the impact of sedentary lifestyles on the already high rates of childhood obesity in Scotland. While some child health activities (e.g., Health Visitors) were protected during the pandemic, there was a reduction in access to more routine services such as oral health, allied health professionals and primary school health checks. While there is concern about the longer-term impact on children and young people’s health and wellbeing from the changes to lifestyle or ability to access services it is not possible to evidence any changes at this time.

Trauma-responsive approaches are essential, and this extends to the physical and emotional environment in which we conduct our business, and we are committed to ensure trauma-informed practice is at the heart of delivering our plan. We recognise there are many continued impacts as a result of COVID-19 which will be experienced for many years, and our priorities reflect the need to ensure we engage with children, young people, and families to recognise and respond to these impacts.

² [Pandemic has worsened global childhood physical inactivity crisis – and Scotland is no exception | About | University of Stirling](#)

Priorities of the Children & Young People’s Services Plan 2023-26

In developing our plan, we have used a range of sources, including the recent Primary and Secondary Health and Wellbeing Census, the S4 Substance Use Report, a Parental Involvement and Engagement Census, SHINE Mental Health Survey, Child Poverty Dashboard, Local Government Benchmarking Framework, and national data reports. We will continue to use these sources to help us develop our Performance Outcomes Framework which is identified as an action in our priorities.

Additionally, we have made use of information from a number of forums, including the Mental Health and Wellbeing Board, Champions Board, Autism Strategy Group, Community Justice Partnership, Alcohol and Drug Partnership, Corporate Parenting Operational Group and Public Protection Committee. These forums have helped us to refine our thinking and support our approach of aligning our priorities to national strategies and frameworks.

Multi-agency partners collaborated in a number of workshops in late 2022 and early 2023, where our areas of priority were agreed. These priorities build on the priorities of the 2021-23 Children & Young People’s Plan and take account of Scottish Government Feedback. As result, we believe the plan will provide a strong foundation for developing the best support for children, young people, and families in the Scottish Borders.

Our priorities are summarised below and are set out in more detail in Appendices 1A to 1D. They are organised to align to the priorities of The Promise.







Supporting Families

- *Help all families and carers give their children the best start in life in a nurturing, safe and stable environment by focusing on activities which support prevention and early intervention, improve outcomes and reduce inequalities*
- *To support children and young people to remain in positive care environments and support families to ensure children and young people achieve their fullest potential.*

Child Poverty

- *Reduce the number of children in poverty and reduce the impact of living in poverty on families. Ensure that children and their families are given the opportunity to contribute to shaping local policy and actions to reduce the social and economic impact of poverty.*



Commissioning

- Ensuring that we have the right services by developing a commissioning strategy which takes into account the needs of children, young people, carers and families who require additional support and the right to access advocacy

Develop a multi-agency shared performance and outcomes framework for Children and Young People

- Ensuring a shared understanding of critical indicators to gauge the extent to which we are collectively making progress on the wellbeing outcomes for children, young people and families by developing a performance and outcomes framework

Develop a Participation and Engagement Strategy

- ‘Voice’ is at the heart of the Promise, the Plan 21-24 and also the UNCRC. In Scottish Borders we will listen to children, young people and families and ensure that what matters to them is at the heart of everything we do.
- We will aim to ensure their views are central to strategic decision making processes, as well as service design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation.



Develop a
Children and
Young People
Workforce
Strategy

- *Ensuring we have the right skills and experience within our workforce to ensure children, young people, carers and families have the best possible experience across all services by developing a children's services workforce strategy that is underpinned by trauma informed practice.*

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Resources

Budgets and specific funding for 2023/24 which contribute to the delivery of Children and Young People's Services within the Scottish Borders are shown in the table below.

Scottish Borders Council Budgets 2023/24 plus known additional funding	2023/24 Budget £000s
Pupil Equity Funding	1,919
Whole Family Wellbeing Fund	669
Strategic Equity Fund	448
Education	116,824
Community Learning and Development	1,036
Mental Health Wellbeing Framework Supports & Services	335
Child Protection	224
Children & Families Social Work	18,319
Free School Meals (including holidays)	3,241
School Clothing Grant	391
Counselling in Schools	328
Specific Commissioned Services for Children and Young People	547
Access to sanitary products - schools	44
Access to sanitary products - public bodies	50
Care Experienced Children & Young People Funding	149
Total	144,524

NHS Borders Budgets 2023/24 plus known additional funding	2023/24 Budget £000s
Health visitors (not restricted to children)	2,311
School Nursing	768
School Immunisation	236
Child and Adolescent Mental Health (not including medical staff)	770
Paediatric Services (both acute and community services)	4,827
Total	8,912

Other NHS services, of which an unknown proportion is associated with children	
Women's Services	6,151
Allied Health Professions (AHP)	8,166
Primary Care Services e.g., GPs, pharmacy, private dentistry, optometry)	31,487
Public Dental Services	4,360
Total	50,164

The Nuffield Trust estimate health spend of around £900-£1k per year per person for under 18s: <https://amp.theguardian.com/society/2016/feb/01/ageing-britain-two-fifths-nhs-budget-spent-over-65s>. In our local context this would equate to an estimate of around £16-18m of spend.

Monitoring, evaluating and reporting

Various mechanisms are currently used to monitor, evaluate and report as outlined below:

Outcome focused reporting

Many of the actions within our priorities require reporting mechanisms for a specific purpose and these are also used to update the Planning Partnership. For example, a requirement of the Child Poverty Act (Scotland) 2017 is the production of an Annual Report to Scottish Government. This will also be considered by the Planning Partnership as evidence that the work is being undertaken by partners to achieve desired outcomes.

Self-evaluation

The Planning Partnership carries out an ongoing process of gathering evidence of the effectiveness of each action and priority by visiting service providers, attending celebratory events and other activities. This is an important duty of the group and provides networking opportunities as well as a sense of achievement.

Commissioned Services are required to submit a self-evaluation report every 6 months. This report provides an update to the group on what the service have used their funds to achieve, what outcomes they are working towards and whether their activity is still appropriate and in line with their service specification.

Evaluation

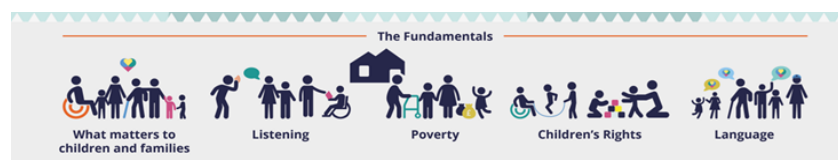
The Planning Partnership will be presented with updates from each priority area shown on the Governance Chart (page 14). This will enable them to check that progress is being made against each priority, discuss any issues, and provide strategic direction where required.

Evidence based decision making is used to develop services based on local need, and Health Inequalities Impact Assessments (HIIA) inform this practice.

External verification – Joint inspections of services for children and young people are carried out by the Care Inspectorate. They take account of the experiences and outcomes of children and young people by looking at services provided for them by community planning partnerships in each local authority area. This includes the work of health visitors, school nurses, teachers, doctors, social workers, police officers and other people who work with children, young people, and their families. They also evaluate the effectiveness of collaborative leadership.

Appendix 1A - A good childhood

Priority	Description	Action	Policy Links - GIRFEC	Policy Links - UNCRC
Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing of Children and Young People	<p><i>Respond to the mental, emotional, and wellbeing needs of children and young people by providing opportunities and activities that support young people to make safe and informed lifestyle choices and delivering the highest standards of mental and emotional health with access to universal and specialist healthcare services</i></p> <p>Whilst the majority of children and young people will experience good mental health along with the normal challenges and stresses of growing up, we recognise that a proportion of children and young people will require extra help at some point, some of whom may even require additional or specialist services intervention. This may be because of factors relating to their development or health, or because of the impact of adverse experiences on them, their family or community.</p> <p>There is a recognition that mental and emotional health issues among children and young people have significantly increased in the past few years, and emerging evidence suggests that the impact of COVID-19</p>	<p>Re-evaluate the model of stage intervention and what services/provision is available at all 4 stages – (universal, universal plus, targeted intervention, and specialised provision) for children and young people across the Scottish Borders. Counselling in Schools will also be reviewed.</p> <p>Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) will support children and young people, including new and enhanced Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Supports, by providing consultation, advice, and training, and where appropriate, supervision of those staff providing psychological interventions.</p>	Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included	<p>Article 3 - Best Interests of the Child</p> <p>Article 6 - support to live and grow</p> <p>Article 23 - if I have a disability, I have the right to special care and education</p> <p>Article 24 - Good quality Health Care</p> <p>Article 28 - Right to Education</p>



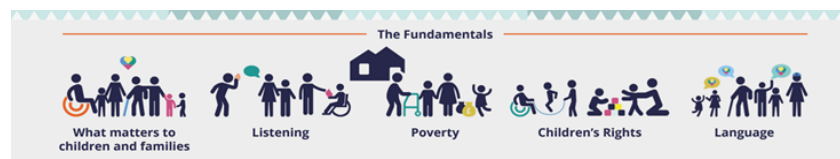
	<p>on children, young people and their families has been significant.</p> <p>As such we have agreed that improving the mental and emotional wellbeing of children and young people will continue to be one of the highest priorities for Scottish Borders over the next 3 years, building an approach to support children, young people and families that will ensure they receive the right care and interventions at the right time and in the right place.</p>			
<p>Corporate Parenting</p> <p>Page 272</p>	<p><i>Deliver on our Corporate Parenting responsibilities to our care experienced children and young people by providing settled, secure, nurturing, and permanent places to live; ensuring that services are welcoming, inclusive, participatory, supportive, accessible and timeous</i></p> <p><i>Improve achievement and attainment for all children and young people with a focus on children and young people who are experiencing poverty, are at risk of becoming looked after or are looked after, providing high quality learning experiences and support services that nurture their interest and talent in sports, arts, and leisure</i></p> <p>Corporate Parenting is the collective responsibility of the council, elected members, health board and the other key partner agencies to provide the</p>	<p>The Scottish Borders Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan 2021 – 2024 details the planned developments to meet our responsibilities laid out in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.</p> <p>The plan is based on the national Promise Plan 2021-24 and provides a clear framework to make the planned changes necessary to improve outcomes for looked after and care experienced children and young people. The Scottish Borders Corporate Parenting Ambition – Plan for 2021–2024 shows clear action areas for service developments and improvements.</p> <p>Specific areas include:</p> <p>Continue to develop a participation culture across services to ensure care experienced children and their families are listened to, and meaningfully and appropriately involved in decision-making about their care, with all those involved properly listening and responding to what children want and need.</p>	<p>Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included</p>	<p>Article 3 - Best interests of the Child Article 7 - Birth registration, name, nationality, care Article 8 - protection and preservation of identity Article 9 - Separation from parents Article 18 - Parental responsibility Article 20 - children unable to live with their family Article 21 - right to best care if adopted Article 22 - refugee children and young people should have the same rights as children born in Scotland Article 28 - Right to Education</p>



	<p>best possible care and protection for our looked after children.</p> <p>This means that each specified public body has the statutory responsibility to act for a looked after child in the same way that every parent wants to act. We want the best for our children and young people, to see them flourish with good health, to be safe and happy, to do well in education and enjoy healthy relationships.</p> <p>We want our children and young people to make the most of the available cultural and leisure opportunities, and to develop towards adulthood fully prepared to lead independent lives.</p>	<p>Reduce the number of looked after children; reduce the number of looked after children in 'external' placements; and increase the number of children and young people who return home from external placements. This will be addressed in part, by a greater focus on early intervention services and partnership working across corporate parenting organisations.</p> <p>Improve achievement and close the attainment gap for children and young people who are experiencing poverty, are at risk of becoming looked after or are looked after by developing alternative approaches to support from within schools, using partnership approaches and work with the third sector.</p> <p>Develop a relationship-based approach to care within the Scottish Borders residential care service.</p> <p>Commission an Independent Children's Advocacy Service for the Scottish Borders.</p> <p>Ensure care experienced young people receive appropriate support, accommodation and sustained training and employment opportunities.</p> <p>Continue to be alert to and promote the health and wellbeing of children and young people. Providing opportunities for them to have their health needs assessed and met and ensuring that they have opportunities to access the appropriate services to support them to improve their health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Work with our third sector partners to ensure care experienced brothers and sisters' relationships are maintained and sustained regardless of their circumstances, and that they can expect that their rights are promoted and upheld to protect their relationships with each other.</p>		
<p>Children in conflict</p>	<p><i>Ensure that children who are in conflict with the law are afforded early</i></p>	<p>Following the Independent Care Review in 2020, 'The Promise' was introduced, that Scotland's Children and Young</p>	<p>Safe, Healthy Achieving</p>	<p>Articles 28 and 29 - right to an education</p>

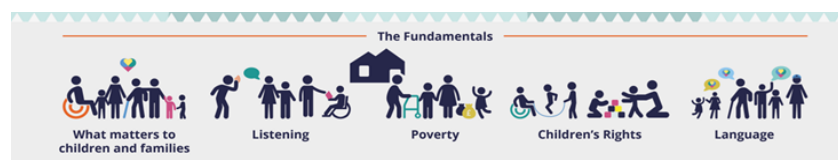


<p>with the law (Strategy and Plan)</p>	<p><i>and effective interventions, and are supported to achieve positive outcomes, by developing a Youth Justice Strategy and action plan underpinned by the national strategy and vision for children in conflict with the law.</i></p> <p>Scotland's vision for children and young people in conflict with the law includes ensuring children, young people and their families are supported at an early stage through early intervention and preventative approaches and notes their rights must be upheld, their life chances improved and services and systems must support them effectively to address their needs and the circumstances which have led to their behaviour, in order to achieve positive outcomes.</p> <p>It is essential that children and young people are diverted away from the criminal justice system, wherever possible and appropriate, in order to avoid the criminalisation of their behaviour, and receive effective support.</p> <p>It is also essential that support for victims is enhanced to ensure that victims are appropriately protected irrespective of the age of the person who has caused the harm.</p>	<p>People will grow up loved, safe and respected in relation to care experienced young people. In particular it recognises the disproportionate criminalisation of care experienced young people, that 16- and 17-year-olds will no longer be placed in young offenders institutions on sentence or remand, and sufficient community-based alternatives to detention will exist.</p> <p>The new National Strategy for Community Justice has similar aims and priority actions for adults in the justice system in relation to alternatives to custody and community support to improve desistance. Aspects of governance of Youth Justice are reported through the Scottish Borders Community Justice Board.</p> <p>The Community Justice Board are developing the understanding around lived experience and community justice. This will assist the partnership in assessing activity locally against the content of the National Strategy for Community Justice, and Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework, resulting in a revised local plan.</p> <p>The Community Justice coordinator will assess current work, improvement actions, measures and risks which will reflect in the Community Justice Plan for the Scottish Borders.</p>	<p>Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included</p>	<p>Article 36 - protection from things that may harm my development Article 37 - Inhumane treatment and detention Article 40 - Juvenile Justice</p>
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Appendix 1B - Whole family support

Priority	Description	Action	Policy Links - GIRFEC	Policy Links - UNCRC
Supporting Families	<p><i>Help all families and carers give their children the best start in life in a nurturing, safe and stable environments by focusing on activities which support prevention and early intervention, improve outcomes and reduce inequalities. 'Families' means all families including families of origin, families with children and young people with complex additional needs, kinship, foster and adoptive families. Support will not be predicated on the setting of care.</i></p> <p><i>To support children and young people to remain in positive care environments and support families to ensure children and young people achieve their fullest potential.</i></p> <p>We recognise the important role that services play in promoting family wellbeing and supporting families to lead safe, happy and healthy lives.</p> <p>Although families are generally the best source of care and nurture for their children, many parents and carers across the authority may need help, and we want them to be able to access this help where and when they need it, and for as long as is required, to protect and promote their children's wellbeing.</p>	<p>Use a data driven approach to understanding children and young people's health needs.</p> <p>Expand provision of early years support through Allied Health Professions (AHPS) and additional provision.</p> <p>Review availability of parenting programmes</p> <p>Develop our approach to whole family support using the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund and building on our initial plan which was shared with Scottish Government in Autumn 2022.</p> <p>An evaluation report in respect of Family Group Decision Making is currently being prepared for consideration with a view to exploring options for continuation of the service beyond the test of change period by utilising part of the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund.</p>	Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included	All articles



	<p>In the Scottish Borders we aspire to services for families to be primarily based on prevention and early help such as those provided by the universal services of health visiting, early years settings, and schools; we also recognise there is a need for more targeted or specialist support which is well-resourced, supportive, accessible and timely.</p> <p>We respect the right to family life and to grow up loved, safe and respected so that children can reach their potential; we also understand our additional responsibility to protect the rights of particular groups of children and young people who experience barriers to success and achievement.</p> <p>In particular personalisation and transitions are areas requiring attention and we recognise that effective multi-agency partnership working is required to ensure improvements are progressed.</p> <p>Whilst links with parents and young people's groups already exist, we are committed to build upon these to ensuring that children and young people are at the heart of decisions which affect them.</p>			
<p>Child Poverty</p>	<p><i>Reduce the number of children in poverty and reduce the impact of living in poverty on families. Ensure that children and their families are given the</i></p>	<p>We actively work in partnership to tackle child poverty, examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of cost-of-living specific funding packages 	<p>Safe, Healthy, Nurtured,</p>	<p>Article 3 - Best Interests of the Child Article 23 - if I have a disability, I have the right</p>

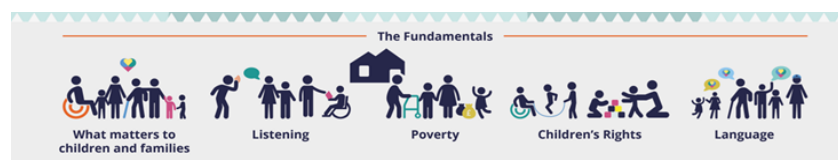


	<p><i>opportunity to contribute to shaping local policy and actions to reduce the social and economic impact of poverty.</i></p> <p>We recognise the importance of tackling child poverty and are determined to make a difference to children and families in the Scottish Borders.</p> <p>Across Scotland, almost 90% of children who are in relative poverty are from at least one of the below noted priority groups and, as well as wider actions to successfully reduce child poverty, we need to reach these groups and meet their needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lone-parent families • a household where someone is disabled • families with three or more children • ethnic minority families • families with a child under one year old • families where the mother is under 25 years of age. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • financial inclusion support to help families maximise their income • promotion of equity in education to ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed • employment opportunities for parents • Childcare and whole family wellbeing plans • support for fuel poverty, food poverty and period poverty. <p>Our Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan sets out our key actions and priority areas of work to help tackle child poverty.</p>	<p>Active, Included</p>	<p>to special care and education</p> <p>Article 26 - my family should get the money it needs to help bring me up</p>
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Appendix 1C - Planning and Building Capacity

Priority	Description	Action	Policy Links - GIRFEC	Policy Links - UNCRC
Commissioning	<i>Ensuring that we have the right services by developing a commissioning strategy which takes into account the needs of children, young people, carers and families who require additional support and the right to access advocacy</i>	<p>We will review our current commissions and develop a new Commissioning Strategy.</p> <p>We will agree priority areas based on national funding requirements and assessed need.</p> <p>We will make best use of statutory, independent and third sector provision, and appoint appropriate commissioned services to deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive emotional & mental health wellbeing of children and young people • Availability, access, and support for young carers • Consistency of access to quality youth work services • Supporting choices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Equality & inclusion ○ Positive life choices • Availability and access of advocacy services • Support to children and families who are affected by parental substance use 	Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included	Article 3 - Best Interests of the Child Article 12 - right to be listened to and taken seriously
Develop a multi-agency shared performance/outcomes framework for Children and Young People	<p><i>Establish a shared suite of indicators which can be used to monitor progress against the plan's outcomes. Co-ordinate these in a format that facilitates insight and oversight.</i></p> <p>Scotland's National Performance Framework (NPF) provides a clear vision of what everybody is working towards to improve the individual</p>	<p>A performance framework will be co-produced to promote transparency and shared accountability for performance improvement across the partnership. This will focus on key metrics that will contribute to the delivery of the key outcomes. This framework will set out which agencies are responsible for leading and contributing towards specific outcomes, themes and actions of the plan.</p> <p>In order to inform the performance framework, a joint strategic needs assessment will be carried out.</p>	Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included	Article 3 - Best Interests of the Child

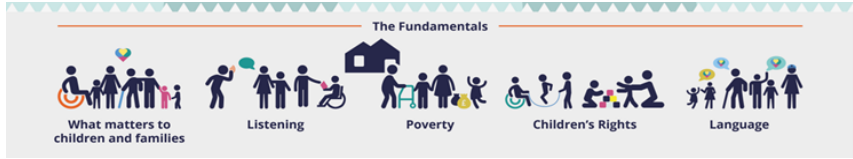


	<p>and collective wellbeing of Scotland's population.</p> <p>Within children and young people's services we have numerous data and performance information, however at present this is not contained within one framework which hinders reporting outcomes in a meaningful and transparent way.</p> <p>In order to bring people together in a way that assists developing a shared understanding of what contributes to improving the lives of children and families we shall develop a performance and outcomes framework that evidences how we are impacting on the lives of children, young people, carers and families.</p> <p>This will include ensuring connection between different areas of work including child protection, children/young people's mental health, poverty, drugs/alcohol, and housing.</p>			
<p>Develop a Participation and Engagement Strategy</p>	<p><i>'Voice' is at the heart of the Promise, the Plan 21-24 and also the UNCRC. In the Scottish Borders we will listen to children, young people and families and ensure that what matters to them is at the heart of everything we do.</i></p>	<p>We will develop a multi- agency children and young people's participation and engagement strategy in partnership with children and young people</p> <p>We will work with partners to continue to develop the Champions Board Approach and the 'Article 12 at the Heart' work to ensure children and young people with quieter voices are at the heart of decision-making in the Scottish Borders.</p>	<p>Active, Respected, Included</p>	<p>Article 12 - right to be listened to, and taken seriously Article 13 - right to find out and share information Article 17- right to get information in lots of ways</p>



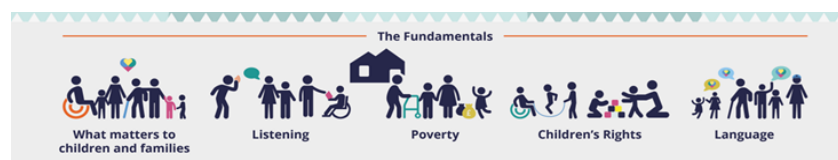
	<p><i>We will aim to ensure their views are central to strategic decision-making processes, as well as service design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation.</i></p> <p>Work is continuing with children and young people across the Scottish Borders, including those with protected characteristics, to ensure they have an understanding of and an opportunity to be part of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Promise and the UNCRC,• The Champions Board,• The 'Article 12 at the Heart' working group.	<p>We will undertake a mapping exercise of current participation and engagement opportunities for parents, kinship carers, foster carers and adoptive families in the Scottish Borders to identify areas for development and improvement</p> <p>We will invite young people to participate, and have a vote, in the Children and Young People's Planning Partnership</p>		
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Appendix 1D - Supporting the Workforce

Priority	Description	Action	Policy links - GIRFEC	Policy links - UNCRC
Develop a Children and Young People Workforce Strategy and Plan	<p><i>Ensuring we have the right skills and experience within our workforce to ensure children, young people, carers and families have the best possible experience across all services by developing a children's services workforce strategy that is underpinned by trauma-informed practice.</i></p> <p>In order to attract and retain high quality staff we recognise the need to take a more collective approach to workforce planning and development.</p> <p>A workforce planning whole-system approach should be adopted to ensure that we have the right number of people with the right values, skills and training employed in the right place at the right time across our organisations.</p> <p>To improve recruitment and retention across the partnership we need to develop a joint workforce plan harmonising terms and conditions, workforce values and training which should all be underpinned by trauma-informed practice.</p>	<p>We will create a multi-agency children and young people's workforce plan which will be aligned to individual organisation plans and the IJB plan and underpinned by the fundamentals of The Promise Plan 21-24 and trauma-informed practice.</p> <p>We will identify trauma training needs across the multi-agency workforce and develop a training plan in line with the National Trauma Training Programme (NTTP) and the Knowledge and Skills Framework.</p>	Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included	<p>Article 3 - best interests of the child</p> <p>Article 42 - everyone should know about the UNCRC</p>



	<p>This will be done through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating positive workplace cultures, • ensuring strong and compassionate leadership; • supporting our current staff and their wellbeing; • joining up learning and development pathways across the partnership; • providing support to carers; • working in partnership across organisations whilst still retaining organisational autonomy. 			
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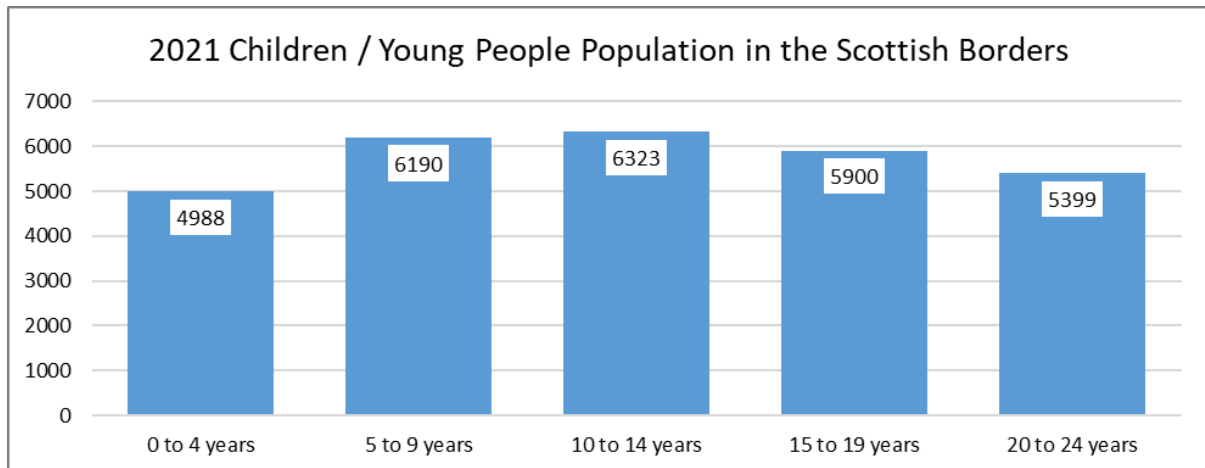
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Appendix 1E - Understanding our demographics and data

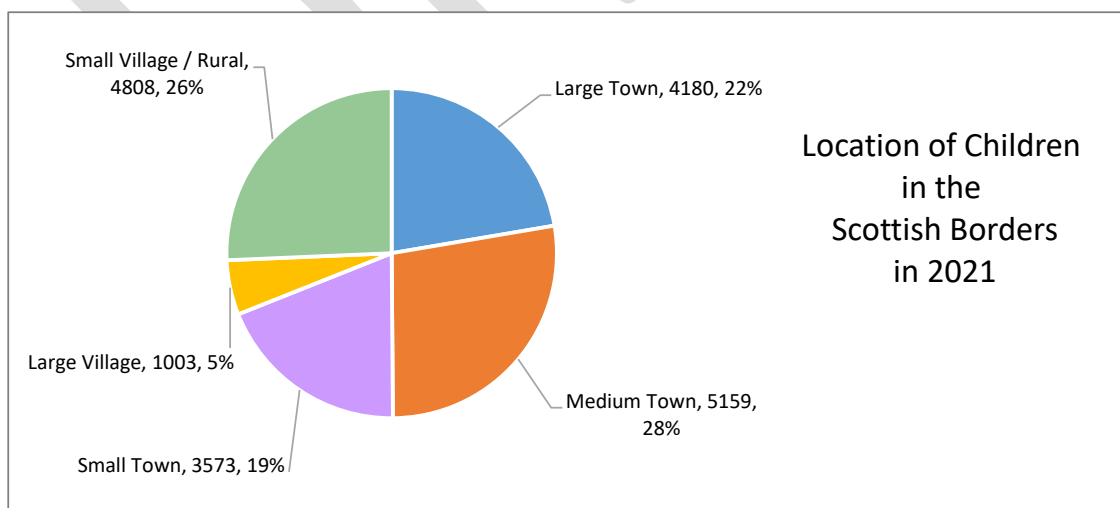
Current Population Estimates

According to the NRS profile for the [Scottish Borders](#) the population in 2021 was 116,020 with those aged 0 to 15 making up 16.1% (18,723) and those aged 16 to 24 making up 8.7% (10,077). The graph below shows the number of children / young people by age group in 2021.



Source: NRS [Scottish Borders Council Area Profile \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk)

The graph below shows the population aged 0 to 15 in the Scottish Borders by settlement size. Over 30% of children and young people in the Scottish Borders live in villages with fewer than 1,000 people or more rural environs meaning they are likely to experience some level of “access deprivation,” affecting their ability to participate in activities out with the school day and at weekends.



Source: NRS https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/statistics/council-area-data-sheets/scottish-borders-council-profile.html#population_estimates

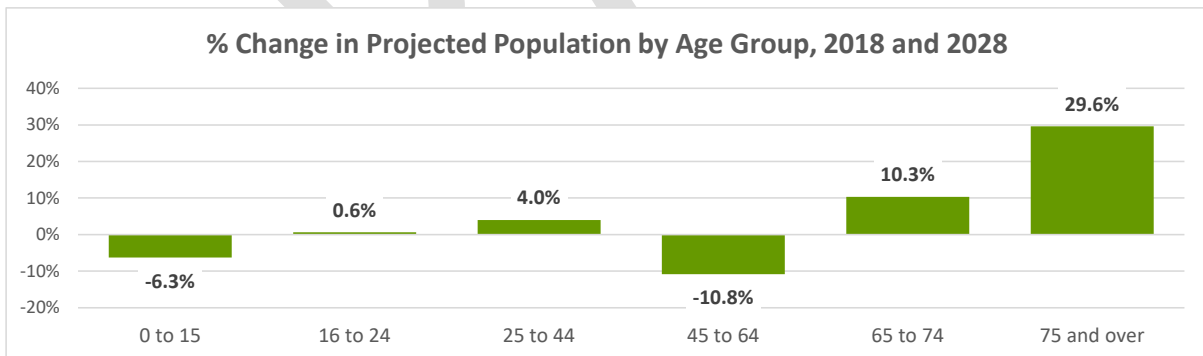
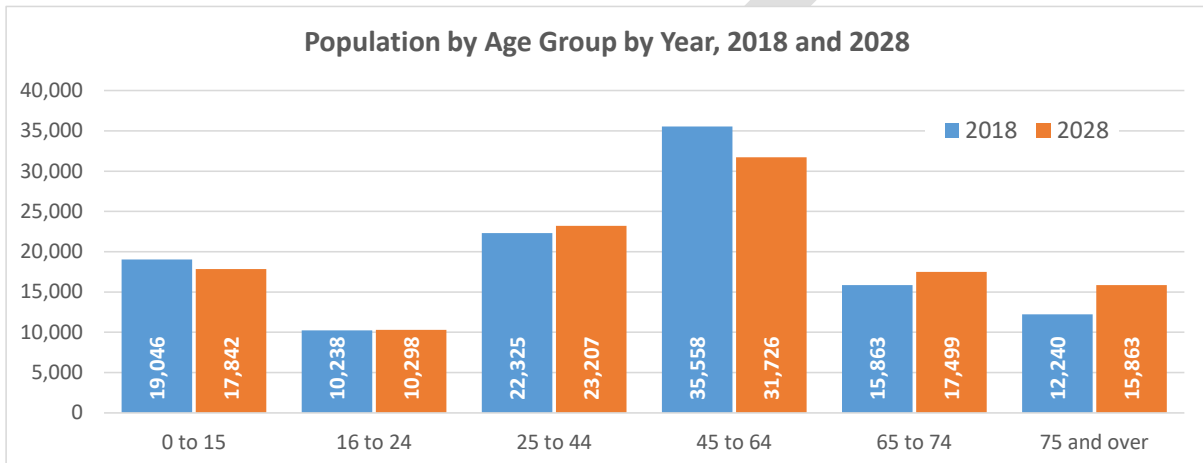


Population Projection

According to the NRS profile for the [Scottish Borders](#) the population in 2018 was 115,270 and is projected to increase by 1.0% to 116,435 by 2028.

The graphs below show the number of people by age group for both 2018 and 2028 and the percentage change between the two years. In 2018, there were 19,046 children and young people aged 0 to 15 and a further 10,238 aged 16 to 24, representing 16.5% and 8.9% of the population of the Scottish Borders, respectively.

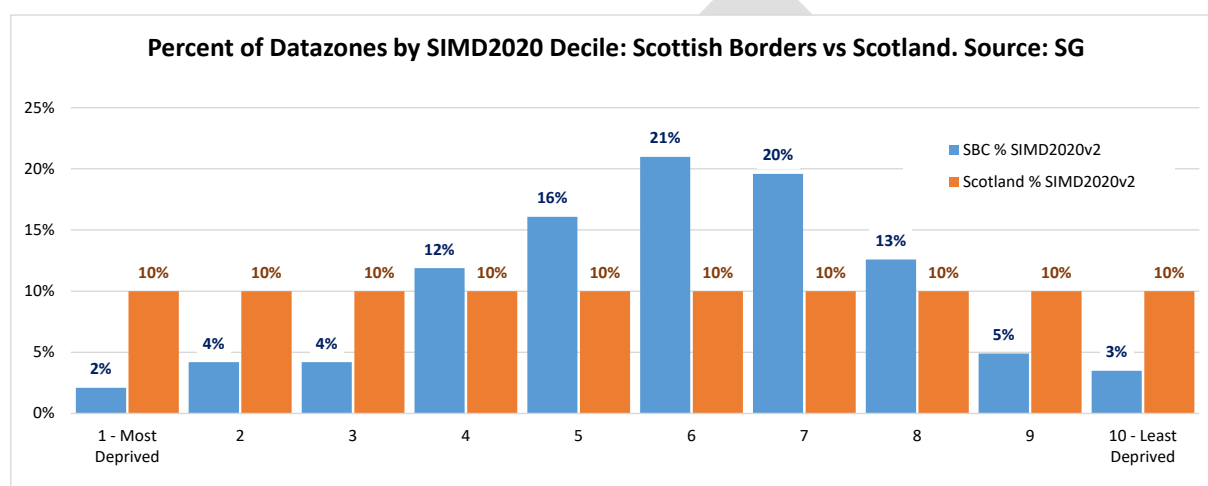
It is important to note that the number of children is projected to decrease by 6.3% to 17,842 in 2028.



Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

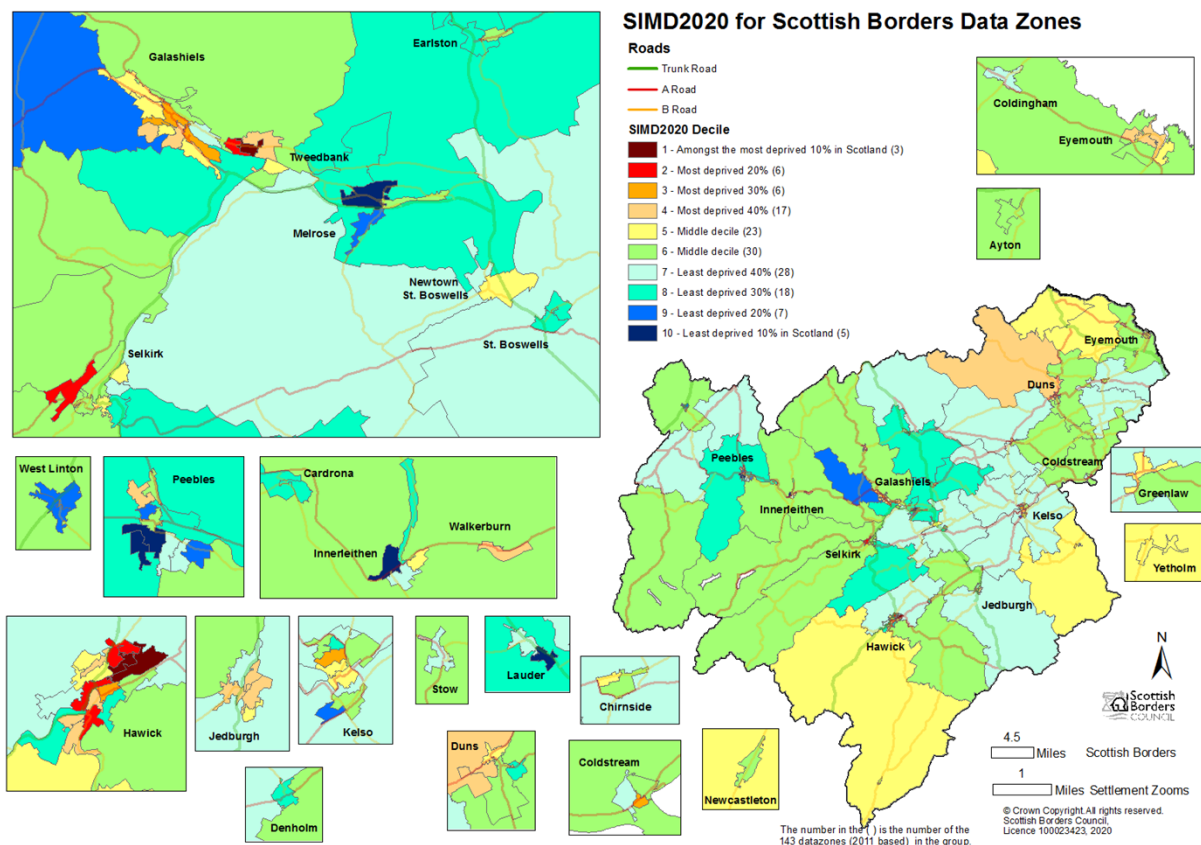
The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the official tool for finding the most deprived areas in Scotland³. The [SIMD2020](#) consists of over 30 indicators across 7 Domains: Employment, Income, Education, Health, Access, Crime and Housing.

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, or “SIMD Quintile 1”. **These are shaded red and dark red in the map below.** A further 16% (24) of the data zones in the Scottish Borders are amongst the 21-40% most deprived in Scotland. The least-deprived 20% of data zones, i.e., “SIMD Quintile 5”, are shaded royal blue and navy blue in the map below. The distribution of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders are shown in the graph and map below.



³ <https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>





Wages

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings produced by ONS (Office of National Statistics) and published on NOMIS⁴ contains information on wages.

In 2022, the **median gross weekly pay** for full time workers working in the Scottish Borders (workplace based) was £571.30, £69.20 less than the £640.50 for full-time workers working elsewhere in Scotland. This is **89% of the Scottish figure**.

In 2022, the **median gross weekly pay** for full time workers living in the Scottish Borders (residence based) in the Scottish Borders was £617, **£23 below** the £640 for Scotland or **96% of the Scottish figure**.

The regional pay gap between Scottish Borders and Scotland has improved since 2020.

⁴ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>



<p>13.2% of pregnant women admitted to being current smokers in 2019/20-2021/22, slightly higher than the Scottish average of 12.9%. This is the lowest in the Scottish Borders since records for this indicator began.</p>
<p>15.3% of new mothers were current smokers 6-8 weeks after their baby was born in 2019/20-2021/22, slightly better than the Scottish rate of 15.8% This is also the lowest rate in the Scottish Borders since records for this indicator began.</p>
<p>3 out of 1,000 children and young people were referred to the Children’s Reporter for offences in 2020/21, lower than the Scottish average of 4.7 and the lowest rate since 2015.</p>
<p>1,432 per 100,000 children under 5 were admitted to hospital for an unintentional injury in 2019/20 – 2021/22, significantly higher than the Scottish average of 1,005 per 100,000.</p>
<p>11% of under 25s in the Scottish Borders were living in a relatively crime-affected neighbourhood by Scottish standards (SIMD Quintile 1 for crime) in 2020, which is significantly lower than the Scottish average of 20.7%.</p>
<p>80.4 per 100,000 young people aged 15-25 were admitted to hospital due to assault in 2018/19-2020/21. This is slightly below the Scottish average of 92 per 100,000 and is at its lowest level since the indicator began.</p>
<p>190.7 per 100,000 young people aged 11-25 had an alcohol-related hospital admission in 2019/20-2020/21/22, below the Scottish average of 255.2 per 100,000. This rate has significantly improved in the past 10 years.</p>
<p>160.4 per 100,000 young people aged 11-25 years had a drug-related hospital admission in 2019/20-2021/22, below the Scottish average of 167.7 per 100,000. This rate has significantly improved in the past 10 years.</p>
<p>The infant death rate for children under 1 was 2.4 per 1,000 live births in 2017-21, below the Scottish average of 3.4 per 1,000. This figure has remained largely unchanged at the same low rate for the past 20 years.</p>
<p>The death rate in children aged 1-15 years was 7.8 per 100,000 in 2017-21, slightly below the Scottish average of 10.1 per 100,000. This rate has progressively come down in the last 20 years.</p>
<p>6.9 per 100,000 young people aged 11-25 died by suicide in 2017-21, below the Scottish average of 11.1 per 100,000. This rate has steadily decreased in the past 20 years</p>
<p>6.5% of babies were born prematurely in 2019/20-2021/22, slightly below the Scottish average of 8.2. This measure has always been below the Scottish average.</p>
<p>82.9% of babies were born a healthy weight in 2019/20-2021/22, slightly below the Scottish average of 84.1%. This rate has remained the same for the past 20 years.</p>
<p>26.1% of pregnant women were obese at the time of antenatal booking in 2019/20-2021/22, similar to the Scottish average. This figure is increasing in the Scottish Borders and Scotland.</p>
<p>39.8% of babies were exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks, higher than the Scottish average of 31.9% in 2019/20-2021/22.</p>
<p>97.4% of babies received their “6-in-1” immunisation by the age of 24 months in 2019-21, slightly higher than the Scottish average of 97.1%. This rate has been consistently high at 97% or above for the past 20 years.</p>



96.1% of babies received their MMR immunisation by the age of 24 months, higher than the Scottish average of 94.4%, in 2019-21. This rate has been consistently above 95% for the past 10 years.

12% of toddlers had a developmental concern at their 27–30-month assessment, lower than the Scottish average of 14.7%, in 2017/18-2019/20. This is the lowest rate since the current record began in 2014.

69.8% of Primary 1 children were within a healthy weight range in 2020/21, the same as the Scottish average.

65.1 per 100,000 children and young people were hospitalised due to asthma in 2019/20-2021/22, below the Scottish average of 112 per 100,000. Childhood asthma hospitalisations dropped sharply in 2018 and are continuing to fall.

80.4% of Primary 1 children had no dental decay in 2021/22, higher than the Scottish average of 75.2%. This is the highest percentage since the record began in 2012.

82.8% of Primary 7 children had no dental decay in 2019/20, higher than the Scottish average of 75%. This rate has steadily improved since 2012.

4,980 applications were received by Scottish Borders families for **Scottish Child Payment** between February 2021 and December 2022.

- **This amounts to 36,160 payments worth £2,739,955**, made to Scottish Borders families, between Feb 21 and Dec 22 (**ScotGov**)
- Scottish Child Payment statistics are expected to increase from December 2022 since the benefit was increased to £25 per week and includes all children aged under 16 from low-income families

7.5% of people aged under 25 in the Scottish Borders are living in the most income-deprived neighbourhoods in Scotland (SIMD 2020 Income-deprivation Quintile 1). This is **significantly below** the Scottish average of 19.7%.

32.1% of people aged under 25 in the Scottish Borders are living in the most access-deprived neighbourhoods in Scotland (SIMD 2020 Access-deprivation Quintile 1). This is **significantly higher** than the Scottish average of 20.8%.

18.5% of Scottish Borders pupils received a clothing & footwear grant in 2022-23, up from 16% the previous year and 15.2% the year before

14% of pupils aged 16+ received Educational Maintenance Allowance in 2022-23 to encourage them to stay on at school.

There was a **20.6% gap in claims for EMA (Educational Maintenance Allowance)** between Scottish Borders pupils aged 16+ living in the **most-deprived and the least-deprived neighbourhoods in Scotland** (SIMD 2020 Quintile 1 and Quintile 5) in 2022/23. **27.4% of over-16s pupils living in Quintile 1 claimed EMA**, compared with **6.8% of 16+ pupils living in Quintile 5**.

4.5 per 1,000 children and young people were **excluded from school** in Scottish Borders in 2020-21, which is **much lower** than the Scottish average rate of 11.9 per 1,000. This rate has **always been below average** and is **continuing to fall**.

52% of school pupils walked or cycled to school in 2021/22, **slightly above** the Scottish average of **50.8%**. This has remained consistent for the past decade or more.



4.1% of school leavers failed to achieve at least 1 qualification at SCQF Level 4 (National 4 level) in 2020/21, this is above the Scottish average of 3.8%. This statistic has **remained consistent** and around the Scottish average in most academic years since 2012.

66% of secondary school pupils achieved at least 5 awards at SCQF level 5 (National 5 equivalent) or better in 2020-21. This is **just below** the Scottish average of 67%. This metric is **usually above-average** in Scottish Borders, and this is **only the second time since 2016** that attainment in Scottish Borders for this metric has dipped below the Scottish average.

43% of secondary school pupils achieved at least 5 awards at SCQF level 6 (Scottish Higher equivalent) or better in 2020-21. This is **just above** the Scottish average of 41%. Scottish Borders has been **consistently above average** for this metric since 2016, except for one year.

64.7% of school leavers achieved at least 1 qualification at SCQF Level 6 (Advanced Higher level) in 2020/21, **slightly lower** than the Scottish average of 66%. This statistic has **remained close to the Scottish average** in most academic years since 2012

96.6% of 16–19-year-olds were participating in education, training or employment in 2022, **better** than the Scottish average of 95.7%. This measure has been **better** than the Scottish average in most years since 2016.

The estimated **employment rate for 16- to 24-year-olds** in 2022 was **53.9%** in the Scottish Borders, slightly lower than 57.9% in Scotland. This has **increased** by 14.2% in the Scottish Borders and increased by 4% in Scotland **from the previous year**.

7.8% of 16–24-year-olds were claiming out-of-work benefits in 2020-21, **slightly higher** than the Scottish average of 7.2% and **higher than the rate of 5.4% for all working-age people**. Scottish Borders has had an **above average rate** for the past 3 years and the rate **rose rapidly throughout Scotland** at the start of the Covid pandemic.

24% of pupils from P6 and P7 combined reported low mood (SHINE Pupil Mental Health Survey, Autumn 2022)

16% of pupils from S1 to S6 reported ‘at risk of depression’ (SHINE Pupil Mental Health Survey, Autumn 2022)

35% of pupils from S1 to S6 reported difficulties with hyperactivity, and 27% reported difficulties with emotions (SHINE Pupil Mental Health Survey, Autumn 2022)

42% of pupils from P5-P7 said that they had been bullied in the last year (Scottish Borders Health & Wellbeing Census 2022)

31% of P7 pupils have caring responsibilities (Scottish Borders Health & Wellbeing Census 2022)

23% of S1 to S6 pupils said ‘I never have breakfast during weekdays’ (Scottish Borders Health & Wellbeing Census 2022)

63% of S1 to S6 pupils said they have an adult in their life that they can trust and talk to about any personal problems (Scottish Borders Health & Wellbeing Census 2022)



Appendix 1F - Engagement

- Catch the Light - MHWB in the Scottish Borders November 2022. Exec Summary
- Child Healthy Weight - Final Report 310320
- Consultation Report - CMHWB Fund
- Health Wellbeing Census – Executive Summary 2022
- Interest Link 2022 CYP Impact Report
- On the Street ADP
- Primary School-Health Wellbeing Census 2022
- S4-Substance2022-Report
- Secondary School-Health Wellbeing Census
- Parent Involvement and Engagement Census Data
- SHINE Scottish Borders Primary School data
- SHINE Scottish Borders Secondary School Data



Appendix 1G - Glossary

ACES	Adverse Childhood Experiences
AHP	Allied Health Professions
BAME	Black and Minority Ethnic
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CECYP	Care Experienced Children and Young People
CLD	Community Learning & Development
CPP	Community Planning Partnership
CYPPP	Children and Young People's Planning Partnership
EMA	Educational Maintenance Allowance
FGDM	Family Group Decision Making
HPV	Human Papilloma Virus
NES	NHS Education for Scotland
NIF	National Improvement Framework
NPF	National Performance Framework
NRS	National Records of Scotland
NTTP	National Trauma Training Programme
ONS	Office of National Statistics
SCQF	Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework
SCRA	Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
SIMD	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child



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Appendix 2

Integrated Children and Young People's Plan Annual Progress Report 2022/23 incorporating Whole Family Wellbeing Funding Progress

Contents

Introduction	3
Priority 1 Progress	4
Addressing Child Poverty	4
Trauma Informed Practice	4
Priority 2 Progress	5
Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health	5
Trusted Adults	5
Priority 3 Progress	6
Delivering The Promise	6
Supporting Transitions	6
Priority 4 Progress	8
Children and Young People’s Participation and Engagement Strategy	8
Communication and Social Research with Children, Young People and their families.....	8
Conclusion	11
Appendix 2A - Whole Family Wellbeing Funding – Reporting progress as part of annual Children’s Services Plans (CSP) Reports (March 2023)	13
Appendix 2B – Review of Inspiring Young Minds	17
Appendix 2C – Glossary	20

Introduction

Welcome to the 2022-23 Progress Report of our Integrated Children & Young People's Plan for the Scottish Borders. The report reflects progress made in relation to the delivery of shared partnership priorities as set out in the [2021-2023 plan](#), and is the final progress report of this 2021-2023 plan.

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

The report should set out progress on:

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

This commitment has been actioned through the work of the Children and Young People's Leadership Group (CYPLG) on behalf of the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (CPP).

The CYPLG brings together partners from Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Police Scotland, the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, and the Third Sector and are committed to using their combined resources to deliver the best possible services they can, for children and young people, working with the following vision:

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

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

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

As well as a range of legislation and national policy, the 2021-2023 plan, (and therefore this annual report) is informed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and adopts the national 'Getting it right for every child' (GIRFEC) wellbeing framework. Achieving our priorities, and the actions contained within them, contribute to The Scottish Government's [National Performance Framework](#)'s vision for children and young people: "we grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential."

The partnership also has strong links across other strategic groups and governance arrangements e.g., Alcohol and Drug Partnership, Public Protection Committee, Integrated Joint Board, which ensures the work being progressed by the partnership supports the work of other groups, and that other groups have an awareness of their responsibility regarding children, young people, carers, and families.

As well as outlining progress on our 2021-2023 Integrated Children & Young People's Plan, this report also sets out progress made on local delivery of work relating to the Whole Family

Wellbeing Funding (WFWF). This enables the communication of data and evidence to demonstrate accountability for use of local resources by Community Planning Partners as well as providing an evaluation of the WFWF. Full progress is shown in Appendix A.

A Children and Young People’s Services Plan for 2023-26 will be published in June 2023, and a Children and Young People’s Planning Partnership (CYPPP) now replaces the CYPLG. There is a requirement to deliver The Promise fully and effectively, and to monitor and develop corporate parenting, and the new plan and Partnership will address this.

Priority 1 Progress

Priority 1: SAFETY: Keeping children and young people safe Outcome: More children and young people will be protected from abuse, harm or neglect and will be living in a supportive environment, feeling secure and cared for.	
<p>Theme A</p> <p>Addressing Child Poverty</p> <p>The Partnership contributes to monitoring progress on child poverty via the Child Poverty Action Group.</p> <p>Reports relevant to Child Poverty, including the annual report, are via:</p> <p>Strategies, plans and policies directory - Child Poverty Scottish Borders Council (scotborders.gov.uk)</p>	<p>Theme B</p> <p>Trauma Informed Practice</p> <p>A joint psychological trauma steering group has been established which is jointly chaired by the SBC trauma champion and the NHS Borders trauma champion. This is a multi-agency group which meets every two months with three key aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Destigmatise trauma and advocate that all people in contact with our services receive a compassionate human response. b) Be a focal point to provide information, resources, and guidance on trauma training (informed by the NTTTP); and have oversight that training is evidence based, has a robust governance structure in place and is informed by people with lived experience. c) Provide leadership and direction for promoting Trauma Informed Practice <p>This enables a well-co-ordinated approach to embedding the Transforming Psychological Trauma Knowledge and Skills Framework. Current work involves mapping on training offered in trauma to ensure it is evidence based and maps on to the framework. Planned work involves a trauma needs analysis and development of a workplan with key priorities for 2023/24.</p>

Priority 2 Progress

Priority 2: WELLBEING: Improving health and well-being and reducing inequalities	
Outcome: Inequalities in the health and wellbeing of children and young people are reduced.	
<p>Theme A</p> <p>Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health</p> <p>A Project Board continues to oversee the delivery of the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework.</p> <p>Key Achievements during the reporting period include:</p> <p>The Growing Confidence, Building Resilience in primary schools and the introduction of Young Minds Matters in secondary schools continues to be the foundation resources used across all Scottish Borders schools. These complementary, age appropriate, programmes better equip young people with the skills to cope when they experience difficulties, setbacks, and challenging times. So far, 4876 pupils S1-S4 have undertaken these sessions in academic year 2021/22 and 2022/23</p> <p>Kooth and Togetherall are digital platforms covering the 10-18 year old age group & 16+ age group. Children and young people use the services throughout the year, with an average of 50% accessing this online support out with working hours. The main areas where support is offered are; anxiety, depression or low mood, suicidal thoughts, and self-harm. Current registrations for Kooth and Togetherall are circa.4500 and 850.</p> <p>The Abuse and Trauma Recovery Service is for children and young people who have experienced sexual, physical and/or emotional abuse and where there is an impact of parental behaviour. Additional funding has enabled those on the waiting list, who would not be assessed at crisis point, to receive help and support at an earlier stage in the process.</p> <p>Engaging underserved populations including BAME through the commission of Action for Children</p> <p>A Service Directory identifying children and young people services at opt-in, self-referral, self-help, prevention, and early intervention levels is under development.</p>	<p>Theme B</p> <p>Trusted Adults</p> <p>There was a strategic agreement to commission an awareness raising campaign on Trusted Adults in January 2023. Unfortunately we were unable to commission a service to deliver this work. The Board who were going to oversee this are now reconsidering how this could be delivered moving forward. Scottish Government have been running a pilot in 2022/20233 with other local authorities around the Trusted Adult and this will be launched nationally in September. It is hoped this will form the basis of the work moving forward within the Scottish Borders, as resources and training materials will be available for local authorities to use.</p>

Priority 3 Progress

Priority 3: INCLUSION: Targeting support to maximise life experiences and opportunities and ensuring inclusion

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

Theme A

Delivering The Promise

Over the past year, there have been a range of developments to support implementation of the Promise in the Scottish Borders.

The Promise Team

In Summer 2022 the Promise Implementation Officer role was made permanent. In March 2023, a new Promise Project Worker role was created. These officers work in partnership with children, young people and their families and across services.

Brothers and Sisters Project

Over the last twelve months Children1st have undertaken this project, in partnership with Scottish Borders Council, funded by The Promise Planning Partnership. The project is now in its second year having undertaken initial mapping and recruited a Team Leader and Project worker to post.

The initial baseline data report was produced using data from the social work database and gives some sense of care experienced children and their brothers and sister relationships. The team completed an initial analysis that includes a breakdown by age, placement type, legal order, relationship type, distance lived from their brothers and sisters. Some further work is needed to develop the data around 'sibling like' relationships such as foster brothers and sisters etc.

The team initially identified six families to support and work through a test, learn, and develop approach, and have worked with 12 families in total. They provide individual and joint play based therapeutic sessions. Their work is informed by Systemic Family Therapy and Psychodynamic training and principles and is guided by Trauma recovery focused practice.

The team can offer support around family time and use FGDM as a way to identify solutions for families to support brother and sister relationships. The project supports brothers and sisters who do not live together to keep their

Theme B

Supporting Transitions

Work around transitions, and in particular school/college to post school, continues to be the focus of the Young Person's Guarantee (YPG) priority #1.

Transition tracking has been introduced for care experienced young people to ensure a positive and sustained destination. The Virtual Headteacher meets with Skills Development Scotland (SDS) Team Leader on a monthly basis to review planned and actual destinations of recent care leavers and offer support and intervention where required.

Borders College and SDS work in partnership to track and offer support to young people withdrawing from college early or unsuccessful in their application.

The 14+ framework has been refreshed and reviewed to reflect national developments in transitions for Additional Support Needs (ASN) young people. The three core partners that support 'Team Around the School Transitions' are school, SDS and Developing the Young Workforce (DYW). The wider team includes third sector, Scottish Borders Council's Employability Team, Community Learning and Development Team (CLD) and Borders College.

Closer working has been established between YPG working group and the Transitions Steering Group to overcome duplication of priorities and ensure a joined approach.

An ASN Transition planning workshop was held on 18th January and attended by school DYW Leads and other professionals including SDS and Educational Psychologists to promote a multi-agency approach to improve transition planning and ensure consistency across Scottish Borders secondary schools. Input from Arc Scotland on the Principles into Practice and mapping current practice and reality of transitions process.

relationship strong, and they can help brothers and sisters who don't live together to reunite, rebuild, and repair their relationships - for now and into the future. They also work to support the re-establishment of lapsed family time between brothers and sisters and find and create opportunities for them to stay connected for example through drawings, letters, photos, postcards, and virtual meetings. They can facilitate time for brothers and sisters to spend time together in person and explore the possibility of brothers and sisters living together again.

Wheatlands Children's House

In May 2022, Wheatlands House received an Excellent (grade 6) following their unannounced inspection by the Care Inspectorate. The report highlights that the service demonstrates "major strengths in supporting positive outcomes for young people" and that there are "several areas of practice that are considered to be sector leading."

Key points within the report stated that the young people living at Wheatlands were well supported by a stable and committed staff team, that they enjoyed positive relationships with staff members and other young people and that they were listened to and were supported to meet their aspirations and potential in all areas of life. Wheatlands won the Scottish Social Services Award for Outstanding Residential Care Service for 2022 in November. Amongst the many strengths of the service, the team's ethos for engaging with young people who have moved on from the home was seen as highly positive, with previous young people receiving Christmas and birthday cards and 'thinking of you' messages. They are also regularly invited for Sunday dinner and to other special occasions.

E-learning module

In the first half of 2022, a group of corporate parents in the Scottish Borders worked on a collaborative project with Who Cares? Scotland to create multi-agency online live and e-learning corporate parenting training which includes content on the Promise and the UNCRC. Initial content was developed by Who Cares? Scotland, and this speaks to the national picture. The group worked together to capture the unique story of Corporate Parenting in the Borders. Who Cares? Scotland are early adopters of the Each and Every Child Framing Recommendations, and the language in the training materials carefully reflects this.

The Promise awareness raising sessions

Over the last twelve months awareness of The Promise and the Champions Board has

The South of Scotland ASN Learning Network, (established in October 2021), received an additional years funding from the South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) and is facilitated by Inspiring Scotland. One of its key aims is to share best practice and innovation in the South of Scotland region in transition and employability policy for young people and adults with additional support needs. A report on progress shares recordings of spotlight sessions from young people across the region including the Employment Support Service of Scottish Borders Council.

The February publication of school leaver destinations showed that 96.6% of school leavers in 2021/2022 from Scottish Borders schools progressed into a positive destination. This compared to 95.7% nationally.

The development of transition programmes and information through the use of technology to support with transitions from primary to secondary continued in 2022/2023. This includes young people making videos about themselves and secondary teachers delivering elements of curriculum to primary pupils using technology. All schools use *Showbie* as a transition tool from primary into secondary. This will be further developed in the next academic year to improve consistency.

Appendix B sets out a Review of Inspiring Young Minds and Kelso High School Study Leave Programme April-June 2022.

continued to be promoted through online and face-to-face presentations and workshops with foster carers, inter-agency colleagues, strategic groups, and external partners. Presentations are adapted and tailored depending on the needs of the particular group.

Reframing Our Language Guide

In February 2023, the Promise Team published a 'Reframing Our Language' guide. This was developed from work undertaken by Champions Boards in other areas, a tool developed by Includem and through engagement with Scottish Borders foster carers.

Strategic Governance and the Children and Young People's Planning Partnership

Work has been progressing during the reporting period to ensure The Promise is central to delivering services for children, young people and families in Scottish Borders. Governance arrangements have been developed in ongoing consultation with multi-agency partners to ensure that the Promise is at the heart of our thinking.

Priority 4 Progress

Priority 4: PARTICIPTION: Increasing participation and engagement

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

Theme A

Children and Young People's Participation and Engagement Strategy

Work has been carried out with a diverse group around Article 12 of the UNCRC and what it means for young people. Article 12 says that '*every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously*'. This group has also been involved around the thinking on how a Children and Young People's Participation and Engagement Strategy should look, and how young people should be more represented on various SBC and community fora and committees. The development of a Children and Young

Theme B

Communication and Social Research with Children, Young People and their families

The Champions Board approach has continued to be developed with care experienced children and young people over the past twelve months. For example, a schools pilot was established in two local secondary schools at the start of 2023. Setting up Champs Hubs in schools allows for getting to know children and young people in their communities, as well as working alongside school staff to support them to understand their Promise and Corporate Parenting responsibilities. The Champions Board are also developing hubs at local colleges.

Updates about Champions Board progress have been published in April 2022 and February 2023 via Champions Board Reports which have been

People's Participation and Engagement Strategy is a priority for 2023/24.

The CLD Service supports members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP) to engage locally and nationally on issues affecting young people.

Children's Rights are central to the work of the partnership and the Children's Rights report can be found at:

[Children's Rights Report 2021-23 | Scottish Borders Council](#)
(scotborders.gov.uk)

developed and designed by the Lead Young Person and informed by feedback and ideas from Champions Board members.



Champions Board
Annual Report Feb 20

Over the summer and autumn of 2022, TD1 Youth Hub in Galashiels undertook local research with young people to inform a report highlighting young people's use of alcohol and drugs and the barriers to accessing support services. This involved a street-based survey with 108 young people, focus groups with 43 young people and more in-depth work with 7 young people. This work was commissioned by the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership and also presented to the Children and Young People's Leadership group. The research provided updated information in terms of young people's substance use and highlighted the importance of trusting relationships both in support harm reduction messages and accessing services. This work will help inform the commissioning plan for the CYP PPP.

In November 2022, our Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP) took part in two national education consultations - the Hayward Review and the National Discussion to have their say on the education system in Scotland. MSYPs debated issues at sittings on subjects such as – training in schools on substance misuse; access to school toilets; Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for Asylum Seekers; improved mental health access for care experienced young people; cost of living support; Bereavement support for young people and much more.

MSYPs were also involved in the Children at Risk of Harm (CARH) Care Inspectorate inspection, attended the May 2022 Local Council Elections count, and held meetings with senior staff and Council leaders on the implementation of the Young People's Participation and Engagement Strategy.

Young people are represented at Scottish Borders Council Education Sub Committee and have their voices heard on a range of issues. The Education Executive representatives have also been involved in a promotional video for demand responsive transport in the Berwickshire area, to highlight the need for public transport access for young people to use their free Under 22s bus pass, get to work opportunities and enjoy their local area in their free time, thus allowing them the same opportunities as their peers in urban areas.

Scottish Borders Youth Voice (SBYV) has also engaged in partnership projects around the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Working with NHS Borders and Lauder

	<p>Primary School to create awareness raising resources for children in clinical settings; engaging young people from BANG (Borders Additional Needs Group) in discussions on children’s rights through activities and a podcast (with the Promise Team); and running a project called Article 12 @ the Heart to engage more hard to reach young people in understanding the UNCRC and learning skills on how to have their voices heard.</p> <p>SBYV has engaged with high school Pupil Councils to create more of a cohesive communications connection so that young people’s voices are heard at all levels locally and nationally more easily. They have also attended school assemblies highlighting youth voice opportunities both locally and nationally to ensure that young people are aware of their options and how to get involved.</p> <p>Scottish Borders pupils in Secondary Schools participated in the Scottish Schools Health and Wellbeing Improvement Research Network (SHINE) between October 2022 and January 2023. The survey looked at different aspects of mental health and wellbeing such as general health, strengths and difficulties, sleep scales, self-harm, and loneliness. The data report will be shared with the Mental Health and Wellbeing Project Board in order to support improvements in young people’s wellbeing.</p> <p>Scottish Borders pupils in Primary Schools participated in the Scottish Schools Health and Wellbeing Improvement Research Network (SHINE) between October 2022 and January 2023. The survey looked at different aspects of mental health and wellbeing such as general health, good childhood, me and my feelings and school. The data report will be shared with the Mental Health and Wellbeing Project Board in order to support improvements in young people’s wellbeing.</p> <p>The Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Project Board commissioned social research to build an understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capacity of existing support providers • The extent and diversity of reach to children, young people and their families • The knowledge and training needs of the workforce. <p>‘Protecting children and young people’s health and wellbeing in the Scottish Borders’ was prepared in November 2022 by Catch the Light. The fieldwork involved children, young people and families as well as workforce representatives. Recommendations in the report will be actioned by the Project Board.</p> <p>In March 2022, Scottish Borders schools took part in a Health and Wellbeing Census for P5-7 children in primary schools, and S1-6 young people in secondary schools. A separate Substance Use was completed by S4 young people only. Four key areas were identified for immediate action by Education</p>
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	<p>Services, and these were included in the Education Improvement Plan for 2022/23. Each area had a work plan to support improvement throughout 2022/23. The key areas to address were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bullying 2. Caring Responsibilities 3. Body Image 4. Loneliness, stress, and worry
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Conclusion

The Children and Young People’s Leadership Group are proud of the work done in 2022/23 under the Integrated Children and Young People’s Plan for 2021/2023.

Over the lifetime of this Plan, the Leadership Group have delivered key actions to support each priority and achieve outcomes which have made a difference to the lives of all our children and young people.

Significant achievements have been made in each priority as below:

Priority 1 – the establishment of a joint psychological trauma steering group will help to destigmatise trauma, be a focal point for information, resources, and guidance, and provide leadership for promoting trauma informed practice.

Priority 2 - Kooth and Togetherall are digital platforms covering the 10-18 year old age group & 16+ age group. The main areas where support is offered are; anxiety, depression or low mood, suicidal thoughts, and self-harm. Current registrations for Kooth and Togetherall are circa.4500 and 850.

Priority 3 – Wheatlands Children’s House received an Excellent (grade 6) in May 2022, following their unannounced inspection by the Care Inspectorate. The report highlights that the service demonstrates “major strengths in supporting positive outcomes for young people” and that there are “several areas of practice that are considered to be sector leading.”

Priority 4 – TD1 Youth Hub in Galashiels undertook local research in the Summer and Autumn of 2022, with young people to inform a report highlighting young people’s use of alcohol and drugs and the barriers to accessing support services. This involved a street-based survey with 108 young people, focus groups with 43 young people and more in-depth work with 7 young people. The research provided information about young people’s substance use and highlighted the importance of trusting relationships both in supporting harm reduction messages and accessing services.

Building on the priorities of this plan, the new Children and Young People’s Planning Partnership have agreed a set of priorities for the 2023-2026 Plan which are designed to align to the priorities of The Promise:

A good childhood

Mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people	Corporate parenting	Children in conflict with the law
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Whole family support

Supporting families	Child poverty
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Planning and building capacity

Commissioning	A multi-agency performance/outcome framework for children and young people	A participation and engagement strategy
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Supporting the workforce

A children and young people workforce strategy
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The Partnership looks forward to delivering the priorities of the 2023-26 Children and Young People's Plan and to continuing to work towards enhancing the lives of our children, young people and their families.

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Appendix 2A - Whole Family Wellbeing Funding – Reporting progress as part of annual Children’s Services Plans (CSP) Reports (March 2023)

SECTION 1: Activities, WFWF Logic Model Outcomes, and Budget Allocated

Question 1: Activity title and description	Question 2: During this year, how has this activity contributed (or is expected to contribute) toward one or more short-term, intermediate, or long-term WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) identified in your WFWF Initial Plan template? Please describe this using evidence and citing sources.	Question 3: Estimate of % of WFWF funding spent on this activity to date and estimate of % of this activity out of total WFWF budget.
Activity 1: Building staffing capacity within the CSPP	The outcome was to increase staffing capacity to implement the WFWF plan. We have made the Promise Implementation Officer role a permanent post and we have also just created a three-year Promise Project Worker post. The post will be a significant resource in terms of taking forwards the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund in the Scottish Borders.	Estimate that 4.6% of WFWF funding spent on this activity as of 01/04/2023 and estimate that this activity represents 6.1% of total WFWF budget for this year.
Activity 2: Analysis and evaluation of existing family support	Within the new Scottish Borders Children and Young People’s Planning Partnership there is going to be a Whole Family Support Network which will have oversight of the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund (with support from the CYPPP Strategic Board). Once established, they will review and analyse the data collated via the Whole Family Support Service mapping exercise and the Catch the Light Report to use the Network members’ collective knowledge and data to underpin a plan that extends beyond the period of funding, to inform service design for the future.	Estimate that 0% of WFWF funding spent on this activity as of 01/04/2023 and estimate that this activity represents 0% of total WFWF budget for this year. This is misleading however as reviewing and setting up a governance structure to enable better multi-agency use of the WFWF has been a significant piece of work involving senior staff from across agencies. The Promise Implementation Officer has played a lead role in this area.
Activity 3: Engagement with children and families	We have not yet formally engaged with children, young people and families as part of our WFWF work and planning. A lot of work over the last months has involved establishing our new governance	Estimate that 0% of WFWF funding spent on this activity as of 01/04/2023 and

	<p>structure – the Children and Young People’s Planning Partnership (CYPPP), and the new Board are committed to having children, young people and families involved at the heart of decision making within the new Networks and Board structure.</p> <p>Recognising the need to involve quieter voices, we have started developing a new participation and engagement project called Article 12 at the Heart. This project is looking to bring together young people, adults who support young people and a local Councillor to explore how we can meaningfully involve young people in our CYPPP.</p> <p>In addition, we have been developing our Champions Board Approach with care experienced children and young people, and since January we have started pilot Champions Board Hubs in two secondary schools in the Borders.</p>	estimate that this activity represents 0% of total WFWF budget for this year.
Activity 4: self-assessment of readiness to change	This will be undertaken once the new Whole Family Support Network is established.	N/A
Activity 5: Scale-up of transformative and effective whole family support services	As Activity 4.	N/A

SECTION 2: Progress Narrative for your overall WFWF plans

Questions	Responses
<p>Question 4: Overview description of what has been achieved to date and how this compares to intended plans, including specific partners who have been involved, particularly third sector organisations.</p>	<p>The development of a new multi-agency children’s services partnership governance structure has been significant. The previous structure was reviewed in terms of delivering the Promise and it was agreed to develop both a new governance board – the Children and Young People’s Planning Partnership and associated work streams. The Promise is regarded as the overall policy driver for the new structure and the 4 networks reflect the Priority Areas of the Promise – A Good Childhood, Whole Family Support, Supporting the Workforce and, Planning and Building Capacity.</p> <p>Development of the new governance structure has been participative and informed by a number of multi-agency partnership workshops and involved the voice of young people. Partners from across Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Police Scotland, and a range of third sector organisations have been active participants and decision makers in establishing the new structure. The new structure leaves Scottish Borders in a much better position to use the WFWF to develop and transform service approaches to early intervention. The Whole Family Support work stream will be the primary route for developments in these areas.</p>
<p>Question 5: Main successes to delivery and factors enabling these successes.</p>	<p>See above (question 4).</p> <p>The funding of the Promise Implementation Officer and the Promise Support Worker posts through the WFWF has enabled specific resource to be dedicated to both the establishment of a new children’s services governance structure and, going forward, transforming services in line with the principles and requirements of the Whole family Wellbeing Fund.</p>
<p>Question 6: Main challenges to delivery, and how these have been or plan to be mitigated. Please include any details on any activities which have not progressed as expected.</p>	<p>The main challenge to delivering progress on the WFWF has been the time it has taken to develop the new children’s services governance structure. The development pre-dated the granting of the WFWF which complicated progress of transformational change as Scottish Borders were effectively in an interim phase of governance. The new CYPPP Board formally met for the first time on 21/04/2023.</p>
<p>Question 7: How have the activities and outcomes in Section 1 been informed by different stakeholders? (especially third</p>	<p>As stated in question 4, third sector representation has been involved in the preparation for the new governance structure which will allow considered use of the WFWF.</p>

<p>sector partners and children and families)</p>	<p>Children, young people and their families have not been specifically involved in developments to date, though the Champions' Board lead young person has been involved in all preparation workshops for the new governance structure. It is the aim of the structure to have young people attending the CYPPP Board and have young people co-chairing the work streams which feed into the Board. Scottish Borders have made considerable progress in embedding participation over the last 18 months. A Champions' Board has been established and, to ensure representation of as many voices as possible, includes school-based Champions' Board hubs and individual one-to-one participation sessions for 'quieter voices'. There is also a group of young people looking at the implementation of Article 12 of the UNCRC across the Scottish Borders.</p>
<p>Any other comments, innovative work, relevant learning, or unexpected changes identified during this year?</p>	<p>Although Scottish Borders have been slow in developing transformational change in line with the Whole family Wellbeing Fund, we are now in a position to do so with an effective multi-agency governance and decision-making structure. This will build on considerable progress over the last 2 years in implementing the Promise across the partnership.</p>

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Appendix 2B – Review of Inspiring Young Minds

Review of Inspiring Young Minds Kelso High School Study Leave Programme April – June 2022

Inspiring Young Minds targeted students at risk of a negative destination who did not have a full exam timetable during study leave. It aimed to build their life and employment skills and give them a better understanding of future opportunities and pathways. This was a new approach to partnership working and was planned and delivered by the CLD Worker from the Youth Learning Team and the Careers Advisers and Work Coach from Skills Development Scotland. The Developing Young Workforce School Coordinator contributed to initial planning and the welcome session. Overall programme coordination and contact with parents was led by the CLDS Worker who liaised with the pupil support team and SDS on referrals. Programme content and participation levels are set out in detail below.

What worked well?

- Initial good participation from parents and positive responses to our approach; parents felt there was a need for this type of input at this time.
- At welcome session, parents said they valued the opportunity for their views to be heard about their child's future pathways and support available.
- Positive partnership working between SDS and CLDS resulted in a blending of skills, knowledge, and expertise.
- CLDS dedicated a significant amount of time to calling parents and encouraging participation in the programme by them and their child.
- Abbey Row Community Centre was a great venue and gave access to local facilities.
- A diverse programme was offered using SDS local business contacts in the Kelso area and CLDS programmes such as outdoor learning initiatives.
- Two students attended every session and engaged in CLDS learning opportunities with the school community; they have gained a Saltire Award for this.
- Students who did not take part in group activities accessed one to one support from CLDS and SDS; this broke down the barrier of initial contact and SDS now have positive engagement with students needing extra support with their pathways.

Recommendations

- The initial session with parents gained the most interest; future programmes could have more sessions for parents with a member of the school team to respond to questions.
- Extra planning time is needed to determine the case load and referrals earlier and prepare them for the programme; time should be allocated for parent contact.
- Partners now have a better understanding of workload and time commitment required; this needs to be built into partner work plans and Target Operating Model (TOM) planning tool.

- The programme could involve more partners in delivery such as DYW (Developing the Young Workforce), Volunteer Centre Borders and local youth project and community providers.
- SDS and CLDS are keen to offer a similar programme to students on the Work Coach case load; SDS are taking this forward with Christmas Leavers.
- Students gained a Saltire Award; future programmes could offer a wider range of awards such as the Youth Achievement Award programme and the John Muir Award.



Session on running your own business explored motivation and managing self



One student volunteered as a peer leader with a CLDS Bushcraft programme



Preparing for a mock interview with the Community Engagement Officer

Programme content and participation levels

Date	Activity and venue	Lead	Partners involved	Numbers attended
26 April	Welcome session Abbey Row	CLDS	DYW SDS	5 students 7 parents
3 May	CV Building and job searching Abbey Row and local café	SDS	CLDS	3 students
9 May	Bushcraft Floors Castle	CLDS	Tree-ptions (CLDS funded)	2 students 1 parent
10 May	Your town; your skills and strengths Abbey Row and Kelso town	SDS	CLDS	3 students 1 parent
16 May	Bushcraft peer leader Floors Castle	CLDS	Tree-ptions (CLDS funded)	1 student
17 May	From apprentice to local business owner; CV building and job searching Abbey Row	SDS	Local business owner CLDS	4 students 1 parent
24 May	Your pathways; CV building and job searching Abbey Row	SDS	CLDS	2 students
31 May	Archaeology work experience Bedrule	CLDS	SDS Archaeology Scotland	2 students
7 June	Mock interviews Endings and moving on Abbey Row and local café	SDS	CLDS Communities and Partnerships Team, SBC	2 students
Total number of student participants				7 students
Total number of parent participants				9 parents

Appendix 2C – Glossary

ASN	Additional Support Needs
BAME	Black and Minority Ethnic
BANG	Borders Additional Needs Group
CARH	Children at risk of harm
CLD	Community Learning & Development
CPP	Community Planning Partnership
CYPLG	Children & Young People’s Leadership Group
CYPPP	Children & Young People’s Planning Partnership
DYW	Developing the Young Workforce
EMA	Educational Maintenance Allowance
FGDM	Family Group Decision Making
GIRFEC	Getting it right for every child
MSYP	Members of Scottish Youth Parliament
NTTP	National Trauma Training Programme
SBYV	Scottish Borders Youth Voice
SDS	Skills Development Scotland
SOSE	South of Scotland Enterprise
TOM	Target Operating Model
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the rights of the child
WFWF	Whole family wellbeing fund
YPG	Young Person’s Guarantee

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

Stage 1 Scoping and Assessing for Relevance

Section 1 Details of the Proposal

<p>A. Title of Proposal:</p>	<p>Children and Young People's Services Plan 2023-26 and Integrated Children & Young People's Plan 2021-23 Annual Progress Report for 2022-23</p>
<p>B. What is it?</p>	<p>A new Policy/Strategy/Practice <input type="checkbox"/> A revised Policy/Strategy/Practice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>C. Description of the proposal: (Set out a clear understanding of the purpose of the proposal being developed or reviewed (what are the aims, objectives and intended outcomes, including the context within which it will operate)</p>	<p>An integrated approach to service planning by partners is a requirement under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. This work is facilitated through the work of the Children & Young People's Planning Partnership which focuses on shared priorities to deliver meaningful and sustainable improvements to the lives of all our children and young people to ensure that <i>everyone</i> can reach their full potential.</p> <p>The plan sets out a clear vision and refreshed priorities for the future, highlighting our full commitment to working together in partnership to pursue our goal of making a difference to the lives of children, young people, and their families.</p> <p>The annual report sets out progress made against priorities within the 2021-23 plan.</p>

D. Service Area: Department:	SBC, NHS and Community Planning Partners
E. Lead Officer: (Name and job title)	Janice Robertson Strategic Planning and Policy Manager
F. Other Officers/Partners involved: (List names, job titles and organisations)	Multiple – this is a cross-partnership Plan incorporating partners from Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Police Scotland, the Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration and the third sector. Names available on request
G. Date(s) IIA completed:	September 2022 January 2023 April 2023 May 2023

Section 2 Will there be any impacts as a result of the relationship between this proposal and other policies?

Yes

If yes, - please state here:

Scottish Borders Council Anti-Poverty Strategy
Local Child Poverty Report 2023/24 and Progress Report 2022/23
Council Plan 2023
CPP Workplan and Priorities
Community Learning and Development Plan
Children's Rights Report 2021-23

Section 3 Legislative Requirements

3.1 Relevance to the Equality Duty:

Do you believe your proposal has any relevance under the Equality Act 2010?

(If you believe that your proposal may have some relevance – however small please indicate yes. If there is no effect, please enter “No” and go to Section 3.2.)

YES

Equality Duty

A. Elimination of discrimination (both direct & indirect), victimisation and harassment. *(Will the proposal discriminate? Or help eliminate discrimination?)*

Reasoning:

There is potential to impact on the whole child population and their families in the Scottish Borders. The child is at the centre of an approach which sees the Partnership intervene as early as possible, and focus on prevention and change.

	The Plan and Annual Progress Report help to eliminate discrimination as they are inclusive to all children, young people and their families.
B. Promotion of equality of opportunity? <i>(Will your proposal help or hinder the Council with this)</i>	The development of action plans arising from the identified priorities will help the Planning Partnership to identify and promote equality of opportunity. The newly formed work streams in the Children and Young People's Services Plan 2023-26 will work with equality of opportunity in mind.
C. Foster good relations? <i>(Will your proposal help to foster or encourage good relations between those who have different equality characteristics?)</i>	The Planning Partnership has a key role in linking the work and plans of our Partners to achieve the best outcomes we can for our children and young people regardless of different equality characteristics.

3.2 Which groups of people do you think will be or potentially could be, impacted by the implementation of this proposal? (You should consider employees, clients, customers / service users, and any other relevant groups)				
Please tick below as appropriate, outlining any potential impacts on the undernoted equality groups this proposal may have and how you know this.				
	Impact			Please explain the potential impacts and how you know this
	No Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	
Age Older or younger people or a specific age grouping		X		The Children and Young People's Services Plan 2023-26 is inclusive to all children, young people and their families. The priorities and actions plans arising from them will seek to meet the needs of individuals across a range of universal services as well as specialist services regardless of age. This also applies to the 2022-23 Annual Progress Report

<p>Disability e.g. Effects on people with mental, physical, sensory impairment, learning disability, visible/invisible, progressive or recurring</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>Within the 2022-23 Annual Progress Report, the following priorities all have a positive impact on disability.</p> <p>Priority 2 (improving health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities) has actions relating to 'building capacity to support emotional health and wellbeing'.</p> <p>Priority 3 (targeting support to maximise life experiences and opportunities and ensuring inclusion) refers to 'targeted partnership approaches to children and young people with additional and complex needs'.</p> <p>Priority 4 (increasing participation and engagement) includes Disabled Children.</p>
<p>Gender Reassignment/ Gender Identity anybody whose gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex assigned to them at birth</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>The Children & Young people's Services Plan 2023-26 and the Annual Progress Report 2022-23 is inclusive to all children, young people and their families irrespective of gender reassignment/gender identity.</p>
<p>Marriage or Civil Partnership people who are married or in a civil partnership</p>	<p>X</p>		<p>These are not identified within the two plans</p>
<p>Pregnancy and Maternity (refers to the period after the birth, and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth),</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>Within the 2022-23 Annual Progress Report, the following priorities all have a positive impact on pregnancy and maternity.</p> <p>Priority 1 (keeping children and young people safe) refers to providing young people with the support and advice they need to ensure they have the skills and confidence at key life stages to assess risk and make appropriate choices.</p>

				<p>Priority 2 (improving health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities) refers to building capacity to improve the health and wellbeing of all children and young people such as their sexual health.</p> <p>The Children and Young People's services plan 2023-26 contains the following priorities which have a positive contribution to pregnancy and maternity groups.</p>
Race Groups: including colour, nationality, ethnic origins, including minorities (e.g. gypsy travellers, refugees, migrants and asylum seekers)		X		The Plans applies fairly to people of all racial groups. Translations, alternative formats and interpreters are provided upon request as per current Council and NHS Policy.
Religion or Belief: different beliefs, customs (including atheists and those with no aligned belief)		X		The Plans are fully inclusive to all religions and beliefs (including non-belief).
Sex women and men (girls and boys)		X		The Plans are fully inclusive to all genders.
Sexual Orientation , e.g. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Heterosexual		X		The Plans are fully inclusive to all irrespective of their sexual orientation.
<p>3.3 Fairer Scotland Duty</p> <p>This duty places a legal responsibility on Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to actively consider (give due regard) to how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socioeconomic disadvantage when making <u>strategic</u> decisions.</p> <p>The duty is set at a strategic level - these are the key, high level decisions that SBC will take. This would normally include strategy documents, decisions about setting priorities, allocating resources and commissioning services.</p>				

<p>Is the proposal strategic? Yes If No go to Section 4</p>				
<p>If yes, please indicate any potential impact on the undernoted groups this proposal may have and how you know this:</p>				
	Impact			State here how you know this
	No Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	
Low and/or No Wealth – enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future.		x		The Community Planning Partnership aim to reduce inequalities, specifically Child Poverty. The Children & Young People’s Planning Partnership contributes to Child Poverty Planning.
Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies		x		The Partnership plans and deliver services in ways which promote equity and where possible challenge the root causes of poverty and deprivation.
Area Deprivation – where you live (e.g. rural areas), where you work (e.g. accessibility of transport)		x		The Partnership plans and deliver services in ways which promote equity and where possible challenge the root causes of poverty and deprivation. Rurality is recognised within the Plan with statistics detailed.
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parents’ education, employment and income		x		The Plan recognises children in low income families and lower median gross weekly pay in the Scottish Borders.
Looked after and accommodated children and young people		x		Children and Families Social Work fulfils specific statutory duties to children and young people. The role is to necessitate focus on those children, young people and their families assessed as most in need and provides a range of functions

				and interventions. The Plan recognises The Promise as a main policy driver and this commitment is reflected in the Plan priorities.
Carers paid and unpaid including family members		x		The Carers (Scotland) Act 2018 applies to both adult and young carers and aims to support carers' health and wellbeing and help make caring more sustainable.
Homelessness		x		
Addictions and substance use		x		The Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Strategy 2020-23 has been included as a key local Plan in the Children & Young People's Services Plan 2023-26.
Those involved within the criminal justice system		x		A Children in conflict with the law strategy is a new priority identified in the Children & Young People's Services Plan 2023-26.
3.4 Armed Forces Covenant Duty (<i>Education and Housing/ Homelessness proposals only</i>)				
<p>This duty places a legal responsibility on Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to actively consider (give due regard) to the three matters listed below in Education and Housing/ Homelessness matters. This relates to current and former armed forces personnel (regular or reserve) and their families.</p> <p>Is the Armed Forces Covenant Duty applicable? No</p> <p>If "Yes", please complete below</p>				
Covenant Duty			How this has been considered and any specific provision made:	
The unique obligations of, and sacrifices made by, the armed forces;				

<p>The principle that it is desirable to remove disadvantages arising for Service people from membership, or former membership, of the armed forces;</p>	
<p>The principle that special provision for Service people may be justified by the effects on such people of membership, or former membership, of the armed forces.</p>	

Section 4 Full Integrated Impact Assessment Required

Select No if you have answered “No” to all of Sections 3.1 – 3.3.

Yes

If yes, please proceed to Stage 2 and complete a full Integrated Impact Assessment

If a full impact assessment is not required briefly explain why there are no effects and provide justification for the decision.

<p>Signed by Lead Officer:</p>	<p>Janice Robertson</p>
<p>Designation:</p>	<p>Strategic Planning and Policy Manager</p>

Date:	April 2023, May 2023, June 2023
Counter Signature Director:	Stuart Easingwood Director - Social Work and Practice
Date:	June 2023

Stage 2 Evidence Gathering and Consultation

A. Title of Proposal:	Children and Young People’s Services Plan 2023-26 and Integrated Children & Young People’s Plan 2021-23 Annual Progress Report
B. Service Area: Department:	SBC, NHS and Community Planning Partners
C. Lead Officer: (Name and job title)	Janice Robertson Strategic Planning and Policy Manager
D. Other Officers/Partners involved: (List names, job titles and organisations)	Multiple – this is a cross-partnership Plan incorporating partners from Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Police Scotland, the Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration and the third sector. Names available on request
E. Date(s) IIA completed:	September 2022 January 2023 April 2023 May 2023

Page 323

Section 1 Data and Information

A. What evidence has been used to inform this proposal?

(Information can include, for example, surveys, databases, focus groups, in-depth interviews, pilot projects, reviews of complaints made, user feedback, academic publications and consultants’ reports).

Multi-Agency Workshops were held to inform the Children & Young People’s Services Plan 2023-26

Information from Agencies and Partners

National Statistics

Local data and Statistics

Publications

Plans and Progress Reports

Strategic Priorities

Engagement with Children and Young People

Surveys

B. Describe any gaps in the available evidence, then record this within the improvement plan together with all of the actions you are taking in relation to this (e.g. new research, further analysis, and when this is planned)

Various strategies, frameworks and assessments should be used to inform the preparation of these plans. Outlined below are identified areas of priority in the Children & Young People's Plan 2023-26, and are current gaps.

Participation and engagement strategy

Performance Framework

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Workforce Strategy

Section 2 Consultation and Involvement

A. Which groups are involved in this process and describe their involvement

Children, Young People and Families

Young People are involved in the Children & Young People's Planning Partnership

Carers

Multi-agency partners

B. Describe any planned involvement saying when this will take place and who is responsible for managing the process

The review of Plans will be ongoing and all groups and agencies will be involved in this. The Children & Young People's Planning Partnership is responsible for managing the process.

C. Describe the results of any involvement and how you have taken this into account.

All involvement is recorded and detailed in the Plan in accordance with the 4 priorities of The Promise.

D. Describe any events held and views obtained (if applicable). Add or remove as needed.

Not applicable

Stage 3 Summary and Next Steps

Section 1 Summary

Summarise what you have learned then develop this further.

(Describe the conclusion(s) you have reached from the evidence, and state where the information can be found.)

Please consider the following:

What have you learned from the evidence you have and the involvement undertaken? Does the initial assessment remain valid?

What new (if any) impacts have become evident?

Is the proposal not to proceed because of a disproportionate impact on equality or Fairer Scotland characteristics?

Yes, the initial assessment remains valid. Children's Services Planning is a legal requirement and the multi-agency collaborative approach is key to the effective delivery of The Promise priorities identified. The Plan demonstrates a positive impact on equality and the Fairer Scotland characteristics.

A. Please indicate if the proposal will proceed

- Yes, please see below section 3 for next steps
- No, the proposal will not proceed based on disproportionate impact on equality or Fairer Scotland characteristics

Section 2 Sign Off

Signed by Lead Officer:	Janice Robertson
Designation:	Strategic Planning and Policy Manager
Date:	
Counter Signature Director:	Stuart Easingwood Director – Social Work & Practice
Date:	

Section 3 Monitoring and Review (complete if relevant, remove if not)

B. State how the implementation and impact of the proposal will be monitored, including implementation of any amendments? For example what type of monitoring will there be? How frequent?

The Children & Young People's Planning Partnership is a newly formed strategic group which will deliver the 2023-26 Plan. This group meets monthly to consider the delivery of each priority as aligned to the Promise.

