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COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD THURSDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

A MEETING of the COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD will be held in the COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, NEWTOWN ST BOSWELLS on THURSDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER, 2023 at 2p.m.

J. J. WILKINSON,
Clerk to the Council,

28 August 2023

BUSINESS		
1.	Welcome and Apologies.	2 mins
2.	Order of Business.	
3.	Declarations of Interest.	
4.	Minute and Action Tracker (Pages 5 - 16) (a) Consider Minute of 8 June 2023. (Copy attached.) (b) Consider Action Tracker. (Copy attached.)	2 mins
5.	CPP Improvement Plan (Pages 17 - 66) Presented By Director Resilient Communities. (Copies attached.) (a) Community Plan 2023/33 (b) Future Governance (c) Performance Management Framework	30 mins
6.	2018 Community Plan Progress Report (Pages 67 - 94)	10 mins
	THEME 1 : ENOUGH MONEY TO LIVE ON	
7.	Theme 1 - Enough money to live on progress report (Pages 95 - 102) Presented by Director Resilient Communities. (Copy attached.)	10 mins
8.	Anti-Poverty Strategy Progress Report (Pages 103 - 142) Presented by Janice Robertson. (Copy attached.)	10 mins
9.	A Credit Union for the Borders A presentation from John McClay and James Boyd (West Lothian Credit	25 mins

	Union).	
	OTHER ITEMS	
10.	Work Plan Progress Reports (for noting) (Pages 143 - 150) (a) Theme 2 – Access to work, learning and training (b) Theme 3 – Enjoying good health and wellbeing (c) Theme 4 – A good place to grow up, live in and enjoy a full life (Copies attached.)	2 mins
11.	Children & Young People's Planning Partnership (Pages 151 - 154) An update from Director Social Work and Practice. (Copy attached.)	5 mins
12.	Theme for Next Meeting The theme for the next meeting was to be Theme 2 – Access to work, learning and training.	2 mins
13.	Forward Planner for Future Meetings (Pages 155 - 156)	2 mins
14.	Any Other Business	5 mins
15.	Future Meeting Dates 16 November 2023, 2pm 7 March 2024, 2pm 6 June 2024, 2pm	

NOTES

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

Membership of Board:

Councillor Scott Hamilton
Councillor Caroline Cochrane, Selkirkshire Ward (Chair)
Councillor John Greenwell
Councillor Euan Jardine
Councillor Elaine Thornton-Nicol
Ms Karen Hamilton, NHS Borders
Stephen Gourlay, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Russel Griggs, South of Scotland Enterprise

Copies also sent for information to:-

Scottish Borders Council - Ms T. Logan, Chief Executive; Mr P. Barr, Depute Chief Executive (Place); Mrs J. McDiarmid, Depute Chief Executive (People); Mr E. Baijal, Joint Director of Public Health, SBC/NHS; Mr R. Dickson, Director Corporate Transformation and Services; Mr D. Cressey, Service Director Strategy & Policy; Mr D. Robertson, Chief Financial Officer.

Scottish Enterprise - Mr D. Rennie

Police Scotland - Chief Inspector A. McLean

Scottish Fire & Rescue – Mr A. Girrity

NHS Borders – Ms J. Davidson, Interim Chief Executive

SESTRAN - Mr A. Macaulay, Partnership Director

Borders College – Mrs L. McIntyre, Principal

Scottish Borders Community Development Co – Ms M. Walker, Executive Officer

Berwickshire Housing Association – Ms H. Forsyth, Chief Executive

Eildon Housing Association – Mr N. Istephan, Chief Executive

SBHA – Mrs J. Mulloy, Chief Executive

Waverley Housing – Ms M. Ross, Chief Executive

Please direct any enquiries to Lynne Cuerden Tel: 01835 826527

Email: lynne.cuerden@scotborders.gov.uk

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SCOTTISH BORDERS COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD

Date:	8 June 2023, 2.00 pm.
Location:	Via Microsoft Teams
Attendees:	Cllr C. Cochrane (Chair), Councillors J. Greenwell, S. Hamilton, E. Jardine and E. Thornton-Nicol, Ms K. Hamilton (NHS Borders), Mr K. Langley (Scottish Fire & Rescue), Mr C. McGrath (SBCCN), C. Fancy (Eildon Housing Association), J. Dowland Gilliland (BCA)
Apologies:	Chief Executive, Director Social Work & Practice, Superintendent A. Carson (Police Scotland), Prof. R. Griggs (SOSE), K. Jackson (SOSE), Hilary Sangster (Scottish Fire & Rescue), C. Myers (NHS) and P. Smith (Borders College).
Also in attendance:	Director Resilient Communities, Participation Officer, C. Brown, Clerk to the Council, Democratic Services Officer (L. Cuerden), (all SBC); Ms J. Amaral (BCA); Ms M. Meldrum (Berwickshire Housing), K. Kiln (NHS Borders), Claire McElroy (NHS Borders), Rob Davidson (SOSE), S. Mitchell (SDS).

MINUTE AND ACTION POINTS

1. **WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received and noted accordingly.

2. **MINUTE AND ACTION TRACKER**

- 2.1 Copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 9 March 2023 had been circulated. Colin McGrath (SBCCN) raised an omission of his suggestion for an additional theme. This was subsequently located in paragraph 12.2 of the Minute of 9 March 2023.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute for signature by the Chair.

- 2.2 Copies of an updated Action Tracker had also been circulated. Completed actions were to be removed from the tracker.

3. **ENJOYING GOOD HEALTH & WELLBEING**

- 3.1 There had been circulated copies of a report by Kirsty Kiln, NHS Borders, the purpose of which was to update members on the progress of Theme 3: Enjoying Good Health and Wellbeing. With reference to the outcomes of 'Increased life expectancy' and 'More people enjoying good mental health and wellbeing', it was confirmed that survey templates for baselining status for anchor organisations and FSD/ health in all Policies had been developed and circulated to members of the Joint Programme Board. There had

been an extension to the deadline until 30 June 2023 and all partners were requested to send this information to the Public Health mailbox. The completed plan was to be presented to the Board at a later date. With reference to actions related to 'Developing guidance for promoting good health and wellbeing', the Public Health team were reviewing data on uptake of health services and outcomes to identify health inequalities across the Borders, to be shared at a later date.

- 3.2 With reference to actions around 'Current volunteering landscape to be considered and opportunities to be promoted and maximised' Juliana Amaral reported that Borders Community Action (BCA) had supported 70 community groups/charities to recruit volunteers. There were 520 open opportunities for volunteers in the Borders, 97 volunteers had been signposted to community groups and 104 new volunteers were identified. From November to March, four drop-in sessions had been held at Galashiels Jobcentre and one in Hawick to increase awareness of volunteering roles in the community. A provider event was hosted for a number of organisations to provide an overview on the benefits of volunteering and opportunities available. The BCA continued to work with stakeholders to encourage referrals and there had been an increase in young people under 16 who wanted to begin volunteering. Restrictions which included insurance, PVGs and general risk aversion resulted in few organisations being able to meet the demand for places and plans were being developed with BCA to try to mitigate these factors. BCA were in discussion with schools and local youth groups to address opportunities for the under 16 cohort and 11 young people had been allocated formal consistent volunteer placements. A number of Saltire awards had been presented and a further 7 placements had been found with imminent start dates. Jenni Craig suggested the potential for the CPP to be more visible in encouraging volunteering and agreed to undertake further discussion with BCA. There was a strong demand for formal and informal volunteering opportunities across age groups and from the corporate sector. A draft consultation of the Strategy Plan was scheduled in June 2023. The challenge of mapping the volunteering opportunities undertaken by the public was highlighted, given the variety of volunteering activities both formal and informal. The suggestion of an audit of volunteering across the Borders was noted. It was possible to provide a snapshot of active committees and their member numbers during the BCA's internal review currently being undertaken. It was also suggested that the publication of live case studies may help to recruit new members to local committees and improve their sustainability going forward.

DECISION

NOTED the update.

4. MENTAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT & SUICIDE PREVENTION PLAN

There had been circulated copies of report 'Creating Hope in the Scottish Borders' from Clare McElroy (NHS Borders), the purpose of which was to inform members of the action plan 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 region, while working with partners and communities to tackle the contributory inequalities. The report detailed the two overarching principles, four key programmes and ten outcomes contained in the action plan which was specifically focussed on the adult population of the Scottish Borders. The three year action plan was underpinned by research, evidence and data including Lived Experience insight, training and capacity building, communications and advocacy of a Public Mental Health approach and monitoring and evaluation. The next steps were to put in place detailed programmes of work and structures for each of the ten areas of action. Accountability was provided via the Mental Health Partnership Board and operational responsibility lay with the Mental Health Improvement and Suicide Prevention Steering Group and programme delivery groups, alongside Third Sector, Housing Associations, Borders College, NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council. There followed a brief discussion on social prescription, where concerns were expressed about the unintended consequences of peer based recovery strategies for the individuals who volunteer with mental health support groups. The initiative was not intended to replace

clinical interventions and Ms McElroy undertook to discuss with the steering group the protective risk factors further and how best to support community groups.

DECISION

NOTED the update.

5. **THE PROMISE**

There had been circulated for noting copies of a briefing paper by Mr S. Easingwood, Director Social Work and Practice, the purpose of which was to update members on progress to date regarding both the Children and Young People's Planning Partnership and planning and implementation of The Promise.

DECISION

NOTED

6. **YOUNG PEOPLE'S WELLBEING SURVEY**

With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of 9 March 2023, there had been circulated copies of a number of reports by Christine Brown, Education and Lifelong Learning that pertained to the Young People's Wellbeing Survey. Ms Brown presented the background to the Health and Wellbeing Census carried out in March 2022, a requirement of the Scottish Government. All Borders Schools participated with pupils from P5 to S6 involvement, with responses as follows: Primary – 82%; Secondary – 60%. 36% of pupils in S4 responded to the Substance Use questions. Following consultation, the sexual health and relationship questions were removed. The key findings of the census were that young people were negatively affected by the pandemic, as across all local authorities. Four areas had been identified for inclusion in the Education Improvement Plan: Bullying; Body Image; Young Carers; and Stress, Worry and Loneliness. The Respectful Relationships and Anti-Bullying policy had been approved at the meeting of the Education Sub-Committee on 24 May 2023 and was to be rolled out across all educational settings. The policy contained a clear definition of bullying and the processes, roles and responsibilities of staff, pupils, parents and carers. Work was to continue to strengthen the Personal and Social Education curriculum with action on Body Image. Action on Young Carers continued with partner organisations to ensure that a clear definition of a young carer was understood by all stakeholders and that they were fully aware of support available to them. Two online self-help services had been commissioned by Scottish Borders Council, Couth (P7-S6) and Together All (S5 and 6), to offer support around stress, worry and loneliness. Work with Quarriers was also ongoing along with the Building Resilience programme in primary schools and Young Minds Matter programme in secondary schools. In terms of next steps, it was reported that the next census was scheduled to take place in November 2023 rather than March 2024, following feedback from schools. Processes and procedures were to be strengthened to improve engagement and completion of the census questions. There followed a brief discussion where concern was expressed at the lack of data on sexual health for the Scottish Borders against a national increase in cases of STDs in 16-18 year olds. Consideration was to be given by the Education Sub-Committee to the inclusion of the sexual health questions for the next census and the ongoing work of Health Improvement Scotland, Public Health Scotland and the school nurse service was highlighted in providing support and information to children and young people. There was agreement that the communications to parents and careers required improvement for next time. There were also plans to improve the administration of the Drug Use survey to the S4 cohort to maximise engagement. Ms Brown agreed to circulate the Respectful Relationships and Anti-Bullying policy to Members.

DECISION

NOTED

7. **CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2023 - 26 AND ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 23**

There had been circulated copies of two reports by Janice Robertson. The Children and Young People's Services Plan 2023-26 was to be brought to Council in June 2023. Ms Robertson provided an overview of the report and its appendices. The Plan recognised the need to continue to deliver against key priorities within the previous plans whilst making a fundamental shift to placing 'The Promise' at the heart of future planning. The report detailed key plans, strategies and legislations alongside budgets and specific funding for Children and Young People's Services in 2023/24.

Appendix 1 presented the plan for 2023-26. Appendix 2 detailed the Integrated Children & Young People's Plan Annual Progress Report 2022-23. The report reflected the progress and significant achievements made in the delivery of the four shared partnership priorities set out in the 2021-23 plan: Keeping children and young people safe; Improving health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities; Targeting support to maximise life experiences and opportunities and ensuring inclusion; and Increasing participation and engagement. Appendix 2A provided a progress report on the Whole Family Wellbeing Funding. Appendix 2B reviewed the 'Inspiring Young Minds', Kelso High School's Study Leave Programme April – June 2022. A number of successes were highlighted which included good levels of participation and positive partnerships developed between SDS and CLDS. A number of recommendations were to be considered, which included extra planning time, broader partnership involvement and further sessions with parents and school staff.

DECISION

AGREED the recommendation to 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.

8. CPP RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING CONSULTATION

There had been circulated copies of a report for noting by Director Resilient Communities, which detailed the Community Planning Partnership's response to the Scottish Government's Consultation on Community Wealth Building. This was a joint response compiled with partner organisations. The consultation focussed on legislative changes which were to introduce a new statutory duty bearing on public sector bodies to embed CWB in their practice. It gave a number of options that outlined how this was to be done and asked respondents to indicate their preference with suggested potential legislative changes. Appendix 1 detailed the Council's response which advocated against a new statutory duty for three main reasons: that CWB should be place-based and provide flexibility to anchor organisations in its implementation; that a number of new duties had recently been created by Scottish Government; and the range of duties combined with a limited funding envelope placed significant demand on public sector organisations. Furthermore, a consolidation or simplification of the policy landscape was essential to deliver value for money. The CPP also called for the adoption of non-statutory guidance and a simplification of the funding landscape for communities.

DECISION

NOTED the report

9. LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY CONSULTATION

There had been circulated copies of a report by Donna Bogdanovic, Lead Officer Housing Strategy and Development, the purpose of which was to update members on the consultative draft Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2023-28 and provide information on further planned consultation. A statutory requirement under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001, the LHS detailed the joint and strategic approach of the local authority and its partners to deliver high quality housing and housing related services across all tenures to meet identified need in its area. The draft strategy, developed jointly with stakeholders, addressed some of the most significant and important challenges currently faced by the Council, its partners and communities and aimed to: provide a background to and a strategic framework for the future development of the local housing system; set out the five strategic outcomes for housing for the next five years; explain how national and local

developments impacted on the LHS; and propose new objectives through an outcomes based approach. The five draft strategic outcomes were as follows:

- 1: More homes in well designed, sustainable communities that increase opportunity for all;
- 2: People have access to homes which promote independence, health and wellbeing;
- 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;
- 4: Communities are regenerated through improving the quality and condition of housing and the built heritage; and
- 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.

These strategic outcomes had been agreed in order to address a number of key issues and challenges which were summarised at the end of each outcome section in the draft LHS. The current pressures on housing supply were highlighted and mitigations were being considered including better online advertisement of the available housing options and encouragement to residents to consider their longer term housing solutions earlier in life. Members were requested to promote the consultation as widely as possible.

DECISION

NOTED the report

10. CHILD POVERTY REPORT 2023 - 24, INCLUDING ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2022/23

10.1 There had been circulated copies of a report by Director Resilient Communities which presented 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. The report provided 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 set out planned actions for 2023/24. The report categorised the direct drivers of poverty: income from employment; costs of living; and income from social security and benefits in kind. Significant highlights were outlined: children in low income families (before housing costs) had risen from 14.6% in 2020/21 to 19.7% in 2021/22, similar to the trend for Scotland; 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; the median gross weekly pay for full time workers working in the Scottish Borders was £571.30, £69.20 less than elsewhere in Scotland; and 21.7% of employees aged 18+ earned less than the real living wage in 2021-22 and was higher than the Scottish average of 14.4%. There had been a sharp rise in workless family households since Covid-19. Scottish Borders had a lower proportion of households in receipt of Universal Credit (12.9%) compared to Scotland (16.1%). There were 3015 households (5.4%) claiming the Child Entitlement compared to Scotland (6.5%). Appendix 1 provided details of the activities and actions being carried out across the Scottish Borders to alleviate child poverty by Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and key partners. Appendix 1B detailed work undertaken to address child poverty in 2022/23 by Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and other partners. The report reflected the scale of work undertaken and Ms Craig urged proper scrutiny of the Action Plan 2023/24 and for all those involved in the partnership to continue to bring resources together effectively and to develop further innovations at subsequent meetings.

10.2 In response to a question on the impact of the Scottish Child Payment since November 2022, it was confirmed that the relevant data was not yet available. The matter of the CPP promoting the eligibility of this payment, in addition to others, to parents and carers was discussed. Targeted communications were possible for some benefits and a communication strategy was to be considered; the Education service was suggested as a key partner in this. There was a brief discussion on the ambition to move away from the

use of foodbanks in line with the Scottish Government press release on a 'Cash First' approach to supporting families. The matter was to be discussed at the next meeting of the Cost-of-Living Strategic Group.

DECISION

AGREED to endorse the Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Report for 2022/23 and Action Plan 2023/24 before submission to the Scottish Government.

11. CPP TASK GROUP IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- 11.1 Jenni Craig gave a brief presentation on the work of the Task Group to date. Under Action 1 – Prioritise, there had been identified 16 potential priorities under 5 themes: Enough money to live on; Economy, skills and learning; Enjoying good health and wellbeing; A good place to live, grow up and enjoy a full life; and Community empowerment. A consultation was scheduled to run from 24 May to 16 July 2023 and was to include online and paper consultation and attendance at Area Partnerships and other community meetings. The draft plan was to be brought to the Strategic Board in September 2023. Under Action 2 – Governance, a mapping of governance arrangements in other areas was ongoing and proposals for future structure and governance processes was to be brought to the Strategic Board in September 2023. Under Action 3 – Performance, a framework for performance management was to be developed in parallel and to accompany the refreshed Community Plan/LOIP and brought to the programme Board for discussion in September 2023.
- 11.2 Ms Craig updated members on the Scottish Government requirement to provide a 2018 Community Plan Progress report. The report was to detail improvements to priority outcomes, the extent to which the 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. Partners were asked to provide information for their themed areas as required and the draft was to be brought to the Strategic Board in September 2023, with data from 2022/23 where possible.
- 11.3 There was a brief discussion on the engagement with and empowerment of the community. Community empowerment was a key focus of SBC and there was a contribution to be made by Community Councils and its Network. Community engagement was done in a number of different ways, and should this be absent from any report, Ms Craig requested that any omissions were made known to the service for reflection on how to better include those measures.

DECISION

NOTED the update.

12. WORK PLAN PROGRESS REPORTS

There had been circulated for noting copies of reports on the three remaining themes: Theme 1: Enough money to live on; Theme 2: Access to work, learning and training; and Theme 4: A good place to grow up, live in and enjoy a full life. The Lothian and Scottish Borders Local Policing Plan 2023-26 had also been circulated.

DECISION

NOTED the reports.

13. THEME FOR NEXT MEETING

The theme for the next meeting on 7 September 2023 was noted as 'Enough money to live on' in advance of Anti-Poverty Week and the release of pending Poverty reports.

14. FORWARD PLANNER FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Members noted the copies of the Forward Plan of meetings and items for the Community Planning Programme Board and Strategic Board which had been circulated.

15. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There had been a suggestion for the next meeting on 7 September 2023 be held in person either There had been a suggestion for the next meeting on 7 September 2023 be held in person either at Council Headquarters or a partner base.
at Council Headquarters or a partner base.

16. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

A number of dates had been identified. The next meeting of the Strategic Board was confirmed as 7 September 2023 at 2:00pm.

The meeting concluded at 4.15 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
8 June 2023				
1. Children's Services Plan 23-26 & Annual Report	Para 7 – action AGREED the recommendation to 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 Govt.	SBC	Janice Robertson	
2. Child Poverty Report 2023-24 inc. Annual Progress Report 2022-23	Para 10 – action AGREED to endorse the Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Report for 2022/23 and Action Plan 2023/24 before submission to Scottish Govt.	SBC	Jenni Craig	
9 March 2023				
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	SBC	Jenni Craig	Ongoing

NO.	MINUTE PARAGRAPH NUMBER, TITLE AND DECISION REQUIRING ACTION	ORGANISATION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	OUTCOME
	approach of the "Enjoying good health and wellbeing" theme.			
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
	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 (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	All	All	

NO.	MINUTE PARAGRAPH NUMBER, TITLE AND DECISION REQUIRING ACTION	ORGANISATION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	OUTCOME
	community planning objectives in relation to land use, climate change, health and wellbeing, and community resilience.			
	Para 4.2 – action (c) AGREED to collaboration between CPP partners to identify resources (land, utilities, funding streams, skills development) to develop community capacity and enable access to community food growing.	All	All	Picked up in action 4 from 17/11/2022
	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

 A	<1 week to deadline
 G	Complete – items removed from tracker once noted as complete at meeting.