C. What are the practical arrangements for monitoring? For example who will put this in place? When will it start?

Monthly meetings by the Children & Young People's Planning Partnership

D. When is the proposal due for review?

Year end (submit to Scottish Government as soon as practicable)

E. Who is responsible for ensuring that this happens?

Children & Young People's Planning Partnership and the Community Planning Partnership

F. Please indicate if you have developed an Action Plan to take forward any remaining actions

- Yes, please see attached on final page
 No, no further actions required

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**RESPONSE TO THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S
CONSULTATION ON COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING**

8 June 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the Community Planning Partnership's response to the Scottish Government's Consultation on Community Wealth Building.**
- 1.2 The Scottish Government's consultation on Community Wealth Building (CWB) opened on 31 January 2023 and closed on 9 May 2023. The consultation provided the opportunity to express views on the creation of a statutory duty related to Community Wealth Building, as well as on potential legislative and non-legislative developments which could facilitate the creation of community wealth in Scotland.
- 1.3 The Community Planning Partnership's (CPP) response highlights support for CWB as a strategic objective. It notes however that there is no unified CPP position relation to the creation of CWB statutory duty pertaining to CWB. The CPP makes a number of suggestions which could improve the creation of CWB, notably calling for a simplified policy landscape, the publication of further non-statutory guidance on CWB, and assistance to enable suppliers to access public sector contracts.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 I recommend that the Strategic Board notes the response as set out in Appendix 1 to the Scottish Government's consultation on Community Wealth Building.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Scottish Government, in its 2021 Programme for Government, committed to introducing a bill related to Community Wealth Building within the current parliamentary term¹. Community Wealth Building (CWB) is “a people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits into the hands of local people”². As such, from a strategic standpoint, it aims at the creation of a wellbeing economy at the local level, via anchor institutions such as local authorities, and other public sector partners.
- 3.2 CWB relies on five core principles:
- **Spending:** Maximising community benefits through procurement and commissioning, developing good enterprises, fair work and shorter supply chains.
 - **Inclusive Ownership:** Developing more local and social enterprises which generate community wealth, including social enterprises, employee owned firms and cooperatives.
 - **Workforce:** Increasing fair work and developing local labour markets that support the wellbeing of communities.
 - **Finance:** Ensuring that flows of investment and financial institutions work for local people, communities and businesses.
 - **Land and Property:** Growing social, ecological, financial and economic value that local communities gain from land and property assets.
- 3.3 The deadline for responding to the consultation did not allow time for a response to be drafted for the approval of the Strategic Board. An extension was agreed with the Scottish Government which enabled the Programme Board to attend a briefing on the consultation and approve a response at their meeting on 17 May 2023.

4 COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The CPP’s draft response to the consultation is attached at Appendix 1. The consultation focuses on legislative changes which would introduce a new statutory duty bearing on public sector bodies to embed CWB within their practice. It gives a number of options outlining how this would be done, and asks respondent to indicate their preference and suggest potential legislative changes which would support CWB as a strategic outcome.
- 4.2 Whilst the CPP is committed to CWB, as evidenced by the current Work Plan agreed by the Strategic Board at their meeting on 8 September 2022, there was no unified response to the question of the creation of a new statutory duty as detailed in the response.

¹ Scottish Parliament Official Report – Session 6, Meeting of the Parliament (Hybrid), Wednesday 25 May 2022, p. 24. T. Arthur (MSP), available at: [Official Report \(parliament.scot\)](https://www.parliament.scot/Official-Reports/2022/20220525)

² [Community wealth building - Cities and regions - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/consultation-papers/community-wealth-building-cities-and-regions/)

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

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

5.2 Risk and Mitigations

There are no risks associated with this reports which contains the response to the Scottish Government's Community Wealth Building consultation.

5.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

An integrated impact assessment has been conducted. The findings indicate that while Community Wealth Building is of relevance to the Equality Act and the Fairer Scotland Duty, a full assessment does not need to be undertaken. This is because this report limits itself to examining the Community Planning Partnership's draft response to the consultation.

5.4 Sustainable Development Goals

Community Wealth Building is relevant to the sustainable development goals, in particular Goal 1 (No Poverty), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (industry innovation and infrastructure), 10 (reduced inequalities), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 13 (climate action), 15 (life on land) and 17 (partnerships for the goals). However, this report limits itself to the CPP's consultation response, and thus has no impact on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

5.5 Climate Change

The recommendations contained within this report do not impact climate change, as they are limited to the Community Planning Partnership's response to the CWB consultation.

5.6 Rural Proofing

N/a

5.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

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

5.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

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

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Acting Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications have been consulted and any comments received incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Jenni Craig

Director, Resilient Communities

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Sam Smith	Chief Officer – Economic Development – 01835 825612
Alexandre Belle	Corporate Policy Advisor - 01835 82400 Ext. 5820
Clare Malster	Participation Officer – 01835 826626

Appendix 1

Building Community Wealth in Scotland

Please Note this form **must** be completed and returned with your response.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy:

<https://www.gov.scot/privacy/>

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- Individual
 Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership
01835 826626

Phone number

Address

--

Postcode

--

Email Address

communityplanning@scotborders.gov.uk

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name
 Publish response only (without name)
 Do not publish response

Information for organisations:

The option 'Publish response only (without name)' is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published.

If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

- Yes
 No

Questionnaire

Question 1a

We are proposing a duty to advance Community Wealth Building, which form do you think this duty should take:

- Option A
- Option B
- Option C
- Other
- No Duty

Please provide a reason for your answer. In your answer please include views on:

- which bodies should be covered by the proposals
- how to best ensure accountability for implementation to the Scottish Parliament
- how to best ensure the involvement of local communities, business and the third sector in the implementation of the duty

As highlighted by the consultation, Community Wealth Building (CWB) entails a paradigm change in the delivery of economic development across Scotland. The Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (the 'CPP') is fully committed to the CWB as a strategic outcome, and as a way to develop a wellbeing economy amongst the Region.

The current Work Plan of the CPP outlines several outcomes directly tied to CWB objectives, notably:

- *'The Borders is a more equitable and fair place to work'.*
- *'Build, redirect and retain wealth in the Scottish Borders local economy, and place wealth back into the hands of local people'.*

Similar commitments have been made by statutory and non-statutory partners within the CPP: Community Wealth Building features for example within Scottish Borders Council's Council Plan from April 2023 and South of Scotland Enterprise Five Year Plan 2023-28, and several projects and pilot projects are already being progressed across the Borders and the South of Scotland to deliver CWB outcomes.

The novel and far-reaching nature of CWB means a number of approaches, legislative or non-legislative, could be pursued to ensure that CWB is mainstreamed within Scotland. Community Planning Partners have discussed at length the value of providing an additional legislative duty to implement CWB, but no unified position was reached on the question. This, in many ways, is a reflection of the inherent complexity of CWB and indicates that there is no single right answer to the implementation of this strategic objective. As was recognised by partners, on the one hand the creation of a statutory duty could provide added value by providing a clear impetus towards change. On the other hand, the current policy landscape is already highly complex for public sector bodies and other partners, and the implementation of Community Wealth Building obligations could represent a significant impact on limited capacities amongst key stakeholders within the sector, deflecting that capacity to duty compliance rather than our shared outcomes.

Regardless of the approach undertaken by Scottish Government, Scottish Borders Community Planning Partners would highlight the following points:

1. There is a need for CWB, as a strategic outcome, to be pursued across all public sector organisations to ensure that the benefits which can be gained from this new approach are maximised. This would allow for CWB to be considered by a broader range of anchor organisations, thus better supporting the creation of a wellbeing economy.
2. CWB is highly complex, and its successful implementation could represent a sizeable commitment for many public sector bodies, especially given a currently challenging financial landscape. A successful implementation of CWB is therefore dependent on the provision of adequate support, whether this support takes the form of additional funding, or the provision of further guidance, training, and the sharing of best practice across sectors and across Scotland.
3. CWB ought to reach beyond the public sector itself and be adopted by the private sector, the third-sector, and communities.
4. The policy approach adopted by SG ought to provide for sufficient flexibility to ensure that CWB is implemented in a place-based manner, and to provide it with the means to adapt to future changes in policy, as implementation becomes more widespread.
5. The policy landscape when it comes to community wealth, community empowerment and economic transformation is highly complex and rapidly changing, as is the funding landscape supporting it. The development of a CWB strategic approach within government could provide an opportunity to simplify this landscape, which would facilitate implementation for key stakeholders.

Finally, to ensure the successful implementation of CWB, the development of strong, local, resilient supply chains is essential to ensure that sufficient capacity exists to meet future needs at a local level. This question, however, is complex and will likely require lengthy developments. This further emphasises the need for a policy approach which is sufficiently adaptable, allowing it to respond to a changing economic landscape.

Question 1b

One way Scottish Government could support the implementation of the proposed Community Wealth Building duty is to provide statutory or non-statutory guidance. Would this be helpful to partners in meeting the proposed duty?

- Yes
 No
 Don't Know

Please provide a reason for your answer. In your answer please include views on:

- areas in which it would be helpful for this guidance to focus on, e.g. areas to consider when implementing the five pillars, links to further support materials
- whether the guidance should be statutory or non-statutory

Further guidance outlining good practice on community wealth building would be welcome. At the moment, the landscape is fairly cluttered, as recognised by the consultation. National guidance and a way to share knowledge at the national level between anchor organisations may enable public sector partners to have a greater impact. In order to guarantee the place-based nature of CWB, this guidance should, however, remain non-statutory.

Furthermore, a non-statutory definition of best value, and non-statutory guidance clarifying the notion could facilitate the work of contracting authorities and empower them to take further action on community benefits. It would also increase certainty for suppliers by incentivising contracting authorities to adopt a similar approach to best value. Currently, practice varies across the public sector, which, while it is representative of a place-based approach can sometimes lead to confusion on the supplier-side.

Question 2a

Are there other non-legislative measures that you believe are required to accelerate the implementation of the Community Wealth Building approach in Scotland?

- Yes
 No

Don't Know

There are two main challenges to furthering the CWB agenda:

1. Limited capacity: more inclusive procurement practices which benefit local communities and reduce supply chains can often create additional costs for public sector bodies. Delivering outcomes on this front within limited budgetary envelopes will be challenging for community planning partners if additional funding streams supporting these policy aims are not provided. The same applies to the workforce pillar of CWB, with salaries representing the largest proportion of budgets across community planning partners. As such, provision of additional capacity would be one of the key enablers for advancing CWB at a local level.
2. Simplifying the policy landscape: Scottish Government is currently reviewing several legislative and policy areas related to community wealth building, chiefly via the Regional Policy Review and via the review of the Community Empowerment act, but also through SG's Land Reform bill. These developments provide a key opportunity to consolidate the legislative framework underpinning community wealth build and community empowerment, which would greatly simplify CPP's role in this context.
3. Building on existing best practice: collective experience of CWB grows across Scotland, there would be merit in developing an online, regularly updated library of best practice as a reference point for interested parties. This would help to broaden understanding of the practical implementation of CWB. Consideration could also be given to a directory of resources, including organisations which provide expert advice, such as the Supplier Development Programme, Co-operative Development Scotland and third sector and alternative finance providers.

Please provide a reason for your answer.

Question 2b

Are there specific actions required to advance delivery of the items contained within the Shared Policy Programme outlined on page 11 of the consultation paper?

- 'working within and developing procurement practices to support local economies, including Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) and micro-businesses, and improved access to training and labour markets for disadvantaged communities and individuals.
- encouraging public kitchens, including school canteens, to source more food produced by local businesses and organic producers.
- where possible, to base public sector capital and revenue funding decisions on targeted social, economic and environmental outcomes'

Yes

No

Don't Know

Please provide a reason for your answer.

Building capacity within SMEs and micro-businesses is essential in order to strengthen local supply chains enabling anchor institutions to tap into local businesses as part of their procurement programmes. At the moment, increased resilience within local supply chains, especially in rural areas, is a key enabler to deliver the programme outlined above. In particular, further support and guidance to SMEs and micros is key in ensuring access to public sector contracts.

A potential way of doing this would be supplier development programme run sessions for suppliers to support and encourage them onto national frameworks such as Scotland Excel. In general, more needs to be done, whether from a regulatory standpoint or not, so that the process of accessing public sector contracts does not act as a deterrent for smaller businesses.

In order to deliver on the second point, a key action would be to provide further education, information, and training in school canteens and other public kitchens on local supply and the importance of product traceability in that context.

Question 3

Regarding the third point, focus could be put on the reduction of road miles amongst public sector supply chains. This would be key in delivering against Scotland net-zero ambitions while supporting local suppliers.

Yes

No

Don't Know

Please provide a reason for your answer. In your response you may wish to consider the stakeholder suggestions outlined in the consultation paper which have arisen from early engagement.

Currently, section 25 of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) act 2014, mandates the use of community benefit requirements for contracts over a value of £4m. Allowing for the quick-note threshold to be used from £50,000 onwards would make more procurement opportunities available to smaller businesses which may not have the capacity to undertake enter full procurement exercises. This would, however, have to be considered in more details as such a reform may have a disproportionate impact on procurement services within public sector bodies.

Further non-statutory guidance would also be welcome on what community benefits should entail, within the notion of Best Value. It appears at the moment that practice varies amongst the public sector. While this variance can be positive in that it allows for a more place-based and flexible approach, it can also be a source of frustration and confusion for suppliers as different organisations will have different expectations. Moreover, beyond legislative changes, building up capacity within private sector SMEs is key in unlocking the potential of the spending pillar. Currently, despite willingness to extend contracts to local enterprises, partners have found challenges in a lack of resilience and capacity amongst local supply chains.

Question 4

Employment law is reserved to the UK Parliament. Are there other devolved areas where the law could be changed to advance the workforce pillar of Community Wealth Building?

Yes

No

Don't Know

Please provide a reason for your answer. In your response you may wish to consider the stakeholder suggestions outlined in the consultation paper which have arisen from early engagement. You may also wish to consider areas that the Scottish Government could work with the UK Government on if you have proposals regarding changes to the law which remain reserved to the UK Parliament. We will cross-reference to responses received as part of the Fair Work Nation consultation which was held in 2021.

As the consultation paper notes, employment law is currently a reserved matter. As such, there is limited scope for legislative changes in advancing the employment pillar of CWB.

From a non-statutory standpoint, further encouraging the adoption of a real living wage across anchor organisations and the private sector would provide a clear avenue to realise the benefits of the employment pillar. Action is already taking place on that front within the Borders CPP Work Plan, but further support from Scottish Government should facilitate the implementation of this key strategic objective.

Question 5

Are there ways in which the law could be changed which are not already covered in the proposals for the Land Reform Bill to advance the land and property pillar of Community Wealth Building?

- Yes
 No
 Don't Know

Please provide a reason for your answer. In your response you may wish to consider the stakeholder suggestions outlined in the consultation paper which have arisen from early engagement.

There appears to be a mismatch between the general approach which is outlined in NPF4, and the realities of delivery'. In particular, the 'Infrastructure First' principle which is promoted in NPF4 is a good aspiration and can be articulated at the plan-stage. However, there can be a fairly lengthy time frame from the plan-led approach until delivery, and many of the parameters change, not least finance and the economy within that timeframe.

Furthermore, the developer contribution process is complex in relation to infrastructure and other matters, such as biodiversity offsetting and archaeology contributions, eventually leading to delays in terms of delivery. As such, there might be value in simplifying the process overall, in order to unlock CWB benefits by encouraging developments which benefit local communities.

It is also recognised that town centre regeneration is a key issue across many locales in Scotland. This issue would clearly benefit from a Community Wealth Building approach which would enable local communities to develop and benefit from vibrant and resilient town centres.

Finally, a strong read across between CWB considerations and the Land Reform Bill is essential in delivering on the outcomes covered by the land and property pillar and ensure that both pieces of legislation work in tandem.

Question 6

Are there ways in which the law could be changed to advance the inclusive ownership pillar of Community Wealth Building?

- Yes
 No
 Don't Know

Please provide a reason for your answer. In your response you may wish to consider the stakeholder suggestions outlined in the consultation paper which have arisen from early engagement. You may also wish to consider areas that the Scottish Government could work with the UK Government on if you have proposals regarding changes to the law which remain reserved to the UK Parliament.

As noted in the paper, one of the key challenges when it comes to the inclusive ownership pillar of CWB is capacity within local communities. The Community Empowerment Act and other legislation which enables communities to acquire assets, already provides communities with a fairly broad right to request asset transfer against an extensive list of relevant authorities. It is unclear to Scottish Borders Community Planning Partners whether any legislative changes would increase communities' capacity to manage and own assets, or would facilitate the process of asset transfers.

In general, however, the current process for community asset transfers, within and outwith the CEA is fairly cumbersome, and streamlining it may be beneficial to incentivise acquisition of assets by community groups.

Question 7

Are there ways in which the law could be changed to advance the finance pillar of Community Wealth Building?

- Yes
 No
 Don't Know

Please provide a reason for your answer. In your response you may wish to consider the stakeholder suggestions outlined in the consultation paper which have arisen from early engagement. You may also wish to consider areas that the Scottish Government could work with the UK Government on if you have proposals regarding changes to the law which remain reserved to the UK Parliament.

Access to finance by community groups, social enterprises and other CWB related projects is currently challenging. There is a multiplicity of actors providing finance across the public sector, from the enterprise agencies to the Scottish National Investment Bank, with the addition of multiple other funding streams across Scotland and the UK.

Simplifying this landscape, and providing additional finance for smaller community projects would be key in progressing the finance pillar. In particular, reducing the amount and complexity of applications for funding which need to be completed by community groups would be key in enabling them to access financing. Currently, the administrative burden engendered by funding applications can be problematic for smaller groups which therefore fail or struggle to access public funding.

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

Stage 1 Scoping and Assessing for Relevance

Section 1 Details of the Proposal

A. Title of Proposal:	Community Planning Partnership's (CPP) response to the Scottish Government's Consultation on Community Wealth Building (CWB).
B. What is it?	A new Policy/Strategy/Practice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A revised Policy/Strategy/Practice <input type="checkbox"/>
C. Description of the proposal: (Set out a clear understanding of the purpose of the proposal being developed or reviewed (what are the aims, objectives and intended outcomes, including the context within which it will operate)	This proposal details the CPP's response to a consultation from Scottish Government on CWB. It notes the CPP's support for CWB as a strategic approach but reflects that there is no unified position on the creation of a new statutory duty on CWB.
D. Service Area: Department:	Cuts across the CPP
E. Lead Officer: (Name and job title)	Clare Malster, Participation Officer
F. Other Officers/Partners involved: (List names, job titles and organisations)	

G. Date(s) IIA completed:	19/05/2023
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Section 2 Will there be any impacts as a result of the relationship between this proposal and other policies?

No <i>(please delete as applicable)</i>
If yes, - please state here:

Section 3 Legislative Requirements

3.1 Relevance to the Equality Duty:	
<p>Do you believe your proposal has any relevance under the Equality Act 2010? <i>(If you believe that your proposal may have some relevance – however small please indicate yes. If there is no effect, please enter “No” and go to Section 3.2.)</i></p>	
Equality Duty	Reasoning:
<p>A. Elimination of discrimination (both direct & indirect), victimisation and harassment. <i>(Will the proposal discriminate? Or help eliminate discrimination?)</i></p>	
<p>B. Promotion of equality of opportunity? <i>(Will your proposal help or hinder the Council with this)</i></p>	
<p>C. Foster good relations?</p>	

(Will your proposal help to foster or encourage good relations between those who have different equality characteristics?)

**3.2 Which groups of people do you think will be or potentially could be, impacted by the implementation of this proposal?
(You should consider employees, clients, customers / service users, and any other relevant groups)**

Please tick below as appropriate, outlining any potential impacts on the undernoted equality groups this proposal may have and how you know this.

	Impact			Please explain the potential impacts and how you know this
	No Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	
Age Older or younger people or a specific age grouping	X			While CWB as a strategic approach is of relevance to people across the equality characteristics, the current proposal limits itself to the adoption of a response the Scottish Government's consultation. As such, it appears to have no impact on people with this protected characteristic.
Disability e.g. Effects on people with mental, physical, sensory impairment, learning disability, visible/invisible, progressive or recurring	X			While CWB as a strategic approach is of relevance to people across the equality characteristics, the current proposal limits itself to the adoption of a response the Scottish Government's consultation. As such, it appears to have no impact on people with this protected characteristic.
Gender Reassignment/ Gender Identity anybody whose gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex assigned to them at birth	X			While CWB as a strategic approach is of relevance to people across the equality characteristics, the current proposal limits itself to the adoption of a response the Scottish Government's consultation. As such, it appears to have no impact on people with this protected characteristic.
Marriage or Civil Partnership people who are married or in a civil partnership	X			While CWB as a strategic approach is of relevance to people across the equality characteristics, the current proposal limits itself to the adoption of a response the Scottish Government's consultation. As such, it appears to have no impact on people with this protected characteristic.

Pregnancy and Maternity (refers to the period after the birth, and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth),	X			While CWB as a strategic approach is of relevance to people across the equality characteristics, the current proposal limits itself to the adoption of a response the Scottish Government's consultation. As such, it appears to have no impact on people with this protected characteristic.
Race Groups: including colour, nationality, ethnic origins, including minorities (e.g. gypsy travellers, refugees, migrants and asylum seekers)	X			While CWB as a strategic approach is of relevance to people across the equality characteristics, the current proposal limits itself to the adoption of a response the Scottish Government's consultation. As such, it appears to have no impact on people with this protected characteristic.
Religion or Belief: different beliefs, customs (including atheists and those with no aligned belief)	X			While CWB as a strategic approach is of relevance to people across the equality characteristics, the current proposal limits itself to the adoption of a response the Scottish Government's consultation. As such, it appears to have no impact on people with this protected characteristic.
Sex women and men (girls and boys)	X			While CWB as a strategic approach is of relevance to people across the equality characteristics, the current proposal limits itself to the adoption of a response the Scottish Government's consultation. As such, it appears to have no impact on people with this protected characteristic.
Sexual Orientation , e.g. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Heterosexual	X			While CWB as a strategic approach is of relevance to people across the equality characteristics, the current proposal limits itself to the adoption of a response the Scottish Government's consultation. As such, it appears to have no impact on people with this protected characteristic.
<p>3.3 Fairer Scotland Duty</p> <p>This duty places a legal responsibility on Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to actively consider (give due regard) to how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socioeconomic disadvantage when making <u>strategic</u> decisions.</p> <p>The duty is set at a strategic level - these are the key, high level decisions that SBC will take. This would normally include strategy documents, decisions about setting priorities, allocating resources and commissioning services.</p>				

Is the proposal strategic?

No *(please delete as applicable)*

If No go to Section 4

If yes, please indicate any potential impact on the undernoted groups this proposal may have and how you know this:

	Impact			State here how you know this
	No Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	
Low and/or No Wealth – enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future.				
Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies				
Area Deprivation – where you live (e.g. rural areas), where you work (e.g. accessibility of transport)				
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parents' education, employment and income				
Looked after and accommodated children and young people				

Carers paid and unpaid including family members				
Homelessness				
Addictions and substance use				
Those involved within the criminal justice system				

3.4 Armed Forces Covenant Duty (<i>Education and Housing/ Homelessness proposals only</i>)	
<p>This duty places a legal responsibility on Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to actively consider (give due regard) to the three matters listed below in Education and Housing/ Homelessness matters. This relates to current and former armed forces personnel (regular or reserve) and their families.</p> <p>Is the Armed Forces Covenant Duty applicable? Yes/ No</p> <p>If “Yes”, please complete below</p>	
Covenant Duty	How this has been considered and any specific provision made:
The unique obligations of, and sacrifices made by, the armed forces;	

<p>The principle that it is desirable to remove disadvantages arising for Service people from membership, or former membership, of the armed forces;</p>	
<p>The principle that special provision for Service people may be justified by the effects on such people of membership, or former membership, of the armed forces.</p>	

Section 4 Full Integrated Impact Assessment Required

Select No if you have answered “No” to all of Sections 3.1 – 3.3.

No *(please delete as applicable)*

If yes, please proceed to Stage 2 and complete a full Integrated Impact Assessment

If a full impact assessment is not required briefly explain why there are no effects and provide justification for the decision.

Signed by Lead Officer:	Clare Malster
Designation:	Participation Officer
Date:	19/05/2023
Counter Signature Director:	
Date:	

SCOTTISH BORDERS CONSULTATIVE DRAFT LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY 2023-2028

8 June 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides the Strategic Board with an update on the consultative draft Local Housing Strategy 2023 to 2028 and information on further planned consultation.**
- 1.2 The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 places a statutory requirement on local authorities to develop a Local Housing Strategy (LHS), supported by an assessment of housing need and demand. The LHS provides direction for tackling housing issues and informs future investment in housing and related services
- 1.3 The current Scottish Borders Local Housing Strategy (LHS) covers the period 2017-2023 and was approved by the Executive Committee in June 2017. In April 2023 the Council's [Executive Committee agreed](#) to formally consult on the new proposed LHS 2023-2028. .
- 1.4 The new, proposed, consultative draft LHS has been prepared in accordance with [Scottish Government Guidance](#) which sets out the statutory requirements, essential links and outcomes that should be considered within the strategy

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 I recommend that the Strategic Board:-**
- (a) **Considers the draft Local Housing Strategy 2023 to 2028;**
 - (b) **Notes plans for formal consultation and engagement; and**
 - (c) **Notes plans for finalising the strategy**

3 BACKGROUND TO THE LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Local Housing Strategy (LHS) is a local authority's sole strategic document for housing in its area. The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 places a statutory requirement on local authorities to develop a Local Housing Strategy, supported by an assessment of housing need and demand for a five year period. The LHS should set out the joint and strategic approach of the local authority and its partners to delivering high quality housing and housing related services across all tenures, to meet identified need in its area.
- 3.2 There are a number of statutory requirements that have to be addressed in the LHS which should set out a local authority's approach to meeting its statutory housing responsibilities, including fuel poverty, climate change, house condition, and homelessness; as well as its strategic response to national outcomes and Housing to 2040.
- 3.3 Scottish Borders Council submitted its first Local Housing Strategy in 2004 and a refreshed strategy in 2007. In 2012, the Council produced the Local Housing Strategy covering the period 2012-2017 which was then followed by the current LHS 2017-2022. This new draft LHS (2023- 2028) continues with the strategic directions initiated by these predecessor strategies after being identified through consultation as continuing priorities and updates these with regard to a changing political, economic and financial context.
- 3.4 In developing the new draft strategy Scottish Borders Council has been working with a wide range of partners to assess local needs, agree priorities and define ideas and solutions to deliver our shared vision for housing in the Scottish Borders. The draft aims to consolidate and build on successes, complete current projects and take forward new projects and partnerships. The draft also addresses newly arising housing matters particularly in response to the publication of new LHS Guidance (2019), Housing to 2040, Covid-19 pandemic, the Ukrainian War and the cost of living crisis.
- 3.5 The LHS supports and helps deliver national outcomes and targets whilst also reflecting the needs and priorities of local people through the Community Planning process, as well as being set within the context of the updated Council Plan 2023-24. The draft strategy is closely linked to other strategies, both national and local. These include; the South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy, ESESCR Regional Prosperity Framework, South of Scotland Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy, Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, the proposed Local Development Plan, Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Strategic Framework, the Anti-Poverty Strategy, Climate Change Route map and the Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plan (as examples).
- 3.6 A complex mix of factors and issues influence the operation of the local housing system in the Scottish Borders. Through detailed analysis of the local housing system and the impact of key economic and demographic factors, the LHS develops a framework for addressing housing system imbalances that require to be tackled if the housing system is to work more effectively for everyone in the Borders.

4 DRAFT VISION AND OUTCOMES

4.1 The LHS is central to corporate planning activities and allows a local authority to set out its agreed strategic vision and outcomes for the future of housing and all housing related services. The LHS also shows how the housing objectives integrate with the local authority's strategic plans across the range of its functions and responsibilities. This draft LHS has been developed under the principles of co-production and complies with the LHS Guidance (2019). The draft strategy comes at an important time for housing in the Borders and addresses a number of the most significant and important challenges facing the Council, its partners and communities and aims to:

- Provide a background to the local housing system.
- Explain how recent national and local developments impact on the Local Housing Strategy.
- Set out the strategic framework for the future development of the local housing system, through which housing providers and partner organisations can operate, so that needs and demands can be met more effectively with available resources.
- Sets out the 5 strategic outcomes for housing for the next five years.
- Provides proposed new objectives through an outcomes based approach

4.2 Scottish Borders Council and its partners believe that the proposed LHS will deliver positive housing outcomes by ensuring that the delivery of housing and related services meets the needs of local communities. To achieve this, our outcomes focus on the key issues facing local households including improved affordable housing supply and place making, improved housing quality and energy efficiency, homelessness prevention and support to enable independent living.

4.3 The draft LHS vision has been developed jointly with stakeholders and is **"Everyone in the Scottish Borders has access to home which meets their needs and is part of a sustainable community"**. In order to deliver this vision successfully and contribute to the Scottish Borders five outcomes in the Council Plan, as well as the Scottish Government's National Outcomes, National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes and Housing to 2040; the following draft five strategic outcomes have been defined:

- Strategic Outcome 1: More homes in well designed, sustainable communities that increase opportunity for all
- Strategic Outcome 2: People have access to homes which promote independence, health and wellbeing
- Strategic Outcome 3: Improved energy efficiency of homes and a reduction in fuel poverty while supporting a Just Transition to Net Zero through decarbonising domestic heating and energy
- Strategic Outcome 4: Communities are regenerated through improving the quality and condition of housing and the built heritage.

- Strategic Outcome 5: Homelessness is prevented wherever possible and a range of housing options are provided so people can secure a suitable and sustainable housing outcome as quickly as possible

4.4 The strategic outcomes have been identified and agreed in order to address a number of key issues and challenges which are summarised at the end of each outcome section in the draft LHS. Some of the main issues are identified below:

- (a) The Scottish Borders has an ageing population and reducing household sizes; meaning a greater need for the right type and size of homes in the right places;
- (b) Challenges in accessing affordable housing due to constrained supply, including difficulties for young people and first time buyers;
- (c) A potentially decreasing Private Rented Sector;
- (d) Delivering housing in a challenging financial landscape where there are considerable inflationary pressures, increasing tender costs, increasing cost of finance and mortgages;
- (e) Affordability issues in the Scottish Borders; house prices and private rents vary in different parts of the Borders and a low wage economy means housing options can be limited for many residents;
- (f) The number of empty homes;
- (g) Delivering specialist housing and homes for people with specific, or more complex, needs;
- (h) Lack of suitable housing options contributing to recruitment challenges in key sectors;
- (i) Older housing stock with poorer energy efficiency (with subsequent health and net zero implications) and challenges in terms of maintenance and repair;
- (j) The impact of the cost of living crisis on housing costs and fuel poverty;
- (k) Impact of Covid and the lasting implications in relation to implementing the RRTP;
- (l) The complex support needs, beyond housing support, of people presenting as homeless; and
- (m) Increased demand on services due to support for the Ukrainian Crisis, the Resettlement Programme and a range of other pressures currently being experienced across the Council and its partners.

4.5 Based on the outcome of the [Housing Need and Demand Assessment 3](#) (HNDA3) and aligning with National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) the proposed housing supply target (HST) for the period of the draft strategy has been set at 353 new homes per year, of which 141 should be affordable housing. In setting the HST Scottish Borders Council also considered the following factors:

- economic factors which may impact on demand and supply
- capacity within the construction sector
- delivery of market and affordable housing at the local level
- availability of resources
- recent development levels
- planned new and replacement housing or housing which could be brought back into effective use.

4.6 While the proposed target reflects the HNDA3 and NPF4 it should be acknowledged however that this is an ambitious target which will require strong and effective partnership working to deliver in a very challenging financial and construction sector climate.

5 DEVELOPMENT OF THE DRAFT LOCAL STRATEGY

5.1 As reported at paragraph 4.1 the draft has been developed in strict accordance with the published LHS guidance. Additionally a diverse range of partners, stakeholders, housing experts and residents have participated in developing the consultative draft LHS 2023-28. A wide programme of engagement activity has been undertaken over the last 18 months to collect a range of views, and enable these to systematically inform the development of the draft LHS. This includes:

- (a) An early engagement survey ran from 1st October 2021 to 30th November 2021. The main aim of the survey was to find out what Scottish Borders households and organisations thought were the main housing issues and priorities for the region. In total there were 330 responses (301 from individuals and 29 from organisations).
- (b) SBC appointed Altair Consultancy and Advisory Services Ltd (Altair) to carry out resident and stakeholder engagement workshops in relation to the development of this draft LHS. As part of the development [four housing issues papers](#) were prepared by SBC to help engage residents and stakeholders on key housing issues, these papers covered:
 - Housing Supply and Place Making
 - Condition, Climate Change and Energy Efficiency
 - Particular Needs and Specialist Provision
 - Homelessness
- (c) Four resident workshops and four stakeholder workshops were held in August 2022 hosted on Microsoft Teams. The outputs from these sessions provided valuable input into the draft LHS, including the outcomes and proposed actions. The issues papers and workshop details were widely circulated: they were published on the Council's and partner websites; publicised through social media campaigns as well as direct invitation to stakeholders through e-mail.
- (d) A further resident's survey was hosted on SBC's website between the 17th July 2022 and the 9th Sept 2022 to which almost 200 responses were received. A survey for stakeholders was also hosted on SBC's website at the same time.
- (e) Altair were also commissioned to help identify the housing needs and requirements of the Gypsy and Traveller (GT) community across the region. The purpose of this engagement and needs analysis was to provide an evidence base to inform SBCs approach to meeting current accommodation needs for the GT population and projected needs from 2023-2028.
- (f) At the beginning of September 2022, SBC sent out a survey to a wide range of partners to find out about housing issues in relation to key workers and to help identify if there are any accommodation issues when recruiting key

workers, in particular from other areas or overseas. In total there were 7 responses to the key worker questions. These responses were from various SBC departments, NHS Borders and RSLs.

- (g) In October and November 2022 SBC engaged with private landlords in the Scottish Borders through an online survey. The aim of the survey was to gain a better understanding of private landlords operating in the Scottish Borders, including information on their portfolios, how they source tenants, letting practice, supporting tenants, rents, repairs and improvements. The survey sought to find how we can improve our services and ensure the support and information provided is better suited to landlord needs now and in the future and to inform future service delivery and priorities, as well as this draft LHS. There were 221 responses to the survey.

6 FURTHER PLANNED CONSULTATION AND FINALISING THE STRATEGY

- 6.1 The draft LHS 2023-28 sets out key indicators for measuring progress towards achieving the five proposed outcomes. This includes a housing supply target to deliver 1,765 new homes over five years 2023 to 2028, 40% of which are to be affordable homes.
- 6.2 The document includes detailed sections on the five draft LHS Strategic Outcomes, which explore in more detail some of the key issues, challenges and opportunities. A [feedback section on the website](#) outlines the principal survey that is being used to engage partners and stakeholders to share their views.
- 6.3 As described in section 5 of this report, as part of the LHS preparation significant pre-consultation engagement has been undertaken across 2021 and 2022. This will be further built on through the formal consultation period. Alongside the main survey a detailed programme of LHS consultation is also planned. The formal consultation on the draft LHS launched on Tuesday 2nd May and runs until Friday 21st July 2023.
- 6.4 A Communications plan has been developed and initiated which includes:
- [Updating the webpages including feedback section and principal survey;](#)
 - [Press Release;](#)
 - [Launch of LHS Consultation Video;](#)
 - E-mail to all stakeholders;
 - Social media campaign;
 - Internal communications campaign;
 - Officer attendance at Area Partnerships and Place-making Groups in May and June;
 - Hosting a forum exclusively for Private Landlords in June;
 - Offer to attend Community Council meetings and tenant rep groups;
 - Targeted engagement with equalities groups;
 - Hosting an online drop in session on Teams on the 21st June 2023
 - Officer attendance at various stakeholder groups (for example Health and Homelessness Partnership, Integrated Joint Board, Strategic Planning Group, Anti-Poverty Group, Economic Development Board, Borders Home Energy Forum; Town Place making Groups, Children and Young People's Leadership Group, Sustainable Development Board and several others (this is not an exhaustive list).

- 6.5 As part of the formal consultation process the draft LHS will also be sent to Scottish Government officials in the More Homes division and local authority peer reviewers to go through the peer review process. The review process helps to ensure alignment of the LHS with Scottish Government guidance.

7 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial

- (a) There are no direct financial implications from this report but delivery of the LHS is dependent on SBC's continuous provision of core services, financial resource allocations from Scottish Government, the continuing support for the affordable housing budget (2nd homes council tax) and resources arising from the affordable housing policy, partner agencies and private individuals.
- (b) However, where there are specific actions considered as having a resource implication for the Council, Officers will bring present proposals to Council as they arise over the period of the strategy. There are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.

7.2 Risk and Mitigations

- (a) The LHS 2023-2028 draft strategic outcomes and actions have been developed in cooperation with a range of partners to ensure it is based on evidence and shared priorities. As noted in the report the principles of co-production and the LHS Guidance (2019) have been followed in the development of the LHS. Effective engagement with partners and stakeholders not only helps to ensure that the Council is meeting its obligations in this regard but can help to ensure that the achievement of Strategic Outcomes is more likely.
- (b) Delivery is largely dependent upon a number of variables not least of which relate to resource and other political and organisational decision making processes beyond the control of the Local Authority. However, it is important that the Council adopts a watching brief in relation to these elements and develops mitigations, where possible and practicable and in collaboration with partners, to limit the impact of threats to the delivery of the LHS Strategic Outcomes.
- (c) A Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report has been undertaken which determined a full SEA would not be required for the LHS as the strategy itself is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.
- (d) Any potential environmental effects from any specific proposals or plans which may relate to the draft LHS would be individually considered and addressed through the planning process and full SEAs.
- (e) In publishing its final report on the 17th January 2023 Internal Audit found examples of good practice and provided substantial assurance on the governance and controls in place to ensure efficient and effective use of funding and other resources for the provision of affordable

housing to ensure achievement of the local housing strategy with partners.

- (f) Furthermore, the audit report also identified scope for improvement to formalise risk management arrangements, for the Strategic Housing Service, to ensure compliance with the Council's Risk Management Framework. One low-rated recommendation was made, in this regard, by Internal Audit and was agreed by the Lead Officer - Housing Strategy and Development. Follow-up meetings and work have since been undertaken to meet this recommendation, supported by the Corporate Risk Officer, with the intention of developing a Strategic Housing Risk Register that is reflective of the objectives of the service. Once developed the risk register will support the achievement of objectives and will be managed and reviewed following a proportionate and value based approach. It should be noted that as the management of risk (incl. the identification of risk) is not a one-off exercise the Strategic Housing Risk Register will evolve over time to capture new threats as they arise and are identified along with opportunities that should be capitalised on in order to further the achievement of objectives.

7.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

- (a) Equalities forms an integral part of the LHS process and is part of the LHS guidance. A full Integrated Impact Assessment has been undertaken and was embedded in the development process of the new proposed LHS 2023-28.
- (b) The integrated impact assessment (IIA) template has been completed and will be published on the Council's website, alongside all the associated documentation in relation to this draft strategy, subject to approval. The IIA can be viewed at LHS draft Appendix 5. In addition to the full Integrated Impact Assessment additional screening on the draft LHS was undertaken, including:
- A Child Rights' and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (LHS Appendix 6)
 - Consideration of the Fairer Scotland Duty
 - Consideration of Human Rights
 - Strategic Environmental Assessment (LHS Appendix 8)
 - Rural Proofing Exercise (LHS Appendix 9); and
 - Health Inequalities Impact Assessment (LHS Appendix 7)
- (c) A full Equalities Statement, outlining all of the above activity and how it has subsequently influenced the draft LHS, has been prepared and can be viewed at Draft LHS Appendix 10. Housing has a vital role to play in tackling child and fuel poverty; preventing homelessness; strengthening communities; helping stem rural depopulation; improving health and wellbeing; addressing the climate emergency; and promoting inclusive growth. Tackling inequality is at the heart of each of the draft strategic aims. Delivery of the LHS will improve outcomes for those with protected characteristics and in doing so will contribute fully to the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework and National Outcomes and UN Sustainable Development Goals.

7.4 Sustainable Development Goals

It is considered that the Local Housing Strategy will contribute positively to goals 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16 and 17. A full summary as to how the LHS will support these goals will be presented when the strategy is finalised after the formal consultation period.

7.5 Climate Change

It is considered that there are no direct effects on the Councils carbon emissions arising from this report. More generally there are likely to be positive effects delivered through the LHS. Strategic Outcome 3 is: Improved energy efficiency of homes and a reduction in fuel poverty while supporting a Just Transition to Net Zero through decarbonising domestic heating and energy. The LHS promotes sustainability through better use of existing stock and bringing empty homes back in to use; improvements to energy efficiency of the housing stock and the installation of renewable technologies; Improvements in the quality and condition of homes through RSL investment, private investment and information and advice through the Scheme of Assistance; Improved energy standards in the new build programmes; the promotion of sustainable communities and recognising housing role in that, as well as many other areas identified in the LHS outcomes.

7.6 Rural Proofing

- (a) As part of the LHS development a Rural Proofing exercise was undertaken. The full checklist can be viewed at Appendix 6. This helps us consider any challenges presented by rural circumstances and recognise the distinct needs of rural communities. There is clear recognition in the LHS of the role that housing plays in reversing depopulation and in creating more sustainable communities, and in the need to take a holistic approach including improving accessibility, broadband, infrastructure, renewable energy technology, transport and investment. Some challenges the LHS considers in relation to rurality include:
- Short-term lets, second homes and empty homes contributing to a constrained supply of housing;
 - High development costs and lack of skilled labour and local supply chains, and the need to be more energy efficient and sustainable in the way we build;
 - Community sustainability; and
 - Fuel poverty, poor energy efficiency and housing stock in poorer condition
- (b) Responding to these concerns and issues has been central to the development of the draft LHS vision and strategic outcomes, ensuring that the LHS and associated action plan takes the needs of rural communities fully into account.

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Donna Bogdanovic	Lead Officer, Housing Strategy and Development

Background Papers:

[Consultative Draft Local Housing Strategy](#)

Draft LHS Appendix 1: [Draft LHS Outcome and Action Plan](#)

Draft LHS Appendix 2: [Draft Evidence Paper](#)

Draft LHS Appendix 3: [Consultation and Engagement Report](#)

Draft LHS Appendix 4: [Proposed Housing Supply Target Paper 2023-2028](#)

Draft LHS Appendix 5: [Integrated Impact Assessment](#)

Draft LHS Appendix 6: [Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment \(CRWIA\)](#)

Draft LHS Appendix 7: [Health Inequality Impact Assessment \(HIIA\)](#)

Draft LHS Appendix 8: [Strategic Environmental Assessment](#)

Draft LHS Appendix 9: [Rural Proofing](#)

Draft LHS Appendix 10: [Draft Equalities Statement](#)



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL'S LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY 2023-2028 CONSULTATIVE DRAFT



DRAFT

CONTENTS		Page No.
FOREWORD		6
1	Introduction	7
	1.1 Purpose of LHS	7
	1.2 Scottish Borders LHS Partners	7
	1.3 Vision and Outcomes	9
	1.4 Key Indicators 2023-2028	9
	1.5 LHS 2017-2022 Achievements	10
2	Strategic Context	12
	2.1 National	12
	2.2 Local and Regional	13
3	Impact Assessments	18
	3.1 Integrated Impact Assessment	18
	3.2 Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment	19
	3.3 Health Inequalities Impact Assessment	19
	3.4 Strategic Environmental Assessment	19
4	Consultation and Engagement	20
	4.1 Early engagement survey	20
	4.2 Resident and Stakeholder Workshops and Surveys	20
	4.3 Gypsy travellers	21
	4.4 Key Workers	22
	4.5 Private Landlord Survey	22
5	Local Context	23
	5.1 Population	23
	5.2 Households	23
	5.3 Rural Issues	23
	5.4 Economy	24
	5.5 Tenure	25
	5.6 Housing Affordability	25
	5.7 The Cost of Living Crisis	26
6	Housing Delivery and Sustainable Communities	27
	6.1 Rural Housing	27
	6.2 National Planning Framework 4	28
	6.3 Place Making	28
	6.4 South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE)	29
	6.5 Community Planning Partnership and Locality Planning	30
	6.6 Housing Need and Demand Assessment	30
	6.7 Housing Supply Target	31
	6.8 Land Supply	32
	6.9 Strategic Housing Investment Plan	32
	6.10 Private Rented Sector	33
	6.11 Young People	35
	6.12 Town Centres	36
	6.13 Empty Homes	37
	6.14 Build to Rent	40
	6.15 Self-Build	40
	6.16 Key Issues and Challenges	41
	6.17 Current Progress	41
	6.18 Key Actions for Delivery	42
7	Specialist Housing, Particular Needs and Independent Living	43
	7.1 New Accessible Housing Standard	43
	7.2 Guidance on the Provision of Equipment and Adaptations	43
	7.3 Need and Demand for Specialist Housing	44
	7.4 Health and Social Care Partnership	45
	7.5 Wheelchair Accessible Housing	45
	7.6 Integrated Strategic Plan for Older People's Housing, Care and Support 2018-2028	45
	7.7 Scheme of Assistance	46

CONTENTS		Page No.
	7.8 Care and Repair	46
	7.9 Supported Housing	47
	7.10 Care Villages	49
	7.11 Learning Disabilities	49
	7.12 Gypsy/ Traveller and Show People	50
	7.13 Key Workers	51
	7.14 Key Issues and Challenges	51
	7.15 Current Progress	52
	7.16 Key Actions for Delivery	52
8	Fuel Poverty, Energy Efficiency and Climate Change	54
	8.1 Housing to 2040	54
	8.2 Just Transition to Net Zero	54
	8.3 Affordable Warmth Strategy and Energy Efficiency Strategy	57
	8.4 Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES)	58
	8.5 Fuel poverty	59
	8.6 Energy Efficiency Programmes – Area Based Schemes	60
	8.7 Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)	62
	8.8 Energy Performance Certificate – Regional Assessment	63
	8.9 Decarbonisation in South of Scotland	64
	8.10 The Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (Scotland) Regulations 2019	64
	8.11 Key Issues and Challenges	65
	8.12 Current Progress	65
	8.13 Key actions For Delivery	65
9	Private Sector House Condition	66
	9.1 Housing to 2040	66
	9.2 House Condition	66
	9.3 The Tolerable Standard	68
	9.4 Repairing Standard	68
	9.5 Scheme of Assistance	69
	9.6 Enforcement	70
	9.7 Approved Trader Scheme	71
	9.8 Under One Roof	71
	9.9 Built Environment: Conservation and Enhancement	72
	9.10 Missing Shares	74
	9.11 Key Issues and Challenges	74
	9.12 Current Progress	75
	9.13 Key Actions for Delivery	75
10	Preventing and Tackling Homelessness	76
	10.1 Ending Homelessness Together	76
	10.2 The impact of Covid-19 and the Cost of Living	76
	10.3 Homelessness Population	77
	10.4 Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans	77
	10.5 Housing First	79
	10.6 Homelessness Prevention and Housing Options	80
	10.7 Specific Groups	80
	10.8 Resettlement Programme	82
	10.9 Temporary Accommodation	84
	10.10 Housing Support	84
	10.11 South East Housing Options Hub	85
	10.12 Key Issues and Challenges	86
	10.13 Current Progress	86
	10.14 Key Actions for Delivery	86
11	Delivering LHS Outcomes	87
	11.1 Implementation	87
	11.2 Monitoring Progress	87
	11.3 Resources	88

APPENDICES

1	LHS Outcome and Action Plan
2	Evidence Paper
3	Consultation and Engagement Report
4	Housing Supply Target Paper 2023-2028
5	Integrated Impact Assessment
6	Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA)
7	Health Inequality Impact Assessment (HIIA)
8	Strategic Environmental Assessment
9	Rural Proofing
10	Equalities Statement

DRAFT

FOREWORD

It is a pleasure to introduce the Scottish Borders Draft Local Housing Strategy (LHS) which sets out our vision for Housing and Housing Related services, across all tenures, for the period 2023 – 2028.

The Local Housing Strategy is linked to Scottish Borders Community Plan and has a key role to play in supporting the recovery, regeneration and repopulation of our region. Housing is fundamental to the health and well-being of our local communities and every resident of the Borders has a stake in this strategy and in the future of the area. The development of the draft strategy has involved significant engagement with a wide range of partners and stakeholders, as well as detailed consultation with our local communities.



The draft strategy reflects the diverse views and priorities of the people across our communities; builds on the positive achievements of the previous LHS and seeks to address some significant challenges. We need to reflect and recover from the impact of the global pandemic; face an uncertain economic future and cost of living crisis; combined with the implications of an ageing demography, which all impact on housing circumstances and the lives of individuals in the area.

The success of our Local Housing Strategy depends on strong local partnership working. More than ever before, we need people to come together to deliver housing outcomes and improve housing services as part of a programme of local and regional recovery and inclusive growth. Our task is greater than ever, and I look forward to working with partners, local organisations and communities to meet these challenges and see our plans progress.

I would like to thank all those that have been involved in shaping this draft Local Housing Strategy and I look forward to hearing your views on this draft during the consultation period.

Councillor Robin Tatler
Executive Member for Communities and Equalities.

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of LHS

The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 places a statutory requirement on local authorities to produce a Local Housing Strategy (LHS) which sets out its vision, strategy, priorities and plans for the delivery of housing and related services. Scottish local authorities are required to prepare a Local Housing Strategy (LHS) every five years, setting out a vision for the supply, quality and availability of housing in their local area. The LHS is the key planning document, providing a framework of action, investment and partnership-working to deliver these local priorities

The last LHS for the Scottish Borders was developed in 2015/16 and covers the period 2017-2022. In November 2020, elected members agreed to carry forward the current LHS for an additional year. This ensures that this draft LHS is informed by the Housing Need and Demand Assessment that was developed in 2021 for the Edinburgh and South East Scotland region. The Housing Need and Demand Assessment received robust and credible status in July 2022.

The new draft Local Housing Strategy sets strategic outcomes and a delivery plan framework for the period 2023 – 2028. In building the strategy, Scottish Borders Council has been working with a wide range of partners to assess local needs, agree priorities and define ideas and solutions to deliver our shared vision for housing in the Scottish Borders. The LHS builds on the progress through our last LHS by consolidating and building on successes, completing current projects and taking forward new projects and partnerships. This draft addresses newly arising housing matters particularly in response to the publication of new LHS Guidance, Housing to 2040, Covid-19 pandemic, the Ukrainian War and the cost of living crisis.

1.2 Scottish Borders LHS Partners

The LHS is developed and delivered with key partners and stakeholders, including community planning partners, tenants and residents. This section summarises the main roles and responsibilities of key internal and external partners:

Partners	Roles and Responsibilities
Scottish Borders Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The local strategic housing authority and the local planning authority are responsible for preparing the LHS and Local Development Plan.• The council does not own or manage any social housing stock following a large scale voluntary transfer to Scottish Borders Housing Association in 2003.• Through the Strategic Housing Investment Plan the council is responsible for managing the Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) budget.• SBC coordinates public capital funding streams, including the Scheme of Assistance (disabled adaptations), Empty Homes Grant, and Affordable Warmth Area Based Schemes.• The Council is responsible for managing and monitoring delivery of the LHS priorities.
Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9 RSL organisations own and manage over 12,200 affordable homes across the Borders, including specialist homes let to specific client groups such as older people and people with disabilities.• Applying specialist knowledge and local insights to address housing needs and requirements.• Investing significant capital and revenue in planned and reactive maintenance programmes for their existing housing stock.

Partners	Roles and Responsibilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing, maintaining and updating long-term (30 years) business plans to undertake investment in new housing supply, mitigate risks and ensure financial resilience of their organisations in response to the changing financial and policy environment.
Health and Social Care Strategic Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jointly planning and delivering community health and social care services – for children, adults and older people, including homelessness and criminal justice services
Scottish Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing national direction on housing and homelessness objectives as well as for related priorities including health and wellbeing, Climate Change and sustainability. Providing public capital grant funding including for the Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP), the Affordable Warmth Area Based Schemes and Gypsy Traveller accommodation fund Providing revenue and other funding support in relation to the prevention of Homelessness, Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plans and Housing First.
Private Housing Developers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing new market homes for sale and rent which meet a range of needs and identifying new market development opportunities. Undertaking viability assessments and liaising closely with the Council to prepare planning proposals that fit with the Local Development Plan and progressing to new housing development. Contributing to Affordable housing delivery through S75 agreements and development partnerships with RSLs
Construction Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing labour and skills to meet the needs of new development, including private and affordable homes, as well as retrofit improvement works to maintain or upgrade existing homes.
Infrastructure Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEPA; Scottish Water; SPEnergyNetworks; Broadband Providers Supporting a collaborative approach to infrastructure planning, provision and investment
South of Scotland Community Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SOSCH provides long-term support to community organisations relative to the planning and delivery of community-led housing.
South of Scotland Enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SOSE is the economic and community development agency responsible for Dumfries & Galloway and the Scottish Borders. It aims to address the distinct economic position of this predominantly rural area Providing support to businesses and communities with a focus on driving growth in the area, four key themes are Net Zero, Fair Work, Digital and Innovation
Regional Economic Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Led by the Dumfries and Galloway, SBC and the SOSE, partners have recently established the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (REP) bringing together stakeholders, including the wider public sector and representatives from business, higher and further education and the third sector. The REP's key purpose is shaping regional agenda for the South of Scotland and a future Regional Economic Strategy (RES).

1.3 Vision and Outcomes

The draft LHS vision has been developed jointly with stakeholders:

“Everyone in the Scottish Borders has access to a home that meets their needs and is part of a sustainable community”

In order to deliver this vision successfully and contribute to the six outcomes in the Scottish Borders Council Plan, as well as the Scottish Government’s National Outcomes, National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes and Housing to 2040; the following 5 LHS outcomes have been defined.

Strategic Outcome 1: More homes in well designed, sustainable communities that increase opportunity for all

Strategic Outcome 2: People have access to homes which promote independence, health and wellbeing

Strategic Outcome 3: Improved energy efficiency of homes and a reduction in fuel poverty while supporting a Just Transition to Net Zero through decarbonising domestic heating and energy

Strategic Outcome 4: Communities are regenerated through improving the quality and condition of housing and the built heritage.

Strategic Outcome 5: Homelessness is prevented wherever possible and a range of housing options are provided so people can secure a suitable and sustainable housing outcome as quickly as possible

1.4 Key Indicators 2023-2028

Indicators	Baseline	Annual	By 2028
No. of New Homes (Market, Affordable/Rent) (HST)			
No. of new supply affordable Homes			
No. of Wheelchair Accessible Homes built			
No. of adaptations funded to existing homes			
No. of empty Homes brought back in to effective use			
No. of active properties registered through landlord registration			
No. of Homes receiving Energy Efficiency measures in the Private Sector			
No. of Homes in the SRS Retrofitted to improve energy efficiency			
No. of statutory homeless cases open at close of period, who had an unintentionally Homeless or Threatened with Homelessness (TWH) decision at close of period			

1.5 LHS 2017-2022 Achievements

The LHS 2023-2028 builds on the success of the Council's previous strategies and supports the Scottish Government's vision for Housing to 2040. Some of the key achievements of the previous LHS include:

Priority 1: the supply of new housing meets the needs of Scottish Borders communities

- The delivery of 899 affordable homes; equating to an annual average of 179 homes a year, exceeding the annual 128 target
- The SHIP 2017-2022 set out proposals for up to 1,320 new homes which represent an estimated investment value of around £268.226m.
- The third South East Scotland Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA3) for the period 2022-27 received robust and Credible status in July 2022
- Over the past 5 years, the Council has been working closely with Waverley Housing to consider suitable options and progress regeneration of Beech Avenue area in Upper Langlee, Galashiels. In March 2021, planning consent was granted for 229 homes including the demolition of 159 homes.
- South East Scotland City Region Deal - A new Regional Housing Board was established in 2019 as a means of better engaging the housing sector and harnessing its potential contribution towards the wider City Region Deal objectives.
- Lowood in Tweedbank is the only strategic housing site identified in the Borders Railway Corridor and in the South East Scotland City Region Deal. Following a considerable amount of work, Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) and Design Guide (DG) agreed by Council in June 2021.
- Final year of the 5 year Selkirk Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) with almost 70 grant offers were made through the scheme, ranging from £525 to £205,000. Jedburgh CARS saw a total of 59 individual grants for building repairs for 32 town centre buildings totalling over £749k in spend – plus £390k for seven priority projects. Hawick CARS began in 2019, and has completed seven repair projects and is currently working on priority projects at 6 different locations.
- Recruitment of an Empty Homes Officer in August 2021 and has an active case load of 110 empty homes.

Priority 2: People have better access to good quality, energy efficient homes

- The Affordable Warmth and Home Energy Efficiency Strategy (AWHEEs) 2019-2023 was implemented.
- Energy efficiency schemes in the Borders since 2013 have resulted in 4,494 installed measures across 3,580 households.
- Each RSL has prioritised investment towards meeting EESSH, which resulted in £12.1m over the 5 year period of the LHS. 91% of RSL stock meets EESSH
- 4 of Eildon Housing Association's affordable housing projects have been selected for inclusion in the Green Homes Pilot. The 1st Passivhaus development comprising 3 houses in St Boswells were completed in March 2020.
- The Borders Home Energy Forum was established in March 2018, to ensure and continues to ensure that a strategic, multiagency approach is taken to help reduce fuel poverty, improve energy efficiency and improve health and well-being in the Scottish Borders
- The Energy Efficient Scotland (EES) Pilot Project was developed in Peebles – 'Change Works in Peebles'. Over 1,400 people visited the hub (this included repeat visits and multiple person visits); and there have been over 500 referrals to Home Energy Scotland for support.
- SBC secured 2 years of funding worth £551,000, from National Grid's Warm Homes Fund to deliver the "Warm and Well Borders" project. The scheme was able to support 771 households and secured benefits and savings of £1.2 million for households across the region. This project has been extended for another 12 months
- SBC has partnered with Partnership with Landlord Accreditation Scotland (LAS) to provide one landlord forum per year and a number of training events throughout the year.
- Through the Scheme of Assistance over 400 instances of practical assistance were given in the private sector including advice on repair and maintenance; empty homes advice; support to landlords and tenants and, as a last resort, enforcement
- To help progress shared repairs, in 2019 SBC agreed to pilot a Missing Shares Scheme. Principally to support the activity and life of the Hawick Conservation Area Regeneration scheme

Priority 3: Fewer people are affected by homelessness

- Over the past five years the average percentage of homeless household accessing settled accommodation has been 78%
- Housing support cases that have been closed with a positive outcome continues to be consistently above 80%
- No B&B accommodation was used as temporary accommodation during 2020/21
- In 2018/19, a new Borders Homelessness and Health Strategic Partnership (BHHSP) was established. The key focus of the partnership is on the implementation of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP)
- Appointed of the Private Rented Sector Development Officer
- Development of the Scottish Borders RRTP covering a five year period 2019-2024. A Rapid Rehousing Development Officer was appointed in January 2020 with the key role of implementing the aims and objectives of the RRTP
- Housing First pilot was launched in October of 2021. The pilot is funded for 2 years and aims to provide housing and support to 30 households over the two year period.
- Covid-19 had a huge impact on Homelessness Services. (BHHSP) members were on the front line of the crisis and have worked closely throughout the pandemic to ensure that tenants, customers and those at risk of homelessness have continued to receive the services and support they require
- Establishment of Housing Options Protocol for care leavers in 2017/18
- Two Crisis and Housing Intervention Funds were launched in 2020/21 and 2021/22
- The 'Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone' (SHORE) was launched nationally in 2017. The information sharing protocol which was adopted in 2019/2020 and has improved information sharing arrangements contributing to the aspirations of SHORE, allowing for earlier intervention both in terms of the prevention and resolution of homelessness.

Priority 4: More people are supported to live independently in their own homes

- The "Integrated Strategic Plan for Older People Housing, Care and Support 2018-28" identifies a number of developments for older people across Borders that are "no longer fit for purpose".
- Responding to the Community Equipment and Housing Adaptations: Draft Guidance
- Housing needs and aspirations of young people study was carried out in 2018-2019 and identified a five year action plan
- Wheelchair housing study was carried out in 2019/2020 and identified an annual target of 20 homes with proposed delivery being divided into 15 by Registered Social Landlords with the balance provided by the private sector.
- Housing Contribution Statement 2018 was developed and linked in with the Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan 2018-2022
- Helping homeowners and private sector tenants aged 60 or over and people of any age with disabilities to remain in their homes: Care & Repair have project managed 1,615 minor adaptations and repairs, and 335 major adaptations over the five year period of the last LHS. There have been 18,846 visits by a handyperson
- 69 units of extra care housing have been delivered in the past five years, in Galashiels and Duns. Work has also started on the former Kelso High School to convert it into 35 additional flats, which are expected to be completed in early 2023

2. Strategic Context

Housing plays a significant role in both national and local policy. It is important that the LHS supports and helps deliver national outcomes and targets, whilst also reflecting the needs and priorities of local people in the Scottish Borders. The LHS is therefore set within the wider policy framework for the Council and its partners.

2.1 National

2.1.1 Housing to 2040

Housing to 2040 is Scotland's long-term national housing strategy which sets out the collective vision and route map for housing over the next twenty years. It has been informed and shaped by extensive consultation and is designed to reflect the diversity of people, homes and communities across urban, rural and island Scotland.

The vision is by 2040, everyone will have a safe, high-quality home that is affordable and meets their needs in the place they want to be. It sets out four broad, interconnected themes:

- More homes at the heart of great places;
- Affordability and choice;
- Affordable warmth and zero emissions homes; and
- Improving the quality of all homes.

Under these themes, the strategy sets out priorities and 20 actions. The Scottish Government has set a 10-year national target to deliver 110,000 additional affordable homes (to 2031/32). The strategy also sets out key commitments, including:

- Proposals to bring forward zero emissions requirements for new build social rented homes;
- A Rented Sector Strategy published for consultation in 2022 that covers social and private and addresses issues of affordability and rent pressure; and
- Targets for private sector housing to achieve energy efficiency ratings and new legislation to establish a tenure-neutral Housing Standard.

Housing to 2040 sets out a specific vision for ensuring:

- A well-functioning housing system;
- High quality, sustainable homes;
- Sustainable communities; and
- Homes that meet people's needs.

The Local Housing Strategy will support and contribute to the vision and actions of Housing to 2040, this will be reinforced through this LHS.

2.1.2 New Housing Bill

A new Housing Bill will be introduced by the end of this parliamentary year (2023) to begin to deliver the actions of the New Deal for Tenants and some other aspects of Housing to 2040. These will be confirmed later in 2023. This new housing bill will impact this LHS and the key actions over the next five years.

2.1.3 Scotland's National Performance Framework

The Scottish Government's National Performance Framework sets out 11 national outcomes that describe the desired features for Scotland's future.

Figure 1: National Performance Framework Outcomes

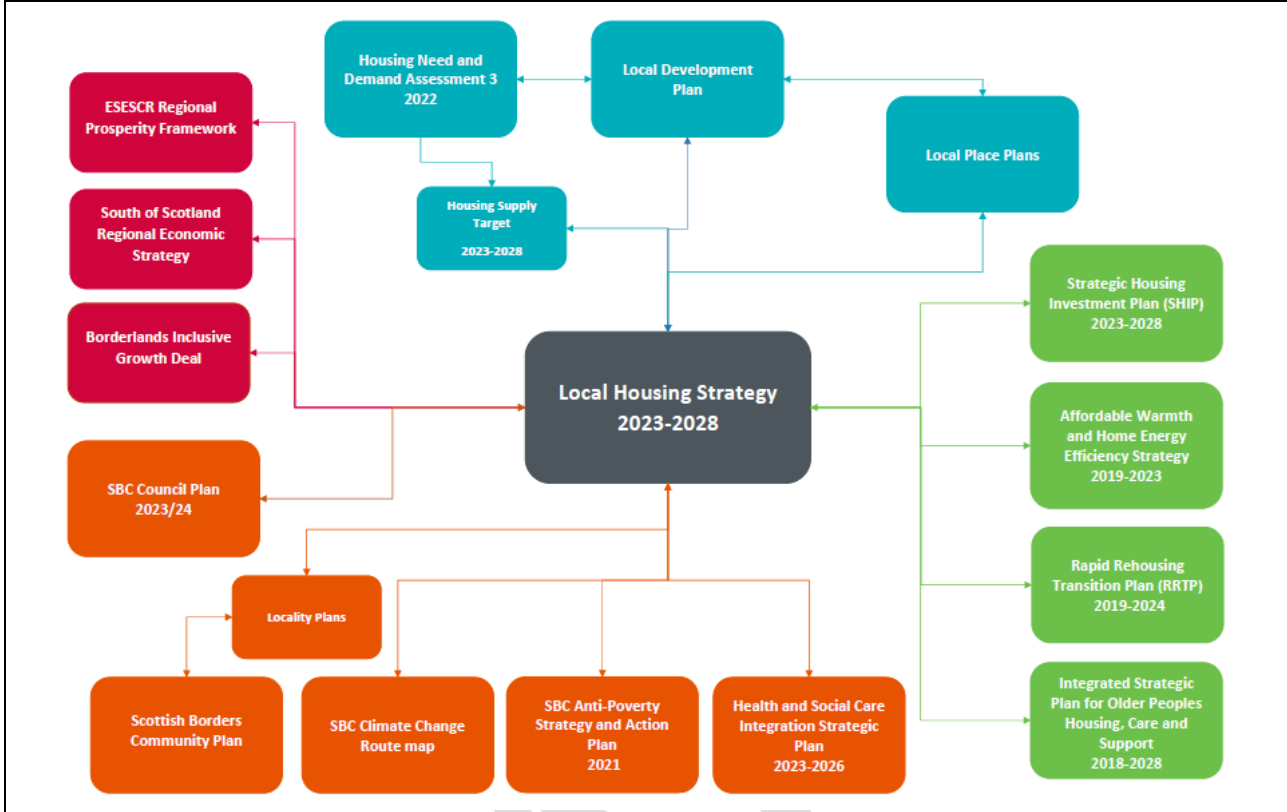


These 11 National Outcomes have a statutory basis in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and align with the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Draft Local Housing Strategy 2023-28 for the Borders contributes towards all 11 National Outcomes, with a strong focus on tackling poverty, promoting good health and wellbeing, protecting and enhancing the environment and creating communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe.

2.2 Local and Regional

Figure 2 provides a useful graphic on how the Local Housing Strategy is integrated into a wide range of local policies and strategies. It is important while developing this strategy that consideration has been given to these plans and strategies to ensure there is alignment in the priorities and outcomes.

Figure 2: Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028 and related strategies and plans



2.2.1 South of Scotland Enterprise and a Team South of Scotland Approach

The establishment of South of Scotland Enterprise and a Team South of Scotland approach provides the Scottish Borders with real economic strengths and opportunities. It has particular strengths in food and drink production, manufacturing and tourism and cultural services, while its size and outlook enable strong public sector partnerships and strategic links with its nearest neighbours in Scotland and in the north of England in areas like tourism, energy, digital connectivity and natural capital. The region’s physical geography means it is particularly well placed to benefit from national transition to a net zero economy both in respect of renewable energy production and carbon storage, and from the development of future farming, and land management practice following the UK’s departure from the EU. An active further and higher education sector provides a strong base from which to develop the skilled workers of the future.

2.2.2 South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE)

The unique opportunities and challenges facing the south were key drivers for the creation of South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) which assumed its legal responsibilities across the Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders Council areas (which make up the South of Scotland) on 1 April 2020. The overarching aims of SOSE are to drive inclusive growth and ensure the South of Scotland benefits from a new approach that supports a diverse and resilient economy, sustains and grows communities, and harnesses the potential of people and resources.

2.2.3 The South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (REP)

Led by the two councils and the SOSE, partners have recently established the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (REP), which brings together stakeholders, including the wider public sector and representatives from business, higher and further education and the third sector. The REP’s key purpose is shaping regional agenda for the South of Scotland and a future Regional Economic Strategy (RES). The RES will set out agreed goals for all partners to work towards, providing the direction needed to enable national

and local agencies to align and coordinate their efforts, in direct response to the needs of the area, to create jobs and to pursue a Just Transition through investment-led sustainable, green growth.

2.2.4 South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy

The Regional Economic Strategy has recognised the centrality of tackling housing challenges to future economic success and sets out a range of relevant and interlinked activities. The following housing-related actions in the RES Delivery Plan form part of a prioritised programme of work:

- Action 2 (H) Promote flexible working practices through housing and planning policies, to support the concept of 'live here work anywhere'
- Action 6 (E) Advocate and lobby to create the right conditions for investment in new and existing housing within the region, to boost the number of new homes delivered to better align with economic and social needs and ambition.

2.2.5 The Convention of the South of Scotland Forum

The Convention of the South of Scotland, a forum composed of all public sector partners, and Scottish Government, seeks to ensure effective public sector partnership working and delivery, assessing and planning for existing and future challenges, and driving inclusive growth and regional priorities. The remit of the Convention of the South of Scotland is to:

- strengthen alignment between the Scottish Government, Dumfries and Galloway Council, the Scottish Borders Council and public agencies delivering in the South of Scotland to drive inclusive growth and to agree action to address the priorities of the area
- ensure effective partnership working and delivery across the public sector
- consider current and future challenges impacting on inclusive and sustainable economic growth; and agree actions to deliver that growth
- address any blockages and oversee progress

2.2.6 South of Scotland Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy

The two South of Scotland local authorities have developed an Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy (IRSS) seeking to align spatial strategy with a number of initiatives and strategies including the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Deal and Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, the Strategic Transport Projects Review and the emerging Regional Economic Strategy. With a focus on ways to make the area more attractive to investors, visitors and those who may wish to come and live here, the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal (BIG Deal) brings together the five cross-border local authorities of Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Northumberland County Council and Scottish Borders Council to promote the inclusive economic growth of the area that straddles the Scotland-England border.

2.2.7 Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal

As part of a shared, strategic approach, the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal is designed as a coherent package of activity to be delivered with fresh investment in the region. Jointly funded by up to £350 million from the Scottish Government and UK Government it delivers total investment of £150 million for Scottish elements (£85 million Scottish Government and £65 million UK Government) and up to £200 million for English elements alongside local investment of a further £102.56 million. The five Local Authorities which constitute the Borderlands Partnership are Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Northumberland County Council and Scottish Borders Council. The package of proposals aim to increase productivity; grow the working age population, and deliver a more inclusive economy.

The projects and programmes within the Deal will be delivered within four agreed themes, each with inclusive and sustainable growth at their core. The four strategic themes that provide the foundation for the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal are set out below:

- Enabling Infrastructure - this aims to invest in the infrastructure needed to support improvements in connectivity, helping people to access the region and addressing perceptions of poor connectivity.
- Improving Places - This aims to revitalise places across the Borderlands region to attract people to live, work and visit by investing in smaller market towns to reinvigorate and repurpose towns to support thriving and sustainable communities
- Supporting Business, Innovation and Skills to stimulate business growth to create a more diverse regional economy, recognising that innovation and skills are central to achieving this.
- Encouraging Green Growth - aims to capitalise on the green credentials of the Borderlands region and to facilitate decarbonisation, the creation of new high value jobs and supporting low carbon energy generation and carbon reduction schemes

2.2.8 Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Deal

Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Deal comprising the local authority authorities of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian, Fife and Scottish Borders, together with regional universities, colleges and the private sector, is a mechanism for accelerating growth by pulling in significant government investment.

Lowood in Tweedbank is the only strategic housing site identified in both the Borders Railway Corridor and the South East Scotland City Region Deal that is situated within the Scottish Borders. Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) and Design Guide (DG) was agreed by Council in June 2021. This guidance will steer future work to agree a master plan for development, help assemble infrastructure investment and implement phasing packages.

2.2.9 Council Plan

The Council Plan 2023 sets out the council's ambitions and priorities for 2023/24. It outlines what SBC wants to achieve and how this will be done. It builds on the Corporate Plan for 2018-2023 and has five outcomes:

1. Clean, green future
2. Fulfilling our potential
3. Strong inclusive economy, transport and infrastructure
4. Empowered, vibrant communities
5. Good health and wellbeing

The latest Plan includes those big developments, such as the Scottish Borders Climate Change Route Map and the Scottish Borders Anti-Poverty Strategy, which were identified in the Refresh of the Corporate Plan last summer. The latest Council Plan is being developed with some important additions;

- Sets out long-term strategic ambitions, which extend beyond the horizon of a single year (in relation to e.g. a Just Transition to Net Zero; Poverty; Low Economic Productivity and Wages; Demography).
- The vision gives rise to the actions intended to be delivered across the Scottish Borders in 2023-24. Subsequent Council Plans will build on this process, comprising steps on the road to long-term delivery of our vision for the region.
- Sets out for each of the 5 'localities' of the Scottish Borders clear ambition, action and outcomes

Over time the aim is to embed Locality Plans as an element of the Council Plan, which can truly be said to:

Speak to our 'Places' across the Scottish Borders by setting out the priorities for different communities, whether in Berwickshire, Cheviot, Eildon, Teviot & Liddesdale, or Tweeddale;

2.2.10 Community Plan and Locality Plans

The introduction of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (CPP) to prepare and publish a Community Plan, sometimes referred to as a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP).

The Community Plan focuses on improving outcomes and reducing inequalities for the whole of the Scottish Borders. There are four themes supporting a range of outcomes:

- Enough Money To Live On
- Access To Work, Learning & Training
- Enjoying Good Health and Wellbeing
- A Good Place To Grow Up, Live In And Enjoy A Full Life

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act legislation also requires the CPP to prepare and publish more localised plans addressing local challenges and to improve local outcomes. There are five Locality Plans representing the five localities of; Berwickshire, Cheviot, Eildon, Teviot and Liddesdale and Tweeddale. The Community Plan is currently being refreshed and a new Community Plan will in place by the end of 2023.

2.2.11 Local Development Plan

The Scottish Borders Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted on 12 May 2016 and sets out our policies on development and land use within the Scottish Borders.

The Proposed Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) sets out land use proposals and planning policies which are intended to guide development and inform planning decisions within the Scottish Borders over the next ten years. The plan was submitted to Scottish Ministers on 14 July 2022 for examination.

2.2.12 Health and Social Care Strategic Plan

Work is currently underway in development the next strategic plan. The Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Strategic Framework has been developed to improve the outcomes of the local community, by taking an approach based on the needs of communities to prioritise areas where there will be the biggest impacts on the health and wellbeing outcomes of people in the Scottish Borders.

The Strategic Framework will set out how health and social care services are commissions and provided over the next three years to improve and support the health and wellbeing of the people of the Scottish Borders.

3. Impact Assessments

3.1 Integrated Impact Assessment

Scottish Borders Council embraces the commitments required under the Equality Act 2010 which brings the general duty to nine equality strands of age, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion and belief, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership. We view the Scottish Borders as a place where:

- everyone matters
- everyone should have equal opportunities
- everyone should be treated with dignity and respect

The Council endeavours to ensure that all services meet the needs of everyone who lives, works or visits the Scottish Borders and we will continue to work with our communities to ensure we can achieve this.

The LHS Guidance 2019 requires local authorities to ensure that equality is central to all housing and housing services delivery. The LHS should include a statement that reflects the local authority's commitment to addressing inequalities in housing and provide details on how this will be achieved. The Equalities Statement in relation to this draft LHS can be viewed at **Appendix 10**. Local authorities are expected to demonstrate how findings from an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) have translated into priorities and outcomes in the LHS.

Local authorities are required to give due consideration to the Fairer Scotland Duty which came into force in April 2018 (Equality Act 2010, Part 1). Consideration should be given to undertaken a Health Inequalities Impact Assessment (HIIA) to help it understand the impact that its policies are having for reducing health inequalities and a Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) should be undertaken as part of a joint assessment with the EQIA with any outputs published separately.

A full equalities impact assessment has been undertaken on the Local Housing Strategy in line with Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders Equality Policy and Impact Assessment. SBC's method for assessing impact is the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA). IIA is a method or tool for assessing predicted effects or impacts of a policy or function on meeting the public sector equality duties to:

- eliminate discrimination
- promote equality of opportunity
- and foster good relations between those who have an equality characteristic and those who do not

It also incorporates the Fairer Scotland Duty (Socio - economic disadvantage). This duty requires us to:

- show that we have actively considered (pay due regard to) how we can reduce socio economic inequalities in the strategic decisions that we make
- publish a short written assessment on how we have done this

IIA is a tool for designing out discrimination and removing barriers to equal access and outcomes for people who have equality characteristics and experience disadvantage due to socio economic factors.

As part of the process while carrying out the IIA, SBC also undertook a Health Inequalities Impact Assessment (HIIA) and a Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA).

A full copy of the IIA can be found as **appendix 5**.

3.2 Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

Stage 1 of the Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) Screening was completed for this LHS which indicated that the LHS will have a positive indirect impact on children and young people, specifically those:

- Children and young people living in poverty, including fuel poverty;
- Children and young people with protected characteristics, or living in a household which include adult(s) with protected characteristics;
- Children and young people who live in a household with a survivor of Domestic abuse;
- Children and young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness;
- Care experienced children and young people;
- Households with a disabled parent or child;
- Children in rural areas.

While we anticipate positive indirect impacts of the LHS on children and young people, these will be considered in detail as the specific policies within the LHS are developed and implemented over the next five years.

A full copy of the CRWIA can be found as **appendix 6**.

3.3 Health Inequalities Impact Assessment

The process of exploring the impact of the LHS on health inequalities goes beyond our assessment on equalities impact and the Fairer Scotland Duty. For this LHS, partners decided to carry out a Health Inequality Impact Assessment as part of the development process. This brings a number of benefits because it takes a cross cutting approach to think about inequalities and allows us to consider our duties across a number of key areas.

There were a number of discussions to identify if there was an impact and whether or not these impacts were positive or negative, the discussions which have taken place have helped form our proposed actions and helped to contribute to the development of the LHS.

A full copy of the HIA Report can be found as **appendix 7**.

3.4 Strategic Environmental Assessment

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a systematic method of considering the effects on the environment of a plan or programme with the aim of helping to reduce or avoid environmental impacts. A SEA is a requirement of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The objective is to provide a high level of protection for the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans with a view to promoting sustainable development.

A screening request was submitted to SEA Gateway under Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The key consultation authorities have indicated that there was no likelihood of significant environmental effects through the LHS 2023-2028.

The SEA Screening Report can be viewed in **Appendix 8**.

4. Consultation and Engagement

The Council has a duty to consult widely on the LHS and involve the wider community to ensure that equality duties are met. To build the new Local Housing Strategy Scottish Borders Council has engaged with key partners and stakeholders to:

- Define a vision for the housing system in the Scottish Borders
- Identify the main issues facing the housing system in the Scottish Borders
- Propose actions and solutions that will address these issues

Consultation events and dialogue with stakeholders identifies that housing related challenges, and their effects, are being reported more and more frequently by businesses and communities. Key issues identified include: a lack of suitable homes in the right locations; a lack of homes that are affordable in terms of social rent, or in price or in running costs; old stock with poor energy efficiency and subsequent health and net zero issues; pressures on homelessness services; and a need for greater diversity of housing types and tenures. Additionally our key workers are finding it difficult to find homes to enable us to deliver vital services and it adds to the recruitment challenges for both public and private sectors. It is important that across the Borders that the mix of our housing offer is effective, in terms of tenure and location – the right home in the right place.

A full report on the consultation and engagement on the LHS can be found in **appendix 3**.

4.1 Early engagement survey

The early engagement survey ran from 1st October 2021 to 30th November 2021. The main aim of the survey was to find out what Scottish Borders households and organisations thought were the main housing issues and priorities for the region. In total there were 330 responses (301 from individuals and 29 from organisations).

The top 3 housing issues identified by respondents were:

1. Teaching climate change, making homes more energy efficient and more affordable to keep warm
2. Limited housing options for young people and/or first-time buyers
3. Demand and affordability for home ownership

The top three housing priorities identified by respondents were:

1. Local residents are able to afford to either rent or buy a property in the location of their choice
2. Residents can afford to heat their homes
3. Homes are fuel efficient and do not damage the environment

Respondents were asked in what ways had the COVID-19 pandemic impacted upon their housing situation and/or housing within the Scottish Borders in general. There were in total 219 comments with 61% stating the COVID-19 pandemic impacted upon their housing situation and/or housing

4.2 Resident and Stakeholder Workshops and Surveys

SBC appointed Altair Consultancy and Advisory Services Ltd (Altair) to carry out resident and stakeholder engagement in relation to the development of this Local Housing Strategy (LHS). As part of the development four housing issues papers were prepared to help engage residents and stakeholder on key housing issues, these papers are as follows:

- Housing Supply and Place Making
- Condition, Climate Change and Energy Efficiency
- Particular Needs and Specialist Provision
- Homelessness

Table 1 below provides a breakdown of the two surveys and workshops that were held as part of this early engagement work.

Table 1: Early Engagement Survey and Workshops 2022		
Stage	Approach	Dates
Resident Survey	Survey hosted on SBC's website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17th July 2022 – 9th Sept 2022
Resident Workshops	Four workshops scheduled around each of the four housing issues papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Supply and Placemaking: 8th Aug • Condition, Climate Change and Energy Efficiency: 2nd Aug • Particular Needs and Specialist Provision: 10th Aug • Homelessness: 3rd Aug (rearranged to 24th Aug)
Stakeholder Survey	Survey hosted on SBC's website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17th July 2022 – 30th Sept 2022
Stakeholder Workshops	Three workshops scheduled around the housing issues papers and one workshop for key housing delivery partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Housing Delivery Partners: 5th Sept • Condition, Climate Change and Energy Efficiency & Housing Supply and Place Making: 7th Sept • Particular Needs and Placemaking: 15th Sept • Homelessness: 13th Sept

The following cross cutting themes have been identified throughout the engagement as follows:

- The impacts of the current economic crisis
- Shortage of one bedroom homes in central locations
- The rural nature of the region
- Linking the LHS to wider infrastructure concerns
- The reducing numbers of young people living in the region
- The importance of community involvement in the delivery of the LHS (this theme was more prevalent for residents than stakeholders)

4.3 Gypsy travellers

Altair Consultancy and Advisory Services Ltd (Altair) were commissioned by Scottish Borders Council to identify the housing needs and requirements of the Gypsy and Traveller (GT) community across the region. The purpose of engagement and needs analysis was to provide an evidence base to inform SBCs approach to meeting current accommodation needs for the GT population and projected needs from 2023-2028.

This research did not include travelling show people and is focussed on the GT population. The assessment undertaken by Altair reviewed the following data sources; national and local data, surveys with households residing at Victoria Park and Innerleithen sites, a survey of those attending the St Boswells Fair and one response to an open survey.

A stakeholder workshop was held on 18th August 2022 attended by stakeholders from Scottish Government, COSLA, NHS Borders, Police, SBC (housing, planning, social care, safer communities, estates, homelessness and legal), Fire and Rescue and Education.

In summary the engagement and needs analysis undertaken concludes the following:

- It is clear that the length of seasonal provision is not enough to fully meet the needs and there is a strong message of ensuring that any future provision accommodates travelling needs.
- The inability to offer provision to those occupying unauthorised encampments has been a source of frustration in providing appropriate support to the Gypsy/Traveller community.
- The consideration of a location for a future site should address the need of the Gypsy/Traveller community to access services and amenities and be informed by the locations of unauthorised encampments, which present across the central Borders area.
- In taking further steps towards site development a thorough and robust engagement process both for the Gypsy/Traveller community and the settled community will be required.
- That in relation to future delivery of services to the Gypsy/Traveller community, adequate training is given to officers and face to face engagement techniques are prioritised.
- Consideration should be given to the different ethnic groups encompassed within Gypsy and Travellers, which is an umbrella term.

This analysis has indicated an estimated unmet need for an additional site provision of 28 pitches. Estimated additional household formation identifies an anticipated future need for 3 additional pitches

4.4 Key Worker

At the beginning of September 2022, SBC sent out a survey to a wide range of partners to find out about key workers in the Scottish Borders and if there are any accommodation issues when recruiting key workers in particular from other areas or overseas. In total there were 7 responses to the key worker questions. These responses were from; Various SBC departments, NHS Borders and RSLs.

Some of the key points from the responses were:

- Housing is an issue when recruiting key workers from out with the Scottish Borders and overseas
- More information on housing is required to help people to be better informed of their housing options
- More affordable housing options are required in the Borders, mainly in central locations – MMR, shared living (including ownership), subsidised rents
- This isn't just a housing issue but access to transport and amenities

4.5 Private Landlord Survey

To gain a better understanding of private rented sector in the Scottish Borders, from October to November 2022, SBC engaged with private landlords through an online survey. This included information on their portfolios, how they source tenants, letting practices, supporting tenants, rents and repairs and improvements. The survey sought to find out how Scottish Borders Council can improve services and ensure the support and information provided is better suited to landlord needs now and in the future. The survey will inform future service delivery and priorities, as well as this Local Housing Strategy.

In total there were 221 responses to the survey, a 6% return based on approximately 3,900 registered landlords being contacted. Common themes to come from responses from landlords are as follows:

- Concerns over recent legislation changes and perceptions that is becoming too restrictive for private landlords
- Landlords feeling powerless compared to the rights of the tenant
- Landlords indicating they want to leave the sector
- Concerns over making properties energy efficient, particularly relating to older properties and in rural areas

5. Local Context

A complex mix of factors and issues influence the operation of the local housing system in the Scottish Borders. Through detailed analysis of the local housing system and the impact of key economic and demographic factors, the LHS develops a framework for addressing housing system imbalances that require to be tackled if the housing system is to work more effectively for everyone in the Borders.

This section provides an overview of the local context. There is a full breakdown of evidence in **Appendix 2**

5.1 Population

The estimated 2021 population for the Scottish Borders was 116,020: an increase of 0.7% from 115,240 in 2020. In the Scottish Borders, 8.7% of the population are aged 16 to 24 years. This is smaller than Scotland, where 10.2% are aged 16 to 24 years. Persons aged 60 and over make up 33.5% of Scottish Borders. This is larger than Scotland where 26.2% are aged 60 and over.

The population of the Scottish Borders is expected to increase by 1% over the next 10 years. The structure of the population is also expected to change, with a pronounced increase in older people: the 75+ age group is expected to increase by 29.6% over the period 2018-2028, with 45-65 remaining the largest projected age group.

An ageing population means more people in the Borders will be living with one or more complex conditions and therefore will require more specialist housing and more support to live independently. There will also be fewer people of working age within the population to offer that support.

5.2 Households

The latest household estimate (2021) for the Scottish Borders is 55,296, a 0.9% increase from the previous year and 5.4% over the past 10 years. The 2018 household projections, suggest that number of households will continue to rise, with the projected increase for Scottish Borders around 3.7% for the period 2018-28, compared with 4.9% for Scotland as a whole.

While the population is expected to increase across the Borders by 1.7% and the number of households by 7% it is set to be an ageing population, with increasing numbers of smaller households. The numbers of one adult households and two adult households in particular, are growing, while the number of larger households is predicted to decline. Single person households are projected to increase by 14%.

The population in the Scottish Borders is ageing with the population aged 65 and over increasing faster than the population of children and younger adults. This impacts on household structure, as children tend to live in larger households and older people in smaller ones. The 2018-based household projections show large increases in the number of older adults living in one-adult and two-adult households; which is consistent with the increase in older age groups

5.3 Rural Issues

The Scottish Borders comprises 4,732 square kilometres, and is home to 116,020 people, making it the 6th largest and 7th most sparsely populated council area in Scotland (at 24 people per square km). Figures taken from the Scottish Government show that there are on average 0.12 dwellings per hectare within the Scottish Borders, the national figure for Scotland is 0.33 dwellings per hectare.

Using the Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification 2016, the Scottish Borders is characterised as a rural area, having only 5 settlements with a population in excess of 5,000. 30% of the population lives in settlements of under 500 people or in isolated hamlets

The rural nature of the Scottish Borders is one of our biggest assets with the quality of our natural environment and landscape being key drivers behind people choosing to live and work in the area. Yet, the area suffers from a significant out-migration of young people and shrinking workforce – between 2008 and 2018, the percentage of 16 to 64 years olds fell by 4%, and the proportion of the population defined as “working age” decreased from 63% in 2007 to 59% in 2018. By contrast, the number of older people continues to grow with the number of over 65s having grown by 25% over the same period; worsening the region’s dependency ratio which at 69.21 is significantly higher than the Scottish level of 55.71 (2018).

The degree of inequality in rural areas like the Scottish Borders can be overlooked: with the sparsely populated nature of our region, obscuring the extent of deprivation. Although SIMD is urban focused it does show that the Borders does have areas of particular challenge: 6% of SIMD data-zones in the Borders are in the 20% most deprived data-zones in Scotland (typically concentrated in the larger towns), while almost a quarter of the Borders data-zones are part of the 40% most deprived in Scotland.

Rurality isn’t a singular theme in the Local Housing Strategy but is a theme throughout and it forms a big part of all decision making and actions within every aspect of work.

A Rural Proofing exercise has been carried out as part of the development of the LHS and can be found as **appendix 9**.

5.4 Economy

5.4.1 Regional Economy

Prior to the pandemic, the region’s economic growth rate was greater than Scotland’s. On average the Scottish Borders economy grew by 2.4 per cent each year (2009-2019). The contraction of economic output in the Scottish Borders was estimated to be 9.4 per cent between 2019 and 2020, which matched what occurred across Scotland.

Between 2021 and 2031, the largest contributions to growth across Scotland will come from real estate and human health & social work. This reflects the size of these sectors as well as levels of growth.

5.4.2 Labour Market

- The employment rate for the working age population (age 16-64) in the region in 2020 was 79.3%, which was above the rate for Scotland (73.5%)
- More people worked full-time, than part-time, 33,500 people (70%) were in the full-time jobs in the Scottish Borders compared to Scotland where 74% of people were in full-time employment.
- Part-time employment accounted for a greater percentage share of employment in region compared to Scotland, 30% compared to 26%. Overall, there were 14,400 people in part-time employment in the Scottish Borders.
- In the Scottish Borders the largest employing sectors, and their estimated regional share of employment in 2021 were; Human Health activities (13%), Retail Trade (9%), Education (8%), Crop and Animal Production (6%) and Specialised Construction Activities (5%).

Of the key sectors in the Scottish Borders, Health and Social care, was estimated to be the largest in 2021. The sector accounted for 9,500 people. Construction was the second largest with a total of 4,800 people. Large sectors are an important source of jobs; however, regions also have sectoral strengths that make

them unique. This means that smaller sectors can be more important than their size suggest, as they are more concentrated in the region compared to the national average.

Pre Covid-19 employment in the region had decreased by 10% from 2009 to 2019. There are 5,500 fewer people in employment compared to 2009. The contraction within the region compared with 5.9% growth observed across Scotland over the same period. Overall, employment was forecast to decline by 1,300 from 2019 to 2021 in the region due to the pandemic.

5.4.3 Future Demand for Skills

In the Scottish Borders the labour market is forecast to face some challenges in the immediate term. The forecasts for the mid-term (2021-2024) however suggest there could be some jobs growth and opportunities created as a result of the need to replace workers leaving the labour market due to retirement and other reasons.

The forecasts for the long-term (2024-2031) highlights that's jobs growth is not forecast to continue in the Scottish Borders. However. It is also expected that there could be an ongoing requirement for skilled people to fill opportunities created by people leaving the labour market. This feature of the labour market, known as the replacement requirement is a symptom of demographic change strategic driver.

5.5 Tenure

Some 63% of dwellings are estimated to be owner occupied, 23% social rented sector and 14% private rented sector in the Scottish Borders. The Scottish Borders has a higher level of owner-occupied housing, a lower level of social rented accommodation but a higher proportion of private rented housing, than is the case nationally. Scottish Borders Council is a stock transfer local authority, transfer all of its housing stock to Scottish Borders Housing Association in 2003.

The general trend shows on average a stable (or now slightly reducing) owner-occupied sector while there has been an increase in private renting from 10% back in 2001 up to 14% currently. Tenure changes in the Borders evidence a shift to private renting, accompanied by a net decline in social housing by 4% over the period 2001 to 2018. Scottish Borders Council successfully transferred its housing stock to SBHA in 2003.

5.6 Housing Affordability

The affordability of housing for people, whether owning or renting, is a big issues for residents in the Scottish Borders.

Average house prices in the Scottish Borders in 2019 was £177,197. The average house prices varies across each Housing Market Area (HMA), prices in the Northern HMA are on average higher (£230,690) than elsewhere in the Scottish Borders due to its closer proximity to Edinburgh. Meaning that access to the housing market is much more challenging in some areas of the Scottish Borders.

Across the Scottish Borders, housing affordability is an issue for households on lower incomes, and a more pressing issue for households in the area compared to Scotland. In most areas, house prices are inflating at a faster rate than income. The ability for lower income households to access owner occupation in many parts of the Borders is likely to become more challenging due to the legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis.

Table 2 below provides a summary of rent levels in the Scottish Borders. Please note that private rents vary across the region. As shown in the table, social rents are either similar or lower than the Local Housing Allowance Rate (LHA) but private rents are consistently above the LHA rate, making the private rented sector unaffordable for anyone who claims LHA.

	Shared Accommodation	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed
Local Housing Allowance Rate	£269.27	£324.09	£423.84	£523.55	£797.81
Social Rent	£273.00	£315.00	£389.98	£452.17	£470.20
Private Rent	£328.29	£366.07	£502.60	£633.61	£1,018.29

Source: LHA – 2021/22. Social Rent – RSL data 2021/22 Private Rent – SG data Oct 2019-Sept 2020

The Scottish Borders has a low wage economy, below the Scottish average. This is also the case with household income. In reality, most households will spend between 25% and 35% of their income on housing costs which means that some household in the Scottish borders will have limited house options and access to housing due to having less income. For example, the average household income in the Scottish Borders is £21,600¹ but the average income required for private rent to be affordable is £27,312. The average income required for social rents is £19,515, meaning it is the only affordable option for households in the region.

5.7 The Cost of Living Crisis

The cost of living crisis presents serious economic and social challenges for the Scottish Borders with rates of inflation not seen in the last forty years. Energy prices have more than doubled and in November of 2022 the Scottish Government estimated that around 35% of households in Scotland are fuel-poor and 24% are in extreme fuel poverty.

The crisis is placing significant additional pressures on public and third sector services. It is already negatively affecting mental and physical health and driving up demand for health and social care services. Demand is increasing for third sector services such as food banks and advice services. Housing is a people’s biggest monthly expense and although the crisis is impacting households at every point on the income scale the resulting harms will not be evenly distributed. It is those with lower incomes and little or no savings who will be most impacted.

A key consideration for Scottish Borders Partners and this LHS will be to assess how we continue to provide housing services, additional support and continue to invest in housing in the current climate.

¹ SHCS 2017-2019

6. Housing Delivery and Sustainable Communities

Strategic Outcome 1:

More homes in well designed, sustainable communities that increase opportunity for all

Housing has an important role in not only providing a secure home to live in but in anchoring communities and places. Local people and professionals are becoming increasingly aware of the wider benefits of good, affordable housing solutions. There are clear benefits to people's health, wellbeing and wider social outcomes through having a permanent, well maintained and warm home throughout life.

6.1 Rural Housing

The Scottish Borders is predominately a rural area with 53% of the population in the Scottish Borders live in rural areas, compared with the national figure of 21%. Addressing the housing challenges a rural area like the Scottish Borders is more acute.

The legacy of Covid, impacts of Brexit, the war in Ukraine with subsequent inflationary pressures all impact on housing delivery, particularly in a rural location such as the Scottish Borders. The cost of construction materials and components are still 44.0% higher than pre-COVID-19 levels and these elevated costs could remain for as long as energy prices stay high and sterling is undervalued. There are also challenges with ongoing skills shortage which contributes to increasing labour costs, for example The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors' Building Cost Information Service suggests labour costs may increase by up to 8.1% in 2024.

The South of Scotland has a unique need for an innovative solution to address housing issues. Factors to consider include:

- Rural depopulation and aging population,
- Local construction sector predominantly made up of SMEs, requiring support to grow the skills base helping ensure community wealth building objectives,
- 'Live here work anywhere' ethos central to boosting working age population and flexible working in the South,
- Good quality, energy efficient, and affordable housing for all is central to the development of a wellbeing economy,
- Rural business base – both populations and places of work can be widely dispersed,
- Low wage economy reinforces the need for affordable housing,
- Rural premium cost of living (fuel poverty, greater reliance on private transport and poor public transport connectivity),
- Reported workforce issues in key sectors attributed to accommodation shortages, and
- Demand for second and retirement homes within the region impacts market demand and behaviour.

The Remote Rural & Island Action Plan will support rural and island housing policy and investment commitments by working to remove key barriers to housing delivery. While the Action Plan will be rooted in the actions, principles and vision of Housing to 2040, its development and implementation presents a new and vital opportunity for all organisations to channel their efforts, work effectively, and collaboratively to deliver more and better housing in remote, rural and island areas.

6.2 National Planning Framework 4

The National Planning Framework (NPF) is a long term spatial plan for Scotland that sets out where development and infrastructure is needed to support sustainable inclusive growth. Specifically, NPF4 will set out a spatial expression of Scottish Government's economic strategy and infrastructure investment plans through to 2050. Critically, it must also take account of the urgent and accelerating threats of climate change, and biodiversity and ecosystems loss.

NPF4 sets out a vision for what Scotland, as a place, could and should look like in 2045. It includes national planning policies and provides a plan for future development in Scotland. NPF4 sets out six overarching spatial principles:

- Just transition. We will empower people to shape their places and ensure the transition to net zero is fair and inclusive.
- Conserving and recycling assets. We will make productive use of existing buildings, places, infrastructure and services, locking in carbon, minimising waste, and building a circular economy.
- Local living. We will support local liveability and improve community health and wellbeing by ensuring people can easily access services, greenspace, learning, work and leisure locally.
- Compact urban growth. We will limit urban expansion so we can optimise the use of land to provide services and resources, including carbon storage, flood risk management, blue and green infrastructure and biodiversity.
- Rebalanced development. We will target development to create opportunities for communities and investment in areas of past decline, and manage development sustainably in areas of high demand.
- Rural revitalisation. We will encourage sustainable development in rural areas, recognising the need to grow and support urban and rural communities together.

The draft Local Housing Strategy has been informed by the spatial principles and policies set out in NPF4. Important concepts and approaches, including the '20 minute neighbourhood', the 'Place Principle', prioritising brownfield development, developing a 'fabric first' approach to decarbonising homes and communities, all feature within this draft LHS including in relation to the proposed outcomes, actions, targets and measures.

Evidence suggested the initial default estimate on the minimum housing land requirement was an underestimation of market demand as well as the affordable need for the Scottish Borders. Therefore, Scottish Borders Council worked collaboratively with the Scottish Government, taking an evidence based approach to form a locally adjusted estimate which took into consideration; past completion rates, the outcome of HND3, estimates of homelessness, hidden households and the policy drivers for the region. Neither did it take in to account the numerous policy drivers which seek to attract people to live and work within the region, help boost the economy and meet the required rise in the number of households. It was considered that the initial default estimate conflicted with national and regional policy aspirations for the Scottish Borders, including investment in the South of Scotland.

The finalised MATHLR, contained within the Revised Draft NPF4, for Scottish Borders as (4,800); existing need (350); households (3,300) and additional flexibility (1,106). Scottish Borders Council have agreed that the figures are the minimum amount of land to be identified within LDP's and that this covers all tenures.

6.3 Place Making

Place is significant in our lives. It has shaped who we are, frames what we have become and nurtures our aspirations. It is where we find the people and communities that are important to our sense of self and belonging. Having a real say in what happens to our place empowers who we are and who we can be.

The response to the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of local community resilience and the potential of local places to act effectively and collaboratively in both identifying and addressing local needs as well as supporting our fundamental wellbeing.

Making change happen at scale is complicated and difficult. However, focussing in on a specific place, its communities and partners, provides a more manageable setting to engage and take effective action.

Scottish Borders Council has put forward a proposed framework that builds on the Place Principle agreed between CoSLA and the Scottish Government, in particular: “A more joined-up, collaborative and participative approach to services, land and buildings, across all sectors within a place, enables better outcomes for everyone and increased opportunities for people and communities to shape their own lives”.

The proposed framework aims to build upon the Council’s ambitions around enhanced community engagement and participation, commitment to community planning and the intention to strengthen the role of area partnerships. At a regional level, Place is a critical element of the South of Scotland Economic Strategy, an explicit component of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal and the future direction of health and social care.

Scottish Borders Council intends to put place at the heart of our work, investing in town centres and making it easier for homes to be the heart of strong communities with housing that is well designed, without compromising on the aesthetics. SBC will take action to stem rural depopulation and help communities across the Borders to thrive.

6.4 South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE)

Housing challenges are an increasing concern to communities and businesses across the South of Scotland. Economic development in the region needs businesses to grow and take on more people. People in turn need places to live and the provision of sufficient appropriate accommodation allows businesses to take on more workers, communities to thrive and develop, and increased spending power in the local area, which can feed back into businesses in a circular economy.

Unlike the local authorities, the South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) does not have a statutory remit in housing, but has an important role in helping to underpin the housing sector. This can include including promoting the development of construction capacity and skills and finding solutions to strategic issues affecting the economy, through supporting the development of innovative solutions to housing issues, for example by the use of pathfinder projects to trial new ideas and alternative models for housing supply. It has an important role in raising the profile of the housing challenge.

The work of the South of Scotland Communities Housing Trust is vital in rural areas and community-led housing regeneration is important in the South of Scotland. Recently, SOSE supported the recruitment of a Community Led Housing Co-ordinator who will work as a part of South of Scotland Community Housing to help community organisations bring empty homes back into use as Community Led Housing.

The Regional Economic Strategy has recognised the centrality of tackling the housing challenges for future success and has driven out a range of relevant and interlinked activities. The following housing-related actions in the RES Delivery Plan form part of a prioritised programme of work:

- Action 2 (H) - Promote flexible working practices through housing and planning policies, to support the concept of ‘live here work anywhere’
- Action 6 (E) - Advocate and lobby to create the right conditions for investment in new and existing housing within the region, to boost the number of new homes delivered to better align with economic and social needs and ambition.

As a result of the housing and infrastructure challenges in the South of Scotland, there is a need for regional partners to:

- a) **Recognise** the importance of suitable housing of all types and tenures across the region in meeting people's housing requirements and unlocking opportunities for social and economic development in the South of Scotland
- b) **Endorse** the approach being taken across the South of Scotland to deliver a range of strategic objectives via investment in affordable housing, particularly where aspirations have been identified in partnership with in the community
- c) **Support** the range of activities already happening in the South of Scotland, and recognise that a well-functioning housing system is a key factor in us achieving the ambition set out in the respective Local Housing Strategies and Local Development Plans as well as our Regional Economic Strategy to be a green, fair and flourishing region by 2031
- d) **Acknowledge** the interdependence between regional, Scottish and UK-level policies, and ask all partners and stakeholders to address the issues, recognise the opportunities, and play their part in addressing the housing challenges, including testing ideas through pathfinder projects in the region where appropriate

6.5 Community Planning Partnership and Locality Planning

Community planning is the process by which SBC, and other public bodies work with local communities, businesses and community groups to plan and deliver better services and improve the lives of people who live in Scotland. The Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (CPP) is tasked with taking this forward here in the Scottish Borders.

The Scottish Borders Community Plan highlights what the Borders-wide inequalities are and how the CPP, together and with local communities and businesses, can address those inequalities and improve outcomes. Some inequalities and outcomes are not Borders wide but much more localised to specific communities, for example rural isolation. To reflect these more localised inequalities five Locality Plans have been developed to get a better understand of the key issues within these areas and what specific actions can be identified. These locality plans are taken forward at the five area partnerships. The aims and objectives of area partnership are outlined in the Locality Plans and Action and Locality Action Plans. The partnerships are another way for local communities to have a voice in local decision making, via their Elected Members.

The CPP structure comprises of a Strategic Board, a Joint Programme Board and five locally based area partnerships. As well as a number of statutory partners, the CPP works closely with a range of other partners in the Scottish Borders.

There are five community planning localities in Scottish Borders: Berwickshire, Cheviot, Eildon, Teviot and Liddesdale, and Tweeddale. These localities align with agreed Social Work and NHS Borders localities and are part of the Health and Social Care Integration Strategic Plan.

6.6 Housing Need and Demand Assessment

The purpose of the Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA) is to estimate the future number of additional housing units to meet existing and future housing need and demand by housing market area, based on a range of scenarios rather than precise estimates. The HNDA captures contextual information on the operation of the housing system to develop policies on new housing supply, the management of existing stock and the provision of housing related services.

The South East Scotland (SESplan) HNDA3 was developed throughout 2020 and 2021 and achieved robust and credible status on Thursday 28 July 2022.

The Strong Growth scenario was the preferred scenario for the Scottish Borders. The Strong Growth this scenario outlined in the HNDA3 reflects a positive outlook across the region with movement towards high real terms income growth, high inward migration, greater equality, high/ moderately high house price and rental growth. It reflects regional ambitions such as:

- More people move to Scottish Borders from Edinburgh and the Lothians, making use of the links to the City by rail, in particular to Northern HMA and parts of Central HMA.
- Tourists are attracted to the area with Tapestry opening in Galashiels, and a wider Masterplan relating to the town centre, with Destination Tweed continuing investment in biking facilities in the Tweed valley.
- Central Borders Innovation Park expands and redevelops and the expansion of Tweedbank for housing and commercial development is underway.
- High levels of investment lead to improved digital connectivity, opening opportunities for businesses in rural areas of the Scottish Borders, and the new railway station at Reston provides more development opportunities on the East Coast.

The HNDA3 in the strong growth scenario suggests that the Borders will require an additional 3,827 units over the next 20 years. A third of this requirement is for affordable housing. The figures identified through the HNDA3 process are a starting point to inform the production of the housing supply target, the housing land requirement and housing land supply figures.

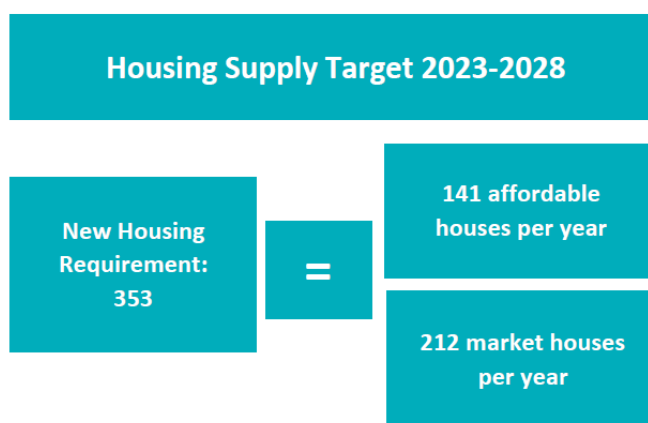
6.7 Housing Supply Target

The current Housing Supply Target (HST) identified in the Local Housing Strategy 2017-22 was set in 2016. The target was informed by the outputs of SESplan Housing Need and Demand Assessment2 (HNDA2). The LHS 2017-22 identified the target as 348 new homes per year. This comprises of 128 affordable homes and 220 market homes per annum.

The affordable housing supply targets were ambitious, but achieved due to the Council and its RSL partners responding proactively and creatively to opportunities to increase the housing supply in the Borders over the last five years.

The Housing Supply Target must be reasonable, properly reflect the HNDA estimate of housing demand in the market sector, and be compelling evidence. The HST is, however, a policy view of the number of homes that each authority has agreed will be delivered in each housing market area over the periods of the development plan and Local Housing Strategy. There is a clear expectation that there will be an alignment between the HNDA and the Housing Supply Target; however, the two need not be the same. In setting the affordable HSTs Scottish Borders Council, considered the following factors:

- economic factors which may impact on demand and supply
- capacity within the construction sector
- delivery of market and affordable housing at the local level
- availability of resources
- recent development levels



- planned demolitions
- planned new and replacement housing or housing brought back into effective use

Based on the outcome of HNDA3 and aligning with NPF4 it is estimated that HST for the Scottish Borders for 2023-2028 will be 353 per annum.

The full Housing Supply Target Paper can found as **appendix 4**.

6.8 Land Supply

Scottish Borders Council (SBC) undertakes an annual Housing Land Audit (HLA), to identify and monitor the established and effective housing land supply, to meet the requirement for monitoring housing land. The annual base date for the Scottish Borders HLA is 31st March. The two key functions of the HLA are;

- To demonstrate the availability of sufficient effective land to meet the requirement for a continuous five-year supply; and
- To provide a snapshot of the amount of land available for the construction of housing at any particular time.

The most recent Draft Housing Land Audit (HLA) is 2021 and demonstrates that there are 8,746 units in the established housing land supply within the Scottish Borders. 3,538 units are classed as effective (Years 1-5) and 1,967 units are potentially effective (Years 6&7). This demonstrates that the Scottish Borders has a vast amount of land available for housing development, which includes a range of sites within all housing market areas. Furthermore, the established housing land supply also includes windfall sites, which account for approximately 20% of the supply. There are 571 windfall sites included within HLA, which is not uncommon for a rural Local Authority given the number of single houses and steading conversion developments.

An estimate of the timescale for delivery of housing projects has been continually difficult due to the downturn in the housing market. The programming of sites within the audit continues to be a reasonable expression of what can be developed within the given time periods and there is a significant degree of uncertainty beyond years 2 to 3. A large number of sites were subject to delays and stalling as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, since early 2020. As a result, it is acknowledged that this will have impacts upon the programming of sites going forward. This has been taken into consideration in the programming.

Scottish Borders Council are also aware of the economic position regarding the lack of finance and the availability of mortgage finance for buyers. It should be noted that in recent years there are very few house builders developing sites within the Scottish Borders. The above demonstrated the direct impact upon rural areas including the Scottish Borders as a result of the current economic climate and the COVID-19 pandemic recovery.

6.9 Strategic Housing Investment Plan

Scottish Borders Council with the involvement of its key partners via the SHIP Working Group prepared the most recent SHIP for its submission in September 2022. It rolls forward the projects and planning horizons set out in the previous SHIP 2022-2027. It is updated by current information, following massive project re-programming and revision of budgets due to the impacts of closure of the Scottish construction sector due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and subsequent re-starting of the sector. However following the re-start of the construction sector there had been steady recovery across the affordable housing programme with 329 homes under construction across Scottish Borders at 31 March 2022.

The SHIP also sets how the Council and its partners have identified and prioritised projects that are capable of being delivered within the period 2023-28, and identifies where there are development constraints in

relation to particular projects. It sets out estimated timescales for project delivery and identifies a range of funding sources and resource mechanisms including Scottish Government grant, Registered Social Landlord own resources and private sector borrowing, other funding initiatives and the Council’s own resources.

The SHIP 2023-2028 sets out ambitious proposals for potentially up to 1,320 new affordable Borders homes at a total estimated investment value in the region of £268m during 2023-2028. In addition the SHIP 2023-2028 identifies Potential Pipeline Development Projects which require further work before they could potentially be accelerated into the 5 year programme, or included in future SHIPs in due course. Most of these are developer-led or privately owned sites, which draws attention to the importance of the housing market in the delivery of affordable housing.

From the 1,320 potential units, 295 are particular needs units and (22%) and 169 (13%) are wheelchair accessible houses. Table 3 provides a breakdown of the total potential units by Housing Market Area.

HMA	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total	%
Berwickshire	92	99	70	53	68	382	29%
Central	121	293	386	63	0	863	65%
Northern	0	58	0	0	0	58	4%
Southern	0	11	0	0	0	11	1%
Unknown*	6	0	0	0	0	6	0%
Scottish Borders	219	461	456	116	68	1,320	100

Source: SHIP 2023-2028 *Open Market Shared Equity Scheme

The Scottish Social Housing Tender Price Index measures the movement in construction costs of social housing in Scotland. The index is based on analysing the construction costs in accepted tenders for affordable housing. Grant recipients provide tender information through the Housing Tender Return. The average is about £200k per unit (3 person equivalent) although most recent tenders returned have been significantly higher, and is an area of concern.

This SHIP is based on a number of known and assumed funding resources that the Council and its development partners will draw upon. These include Affordable Housing Supply Programme grant Allocations of 16.0m in 2022/23 and assumptions of £15.954m in 2023/24, £16.010m in 2024/25 and £16.275m in 2025/26. The SHIP also assumes use of up to £2.250m Second Homes Council Tax funding from the Council and of up to £138m estimated private borrowing by the Registered Social Landlords over the period of the SHIP to 2028.

To assist budget estimating, the Council and its partners have developed this SHIP 2023/28 on the basis of an indicative grant of £96k/unit, and RSL Private Finance contribution of £104k/unit, which illustrates the increasing pressure on individual RSL’s finite financial capacity.

6.10 Private Rented Sector

The Private Rented Sector (PRS) plays an important role in Scotland’s housing system with some 700,000 people in Scotland making their homes in the sector nationally, double the number of ten years ago. The sector plays a crucial role meeting a wide range of housing needs in the Scottish Borders with 14% of people in the region living in private rented housing. The sector is an important part of a diverse housing offer, meeting the needs of a broad range of people at many stages of life and career. There is a broad base of tenants, from those requiring flexibility in terms of employment, to students and young people setting up home for the first time, as well as options for newly formed households but also those looking for longer-term accommodation.

At the end of December 2022 there were just under 7,400 properties (over 4,600 registrations) within the Private Rented Sector in the Scottish Borders. At its peak the number of people living in the private rented sector was 16.5% (currently 14%). The ten main settlements in the Scottish Borders make up 78% of the private rented sector, meaning the majority of properties available are in more urban areas of the Scottish Borders.

As stated in section 5 under housing affordability, the private rents in the area vary across the region and much higher than social rents, meaning the sector is not a viable housing option for everyone. In the private rented sector the *'New Deal for Tenants'* is proposed as a step towards 2040 goals, including plans for a Rental Sector Regulator, development of a national system of rent controls by 2025, and ambitious energy efficiency targets. This will help to tackle some of the affordability issues in the private rented sector.

6.10.1 Private Rented Sector Regulation and Support

The Scottish Government strengthened the rights and responsibilities for private rented tenants and landlords with the introduction of Private Residential Tenancy Agreement in 2017, which provides more security, stability, and safeguards for all parties. This was updated to take into account the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

It is a legal requirement for landlords to register with the Council's Landlord Registration Scheme, which provides assurance that legal standards have been met for letting property and that a "fit and proper person" test has been undertaken on all registered landlords.

The regulation of letting agents and introduction of a letting agents' Code of Practice by the Scottish Government, also aim to give tenants and landlords confidence in the standards and service that they should expect; and also provide mechanisms for both landlords and tenants to challenge situations where poor practice is evident.

The First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Housing and Property Chamber) was formed to provide support for dispute resolution. This deals with determinations of rent, or repair issues in private sector housing; provides assistance in exercising a landlord's right of entry; and helps to resolve issues that arise between homeowners and property factors.

SBC provides a liaison and support service for landlords and tenants and enforcement is only applied as a last resort. Key engagement activities include:

- Liaising with landlords in relation to prescribed information and providing guidance on legislation relating to letting properties. Rental properties are being improved as a result and landlords also gain a better understanding of the obligations when letting in the private sector.
- Landlords are becoming increasingly aware of the need for energy efficiency and proposed future energy standards affecting the rental market. Advice and support is offered through our liaison service.
- To address repairing standard issues, advice is provided to landlords following property inspection.
- In support of the Ukraine crisis, where homes or accommodation is being offered by the community, properties have been inspected using the Scottish Government's Quality Assurance Housing Checklist.
- Throughout the pandemic Officers have continued to support landlords by providing the latest Scottish Government Guidance; information on financial help available and how to go about daily landlord activities, including what checks should be completed and how to undertake viewings.

Landlord Registration activity demonstrates that in the Scottish Borders Landlords tend to be long-term, with knowledge of legislation and their obligations.

6.10.2 Private Landlord Survey

At the end of 2022 SBC carried out a survey on private landlords to get a better understand of the needs and challenges landlords face and to find out about their practice, 6% of registered landlords who were contacted (approximately 3,900) replied to the survey. Some of the key findings of this survey included:

- 41% said they had been landlords for 10+ years, with a further 28% saying they had been landlords for between 5-10 years
- 50% of responses had only 1 property, followed up by 21% who said they had 2 properties. 86% of total responses said they had less than 5 properties.
- More than 70% of landlords who responded own property exclusively in the Borders
- 22% of landlords tend to be 'accidental' and 39% said for other reasons including; renting while out of the country, renting out farm cottage and investing for their pension
- 57% of landlords responding said they manage their own properties, while another 37% use an agent
- Nearly half of landlords responding, with 44%, said that they are in contact with tenants at least quarterly, while a further 31% said they were in contact monthly. Only 2.7% are in contact less than once a year.
- Most landlords inspect their properties regularly and plan ahead for improvements, with 40% saying they inspect annually, and another 29% inspecting every 6 months.
- 44% said they had plans to install some kind of energy saving measures, where 56% said they did not. The most common reasons for not installing measures were; measures too expensive, need financial incentive, no return on investment and listed building so installing measures is difficult
- 70% of landlords who responded were aware of reforms in the private rented sector.
- 43% said they were very likely or fairly likely to sell part of their portfolio in the next 5 years, while 45% said they were not at all likely or not very likely to do so.

The sector recognises the importance of ensuring that tenants have certainty about rents and an ability to stay in their homes, as well as deserving a good quality, energy efficient home. However, the unintended consequences of recent legislative changes appear to cause concern to landlords, including the impact of the Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act 2022 with a freeze on rent increases and no evictions until September 2023 and as well as the investment required to meet minimum energy efficiency standards. This was raised in the private landlord survey where 43% of landlords responding said they were very likely or fairly likely to sell part of their portfolio in the next 5 years. There is early evidence of this locally, with almost 600 fewer properties registered in November 2022 than in March 2021.

The LHS will continue to focus on improving the affordability, condition, and operation of the sector and further enhancing tenancy management in line with national legislative developments and guidance. Private renting remains a major element of the local housing system and a significant tenure for local households in need, particularly where alternative options are often restricted.

6.11 Young People

Young people's routes to independent housing are becoming more difficult due to a wide range of factors. Young people are increasingly squeezed out of the housing market and face a more drawn-out process of moving towards independent living. Affordable housing in the private and social rented sectors is in short supply. Young people can face a number of significant life changes between the ages of 16-25, including leaving home, moving into further education, seeking employment, moving on from a period spent in care, involvement with youth justice services, becoming parents, some may also have a variety of complex support needs.

The Scottish Borders has a lower proportion of young people in the region compared to nationally and housing is an issue for young people, something that was seen as a housing issue and priority from the early engagement strategy.

The Housing Needs and Aspirations of Young People's Study identified a number of key priorities and outcomes to help address some of the issues young people have and identified a number of key actions, these will be taken forward in this LHS.

6.12 Town Centres

One of the ambitions in Housing to 2040 is *'Driving forward with a place-based approach through investment in town centres and placing housing at the heart of communities, including committing to stemming rural depopulation'*

As part of the Borderlands Place Programme there is a focus on town centres and there is ambition that all towns and their centres are economically vibrant and resilient to change. The key objectives are to:

- Attract new businesses to our towns and town centres
- Increase and retain our working age population
- Raise the standard of the physical environment in our towns and town centres
- Increase the number of people living in our towns and town centres
- Deliver new jobs and opportunities for economic and social participation
- Increase the number of visitors who spend time and money in our towns and town centres

There are currently four stages to this work:

- Stage 1: Town Prioritisation and Selection Process
- Stage 2: Development and endorsement of Place Plans
- Stage 3: development and endorsement of Borderlands Town Investment Plans (BTIPs)
- Stage 4: Contracting, delivery, performance management and monitoring

As part of stage one, four towns have been identified in the Scottish Borders; Hawick, Galashiels, Jedburgh and Eyemouth. Workshops took place in each of these towns in 2022 with key partners and members of the community. Further Workshops have been held in early 2023 with some of the towns starting to establish Town Teams.

6.12.1 Town Centre Living

Place towns and town centres are at the core of NPF4, limiting new out of town development and encouraging a town centre first approach. Town Centre Living (TCL) is a key policy aspiration for the Scottish Government, local authorities and a wide range of other public, private and third sector bodies. It builds upon strong foundations of strategic place planning and supports key principles around inclusion, wellbeing and sustainability. The independent report 'A New Future for Scotland's Town Centres' was delivered by the Town Centre Action Plan Review Group and published in February 2021. The vision developed by the Independent Review Group is that:

"Towns and town centres are for the wellbeing of people, planet and the economy. Towns are for everyone and everyone has a role to play in making their own town and town centres successful."

The revised Town Centre Action Plan sets out the response to a broad range of recommendations proposed in the Review. It sets out government's response both national and local as enablers of positive change whilst recognising the limits of what can be achieved if government were to act in isolation.

Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) commissioned analysis that identified a range of 'push' and 'pull' factors that influence people's views around housing choice. These factors combine and influence people's perception about the attractiveness of a place, and their opinions of what it would be like to live in. They include:

- proximity to places of work and study;
- the quality of the physical environment and access to green spaces;
- the range of services and facilities, including public transport choices;
- housing quality and choice, including cost, size, type and tenure; and
- negative issues – for example pollution, crime and perceptions of safety

While there are a number of barriers to town centre living (funding gaps, lack of evidence of demand and time for, and process of, obtaining consents) there are a number of good examples in Scotland that SBC and partners can learn from.

6.13 Empty Homes

Nationally, bringing empty homes back into use continues to be a key priority for the Scottish Government. Scottish Government commitments regarding Empty Homes include:

- Committed continual funding for the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership which is hosted by Shelter Scotland to support local authorities and to encourage private sector long-term empty homes back into use;
- Working with local authorities to audit empty homes in their areas and determine those that should be brought back into use;
- Giving local authorities the powers they need to regulate and charge owners appropriately for homes lying empty and to ensure that they have the mechanisms to bring empty homes back into productive use;
- Establishing a new fund for local authorities that will bring empty homes back into residential use and be able to convert suitable empty commercial properties in town centres to provide housing;
- Shifting of policy focus to help people renovate, adapt, or improve the energy efficiency of homes rather than help them to buy;
- Continuation of the Rural and Islands Housing Fund to increase the supply of affordable housing including bringing empty properties into use or the conversion of commercial and non-domestic properties into houses.

There are 1,737 long term empty homes in the Scottish Borders (as of January 2023), this figure has remained steady for over ten years but has started to increase in the past couple of years. There are many reasons why a property becomes empty. On a regional level an area may have low demand, or an oversupply of certain properties. Individual factors relating to the property can explain long term vacancy rates including the death of the owner, with new owners not forthcoming or a breakdown in relationship; a reluctance to rent out the property; being unable to afford to bring a property back into habitable condition; and repossession.

By working to support renovation of suitable empty homes and returning them back to use, SBC can help to breathe new life into old homes, improving the quality of housing stock and improving the quality of life in the communities with empty stock. SBC have a dedicated Empty Homes Officer working to actively engage with owners of Empty Homes across the Scottish Borders. The Officer has an active case load of 186 empty homes, and has been making connections with owners, neighbours and communities being affected by empty homes.

The Empty Homes Officer can support owners with a range of practical options to assist them make informed choices about the best outcome for them and their property. Effective solutions can vary, and the main options include the following:

- Builder Merchant Discounts – a range of suppliers offer preferential rates or discounts for empty homes owners undertaking works
- VAT reductions for qualifying properties undergoing renovation – this can significantly reduce costs and enable works to go ahead.
- Matchmaker Scheme – This is a free service which aims to match owners who wish to sell, with potential purchasers looking to buy
- Support Levy Discretions - The Council utilises the legislative powers afforded under the Council Tax (Variation for Unoccupied Dwellings)(Scotland) Regulations 2013 and 2016 to charge double Council Tax on long term empty dwellings under specified circumstances, and subject to certain exemptions. The primary aim of the double charge is to encourage owners to engage and take action to bring homes back into use.

Whilst there is a suite of tools available to assist empty homes owners to take action, dealing with these properties is challenging, particularly when properties have been empty for a significant period of time; are in serious disrepair; and where ownership is difficult to determine or owners do not engage.

Understanding the issues around why homes become empty, the burden of renovation cost is often cited as a reason why action is not being taken. To help address that an Empty Homes Grant Scheme has been launched by SBC, offering financial assistance to bring properties back into, primarily affordable, use.

This is a discretionary scheme and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. During the period 2022/23 16 applications have been received. 4 of these have been approved.

Benefits for owners, neighbours, the community and Local authority:

- Environmental and Climate benefits
- Help reduce carbon emissions caused by housing and housing construction
- Improved property condition & increase in property value
- Increased revenue & reduced debt recovery costs
- Reduces crime, vandalism & anti-social behaviour
- Improved health and well-being
- Increase the supply of affordable housing & choice of tenure
- Reduce pressure/ constraints on planning & new build homes
- Help revive and revitalise town centres, villages and rural communities
- Local residents take pride in their community
- Improved energy efficiency and reduced utility costs
- Reduced Complaints & Enforcement Action
- Improved energy efficiency and reduced utility costs
- Rejuvenates local economy & employment opportunities
- Improves outlook of area

6.13.1 South of Scotland Community Housing

South of Scotland Community Housing (SOSCH) provides long-term support to community organisations relative to the planning and delivery of community-led housing. SOSCH get involved with a community at the very start of a housing conversation, providing support all the way through to delivery and beyond. This work is inclusive of Housing Needs and Demand Assessment, project development (including business planning and funding packages), delivery and housing management.

In the summer of 2022, SOSCH recruited a Community-Led Housing Co-Ordinator for South East Scotland. A key part of the role is to support community organisations bring empty homes back into use as community led housing. The work of the South of Scotland Communities Housing Trust is vital in rural areas and community-led housing regeneration is important in the South of Scotland.

6.13.2 Short Term Lets

In recent years there has been an increase in the number of short term lets which has led to strong debates on the positives and negatives of short term lets. For many, short-term lets using Airbnb and similar platforms have enabled cheaper, more flexible travel, but for others – particularly in tourist hotspots there are concerns that they make it more difficult to find homes to live in. Some of the positive impacts of short-term lets on communities includes local economic benefits associated with tourism and increased household income for hosts. However, negative impacts include the impact on communities' quality of life, reduced availability of residential housing and increased strain on local public services.

While robust statistics are not yet available for short-term lets, the Scottish Government in 2019 commissioned research into the impact of short-term lets on communities in Scotland. The research provided a snapshot figure of properties advertised through active Airbnb listings by local authority area in May 2019. 570 properties were listed, which is 1% of total housing stock in the Scottish Borders. While data will become available following the introduction of the licensing scheme for short-term let, the figures are indicative of how many dwellings in the Borders may be used as short term lets.

In the early engagement survey carried out in 2021, 44% of respondents felt that second homes and holiday lets were a big issue in the Scottish Borders. There were concerns how this was impacting demand for housing and how this was affecting communities, in particular rural communities.

6.13.3 Vacant and Derelict Land

SBC undertake the Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey (SVDLS) annually, in conjunction with all local authorities in Scotland. The purpose of the SVDLS is to establish the extent and state of vacant and derelict land in Scotland. Requested by the Scottish Government and managed by the Scottish Government Communities Analytical Services, the survey has been operating since 1988. The data collected provides an invaluable source of information relating to vacant and derelict sites and assists in reinforcing and justifying national policy established to bring about the re-use and regeneration of these land resources.

The classifications of sites, included in the survey, are derelict sites, vacant land and vacant land and buildings. Derelict sites comprise previously developed land not ready for development without rehabilitation, including abandoned sites, and can be located anywhere within the Borders. Vacant land comprises previously developed land (including just as far as concrete slab base), without requirement for any demolition, which falls within settlements only and has an intended use within the Local Development Plan. Vacant land and buildings is similar to vacant land but where the site also features non-derelict buildings, which either are scheduled for demolition, or are a minor part of the site in relation to the vacant element, and the site boundary cannot easily be redrawn to omit the building.

National Planning framework 4 (NPF4), Scotland's National Policy, has a specific policy covering vacant and derelict land; policy 9's intent is *"to encourage, promote and facilitate the reuse of brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings, and to help reduce the need for Greenfield development."* Policy 9 is linked to several other policies: policies 7 Historic Assets and Places, 12 Zero Waste, 18 Infrastructure First, 21 Play, recreation and Sport, 25 Community Wealth Building and 27 City, Town, Commercial Centres. Policy 9 also relates to housing policies, Quality Homes (policy 16) and Rural Homes (policy 17).

Our proposed Local Development Plan has several policies that relate to vacant and derelict land, PMD5, ED5 and IS13. These policies relate respectively to infill development, regeneration and contaminated land. Vacant and derelict land is an important provision for housing land; for example, in the 2022 SVDLS survey in Scottish Borders, 8 sites had been taken up, 6 of these sites were in the process of being developed for housing.

6.14 Build to Rent

Build to Rent PRS (BTR) offers an opportunity to complement existing housing delivery models and help to increase the overall rate of delivery of housing. BTR can contribute to the creation of well-designed, sustainable places, quickly and at scale. It can provide high-quality, purpose-built rented accommodation that will enhance the attractiveness of Scotland, for new and different developers and long-term investors at scale. It can also support labour market mobility by providing homes for people moving into areas for work.

While the Scottish Government wants to encourage a growing BTR sector, lower rents in the Scottish Borders makes it more difficult to deliver BTR homes or encourage BTR operators to develop homes in the Scottish Borders.

6.15 Self-Build

Self-provided housing is an important element of future housing supply. It can include self-build (where a person builds their own house or appoints their own builder), custom-build (where a person tasks a house builder to tailor a home to their preferences before it is built) and collective build (where a group of people design and build several homes together). It can be an affordable option for housing delivery, with the flexibility to support the development of accessible housing.

The Local Housing Strategy looks for opportunities to encourage and promote self or custom builds. As with many other rural areas a significant proportion housing completions are self-build units in the Borders and partners will continue to look for opportunities and sites to promote this form of build, as well as monitor the numbers of self-build completions. The number of self-builds is monitored through NB2 completions (Private Sector New Build). Over the past five years the number of self-builds in the Scottish Borders have been decreasing from approximately 35% (2011/12) of private new build completions to 18% of new build completions in 2022/23. While this provides us with an approximate number of self-builds, SBC will be looking to develop a register on people interested in self-build and develop a mechanism to monitor the number of self-build projects.

Access to appropriate information, advice and support is key to support those who may be considering a self-build option, and where initially there may appear to be a number of barriers to progressing. The Scottish Government, and other organisations, have a number of useful guides and helpful information available on their websites, however there is more that we can do locally to support this activity. Through development of the LHS, Scottish Borders Council will commit to reviewing how it makes information accessible and available by preparing a self-build communications plan and seek to establish a register of interest in self build.

6.16 Key Issues and Challenges

- How is the population & household profile projected to change and the impact this will have on housing supply
- The Scottish Borders has an ageing population and reducing household sizes – meaning a greater need for the right type, size of stock in the right places
- Lack of access to affordable housing
- Decreasing Private Rented Sector - The private rented sector plays a significant role in the Scottish Borders. Continue to work with landlords and tenants to ensure this sector continues to thrive
- Limited housing options for young people and/or first-time buyers
- Need for greater diversity of housing types and tenures
- Supporting housing development in more rural areas and communities
- Uncertainty and impacts of COVID-19 and the UK's exit from the EU
- Delivering housing in a challenging financial landscape where there are inflationary pressures, increasing tender costs, increasing cost of finance and mortgages which is adding to the challenge.
- House prices and private rents vary in different parts of the Borders and a low wage economy means housing options are limited for many residents
- Perception from larger developers is that the region is a challenging market with insufficient market demand, lower end value and a longer time to sell. Traditionally, both sale prices and rates of sale are lower than other parts of Scotland, particularly the central belt, adding to costs and making development less attractive.
- Housing needs to be considered in the wider context, including transport and digital connectivity, childcare, and employment opportunities. Ensuring that there is the appropriate infrastructure around new homes such as schools, shops, and employment opportunities
- Supporting community led housing developments
- The number of empty homes in the Scottish Borders continues to be at similar levels but has started to increase in the past couple of years
- Need to make better and more effective use of existing stock – e.g. empty homes
- There are some areas of the Scottish Borders being low demand creating some challenges
- Town centres in the Borders have been declining, there is a need to make town centres a great place to live - making better use of vacant/ derelict sites and repurposing existing buildings (high costs associated with derelict or brownfield sites)
- Increase in short term lets and second home usage

6.17 Current Progress

- HND A3 received robust and credible status in 2022. The preferred scenario for the Scottish Borders being strong growth
- Revised Draft NPF4 is in place with the finalised MATHLR for the Scottish Borders is 4,800
- The Housing Supply Target for affordable housing has been met over the period of the LHS 2017-2022
- Strategic Housing Investment Plan for 2023-2028 was submitted to Scottish Government in October 2022
- Establishment of Community Place Planning Team at SBC
- The Borderlands initiative set down the challenge in 2022 for us to take a 'whole town' approach to placemaking. Borderland Place Workshops were held in Hawick, Galashiels, Eyemouth, Jedburgh in 2022
- Recruitment of an Empty Homes Strategy & Policy Officer in the summer of 2021
- Launching an Empty Homes/ Property Grant Scheme
- Work on the regeneration of Beech Avenue area in Upper Langlee. Galashiels.
- The Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) In Selkirk, Jedburgh and Hawick
- South East Scotland City Region Deal - A new Regional Housing Board was established in 2019 as a means of better engaging the housing sector and harnessing its potential contribution towards the wider City Region Deal objectives.
- Well established working relationships with RSLs, delivering social rented housing for people in the region

6.18 Key Actions for Delivery

- Increase the supply of affordable housing
- Deliver alternative tenure housing to meet a broad range of needs
- Increase construction capacity and skills to support delivery of more homes
- Implement revised planning policy and practice to ensure it is directive in shaping existing and new places
- Supporting the delivery of housing regeneration in communities (including town centres and rural settlements)
- Support the development and implementation of Place Plans
- Reduce the number of empty homes

Successfully tackling these issues is key to our success and provides us with significant opportunity. To unlock economic opportunities in the Borders it is essential that people are able to find the homes they need, both for those already in the region and to attract new people, helping to tackle the need for more working age people.

Matching housing development to economic opportunities is important. Construction, new-build, refurbishment and retrofit, contributes across our ambitions to be a green, fair and flourishing region – from our net zero ambitions, through community wealth building, delivering thriving places and tackling poverty and inequality.

The proposed actions in relation to Housing Delivery and Sustainable Communities will support those ambitions.

7. Specialist Housing, Particular Needs and Independent Living

Strategic Outcome 2: People have access to homes which promote independence, health and wellbeing

Having access to the right housing plays a crucial role in addressing some of the key health challenges in Scotland and the Scottish Borders. Housing can help to contribute to the positive health outcomes of people who have mental or physical health needs.

The Scottish Borders has an ageing population which will have a big impact on housing services in the future. The main impacts are on changing demands for housing supply and the housing stock; in supporting people to live independently and on adaptations to housing stock. Wherever possible, independent living will be supported in a person's own home through appropriate care, support, adaptations or technology.

7.1 New Accessible Housing Standard

The new Housing Standard will apply to all tenures and is an important element of Housing to 2040, which will set the path for how Scotland's homes and communities should look and feel in 2040. The new standard will create a single set of quality and accessibility standards, no matter whether a home is owned or rented.

Part of Housing to 2040 is to review Housing for Varying Needs. Once complete, the review of Housing for Varying Needs will inform the introduction of building standards in 2025-26 to underpin a new Scottish Accessible Homes Standard, which all new homes will need to achieve by law, regardless of tenure.

7.2 Guidance on the Provision of Equipment and Adaptations

The new (2023) guidance outlines the responsibilities of all relevant agencies, with the aim of supporting partnerships, across Scotland, to deliver a more equitable and accessible approach to the provision of equipment and adaptations. The overall aims of the guidance are to:

One of the overarching principles is:

"Adaptations should be seen as one of a number of possible solutions available, and it may be that housing support, or re-housing could be a better option for long term needs"

- Remove barriers in the systems promoting seamless pathways which are consistent and equitable across the country;
- Ensure services evidence that the service user, and unpaid carer, are at the centre of provision.
- Enable choice and control for service users and unpaid carers as partners in the process of assessment and support planning.
- Focus service provision on supporting the achievement of successful outcomes for the individual, and where relevant, their unpaid carer.
- Promote a consistent approach to the assessment for, and provision of, equipment and adaptations, which promotes prevention and early intervention, and supports self-management.
- Ensure that service users and unpaid carers have access to up to date and relevant information on equipment and adaptations.
- Promote good practice and effective partnership working in relation to equipment and adaptation provision.

There are a number of key actions in the guidance grouped under a number of headings:

- Contribution of Equipment & Adaptations
- Assessment & Provision

- Prevention, Early Intervention, and Self-management
- Unpaid Carers
- Moving & Handling
- Postural Management
- Hospital Discharge
- Children & Young People
- Care Homes
- Prisons
- Wheelchairs
- Communication Aids
- Technology Enabled Care
- Sensory Impairment
- Integrated service pathways for equipment provision
- Community equipment Store service models
- Health & Safety
- Recycling
- Adaptations and Housing Solutions

SBC has been involved in the consultation on the draft guidance and will continue to be actively involved in future development of the guidance and will review and update processes in line with the updated guidance over the course of 2023-2024

7.3 Need and Demand for Specialist Housing

7.3.1 Current stock

The following information is based on data collected from the Housing Associations operating in the Scottish Borders. There are currently four locally based and five national RSLs. There are only two who do not provide any specialist housing.

- 16% of social housing in the Scottish Borders is classed as specialist housing
- 15% of re-lets are for specialist housing
- 22% of potential new affordable supply provision is for particular needs housing
- There are 26 Care Homes in the Scottish Borders
- There is very limited information on specialist provision available in the private sector.

7.3.2 Demand

The follow bullet points provides a snap shot on the current demand for specialist housing in the Scottish Borders. This clearly indicates a growing need for specialist housing and support for people living in the Scottish Borders.

- There has been a 9% increase in the number of households with a long-term sick or disabled person from 2007-09 and 2017-19.
- An estimated 13%-15% of homes in the Scottish Borders have some form of adaptation for a person with a health or mobility issue, most frequently handrails, specially designed / adapted bathrooms or showers, ramps and door entry systems.
- Somewhere between 1,600 and 2,300 households contain at least one person that has to use a wheelchair, with a central figure of 2,000.
- There is an identified need for around 1,000 dwellings to be adapted to meet a range of mobility issues, this likely to be an under-estimate when considering projected household growth in the Scottish Borders
- Between 2009 and 2019, care home bed numbers in Scottish Borders increased by just 1%, despite a 20% increase in the population aged 75 and over.
- Demographic modelling indicates that there would be a need for 187 additional care home beds within the Scottish Borders by 2030. This represents an annual increase of between 14 and 20 care home admissions per year
- The number of new referrals to Adult Social Services has increased significantly from 2016 to 2021

- The number of people using Self Directed Support (SDS) has increased from 2,360 in financial year 2017/2018 to 3,005 in 2020/21.
- Scottish Borders has a high percentage of people aged 18-64 years receiving social care services
- There is a lack of recent data to quantify the care and support needs of unpaid carers, although the information that is available suggests that the number of unpaid carers has increased since the 2011 Census. The Scottish Borders percentage of population providing unpaid care currently sits at 9.1%

7.4 Health and Social Care Partnership

The Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Partnership is a legally integrated partnership between the Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders, enhanced and overseen by the Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board. In addition, our Health and Social Care Partnership extends to Primary Care Partners, Non-Statutory Social Care Providers, Unpaid Carers, Service Users and our wider communities.

The Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board plans and directs the delivery of health and social care services for the people of Scottish Borders. It is a commissioning body that was created in 2015 in order to improve health and wellbeing outcomes, and the experience for people of the Scottish Borders. It works in close partnership with communities and its delivery partners, and commissions against its budget in line with the strategic objectives and ways of working set out in the Strategic Framework.

The Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board includes members from the Communities (including the Third Sector, People who represent the interests of service users, Unpaid Carers, and Staff), NHS Borders and the Scottish Borders Council. The IJB has a range of responsibilities and legal duties as outlined in the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act (2014). The Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board is supported to develop and monitor the delivery of our Strategic Framework by its Strategic Planning Group and its Audit Committee.

7.5 Wheelchair Accessible Housing

Scottish Borders Council commissioned consultants to develop a wheelchair housing study. In January 2020 the finalised report was published “A space to live – Wheelchair accessible housing in the Scottish Borders”. The final report identified a wide range of issues and challenges which will need to be addressed at national as well as at a local level by Scottish Borders Council and partner agencies.

The total potential number of new affordable units in the SHIP 2023-28 is 1,320, of these 295 are particular needs units and (22%) and 169 (13%) are wheelchair accessible homes.

Wheelchair Housing Target:

**20 homes per annum
15 being provided by RSLs**

7.6 Integrated Strategic Plan for Older People’s Housing, Care and Support 2018-2028

Partners in the Borders have produced an Integrated Strategic Plan setting out a vision for enabling older people to have greater choice of housing, support care that meets their long-term needs. It is focused on enabling independent living but proposes an investment and service framework which tackles the logistical and market challenges experienced in the Scottish Borders. It proposes investment in housing for older people, technology-based services, and additional people capacity as a means of ensuring future needs can be met. Over the period up to 2028 partners will look to invest close to £130m to enable:

- 400 extra care houses (including 60 in a new retirement campus)
- 300 new build houses suitable for older people for sale and in the rented sector

- Existing housing, refurbished or remodelled - 300 houses in the social rented sector
- Housing support on site to be offered to 300 more older households across housing sectors
- Over 8,000 adaptations and small repairs to enable people to stay in their own home
- A minimum of an additional 20 specialist dementia spaces to meet the need identified in the emerging Dementia Strategy
- Investment in telecare / telehealth for over 800 households.

Extra Care Housing is primarily for older people and provides purpose-built, accessible fully self-contained properties where occupants have their own front doors and access to care and support services 24 hours a day. In 2016 six extra care housing developments across the Scottish Borders were approved by Council for delivery.

Proposed Project Delivery
211 Extra Care Housing units
2020/21 – 2027-28

The first 30 flat development completed was Longfield Crescent, Duns by Trust Housing Association which completed in March 2021, with Eildon Housing Association completing its 39 flat Wilkie Gardens development in Galashiels in November 2021. Following Covid related reprogramming, the next development is now underway at the former High School Kelso which is being converted and remodelled by Eildon Housing Association to form 36 flats. Current information estimates that this will complete in summer 2023.

7.7 Scheme of Assistance (Disabled Adaptations)

The timely provision of adaptations can make a significant difference to the outcomes for an individual in relation to where they can live and the level of independence they have within their daily environment. These modifications can be critical in acting as preventative measures. They can help to reduce the number of emergency hospital admissions through falls and other accidents, and also reduce the need for home care or long-term admission to a care home. For children, adaptations can support functional, social & emotional development and can provide an improved quality of life for the whole family.

The scheme of assistance is a system of financial and non-financial help that local authorities can provide for private housing which:

- is in disrepair or below the tolerable standard, or
- needs to be adapted because a person is disabled

Information on the disrepair aspect of Scheme of Assistance can be found in section 9 on page 68. A major adaptation involves permanent changes to the structure of a person's home. These works are subject to mandatory grant provision and are prioritised for financial assistance by the Council. These include:

- Provision of standard amenities which can include an extension to provide any or all of the standard amenities;
- Provision of structural adaptations with the exception of extensions, to provide living accommodation.

7.8 Care and Repair

Under the Scheme of Assistance, SBC provides advice and grant funding to people with disabilities in the private housing sector to carry out adaptations to their home. To assist Scottish Borders Council have commissioned a Care & Repair Service through Eildon Housing. The Borders Care and Repair Service provides an adaptation service and handyperson service. Households can access the service if they meet the following criteria:

- a homeowner 60 years of age and over
- a tenant 60 years of age and over
- a disabled homeowner or tenant of any age

Through the adaptation service, the team can advise on improvements required in the home to meet a physical need. Assisting with major adaptations, for example; level access showers, stair lifts and access ramps.

The handy person service carry's our jobs including; fitting locks and smoke alarm, replacing tap washers and unblocking sinks, fitting light bulbs and hanging curtain poles and fitting grab rails or handrails. The service also provides advice on home improvements, for example; roof repairs, damp works, electrical rewiring and window replacement

In 2011 there was a significant move to the development of a 'One Stop Shop' model for all adaptations in the Borders, which was achieved through an agreement with each of the four larger Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) who all operate locally in the Scottish Borders. This provides a consistent adaptation service to all people in the Borders regardless of tenure. Through the One Stop Shop approach, Care and Repair effectively spend the funding awarded from the Scottish Government national budget, referred to as Stage 3 funding, for each of the RSLs.

Between 2017 and 2022, Care & Repair have project managed 1,615 minor adaptations and repairs, and 335 major adaptations over the five year period of the last LHS. There have been 18,846 visits by a handyperson. Between 2017 and 2022, there were 485 major adaptations carried out by the four main RSLs in the Scottish Borders supported by over £1.7million in capital funding.

7.9 Supported Housing

7.9.1 Care Homes

As of March 2022, there were 26 registered care homes in the Scottish Borders, the majority of which cared for people aged 65+. A modelling exercise was undertaken by Public Health Scotland to advise on demand for and commissioning of care home beds in Scottish Borders for next 10 years (to 2030). Demographic modelling indicates that there would be a need for 187 additional care home beds within the Scottish Borders by 2030. This represents an annual increase of between 14 and 20 care home admissions per year. However, past experience suggests that care home demand will not increase proportionately to demographic change.

Studies show that fewer older people enter care homes in rural areas compared to urban area and this may be related to closer family support networks. This suggests older people in the Borders manage to remain at home longer than in other areas.

7.9.2 Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care refers to the support and care assessment and provision given to all adults, including older people. According to Care Inspectorate data, there are 43 care at home and housing support services registered, employing a total of 793 staff. The third and independent sectors are collectively the largest employer of social care staff comprising of 67% of the staff delivering care to people living in their own homes and 83% of the beds provided in care homes. The remaining 33% of staff are employed by the Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Partnership, in the Scottish Borders Council.

Most care at home services are delivered by the organisation SB Cares. Until 1 December 2019, SB Cares was registered as a Limited Liability Partnership wholly owned by Scottish Borders Council, although

Councillors have since approved the recommendation to bring the partnership back into full ownership of the Council.

7.9.3 Self-Directed Support

Self-Directed Support (SDS) is an approach to social care that allows individuals more control and choice over the support they receive. The number of people using SDS has increased from 2,360 in financial year 2017/2018 to 3,005 in 2020/21. Since 2016, on average most people received option 3 (76%), followed by option 1(17%) then option 4 (7%). Less than one percent of people used Option 2.

7.9.4 Care at Home

As Scotland policy agenda moves away from institutional settings and congregate environments, the provision of care and support is paramount to ensure individuals can live at home for as long as they want. Individuals may require care and support at different points in their life, or not at all. The levels of care and support required to enable the following groups of people to live independently at home providing they would prefer to do so:

- Older People - people are living longer, leading to a higher incidence of frailty, dementia and co-morbidities.
- Individuals with short-term or long-term disabilities/conditions – this covers a range of individuals including those who have multiple and complex needs and require 24/7 care, to individuals who require weekly housing support or peer worker input.

In 2021, there were an average of 1,367 Home Care clients each month and 549,018 hours of care work delivered. Most Home Care clients are over the age of 65.

7.9.5 Technology Enabled Care

Technology Enabled Care (TEC) aims to empower people to better manage their health and wellbeing using digital solutions. It consists of equipment to support people to remain safe and independent at home or in a community setting. Equipment can range from personal alarms and devices to activity pattern monitors. A TEC assessment is available for anyone with a social care need. The number of people receiving community alarms in the Scottish Borders, clearly showing a big spike in 65 years and over receiving a community alarm from 2018/19 to 19/20 (1,637 to 2,564), although this reduced significantly in 2021/21 to similar previous levels. .

7.9.6 Unpaid Carers

Unpaid Carers are defined as people who care without pay for a family member, friend or neighbour, who, because of a long-term illness, disability or neurological difference, could not manage without this support. The illness can be a physical or mental health condition or an addiction. People can become carers at different ages and stages of life, and they do not have to live with the person they care for. Many carers find themselves juggling paid work with unpaid caring responsibilities, including parents of children with additional support needs.

The numbers of unpaid carers in each Health and Social Care Partnership area are difficult to identify exactly and data can only be sourced from the Scottish Health Survey and the 2011 Scotland Census. According to the Census 2011, 9% of the population of the Scottish Borders are unpaid carers. The Scottish Government estimates the number of unpaid carers living in Scotland to range between 700,000 and 800,000 each year. Carers Scotland estimates that there are 759,000 adult carers in Scotland, including 29,000 young carers, suggesting the number of unpaid carers has been increasing which is likely to be linked to the ageing population.

The number of children aged 4-15 in Scottish Borders who act as a carer for someone may be (if the situation in Borders is similar to that for Scotland) roughly 760, translating as around 4% of all children in this age group. This is somewhat higher than the 187 carers aged under 16 who were counted via the 2011 Scotland Census.

7.10 Care Villages

Plans to develop two new care village facilities for the Borders were agreed in March 2022. More than £22.5m has been allocated to cover the cost of two care villages, one covering Central Borders in Tweedbank and the other in Hawick. The intention is to provide an innovative new model of residential care, designed specifically to better support the changing needs of older people alongside providing high-quality care and support through proactive early intervention and preventative action aimed at those with complex needs, frailty and dementia. The concept of the care village model supports unique needs, lifestyles and personal preferences for living, care and well-being for people living mainly with dementia and frailty. 24-hour care would be delivered by trained professionals.

Tweedbank Care Village

The plan for the care village in Tweedbank includes 60 beds in Tweedbank care home, 8 unit for particular need (Tweedbank Young Person Complex Care Development) and 8 units for particular needs (Tweedbank Adult Complex Care).

Hawick Care Village

The plan for the care village in Hawick includes 60 beds within the residential care and hub, 40 units for Extra Care Housing and 12 units for amenity housing.

7.11 Learning Disabilities

People with learning disabilities have a significant, lifelong, condition that starts before adulthood, which affects their development and which means they need help to understand information; learn skills; and cope independently. The number of people with learning disabilities is growing in Scottish Borders and there is an increase in the complexity and number of health and support needs requiring input from the Health and Social Care Partnership from both younger people living with more complex health conditions and people living longer into older adulthood.

In 2021, there were 702 people known to the Health and Social Care Partnership with a learning disability, of whom 101 have a diagnosis of a learning disability and autism (14%). This is likely to be an underestimation of both population statistics. The Scottish Government cites that around 32.7% of people with a learning disability also have a diagnosis of autism.

30 adults with a learning disability are placed in support arrangements out of the Scottish Borders and of these, 8 people are a priority to return to the area when appropriate accommodation and support can be established.

In 2022 there are 96 young people between the ages of 14-18 identified to the learning disability service, where transition to adulthood support is needed. There are currently 229 tenancies within the Scottish Borders for people with learning disabilities, with currently with approximately 25 vacancies. There are 75 people seeking a move, 25 of whom are deemed as urgent.

7.11.1 Coming Home

The Coming Home Implementation report from the working group into Delayed Discharge and Complex Care which makes recommendations of actions to be taken at national and local levels to reduce the number of delayed discharges and out-of-area placements for people with learning disabilities and complex

care needs. The vision identified in that report is that “The human rights of everybody with complex care needs are respected and protected and they are empowered to live their lives, the same as everyone else”.

The Scottish Government have provided one-off capital funding of £350k for the Borders to support the aim of bringing people back to their “homelands” by March 2025. Scotland’s ambition is that as many people as possible are cared for in a domestic setting, however it is unlikely that suitable homes already exist or will become available within a reasonable or predictable time period to meet the identified needs. As a consequence, for those for whom housing is the appropriate outcome, it is likely that bespoke solutions in the form of individual dwellings or some arrangement of shared accommodation will be required.

Initial scoping work undertaken by the Health and Social Care Strategic Partnership identifies 22 people who may need to be considered in relation to this, including those in transitions. Seven of these are young people. A programme board has been established to oversee related activity and monitor progress against delivering the aspirations of the Coming Home Report.

There are several potential projects currently being considered which could potentially support upwards of 14 of the identified individuals to date and the project board is actively exploring further options to identify appropriate housing solutions and support which would meet the needs of all 22 individuals and their families, as well as prevent any future out of area placements. A report will be presented to the Integrated Joint Board before summer 2023 to update on progress and activity.

7.12 Gypsy/ Traveller and Show People

Gypsy/Travellers are recognised as a distinct ethnic group by the Scottish Government. There is a large body of evidence, both in Scotland and in the UK, which shows a lack of access to culturally appropriate housing which is a major contributory factor in poor health, education and societal outcomes experienced by Gypsy/Travellers.

While there is a lack of reliable accurate data to show the number of Gypsy Travellers, national estimates would suggest that 1.5% of Scotland’s population of Gypsy/Travellers reside in the Scottish Borders.

Currently, there is no legal requirement for local authorities to produce assessments of accommodation need for gypsy and travellers. However, local housing strategies set out council’s plans and priorities for housing and housing related services, including those for the gypsy and traveller community.

SBC recently commissioned consultants to carry out engagement work with the Gypsy Traveller community in the Scottish Borders, this was part of the early engagement work of this LHS. The key aim of this work was to identify the housing needs and requirements of the Gypsy and Traveller community in the region. The assessment was undertaken by conducting a review of the following data sources:

- 2011 census data
- Information from SBC regarding pitch provision and supply
- Information from SBC regarding authorities encampments
- Information from key stakeholders and neighbouring authorities
- A survey of house households residing in site based accommodation across the Scottish Borders
- A community survey of those attending the St Boswells Fair
- One response to an open survey made available on SBC’s website and advertised on Twitter and Facebook

The findings of the analysis has indicated an estimated unmet need for an additional site provision of 28 pitches. Estimated additional household formation identifies an anticipated future need for 3 additional

itches. The estimated identified need in the analysis undertaken should be taken as a starting point, but also as confirmation that provision, in some form, is required.

This had led to short working group who have been working on a project plan to identify any site provision in the Scottish Borders which led to a “call for sites” in February 2023. Responses to this are due by the 14th April 2023.

7.12.1 Travelling Show People

Travelling Show-people are defined by their occupation, which centres around travelling to provide fairground rides and amusements throughout the summer months and settling on a permanent residential base in winter months

The Housing Need and Demand Assessment considered the needs of travelling show people, but the data available is limited. The HNDA engaged with the Scottish Showmen’s Guild who indicated 400 member businesses, totalling over 2,000 Showpeople in Scotland. The Guild suggested that around 80% of these are based in the Glasgow area when not operating shows. Local data would suggest there are two sites in the Scottish Borders that accommodate Travelling Show people.

At the time of developing the HNDA (2021/22) the Guild did not identify any accommodation needs which are not currently being met via existing arrangements for temporary accommodation for Travelling Show-people in the Borders, however this will be reviewed as part of the formal consultation of this LHS.

7.13 Key Workers

The LHS identifies key workers based on the definition from the ‘*Affordable Housing for Key Workers’ Project Group August 2015*’: A ‘key worker’ should be defined as a public sector employee who provides an essential service. (As well as workers in the public sector, it was noted that this definition could also apply to low paid employees in the private sector/ service industries who are also providing essential services.)^[1]

Housing is a key issue reported by other sectors in the Scottish Borders, in particular Health and Social Care, but also raised by wider communities and businesses. Key issues reported include a shortage of suitable stock in the right locations and challenges with affordability. As part of the LHS development process we need to explore collaborative actions to help ensure that people, particularly key workers, are able to find the homes they need to take up those opportunities.

While housing needs to be considered in the wider context of transport, employment opportunities and other issues it is important that the Local Housing Strategy communicates an understanding of, and provides evidence in relation to, the housing related challenges being faced by employers across the region, and looks to identify solutions to these.

As mentioned in section 4.4 (page 20), at the beginning of September 2022, SBC sent out a survey to a wide range of partners to find out about key workers in the Scottish Borders and if there are any accommodation issues when recruiting key workers in particular from other areas or overseas. This has resulted in a number of discussions and pathfinder projects that will be identified in the action plan.

^[1] <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/factsheet/2017/10/affordable-housing-for-key-workers-project-group-report/documents/affordable-housing-key-workers-project-group-report-pdf/affordable-housing-key-workers-project-group-report-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/Affordable%2BHousing%2Bfor%2BKey%2BWorkers%2B-%2BProject%2BGroup%2BReport.pdf>

7.14 Key Issues and Challenges

- There has been a lot of focus in recent years on national and local policy on specialist housing and people with specific needs
- The impact of updating the housing for varying needs – how will this impact future housing delivery in both the social and private sector?
- Lack of local data on the needs of households in the Scottish Borders. In order to plan for the future, we need to be able identify the current situation
- There is quite a range of specialist housing types. There has been a move from traditional housing models such as sheltered housing to retirement housing and extra care housing.
- An ageing population puts more pressure on housing. The main impacts are on changing demands for housing supply and existing stock; supporting people to live independently and on adaptations to housing stock
- An increase in the number of households with a long-term sick or disabled person means an increase in demand for specialist housing provision and adaptations.
- There is a lack of information on specialist housing in the private sector. It is not only the role of the social rented sector to meet the needs of households
- Clearly identifying housing's role in the locality planning within health and social care partnership
- The lasting legacy of Covid-19
- There has been a lot of focus on specialist housing for older people, need to ensure there is an adequate supply and access to specialist housing for young people

7.15 Current Progress

- The “Integrated Strategic Plan for Older People Housing, Care and Support 2018-28” identifies a number of developments for older people across Borders that are “no longer fit for purpose”.
- Wheelchair housing annual target of 20 homes with proposed delivery being divided into 15 by Registered Social Landlords with the balance provided by the private sector.
- 69 units of extra care housing have been delivered in the past five years, in Galashiels and Duns. Work has also started on the former Kelso High School to convert it into 35 additional flats, which are expected to be completed in early 2023
- Increased partnership working with the Health and Social Care Partnership to embed housing in the new Strategic Framework 2023-2026
- Commissioned work on wheelchair housing, young people, Gypsy Travellers and key workers to gain a better understand of housing need and aspirations within these groups

7.16 Key Actions for Delivery

- Work in partnership to deliver more accessible homes across tenures
- Increase the supply of wheelchair housing
- Provide information, advice and assistance on housing options and adaptations to meet particular needs across tenures
- Review the Scheme of Assistance ensuring the new Guidance on the Provision of Equipment and Adaptations is reflected
- Strengthen joint working with partners in HSCP, NHS, RSLs and others to deliver appropriate housing solutions for individuals with complex needs
- Strengthen joint working to support key worker and employer led housing opportunities
- Identify land and funding opportunities to more effectively meet the needs of the Gypsy and Gypsy Traveller community

Successfully tackling these issues is key to delivering more housing and services for people with particular needs and to help support people's health and wellbeing. Ensuring we have the right housing in the right locations to meet people's changing needs is a key focus of this LHS and the proposed actions in relation to independent living and health and wellbeing will support those ambitions.

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8. Fuel Poverty, Energy Efficiency and Climate Change

Strategic Outcome 3:

Improved energy efficiency of homes and a reduction in fuel poverty while supporting a Just Transition to Net Zero through decarbonising domestic heating and energy

8.1 Housing to 2040

Housing to 2040 sets out the key housing challenges, priorities and actions required over the longer term. The aim is for housing to contribute to tackling climate change by 2045 by delivering homes that are warm and affordable to heat and reducing the emissions caused by housing and housing construction. This has been identified under a number of actions:

- Align the work set out in Housing to 2040 with the draft Heat in Buildings Strategy so both work together to deliver our statutory targets for climate change and fuel poverty, and the milestones in between, in a fair and just way.
- Aim for all new homes delivered by Registered Social Landlords and local authorities to be zero emissions by 2026.
- Adapt and retrofit existing homes to improve their energy efficiency and decarbonise their heating systems.
- Modernise housing construction, particularly through offsite construction.
- Build the strong local supply chains needed to decarbonise Scotland's homes and contribute to green recovery.
- Grow the skills needed to deliver energy efficiency and zero emissions heating systems and support an increase in the use of offsite construction.

8.2 Just Transition to Net Zero

For the benefit of the environment, people, and prosperity, Scotland is transitioning to a net zero emissions. As part of the global effort to fight the climate emergency, Scotland has set an ambitious target to become 'Net Zero' by 2045, five years ahead of the rest of the UK. The interim target of 70% reductions by 2030 is less than 10 years away.

Scotland's 2018-2032 Climate Change Plan was updated in December 2020. It sets out the Scottish Government's pathway to the country's new and ambitious targets set by the Climate Change Act 2019. To meet Scotland's targets, a rapid transformation across all sectors of our economy and society is required. It is a key strategic document on our green recovery from COVID-19.

SBC declared a climate change emergency response in 2020 and this will be a key theme and core consideration through all aspects of SBC activity, including the LHS. SBC are committed to decarbonisation, and this is part of declaring a climate change emergency and offering climate change commitment. Electrification of heat and move away from reliance on fossil fuels and towards cleaner greener energy and with measures to help reduce energy use and raise positive behaviour change in how people use energy. The national requirement for all LAs to develop their own LHEES will support this transition and commitment to carbon reduction.

In June 2021, SBC developed the Climate Change Route Map for the Scottish Borders showing a pathway to climate change resilience and to Net Zero GHG emissions for the Scottish Borders, over a 25-year time horizon.

8.2.1 Heat in Buildings

The Heat Networks (Scotland) Act 2021 was passed by the Parliament on February 2021. The Act sets out how provisions of the Heat Networks Scotland Act 2021 and wider policy will contribute to increasing heat networks in Scotland. It aims to accelerate the deployment of heat networks in Scotland through the introduction of a regulatory system aimed at boosting confidence in the sector. The Scottish Government's aim is that low carbon technologies such as heat networks will supply heat to 35% of domestic and 70% of non-domestic buildings by 2032.

In October 2021 the Scottish Government published its Heat in Buildings strategy outlining its aims to transform Scotland's buildings and the systems that supply their heat, ensuring a transition to net zero emissions and addressing fuel poverty commitments. The Heat in Buildings Strategy, which updates both the Energy Efficient Scotland Route Map and the Heat Policy Statement, sets out how The Scottish Government aims to achieve that ambition.

Through this strategy and the Programme for Government Scottish Government committed to consulting on the following proposals and introduce primary legislation thereafter.

Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard:

- EPC C (or equivalent) in private-rented homes by 2028
- EPC C (or equivalent) in owner occupied homes by 2033
- EPC B in social rented homes by 2032 (non-legislative).

Prohibition of Direct Emissions Heating Systems:

- End use in new build homes warranted from 2024.
- End use in all tenures of existing domestic housing from 2025 and by 2045.
- Phase in requirement at regulatory trigger points

From 1 April 2024 onwards, the Scottish Government will bring in regulations to prohibit the use of direct emissions heating systems in new buildings, which will ensure that new buildings applying for a building warrant in Scotland must meet their space and hot water heating and cooling demand by only using New Build zero direct emissions heating systems.

Heat in Buildings Strategy is also committed to reform EPCs to ensure that they drive the energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation measures needed for our net zero objectives. SG intend to consult in the coming months on final proposals for EPC reform.

The Scottish Government committed to £1.8 billion of capital funding to help promote rollout of energy efficiency and zero emissions heat measures. A large share will focus on households in fuel poverty. Scotland's homes and workplaces must transform, so they are warmer, greener and more efficient. Reducing emissions from our homes and buildings is one of the most important things we can do to help end Scotland's contribution to climate change.

The established fabric first approach is critical to the transition, reducing demand for energy, making homes warmer and easier to heat, and preparing them for zero emissions technologies. This will likely be delivered through retrofit schemes such as EES:ABS and the maintenance and improvement schedules of the RSLs and supported by building of new homes and buildings.

Heat Networks in the Borders

All local authorities are required, within the Heat Network act and the LHEES, to identify potential areas or opportunity zones for Heat Networks, to help meet the national targets. Heat Networks are more efficient and viable in energy dense areas with good numbers of nearby properties that can be served by the network, and with larger energy users (Anchor Loads), to help balance and sustain the network.

The Scottish Borders has challenges due to the rurality, sparse population and limited suitably dense enough areas with enough properties. As such it is likely that new build developments, rather than retrofitting into existing properties, will present as the best opportunities for Heat Networks. Through the Local Housing Strategy, the LHEES, the Local Development Plan and working with key stakeholders such as RSLs, SBC will look to identify and progress Heat Network opportunities and potential projects. SBC will continue to liaise with Scottish Government and work with them to achieve, support and develop Heat Networks to achieve the targets outlined.

8.2.2 National Public Energy Agency

The Scottish Government has launched a national public energy agency to scale up the delivery of climate-friendly heating and improve energy efficiency across Scotland's homes and buildings. The National Energy Agency has been proposed for some time and will be a central source of advice, guidance and knowledge for the Scottish energy landscape where LAs and organisations get support and guidance from government. This will support and facilitate the massive changes and aspirational targets that have been set around decarbonisation. The agency will oversee and co-ordinate support and funding programmes to help people, businesses and the public sector access the most appropriate advice, guidance and investment streams to:

- accelerate transformational change in how we heat and use energy in homes and buildings
- aid public understanding and awareness
- coordinate delivery of investment

This will include dedicated funding for innovation, a programme of engagement with industry and ongoing support for skills and training. There will be an early focus on building public understanding of the changes needed in how people heat and use energy in their homes, as well as acting as a centre of expertise for green heat projects and co-ordinating the delivery of investment programmes. An independent strategic board has been established to support, advise and oversee the agency, with a marketing campaign highlighting the Home Energy Scotland service going live in November 2022.

The Scottish Government has committed at least £1.8 billion for green heat and energy efficiency programmes over the course of this parliament, with the aim for more than one million homes and non-domestic buildings to run on zero direct emissions heating systems by 2030. This includes:

- Energy Efficient Scotland (Heat in Buildings) Area Based Schemes;
- Warmer Homes Scotland Scheme;
- Home Energy Scotland Advice Service
- Home Energy Scotland Loan and Cashback
- Business Energy Scotland Advice Service
- SME Loan and Cashback
- Heat Networks Fund
- Social Housing Net Zero Heat Fund
- Green Public Sector Estate Decarbonisation Scheme

One of the key benefits will include a dedicated government team to offer support and to develop working relationships with as we look to deliver the LHS and the LHEES which both set out our regional approach to addressing both fuel poverty and climate change.

8.2.3 Future Standards for New Builds

The new energy standards form part of improved building regulations and build on earlier improvements introduced in 2010 and 2015. The new standards, which were applied from December 2022, also support plans for all new buildings to have zero emissions heating systems from 2024.

The new energy standards will also apply to newly built non-domestic buildings and form part of plans to reduce emissions across Scotland's building stock by more than two thirds by 2030.

Key elements in the new standards include:

- Improved performance targets which will reduce emissions from new homes by an aggregate of 32% and new non-domestic buildings by an aggregate of 20%.
- The introduction of a new energy target for new buildings to set and report on performance of decarbonisation as new buildings are decarbonised
- A focus on reducing energy demand, including improved fabric insulation in new homes to reduce heating needs
- Changes to make connection to low-carbon heating solutions such as heat networks easier

8.3 Affordable Warmth Strategy and Energy Efficiency Strategy

The Affordable Warmth and Home Energy Efficiency Strategy (AWHEES) is a multi-agency Strategy designed to support the provision of warm, energy efficient homes for everyone in the Scottish Borders. The Strategy involves key partners within the Scottish Borders Council (SBC), as well as wide array of stakeholders spanning the full breadth of the energy efficiency and fuel poverty agenda. Covering the period 2019-23, it contains a Vision, Priorities and an Implementation Plan. It has run in parallel with the LHS and been supporting key pillars. The AWHEES was a core part of the LHS 2017-2022 and helped delivery priority 2 of the LHS.

Vision:
**More people live in energy
Efficient and affordably
warm homes**

Along with existing commitments and priorities carried through from AWHEES development and inception, it is imperative that the AWHEES has climate change Just transition to Net Zero at the core of its aims and delivery.

The three main priorities within the AWHEES are:

1. To collectively work with partners to improve affordable warmth and energy efficiency in homes
2. To explore wider measures to better manage and increase warmth in the home
3. To ensure the AWHEES provides opportunities for all in the Scottish Borders

There have been a number of key achievements made throughout the three years of the strategy. A key output has been the creation of the Scottish Borders Home Energy Forum. The Forum comprises organisations representing housing providers, statutory bodies, advisory groups, bodies associated with energy, affordable warmth, health and income maximisation, and representative Officers of Scottish Borders Council.

The Forum has acted as a catalyst for building collective support for ongoing Strategies including Energy Efficient Scotland: Area Based Schemes (EES:ABS) and Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (ESSH) 1 & 2, with upcoming funding opportunities being discussed proactively. It has continued to offer a

platform to promote and facilitate measures and schemes that target alleviating fuel poverty and increasing energy efficiency in households.

The Forum provides a strong position to deliver, and monitor progress against delivery of strategic outcome 3 of this LHS. It will continue to work closely to also deliver against Scottish Government targets, as well as targeting efforts to work collectively on issues of fuel poverty and energy efficiency.

Across a varied range of commitments and deliverables the previous LHS, and supporting AWHEES, have progressed core priorities, including:

- Increase in EPC ratings across all tenures and wards
- Insulation levels (cavity wall, solid wall and loft) have all increased
- Increase in EESSH compliance within Social Housing Sector
- Establishment of Construction Forum to support local supply chain and build on outputs of Home Energy Forum
- Two years extension to the Warm & Well programme offering support advice and income maximisation to Borders households, particularly those in Fuel Poverty
- Increase spend and allocation on EES:ABS
- Development and introduction of renewable technologies into EES:ABS

8.4 Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES)

The Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order 2022 creates a duty on a local authority to prepare and publish a local heat and energy efficiency strategy and delivery plan by December 2023.

All Local Authorities are required to develop, publish and deliver an LHEES. An LHEES identifies what needs to be done to change buildings and relevant local energy infrastructure by 2045 to fulfil the Scottish Government's objectives and local priorities relating to heat and energy efficiency in buildings. The Strategy will reflect national and local priorities, policies and wider strategies. It will take into account and interact with local and national factors, such as the timing of planned infrastructure upgrades, access to resources and funding, major projects, decisions over the gas grid and community engagement. It will cover a period of up to 15-20 years with detailed actions set out in shorter term Delivery Plans. Building on this LHS the LHEES will provide a framework and delivery programme for local authorities to reduce energy demand and decarbonise heat supply across all sectors: Domestic, Non-Domestic & Public Buildings.

SBC participated in a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES) pilot for Peebles in 2018/19. The LHEES pilot project proved to be an interesting and worthwhile undertaking and allowed officers to gain a greater understanding of the process involved in undertaking an LHEES. Previous experience and activity in relation to this LHS will inform development. SBC appointed consultants to support development of the LHEES ahead of delivery phase commencing in 2024. To focus the delivery SBC will recruit a dedicated LHEES Coordinator in 2023.

To effectively deliver the LHEES it is key that regional stakeholders are involved as every building is in scope regardless of use, tenure or ownership and to meet the targets required there will need to be significant and sustained development across the national and local supply chain. There will need to be growth in the manufacturing sector and within skills and training. Scottish Borders Council is already working with Borders College and South of Scotland Enterprise and other local stakeholders to explore how this activity can be supported. Groups such as the Borders Construction Forum meet regularly to share opportunities and insight.

8.5 Fuel poverty

8.5.1 Fuel Poverty Act

The Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act was passed by Parliament with unanimous support in June 2019 and received Royal Assent on 18 July 2019. It sets statutory targets for reducing fuel poverty, introduces a new definition which aligns fuel poverty more closely with relative income poverty and requires Scottish ministers to produce a comprehensive strategy to show how they intend to meet the targets. The 2019 Act establishes a new definition whereby a household is considered fuel poor if:

After housing costs have been deducted, more than 10% (20% for extreme fuel poverty) of their net income is required to pay for their reasonable fuel needs.²

8.5.2 Fuel Poverty

Three main factors influence whether a household is in fuel poverty:

1. Household income – the cost of heating a property forms a greater proportion of total income for those on low incomes
2. Fuel costs – the prices of different types of fuels varies considerably; in some areas/ properties consumers are unable to choose an economical type of heating systems. Even with high levels of investment in energy efficiency measures, the recent increases in fuel prices have pushed many families back into fuel poverty
3. Energy efficiency – thermal quality of the building and the efficiency of the heating source impact on heating costs

A fourth factor has also been identified as a cause of fuel poverty:

4. How people use their heating systems and live within their home.

While this fourth factor is not unique to fuel poor households, the absence of energy efficiency behaviours can affect an increased vulnerability to, and entrench people within, fuel poverty. Vulnerable households can also find it more challenging to develop strategies to tackle fuel poverty themselves and participate in support programmes. Fuel poverty is a particular issue facing households in the Scottish Borders. In the Scottish Borders, 29% of households are fuel poor in comparison with 24% nationally. Fuel poverty is exacerbated by a number of factors affecting properties and households in Scottish Borders, including the following:

- 11% of dwellings in Scottish Borders have an F or G energy efficiency rating
- 33% of dwellings in Scottish Borders were built before 1945 (30% Scotland)
- 35% of Scottish Borders dwellings are off the gas grid³
- The Scottish Borders has a lower wage economy
- 53% of the population in the Scottish Borders live in rural areas (21% Scotland)

Fuel poverty is exacerbated by not only the type of housing but the rural nature of the area, the low wage economy and the higher level of older people living in the Scottish Borders.

² Fuel Poverty & extreme Fuel Poverty reference is: (Source: Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019)

³ Energy Saving Trust - Home Analytics Scotland V3.8

Table 4: Levels of Fuel Poverty and Extreme Fuel Poverty		
	Fuel Poverty	Extreme Fuel Poverty
Scottish Borders (SHCS)	29%	14%
Scottish Borders (HAnalytics)	28%	16%
Scotland	24%	12%
Source: Scottish House Condition Survey 2017-19 Energy Saving Trust - Home Analytics Scotland V3.8		

8.5.3 Cost of Living Crisis and Energy Price Cap

The 'cost of living crisis' refers to the fall in 'real' disposable incomes (that is, adjusted for inflation and after taxes and benefits) that the UK has experienced since late 2021. The impacts on the UK economy following the Covid pandemic and the Ukraine war has resulted in an unprecedented increase in energy costs, and the wider costs of living. This in turn has had an impact on poverty and in particular fuel poverty and extreme fuel poverty. The crisis is having an impact on households in the Scottish Borders. As the region is an area that already has higher than average levels of fuel poverty the cost of living crisis will only make this more profound.

As per revised definitions, the fuel poverty rate in Scottish Border is at 29%. The increase in energy prices will have a huge negative impact pulling a large number of people into fuel poverty, and pushing others into extreme fuel poverty. Applying the new "fuel poverty" definitions over the increased energy costs show this increased spend on heating and energy and could potentially mean that the real fuel poverty figure to be nearer 40-50%.

The current energy price cap (£2,500 for a typical household) remains in place until 31 March 2023 and is likely to remain in place for a further three months, this will be followed by a new price cap of around £3,000 until 31 March 2024. Ofgem update the level every three months to reflect inflation and changes in underlying costs. Further announcements from Ofgem are expected in May and August 2023. These are welcome buffers against true fuel costs but they remain significantly higher than the typical cost for energy in winter 2021 which was £1,277 (December 2021).

Although we have previously been seeing a slow, gradual reduction in levels locally of fuel poverty, the recent increases in fuel costs, the uncertain energy market and the resultant cost of living crisis will see an increase in households in poverty and in particular fuel poverty. For an average household, energy costs have doubled in the space of a year, meaning the average household will pay around £2,000 more per year for energy.

Ensuring housing and homes are as energy efficiency as possible is the easiest and most direct way to reduce energy consumption. The housing stock across the region presents challenges due to the age and construction type. SBC along with partners will continue to work to mitigate against this rise through the delivery of energy efficiency schemes targeting households most at risk and making affordable warmth achievable for more households.

There has been a considerable amount of work going on across SBC and partners to mitigate against the impact of the cost of living crisis with a dedicated website offering a wide range of information and advice (Financial support and advice, help with rising energy costs and help with access to food). SBC have been working with community and voluntary groups to create a network of Warm Spaces throughout the region. The Warm Spaces Initiative includes community centres, libraries and clubs which all offer a warm and welcoming space, free to anyone struggling to heat their home.

8.6 Energy Efficiency Programmes – Area Based Schemes

Scottish Government funding for private home energy efficiency improvements is known as the Energy Efficient Scotland Area Based Scheme (EES: ABS). The funding enables investment in: external and internal

wall insulation; cavity wall insulation; loft insulation; and underfloor insulation. As well as offering insulation and fabric first measures the scheme will also aim to deliver more renewable technology in off gas grid areas, such as Air Source Heat Pumps and Solar PV and Battery Storage systems. Intend to continue to offer a blend of insulation and renewable technology.

The Council works in partnership with Changeworks to deliver Energy Efficiency Programmes – Area Based Schemes (EES:ABS), building on the strong relationships established over previous years. This partnership allows the Council to benefit from the expertise required to maximise the effectiveness of this project and to build on the successful outcomes delivered to date. The schemes follow an area based approach with focus on the most fuel poor area and households, drawing on a range of data including index of multiple deprivation, child poverty, the Scottish House Condition Survey, heat mapping and local knowledge.

Table 5 below provides a summary of the funding that SBC has received from Scottish Government over the past nine years and number of measures installed across the number of properties supported.

Table 5: Investment in EES: ABS in the Last 9 years			
Households assisted by EES: ABS	EES: ABS investment levels	Measures installed	Households supported
2015/16	£1.5	311	311
2016/17	£1m	1,256	1224
2017/18	£1.23m	735	623
2018/19	£1.34m	428	387
2019/20	£1.35m	100	81
2020/21	£1.72m	195	176
2021/22	£1.78m	192	116
2022/23	£1.8	220 (forecast)	170 (forecast)
2023/24	£1.82		
Source: SBC and Changeworks monitoring data			

The EES:ABS continues to be a core delivery channel for addressing fuel poverty and promoting affordable warmth across the region. The funding allocated to SBC for EES:ABS has steadily increased. EES:ABS has provided varied insulation schemes and the continuing need to offer Infernal Wall Insulation given the regions housing stock (i.e. older, solid walled properties that are unsuitable for cavity insulation).

As part of a commitment to decarbonisation, and increasingly electrification, of heating there has been and will continue to be a focus on delivering renewable technologies in the region. Starting in 2019/2020 and each year since, there have been projects installing Air Source Heat Pumps, Solar Photovoltaics and Battery Storage.

Renewable technology and insulation which enables more economic use of heating energy are both key factors in supporting climate change mitigation within the region. The 2022/23 EES:ABS scheme saw a successful funding application of £1.8 Million for the region and we are approaching the final delivery stages of the current scheme year. Looking ahead to 2023/24, SBC have been allocated £1.82 million to deliver the next EES:ABS cycle which is an increase on the previous years.

8.6.1 Energy Company Obligation (ECO) 4 and Flexible Eligibility

As part of the conditions of the EES:ABS grant, Local Authorities are required to outline how they will support Energy Company Obligation (ECO) 4 and ECO flexible Eligibility and to publish a Statement of Intent (SOI). SBC recently published our ECO 4 SOI and are reviewing ECO Flexible Eligibility mechanisms to fully understand and realise how ECO can be maximised in our region whilst ensuring the protection of consumers. At present the council will only accept referrals from approved delivery partners.

8.7 Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)

8.7.1 Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH)

Registered Social Landlords across the Borders have their own targets known as Energy Efficient Standards for Social Housing (EESH) which was introduced in 2014. The Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH) aims to improve the energy efficiency of social housing in Scotland. It will help to reduce energy consumption, fuel poverty and the emission of greenhouse gases. RSLs are now considering the further, and higher, standards required for EESH 2 which are:

'All social housing meets, or can be treated as meeting, EPC Band B (Energy Efficiency rating), or is as energy efficient as practically possible, by the end of December 2032 and within the limits of cost, technology and necessary consent.'

In addition, no social housing below EPC Band D should be re-let from December 2025, subject to temporary specified exemptions.

Enhanced EESH 2 standards will require that new builds are constructed to higher standards and utilise renewable low or zero carbon heating systems. Retrofitting properties to meet the standard will require new and innovative solutions to increase EPC ratings and thermal comfort and efficiency of properties. Some of the measures being considered and installed include EnerPhit retrofit standards, modern high efficiency storage heating systems (Quantum) and renewable zero carbon heating systems such as Heat Pump technology and Solar PV and battery storage. Longer term RSLs asset plans and potential Heat Network opportunities will be considered alongside the council's Local Development Plan and LHEES.

**Current EESH Standard
Compliance:**

92%

(Aug 2022)

In Housing to 2040, the Scottish Government made a commitment to seek the agreement of the social housing sector to bring forward the review of the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing post 2020 (EESH2) to begin in 2023, with a view to strengthening and realigning the standard with net zero requirements so that social housing leads the transition to zero direct emissions buildings. Due to a number of pressures that RSLs face in the current climate (inflation, rising energy bills, rent freeze and cost of materials) has resulted in a 'Temporarily put on hold', which means:

- a) The 2020 EESH milestone, or EESH1, continues to apply. The EESH1 milestone, which social housing should meet since the end of December 2020, continues to apply.
- b) Landlords are not required to show progress towards EESH2 milestones. Landlords are not required to show that stock meets or is progressing towards EESH2 milestones in reporting their performance for the years ending March 2023 or 2024.
- c) SHR has paused collection of EESH2 data

Within these constraints and temporary hold, action is still needed to progress towards net zero to meet climate change targets and to reduce fuel poverty. Whilst the review is underway social landlords should continue to invest in energy efficiency measures, continue with planned investment and continue to draw on support available for example through the Social Housing Net Zero Heat Fund which will provide £200 million of grant support over the length of this Parliament.

8.7.2 Green Homes Pilot - Eildon Housing Association

Eildon Housing Association have been leading on the Green Homes Pilot with Construction Scotland Innovation Centre (CSIC) and supported by SBC, where a variety of modern energy efficient building techniques and styles are being utilised in their projects and post installation studies will be completed. The

project aims to determine a new-build comparison program with different home types that can be monitored as they are designed and built and thereafter.

There are four projects each with a different build methods. Costs design and post-construction building performance will be monitored to determine comparisons between each for Eildon HA and the tenants. This project is being managed in partnership with CSIC and Glasgow School of Art (MEARU)

This has seen new build energy efficiency properties such as Passivhaus, standard installations (at Westruther) new build homes completed already by Eildon at St Boswells to Passivhaus standard utilising air heat recovery heating systems. Westruther is one of four developments which will see up to 50 new green homes built using different building methods. This pilot will compare construction costs, time to build and the experience of tenants living in the homes.