CPP Improvement Plan

7 September 2022

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the work undertaken through the CPP Improvement Plan presenting a new Community Plan and Performance Management Framework and updates progress in reviewing the Community Planning Partnership's governance arrangements.**
- 1.2 In 2021 Scottish Borders Community Planning partnership undertook a piece of work with the Improvement Service to review existing arrangements. The resulting Improvement Plan set out actions to:
- a. Review Community Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan)
 - b. Review governance/structure of the Partnership
 - c. Develop a Performance Management Framework
- 1.3 Following the establishment of a Task Group, by the Joint Programme Board, priorities for a new community plan were developed and consulted on between May – July this year. Alongside this work options for a revised governance structure were reviewed and a Performance Management Framework developed.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 I recommend that the Strategic Board:-**
- a. approves the Community Plan 2023/2033,**
 - b. approves the revised Community Planning Partnership vision,**
 - c. notes the progress on developing a new governance structure,**
 - and**
 - d. approves the Performance Monitoring Framework.**

2 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At their meeting on 3 March 2022 the Strategic Board approved the Improvement Plan developed in partnership with the Improvement Service to address three key areas, these being:
- a. **Prioritise:** Review and reduce the priorities of the CPP in partnership with our communities to inform and refresh the current Locality plans and the CPP Community Plan (Locality Outcomes Improvement Plan)
 - b. **Governance:** In parallel, review the current CPP structures and processes to ensure they are fit for purpose and can support the delivery of these key priorities that will form the Locality Plans and Community Plans
 - c. **Performance:** Ensure that the CPP's long term outcomes are supported by a performance framework in which progress can be measured in the short and medium term and presented to both CPP Strategic Board, key stakeholders and our communities
- 3.2 A Task Group was appointed by the Joint Programme Board, with representatives from partner organisations, to undertake the work set out in the Improvement Plan.

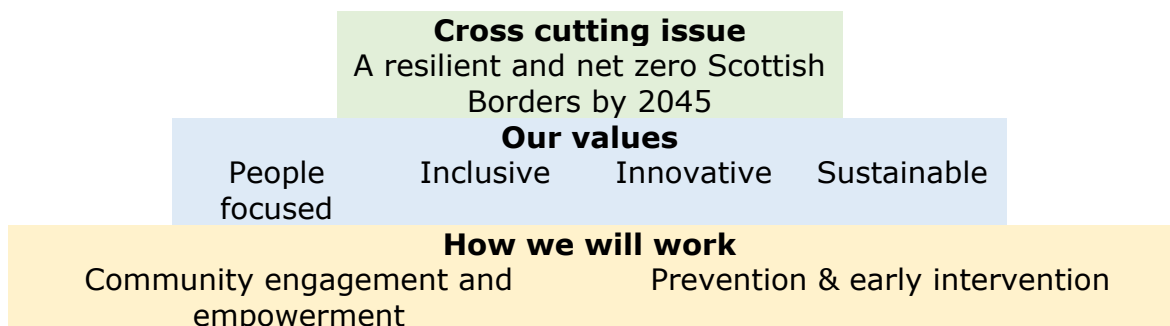
4 REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY PLAN

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 The existing Community Plan was agreed in May 2018
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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 the areas for improvement were identified across a wide range of outcomes.
- 4.5 When identifying the draft priorities attention was given to ensuring that:
- they were not already being delivered by another organisation/group of organisations/partnership,
 - they were not only within the power of a single organisation to deliver but would benefit from a partnership approach, and
 - by working together, the Community Planning Partnership would bring added value to any ongoing work.

- 4.6 A public consultation took place between 24 May – 16 July 2023 on sixteen potential outcomes which sat under four themes.
- 4.7 A total of 136 responses were received to the online consultation. Due to the low number of responses the results of the survey are informative but not statistically significant. Feedback was also gathered through meetings with Area Partnerships, community partners, Scottish Borders Community Council’s Network and a those developing Place Plans through attendance at a Peer Learning event.
- 4.8 Following analysis of comments and responses received, and discussion at the Joint Programme Board, the Community Plan presented (Appendix 1) has four themes and 11 outcomes. The themes, which are similar to those in the 12 month interim Work Plan, are:
 - a. Poverty,
 - b. Learning, skills & economy
 - c. Good health & wellbeing, and
 - d. Place, community & connectivity.

Changes to the theme names were made in response to comments received during the consultation – people felt they needed to be clearer.

- 4.9 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.
- 4.10 In addition to the outcomes the new plan includes the cross-cutting issue of: A resilient and net zero Scottish Borders by 2045. This highlights the importance of addressing the climate change agenda and that the work undertaken across all themes, to deliver the Plan, will have a part to play in doing that. In addition to the cross-cutting issue, four values have also been established. These values will be central to our work, cutting across all outcomes, and will be underpinned by the key facets of community engagement & empowerment and early intervention & prevention as set out below:



- 4.11 The new plan differs from the one agreed in May 2018 in that it doesn’t include targets and measures. These will be included in the delivery plan, which, will contain the actions and will be used to report on progress in delivering the outcomes.

4.12 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, this will ensure that the Plan remains relevant.

4.13 As part of this process the CPP's vision has also been reviewed. It is proposed to amend the current vision slightly to reflect that of the Integration Joint Board changing from:

"Working together with our communities and through targeted partnership action, the quality of life will improve for all who live, work or study in the Scottish Borders".

to:

"Working together with our communities, and through targeted partnership action, will enable all people in the Scottish Borders to live their life to the full".

4.14 The Board is being recommended to approve the new Community Plan and revised vision.

5 REVIEW OF COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE

5.1 Community Planning Partnerships were established under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 with the responsibility for delivering community planning sitting with local authorities. This responsibility changed with the enactment of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (the Act) which conferred joint responsibility on five organisations: local authority (Scottish Borders Council), health board (NHS Borders), Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and Scottish Enterprise (South of Scotland Enterprise).

5.2 CPP governance arrangements were last reviewed in 2018 following changes that had been put in place in 2016.

5.3 In its work to review the current governance arrangements the Task Group undertook desktop research and had conversations with other local authority staff who support community planning partnerships. For the most part these have been focused on those in the same Local Government Benchmarking Framework family groups as the Scottish Borders.¹ Conversations with colleagues in Dumfries & Galloway have been particularly helpful not just due to the similarity in our areas but also the amount of work that is carried out on a South of Scotland basis.

5.4 The Joint Programme Board was presented with the work of the Task Group at its meeting on 16 August 2023 and reviewed the options for change. It was agreed that further discussion needed to take place to explore the risks and benefits of establishing Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership as an unincorporated body - operating outwith the Council's committee structure.

¹ [How do we compare councils? | Benchmarking \(improvementservice.org.uk\)](https://improvementservice.org.uk/)

- 5.5 The current committee structure within the CPP is similar to those across Scotland, there being a community planning board (Strategic Board) that provides strategic leadership and scrutinises the work against the Community Plan; a management/delivery group (Joint Programme Board) that co-ordinates community planning across the Borders ensuring that actions to deliver the agreed priorities are taken forward; and theme groups responsible for delivering and reporting on progress of the actions set out in the Community Plan. While this arrangement works well the Joint Programme Board would like to further consider the future structure and how that could be developed with a focus on addressing the community empowerment agenda and clearly demonstrating the added value brought by working together.
- 5.6 The Joint Programme Board proposes to spend more time addressing the areas outlined above working towards final recommendations being brought to the Strategic Board in March 2024.
- 5.7 The Board is being recommended to note progress on developing a new governance structure.

6 DEVELOPMENT OF A PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 The third action in the Improvement Plan was for the CPP to put in place a performance framework that would support the measurement, in the short and medium terms, of the Partnership's long-term outcomes.
- 6.2 As with other work undertaken, time was spent looking at existing performance management frameworks. It was felt that the Performance Management Framework could be kept short and succinct while still addressing the needs of the CPP.
- 6.3 The focus of the Framework is very much on the outcomes set out in the 10-year Community Plan. It also recognises the need to review how the Partnership is working proposing that this be carried out through an annual self-assessment process.
- 6.4 The Performance Management Framework (Appendix 2) sets out that we will continue to review, revise and learn from experiences both locally and nationally, along with that we will be using both quantitative and qualitative data to measure performance.
- 6.5 The Board is being recommended to approve the Performance Management Framework.

7 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial

While there are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report there may be costs arising from actions taken to deliver the Plan.

7.2 Risk and Mitigations

Not completing the work identified in the Improvement Plan would leave the CPP with:

- a. an out-of-date Plan that doesn't reflect the changing priorities in Borders.
- b. No clear way in which the performance of the Partnership, and progress in achieving the outcomes set out in the Plan, will be monitored.

7.3 **Integrated Impact Assessment**

A full Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been carried out on the proposals contained within this report.

The role of Community Planning Partnerships is to identify and deliver on outcomes to reduce inequalities in the local authority area. Several outcomes focus on improving access to opportunities such as transport, work, learning etc. – these actions will promote more equality amongst vulnerable groups. By promoting more equal access to opportunities good relationships, between community planning partners and members of the Scottish Borders community, should be fostered.

It is anticipated that the outcomes within the Community Plan will have a positive effect on all those covered by the Equality and Fairer Scotland duties. While the Plan is inclusive to all there are outcomes that will target specific groups. This information is detailed in Stage 1 of the IIA and includes:

- Children and young people from low-income households are supported to develop life skills to help them to succeed in life. (Age)
- Help mitigate against the financial challenges of day to day living for those who are most affected. (Low and/or no wealth)
- People have access to better travel options across the Scottish Borders'. (Area deprivation)
- Children and young people from low-income households are supported to develop life skills to help them to succeed in life. (Looked after and accommodated children and young people)
- Parents are supported to enter, remain, and progress in work (Pregnancy & maternity – new parents)

7.4 **Sustainable Development Goals**

The recommendations in this report will impact on the following UN Sustainable Development Goals through actions undertaken to deliver the outcomes set out in the Plan:

- End poverty in all its forms everywhere – through actions taken to deliver the outcomes of: 'Help mitigate against the financial challenges of day to day living for those who are most affected' and 'Children and young people from low-income households are supported to develop life skills to help them to succeed in life'.
- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture - through actions taken to deliver the outcome of: 'Help mitigate against the financial challenges of day to day living for those who are most affected'.
- Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages - through actions taken to deliver the outcomes of: 'Children and young people from low-income households are supported to develop life skills to help them to succeed in life', 'Improved access to effective services, particularly for those who face greater challenges accessing services', 'Reduced health inequalities for those experiencing the greatest negative impact', Fewer people

- experiencing domestic abuse’, and ‘People have access to better travel options across the Scottish Borders’.
- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all potential - through actions taken to deliver the outcomes of: ‘Children and young people from low-income households are supported to develop life skills to help them to succeed in life’, ‘More people have a clear route to progress into a greater variety of jobs, learning and training opportunities available within the Scottish Borders’, and ‘Parents are supported to enter, remain, and progress in work’.
- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls - through actions taken to deliver the outcome of: ‘Fewer people experiencing domestic abuse.’
- Reduce inequalities within and among countries - through actions taken to deliver the outcome of: ‘Our communities are supported and empowered to be strong, active, resilient and sustainable.’
- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe resilient and sustainable - through actions taken to deliver the outcome of: ‘More people have access to a home that meets their needs and is part of a sustainable community’, and addressed by the cross-cutting issue of ‘A resilient and net zero Scottish Borders by 2045.’
- Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts - through actions taken to address the cross-cutting issue of ‘A resilient and net zero Scottish Borders by 2045.’
- Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels - through actions taken to deliver the outcomes of: ‘Our communities are supported and empowered to be strong, active, resilient and sustainable’, and ‘Fewer people experiencing domestic abuse’.
- Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development - through actions taken to deliver the outcome of: ‘Our communities are supported and empowered to be strong, active, resilient and sustainable’.

7.5 Climate Change

The recommendations in this report will have a positive implication on climate change through the cross-cutting issue of ‘A resilient and net zero Scottish Borders by 2045.’

Specific positive impacts are expected through actions to deliver outcomes set out in the Plan as follows:

- Transport: Community Plan outcome - People have access to better travel options across the Scottish Borders
- Infrastructure & land use: Community Plan outcome - More people have a clear route to progress into a greater variety of jobs, learning and training opportunities available within the Scottish Borders
- Adaptation: Community Plan outcome - Our communities are supported and empowered to be strong, active, resilient and sustainable

7.6 Rural Proofing

The aim of the Community Plan is to reduce inequalities through targeted action to achieve identified outcomes. This includes those who may face inequality due to area deprivation. In particular, it is anticipated that delivering the following outcomes will have a positive effect:

- People have access to better travel options across the Scottish Borders
- More people have access to a home that meets their needs and is part of a sustainable community
- Help mitigate against the financial challenges of day to day living for those who are most affected.

7.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

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

7.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

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

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 The Community Planning Partnership Joint Programme Board was consulted on the items set out in this 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: None

Previous Minute Reference: Strategic Board, 8 June 2023

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, cmalster@scotborders.gov.uk, 01835 826626.

Scottish Borders
Community Plan
September 2023

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Foreword

The Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership is delighted to introduce our new Community Plan, also known as the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, for 2023-2033.

Following work with the Improvement Service in 2021 we committed to reviewing our Community Plan in light of the changes that we have seen locally, nationally and globally over the last five years. At the same time as reviewing our Plan we have been looking at the structure of our community planning family and how we work together for the benefit of everyone that lives, works and studies in the Scottish Borders.

In our new Plan we have identified 12 outcomes that we, as a Partnership, aim to improve through joint working to support what is already taking place. The Community Planning Partnership can't support everything, nor does it need to. There is lots of effective work happening across the Borders to tackle and reduce inequality. In this Plan, the Community Planning Partnership has identified issues where, working together, we can add value – just because something isn't in the Community Plan doesn't mean that it is not important but rather that it is already being addressed.

Community is very much the key word in community planning, and indeed the Community Plan. It is coming together as the Borders community that we can make the Borders a fairer and more equitable place for all.

Cllr Caroline Cochrane
Chair, Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership

Introduction

Set out in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, Community Planning is the process by which public organisations such as Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders work with local communities, businesses and community groups to plan and deliver better services, and improve the lives of people who live in the Scottish Borders. The purpose of the Community Plan is to set out inequalities that will be addressed and reduced through the delivery of targeted actions.

What do we mean by reducing inequality?

Reducing inequality is closing the gap between our least and most disadvantaged areas. Traditionally people living in our most disadvantaged areas were more likely to have low incomes and experience more health problems, whilst those living in the most affluent area tended to live longer healthier lives. The reasons for this are complex and a focus of the Partnership is to reduce these inequalities and reduce the gap. However, we know that the cost of living crisis is affecting people across the Borders; it is important that we are aware of the bigger picture in order to direct services and support effectively.

To ensure that we are achieving our aims we will monitor our progress and report on it annually. We will review our Plan at least twice over the next ten years to make sure that it still addresses key local priorities.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 sets out the organisations who must be involved in Community Planning, they are:

NHS Borders	Historic Environment Scotland
Police Scotland	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
Scottish Borders Council	NatureScot
South of Scotland Enterprise	Scottish Sports Council (represented locally by Live Borders)
Scottish Fire & Rescue Service	South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SEStran)
Borders College	Skills Development Scotland
Health & Social Care Integration Joint Board	VisitScotland

There are other organisations, that are crucial to effective community planning in the Borders, who are also part of our community planning family, they are:

Berwickshire Housing Association	Scottish Borders Housing Association
Eildon Housing	Third Sector (Borders Community Action)
Scottish Borders Community Councils' Network	Waverley Housing

Background to the Scottish Borders

The Scottish Borders is a sparsely populated, rural authority in Scotland, known for its breath-taking countryside, rich culture and heritage, and warm, friendly, welcoming community spirit.

The National Records of Scotland (NRS) recorded the mid 2020 population of Scottish Borders as 115,240.

Between 2018 and 2028, the population of Scottish Borders is projected to increase from 115,270 to 116,435. The largest percentage increase will be in those aged 75 and over. This is due to Scottish Borders having an ageing population by Scottish standards. The number of working age people, ages 18 to 64, is expected to decrease by almost 10% between 2020 and 2040, and account for 51% of the total population in 2040, compared to 56.5% in 2020.

<info graphic for the above data>

There are 5 localities in the Scottish Borders: Eildon, Tweeddale, Berwickshire, Cheviot, Teviot & Liddesdale and Tweeddale. Hawick and Galashiels are the most populated towns with 13,586 and 12,302 people respectively, followed by Peebles (8,581), Kelso (6,861) and Selkirk (5,458) (National Records of Scotland).

<infographic of the Scottish Borders with localities and key towns>

33,525 people (28.9% of the Scottish Borders population) live outside settlements of 500 or more people. Issues linked to living in a rural area can include poor access to services, lack of affordable housing and higher fuel costs. There may also be a dependency on car ownership to travel, leading to higher costs on those with less or increased difficulty in accessing services or amenities. More information is available on the [Council's website](#).

Community Planning in the Scottish Borders

Our Community Planning family is led by the Strategic Board which meets four times a year and gives direction to the work carried out to achieve the vision and outcomes set out in this Plan.

We know that there are inequalities across the Borders and we need targeted action in order to address them. To do this, and identify outcomes at a locality level, we have developed five Locality Plans. These cover each of the following areas:

- Berwickshire
- Cheviot
- Eildon
- Teviot & Liddesdale
- Tweeddale

Our Vision

Our Community Planning Vision is, “Working together with our communities and through targeted partnership action, will enable all people in the Scottish Borders to live their lives to the full.”

Supporting our vision are six underlying principles. These are set out later in this document, alongside our outcomes.

Our Outcomes for the Scottish Borders

To develop our new Community Plan we have listened to what you said at Scottish Borders Council's Community Conversations, identified key areas issues arising as part of the Borderlands discussions and taken the priorities you have raised through engagement developing other plans and strategies. We reviewed all of this information against publicly available data to identify where we are performing well and where we need to improve. From this we identified a range of draft priorities for the new Community Plan.



A list of the plans & strategies and data that we have used in the development of this plan are included in our appendices which can be viewed at www.scotborders.gov.uk/communityplanning

What is an outcome? An outcome is the result we want to achieve, for example fewer people experiencing domestic abuse.

There were 4 key issues identified through the needs assessment data, the engagement survey of June 2022 and further consultation in 2023. These form the focus of our plan:

1. The cost-of-living crisis is pushing more people into poverty
2. We have poor job density and a declining workforce
3. Some groups face greater challenges getting the health and care support they need
4. Many communities, particularly those in rural locations, have poor access to the services they need

These four issues form the basis of the 4 themes our community plan is centred around:

1. Poverty
2. Learning, Skills and Economy
3. Good Health and Wellbeing
4. Place, Community and Connectivity

Following discussions with you about the draft priorities we have 11 outcomes sitting under four themes.

The four themes are all linked not only through reducing inequality but by impacting on each other. We know that improving one outcome will have a knock-on effect, for example reducing the number of people living in poverty will have a positive impact on people's health.

In addition to the outcomes, we have identified the cross-cutting issue of A resilient and net zero Scottish Borders by 2045. Supporting this and the outcomes are four values that are central to our work. These and our ways of working are set out in the diagram on the next page.

Members of the Community Planning Partnership are committed to working together to achieve the outcomes set out in our Plan.

All of outcomes are focused on those facing the most challenges due to inequality. This will include, but is not limited to, older people, carer experienced people, people with disabilities, those living in poverty, refugees and asylum seekers.

OUR OUTCOMES

THEME 1 – POVERTY

Help mitigate against the financial challenges of day to day living for those who are most affected.

Children and young people from low-income households are supported to develop life skills to help them to succeed in life.

THEME 2 – LEARNING, SKILLS AND ECONOMY

More people have a clear route to progress into a greater variety of jobs, learning and training opportunities available within the Scottish Borders

Parents are supported to enter, remain, and progress in work.

THEME 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Improved access to effective services, particularly for those who face greater challenges accessing services

Reduced health inequalities for those experiencing the greatest negative impact.

Fewer people experiencing domestic abuse.

THEME 4 – PLACE, COMMUNITY AND CONNECTIVITY

More people have the skills to benefit from digital and mobile connectivity

More people have access to a home that meets their needs and is part of a sustainable community

Our communities are supported and empowered to be strong, active, resilient and sustainable.

People have access to better travel options across the Scottish Borders

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Cross cutting issue

A resilient and net zero Scottish Borders by 2045

Our values

People focused

Inclusive

Innovative

Sustainable

How we will work

Community engagement and empowerment

Prevention and early intervention

Each outcome will be delivered through a delivery plan which will set out a series of actions with measures and targets to show our progress.

Delivering our outcomes

We will put an action plan in place which will set out actions that will be delivered to achieve each of the outcomes. The action plan will be flexible to ensure that services can respond to needs in a changing environment and continue to understand who needs help and support.

Our Performance Management Framework forms the basis of how we will review our progress.

On an organisational level, Community Planning Partners are dedicated to working more cohesively and coherently with each other and with communities. Communities will be engaged throughout the journey, either through local place planning or wider locality groups such as the community integration groups and area partnerships.

Place Planning

Place planning refers to communities working together to identify priorities for their local area. This moves away from the traditional 'top down' approach to a community-led model which captures the ideas and aspirations of communities.

Community Planning Partners are supporting communities to develop Local Place Plans, and to bring direct investment and support into projects and initiatives identified by the people who know what's wanted and needed in their area.

Moving forward we will review the Community Plan against Place Plans as they are developed to make sure that it reflects local community-led place planning priorities.

Community Wealth Building

Community Wealth Building (CWB) is an approach to local development that aims to improve the wellbeing of communities by redirecting wealth back into the local economy, putting control and benefits into the hands of local people. For example, community ownership of land and buildings or investment locally rather than nationally.

We are committed as a partnership to CWB and will continue to develop it in the Borders throughout the life of this plan. We will update our Plan as we review it over the next 10 years.

National Outcomes

The National Outcomes set out the Scottish Government 's broad policy aims. Our Community Plan will contribute to all of these outcomes:

Community Plan outcomes	National Outcomes
Help mitigate against the financial challenges of day to day living for those who are most affected.	1, 5, 7, 11
Children and young people from low-income households are supported to develop life skills to enable them to succeed in life	1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 11
Parents are supported to enter, remain, and progress in work.	5, 11
More people have a clear route to progress into a greater variety of jobs, learning and training opportunities available within the Scottish Borders	4, 5, 7
People have access to better travel options across the Scottish Borders	2, 10
More people are able to benefit from digital and mobile connectivity	2, 5
Improved access to effective services, particularly for those who face greater challenges accessing services	1, 8
Reduced health inequalities for those experiencing the greatest negative impact.	2, 8, 9
Fewer people are experiencing domestic abuse	1, 2, 8
More people have access to a home that meets their needs and is part of a sustainable community	2
Our communities are supported and empowered to be strong, active, resilient and sustainable.	2, 3

National outcomes	
1	We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential
2	We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe
3	We are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely
4	We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy
5	We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society
6	We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment
7	We have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone
8	We are healthy and active
9	We respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination
10	We are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally
11	We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally

Our cross-cutting issue of a resilient and net-zero Scottish Borders by 2045 which is central to all our themes will contribute to national outcome six.

Supporting information

Information to support our Community Plan and the outcomes within it are available in a set of accompanying appendices available at www.scotborders.gov.uk/communityplanning

If you have any questions about this report for Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership please contact:

communityplanning@scotborders.gov.uk

0300 100 1800

To find out more about community planning please visit:

www.scotborders.gov.uk/communityplanning

Performance Management Framework

This document sets out the framework for performance management for the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (CPP). It outlines the responsibilities and accountability for performance management by partner organisations and the integration of these arrangements, through this framework, for delivery of shared outcomes, through the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP).

Each organisation in the partnership is accountable for its individual responsibilities and performance. This framework ensures that together, through the CPP Board, we deliver improved outcomes for local people, inform progress, and drive a continuous cycle of improvement.

The Improvement Cycle

This framework is based around the “Plan, Do, Review, Revise” model of Continuous Improvement.

Figure 1: The Improvement Cycle



Performance Reporting Cycle

Below outlines how the Community Plan (LOIP) and associated plans will follow the Improvement Cycle for its reporting.

	Plan	Do	Review	Revise
Local Outcomes Improvement Plan	<p>Every 10 years with 2 review periods</p> <p>Each theme has a lead who is responsible for progress updates</p>	<p>Actions delivered through annual delivery plans</p> <p>Each action has an owner who is responsible for delivery</p> <p>New actions may be raised by partners, community bodies and other partnerships</p>	<p>Progress monitored by the CPP Strategic Board on a quarterly basis</p> <p>Annual progress report</p>	<p>Actions may be added or removed as plan progresses.</p> <p>Full action plan is revised each year.</p> <p>Full plan is renewed every 10 years.</p>
Locality Plans	<p>Locality plans produced for identified localities</p>	<p>Actions delivered by the Community Planning Partnership, community bodies and other partnerships</p>	<p>Progress monitored by the Strategic Board on a quarterly basis</p>	<p>Actions may be added or removed as plan progresses.</p>

Reporting Governance

Role of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Joint Programme Board and Strategic Board

The CPP Joint Programme Board focuses on the delivery of the Locality Outcome Action Plan (LOIP) known as the Community Plan, and Locality Plans. It is required to include clear, formally agreed outcomes in the Community Plan, supported by detailed indicators and targets. The Strategic Board will monitor the progress of these plans through the following performance reports:

- A summary narrative prepared collectively by leads and partners on the overall outcomes/key objectives, and the achievements to date.
- An 'At A Glance' report summarising all the projects and indicators for that outcome within the Community Plan at the end of year position.
- A note on key inequalities issues and challenges facing the outcomes/objectives, prepared collectively by leads and partners involved in the outcome/objectives to give a longer-term perspective and wider context.
- Personal testimonies and case studies. Examples of where the actions have improved the lives of people and/or community groups living in our region and/or our environment.

Performance Reporting

- We will report quarterly to the Strategic Board progress on actions to achieve the outcomes in our Community Plan. This information will be kept up to date on our website.
- We have a duty to produce an annual report for our community and the Scottish Government. We will make sure that this report clearly set out what we have achieved over the previous 12 months and what has changed because of our actions.

Key Performance Indicators

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are performance measures which together indicate how we are progressing on our outcomes. The KPIs will be documented using a KPI Data Management Sheet. This will record the following:

- What the measure is
- How the measure is calculated
- Where the data is coming from
- What the data is telling us
- Who is responsible for maintaining each outcome
- Actions to improve on performance

Each KPI will be SMART – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time (bound)

Qualitative measures have also been introduced; and will be captured through case studies and personal testimonies in the Performance reports.

As part of the delivery of the LOIP, we will look to communicate our progress with communities through our conversations with locality groups, our website and by word-of-mouth networks.

Ongoing Learning

Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership seeks to continue to learn from the experience of others. Through a network of community learning partnership colleagues, we will continue to review what we do considering experience and good practice elsewhere.

Reviews of Plans and Strategies

We will review the 2023/33 Community Plan (LOIP) at least twice over the 10-year period. We will also be mindful to consider reviews of our partners' plans and strategies to ensure that we continue to reflect changes in the priorities of our community.

The plans and strategies of our partners are regularly reviewed.

Reviewing the Effectiveness of the Partnership

We will undertake a self-assessment exercise annually to help identify how we are working as a partnership and where our strengths and weaknesses lie.

Communication

In addition to formal reporting, we will tell our partners and communities how we are performing with regular updates to our networks, through social media and on our website.

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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
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)	Following the COVID pandemic and cost of living crisis, it was agreed that the current 10-year Community Plan (last revised in 2018) was no longer fit for purpose. A review and engagement have taken place to understand where the current areas of focus should be, and a revised plan has been developed.
D. Service Area: Department:	Communities & Partnerships Resilient Communities
E. Lead Officer: (Name and job title)	Clare Malster, Participation Officer
F. Other Officers/Partners involved: (List names, job titles and organisations)	Elke Fabry, Project Manager - SBC
G. Date(s) IIA completed:	23/08/2023

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:
A. Elimination of discrimination (both direct & indirect), victimisation and harassment. <i>(Will the proposal discriminate? Or help eliminate discrimination?)</i>	No
B. Promotion of equality of opportunity? <i>(Will your proposal help or hinder the Council with this)</i>	Yes. The role of Community Planning Partnerships is to identify and deliver on outcomes to reduce inequalities in the local authority area. Several outcomes focus on improving access to opportunities such as transport, work, learning etc. – these actions will promote more equality amongst vulnerable groups.
C. Foster good relations? <i>(Will your proposal help to foster or encourage good relations between those who have different equality characteristics?)</i>	Yes, by promoting more equal access to opportunities those who have equality characteristics should help to foster good relations.

**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		<p>The plan is inclusive to individuals of all ages. There are a few outcomes which target specific age groups.</p> <p>From the Borderlands workshops, it was raised by several communities (Eyemouth, Hawick, Galashiels and Jedburgh) that there are not enough career or learning opportunities for young people. This feedback helped form a focused outcome in the plan to support children and young people from low-income households to develop life skills to succeed in life. This will have a positive impact on children and young people.</p> <p>It was also raised from the Borderlands workshops that young people aren't included enough in community participation. This will be addressed in the outcome of 'Our communities are supported and empowered to be strong, active, resilient and sustainable.'</p> <p>Another outcome is 'Improved access to effective services for those who face greater challenges accessing services'. One group this will focus on is those of older age, however this outcome will benefit many other groups as well.</p>

<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 CPP plan is inclusive to all individuals regardless of disability.</p> <p>From the 'We have listened' report, we know that access to health services as well as transport (to attend appointments) is a key area of concern for this group, particularly those with a physical disability. Those with a disability are therefore a key focus group for the outcome relating to 'improved access to health and care services for those who face greater challenges accessing services'.</p> <p>We also know from the 'We have listened' report that those with a learning disability find it important to have community support and involvement. This forms an outcome in the plan and is also a guiding principle for all projects: 'community engagement & empowerment'.</p> <p>Finally having better access to travel options across the Borders is a critical priority for all members of society, but may particularly benefit those with physical, learning, mental and other disabilities.</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>There is not a wide range of information on this group in the Scottish Borders. However, from the 'We have listened' report we know that community engagement and better access to health services are important priorities for the wider LGBTQ+ group, both of which are outcomes in the CPP plan.</p>
<p>Marriage or Civil Partnership people who are married or in a civil partnership</p>		<p>X</p>		<p>The CPP plan is inclusive to all individuals regardless of their marital status.</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</p>		<p>X</p>		<p>The outcome 'Parents are supported to enter, remain, and progress in work' includes new parents, and will therefore benefit new parents.</p>

context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth),				
Race Groups: including colour, nationality, ethnic origins, including minorities (e.g. gypsy travellers, refugees, migrants and asylum seekers)		X		<p>The CPP plan is inclusive to all individuals regardless of race.</p> <p>We know from the 'We have listened report' that information in people's own languages need to be more readily available when accessing services. This forms part of the outcome 'Improved access to effective services, particularly for those who face greater challenges accessing services' and will therefore have a positive outcome for this group.</p>
Religion or Belief: different beliefs, customs (including atheists and those with no aligned belief)		X		<p>The CPP plan is inclusive to all individuals regardless of religion.</p>
Sex women and men (girls and boys)		X		<p>The CPP plan is inclusive to all individuals regardless of sex.</p>
Sexual Orientation , e.g. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Heterosexual		X		<p>The CPP plan is inclusive to all individuals regardless of sexual orientation.</p> <p>From the 'We have listened' report we know that community engagement and better access to health services are important priorities for the wider LGBTQ+ group. Both of these priorities form outcomes in the CPP plan.</p>
<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 <i>(please delete as applicable)</i> 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	
		x		<p>Several of the outcomes in the plan are focused on supporting those on low incomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Help mitigate against the financial challenges of day to day living for those who are most affected. - Children and young people from low-income households are supported to develop life skills to help them to succeed in life. - Parents are supported to enter, remain, and progress in work.
		x		<p>The outcome 'Help mitigate against the financial challenges of day to day living for those who are most affected' seeks to address challenges around material deprivation.</p> <p>The outcome 'More people have access to a home that meets their needs and is part of a sustainable community' also is a priority area which will improve outcomes for those who endure material deprivation.</p>

<p>Area Deprivation – where you live (e.g. rural areas), where you work (e.g. accessibility of transport)</p>		<p>x</p>	<p>The CPP plan has noted that rural deprivation is a key issue in the Borders and is committed to achieving outcomes which will have a positive impact on those who face rural deprivation. In particular this will be addressed by the outcome ‘People have access to better travel options across the Scottish Borders’ but also in the outcome ‘More people have access to a home that meets their needs and is part of a sustainable community.’</p>
<p>Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parents’ education, employment and income</p>		<p>x</p>	<p>The CPP plan theme around learning, skills and economy is focused on improving access to jobs, learning and training, this will have a positive impact on those of different socio-economic backgrounds.</p> <p>The outcomes found under the theme ‘Poverty’ will also support those of different socio-economic backgrounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Help mitigate against the financial challenges of day to day living for those who are most affected. - Children and young people from low-income households are supported to develop life skills to help them to succeed in life. - Parents are supported to enter, remain, and progress in work.
<p>Looked after and accommodated children and young people</p>		<p>x</p>	<p>The outcome: ‘Children and young people from low-income households are supported to develop life skills to help them to succeed in life’ will support members of this group.</p>
<p>Carers paid and unpaid including family members</p>		<p>x</p>	<p>The outcome “Improved access to health and care services” will result in a positive impact on carers.</p>
<p>Homelessness</p>		<p>x</p>	<p>There are several outcomes which may result in a positive outcome for this group, largely through prevention and early intervention:</p>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More people have a clear route to progress into a greater variety of jobs, learning and training opportunities available within the Scottish Borders - Parents are supported to enter, remain, and progress in work. - More people have access to a home that meets their needs and is part of a sustainable community - Reduced health inequalities for those experiencing the greatest negative impact.
Addictions and substance use		x		<p>The number of drug related deaths has increased in recent years but still remain lower than Scotland averages, according to the Health & Social Care Partnership Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.</p> <p>This group may benefit most from the outcome of: "Reduced health inequalities for those experiencing the greatest negative impact."</p>
Those involved within the criminal justice system		x		<p>There are several outcomes which may result in a positive outcome for this group, largely through prevention and early intervention actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More people have a clear route to progress into a greater variety of jobs, learning and training opportunities available within the Scottish Borders - Reduced health inequalities for those experiencing the greatest negative impact. - Children and young people from low-income households are supported to develop life skills to help them to succeed in life. - Increase the number of people reporting domestic abuse.

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.

--

Signed by Lead Officer:	Clare Malster
Designation:	Participation Officer
Date:	23/08/23
Counter Signature Director:	
Date:	

Stage 2 Evidence Gathering and Consultation

A. Title of Proposal:	Community Plan
B. Service Area: Department:	Communities & Partnerships Resilient Communities
C. Lead Officer: (Name and job title)	Clare Malster, Participation Officer
D. Other Officers/Partners involved: (List names, job titles and organisations)	Elke Fabry, Project Manager - SBC
E. Date(s) IIA completed:	23/08/2023

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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).

- Data in the form of a strategic assessment based on CPP themes
- Research from various plan/strategies
- Research from other engagement reports including the 'We have listened' report, engagement from Borderlands workshops and feedback from Community Conversations.
- 6 week long survey which was distributed across community engagement officers' networks (including equalities groups)

- Presentation and discussion at numerous meetings including: 2 community partner meetings, all 5 Area Partnerships and a Community Councils' Network meeting.
- A Place Planning workshop where the themes and priorities were discussed in break out rooms over Teams with a variety of members in the community.

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 consultation survey ran from 24/05/2023 to 16/07/2023. There were 136 responses, meaning that the results are not statistically significant, but informative. The survey covered all characteristics apart from 2 (maternity and pregnancy, and marriage and civil partnership) however with such a low response rate, there is no significant response from any one group.

The following demographic information was captured in the survey:

Of the 136 responses 54% identified as female, 32% identified as male and 13% prefer not to say or did not answer. 65% of respondents were between the ages 45 and 74. The table below shows the number of responses by age group and identity.

Age / Identity	Female	Male	Not Answered / Prefer not to say	All Responses	% All Responses
A. Under 45	19	5	1	25	18%
B. 45 to 59	26	13	2	41	30%
C. 60 to 74	26	19	3	48	35%
D. 75 or Older	3	7	1	11	8%
E. Not Answered / Prefer not to say			11	11	8%
All Responses	74	44	18	136	100%
% All Responses	54%	32%	13%	100%	

None of the respondents identified as transgender.

Of the 136 responses, 3% identified as LGBTQ+, 79% identified as heterosexual (straight) and 18% did not answer or preferred not to say, as seen in the table below.

Sexual Orientation	All Responses	% All Responses
Heterosexual (straight)	108	79%
LGBTQ+	4	3%
Not Answered / Prefer not to say	24	18%
All Responses	136	100%

14% of respondents reported having a disability, as seen the in table below.

Disability	All Responses	% All Responses
Yes	19	14%
No	99	73%
Not Answered / Prefer not to say	18	13%
All Responses	136	100%

Of the 136 respondents, 51% identified as Scottish, 22% as British and 9% as English, as seen in the table below.

Ethnic Group	All Responses	% All Responses
Scottish	69	51%
British	30	22%
English	12	9%
Irish / Northern Irish	4	3%
Other white	3	2%
Mixed	2	1%
Not Answered / Prefer not to say	16	12%
All Responses	136	100%

Of the 136 respondents, 46% have no religion or belief, 33% are Christian, 5% have another belief and 15% did not answer or preferred not to say.

Religion	All Responses	% All Responses
No religion or belief	63	46%
Christian	45	33%
Other Belief	7	5%
Not Answered / Prefer not to say	21	15%
All Responses	136	100%

Section 2 Consultation and Involvement

A. Which groups are involved in this process and describe their involvement

Groups involved through discussion at meetings: Community Planning Partners, Scottish Borders Community Councils' Network, attendees at Area Partnership meetings (including Elected Members), and members of the community involved in the Place Making programme.

Distribution of consultation survey: All the above as well as equalities groups as distributed by community engagement officers. The survey was also circulated to health networks – the Strategic Planning Group, Carers group and Dementia group. Furthermore, the CPP partners shared the survey with their networks, and it was advertised through social media communications.

Several consultations, strategies and plans were also reviewed to find common themes across communities and ensure no duplication of work would take place. These will be listed in the appendix of the CPP plan.

B. Describe any planned involvement saying when this will take place and who is responsible for managing the process

A place planning workshop was organised on July 6th, 2023, to engage in a more focused conversation about the community plan themes and priorities. Members of the public involved in place planning were invited to attend. This workshop was delivered in partnership with the Place Making programme.

C. Describe the results of any involvement and how you have taken this into account.

Results from the survey consultation were put together in a report. This feedback was used to adjust the wording of the themes and priorities, as well as narrow down priorities from 16 to 11 distinct outcomes.

The results from the engagement events are summarised in the following section. Some amendments were made to the priorities from these sessions, other suggestions will be addressed in the Annual Delivery Plan.

D. Describe any events held and views obtained (if applicable). Add or remove as needed.

Event 1: Cheviot Area Partnership

Date	Venue	Number of People in attendance	Protected Characteristics Represented
31/05/2023	Teams meeting		Not specified during meeting.

Views Expressed	Officer Response
Place Plans need to be reflected in the Community Plan. It needs to be bottom up, not top down.	This is a position that is being aimed for. The Community Plan will be reviewed twice during the ten-year period and will be able to take account of Place Plans that have been developed.

Event 2: Berwickshire Area Partnership

Date	Venue	Number of People in attendance	Protected Characteristics Represented
01/06/2023	Volunteer Hall, Duns		Not specified during meeting.

Views Expressed	Officer Response
People are overwhelmed by the number of plans/strategies. There should be one engagement for all. Is there a way to combine big consultations? Better to do fewer surveys which have bigger value.	This has been noted by the CPP task group and may form an action under the outcome around Community Engagement.

Event 3: Tweeddale Area Partnership

Date	Venue	Number of People in attendance	Protected Characteristics Represented
13/06/2023	Burgh Hall, Peebles	20	Not specified during meeting.

Views Expressed	Officer Response
Concern was expressed about the limited timescale and lack of opportunity for debate and discussion within communities	Unfortunately, the timescale could not be amended as there is a deadline to deliver the final plan by the September CPP Strategic Board meeting.
Important to avoid duplication of priorities which exist elsewhere and focus on providing new offerings.	It was confirmed during the meeting that SBC were in consultation with SOSE around plans for economic regeneration, thus avoiding duplication.

Event 4: Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership

Date	Venue	Number of People in attendance	Protected Characteristics Represented
14/06/2023	Teams meeting		Not specified during meeting.

Views Expressed	Officer Response
The theme names aren't quite right	They have develop developed to reflect the outcomes but will be reviewed in light of comments received.