The insight and learnings from these buildings and the various nuances of each construction type will be shared to allow better understanding of merits and suitability for future housing in the region. Evidence will be provided by ongoing output of monitoring and evaluation of the scheme / scheme successes.

8.8 Energy Performance Certificate – Regional Assessment

Part of addressing fuel poverty, increasing housing standards and delivering council strategies relies on improving the EPC rating of properties. This is a standard assessment measure used nationally to define standards.

Whilst the energy efficiency of Scotland’s homes is improving, around 55% of properties are still rated below the recommended minimum Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of ‘C’. SBC has lower than the Scottish average EPC rating and has a medial average of D. Local strategies are focussing on addressing this. (Source: - Home Analytics Scotland V3.8)

Currently the EPC average scoring for the localities across the Borders, split by tenure, as shown in table 6 below.

Table 6: EPC rating by Tenure and Locality				
Locality	Compliant with EPC C or higher (by 2040)			Compliant with EPC B (by 2032)
	Owner Occupied	Social Housing	Privately Rented	Social Housing
Berwickshire	26%	62%	19%	21%
Cheviot	35%	82%	22%	14%
Eildon	32%	72%	24%	13%
Teviot and Liddesdale	25%	77%	24%	4%
Tweeddale	34%	65%	22%	8%

Source: Energy Saving Trust - Home Analytics Scotland V3.8

Since the previous LHS (2017-2022) there has been steady and consistent improvements made as shown in the below table 7 which is based on the most recent Home Analytics data. The table shows the average increase for the Scottish Borders and in particular the increase in the social rented sector. The improvements reflect the uplift in EPCs required by the Energy Efficiency Standards for Social Housing legislation - EESSH 1 and EESSH 2 and ongoing stock improvement and maintenance, and new builds being to a higher energy efficiency standard.

The key drivers are continuing energy efficiency home improvements through insulation and upgraded heating, either through 5 years of EES:ABS & Warmer Homes Scotland schemes are for householders paying for the measures themselves.

Improvements across the private rented sector have seen the lowest increase, but has still shown an increase. EES:ABS is available to some landlords and there are EST loans available also to support home energy efficiency improvements in this sector. Lack of regulation, such as the delayed Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards, may also have slowed improvements.

Table 7: Current compliance with Energy Efficient Scotland EPC ratings, by locality and tenure type, presented as % of stock			
Averages - EPC C or higher	2018	2023	Increase
Owner Occupied	24%	30%	6%
Social Housing	42%	72%	30%
Private Rented	19%	22%	3%

Source: Home Analytics v3.8 (Feb 2023)

8.9 Decarbonisation in South of Scotland

The South of Scotland’s first Regional Economic Strategy prioritises creating and sustaining high quality, affordable housing. The strategy also commits to using community wealth building as a tool for delivering an inclusive economy that centres on wellbeing. The decarbonisation of housing stock in Scotland is a key priority for the Scottish Government in its efforts to address the environmental crisis and net zero by 2045.

The recent ‘Roadmap to Decarbonisation: Retrofit of social housing stock in the South of Scotland’ Report recognises the challenges faced in achieving this ambition are considerable and identifies how these challenges play out in the South of Scotland, and how they are being addressed through the partnership work of South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE), working with an emergent collaboration of registered social landlords (RSLs) and their partners.

The report sets out opportunities that taking forward energy efficiency measures in housing stock could have in:

- Developing the local construction and retrofit supply chain;
- Creating more than 2,200 jobs and £122m in direct gross value added;
- Tackle the impact of rising energy costs and impact of fuel poverty; and
- Contribute to net zero targets.

Rural economies like the South of Scotland face particular challenges in terms of delivery of retrofit. Without additional government support, they risk falling further behind urban areas which benefit from more buoyant labour markets and developed supply chains.

The challenges also presents a huge economic opportunity for the region and community wealth building to make sure that retrofit work is done in a manner that benefits the local economy.

8.10 The Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (Scotland) Regulations 2019

Draft regulations to set minimum energy efficiency standards of EPC E, rising to EPC D were withdrawn as a direct result of the impact Covid-19 had on the sector. It has been proposed that the regulations will be in force from 2025, with a backstop date of 2028 for PRS properties, and for all owner occupied properties by 2033. The Scottish Government is also committed to prohibiting direct emissions heating systems in all homes by 2045.

The proposed energy efficiency standard will likely be predicated on it being technically feasible and cost effective to install measures, as it is recognised that some properties may be more constrained in terms of technology options available, or limited by location, impact on the fabric of historic buildings, property type or, space.

This will also likely impact on 'landlord registration' activity as it is initially intended that the 'exemptions register' will align with landlord registration activity.

8.11 Key Issues and Challenges

- Old stock with poor energy efficiency (with subsequent health and net zero implications)
- There is a current skills gap to be addressed to ensure that energy efficiency works can be carried out, supporting the delivery of fuel poverty measures and joint climate targets
- Constrained local supply chain
- Supporting people as they seek to make their homes more energy efficient.
- More focus to support efforts to reduce carbon emission and address climate change.
- To provide affordable warmth and healthy homes for everyone living in the Borders
- The impact of the cost of living crisis and how to mitigate against these
- Current technologies and their suitability for homes in the region

8.12 Current Progress

- SBC declared a climate change emergency response in 2020
- Establishment of the Warm and Well Borders Project
- Establishment of the Borders Home Energy Forum
- The Affordable Warmth and Home Energy Efficiency Strategy (AWHEEs) 2019-2023 was implemented
- SBC participated in a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES) pilot for Peebles in 2018/19
- Each RSL has prioritised investment towards meeting EESSH
- Significant investment in EES:ABS
- Development of the Climate Change Route Map in 2021

8.13 Key Actions for Delivery

- **Work with partners to improve energy efficiency across all tenures**
- **Develop the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy for the Scottish Borders**
- **Support a public engagement strategy for heat in buildings**
- **Work with partners to develop the skills and supply chain required to deliver energy efficiency and zero emissions heating systems**
- **Explore wider measures to better manage energy and increase warmth in the home**
- **Adapt and retrofit existing homes to improve their energy efficiency**

Successfully tackling these issues is key to our success and provides us with significant opportunity. To meet the targets set by Scottish Government, to ensure everyone can live in a home that is energy efficient and reduce fuel poverty is essential for people living in the Scottish Borders. The Cost of Living Crisis has hit the Scottish Borders harder than other areas so it is key we have the right actions in place to meet our ambitions of being greener and helping those most in need.

The proposed actions in relation to energy efficiency, fuel poverty and Just Transition to Net Zero will support those ambitions.

9. Private Sector House Condition

Strategic Outcome 4:

Communities are regenerated through improving the quality and condition of housing and the built heritage.

9.1 Housing to 2040

Housing to 2040 aims to take action so that all homes, no matter their tenure, are required to meet the same standards. As a longer term target, the Scottish Government is working to harmonise differing housing quality standards. 'Tenure-neutral' space and quality standards for new homes, ensuring the same quality, safety standards and levels of consumer protection are proposed

The aim is to ensure that there will be no margins of tolerance, no exemptions and no "acceptable levels" of sub-standard homes in urban, rural or island communities, deprived communities or in tenements. This will mean existing homes will keep pace with new homes, with no one left behind.

9.2 House Condition

The Scottish House Condition Survey is the largest single housing research project in Scotland, and the only national survey to look at the physical condition of Scotland's homes as well as the experiences of householders. The SHCS measures disrepair for a wide range of different building elements ranging from aspects of roofs and walls to chimney stacks, internal rooms and common parts of shared buildings like access balconies and entry doors.

The housing condition profile is worse in the Scottish Borders compared to Scotland and suggests that the majority of homes (74%) have some element of disrepair.

	Scottish Borders	Scotland
Disrepair to critical elements	56	53
Urgent to critical elements	25	20
Disrepair	74	71
Urgent Disrepair	31	28
Extensive Disrepair	2	6
Damp*	4	3
Condensation	9	8
Below Tolerable Standard	2	2

Source: Scottish House Condition Survey 2017-2019
*Information on damp is not available in the SHCS 2017-19 so data from the 2015-2017 survey

Disrepair is reported in two categories; Critical elements and non-critical elements. Critical elements refers to disrepair to building elements whose condition is central to a dwelling being wind and weather proof, structurally stable and safeguarded against further rapid deterioration. Non-critical elements relates to any damage to a non-critical element (such as skirting's and internal wall finishes, staircases, boundary fences or attached garages) which requires some repair beyond routine maintenance.

The SHCS reported that 56% of all dwellings had disrepair to 'critical elements' of their fabric, higher than the national average, almost half of which were in need of urgent attention. These cover building elements critical to ensuring weather tightness, structural stability and preventing further deterioration of the property. The building elements highlighted above will in many cases be affected by water ingress, which

by definition is dampness. Consequently whilst the 'dampness' % ages above seem 'low' disrepair likely caused by water ingress is potentially high.

9.2.1 Damp and Condensation

A build-up of moisture in the home can cause a range of problems and can potentially damage the fabric of the building if allowed to continue. Penetrating damp is usually the result of a defect in the building fabric, such as damage to the walls or roof, water ingress due to damaged seals on doors or windows or damp as a result of leaking plumbing. Rising damp is the result of defective or missing damp proof coursing, leading to water leaching into the building fabric.

Condensation is moisture that forms on cold surfaces and where there is limited air movement. The moisture is often created in kitchens and bathrooms but can cause damp or mould in other rooms. It's important to try to reduce condensation in the home as it can lead to mould and cause damp, which can affect the health of occupants. Day to day activities like drying clothes, cooking and taking a shower add moisture to the air inside your home. Mould can develop on walls, ceilings, furniture, curtains, and cushions and even on clothing stored in wardrobes and drawers.

Any condensation, rising or penetrating damp recorded in the SHCS can cover anything from a small damp patch or area of condensation on a single wall in one room (caused for example by ineffective ventilation whilst cooking) to prevalence throughout a dwelling, so does not indicate a serious housing quality issue in all cases.

A new briefing on tackling damp and mould in the social housing sector has recently been published. The non-statutory guidance recognises that issues of damp and mould are often multi-layered, and solutions can include both tackling problems with the property and supporting tenants with any issues that may affect the experience of living in that home, particularly with the rising cost of energy and other living costs. While this guidance impacts the social rented sector this will provide help and guidance in the private sector as well.

9.2.2 Tenement Maintenance Flatted Properties (tenements)

The Scottish Law Commission has accepted a Law Reform Project to look at tenement maintenance and mandatory owners associations. Research by Diffley Partnership on Building Reserve Funds was published in February 2023

Scotland needs to address a re-emerging disrepair issue particularly within flatted housing stock. Simply, much of Scotland's private housing is deteriorating because of a lack of regular and ongoing property maintenance and repair. And while house prices may, in certain places, be at an all-time high, that provides no reflection of the actual condition of the property being purchased. The Scottish Parliamentary Working Group with the purpose of establishing solutions to aid, assist and compel owners of tenement properties to maintain their buildings, produced recommendations for mandatory Owners Associations, Building Reserve Funds and Building Surveys.

While the Scottish Borders has a lower proportion of flatted properties (24%, compared to 36% nationally) it is important to consider findings which has general agreement that maintenance and repair of tenements in Scotland needs addressing by a combination of central and local government, professionals, third sector and the general public.

9.3 The Tolerable Standard

The Tolerable Standard is a basic level of repair a property must meet to make it fit for a person to live in. The tolerable standard criteria are detailed in section 86 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987. The criteria states that the dwelling house should:

- be structurally stable
- be substantially free from rising or penetrating damp
- Have satisfactory provision for natural and artificial lighting, for ventilation and for heating.
- have satisfactory thermal insulation
- Have an adequate piped supply of wholesome water available within the house.
- have a sink provided with a satisfactory supply of both hot and cold water within the house
- Have a water closet, or waterless closet
- have a fixed bath or shower and a wash-hand basin
- Have an effective system for the drainage and disposal of foul and surface water.
- have a supply of electricity, and where supplied it complies with the relevant requirements
- Have satisfactory facilities for the cooking of food within the house.
- Have satisfactory access to all external doors and outbuildings.

The tolerable standard was amended by the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 (Tolerable Standard) (Extension of Criterion) Order 2019, to include two new elements relating to smoke and heat alarms, and carbon monoxide alarms. And came into force in February 2021.

- satisfactory equipment installed for detecting fire, and for giving warning of fire or suspected fire
- satisfactory equipment installed for detecting, and for giving warning of, carbon monoxide present in a concentration that is hazardous to health

According to the Scottish House Condition Survey (SHCS) 2019 survey, those dwellings which were below tolerable standard (BTS) across Scotland most commonly did so because they were:

- Not free from rising/penetrating damp (13,000 or 33% of BTS dwellings);
- Not satisfactorily insulated (8,000 or 21% of BTS dwellings);
- Or had unsatisfactory provision for lighting, ventilation or heating (8,000 or 21% of BTS dwellings).

Whilst there is likely to be similar reasons for failure in the Scottish Borders; another predominant factor which contributes to properties being BTS, relates to a property 'having an adequate piped supply of wholesome water within the house'. Due to the number of private water supplies (1,600 private water supplies serving almost 4,000 domestic properties), this could result in property failing the defined tolerable standard. The age of dwellings is also pertinent with older stock pre 1919 most likely to be BTS which is replicated across Scotland.

9.4 Repairing Standard

The private rented sector is often reported to have higher levels of disrepair and poorer energy efficiency than owner-occupied, or social rented homes. As outlined in the 'A Place to Stay, A Place to Call Home: A strategy for the Private Rented Sector in Scotland, 2013', there can be different reasons for this such as the older age profile of the private rented stock and under investment in properties by some landlords.

On 1 March 2019, The Repairing Standard was updated to clarify existing legislation and introduce some new elements to the standard. Where these requirements constitute a new element, private landlords were given 5 years to bring housing up to the standard. Therefore, these requirements are due to come

into force on 1 March 2024. On the 1st March 2023, the Scottish Government issues new statutory guidance for landlords. New measures that need to be in place from 1 March 2024 are as follows;

1. Safe Kitchens. The repairing standard will be amended to include a requirement to have safely accessible food storage and food preparation space in a private rented house.
2. Fixed Heating System. The repairing standard will be amended to specify that there must be a fixed heating system in a private rented house.
3. Safe Access to Common Parts. The repairing standard will be amended to specify that where a private rented house is a flat in a tenement, the tenant must be able to safely access and use any common parts of the tenement, such as common closes.
4. Consent to Work on Common Parts. Section 16 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006, which deals with exceptions to the landlord's repairing duty, is amended to make it clear that a private rented house which is a flat in a tenement does not fail the repairing standard if work otherwise needed to comply with the standard cannot be carried out because a majority of owners in the tenement have refused consent to carry out the work.
5. Safe and Secure Common Doors. The existing duty to ensure fire safety in private rented houses will be amended to specify that common doors must be secure and fitted with satisfactory locks.
6. Residual Current Devices. The existing duty to ensure that installations for the supply of electricity in a private rented house are in a reasonable state of repair and in proper working order will be amended to specify that these must include a residual current device
7. Other Fuels. The existing duty to ensure that installations for the supply of gas and electricity in a private rented house are in a reasonable state of repair and in proper working order will be extended to any other type of fuel.

9.5 Scheme of Assistance

The private sector is the biggest tenure in the Scottish Borders with a large percentage of the population either owning their own homes or renting privately. One of the key challenges in this sector is to ensure everyone is living in good quality homes. Good quality housing makes an important contribution to many aspects of a successful Scottish Borders including supporting local economies, improving individual's health and well-being and by making communities safer.

The Councils Scheme of Assistance (SoA) was introduced under the duties and powers set out in the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006, and sets out the strategy of support for owners to address properties which are Below Tolerable Standard (BTS) and in disrepair. The Scheme of Assistance promotes the Scottish Government principle that homeowners have the primary responsibility for maintaining and repairing their own homes. The Scheme of Assistance offers:

- Information and advice for private sector housing residents on home repairs, maintenance, improvements and adaptations.
- Common repairs work, engaging with and bringing together multiple owners to resolve complex repairs.
- Working with Building Standards to deliver enforcement work
- Financial help to cover some (or all) of the costs of eligible major adaptations.
- Information and advice to support empty homes owners to bring them back into use.

Officers work closely with private owners, landlords and relevant partners, to address issues of poor property condition, common repair works, and, where applicable, the use of enforcement powers. Assistance ranges from provision of advice and information; to financial support to undertake disabled adaptations, common repair works, and bring empty homes back into use. The SoA provides a platform to take a practical approach to encourage and help owners to carry out repair and improvement works to their homes.

9.6 Enforcement

SBC has worked closely with landlords, developing new processes to improve services for landlords and have actively engaged with them throughout the pandemic. The council has provided relevant and up to date advice on the SBC website along with support from the Private Sector Liaison and Enforcement Officer, who has been on hand to advise local landlords. SBC will continue to support landlords moving forward, for example keeping landlords up to date with proposed changes within the sector.

Scottish Borders Council's use of enforcement powers, beyond landlord registration and repairing standards, fit into the wider Scheme of Assistance process of assisting owners to maintain and improve the condition of their properties. Where voluntary action does not occur and where enforcement action is necessary, consideration will be given corporately to the use of this as well as all other powers available to the Council. The Enforcement Team, within Planning and Housing Services, help determine the most appropriate corporate approach to take when enforcing private property conditions; Issue Notices or carrying out works and recharge costs. The Enforcement Team, working collaboratively with officers across a range of services, will consider:

- the nature and scale of the problem;
- evidenced actions to date;
- professional judgement of officers involved;
- effect on the wider community;
- the impact that not taking action may have; and
- the available resources

The above list is not exhaustive but outlines a number of areas where consideration will be given.

Local Authority Powers Contained within the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 include:

- Work Notice: Can be issued on a house which is identified as sub-standard; the appearance or repair adversely affecting amenity of area; or is adjacent or associated with a house falling into either of the above two categories. Can be issued on any non-residential premises only where it forms part of or adjoins a building containing housing which is either sub-standard or affecting the amenity of the area and the work is needed to deal with that housing.
- Demolition Notice: Where a house has been identified as being in a state of serious disrepair and ought to be demolished.
- Acquisition of houses to be demolished/ for the purposes of improving the amenity of an area: S.40 permits a local authority to acquire a house and site (by agreement or compulsorily) prior to demolition, as authorised under s.35. S.95 (1)(d) permits a local authority to acquire land or premises (by agreement or compulsorily) for the purposes of improving the amenity of a predominantly residential locality.
- Maintenance Order: Requires the owner(s) to prepare and submit a plan, for approval, to the local authority outlining the maintenance of the house(s) to a reasonable standard. The plan must cover a period of 5 years. In respect of maintenance of common parts, owners can be required to appoint a property manager and open maintenance accounts. Local Authorities can enforce the order if owners do not comply with it.

Powers contained within other Legislation include:

- Dangerous Building Notice: Under s. 29 of the Building (Scotland) Act 2003 Local Authorities must take steps (including where necessary demolition) to protect the public if the condition of a building places the public or other buildings at risk.

- Closing Order: Under Part 6, Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, a local authority may, in certain circumstances, including BTS housing, make a closing order prohibiting the use of a house for human habitation.
- Demolition Order: Under Part 6, Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, a local authority may, in certain circumstances, issue a Demolition Order on a property.
- Abatement Notice: Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.79 (as amended) an Abatement Notice can be served by Local Authorities if any premises are in a state classed as prejudicial to health or a nuisance.
- Flats - Management & Maintenance of Common Parts: Tenement (Scotland) Act 2004; where title deeds are silent or unworkable, this Act governs any decisions about maintenance and appointing a 'factor' or property manager. It involves majority decisions although there is also a positive duty to maintain the shelter and structure, with a power to carry out works necessary to comply with the duty without agreement where necessary.
- Property in Disrepair – Defective Building Notice: Building (Scotland) Act 2003; under s. 28, Local Authorities can issue a Defective Building Notice if it has defects requiring rectification to bring it into a reasonable state of repair. Includes provisions for Local Authorities to carry out and recharge for works if not complied with.
- Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982: Buildings in Need of Repair S.87 (3); Common Stairwells, Back Courts and Close Lights S.90 – 92; Maintenance of Privately Owned Open Spaces S.95; Local Authority Powers to gain entry carry out work and recharge costs S.99 and S.100.

9.7 Approved Trader Scheme

Approved Trader schemes are currently in operation in 17 out of the 31 Trading Standard Local Authorities in Scotland (Clackmannanshire and Stirling operate a joint service) having been started by Dundee City Council in 2005.

The Schemes are essentially local business partnerships that aim to:

- increase consumer confidence
- help protect citizens from doorstep crime
- promote good practice within local business

Approved Traders are vetted by the Local Authority Trading Standards team and the schemes are supported by Police Scotland and consumeradvice.scot. All members of the scheme agree to trade fairly and sign up to a Code of Practice. The code covers:

- transparent procedures for quoting and carrying out work
- only charging a fair and reasonable price
- dealing with complaints promptly
- The scheme give traders
- a higher profile and exposure
- the ability to showcase official reviews and feedback of their work from genuine customers
- a webpage to the 'go to' list of Trading Standards vetted traders

Scottish Borders Council are in the final stages of setting up an Approved Trader Scheme which will hopefully be up and running by summer 2023.

9.8 Under One Roof

Under One Roof provides impartial information to the more than half a million tenement flat owners, and related professionals, on issues related to tenement management, maintenance, and retrofit.

It seeks to improve the lives of tenement flat owners by promoting the upkeep of their buildings, and by working with local and national government, and housing professionals, to make this upkeep easier and more affordable.

SBC currently provides funding towards Under One Roof and will be looking to work more closely with the charity.

9.9 Built Environment: Conservation and Enhancement

Conservation of the built fabric and heritage assets (listed buildings and non-listed buildings within a conservation area) is an active process of maintenance and managing change. This requires a flexible and considered approach to get the best out of assets, and a thorough understanding of the heritage asset itself. In relation to the Built Heritage, generally the risks of neglect and decay are best addressed through ensuring the asset remains in active use that is consistent with their longevity and regular maintenance is undertaken.

The original use is often the best use for preserving character but ensuring heritage assets remain used and valued may well require sympathetic changes to be made from time to time. Housing policies, such as this LHS, as well as housing related advice and support in terms of maintenance, repairs and energy efficiency improvements, have a key role to play in supporting those aspirations and reducing the risk of urgent and expensive repairs.

National Planning Framework 4 states, within Policy 7 for 'Historic Assets and Places', that the policy outcomes should ensure:

- The historic environment is valued, protected, and enhanced, supporting the transition to net zero and ensuring assets are resilient to current and future impacts of climate change.
- Redundant or neglected historic buildings are brought back into sustainable and productive uses; and
- Recognise the social, environmental, and economic value of the historic environment, to our economy and cultural identity.

Additionally, Policy 9 a) encourages the reuse of vacant derelict land and buildings and Policy 9 d) support development proposals for the reuse of existing buildings, taking into account their suitability for conversion to other uses, and also states that given the need to conserve embodied energy, demolition will be regarded as the least preferred option.

Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) is Historic Environment Scotland's overarching policy to support and enable good decision-making about changes to the historic environment. This policy takes accord of the Scottish Government's National Outcomes HEPS sets out a series of principles and policies for the recognition, care and sustainable management of the historic environment. It takes into account principles that the UK and Scottish governments have agreed to in international charters and conventions on cultural heritage and landscape. There are a number of policies which encourage conservation of the built environment. Policy HEP 5, in particular, "Decisions affecting the historic environment should contribute to the sustainable development of communities and places", is applicable to this LHS.

Housing to 2020 also identifies where improvements can be made and states that "There should be a mix of regulation and monitoring alongside education, advice and support across all tenures and care must be taken to ensure we can marry climate ambitions with heritage and maintaining the aesthetics of older buildings".

As such it is important to recognise the importance of preserving the built environment in the LHS, and specifically in policies or actions which support the improvement and repair of buildings but also in

delivering strategic outcomes 1 and 3 of this LHS; “Improved energy efficiency of homes and a reduction in fuel poverty while supporting a Just Transition to Net Zero through decarbonising domestic heating and energy and “More homes in well designed, sustainable communities that increase opportunity for all”.

A conservation area is defined in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 as “an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character of which is desirable to preserve or enhance” and Local Authorities (Planning) are responsible for designating conservation areas. The Scottish Borders currently has 43 conservation areas and their designation takes into account the particular characteristics of a place. This includes its buildings, but also its layout and the spaces, trees and landscape within the area and its surrounding setting. As such, every conservation area is unique and contributes to the distinctive character and ‘sense of place’ in the Scottish Borders.

9.9.1 Conservation Area Regeneration Schemes (CARS)

Scottish Borders have a successful track record of applying for significant funding including Conservation Area Regeneration Schemes (CARS), funding, where HES is the principle funder. Over the last 5 years, significant programmes of regeneration works have been undertaken in Selkirk and Jedburgh. These projects have enabled a number of properties in serious disrepair to be removed from Historic Environment Scotland’s national register of Buildings at Risk.

The most recent CARS scheme for Hawick Town Centre was launched in autumn 2020. The scheme is centred on the Hawick High Street and aims to stimulate a total of £4.5m of investment through the use of £1.5m of public investment over the next five years.

9.9.2 Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan

SBC has a duty to review its conservation areas and formulate proposals for their preservation and enhancement ‘from time to time’. These statutory duties are fulfilled through publishing a Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan.

The Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan helps owners, planners, Scottish Borders Council and others with an interest in the area find out about the history and identify the character of the area, and to decide what and how that special character can be preserved and enhanced. The final document should be used to help guide proposed changes in the area, and will be used to help determine planning applications. SBC is committed to a programme of CAAS and MPs and the first one for Newstead was approved for consultation in March 2023. It is hoped to bring these forward in tranches with Hawick CAA and MP planned as the next priority.

9.9.3 Building at Risk Register

The Building at Risk Register is a register created by Historic Environment Scotland, which records buildings across Scotland which are considered to have an architectural or historic importance but are at risk of being lost if no action is taken. They are usually a listed building, or are of an unlisted building within a conservation area. They may be long term vacant, poorly maintained, been affected by fire or the elements or structurally unsound. The aim of the Building at Risk Register is to bring together potential restorers and redevelopers with buildings and sites that are considered at risk or under threat.

Within the Scottish Borders, there are currently 140 buildings on the register. These can range from monuments, ancillary buildings, farms, mills, premises and dwellings. Of the 140 registered buildings, 20 buildings are currently undergoing restoration. There are currently 23 buildings listed which are dwellings and are being investigated by the Empty Homes Officer.

9.10 Missing Shares

Responsible homeowners with shared responsibility for common repairs are often unable to progress essential repairs and maintenance due to other owners being unwilling or unable to contribute their share of the costs. This often leads to lengthy delays or repair works not being undertaken, resulting in further deterioration of the property.

Under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 a local authority can consider paying a missing share where the majority of owners have agreed to carry out necessary common repairs and maintenance but they cannot progress the repair because either an owner is unable or is unwilling to pay or it is unreasonable to require the owner to deposit the sum in question or where the owner cannot be identified or found by reasonable inquiry. This can hold up much needed repairs. The adoption of the missing share approach is a pro-active measure rather than having to wait and be reactive after building failure.

If essential repairs are not carried out then the Council can, should it wish, issue statutory notices on the property owners to enforce necessary repair works. The lack of suitable repair and maintenance can lead to serious disrepair and ultimately to a building becoming dangerous, when the Council may be required to take direct action to secure public safety.

In 2019 Scottish Borders Council agreed to pilot a Missing Shares Scheme in the Scottish Borders. Initially Covering the Hawick Conservation the Missing Shares scheme operates in tandem with the Scheme of Assistance and primarily supports activity through the approved Hawick Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme. Progress in the delivery of the missing shares scheme has been hampered by Covid-19, in light of this the scheme has been extended until the 31st March 2025 to mirror the duration of the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme.

9.11 Key Issues and Challenges

- The Scottish House Condition Survey suggest that the majority of homes in Scottish Borders have some element of disrepair. Furthermore, housing quality levels are poorer in the Scottish Borders than Scotland. What can be done to help support private home owners to repair and maintain their properties?
- Understanding the quality of housing stock and the requirements for improvements across the region
- Co-ordinating activities across departments within in SBC to ensure best and most efficient use of legislative interventions
- Emerging legislation and the impact this will have
- The impact of the new Repairing Standards
- How to address the poorer house conditions in the Scottish Borders. Look to develop new mechanisms to help support landlords and homeowners
- React to new legislation from Scottish Government that will focus on all housing (new and existing) being to a set housing standard.
- Support measures to address climate change under strategic outcome 3.
- Linking in with a wide range of policies and strategies. This strategic outcome links in with Strategic Outcome 1 empty homes, place making

9.12 Current Progress

- Through Scheme of Assistance, helping private sector households to address house condition, maintenance and repairs
- Work closely to support private landlords in the region
- Deliver training to private landlords on good practice and keeping them up to date
- Missing shares pilot in the Hawick Conservation Area
- Review and development of website content
- Review and development of guidance notes
- Working to introduce the shared repair app
- Working to introduce a Trusted Trader Scheme
- Working in partnership with Under One Roof with the aim to provide a local forum on common repair

9.13 Key Actions for Delivery

- **Provide holistic advice and assistance to owners/tenants to undertake house condition/ energy improvement/home safety works and co-ordinate or explore funding options.**
- **Provide supporting and assistance to owners and landlords to meet existing and future house condition standards in private housing.**
- **Review the Scheme of Assistance**
- **Developing a Below Tolerable Standard (BTS) Housing Strategy which supports a partnership approach**
- **Review the Missing Share Pilot**
- **Ensure activity in relation to repairs, maintenance, energy efficiency improvements and conversion are sensitive to the built heritage**

Successfully tackling these issues is key to our success and provides us with significant opportunity. It is important to ensure everyone has a good quality home, no matter what tenure they live in. Good quality housing and buildings not only impact us individually but also impacts on the community.

The proposed actions in relation to house condition will support those ambitions.

10. Preventing and Tackling Homelessness

Strategic Outcome 5:

Homelessness is prevented wherever possible and a range of housing options are provided so people can secure a suitable and sustainable housing outcome as quickly as possible

10.1 Ending Homelessness Together

The Scottish Government's Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan sets out a range of actions in response to the recommendations of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) and will transform how those at risk of homelessness receive help. Ending Homelessness Together has a focus on eradicating rough sleeping, supporting the most vulnerable households and reducing time spent in temporary housing.

Preventing homelessness is about more than finding somewhere else to live. National and local government will continue to work in partnership with the third sector and other public bodies in their approach to homelessness prevention. This means targeting support to people at risk of homelessness much sooner. It means considering people's circumstances in the widest sense, including their wellbeing, health and social care, employment and welfare needs. It means having local approaches to suit local circumstances.

There are five approaches to ending homelessness:

1. Embed a person-centred approach
2. Prevent homelessness from happening in the first place
3. Prioritise settled homes for all
4. Respond quickly and effectively whenever homelessness happens
5. Join up planning and resources to tackle homelessness

The shared ambition of national and local government is:

"Everyone needs a safe, warm place they can call home."

10.2 The impact of Covid-19 and the Cost of Living

Work and life changed dramatically in 2020/2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic which brought into sharp focus how closely our home, health and wellbeing are connected. It has also forced faster progress on tackling homelessness, and it is important we protect that progress and ensure there is no backwards movement as we move further into the period of recovery from the pandemic. Borders Homelessness and Health Partnership (BHHSP) members have been on the front line of the crisis and have worked closely throughout the pandemic to ensure that tenants, customers and those at risk of homelessness have continued to receive the services and support they require. Homelessness services were delivered by telephone wherever possible, however, given the vulnerable nature of many homeless households, face to face access and support was retained where required.

Early actions in response to the pandemic were focused around ensuring homeless or potentially homeless households within the Scottish Borders had suitable accommodation available to them that allowed them to comply with the imposed lockdown measures. Some of the impacts Covid-19 has had on homelessness services, include:

- 29% increase in the 'Homeless Queue' - the number of applicants assessed as Homeless or TWH open to homelessness services on the 31st March 2020 compared to 31st March 2022. This had been reducing prior to the pandemic.
- 30% increase in the number of households residing in temporary homeless accommodation. (31st March 2020 compared to 31st March 2022)
- 21 % reduction in available RSL housing stock in 2020/2021 when compared to 2019/2020 (data from 4 main RSL's)

Although there has been a reduction in homeless presentations over the last 12 months to March 2023⁴, partners recognise that this may continue to fluctuate as inflationary pressures and the cost of energy and food continue to impact and so the LHS considers additional actions which may be required to mitigate against the ongoing impacts of these across several of the strategic outcomes.

10.3 Homelessness Population

In the Scottish Borders, the number of homeless applications has remained steady since 2011/12 as a result of a proactive approach to prevention through the delivery of the Housing Options approach. In 2022/23, there were 682 applications made under the Homeless Persons legislation in the Scottish Borders, which is in keeping with the 686 applications received in 2020/21 and 682 in 2021/22 but lower than the 770 applications received in 2019/2020. The rate of homeless applications in the Scottish Borders decreased during the pandemic but the number of applications in 2022/23 is expected to rise to similar levels as per pandemic. Homelessness in the Scottish Borders accounts for 2% of homelessness in Scotland as a whole.

Key headlines on the homeless population in the Scottish Borders are as follows:

- Nearly 60% of homeless assessments are single people
- 21% of homeless assessments are single parents
- 31% of homeless assessment included households with children (216 households)
- 22% of homeless assessments were young adults aged 16-24 (149 households)
- 34% of homelessness assessments were the result of a relationship breakdown

Reducing homelessness (the homelessness queue) will be key to the success of achieving rapid rehousing as it will bring flexibility and opportunities for new ways of working. Although many factors influence the homeless queue, reducing the queue can be achieved in two main areas. Increasing the focus on homeless prevention activities will reduce the number of new applicants joining the homeless queue and increasing the number of households receiving a housing solution that are already in the queue will also reduce the queue overall.

10.4 Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans

The Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) was set up by the Scottish Government in October 2017 to produce short and long term solutions to end homelessness and rough sleeping. The cornerstone of recommendations was a transition to a Rapid Rehousing approach. The Scottish Government gave Local Authorities and their partners a 5 year timescale for transformation to "Rapid Rehousing by default" and requested that all Local Authorities submit a 5-year Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) for the period 2019/20 – 2023/24.

Scottish Borders Council developed a five-year Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) working with key local partners in December 2018. Rapid Rehousing Plans link into Local Housing Strategies and Strategic Housing Investment Plans and offer each local authority and key partners an opportunity to re-assess how

⁴ This will be confirmed end of March 2023.

permanent and settled housing options are secured for every potentially homeless and homeless household.

The vision for Rapid Rehousing in the Scottish Borders is:

- Homelessness is prevented wherever possible but where homelessness cannot be prevented a settled, mainstream housing outcome is secured as quickly as possible.
- When temporary accommodation is needed it will be mainstream, furnished accommodation within a community, and time spent in it will be minimal, with as few transitions as possible.
- Housing First will be the first response for people with complex needs and facing multiple disadvantages. We will work in collaboration with Health and Social Care Partnership, and other relevant services, to ensure tenancies are supported and sustained.

Rapid Rehousing is a key component of a whole-system approach whereby the responsibility for tackling homelessness lies not just with Local Authorities but with housing providers, Health and Social Care Partnerships and the broad range of organisations that provide support.

The Covid-19 emergency has delayed the full application of resources and has consequently impacted on the development of the Borders RRTP. In order to support the work of the RRTP additional development resources have been appointed to compensate for time lost as a result of the delays.

The development and implementation of the Scottish Borders RRTP has been led by the Borders Homelessness and Health Strategic Partnership (BHHSP). The BHHSP includes senior officers from the Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders with responsibility in homelessness, health and social care, public health, Drug and Alcohol Partnership, social work, property management and housing strategy, and senior officers from the 4 locally based Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) who own the majority of the social rented housing stock in the Borders, Berwickshire Housing Association, Eildon Housing Association, Scottish Borders Housing Association (SBHA) and Waverley Housing.

Despite the pressures arising from the pandemic, RRTP achievements so far include:

- Introduction of a Housing Intervention fund to improve the housing options available to applicants who are in need of intervention due to rent arrears and who often face the prospect of being homeless.
- Introduction of a Homeless Intervention fund which is accessible by front line workers within the homelessness team to use in the prevention or resolution of homelessness. Given the varying and complex reasons for homelessness, any application which demonstrates a contribution to the prevention or faster resolution of homelessness is considered.
- The launch of a two year Housing First pilot
- A temporary increasing the % of RSL let's allocated to homeless households to support reducing the 'homelessness queue'.
- The introduction of a Crash Pad within the homelessness temporary accommodation stock to improve the management and efficiency of the temporary accommodation stock.
- Recruitment of Private Rented Sector Development Officer
- Formalised relationships with Link Housing who have joined the section 5 protocol and offering SBC first refusal on 100% of their lets in the Scottish Borders
- Working closely with RSLs on their revised allocation policies
- Supporting vulnerable individuals who face barriers to digital inclusivity
- Continuing to build on existing local joint pathway arrangements with partners
- Improving Housing Options and Support in the Private Rented Sector (PRS)

10.4.1 Improving Housing Options and Support in the Private Rented Sector (PRS)

A temporary Private Rented Sector Development officer has recently been appointed and will take up post in April 2023. The development officer will embed homelessness prevention principles into the private rented sector in Scottish Borders by taking forward the private sector elements of Rapid Rehousing Transition plan.

The two year temporary post, funded by Ending Homelessness Together funds, will be crucial resource to improve prevention activities for households threatened with homelessness from the private rented sector and improve housing outcomes to the private rented sector in Borders.

The post holder will provide staff with technical, operational support, advice and comprehensive training on the PRS and contribute to policy and strategic change, improvement and development. This includes creating positive relationships with private landlords and other key council departments (i.e. Housing Strategy and Environmental Health) to assess, plan, deliver and evaluate new ways of working.

10.5 Housing First

A two year Housing First pilot was launched within the Scottish Borders in October 2021, the pilot aims to support 30 households during this time. Although many people see homelessness as a housing issue, for many of the Housing First cohort homelessness is symptomatic of a greater range of challenges.

Housing First provides ordinary settled housing as a first response for people with complex needs, recognising that a safe and secure home is the best base for recovery, it offers personalised, open-ended, flexible support for people to end their experience of homelessness and address wider needs. Secure tenancies are provided by four locally based RSL's; Berwickshire Housing Association, Eildon Housing Association, Scottish Borders Housing Association and Waverley Housing. Housing First support is provided by Cyrenians. The positive benefits of having a secure base in housing can be felt in sectors such as employability, substance use, health and community justice. Additionally, the impact of a positive relationship with a Housing First support worker can act as a conduit to making better use of relationships with other professionals

Referrals for the pilot are currently identified by the SBC's Homelessness Team to address the outstanding demand for this support in that domain, however, referrals may be considered from other sources when supply has met this demand.

Cyrenians will complete a formal evaluation of the pilot project in 2023. There is already a significant volume of research and evidence available on the Housing First model so this evaluation will focus on factors specific to the Borders pilot project. Evaluation will include consideration of impact on other services, as far as is possible given data sharing limitations. Evaluation will not include detailed savings analysis but it will include indicative figures for potential medium/long term savings.

All partners are in agreement that early indications are that project is valuable and is making a significant contribution to helping to keep vulnerable people safe, albeit on a small scale at the moment. It is recognised that future funding options need to be considered now if looking to continue beyond pilot period and these need to be scoped out to inform what is required in the medium to long term to retain the project.

It should be noted that Housing First has real potential to contribute to wider longer-term savings for the public purse, this is only possible if all partners actively contribute the necessary upfront financial and staff resources to be feasible beyond the initial pilot project.

10.6 Homelessness Prevention and Housing Options

Homeless prevention has been a major aspect of the national housing agenda for more than a decade, with national policy focusing on the delivery of a Housing Options approach to preventing homelessness in Scotland and delivering national housing outcomes. A commitment to the delivery of person-centred, preventative services which target early intervention and personal choice is now the bedrock of Scottish Housing Options policy.

Within the prevention model, the Council recognises homelessness as a complex issue that encompasses health, employment, education, offending, finance, relationships and families.

Housing to 2040 is based on the principles of social justice, equality and human rights and demonstrates a continued focus on Ending Homelessness, including the introduction of a new cross-public sector homelessness prevention duty. It is recognised that homelessness is not a standalone issue and a multi-agency approach is required to achieve a rapid rehousing approach. Public services must work together to help prevent the cycle of crisis and homelessness, not least due to the cost to the individual but also due to the cost to the public purse.

The recommendations in the final report of the Prevention Review Group, Preventing Homelessness in Scotland published in early 2021, provided the framework for the 2021/22 Scottish Government Prevention of homelessness duties consultation. It includes a number of recommendations that cut across 3 overarching principles:

- Responsibility to prevent homelessness should not rely solely or primarily on the housing/homelessness service but be a shared public responsibility.
- Intervention to prevent homelessness should start as early as possible. In many cases this will be before issues have escalated to a point where homelessness appears imminent.
- People facing homelessness should have choice in where they live and access to the same range of housing outcomes as members of the general public, with any necessary protections to mitigate further risk of homelessness. Housing outcomes should be comparable across the prevention and homelessness duties.

The new duties will be introduced through the new Housing Bill expected toward the end of 2023 and will expect a range of public bodies and landlords to prevent homelessness, particularly by asking and acting on a risk of homelessness, as well as responsibilities relating to strategic and joint planning. It is also envisaged that existing homelessness legislation will be changed to ensure homelessness is prevented at an earlier stage, including a proposal to extend the duty to take reasonable steps to prevent homelessness up to six months before, to maximise the housing options available to people and to prescribe what reasonable steps may include.

Health and social care services, children's services, police and other public bodies will therefore have a legal duty to 'ask and act' to prevent homelessness under Scottish Government proposals and will represent the biggest change to Scotland's homelessness legislation in almost a decade. Task and Finish groups are currently exploring opportunities for implementation and legislative changes are expected in 2023.

10.7 Specific Groups

There is clear evidence that particular groups are at higher risk of homelessness and significant government focus has been on supporting these groups, including people leaving prison, young care leavers, and women (with accompanying children) experiencing domestic abuse. The expectation is that local authorities should develop specific pathways for each of these groups to prevent them from entering the homelessness system. In addition to the Covid-19 impacts on demand for temporary accommodation, some of the wider pressures in the Scottish Borders include:

10.7.1 Young People

Young peoples' routes to independent housing are becoming more difficult due to a wide range of factors. Young people are increasingly squeezed out of the private housing market and, consequently, are more likely than in previous years to face a more drawn-out process of moving towards independent living. Affordable housing in the private and social rented sectors is in short supply.

The Scottish Borders ranks 12th out of the 32 local authorities for number of young people assessed as homeless as a proportion of the population, it is 16 per 1,000. The number of young people presented as homeless has remained steady over the ten years to 2021/22 but has started to fall since then.

10.7.2 Housing Options for Care Leavers

Home and Belonging Initiative is a fund that was originally managed by the Life Changes Trust aimed at supporting young people with care experience as they move on from care and into their own home. The Initiative has also taken in the context of increasing focus on the work of The Promise Scotland. The Promise Scotland has been set up to deliver the recommendations from the Independent Care Review, to make sure the needs of young people with experience of care are met and that every child grows up loved, safe and respected, and able to realise their full potential.

For young people who have experienced care, the Housing Options Protocol for Care Leavers in the Scottish Borders was developed and implemented in partnership between Scottish Borders Council and the four locally based Registered Social Landlords in 2017/2018. The protocol seeks to ensure that the priority accommodation and support needs of care leavers are recognised in order that their needs for suitable housing are met in a planned and sustainable way. Key partners continued to support the 'Youth Homelessness Prevention Pathway: Improving Care Leavers Housing Pathways' to ensure that the housing needs of our care leavers are met in a planned coordinated way.

10.7.3 Prison Leavers

The Scottish Borders Council Homeless Service is the interface point for people leaving prison who have no fixed address. SBC's Homeless Service is the interface point for people leaving prison who have no fixed address. Over the past five years there have been on average 27 assessments carried out each year.

The 'Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone' standards (SHORE) were launched nationally in 2017. The standards are designed to ensure that people leaving prison can access services and accommodation in the same way as people living in the community.

An information sharing protocol which was adopted in 2019/2020 between the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) and Scottish Borders Council and has improved information sharing arrangements contributing to the aspirations of SHORE, allowing for earlier intervention both in terms of the prevention and resolution of homelessness.

During 2022/2023 a multi-agency SHORE working Group was established and work began on developing processes around admission into custody. The group will consider what actions can be taken prior to custody and around bail. This is a challenging area that is not covered in the SHORE standards, however, the working group were keen to explore what could be done to improve housing and support outcomes at this time. The group are currently exploring options around piloting dedicated Bail Supervision and Home Leave accommodation. The next steps for the group will be to consider options around release from custody.

10.7.4 Mental Health

An operational protocol has also been established between NHS Borders and the Homeless Service to identify patients at the earliest opportunity, who have been admitted to acute in-patient mental health services and are homeless or threatened with homelessness. This protocol seeks to embed a proactive, inclusive, planned approach to safe patient discharge, promoting positive outcomes and patient care for those experiencing homelessness and poor mental health through collaborative person centred support planning.

10.7.5 Veterans

The number of applications and assessments of veterans has remained at the same level over ten year, although it dropped to 10 in 2021/22. While Veteran homelessness is quite low compared to other specialist groups it is important to ensure that SBC and partners are aware of any need and provide the right housing options advice.

The Scottish Borders Community Taskforce (Firmbase) is the main vehicle for progressing veteran's issues in Scottish Borders.

10.7.6 Women experiencing domestic abuse

On average 64 women presented as homeless following incidences of domestic abuse each year in the Scottish Borders (over a ten year period). In 2021/2022, 43 women presented as homeless due to domestic abuse within the household.

'Improving housing outcomes for women and children experiencing domestic abuse' is the report of a Scottish Government working group in December 2020 highlighting six areas which, acted on together, could significantly reduce domestic abuse related homelessness. These areas are:

- Preventing homelessness for women and children experiencing domestic abuse: a human rights approach
- Making women's homelessness visible: a gendered response to domestic abuse and homelessness
- Strengthening the role of social landlords in responding to domestic abuse
- Protecting women's and children's rights to remain in their home
- Providing housing that meets women's and children's needs
- Protecting all women's rights: no recourse to public funds, domestic abuse and homelessness

The BHHSP is committed to carrying out a review to *'Improving the Housing Outcomes for Women and Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse'*, this work was initiated in 2021 and then delayed due to Covid related and other impacts and is currently being rebooted.

10.8 Resettlement Programme

The Scottish Borders like other parts of Scotland and the United Kingdom participate in the resettlement of refugees. These are Home Office led schemes and differing levels of funding are available depending upon the arrival route. Scottish Borders Council have staff, including some volunteers, to support these families.

10.8.1 Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (Syria)

Since 2015 the Scottish Borders has hosted 9 Syrian families. They spend 60 months on the scheme supported by Scottish Borders Council and can thereafter apply for leave to remain. The most recent arrivals have approximately 24 months left on the scheme. The council provides a full range of support

including language classes to enable families to fully integrate into the local communities, participate in education and employment. This is intended to support a move from reliance to independence.

A number of other resettlement schemes have come together to be known as the UK Resettlement Scheme.

10.8.2 Afghan Resettlement

This is a three year scheme and is similar to the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (Syria). The majority of arrivals expressed an interest in the larger urban cities of the United Kingdom and no new arrivals into the Scottish Borders are imminently expected. Although three families initially came to the Scottish Borders they have since moved to be near other family members.

10.8.3 Ukraine Displaced Persons

There are three visa routes with this scheme, a family visa scheme, UK Homes for Ukraine Scheme and Scottish Super Sponsor Scheme. The family scheme involved a United Kingdom based person hosting a Ukraine family member in their home. The UK scheme involved a match being made between a United Kingdom based host and a Ukrainian person. The Ukrainian person can't travel until a match is made and agreed. The Scottish Government issued approximately 30,000 visas for the Super Sponsor Scheme, this was accompanied by an appeal for hosts in the community.

At present the Scottish Borders has 114 Ukrainian people in hotels (52 family groups) and 138 with hosts in the community. The number of families accommodated in the Scottish Borders is controlled by the Scottish government and depends upon availability of suitable accommodation across Scotland, which is currently in hotels and ship-based accommodation. Hosts receive a good will payment and are expected to host for 6 months at least (this does not apply to the family scheme). Refusals to take hosted offers and breakdowns in hosted situations are common.

Applications to Registered Social Landlords and other private landlords are being made by Ukrainian families in the resettlement scheme to enable them to move on from hotels and hosted arrangements.

The Scottish Government have commissioned two ships to house people arriving from Ukraine such is the demand for accommodation. The decommissioning of the two ships for Ukrainian displaced persons in March 2023 and June 2023 will increase demand for settled housing and the Scottish Borders will be expected to take a proportion of those moving on from accommodation on the ships. This will likely put additional pressure on existing capacity of Registered Social Landlords and private tenancies.

10.8.4 Asylum Dispersal

All parts of the United Kingdom participate in the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children dispersal. The Scottish Borders have been receiving these children for some months. Children and Families social work take the lead on this programme.

Scotland receives approximately 6.9% of the total United Kingdom arrivals. Of the 6.9% of asylum seekers coming to Scotland many are expected to be housed within Scottish Borders. Originally the allocation for the Scottish Borders was 96 people but this has now been adjusted to 48 people. This is a rolling figure so the number could be adjusted up or down. The Mears Group are responsible for finding accommodation for asylum seekers on behalf of the government. They are currently in discussions with SBC. This is a long-term commitment.

10.9 Temporary Accommodation

SBC have a duty under the homelessness legislation to provide suitable temporary accommodation if there is a reason to believe an applicant is homeless, this is provided until all duties have been discharged following the homelessness presentation. Although the Scottish Borders has experienced fewer statutory homeless applications through 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 this did not translate into a lesser demand for temporary accommodation and 2022/2023 saw statutory homeless presentations rising to similar level of pre pandemic.

SBC have experienced continued high demand for temporary accommodation after Covid in line with the national trend. In meeting this unprecedented demand SBC have increased temporary accommodation stock levels to 150 temporary accommodation units as at 23rd February 2023. This is in contrast to the aims and objectives outlined within RRTP, however SBC remain committed to the reduction in temporary accommodation numbers and use. The impacts of the pandemic continue to be longer lasting than anticipated and the unprecedented demand for temporary accommodation continued throughout 2022. As the key priority was to deliver front line services the full application of resources allocated to the RRTP could not be implemented which, consequently, had a significant delaying impact on many actions within the Scottish Borders RRTP.

In line with National pressures SBC have experienced consistent challenges around managing void properties. These include supply-chain delays for materials, service and trade shortages and the impact of increased pressure on utility companies.

SBC have an excellent record in not having to utilise bed & breakfast accommodation, however during the height of the demands on temporary accommodation, bed and breakfast accommodation was used, with x number of placements. These placements included xxx of out of area placements due to a lack of local Bed and breakfast facilities. While SBC have utilised bed & breakfast accommodation within the period due to these pressures this has been kept to a minimal level.

SBC continue to provide a flexible model of temporary accommodation, which has resulted in successfully flipping some properties to allow homeless households within temporary accommodation to transition this into their permanent home resulting in a reduced impact for these households. SBC will continue to monitor the temporary accommodation stock and residents to allow further flipping of tenure in this way.

A Crash Pad Pilot was established within the temporary homeless accommodation portfolio become operational in April 2021. The Crash Pad is a self-contained property that can accommodate households on a short term basis (one or two nights), this provides very short term use for homeless households to enable a quicker process to allow full assessment of housing requirements, both for temporary and permanent accommodation. The aim of Crash pad is to make more efficient use of the wider temporary accommodation stock and reduce Scottish Borders Council's risk of breaching the Unsuitable Accommodation Order.

10.10 Housing Support

The provision of housing support has been recognised as important in preventing homelessness and repeat homelessness. The Housing Support Duty came into force on 1 June 2013 and places a requirement on local authorities to complete a housing support assessment for people who are unintentionally homeless or threatened with homelessness and they have 'reason to believe' need the housing support services prescribed in the regulations.

The Housing Support Service forms part of the Council's Homelessness Service and consists of an internal Housing Support team and a commissioned service. Housing Support offers accessible, flexible and

personalised support to individuals in critical need to enable them to secure, establish, manage and maintain their home. The team's objectives are to:

- Prevent homelessness through the provision of person centred housing support
- Prepare individuals/households for independent living, and help them maintain their housing independence
- Assist and support households towards securing suitable, affordable, sustainable permanent accommodation
- Support households regardless of accommodation status i.e. in temporary accommodation, at home and no fixed abode
- Promote the health, wellbeing and social integration of homeless households

The Housing Support team provided vital service provision to supported people throughout 2021/2022. 265 referrals were received during the reporting period. 83% of cases have been closed due to interventions being successfully completed. There were 415 cases open within Housing Support Services during 2021/22.

The service sought the views of our partners in 2021 in order to improve practices, identify service development opportunities and contribute to improvement planning. The survey in cooperated different areas of service delivery, accessibility, communication, partnership working, quality of service and responsiveness. 94.4% agree or strongly agreed that the Housing Support team provide high quality support.

10.11 South East Housing Options Hub

It is important that SBC continues to contribute to the work of the Hub so opportunities for collaborating with other Hub authorities on priorities identified within the LHS can be considered.

The East Housing Hub consists of local authority representatives from Edinburgh, East Lothian, Falkirk, Mid Lothian, Scottish Borders and West Lothian who meet on a monthly basis. The East Hub has developed a strong shared focus to take forward various work strands to progress the development of the Housing Options approach, embedding Rapid Rehousing, sharing best practice and working together on joint projects, including:

- Development of the housing options training toolkit in partnership with the other Housing Options Hubs
- Stakeholder and awareness raising events during the development of RRTPs
- Procurement of training and guidance on trauma informed practice, housing and homelessness rights of foreign nationals and domestic abuse?
- The development of Young People's tenancy sustainment videos created in partnership with young people who have lived experience of homelessness.
- Collaborating on homelessness/ housing options responses during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Finding solutions to embed legislative changes into frontline practice

It is important that SBC continues to contribute to the work of the Hub so opportunities for collaborating with other Hub authorities on priorities identified within the LHS can be considered.

10.12 Key Issues and Challenges

- The length of time households are homeless
- The supply and demand for a range of properties including, one bedroom properties, housing for larger families
- High demand for accommodation in the Eildon Locality
- The low supply of accommodation in the Tweeddale locality
- Impact of Covid and the lasting implications which includes implementing the RRTP
- Increasing reliance on temporary accommodation throughout the pandemic which has continued beyond the pandemic
- Implementing the new Prevention Duties which represents the biggest change to Scotland's homelessness legislation in almost a decade. Public bodies will have a legal duty to identify anyone at risk of homelessness and either take action themselves or refer on to more appropriate help.
- Local connect suspension and the potential for unintended negative impacts including with regard to risk management, multi-agency public protection arrangements, complexity of case management, continuity of support and strategic planning
- The complex support needs, beyond housing support, of the homeless population and difficulties in accessing support
- Accessibility and affordability of the private rented sector particularly for single people and/or people on low incomes
- Demand on services due to support for the Ukrainian Crisis and Support
- Demand on services due to the Resettlement Programme
- Young people continue to make up the largest proportion of homeless assessments

10.13 Current Progress

- Developed the Rapid rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) for the Scottish Borders
- Re-established the Borders Homelessness and Health Strategic Partnership (BHHSP). The key focus of the partnership is on the implementation of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP)
- Improving pathways for specific groups who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, these include, prison leavers, care leavers, and women and children experiencing domestic abuse
- Two year Housing First pilot was launched
- Recruiting a Private Rented Sector Development Officer

10.14 Key Actions for Delivery

- **Continue to Implement Rapid Rehousing**
- **Improve access to housing for homeless or potentially homeless households across all tenures**
- **People who experience homelessness reach a settled housing outcome as quickly as possible**
- **Ensure homeless households can access the right support at the right time**
- **All partners actively contribute to preventing homelessness**

Successfully tackling these issues is key to our success and provides us with significant opportunity. We need to improve the choices people have for an affordable home that meets their needs in the Scottish Borders and prevent and end homelessness whenever we can.

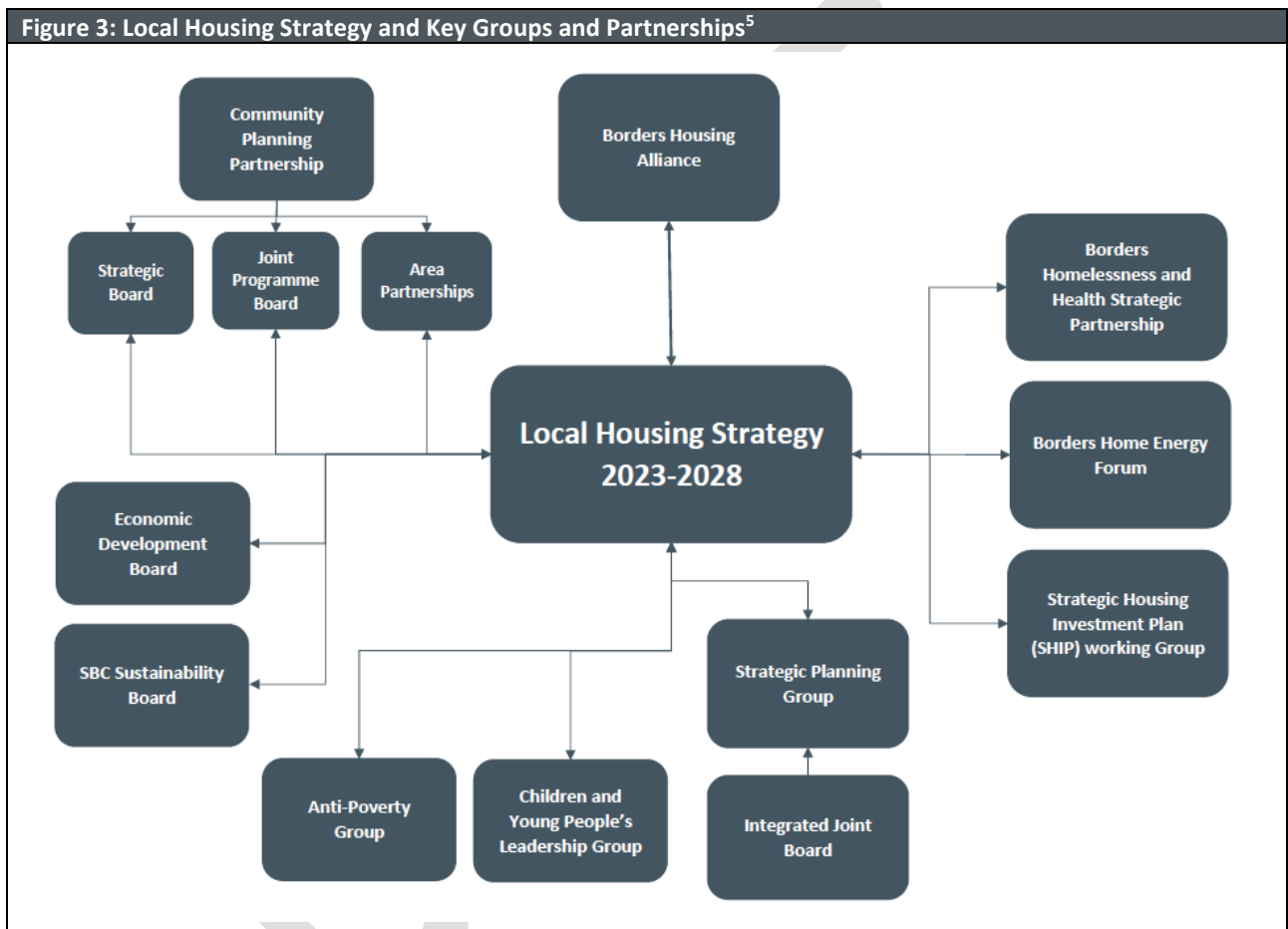
The proposed actions in relation to tackling and preventing homelessness will support those ambitions.

11. Delivering LHS Outcomes

11.1 Implementation

The outcomes in the LHS can be best delivered through a managed network of strong partnership relationships. The LHS is monitored through the Borders Housing Alliance who have direct responsibility for the LHS but have a network of groups to co-ordinate a partnership approach to monitoring the strategy.

Figure 3 provides a useful graphic on how the Local Housing Strategy is integrated into a wide range of different groups and partnerships.



11.2 Monitoring Progress

The outcomes framework is presented at a strategic level. It clearly sets out the outcomes for the LHS, together with the key strategic actions, key performance indicators and targets that underpin its successful delivery. Following the finalisation of the LHS, a more detailed action plan will be developed that will link a range of strategies and outline on an annual basis how the strategic actions and outcomes will be delivered. The LHS will be monitored annually against the action plan, to ascertain progress and to enable remedial actions to be instigated promptly should they be required to ensure milestones set out are achieved, and that services/partners are on track to deliver specific LHS objectives.

The LHS strategic outcomes and any related plans and strategies will be reviewed annually. In addition to strategic monitoring, partners will be responsible for monitoring of their operational functions as they

⁵ There are current discussions around the Governance Structure and as a result this flow chart may need amended

relate to the LHS outcomes; for example, housing management, housing investment/capital programme, and homelessness.

Appendix 1 provides a more detailed Outcome and Action Plan that will be used as the template for monitoring the LHS on an annual basis.

11.3 Resources

Whilst the Local Housing Strategy sets out an ambitious framework for action, investment and partnership to meet housing need in the Scottish Borders, it also must be set in the context of the likely resources available to support implementation.

Strategic Outcome	Resources
1. More homes in well designed, sustainable communities that increase opportunity for all	Scottish Government AHSP Grant RSL Private Sector Borrowing 2 nd Homes Council Tax Levy Commuted Sums Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region Deal Regional Prosperity Framework Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal Private Funding Scottish Borders Council Empty Homes Grant Housing Infrastructure Fund The Vacant and Derelict Land Fund Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) Rural Housing Fund SG Charitable Bond Programme
2. People have access to homes which promote independence, health and wellbeing	Scottish Government AHSP Grant Health and Social Care NHS Borders Public Works Loan Board Mental Health Service Learning Disabilities Service Private Funding SG Gypsy Traveller Accommodation fund
3. Improved energy efficiency of homes and a reduction in fuel poverty while supporting a Just Transition to Net Zero through decarbonising domestic heating and energy	Regional Prosperity Framework Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal Energy Efficient Scotland: Area Based Scheme (EES:ABS) Warmer Homes Scotland Energy Saving Trust Scotland Grant and Loan
4. More people live in good quality homes and the built heritage of the Borders is preserved	CARS Missing Shares Private funding RSL capital funding EST Private Landlord Loan funding
5. Homelessness is prevented wherever possible and a range of housing options are provided so people can secure a suitable and sustainable housing outcome as quickly as possible	SBC General Funded Homeless Service Scottish Government RRTP Funding Ending Homelessness Together funding Scottish Welfare Fund Partnership Working Voluntary Organisations

11.3.1 Affordable Housing Supply Programme

The Council has been previously used borrowing and on-lending from Public Works Loan Board in order to progress affordable Housing delivery via the National Housing Trust Round 1 and Local Authority Variant

initiatives. The Council still supports affordable housing delivery through use of available Second Homes/ Council Tax and Affordable Housing Policy Developer Contributions. There are a number of other funding resources that the Council and its development partners can draw upon including Affordable Housing Supply Programme Funding, Open Market Shared Equity Scheme, Rural Housing Fund, RSLs Private Finance Borrowing and Scottish Water Grant Funding. Berwickshire and Eildon Housing Associations secured around £4.6m Charitable Bond funding for the first time in 2017-18 in lieu of Scottish Government Grant which was used to deliver developments at The Glebe Chirnside, High St Selkirk and Howdenburn Jedburgh. The Scottish Government has added an additional £25 million of funding to its Charitable Bond programme, taking the total investment to boost the number of affordable homes in Scotland to £105m.

Most Recently, in July 2019, Eildon Housing Association secured a £40m investment from the Pension Insurance Corporation, which is this Lender's first such private placement with a Scottish RSL. Eildon Housing Association has indicated that it may consider "front –funding" projects, in order to ensure project delivery. During 2021/21 Scottish Borders Housing Association secured a £58m loan facility from the Royal Bank of Scotland, which is intended to support a development programme of up to 300 new homes over 7 years.

In 2021/22 the Council used £0.727m from its Second Homes / Council Tax Budget, to directly assist affordable housing delivery in Scottish Borders. This was used by the Council to acquire the Melrose Road site Galashiels and subsequent "back to back sale" to Eildon Housing Association, plus a previously agreed grant contribution towards gap funding costs of the Kelso Extra Care Housing development which is under construction. The Council has also used £0.013m towards costs of employing an Empty Homes Officer.

The Council has been deliberately building up an available balance being held in the Second Homes Council Tax budget in anticipation of it being used to assist delivery of extra care housing developments to augment Affordable Housing Supply Programme grant funding from Scottish Government's More Homes Division and Private Finance contributions from both Eildon Housing Association and Trust Housing Association. The Council has also committed to provide grant of £0.750m to Eildon Housing Association towards costs of delivery 36 Extra Care flats which are under construction through conversion and remodelling of the former High School building in Kelso. In 2021/22 the Council paid grant of £0.262m towards the project, with the balance claimed in May 2022. It is envisaged that the Council will also be required to grant assist RSLs to deliver future Extra Care Housing projects. These Extra Care Housing developments are high cost projects, and the specification contains elements which are not eligible for Affordable Housing Supply Programme grant funding. In order to ensure best value is achieved, lessons learned from Dovecot Court Peebles has helped informed the designs going forward for Todlaw Duns, Langhaugh Galashiels, High School Kelso, Stirches Hawick and High School Eyemouth in due course. A site has yet to be identified for the proposed Peebles development.

During 2021/22 the Council agreed to make a £0.120m grant contribution to the Etrick and Yarrow Community Development Company's, 5 home, Kirkhope Steading project in 2022/23, and also a £0.200m grant contribution to Eildon HA's, 64 home, former Earlston high school site project in 2024/25. The Council's Second Homes Council Tax budget has finite annual income which will be a key determinant of both the level of financial support available to assist construction of individual developments, and the potential programming of these grant contributions to dovetail with construction activity and provision of complementary Scottish Government Affordable Housing Supply Programme grant and RSL private funding.

The Council made no grant contributions from its Affordable Housing Policy Developer Contributions - Housing Market Area balances, to assist affordable housing and project delivery in 2021/22. See figures provided in Scottish Government SHIP Tables.

Table 9 below illustrates the estimated £268.226 of total investment required to deliver the potential affordable housing projects identified in this SHIP 2023/28. This has been developed on the basis of

financial analysis and the most recent experience of Borders RSL projects, using an AHSP assumption of £96k/unit, and RSL Private Finance assumption of £104k/unit.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	
AHSP new build	21.024	45.312	43.872	11.136	6.528	128.872
AHSP remodelling	0	0	0	0	0	0
RSL Private Borrowing	22.776	48.464	47.528	12.064	7.072	137.904
Extra Care 2 nd C/Tax	0	0.200	0.750	0.750	0.750	2.45
Rural Housing Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Private borrowing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	43.8	93.976	92.15	23.95	14.35	268.226

* Figures are rounded up

11.3.2 Projected Available Resources

The resources needed to deliver the LHS are shared across a number of partners including the Scottish Government, RSLs, the independent sector, private sector and public bodies such as the Health and Social Care Partnership in the Scottish Borders. In terms of public sector resources, it is difficult to predict levels of future available funding, particularly given current economic uncertainty around public. Table 10 below will set out the various resource options that the Council's relies on to deliver the LHS. This will be further developed through the consultation period, based on agreed priorities, with resources clearly identified in the finalised strategy later this year.

Council General Fund Spend Category	Total Projected Expenditure 2023-2028
Homelessness & Temporary Accommodation	
Housing Support Services	
Private Sector Housing (incl. SOA)	
Gypsy Travellers	
Community Safety	
Total General Fund Expenditure	

11.3.3 Projected RSL expenditure

As well as substantial General Fund investment in the delivery of housing and related services, the four main RSLs in the Borders will also invest heavily both in terms of stock improvements but in the delivery of frontline services. Over the next five years, RSL are projected to spend over £453m.

Investment over next 5 years: 2023 - 28	Total projected expenditure 2023 - 28
Housing management	£52,837,448
Housing maintenance	£69,830,000
Housing support	£16,325,023
Planned maintenance: SHQS	£73,423,000
Planned maintenance: EESSH	£11,129,000
Disabled adaptations	£1,890,000
New build housing investment	£226,409,000
Regeneration or wider role activity	£2,125,000
Total projected expenditure (2023-28)	£453,968,471

⁶ Calculations were done on the basis of grant of £96k per unit and assumed private borrowing of £104k per unit. Figures were rounded up for modelling purposes.

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SCOTTISH BORDERS LOCAL CHILD POVERTY REPORT 2022/23 AND ACTION PLAN 2023/24

Report by Director – Resilient Communities

COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD

8 June 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

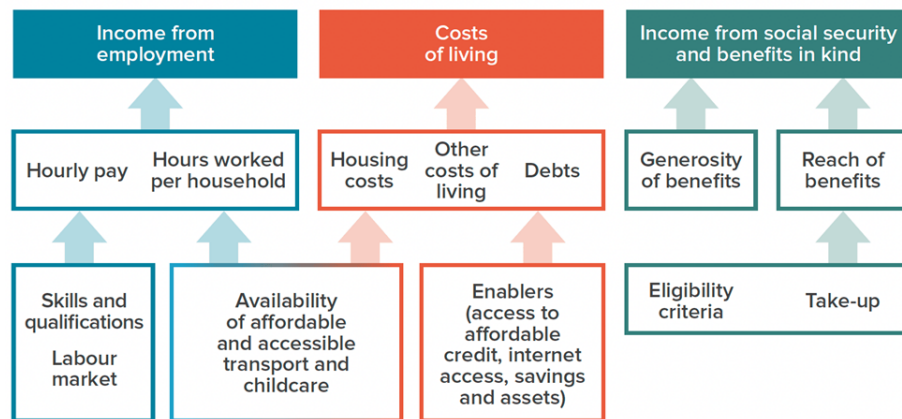
- 1.1 This report presents the Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Report for 2022/23 and Action Plan for 2023/24 (Appendix 1) for endorsement before submission to Scottish Government.**
- 1.2 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 requires Local Authorities and Health Boards to jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report and an Annual Progress Report.
- 1.3 This report provides the Community Planning Partnership and Scottish Government with an update on progress made in the Scottish Borders against activities within the Action Plan for 2022/23 and sets out planned actions for 2023/24.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 I recommend that the Community Planning Strategic Board endorse the Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Report for 2022/23 and Action Plan for 2023/24 before submission to Scottish Government.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets out the Scottish Government’s statement of intent to eradicate child poverty in Scotland by 2030. Local Authorities and Health Boards are required to jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Report (including an Action Plan) and subsequently an annual progress report each year. The annual progress report should describe activities undertaken and planned locally to contribute towards tackling child poverty.
- 3.2 Scottish Government’s tackling child poverty delivery plan 2022 to 2026, [Best Start, Bright Futures](#) sets out how we will work together to deliver on Scotland’s national mission to tackle child poverty. It focuses on: immediate action to support families now; sustained action to create the integrated support that families need to move into work; changing the system to provide the support parents need; and investing long term in both children's outcomes and economic transformation that will create a fairer, more equal Scotland. This Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan aligns with that approach.
- 3.3 The direct drivers of poverty fall in to three main categories – income from employment, costs of living and income from social security. We remain focused on actions around these themes, as summarised below:



Source: [Best Start, Bright Futures](#)

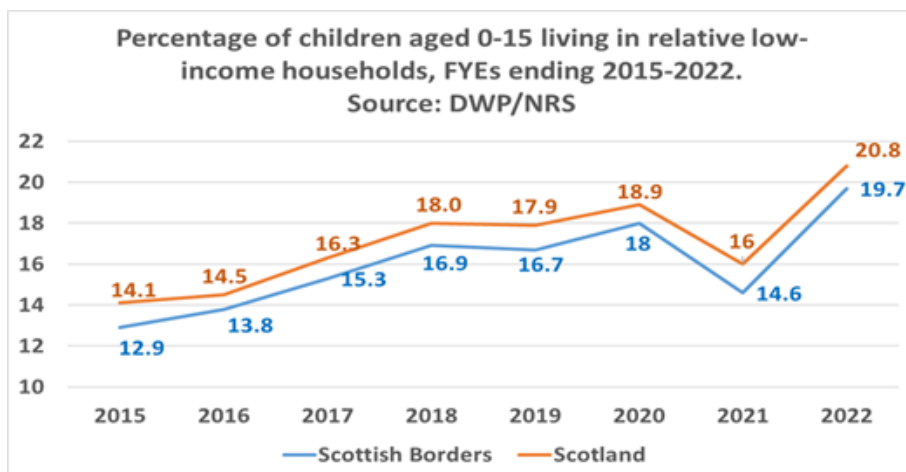
- 3.4 The national delivery plan continues to focus on supporting families at greatest risk of poverty. Almost 90% of all children in poverty in Scotland live within these six priority family types:
1. Lone parents
 2. Families with a disabled child or parent
 3. Families with 3+ children
 4. Minority ethnic families
 5. Families where the youngest child is under 1
 6. Mothers aged under 25

4 WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT CHILD POVERTY IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

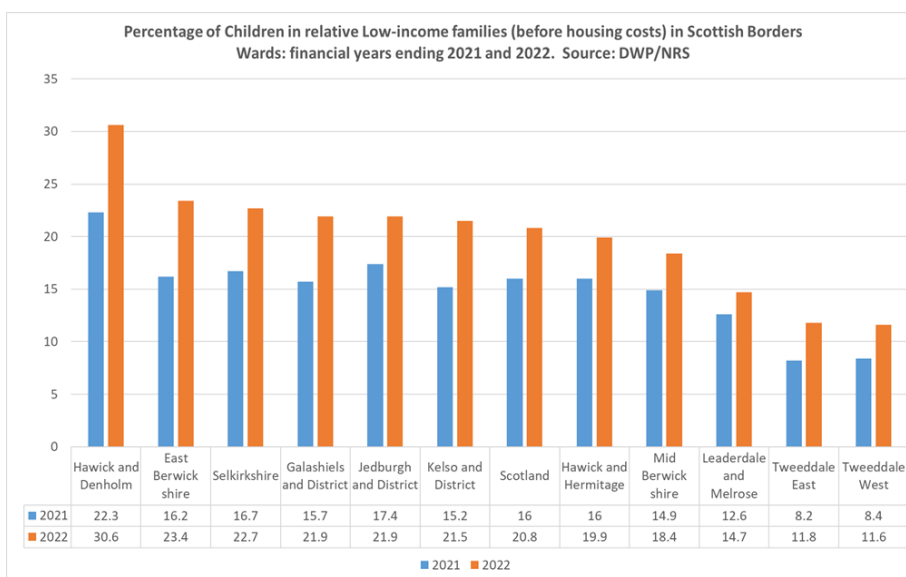
- 4.1 Appendix 1A shows a selection of data at local authority level which helps us to monitor child poverty, including data relating to the nationally

identified high priority family groups. Significant highlights outlined below indicate the challenge we face in tackling child poverty in the Scottish Borders.

- 4.2 Our children in low income families (before housing costs) has risen from **14.6%** in 2020/21 to **19.7%** in 2021/22, similar to the trend for Scotland. The rise is likely to be a direct result of the cost of living crisis.



- 4.3 Percentages of children in low income families (before housing costs) in Scottish Borders Wards ranges from 11.6% in Tweeddale West to 30.6% in Hawick and Denholm.



- 4.4 In 2022, the median gross weekly pay for full time workers working in the Scottish Borders (workplace based) was **£571.30**. This is **£69.20** less than the **£640.50** for full-time workers working elsewhere in Scotland. This is 89% of the Scottish figure.

- 4.5 There has been a sharp rise in workless family households since Covid-19. This indicates that families in the Scottish Borders are finding it more difficult than ever to find work (or possibly affordable childcare) that suits their circumstances.

- 4.6 The percentage of employees aged 18+ earning less than the real living wage in 2021/22 was **21.7%**. This is notably higher than the Scottish average of **14.4%**.
- 4.7 The table below shows the number and proportion of households in the Scottish Borders receiving Universal Credit compared to Scotland. Overall the Scottish Borders has a lower proportion of households receiving UC (12.9%) compared to 16.1% for Scotland. In the Scottish Borders there were 3,015 households claiming the 'Child Entitlement' or 5.4% compared to 6.5% for Scotland.

Universal Credit Households November 2022 (provisional figures)	Scottish Borders No of Households	% of All Occupied Households	
		Scottish Borders	Scotland
All Occupied Households	55,557		
All Universal Credit Households (UCH)	7,193	12.9	16.1
UCH with Children	3,140	5.7	6.7
UCH claiming Child Entitlement	3,015	5.4	6.5
UCH Lone Parent	2,115	3.8	5.0
UCH with 3+ Children	613	1.1	1.2
UCH with Child Under Age 1	273	0.5	0.5
UCH with Children - Child Disability Entitlement	275	0.5	0.7
UCH with Children - Adult Disability Entitlement	443	0.8	1.0

Source: DWP/NRS

5 WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT CHILD POVERTY IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

5.1 Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan

Appendix 1 provides details of the range of activities and actions being carried out across the Scottish Borders to alleviate child poverty by Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and key partners.

5.2 Progress in 2022/23

Work undertaken to address child poverty in 2022/23 by Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and Partners is shown in Appendix 1B. Good progress has been made against actions set out, and are shown in alignment to the national delivery plan [Best Start, Bright Futures](#). Highlights include:

- a) Actions and progress around employability are wide and varied. There continues to be a strong focus on parental employability and employment opportunities for modern apprentices, as well as partnership work on positive destinations, volunteering, and learning and skills development.
- b) Work has continued to tackle the poverty related attainment gap, starting from early learning settings, and a development plan was

agreed with Education Scotland to support pupils impacted by poverty to enjoy the same experiences at school as their peers, through a framework to tackle the cost of the school day.

- c) Partners have supported families with benefit checks. Midwives and Health visitors continue to refer expectant and new mothers, and this has resulted in an uplift in benefits of £1.2m in 2022/23.
- d) Foodbanks and larders have been supported and various food projects have continued.
- e) Housing Associations and other partners have operated tenancy sustainment services for those at risk of eviction. Berwickshire Housing Association have a new Tenancy Sustainability Team which provides financial inclusion, fuel and food support, as well as access to mental wellbeing help.

Case studies shown at Appendix 1C provide further in-depth detail of specific projects undertaken in relation to child poverty in 2022/23.

5.3 **Cost of Living Support**

Multi-agency strategic and operational groups continue to meet to respond to the cost of living crisis. A financial support package of £1.2m was established in August 2022 to respond to the needs of communities, and the groups have considered and approved a range of proposals to help families. A range of support was put in place quickly, including a warm clothing payment of £100 to each child entitled to free school meals or clothing grants, approx. 2,695 children have benefitted.

Further proposals have been approved which have directly and indirectly benefitted children and families. For example, YouthBorders managed the Warm and Well: Youth Work Collaborative where £90k was made available to deliver additional youth work activities or enhance provision to keep young people warm and well over winter. The funding was specifically for young people and families experiencing financial hardship, poverty or deprivation. A total of 1,488 young people directly benefitted and 5,756 people indirectly benefitted from this funding (parents, carers, siblings etc).

Further information on support given to help with the cost of living is set out in Appendix 1.

5.4 **Breakfast Clubs**

Scottish Borders Council - £60,000 has been allocated from the Council's Cost of Living Support Fund, to support the setting up, continuation or provision of a free breakfast club offer across the Scottish Borders. Nineteen schools were successful in their application for funding in addition to one community-based group. Breakfast clubs are now starting up in these settings with support from Public Health, who are offering nutritional advice

on how to set up a breakfast club in line with Scottish Government guidelines.

Borders College - Since January 2023, the College has committed to offering students a free breakfast and this will continue for the remainder of the academic year alongside the regular drop-in 'Wellbeing' cafes.

5.5 **Get into Summer 2022**

Through the summer holiday period of 2022 (4th July – 16th August 2022), Live Borders worked in partnership with Scottish Borders Council and other key providers to deliver the "Get into Summer" programme. Scottish Government allocated funding to provide an enhanced/new summer holiday provision that allowed children from low-income families to be more fully engaged in opportunities through the holiday period. The funding allowed Live Borders to deliver a comprehensive programme of sport, physical activity, and cultural opportunities and continued to offer free places for identified children through discount codes and in some instances, making whole offers free of charge.

Activities included; a variety of holiday camps in all school clusters (multi activity and sport), a Family Activity Pass for families referred by professional staff, free cinema access for targeted groups and individuals, a range of museum and galleries activities, library workshops, and a partnership disability camp with a local third sector group (Borders Additional Needs Group).

Further details are set out in Appendix 1.

5.6 **2023/24 Actions**

Community Planning Partners and other relevant organisations have contributed to the 2023/24 Action Plan as shown in Appendix 1E. A broad range of activity is set out in the Action Plan which is aligned to the national delivery plan [Best Start, Bright Futures](#). Highlights include:

- a) Employability actions include working with parents to signpost them for help with childcare to enable them to gain employment, partners working together to increase skills and the likelihood of young people impacted by poverty achieving a positive destination, and employability training and learning opportunities to support young people and parents into employment.
- b) Education services will continue to use Strategic Equity Funding to narrow the poverty attainment gap in pedagogy, curriculum development and learning and teaching assessment.
- c) Tweeddale Youth Action will signpost specialist support, including mental health and drug and alcohol services to young people attending youth club
- d) Scottish Borders Council's Homelessness Team will support families to secure settled, mainstream housing as part of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.

- e) Borders College will continue to offer students a free breakfast, supermarket vouchers, lunch/breakfast bars and provide regular drop-in 'wellbeing' cafes.
- f) Partners will continue to provide School Holiday Programmes.

6 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial

Significant funding is attributed to tackling child poverty within the national delivery plan, and our children and families will benefit as a result. Local budgets and funding are detailed in Appendix 1.

6.2 Risk and Mitigations

- a) Risks associated with this report relate to the level of child poverty across the Scottish Borders and the difficulties caused by the cost of living crisis.
- b) Appendix 1B outlines the progress made to alleviate child poverty in the Scottish Borders, and actions set out for 2023/24 (Appendix 1E) show the response being made by the Local Authority, Health Board and other partners to address issues going forward.

6.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

An integrated impact assessment has been carried out for this report and is shown in Appendices 2 and 3. There are no specific implications.

6.4 Sustainable Development Goals

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

- a) **Goal 1 - End poverty in all its forms** – local action is reported in both the 2022/23 Annual Report and the 2023/24 Action Plan which contribute to this goal.
- b) **Goal 2 - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture** – local action is reported in both the 2022/23 Annual Report and the 2023/24 Action Plan which contribute to this goal. Food conversations are continuing and contribute to actions from the Anti-Poverty Action Plan. Cost of Living funding support has been awarded to the Cyrenians Group who are providing food larders and cook clubs across the Scottish Borders.
- c) **Goal 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages** – activities are outlined which contribute to healthy lives e.g. Summer holiday programmes provided by a range of partners such as 'Get into Summer' with Live Borders. These programmes offer a variety of different activities including sports, culture, arts, cooking lessons, and often supply food to families to take home.
- d) **Goal 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all** – the Scottish Attainment Challenge provides schools with funds to design programmes

to close the poverty related attainment gap. The No One Left Behind project ensures that all children have a positive destination. Specific 'core' stretch aims are submitted to Scottish Government, annually for improving outcomes for all while closing the poverty-related attainment gap. SBC Education Improvement Plan 2022-2023 sets out key strategic improvement priorities for our schools and settings.

- e) **Goal 7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all** – housing tenants are supported with energy debt, given money advice and budgeting tips. Collaborative working continues with CABx, Changeworks & Home Energy Scotland to identify fuel poverty, co-ordinating referrals, advice and support.
- f) **Goal 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all** – the Parental employability scheme provides opportunities for parents to train for roles as well as gain employment. The intensive family support service targets specific families to support them into employment. Scottish Borders Council is committed to encouraging the wider adoption of the real Living Wage by partners, local employers and suppliers. Scottish Borders Council has also included Modern Apprentices within the commitment to being a Real Living Wage employer going forward.
- g) **Goal 10 – Reduce inequalities** – local action is reported in both the 2022/23 Annual Report and the 2023/24 Action Plan which contribute to this goal. Actions aim to identify and tackle poverty and exclusion. The Scottish Borders Anti-Poverty Strategy sets out ways in which the Council and its partners will aim to work together to help reduce poverty across the region and recognises that Child Poverty is included in this aim.

6.5 **Climate Change**

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

6.6 **Rural Proofing**

There are no rural proofing implications contained in this report.

6.7 **Data Protection Impact Statement**

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

6.8 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

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

7 **CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Director (Finance & Corporate Governance), the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Jenni Craig
Director Resilient Communities

Signature

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Background Papers: n/a

Previous Minute Reference: Community Planning Strategic Board 08.09.22

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

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Appendix 1

Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Report 2022/23 and Action Plan 2023/24

DRAFT

Contents

Foreword and Introduction	3
National Context.....	4
Best Start Bright Futures	4
National Child Poverty Targets	4
Drivers of Child Poverty	5
Fairer Scotland Duty	5
Families at greatest risk of poverty	6
Local Context	7
Child Poverty Data for the Scottish Borders - what do we know?	7
Children in Low-income Families, before housing costs.....	8
Children in Low-income households over time, FYEs 2015 to 2022 before housing costs	9
Children in Low-income Families in Scottish Borders Electoral Wards	10
Children in Low-income Families, after housing costs.....	11
Average weekly Earnings	12
Households receiving Universal Credit.....	13
The Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index.....	13
What are we doing about Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders?.....	15
The 2022/23 Action Plan Progress Report	16
The Cost of living	17
Budgets and Funding.....	18
Financial Inclusion	18
Scottish Borders Local Employability Partnership	19
No One Left Behind	19
Scottish Borders Council - Real Living Wage Employer.....	20
Food Conversations.....	20
Breakfast Clubs	21
Get into Summer 2022.....	22
Scottish Borders Council Children and Families Social Work Service	23
Scottish Borders Council Education Services.....	24
Delivering The Promise - #KeepThePromise	27
Student Poverty: Borders College	28
Challenge Poverty Week – October 2022	28
2023/24 Actions	28
Conclusion.....	30
Appendix 1A - Local Child Poverty Context and Statistics	31
Appendix 1B – Scottish Borders Child Poverty Annual Progress Report 2022/23.....	63
Appendix 1C - Child Poverty Case Studies.....	97
Appendix 1D - Challenge Poverty Week 3-9 October 2022.....	100
Appendix 1E - Scottish Borders Child Poverty Actions 2023/24	102
Appendix 1F – Glossary	118

Foreword and Introduction

This report covers progress made in tackling child poverty in the Scottish Borders in 2022/23 and sets out planned actions for 2023/24.

Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Community Planning Partners, and the Child Poverty Action Group recognise the importance of tackling child poverty, and are determined to make a difference to children, young people, and families in the Scottish Borders. This Plan sets out our strategic approach and commitment to undertake priority areas of work and key actions to alleviate child poverty.

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

The Act requires that Local Authorities and Health Boards jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report and an Annual Progress Report. The annual progress report should describe activities undertaken and planned locally to contribute towards the child poverty targets set out in the Act.

We are currently facing significant challenges at a national and local level. We are in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis, there are record levels of inflation, a difficult labour market, poverty levels are rising, and we are still recovering from the covid-19 pandemic.

In the Scottish Borders we continue to experience low economic growth and wages, as well as transport and infrastructure issues. All of our children, young people and their families are likely to be affected by these challenges, and we must play our part in addressing them. We will work with partners at both a national and local level as we take action throughout 2023/2024.

The Scottish Borders faces significant challenges, for example:

- **One in five** of our children still live in poverty (after housing costs)
- In 2022, the gross weekly full-time workplace-based wage in the Scottish Borders was **£69 less per week** than the average for Scotland.
- The proportion of employees (18+) earning less than the real living wage in the Scottish Borders was **21.7%** in 2021-22, notably higher than the Scottish average of **14.4%**.
- The Borders Housing Network distributed over **2,200** fuel bank vouchers in 2022/23.

There are many positive headlines which show our commitment towards tackling child poverty, for example:

- **96.6%** of young people have positive initial destinations when leaving school compared to 95.7% nationally (2021/22).
- Borders Modern Apprentice achievement rate is **81.5%** compared to 75% nationally.
- Approx. 2,695 children benefitted from a warm clothing payment of £100 paid from the Council's £1.2m cost of living support package.
- Nineteen schools and one community group will benefit from funding from the Council's cost of living support package to support free breakfast clubs across the Scottish Borders.

We continue to align to Scottish Government's tackling child poverty delivery plan 2022 to 2026, [Best Start, Bright Futures](#). This sets out how we will work together to deliver on Scotland's national mission to tackle child poverty. It is a plan for all of Scotland and recognises the contribution that all parts of society must make to deliver the change needed for children and families.

The [Council Plan](#) from April 2023 sets out a framework for Council decision-making and operations. The strategic context and vision of the plan recognises poverty as a challenge and commits to Scottish Borders-wide actions to make improvements to poverty levels. This Local Child Poverty Report aims to help to meet that outcome. We welcome the inclusion of this commitment in the

Council Plan.

The Scottish Borders [Anti-Poverty Strategy](#) sets out the way in which the Council and its partners will aim to work together to help reduce poverty across the region.

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

Councillor Caroline Cochrane – Chair of Community Planning Partnership

David Robertson – Chief Executive, Scottish Borders Council

Ralph Roberts – Chief Executive, NHS Borders

National Context

Best Start Bright Futures

Scottish Government's tackling child poverty delivery plan 2022 to 2026, [Best Start, Bright Futures](#) sets out how we will work together to deliver on Scotland's national mission to tackle child poverty.

It represents the next chapter of Scottish Government's aim to tackle and reduce child poverty and take into account the wider factors impacting on poverty and the standard of living for families. It focuses on: immediate action to support families now; sustained action to create the integrated support that families need to move into work; changing the system to provide the support parents need; and investing long term in both children's outcomes and economic transformation that will create a fairer, more equal Scotland.

National Child Poverty Targets

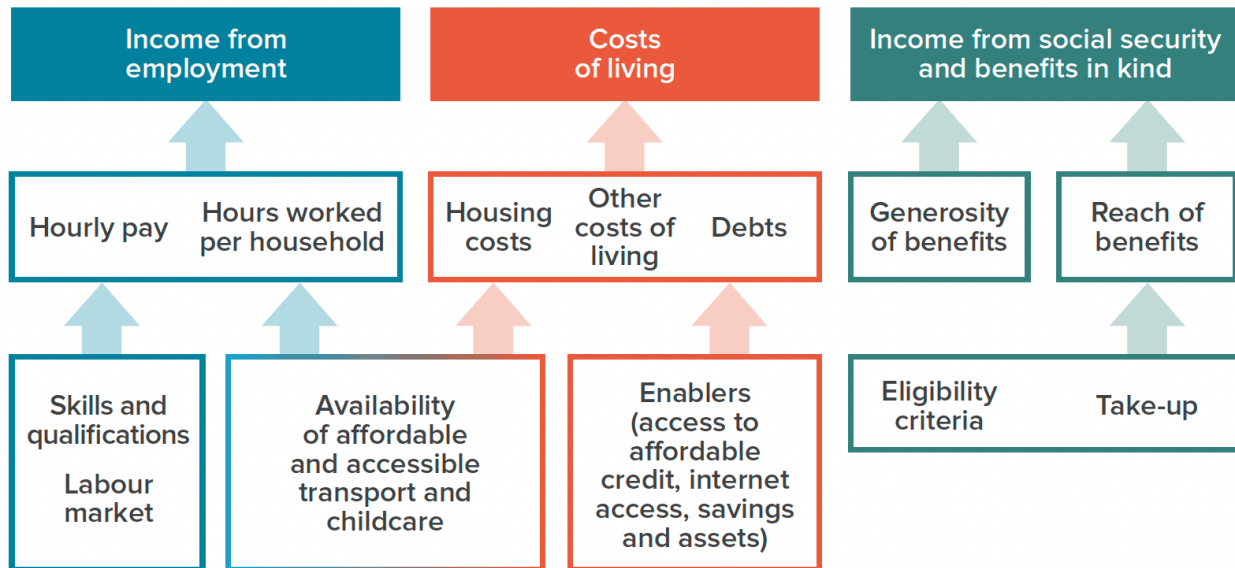
The interim targets below must be met during the life of the national delivery plan (2023-2026), with final targets to be met by 2030, aligning with the timescales for Scotland to keep The Promise.

- **Fewer than 18% of children living in families in relative poverty in 2023-24, reducing to fewer than 10% by 2030.** This means fewer than one in ten children living in households on low incomes by 2030, compared to the average UK household.
- **Fewer than 14% of children living in families in absolute poverty in 2023-24, reducing to fewer than 5% by 2030.** This means fewer than one in twenty children living in low-income households where living standards are not increasing by 2030.
- **Fewer than 8% of children living in families living in combined low income and material deprivation in 2023-24, reducing to fewer than 5% by 2030.** This means fewer than one in twenty children living in low-income households who cannot afford basic essential goods and services by 2030.
- **Fewer than 8% of children living in families in persistent poverty in 2023-24, reducing to fewer than 5% by 2030.** This means fewer than one in twenty children living in households in poverty for three years out of four by 2030.

Drivers of Child Poverty

The direct drivers of poverty fall into three main categories – income from employment, costs of living and income from social security. We remain focused on actions around these themes, as summarised in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1 – Drivers of child poverty



Source: [Best Start, Bright Futures](#)

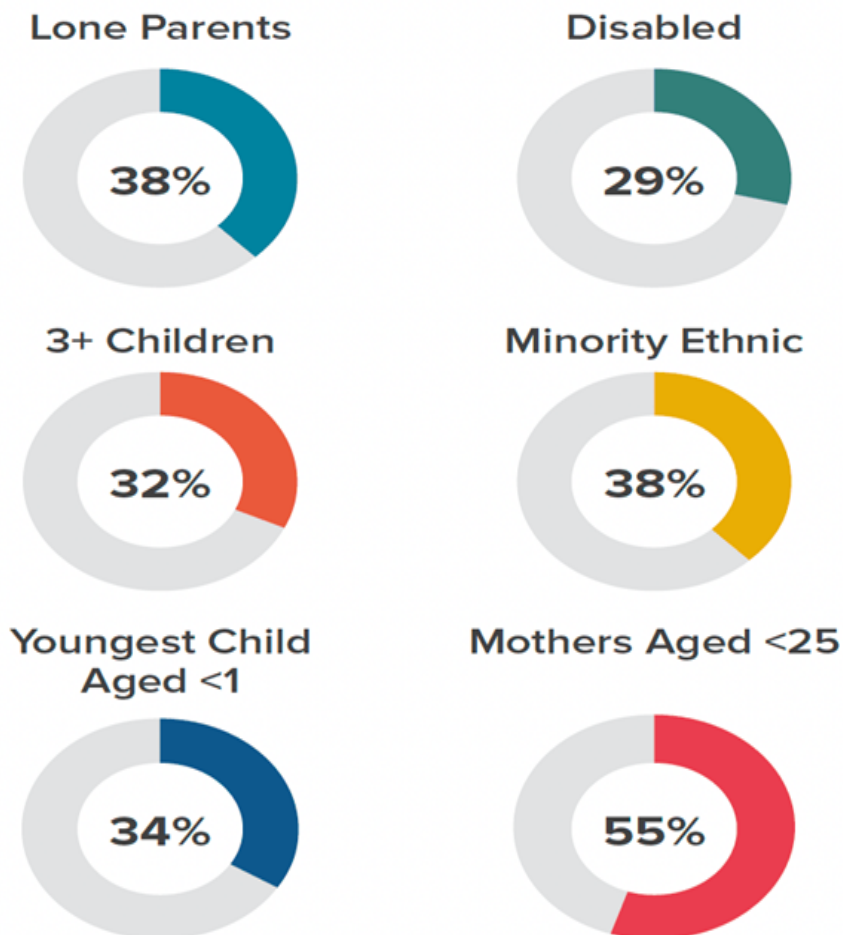
Fairer Scotland Duty

The Fairer Scotland Duty (the Duty) places a legal responsibility on named public bodies in Scotland to actively consider ('pay **due regard**' to) how they can **reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions**. This is a complex, multidimensional problem, closely related to poverty. Having less access to resources can mean that individuals fare worse on outcomes including health, housing, education, or opportunities to work or train, and these negative outcomes can reinforce each other. Adversity in childhood can have life-long impacts, and growing up in poverty is associated with poorer educational attainment, employment prospects and health inequalities. Therefore, it is crucial that public bodies consider the impact that their decisions have on socio-economic disadvantage and the inequality of outcome that both adults and children may experience as a result.

Families at greatest risk of poverty

The national Child Poverty Delivery Plan continues to focus on supporting the six priority family types. Almost 90% of all children in poverty in Scotland live within these six priority family types. These groups are set out below (Figure 2), with each more likely to experience poverty than all children in Scotland (24%) and households which do not have any of the priority family characteristics (10%). We remain focused on actions to help these families.

Figure 2 – Priority families with children in relative poverty:



Source: [Best Start, Bright Futures](#)

Local Context

Child Poverty Data for the Scottish Borders - what do we know?

The headlines below show that we face significant challenges in the Scottish Borders.

- Our children in low-income families (before housing costs) has **risen** from **14.6%** in 2020/21 to **19.7%** in 2021/22, similar to the trend for Scotland.
- 1 in 5 children still live in poverty (after housing costs) in the Scottish Borders
- There is a broad range of percentages of children living in relative low-income families in Scottish Borders Wards. The percentage ranges from 11.6% in the Tweeddale West Ward to 30.6% in the Hawick and Denholm Ward.
- 12.9% of Scottish Borders Households receive Universal Credit.

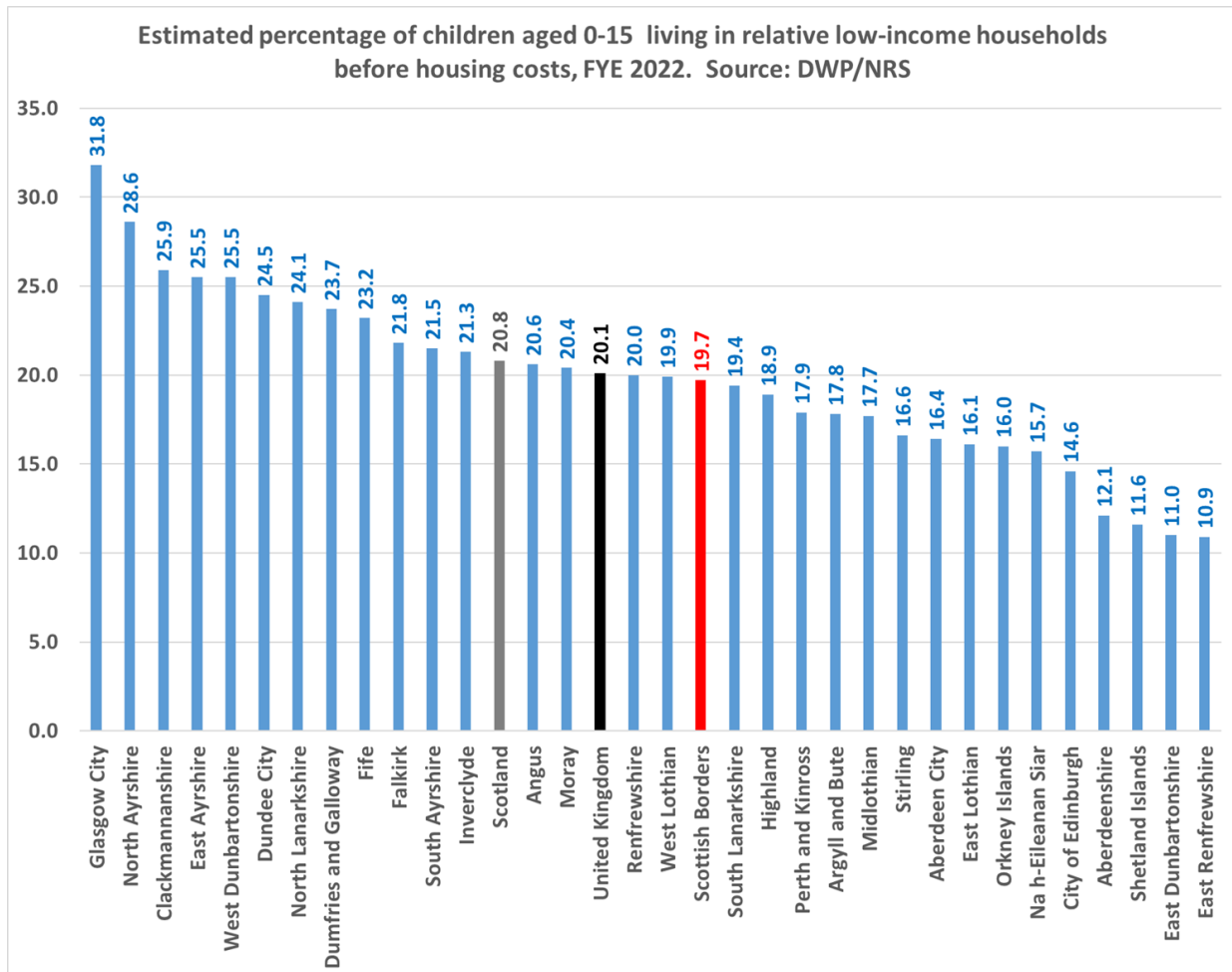
Scottish Government produces a [dashboard](#) that provides a selection of data available at local authority level to help monitor child poverty and its drivers locally. These indicators do not measure child poverty directly in the same way as the indicators used for the national targets, but they can be used to understand the local context and how that might be changing.

[Appendix A](#) shows more detail, including data relating to the nationally identified high priority family groups.

Children in Low-income Families, before housing costs

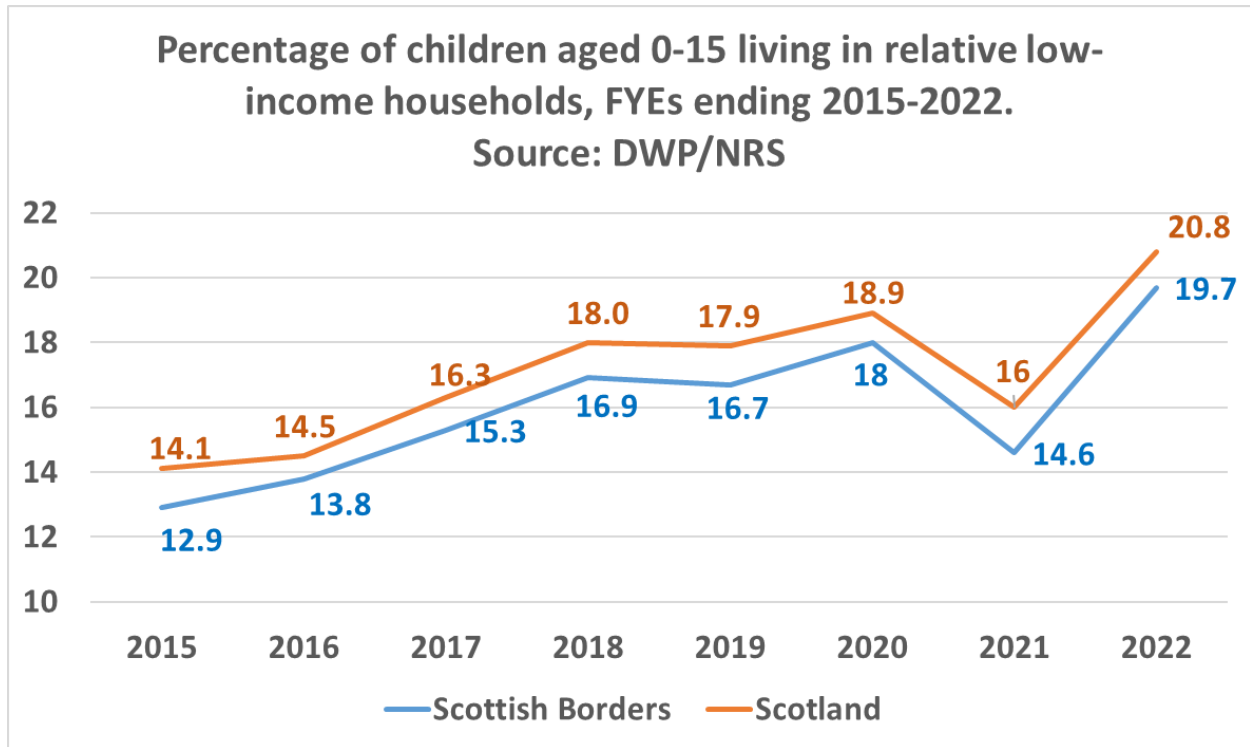
Relative child poverty in a given year is when a family is assessed as having a low household income by the median income standards of the given year. The family must also claim Child Benefit and at least one other household income benefit (Universal Credit, tax credit or Housing Benefit) at any point in the financial year.

The chart below depicts the Scottish Government/DWP figures for the Financial Year Ending (FYE) 2022 at **19.7%** of children aged 0-15 in the Scottish Borders living in relative low-income households. This is below the UK and the Scottish averages of 20.1% and 20.8% respectively.



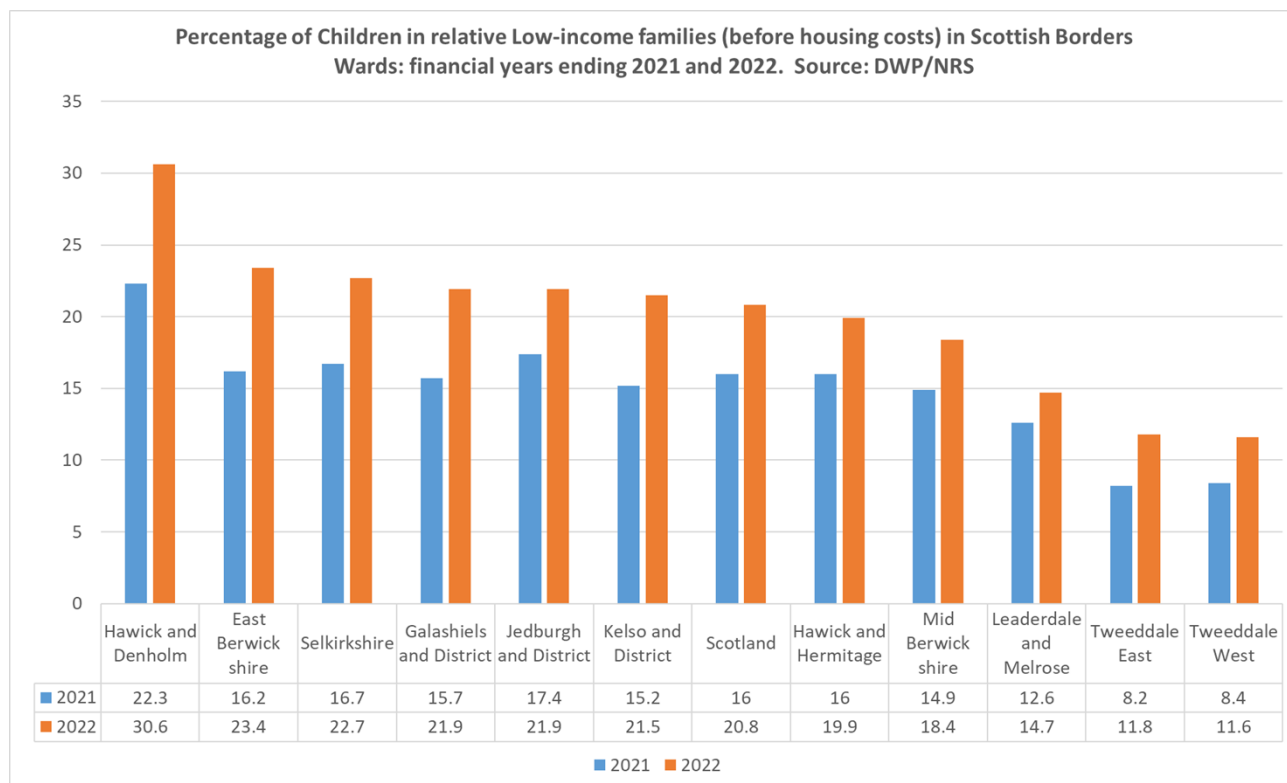
Children in Low-income households over time, FYEs 2015 to 2022 before housing costs

The line graph below shows the timeline of this measure since FYE 2015, and a sharp rise since 2021 figures, which had indicated an improvement. The rise is likely to be a direct result of the cost-of-living crisis.



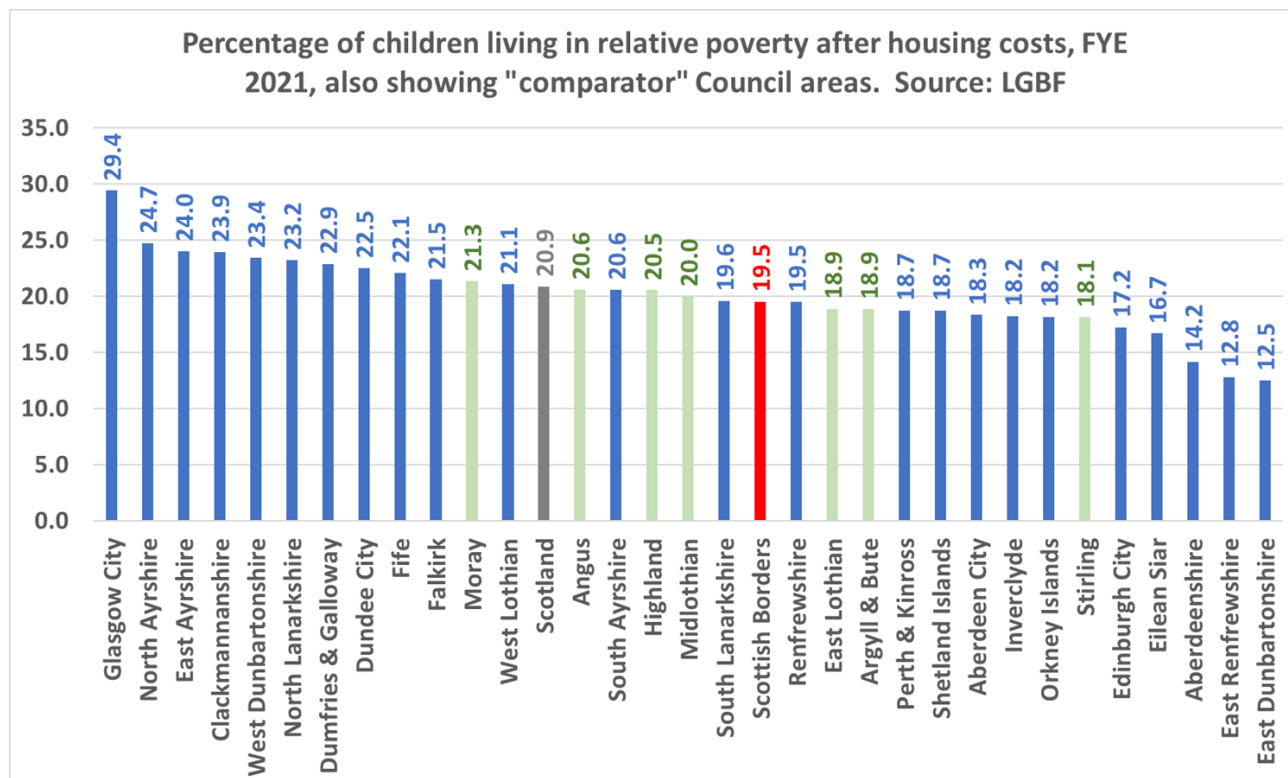
Children in Low-income Families in Scottish Borders Electoral Wards

The chart below shows the Relative Child Poverty data at Scottish Borders Electoral Ward level for the FYEs 2021 and 2022. This ranges from 11.6% (2022) for Tweeddale West to 30.6% for Hawick and Denholm.



Children in Low-income Families, after housing costs

The [Local Government Benchmarking Framework \(LGBF\)](#) presents child poverty estimates (after housing costs) at local authority level, which are produced by the End Child Poverty Coalition. This measure is for relative poverty after housing costs, which provides important alignment with the targets set out in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 and is therefore regarded as the “key” statistic on child poverty. This data shows the period following the introduction of the first round of the Scottish Child Payment but before the full aftermath of the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis became apparent.



The chart above shows that the Scottish Borders (red bar) had 19.5% of children living in child poverty in 2020-21. This is slightly below the Scottish average (grey bar) and is very much in the middle of its comparator council areas (green bars). The comparator Local Authorities were chosen by LGBF as they share certain population, urban/ rural and deprivation characteristics with the Scottish Borders. One in 5 children in the Scottish Borders still live in poverty.

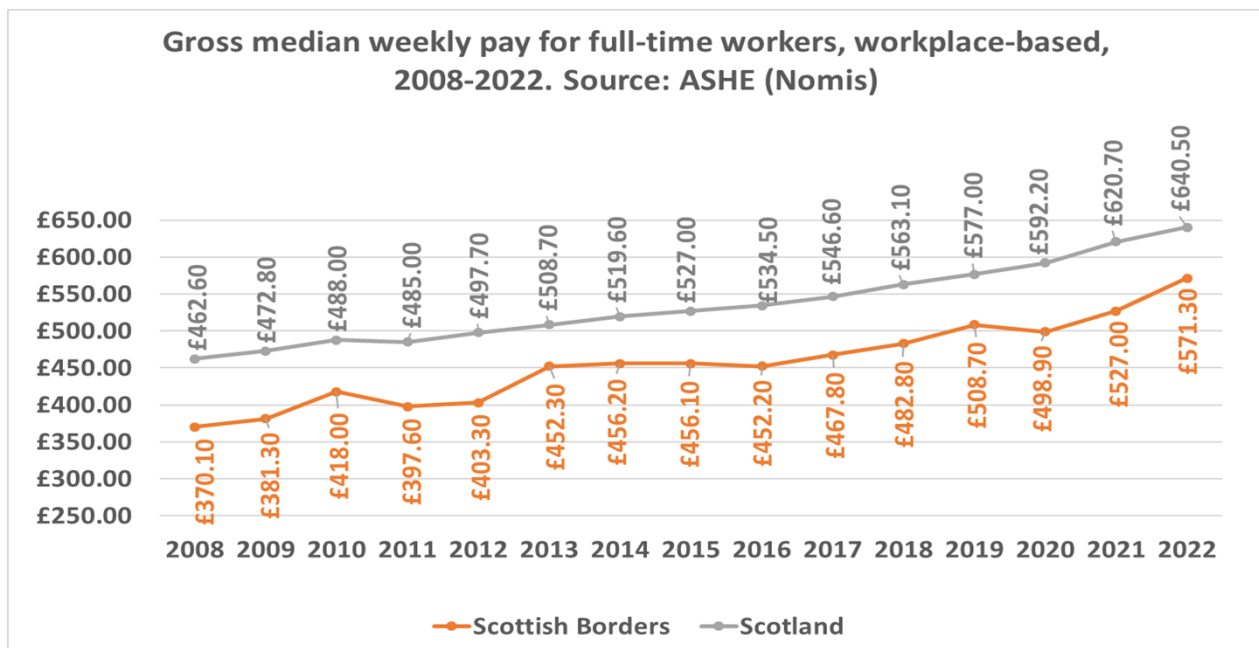
Data for 2022 is not yet available but is expected to show a sharp increase in child poverty, which will be countered by the increase in value and range of the Scottish Child Payment from December 2022.

Average weekly Earnings

In 2022, the **median gross weekly pay** for full time workers living in the Scottish Borders (residence based) in the Scottish Borders was £617, **£23 below** the £640 for Scotland or **96% of the Scottish figure**. The regional pay gap between Scottish Borders and Scotland has greatly improved since 2021 for workers who live in the region. ([Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings - NOMIS](#))



In 2022, the **median gross weekly pay** for full time workers working in the Scottish Borders (workplace based) was £571.30, £69.20 less than the £640.50 for full-time workers working elsewhere in Scotland. This is **89% of the Scottish figure**.



Households receiving Universal Credit

The table below shows the number and proportion of households in the Scottish Borders receiving Universal Credit compared to Scotland. Overall, the Scottish Borders has a lower proportion of households receiving UC (12.9%) compared to 16.1% for Scotland. In the Scottish Borders there were 3,015 households claiming the 'Child Entitlement' or 5.4% compared to 6.5% for Scotland.

Universal Credit Households November 2022 (provisional figures)	Scottish Borders No of Households	% of All Occupied Households	
		Scottish Borders	Scotland
All Occupied Households	55,557		
All Universal Credit Households (UCH)	7,193	12.9	16.1
UCH with Children	3,140	5.7	6.7
UCH claiming Child Entitlement	3,015	5.4	6.5
UCH Lone Parent	2,115	3.8	5.0
UCH with 3+ Children	613	1.1	1.2
UCH with Child Under Age 1	273	0.5	0.5
UCH with Children - Child Disability Entitlement	275	0.5	0.7
UCH with Children - Adult Disability Entitlement	443	0.8	1.0

Source: DWP/NRS

The Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index

The Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index (SB CPI) provides additional insight into Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders. The SB CPI was created to work alongside the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). SIMD provides a way of looking at deprivation in an area, covering the whole population and does not specifically reflect child poverty.

The SB CPI is a summary of four components, which are:

- Children in Low Income Families (**CiLIF**) – Source is [DWP/HMRC](#).¹ Relative low-income is defined as a family whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of contemporary median income. Gross income measure is Before Housing Costs (BHC) and includes contributions from earnings, state support and pensions. The SB CPI uses the most recent available year's data, currently there is a one-year lag e.g., for SB CPI 2022 uses the CiLIF data for 2021-22.
- Free School Meals (**FSM**) – Source is SBC. The proportion of pupils recorded for Free School Meals of all pupils in area for school year.
- Clothing Grant (**CLG**) - Source is SBC. The proportion of pupils recorded for Clothing Grant of all pupils in area for school year.
- Educational Maintenance Allowance (**EMA16+**) – Source is SBC. The proportion of pupils who are aged 16 or older (before 01 March of school year) who receive Educational Maintenance Allowance.

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

The table below shows the results for the Scottish Borders for 2017 to 2022

Child Poverty Index Component / Year	SB CPI 2017	SB CPI 2018	SB CPI 2019	SB CPI 2020	SB CPI 2021	SB CPI 2022
Children in Low Income Families - CiLIF (DWP)*	19.0%	20.7%	20.5%	22.0%	18.0%	23.8%
Free School Meals - FSM (SBC)	10.0%	10.4%	11.6%	15.7%	15.4%	15.8%
Clothing Grant - CLG (SBC)	14.6%	15.1%	15.2%	18.1%	18.0%	18.8%
Educational Maintenance Allowance 16+ - EMA16+ (SBC)	8.2%	6.2%	3.8%	16.0%	10.0%	10.5%

The table below highlights observations for each component of the Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2022.

Child Poverty Index Component	2022 Observations
Children in Low Income Families - CiLIF (DWP)*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All data zones in the Scottish Borders had Children in Low Income Families. All localities had at least one data zone with 40% or more Children in Low Income Families
Free School Meals - FSM (SBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 78% of data zones 10% or more pupils are registered for Free School Meals in Seemis.
Clothing Grant - CLG (SBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 87% of data zones 10% or more pupils are registered for Clothing Grant in Seemis.
Educational Maintenance Allowance 16+ - EMA16+ (SBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 25% of data zones 10% or more pupils aged 16+ received Educational Maintenance Allowance recorded in Seemis. In 66% of data zones no pupil aged 16+ received Educational Maintenance Allowance a marked difference to previous years. The take-up of EMA was noticeably more frequent in the Tweeddale locality. The non-take-up of EMA in many data zones reduced the number of data zones in the 'Higher' child poverty level group.

What are we doing about Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders?

Tackling child poverty in the Scottish Borders is governed through the Community Planning Partnership. A Child Poverty Action Group steers this work and consists of Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, and other key partners. They meet to discuss the local approach as well as any response to national developments.

The Community Planning Partnership has oversight and approval duties associated with the Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan but delegates the delivery of it to the Child Poverty Action Group.

Local Plans outlined below all make a contribution to tackling child poverty too.

The Scottish Borders Council Plan

The [Council Plan](#) from April 2023 sets out a strategic framework for Council decision-making and operations.

Anti-Poverty Strategy

The Scottish Borders [Anti-Poverty Strategy](#) sets out the way in which the Council and its partners will aim to work together to help reduce poverty across the region and recognises that Child Poverty is included in this aim.

Children & Young People's Services Plan 2023-2026

Child Poverty continues to feature as a priority within the Children & Young People's Services Plan 2023-26. The whole family support network outlined in the Plan will work with the Child Poverty Action Group to work towards the following aim:

- *Reduce the number of children in poverty and reduce the impact of living in poverty on families. Ensure that children and their families are given the opportunity to contribute to shaping local policy and actions to reduce the social and economic impact of poverty.*

Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership – Priority themes

The Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership work with four priority themes to support communities. These are:

- Enough money to live on
- Access to work, learning and training
- Enjoying good health and wellbeing
- A good place to grow up, live in and enjoy a full life

These themes support our child poverty agenda.

Children's Rights

Local Government in Scotland together with their partners already undertake a volume of work to reduce child poverty locally. This includes annual reporting on the actions they take and plan to take to reduce child poverty. This paper [Understanding Child Poverty as a Children's Right issue](#) explores the relationship between the UNCRC and child poverty.

Our [Children's Rights Report 2021-2023](#) reports on the steps we have taken to fulfil the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Equity Strategy

Our [Education Equity Strategy 2021-2026](#) has been developed to ensure increased excellence, accelerated progress and embedded equity in our schools and settings to reduce the poverty related attainment gap and improve outcomes for care experienced children and young people (CECYP). The strategy coordinates the Attainment Scotland Funding streams; Pupil Equity Funding, Strategic Equity Funding and CECYP Funding to ensure maximum impact.

Education Improvement Plan

Our [Education Improvement Plan 2022-2023](#) sets out key strategic improvement priorities for our schools and settings. The National Improvement Framework 2022 (NIF) requires each local authority to prepare and publish annual plans and reports describing the steps they intend to take each academic year to reach each of the five strategic priorities below:

- Placing the human rights and needs of every child and young person at the centre of education
- Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children
- Improvement in children's health and wellbeing
- Improvement in employability skills and sustained positive school leave destinations for young people

The 2022/23 Action Plan Progress Report

Good overall progress has been made against the actions set out in the 2022/23 Action Plan. This is shown in detail in [Appendix B](#), and demonstrates the wide range of activities undertaken to help alleviate child poverty in the Scottish Borders. Highlights include:

Employability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 215 young people volunteered through Live Borders' Active Schools programme. • Tweeddale Youth Action employed 1 young person and supported 5 young people to gain recruitment within local employers. • SBHA recruited 4 Modern Apprentices.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity and Excellence Leads were placed in large SBC Early Learning Childcare (ELC) with progress made in narrowing developmental gaps, assisting to make positive attainment by the end of P1. • ASN youths have been supported with ILF transition funding applications, accessing qualifications both national and local and launching Youth Enterprise Scotland YES teams programme in August 2022 to provide qualification SVQ 3 and access to social innovation and enterprise.
Information and advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOSE has financially supported 5 organisations whose activities indirectly or directly addressed child poverty. Across the organisations, funding support has also enabled the creation of 267 jobs and safeguarded 323 jobs across the Scottish Borders. • CAB utilised 'Our Money Talk Team' Project, funded by Scottish Government. This provided customers with advice on rights and responsibilities, what is available locally and how to access services.
Housing and energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBHA provided 115 tenants with a payment from the Fuel Debt Fund to clear their fuel debt (£150,000 in total payments made), an average of £1,300 per household. • 17 Warm and Well Hubs were established across the Scottish Borders, funded by SBC's Cost of Living support package of £1.2million.
Health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 4170 visits were made by children and young people to Live Borders activities. This provided coordinated access to food, childcare, sports, leisure, and cultural activities during the holidays.
Digital exclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBHA's Digital Champions network continues to support the 224 households who received a device via Connecting Scotland. • Live Borders received 225 referrals for digital devices. Of the 225 referrals, 77 households included children. A total of 100 chromebooks and 106 ipads were distributed through the Connecting the Borders programme.
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £60,000 was allocated to support the setting up, continuation or provision of a free breakfast club across the Scottish Borders. 19 Schools were successful in their application for funding along with 1 community-based group. • BHA has provided £25,000 to local foodbank and larders from the National

	<p>Lottery Community Anchor fund, accessed through the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over £5,000 worth of supermarket gift cards have been distributed by SBC to local foodbanks and fareshare providers as well as to prominent groups within communities that are supporting individuals with the cost-of-living crisis.
Financial inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A £1.2m cost of living support package was made available in August 2022 and has been used to help families in a variety of ways, including, funding a warm clothing payment of £100 to children in receipt of free school meals/clothing grant/home schooling, which benefitted 2,695 children. Midwives and Health Visitors continued to be proactive in referring expectant and new mothers for benefits checks. In 2022-23 there were 500 referrals resulting in an uplift in benefits of £1.2million.
Money worries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BHA supported £5,200 gains from Scottish Child payments and £674,825 total benefit gains for 2022/23.

As well as the progress shown in [Appendix B](#), case studies are shown in [Appendix C](#). These case studies provide valuable insight into the work of various Partners across the Scottish Borders.

The Cost of living

Anti-Poverty Strategy - Cost of Living Support

Scottish Borders Council approved a report at their Council Meeting on 25 August 2022 on support for the Cost-of-Living crisis. In recognition of the significant challenges that households were facing due to the increased costs of living, a financial support package of £1.2m was established to respond to the needs of communities.

An immediate allocation of **£0.585m** was agreed which enabled a range of support to be put in place quickly. All of this support has helped to tackle child poverty locally. This included:

£150k	Extending existing arrangements with organisations such as CAB, Changeworks etc., to provide additional resources to assist with referrals, energy advice, money advice, signposting, and budgeting
£235k	Warm clothing payment of £100 to each child entitled to either Free School Meals or Clothing Grants - an initial 2,350 children benefitted
£50k	Top up Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) funding
£100k	Further top up of Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) funding
£50k	Additional resources to be used to support & process increased take up of benefits

Since August 2022, proposals for the remaining **£0.615m** have been considered and approved by a Cost-of-Living Strategic Board as follows:

£100k	Expansion of the Inclusion Fund
£115k	Support Warm Spaces across the Scottish Borders: Warm spaces Cost of Living Crisis support Scottish Borders Council (scotborders.gov.uk)
£96k	Warm & Well, Youth Work Collaborative
£84k	Borders Housing Network, extension of Warm & Well Project, and provision of an additional resource to advise tenants
£19.5k	Live Borders, financial support to ClubSport members in relation to energy
£60k	Breakfast Club pilot for schools within highest SIMD areas
£35k	Additional funding to support increased take up of £100 Warm Clothing Grant – a further 345 children benefitted
£86k	Third Sector Interface & Live Borders, £50k for energy support, £36k for club membership, equipment and clothing support for sports clubs and organisations

Other Support

In addition, dedicated online support pages were launched on the Scottish Borders Council website. [Financial support and advice](#) | [Cost of Living Crisis support](#) | [Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

The longer-term ongoing issue of poverty across the Scottish Borders continues to be addressed by the Scottish Borders Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan, with progress being reported to the Anti-Poverty Members Reference Group and supported by both the Cost-of-Living Strategic Group and Cost of Living Operational Group. In addition to the £1.2m cost of living support, awards totaling £165k have been made from the Council's Financial Hardship Fund. These relate mainly to food and supermarket gift cards, and have benefitted services such as early years centres, Border Women's Aid, Children 1st and Action for Children.

Budgets and Funding

Significant budgets and funding are attributed to tackling child poverty in the Scottish Borders. Table 1 below sets these out for 2023/24.

Budget/Funding	2023/24
Crisis grants	£156,000
School clothing grants	£391,000
Free sanitary products in schools	£44,000
Free sanitary products in public bodies	£50,000
Educational Maintenance Allowance	£336,000
Pupil Equity Funding	£1,919,000
Strategic Equity Fund	£448,000
Care experienced Children and Young People Fund	£149,000
Whole Family Wellbeing Fund	£669,000
Support for the Cost of living	£376,465
Financial Insecurity Fund	£256,678
Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery Fund (LACER)	£541,220
TOTAL	£5,336,363

In addition to the budgets and funding set out above, Councils can now apply for their share of £4.5 million to support the provision of after school and holiday clubs for Scotland's most disadvantaged communities. Details of the scheme were set out at a National Anti-Poverty summit in Edinburgh on 03/05/2023. No further information is available yet; however, this is an exciting opportunity in tackling child poverty in the Scottish Borders.

Additional child poverty funding streams are also expected, as set out in Best Start, Bright Futures, for No one left behind, employability projects, reducing barriers and child care.

Financial Inclusion

Financial inclusion actions help families to maximise their income and benefits.

Scottish Borders Council offer a range of different Financial Inclusion services and are involved in several different work streams with a variety of partners. A Cost-of-Living Group meets at a strategic and operational level to discuss and agree actions to help families and referral processes are in place if required.

Financial inclusion support is provided in a number of ways:

- Direct support for families in crisis e.g., Provision of supermarket gift cards, grant payments, summer programmes, Christmas parcels, help with rent or housing costs and goods such as carpets, curtains, or furniture
- Benefits check service to ensure that families are claiming all they are entitled to
- Referral pathways e.g., Health visitors and family nurse partnerships
- Discretionary funding awards e.g., Borders College helping students in financial hardship
- Awareness campaigns to encourage take up of specific benefits e.g., Scottish Welfare

A case study set out in [Appendix C](#) shows the work of the Welfare Benefits Team in Early Years. This highlights the benefits of this service, with 505 clients helped over the year.

Scottish Borders Local Employability Partnership

Scottish Borders Local Employability Partnership (LEP) was formed in September 2021 and continues to meet regularly as the employability landscape changes. Its work was previously incorporated with the Borders Learning and Skills Partnership. Following a self-assessment process, it was considered that there should be a particular focus on employability services to meet the Scottish Government's ambitions for No One Left Behind policy agenda and Employability funding schemes in the Scottish Borders.

The Partnership vision is:

"We will work together to deliver effective and easily understood employability and skills pathways focused on positive outcomes which are person-centred and lead to sustainable, fair and rewarding work"

The LEP oversees the allocation of funding from the Scottish Government and the delivery of No One Left Behind and monitors these projects to ensure they meet their required outputs and outcomes. It is acknowledged by the LEP that the best and most effective way out of poverty for people is through employment opportunities. The LEP are committed to providing an effective and relevant range of provision based on need and demand and ensuring that the right support is in place for those who rely on these services. This is done through an evidence-based approach by utilising all available data and resources to co-produce an all-age employability support service that is person centered, more joined up, flexible and responsive to individual needs leading to sustainable, fair, and rewarding work.

The Intensive Family Support Service targets specific areas, including employment, family support and income maximisation for families where generational unemployment is a feature. Over 2022, 28 families were supported with income maximisation.

No One Left Behind

Scottish and Local Government are committed to the shared ambition of [No One Left Behind](#) focusing on the needs of the individual. Adopting a collective partner and person-centred approach to tackle child poverty is one of the overarching priorities to strengthen employability support to mitigate consequences.

At local level, partnership agencies continue to work towards increasing positive pathways and sustained positive destinations for young people.

Recent examples include:

- Employability staff from NOLB and ESS attended 14+ meetings at local high schools along with other partners offering employability related activities from barrier removal to supported employment. Those identified with additional needs have pathway meetings and NOLB Stage 1 are present at those meetings.

- Employability services are regular attenders at pathway and career events.
- Care Experienced young people all have the opportunity of a meeting with a Career Advisor. Borders College works closely with SDS through their further education partnership agreement to provide withdrawal information and to aid the tracking and monitoring of all Care Experienced young people.
- A care experienced tracker is in place which is updated on a monthly basis by SDS and the Virtual Head Teacher. Where young people have not sustained a destination, or are at risk of not sustaining, appropriate interventions are discussed.
- ESS offer bespoke pathways to assist those aged 16+ furthest from the job market, volunteering, or education opportunities. This is conducted through employability training and awareness sessions including 1-1 support for those who require additional support to help overcome barriers to employment, volunteering, and further education.
- Working with parents to help gain employment is performed through joint initial visits between PES/NOLB to identify holistic support offered to the family. Using a 'whole family' approach working to identify the barriers to employment and perpetual cycle of this amongst families.
- Working in partnership with local hotels and restaurants to teach hospitality and catering skills to support young people entering the food industry through the Food Punks Project at Tweeddale Youth Action. Cohorts of students are supported through the school day in addition to the supporting of those aged 16+ into employment through Food Punks via NOLB.

Scottish Borders Council - Real Living Wage Employer

The real Living Wage is an independently calculated rate based on the cost of living and is paid voluntarily by employers. It helps to tackle poverty by putting more money into the pockets of our lowest paid workers, enabling them to earn a wage that reflects living costs and helps to lift families out of in-work poverty.

The rate is currently £10.90 and is calculated annually by The Resolution Foundation on an analysis of the wage that employees need to earn to be able to afford the basket of goods required for a decent standard of living. This basket of goods includes housing, childcare, transport, and heating costs.

As an accredited real Living Wage employer, Scottish Borders Council is committed to encouraging the wider adoption of the real Living Wage by partners, local employers, and suppliers. The Council has adopted the *Scottish Government Best Practice Guidance on Addressing Fair Work Practices*, including the Real Living Wage in Procurement for relevant contracts.

Scottish Borders Council has also included Modern Apprentices within the commitment to being a Real Living Wage employer going forward.

Food Conversations

Food conversations are continuing and have provided information and ideas towards undertaking actions from the Anti-Poverty Strategy Action Plan. The conversations have allowed us to allocate financial inclusion/cost of living funding to areas where the group have identified need. This has resulted in investment in Cyrenians who are providing food larders and cook clubs across the Scottish Borders. Two new locally based jobs have been created to help deliver this. Conversations have progressed and a food conversation action plan will be created to monitor activity. Local links are continuing to be strengthened with the need to food share more effectively a key action.

The Joint Health Improvement Team (JHIT) provided continuation funding to the Community Justice Service (CJS) Eastlands Greenhouse Project for 2022-2023. CJS colleagues have incrementally built on previous partnership success and linked into the Scottish Borders Community Food Grower's Network, this has contributed to a wider distribution of produce and relationships with new partners too including; Broomlands Primary School, Kelso, Café Recharge, We Are With You and Greener Melrose Seed Exchange.

The bulk of the produce grown has continued to be distributed through Action for Children and Early Years Centres networks. Activities have supported children and families to eat a more balanced and nutritious diet through the food security activities of a range of Scottish Borders partners including:

- Low & Slow Cooking Programme
- Burnfoot Community Hub
- Langlee Primary School
- Burnfoot Community Hub
- Galashiels Focus Centre
- Langlee Carnival
- School Holiday Programmes
- Selkirk Cooking Group
- Salvation Army Food Parcels

The produce has also been used to support REHIS Cooking Skills programmes for men and women through core CJS services. Overall, this work continues to reflect early intervention and prevention through good food activities that support the maintenance and development of relationships between children, families, and support services. Health Improvement have connected staff to the project through a site visit to enable them to learn first-hand from service users about their experience of working as part of the gardening team at Eastlands.

Evaluation information can be triangulated to demonstrate the collective impact of this project:

1. Service Users shared their insights into the development of knowledge, skills, and experience, translating this learning into everyday life and being able to give something back to the community.
2. Health Improvement staff fed back on the direct impact for service users and themselves, reflecting on behaviour change in relation to their own food choices and distributing produce to children and families through partners.
3. Galashiels Early Years Centre fed back on the positive impact of having a supply of fresh produce to support their larger provision, distributing surplus food through activities and the school playground to prevent food waste, and offering fresh produce as a snack for children.
4. Action for Children fed back on the positive impact of vegetable distribution providing insights into home cooking as a family, making the most of the produce and the produce that families enjoyed the most.

The CJS Greenhouse project reflects value for money, with minimal budget and maximum impact for all involved. It is our intention to fund this again in 2023-2024 and build on our incremental success.

Breakfast Clubs

Scottish Borders Council - £60,000 has been allocated from the Council's Cost of Living Support Fund, to support the setting up, continuation or provision of a free breakfast club offer across the Scottish Borders. Nineteen schools were successful in their application for funding in addition to one community-based group. There is currently a mixed picture across the Scottish Borders with some free to access, some paid provision and a mixture of a free offer and paid places within one setting. Some areas were targeted based on the Child Poverty index, lack of any current provision

and up take on free school meals/clothing grants. Breakfast clubs are now starting up in these settings with support from Public Health, where required, who are offering nutritional advice on how to set up a breakfast club in line with Scottish Government guidelines. The aim is to create an equitable offer across schools and community settings and this work will be evaluated throughout 2023/24.

Borders College - Borders College works in partnership with their Students Association to address food poverty through enabling access to basics via the college Larder and, prior to Christmas, themed lunches. Since January, the College has committed to offering students a free breakfast and this will continue for the remainder of the academic year alongside the regular drop in 'Wellbeing' cafes. In addition, Borders College provides supermarket vouchers and grab and go lunch/breakfast bars wherever these may be required.

Get into Summer 2022

Through the summer holiday period of 2022 (4th July – 16th August 2022), Live Borders worked in partnership with Scottish Borders Council and other key providers to deliver the "Get into Summer" programme. Funded by Scottish Government, all Local Authorities in Scotland were allocated funding to provide an enhanced/new summer holiday provision that allowed children from low-income families to be more fully engaged in opportunities through the holiday period, specifically:

- Children from lone parent families
- Children from ethnic minority families
- Children from families with a disabled adult or child
- Children from families with a young mother (under 25)
- Children from families with a child under 1 year old
- Children from larger families (3+ children)

The funding allowed Live Borders to deliver a comprehensive programme of sport, physical activity, and cultural opportunities and following on from the pilot success in summer 2021, continued to offer free places for identified children through discount codes and in some instances, making whole offers free of charge.

Activities included; a variety of holiday camps in all school clusters (multi activity and sport), a Family Activity Pass for families referred by professional staff, free cinema access for targeted groups and individuals, a range of museum and galleries activities, library workshops, and a partnership disability camp with a local third sector group (Borders Additional Needs Group).

Staffing

Get into Summer has been staffed for Live Borders in three main ways:

- Delivery by core contracted Live Borders staff (Development Officers, Active Schools Coordinators, Facility staff, Cultural staff)
- Recruitment of specific Activity Leaders/Coaches to deliver the holiday camp activity.
- Contracting external bodies to deliver on Live Borders behalf (for large parts of the Museums and Galleries programme).

Successes & Challenges

The Get into Summer project has generally been very successful with the following key benefits identified:

- Increased range of activity offered through the summer via cross service working.
- Opportunity to bring in new revenue streams via Scottish Government funding.
- Participation barriers (financial) have been somewhat removed for families who may have been otherwise not able to attend.

- High occupancy across all activities offered.
- Improved relationships with key partners involved in targeted work (SBC Education, Quarriers)

Data Analysis

Using adapted versions of the Live Borders Healthier, Happier, Stronger survey alongside standard quantitative data analysis, key findings from the GITS programme are as follows:

- Over 4170 visits made by children and young people to Live Borders GITS activities.
- Activity camps (all) averaged 91% occupancy with 69% of places free of charge for targeted children and young people.
- 47% of children reported an increase in their resilience when having to deal with day-to-day problems through GITS.
- 44% reported an improvement in their self-confidence through participation in GITS.
- 35% reported that they had reduced their feelings of loneliness as a result of their participation in GITS.
- 82% reported that they had greater confidence to attend further sport and physical activity opportunities in their schools and wider communities
- 20 activity leaders employed to lead and support activity through the summer:
 - 80% improved their self-confidence.
 - 67% felt more confident about their future employability.
 - 73% learned or developed new skills.

BANG Summer Camp July 2022 Participation Figures

The table below shows the overall participant figures from the Summer Camp held in July 2022.

Children/ Young People with Additional Support Needs	33
Parent Carers	31
Young Carers	23
Volunteers	6
Overall Participation	93

Scottish Borders Council Children and Families Social Work Service

Evidence suggests that direct and indirect impacts of poverty can both operate separately and also interact with other factors to increase or reduce the chances of abuse and neglect. It is within this sphere that children and families social work focus their day-to-day interactions and interventions.

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

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

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

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

- support to young people who were previously looked after and;
- specialist assessment and support to young people who have offended and their families.
- support for Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Young People who are aged over 18 but whose immigration status has not been concluded and therefore have no recourse to public funds.

The statutory role of C&FSW necessitates focusing on those children, young people and families assessed as most in need, supporting them to navigate complex systems which frequently place them in positions of disadvantage, and supporting children and their families who experience poverty to access services or resources that they may not have been able to. Examples include charity applications; sourcing essentials items such as food, household goods, and clothing; the provision of practical support; the provision of funding for utilities such as gas and electricity. Advice is provided by staff within the service to support budgeting on a long-term basis, and support is provided to ensure income maximisation and access to correct benefit payments. Where a child is placed with kinship carers, the set-up costs to purchase bed, bedding, clothes, and other equipment is offered to assist the successful commencement of the placement.

C&FSW also fund childminding where it is assessed to be in the child/family's best interest. Self-directed support, where families have increased choice about the support they receive, is currently primarily focused on children with disabilities, however this is a developing area of practice and Scottish Borders C&FSW will continue to engage with Scottish Government to explore options to extend self-directed support to other families.

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

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

Scottish Borders Council Education Services

Education and Lifelong Learning fulfils specific statutory duties to children and young people in the Scottish Borders, primarily contained in the following pieces of legislation:

- The Education (Scotland) Act 1980
- The Education (Scotland) Act 2016
- The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000

Education and Lifelong Learning provides a range of functions and interventions linked to the impact of poverty. These are set out below.

A commitment to developing a curriculum that reflects the aspirations of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation) review. This was commissioned by Scottish Government in 2020 and is an independent review into the Curriculum for Excellence.

We continue to work with the wider national agendas of Developing Young Workforce, No-one Left Behind, Young Person’s Guarantee and the South of Scotland Economic development strategy. Learning for sustainability, UNCRC and The Promise are also integral to the new curriculum and culture.

The Partnership with Parents Framework has been updated. All schools have continued to work closely with parents and have built on new ways of engaging with parents that were established during lockdown. The Psychology of Parenting Programme (PoPP) continued to be successful with almost all parents reporting an improvement in their child’s behaviour at the end of the programme. During periods of restriction (due to Covid 19) PoPP groups were held online ensuring that parents were able to access vital support during this stressful time at home with their children.

A Development plan has been agreed with Education Scotland to update Cost of the School Day work. Updated information will be sent to all schools and settings, with plans to engage schools in further professional learning, develop a framework and support schools with self-evaluation. Where possible, schools continue to use pupil equity funding to ensure those pupils impacted by poverty are supported and do not miss out on experiences. PEF planning will change for 2023/2024 and schools will work more collegiately in clusters to plan together. Schools and settings work in partnership with other local authority and third sector organisations to support families with income maximisation and access to benefits and grants.

Stretch Aims

Following the refresh of the Scottish Attainment Challenge in March 2022, local authorities are now required to submit stretch aims which are shared annually with the Scottish Government as part of statutory plans and reports. Specific ‘core’ stretch aims are to be submitted for improving outcomes for all while closing the poverty-related attainment gap, these should be both ambitious and achievable within local contexts. These are set out in the table below:

CORE STRETCH AIM	OVERALL LEVELS	SIMD QUINTILE 1	SIMD QUINTILE 5	GAP (Q1 – Q5)
ACEL P1, P4, P7 Literacy Combined	75%	60%	87%	27%
ACEL P1, P4, P7 Numeracy Combined	80%	65%	89%	24%
Achieved 1 or more Qualification at SCQF Level 5 (leavers)	88%	75%	96%	21%
Achieved 1 or more Qualification at SCQF Level 6 (leavers)	66%	45%	86%	41%
Participation measure (16-19 in education, employment or training)	94%	89%	98%	9%
HWB: Attendance – Primary	95%	95%	95%	0
HWB: Attendance – Secondary	95%	95%	95%	0

Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC)

In March 2022, Scottish Government launched the refreshed Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) with its mission to use education to improve outcomes for children and young people impacted by poverty, with a focus on tackling the poverty-related attainment gap. The development of our previously mentioned stretch aims sets ambitious targets for our local authority to close the poverty related attainment gap at pace. Schools have also been supported to develop their own stretch aims and these are monitored throughout the academic year. To ensure our SAC funding from Scottish Government has maximum impact and to improve outcomes at pace for children and young people impacted by poverty, the [Education Equity Strategy 2021-2026](#) was developed. This includes the establishment of the Equity Strategic Board to oversee and provide governance of SAC funds and their use. The short-term outcomes of the strategy have been achieved and actions are in place to meet the outcomes for years 2-5.

Strategic Equity Funding (SEF)

As part of SAC funding, Scottish Borders will receive incrementally increasing funds annually until 2025/26 to support strategic work to close the poverty related attainment gap. In 2021/22, year 1 of this funding, additional strategic resource in the form of depute headteacher posts have been provided to our 3 primary schools with the largest SIMD Quintile 1 population; Burnfoot Community School, Langlee Primary School, and Philiphaugh Community School. Phase 2 of SEF Funding is in the planning stages but involves a multi-agency and community led consultation and decision-making process to ensure the best use of these funds to narrow the poverty related attainment gap. There will be a focus on pedagogy, curriculum development and learning teaching and assessment.

Early Learning and Childcare (ELC)

Support is targeted in our ELC settings to make best use of Excellence and Equity Leads (EELS) to close the poverty related attainment gap. All our ELC children received a free school meal and snack at no cost to parents.

Early Years Centres

EYC's are located in 4 areas where there is the most need in our communities: Burnfoot, Eyemouth, Langlee and Philiphaugh. The centres provide a family-friendly environment open all year round where families can grow and learn together. Centres provide direct support, signposting and a 'one stop shop' of advice for families. Weekly drop-in sessions help build relationships and provide an informal platform for visiting professionals to meet with parents in a relaxed atmosphere. The centres provide both universal and targeted support. The EYC Manager works directly with groups and individuals and manages and facilitates other professionals to work in and from the centres. The work of the Centres is responsive to the needs of the families. EYC's work with parents:

- To feel empowered, supported and listened to
- To feel positive and skilled about making healthy choices for their family and themselves
- Be able to guide and support their children to thrive, grow, develop, and learn.
- Bring families together, model good practice and support parents to play and learn with their children

EYC's offer food through local food banks to families, parenting groups and other supports.

Work has been carried out to link better with schools and Citizen's Advice Bureau in extending communication about benefits and referral processes to parents/carers with primary age children as they don't have the same opportunities to get information from and be referred by NHS staff as families with children under school age. Information is now being added to the recently developed NHS Money Worries App where it can be easily accessed.

EYC's Guidance on the operation of the centres is being updated and will embed the principles of equality, dignity, and respect for all service users. EYC's are aiming to develop outreach services, including support for families in Jedburgh with funding from the Mental Health and Wellbeing Project in collaboration with partners and families.

Post School Transitions

In partnership with Developing Young Workforce Borders and Skills Development Scotland, we delivered our highly regarded careers and skills event; SkillsQuest Borders for care experienced and other learners in S2 and S3 in April 2023. This focused on developing skills, including budgeting, teamwork and cooking on a budget.

Positive Destinations for all Care Experienced and Looked After learners

Established in 2019, the Scottish Borders Virtual School acts as a local authority champion to promote the educational achievement, attainment, and experience of all of our looked after and care experienced children and young people. The Virtual School Headteacher (VSHT) continues to

support and challenge schools and partners to ensure improved outcomes for care experienced pupils, such as positive destinations.

Delivering The Promise - #KeepThePromise

Just over three years ago the Independent Care Review published 'The Promise' and in February 2020, Scottish Government signed up to the actions set out within it. Keeping the Promise requires Scottish Government to work with partners to bring transformational change. The Implementation Plan shares its ambition and works in harmony with the national child poverty plan - Best Start, Bright Futures. Poverty is one of the 5 fundamentals of The Plan 21-24 and steps must be taken at both a national and local level to alleviate the impact of poverty on families.

"Children growing up in poverty are over-represented on the child protection register and are more likely to be removed from their families..." (the promise)

"There must be significant, ongoing and persistent commitment to ending poverty and mitigating its impacts for Scotland's children, families and communities..." (the promise)

Scottish Borders Council and Partners recognise the huge potential for transformational change and agree that a shift from crisis intervention to early intervention and prevention is needed. An initial plan was developed in Autumn 2022 to create a Whole Family Support Service with funding received from the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund of £668k.

Strategic Governance and the Children and Young People's Planning Partnership

The development of a new multi-agency children's services partnership governance structure over the past twelve months has been significant. The previous structure was reviewed in terms of delivering the Promise and it was agreed to establish both a new governance board – the Children and Young People's Planning Partnership - and associated work streams. The Promise is regarded as the overall policy driver for the new structure and the 4 work streams reflect the Priority Areas of the Plan 21-24 – A Good Childhood, Whole Family Support, Supporting the Workforce and, Planning and Building Capacity.

The new structure leaves Scottish Borders in a much better position to use the WFWF to develop and transform service approaches to early intervention. The Whole Family Support work stream will be the primary route for developments in these areas.

An Intensive Family Support Service, a Family Group Decision Making Service and a two year Brothers and Sisters Project are already in existence and contribute to the delivery of The Promise. An initial Scottish Borders Whole Family Support mapping exercise has been undertaken in order to understand the complex landscape further. Other projects which linked to this are: the Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Project and Primary Care Mental Health and Wellbeing Project.

Partnership Working

ASN youths are provided with the opportunity to participate and engage with SBC's Promise Team through partnership working with BANG (Borders Additional Needs) and SDS (Skills Development Scotland). Eight youths meet weekly with SBC's Promise Team in relation to Human Rights, self-advocacy and understanding of local and national decision-making responsibilities.

The Promise awareness raising sessions

Awareness of The Promise has continued to be promoted through online and face-to-face presentations and workshops with foster carers, inter-agency colleagues, strategic groups, and external partners. Presentations are adapted and tailored depending on the needs of the particular group.

Student Poverty: Borders College

Poverty amongst the student body remains an ongoing concern, further exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis being experienced by all.

Over the last academic year Borders College has continued to mobilise resources to help support students and, as far as possible, help mitigate some of the financial pressures faced in the daily challenges of managing lower incomes in a climate of increasing daily living costs.

A key priority for Borders College is to ensure that students access the funding they are entitled to and to date we have awarded in excess of £1.6M in student support funds. This includes significant levels of Discretionary and Hardship funding awards (currently circa £410K Aug 22-Mar 23) to help mitigate the increase in living and fuel costs and to help alleviate some of the hardship difficulties being experienced by our student community.

Food poverty remains an ongoing issue. This has been addressed in part by the provision of free breakfasts for students, issuing supermarket vouchers, grab and go lunch bags and ensuring access to basic provisions from our student larder for those in need. The student support services and students' association have introduced a number of smaller activities including our 'Kindness at Christmas' initiative to offer donated Christmas gifts to those struggling to provide gifts for family and loved ones and our 'Winter Warmers' initiative where students could donate, swap, or take a warm coat, accessories, or blankets throughout the colder months.

The College continues its laptop loan process to ensure students who require IT equipment have access to what they need, along with data packages where required, to ensure appropriate connectivity to support their learning.

Challenge Poverty Week – October 2022

Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and other partners supported Challenge Poverty Week in October 2022 by highlighting the wide range of information, advice and support that is available to support people experiencing financial hardship. The campaign was publicised through social media channels. The social media plan is shown in [Appendix D](#).

2023/24 Actions

Our 2023/24 Actions, from across a range of Partners, are set out in [Appendix E](#). They have been aligned to Scotland's offer to families, as set out in Scottish Government's tackling child poverty delivery plan 2022 to 2026, [Best Start, Bright Futures](#). The plan outlines a commitment to working together to deliver differently in order to tackle child poverty head on, and our actions will contribute to that. The table below provides a sample of the work being undertaken in the Scottish Borders.

Part A: providing the opportunities and integrated support parents need to enter, sustain, and progress in work	
A strengthened employment offer to parents	<p>Collaborative work between Borders College, SBC's Employment Support Services and DWP will be undertaken to shape a delivery plan and actions focusing on tackling child poverty through the provision of skills training and targeted interventions.</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland Advisors will continue to support customers (including parents and carers) requiring Careers Guidance or additional employability support through our ongoing presence in Galashiels Job Centre one day per week and in various outreach locations across the Scottish Borders.</p>

Connectivity and childcare to enable access to employment	<p>A pilot project to link employability and access to childcare is being considered by the Child Poverty Action Group. This will involve working with partners in the Local Employability Partnership and Early Years Teams to offer options for parents to engage in work whilst having access to appropriate childcare to allow them to do so.</p> <p>Border College will provide students with funding to cover childcare requirements to enable them to fulfil attendance, study, and work placement requirements of college qualifications.</p>
Transforming our economy	<p>Collaborative work will continue between SBC Education, Skills Development Scotland, DYW Borders, Borders College and local employers/partners to increase skills and likelihood of young people impacted by poverty achieving a positive destination.</p> <p>SBC's Employability Services will engage with employers to ensure fair, rewarding, and sustainable work opportunities are promoted and supported.</p>
Part B: maximising the support available for families to live dignified lives and meet their basic needs	
A transformational approach to people and place	<p>Borders College will extend a specific mental health counselling service to support students with mental health challenges.</p> <p>Scottish Borders Council (SBC) intends to deliver its vision for Place Making and regeneration.</p>
Enhanced support through social security	<p>Parental Employability Services will continue to provide a comprehensive Income Maximisation assessment to clients to ensure all funding streams are explored for families both unemployed and in work.</p>
Income maximisation	<p>Skills Development Scotland (SDS) will administer a client intervention fund to assist with the removal of barriers to employment e.g., interview clothes and passports. SDS support individuals to complete funding applications including Independent Living Fund.</p> <p>Referrals for the Early Years Financial Inclusion service are received from a variety of sources including NHS, nurseries, schools, and partner organisations. The service will undertake take up campaigns to encourage people to apply for benefits or support where parents might not have been aware of their potential entitlement.</p>
Access to warm and affordable homes	<p>JHIT shall continue to work in partnership with Borders Home Energy Forum members to support fuel poverty interventions.</p> <p>SBC will continue to provide support Housing Benefit and Discretionary Housing Payment applications to assist with rent payments.</p> <p>Berwickshire Housing Association (BHA) shall provide direct and intensive support to prevent tenancy failure and homelessness.</p>
Part C: supporting the next generation to thrive	
Best start to life	<p>SBC Early Years Team will work directly with health visitors to ensure breast feeding and weaning advice and practical support is readily available in Early Years centres for families.</p>
Supporting children to learn and grow	<p>Live Borders will offer drop in craft and reading sessions for children in the Scottish Borders libraries.</p> <p>Strategic Equity Funding will be used by SBC Education to narrow the</p>

	poverty attainment gap through resourcing improvements in pedagogy, curriculum development and learning teaching and assessment.
Post school transitions	Free bus travel for under 22's will continue to be promoted across a range of services. The Local Employability Partnership and Young Persons Guarantee will refresh the framework to support transitions through 14+ school meetings.

Conclusion

In accordance with The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017, the Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Annual Report for 2022/23 describes the activities undertaken and planned locally to contribute towards Child Poverty targets set out in the Act.

It is clear from the Annual Progress Report for 2022/23 that Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders is a prominent issue which Partners take seriously, as shown by their actions, and we are grateful for their contributions to this report as well as their actions on the ground to make a difference to children and their families.

As well as the progress made in 2022/23, we are pleased to set out actions for 2023/24. The Scottish Government national delivery plan for 2022-26 demonstrates a clear commitment to tackling child poverty both nationally and locally. This Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan recognises that national commitment and provides an insight into the work that Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, and Partners all do to play their part.

Working with the Community Planning Partnership, and recognising their contribution through the actions within their four priority themes, we will continue to raise the profile of, and tackle child poverty in the Scottish Borders through 2023/24 and beyond.

Appendices

Appendix 1A - Local Child Poverty Context and Statistics

Information provided shows evidence on drivers of child poverty, along with information on the groups of people who are more at risk of experiencing child poverty.

Child Poverty Headlines

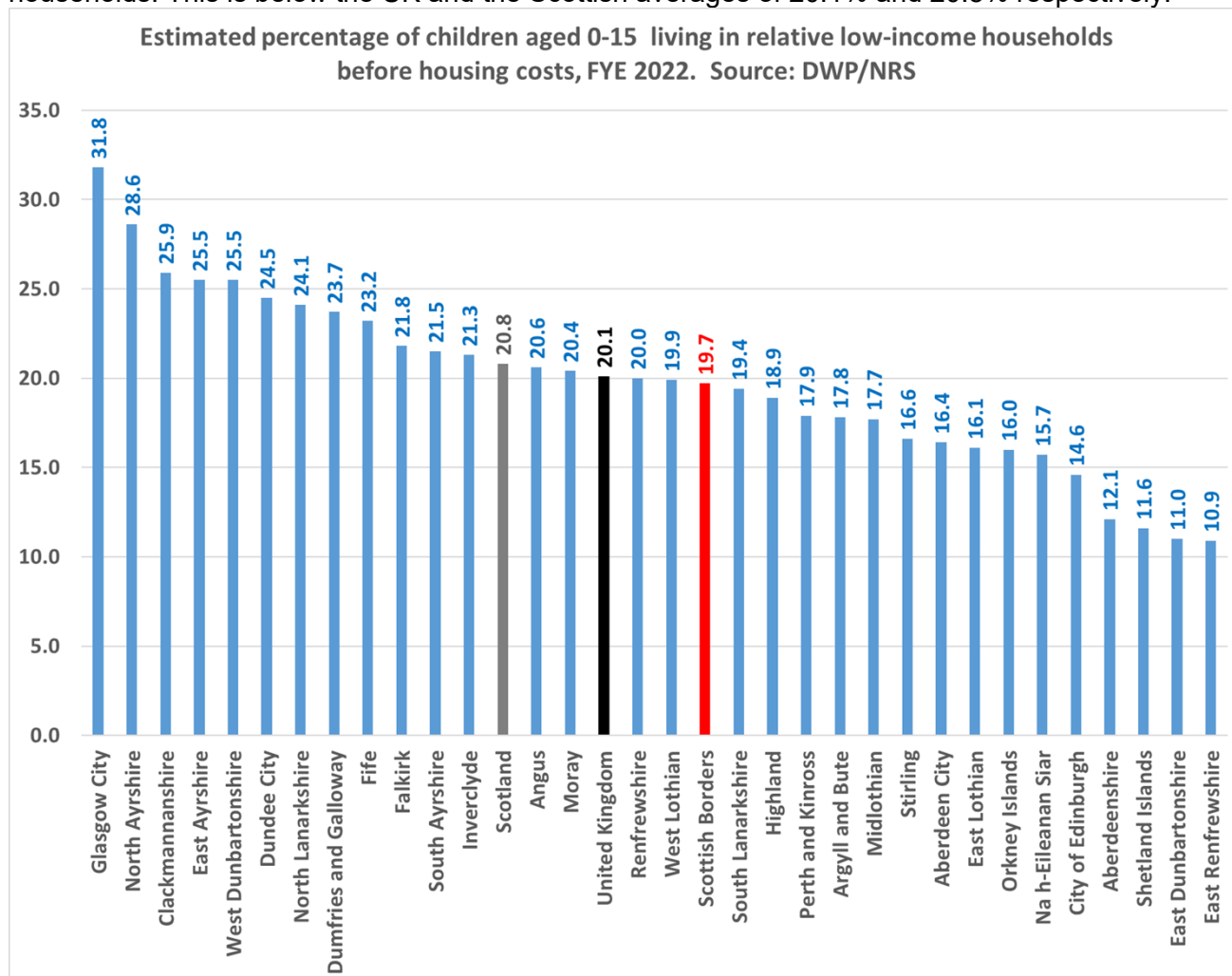
The information in the Headlines section contains indicators that can be used as ‘proxy’ measures of child poverty locally.

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) publication “[Children in low income families: local area statistics 2014 to 2022](#)” provides information at local authority and ward level to help monitor child poverty and its drivers locally.

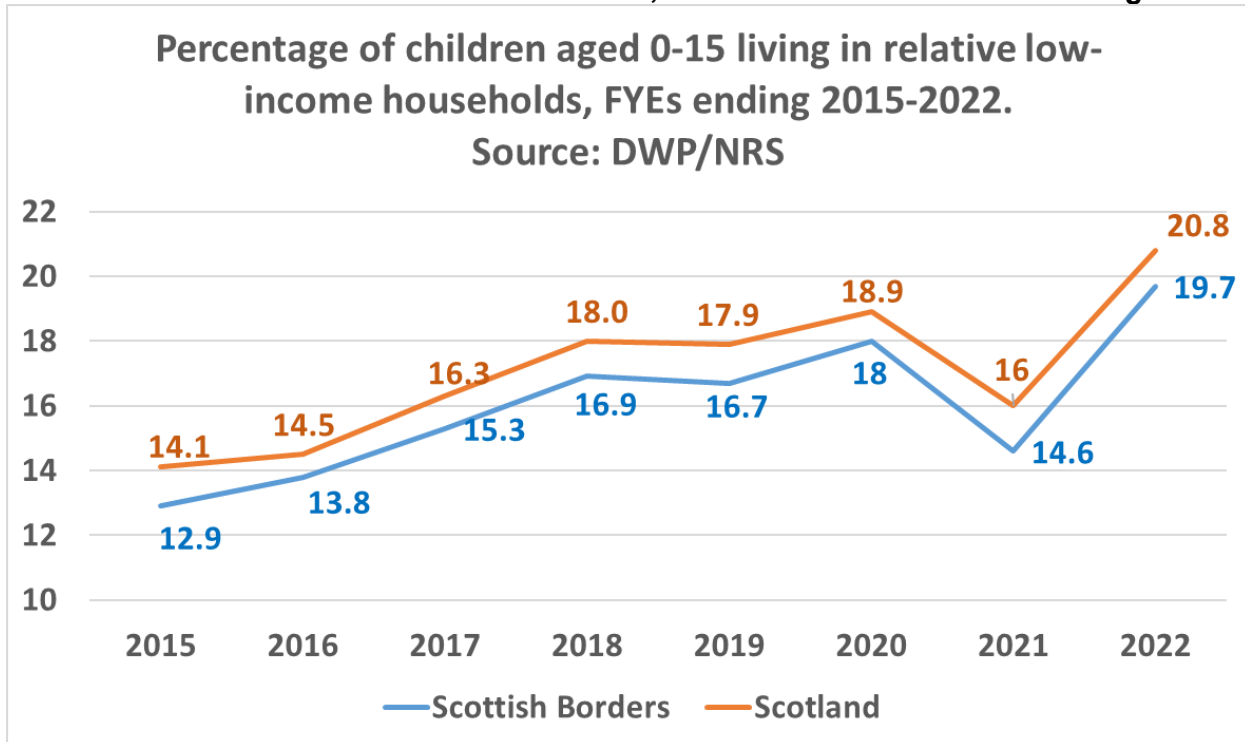
Children in Low-income Families, before housing costs

Relative child poverty in a given year is when a family is assessed as having a low household income by the median income standards of the given year. The family must also claim Child Benefit and at least one other household income benefit (Universal Credit, tax credit or Housing Benefit) at any point in the financial year.

The chart below depicts the Scottish Government/DWP figures for the Financial Year Ending (FYE) 2022 at **19.7%** of children aged 0-15 in the Scottish Borders living in relative low-income households. This is below the UK and the Scottish averages of 20.1% and 20.8% respectively.



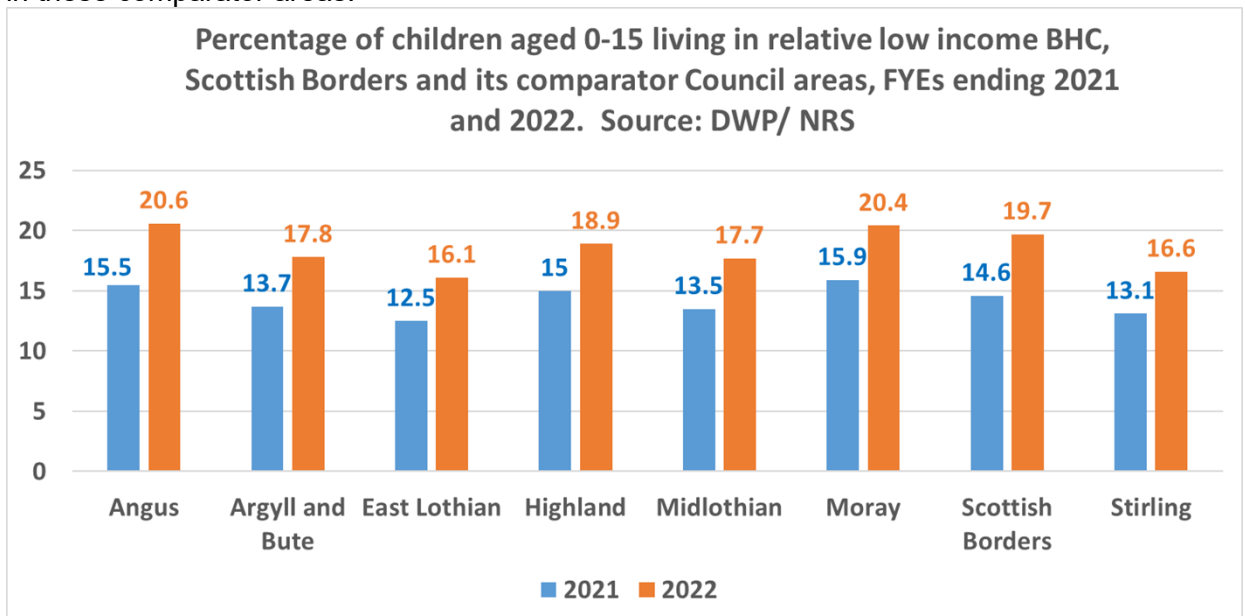
Children in Low-income households over time, FYEs 2015 to 2022 before housing costs



The line graph above shows the timeline of this measure since FYE 2015.

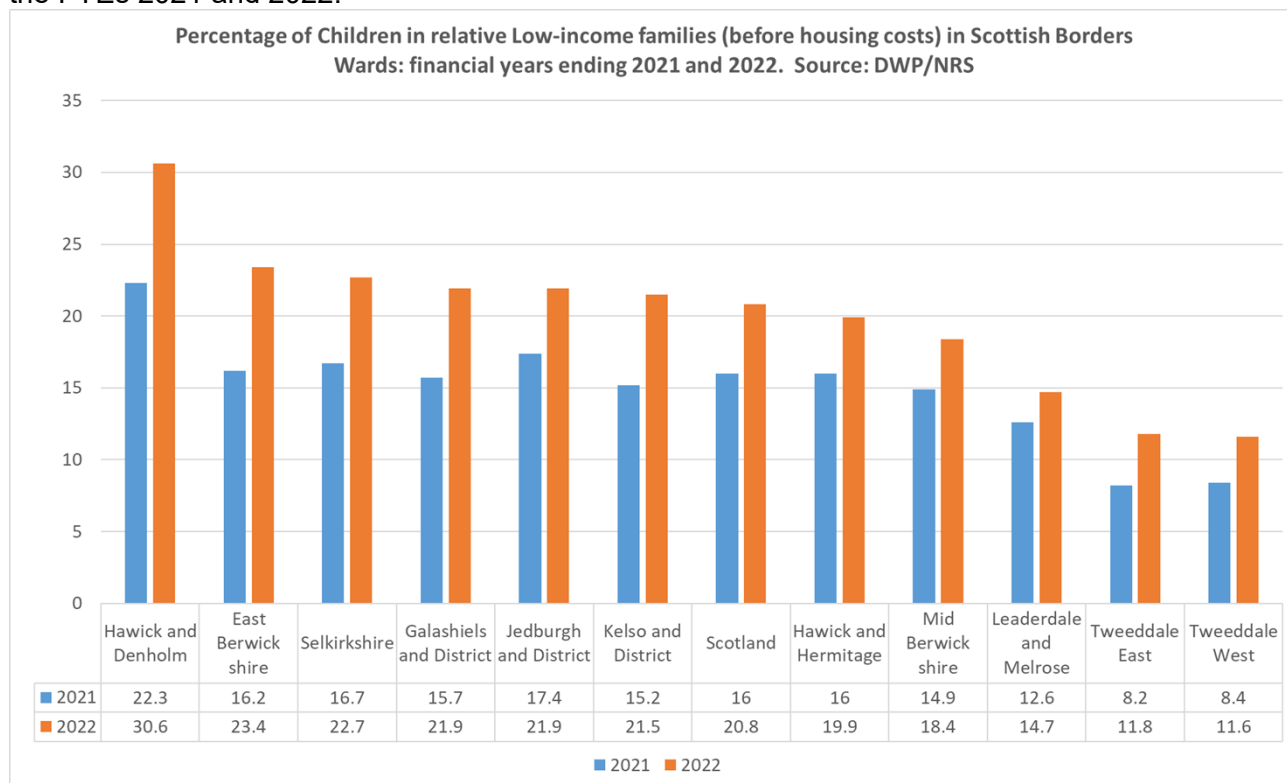
Changes since the previous year: Scottish Borders and comparator Local Authority areas

The Scottish Borders is in a benchmarking group with seven other Scottish Local Authorities. The bar chart below shows how relative child poverty in 2021 and 2022 compares with the position in these comparator areas.



Children in Low-income Families in Scottish Borders Electoral Wards

The chart below shows the Relative Child Poverty data at Scottish Borders Electoral Ward level for the FYEs 2021 and 2022.



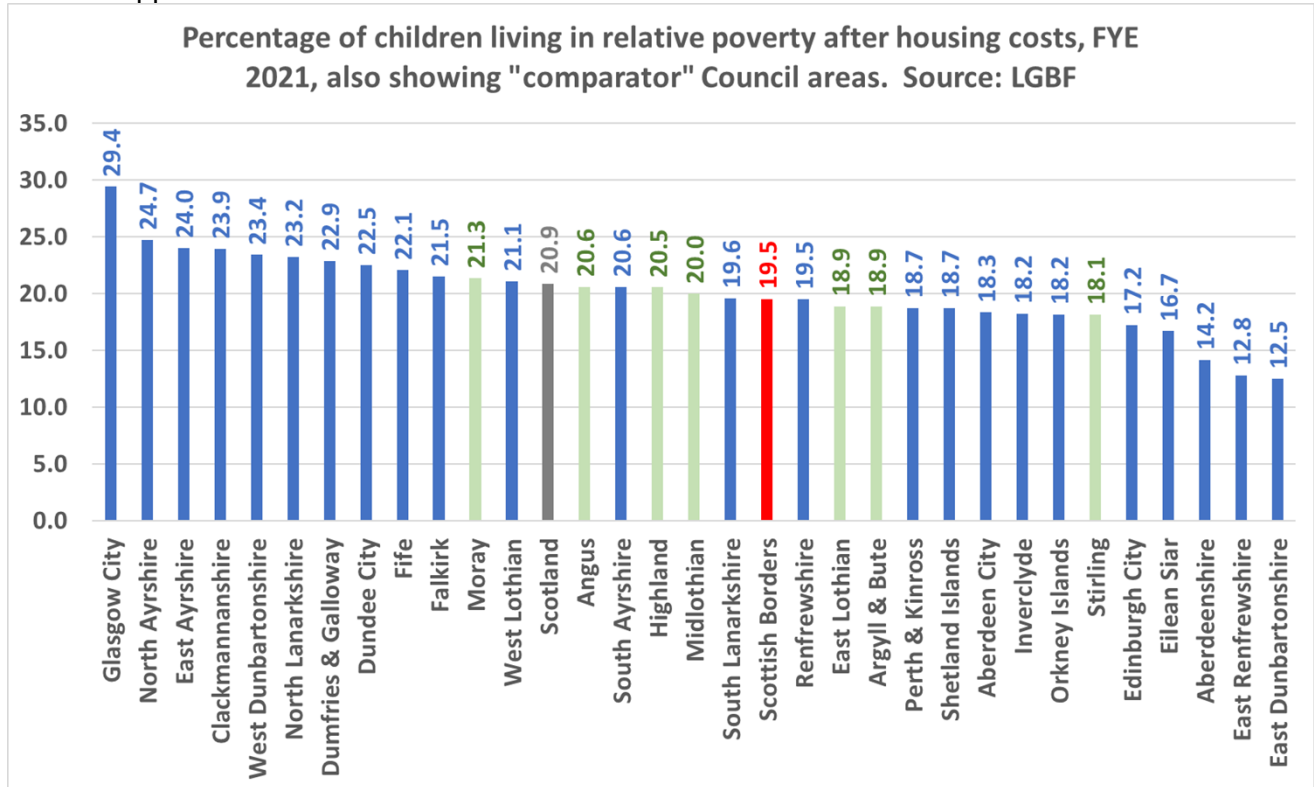
Numbers of children in relative low-income families, Electoral Wards

The following table gives an indication of the numbers of children who are estimated to be living in relative low-income families in the financial years ending 2021 and 2022.

Number of children in relative poverty (before housing costs) in Scottish Borders Wards				
Ward	2021	2022	% increase 2021-22	No. of children 0-15, 2021
Galashiels and District	400	556	39.0	2,534
Hawick and Denholm	371	500	34.8	1,632
East Berwickshire	289	413	42.9	1,763
Selkirkshire	251	338	34.7	1,489
Jedburgh and District	253	319	26.1	1,455
Kelso and District	218	301	38.1	1,401
Mid Berwickshire	233	291	24.9	1,582
Leaderdale and Melrose	239	277	15.9	1,880
Hawick and Hermitage	190	237	24.7	1,188
Tweeddale East	163	233	42.9	1,981
Tweeddale West	151	210	39.1	1,818

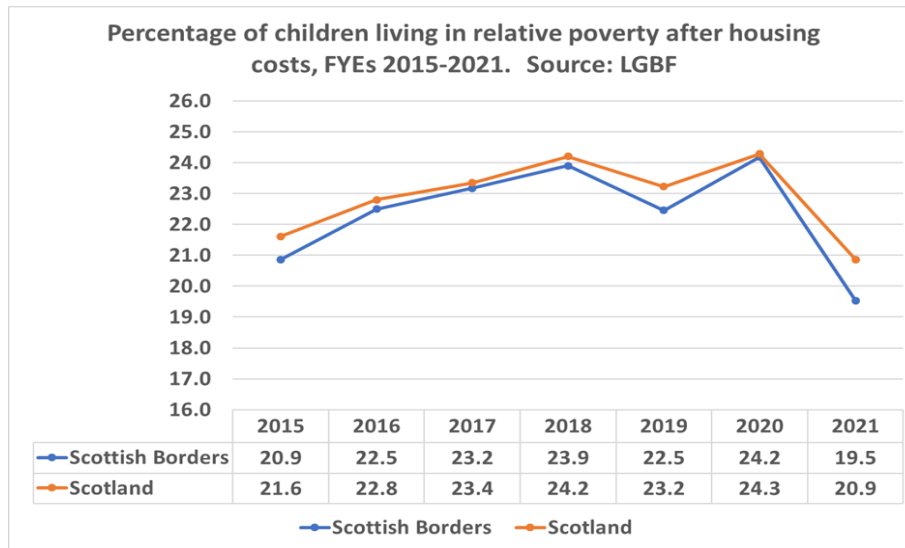
Children in Low-income Families, after housing costs

The [Local Government Benchmarking Framework \(LGBF\)](#) presents child poverty estimates (after housing costs) at local authority level, which are produced by the End Child Poverty Coalition. This measure is for relative poverty after housing costs, which provides important alignment with the targets set out in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 and is therefore regarded as the “key” statistic on child poverty. This data shows the period following the introduction of the first round of the Scottish Child Payment but before the full aftermath of the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis became apparent.



The chart above shows that the Scottish Borders (red bar) had 19.5% of children living in child poverty in 2020-21 (i.e., in households with a household income that was 60% below the median for that year). This is slightly below the Scottish average (grey bar) and is very much in the middle of its comparator council areas (green bars). The comparator Local Authorities were chosen by LGBF as they share certain population, urban/ rural and deprivation characteristics with the Scottish Borders.

Children in Low-income households over time, FYEs 2015 to 2021 after housing costs



The trend in the Scottish Borders is similar to the Scottish average but has always been marginally lower. In 2020-21 the proportion of children living in poverty (after housing costs) was the lowest in seven years, although 1 in 5 children still lived in relative poverty. This was during the period where Child Welfare Payment for under 6s had been introduced to address surging levels of child poverty, but before the effects of the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis had affected child poverty levels. Data for 2022 is not yet available but is expected to show a sharp increase in child poverty, which will be countered by the increase in value and range of the Scottish Child Payment from December 2022.

Child Poverty Drivers

The three drivers of child poverty considered in this report are:

1. Income from employment
2. Costs of living
3. Income from social security and benefits in kind

Income from employment

The following section presents evidence from official statistics on topics such as earnings and jobs, particularly in households with children. This does not measure child poverty directly but helps to provide some background context to the current position.

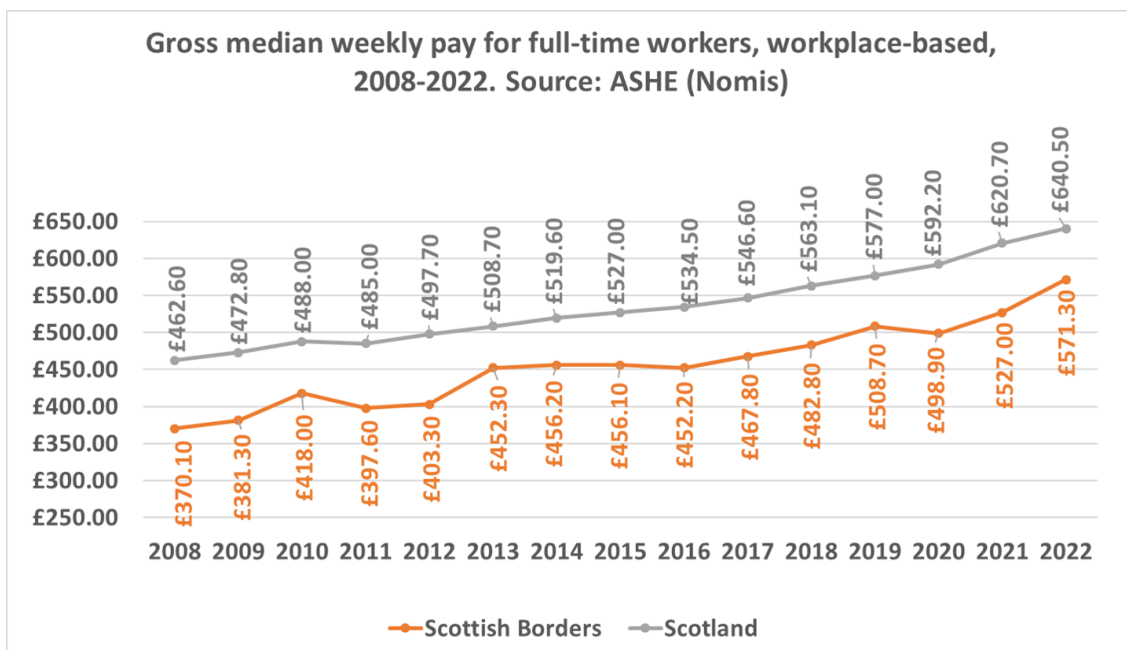
a) Average weekly Earnings

In 2022, the **median gross weekly pay** for full time workers living in the Scottish Borders (residence based) in the Scottish Borders was £617, **£23 below** the £640 for Scotland or **96% of the Scottish figure**. The regional pay gap between Scottish Borders and Scotland has greatly improved since 2021 for workers who live in the region.