Event 5: Scottish Borders Community Councils' Network

Date	Venue	Number of People in attendance	Protected Characteristics Represented
21/06/2023	Teams meeting		Not specified during meeting.

Views Expressed	Officer Response
No specific views were expressed	

Event 6: Eildon Area Partnership

Date	Venue	Number of People in attendance	Protected Characteristics Represented
22/06/2023	Teams meeting		Not specified during meeting.

Views Expressed	Officer Response
Connectivity is a big issue for the more rural communities in the Borders.	
Does the Community Plan replace the Local Development Plan?	

Event 7: Teviot & Liddesdale Community Partner Meeting

Date	Venue	Number of People in attendance	Protected Characteristics Represented
17/06/2023	Teams meeting		Not specified during meeting.

Views Expressed	Officer Response

Event 8: Eildon Community Partner Meeting

Date	Venue	Number of People in attendance	Protected Characteristics Represented
04/07/2023			Not specified during meeting.

Views Expressed	Officer Response
No specific views were expressed	

Event 9: Place Making Group workshop

Date	Venue	Number of People in attendance	Protected Characteristics Represented
06/07/2023	Teams Meeting	50	Not specified during meeting.

Views Expressed	Officer Response
<p>Theme 1: Enough Money to Live On</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applicable to everywhere in the Borders - Should not limit support to low-income households. - Fair work is also about fair wages. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o How do we get private sector involved in this? o Fair Work Tool o Small businesses need different approach to Fair Work compared to large businesses 	<p>The project team have taken these comments on board and adjusted the CPP draft plan accordingly. The changes made were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fair work was removed as an outcome when it was discovered this work is already happening elsewhere. - Suggestions will be taken on board and where possible turned into actions

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Organizations applying for funding need to be fair work employers - Supporting young people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link in with charity organizations who support and nurture young people to self-develop their skills and confidence ○ Need joined up work and broader support structures. ○ Lack of opportunities for young people to progress into work - Supporting parents to enter, sustain and progress in work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need wrap around care to support parents to work. ○ Rural areas lack childcare ○ Employers need to be more flexible for parents - How do we get parents and young people off cycle of poverty when there are cuts in services like community learning? - Wider range of work opportunities required in Hawick - Future employment – don't have skills and business to feed into renewable energy industry. 	
<p>Economy, Skills and Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There aren't always the work opportunities in smaller towns for people to live and work in the same place. Peebles for example is a commuter economy, reliant on jobs in Edinburgh. - Need more office or industrial buildings to enable more working opportunities. - Opportunities for online and small businesses, support for existing business to increase number of employees. 	<p>These suggestions will be taken on board and where possible turned into actions</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Since COVID colleges don't have the same number of people engaged, need to rethink how to deliver learning. - Two key priorities: infrastructure and skills 	
<p>Enjoying good health and wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priorities are spot on, and universal. - Plan should promote a healthy lifestyle 	<p>These priorities are linked to the IJB Strategic Framework and will be delivered in conjunction.</p>
<p>A good place to live, grow up and enjoy a full life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need more detail on the net zero priority. What are the important issues to target and how are they relevant for each locality - Domestic abuse priority is very specific. This could be under good health and wellbeing theme. - Climate change is a top level priority. - Theme title - a safe place rather than good place 	<p>Suggestions will be taken on board and where possible turned into actions The domestic abuse outcome has been moved to the health and wellbeing theme The theme title has also been changed.</p>

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?

Following the engagement and consultation outlined in this document the CPP have developed 11 high level outcomes which focus on reducing inequalities in the Borders.

In summary, if all outcomes are delivered, they will result in a positive impact on most protected characteristic groups and those of socio-economic disadvantage.

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:	
Designation:	
Date:	
Counter Signature Director:	
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 Performance Monitoring Framework outlines how the CPP plan will be monitored. There are two key forms of reporting:

1. The plan will be monitored on a quarterly basis by the Strategic Board to achieve the outcomes of the Community Plan. This information will be kept up to date on the website.
2. There is a duty to produce an annual report for the community and to Scottish Government. This will set out the progress made in the previous 12 months.

C. What are the practical arrangements for monitoring? For example who will put this in place? When will it start?

Following the approval of the CPP Plan, an annual delivery plan will be developed to set out how the outcomes will be realised. This will be a further opportunity to consider the feedback from communities in implementing changes.

The Strategic Board will be responsible for monitoring progress of the actions. The following Strategic Board meeting will be the first opportunity to assess how the plan is progressing.

D. When is the proposal due for review?

The proposal will be due for review one year after it has been approved by the Strategic Board. The annual report will highlight progress made in the past year and opportunities for improvement.

E. Who is responsible for ensuring that this happens?

Responsibility for ensuring that the work of the Partnership, including annual review, lies equally five five statutory partners:

NHS Borders

Police Scotland

Scottish Borders Council

Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

South of Scotland Enterprise

CPP partners are responsible for delivering actions which results in the outcomes identified in the plan.

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

Section 4 Action Plan (complete if relevant, remove if not)

Action Owner Name: CPP Partners delivering on outcomes	Action Date: 07.09.2023
<p>What is the issue? Through the engagement of the priorities for the CPP plan, a number of suggestions were made on how we can deliver the outcomes we have set out. These can be considered as part of the action delivery plan.</p> <p>Several outcomes will impact some groups more specifically, some of these have been outlined in the Stage 1 Assessment.</p>	
<p>What action will be taken? An annual delivery plan setting out outcomes being undertaken to delivery the outcomes set out in the Plan will be developed following approval of the Community Plan. This work will commence in September 2023.</p> <p>The plan will also be available in alternative formats as required. This may include Easy Read, BSL or audio, and other languages than English.</p>	
<p>Progress against the action:</p>	
Action completed:	Date completed:

COMMUNITY PLAN 2018 – PROGRESS REPORT

7 September 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Community Plan 2018 Progress Report.**
- 1.2 Community Planning Partnerships are required to publish a report on their Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP), known in the Borders as the Community Plan, on an annual basis.
- 1.3 The Strategic Board agreed its first Community Plan under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 in May 2018. The Plan included 15 outcomes sitting under four themes setting out measures and targets for each.
- 1.2 The Progress Report sets out progress on achieving a selection of the outcomes identified in the Community Plan

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 I recommend that the Strategic Board approves the Community Plan 2018 Progress Report prior publication and to submission to the Scottish Government.**

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Strategic Board agreed its Community Plan in May 2018. The Plan included 15 outcomes sitting under four themes setting out measures and targets for each, these being:

- Our economy, skills & learning
 - More people working productively for higher wages
 - More business people benefitting from greater investment and better support for their new and existing businesses, particularly in key growth sectors
 - More highly skilled workers
 - More people shopping, visiting and spending in local town centres
 - More people benefiting from better connectivity
 - More LAC (looked after and accommodated) children and young people in positive and sustained destinations
 - More children, particularly those living in poverty, achieving higher levels of attainment
- Our health, care and wellbeing
 - More people in good health and leading an active lifestyle at every age and stage of life
 - More people in good mental health at every age and stage of life
 - Improved support and care for older people
- Our quality of life
 - Fewer people experiencing violence (incl. domestic abuse)
 - Fewer people experiencing antisocial behaviour
 - Fewer people killed or seriously injured on our roads
- Our place
 - More people able to afford to heat their homes
 - More people living independently in affordable and sustainable homes

3.2 Community Planning Partnerships are required to report on their Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP), known in the Borders as the Community Plan, on an annual basis. A new Community Plan has been developed to reflect the changed priorities in the Borders following the pandemic and Cost of Living Crisis. This will therefore be the last report on the 2018 Plan.

3.3 The Progress Report will be submitted to the Scottish Government and made publicly available.

4 DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

4.1 In developing the Progress Report (appendix one) a conscious decision was made to change from the previous format which was data heavy in favour of a shorter version that would clearly set out how actions undertaken had contributed to the identified outcomes/aims. Rather than include all 15 outcomes the report represents progress on a selection of outcomes under each of the four themes. Supporting information has been included for one

outcome under each theme to illustrate some of the work that has been taking place.

- 4.2 During the data collection stage it was identified that some data categories had changed since the Plan was created. Where this was the case the data reported on has been changed to ensure that like for like information was being compared. It should also be noted that the frequency of which data is published varies. The most recently published data available has been used when compiling the Progress Report.

5 HIGHLIGHTS

- 5.1 There have been a number of very positive changes since the Plan was agreed five year ago including:

- Our economy, skills & learning
 - 4% increase in pupils gaining 5+ awards at level 5
 - 7% reduction in the geographical areas with no 4G signal in the Scottish Borders
- Our health, care and wellbeing
 - 6% reduction in the number of adults who are overweight
 - 15% reduction in the number of multiple emergency hospital admissions.
- Our quality of life
 - 20% decrease in the number of anti-social behaviour incidents recorded. However, should be noted that there has been a 2.6% increase in the number of online anti-social behaviour incidents record over the same period.
 - 20% decrease in the number of people seriously injured on our roads compared to a 9.9% increase in Scotland over the same period.
- Our place
 - 125 new affordable homes completed in 2022/23
 - 5% decrease in fuel poverty

- 5.2 It should be noted that factors outwith the control of the Community Planning Partnership may have affected the changes reported (both positively and negatively). Going forward the Partnership will ensure that measures reported on include ones which are solely affected by the actions undertaken by the Partnerships itself.

IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

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

5.2 Risk and Mitigations

The Community Planning Partnership is required, under the Community Planning (Scotland) Act 2015, to submit an annual report detailing progress made on delivering the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan. Not doing so puts the CPP in breach of its statutory duty.

5.3 **Integrated Impact Assessment**

An IIA Stage 1 has been completed. No impacts have been identified and a full IIA is not required.

5.4 **Sustainable Development Goals**

No impact on the UN Sustainable Development Goals has been identified as arising from the proposal contained in this report.

5.5 **Climate Change**

No impact on climate change has been identified as arising from the proposal contained in this report.

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 proposal contained in this report.

6 **CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Progress report has been circulated to, and discussed by, the Community Planning Partnership Joint Programme Board

Approved by

Name Jenni Craig

Title Director – Resilient Communities

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Clare Malster	Participation Officer, 01835 826626

Background Papers: None

Previous Minute Reference: None

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, cmalster@scotborders.gov.uk, 01835 826626



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Scottish Borders Community Plan Progress Report 2023

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Our Vision

Working together with our communities and through targeted partnership action, the quality of life will improve for all who live, work or study in the Scottish Borders

Welcome to our Progress Report

As Chair of Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership I am delighted to be presenting you with a summary of our achievements over the last five years.

The last five years have been difficult for everyone. The pandemic and Cost of Living Crisis have had a huge effect on the Borders, as they have across the world. For those who were already experiencing inequality, such as low incomes and poor access to services, the last three years have affected them proportionately more than many of us. This has meant that the Partnership, and all organisations that are part of it, have had to work even harder than usual to ensure that we all have access to the basics we need to live.

The pandemic and Cost of Living Crisis have undoubtedly had a knock on effect on what we had set out to achieve in our Plan when we agreed it in May 2018. However, where possible, we have worked to ease the effects on our community and in some things not only improved but are performing better than Scotland as a whole.

During 2022/2023 we have been working to identify priorities that we need to address in our new Community Plan, taking account of changes over the last five years. Our new Plan will set out improvements that we need to address together in order to see real improvement.

I encourage you to get involved in the work of the Partnership. This may be by taking part in our consultations, reading and commenting on the documents we produce or getting involved with the work we do through any one of our partner organisations.

In conclusion I'd like to say a big thank you to the staff, board members, councillors and volunteers whose work has helped us to achieve the positive outcomes in this report. I'd also like to thank my predecessor, Cllr Mark Rowley, who oversaw the work of the Partnership from 2017-2022.

Cllr Caroline Cochrane
Chair, Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership

Who are Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership?

Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership is a group of organisations who work together to tackle local challenges and reduce inequality for people in the Scottish Borders.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 sets out the role and membership of the Partnership.

STATUTORY PARTNERS

- NHS Borders
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Borders Council
- South of Scotland Enterprise
- Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
- Borders College
- Health & Social Care Integration Joint Board
- Historic Environment Scotland
- Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Scottish Sports Council (represented by Live Borders)
- SEStran
- Skills Development Scotland
- VisitScotland

These five organisations share the responsibility to lead the Partnership

NON-STATUTORY PARTNERS

- Berwickshire Housing Association
- Eildon Housing
- Live Borders
- Scottish Borders Community Council Network
- Scottish Borders Housing Association
- Third Sector
- Waverley Housing

In 2018 we agreed four themes that our work for the next five years would fall under.

- Our Economy, Skills & Learning
- Our Health, Care & Wellbeing
- Our Quality of Life
- Our Place

For each theme we set out a number of outcomes that we wished to achieve. These have been set out below.

Our Economy, Skills & Learning

- More people working more productively for higher wages
- More business people benefitting from greater investment and better support for their new and existing businesses, particularly in key growth sectors
- More highly skilled workers
- More people shopping, visiting and spending in local town centres
- More people benefitting from better connectivity
- More LAC (looked after and accommodated) children and young people in positive and sustained destinations
- More children, particularly those living in poverty, achieving higher levels of attainment

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Our Health, Care & Wellbeing

- More people in good health and leading an active lifestyle at every age and stage of life
- More people in good mental health at every age and stage of life
- Improved support and care for older people

Our Quality of Life

- Fewer people experiencing violence (incl. domestic abuse)
- Fewer people experiencing anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- Fewer people killed or seriously injured on our roads

Our Place

- More people able to afford to heat their homes
- More people living independently in affordable and sustainable homes

Our 2018/22 Community Plan had 15 outcomes and 30 measures. We have selected key highlights and accompanying information to illustrate some of the work that have contributed to the work over the last five years.

Throughout this document we compare the current situation to 2018 using the most up to data available. The way in which data is recorded may have changed since we published the Plan. Where this is the case we have used the most appropriate data that is available.

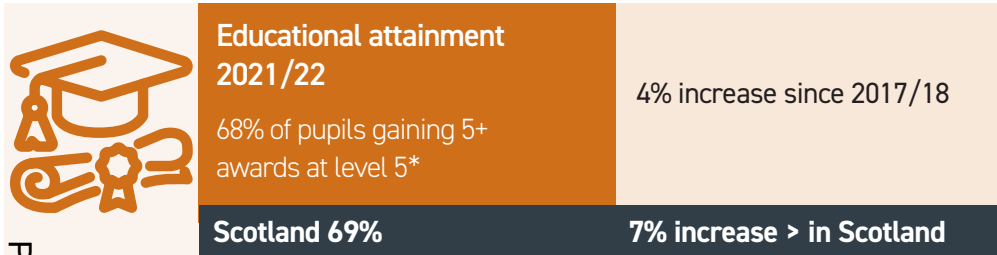
Our Economy, Skills & Learning

Our aim: More highly skilled workers

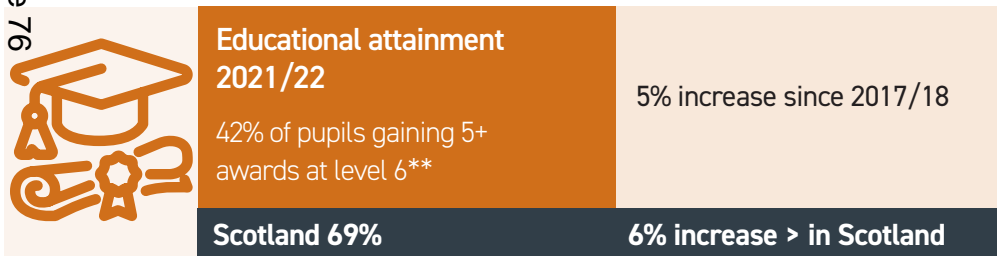
What do we know?

Skill shortage vacancies are more common in the Scottish Borders compared to Scotland

How are we doing?

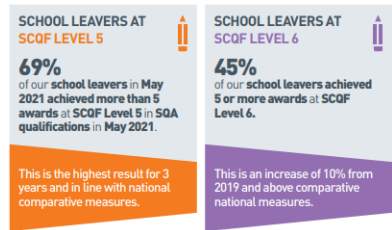


* Level 5 = National 5 Awards, Skills for Work National 5



** Level 6 = Higher Awards, Skills for Work Higher

Broadening the curriculum in secondary schools has meant that there is a wider range of qualifications on offer for students, including more vocational qualifications. The focus on other awards at SCQF (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework) levels 5 and 6 has ensured more learners can access qualifications which may better suit their pathway than those subjects included in a 'traditional' curriculum. Galashiels Academy is one of only 2 schools in Scotland to receive the SCQF Partnership gold award.



The launch of the Inspire Learning digital learning and reaching transformation project in 2019 has seen all teaching staff and P4 – S6 pupils have an iPad. This has revolutionised the way teachers teach, assess and provide feedback to learners. For learners, as well as improving their digital literacy, they have far more personalisation and choice in their learning now and can receive quicker feedback on their work. The accessibility features of the iPad have helped to better support learning with a range of additional support needs.



Students are able to choose courses at Borders College as part of their timetables in the senior phase to supplement their school subjects. There are also opportunities to study Foundation Apprenticeships in several industry areas.

Ryan Boylan from Selkirk grew up with both his mum and dad working in the catering industry so it was no surprise that he decided to follow in their footsteps and studied Professional Cookery SCQF NPA Level 4 before moving on to the and NC Professional Cookery and NPA Hospitality Level 5 programme at Borders College in September 2021.

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is used to identify children and young people who live in the most deprived areas of Scotland. Nationally, we compare the performance of key equity groups against overall performance to measure and monitor the poverty related attainment gap. Attainment evidence demonstrated that Scottish Borders continues to address the attainment gap while improving attainment for all.

In particular : Milestone data in 2020-21 demonstrates that the proportion of children residing in SIMD Deciles 1-3 achieving their milestones:



Our aim: More people working productively for high wages

What do we know?

Weekly wages for people working in the Borders are among the lowest in Scotland.

How are we doing?



Weekly wages for those that work in the Borders 2020/21

£571

18% increase > since 2017/18

Weekly wages for those that live in the Borders 2020/21

£617

17% increase > since 2017/18

(Median gross weekly earnings for F/T employment)

Scotland £640.50

14% increase > since 2017/19

Scotland £640.30

14% increase > since 2017/18

Our aim: More people benefit from better connectivity

What do we know?

The availability of good broadband speeds in the Scottish Borders is below the average for Scotland

How are we doing?



2018 broadband coverage: premises unable to receive 30Mbit/s in the Scottish Borders

17%

Scotland 8%

2023 broadband coverage: premises unable to receive 30Mbit/s in the Scottish Borders

13%

Scotland 6%

Our aim: More people shopping, visiting and spending in local town centres

What do we know?

Town centres are at the heart of our communities and help make the Scottish Borders distinctive and special.

How are we doing?



Footfall in the main Borders towns 2020

27,740

25% decrease < since 2018



Retail vacancy rates in the Borders 2017/18

12.8%

Scotland 10%

Retail vacancy rates in the Borders 2020/21

11.5%

Scotland 12.5%

What do we know?

The percentage of geographic area in the Scottish Borders with no 4G signal is greater than that for Scotland

How are we doing?



2018 mobile coverage: geographical area with no 4G signal in the Scottish Borders

22%

Scotland 22%

2022 mobile coverage: geographical area with no 4G signal in the Scottish Borders

15%

Scotland 17%

Our Health, Care & Wellbeing

Our aim: More people in good health and leading an active lifestyle at every age and stage of life

What do we know?

When we published our Plan more adults in the Scottish Borders are overweight compared to Scotland

How are we doing?



	2018-19	2021-22
Children with a healthy weight in P1 - Borders	76.9%	75.7%
Children with a healthy weight in P1 - Scotland	76.6%	74.7%

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Whole Systems Approach to diet and healthy weight

Eymouth has been one of the Scottish early adopter areas for a Whole Systems Approach to supporting and promoting healthy weight, eating well and being physically active with a focus on children and health inequalities. The work is informed by the ambition for children to have the best start in life and to improve children's health and wellbeing by having opportunities to eat well and be active.

An action plan was developed following community-based workshops and activities have been progressed across the three priority themes of communication; family participation and learning and outdoor activities and headline activities are listed below:

Communication: Eymouth Development Trust produced and distributed 14,000 copies of Eymouth Living magazine by April 2023.

Family Participation and Learning: Three Book Boxes are available in venues in Eymouth to read, lend or keep, with a focus on health and wellbeing; Parental feedback about existing play spaces in Eymouth has resulted in repairs and improvements to play space; a popular Community Lunch was provided.

Outdoor Activities: Between August 2022 and April 2023, 113 individual children took part in junior park run; cycling training and safety awareness sessions for children and staff were made available; staff and volunteers have access training to support delivery of outdoor training sessions which is supported by an online resource pack and equipment for local use; young people are co-producing an interactive clay map to highlight what supports wellbeing in Eymouth.




Our aim: More people in good mental health at every age and stage of life

What do we know?

Poor mental health can affect people at all stages of life, from childhood onwards, and means people are likely to have poor outcomes in other areas of their lives including physical health, employment and participation

How are we doing?

We had set a target of a WEMWBS score above 51.0 for all men and women. We haven't achieved this and have seen the score fall slightly. We are in line with Scotland.

	Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS)	Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS)
	2012-15 50.4	2017-21 49.6 Borders



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Our aim: Improved support and care for older people

What do we know?

Alongside the growing ageing population there is also an increase in the complexity of need, for instance the proportion of older people with two or more health conditions increases with age, bringing additional needs for care, support and treatment.

How are we doing?

	Multiple emergency hospital admissions, aged 65+	
	Borders 15% < reduction	
	Multiple emergency hospital admissions aged 65+	Multiple emergency hospital admissions, aged 65+
	Scotland 8% < reduction	Borders is 13% below the Scottish Average
Based on the 3 year rolling averages 2016-18 and 2019-21		

Our Quality of Life

Our aim: Fewer people experiencing antisocial behaviour

What do we know?

Antisocial behaviour was ranked 1/24 in Police Scotland's 2016/7 'Your View Counts' survey

How are we doing?



Antisocial Behaviour Involving Young People in Peebles

Action Taken

The Community Action Team (CAT), worked alongside other officers to address issues as they were reported to Police Scotland. However policing the problem was seen as only one aspect of tackling the wider issue. Therefore an approach was developed that included involvement of local schools, youth clubs, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Peebles Community Council the Antisocial behaviour Unit and Social Work Departments.

These agencies actively engaged with young people to identify and understand the reasons young people engaged in antisocial behaviour and provided activities to young people to divert them away from antisocial behaviour.

Activities provided for young people to help reduce reports of antisocial behaviour include:

- Costa Coffee Teen only evenings, every fortnight.
- Tweeddale Youth Action continues to offer a place for 12-16 year olds on a Wednesday and Friday evening.
- Youth Groups in Peebles now offer actives and opportunities for 12-16 years olds 7 days a week.
- "Oor Youthy" is a new youth group at the Drill Hall for 12-16 year olds. The group have recently purchased a minibus for the young people to fix up and it will be used as a mobile safe space in Peebles.
- Peebles Community Council are planning to construct a shelter in Victoria Park to give young people a sheltered space.
- Discussions are taking place with Eastgate Theatre to offer cinema nights for young people.

Actions by partner agencies to reduce reports of antisocial behaviour include:

- Crime Prevention Surveys at crime hotspots have been carried out by Police Scotland.
- Residents and business owners and staff of Tweed Green and School Brae have met with Police and partners to discuss long term solutions to antisocial behaviour issues.
- The Antisocial Behaviour Unit deals with all aspects of antisocial behaviour by following recognised legislation but also by working in a proactive way with partners.
- Community engagement through organised clinics and promoting and advertising on social media.
- Estate walkabouts as well as home visits have been undertaken with partners and Housing Associations.
- All partner agencies have regular interactions to address issues.
- Police and partners continue to undertake patrols to engage with and deter young people from antisocial behaviour.

Results Achieved

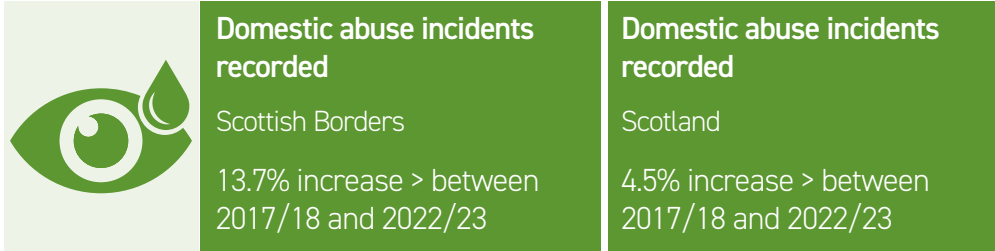
Antisocial behaviour issues reported to Police Scotland reached a high point in September 2022 for Peebles. Over the following four months reports of young people engaging in antisocial behaviour dropped substantially (with over a 75% reduction in incidents reported to Police Scotland).

Our aim: Fewer people experiencing violence (including domestic abuse)

What do we know?

There were 968 recorded incidents of domestic abuse in the Scottish Borders during 2016/17.

How are we doing?



Our aim: Fewer people killed or seriously injured on our roads

What do we know?

Between 2014/15-2016/17 there was a 57% increase in fatalities compared to a reduction of 9% in Scotland

How are we doing?



Our Place

Our aim: More people living independently in affordable and sustainable homes

What do we know?

The right supply of housing is important in meeting the needs of our communities, and particularly in light of the projected population change.

How are we doing?

	Number of new supply affordable homes completed Scottish Borders 125 in 2022/23 compared to 87 in 2017/18	Total number of affordable homes completed Scottish Borders 146 in 2022/23 compared to 146 in 2017/18
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While the figure for last year the figure was much higher, this was an expectation due to delays from the previous year due to Covid. The figure is positive and similar to previous years – over the past 6 years the average new supply each year has meant we have met our Housing Supply Target for new supply affordable homes of 130 new affordable homes per annum. 2022/23 has been a challenging year with the Cost of Living Crisis, inflation and higher interest rates so the number of new supply housing delivered is positive.

SBC appointed a dedicated Empty Homes Officer in August of 2021, who currently has an active case load of 182 empty homes. Over the last 18 months the Empty Homes Officer has been making connections with owners, neighbours and communities being affected by empty homes. The SBC Empty Home Grant Scheme was officially launched in September 2022. The Grant Scheme has been well received and we currently have 16 applications for a variety of empty homes across the Scottish Borders, 12 of which will become affordable rental homes.

In the first year of dedicated resource being applied to empty homes, we have seen 18 empty homes being brought back into use through direct officer activity. Through the successful building of the empty homes caseload we expect to see many more homes come back into use supported by the Empty Homes Officer.

A major affordable housing development on what was the former Coopersknowe site in Galashiels, now called McQueen Gardens was completed by Eildon Housing Association in 2022/23. 69 new, high quality, sustainable and affordable homes were developed on this long-time derelict site.



The development comprises of a mix of family houses, bungalows and upper and lower colony style flats. Six of the bungalows are fully wheelchair accessible and ten properties were made available for key workers.

Ettrick and Yarrow Community Development Company led the community purchase of the former farm buildings and site of 2.06 hectares at Ettrickbridge from Buccleuch Estates. In late 2022 the development was successfully completed and the old Kirkhope Farm steading has been transformed into 5 affordable houses and 7 energy efficient workshop units.



Our aim: More people able to afford to heat their homes

What do we know?

Fuel poverty affects a large proportion of households in the Scottish Borders.

Fuel poverty is defined as the need to spend more than 10% of income to pay for fuel bills. Extreme fuel poverty is defined as the need to spend more than 20% of income to pay for fuel bills.

How are we doing?



Fuel Poverty

Scottish Borders

5% decrease < between 2014/16 and 2017/19

7% decrease < in Scotland over the same period

Extreme Fuel Poverty

Scotland

1% increase > between 2014/16 and 2017/19

4% increase > in Scotland over the same period

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Number of Energy Efficiency Scotland: Area Based Schemes/ Private Sector Measures installed

Scottish Borders

43% increase in households supported between 2019/20 and 2021/22



If you have any questions about this report for Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership please contact:

communityplanning@scotborders.gov.uk

0300 100 1800

To find out more about community planning please visit:

www.scotborders.gov.uk/communityplanning

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COMMUNITIES & PARTNERSHIPS TEAM

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tel: 0300 100 1800 | email: communityplanning@scotborders.gov.uk
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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 2018 Progress Report
B. What is it?	A new Policy/Strategy/Practice <input 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)	The proposal seeks approval of the report detailing progress on the outcomes detailed in the Community Plan 2018
D. Service Area: Department:	Community Planning Partnership
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:	25/08/2023

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:
A. Elimination of discrimination (both direct & indirect), victimisation and harassment. <i>(Will the proposal discriminate? Or help eliminate discrimination?)</i>	No
B. Promotion of equality of opportunity? <i>(Will your proposal help or hinder the Council with this)</i>	No
C. Foster good relations? <i>(Will your proposal help to foster or encourage good relations between those who have different equality characteristics?)</i>	No

**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			
Disability e.g. Effects on people with mental, physical, sensory impairment, learning disability, visible/invisible, progressive or recurring	X			
Gender Reassignment/ Gender Identity anybody whose gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex assigned to them at birth	X			
Marriage or Civil Partnership people who are married or in a civil partnership	X			
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			
Race Groups: including colour, nationality, ethnic origins, including minorities (e.g. gypsy travellers, refugees, migrants and asylum seekers)	X			

Religion or Belief: different beliefs, customs (including atheists and those with no aligned belief)	X			
Sex women and men (girls and boys)	X			
Sexual Orientation , e.g. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Heterosexual	X			
<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 (<i>please delete as applicable</i>) 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	X			

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	X			
Area Deprivation – where you live (e.g. rural areas), where you work (e.g. accessibility of transport)	X			
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parents' education, employment and income	X			
Looked after and accommodated children and young people	X			
Carers paid and unpaid including family members	X			
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?

Yes/ 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 / 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.

The proposal is strategic as it relates to Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership. However, it is deemed that a full IIA is not required as no impacts have been identified in this assessment.

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Signed by Lead Officer:	Clare Malster
Designation:	Participation Officer
Date:	25/08/2023
Counter Signature Director:	
Date:	

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THEME: ENOUGH MONEY TO LIVE ON				
Theme lead: Scottish Borders Council		Group members: CPP Partners, DWP & CAB		
Outcomes	Actions	Timeframe	Progress/current position	RAG
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 is working with partners to prepare bids for the Scottish Government's Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Fund and Cash First Fund.</p> <p>The Cost of Living Fund was allocated £1.2M to support local organisations to provide advice and financial assistance to local communities. Evaluation of how the fund has been spent and how people benefitted is now underway. Further information is appended below.</p> <p>All families eligible and registered for Free School Meals, are entitled to £2.50 per child per day to help with meals. The multi-agency food conversation group continues to meet to share good practice.</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.		<p>Scottish Borders Local Employment Partnership (LEP) have supported individuals into paid employment through initiatives such as No One Left Behind, the Employment Support Service, the Parental Employability Service and the Job Creation Scheme.</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland have created learning opportunities that help people get into and progress in rewarding work so that they develop skills and competencies which help them to maintain employment</p> <p>Funding in place to support the delivery of summer activities and provide free access to low-income households.</p>	

	Partnership to develop plans for paying the living wage – and encouraging contractors and sub-contractors to also do so.		<p>SBC contractors are encouraged to pay the real Living Wage. Question included in tender documents which is given a weighting and scored as part of the tender evaluation.</p> <p>Partner organisations paying the Living Waage are Scottish Borders Council, Borders Community Action, SoSE, Borders Housing Association, SBHA (also in final stage of applying for Fair Work accreditation).</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>SBC is currently undertaking a self-assessment of its position against the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment • Procurement • Environment, sustainability & assets • Service design & delivery, and • Becoming and exemplar anchor institution <p>This is alongside identifying CWB links with current workstreams.</p>	

Appendix

ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY – UPDATE ON COST OF LIVING RESPONSE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 **The following information provides an update in relation to the £1.2m financial support package that was released from Council reserves to provide support to communities during 2022/23.**
- 1.2 At Council on 25 August 2022, it was agreed to approve the creation of a short term multi-agency Cost of Living Crisis Strategic Group and an Operational Officers Group in order to provide an enhanced response to the exceptional autumn and winter pressures our communities were facing.
- 1.3 These groups have reported into the Anti-Poverty Members Reference Group and the Community Planning Partnership, and have also taken into account local requirements and response across each of our five localities.
- 1.4 An update is also provided for the allocation of balances in relation to the Financial Hardship Fund.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the Scottish Borders Council meeting on 25 August 2022, a £1.2m underspend from 2021/22 outturn reserves was released to provide support to communities during 2022/23.
- 2.2 It was agreed to allocate £585k of the £1.2m to allow immediate dispersion of financial support as detailed in paragraph 3.1.
- 2.3 Council also agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Resilient Communities in consultation with the members of the Anti-Poverty Members Reference Group, to allocate the remaining £615k as required.
- 2.4 Council also agreed to establish a multi-agency Anti-Poverty Strategic Group and an Operational Officers Group to respond to the global cost of living crisis. The Groups consult and receive information, data and real life experiences from the Financial Hardship Officers Group, Financial Inclusion Practitioners Group, Poverty Data Group, the Food Conversations Group and any other appropriate mechanisms that are available.
- 2.5 The creation of these groups has enabled a focussed, corporate and partnership response to further support those in need, and to disperse funding in a timely, efficient and effective way, and to support the delivery of actions within the Anti-Poverty Strategy Action Plan and the Child Poverty Action Plan.
- 2.6 A communications plan was also created to provide a comprehensive campaign that provided general information, and a support directory for both Challenge Poverty Week in October 2022 and the Council's website:

[Financial support and advice](#) | [Cost of Living Crisis support](#) | [Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 In June 2022, the Community Planning Strategic Board approved four themes for the 2022/23 CPP Work Plan (interim Community Plan):
1. Theme 1 – enough money to live on
 2. Theme 2 – access to work, learning and training
 3. Theme 3 – enjoying good health and wellbeing
 4. Theme 4 – a good place to grow up, live and enjoy a full life

Both the Cost of Living Support Package, and the delivery of the actions within the Ant-Poverty Action Plan make a significant contribution to the outcomes contained within each theme.

- 2.9 In addition to the £1.2m cost of living support, other financial support includes the Financial Hardship Fund. Details of this was reported to the Council’s Executive Committee on 9 February 2021 and 16 November 2021. A balance of £190k was administered through the Anti-Poverty Strategic Group.

3 ALLOCATION OF £1.2m COST OF LIVING SUPPORT FUND

- 3.1 An immediate allocation of £585k was agreed by Council on 25 August 2022, which enabled a range of support to be put in place quickly. 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

- 3.2 Since August 2022, proposals for the remaining £615k have been considered and approved by the Cost of Living Strategic Board as follows:

£100k	Expansion of the Inclusion Fund
£22k	Support Warm Spaces across the Scottish Borders: Warm spaces Cost of Living Crisis support Scottish Borders Council (scotborders.gov.uk)

£15k	Energy training and food support
£96k	Warm & Well, Youth Work Collaborative
£84k	Borders Housing Network, extension of Warm & Well Project, and provision of an additional resource to advise tenants
£13k	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
£30k	Financial Inclusion Assistant role in Employability Service
£7.5k	Warm Spaces – Reaching You. A CAB proposal to provide outreach services.

3.3 A balance of **£66,591** is available for further allocation during 2023/24.

3.4 Evaluation of the impact of these supports is underway and references are made to these in the Anti-Poverty Progress Report which is also presented to this meeting. Specific examples include:

- a) The Warm and Well Fund was launched to support voluntary, community and charity organisations to provide warm spaces. In Berwickshire, over 200 warm space sessions were delivered between November 2022 and March 2023, with over 4,000 people attending. In Cheviot, St.Boswells Village Hall developed 'Warm-up Wednesdays'. These sessions ran for 14 weeks and supported over 200 members of the community.
- b) The Warm & Well: Youth Work Collaborative awarded grants to 25 YouthBorders member organisations to deliver additional youth work activities or enhance provision to keep young people warm and well over winter 2022. This funding was for young people and families experiencing financial hardship, poverty or deprivation and it provided a dignified approach to the impact of the increased cost of living on young people in their communities. A total of 1,488 young people directly benefitted from this funding, there were 280 additional youth work sessions, and 430 households were signposted to further advice and support. 182 care packs of food, blankets and warm or waterproof clothing were also distributed.
- c) £60k was awarded for Breakfast Clubs to 20 schools/community groups, (3 in Berwickshire, 4 in Cheviot, 9 in Eildon, 3 in Teviot & Liddesdale, and 1 in Tweeddale). Funding is being used to provide free breakfast for everyone with the aim of maximising attendance in school, providing a nutritional breakfast and working towards providing an equitable offer across the Scottish Borders. We will continue to evaluate the impact, early feedback from one school reported that lateness has decreased, the choice of breakfast is positive, children are more alert and around 25% of the school are attending.

3.5 In relation to the Financial Hardship Fund the following allocations have been made from the £190k balance.

Access to Food	
£76,665	Cyrenians, to provide community cook clubs in Selkirk, Walkerburn, Jedburgh and Galashiels
£20,890	Low and Slow Projects, available in Galashiels, Eyemouth, Duns, Peebles, Hawick and Newcastleton
£3,000	FareShare Membership across the Borders
£38,830	Eildon Housing, support for Borders FareShare Hub
£9,000	Eildon Housing, further support for Borders FareShare Hub

Supermarket Gift Cards	
£9,000	Violence Against Women Service (VAW)
£2,400	Early Years Team
£9,000	Further allocation to VAW
£5,500	Alcohol and Drugs Partnership

3.6 This leaves a balance of **£15,715** for further allocation during 2023/24.

3.7 Examples of how this funding has benefitted residents of the Scottish Borders include:

- a) 60 participants have taken part in the Low and Slow programme and 65 slow cookers have been distributed
- b) The Eildon Housing Community FoodHub works in partnership to distribute donations across the Borders to address the growing need for access to food for individuals, families and their pets.

3.8 The Cost of Living Strategic Group and the Anti-Poverty Members Reference Group continue to look at levels of demand and options to provide further support. If the Council should consider any further financial support, a report will come forward on the implications.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In response to the cost of living crisis, the Council released an underspend from reserves to provide £1.2m support to communities during 2022/23. A balance of £84,488 was carried forward into 2023/24. There is also an outstanding balance of £15,715 from the Financial Hardship Fund. The multi-agency Strategic Group and the Anti-Poverty Members Reference Group will continue to meet to disperse this balance appropriately. Other earmarked balances from 2022/23 will increase budgets available for 2023/24 for the Scottish Welfare Fund, Inclusion Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments. Together with Scottish Government cost of living payments and other grant offers eg. Child poverty funding, these budgets will continue to support a range of measures to provide additional resources where required to address the continuing cost of living issues.

5 RISK AND MITIGATIONS

The dispersal of £1.2m has helped to mitigate hardship for Scottish Borders residents. The agreement to release these funds in August 2022 has enabled the multi-agency Strategic Group and the Anti-Poverty Members Reference Group to make a difference to those in need throughout the cost of living crisis. Agreement to carry forward balances will ensure that this response can continue, and along with national payments, will continue to help those most in need of support.

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ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT

7 September 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents progress made in delivering the Anti-Poverty Strategy Action Plan, which was adopted by Council on 23 September 2021.**
- 1.2 This report also gives an update of the work of the Anti-Poverty Members Reference Group, the Financial Inclusion Group and the quarterly Food Conversations. An update report in relation to additional poverty support provided by the £1.2M Cost of Living Fund is also included in the 'enough money to live on' theme update.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 I recommend that the Strategic Board: -**
- a) Notes the Anti-Poverty Strategy 2021 Progress Report.**
 - b) Notes the work of the Anti-Poverty Members Reference Group, the Financial Inclusion Practitioners Group and the Food Conversations Group.**
 - c) Notes that the Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan (created in 2021) is to be refreshed.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the meeting of Scottish Borders Council on 23 September 2021, the Scottish Borders Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan was agreed. It was also agreed to receive a Progress Report for the Action Plan. The Strategy and Action Plan were launched during Challenge Poverty Week (4-10 October 2021).
- 3.2 The Strategy set out a clear vision, with 6 themes and 11 outcomes. It also highlighted areas of activity that the Council and Partners were looking to deliver to help reduce poverty in the Scottish Borders, and the creation of the Strategy and Action Plan was supported and evidenced by the Scottish Borders Picture of Poverty.
- 3.3 It was also agreed on 23 September 2021 to establish a Members Reference Group, which comprises of 7 Elected Members of Council appointed on a non-political basis. The role of this group is to give guidance to officers, to receive input from the Council's partners and other organisations and individuals, including those with lived experience of poverty, and to help identify gaps or areas for further focus.
- 3.4 The Anti-Poverty Action Plan was developed to take into account the comments received as part of the public consultation process. It was agreed that the Action Plan would be flexible and could be adapted to remain appropriate to address identified current or emerging issues. Ongoing evaluation would be considered by the Members Reference Group.
- 3.5 In June 2022, the Community Planning Strategic Board approved four themes for the 2022/23 CPP Work Plan (interim Community Plan):
 1. Theme 1 – enough money to live on
 2. Theme 2 – access to work, learning and training
 3. Theme 3 – enjoying good health and wellbeing
 4. Theme 4 – a good place to grow up, live and enjoy a full life

Actions within the Anti-Poverty Action Plan make a significant contribution to the outcomes contained within each theme.