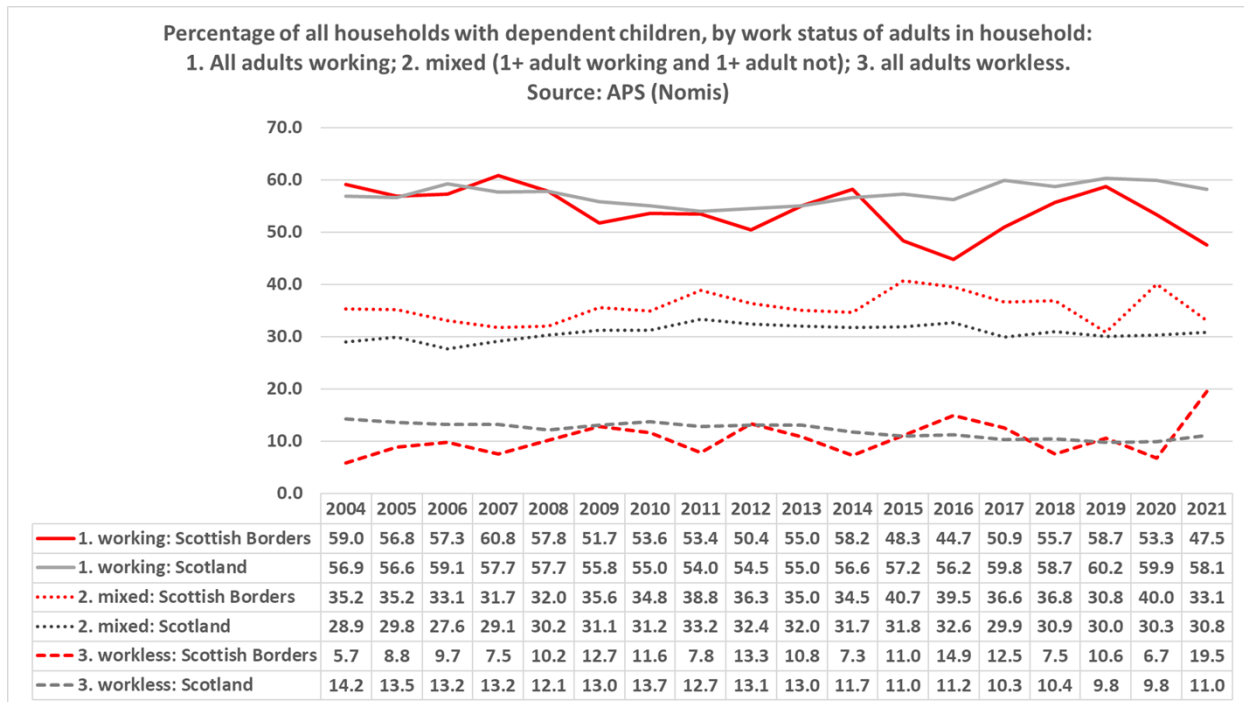
([Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings - NOMIS](#))



In 2022, the **median gross weekly pay** for full time workers working in the Scottish Borders (workplace based) was £571.30, £69.20 less than the £640.50 for full-time workers working elsewhere in Scotland. This is **89% of the Scottish figure**.



b) Households with Children by work status of adults in household

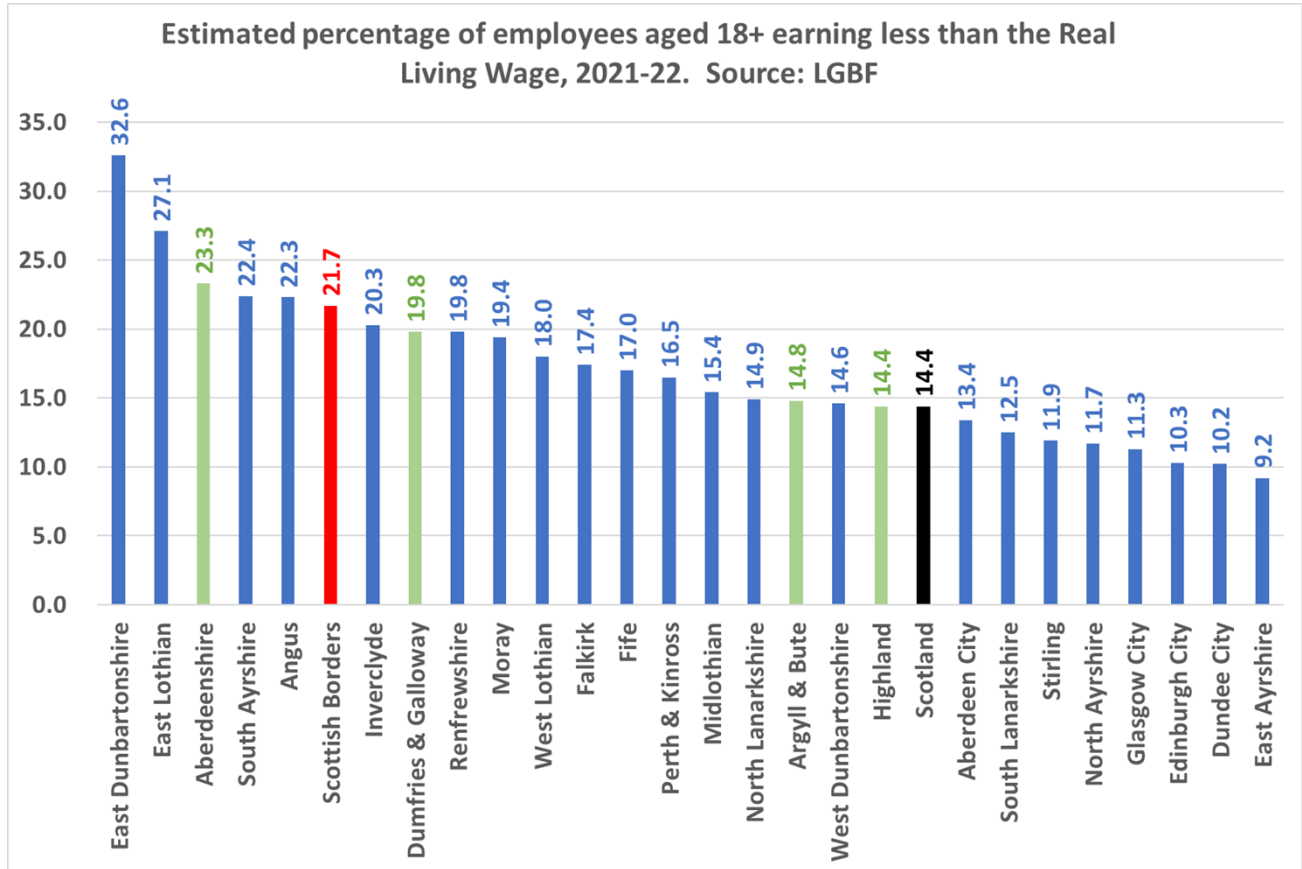


The above timeline shows the work status of adults in households with children between 2004 and 2021. The red lines show the Scottish Borders pattern for each of the three work status indicators. The grey lines show the Scottish average for each.

Reasons for adults with children to not work can be positive (e.g., making a positive decision to look after home and family) but the sharp increase in workless family households since Covid-19 indicates that families in the Scottish Borders are currently finding it more difficult than ever before to find work (or affordable childcare) that suits their circumstances.

c) Percentage of employees (18+) earning less than the real living wage

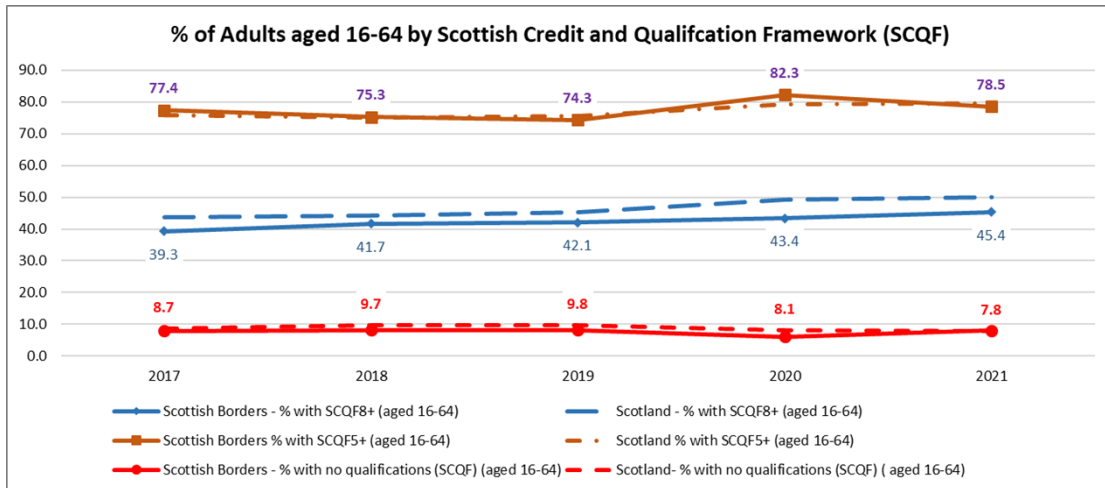
This indicator is a key measure of “inclusive growth,” aimed at monitoring and reducing income inequality. The data is extracted from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) for the [Local Government Benchmarking framework \(LGBF\)](#), which also offers comparisons with selected “comparator Council areas.”



The chart above shows that the proportion of employees (18+) earning less than the real living wage in the Scottish Borders (red bar) was 21.7% in 2021-22, notably higher than the Scottish average of 14.4% (black bar). It is the sixth highest proportion out of the 27 Local Authority areas that submitted sufficient data on the measure, and second highest out of its “comparator” Council areas, after Aberdeenshire.

d) Skills and Qualifications

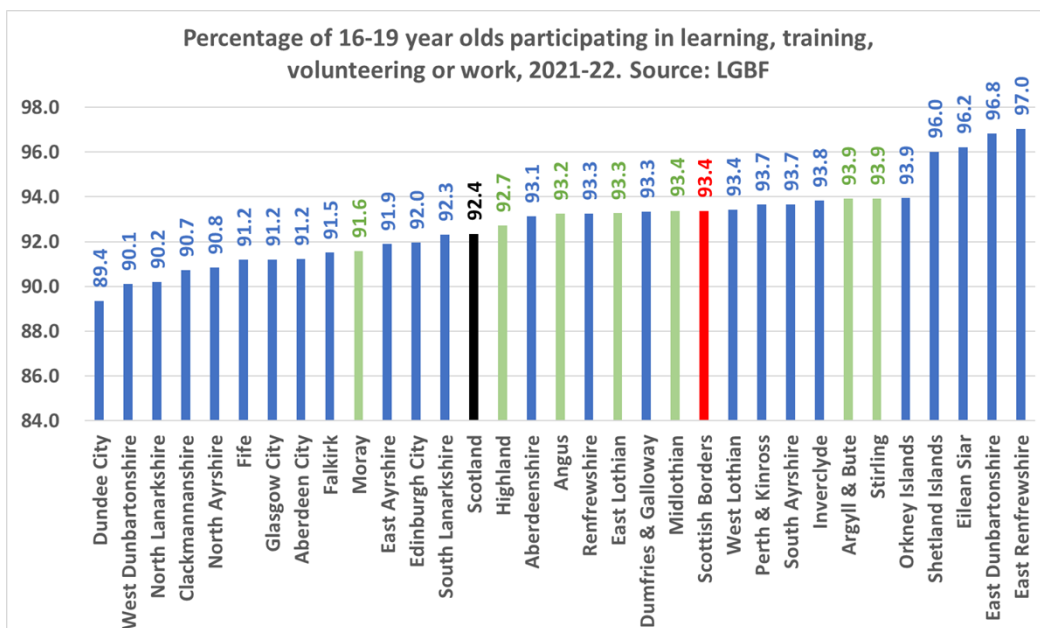
The chart below shows three levels of qualification data from the Annual Population Survey in [Nomis](#), for the Scottish Borders and Scotland. The level of qualifications of adults aged 16-64 in the Scottish Borders has consistently been similar to the level for Scotland, as seen in the graph below. In 2021, 78.5% of adults in the Scottish Borders had at least one qualification at SCQF Level 5 or greater. 45.4% were educated to college degree level, slightly below the Scottish average. 7.8% had no qualifications, which has remained relatively unchanged and similar to the Scottish average since 2017.



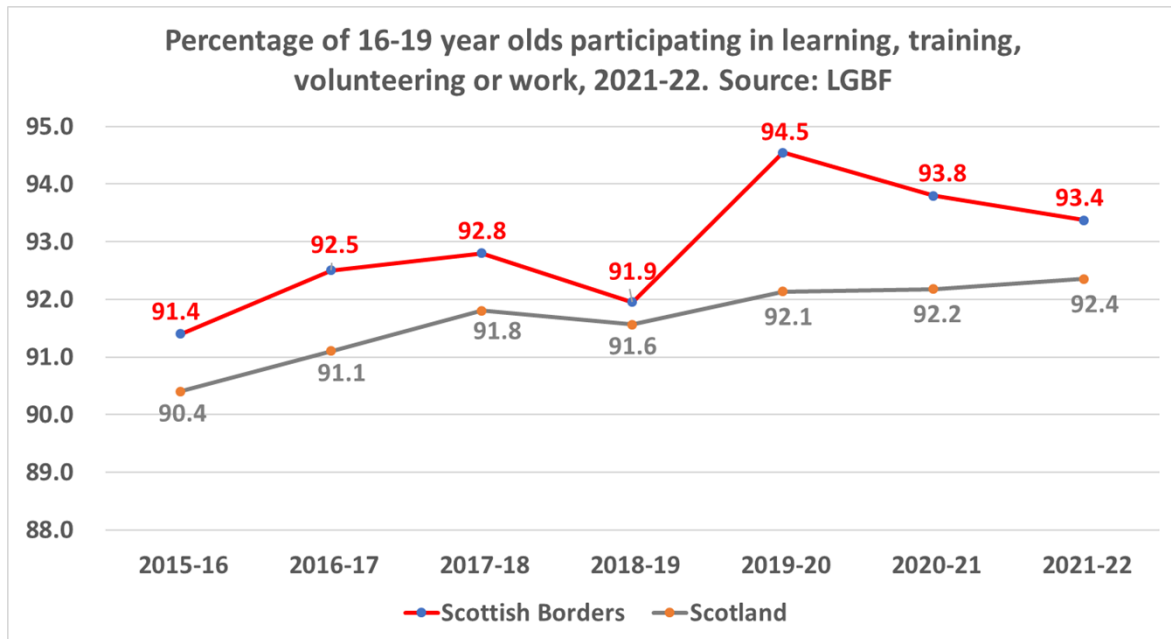
An estimated **6.0%** of working-age people in the Annual Population survey had no qualifications in 2020. This is better than the Scottish average of **8.1%**. (Nomis)

e) Participation of 16–19-year-olds

This indicator is taken from Skills Development Scotland for the [Local Government Benchmarking framework \(LGBF\)](#), which also offers comparisons with selected “comparator Council areas.” The comparator Local Authority areas for Scottish Borders for this measure are shown with green bars in the chart below. The chart below shows that 93.4% of all 16–19-year-olds (not just new school leavers) were participating in a positive outcome in 2021-22. This is slightly higher than the Scottish average of 92.4% and is among the better results out of the other 7 comparator areas for this measure.



f) Participation of 16–19-year-olds over time



The timeline above shows that the Scottish Borders has always had a better positive participation rate than the Scottish average, and this reached an all-time high just before the Covid-19 pandemic struck. Most young people were still signed up to a place of work or study throughout the disruption, even if physical attendance was intermittent. Participation rates in Scotland are steadily increasing, despite the pandemic, presenting a challenge to the Scottish Borders to recover quickly from the past three years and maintain its place above the Scottish average.

g) Rural isolation and Access Deprivation

48% of children in the Scottish Borders live in small rural settlements of under 3,000 people in 2020, according to the Scottish Urban-rural Classification system.² Settlements with under 3,000 people make up 48% of all neighbourhoods in the Scottish Borders.

7% of all Scottish Borders children live in small “remote rural” settlements of under 3,000 people, more than 30 minutes’ drive away from the nearest town.

41% of children in small settlements of under 3,000 people are classified as “accessible rural”, i.e., they live within 30 minutes’ drive from their nearest town.

According to the 2020 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, most of the communities outside the main towns in Scottish Borders suffer from access deprivation, meaning that they must live with longer journey times to shops and essential services, and potentially access to employment, than people living in many other regions take for granted.

² <https://statistics.gov.scot/home>

Costs of Living

The following section presents evidence from official statistics on topics such as consumer price inflation, fuel poverty, financial strain on households and personal debt. This does not measure child poverty directly but helps to provide some background context to the current position.

a) Consumer Price Inflation

The ONS produce the [Consumer Price Inflation](#) each month which provides National Statistics for price indices, percentage changes and insight for the changes. The key findings from the October 2022 report include:

- The Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH) rose by 9.6% in the 12 months to October 2022, up from 8.8% in September 2022.
- Despite the introduction of the government's Energy Price Guarantee, gas and electricity prices made the largest upward contribution to the change in both the CPIH and CPI annual inflation rates between September and October 2022.
- Rising food prices also made a large upward contribution to change with transport (principally motor fuels and second-hand car prices) making the largest, partially offsetting, downward contribution to the change in the rates.

b) Fuel Poverty

A household which has to spend over 10% of its household income on fuel, after housing costs, to keep the home acceptably warm, is said to be in fuel poverty. "Extreme Fuel Poverty" is similarly defined, but with a threshold of over 20% of household income.

The distribution of fuel bank vouchers by the Borders Housing Network from April 2022 – March 2023:

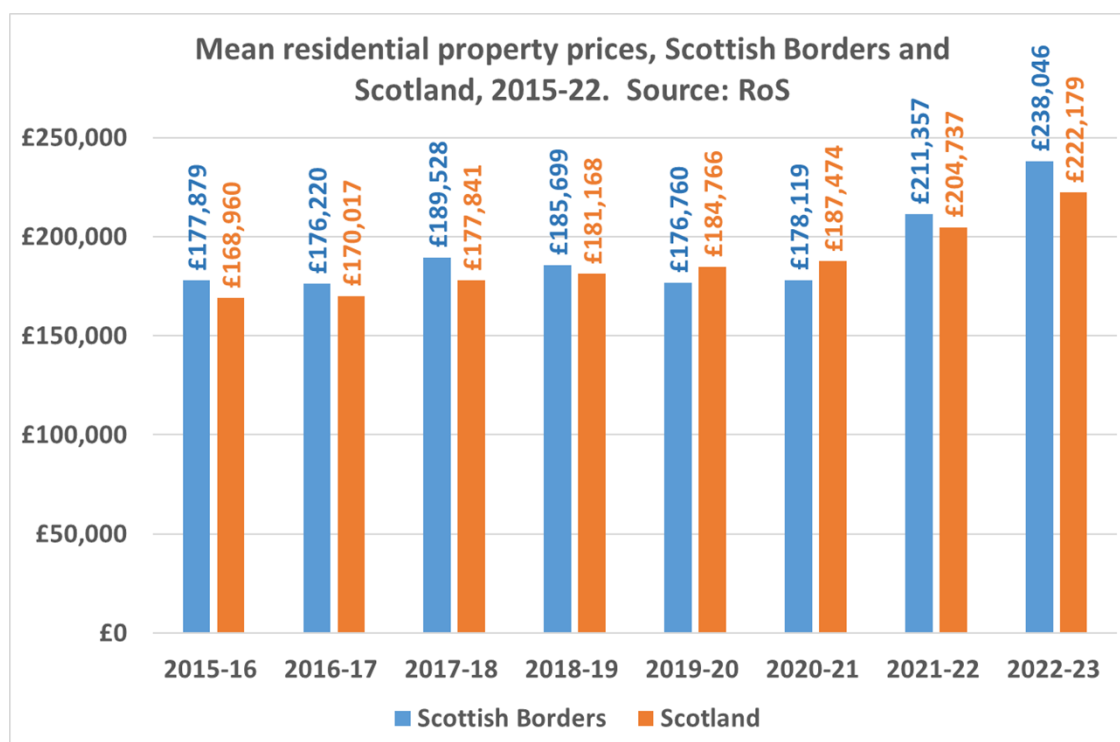
Total distributed	2,247 vouchers
People assisted with fuel debt	4,251 (2,781 adults and 1,470 children)
Total expenditure	£101,990

c) House Prices

Source: [House price statistics - Registers of Scotland \(ros.gov.uk\)](#)

House prices provide a general indication of the cost of living in an area: the higher the house prices, the more likely the household will have higher mortgage repayments or rent costs, which will directly impact on their cost of living. Between 2015-16 and 2022-23 the mean residential property price in the Scottish Borders has been similar or slightly higher compared to house prices in Scotland as a whole. This indicates that rent and mortgage costs in the Scottish Borders are similar to those elsewhere in Scotland. However, wages in the Scottish Borders have consistently been below the Scottish level indicating that housing costs in Scottish Borders are relatively less affordable, compared to households in Scotland as a whole.

The graph below shows that the average property prices have generally increased in the Scottish Borders since 2015 and have generally been above the Scottish average.



Source: <https://www.ros.gov.uk/data-and-statistics/house-price-statistics>

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Issues around social security benefits for families with children are listed as the third driver of child poverty. The Children in Low-Income Families indicator shows that most families are already living in at least relative poverty in order to qualify for welfare benefits. Official Statistics around use and take-up of welfare benefits fall into two categories:

1. Families who qualify for benefits and are supported by social security to meet their basic needs
2. Families who fall through the gaps in the social security system or receive inadequate support, and are in crisis

Families living in crisis due to insufficient social security support tend to be undocumented and are therefore very difficult to measure. These figures tend to present in different ways, such as food insecurity and foodbank use, housing insecurity and homelessness, chaotic lifestyles, crisis grants and mental and physical health problems.

Universal Credit (UC) is a single payment for each household to help with living costs for those on a low income or out of work. It is replacing six benefits, commonly referred to as the legacy benefits:

- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit

Support for housing costs, children and childcare costs are integrated into Universal Credit. It also provides additions for people with a disability, health condition or caring responsibilities which may prevent them from working.

Claimants are at risk of not receiving the correct amount of Universal Credit, or being refused UC, if their circumstances or household income change frequently, or their living situation is unstable, or if they are not able to produce the correct paperwork, or if they are sanctioned or deducted for any reason. These households who fall through the safety net are then at risk of severe poverty, which is insufficiently documented, and which can manifest itself in other ways, such as debt, food bank use, homelessness, mental health problems, substance misuse and crime.

Although there is almost certainly a level of under-claiming due to households stumbling over the claims process or still awaiting transfer from legacy benefits, the statistics for Households receiving Universal Credit provides an insight into priority families in relative poverty.

a) Households receiving Universal Credit

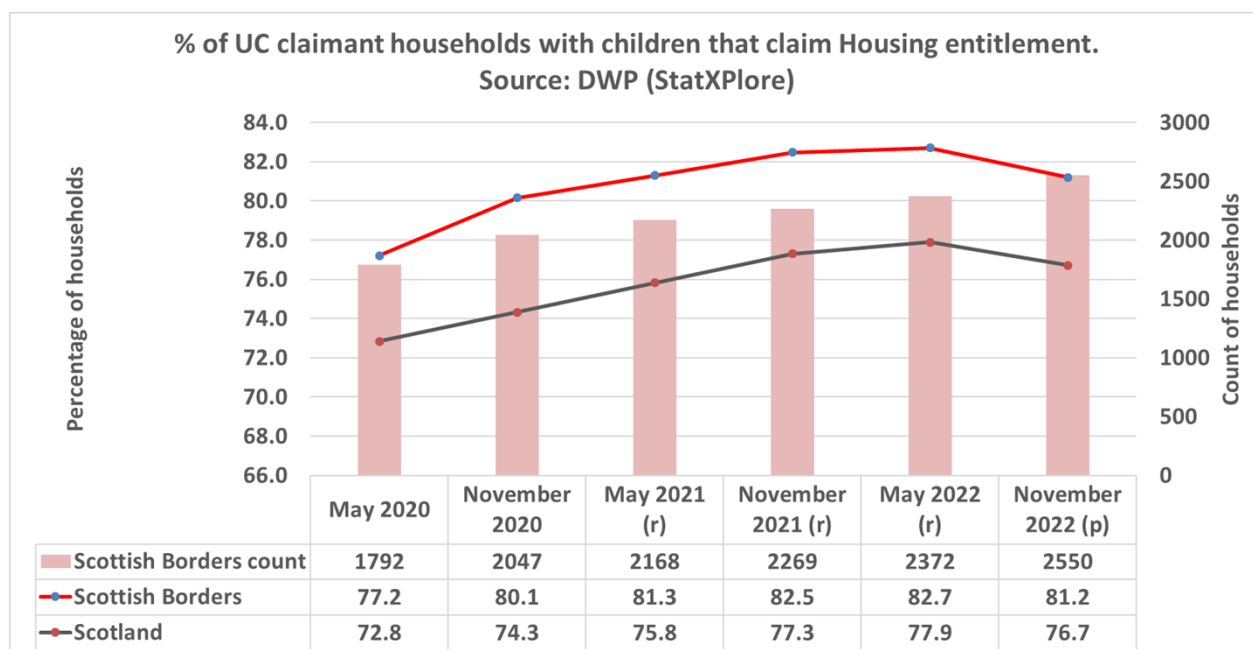
The table below shows the number and proportion of households in the Scottish Borders receiving Universal Credit compared to Scotland. Overall the Scottish Borders has a lower proportion of households receiving UC (12.9%) compared to 16.1% for Scotland. In the Scottish Borders there were 3,015 households claiming the 'Child Entitlement' or 5.4% compared to 6.5% for Scotland.

Universal Credit Households November 2022 (provisional figures)	Scottish Borders No of Households	% of All Occupied Households	
		Scottish Borders	Scotland
All Occupied Households	55,557		
All Universal Credit Households (UCH)	7,193	12.9	16.1
UCH with Children	3,140	5.7	6.7
UCH claiming Child Entitlement	3,015	5.4	6.5
UCH Lone Parent	2,115	3.8	5.0
UCH with 3+ Children	613	1.1	1.2
UCH with Child Under Age 1	273	0.5	0.5
UCH with Children - Child Disability Entitlement	275	0.5	0.7
UCH with Children - Adult Disability Entitlement	443	0.8	1.0

Source: DWP/NRS

b) Households with Children who claim the Housing Entitlement of Universal Credit

The chart below indicates that the majority of households with children who interact with the Universal Credit system need help with their housing costs, and that housing unaffordability is affecting households with children in the Scottish Borders than on average for Scotland. As of November 2022, 81.2% of all Universal Credit-claiming households with children, or 2,550 households in Scottish Borders, claim the entitlement formerly known as Housing Benefit. The numbers below do not provide a full picture of housing insecurity. Housing Benefit is still in operation for some categories of claimant, and people who live in hostels or temporary accommodation are not eligible to apply for help with their housing costs. Applicants to Universal Credit must provide documentary proof of their housing costs. This means that the applicant must have paid their first installment of costs for the housing before they are able to apply for welfare benefits, to be paid in retrospect, which is very difficult for families already in financial and housing insecurity to do. There is inevitably an unknown number of undocumented families who are unable to claim help with their housing costs and are at risk of homelessness.



(p): the figures are provisional

(r): the figures have been revised since the previous statistical release

c) Food insecurity

Foodbanks and community food redistribution outlets

Information available on the [SBC website](#) indicates that there are 29 **food redistribution outlets** in the Scottish Borders in 2023, including: food banks, FareShare providers, Early Years Centres, Community cafes and food larders.

The locations were:

- 12 in Berwickshire
- 2 in Cheviot
- 6 in Eildon
- 3 in Teviot & Liddesdale
- 6 in Tweeddale
-

Another five participating independent food banks noted by the Independent Food Aid Network³ (IFAN) in the Scottish Borders in March 2023, are based in Galashiels, Selkirk, Jedburgh, Duns and Eyemouth. Local foodbanks differ in their capacity to collect data about users, but reports highlight

³ <https://www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk/scotland-food-bank-data>

that 25% of their client base are children.

d) Financial, food and material support for children in Education

Free School Meals are available to all P1-5 children in the Scottish Borders, regardless of circumstances. A separate means-tested Scottish Government-funded scheme of free school meals for P6-S6 pupils is available to eligible households and is administered by the Local Authority.

Other support for families with children in education includes:

- School clothing grant - in 2022-23 this was an annual payment £120-£150 per pupil to assist with the cost of school clothing and footwear.
- Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is a UK Government benefit of £30 per week, paid to eligible students aged 16-19 who choose to continue with their education, in an attempt to close the deprivation attainment gap between the most-deprived and the less-deprived areas.

e) Scottish Child Payment

The Scottish Child Payment is a Scottish Government top-up benefit for households with children that was introduced in February 2021. Initially the weekly payment of £10 was awarded to families claiming universal credit with children aged 0-5.

Since December 2022, the weekly payment was increased to £25 per week and expanded to all children aged 0-15. Official Statistics for this new benefit will be available in 2024.

Priority Groups

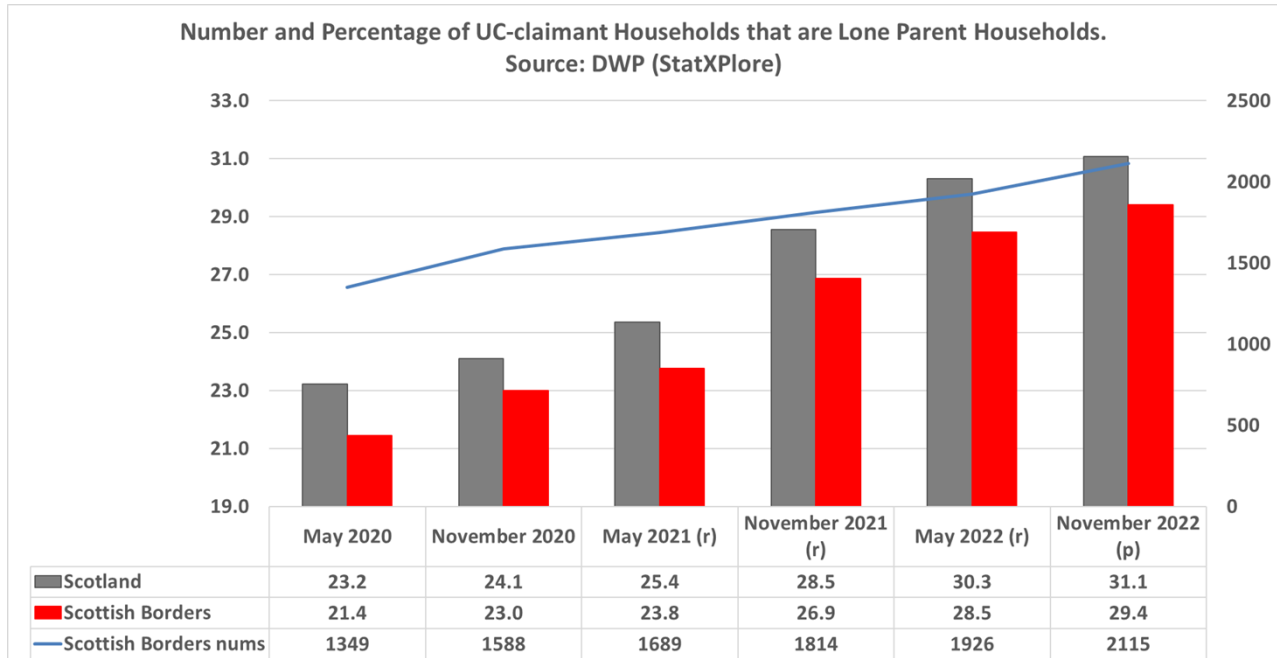
This section provides context on the priority groups identified in '[Best Start, Bright Futures](#)' and profile information on child population. According to [Public Health Scotland](#), more than 8 out of 10 children in relative poverty in Scotland are in at least one of these priority groups:

1. lone-parent families
2. a household where someone is disabled
3. families with three or more children
4. minority ethnic families
5. families with a child under one year old
6. families where the mother is under 25 years of age.

Priority Group 1: Lone Parents

a) Lone Parents claiming Universal Credit

The chart below shows that 29.4% of Universal Credit claiming households were Lone Parent Households in the Scottish Borders, in November 2022. This is equivalent to 2,115 households. The proportion has always been below the Scottish average, but it is increasing. The numbers of Lone Parent Households claiming Universal Credit is also increasing, in the Scottish Borders and Scotland.

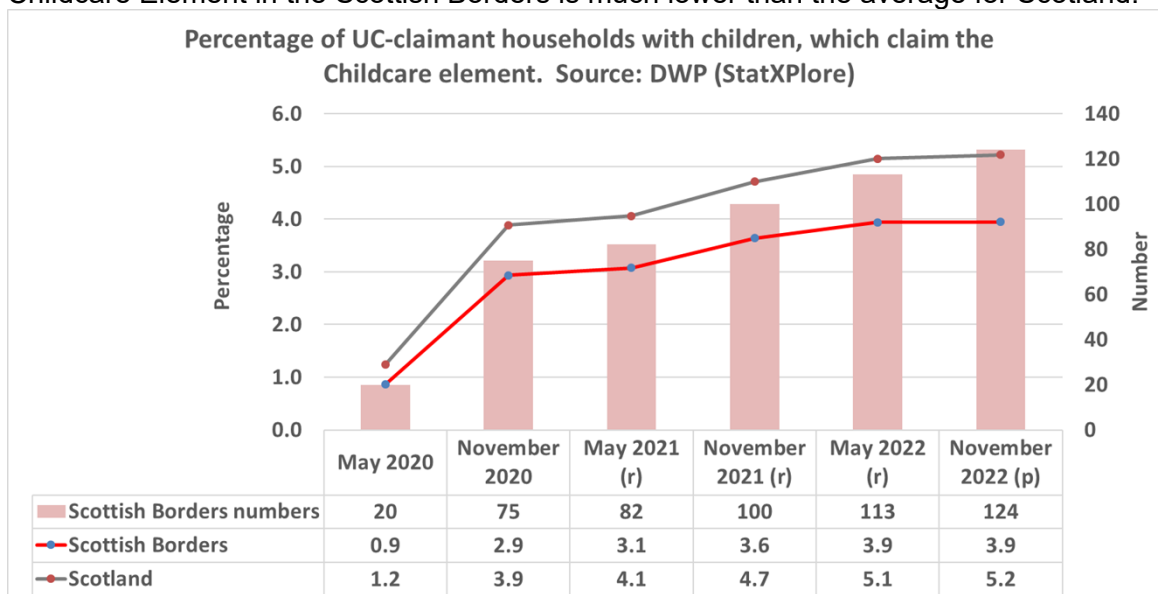


(p): the figures are provisional

(r): the figures have been revised since the previous statistical release

b) Uptake of Childcare Element of Universal Credit

Not all Universal Credit claimants with children need to be on a particularly low income to qualify for help. The Childcare entitlement is designed to incentivise parents to return to work, and to be inclusive towards lone parents, by paying between a third and a half of formal childcare costs for those who work a certain number of hours per week. The chart below shows that take-up of the Childcare Element in the Scottish Borders is much lower than the average for Scotland.



(p): the figures are provisional

(r): the figures have been revised since the previous statistical release

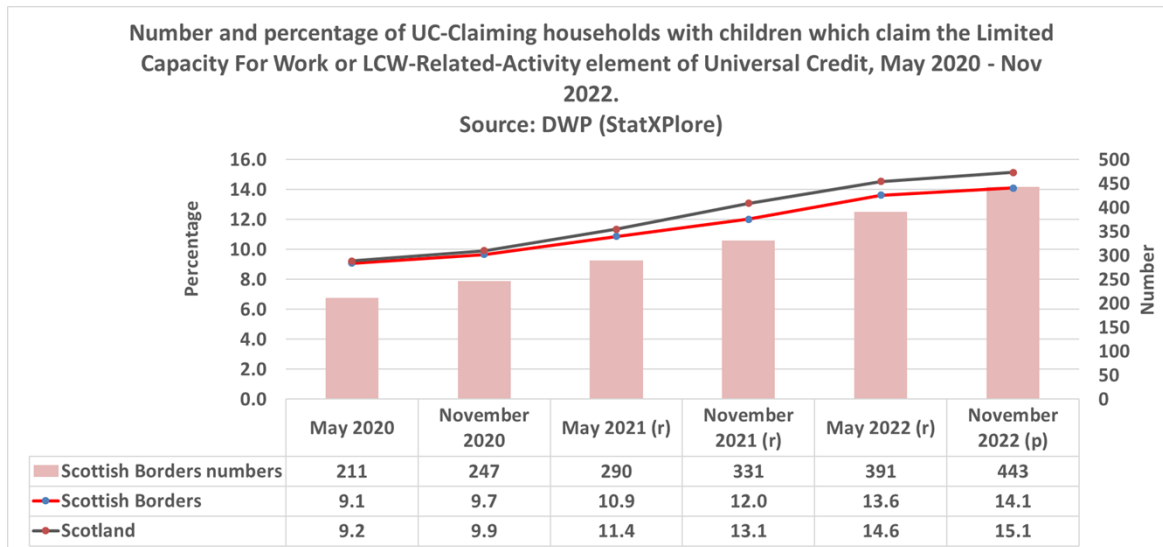
Priority Group 2: Disabled

Households where the householder or a family member has a disability are more at risk of poverty in a number of ways:

- Difficulty in accessing suitable, well-paid work and reduced work capacity due to the disability
- Difficulty in accessing well-paid work with suitable hours, due to unpaid caring responsibilities towards a disabled family member
- Additional costs incurred directly or indirectly by the disability

a) Universal Credit – Claiming households with children that claim the limited capacity for work element

The chart below shows the numbers and percentages of households with children where an adult has been awarded the limited capability for work and work related activity component (LCWRA) element of Universal Credit. 14.1% of Scottish Borders UC-claiming households with children receive this entitlement, similar to the Scottish average and showing a similar trend. The number of awards and the proportion of households with children who receive it is steadily increasing. There are currently around 443 UC-claiming households with children in the Scottish Borders who receive the entitlement.

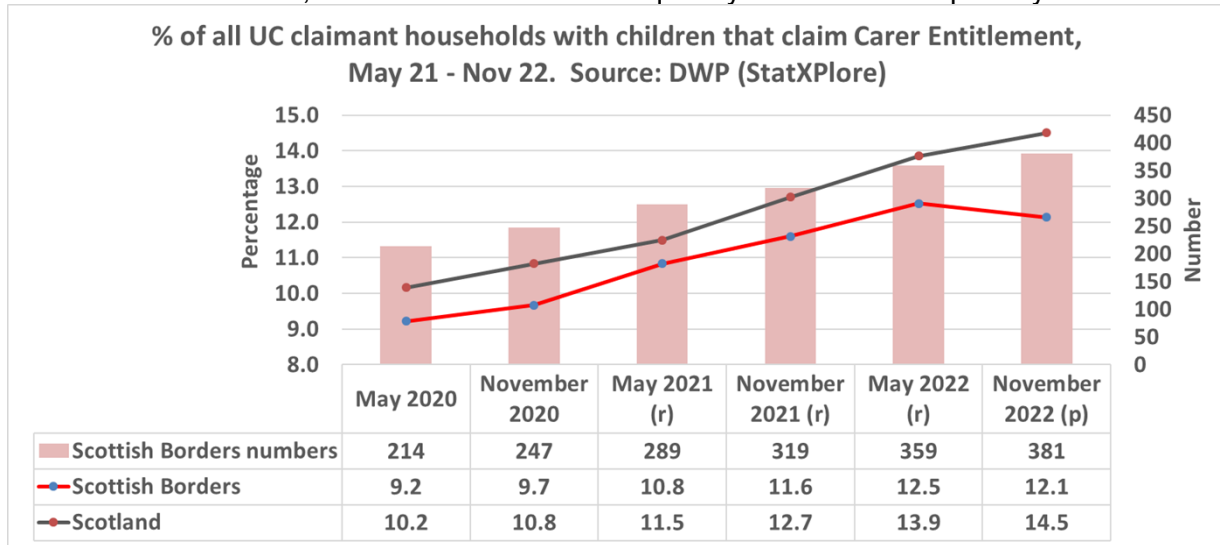


(p): the figures are provisional

(r): the figures have been revised since the previous statistical release

b) Universal Credit - Claiming Households with children that claim Carer Entitlement

The chart below shows that 12.1% of UC-Claiming households with children receive the Carer's entitlement, slightly below the Scottish average, but impacting on 381 households. These are households where a child is being impacted because one of their parents or siblings requires full time care from another, and the household consequently lives in relative poverty.



(p): the figures are provisional

(r): the figures have been revised since the previous statistical release

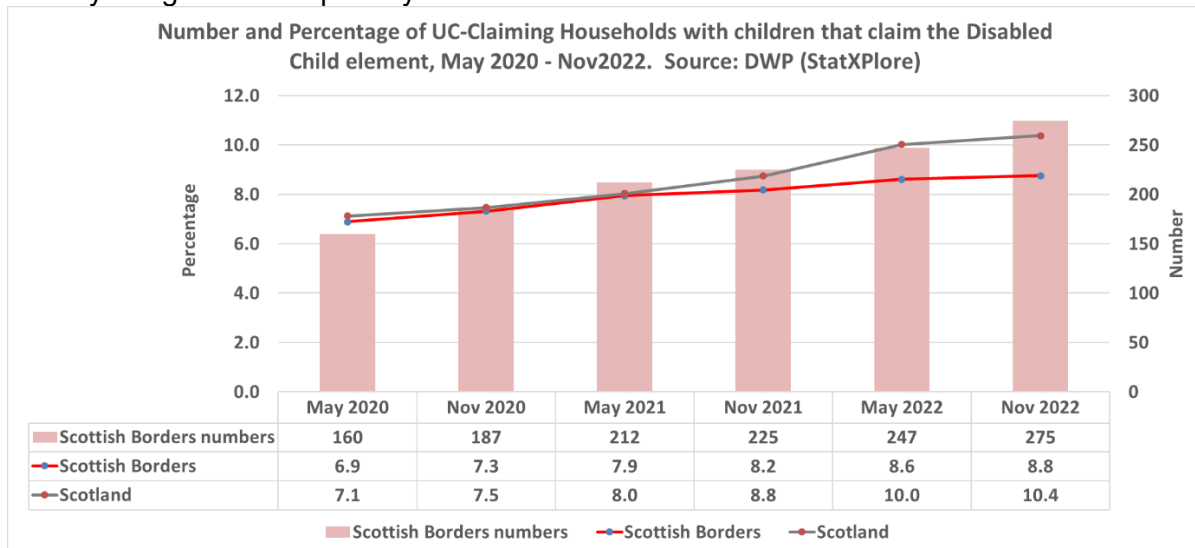
c) Young Carers

In Scotland, Young Carers are more common in lone parent families and these Young Carers also contribute the most hours, particularly in the most deprived areas.

The Scottish Borders has a smaller share of lone parent households and deprived areas than average for Scotland, but there were 74 Young Carers recorded by Scottish Borders Council (Seemis MIS) in the 2022-23 academic year.

d) Universal Credit - Claiming households with children that have a disabled child

The chart below shows that the percentage of UC-claiming households with children that claim the Disabled Child element affects an estimated 275 households in the Scottish Borders, who are already living in relative poverty.



(p): the figures are provisional

(r): the figures have been revised since the previous statistical release

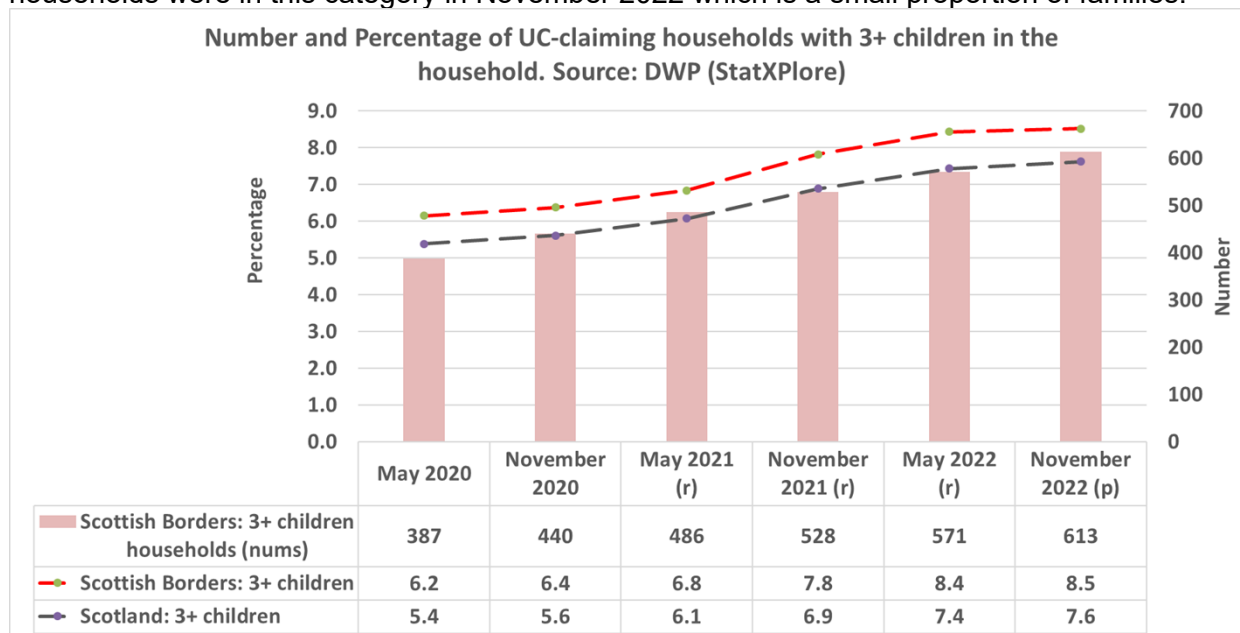
Priority Group 3: Households with 3 or more children

According to Public Health Scotland, 12% of all families in Scotland have three or more children. They are more at risk of being affected by child poverty because:

- they are disproportionately affected by the two-child policy and the benefits cap
- they face higher costs of living, even before the current crisis
- they are more likely to report they do not manage well financially and are more likely to be living in overcrowded conditions

a) Universal Credit claimants with 3+ children

The chart below shows that the proportion of UC claimant households that have three or more children, and who are living in relative poverty in the Scottish Borders, is increasing. Only 613 households were in this category in November 2022 which is a small proportion of families.



(p): the figures are provisional

(r): the figures have been revised since the previous statistical release

Priority Group 4: Minority ethnic families

According to recent [Scottish Government information](#), minority ethnic adults make up 12% of the population in Scotland. Minority ethnic people are more likely to suffer from poverty and child poverty because:

- they are more likely to live in a larger family with younger parents, which are also priority groups for child poverty
- they face additional barriers applying for, and working in, the better-paid jobs, despite often outperforming their White British peers at school
- as a consequence, they are more likely to be forced into low-paid work with irregular hours, which is contrary to a healthy family work-life balance
- they are also more likely to live with housing insecurity and higher rents in the private rented sector

There is very little information about the correlation between minority ethnic households and child poverty in the Scottish Borders. The uptake of Universal Credit is recorded by age and gender, but not by ethnic group.

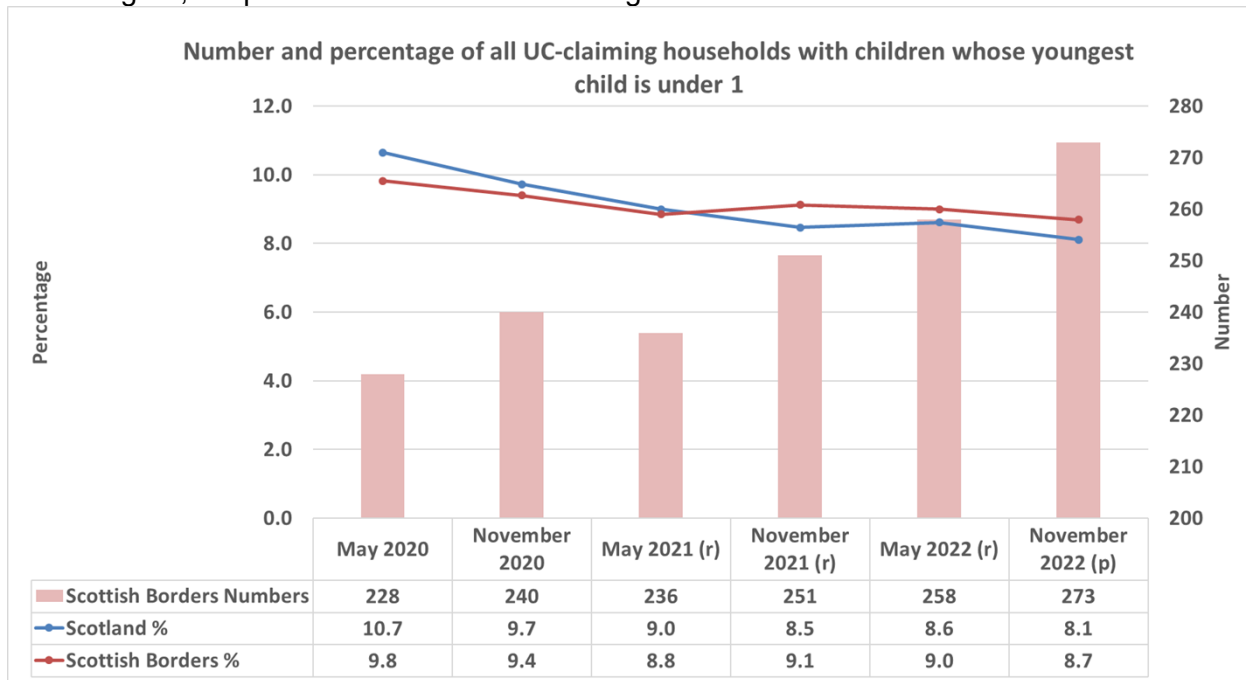
Priority Group 5: Youngest child aged under 1

Families with a child under 1 are more at risk of child poverty, due to the income deprivation caused by at least one of the parents taking maternity or paternity leave for up to a year.

National Registers of Scotland estimated that there were 871 babies aged under 1 in the Scottish Borders in 2021 and a similar figure is expected for 2022.

a) Universal Credit – families with children under 1

The chart below shows that there were 273 families with babies under 1 claiming Universal Credit in November 2022. This gives us an estimate of the proportion of families that are claiming assistance due to having a new baby and being on a low income. The number of families claiming help with costs has increased substantially in the Scottish Borders, from 228 in May 2020 to the current figure, despite the flat birth rate in the region.



(p): the figures are provisional

(r): the figures have been revised since the previous statistical release

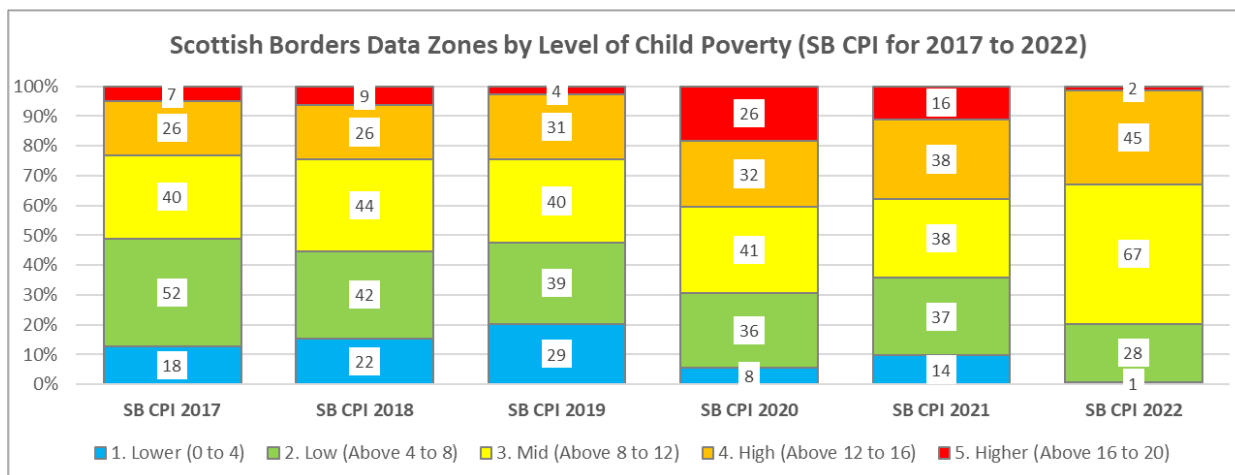
Priority Group 6: Mothers aged under 25

According to Public Health Scotland, new mothers aged under 25 account for around 23% of new mothers within the Scottish Borders. The proportion of new mothers aged under 25 is decreasing, and there is an increasing long-term demographic trend for more families to delay childbirth until their thirties and forties than ever before.

Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2022

Overview

The graph below shows the proportion (with number) of data zones by each level of child poverty from 2017 to 2022. The impact of Covid19 and the cost-of-living crisis can be seen in the number/proportion of data zones with Mid/High/Higher levels of child poverty. **51%** of data zones had Mid/High/Higher levels of child poverty in 2017, that increased to **69%** in 2020 and then to **80%** for 2022.



The Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index (SB CPI) provides additional insight into Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders. The SB CPI was created to work alongside the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. SIMD provides a way of looking at deprivation in an area, covering the whole population and does not specifically reflect child poverty.

The SB CPI is a summary of four components, which are:

- Children in Low Income Families (**CiLIF**) – Source is [DWP/HMRC](#).⁴ Relative low-income is defined as a family whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of contemporary median income. Gross income measure is Before Housing Costs (BHC) and includes contributions from earnings, state support and pensions. The SB CPI uses the most recent available year's data, currently there is a one-year lag e.g., for SB CPI 2022 uses the CiLIF data for 2021-22.
- Free School Meals (**FSM**) – Source is SBC. The proportion of pupils recorded for Free School Meals of all pupils in area for school year.
- Clothing Grant (**CLG**) - Source is SBC. The proportion of pupils recorded for Clothing Grant of all pupils in area for school year.
- Educational Maintenance Allowance (**EMA16+**) – Source is SBC. The proportion of pupils who are aged 16 or older (before 01 March of school year) who receive Educational Maintenance Allowance.

⁴ *The calculation of proportion of Children in Low Income Families for the purpose of the Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index differs to 'official statistics' due to the availability of the data from Stat-Xplore. The children in Stat-Xplore are defined as dependent individuals aged under 16; or aged 16 to 19 in full-time non-advanced education or in unwaged government training. (Not just those aged under 16 – unable to group into age bands). The figure for all children is then expressed as proportion of those aged 0 to 15 as published by NRS. It is recognised that this calculation is imperfect, but practical for the purpose of the SB CPI.

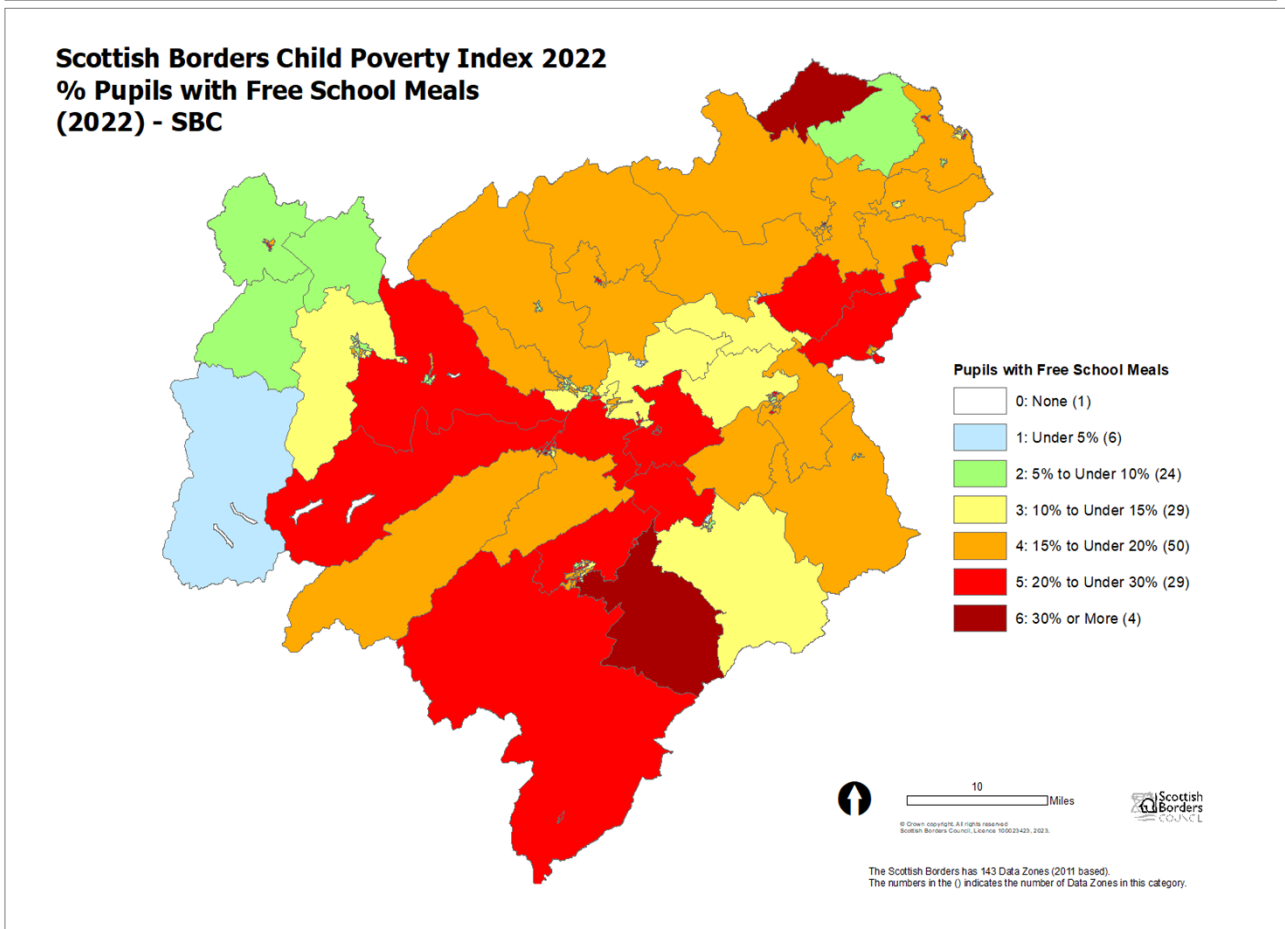
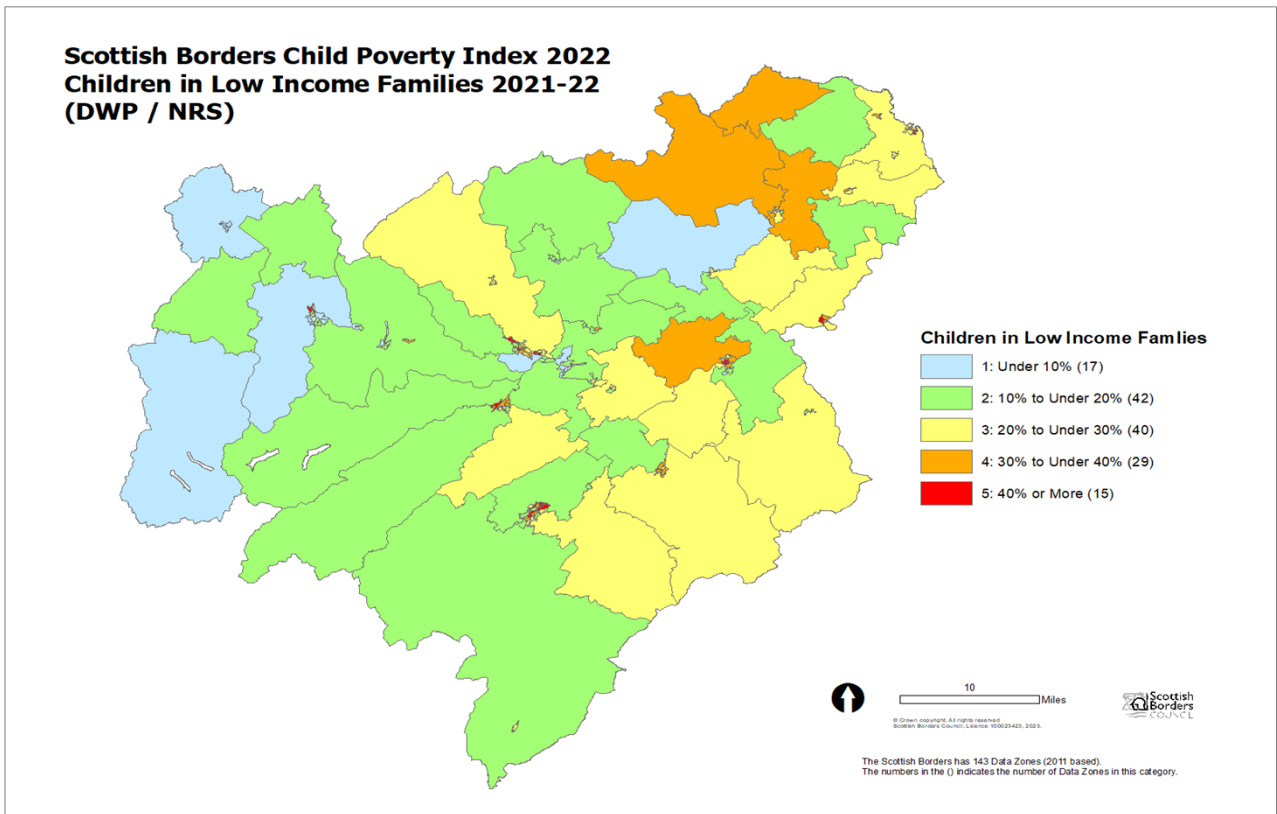
The table below shows the results for the Scottish Borders for 2017 to 2022.

Child Poverty Index Component / Year	SB CPI 2017	SB CPI 2018	SB CPI 2019	SB CPI 2020	SB CPI 2021	SB CPI 2022
Children in Low Income Families - CiLIF (DWP)*	19.0%	20.7%	20.5%	22.0%	18.0%	23.8%
Free School Meals - FSM (SBC)	10.0%	10.4%	11.6%	15.7%	15.4%	15.8%
Clothing Grant - CLG (SBC)	14.6%	15.1%	15.2%	18.1%	18.0%	18.8%
Educational Maintenance Allowance 16+ - EMA16+ (SBC)	8.2%	6.2%	3.8%	16.0%	10.0%	10.5%

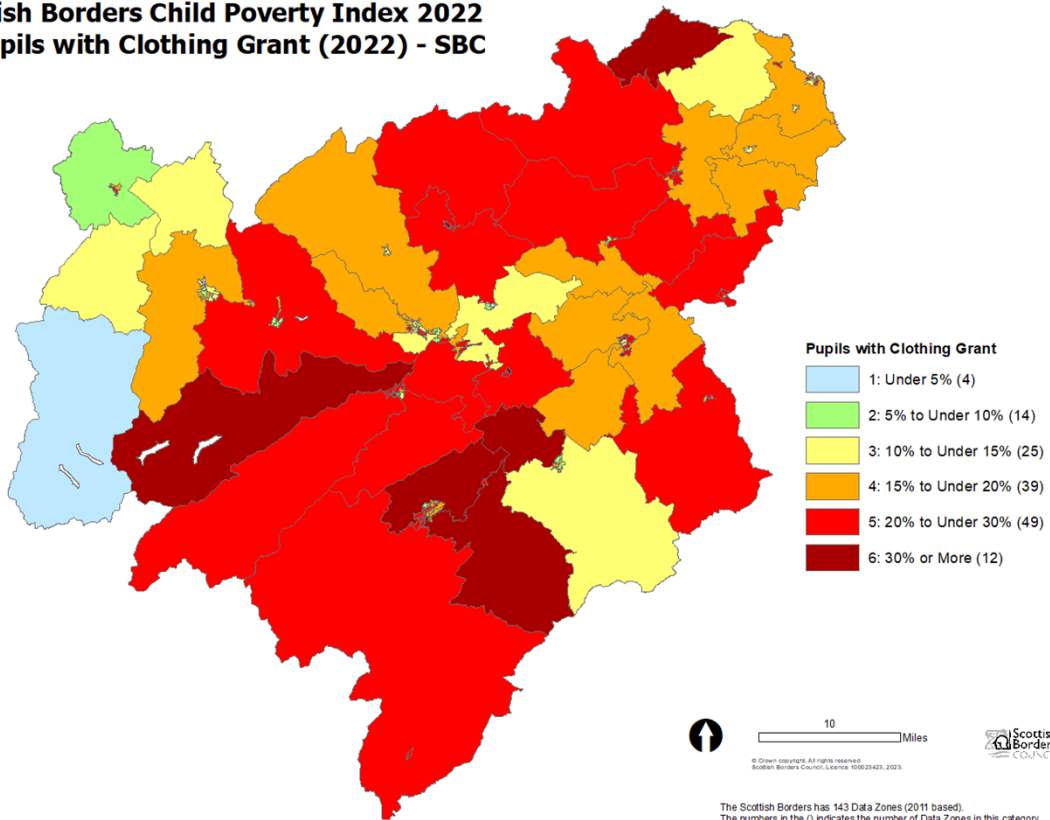
The table below highlights observations for each component of the Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2022.

Child Poverty Index Component	2022 Observations
Children in Low Income Families - CiLIF (DWP)*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All data zones in the Scottish Borders had Children in Low Income Families. • All localities had at least one data zone with 40% or more Children in Low Income Families
Free School Meals - FSM (SBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 78% of data zones 10% or more pupils are registered for Free School Meals in Seemis.
Clothing Grant - CLG (SBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 87% of data zones 10% or more pupils are registered for Clothing Grant in Seemis.
Educational Maintenance Allowance 16+ - EMA16+ (SBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 25% of data zones 10% or more pupils aged 16+ received Educational Maintenance Allowance recorded in Seemis. • In 66% of data zones no pupil aged 16+ received Educational Maintenance Allowance a marked difference to previous years. • The take-up of EMA was noticeably more frequent in the Tweeddale locality. • The non-take-up of EMA in many data zones reduced the number of data zones in the 'Higher' child poverty level group.

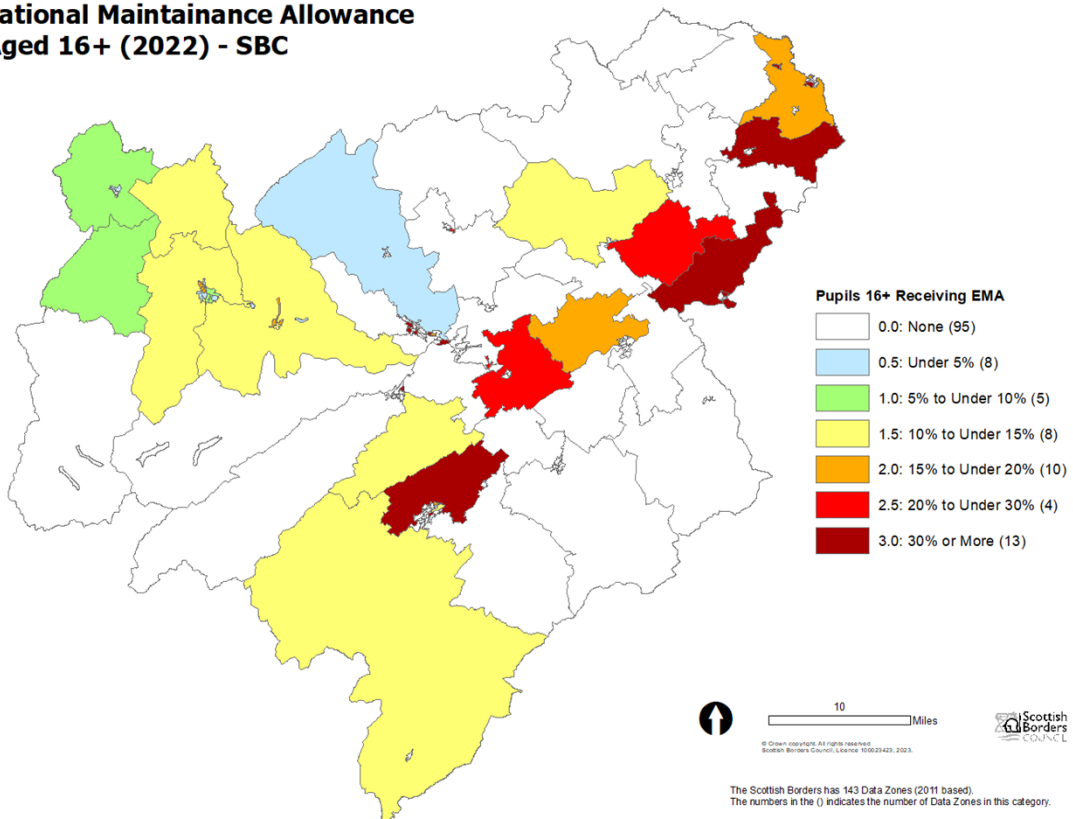
Below are the maps for each component, showing the results for each of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders.



**Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2022
% Pupils with Clothing Grant (2022) - SBC**

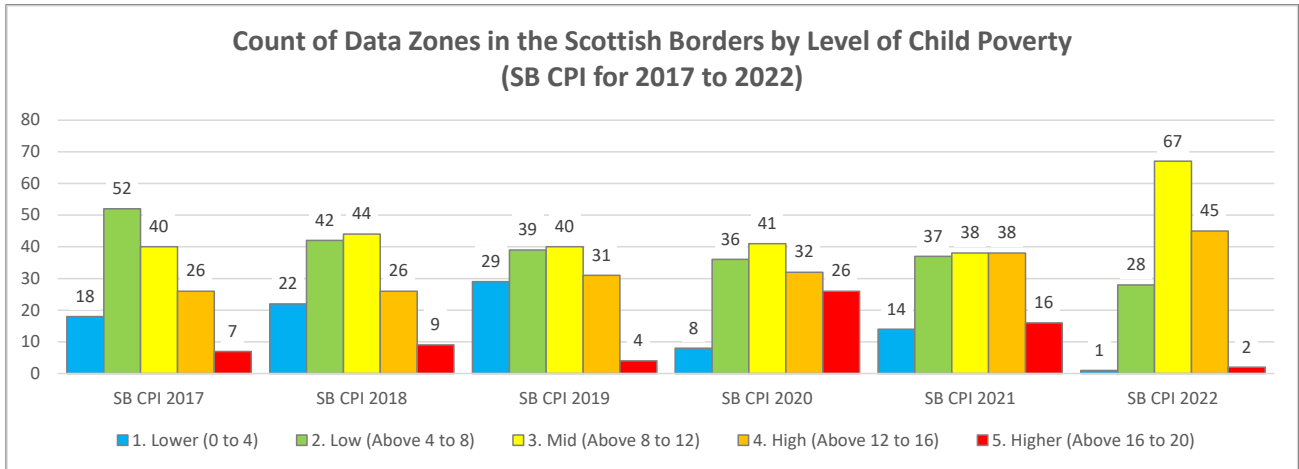


**Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2022
% Educational Maintenance Allowance
Pupils Aged 16+ (2022) - SBC**



Scottish Borders Child Poverty Level Change Over Time

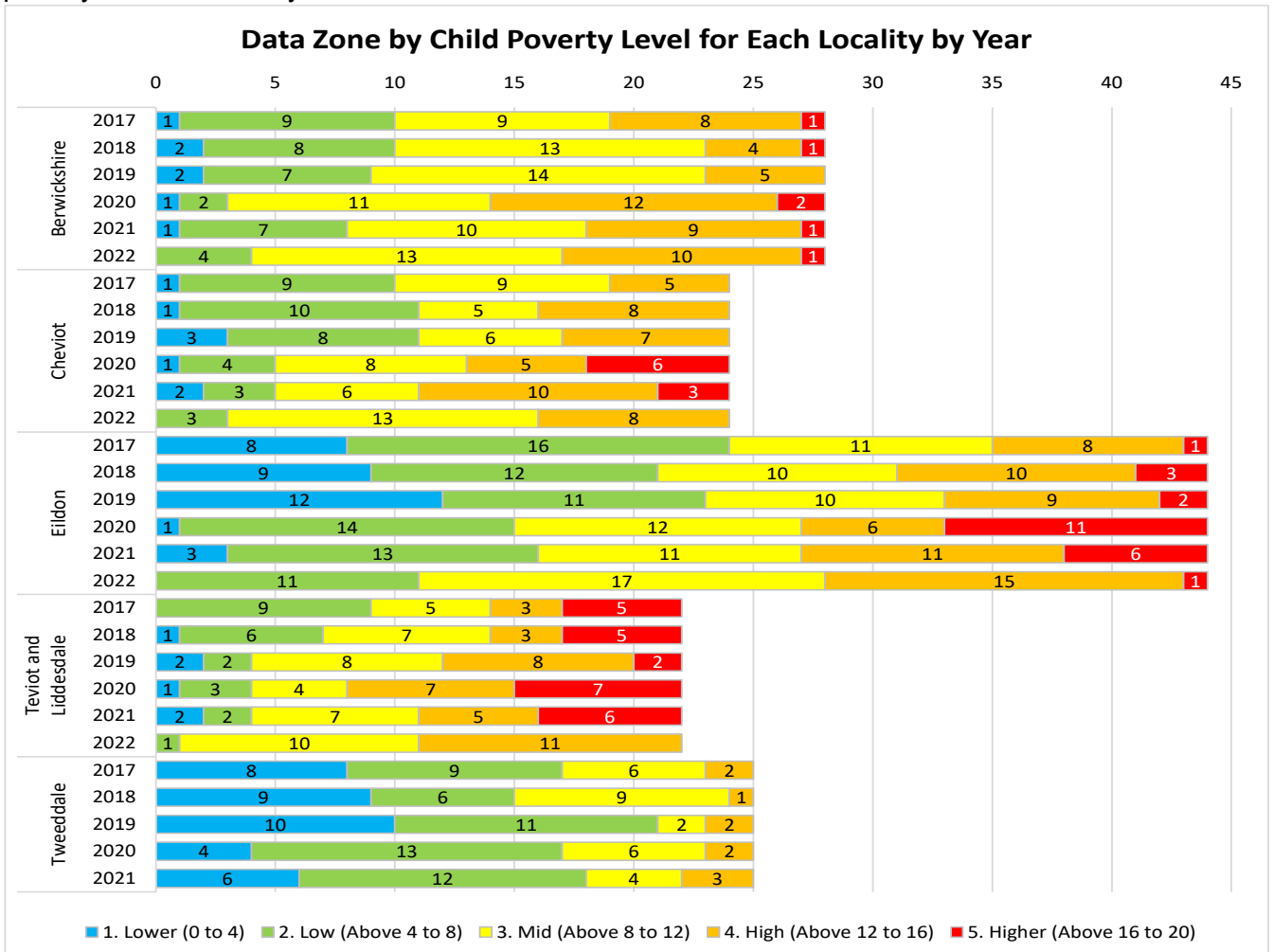
The graph below shows the distribution of data zones by level of child poverty for between 2017 and 2022.



Level of Child Poverty 2017 – 2022, SBC, Locality and Data Zone

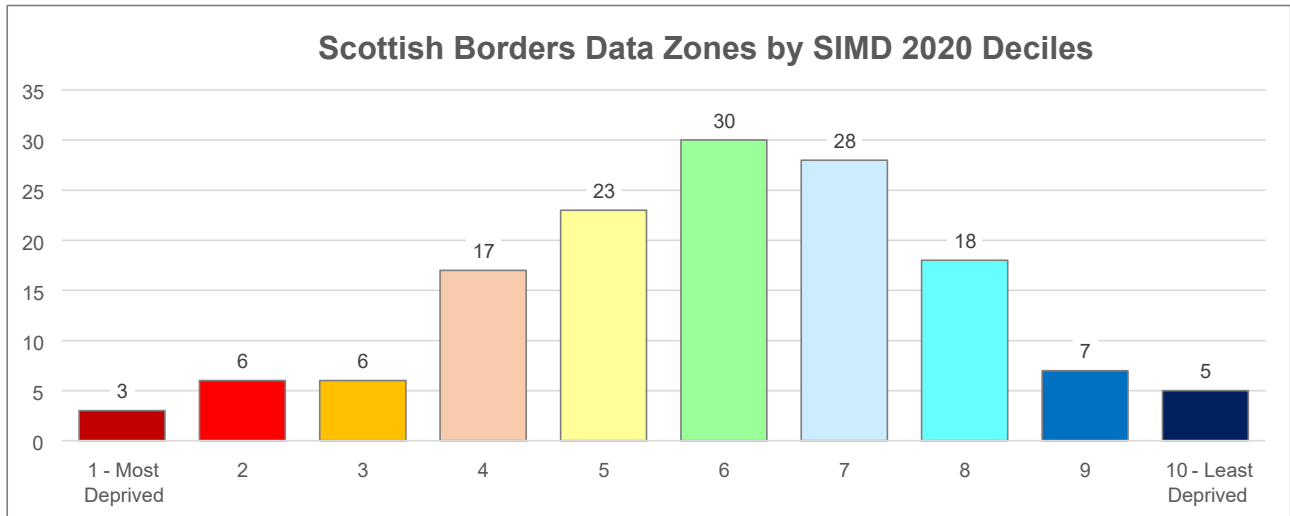
The graph below lists the data zones within each locality along with its SIMD2020 decile and the SB CPI level for 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022 and 2022.

The graph below shows the distribution of data zones in each of the localities by level of child poverty for each of the years.

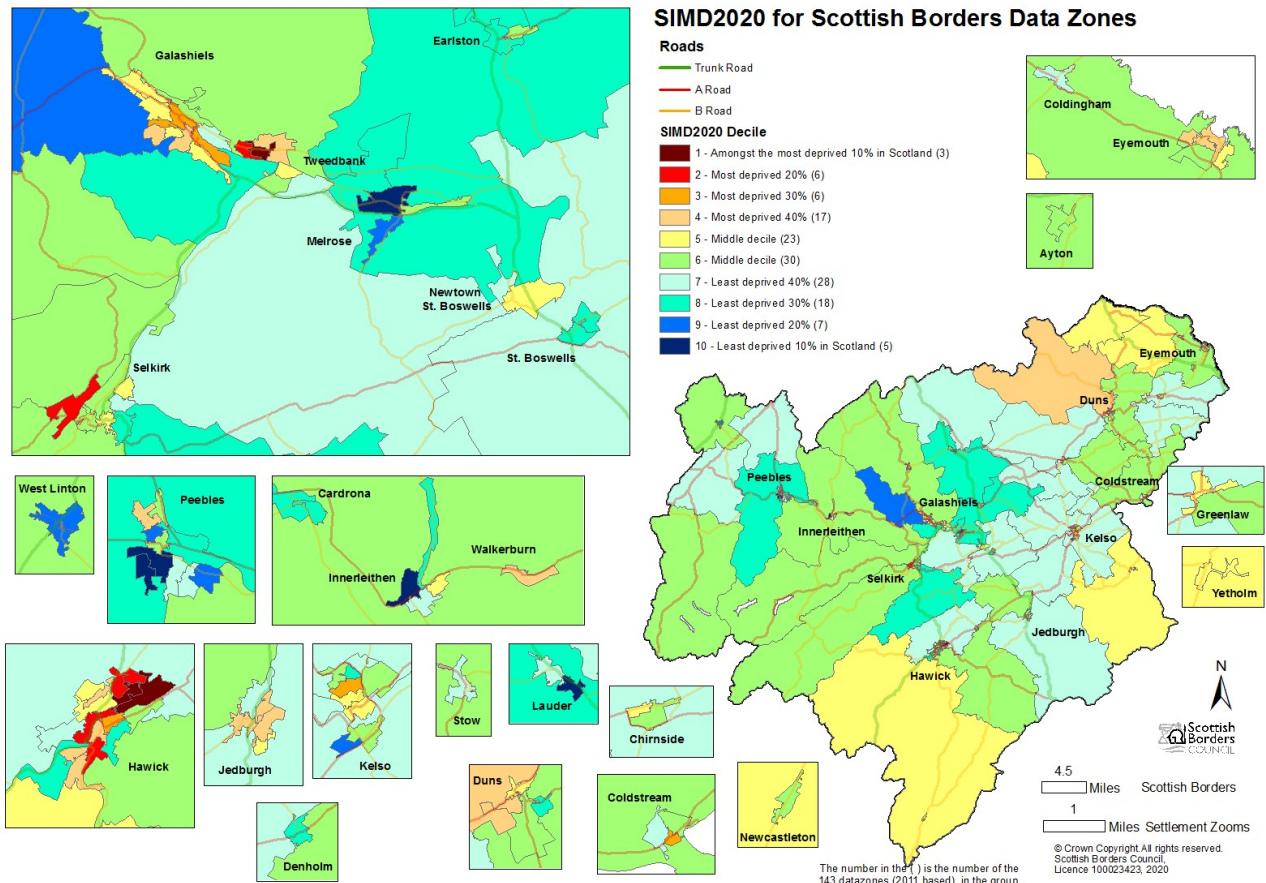


The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a good tool for identifying overall deprivation, however, it is not poverty specific, or child focused. The SB CPI is a tactile index created to enable better insight into child poverty within the Scottish Borders. This is a basic comparison between SIMD2020 Decile and SB CPI Score.

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



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



Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2022: Non-Denominational Primary School Ranking

Each data zone in the Scottish Borders is 'best fit' allocated to a non-denominational primary school. Each non-denominational primary school has a SB CPI2022 score based on the four Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index components which are:

- Percent of Children in Low Income Families (CiLIF) 2021-22 from DWP / NRS
- Percent of Pupils in Receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) 2022 from SBC's SEEMIS
- Percent of Pupils in Receipt of Clothing Grant (CG) 2022 from SBC's SEEMIS
- Percent of Pupils Aged 16+ in Receipt of Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) 2022 from SBC's SEEMIS (1/2 weighting)

The table below shows the SB CPI 2022 score for each non-denominational primary school and the SB CPI 2022 level for each of the data zones in the school's best fit catchment.