4 ANTI-POVERTY ACTION PLAN 11 OUTCOMES

- 4.1 The actions and progress made against the 11 outcomes of the Anti-Poverty Action Plan are detailed in the Anti-Poverty Strategy Progress Report detailed at Appendix 1. Key highlights include:

4.2 **Pockets - Maximising Income**

Monetary gains for benefits (inclusive of Macmillan support and Financial help in Early Years) for 2021/22 amounted to £3,390m and for 2022/23 the figure was £3,945m. The Council's Financial Inclusion Team assists residents of the Scottish Borders to gain access to these benefits via advice, and support.

4.3 **Prospects – Education and Training**

Fifteen thousand iPads have been distributed to pupils and school staff since 2019, and the Centre of Excellence for Digital Learning opened in Tweedbank in October 2022. This provides a digital training space where equal access to technology is available to children, young people, families, businesses and organisations.

4.4 Prospects – Employment

The Scottish Borders Local Employment Partnership (LEP) have supported individuals into paid employment through initiatives such as No One Left Behind, the Employment Support Service, the Parental Employability Service and the Job Creation Scheme.

4.5 Prospects – Health and Wellbeing

Over 1400 young people directly benefitted from the Warm and Well: Youth Work Collaborative which was funded from the £1.2m cost of living support package, and was designed to deliver additional youth work and activities to keep young people warm and well over winter 2022/23.

4.6 Places – Housing

£31k was awarded from the Homelessness Intervention Fund, designed to prevent homelessness for households in rent arrears and at risk of homelessness

4.7 Places – Transport Connectivity

Legislation was approved by Scottish Parliament in autumn 2021 to extend the young person's free bus scheme to those aged under 22. As at May 2023, approx 24% of operator transactions on Border Buses are from U22s.

4.8 Places – Digital Connectivity

SBC and SOSE provided £150k of funding to support digital connectivity, and 539 devices were distributed to those facing barriers to digital inclusion.

4.9 People – Community

Officers are currently assisting with the delivery of Place Making in 56 of 69 community council areas across the Scottish Borders, and actively engaging with the remaining 13.

4.10 People – Poverty Awareness and Responsibility

Skills Development Scotland create learning opportunities that help people get into and progress in rewarding work so that they develop skills and competencies which help them to maintain employment.

4.11 Partnerships –Working Collaboratively

Partners have worked together to deliver the Anti-Poverty Strategy Action Plan. Specific partnership groups include:

- Cost of Living Strategic Group
- Cost of Living Operational Group
- Financial Inclusion Practitioners Group
- Food Conversations Group

4.12 Pathways – Signposting and Support

Scottish Borders Council launched dedicated Cost of Living webpages in September 2022 to provide information on a wide variety of support such as financial assistance, help with energy costs and access to food and warm spaces.

4.13 The Anti-Poverty Progress Report is now published on the Council's website, following approval at Council on 29th June 2023.

5 ANTI-POVERTY MEMBERS REFERENCE GROUP

- 5.1 The main objective of the Members Reference Group is to monitor the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan to ensure that it brings benefit to those most in need.
- 5.2 The group was formally established in September 2021 and initially met on a quarterly basis. This has increased to monthly since September 2022 in response to the emerging cost of living crisis.
- 5.3 The group have provided guidance and insight, particularly in relation to energy costs and household support, and how to reach those most in need. They have heard from other organisations and partners in order to develop an understanding of the impact of poverty, and how the actions within the Anti-Poverty Action Plan are assisting those in need.
- 5.4 The group have also overseen and provided guidance in relation to the Cost of Living Fund spend, and have tasked officers with specific actions to assist with the identification of gaps in support being provided. They have also received data and information from the Poverty Data Group, an officer group that was created to provide additional information to the ongoing development of the Picture of Poverty, and to inform the actions within the Action Plan.
- 5.5 The Members Reference Group have highlighted resourcing gaps in advice and support, specifically around energy and fuel, and have had case studies presented to them to provide assurance of where best that Cost of Living financial support should be invested.
- 5.6 The Group have also raised the profile of Credit Unions. As a result, a working group is considering how we can set up a Credit Union in the Scottish Borders. A Credit Union is a financial co-operative which provides savings, loans and a range of services to its members. It is owned and controlled by the members. It is hoped that a Credit Union would provide an

effective option for residents of the Scottish Borders to help them to manage their money.

6 FINANCIAL INCLUSION PRACTITIONERS GROUP

- 6.1 The Financial Inclusion Group was set up to bring officers across the Borders together to identify what support was currently in place, and how information could be more easily shared. Over 65 officers were involved in this multi-agency group which covers a huge range of partnership working.
- 6.2 This creation of this group and the work undertaken has allowed a more strategic, targeted approach to be developed specifically in response to the cost of living crisis. The sharing of information has enabled the development of the Cost of Living Support information pages on the SBC website, and a strong partnership approach to Challenge Poverty Week in October 2022.
- 6.3 The Financial Inclusion Group also led to the establishment of the Cost of Living Strategic Group, which has continued the multi-agency approach to awarding funding on a partnership basis. This approach has been very well received and being discussed at a national level as an exemplary model of partnership working.

7 FOOD CONVERSATIONS GROUP

- 7.1 The Food Conversations Group was set up during the Covid-19 pandemic to enable foodbanks, FareShare providers and other organisations to come together to share information and raise emerging and current issues. Community Hubs were then tasked to support and assist in resolving these issues at a local level, and worked with volunteers on the ground to ensure that food was provided to those in need.
- 7.2 After the immediate response to the pandemic, the group agreed that they wanted to continue to meet and to build on the network that had been created, and where possible, to shift from providing emergency food parcels to providing a more holistic approach which includes information on how and where to obtain financial support, and more sustainable solutions for an individual's food security.
- 7.3 An example of this is the Low and Slow Project which provides slow cookers, produce and recipes etc., as well as financial inclusion information. There are currently 6 projects taking place across the Borders:
 - Galashiels
 - Eyemouth
 - Duns Primary School
 - Burnfoot Community Hub
 - Newcastleton
 - Borders College (in development)
- 7.4 In parallel to this work, community cook clubs and larders are being considered within Selkirk, Walkerburn, Jedburgh and Galashiels.

8 NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 The Anti-Poverty Strategy was approved in September 2021. Since it was established there has been a wide range of activity undertaken by Partners to deliver the Action Plan and help residents of the Scottish Borders. The cost of living crisis emerged around spring of 2022 and remains in focus now. It is important to continue to support those in need, therefore the Strategy and Action Plan require to be refreshed to ensure they are still fit for purpose and adaptable to respond to current and emerging issues.
- 8.2 The Anti-Poverty Members Reference Group, the Financial Inclusion Practitioners Group and the Food Conversation Group have all proved to be invaluable in terms of guidance, support, information sharing and partnership working. These groups will continue to meet regularly to respond to current and emerging issues.

9 IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Financial

There are no direct budgets identified to deliver the Anti-Poverty Strategy Action Plan. Budgets within partner organisations are used accordingly to deliver their specific plans, and these benefit residents of the Scottish Borders. The Child Poverty national delivery plan distributes funding streams locally and these help to alleviate poverty.

The Council released an underspend from reserves to provide £1.2m support to communities during 2022/23 for the cost of living crisis. Balances have been carried forward into 2023/24. There is also an outstanding balance of £15,715 from the Financial Hardship Fund. Other earmarked balances from 2022/23 will increase budgets available for 2023/24 for the Scottish Welfare Fund, Inclusion Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments. Together with Scottish Government cost of living payments and other grant offers eg. Child poverty funding, these budgets will continue to support a range of measures to provide additional resources where required to address the continuing cost of living issues.

Some funding provided to local authorities by Scottish Government during the pandemic is unlikely to continue, therefore decisions on budget priorities will need to be taken locally.

9.2 Risk and Mitigations

- a) Risks associated with this report relate to the level of poverty across the Scottish Borders and the difficulties caused by the cost of living crisis.
- b) Appendix 1 outlines the progress made to alleviate poverty in the Scottish Borders and the response being made by the Local Authority to address issues going forward.

9.3 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.

9.4 Sustainable Development Goals

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

- a) **No Poverty:** This report details 6 strategic themes, identified within the Anti-Poverty Action Plan, which contribute to ending poverty in all its forms.
- b) **Zero Hunger:** Strategic and local action contributing to the reduction of hunger, improvement of food insecurity and nutrition, and the promotion of sustainable agriculture is reported and evidenced throughout the Anti-Poverty Progress Report. Provision of knowledge, advice and support is evidenced throughout the 6 reported themes, driven by the needs of the community.
- c) **Good Health and Wellbeing:** The Anti-Poverty Progress Report details 6 strategic themes, each ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all, at all ages. Specifically, theme 2 evidences the work carried out at a local level to ensure that communities are healthy, happy and well.
- d) **Quality Education:** Strategic theme 2 from the Anti-Poverty Action Plan details 'Education and Training', the aims to improve attainment and achievement for all, to enable them to reach their full potential. This report details employment figures in relation to benefit uptake in comparison to the UK and Scotland. The Community Learning and Development team continue to work to support those experiencing difficulties of school age.
- e) **Affordable and Clean Energy:** Detailed in theme 1, partnerships with organisations such as Home Energy Scotland work to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all throughout the Scottish Borders.
- f) **Decent Work and Economic Growth:** Many of the 6 strategic themes inform and contribute to the promotion of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- g) **Reduced Inequalities:** Through the development of the Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan, Scottish Borders Council have employed significant action to identify poverty inequalities and exclusion throughout the Borders communities which are evidenced throughout this report.
- h) **Sustainable Cities and Communities:** Detailed in theme 3 'Places', this report evidences the steps taken to make our communities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. This refers to housing as well as both transport and digital connectivity.

9.5 Climate Change

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

9.6 Rural Proofing

There are no rural proofing implications contained in this report.

9.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

There are no personal data implications arising from this report.

9.8 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.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 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 this report.

Approved by

Jenni Craig

Director Resilient Communities

Signature.....

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
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Background Papers: Scottish Borders Anti-Poverty Strategy 2021

Previous Minute Reference: Scottish Borders Council 29.06.23

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, Scottish Borders Council, Council HQ, Newtown St.Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA, 01835 824000, jrobertson@scotborders.gov.uk



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY 2021

Progress Report

June 2023

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ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY 2021

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SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Scottish Borders Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy Progress Report.

The Anti-Poverty Strategy was launched during Challenge Poverty Week in October 2021, and since then we have been working with partners to deliver the action plan included in the strategy.

Our Anti-Poverty Members Reference Group has met regularly to monitor the implementation of the strategy and action plan and to ensure that it remains appropriate to address identified current or emerging issues, such as the cost of living crisis.

We remain focused on our clear vision:

- We want a Scottish Borders where no-one lives in poverty and where everyone is able to achieve their full potential.
- We want the Scottish Borders to be a place where everyone can play their part in understanding that tackling poverty is everyone's responsibility.
- We believe that if we act locally, and in partnership, we can make a real difference.
- We want this Scottish Borders Anti-Poverty Strategy to be pro-active, evidenced by real experience and directed by need.
- Working with the people of the Scottish Borders, we aim to find solutions to poverty challenges which support them in a way that works best for them.

The Anti-Poverty Strategy is structured around the 'pockets, prospects, places' measurement framework adopted by the Scottish Government Child Poverty Strategy with its own additions of 'people', 'partnerships', and 'pathways', and 11 outcomes, with progress against each of these set out in this report. Activities undertaken to tackle poverty in the Scottish Borders are highlighted, and as a result, we are pleased to show that our strategy is making a difference as we work towards reducing the impacts of poverty in the Scottish Borders.

Councillor Robin Tatler

Chair of the Anti-Poverty Members Reference Group

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STRATEGY OUTCOMES



Maximising Income

Maximise financial resources of households and reduce out-going costs. Households can access services and be socially, digitally, and financially included.



Education and Training

Attainment and achievement for all to enable them to reach their potential.



Employment

Households are sustaining employment and are re-skilling to enable them to seek alternative employment.



Health and Wellbeing

Reduce health inequalities and promote wellbeing.



Housing

Everyone lives in warm, affordable homes.



Transport Connectivity

Everyone is able to get to where they want to go in a way that is affordable.



Digital Connectivity

Everyone is able to connect digitally and in a way that is affordable.



Community

Increase opportunities and empower people to fully participate in their communities and bring about change.



Working Collaboratively

Improve partnership working and networks through use of technology and media channels and training opportunities and projects to reduce poverty in the Scottish Borders.



Poverty Awareness and Responsibility

Everyone plays their part in understanding that tackling poverty is everyone's responsibility.



Signposting and Support

Develop and implement pathways to support people to move from dependence to independence.

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THE COST OF LIVING

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. A short-term, multi-agency Cost of Living Crisis Strategic Group and an Operational Officers Group were also approved to provide an enhanced response.

These groups have reported into the Anti-Poverty Members Reference Group and the Community Planning Partnership, and have also taken into account local requirements and responses across each of the five localities.

A strategic, targeted approach to respond to the cost of living crisis has been developed as a result of these groups, and information sharing has enabled the development of the **Cost of Living Support information pages on the SBC website**, and a strong partnership approach to **Challenge Poverty Week** in October 2022.

An immediate allocation from the £1.2m financial support package of £0.585m was agreed which enabled a range of support to be put in place quickly. This included:

£235k

Warm Clothing grant of £100 to each child entitled to either Free School Meals or clothing grants - an initial 2,350 children benefited

£150k

Extending existing arrangements with organisations such as Citizens Advice Bureau, Changeworks etc., to provide additional resources to assist with referrals, energy advice, money advice, signposting, and budgeting

£100k

Further top-up of Scottish Welfare Fund funding

£50k

Top-up Discretionary Housing Payment funding

£50k

Additional resources to be used to support and process increased uptake of benefits



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THE COST OF LIVING (cont.)

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

£86k

Third Sector Interface and Live Borders, £50k for energy support, £36k for club membership, equipment and clothing support for sports clubs and organisations

£96k

Warm and Well, Youth Work Collaborative

£84k

Borders Housing Network, extension of the Warm and Well project, and provision of an additional resource to advise tenants

£22k

Support Warm Spaces across the Borders

£15k

Energy training and food support

£60k

Breakfast club pilot for schools within the highest Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation areas

£13k

Live Borders - financial support to ClubSport members in relation to energy

£34.5k

Additional funding to support increased uptake of £100 Warm Clothing grant – a further 345 children benefited

In relation to the Council's Financial Hardship Fund, the following allocations have been made from the £190k balance since August 2022:

£77k



To provide community cook clubs in Selkirk, Galashiels, Jedburgh and Walkerburn

£21k



To provide Low and Slow projects in Duns, Eyemouth, Galashiels, Hawick, Newcastleton and Peebles

£48k



Support to Eildon Housing for Community FoodHub

£28k



Supermarket gift cards

£3k



FareShare memberships for organisations across the Borders

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CHILD POVERTY

Since the Anti-Poverty Strategy was established in September 2021, two Child Poverty Annual Progress Reports have been published. These relate to **2021/22 progress** and **2022/23 progress**. Child Poverty Reporting is legislated by the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017, which sets out the Scottish Government's statement of intent to eradicate child poverty in Scotland by 2030.

We continue to align to Scottish Government's Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-26, **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.

Current significant challenges and positive opportunities are outlined below:

- 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.
- 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 is an improvement in the gap between the Scottish Borders and the Scotland average for wages. In 2022, the gross weekly full-time workplace-based wage in the Scottish Borders was £69 less per week than the average for Scotland. In 2021, this was £96.
- 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.
- Approximately 2,695 children benefited 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.
- Approximately 500 referrals were made for financial inclusion checks of mothers and pregnant women, this resulted in £1.25m in gains.

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FINANCIAL INCLUSION

A report on the Financial Inclusion Landscape across the Scottish Borders was prepared and discussed at the Community Planning Partnership Meeting in June 2021. This informed the Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan.

It provided an understanding of what the Community Planning Partnership organisations offer in respect of financial inclusion advice and support, to ensure that financial inclusion resources and activity would benefit those who most need support.

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

Community Care Assessors, Customer Service Advisors, and Housing Support Officers who meet people face-to-face or deal with calls are trained to provide basic advice about benefits, signpost and further refer to Citizens Advice Bureau or other specialists.

Officers making decisions on Discretionary Housing Payments and Scottish Welfare Fund can signpost and provide advice on benefits and other types of financial assistance.

Officers across the partnership also refer to third parties such as Home Energy Scotland, Department of Work and Pensions visiting team, Social Security Scotland, and other partners (Registered Social Landlords etc.) if this is more suitable for the person's circumstances.

There are generally good links between all of the organisations undertaking financial inclusion work across the partnership and in most cases referral processes are in place if required.

A Financial Inclusion Practitioners Group was set up to bring officers across the Borders together to identify what support was currently in place, and how information could be more easily shared. Over 65 officers were involved in this multi-agency group which covers a huge range of partnership working.

The Financial Inclusion Practitioners Group also led to the establishment of the Cost of Living Strategic Group, which has continued the multi-agency approach to awarding funding on a partnership basis. This approach has been very well received, and is being discussed at a national level as an exemplary model of partnership working.

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

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THEME ONE | POCKETS

Maximising Income

Outcome: Maximise financial resources of households and reduce outgoing costs. Households can access services and be socially, digitally, and financially included.

Money Worries App

NHS Borders



A digital directory created to host information about support services available nationally and locally in the Scottish Borders. The user-friendly design and content are divided into four key areas; Money, Health, Housing and Work.

Since 2019...

1.6k
downloads

14.4k
screen views

25
colleagues
trained

4.2k
app log-ins/
sessions

Source: NHS Borders Joint Health Improvement Team

Training was adapted from NHS Highland's "Money Counts" training and allowed NHS Borders colleagues to better support signposting, raise awareness of the app and encourage real-time downloads.

Since the app was introduced, it is clear that users are engaging with more than one category as there has been a significant increase in both the number of screen views and sessions.

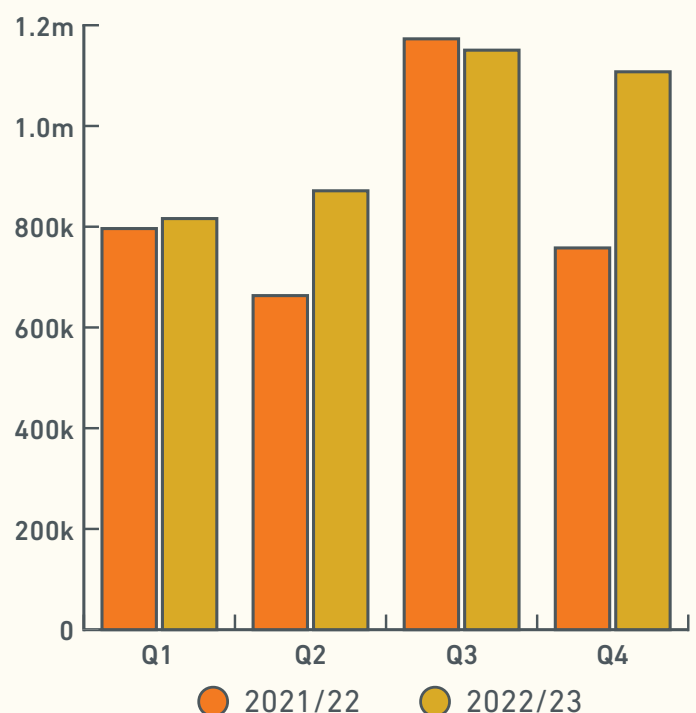
Monetary Gains

SBC Financial Inclusion Team

The SBC Financial Inclusion Team assist people throughout the Scottish Borders access benefits via advice, assistance or support. The monetary gain from successful benefit applications or tribunal appeals are measured and shown below, totalling over £7 million and helping 2,819 people since 2021.

Monetary Gain - Benefits

Source: Scottish Borders Council



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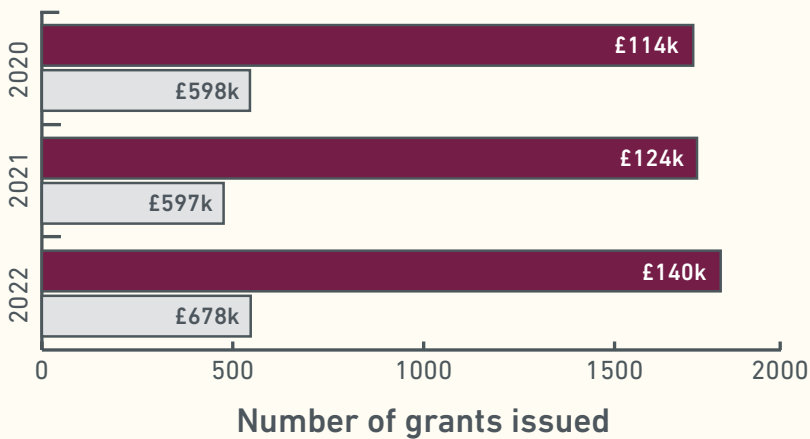
Progress Report



THEME ONE | POCKETS

Maximising Income

Scottish Welfare Fund



Source: Scottish Borders Council

The Scottish Welfare Fund is administered in the Scottish Borders by Scottish Borders Council and is intended to help people on:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Pension Credit
- Universal Credit

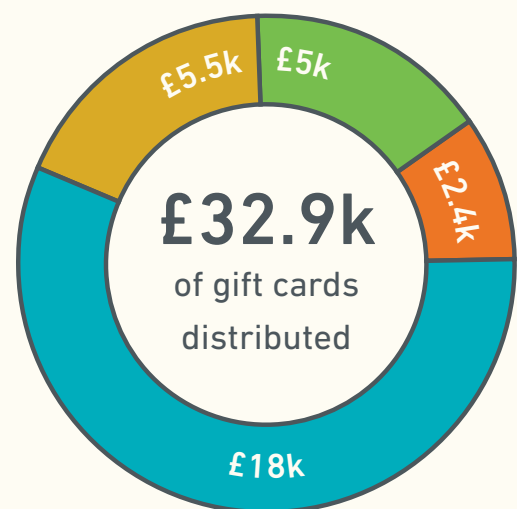
The Fund provides two types of grant:

- Crisis Grant
- Community Care Grant

Supermarket Gift Cards

Supermarket gift cards were distributed by Scottish Borders Council to over 20 partners such as Citizens Advice Bureau, Local Area Co-ordination Team, No One Left Behind, and food provision services and enabled targeted support to over 1,000 people in need.

“ We were able to give a £20 Co-op card to someone with no other support. The individual's benefits for this month only covered their gas bill. We have signposted the individual to Citizens Advice Bureau to set up a payment plan. This gift card helps to support them with groceries until the payment plan is active. - SBC Local Area Co-ordinator ”



- Violence Against Women Service
- Alcohol and Drugs Partnership
- Food Access
- Early Years Team

Source: Scottish Borders Council

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

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THEME ONE | POCKETS

Maximising Income

Social Security Scotland

Social Security Scotland is an Executive Agency of the Scottish Government. It is responsible for managing the benefits that are devolved to Scotland and ensures the people who need them get them correctly and fairly.



Social Security Scotland
Tèaranteachd Shòisealta Alba

Winter Heating Payment

The Winter Heating Payment is to help people on low income benefits who might have extra heating needs. Social Security Scotland pays this on an annual basis to people living in Scotland.

In the Scottish Borders...

6.6k payments
£331k paid to residents

Represents 2% of all Scottish payments
Winter 2022 - March 2023

Scottish Child Payment

The Scottish Child Payment is a weekly payment of £25 that parents and guardians can claim for every child that they are responsible for that is under 16 years of age in Scotland.

In the Scottish Borders...

45k payments
£4.4m paid to residents

Represents 2% of all Scottish payments
April 2022 - March 2023

Young Carer Grant

The Young Carer Grant is available to young people aged between 16 and 18 who are caring for someone who receives a disability benefit for an average of 16 hours a week.

In the Scottish Borders...

75 payments
£17k paid to residents

Represents 1% of all Scottish payments
2020/21 - 2022/23

Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods in the Scottish Borders

The Best Start Grant is made up of three, one-off payments: Pregnancy and Baby Payment, Early Learning Payment, and School Age Payment.

Best Starts Foods is a pre-paid card that can be used in shops or online to buy healthy foods like milk or fruit.



- Pregnancy and Baby
- Early Learning
- School Age
- Best Start Foods

Source: Social Security Scotland

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

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THEME ONE | POCKETS

Maximising Income

Eildon Housing Community FoodHub

The Eildon Housing Community FoodHub was set up to ensure the most vulnerable people and pets across the Scottish Borders have access to essential food and household items and to reduce their financial strain.

The FoodHub partnered with Edinburgh charities Cyrenians, FareShare, and Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home to redistribute donations across the Borders to address the growing need for access to food for individuals, families and their pets as a result of the pandemic and the rural location of communities in the Borders.

Since September 2021...

14
organisations
currently supported

97 tonnes
of food distributed
from FareShare

1,920
animals benefited



“
The FoodHub is essential to Food HUGS to be able to support the people of Walkerburn who are struggling due to the cost of living crisis. Food HUGS features in an SBC leaflet where you can get food support. So, without the food from FoodHub, we would no longer be able to offer this support.
Food HUGS, Walkerburn
”

“
The FoodHub has been a reliable source of food and has helped in making us sustainable in providing food to those that are in need. The FoodHub has been able to supply us with ambient and tinned goods which give us the assurance that we can provide the main source to meals.

In January 2023, we were open 18 days, we had 729 people attend our Larder. We were able to provide food to feed 2,181 people, 310 cats and 544 dogs.

Reston and Auchencrow Larder
”

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

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THEME TWO | PROSPECTS

Education and Training

Outcome: Attainment and achievement for all to enable them to reach their potential

On average, the Scottish Borders has significantly lower attainment in comparison to Scotland, with figures exacerbated within areas of deprivation.

Literacy

There is a 34.5% gap in educational performance or achievement (attainment) in the Borders for those living in the most deprived areas compared to those living in the least deprived. The average in Scotland is 24.7%.

Achievement of SCQF Level 5 (Nat 5)

Achievement of SCQF Level 5 for those in the most deprived areas (36%) is significantly lower in the Borders than the Scotland average of 49%.

Scottish Attainment Challenge

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 Scottish Attainment Challenge provides focused and targeted improvement activity in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing across Scotland. It also supports and complements a broad range of initiatives and programmes to ensure that all of Scotland's children and young people reach their full potential.

To ensure that the Council's 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 2021-26** 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.

Numeracy

There is a 28.1% gap in educational performance or achievement (attainment) in the Borders for those living in the most deprived areas compared to those living in the least deprived. The average in Scotland is 21.4%.

Achievement of SCQF Level 6 (Higher)

Achievement of SCQF Level 6 for those in the most deprived areas (15%) is significantly lower in the Borders than the Scotland average of 23%.



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

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THEME TWO | PROSPECTS

Education and Training

Inspire Learning

The Inspire Learning programme is a £16 million investment in a world-class digital learning environment for all pupils in the Scottish Borders. The project has been developed in partnership by Scottish Borders Council, CGI, XMA and Apple. The programme is a key part of the SBC Digital Learning Strategy and transforms teaching and learning in our schools for the benefit of children and young people now, and into the future.



This programme is aimed at raising attainment and supporting equity and inclusion for all children and young people. It is about investing in the learning of young people and putting them at the heart of education, improving outcomes and success for all. The effective deployment of digital technology in schools will ensure children and young people develop a level of general and specialist digital skills that are vital for learning, life and work in an increasingly digital world.

15,000

iPads have been distributed to pupils and school staff since 2019

3,600

pupils have attended Inspire Learning Festivals in 2022 and 2023

7

SBC staff are Apple Professional Learning Specialists

CGI



All Primary 6 and upwards classrooms have received audiovisual upgrades, including Apple TV. Early Years Centres up to Primary 5 classrooms will receive the same upgrades in 2023.

Each year, the Inspire Learning Team deliver “Live Lessons” for three stages of pupils and up to 30 schools, focussing on coding, sustainability, and health and wellbeing.



Source: Scottish Borders Council

Centre of Excellence for Digital Learning | Tweedbank, Galashiels

Opened in October 2022, the state-of-the-art facility provides a digital training space where equal access to technology will be available to young people, families, businesses and organisations and expands on the initial Inspire Learning investment. There are currently 14 pupils participating in an app development course, at the Centre, which has been designed to build and develop digital skills and prepare young people for an increasingly digital world of work.

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

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THEME TWO | PROSPECTS

Employment

Outcome: Households are sustaining employment and are re-skilling to enable them to seek alternative employment.

Scottish Borders Local Employment Partnership (LEP)

The LEP was established in 2021 with the vision:

“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.”

In 2022/23, the selected interventions below have supported individuals into paid employment, many requiring in-work and ongoing support and overall, the partnership has engaged with over 500 individuals to support them on their route to employment.

No One Left Behind

Supporting people to reach a positive destination

Stage 1 engaged with 43 people
Stage 2 engaged with 30 people
Stage 3 engaged with 23 people
Stage 4 engaged with 28 people

Employment Support Service

Supports people of working age with additional barriers find and sustain paid employment

Engaged with 99 people, 19 of which have secured paid employment

Job Creation Scheme

Scottish Government fully-funded programme to help the long-term unemployed get back into work

There have been 24 new posts created in the Scottish Borders

Parental Employability Service

Supports parents by providing one-to-one employability support

PES has worked with 31 parents and nine parents have received SQA qualifications moving them towards their chosen goals

Kickstart Scheme

Scottish Borders Council acted as a gateway organisation for the Department of Work and Pensions Kickstart Scheme providing funding for 16-24 year-olds in receipt of Universal Credit, who were at risk of long-term unemployment

This intervention supported employers to create 80 Kickstart Scheme places which in turn led to 25 permanent job roles

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY 2021

Progress Report



THEME TWO | PROSPECTS

Employment

Wages

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings produced by ONS (Office of National Statistics) and published on NOMIS³ contains information on wages.

Median Gross Weekly Pay in the Scottish Borders

£571

full-time workers,
working in the
Scottish Borders



12.1%

lower than the
Scottish average

£617

full-time workers,
living in the
Scottish Borders



3.7%

lower than the
Scottish average

The regional pay gap between Scottish Borders and Scotland has improved since 2020.

³ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

Living Wage in the Borders

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 also included Modern Apprentices within the commitment to being a Real Living Wage employer going forward.

In September 2021, the Scottish Borders Living Wage Group announced that the locality area of Eildon was the next locality to benefit from a local approach to encourage more employers to commit to the Living Wage.

When the announcement was made, there were 37 Living Wage accredited employers in the Borders, 15 of which were in the Eildon area. More than 9,000 workers are covered by a Living Wage commitment in Eildon.

The action plan that was launched set out how the Eildon Living Wage Action Group aimed to double the number of accredited Living Wage employers in Eildon within the first year and triple it within 18 months.



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY 2021

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THEME TWO | PROSPECTS

Health and Wellbeing

Outcome: Reduce health inequalities and promote wellbeing.

Mental Health Support

Scottish Borders Council's mental health provision for young people, their families and Borders residents in general was enhanced in June 2021 with the launch of two new mental health and wellbeing support services.

Partnerships were commissioned with providers Kooth and Togetherall to offer services which help supplement and support the work already in place across the Borders. These partnerships offer holistic services from in-school wellbeing support to online counselling.



togetherall



SBC Healthier, Happier, Stronger Fund

A one-off fund has been made available in each Scottish Borders locality. Organisations in Berwickshire, Cheviot, Eildon, Teviot and Liddesdale, and Tweeddale can apply for up to £5,000 towards the cost of creating or running an activity or project that meets an identified need, namely that it provides nutritional, social, physical, emotional wellbeing, and/or mental wellbeing support to adults.

A co-produced approach is being used for the allocation of the funding, working in partnership with organisations such as Borders Community Action, Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber and local communities, to ensure funding is allocated equitably within the Scottish Borders.

It has been funded by the Scottish Government to support the improvement of capacity within social care.



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

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THEME TWO | PROSPECTS

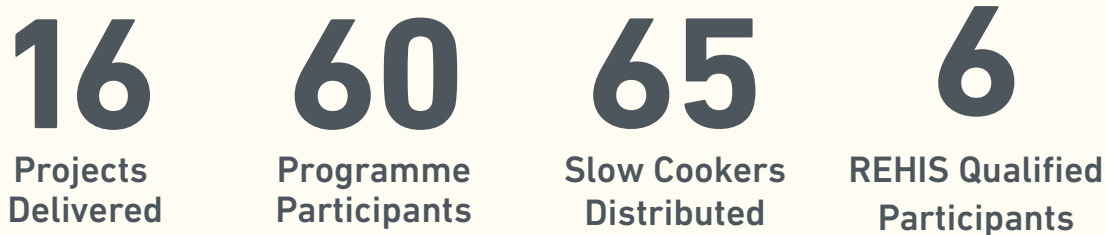
Health and Wellbeing

LOW&SLOW

The Low and Slow programme was developed as a holistic way of addressing health inequalities for families and individuals who may experience food and/or fuel poverty.

An initial eight-week project aimed to reduce fuel and food bills by providing a home energy assessment, advice and support, and slow cooking recipes.

The project is run as a partnership, with the initial pilot involving multiple organisations. As the project developed across the Scottish Borders, it has taken on varied partnerships including Cyrenians and various food provision services and has involved the Joint Health Improvement Team and energy advisors through all of the programmes.



The total financial savings for all participating Low & Slow households was estimated at approximately £6,000. *Source: NHS Borders Joint Health Improvement Team*



“ I have thoroughly enjoyed the last 6 weeks. I had a breakdown last year and have been having panic attacks since so initially I was worried about attending but you guys made it enjoyable. It gave me something to look forward to and got me out the house, it's a shame the programme has come to an end. ”

Low & Slow Programme Beneficiary

“ Thank you for inviting me to the course. At first, I was afraid that I wouldn't be able to cope with the English language because in stressful situations I tend to forget some words but all of you made me feel very good. ”

Low & Slow Programme Beneficiary

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY 2021

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THEME TWO | PROSPECTS

Health and Wellbeing

Young People

As part of the Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan, there are various actions being delivered by Scottish Borders Council and partners to provide financial, practical and emotional support, helping to tackle and mitigate the impact of poverty as well as preventing it.

Community-based youth work organisations to provide free or low-cost access to activities, experiences and trips during evenings and weekends.

5,021

young people engaged with Youth Borders

1,895

young people took part in summer grassroots activities

549

young people in receipt of Hardship Payment vouchers

1,170

young people took part in winter wellbeing activities

Co-ordination and development of Holiday Programmes for children and young people.

10.5k

visits to Live Borders 'Get into Summer' activities

62%

of places were free of charge for attendees

81%

of attendees felt more confident attending future activities

Run family learning programmes targeted at primary schools where there are the highest levels of poverty.

67

family learning programmes delivered

82%

of adults felt a reduction in isolation

74%

of adults felt their confidence as a parent had improved

“

We can't thank you enough for your help and support to allow the children experiences like this. Our travel expenses have increased because of the cost of living crisis. This funding enabled children to enjoy a fantastic day to socialise and reconnect with the outdoors.

*3rd Hawick Rainbows
Neighbourhood Support Fund*

”

Warm and Well: Youth Work Collaborative

£96,000 was allocated to Youth Borders to deliver additional youth work activities or enhance provision to keep young people warm and well over winter 2022/23.

1,488

young people directly benefited

280

youth work sessions attended

182

vouchers or care packs distributed

SBC Neighbourhood Support Fund

In 2022/23, the Neighbourhood Support Fund awarded approximately £42,000 to projects that directly benefited the wellbeing of young people.

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

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THEME TWO | PROSPECTS

Health and Wellbeing

Warm Spaces

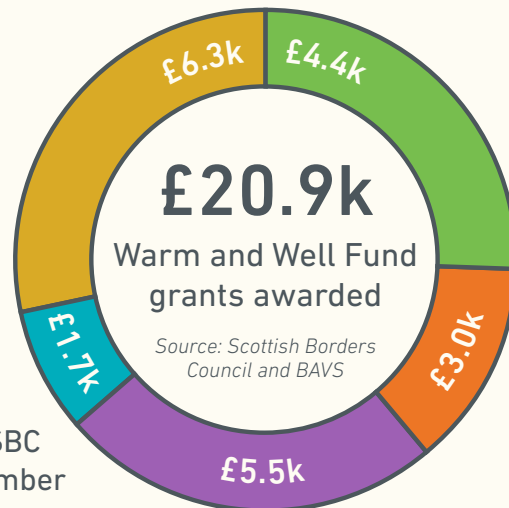
SBC Warm and Well Fund

The Warm and Well Fund was launched to support voluntary, community and charity organisations to provide a warm space.

In Berwickshire, 16 spaces benefited from SBC and National Lottery funding between November 2022 and March 2023. Over 200 warm space sessions were delivered, with over 4,000 people attending. The sessions were run by 10 paid staff and over 100 volunteers.

In Cheviot, St. Boswells Village Hall developed 'Warm-Up Wednesdays'. These sessions ran for 14 weeks, supporting over 200 community members. Through strong partnership working and use of community assets, the group provided varied activities from local musicians to NHS screenings. The local primary school joined the group on three occasions, singing, reciting poems, and playing board games with the attendees.

In Eildon, TD1 Youth Hub ran its 'Warm Hub' over two days, in a nine-week period, and in total supported 81 people. The additional hours were targeted towards parents and families, offering refreshments, toys, and a safe, warm space to relax together. Through their existing FareShare partnership, the group were able to offer 24 families additional support via excess food at the end of the week.



- Berwickshire
- Cheviot
- Eildon
- Teviot and Liddesdale
- Tweeddale

“It’s 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.”

TD1 Youth Hub Warm Hub Beneficiary

“I heard this was a place where I would be able to meet other people my own age and who have similar problems to me, its good they don’t judge you here.”

Over the weekend, it can be pretty rubbish as we aren’t at school, but taking home loads of scran from here on a Friday night means that Saturdays aren’t so bad.

TD1 Youth Hub Warm Hub Beneficiary

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY 2021

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THEME THREE | PLACES

Housing



Outcome: Everyone lives in warm, affordable homes.

In 2021/22, Scottish Government allocated £18.6m towards new, affordable homes, allowing 314 to be delivered in the Borders. Of the 314 homes, Registered Social Landlords delivered 297. A further 16 individual home purchases have been assisted via the Open Market Shared Ownership mechanism and one long-term empty home was brought back into use via grant assistance from the Rural Housing Fund.

Alongside the **Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2022-27**, Scottish Government is estimated to invest £202m, with the proposed delivery of 1,213 new, affordable homes in the Borders.

Homelessness

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.

During the pandemic, there was a noticeable reduction in homeless applications. In 2022/23, there were 835 applications in the Scottish Borders which is in keeping with the level of applications pre-pandemic.



Source: Scottish Borders Council

265

new referrals in
2021/22 to SBC Housing
Support Service

£31k

awarded from the Homelessness
Intervention Fund

“*At a time in my life which I found extremely challenging it was incredible to find such a wonderful and kind team of people to help get safely through it! I felt truly blessed.*

Individual supported by SBC Housing Support Service

”

Homelessness Intervention Fund

The Homelessness Intervention Fund is administered by the Housing Support Service. The fund supports individuals and households in critical need and helps prevent homelessness for households in rent arrears or households at risk of losing their tenancy.



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY 2021

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THEME THREE | PLACES

Housing

Housing Support Service

The Housing Support Service forms part of Scottish Borders Council's Homelessness and Financial Support Team 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 Housing Support Service administers various benefits, including Housing Benefit and the Discretionary Housing Payment.

Housing Benefit

Housing Benefit is administered by Scottish Borders Council and is intended to help claimants with low incomes to pay their rent.

In 2022/23...

4,664

Housing Benefit claims

£21.5m

House Benefit paid out

Source: Scottish Borders Council

Discretionary Housing Payment

Discretionary housing payment (DHP) is intended to help claimants who already receive housing benefit or Universal Credit but require further assistance to meet their housing costs.

In 2022/23...

1,832

DHP claims

£1.14m

DHP paid out

Source: Scottish Borders Council

“ *Huge amount of knowledge and skill with regards to tenancy issues. Provide flexibility and compassion for service users and an understanding as to the complexities of working with particularly vulnerable and, at times, challenging service users.* **”**

SBC Housing Support Service partner feedback

Temporary Accommodation

Scottish Borders Council has experienced continued high demand for temporary accommodation post-pandemic in line with the national trend. In order to meet the unprecedented demand, SBC has increased temporary accommodation stock levels to 150 units as at 23 February 2023. The average stay in temporary accommodation is 169 days.

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY 2021

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THEME THREE | PLACES

Transport Connectivity

Outcome: Everyone is able to get to where they want to go in a way that is affordable.

Young Persons' (Under 22s) Free Bus Scheme

Legislation was approved by the Scottish Parliament in March 2021 enabling the introduction of a new statutory scheme to allow 5-18 year olds resident in Scotland to access free bus travel through the National Entitlement Card (NEC) and the Young Scot branded NEC (Young Scot card).