Scottish Borders

12.5 High 1 28 67 45 2 143

SB CPI 2022 ND Primary School Rank	Secondary School	Primary School	School SB CPI 2022 Score (Max 20)	School SB CPI 2022 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level					Count of Data Zones
					Lower	Low	Mid	High	Higher	
1	Eyemouth High School	Coldingham Primary	17.0	Higher					1	1
2	Berwickshire High School	Coldstream Primary	16.0	High			1	3		4
2	Selkirk High School	Philiphaugh Primary	16.0	High				2		2
4	Hawick High School	Burnfoot Primary	15.5	High			1	3		4
4	Earlston High School	St Boswells Primary	15.5	High			1	2		3
6	Eyemouth High School	Cockburnspath Primary	15.0	High				1		1
7	Eyemouth High School	Eyemouth Primary	14.5	High			4	1		5
7	Earlston High School	Newtown Primary	14.5	High			2	1		3
9	Galashiels Academy	Burgh Primary	14.0	High			2	1		3
9	Hawick High School	Stirches Primary	14.0	High		1		1		2
9	Hawick High School	Trinity Primary	14.0	High			1	1		2
12	Selkirk High School	Knowepark Primary	13.5	High		1	2	1	1	5
12	Selkirk High School	Lilliesleaf Primary	13.5	High				1		1
14	Kelso High School	Broomlands Primary	13.0	High			1	3		4
14	Hawick High School	Denholm Primary	13.0	High			1	1		2
14	Hawick High School	Drumlanrig St Cuthberts Primary	13.0	High			5	4		9
14	Kelso High School	Ednam Primary	13.0	High				1		1
14	Earlston High School	Lauder Primary	13.0	High			1	2		3
14	Hawick High School	Newcastleton Primary	13.0	High				1		1
14	Berwickshire High School	Swinton Primary	13.0	High			1	1		2
14	Galashiels Academy	Tweedbank Primary	13.0	High		2		1		3
14	Hawick High School	Wilton Primary	13.0	High			2			2
14	Selkirk High School	Yarrow Primary	13.0	High				1		1
24	Galashiels Academy	Balmoral Primary	12.5	High			2	2		4
24	Galashiels Academy	Langlee Primary	12.5	High		1	1	2		4
26	Jedburgh Grammar	Ancrum Primary	12.0	Mid			1	1		2
26	Berwickshire High School	Duns Primary	12.0	Mid			4	2		6
26	Kelso High School	Edenside Primary	12.0	Mid			4	1		5
26	Kelso High School	Morebattle Primary	12.0	Mid			1			1
30	Eyemouth High School	Ayton Primary	11.5	Mid		1		1		2
30	Berwickshire High School	Chirnside Primary	11.5	Mid		1	1	1		3
30	Galashiels Academy	Fountainhall Primary and Heriot Primary	11.5	Mid			1			1
30	Earlston High School	Westruther Primary	11.5	Mid			1			1
34	Earlston High School	Channelkirk Primary	11.0	Mid			1			1
34	Selkirk High School	Kirkhope Primary	11.0	Mid			1			1
34	Galashiels Academy	St Peters Primary	11.0	Mid		1	1	1		3
34	Peebles High School	St Ronans Primary	11.0	Mid		2	2	1		5

Scottish Borders

12.5 High 1 28 67 45 2 143

SB CPI 2022 ND Primary School Rank	Secondary School	Primary School	School SB CPI 2022 Score (Max 20)	School SB CPI 2022 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level					Count of Data Zones
					Lower	Low	Mid	High	Higher	
38	Galashiels Academy	Clovenfords Primary	10.0	Mid			1			1
38	Jedburgh Grammar	Jedburgh Primary	10.0	Mid		2	4			6
38	Kelso High School	Sprouston Primary	10.0	Mid			1			1
41	Peebles High School	Priorsford Primary	9.5	Mid		2	4			6
42	Earlston High School	Gordon Primary	9.0	Mid			1			1
42	Earlston High School	Melrose Primary	9.0	Mid		1	3			4
44	Peebles High School	Eddleston Primary	8.5	Mid			1			1
44	Peebles High School	Kingsland Primary	8.5	Mid		2	4			6
44	Peebles High School	West Linton Primary	8.5	Mid		1	2			3
47	Peebles High School	Newlands Primary	8.0	Low		1				1
47	Galashiels Academy	Stow Primary	8.0	Low		1				1
49	Earlston High School	Earlston Primary	7.0	Low		3				3
49	Galashiels Academy	Glendinning Primary	7.0	Low		1				1
49	Eyemouth High School	Reston Primary	7.0	Low		1				1
52	Berwickshire High School	Greenlaw Primary	6.0	Low		1				1
52	Kelso High School	Yetholm Primary	6.0	Low		1				1
54	Peebles High School	Walkerburn Primary	5.5	Low		1				1
55	Peebles High School	Broughton Primary	3.0	Lower	1					1

Level of Child Poverty 2017 – 2022, SBC, Ward, and Data Zone

Area	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
Scottish Borders	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
East Berwickshire	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	3. Mid
Mid Berwickshire	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	4. High
Jedburgh and District	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	3. Mid
Kelso and District	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
Galashiels and District	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	4. High	3. Mid
Leaderdale and Melrose	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
Selkirkshire	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
Hawick and Denholm	4. High	4. High	4. High	5. Higher	4. High	4. High
Hawick and Hermitage	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
Tweeddale East	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
Tweeddale West	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid

Berwickshire

Area	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
Scottish Borders	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
East Berwickshire	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	3. Mid

Data Zone 2011 Code and Name	SIMD2020 Decile v2	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
S01012309: Ayton	6	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	4. High	4. High	2. Low
S01012310: St Abbs and Eyemouth Landward	6	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	4. High
S01012311: Coldingham	7	5. Higher	5. Higher	3. Mid	5. Higher	5. Higher	5. Higher
S01012312: Reston and Coldingham Moor Area	5	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low
S01012313: Cockburnspath and Area	5	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
S01012314: Eyemouth - Gungreen	5	4. High	3. Mid	4. High	5. Higher	4. High	4. High
S01012315: Eyemouth - Seafront Harbour	4	2. Low	1. Lower	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
S01012316: Eyemouth - Central	4	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	4. High	3. Mid
S01012317: Eyemouth - South	6	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	3. Mid
S01012318: Eyemouth - North	4	4. High	4. High	4. High	4. High	4. High	3. Mid
S01012320: Chirnside - West	5	4. High	4. High	4. High	4. High	3. Mid	2. Low
S01012321: Chirnside - East	6	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
S01012322: Whitsome Allanton and Hutton Area	7	2. Low	2. Low	1. Lower	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
S01012323: Fouliden and Area	7	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	4. High

Area	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
Scottish Borders	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
Mid Berwickshire	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	4. High

Data Zone 2011 Code and Name	SIMD2020 Decile v2	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
S01012300: Greenlaw	5	4. High	4. High	4. High	4. High	3. Mid	2. Low
S01012301: Swinton Leithholm and Fogo Area	6	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High
S01012302: Cranshaws - Abbey St Bathans Area	4	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High
S01012303: Westruther and Polwarth Area	7	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	3. Mid
S01012304: Gordon and Hume Area	7	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
S01012305: Duns - South	6	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid
S01012306: Duns - West	4	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	3. Mid
S01012307: Duns - North	5	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	4. High
S01012308: Duns - East	8	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
S01012319: Preston and Manderston Area	6	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
S01012324: Birgham and Ladykirk Area	6	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High
S01012325: Coldstream - West	7	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	4. High
S01012326: Coldstream - South	3	4. High	4. High	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	3. Mid
S01012327: Coldstream - East	6	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High

Cheviot

Area	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
Scottish Borders	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
Jedburgh and District	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	3. Mid

Data Zone 2011 Code and Name	SIMD2020 Decile v2	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
S01012341: Oxnam and Camptown Area	7	2. Low	2. Low	1. Lower	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
S01012342: Ancrum and Lanton Area	6	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High
S01012343: Roxburgh Heiton Eckford Area	7	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid
S01012346: Dryburgh Charlesfield Maxton Area	7	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High
S01012347: St Boswells - East	8	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	4. High
S01012348: St Boswells - West	8	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid
S01012349: Jedburgh - Howden	5	4. High	4. High	4. High	4. High	4. High	3. Mid
S01012350: Jedburgh - Doom Hill	4	4. High	4. High	4. High	5. Higher	4. High	2. Low
S01012351: Jedburgh - East Central	4	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	5. Higher	5. Higher	3. Mid
S01012352: Jedburgh - West Central	7	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	5. Higher	4. High	2. Low
S01012353: Jedburgh - Abbey	4	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	3. Mid

Area	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
Scottish Borders	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
Kelso and District	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High

Data Zone 2011 Code and Name	SIMD2020 Decile v2	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
S01012328: Town Yetholm	5	4. High	4. High	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	2. Low
S01012329: Morebattle Hownam and Area	5	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
S01012330: Kelso S - Pinnaclehill	6	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid
S01012331: Kelso S - Maxwellheugh	9	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	3. Mid
S01012332: Smailholm Stitchill and Ednam Area	7	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High	4. High
S01012333: Sprouston and Area	7	2. Low	2. Low	1. Lower	2. Low	1. Lower	3. Mid
S01012334: Kelso N - High Croft Orchard Park	6	4. High	4. High	4. High	5. Higher	4. High	3. Mid
S01012335: Kelso N - Hendersyde Oakfield	7	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low	4. High
S01012336: Kelso N - Abbotseat	8	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High	4. High
S01012337: Kelso N - Poynder Park	3	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	5. Higher	5. Higher	3. Mid
S01012338: Kelso S - Bowmont and Edenside	5	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	5. Higher	3. Mid
S01012339: Kelso S - Abbey	5	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	4. High
S01012340: Kelso S - Broomlands	6	4. High	4. High	4. High	5. Higher	4. High	4. High

Eildon

Area	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
Scottish Borders	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
Galashiels and District	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	4. High	3. Mid

Data Zone 2011 Code and Name	SIMD2020 Decile v2	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
S01012271: Heriot - Fountainhall - Stow Landward	6	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	3. Mid
S01012272: Stow	7	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
S01012274: Galashiels - N - Halliburton	6	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low
S01012275: Galashiels - N - Town Centre	3	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	5. Higher	5. Higher	3. Mid
S01012276: Galashiels - N - Windyknowe	5	1. Lower	2. Low	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	4. High
S01012277: Galashiels - N - Wood St	5	4. High	4. High	4. High	5. Higher	4. High	4. High
S01012278: Galashiels - W - Old Town	4	4. High	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
S01012279: Galashiels - W - Thistle St	3	4. High	4. High	4. High	5. Higher	5. Higher	3. Mid
S01012280: Galashiels - W - Balmoral Rd	4	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	5. Higher	5. Higher	4. High
S01012281: Galashiels - W - Balmoral Pl	5	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
S01012282: Galashiels - S - Netherdale	8	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	1. Lower	2. Low
S01012283: Galashiels - S - St Peters Sch	5	4. High	4. High	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	3. Mid
S01012284: Galashiels - S - Huddersfield	3	4. High	4. High	4. High	4. High	4. High	4. High
S01012285: Galashiels - S - Glenfield	7	2. Low	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
S01012286: Gala - Langlee - East	4	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	5. Higher	4. High	2. Low
S01012287: Gala - Langlee - Central	1	4. High	5. Higher	5. Higher	5. Higher	5. Higher	4. High
S01012288: Gala - Langlee - West	2	4. High	5. Higher	5. Higher	5. Higher	5. Higher	4. High

Area	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
Scottish Borders	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
Leaderdale and Melrose	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid

Data Zone 2011 Code and Name	SIMD2020 Decile v2	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
S01012268: Earlston and Melrose Landward	8	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low
S01012269: Earlston - West	8	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
S01012270: Earlston - East	6	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low
S01012289: Gattonside - Darnick - Chiefswood	8	2. Low	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
S01012290: Melrose - Newstead	6	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
S01012291: Melrose - Dingleton Hill	9	2. Low	2. Low	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
S01012292: Melrose - High Street	10	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
S01012293: Tweedbank - West	6	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	4. High	3. Mid	2. Low
S01012294: Tweedbank - North	5	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	2. Low
S01012295: Tweedbank - East	7	3. Mid	2. Low	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	4. High
S01012296: Lauder - South	10	2. Low	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	4. High
S01012297: Blainslie and Legerwood	8	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low	1. Lower	3. Mid
S01012298: Lauder - North	7	3. Mid	3. Mid	1. Lower	3. Mid	2. Low	4. High
S01012299: Oxtton and Area	7	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid

Area	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
Scottish Borders	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
Selkirkshire	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High

Data Zone 2011 Code and Name	SIMD2020 Decile v2	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
S01012344: Newtown St Boswells - South	5	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	5. Higher	4. High	3. Mid
S01012345: Newtown St Boswells - North	7	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	5. Higher	4. High	4. High
S01012376: Ashkirk Lilliesleaf and Midlem Area	8	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High
S01012377: Bowden and Lindean Area	7	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
S01012378: Ettrick Water and Bowhill Area	6	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
S01012379: Yarrow Water and Sunderland Area	6	1. Lower	3. Mid	1. Lower	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High
S01012380: Selkirk - Shawburn	5	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
S01012381: Selkirk - Town Centre	5	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High	5. Higher	4. High	3. Mid
S01012382: Selkirk - Hillside Terrace	8	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low
S01012383: Selkirk - Showpark	7	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
S01012384: Selkirk - Dunsdale	6	3. Mid	2. Low	4. High	4. High	4. High	4. High
S01012385: Selkirk - Heatherlie	6	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High
S01012386: Selkirk - Bannerfield	2	5. Higher	5. Higher	4. High	5. Higher	5. Higher	4. High

Teviot and Liddesdale

Area	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
Scottish Borders	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
Hawick and Denholm	4. High	4. High	4. High	5. Higher	4. High	4. High

Data Zone 2011 Code and Name	SIMD2020 Decile v2	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
S01012356: Denholm	8	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
S01012357: Minto Cauldmill and Boonraw Area	7	2. Low	3. Mid	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	4. High
S01012358: Bonchester Bridge and Chesters Area	6	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High
S01012359: Hawick - Burnfoot - South East	1	5. Higher	5. Higher	4. High	5. Higher	5. Higher	4. High
S01012360: Hawick - Burnfoot - Central	1	5. Higher	4. High	4. High	5. Higher	5. Higher	4. High
S01012361: Hawick - Burnfoot - West	2	5. Higher	5. Higher	4. High	5. Higher	5. Higher	3. Mid
S01012362: Hawick - Burnfoot - North	2	5. Higher	5. Higher	5. Higher	5. Higher	5. Higher	4. High
S01012368: Hawick West End - Wilton Dean	7	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
S01012372: Hawick North - Commercial Road	2	4. High	5. Higher	4. High	5. Higher	5. Higher	4. High
S01012373: Hawick North - Wilton Hill	5	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
S01012374: Hawick North - Stirtches	5	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	2. Low
S01012375: Hawick North - Silverbuthall	4	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid

Area	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
Scottish Borders	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
Hawick and Hermitage	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High

Data Zone 2011 Code and Name	SIMD2020 Decile v2	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
S01012354: Newcastleton	6	2. Low	4. High	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	4. High
S01012355: Teviothead and Hermitage Area	5	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
S01012363: Hawick Central - Wellogate	2	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	4. High	4. High
S01012364: Hawick Central - Trinity	3	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	5. Higher	4. High	4. High
S01012365: Hawick Central - Millers Knowes	8	2. Low	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low	1. Lower	3. Mid
S01012366: Hawick Central - Town Centre	4	5. Higher	5. Higher	5. Higher	5. Higher	5. Higher	3. Mid
S01012367: Hawick Central - Weensland	6	4. High	4. High	4. High	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid
S01012369: Hawick West End - Crumhaughill and Parkdail	8	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
S01012370: Hawick Central - Drumlanrig	4	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	3. Mid
S01012371: Hawick West End - Crumhaugh	4	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	3. Mid	4. High

Tweeddale

Area	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
Scottish Borders	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
Tweeddale East	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid

Data Zone 2011 Code and Name	SIMD2020 Decile v2	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
S01012256: Peebles - S - Calvary Park	9	2. Low	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
S01012257: Peebles - S - Gallow Hill	7	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
S01012258: Peebles - S - Edderston Rd	10	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	3. Mid
S01012259: Peebles - S - Caledonian-Springhill	10	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
S01012260: Peebles - S - Victoria Park	7	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid
S01012261: Cardrona	8	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
S01012262: Tweeddale East Landward	6	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	4. High
S01012263: Walkerburn	4	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low
S01012264: Innerleithen - North	8	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
S01012265: Innerleithen - East	5	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	4. High	3. Mid
S01012266: Innerleithen - South	7	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High	2. Low
S01012267: Innerleithen - West	10	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
S01012273: Clovenfords and Area	9	2. Low	2. Low	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	3. Mid

Area	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
Scottish Borders	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
Tweeddale West	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid

Data Zone 2011 Code and Name	SIMD2020 Decile v2	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2021 Level	SB CPI 2022 Level
S01012244: Carllops Romannobridge	6	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
S01012245: West Linton - Lower	9	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low	1. Lower	3. Mid
S01012246: West Linton - Upper	9	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid
S01012247: Eddleston and Area	7	2. Low	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low	1. Lower	3. Mid
S01012248: Stobo - Blyth Bridge - Skirling	7	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low
S01012249: Broughton and Upper Tweed	6	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	1. Lower
S01012250: Glentress and Manor Valley	8	2. Low	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
S01012251: Peebles - N - Connor St	4	4. High	4. High	4. High	4. High	4. High	3. Mid
S01012252: Peebles North - Dalatho	6	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low
S01012253: Peebles - N - Cuddyside	6	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
S01012254: Peebles - N - March St	9	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
S01012255: Peebles - N - Eastgate	8	2. Low	2. Low	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low

Appendix 1B – Scottish Borders Child Poverty Annual Progress Report 2022/23

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
Employability Through these actions we will increase support available to parents, and uptake and awareness of that support, as well as giving parents access to skills, training and opportunities. This will strengthen the employment offer to parents and create new fair work opportunities, plus tackling inequalities which stop parents from entering and participating in the labour market.						
Parental Employability Project						
Continued support for the Parental Employability Project through collaborative development and implementation of Introduction to Childcare Course with Borders College.	1	SBC Borders College	Increased parental income and employment	Parents	A1	Delivery of Introduction to Social Care for Parents working with Parental Employability Support Team.
Support and enhance the Delivery of the Parental Employability Project through new Child Poverty monies and current NOLB funding.	1	SBC	Increase of parental employability	Parents	A1	SBC's Parental Employability Service continue with the provision of Community Drop-ins in both Galashiels and Hawick for parents seeking employability support. Childcare is provided within Burnfoot if required.
14+ and Transitions						
Regular 14+ transition meetings with schools and partners. Signpost resource and support for those eligible students to help secure a positive and sustained destination. Offer taster sessions to try out volunteering. Work with partners including DYW, SDS and employers to start the barrier removal process for those 14+ that are on track to a negative destination. Work with the Employability Support Service (ESS) to develop pathways for young people into Project Search, MA's and Kickstart programmes.	1	SBC Education CLD ESS SDS	Increased 14+ meetings Increased positive and sustained destinations	Children & Young People	A	Regular meetings take place with all secondary schools and partners. Employability staff offer employability related activities, from barrier removal to supported employment. Those identified with additional needs have pathway meetings and NOLB Stage 1 are present at those meetings. Employability services are regular attenders at pathway and career events. The UK Government's Kickstart programme has ended as planned but continue to promote Modern Apprentice opportunities. The 14+ framework has been refreshed and been reviewed to reflect national developments in transitions for ASN young people. The three core

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
						partners that support 'Team Around the School Transitions' are school, SDS and DYW.
Undertake the Borders College 'Care Aware' initiative to provide support and a named person for care experienced young people and student carers.	1	SBC	Increased positive and sustained destinations	Young People	A	Work around transitions, and in particular school/college to post school, continues to be the focus of the YPG priority.
<p>Work with and support ASN young people to better understand their World of Work and barriers they may encounter. This is supported through the ASN Learning Network funded by SDS and facilitated by Inspiring Scotland.</p> <p>Page 524</p>	1	BANG Inspiring Scotland SDS	Removal of barriers to work for ASN Young People	Young People	A3	<p>World of Work barriers report finalised. Volunteer opportunities increased with Saltire Award registration.</p> <p>Eight ASN Youths working weekly with SBC The Promise Team on Human Rights, self-advocacy and understanding of local and national decision making responsibilities.</p> <p>ASN Transition planning workshop held on 18th January and attended by school DYW Leads and other professionals to promote multi-agency approach to improve transition planning and ensure consistency across Scottish Borders secondary schools. Input from Arc Scotland on the Principles into Practice and mapping current practice and reality of transitions process.</p> <p>The South of Scotland ASN Learning Network received an additional years funding from the South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) and is facilitated by Inspiring Scotland. A report on progress shares recordings of spotlight sessions from young people across the region including the Employment Support Service of Scottish Borders Council.</p>

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
YouthBorders will employ a Network Officer to connect and facilitate third sector organisations who provides services for young people / young adults aged 16-25 - this project aims to lead to improved transitions in all aspects of young people's lives. e.g. housing, employment, education, mental health and wellbeing - and will be informed by the lived experience of service users.	2	Youth Borders	Number of young people supported	Young People	C3	Youth Borders host quarterly 'Trusted Connections' network meetings for organisations working with this age group, as well as regular working group meetings.
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 525</p> Continue to support ASN youths with access to safe digital social and peer platforms and are launching a new digital online support service for ASN youths in Sept 2022.	2,3	BANG SDS	Number of families supported	Families	A2	<p>The free ASN Summer Camp 2022 supported over 297 ASN families including Young Carers and ASN youths. In addition 23 ASN Parent Carers in Galashiels and 10 Hawick ASN Parents were supported.</p> <p>SDS continues to develop transition programmes and information through the use of technology to support with transitions from primary to secondary. This includes young people making videos about themselves and secondary teachers delivering elements of curriculum to primary pupils using technology. All schools are using Showbie as transition tool from primary into secondary.</p>
Work in partnership with Borders College to identify support for those students who are winter school leavers, have started college but not aged 16 and ineligible for Borders Young Talent.	1	SBC Borders College	Increased support for winter school leavers	Children & Young People	A	Borders College introduced a mentoring initiative to support those young people most at risk of not sustaining a positive learning journey through College. Progress is tracked and monitored to provide positive interventions to aid successful completion of their programme.
Work with partners to deliver a Careers event aimed at care experienced children and young people in secondary schools.	1	SBC	Delivery of Careers event	Children & Young People	A	Completed in April 2023.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
<p>Continue delivery of the Project 'Search', which supports young people with a learning disability or autism to transition into work. This is delivered in partnership with NHS Borders and Borders College.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 526</p>	1	SBC EES	Increased employment	Young People	C3	<p>SBC EES continues to offer Project SEARCH an employability course for young people aged 16-29 years old with additional needs based at the Borders General Hospital.</p> <p>During Covid there were extreme challenges with restricted access to the hospital. The Project continued delivering online learning and employability training. With restrictions lifted the 2022/2023 course was conducted from the hospital offering more external work rotations giving the interns the opportunity to work out with a hospital environment. This has provided opportunities for some of the interns to secure paid employment with ongoing support.</p>

Positive Destinations

<p>Develop new tracking and monitoring procedures with Skills Development Scotland and Borders College to ensure sustained positive destinations for care experienced children and young people.</p>	1	SBC SDS Borders College	Increase of sustained positive destinations	Children & Young People	A	<p>At Borders College all Care Experienced young people have the opportunity of a meeting with a Careers Advisor. The College works closely with SDS through their further education partnership agreement to provide withdrawal information and to aid the tracking and monitoring of all Care Experienced young people.</p> <p>SDS have a Care experienced tracker in place which is updated on a monthly basis by SDS and SBC's Virtual Head Teacher. Where young people have not sustained a destination, or are at risk of not sustaining, appropriate interventions are discussed.</p>
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Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
Continue to deliver Employability Support, based on the Supported Employment model, to all disadvantaged Borders residents.	1	SBC	Maintain employability support levels for disadvantaged Borders residents	Parents	A1	SBC's Parental Employability Service continued to offer employability support to disadvantaged people in the region. Working with partners and referral organisations, attending team meetings to promote all aspects of the service, marketing of the service through flyers, social media, working with schools to target young people without positive destinations and supporting them to overcome barriers to employment or further education.
Promote the value of youth work and seek investment in to third sector youth work to maximize the number of youth work opportunities which are available to young people in the Scottish Borders; and to advance Scotland's youth work outcomes.	1	Youth Borders	Increased awareness and participation of youth work	Children & Young People	C2	Beyond Earlston provides opportunities for young people to participate in youth achievement awards provided by Youth Scotland, Saltire Awards and support for young people with volunteering. Activities are programmed around the outdoors and these groups are well attended with an opportunity to get outdoors and to explore. Eat Sleep Ride CIC have a modern apprenticeship programme as well as offering foundation apprenticeships and GCAS apprenticeships. They also provide work experience, alternative school provision and youth achievement awards.
Work with schools and encourage children and young people to sign up to Saltire Awards.	1, 2	Volunteer Centre Borders	Number of children and young people supported	Children & Young People	B1	During the January to March 2023 period VCB's Youth Volunteering Development Officer gave 9 Saltire Awards and Volunteering/opportunities presentations and group talks to young people. 438 young people attended these talks, learning more about volunteering, opportunities and the benefits of getting involved with the Saltire Awards Scheme. 14 young people signed up to Saltire to

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
						record their volunteering and 28 young people registered as interested volunteers.
NOLB						
Work in partnership with employers – e.g. SBC on No One Left Behind (NOLB).	1	Eat Sleep Ride CIC	Number of employment opportunities	Parents	A3	One young person was employed in March 2022 through NOLB. Initially homeless, the young person was supported in securing property and in gaining child awareness, mental health and first aid qualifications. An employee recruited through NOLB during the previous year continues at Eat Sleep Ride.
NOLB and Young Person's Guarantee (YPG) offer bespoke pathways to young people to help those 16+ who are furthest from the job market and to overcome barriers to employment, volunteering and further education. PES and IFSS offer this to parents and families.	1	SBC	Increase parental/guardian income	Parents & Young People	A2	SBC's Parental Employment Service continued to offer employability training and awareness sessions including 1-1 support for those who require additional support to help overcome barriers to employment volunteering and further education.
Work with parents on No One Left Behind (NOLB) scheme to help them into employment.	1	SBC	Increase parental/guardian income	Parents & Young People	A2	Joint Initial visits between SBC's Parental Employability Service and No-one Left Behind continued and identified holistic support offered to the family. In adopting a 'Whole family' approach contributed to identifying the barriers to employment and perpetual cycle of this amongst families.
Teach hospitality and catering skills to support young people entering the food industry through the Food Punks Project. Work in partnership with local hotels and restaurants. Support young people referred from the Criminal Justice Service into sustained employment. Support Kickstart placements and NOLB.	1	Tweeddale Youth	Increased employment and work experience opportunities within catering industry	Parents	A3	Food Punks continued to support cohorts of school refusers through the school day as well as encouraging 16+'s into employment, including through Food Punks via NOLB.
Support a new initiative within the Burnfoot community centre to deliver a bespoke employability hub for the residents of Burnfoot in Hawick.	1	SBC	Deliver an employability hub for the residents of Burnfoot	Parents	A1	SBC's Parental Employability Service continued working with partners: SDS, DWP, NOLB Stage 1, Parental Support and SBHA, providing a weekly one stop session offering support within the

	Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
							Burnfoot Community. PES representatives attended sessions at the parent club in Burnfoot.
ASN							
Page 52 of 59	Work with charities/grassroots who support disadvantaged or marginalised groups to encourage volunteering. Support them to find volunteers through advertising and campaigning.	1,2,3	Volunteer Centre Borders SDS DYW SBC Education	Support given to families in need		B4	ASN Enhanced Work Experience Provision (pilot in Galashiels); this new project initiated by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) aims to ensure that all young people can access work placements despite any extra support they may need. Seven placements have been currently found by VCB.
	Provide targeted learning programmes to support disadvantaged young people to succeed and achieve.	1	SBC CLD Third Sector	Increased learning programmes for disadvantaged young people	Children & Young People	A	Through the YES Teams programme, 12 BANG ASN youths participated in this project which created social enterprise. BANG worked with SDS Borders to co-produce reflective toolkit for career advisors, providing ASN youths with opportunity to participate and engage with The Promise Team.
	Support ASN youths with ILF transition funding applications, accessing qualification both national and local and launching Youth Enterprise Scotland YES teams programme in August 2022 to provide qualification SVQ 3 to ASN youths and access to social innovation, enterprise.	1,3	BANG	Increased successful funding applications	Young People	A3	ILF Transition funding workshops delivered to youths. 1-1 support with ILF transition funding Warm and Well funding to ASN families December to Match disseminated £5,000 funding.
	Promote ASN supports via social media and referral.	1,2	SBC	Number of families supported and referred	Families	B2	The Intensive Family Support Service targets specific areas including Employment, Family Support and income maximisation for families where generational unemployment is a feature. Over 2022, 28 families were supported with income maximisation. The Throughcare Aftercare Team encouraged persons to maximise the uptake of available Care Experienced Council Tax Exemption by writing to all

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
						young people eligible for the benefit informing them of this on a 6 monthly basis. The initial mailshot will be sent in April 2023, following collation of necessary contact details.
Raise awareness of Autism with organisations, create a video on Autism by Young people, and an Autism Reflection toolkit to support organisations with Person centred approach. Work with Borders College to launch Quiet induction for ASN/Autism Students.	1	BANG	Number of young people supported	Young People	A3	BANG supported 89 ASN Youths between 11-25 years of age with direct weekly sessions and 13 with targeted support with high demand for the Statutory sector.
Provide training to ASN parents on subjects to support them to manage their emotional health and well-being. In addition we have ASN parent carer volunteers whom we support and we employ ASN parents within our funded projects/ summer camps .The supportive approach supports ASN parents.	1,2	BANG	Uptake of service, and families supported	Parents	A1	BANG launched a new weekly ASN Parent peer support group in Galashiels and Hawick with JHIT funding. Monthly thematic workshops are held from Enquire, Voiceability, Social Security Scotland, Children and Families Social Work, Self-Directed Support, CONTACT and transition with SBC pilot. Thirty one parent carers attended the Summer Camp held in July 2022.
Volunteering						
Promote volunteering roles within the CAB Service and an extensive training programme to develop skills and build confidence to return to the workplace particularly after a period of being at home looking after children.	1	CAB	Increase of parents returning to work	Parents	A1	CAB obtained funding through the Robertson Trust. CAB have recruited 1.6FTE Training & Development Officers to recruit and train volunteers to cover all the Scottish Borders Area CAB's.
Deliver cross service volunteer policy and expansion of younger people into volunteering roles in Live Borders.	1	Live Borders	Increased volunteering in Live Borders by younger people	Parents & Young People	C3	Live Borders Volunteer Policy is in operation. 215 young people volunteered through the Active Schools programme.
Support our network to improve the lives of young people through their participation in quality voluntary and community-based youth work.	1	Youth Borders	Increased numbers of volunteers in community-based youth work	Children & Young People	C2	Membership organisations such as Stable Life, Beyond Earlston and Eat Sleep Ride continue to offer quality volunteering opportunities, which offer access to training and learning new skills.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
Run summer camps and volunteering for juniors, allowing parents to be able to work a full day.	1	Eat Sleep Ride CIC	Attendance level of summer camps	Children & Young People	A2	The Get into Summer programme delivered 8 full day sessions with transport provided. Twenty people benefitted from this with a further 10 junior volunteers involved.
Work with partners to make sure that everyone should have equal access to volunteering opportunities.	1,2	Volunteer Centre Borders	Number of individuals supported	Families	B3	VCB continues to promote and access the Volunteer Scotland Volunteer Friendly Award, VCB has assisted 3 organisations with their volunteer friendly in the last six months, with 3 more recently applying to complete the training/learning to achieve the award.
Promote an employee volunteering scheme with companies/organisations to encourage more people to give up their time to support the local community.	1,2,3	Volunteer Centre Borders SOSE	Evaluation of participants taking part in scheme	Families	A3	SOSE has a live volunteering policy which provides 2 volunteering days per annum. Communities clients are made aware of this at the point of engagement and all opportunities/proactive requests are shared across the organisations.
Information and Support						
Give information to clients about local opportunities and organisations which may be of interest and support to develop their goals.	1	CAB		Families	A1	CAB use a local information database. Social media and other information sources are utilised to both promote and obtain information which clients may find of interest.
Through our Borders wide employment project, liaise with employers to ensure they know their responsibilities to employees and are paying at least minimum wage.	1,2	CAB	Improved employee care Increased minimum wage recipients	Parents	A3	The ERAS Project has been busy dealing with issues from employees. The pilot is likely to be extended and there is more provision for liaising with employers.
Support employees with enquiries regarding their employment and make them aware of their rights and responsibilities and how to challenge any inequality.	1	CAB	Better employee awareness of rights	Parents	A3	Additional training has been available to ensure that most employee enquiries can be dealt with.
From pregnancy we inform clients of their employment rights and eligibility around maternity allowance or pay, time off and employer's responsibilities. Offer benefit checks due to change of circumstances and information and support on how to claim.	1	CAB	Better understanding of employment and maternity rights	Parents	C1	CAB continue to receive a number of enquiries around maternity rights and pay. Specialist resources are utilised for signposting purposes. On-going contact and changes which result once the baby is born is encouraged.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
Continue support of the library service with signposting and information for parents.	2	Live Borders	Increased parental use of library service	Parents	A1	Visitor numbers to Live Borders libraries have continued to increase with 119,536 visitors in 2022/2023 compared to 48,858 in 2021/22. There has also been an 86% increase in the use of library pc's with the Public Network reservation rate increasing from 4105 in 2021/22 to 7622 2022/23.
Maximise parental/guardians' income, by signposting to appropriate services. Support all learners in travelling to and from venues for their learning and in some cases provide childcare. Support our 16+ learners who are furthest from the job market with digital devices to help them seek opportunities in learning, volunteering or employment.	1	SBC	Increase parental/guardian income	Parents & Young People	A2	<p>Full Income Maximisation assessments were conducted for all parents working with SBC's Parental Employment Service.</p> <p>On a fortnightly basis, PES representatives attended all DWP Job Centres within the Scottish Borders. Signposting, with support, to access further learning opportunities, therapeutic interventions, health appointments, housing appointments, depending on the individual needs of the parent.</p> <p>Where appropriate parents were supported to apply for devices through Connecting Scotland.</p>
Provide parent employability support through the Financial Inclusion in Early Years Group.	1	NHS Borders SBC	Increased support to parents.	Parents	A1	Employability support is provided by the Early Years Financial Inclusions Team who offer holistic support with benefits checks, signposting and referrals for emergency assistance including Crisis Grants or food parcels.
Support the Ukraine Refugee crisis group to ensure that effective and efficient employment support is available. This is in conjunction with partners in JC+.	1	SBC Job Centre	Ensure there is efficient employment available for Ukrainian Refugees	Parents	A1	<p>An Employment Development Officer post was funded last year, (October 2022), in order to ensure efficient employment opportunities for Ukrainian Refugees.</p> <p>In continued collaboration with Job Centre+ this offers CSCS Course and</p>

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
						individual support and promoting ESOL Classes enrolment and SB College Course applications. Work continues in identifying potential job opportunities and build relationships with employers to ensure Ukrainian refugees have reliable and efficient employment options available to them.
Support the effective planning and delivery of new SG child poverty monies and targets which will include improving access and availability of childcare.	1,3	SBC	Improved access to childcare	Families	A2	Training provided to Duns Community Nursery in the development of their CIC with PES/IFSS providing support to parents. PES worked with partners to ensure the availability of funded places for hard to reach families.
Continue to offer support to disabled clients (both learning and physical) to find and sustain paid work	1	SBC	Increased employment	Parents	B2	SBC's Parental Employability Service continued to engage with referral sources to promote employability support and opportunities to those who reside in the Scottish Borders with additional support needs and barriers to work. By offering 1-1 key worker wrap around support to individuals to support them to reach their employment goals of finding and sustaining paid employment.
Continue to support all clients to maximise their income through improved jobs and /or increased hours.	1	SBC	Increased income	Parents	B3	Working with a key worker and reviewing client's current circumstances is part of the conversations key workers from SBC's Parental Employability Service have with their clients. This is to ensure persons are supported if they wish to work more hours to maximise their income or potentially when ready to look for another job.
We will support the maximum number of parents into employment which will help their children to have a better start in life.	1	SBC	Increased parental employment	Families	C1	SBC's Parental Employability Service maintains community engagement within Early Years Centres, promotion amongst Social Work, Health, DWP and Education to work with partners to

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
						identify parents with barriers to employment.
Continue growth of the BookBug Programme for young parents and develop signposting along wide collaborative work with "return to work" schemes.	2	Live Borders	Increased parental participation of BookBug programme	Children	A1	Bookbug numbers have continued to increase with 825 sessions in 2022/23 with 4823 children attending and 4775 adults attending with them. In comparison, there were 238 sessions in 2021/22 with 2432 children and 2215 adults attending with them.
Continue to engage with the Job Centre and the PACE team to support and advise individuals facing redundancy.	1	SBC Job Centre PACE	Maintain support to those facing redundancy	Parents	A1	Scottish Borders Local PACE Partnership meet on a quarterly basis to review any PACE activity undertaken. The number of PACE interventions was relatively low throughout 2022/23 with only 2 employers with greater than 20 employees at risk requiring PACE intervention.
The Employability Support Service will continue to work in partnership with employers and employer's representatives to ensure our clients have the best possible chances of securing and sustaining paid jobs. We will support employers to ensure they have any assistance they need to engage with some of the Scottish Borders most disadvantaged citizens.	1,3	SBC	Increased employment	Parents	A3	SBC's Parental Employability Service continue working with employers to form relationships that in turn ensures better understanding of clients' needs and enabling the best support being offered to clients. Providing in work support to the employer and clients enhances the chances of clients sustaining paid employment.
Promote the Young Person's free Bus travel through the National Entitlement Card (NEC) or Young Scot National Entitlement Card (Young Scot NEC).	1,2	SBC CLD	Number of children and young people accessing free bus travel	Children & Young People	A2	The Young Scot app is now included on all I pads in schools.
Work with clients to make them aware of their rights and responsibilities, what is available locally and how to access these services.	1,3	CAB	Number of families supported	Families	A2	This is a particular focus of Our Money Talk Team Project, funded by the Scottish Government (currently funded to end June 2023).

Page 534

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
Projects and Programmes						
Get into Summer Entry level job creation for young people to work in culture and leisure services.	1	Live Borders	Increased employment within culture and leisure services for young people	Parents & Young People	C3	Through Live Borders, 20 young people were recruited as Activity Leaders through the summer holidays to lead and support activity camps.
Continue Youth Leadership programme in Sport.	1	Live Borders	Maintain Youth Leadership programme in sport	Parents & Young People	C3	Live Borders supported delivery of Youth Leadership Programmes in Selkirk, Earlston and Kelso High Schools. Leadership programmes took place in Galashiels, Peebles and Duns. The Young Leadership Academy operated across all nine cluster areas taking 18 students through a year-long mentoring and education programme to support their development in sports coaching. Primary 6-7 leadership skills in 23 Primary Schools across the Scottish Borders was re-instated in teaching core skills of teamwork, safety, confidence, resilience, organisation and planning.
Introduction of Borders Employment and Mentoring project (BEAM) by the Borders Housing Network (BHN) to engage social housing tenants and families towards employment.	1	SBC BHN BHA	Increased employment amongst BHN tenants	Parents	A1	A total of 91 referrals were made to BEAM for BHN Tenants. Of these, 50 Tenants engaged with the service and 22 went on to secure employment.
Work with Hawick Employability Pilot Partners to provide employability wraparound support in Burnfoot. Remove barriers to employment by supporting individuals to have a better understanding of their own mental health needs and develop coping strategies.	1	NHS Borders SDS JHIT	Increased employment within Burnfoot	Parents	A1	Burnfoot Employability Hub pilot was launched in September 2022 with various partners including SDS, DWP, ESS, NHS, PES and SBHA. There was a weekly presence every Thursday morning at Burnfoot Community Centre. Despite promotion and various interventions there was low footfall, and the decision was taken by the multi-agency working group to cease in March 2023.

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Provide a Skills learning program me through Food and Bike Punks. Provide supported employment opportunities within TYA and signposting to organisations' such as Works+. Connection with local employers also supports post 16 employment opportunities.	1	Tweeddale Youth	Increased supported employment opportunities	Parents	C3	Tweeddale Youth Action supported the employment of 5 young people with local employers and one directly with TYA. Food and Bike Punks continue to operate, and Food Punks are collaborating with Works+ to feed young people from Tweeddale and to support cookery to existing participants.
Continue to deliver Scottish Borders Council's 'Family Firm' which supports Care experienced young people to transition into work.	1	SBC	Increased employment	Families	C3	SBC's Borders Family Firm is a project that continues to support Care Experienced Young people to transition into work. Further funding is being explored to ensure continuation as current funding from the European Social Fund ended as of March 2023.
Delivery of the Young Persons Guarantee by supporting appropriately aged individuals and creating opportunities for them both within and outwith Scottish Borders Council.	1	SBC	Increased opportunities	Young People	C3	The Young Persons Guarantee Group is a subgroup of the Local Employability Partnership. The group meets regularly and focuses on the needs of young people in the region, ensuring a regional approach creates and offers appropriate employment opportunities.
Continue to employ modern apprentices when possible.	1	BHA	Increased levels of Modern Apprentices	Young People	C3	BHA continues in the recruitment of modern apprentices despite previous attempts to recruit apprentices having very low take-up.
Offer a range of apprenticeship opportunities dependent upon funding. Work with contractors to ensure they offer work experience and apprenticeship opportunities through local schools.	1	BHA	Increased apprenticeships available	Young People	C3	BHA attends careers events at local High Schools and promotes careers in housing. BHA also has good links with job centres and employability networks.
Establish a Foundation Apprenticeship Programme with Borders College and work with Borders Housing Network and Scottish Borders Council on the Borders Guarantee.	1	SBHA SBC Borders College BHN	Increased Apprenticeship employment	Young People	C3	Borders Housing Network continues to work in partnership to enhance apprenticeship opportunities.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
Continue to support the creation of modern apprentice opportunities at Scottish Borders Council.	1	SBC	Increased Modern Apprentice opportunities	Young People	C3	During 2022/23 SBC recruited 29 modern apprentices and continues to promote and support apprentice opportunities within the organisation.

Education
Through these actions we will continue to tackle the poverty related attainment gap and support the health and well-being of children and young people. This will in turn help children and young people to achieve better lifelong outcomes, thus helping to break the cycle of poverty.

Early Years

Equity and Excellence Leads to be placed in large SBC Early Learning Childcare (ELC) settings in areas of high deprivation.	1,2	SBC Early Years Team	By end of Primary 1 current attainment data for achieving early level will be above 80%	Families	C2	Equity and Excellence Lead Officers supported 4 schools based on identified need. All are focused on narrowing developmental gaps for individuals in ELC. There is evidence of the gap narrowing in these ELC settings with significant progress being made at Jedburgh, making a difference to attainment by end of P1.
Continue to deliver Psychology of Parenting Project (PoPP) parenting groups targeted at those in highest areas of deprivation.	1,2	SBC Early Years Team	Number of participants	Families	C2	This programme continues and face-to-face delivery is re-starting.
Continue to support free access to Community Centres for nursery provision and also support the development of these groups.	2	Live Borders	Number of families supported and accessing services	Families	A2	Early Years provision is established in Tweedbank, Duns, and Selkirk.

Projects and Programmes

Develop an implementation plan following publication of Scottish Government's strategic plan for their childcare commitments.	1,2	SBC Education	Outcomes of implementation plan met	Families	A2	Early stage thinking and discussion is taking place relating to workforce planning in relation to a further expansion of provision for 2-year-olds and 1-year-olds.
Undertake a mentoring initiative to support those most at risk of disengagement to successfully transition through senior phase of school to college and for those at greatest risk of disengagement during their first year at college.	1	SBC	Uptake of Scheme	Children & Young People	B1	A 3-day Skills Quest Event for care experienced young people was conducted in April 2023. Organised by Virtual Head Teacher and DYW, the event focused on developing skills including budgeting, team working and cooking on a budget.

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Pilot a schools Resource Pack for children and young people that promotes sustainability, linked to the Curriculum for Excellence.	2	SBC Education	Uptake of Scheme	Children & Young People	B1	It is hoped this pilot will be conducted in 2023/24.
Ensure UNCRC and Children's Rights are taken into account in Child Poverty work in the Scottish Borders Future Actions.	1	SBC Partners	Child Poverty work to incorporate UNCRC and Children's Rights	Families	C1	UNCRC and Children's Rights are taken into account in appropriate child poverty actions. Addressing child poverty is a priority of our Children & Young People's Plan, which is written with policy links to the UNCRC articles and engages with children and young people, taking their rights into account.

Financial Inclusion
Through these actions we will help maximise income of low income households, lifting children out of poverty and combatting the cost of living crisis.

Financial Inclusion Fund

Disperse funds from the Financial Inclusion Fund to those most in need.	3	SBC	Monetary gains, support given	Families	B2	Forty groups have received awards from the Financial Inclusion Fund. This has included projects such as Low and Slow, which has allowed additional community groups to deliver the programme in their local area. £160,000 has been allocated to groups so far.
Continue to support the Financial Inclusion Practitioners Group to raise awareness of financial support (68 current members).	1,2,3	SBC	Number of organisations funded whose activities indirectly or directly address child poverty	Families	B3	£190,000 has been allocated across the Scottish Borders to 10 groups/organisations to support financial inclusion via the financial inclusion fund.
Raise the profile of financial inclusion through the Financial Inclusion Practitioners Group	1,2,3	SBC	Number of organisations funded whose activities indirectly or directly address child poverty	Families	B2	The Financial Inclusion Practitioners Group met 3 times in 2022/23. A multi-agency network was formed as a result. The Cost of Living Strategic and Operational Groups continued this work and have raised the profile of financial inclusion through the dispersal of £1.2M cost of living funds.

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Benefits						
Encourage families to have a benefit check to ensure they are getting all the support they are entitled to and how their earned income may be supplemented.	1,2	CAB	Increased benefits checks	Families	A1	Income maximisation benefit checks are on offer and are widely accepted. A focus around the changes to The Scottish Child Payment criteria was a priority.
Provide direct support to maximise family income, including help to access Scottish Child payments and all other welfare benefits.	3	BHA	Tracked and evaluated using the Scottish Federation Housing Associations (SFHA) social value toolkit	Families	B4 B2	BHA supported £5,200 gains from Scottish Child payments and £674,825 total benefit gains for 2022/2023. (provisional)
Increase take up of school clothing grants - Extend eligibility for school Clothing Grants to include receipt of Council Tax Reduction in eligibility (and link to take up campaign for Council Tax Reduction) and link to other benefits (e.g., Scottish Child Payment and Best Start Grants).	3	SBC	Increased take up, monetary gains	Families	B3	A take up campaign undertaken in Summer 2022 to identify potential eligible families from data held from other benefits and the process will take place annually. Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction applications also include applications for free school meals and clothing grants to maximise take up.
Provide financial inclusion support for early years through maximising take up of child related benefits and resources, and signposting to relevant services including child specific welfare support, access to food resources and clothing grants.	3	BHA	No. of clients, Demographic information (if given), Client financial gain	Children and Young People	B2	BHA supported £5,200 gains from Scottish Child payments and £674,825 total benefit gains for 2022/2023. (provisional)
Make direct winter payments to eligible families with low income (£100 per child) as agreed at Scottish Borders Council meeting on 25.08.22	2,3	SBC	Monetary gains, support given	Children and families	B3	Almost 2,700 children benefitted from this direct payment in 2022.
Provide school leavers or their parents contacting our service with further education options and the financial implications to and for them.i.e., loss of child related benefits and financial support through bursaries and grants for further/higher education.	1	CAB	Improved understanding of further education options and any financial implications	Families	C3	CAB attend school careers events, with enquiries dealt with as and when presented. In particular the loss of child related benefits prompts people to seek CAB's assistance.

	Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
Partners	Provide parents with support to accessing benefits, services and supports parents to advocate. Provide advocacy training for ASN Parents and work 1-1 with ASN parents through advocacy to access other support.	3	BANG	Uptake and successful completion of training	Parents	B3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Security Scotland focus groups • 1-1 sessions and group session-supported • 12 ASN parents apply for benefits and Bus Passes • Completed 7 applications for DLA or renewal of DLA • Completed 4 applications with ASN Parents on new Child Grant
	Continue with Health Visitors asking about money worries at every contact and refer to the SBC Financial Support and Inclusion Team where required.	2,3	NHS Borders SBC JHIT	Record gains made, monitor national child poverty levels, Monitor Scottish Government benefit statistics	Families	B2	Midwives and Health Visitors continue to be proactive in referring expectant and new mothers for benefits checks. In 2022-2023 there were 500 referrals resulting in an uplift in benefits of £1.2million.
Cost of Living							
Partners	Provide financial inclusion support through partnership Community meetings and distributing supermarket gift cards to individuals in crisis (Financial Hardship Fund)	2,3	SBC	Monetary gains, support given	Families	B2	Over £5,000 worth of supermarket gift cards have been distributed to local foodbanks and fareshare providers as well as to prominent groups within communities that are supporting individuals with the cost of living crisis. Further Supermarket Gift cards have supported specific groups such as Violence against Women and Drugs and Alcohol partnership. Social Security Scotland have attended all 5 community meetings and provided updates on how to access welfare and the support that Social Security Scotland provides. Our in-house Welfare Benefits team have also provided regular updates at community meetings
	Proactively promote free school meals (FSM) and clothing grant provision. Increase take up of free school meals - Identify	2	SBC	Increased uptake	Children & Young People	B3	A take up campaign undertaken in Summer 2022 to identify potential eligible families from data held from other benefits and the process will take

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
people who are potentially eligible but not claiming (particularly those with children who already receive universally free school meals in P1-P5) and link to other benefits (e.g., Scottish Child Payment and Best Start Grants). Increase take up of educational maintenance allowance (EMA) – identify those who are potentially eligible.						place annually. Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction applications also include applications for free school meals and clothing grants to maximise take up.
Increase take up of Council Tax Reduction – a campaign to include advertising and direct contact with those who are potentially eligible which will link to Clothing Grant take up.	3	SBC	Increased take up, monetary gains	Families	B3	A phased campaign started in early 2023 to identify and contact potential applicants.
Continue to work on the cost of the school day, using pupil equity funding to support this.	2,3	SBC Education	Monetary gains	Families	B2	Development plan agreed with Education Scotland. Updated information sent to all schools with plans to engage schools in further professional learning, develop a framework and support schools with self-evaluation. Where possible, schools continue to use pupil equity funding to ensure those pupils impacted by poverty are supported and do not miss out on experiences.
Page 541						
Information and Support						
Continue to encourage partners, local employers and suppliers to adopt the real living wage which will increase the level of income coming into a household.	1	SBC Partners	Increased adoption of the real living wage Increased income	Families	B3	Individualised Family Income Maximisation Assessments are undertaken as part of the Introduction to Service for PES/IFSS.
Communities & Partnerships						
From these actions we will work with partnership, third sector and community organisations to provide holistic and whole family support.						
Food Networks						
Work with partners to support Foodbanks, Fare Share, Community Larders and other food organisations to pilot and implement sustainable food options - Low & Slow. The project also provides holistic benefits and fuel/energy & debt	2,3	SBC Food Banks	Participation and Engagement data. Programme	Families	A1	Low and Slow projects are running across 5 areas. Seven Low and Slow projects are running. Cyrenians provide a food larder and cook club in: Jedburgh, Selkirk, Walkerburn and

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
advice to individuals and families.			impact evaluation report			Galashiels.
Develop a Food Network through quarterly Food Conversations with Partners. The Food Network will include a holistic approach to support and information.	2	SBC	Support given	Families	A1, B3	Food conversations have taken place throughout 2022/23 and a food network has been developed and will continue.
Continue to invest in estates and community facilities including community food gardens.	2	BHA	Number of people supported	Families	B1	Two community food gardens in Duns and Ayton run in partnership with Abundant Borders. BHA has also provided £25,000 to local foodbank and larders from the National Lottery Community Anchor fund, accessed through the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations.

People and Place

Support Place Planning across the Scottish Borders to develop 5 Locality Plans. BPS 542	2	SBC	Number of organisations funded whose activities indirectly or directly address child poverty	Families	B1	Meetings in Borderland towns have resulted in a starting point for forming Town Teams in each locality. These plans also aim to incorporate rural areas that are in close proximity. Town Team planning is being led by community members and groups and their skills and experiences are helping to shape other communities' plans.
Active role in place making and capacity building.	2	BHA	Number of people supported	Families	B1	BHA's will maintain its role in local place making and support capacity building where possible with internal and external community support funding.
YouthBorders will develop, grow and strengthen opportunities for collaboration and partnership within and between third sector and community organisations; and with the public sector.	2	YouthBorders	Number of opportunities for young people	Children & Young People	B1	YouthBorders current membership size is 51 organisations and reached 5600 young people in youth work opportunities.
BHA will continue to promote 'Ride Pingo' for its customers across Berwickshire	2	BHA	Number of families supported	Families	A2	Ongoing, via BHA social media channels

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
Provide transport to families and encourage car sharing among parents.	2,3	Eat Sleep Ride CIC	Number of families supported	Families	A2	Eleven people utilised the Pingo bus to attend sessions. Car sharing is actively encouraged with at least 4 households opting for car share.

Holistic and Whole Family Support

Wider support and linkage to reduction in child poverty action and policy networks.	2	BHA	Number of organisations funded whose activities indirectly or directly address child poverty	Families	A3	Ongoing whereby BHA continues to access other funding to support poverty reduction in the Scottish Borders.
Provide holistic and whole family support – e.g., equine therapy and access to mental health services.	2,3	Eat Sleep Ride CIC	Evaluation of support given	Families	B1	Thirty-three people accessed therapy support, 56 care parcels were distributed to low income households, and over 45 young people had access to a range of support. This has been provided funding from: Warm and Well, National Lottery, SBC and YouthBorders.

Page 54

Housing & Energy
Through these actions we will help to keep housing costs low, provide support with rising energy bills and tackle homelessness for families.

Tenancy Sustainment

Continue to assist clients with rent and mortgage arrear issues and at risk of eviction or repossession to look at their income and expenditure, any possible eligibility to additional financial support (e.g., DHP) and negotiate a repayment schedule on their behalf.	2	CAB	Number of families supported	Families	B4	Rent and eviction freezes until 31/3/23 has slowed down with landlords and lenders from moving to these extremes. This allows opportunities to reach repayment of arrears.
Continue to work in partnership with Shelter Scotland for representation to clients at the court stage of the eviction process.	2	CAB Shelter Scotland	Number of families supported	Families	B4	CAB continues the referral partnership with Shelter. Cases which were on hold during the pandemic are now continuing to court stage.
Provision of tenancy sustainment services including financial inclusion advice and BeWell mental health project directly funded by BHA. Comprehensive advice and signposting are also provided for fuel debt, mental wellbeing and other areas that support family households, including children.	2	BHA	Tracked and evaluated using the Scottish Federation Housing Associations (SFHA) social	Families	B1	BHA has a new operating model that includes a dedicated Tenancy Sustainability Team providing financial inclusion, fuel and food support and access to BHA BeWell tenancy support and wellbeing service. Operated by Penumbra, BeWell will expand and

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
Provide support for young people leaving care through early intervention by tenancy sustainment services at the start of their tenancy			value toolkit			extend its reach to engage young people under 25 with their first tenancy having secured funding from the recent Community Mental Health and Wellbeing funding round.
Work with SBHA Tenants to promote tenancy sustainment and reduce the number of Tenants who lose their home.	2	SBHA	Less tenants evicted, and increase in those able to sustain tenancy for more than one year	Families	B4	SBHA carried out 9 evictions in 2022-23 depicting 0.16% of all SBHA's tenancies. The majority (67%) of the evictions were for non-payment of rent.
Review and update Scottish Borders Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan in order to prevent families from becoming homeless and, where homelessness cannot be prevented, to support families to secure settled, mainstream housing as quickly as possible.	2	SBC	Reduced number of families homeless, increased support provided	Families	B4	The Borders Health and Homelessness Strategic Partnership are in the process of revising the RRTP and accompanying action plan, which is due to be submitted to Scottish Government in June 2024.
Warm Affordable Homes						
Create new social housing though warm, affordable housing and infrastructure	2	BHA	Tracked and evaluated using the Scottish Federation Housing Associations (SFHA) social value toolkit	Families	B4	New build ongoing at Springfield in Duns (phase 3). This is due for completion later this year.
SBHA will build 300 homes over the next 7 years.	2	SBHA	Number of homes completed	Families	B4	SBHA has provided no new homes in 2022-23, however 15 properties have been purchased from the open market of which 10 will be available for social rent and 5 for mid-market rent.
Continue implementation of pilot Housing First Model that meets the needs of people with multiple needs in the Scottish Borders and which, as far as is possible in a rural context, conforms to the 7 principles of Housing First.	2	SBC	Principles of Housing First model adhered to	Families	B4	Housing First delivery continued throughout 2022/2023.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
Fuel Vouchers						
Provide fuel poverty support including BHN distribution of SG Fuel Support funding and Fuel Bank vouchers to over 2,400 households.	2	BHA BHN	Tracked and evaluated using the Scottish Federation Housing Associations (SFHA) social value toolkit	Families	B4	BHN members have continued to issue vouchers from the Fuel Bank Foundation to tenant households on pre-paid meters. There has been increasingly high demand for this fund with 1,727 vouchers costing £75,206 distributed in calendar year 2022. This support has helped 3,162 people including 1,028 children from some of the lowest income households in the Scottish Borders. BHN also secured a third tranche of SG Fuel Support funds in late 2022. BHN has now been successful in all three rounds of SG Fuel Support Funding and has secured just over £1m additional income to mitigate the impact of fuel poverty in the Scottish Borders.
Provide fuel vouchers to clients where possible.	2	Eat Sleep Ride CIC	Number of fuel vouchers issued	Families	B4	Through Youth Scotland Winter Fund, vouchers were issued to families who were in fuel poverty. Additionally, via the Corra Hardship funding 12 families were supported with 100 fuel payments.
Issue fuel vouchers to SBHA Tenants on pre-paid meters.	2,3	SBHA	Number of vouchers issued	Families	B2	A total of 390 SBHA Tenants were issued with a fuel voucher in 2022-2023.
Warm and Well						
Support ASN youths with ILF transition funding applications.	1,3	BANG	Increased successful funding applications	Young People	A3	Warm and Well funding to ASN families December to Match disseminated £5,000 funding.
Continue with SBHA's affordable warmth service 'Warm and Well', providing energy saving advice (an average of £188 per household savings in the year.	2	SBHA	Number of tenants supported monetary gains	Families	B3	A total of 648 SBHA Tenants accessed SBHA's Warm and Well Service in 2022-23 with the interaction generating a total of £117,000 in savings, an average of £181 per household.
Support Tenants with their heating costs and reduce their fuel debt using £150,000 from the	2,3	SBHA	Number of tenants	Families	B4	A total of 115 Tenants received a payment from the Fuel Debt Fund to

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
Scot Government Fuel Debt Fund for 2022-23.			supported monetary gains			<p>clear their fuel debt (£150,000 in total payments made), an average of £1,300 per household. SBHA will continue to provide this service into 2023-24.</p> <p>BHN has secured £84,000 from SBC's Cost of Living Fund to continue with the employment of SBHA's Warm and Well Coordinator and to recruit an additional energy adviser to support referrals.</p>
<p>Continue to check for energy savings measures and any concessionary funds and grants available to pass on to clients.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 546</p>	2,3	SBC CAB	Monetary gains and support given	Families	B3	<p>Following a successful and busy 2022/23 delivering the Warm & Well scheme, CAB have secured further funding to allow the continuation of the Warm & Well Scheme to be delivered in partnership with SBC across 2023/24.</p> <p>In addition to the core income maximisation support and activities have also now been able to secure additional funding and support for an Energy Advisor role within the scheme, further providing support and advice particularly for those households in or at risk of fuel poverty.</p>
Information and Support						
Continue to refer clients to the Homelessness team at SBC and explain process and procedures to client.	2	CAB SBC	Number of referrals made	Families	B4	On-going, when required. Working with the Homelessness Team is very beneficial for the client.
Support partner agencies in helping to reduce household costs through advice, signposting and specific learning programmes.	2	SBC	Uptake of services	Families	B4	PES/IFSS have worked closely with SBHA Energy specialist to apply for funds to reduce debt and look at ways to reduce energy usage. This includes: signposting families to Warm Hubs to ease fuel costs and applications to Cash for Kids for support with 'Heat the

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
						Person not the House'. This grant provided warm bedding, clothes for the whole family and individual support for applications to Housing Associations for fuel vouchers.
Support young people and families to access heating payments to support rising fuel costs (through the Peeblesshire Food Bank). Signpost young people and advocate for them with SBC's Homelessness team.	2	Tweeddale Youth	Number of families supported	Families	B4	In the past year Tweeddale Youth have supported two young people through homelessness and signposted and collaborated with Peeblesshire Foodbank on a cookery project, supported the distribution of ingredients and setting up a Food Punks cookery channel on YouTube to share with food bank participants. https://www.youtube.com/@foodpunksofficial . We have also distributed supermarket vouchers to families in need.
SBHA's Financial Inclusion Team to continue to work with Tenants to support them to generate additional household income via money management and budgeting skills.	2	SBHA	Number of tenants supported, monetary gains	Families	B3	A total of 1,111 SBHA Tenants accessed SBHA's Financial Inclusion Service in 2022-23 generating a total of £610,000 in income for those households (£549 per household).
Continue to deliver SBHA's Wellbeing Framework which is designed to ensure Tenants can access the support and or intervention needed to sustain their tenancy, identifying potential barriers early on and identifying the correct pathway for support.	2	SBHA	Number of tenants supported, number of tenants sustaining tenancies	Families	B1	SBHA's Wellbeing Framework is now fully operational for all new SBHA Tenants. A total of 352 assessments have been carried out with 9% identified as high risk and specialist interventions required to support tenancy sustainment.
Continue to develop strong partnerships with JHIT, CAB and ChangeWorks etc. to support the 9 Low & Slow Projects which aim to reduce energy costs and provide nourishing food.	2	SBC JHIT CAB ChangeWorks	Uptake of Services	Families	B4	ChangeWorks are no longer an active delivery partner but have worked with local partners to continue to provide energy advice to the project. Public Health are delivering an information/train the trainers event in April 2023, with the aim of building capacity so that groups can effectively deliver the provision.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
Health & Wellbeing						
Through these actions we will provide financial, practical and emotional support, helping to tackle and mitigate the impact of poverty as well as preventing it.						
Financial Support						
Liaise with school and small grants / donations to support youth clubs, nurseries, school projects and community activities for children and young people.	2	BHA	Number of families supported	Families	C2	BHA continues to provide small and very limited funds to support community groups, including helping to re-start activities following Covid.
Cost of Living						
Continue to deliver LINKS Eyemouth community led food project that aims to support children and families to try new recipes that focus on healthy, lower budget eating. The project also supports wider wellbeing by promoting social connections and peer support opportunities for families, and the provision of meal bags with healthy recipes and ingredients mainly sourced from surplus foods to reduce food waste. FPP 548	2	NHS Borders LINKS Eyemouth JHIT	Evaluation of project, and families supported	Families	C2	Between December 2022 and March 2023, the following activities were delivered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 Christmas recipe bags, • 4 energy efficiency workshops, • a creative upcycling session, • 12 Low and Slow sessions with 16 participants, • a warm hub provided for families and individuals meeting twice weekly during March 2023.
Continue to offer free food at youth club drop-in sessions and support young people living independently with food and essentials such as data when required. We also link families and young people with our local food bank and distribute supermarket vouchers to families in need.	2,3	Tweeddale Youth	Number of young people supported	Young People	B3	Tweeddale Youth Action continues to offer free food at most of our drop-ins but the continuing increase in the numbers attending and the cost of food is making this increasingly difficult to staff and fund. We continue supporting young people living independently and distributing supermarket vouchers to families in need.
Following public consultation, a proposal is being considered for further discussion in relation to period poverty.	2	SBC	Number of people supported	Families	B2	Fareshare has agreed to help distribute FPP to food banks and food larders. SBC and Live Borders premises identified for distribution. Locations are promoted through SBC Communications and website.
Continue to establish breakfast clubs in schools. Breakfast clubs are established in a number of schools in areas of greatest need, but the aim is to have one in every school.	2	SBC	Number of breakfast clubs established	Children & Young People	B2	£60,000 has been allocated to support the setting up, continuation or provision of a free breakfast club offer across the Scottish Borders. Nineteen schools

	Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
							were successful in their application for funding along with 1 community based group.
Mental Health							
Page 549	Tweeddale Youth Action has a role in maintaining young people's mental health and emotional well-being, offering a safe space for young people to socialise, access information and advice, take part in activities and feel a sense of belonging and connection that they don't always have in other areas of their life. Act as a bridge between activities, opportunities and services that our young people will benefit from.	2	Tweeddale Youth	Uptake of service, and number of young people supported	Young People	B1	Currently open 5 days and 5 evenings per week, Tweeddale Youth Action offers a range of activities, including 5 a side football, art, cookery, film/digital and casual access youth drop-ins. Through Stepping Stones we continue to offer 1:1 and small group work support, feeding vulnerable young people, activities and opportunities available at TYA and wider through partners. We also continue to offer free holiday programmes and trips away. There are 6 other youth organisations across the Borders offering similar support.
	Provide support to children under 12, through the employment of a trauma councillor.	1,2,3	Eat Sleep Ride CIC	Number of children supported	Children	A1	Eat Sleep Ride supported 4 young people, all diagnosed with SEN through CAMHS to 12 sessions and each young person is now re-engaged in education.
	Ensure that clients have timely access to mental health support through the 'No one Left Behind' programme.	1, 2, 3	SBC EES	Number of participants and employment opportunities	Families	B1	A mental health support worker was funded to provide sharp intervention through NOLB. Support and access to appropriate mental health services was provided.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
Disabled						
Continue to provide 15 fortnightly peer-age befriending groups for children and young people with learning disabilities & autism aged 8-25 across the Scottish Borders.	1,2,3	Interestlink Borders	Number of members and families supported, volunteers involved and sessions provided. Annual outcomes survey of members, carers and volunteers.	Children & Young People	B1	Fortnightly befriending groups for children and young people with learning disabilities & autism aged 8-25 across the Scottish Borders continues.
Projects and Programmes						
Continue with expansion of programme and access to free places for museums and galleries, including workshop provision for families to attend.	2	Live Borders	Number of participants	Families	B1	35 creative workshops were offered through the summer of 2022 with an average 69% occupancy and 344 visits. Gala, Hawick, and Peebles programmes were the busiest. Free places were offered to low income families but uptake was low. Heart of Hawick offered free group access to film screenings with 6 groups taking up the offer and 215 individuals accessing free tickets.
Support Early Years Centres to continue to lead on a summer programme of activity with children and families across Eyemouth, Galashiels, Hawick and Selkirk.	1,2	NHS Borders SBC JHIT	Uptake of service and number of children supported	Children	C1	A successful four week summer programme took place. A total of 71 days of learning and play supported 902 children and 425 parents. Over 1500 meals were provided. A wide variety of learning and play activities were on offer. A highlight for many families was a trip to the beach.
Continue to provide free social activities and Summer respite camps in Summer, and school holidays.	2	BANG	Uptake of service, and families supported	Families	A2	BANG launched a new weekly ASN Parent peer support group in Galashiels and Hawick with JHIT funding. Monthly thematic workshops are held from Enquire, Voiceability,

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
						Social Security Scotland, Children and Families Social Work, Self-Directed Support, CONTACT and transition with SBC pilot.
Deliver 'Get into Summer 2022' for children and families of low income households which provides coordinated access to food, childcare, sports, leisure and cultural activities during the holidays.	2	Live Borders	Uptake of service and families supported	Children & Families	A2, B2	Over 4170 visits were made by children and young people to Live Borders activities. This resulted in 91% occupancy in activities with 69% places occupied free of charge to identified children and families of low income. Data includes the specific BANG camp partnership programme for families of children with a disability which saw over 50 attendances per week.
Develop a plan to transform holistic whole family support services through early intervention and prevention activities, to ensure families can access support before they reach crisis point.	1,2,3	SBC	Uptake of service and families supported	Children & Families	B1	A new governance board was developed in 2022/23: (The Children and Young People's Planning Partnership). The new structure leaves Scottish Borders in a much better position to use the WFWF to develop and transform service approaches to early intervention. The Whole Family Support work stream will be the primary route for developments in these areas.
Completion of new pathway to ensure appropriate Mental Health Services and supports are in place.	1,2,3	SBC	Compliance with legislation	Children & Families	B1	<p>The development of an App which will enable children and young people to know which services are available within their own area is under development. It is hoped this will be placed on Ipads for August 2023. Further work will be required on this throughout the next year.</p> <p>A service directory is also being developed which outlines which services are able and how to access them. A draft will be available by summer 2023.</p>

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
Develop an action plan based upon agreed Health and Wellbeing census outcomes.	1,2,3	SBC Education	Compliance with legislation	Children & Families	B1	<p>The 4 areas for action from the Health and Wellbeing census:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bullying – The Respectful Relationship and Anti-Bullying Policy 2023 is in the final draft stage and will include additional resources to support learning setting moving forward. 2. Caring responsibilities – Presentation at February 2023 Child Protection Coordinators business meeting by CHIMES (Action for Children) to re-emphasise the importance of support for young carers 3. Body Image – summer term PSHE programmes reviewed to ensure an increased focus, using up-to-date materials. 4. Loneliness, stress and worry are discussed with children and young people and the appropriate actions taken by their schools to support them. <p>Kooth and Togetherall support is available for children and young people, in particular with a focus around exam stress. Summer term - further work required to support schools in this area.</p>
Identify 'Nurture Bases' in each locality to support primary school aged children with social and emotional difficulties.	1,2,3	SBC Education	Number of nurture bases identified, and children supported	Children & Young People	B1	Schools and settings to evidence progression in embedding the nurture principles.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
Full facility family pass trial for those families in most need to support access to a wider range of activity.	2	Live Borders	Number of families accessing services	Families	A2	The number of referrals received totalled 123 from a range of partners. Of these, 46 families (37%) made use of the pass. Teviotdale was the most popular site for attendance with 499 total visits made by families.
Promote summer programmes as relevant to the Berwickshire locality.	2	BHA	Number of families accessing service	Children	A2	Ongoing via BHA social media channels.
Provide life coaching programmes for BHA tenants and work closely with the Bewise group to support parents into employment through husbandry accreditations, support to manage their wellbeing, help filling out benefit forms, accessing support groups, transport costs and support to access public transport.	1,2,3	Eat Sleep Ride CIC BHA Bewise Group	Number of parents supported, and employment gained following participation	Parents	A1	Eat Sleep Ride supported 4 families through this period and worked alongside Penumbra.
Tackling Digital Exclusion						
Through these actions we will expand the Connecting Scotland Programme, and help to provide devices for families in poverty to enable access to appropriate services and support.						
Connecting the Borders						
Continue roll out of Connecting Borders (Devices, data and mentoring support) with the 12 members of community partnership.	2,3	Live Borders	Evaluation of project, number of families supported	Children & Families	A2	Live Borders had 225 referrals in 2022-2023. Of these, 77 include children in the household. 100 Chromebooks, 106 iPads, 176 MiFi were distributed.
Support						
Continue to support households in receipt of a Connecting Scotland device.	1,2,3	SBHA	Evaluation of service, number of families supported	Families	A2	SBHA's Digital Champions network continues to support the 224 households who received a device via Connecting Scotland, to ensure they access all benefits of being online and improve their digital skills. In addition, the Borders Employment Advice and Mentoring (BEAM) project purchased 20 laptop computers and software for Tenants to enhance their job search and job applications.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
BHA has provided hands on digital support for individuals and contributes to Berwickshire networks developments to enable digital access for all.	2	BHA	Number of families supported	Families	A2	Let's Get Digital Berwickshire transferred to BAVS with digital activities delivered under their Berwickshire About project.
Introduce software to increase benefit take up. Software to be acquired which will use information already held to identify people whose information is held within SBC databases and encourage them to apply for benefits where there is potential entitlement, which are not being claimed.	3	SBC	Increased take up, monetary gains	Families	B3	Introduced in early 2023 and several campaigns have started. Increased temporary resource in Financial Inclusion Team will allow this to be expanded in Summer 2023.

Information & Advice
 Through these actions we will help to ensure families receive the support they are entitled to. We will provide support to help overcome barriers to accessing these supports, as well as improving the quality and availability of advice services.

Equity Strategy and Funding

Respond to the opportunities of the Scottish Attainment Challenge, targeting resources where the poverty related attainment gap is greatest to deliver improved attainment in literacy and numeracy.	1,2	SBC Education	Increased attainment	Children & Families	C2	Strategic Equity Funding continues to be used to increase leadership capacity by funding 3 additional Depute Head Teachers at our schools with the highest number of children living in SIMD Quintile 1.
Continue to implement outcomes in the Equity Strategy to target action and resource to address inequalities in attainment and achievement.	1,2	SBC Education	Increased attainment	Children & Young People	C2	All short term outcomes of the equity strategy were achieved or exceeded in year 1. Year 2-3 outcomes are now in progress.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
Economic Growth						
Establish and deliver enhanced inclusive economic growth for the South of Scotland through the Regional Economic Partnership.	1,3	SOSE	Number of organisations funded whose activities indirectly or directly address child poverty	Families	A2	<p>This year SOSE has financially supported 5 organisations whose activities indirectly or directly address child poverty. Across the organisation our funding support has also enabled the creation of 267 jobs and safeguarded 323 jobs across the Scottish Borders.</p> <p>SOSE continues to champion Fair Work and lead by example by strengthening our approach to Fair Work. In 2022/23 we sought to promote the opportunities that Fair Work offers to address the challenges that enterprises face around skills gaps, talent attraction and retention, disengagement and in-work poverty.</p>
Money Worries Through these actions we will put money directly in the pockets of low income households, lifting children out of poverty and combatting the cost of living crisis.						
Money Worries App						
Circulate flyers (1 for each area of the Borders) which provide essential contact details for those in crisis.	2,3	SBC	Monetary gains, support given	Families	B3	Continued promotion of the NHS Money Worries App and provided flyers to foodbanks and local fareshare providers.
Continue to promote the Money Worries App to aid people by providing access to information and support to prevent escalating money worries. Deliver Bitesize Information Sessions to 1) Raise Awareness of the NHS Borders Money Worries App, 2) Encourage 'real-time' download of the App, 3) Enable participants to promote and signpost people to the App.	2	NHS Borders	Monetary gains, support given	Parents	A2	The combined total number of users/downloads for the financial year 2022/2023 is 868. Training has since evolved through partnership with the Money & Pensions Service. We have facilitated the first cohort of multi-agency staff through the MAPS Money Guiders self-directed e-learning.

Page 55

*Poverty Drivers

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

**Best Start, Bright Futures Indicators

- A – Employment offer actions
 - A1 – A strengthened employment offer to parents
 - A2 – Connectivity and childcare
 - A3 – Transforming our economy
- B1 – A transformational approach to People and Place
- B2 – Enhanced support through social security
- B3 – Income maximisation
- B4 – Access to warm affordable homes
- C1 – Best start to life
- C2 – Supporting children to learn and grow
- C3 – Post school transitions

Appendix 1C - Child Poverty Case Studies

a) Financial Help in Early Years 2022/23

Referrals to the service for the year were 505 resulting in £1.25m in increased benefits.

In 2022/23 there was an emphasis on increased hardship due to the cost of living. Many families presented with financial difficulties as a reason for referral rather than the usual benefit check. Many cases where persons were financially struggling were only highlighted when specifically asked how they were coping on a week-to-week basis.

For example, a single mum mentioned she had £4.59 in the bank and absolutely nothing in her purse when asked how she was coping. Her case was immediately forwarded for a Community Care Grant or alternative funding from the new Financial Inclusion Fund. These funds have been well received for many struggling families this year with positive reactions on receipt of this unexpected additional money.

SBC arranged for the [Financial Help in the Early Years leaflet](#) to be distributed around all Childminders, Nurseries and Primary Schools in the Scottish Borders including a message to parents that the information was also available on all websites and social media in order to check they were receiving full benefits entitlements. Additional referrals were subsequently received from these sources, particularly Primary Schools. In addition, over 600 leaflets were distributed to Health Visitors this year.

After a marked drop in referrals from non-UK citizens over the last 3 years it is recognised there has been an increase lately from families moving to the UK from places such as India, Portugal, Cape Verdi, Poland, Romania, and Ukraine. A positive response was received from one Ukrainian family who although already claiming Universal Credit did not realise they were also entitled to Scottish Child Payments of £300 per month plus a lump sum of around £800 in Early Learning and School Age Payments.

A notable case was that of a vulnerable teenage mother with a young daughter who had separated from her partner due to prolonged domestic abuse. He had been claiming all the families' benefits and had continued to do so even after the separation. SBC's involvement resulted in this arrangement being terminated and the mother is now in receipt of benefits totalling £12,300 per year and is looking forward to a much brighter future for herself and her daughter.

A mother with 4 children moved to Scotland from England to escape years of domestic abuse. The husband's income had exceeded Benefit limits, so she had no personal source of income when she arrived. Temporarily living with extended family was not working well for all involved. The full range of benefits were soon put in place and with the additional Scottish Benefits of £436 per month plus lump sums totaling £856, the total monthly income was raised from zero to £1,500 per month. She was unaware of the Scottish Benefits and after years of being financially exploited by her husband she was both surprised and delighted to be receiving this extra amount. Shortly after receiving the Benefits the family moved to more suitable accommodation in Edinburgh and are now living safely and happily away from the abusive husband and father.

b) Volunteering

Volunteering opportunities for people to learn new skills, expand connections and increase self-confidence have been very popular, and many children, young people and families benefit as a result. Examples include:

- Volunteer Centre Borders (VCB) supported and worked with 70 community groups/charities to recruit volunteers with 520 open opportunities for volunteers in the Scottish Borders.

- Ninety-seven volunteers were signposted to community groups and 104 new volunteers identified.
- Four drop-in sessions were held at Galashiels Jobcentre and 1 in Hawick Jobcentre between November-March for customers to find out more about volunteering and opportunities available.
- Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB) attended 2 provider events in Galashiels Jobcentre. These events had 5/6 organisations attending, and CAB provided an overview of the benefits of volunteering and opportunities available.
- In November 2022 CAB attended the NHS Recovery and Wellbeing course in Galashiels to give an informal talk on the benefits of volunteering and discuss the types of opportunities available.
- During the period of September 2022 to March 2023, VCB concentrated on the unknown destinations of young people to provide joint support to young people who may not have had any help and have little options for the future. CAB work to design new learning and practical experiences for families and young people to take part in the most needed areas in the Scottish Borders.
- A Volunteer co-ordinators Network has been formed to support co-ordinators throughout the Scottish Borders with currently 18 different co-ordinators involved.
- The third 'Loving Our Volunteers' Awards celebration was held in February 2023. This celebration saw 8 categories highlight the work of groups, individuals and volunteer involving organisations across the Scottish Borders. In total 91 guests attended with 24 volunteers shortlisted, 8 winners and 16 runners up in 8 categories. Forty-four organisations were nominated, with 91 nominations altogether.

c) Warm and Well

A fund of £100k was made available across localities throughout the Scottish Borders. Organisations could apply for up to £2k towards the cost of opening additional hours or spaces. A total of £20,861.70 was granted with 17 Warm Hubs created.

In Eildon TD1 Youth Hub utilised funding to open additional hours to existing services running Warm Hubs over 2 days per week over a 9 week period supporting 81 people. Through their existing Fareshare partnership the Youth Hub offered 24 families additional support with excess food at the end of the week.

“Over the weekend it can be pretty rubbish as we aren’t at school, but by taking home loads of scran from here on a Friday night means that Saturdays aren’t so bad.”

St Boswells Village Hall introduced Warm-Up Wednesdays running for 14 weeks supporting over 200 community members.

“It is great that not only can I stay here and not worry about going home to an empty fridge and cold home, but you leave out all the toys and resources, so my son can enjoy taking part in things whilst here.”

In Berwickshire 4005 people attended the 210 sessions delivered in warm spaces. This was supported by 108 volunteers and 10 paid staff. A co-ordinated approach ensured no duplication and in offering different opening times and days across Berwickshire maximised attendance. Partnerships were formed, children benefitted from food after school on Fridays, volunteers benefitted from the provisions and many who attended lived alone with health conditions or mobility restrictions.

“A meal and weekly social interaction has been greatly valued as I struggle with mental health and feel the pinch of the cost-of-living expenses.”

“I used to just come along myself and now I have people to meet and talk to. I really enjoy it.”

“It’s great to have the Brunch Hub as it’s the only time I get out.”

YouthBorders were allocated £90,000 to distribute between eligible member groups to deliver additional youth work activities or enhance provision to keep young people warm and well over winter. Young people and families experiencing financial hardship, poverty or deprivation were provided with a dignified and rights-based response to the impact of the increased cost of living on young people and their communities. Large grants of £5,000 and smaller grants of £1,500 were available to groups who met the minimum outcomes thresholds for both the young people and the organisations.

Twenty five YouthBorders member organisations received grants. These Youth Groups signposted and referred to appropriate agencies and local supports to support financial inclusion and income maximisation. A total of:

1488 young people benefitted directly from the Warm and Well Funding

5756 people indirectly benefitted from the funding (parents, carers, siblings)

280 additional youth work sessions were conducted

430 households were assisted through signposting for further support

182 vouchers or care packs to young people and their families were distributed consisting of food, blankets, and clothing

Of the 182 vouchers and care packs, these reached 264 children and young people under the age of 18

Parents/Carers quotes:

“I can’t thank the funders enough. We live in an old and cold house, and I am the only one with a wage coming in with four daughters which causes big problems. It has brought huge joy and is very much appreciated, and X is over the moon. We may be struggling but that was a huge act of kindness. I am a crying mess and can’t believe people would take time to help us in this way.”

“I received support to help with the cost of the rising energy prices as I was struggling to make ends meet and put heating on in my home. This took a huge amount of stress from myself and helped us so much.”

“I really loved the care packs that were delivered to my door. They helped me cope with my anxieties and made me feel good. I like the cosy blanket and it helps keep me warm in my bedroom because I live in a cold house. The food from Asda’s was the best. I loved the chicken and my family, and my sisters shared it and we all had fun with my family. We are very grateful for everything.”

d) Whole systems approach to diet and healthy weight with a focus on children and families and reducing health inequalities



The Whole System Approach to child healthy weight and reducing inequalities commenced in Eyemouth in March 2021. Funding of £50k was awarded in January 2022 to support the delivery of priority themes identified in stakeholder workshops:

Theme 1 - Communication: publication of Eyemouth Living magazine. Developed and distributed by volunteers to homes and community venues in the town. The publication is now moving online.

Theme 2 - Family Participation and Learning: development of a book boxes scheme; engagement with parents and decision makers re play spaces and the implementation of a community lunch.

Theme 3 - Outdoor activities: a junior parkrun has been ongoing since August 2022; improvements have been made in access to cycling safety and resources; a resource pack and associated training has been developed to support outdoor activities provision. An equipment store is available through the community centre.

Appendix 1D - Challenge Poverty Week 3-9 October 2022

DATE	Messaging
Mon 3	<p>This week we're supporting Challenge Poverty Week by highlighting the wide range of information, advice and support that is available across the region to support people experiencing financial hardship #ChallengePoverty #CostofLivingCrisisSupport</p>  <p>Highlight on Money Worries App The NHS Borders Money Worries App provides a wide range of information about support services available nationally and locally in the Scottish Borders. Find out how you can improve your financial health by downloading it from either the Apple App store or Google Playstore. #ChallengePoverty #CostofLivingCrisisSupport</p>  <p>Highlight on SBC Cost of Living Support It's #ChallengePoverty week (3-9 October) and a reminder that our website provides detailed information about what grants, benefits and support you may be entitled to. For more information, visit: http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/costoflivingcrisissupport or call Customer Advice and Support Services on 0300 100 1800. #ChallengePoverty #CostofLivingCrisisSupport</p>
Tues 4	<p>Highlight on Energy If you're worried about your energy bills or struggling to stay warm at home, you can find tips for reducing fuel costs and links to help and support here: http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/costoflivingcrisissupport</p>

	<p>Highlight on Mental Health</p> <p>"Poverty is one of the causes of mental ill health. As more people struggle financially during the cost-of-living crisis, it is more important than ever to look after your mental health and know where to find support if you need it. Find tips for staying well and links to help and support here."</p> <p>http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/media/896673/Mental-Wellbeing-support-summary-leaflet.pdf</p>
Wed 5	<p>Highlight on Financial Support</p> <p>Did you know Citizens Advice Bureau could help with income maximisation and advice on bills? They also offer a free financial health check service. Find out more information here: Debt and money advice Scottish Borders Council (scotborders.gov.uk)</p> <p>Did you know you can receive financial help during pregnancy and with a child up to school age? Find out more about what support is available and our Financial Help in the Early Years information sheet here: Benefits for parents, children and young people Financial Assistance and Support Scottish Borders Council (scotborders.gov.uk)</p> <p><u>Social Security Scotland:</u> You can now access face-to-face support when applying for benefits with Social Security Scotland. Book an appointment with a Client Support Adviser by calling 0800 182 2222 or find out more here: Benefits and grants - mygov.scot</p>
Thu 6	<p>Highlight on Food</p> <p>There are various options available if you are struggling with access to food, including: Food banks, Fairshare providers, Early Years Centres, Community cafes and food larders. Find local venues and organisations here: Help with access to food Cost of Living Crisis support Scottish Borders Council (scotborders.gov.uk)</p> <p>If you're on a low income or receive certain benefits, you may be eligible for free school meals, plus some other benefits such as clothing and footwear grants. Find out more at: Benefits for parents, children and young people Financial Assistance and Support Scottish Borders Council (scotborders.gov.uk)</p>
Fri 7	<p>Highlight on Benefits</p> <p>Could you, or someone you know, be missing out on Pension Credit? Pension Credit tops up pension income and can help with day-to-day living costs. You can check your eligibility at www.gov.uk/pension-credit or by calling 0800 99 1234</p> <p>The Scottish Child Payment is a weekly payment of £20 per eligible child under 6. You can find more information and how to apply here: https://www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment</p> <p>The NHS Borders Money Worries App provides a wide range of information about support services available nationally and locally in the Scottish Borders. Find out how you can improve your financial health by downloading it from either the Apple App store or Google Playstore.</p>

Appendix 1E - Scottish Borders Child Poverty Actions 2023/24

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target group	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator
Employability Through these actions we will increase support available to parents, and uptake and awareness of that support, as well as giving parents access to skills, training and opportunities. This will strengthen the employment offer to parents and create new fair work opportunities, plus tackling inequalities which stop parents from entering and participating in the labour market.					
Parental Employability Service					
Provide access to and referrals to the Employability Service.	1, 3	SBC Early Years SBC ESS	Increased referrals	Children and Families	A1
Financial Support					
Offer assistance with benefit appeals and specialist advice.	1, 3	SBC Financial Inclusion Team	Number of benefit appeals and specialist advice provided	Children and Families	A2
Signposting for help with childcare (aged 2+), travel, digital skills and information on financial support through welfare benefits and Scottish Social Security Benefits.	1, 3	CAB	Increased take up of services and benefit entitlements	Parents	A2
Increase awareness and accessibility of HMRC's Childcare Account for both working families and childcare providers.	1, 3	SBC Early Years	Increased number of families receiving support Increased number of registered childcare providers with scheme	Children and Families	A1
Provide support to parents to help them to take up, extend or sustain employment and maximise their income.	1, 2, 3	SDS	Uptake or extension of employment to maximise income	Parents	B3
Administer a client intervention fund to assist with the removal of barriers to employment and support individuals to complete funding applications including Independent Living Fund.	1, 2, 3	SDS	Usage of funding	Families	B3
Positive Destinations					
Increase skills and the likelihood of young people impacted by poverty achieving a positive destination.	1	SBC Education SDS DYW Borders Borders College SBC CLD	Increased skills of young people and achievement of positive destinations	Children and Young People	A3

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target group	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator
Ensure care experienced learners receive ongoing support through transition from school to positive destinations. Increase positive destination rate of learners living in quintile 1 and reduce the poverty gap.	1	SBC Education	Increased positive destination rate of learners	Young People	C3
Fair Work Nation					
Work with employers to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities to employees/workers in line with the principles of a Fair Work Nation.	1	CAB	Increased awareness of workforce challenges and Fair Work Nation	Families	A3
Engage with employers to ensure fair, rewarding and sustainable work opportunities are promoted and supported.	1	SBC Employability Service	Increased engagement with employers	Families	A3
Work with employers to support delivery of apprenticeship programmes and encourage Fair Work practices including payment of the Living Wage.	1, 2	Borders College SBC Employability Service Interest Link Borders	Number of apprenticeship programmes	Young People	C3
Childcare					
Offer options for parents to engage in work and access to appropriate childcare.	1	Child Poverty Action Group Employability Service SBC Early Years	Engagement in work for parents accessing appropriate childcare	Parents	A2
Provision of support funding to cover Childcare requirements to enable students to fulfil their attendance, study and work placement requirements.	1	Borders College	Increased attendance levels	Families	A2
Volunteering					
Promote volunteering roles within the CAB Service to support parents/carers returning to the workplace.	1	CAB	Increase of parents returning to work	Parents	A1
Develop volunteer peer mentoring to build confidence, responsibility and help with career decisions.	1	Interest Link Borders	Number of members & families supported, volunteers involved and sessions provided.	Families	B1
Create pathways into youth work and offer opportunities for learning and on the job training through volunteering.	1	Tweeddale Youth Action	Number of young people supported	Young People	C3
Information and Support					
Signposting and provision of information to parents will be done through the library service.	1	Live Borders	Number of parents supported	Parents	A1
Signpost or refer parents to local specialist services who are looking for support back into employment.	1	CAB	Increased referrals	Parents	A1

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target group	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator
Provide learning opportunities to support parents into employment.	1	SBC CLD	Take up of increased learning opportunities	Parents	A1
Promote employability and other relevant projects across social media channels and through referrals from frontline staff.	1, 2	BHA	Increased employability promotion	Parents and families	A1
Provide advice, assistance and benefit checks to parents of young children.	1, 2, 3	SBC Early Years	Provision, value and uptake of benefits and support	Parents	A1
Offer employability training to those requiring support, including young people and parents.	1	SBC ESS	Increased number of participating parents and young people at training	Parents and Young People	A1
Partners can use our space to meet clients in a safe/neutral space to provide help and advice.	1	Live Borders Job Centre Third Sector	Increased participation from parents and families	Parents and families	A1
Grow the BookBug Programme to support young parents and develop signposting alongside "return to work" schemes.	1	Live Borders	Increased parental participation of BookBug programme	Parents and families	A1
Develop partnership approaches to jointly run events with roadshows/leaflets.	1	Live Borders	Increased participation at jointly run events	Parents and families	A1
Collaborate with partners to offer digital skills in library spaces.	1	Live Borders	Usage of Connecting Borders devices	Parents and families	A1
Offer activities, respite and unlimited support for family members to develop friendship networks, confidence and communication skills.	1	Interest Link Borders	Number of family carers benefitting and sessions provided.	Families	A1, B1, C2
Expand outreach Careers guidance and employability support activities.	1	SDS Job Centre	Increased engagement from customers including parents and carers	Parents and families	A1
Monthly drop-ins at EY centres to provide Parental Employability Support (PES) for parents who are entitled to Eligible 2's placements.	1	SBC ESS SBC Early Years DWP	Take up of training opportunities	Children and Families	A1
Fortnightly drop-in support from the Parental Employability Service (PES).			Eligibility of parents entitled to support	Parents	
Provide numeracy courses for parents through the Government's Multiply initiative.	1	SBC ESS	Increased number of participating parents	Parents	A1

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target group	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator
Offer 1-1 employability support to care experienced young people and engage with support services to ensure wrap around support is provided.	1	SBC ESS	Number of care experienced young people supported	Young People	C1
Projects and Programmes					
Shape a delivery plan and actions through the provision of local skills training and targeted interventions, including travel vouchers to ensure accessibility.	1	Borders College Local Employability Partnership SBC ESS DWP	Formulation of delivery plan and actions	Young People	A1
Develop a Community Pop Up Hub employability programme.	1, 3	SDS DWP SBC	Increased engagement from individuals	Families Parents Disabled Minority Ethnic Mothers	A1
Deliver programmes promoting independence/life skills and offer awards in volunteering to support participants to gain the skills required to enter paid work.	1	Borders College	Number of volunteering awards	Young People	C3
Develop physical and mental health, mindfulness and meta skills through an employability boot camp.	1	Borders College SBC	Increased physical and mental health skills	Families	A3
Provide an all age employability service (16+), including travel pass and digital connectivity access.	1	SBC Employability Service	Number of young people supported	Young People	C3
Work with local partners to provide targeted employability skills training and support people into ancillary roles in the NHS.	1	Borders College SBC NHS	Improved target employability skills	Families	A3
Undertake meaningful industry insight visits over the summer to a broad range of key industry sectors.	1	SDS DYW	Visits conducted	Young People	A3
Support partnership planning for poverty related issues by producing labour market information including Regional Skills Assessments.	1	SDS	Evidence from Regional Skills Assessments conducted	Families	A3
Break the intergenerational cycle of poverty by working with partner agencies to target hard to reach families.	1, 2, 3	SBC ESS Social Work Early Years	Take up of services	Families	B1

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target group	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator
Education					
Through these actions we will continue to tackle the poverty related attainment gap and support the health and well-being of children and young people. This will in turn help children and young people to achieve better lifelong outcomes, thus helping to break the cycle of poverty.					
Attainment					
Achieve medium term outcomes of Scottish Attainment Challenge strategy to improve outcomes whilst closing the poverty-related attainment gap.	1	SBC Education	Achievement of medium term outcomes	Children and Young People	C2
Narrow the poverty attainment gap through resourcing improvements in pedagogy, curriculum development and learning and teaching assessment by utilising Strategic Equity Funding.	1	SBC Education	Narrowing of poverty attainment gap	Children and Young People	C2
Develop a curriculum reflecting the aspirations of the OECD Review of Curriculum for Excellence as well as The Hayward Review on national qualifications and assessment.	1	SBC Education	Evaluation of practices, approaches and experiences of staff and children	Children and Young People	A2
Ensure Learning for Sustainability, UNCRC and The Promise are integral to our new curriculum and culture.	1	SBC Education	Evaluation of practices, approaches and experiences of staff and children	Children and Young People	A2
Plan and lead interventions with children and parents/carers to close poverty related attainment gaps.	1	SBC Early Years	Attainment gap improvements	Children and Families	C2
Transport and Travel					
Ensure all young people have access to the Young Scot website, support to apply for their Travel Card and free bus travel for under 22s is promoted.	1	SBC CLD Borders College SBC EES Tweeddale Youth Action CAB	Increased applications for Travel Cards Increased uptake of travel entitlement Increased bus travel applications	Young People	A2, C3
Students who do not qualify for national travel entitlement schemes are provided with bus or train tickets where they meet the eligibility requirements of student bursary.	1	Borders College	Increased distribution of bus and train tickets	Young People	A2, C3

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target group	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator
Digital Support					
Identify children and young people with learning disabilities and autism who would benefit from devices and connections.	1	Interest Link Borders Connecting Scotland Connecting Borders	Increased uptake in digital devices	Children and Young People	A2
Student advice, guidance and support is available to all students and supported by a comprehensive student information portal to support successful learner outcomes.	1, 2, 3	Borders College	Positive learner outcomes	Families	B3
Support to adults requiring help with accessing, owning and training for IT literacy.	1	SBC CLD	Number of adults supported	Families	C2
Information and Support					
Provision of support funding to cover Childcare requirements to enable students to fulfil their attendance, study, and work placement requirements of college qualifications.	1	Borders College SBC CLD	Increased attendance levels Increased access to childcare	Families	A2
Libraries offer drop in craft and reading sessions and the 'summer ready challenge' for children.	1	Live Borders	Number of children supported	Children	C2
Identify and support pupils, in partnership with schools, whose education may be affected by poverty factors.	1, 2, 3	SDS Schools	Number of young people supported	Young People	C3
Ensure all young volunteers qualify for Saltire Awards.	1	Interest Link Borders	Number of volunteers	Young People	C3
Ensure our learners are aware of and supported to apply for the various government schemes to expand the networks for our communities.	1, 3	SBC CLD	Increased applications for government schemes	Families	A2
Projects and Programmes					
Provide a mentoring programme specifically aimed at supporting, advocating and coaching young people who are most at risk of not sustaining a successful learning journey.	1	Borders College	Number of students supported	Families	C2, C3
Deliver enhanced inclusive economic growth through the Regional Economic Partnership, whilst continuing to adopt and embed the Fair Work approach.	1, 3	SOSE	Number of organisations funded whose activities indirectly or directly address child poverty	Families	A2

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target group	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator
Information & Advice Through these actions we will help to ensure families receive the support they are entitled to. We will provide support to help overcome barriers to accessing this support, as well as improving the quality and availability of advice services.					
Transport and Travel					
Signpost to relevant services where there is an entitlement to support with transport e.g., free bus pass.	1	SBC Financial Inclusion Team	Uptake of Travel Cards	Families	A2
Advertise and promote free bus travel for under 22s and Job Start Payment.	1, 2, 3	SBC Financial Inclusion	Number of young people supported	Young People	C3
Signposting and Advice					
Signpost specialist support, including mental health and drug and alcohol services to young people attending youth club.	1, 2, 3	Tweeddale Youth Action	Number of Young People signposted	Young People	B1
Provide a holistic and whole family support library service by signposting and provision of authoritative sources of information.	1, 2, 3	Live Borders	Uptake in signposting	Families	B1
Signpost or refer to local and national employment support if relevant.	1, 2	CAB	Number of young people supported	Young People	C3
Available Support					
Develop and produce a service directory which outlines available support for children and young people, families, and professionals.	1, 2	SBC Financial Inclusion Team	Increased available support	Families	B1
Proactively promote free school meals (FSM) and clothing grant provision, conduct benefit take up campaigns and provide linked advice and support.	2	SBC Financial Inclusion Team	Increased uptake	Children and Young People	A3, B3
Students are supported to ensure that they access the maximum and appropriate funding sources available to them.	1, 2, 3	Borders College SBC CLD	Uptake of funding sources	Families	B3
Housing & Energy Through these actions we will help to keep housing costs low, provide support with rising energy bills and tackle homelessness for families.					
Tenancy Sustainment					
Support families to secure settled, mainstream housing as part of the Rapid Rehousing Transition plan.	1, 2	SBC Homelessness	Reduction in homelessness	Families	A1, B4
Parents are signposted for advice and support on housing or tenancy related matters.	1, 2, 3	SBC Financial Inclusion SBC Homelessness	Number of families supported	Families	B4

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target group	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator
Use social media and campaign marketing to encourage people facing homelessness to engage early with a view to set up repayment options and/or other suitable debt remedies.	1, 2, 3	CAB Landlords	Number of families supported	Families	B4
Fuel and Energy					
Award Crisis Grants or signpost to external partners to assist with fuel costs.	1, 2, 3	SBC Financial Inclusion CAB Changeworks Home Energy Scotland RSL's	Number of families supported	Families	B4
Utilise funding from the Scottish Government's Fuel debt fund 2023/24 to support tenants with their heating costs and reduce their fuel debt.	2, 3	SBHA	Number of tenants supported monetary gains	Families	B4
Support 2,000 social rented tenants through continued funding of the Warm and Well Co-ordinator and Energy Advisor.	2, 3	SBHA	Number of tenants supported monetary gains	Families	B4
Warm Affordable Homes					
Creation of new social housing though warm, affordable housing and infrastructure.	2	BHA	New social housing creation	Families	B1
Information and Support					
Engage with support services to ensure they are easily accessible and available to all, as well as funding information.	1, 2, 3	SBC ESS	Number of families supported	Families	B4
Health & Wellbeing Through these actions we will provide financial, practical, and emotional support, helping to tackle and mitigate the impact of poverty as well as preventing it.					
Food and Healthy Eating					
Secure funding to continue to support families with vouchers and continue to provide food at evening drop-in sessions.	1, 2, 3	Tweeddale Youth Action	Number of vouchers distributed Food provided	Young People	B1, B2
Invest in estates and community facilities including community food gardens.	1, 2, 3	BHA	Investment to community food gardens	Families	B1
Work with third sector services providing family support to build capacity in relation to health and wellbeing (e.g., healthy eating on a budget).	1, 2	JHIT	Number of families supported	Families	B1

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target group	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator
Offer students a free breakfast, supermarket vouchers, lunch/breakfast bars and provide regular drop in 'Wellbeing' cafes.	1, 2, 3	Borders College	Number of students supported	Families	C1
Provide training to support Breakfast Clubs to deliver nutritious food for children.	2	JHIT	Number of children supported	Children	C2
Promote 'Ride Pingo' for its customers in Berwickshire and enable older people to attend lunch clubs and social community events.	1	BHA Berwickshire Wheels	Number of transport users	Families	A2
Mental Health					
Offer Books on Prescription and signpost to mental health services.	1	Live Borders	Increased uptake Increased signposting	Families	B1
Provide tenancy sustainment services, direct and intensive support to prevent tenancy failure including financial inclusion and BeWell mental health project.	1, 2, 3	BHA	Uptake of sustainment services Number of families supported	Families	B1, B4
Lobby for renewed funding for the student mental health counselling service. Continue to work with local third sector providers to provide collaborative interventions that will support student mental health and wellbeing.	1, 2	Borders College	Uptake in mental health counselling services	Families	B1
Co-deliver Continuous Professional Development training on Mental Health Awareness including Trauma Informed Practice and Self Harm and Suicide Prevention.	1	NHS Borders SDS	Increase of trained SDS Advisors	Families	B1
Information and Support					
Provide five fortnightly peer-age befriending groups for children and young people with learning disabilities & autism aged 8-25. Also, fifteen 1:1 befriending links.	1	Interest Link Borders	Number of members & families supported, volunteers involved, and sessions provided	Children and Young People	B1
Provide information on maternity rights, additional support offered, benefit checks and claim support.	1, 2, 3	CAB	Number of families supported	Families	C1
Provide local breastfeeding support groups.	1	JHIT SBC Early Years	Number of parents supported	Parents	C1
Provide Healthy Start Vitamins.	1	JHIT	Number of children supported	Children	C1
Provide weaning and healthy groups for families.	1	JHIT SBC Early Years	Number of families supported	Families	C1

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target group	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator
Projects and Programmes					
Implement the Team Around the Cluster approach in our school communities.	1, 2, 3	SBC Education	Uptake of families supported	Children and Families	B1
Increase the number of schools and settings evaluating themselves as good or better for QI 3.1. Provide training for child protection coordinators and designated managers on aspects of The Promise and roll out play pedagogy.	1	SBC Education	Increased results Uptake of training	Children and Young People	C1
Monitor and evaluate whole family support provided to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the families.	1, 2, 3	SBC Early Years	Evaluation of support provided	Families	B1
Provide a programme of Bookbug for babies and toddlers.	1	Live Borders	Number of children supported	Children	C1
Support delivery of School Holiday programmes.	1	JHIT	Number of families supported	Families	C1
Understand core work with families on playing with their children through a number of sessions, i.e., Bookbug, Stay and Play, Tots Time.	1	SBC Early Years	Number of families supported	Families	C1
Funded ELC provided free at the point of delivery.	1	SBC Early Years	Number of families supported	Families	C1
Tackling Digital Exclusion Through these actions we will expand the Connecting Scotland Programme, and help to provide devices for families in poverty to enable access to appropriate services and support.					
Identify further sources of funding to continue with the Connecting Borders project to meet increased demand.	1	Live Borders	Usage of Connecting Borders devices	Parents and families	A1, C3
Utilise Connecting Scotland, NOLB and SPF resources to ensure all parents gain access to a device and appropriate IT training.	1	SBC EES	Access to digital devices	Parents	A2
Provide a laptop loan system whereby anyone who requires a laptop, digital device or broadband access receives this.	2	Borders College	Uptake of digital devices	Families Young people	C2, C3

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target group	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator
Communities & Partnerships					
From these actions we will work with partnership, third sector and community organisations to provide holistic and whole family support.					
People and Place					
Deliver our vision for place and regeneration and support communities to form Place Plans.	1, 2	SBC Communities	Partnership working with third sector and community organisations	Families	B1
Seek opportunities to deliver place-based services in communities in collaboration with other partners and agencies.	1	SDS	Delivery of place-based services	Families	B1
Provide library membership for every baby born in the Scottish Borders.	1	Live Borders SBC Registrars	Number of families supported	Families	C1
Support the delivery of play park programmes through the Capital Investment Scheme and Sport and active living funding opportunities.	1	SBC Communities	Delivery of play parks Number of children and young people supported	Families	C1, C2
Develop new partnerships, in both the third sector and community organisations to gain improved outcomes for our clients.	1, 2, 3	CAB	Number of families supported	Families	B1
Funding					
Initiate and support community projects through community funds, some of which are now social enterprises.	1	BHA	Increased community projects	Families	A3
Work in partnership with third sector and community organisations, attend fortnightly/monthly community meetings and co-deliver warm and well grant funding.	1, 2, 3	SBC Communities	Partnership working with third sector and community organisations	Families	B1
Work with strategic partners to ensure there is help with heating costs through Cost-of-Living Support initiatives.	2	SBC Planning & Strategy	Cost of Living initiatives	Families	B2
Support the roll-out of the Money Guiders Training Programme in partnership with the Money and Pensions Service.	1, 2, 3	JHIT	Response to Money Guiders Training Programme	Families	B3

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target group	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator
Holistic and Whole Family Support					
Provide holistic support through the Stepping Stones project and signpost to other organisations.	1, 2, 3	Tweeddale Youth Action	Number of referrals received	Young People	B1, B2
Work cohesively in family assessments to provide a package of support as part of a shared 'whole family approach.'	1	SBC ESS	Increase to packages of support delivered	Families	B1
Projects and Programmes					
Explore the possibility, working in collaboration with NHS, to ensure timely mental health support is offered to clients accessing employability services.	1	SBC ESS NHS	Delivery of collaborative working with NHS	Families	B1
Work in collaboration with Peebles High School to offer daytime vocational support for disengaged young people. Work towards PHS using SQA framework to recognise achievement through this support and tie in with business and enterprise.	1	Tweeddale Youth Action	Number of young people supported	Young People	C2
Attend school career fairs to raise awareness of all types of support that could be available depending on their circumstances.	1, 2, 3	CAB	Number of children supported	Children	C2
Inform and shape provision based on the Annual Participation Measure, focusing on areas with poor participation.	1	SDS LEP YPG	Number of families supported	Families	C2
Improve the effectiveness, consistency, and impact of 14+ meetings through a refreshed framework and event for core partners.	1	SDS LEP YPG	Number of young people supported	Young People	C3
Engage fully in identifying, supporting, and addressing child poverty throughout the Local Employability Partnership key themes of transitions, barriers, employer engagement, skills, and leadership.	1, 2, 3	SBC Employability Service	Number of young people supported	Young People	C3
Promote an employee volunteering scheme with companies/organisations and continue to deliver the volunteering policy.	1,2,3	SOSE Volunteer Centre Borders	Evaluation of participants taking part in scheme	Families	A3

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target group	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator
Fuel related activity					
Through these actions we will tackle fuel poverty and provide support with rising energy bills.					
Warm and Well					
Offer libraries as warm spaces during autumn and winter 2023/24. Signpost to the SBC Cost of Living Crisis website.	2	Live Borders	Number of participants Number of families supported	Families	B2, B4
Allocate Warm and Well funding to support the operation of warm spaces in communities during the winter period.	1, 2, 3	SBC Communities	Number of families supported	Families	B4
Attend Warm Spaces and other community groups to be proactive to discuss energy saving ideas, schemes, and funds available to help families.	1, 2, 3	CAB	Number of families supported	Families	B4
Fuel and Energy					
Provide ongoing support to mitigate fuel poverty including distribution of SG Fuel Support funding, Fuel Bank vouchers and energy saving advice.	2	BHA	Funding and voucher allocation	Families	B2
Signpost clients to Housing Providers as part of Initial Assessment to ensure eligibility of all additional funds for Fuel costs.	2	SBC ESS	Increased eligibility identified from Initial Assessments	Families	B2
Partnership Working					
Work in partnership on specific projects such as Low and Slow and provide energy training in local communities.	2	SBC Communities Changeworks CAB	Uptake of Low and Slow Project	Families	B2
Work in partnership with Borders Home Energy Forum members to support fuel poverty interventions.	2	JHIT	Number of families supported	Families	B4
Continue the partnership delivery of the Warm & Well Scheme in 2023/2024, including the services of an Energy Advisor.	2	SBC CAB	Monetary gains and support given	Families	B4
Financial Inclusion					
Through these actions we will help maximise income of low-income households, lifting children out of poverty and combatting the cost-of-living crisis.					
Education Settings					

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target group	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator
Students under the age of 18 are assisted to apply for Education Maintenance Allowance and to ensure that they maximise the student income streams they are eligible for.	1, 2, 3	Borders College	Number of students supported	Young People	C2
Schools will work more collegiately in clusters on the cost of the school day, using pupil equity funding to support it.	2, 3	SBC Education	Monetary gains	Families	B2
Support parents to be more confident as parents and co-learners in the education of their children and help their child flourish as a member of the school and wider community.	1	SBC CLD	Number of families supported	Families	C1
Income Maximisation					
Work in partnership with other local authority and third sector organisations to support families with income maximisation and access to benefits and grants.	1, 2, 3	SBC Education	Uptake of families supported	Children and Families	B3
Provide Financial Inclusion and signposting to relevant services including child specific welfare support, access to food resources and clothing grants. Maximise take up of child related benefits and resources.	1, 2, 3	BHA	Uptake in accessing assistance Update of benefits	Families	B2, B3, B4, C1
Provide a comprehensive Income Maximisation assessment to clients to ensure all funding streams are explored for families both unemployed and in work. Ensure all eligible families are in receipt of the package of 5 family benefits.	1, 2, 3	SBC ESS	Volume of Income Maximisation Assessments	Families	B2
Provide benefit checks and advice (including referrals from Employability Team) and signposting.	1, 2, 3	SBC Financial Inclusion SBC Early Years	Uptake of referrals Updates in benefits checks	Families	A3, B1, B2
Provide support and signposting for applications for disability benefits and assist with appeals if required.	1, 2, 3	SBC Financial Inclusion	Uptake in benefits applications	Families	B2
Projects and Programmes					
Provide pilot pop up welfare/employability hubs offering wellbeing and employability support and advice.	1, 2, 3	SBC ESS SBC Communities	Attendance at hubs	Families	B3
Undertake take-up campaigns to encourage people to apply for benefits or support where parents might not have been aware of their potential entitlement.	1, 2, 3	SBC Financial Inclusion	Referral intake	Families	B3
Money Worries					
Through these actions we will put money directly in the pockets of low-income households, lifting children out of poverty and combatting the cost-of-living crisis.					
Cost of Living					

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target group	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator
Provide funds to run free breakfast clubs across 20 schools.	2	SBC Communities	Attendance at breakfast clubs	Children and Families	B2
Ensure all students eligible to receive student funding have received additional cost of living payments to help mitigate the cost-of-living crisis in the 22-23 academic year.	2	Borders College	Continuation of Scottish Government funding	Families	B2, B4
Support families 1:1, liaison with housing, vouchers available for supermarkets, linking with and referrals on to charities. Hold clothing swap shops.	1, 2, 3	SBC Early Years	Number of families supported	Families	B4
Income and Benefits					
Increase awareness of benefits among parents of primary and secondary pupils through continued campaigning.	3	SBC Financial Inclusion Team	Monetary gains, support given	Families	B3
Work with people and families to maximise their income in person, by telephone, near me digital service and mail, attending community events and outreach services.	1, 2, 3	CAB	Increase to number of families supported	Families	B3
Provide support with Housing Benefit and Discretionary Housing Payment applications to assist with rent payments.	1, 2, 3	SBC Financial Inclusion	Number of families supported	Families	B4
Promote welfare benefits and Scottish Government benefits relevant to the young person.	1, 2, 3	CAB	Number of young people supported	Young People	C3
Information and Support					
Promote the Money Worries App to increase uptake	1, 2, 3	JHIT CAB NHS Borders	Usage of Money Worries app Number of families supported Monetary gains	Families Parents	A2, B3, C1
Public Health/Health Improvement will roll out multi-agency MAPS Money Guiders training.	2	NHS Borders CAB		Parents	A2

*Poverty Drivers

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

**Best Start, Bright Futures Indicators

- A1 – A strengthened employment offer to parents
- A2 – Connectivity and childcare
- A3 – Transforming our economy
- B1 – A transformational approach to People and Place
- B2 – Enhanced support through social security
- B3 – Income maximisation
- B4 – Access to warm affordable homes
- C1 – Best start to life
- C2 – Supporting children to learn and grow
- C3 – Post school transitions

Appendix 1F – Glossary

ASHE	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings	FPP	Free Period Products
ASN	Additional Support Needs	FSM	Free School Meals
BANG	Borders Additional Needs Group	FYE	Financial Year End
BAVS	Berwickshire Association for Voluntary Service	GCAS	Graduate Career Advantage Scotland
BEAM	Borders Employment and Mentoring	GITS	Get In To Summer
BHA	Berwickshire Housing Association	HMRC	HM Revenue and Customs
BHN	Borders Housing Network	IFAN	Independent Food Aid Network
C&FSW	Children & Families Social Work	IFSS	Intensive Family Support Service
CAB	Citizens Advice Bureau	ILF	Independent Living Fund
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	IT	Information Technology
CECYP	Care Experienced Children and Young People	JC+	Job Centre+
CHAS	Children Hospice Association Scotland	JHIT	Joint Health Improvement Team
CIC	Community Interest Company	LACER	Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery Fund
CILIF	Children in Low Income Families	LCWRA	Limited Capability for Work Related Activity
CJS	Community Justice Service	LEP	Local Employability Partnership
CLD	Community Learning and Development	LGBF	Local Government Benchmarking Framework
CLG	Clothing Grant	LINKS	Linking Ideas for Nourishment Knowledge and Support
CPI	Consumer Price Index	MA	Modern Apprentice
CPIH	Consumer Price Index including owner occupiers Housing costs	MAPS	Money and Pensions Service
CSCS	Construction Skills Certification Scheme	MiFi	Mobile Wireless Router
DHP	Discretionary Housing Payment	MIS	Management Information System
DLA	Disability Living Allowance	NIF	National Improvement Framework
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions	NOLB	No One Left Behind
DYW	Developing Young Workforce	NOMIS	National Online Manpower Information System
EELS	Excellence and Equity Leads	NRS	National Records of Scotland
ELC	Early Learning Childcare	OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation
EMA 16+	Educational Maintenance Allowance	ONS	Office for National Statistics
ERAS	Employment Rights and Advice Service	PACE	Partnership Action for Continuing Employment
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages	PEF	Pupil Equity Fund
ESS	Employability Support Service	PES	Parental Employability Support
EYCs	Early Years Centers	PHS	Peebles High School
FGDM	Family Group Decision Making	PoPP	Psychology of Parenting Programme

PSHE	Personal, Social and Health Education	SIMD	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation
QI	Quality Improvement	SOSE	South of Scotland Enterprise
REHIS	Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland	SPF	Shared Prosperity Funding
RRTP	Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan	SVQ	Scottish Vocational Qualifications
RSL's	Registered Social Landlords	SWF	Scottish Welfare Fund
SAC	Scottish Attainment Challenge	TYA	Tweeddale Youth Action
SB CPI	Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index	UC	Universal Credit
SB	Scottish Borders	UCH	Universal Credit Households
SBC	Scottish Borders Council	UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
SBHA	Scottish Borders Housing Association	VCB	Volunteer Centre Borders
SCQF	Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework	VSHT	Virtual School Head Teacher
SDS	Skills Development Scotland	WFWF	Whole Family Wellbeing Funding
SEF	Strategic Equity Funding	YES	Youth Enterprise Scotland
SEN	Special Educational Needs	YSNEC	Young Scot National Entitlement Card
SFHA	Scottish Federation of Housing Associations	YPG	Young Person's Guarantee
SG	Scottish Government		

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Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

Stage 1 Scoping and Assessing for Relevance

Section 1 Details of the Proposal

A. Title of Proposal:	Local Child Poverty Progress Report 2022/23 and Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan 2023/24
B. What is it?	A new Policy/Strategy/Practice <input type="checkbox"/> A revised Policy/Strategy/Practice x
C. Description of the proposal: (Set out a clear understanding of the purpose of the proposal being developed or reviewed (what are the aims, objectives and intended outcomes, including the context within which it will operate))	<p>The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 requires Local Authorities and Health Boards to jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report and an Annual Progress Report.</p> <p>As per the Scottish Government's statement of intent to eradicate child poverty by 2030, the objective is to identify and reduce child poverty by mitigating financial and hardship risks.</p> <p>This work is facilitated by multiple partners, their action plans, workshops, poverty drivers, impact analysis and intended beneficiaries.</p>
D. Service Area:	Resilient Communities

Department:	
E. Lead Officer: (Name and job title)	Janice Robertson, Strategic Planning & Policy Manager
F. Other Officers/Partners involved: (List names, job titles and organisations)	Multiple – these are cross-partnership Reports incorporating partners from Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and the third sector. These can be made available upon request.
G. Date(s) IIA completed:	March 23 April 23 May 23

Section 2 Will there be any impacts as a result of the relationship between this proposal and other policies?

Yes

If yes, - please state here:

Scottish Borders Council Anti Poverty Strategy
Integrated Children and Young People's Plan 2021/23
Children and Young People's Services Plan 2023/26
Council Plan 2023
CPP Work Plan and priorities
Community Learning & Development Plan
Children's Rights Report 2021/23
Scottish Government Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022/26 Best Start Bright Futures

Section 3 Legislative Requirements

3.1 Relevance to the Equality Duty:

Do you believe your proposal has any relevance under the Equality Act 2010?

(If you believe that your proposal may have some relevance – however small please indicate yes. If there is no effect, please enter “No” and go to Section 3.2.)

Yes

Equality Duty	Reasoning:
A. Elimination of discrimination (both direct & indirect), victimisation and harassment. <i>(Will the proposal discriminate? Or help eliminate discrimination?)</i>	The proposals will help to eliminate direct and indirect discrimination, as all proposals are inclusive. The plan also depicts the intended beneficiaries and how attainment will be measured in order to realise Scottish Government targets.
B. Promotion of equality of opportunity? <i>(Will your proposal help or hinder the Council with this)</i>	The 6 high level nationally identified priority groups at high risk of poverty are Lone Parents, Disabled, 3+ Children, Minority Ethnic, Youngest child aged less than 1 and Mothers aged less than 25. The Drivers of Child Poverty fall into 3 main categories; Income from Employment, Cost of Living, Income from Social Security. The plans have ensured all of these groups have been included and all actions detailed confirm that agencies involved are working collaboratively to promote equality and reduce exclusion.
C. Foster good relations? <i>(Will your proposal help to foster or encourage good relations between those who have different equality characteristics?)</i>	Relationships have been established between all partner agencies Under the Equality Act there are nine protected characteristics. The plans make positive impacts on many of these as outlined below.

3.2 Which groups of people do you think will be or potentially could be, impacted by the implementation of this proposal? (You should consider employees, clients, customers / service users, and any other relevant groups)				
Please tick below as appropriate, outlining any potential impacts on the undernoted equality groups this proposal may have and how you know this.				
	Impact			Please explain the potential impacts and how you know this
	No Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	
Age Older or younger people or a specific age grouping		x		The plans are inclusive to all children, young people and their families.

<p>Disability e.g. Effects on people with mental, physical, sensory impairment, learning disability, visible/invisible, progressive or recurring</p>		<p>x</p>		<p>The partner agency of Borders Additional Needs Group implement actions and will continue to progress them.</p> <p>SBC work in partnership with NHS Borders and Borders College offering Project Search, an employability course for young people with additional needs.</p> <p>Interest Link provide 15 fortnightly peer-age befriending groups for young people with learning disabilities and autism aged 8-25 across the Scottish Borders.</p>
<p>Gender Reassignment/ Gender Identity anybody whose gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex assigned to them at birth</p>		<p>x</p>		<p>The reports are inclusive to all children, young people and their families irrespective of gender reassignment/gender identity.</p>
<p>Marriage or Civil Partnership people who are married or in a civil partnership</p>	<p>x</p>			<p>These are not nationally identified key risk groups in relation to Child Poverty.</p>
<p>Pregnancy and Maternity (refers to the period after the birth, and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth),</p>		<p>x</p>		<p>The Early Years Financial Inclusion Team campaigns, provides advice and support in relation to maternity payments, childcare assistance (e.g free childcare or help within Universal Credit awards) as well as entitlement to Best Start Grants and Scottish Child Payments.</p> <p>Midwives and Health Visitors are proactive in referring expectant and new mothers for benefit checks. In 2022-2023 500 referrals were conducted resulting in a benefits uplift of £1.2 million.</p>
<p>Race Groups: including colour, nationality, ethnic origins, including minorities (e.g. gypsy travellers, refugees, migrants and asylum seekers)</p>		<p>x</p>		<p>Minority Ethnic Groups are a nationally identified key group and are recognised within the plan. The reports are inclusive to all children, young people and their families irrespective of race</p>

Religion or Belief: different beliefs, customs (including atheists and those with no aligned belief)	x			Religion and Beliefs are not nationally identified key risks in relation to Child Poverty. The reports are inclusive to all children, young people and their families irrespective of religion.
Sex women and men (girls and boys)	x			Gender is not nationally identified key risk groups in relation to Child Poverty. The reports are inclusive to all children, young people and their families irrespective of sex.
Sexual Orientation , e.g. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Heterosexual	x			Sexual Orientation not nationally identified key risk groups in relation to Child Poverty. The reports are inclusive to all children, young people and their families irrespective of sexual orientation.
<p>3.3 Fairer Scotland Duty</p> <p>This duty places a legal responsibility on Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to actively consider (give due regard) to how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socioeconomic disadvantage when making <u>strategic</u> decisions.</p> <p>The duty is set at a strategic level - these are the key, high level decisions that SBC will take. This would normally include strategy documents, decisions about setting priorities, allocating resources and commissioning services.</p>				
<p>Is the proposal strategic?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>If No go to Section 4</p>				
<p>If yes, please indicate any potential impact on the undernoted groups this proposal may have and how you know this:</p>				
	Impact			State here how you know this
	No Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	

<p>Low and/or No Wealth – enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future.</p>		<p>x</p>	<p>Income from employment is one of the 3 main drivers of child poverty. The Action Plan depicts multi agency actions to be undertaken, how these are assessed, intended beneficiaries and the progress of such actions. Income maximisation work and employability work contribute to ensuring families have enough money to live.</p>
<p>Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies</p>		<p>x</p>	<p>Costs of Living is one of the 3 main drivers of child poverty. The Action Plan depicts multi agency actions to be undertaken, how these are assessed, intended beneficiaries and the progress of such actions. Food banks, Warm and Well scheme, and the provision of Warm Spaces all contribute.</p>
<p>Area Deprivation – where you live (e.g. rural areas), where you work (e.g. accessibility of transport)</p>		<p>x</p>	<p>Berwick Housing Association continue to promote 'Ride Pingo' for its customers across Berwickshire.</p> <p>Borders College works with the Local Employability Partnership, Employment Support Services and DWP to ensure course times are arranged with transport vouchers to ensure accessibility.</p> <p>SDS (Skills Development Scotland) Advisers engage with individuals in a location appropriate to them. When a customer is unable to attend a Public Access Centre in Hawick or Galashiels, SDS Advisers arrange to meet in outreach locations including Community Centres and are looking to expand the outreach activity in 2023.</p>
<p>Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parents' education, employment and income</p>		<p>x</p>	<p>Income from employment is one of the 3 main drivers of child poverty. The Action Plan depicts multi agency actions to be undertaken, how these are assessed, intended beneficiaries and the progress of such actions.</p> <p>SBC and Borders College support the Parental Employability Project through collaborative development and implementation of Introduction to Childcare Course with Borders College.</p>
<p>Looked after and accommodated children and young people</p>		<p>x</p>	<p>Allocation of £668k awarded to SBC from the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund for 2022-2023 as part of the Best Start, Bright Futures delivery plan commitment.</p>

Carers paid and unpaid including family members		x		The Health and Wellbeing census is to ensure an increased number of children and young people with caring responsibilities are given the necessary support if required. CHIMES is to engage with each school cluster in the summer term to re-emphasise the importance of support for young carers.
Homelessness		x		SBHA tenants are supported to access BEAM (Borders Employment Advice and Mentoring) to help them access training, educational and volunteering opportunities to enhance their opportunities to find employment.
Addictions and substance use		x		These are not nationally identified key risk groups in relation to Child Poverty. Tweeddale Youth Action signpost specialist support, including mental health and drug and alcohol services to young people who attend youth club. This information is clearly displayed at both youth clubs and is also included on our website's resources page- accessible by families and young people alike.
Those involved within the criminal justice system		x		JHIT work with SBC's Community Justice Team to grow a range of seasonal produce at a greenhouse site in Galashiels. Links have been established with the Community Food Growing Network, as part of the Scottish Borders Food Growing Strategy.

3.4 Armed Forces Covenant Duty (*Education and Housing/ Homelessness proposals only*)

This duty places a legal responsibility on Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to actively consider (give due regard) to the three matters listed below in Education and Housing/ Homelessness matters.
This relates to current and former armed forces personnel (regular or reserve) and their families.

Is the Armed Forces Covenant Duty applicable?

No

If "Yes", please complete below

Covenant Duty	How this has been considered and any specific provision made:
The unique obligations of, and sacrifices made by, the armed forces;	
The principle that it is desirable to remove disadvantages arising for Service people from membership, or former membership, of the armed forces;	
The principle that special provision for Service people may be justified by the effects on such people of membership, or former membership, of the armed forces.	

Section 4 Full Integrated Impact Assessment Required

Select No if you have answered “No” to all of Sections 3.1 – 3.3.

Yes

If yes, please proceed to Stage 2 and complete a full Integrated Impact Assessment

If a full impact assessment is not required, briefly explain why there are no effects and provide justification for the decision.

n/a

Signed by Lead Officer:	Janice Robertson
Designation:	Strategic Planning and Policy Manager
Date:	
Counter Signature Director:	Jenni Craig Director - Resilient Communities
Date:	

Stage 2 Evidence Gathering and Consultation

A. Title of Proposal:	Local Child Poverty Progress Report 2022/23 and Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan 2023/24
B. Service Area: Department:	Resilient Communities
C. Lead Officer: (Name and job title)	Janice Robertson, Strategic Planning & Policy Manager
D. Other Officers/Partners involved: (List names, job titles and organisations)	Multiple – these are cross-partnership Reports incorporating partners from Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and the third sector. These can be made available upon request
E. Date(s) IIA completed:	March 23 April 23 May 23

Page 591

Section 1 Data and Information

A. What evidence has been used to inform this proposal?

(Information can include, for example, surveys, databases, focus groups, in-depth interviews, pilot projects, reviews of complaints made, user feedback, academic publications and consultants' reports).

Information from Agencies and partners

National Statistics

Local Data and Statistics

Lived Experience information via case studies and feedback

Case Studies

Publications

Action Plans and Progress Reports

Other key plans and strategies

B. Describe any gaps in the available evidence, then record this within the improvement plan together with all of the actions you are taking in relation to this (e.g. new research, further analysis, and when this is planned)

The Child Poverty Action Group will identify key collaborative priorities throughout the year.

Work to consolidate partner actions to align more closely with Child Poverty drivers continues.

These actions will help to highlight any gaps in our approach to Child Poverty.

Section 2 Consultation and Involvement

A. Which groups are involved in this process and describe their involvement

Various multi-agency partners are involved in the process. Any consultations undertaken by partners inform the content of the report.

The review of Action Plan and Progress Report will be ongoing and all groups and agencies will be involved in this.

B. Describe any planned involvement saying when this will take place and who is responsible for managing the process

Planning is underway to hold a multi-agency partner workshop in 2023-24 to encourage collaborative partnership working and positive outcomes in reducing Child Poverty. The Child Poverty Action Group (a multi-agency working group) will be responsible for managing the process.

C. Describe the results of any involvement and how you have taken this into account.

All involvement is recorded in the Action Plan and Progress Report.

D. Describe any events held and views obtained (if applicable). Add or remove as needed.

n/a

Stage 3 Summary and Next Steps

Section 1 Summary

Summarise what you have learned then develop this further.

(Describe the conclusion(s) you have reached from the evidence, and state where the information can be found.)

Please consider the following:

What have you learned from the evidence you have and the involvement undertaken? Does the initial assessment remain valid?

What new (if any) impacts have become evident?

Is the proposal not to proceed because of a disproportionate impact on equality or Fairer Scotland characteristics?

Evidence has been gathered and input provided partners to inform the report. This process will be re-examined as part of the data observatory aim below.

Data and statistics have been specifically gathered for this report. In future, the aim is to address this by developing a data observatory (or equivalent) to store data and statistics when available. The Council's strategic assessment is an example of this.

Cost of living has impacted Child Poverty and actions are set out in the plan to address this.

The Child Poverty report meets Fairer Scotland considerations and has a positive impact on this as well as the Equality Act.

The initial assessment remains valid because child poverty is a prominent issue within the Scottish Borders. The 6 high risk groups identified in the national delivery plan Best Start Bright Futures are considered in the plan and align closely with the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act.

A. Please indicate if the proposal will proceed

Yes, please see below section 3 for next steps

- No, the proposal will not proceed based on disproportionate impact on equality or Fairer Scotland characteristics

Section 2 Sign Off

Signed by Lead Officer:	Janice Robertson
Designation:	Strategic Planning and Policy Manager
Date:	
Counter Signature Director:	Jenni Craig Director – Resilient Communities
Date:	

Section 3 Monitoring and Review (complete if relevant, remove if not)

B. State how the implementation and impact of the proposal will be monitored, including implementation of any amendments? For example what type of monitoring will there be? How frequent?

Annual Reports will be prepared and reported to Community Planning Partnership

Child Poverty Action Group will monitor the implementation of the Action Plan

C. What are the practical arrangements for monitoring? For example who will put this in place? When will it start?

Child Poverty Action Group meeting – quarterly

D. When is the proposal due for review?

Statutory publication in June

E. Who is responsible for ensuring that this happens?

Child Poverty Action Group and the Community Planning Partnership

F. Please indicate if you have developed an Action Plan to take forward any remaining actions

- Yes, please see attached on final page
 No, no further actions required

COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITY OUTCOMES

Report by Director, Resilient Communities

8 June 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the draft priorities for the refreshed Community Plan (also known as the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan – LOIP).**
- 1.2 A Task Group, appointed by the Programme Board, identified a list of draft priority outcome areas from plans/strategies currently in place across the CPP and mapping the commonalities. Data was gathered from a refreshed Strategic Assessment (SBC) and the Health & Social Care Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- 1.3 Members of the public will be able to comment on the draft priorities online, using a paper form or at an area partnership meeting during the consultation period which will run from 24 May – 16 July 2023. Officers will also attend meetings, to discuss the priorities, as requested
- 1.4 Following the consultation period the CPP Task Group will review the results and develop a refreshed 10 year Community Plan for consideration by the Strategic Board at their meeting on 7 September 2023.
- 1.5 In order to allow as long as possible for public consultation, within the timescales permitted for developing the Plan, the Chair of the Strategic Board gave approval for Board members to be emailed for comment following the Programme Board meeting on 17 May 2023. The feedback was incorporated in to the information published for consultation with the consultation opening on 24 May 2023.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 I recommend that the Strategic Board notes draft themes and priorities for the refreshed Community Plan set out in Appendix 1.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Community Planning Partnerships are required, under Part 2 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) act 2015 to produce a Locality Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP). The purpose of the Plan is to identify priorities for improving outcomes and tackling inequalities in their area. The LOIP is known as the Community Plan in the Scottish Borders.
- 3.2 The existing Community Plan was agreed in May 2018
- 3.3 At their meeting on 8 September 2022 the Community Planning Strategic Board agreed that a full review of the Community Plan would be undertaken during 2023/24 as part of the CPP's Improvement Plan, which was developed with the Improvement Service. This would enable the priority outcome areas to be updated to reflect changes in our area over the last five years.
- 3.4 A CPP Task Group, created by the Programme Board to oversee this work, has met on a monthly basis to take forward the actions in the Improvement Plan.

4 EVIDENCE GATHERING

- 4.1 In order to understand how priorities may have changed over the last five years, and review the Community Plan, potential priorities were identified from plans/strategies currently in place across the CPP. These plans/strategies were developed following public consultation to ensure that they reflected the views of our communities. Commonalities were mapped across the range of plans/strategies. Data was gathered from a refreshed Strategic Assessment (SBC) and the Health & Social Care Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. From these documents it was identified where the areas for improvement are across a wide range of outcomes.

5 IDENTIFICATION OF DRAFT PRIORITIES

- 5.1 The Programme Board delegated authority to the Task Group to identify the draft priorities. This identification has been done by collating priorities that people had already said matter to them (see 4.1) and interrogating data sources to identify the areas where improvement is needed.
- 5.2 At their meeting on 9 March 2023 The Strategic Board agreed that the Health & Social Care Strategic Framework would steer the work of a future 'Enjoying Good Health and Wellbeing' theme. The objectives from the Framework have been reflected in the draft priorities although, because of the crossing cutting nature of health and wellbeing, they appear across more than one theme.
- 5.3 When identifying the draft priorities attention has be given to ensuring that:
 - they are not already being delivered by another organisation/group of organisations/partnership,
 - they are not only within the power of a single organisation to deliver, and

- by working together, the Community Planning Partnership will bring added value to any ongoing work.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 As stated in section 4.1 existing plans/strategies, used as part of the evidence gathering, were developed following public consultation. This represents stage one in a two stage consultation process. The second stage of the consultation will be to seek the views of the public as to whether the correct priorities have been identified for the Community Plan. This will enable the CPP to be sure that the new Community Plan reflects what is needed to help reduce inequalities and make things better for those most in need in our communities.
- 6.2 There are currently 16 draft priorities under five potential themes. As part of the consultation people will be asked which priorities matter most to them. The final identified priorities will be reflected in outcomes in the refreshed Community Plan. The public consultation will run from 24 May to 16 July 2023.
- 6.3 Members of the public will be able to comment on the draft priorities online, using a paper form or at an area partnership meeting. Officers will also attend meetings, to discuss the priorities, as requested.

7 THEMES & PRIORITIES FOR CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The proposed themes and priorities are attached in appendix one.
- 7.2 The evidence supporting each of the priorities will be included as part of the consultation.

8 REFRESHED COMMUNITY PLAN

- 8.1 Following the consultation period the CPP Task Group will review the results and develop a refreshed Community Plan for consideration by the Strategic Board at the meeting on 7 September 2023. The refreshed Plan will include outcomes that reflect the priorities identified in the consultation.
- 8.2 The Plan will be reviewed twice during the ten year period to identify if the outcomes, within the Plan, are being addressed and whether any revisions are required, in order for the Plan to remain relevant.
- 8.3 It is anticipated that there will be a range of principles underpinning the Plan. These will be developed during the consultation but could include community development & capacity building and embedding Place Planning approaches.

9 CONSULTATION WITH THE STRATEGIC BOARD

- 9.1 In order to allow as long as possible for public consultation, within the timescales permitted for developing the Plan, the Chair of the Strategic Board gave approval for Board members to be emailed for comment following the Programme Board meeting on 17 May 2023. The feedback

was incorporated in to the information published for consultation with the consultation opening on 24 May 2023.

10 IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Financial

The costs associated with the consulting on the draft priorities are:

- Costs of producing and printing a paper consultation form will be met within SBC's Communications & Marketing budget,
- SBC officer travel to face to face consultation meetings will be undertaken in SBC pool cars.

10.2 Risk and Mitigations

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 states that a community planning partnership must consult with community bodies and others when preparing the Community Plan (known as the Local Outcome Improvement Plan in the Act). Not consulting with the public on the draft priorities for the new Community Plan would leave the Community Planning Partnership open to challenge.

10.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been carried out on the content of this report. It is anticipated that the opportunity for people to respond to the set of draft priorities will have a positive effect on many of the protected characteristics and Fairer Scotland Duty groupings.

A full IIA is not required at this stage but will be carried out when the priorities have been finalised, following consultation, and the refreshed Community Plan is formed.

Steps will be taken to engage with equalities groups during the consultation process.

10.4 Sustainable Development Goals

The recommendations in this report will impact on the UN Sustainable Development Goal of 'Ensuring healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages' through the encouragement of community participation in the consultation to identify the priorities for the Scottish Borders.

10.5 Climate Change

There are no climate change implications in the proposals contained in this report.

10.6 Rural Proofing

N/a

10.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

It is anticipated that the proposals in this report will have a minimal impact on data subjects and the Data Protection Officer has confirmed that a Data Protection Impact Assessment is not required.

10.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

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

11 CONSULTATION

11.1 The Action Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications will be consulted and any comments received will be incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Name: Jenni Craig

Title: Director, Resilient Communities

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Clare Malster	Participation Officer, 01835 826626

Background Papers: Improvement Plan Update, Community Planning Strategic Board 8 September 2022; Health & Social Care Strategic Framework, Community Planning Strategic Board 9 March 2023.

Previous Minute Reference: Community Planning Strategic Board 8 September 2022

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

Contact us at Clare Malster, 01835 826626, cmalster@scotborders.gov.uk

Appendix one: Community Plan themes and priorities for consultation

Theme	Priority
Enough money to live on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking action to mitigate the effects of inflation and cost of living for those most affected
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting children and young people from low income households to develop life skills to enable them to succeed in life
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing the opportunities and integrated support parents need to enter, sustain and progress in work
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness and understanding of fair work
Economy, Skills & Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that there are progression pathways throughout the various routes into employment or training
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number and variety of jobs and learning and training opportunities within the Scottish Borders
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise access and skills to digital/broadband and mobile connectivity for all ages through engagement with and participation in various initiatives
Enjoying good health & wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing inequalities in health
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focusing on prevention and early intervention
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving access to health & care services. We will have a particular focus on equality groups i.e., older people, care experienced young people, those with disabilities, those living with poverty, those who are refugees or asylum seekers or those with any other equality characteristics.
Good place to live, grow up and enjoy a full life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve travel options across the Scottish Borders
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The right homes, in the right locations, which are affordable and meet people's needs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Borders has a clear and planned pathway to Net Zero.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce number of people experiencing domestic abuse
Community empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop effective ways of working with all members of our community to empower them to be involved where, how and when they want to be in shaping their communities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the way we work with volunteers

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Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

Stage 1 Scoping and Assessing for Relevance

Section 1 Details of the Proposal

A. Title of Proposal:	Community Plan Priorities
B. What is it?	A new Policy/Strategy/Practice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A revised Policy/Strategy/Practice <input type="checkbox"/>
C. Description of the proposal: (Set out a clear understanding of the purpose of the proposal being developed or reviewed (what are the aims, objectives and intended outcomes, including the context within which it will operate))	A set of potential priorities have been developed for the refreshed Community Plan (aka Local Outcome Improvements Plan). These priorities will be consulted on with a view to identifying those which matter most to the community and be included in the refreshed Community Plan which is scheduled to be completed August 2023. A second IIA will be carried out at that stage.
D. Service Area: Department:	Community Planning Partnership
E. Lead Officer: (Name and job title)	Clare Malster, Participation Officer, SBC
F. Other Officers/Partners involved: (List names, job titles and organisations)	Elke Fabry, Project Manager, SBC

G. Date(s) IIA completed:	26/04/2023
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Section 2 Will there be any impacts as a result of the relationship between this proposal and other policies?

No <i>(please delete as applicable)</i>
If yes, - please state here:

Section 3 Legislative Requirements

3.1 Relevance to the Equality Duty:	
<p>Do you believe your proposal has any relevance under the Equality Act 2010? <i>(If you believe that your proposal may have some relevance – however small please indicate yes. If there is no effect, please enter “No” and go to Section 3.2.)</i></p>	
Equality Duty	Reasoning:
<p>A. Elimination of discrimination (both direct & indirect), victimisation and harassment. <i>(Will the proposal discriminate? Or help eliminate discrimination?)</i></p>	
<p>B. Promotion of equality of opportunity? <i>(Will your proposal help or hinder the Council with this)</i></p>	<p>Yes. The role of Community Planning Partnerships is to identify and deliver on outcomes to reduce inequalities in the local authority area. Consulting on the draft priorities will give people a chance to say what matters most to them.</p>

<p>C. Foster good relations? <i>(Will your proposal help to foster or encourage good relations between those who have different equality characteristics?)</i></p>	<p>Consulting on the draft priorities contained will give people a chance to say what matters most to them.</p>
---	---

<p>3.2 Which groups of people do you think will be or potentially could be, impacted by the implementation of this proposal? (You should consider employees, clients, customers / service users, and any other relevant groups)</p>				
<p>Please tick below as appropriate, outlining any potential impacts on the undernoted equality groups this proposal may have and how you know this.</p>				
	Impact			Please explain the potential impacts and how you know this
	No Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	
<p>Age Older or younger people or a specific age grouping</p>		X		<p>The role of Community Planning Partnerships is to identify and deliver on outcomes to reduce inequalities in the local authority area. Consulting on the draft priorities will give people a chance to say what matters most to them.</p>
<p>Disability e.g. Effects on people with mental, physical, sensory impairment, learning disability, visible/invisible, progressive or recurring</p>		X		<p>The role of Community Planning Partnerships is to identify and deliver on outcomes to reduce inequalities in the local authority area. Consulting on the draft priorities will give people a chance to say what matters most to them.</p>
<p>Gender Reassignment/ Gender Identity anybody whose gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex assigned to them at birth</p>		X		<p>The role of Community Planning Partnerships is to identify and deliver on outcomes to reduce inequalities in the local authority area. Consulting on the draft priorities will give people a chance to say what matters most to them.</p>
<p>Marriage or Civil Partnership people who are married or in a civil partnership</p>		X		<p>The role of Community Planning Partnerships is to identify and deliver on outcomes to reduce inequalities in the local authority area. Consulting on the draft priorities</p>

				will give people a chance to say what matters most to them.
Pregnancy and Maternity (refers to the period after the birth, and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth),		X		The role of Community Planning Partnerships is to identify and deliver on outcomes to reduce inequalities in the local authority area. Consulting on the draft priorities will give people a chance to say what matters most to them.
Race Groups: including colour, nationality, ethnic origins, including minorities (e.g. gypsy travellers, refugees, migrants and asylum seekers)		X		The role of Community Planning Partnerships is to identify and deliver on outcomes to reduce inequalities in the local authority area. Consulting on the draft priorities will give people a chance to say what matters most to them.
Religion or Belief: different beliefs, customs (including atheists and those with no aligned belief)		X		The role of Community Planning Partnerships is to identify and deliver on outcomes to reduce inequalities in the local authority area. Consulting on the draft priorities will give people a chance to say what matters most to them.
Sex women and men (girls and boys)		X		The role of Community Planning Partnerships is to identify and deliver on outcomes to reduce inequalities in the local authority area. Consulting on the draft priorities will give people a chance to say what matters most to them.
Sexual Orientation , e.g. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Heterosexual		X		The role of Community Planning Partnerships is to identify and deliver on outcomes to reduce inequalities in the local authority area. Consulting on the draft priorities will give people a chance to say what matters most to them.

3.3 Fairer Scotland Duty

This duty places a legal responsibility on Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to actively consider (give due regard) to how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socioeconomic disadvantage when making strategic decisions.

The duty is set at a strategic level - these are the key, high level decisions that SBC will take. This would normally include strategy documents, decisions about setting priorities, allocating resources and commissioning services.

Is the proposal strategic?

Yes *(please delete as applicable)*

If No go to Section 4

If yes, please indicate any potential impact on the undernoted groups this proposal may have and how you know this:

	Impact			State here how you know this
	No Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	
Low and/or No Wealth – enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future.		X		The role of Community Planning Partnerships is to identify and deliver on outcomes to reduce inequalities in the local authority area. Consulting on the draft priorities, which include priorities to address low/no wealth, will give people a chance to say what matters most to them.
Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies		X		The role of Community Planning Partnerships is to identify and deliver on outcomes to reduce inequalities in the local authority area. Consulting on the draft priorities, which include priorities to address material deprivation, will give people a chance to say what matters most to them.

Area Deprivation – where you live (e.g. rural areas), where you work (e.g. accessibility of transport)		X		The role of Community Planning Partnerships is to identify and deliver on outcomes to reduce inequalities in the local authority area. Consulting on the draft priorities, which include priorities that would have a positive effect on area deprivation, will give people a chance to say what matters most to them.
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parents' education, employment and income		X		The role of Community Planning Partnerships is to identify and deliver on outcomes to reduce inequalities in the local authority area. Consulting on the draft priorities, which include priorities that would have a positive effect on socio-economic background, will give people a chance to say what matters most to them.
Looked after and accommodated children and young people	X			
Carers paid and unpaid including family members		X		The role of Community Planning Partnerships is to identify and deliver on outcomes to reduce inequalities in the local authority area. Consulting on the draft priorities, which include priorities that would have a positive effect on unpaid carers, will give people a chance to say what matters most to them.
Homelessness	X			
Addictions and substance use	X			
Those involved within the criminal justice system	X			

3.4 Armed Forces Covenant Duty (*Education and Housing/ Homelessness proposals only*)

This duty places a legal responsibility on Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to actively consider (give due regard) to the three matters listed below in Education and Housing/ Homelessness matters.

This relates to current and former armed forces personnel (regular or reserve) and their families.

Is the Armed Forces Covenant Duty applicable?

No

If “Yes”, please complete below

Covenant Duty	How this has been considered and any specific provision made:
The unique obligations of, and sacrifices made by, the armed forces;	
The principle that it is desirable to remove disadvantages arising for Service people from membership, or former membership, of the armed forces;	
The principle that special provision for Service people may be justified by the effects on such people of membership, or former membership, of the armed forces.	

Section 4 Full Integrated Impact Assessment Required

Select No if you have answered “No” to all of Sections 3.1 – 3.3.

Yes *(please delete as applicable)*

If yes, please proceed to Stage 2 and complete a full Integrated Impact Assessment

If a full impact assessment is not required briefly explain why there are no effects and provide justification for the decision.

While some sections above have been responded to positively it is not anticipated that a full IIA is required at this stage. A full IIA will be carried out when the priorities have been finalised, following consultation, and the refreshed community plan is produced.

Signed by Lead Officer:	Clare Malster
Designation:	Participation Officer
Date:	26/04/2023
Counter Signature Director:	
Date:	

THEME: ENOUGH MONEY TO LIVE ON			
Theme lead: Scottish Borders Council		Group members: CPP Partners, DWP & CAB	
Outcomes	Actions	Timeframe	Progress/current position
Communities are supported with advice and financial assistance in relation to income maximisation, debt, food, warmth and fuel throughout autumn/winter	Short life multi-agency Partnership Group (including Community Planning Partners) continues to meet to address the current cost of living crisis and provide support and assistance across the Borders to those in need throughout autumn/winter 2022.	Autumn/Winter 2022	<p>SBC Warm & Well Fund has now closed. Grants of up to £2,000 were available to community groups to provide warm spaces in their areas.</p> <p>A total of £22,159.57 was awarded to 17 community organisations. This is lower than previously reported as BAVS accessed funding through the lottery using this in favour of SBC grant funding. This grant totalled £17,801.01 and funded 12 warm spaces.</p> <p>SBC has awarded funding to Breakfast Clubs which are free to access. Total: allocation £60,000.</p> <p>£1.2M Cost of Living Fund continues to allocate funding to support local organisations to provide advice and financial assistance to our local communities. Information in relation to support can be found here: Financial support and advice Cost of Living Crisis support Scottish Borders Council (scotborders.gov.uk)</p> <p>The Financial Support & Inclusion Team will be increasing resources within the team to help maximise the take up of benefits</p>
The Borders is a more equitable and fair place to work	CPP to work collaboratively to identify barriers and work towards developing a plan to remove them in order to support parents into employment i.e., childcare barrier, transport etc.		Assessment taking place on what is currently in place or planned to identify gaps.

	Partnership to develop plans for paying the living wage – and encouraging contractors and sub-contractors to also do so.		<p>Modern Apprentices working for SBC receiving the living wage as from 1 April 2023.</p> <p>Partners to be asked about the current position and plan.</p>
Build, redirect and retain wealth in the Scottish Borders local economy, and place wealth back into the hands of local people	Explore a partnership approach to Community Wealth Building - CPP partners to work collaboratively to develop community wealth building plans.		<p>A session took place, led Julie McLachlan (Scottish government) by in partnership with D&G CPP to discuss the Community Wealth Building consultation. A response was collated on behalf of the CPP to be presented for approval to the Programme Board on 17/05/23.</p> <p>A pilot of locally-procured energy efficiency retrofit measures in RSL properties has started, led by SoSE.</p> <p>Development of a wider understanding of democratic finance models, including Community Shares & Community Bonds is taking place (SoSE)</p> <p>Commissioning a feasibility study of CWB opportunities arising out of future new forest planting, including enhanced local employment & skills opportunities and options for community benefit (SoSE)</p> <p>Internal organisational development (SoSE) including local procurement, role as project client (Mountain Bike Innovation Centre) and development of a community benefits portal.</p>

THEME: ACCESS TO WORK, LEARNING & TRAINING				
Theme lead: Skills Development Scotland		Group members: Shona Mitchell, Andrea Hall, DWP		
Outcomes	Actions	Time frame	Progress	RAG
<p>More people entering positive, sustained destinations who continue to participate in employment, training or education</p> <p>We will have a particular focus on equality groups i.e., care experienced young people, those with disabilities, those living with poverty, those who are refugees or asylum seekers or those with any other equality characteristics</p>	<p>CPP partners to share destination and participation data and work collaboratively to offer support to those not participating or with an unconfirmed status.</p>	<p>May 2023</p>	<p>Initial destinations show that Scottish Borders has a rate of positive destinations of 96.6%, compared to 95.7% nationally. Scottish Borders has 0.1% of young people with an unknown status, compared to 1.5% nationally. These figures are fully available to partners and the information is being used to inform, for example, who requires follow up, what provision they are looking for etc. The follow up destination snap shot was the first Monday in April. The data is still being processed but will be publicly available in June 2023. Traditionally there is a drop off between initial and follow up destinations, however, Skills Development Scotland (SDS) with the support of Education colleagues and the wider partnership are working hard to follow up on anyone currently unknown. SDS are also checking and offering support to any young people that are in a destination but might be a risk of dropping out or of not having a clear pathway to follow after their initial destination. Continuing to work with Local Employability Partnership (LEP) to inform and shape future provision which will be key to being able to offer young people a range of learning and training opportunities within Scottish Borders.</p>	
	<p>CPP and LEP to work together to identify gaps in education, employment and training in order to procure or develop provision to meet the needs of the people of the Scottish Borders from the start of the next financial year.</p>	<p>July 2023</p>	<p>Work is on-going to establish LEP priorities. Focus of LEP around transitions. Partners working to align priorities around this. Central to LEP ambition is to co-create opportunities for citizens of Scottish Borders using relevant data, whilst putting in place an effective employability pipeline to ensure people can access opportunities at the right time, in the right place to allow them to progress in to fair work, training or learning opportunities.</p>	

	<p>CPP to work together to identify communities (geographic or characteristic based) that require targeted interventions. This could include exploring co-design and co-location of services.</p>	<p>May 2023</p>	<p>LEP looking to make more use of service user voice/insight. This could help to identify communities that require targeted interventions. Work is still on-going around previously identified groups such as Ukrainian refugees and care experienced young people.</p>	
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THEME: A GOOD PLACE TO GROW UP, LIVE IN AND ENJOY A FULL LIFE

Theme lead: Police Scotland

Group members: Police Scotland, SBC, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

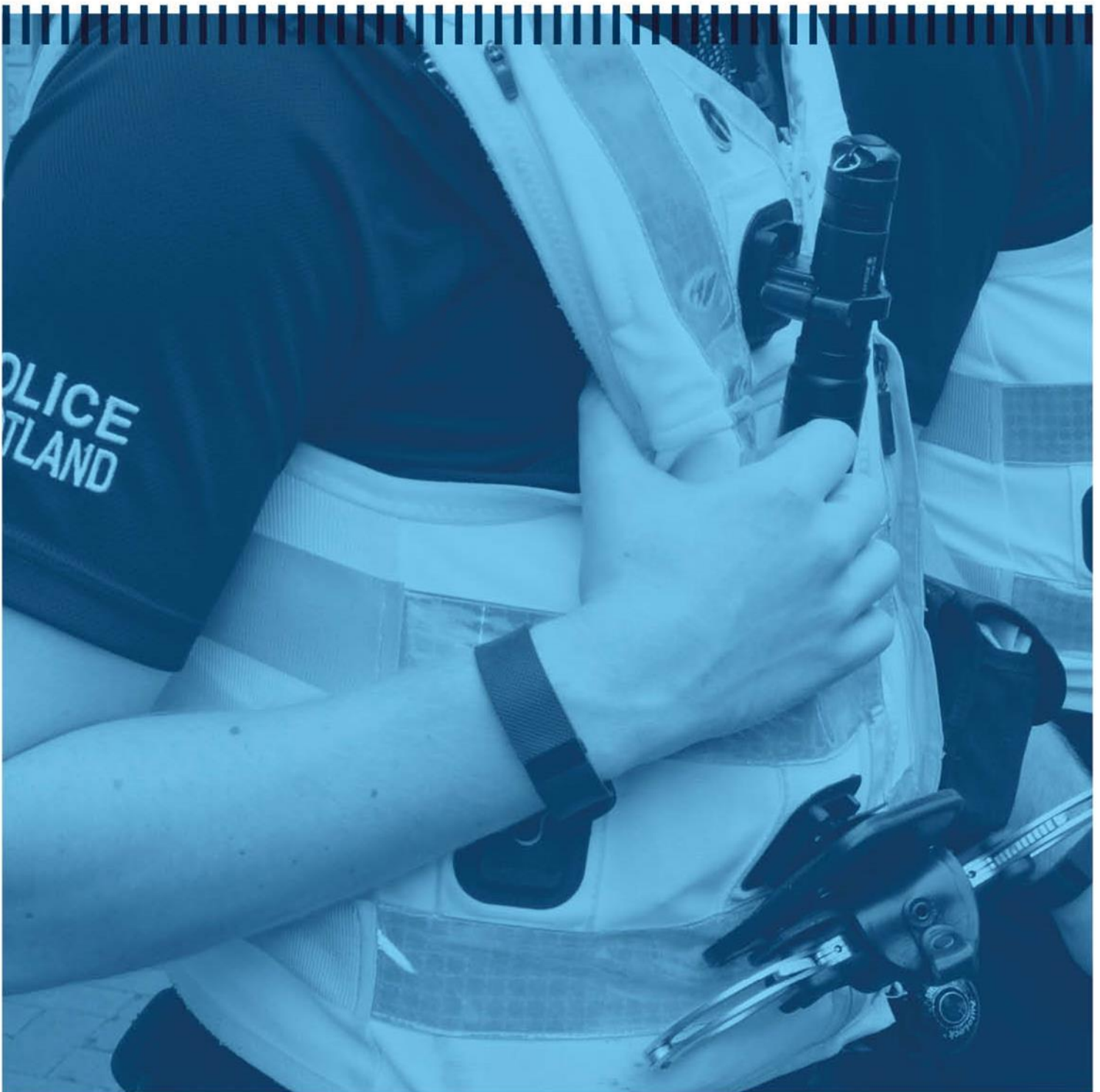
Outcomes	Actions	Time frame	Progress	RAG
<p>The Borders has a clear and planned pathway to Net Zero.</p>	<p>The Partnership will establish a definitive baseline of Area-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and develop a regional approach to delivering emissions mitigation and a climate-ready region.</p>	<p>12 months</p>	<p>1. The Community Planning Partners endorsed the Scottish Borders Climate Change Route Map (CCRM) at the Community Planning Strategic Board on 9 March. This endorsement provides a strategic framework for collective action on a just transition to Net Zero and related adaptation action across the Scottish Borders.</p> <p>2. A workshop supported by the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute regarding 'area wide' Greenhouse Gas Emissions took place on Monday 20 March. This reviewed area-wide baseline emissions data against which to plan, manage and monitor progress against key emissions sources through carbon measurement and assessment tools.</p> <p>3. Pursuant to points 1 & 2, partners have identified appropriate officers to participate in a partnership Practitioner/Advisory Group (to provide technical and practical support on the development of a plan of area-wide climate action). A meeting will be scheduled shortly.</p>	<p></p>

<p>Cleaner greener travel, less emissions and increased choice for communities within the Scottish Borders.</p>	<p>Increase the range and availability of sustainable transport.</p>	<p>Some steps within 12 months; further steps beyond 12 months</p>	<p>On the 2nd of May 2022, Scottish Borders Council, supported by the Workforce Mobility Project, launched the PINGO Demand Responsive Transport pilot in the Berwickshire locality.</p> <p>PINGO is an innovative way of delivering public transport which is not based on a traditional fixed route bus service, but defined by customers booking their trip through the PINGO App or by calling the dedicated hotline.</p> <p>The service is already on target to exceed 12000 passengers by the end of March 2023, the pilot has been extended for a further 12 months through to March 2024 with further enhancements coming online Scottish Borders Council is hoping to extend the trial.</p> <p>The data gathered will feed into the wider network review helping us to understand how Demand Responsive Transport can interwork with fixed line bus services in a rural context.</p>	
<p>Communities at the heart of decisions shaping the future and making decisions that affect their towns and villages.</p>	<p>Community Planning Partners to recognise and support Place Making (with the development of place plans in at least 15 communities across the five localities of the Borders) by being active in</p>	<p>12 months</p>	<p>An in-person Place Making workshop for Community Planning Partners has been arranged for Friday the 16th June at the Volunteer Hall in Galashiels. To date, 53 communities (77% of Borders communities) have either expressed an interest in developing place plans or are actively developing community-led plans for their places. The workshop on the 16th June will reflect on:</p>	

	the governance of Place Making.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issues arising from current Place Making engagement for the CPP. • How we, collectively, support communities in both the development and delivery of their plans. • The implications for the CPP in terms of the process of Community Planning including future refresh of Locality plans, the LOIP and the role of Area Partnerships. <p>The workshops will be facilitated by both Diarmaid Lawlor from Scottish Futures Trust and Sam Cassells of the Scottish Government's Place Team. Invitations have been issued this week. However, there is an opportunity to include further representatives from CPP Partners who have an interest or involvement in Place Making.</p>	
Fewer people experience domestic abuse in Scottish Borders	Recognition-Respond-Refer: Empower communities to identify and take action to address domestic abuse through delivering increased awareness of 'coercive control' in the Scottish Borders and an understanding of what to do and who to contact	12 months	The gender based violence infographic is still in development and will be circulated when available	

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The Lothians and Scottish Borders Local Policing Plan 2023-26



Contents

Foreword	3
Local policing delivery.....	6
National strategic alignment	7
Police Scotland’s strategic objectives	8
Lothians & Scottish Borders Division – Local Policing Priorities	10
Protecting Vulnerable People in a Physical and Digital World	11
Reducing Violent Crime and Antisocial Behaviour	14
Tackling Acquisitive Crime	16
Tackling Serious and Organised Crime.....	19
Improving Road Safety.....	22
Our people are supported through a positive working environment, enabling them to serve the public.....	24
Police Scotland is sustainable, adaptable and prepared for future challenges	25
Governance and performance	25
Equality, diversity and inclusion	26
Engaging with us	26

Foreword

As Divisional Commander, I am delighted to present the 2023-2026 Local Police Plan for the Lothians & Scottish Borders Policing Division.

The Police and Fire Reform Act (Scotland) 2012 outlines our purpose, which is to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland.

The Act also places upon me a responsibility to have in place a Local Police Plan to stipulate how I will use my resources to work towards fulfilling that policing purpose.

While we have recently seen a reduction in overall recorded crime, the complexity of crime continues to grow in a number of areas, not least in terms of crime committed in the digital space. We are also contending with a relative increase in incidents that do not relate to criminality but relate to matters impacting on wellbeing.

We often see a police response being provided in the absence of other services. That is why we are focused on working with partners to ensure that people get the right help at the right time – something I anticipate will be a significant part of some of the activities outlined in the Protecting Vulnerable People in a Physical and Digital World (Priority 1).

Policing is relentless. The challenges we have faced since the last Local Policing Plan was developed are testament to that. Our response to COVID, the policing of COP26, our response to the death of her late Majesty, The Queen – these are all indicative of the challenges we rise to.

We know there are further challenges ahead, some of which we can anticipate and others which will emerge during the lifetime of this document. The cost of living crisis and wider economic climate for example will have a significant impact on many aspects of life and will influence our response and approach to vulnerability (Priority 1) acquisitive crime (Priority 3) and serious and organised crime (Priority 4).

This version of the plan will ensure that we stay true to national strategic outcomes while remaining responsive to the unique needs of our communities through the identification of activities tailored to each Local Authority area.

In responding to those issues, it is imperative that we maintain your *trust and confidence*. There are three primary drivers for confidence in policing, and I want those drivers to be reflected in the activities outlined in this plan;

- Values and Behaviours

My officers know that I hold them accountable for HOW they interact with each other and those they serve. I have developed additional training for our staff to help them better understand human behaviour so they are more able to understand how they and others may react in situations but how they can respond in a way that positively influences through connecting, communicating and caring.

- Community Engagement

My commitment to Community Engagement remains. This Local Police Plan has been developed not only through consideration and assessment of police information and data, but in assessing the views provided by local people and partners via engagement and completion of the 'Your Police' online survey. It is this approach which ensures that we are best placed to tackle emerging trends and problems across the Division, whilst underlining our commitment to dealing with the issues that we know matter most to our local communities and stakeholders.

- Visibility

I recognise visibility is something that matters hugely to people and I am not immune or unappreciative of the value and reassurance that seeing the police brings. But our lives are increasingly moving into the virtual or online world. Developments in technology have opened up new opportunities across a number of aspects of daily life. Those developments have also enabled new ways of committing crime. It is vital that our Division equips itself with the knowledge and expertise to prevent, investigate and protect you from cyber related crimes. As such, I want you to know that even when you do not see us in the traditional sense, please be assured we remain very much present and

OFFICIAL

working within your community to protect you, and those more vulnerable to exploitation.

My desire is for you to feel more connected to your policing team. That connection helps us be accountable to you in delivering the activities that will be undertaken within each Local Authority area. We remain ever conscious of the diverse requirements of different communities across the Division and will work to ensure that our activity is fully reflective of those unique needs.

The statutory duty placed on us by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to work together with partners to deliver shared outcomes and reduce inequalities is reflected throughout this Local Policing Plan.

It is imperative that we remain collaborative and I am committed to working with people, partners and stakeholders to better serve our communities and provide the highest quality of service to East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian and the Scottish Borders.

This plan remains a living document - we will welcome all feedback to ensure our work remain relevant and responsive to local needs both now and into the future.

Chief Superintendent Catriona Paton, Local Police Commander, Lothians & Scottish Borders Division.

Local policing delivery

The Lothians and Scottish Borders Division serves around 505,860 people, over an area of 2,393 square miles, stretching from Blackridge in West Lothian, to Newcastleton in the Scottish Borders, as well as many other towns and villages located across a diverse mix of urban and rural landscapes.

The Division has four territorial command areas aligned to their respective local authorities, namely East Lothian, Midlothian, the Scottish Borders and West Lothian. Each area has a dedicated Local Area Commander (LAC) who is responsible for daily operational policing functions. Each area command is served by response and community policing teams whose actions and activities are defined by the needs of our local community. They respond to local incidents and work with partners to develop preventative solutions to key issues.

The investigation of serious crime and support for vulnerable people is coordinated by a range of specialist divisional investigators who are locally based, and focussed towards the needs of our local communities.

Nationally I have access to a range of resources to support criminal investigations, progress enquiries involving vulnerable people, ensure the safe management of public events, develop engagement with underrepresented groups, and to provide a specialist response to community concerns.

As I touched upon in my foreword, our communities will see many changes over the lifetime of this plan. For example, the increase in population will bring opportunities and challenges. Midlothian is projected to have the highest percentage change in population size out of all 32 council areas in Scotland, increasing by 13.8% by 2028. East Lothian is second with an increase of 7.2% in the same timeframe.

Scotland has an aging population, with older people accounting for a growing proportion of the population. All council areas across the Division have seen an increase in the number of people aged 65 and over. West Lothian has recorded the most significant increase (35.1%) and, along with our health and local authority partners, this is likely to place a greater demand on policing services as we work to protect older and vulnerable persons in our growing populations.

While the diversity of the Lothians and Scottish Borders should be celebrated, we recognise that beyond that diversity there are disparities in socio-economic circumstances. Many people are touched by or experience deprivation and the reality of the cost of living crisis means that many more households will find themselves in those circumstances. This will undoubtedly impact on mental and physical health. We will therefore continue to work collaboratively to tackle inequalities as part of our focus for improving the wellbeing of people, localities and communities.

National strategic alignment

The Scottish Governments National Outcomes/ Strategic Priorities/ Justice Vision are the result of national consultation and have formed the framework for the development of the SPA/Police Scotland Strategic Outcomes. These, in turn, ensure that our Annual Police Plan is clearly aligned to national ambitions.

In addition to the Annual Police Plan, Police Scotland's thirteen local policing divisions produce Local Police Plans which are locally focussed on individual priorities, objectives, outcomes and performance measures. They link to wider community planning arrangements, with Local Outcome Improvement Plans taken into account in their development.

At an organisational level there are enabler strategies which provide the frameworks for delivering on our priorities. These include People, Fleet, Estates, Finance, Public Contact and Engagement, Enabling Policing for the Future, Digital Data and ICT, Cyber, Environmental, Procurement, Violence against Women and Girls, Equality Diversity and Inclusion.

Police Scotland's strategic objectives



Our Vision | Policing for a safe, protected and resilient Scotland
Our Purpose | The purpose of policing is to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland
Our Values | Fairness | Integrity | Respect | Human Rights

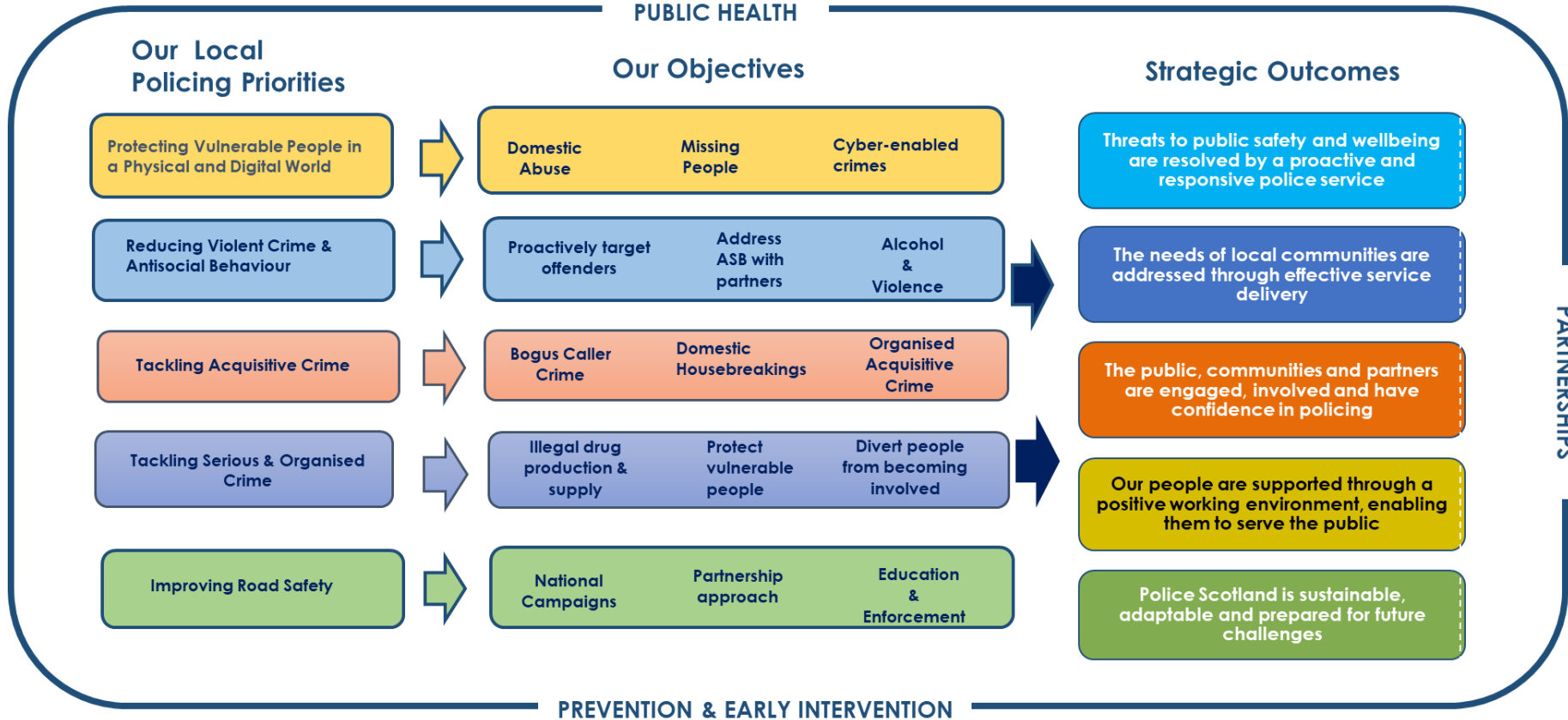


Page 628



Plan on a Page
Lothians & Scottish
Borders Division

Our vision | Policing for a safe, protected and resilient Scotland
Our purpose | Improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland
Our values | Fairness, Integrity, Respect, Human Rights



Page 629

Lothians & Scottish Borders Division – Local Policing Priorities

We have identified with you a number of priorities which will drive policing activity in your local area over the next three years. We will progress work which is reflective of local needs, working alongside partners to deliver meaningful results.

It is crucial that the priorities reflect the views of communities and we worked hard to maximise engagement and ensure opinions were heard.

We received one of the highest number of responses to the ‘Your Police’ survey which not only illustrates the close relationship we have with the communities we serve, but supports the priorities we have identified.

We also carried out a review of our previous Local Police Plan, together with an assessment of emerging trends and current crime patterns. This has led to the inclusion of the ‘Digital World’ when considering the wellbeing of vulnerable people.

We have identified the following as our priorities for 2023-26:

1. Protecting Vulnerable People in a Physical and Digital World
2. Reducing Violent Crime and Antisocial Behaviour
3. Tackling Acquisitive Crime
4. Tackling Serious and Organised Crime
5. Improving Road Safety

Protecting Vulnerable People in a Physical and Digital World

The nature of incidents requiring a policing response has evolved. Over the last three years, the proportion of incidents reported to us which result in a crime being recorded is just under 20%. The majority of reported incidents are non-criminal.

We respond to support vulnerable individuals more than ever before and we expect this demand to increase. We will work with partner agencies to ensure that the right response is provided by the right service at the right time.

We also find ourselves moving more and more from the physical into the digital world. That has brought with it new opportunities for criminals to exploit victims using technology to further their criminality. Our Division will adapt to prevent and investigate crimes that take place in a digital world both now and in the future.

That is not to say that criminality that takes place in the physical world will have less of a focus. Sexual crime has a profound impact on victims, their friends and their families. Recorded numbers of sexual crimes have increased since 2017/18. We will continue to work with partners to help give victims the confidence and trust to be able to report criminality. We remain as resolute as ever in investigating those crimes, bringing offenders to justice and preventing sexual crime from happening.

Domestic abuse also prays on the most vulnerable and has a similarly devastating effect. As such, it remains a priority for Police Scotland. The introduction of Domestic Abuse Scotland Act was an important step forward and has undoubtedly enhanced the ability to both identify and prevent criminality. The additional demand this brings will continue to be prioritised to ensure we both protect those at risk of harm and prevent the commission of domestic offending.

To protect our communities effectively, we will continue to explore innovative technologies and partnerships. We will continue to be a key contributor to local joint planning and delivery, helping drive a shift to prevention and early intervention across services.

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Activity: Support victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence and proactively target those responsible.

Key milestones:

- Continue to work in partnership to share information through the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS).
- Work with partners through the MARAC process to effectively share information and manage risk.
- Continue to identify officers and staff as 'Domestic Abuse Champions' to cascade information and training.
- With partners, continue to develop third party reporting systems, to increase confidence in reporting incidents of harm and abuse.
- Continue to deliver the Violence Against Women and Girls Prevention Strategy across all four policing sub-divisions.
- With Partners, provide support for victims of sexual assault.
- Promote local support services including Women's Aid, Rape Crisis and Domestic Abuse Advocacy Support.
- Promote "Bystander" initiative with partners and local communities.
- Participate in the Violence Against Women & Girls "16 days of Action."

Update expected: Y1 Q2 Q4, Y2 Q2 Q4, Y3 Q2 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How effectively does Lothians and Scottish Borders Division deal with reports of Domestic Abuse?
- How does Lothians and Scottish Borders Division support victims of sexual crime?

Activity: With partners better respond to incidents of missing people.

Key milestones:

Page | 12

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- Continue to ensure the 'Herbert Protocol' is implemented to help trace missing people with dementia.
- Share information with partners to better support vulnerable people who are reported missing.
- Continue to deliver the aims of the National Missing Persons Framework for Scotland.
- With Local Authority partners, work to mitigate the risks to young people missing from residential care facilities utilising the "Philomena protocol".

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How effectively does Lothians and Scottish Borders Division respond to reports of missing persons?
- What impact are information sharing protocols with partners having in supporting vulnerable people?

Activity: With partners work to reduce the impact of cyber-enabled crimes.

Key milestones:

- With partners deliver education and awareness around 'sextortion' incidents, particularly with young people.
- Ensure effective circulation of information regarding cyber enabled crime trends to warn people of the dangers and signs to look out for.
- Provide awareness and information on cyber-crime for partner agencies, particularly those working to support people who may be considered vulnerable.
- Work with relevant statutory and third sector organisations to actively engage young people across the locality.
- Ensure Police officers and staff are equipped with the right knowledge to assist in tackling cyber-enabled crime through regular briefings and training.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How are the Lothians and Scottish Borders working with partners to mitigate the risk of cybercrime?

Activity: Work with partners and our community to protect people at risk of harm.

Key milestones:

- Continue to deliver in partnership with Scottish Government, NHS, SAS, Penumbra, SAMH and Support in Mind, Distress Brief Intervention (DBI), which provides immediate and ongoing support to an individual in distress.
- Promote, via social media and with education partners, the “Togetherall” and “Kooth” programs which provide on-line mental health and well-being support services for people of all ages.
- Continue to work with partners and local businesses to promote the “Keep Safe” initiative to provide a safe place for victims of crime or those who find themselves in distress.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How does the Lothians and Scottish Borders protect people at risk of harm?

Reducing Violent Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

Public Confidence Data shows that the majority (81%) of respondents feel safe in their local area. This is reflective of J Division recording the lowest rate of violence per 10k population in the East command area (i.e. Edinburgh, Fife, Forth Valley, and the Lothians and Scottish Borders).

Page | 14

OFFICIAL

Nevertheless, we recognise there are elements of violent crime which will be of concern to our communities, such as the increasing attempted murder and homicide rate. Common assaults against the public and emergency workers are also at their highest levels for five years.

We also know that antisocial behaviour and youth related disorder concerns our communities. This is despite recorded levels of antisocial behaviour being lower than they have been over the past five years. Since emerging from the restrictions placed on liberty during the pandemic some areas of the Division have seen youth-related disorder and violence. Tackling antisocial behaviour and engaging with young people will therefore continue to be a priority for police and partner agencies.

Activity: Work with partners and community groups to prevent and respond to incidents of Anti-social behaviour.

Key milestones:

- Continue to work within a multi-agency framework to provide preventative approaches to antisocial behaviour, including diversionary activities such as “RUTS” and “Heavy Sounds.”
- Proactively target individuals responsible for antisocial behaviour in local communities and ensure full use of powers to prevent further offending such as Antisocial Behaviour Orders and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts.
- Intelligence led deployment of, for example, Community Action Teams / Community Officers to hotspot areas.
- Engage with and educate young people about the impact of antisocial behaviour on communities, for example by utilising school based officers where they exist to provide awareness inputs.
- Work with Local Authorities to effectively utilise mobile CCTV cameras.
- Conduct local seasonal campaigns to disrupt anti-social disorder such as the Summer Coastal Initiative and Halloween and Bonfire Night disorder.
- Work with licensing partners to reduce off-sales of alcohol to persons under 18 and the proxy purchasing of alcohol.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Page | 15

Performance measures and insights:

- What impact is the Lothians and Scottish Borders approach having on instances of anti-Social behaviour?

Activity: Work with partners to prevent and effectively investigate violent crime.

Key milestones:

- Deliver a police led partnership response as part of 'night time economy' operations.
- Work with community drug and alcohol partnerships to educate at risk groups of the links between alcohol and violence.
- Work jointly with NHS Lothian and NHS Borders to capture under-reporting of violence.
- Work with licensed premises to promote participation in 'Best Bar None'.
- Delivery of inputs to young people such as 'No Knives, Better Lives' and 'Fearless'.
- Utilise proactive tactics to target offenders such as bail checks and execution of warrants.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How effective are the Lothians and Scottish Borders at tackling serious violent crime?

Tackling Acquisitive Crime

The rate of acquisitive crime has decreased over the last five years. We are alert to the impact the economic climate and the cost of living crisis has on this type of crime, and the reasonable prospect that trend may be reversed.

Housebreaking, vehicle theft and fraud are intrusive crimes and can leave a lasting and profound impact on victims and their families. We are already working with

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partners, communities and businesses to reduce opportunities for acquisitive crime to take place.

We are continually monitoring activity of organised travelling criminals who target rural communities given the make-up of our Division. Partnership working with colleagues in bordering English Forces has led to positive intelligence-sharing opportunities and proactive targeting of rural crime.

Fraud increased significantly during the pandemic through a combination of in-person and cyber-enabled crimes. This increase was due to a much increased online prevalence in the carrying out of many daily tasks such as shopping, socialising, communicating, and working. People across generations and communities were affected. The rise in demand for skilled trades also saw reports of bogus workmen and rogue traders increase.

The devastating impact of fraud – for example the loss of life savings – means we are committed to preventing fraud for everyone in society, but particularly for vulnerable groups.

Activity: Work with partners to prevent and investigate “door step” and “rogue trader” related crime.

Key milestones:

- Deliver joint training with partners to potential victims, friends, families / carers, neighbours on bogus caller crime and how to protect people vulnerable from falling victim to this.
- Utilise all available methods of communication to alert communities to emerging trends and provide preventative advice.
- Support the expansion of community initiatives such as “No cold calling zones” and Neighbourhood and Rural Watch
- Continue to be active partners in multi-agency initiatives, for example of the West Lothian Financial Harm Group.
- Provide effective support to victims of bogus caller crime to prevent further incidents.

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- Through intelligence led operations, proactively target known offenders.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How effective are the Lothians and Scottish Borders at tackling door step and rogue trader related crime?

Activity: Work with partners to prevent and investigate domestic housebreakings across the Lothians and Scottish Borders.

Key milestones:

- Communicate emerging crimes trends and home security advice through all available channels.
- Support the expansion of community initiatives such as 'Neighbourhood Watch' and 'Rural Watch' schemes.
- Expand the use of Architectural Liaison Officers within new housing developments.
- Work with partners to target known offenders and provide diversionary measures to those on the cusp of or vulnerable to becoming involved in criminality.
- Encourage and support the use of products covered by the "Secured By Design" initiative.
- Work with partners and communities to prevent thefts of pedal cycles.
- Through local intelligence led operations, target those responsible for domestic housebreakings.
- Enhance the use of Police Scotland Youth Volunteers to deliver targeted crime prevention information and advice.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How well does the Lothians and Scottish Borders work with partners to prevent domestic housebreaking?

Page | 18

Activity: Work with partners to tackle rural organised acquisitive crime.

Key milestones:

- Collaborate with internal and external partners to hold joint operations to disrupt travelling criminals targeting rural communities.
- Regularly communicate crime prevention messages highlighting crime trends around organised acquisitive crime, for example, thefts of motor vehicles and quad bikes.
- Work with local 'Partnership Against Rural Crime' (PARC) groups to share information and hold joint initiatives.
- Utilise national resources, such as the Roads Policing Unit, to support targeted patrols in key areas.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- What impact are Lothians and Scottish Borders approach having on rural organised acquisitive crime?

Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

Serious and Organised Crime Groups (SOCGs) operate in each of our local authority areas. Police Scotland closely monitors the activities of SOCGs across the country, and groups are identified and assessed in terms of risk and impact.

The traditional focus of organised crime has been the supply of controlled drugs, and we know through consultation with communities that drug related issues are a persistent and enduring concern. We have been successful in disrupting this activity because of the intelligence we receive from communities and we need your support to continue this positive work. We know that organised crime goes beyond drugs and reaches into areas such as housebreaking, vehicle theft, and fraud, as well as impacting on the economy through criminal business enterprise. We will work with

partners to deny criminals the opportunity to obtain public sector contracts, to divert young people away from criminality, to seize assets identified as being obtained through criminal activity, and to disrupt criminal networks.

Activity: Work with partners to target those involved in the supply of illegal drugs and reduce the harm caused by their use.

Key milestones:

- Through an intelligence led approach, target those profiting from the production, cultivation and supply of illegal drugs.
- Work with public health partners to understand current drug trends and distribute this information to officers and staff.
- Support the rollout of Naloxone to all officers within Lothians and Scottish Borders.
- With partners, identify all non-fatal overdoses and signpost the support pathways that are available.
- Work with Drug and Alcohol Partnerships to ensure a person centred multi agency approach to problem drug and alcohol use.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How are the Lothians and Scottish Borders helping reduce the harm caused by the supply and consumption of controlled substances in our communities?

Activity: Work with partners to support people vulnerable to harm from organised criminal activities.

Key milestones:

- Provide regular awareness inputs to partner agencies, stakeholders and communities regarding 'county lines' activity and the signs of 'cuckooing'.
- Review information sharing protocols to ensure appropriate support is implemented for those who may be the victim of 'cuckooing.'

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- Work with partners to educate our communities about human trafficking, its impacts and how it can manifest through provision of cheap goods, services and labour.
- Work with HM Immigration services to identify and address instances of Human Trafficking

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How well does Lothians and Scottish Borders identify and support adults and young people at risk of harm?

Activity: Work with partners to divert people and communities from becoming involved in serious and organised crime.

Key milestones:

- Continue to deliver the 'Divert' strand of the Organised Crime Strategy for Scotland.
- Work with schools, colleges and HMP Addiewell to support individuals to make positive life choices.
- Through effective information sharing provide early intervention to safeguard individuals from being drawn into crime.
- Raise awareness of the dangers of using counterfeit goods and other products of organised crime.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How does the Lothians and Scottish Borders support Scotland's serious and organised crime strategy?

Activity: Tackle crimes commonly associated with organised crime in our rural areas.

Key milestones:

- Through local Partnerships Against Rural Crime (PARCs) provide information to prevent theft of plant and farm vehicles.
- Undertake joint patrols with partners to target hotspot areas.
- Target wildlife crime such as hare coursing and poaching through dedicated days of action.
- Promoting awareness of rural crime at local events such as the Border Union Show.
- Throughout the Lothians and Scottish Borders identify and train wildlife crime champions and draw on the expertise of national specialist resources and partners to support us.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How effective are the Lothians and Scottish Borders at dealing with organised crime in rural areas?

Improving Road Safety

Reducing the number of road casualties and improving road safety remains a local and national priority. Whilst the number of serious injuries has reduced since 2019/20, the number of fatalities on our roads is increasing.

Car drivers and pedestrians accounted for the highest proportion of road deaths in 2021/22. However, the rural nature of roads in the Scottish Borders in particular makes collisions involving motorcyclists a particular priority for that command area. Speeding is often a contributory factor in collisions and this continues to be a high priority for the Division. Officers will work closely with specialist roads policing officers to proactively patrol the road network.

Drink and drug driving remains an ongoing issue within communities in Scotland. Working with Road Policing, we will continue to robustly enforce this legislation. We will also continue to work with local and national partners through our Road Safety

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Governance Board to address road safety across all council areas and find common solutions to the issues causing harm on our roads. In doing so, we will both contribute to and be informed by national strategy.

Activity: Through collaborative educational inputs promote road safety

Key milestones:

- Support partners to deliver local initiatives such as “Westdrive” “Tomorrows Drivers” and the “Border Union Schools Day”
- Review and expand the implementation of initiatives, such as the Midlothian School Crossing Initiative, into other areas.
- Support the Junior Road Safety officer programme in the Scottish Borders.
- On rural roads, carry out partnership activity targeted at improving the safety of motorcycle riders.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How effective are Lothians and Scottish Borders activity in improving road safety in the Division?

Activity: Deliver national and local enforcement campaigns

Key milestones:

- Support winter drink and drug driving campaigns through targeted patrolling.
- Respond to community concerns around speeding using intelligence led deployments of local and national officers.
- Tackle the issue of dangerous off-road motor cycles with tactics such as Selecta DNA spray while working with partners to provide safe spaces for their use.
- Support national days of action in relation to uninsured / unlicensed drivers, seatbelts and unsafe vehicles.
- Continue to utilise Operation Close Pass

Page | 23

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How effective is the Lothians and Scottish Borders activity to improve road safety in the division?

Activity: Work with partners to mitigate contributing factors to road traffic collisions.

Key milestones:

- Support participation in the national Road Safety Governance Board.
- Work with partners to identify prominent crash locations and support improvements in road design.
- Support work towards the aims of the Scottish Government's 'Road Safety Framework to 2030'.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How effective is the Lothians and Scottish Borders activity to improve road safety in the division?

Our people are supported through a positive working environment, enabling them to serve the public

The safety and wellbeing of our officers and staff is at the heart of Police Scotland's commitments. The challenges for policing are significant and the part policing plays in daily life will become ever more important as society contends with new challenges. Scrutiny on policing grows and we remain accountable for our actions.

We will create an environment for our staff to be able to work effectively and equip them to make decisions, ensuring they are trusted and empowered to do so.

Police Scotland is sustainable, adaptable and prepared for future challenges

Ongoing political, technological, economic and societal changes as well as incidents and emergencies that are unpredictable yet anticipated, on a local and global scale, require an adaptable police service.

We must plan and prepare to respond to those challenges in order to ensure we can both minimise harmful impacts while maximising the benefits of future opportunities.

This includes working to reduce the impact of our own activity, estates and fleet on the environment. Police Scotland aims to make a significant contribution to the Scottish Government's 2040 carbon neutral target and 2045 zero greenhouse gas emissions target.

Everyone has a role to play in improving financial sustainability, making efficient use of resources and eliminating waste to deliver best value. Procurement of and demand for goods and services will remain under scrutiny, ensuring resources are used in the most efficient way possible to meet the greatest need.

Governance and performance

The Police Scotland Performance Framework links to both local and national police plans, enabling monitoring and measurement of progress on our priorities for policing and strategic outcomes.

Key to delivering excellence in service provision is working collaboratively to support Community Planning Partnerships and upholding the principles of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

Our Local Police Plan reflects the priorities that local communities, businesses and organisations have told us matter most to them. We will continue to work with our communities and partners to listen to concerns and ensure we respond effectively to emerging issues.

An overview of local and Divisional performance against our strategic outcomes and local priorities is provided by the Divisional Commander and Local Area Commanders at the relevant Scrutiny Board meetings as per the terms of Section 45 of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.

Local Area Commanders regularly liaise with and provide updates to the community and elected representatives and, to complement this, Community Policing Officers provide local policing ward updates to community councils and residents' groups.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

The work of Police Scotland is underpinned by our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion in our interactions with the communities we serve as well as our own staff.

We are committed to developing and promoting best practice in the delivery of our Equality outcomes. These can be found along with our commitment and duties to equality, diversity & inclusion at: [Police Scotland Equality and Diversity](#)

This plan was subject to an Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EqHRIA) in compliance with the Scottish Public Sector Equality Duty. This document can be found at: (link to follow)

Separate EqHRIAs were undertaken for the activities described in this plan as required.

Engaging with us

If you have information about crime in your area and wish to provide it anonymously, call CRIMESTOPPERS on 0800 555111. Service users who are deaf or have a hearing impairment can contact Police Scotland via TextRelay on 18001 101 for nonemergency, or 18000 in an emergency.

Local Contact Details

Scottish Borders

Galashiels Police Station
3-4 Bridge Street
Galashiels
TD1 1SP
Telephone:101

East Lothian

Haddington Police Station
39-41 Court Street
Haddington
EH41 3AE
Telephone:101

Midlothian

Divisional Headquarters
Dalkeith Police Station
Newbattle Road
Dalkeith
EH22 3AX
Telephone:101

West Lothian

Livingston Police Station
West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden Road South
Livingston
EH54 6FF
Telephone: 101

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Meaningful and effective engagement involves genuine dialogue, respect, integrity, transparency and accountability. It provides an opportunity for people to shape our services and influence decisions made. Insight from effective engagement helps identify practical solutions and determine changes required to meet the needs of the communities we serve.

Police Scotland is committed to continuous improvement in all that we do. If you have something to tell us about our service, please contact us at: [Contact Us](#)

Further information about our wider engagement can be found in our consultation and engagement hub at: [Your police survey](#)

Police Scotland has a number of active social media channels that provide a range of information and insight into policing, both nationally and in your local area. A full list of our social media accounts can be found on our website. Our local channels can be found at:

Twitter

[Twitter - Midlothian](#)

[Twitter West Lothian](#)

[Twitter East Lothian](#)

[Twitter - Scottish Borders](#)

[Twitter - Lothians and Scottish Borders](#)

Facebook

[Police Scotland Midlothian | Facebook](#)

[West Lothian Police - Home | Facebook](#)

[East Lothian Police | Facebook](#)

[Scottish Borders Police | Facebook](#)

[Police Scotland Lothians & Scottish Borders | Facebook](#)

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Please note that our social media channels are not monitored 24/7 and should not be used for reporting crime. Please dial 999 in an emergency, and 101 in a non-emergency situation.

Inclusive and accessible engagement

We aim to embed accessibility and inclusivity into our services to make them work for everyone.

This Local Police Plan was subject to an Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EqHRIA).

This Local Police Plan can be made available in various alternative formats. For more information, please contact us via our online form: [Contact Us](#).

Deaf, deafened, hard of hearing or speech-impaired callers can contact us via Text Relay on 18001101.

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CPP Forward Planner

Programme Board	Meeting dates	
	Programme Board	Strategic Board
	17/05/22	→ 08/06/23
	16/08/23	→ 07/09/23
	25/10/23	→ 16/11/23
	14/02/24	→ 07/03/23
	15/05/24	→ 06/06/23

Meeting cycle	Subject	Org	Officer	Joint Programme Board	Strategic Board
LC9 2023 Summer 2023 Theme 3: Health & Wellbeing	Theme 3: Mental Health Improvement & Suicide Prevention Action Plan	NHS Borders	S MacKenzie	17/05/2023	08/06/2023
	Theme 3: The Promise –update	The Promise	S Easingwood	17/05/2023	08/06/2023
	Theme 3: Update on the results of the Young People’s Wellbeing Survey	SBC	C Brown	15/02/2023	08/06/2023
	Forward Planner	SBC	J Craig	17/05/2023	08/06/2023
	Theme updates	SBC / SDS / Public Health / Police Scotland	Theme Leads	17/05/2023	08/06/2023
	Theme 4: Local Housing Strategy consultation response	SBC	D Bogdanovic / L Renwick	17/05/2023	08/06/23
Autumn 2023	Theme: tbc				
	Refreshed Community Plan	SBC	J Craig	16/08/23	07/09/2023
	Anti-Poverty Strategy	SBC	J Robertson	16/08/23	07/09/2023
	Community Plan 2018 Progress report	SBC	J Craig	16/08/23	07/09/2023
	Forward Planner	SBC	J Craig	16/08/23	07/09/2023
	Theme updates	SBC / SDS / Public Health / Police Scotland	Theme Leads	16/08/23	07/09/2023
	CPP website & branding	SBC	J Craig	16/08/23	tbc

Winter 2023					
	Forward Planner	SBC	J Craig	25/10/23	16/11/23
	Theme updates	SBC / SDS / NHS B / Police Scotland	Theme Leads	25/10/23	16/11/23

Forthcoming

Page 652	Progress update on Community Learning and Development Partnership Plan 2021-24	SBC	L Munro		