Following a further commitment made by the Scottish Government, legislation to allow the scheme to be extended to include those aged under 22 was approved by the Scottish Parliament in autumn 2021.

All young people and children aged 5-21 years can now apply for a card to access the Young Persons' (Under 22s) Free Bus Travel Scheme. Children under five years old already travel for free on buses and don't need a card.



In the Scottish Borders... *

50%

have claimed
free U22s pass

61k

monthly U22s
NEC transactions

24%

of operator
transactions are
from U22s

* Data from Borders Buses only - May 2023

Bus Travel Demand

Demand for bus travel remains significantly below pre-pandemic levels, especially amongst older people and disabled people. Whilst there has been a recovery on some travel corridors across the region, people's travel patterns have changed and it is anticipated that it will be some time before patronage returns to anywhere near 2019 trends.

Local Authority subsidies continue to support local bus operators but they have noted that since COVID-19, due to funding previously provided by Transport Scotland to help stabilise bus services being withdrawn, operating commercially continues to be of concern.

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

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THEME THREE | PLACES

Transport Connectivity

Pingo Demand Responsive Bus Service

Borders Buses, supported by Scottish Borders Council, launched the on-demand, app-enabled Pingo bus service, offering bespoke travel for Berwickshire journeys not served by a scheduled bus service.

PINGO
BUS TRAVEL ON DEMAND
Covering the Berwickshire area

The service began on 2 May 2022 and enables passengers to make bookings and track their journeys via an app, or alternatively make bookings by phone. It operates every day from 07:00 to 21:00, serving an area stretching from Cockburnspath and Eyemouth in the east to Coldstream in the south, and Greenlaw and Gordon in the west. This enables connections to be made with the main bus network in the area, and provides for those wishing to travel to parts of Berwickshire where there is no other bus service. It also offers trips to and from the Morrisons supermarket on the northern outskirts of Berwick, across the border in Northumberland.

Borders Buses
bringing people together

Pingo is available to fare-paying passengers and concessionary card holders. The cost is a £2 base fare plus 40p per mile, but that was reduced to £1 per journey during the first two weeks of operation.

Over

12k

journeys

40%

of users are
aged 22 or under

Since its introduction, Pingo has proved to be hugely successful in Berwickshire. The service has provided new transport opportunities for socially isolated residents and allowed both younger and older people to travel where they normally would not be able to without access to a car. On average, approximately 19% of Scottish Borders residents' income is spent on transport,

in comparison to residents in Edinburgh who spend around 8%. With the average income of full-time workers working in the Scottish Borders approximately 11% lower than the Scottish average and public transport prices rising, the Pingo service is a lifeline for those in rural areas of the Borders.

The Future of Pingo

Scottish Borders Council has committed to extend the initial pilot Pingo project and will continue to fund the service directly until March 2024. The future of the service will be dependent on the Council's Bus Network Review which will conclude in late 2023.

Source: Borders Buses and Scottish Borders Council

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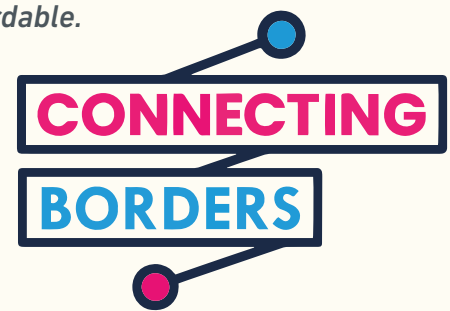
THEME THREE | PLACES

Digital Connectivity

Outcome: Everyone is able to connect digitally and in a way that is affordable.

Connecting Borders

Connecting Borders was an initiative created to provide digitally excluded households with devices, skills training and technical support to help them get online. It built on the success of a similar project co-ordinated by Connecting Scotland.



The aim was to support vulnerable individuals who face barriers to digital inclusion by providing them with:

A digital device: iPad or Chromebook

Internet connectivity: a mobile Wi-Fi hotspot (Mi-Fi) with 12 months unlimited data

Training and support: for staff to become digital champions to support people to use the devices and the internet, confidently and safely

44
digital
champions

£150k
SBC and SOSE funding
support

346
total referrals

330
approved
referrals

95%
referral approval rate

539
devices
distributed

Devices distributed

 chromebooks **173**

 iPads **115**

 Mi-Fi dongles **251**

Source: Live Borders

Connecting Borders initiative delivered in partnership with:



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

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THEME FOUR | PEOPLE

Community

Outcome: Increase opportunities and empower people to fully participate in their communities and bring about change.

Place Making

Place Making is a way of working together with people who live in an area to ensure a “bottom-up” approach and ensures that the community has the power to decide what its priorities are. Place Making is about everyone who has a stake in a community or place. It’s about people of all ages and interests, people who work or visit there, local businesses, voluntary organisations and public service providers, working together to determine local needs and priorities and to plan and deliver activities and projects that will address them.



Place Making recognises that communities are experts in terms of local knowledge, networks and understanding of local needs. People relate to the places or communities where they live and complex policies and issues make more sense when considered in the context of place rather than seen as abstract, separate agendas.

Officers are currently assisting with the delivery of Place Making in 56 of 69 community council areas across the Scottish Borders and are actively engaging with the remaining 13 communities to ascertain whether there is an appetite for Place Making.

The aim for communities is to create a place plan that highlights the improvements they would like in their area and allows potential funders to see how those aspirations will be achieved. Town teams or working groups are being established in communities to drive forward progress and ensure the Place Making process maintains its momentum.



[Visit the Place Programme webpage](#)

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY 2021

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THEME FOUR | PEOPLE

Community

Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal

The Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal is a cross border agreement for investment into the five Borderlands local authorities: Cumbria, Carlisle and Northumberland in the North of England, and Dumfries and Galloway, and Scottish Borders in the South of Scotland.



The Borderlands Partnership exists to deliver green growth and attract new businesses and investment by improving connectivity, delivering skills and innovation, and improving places to support their longer-term resilience.

The Borderlands area...

Has over

1 million

population

Contributes

£23bn

to the UK economy

Has over

45,000

businesses

Covers

10%

of the UK land mass

In the Scottish Borders, there are four Borderlands towns...

Eyemouth

Eyemouth has hosted three engagement sessions since November 2022. At the most recent meeting in May 2023, several community members registered their interest in joining a Town Team to develop a new Place Plan for Eyemouth.

Galashiels

There have been two engagement events held in Galashiels since November 2022 and SBC Officers are currently working to attract a group of Galashiels residents to develop a Town Team that will lead the creation of a new Place Plan.

Jedburgh

Since November 2022, there have been two engagement sessions focused on Borderlands. A team from the community meet monthly and are currently mapping local groups and existing projects, and planning their engagement strategy.

Hawick

Community members in Hawick successfully organised and led their own "Have Your Say" engagement event, held in April 2023. They have since encouraged further engagement which will begin to shape the creation of a Place Plan for Hawick.

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY 2021

Progress Report



THEME FOUR | PEOPLE

Community

Community Food Growing

Scottish Borders Council launched 'Cultivating Communities', the region's first ever **Community Food Growing Strategy** in March 2021 which covers a five-year period. In recognition of the importance of supporting community food growing as part of sustainable, resilient communities, SBC has invested in resources to support the delivery of the strategy. The investment includes supporting the creation of a community food growers network (Grow Borders Network) in the Scottish Borders, supporting and facilitating community growing in all its guises by providing guidance and resources for anyone who is interested in starting, or already running, a community growing project.



SBC Wilton Lodge Park Community Garden in 2022/23

27
volunteers



680
volunteer days



2,750
volunteer hours

£28k
awarded from SBC
Neighbourhood Support
Fund for food growing
projects in 2022/23

Grow Borders Network

52
members



18
monthly
newsletters



40
newsletter
subscribers



9
network
meetings



22
current
projects



6
potential
projects

Allotments and Gardens

There are currently 21 allotment sites across the Scottish Borders, six of which are managed by Scottish Borders Council.

There are also 19 community gardens and three community orchards, which can found on an [interactive map](#).



I come over on the bus from Galashiels every Wednesday to volunteer at the garden. It gets me out and I love being part of a group that's really welcoming and friendly. We get to take the veggies and fruit home which is an additional bonus. We always have a laugh and I enjoy the tea, biscuits and chat at the end.

Wilton Lodge Park Community Garden Volunteer



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

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THEME FOUR | PEOPLE

Poverty Awareness and Responsibility

Outcome: Everyone plays their part in understanding that tackling poverty is everyone's responsibility.

Community Planning Partnership

Scottish Borders Council works in partnership with a variety of different statutory and non-statutory partners as part of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) to tackle poverty in the Borders. The CPP is developing a new Community Plan and the actions within the Anti-Poverty Strategy 2021 Action Plan make a significant contribution to the outcomes within each of the four themes:

- 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 and enjoy a full life

NHS Borders Communities Team

The Communities Team works in partnership to reduce poverty and health inequalities and promote inclusion. The team leads on the co-ordination of project activities that build the capacity of partner agencies and communities to improve public health and wellbeing.



Skills Development Scotland

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) is creating learning opportunities that help people get into and progress in rewarding work so that they develop the skills and competencies that drive productive businesses and regions, and help create a fairer, more equal society. By providing industry-focused skills, SDS aims to ensure that people have more skills which are relevant to the Scottish Economy, apprentices progress in employment, under-represented groups and people in poverty have improved apprenticeship participation and achievement rates, and more working age people access upskilling and retraining opportunities in priority sectors and occupations.



The Promise

Scottish Borders Council and partners recognise the potential for transformational change and agree that a shift from crisis intervention to early intervention and prevention is needed. A Plan is being developed to create a Whole Family Support Service with funding received from the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund of £668k.



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

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THEME FIVE | PARTNERSHIPS

Working Collaboratively

Outcome: Improve partnership working and networks through use of technology and media channels and training opportunities and projects to reduce poverty in the Scottish Borders.

Cost of Living Strategic and Operational Group

Scottish Borders Council approved a report at their Council meeting on 25 August 2022 on support for the cost of living crisis. A short-term, multi-agency Cost of Living Crisis Strategic Group and an Operational Officers Group were approved to provide an enhanced response. These groups have reported into the Anti-Poverty Members Reference Group and the Community Planning Partnership, and have also taken into account local requirements and responses across each of the five localities.

Financial Inclusion Practitioners Group

The Financial Inclusion Group was set up to bring officers across the Borders together to identify what support was currently in place, and how information could be more easily shared. Over 65 officers were involved in this multi-agency group which covers a huge range of partnership working. The creation of this group and the work undertaken has allowed a more strategic, targeted approach to be developed specifically in response to the cost of living crisis. The sharing of information has enabled the development of the cost of living support information pages on the SBC website, and a strong partnership approach to Challenge Poverty Week in October 2022.

Food Conversations

The Food Conversations Group was set up during the COVID-19 pandemic to enable foodbanks, FareShare providers and other organisations to come together to share information and raise emerging and current issues. Community Hubs were then tasked to support and assist in resolving these issues at a local level and worked with volunteers on the ground to ensure that food was provided to those in need. After the immediate response to the pandemic, the group agreed that they wanted to continue to meet and to build on the network that had been created, and where possible, to shift from providing emergency food parcels to providing a more holistic approach which includes information on how and where to obtain financial support and more sustainable solutions for an individual's food security.

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

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THEME SIX | PATHWAYS

Signposting and Support

Outcome: Develop and implement pathways to support people to move from dependence to independence.

Credit Union

A working group is considering how we can set up a Credit Union in the Scottish Borders. A Credit Union is a financial co-operative which provides savings, loans and a range of services to its members. It is owned and controlled by the members. It is hoped that a Credit Union would provide an effective option for residents of the Scottish Borders to help them to manage their money.

Cost of Living

In September 2022, Scottish Borders Council launched dedicated **Cost of Living webpages** to provide information on a wide variety of support available, such as financial assistance, help with energy costs and access to food, and warm spaces. There was also information on the Cost of Living Support Fund which was funded by the Council.

Challenge Poverty Week

Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and other partners supported Challenge Poverty Week in October 2021 and 2022 by highlighting the wide range of information, advice and support available to support people experiencing financial hardship. A dedicated Challenge Poverty Week webpage was created and the campaign was publicised through social media channels. We will continue to participate in Challenge Poverty Week to signpost residents of the Scottish Borders towards areas of support.

What Matters Hubs

What Matters Hubs offer drop-in sessions and appointments where Scottish Borders residents can meet people from community groups and voluntary organisations as well as the Council's social workers and occupational therapists. The Hubs can also provide advice about Council's personal assessment process and eligibility criteria, the AskSARA online self-help guide and ALISS, the online directory of services, groups and activities that helps support health and wellbeing.

Financial Support and Inclusion

The Financial Support and Inclusion team at Scottish Borders Council is in place to provide advice on a range of different benefits as well as redundancy. The team can also provide training, talks and briefings, and can assist with the preparation of benefit appeals and represent benefit claimants at a tribunal.

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY 2021

Progress Report



CONCLUSION

Scottish Borders Council and partners are committed to making a difference to people's lives by reducing poverty in the Scottish Borders, and it is clear from the progress shown in this report that it continues to be a prominent issue which partners take seriously. We are grateful for their contributions to this report as well as their actions on the ground which make a difference to those who need support.

There are still significant challenges ahead which must be tackled. This progress report has set out what has been done so far, and we are pleased to highlight such wide and varied activity and support, but there is more to do. It is more important than ever that we listen to the voices of those who have experience of living in poverty. Their feedback is valuable to us and it enables us to act accordingly to put further measures in place to help. Case studies throughout this report demonstrate that residents of the Scottish Borders are benefiting from such measures.

We will continue to raise the issue of poverty through the work of the Anti-Poverty Members Reference Group, the Financial Inclusion Practitioners Group and the Food Conversations Group. The Community Planning Partnership will continue to play their part too, and we recognise their contribution through the actions within their four priority themes.

Together we will use our combined resources to achieve the best outcomes to tackle poverty, remove the stigma attached, and create opportunities for positive change for the residents of the Scottish Borders.

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>August 23 – Follow up destination figures showed positive destinations were down by 1.3%, however, this compares favourably to the Scottish figure which was 2.2%. 0% of young people were unknown, compared to 0.7% across Scotland. This would suggest that partnership working is paying dividends.</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>A data sharing agreement between Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and Scottish Borders Council (SBC) has been in place since March. This has allowed sharing of data of those on No-one Left Behind programmes which makes tracking individuals much easier. SBC has also been following up with doorstep visits on those who were previously unconfirmed. The Local Employability Partnership (LEP) have now established their vision and the delivery plan is being developed. The themes and priorities are: transitions, barriers, skills, employer engagement and leadership. A short life working group has been established including SDS, SBC, Department of Work & Pensions, Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) and the college to feed back into the LEP around the delivery moving forward.</p>	
	<p>CPP to work together to identify communities (geographic or characteristic based) that require targeted interventions.</p>	<p>May 2023</p>	<p>The Grant offer letter was received in June 2023 and spending priorities were agreed. SDS are due to co-locate with DWP in New Reiver house. Following</p>	

	This could include exploring co-design and co-location of services.		the Burnfoot Hub pilot, the approach is being reviewed and a short life working group has been established to look at a pop-up employability approach to utilise existing services. This group comprises NHS, DWP, SBC and SDS.	
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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.</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>Work ongoing to develop the local action plans</p>	
	<p>The Partnership to effect change by advocating for reducing health inequalities aligning to the</p>		<p>The Public Health team are analysing health inequalities by reviewing data on uptake of health services and outcomes to identify and understand health inequalities across the</p>	

	overarching purpose of the CPP to reduce inequalities.		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>Borders Community Action held a range of volunteer events to celebrate volunteers' week in June which received excellent feedback.</p> <p>A place-making meeting was also held in Eyemouth in June, 62 people attended the event and a number of 16 people signed up as volunteers to lead on Local Place Plans.</p> <p>Borders Community Action are now adopting a strategic plan which will go out to consultation and a new volunteering action plan will also be created shortly in discussion with SBC.</p>	

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
The Borders has a clear and planned pathway to Net Zero.	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.	12 months	<p>Previous updates noted that the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute ran a workshop on 'area wide' Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Community Planning partners in March, this reviewed an area-wide emissions baseline which will be used to plan, manage and monitor progress against key emissions sources. Partners subsequently identified appropriate officers to participate in a Practitioners Group which will develop an area-wide plan of actions.</p> <p>A date for an initial meeting for the Practitioners Group has been set for early September. This meeting will consider Terms of Reference (including purpose, governance/structure, membership, resources, reporting/monitoring), and begin to assess priority opportunities for collaboration on key emissions reduction and climate resilience projects.</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 exceeded 12000 journeys in its first 11 months of operation with users of the Scottish Governments Under 22 free travel scheme accounting for over 40% of all journeys.</p> <p>The pilot has been extended for a further 12 months through to March 2024 with further enhancements coming online in the next 12 months, the service continues to show consistent passenger growth in the Berwickshire catchment.</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>As we continue to recover from the Covid – 19 pandemic, some fixed route local bus service are starting to see growth.</p> <p>In order to accommodate new travel patterns, some key transport corridors will benefit from</p>	
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			increased frequencies and later hours of operation from July 2023.	
Communities at the heart of decisions shaping the future and making decisions that affect their towns and villages.	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 the governance of Place Making.	12 months	<p>An in-person Place Making workshop for Community Planning Partners took place in Galashiels Volunteer Hall on the 16th of June. More than 40 representatives from partners attended the session facilitated by Diarmaid Lawlor from Scottish Futures Trust and Sam Cassells of the Scottish Government's Place Team.</p> <p>The session focussed on the CPP's pivotal role in supporting community led planning initiatives, and discussed how partners can most effectively work together and collaborate with the communities they serve.</p> <p>58 out of 69 community council areas have expressed an interest or are actively developing a Local Place Plan for their area. Updates and further information are being captured in Scottish Borders Councils Place Programme pages.</p> <p>Place Programme</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	12 months	First draft of Community Domestic Abuse Infographic produced, currently being reviewed	

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	understanding of what to do and who to contact			
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Children and Young People’s Planning Partnership Update September 2023

CYPPP Structure

The CYPPP Strategic Board has met four times since April 2023. All Network Chairs have now been appointed:

- **A Good Childhood Network-** Justin Sinclair, Chief Officer of Education, SBC
- **Whole Family Support Network-** Alison Downie, Service Lead- Speech and Language Therapy, NHS Borders
- **Supporting the Workforce-** Sarah Axford, Service Manager, Children 1st
- **Planning and Building Capacity-** Inspector Robbie Noble, Police Scotland

The four Networks are due to hold their initial meetings in early September 2023, and will meet monthly after that.

Stuart Easingwood, the current CYPPP Board chair is leaving SBC next month. A new CYPPP Chair will be elected by the Board by the end of September.

Summer Holiday Funding

Scottish Borders Summer 2023 Programme is currently in progress, with partners, including Quarriers, Youth Borders member organisations, education, social work, Homelessness services, Community Learning and Development, NHS providers (e.g. Health Visitors) and wider services working together to identify children and families who would most benefit from support and accessing activities, and alerting parents to the opportunities available during the summer.

A range of programmes and approaches are being delivered through; third sector youth work summer programmes, Jedburgh and Duns Swimming pools, Abbotsford Witch Corner, Live Borders, the provision of small grants to support summer activities, participatory budgeting approaches for people who are homeless, kinship carers, care experienced young people, children and young people in conflict with the law, and unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people.

In June 2023 the CYPPP agreed to £254,320 being made available for the development of Summer Activities 2023; the funding was from a number of sources including unspent Summer Holiday 2022 funding, Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund, funding returned by LGBT Youth Scotland and the 2022/23 Whole Family Wellbeing Fund.

On 3 July 2023 notification was received from Scottish Government that £86,853 had been allocated to Scottish Borders for “targeted holiday provision for school aged children” for Summer 2023. This came after Scottish Government had previously announced that no such funding would be available in 2023.

The short timescale between funding being agreed and the commencement of school Summer holidays limited the scope of provision and some areas of provision which had been available in previous years could not be progressed e.g. free “out of school” care or in a different form than previously e.g. provision of food at activity camps was snacks provided by Live Borders rather than Scottish Borders Council catering, due to time constraints. It has also been noted

that the short timescale impacted on effective communication with parents so that they were aware of what was available.

Feedback from partners and families notes the significant impact the funding has had for children, young people and families. The reported impact of poverty on families is significant; the impact report, which will be provided to CYPPP following the conclusion of the Summer 2023 programme, will include examples of the extent to which poverty is impacting families.

One area of significance is the extent to which feedback has noted the need for provision of support beyond Summer 2023, with other holiday periods being identified as equally critical times for families as well as the need to adopt year-round approaches which would transform how we supported families on an on-going basis.

Of the total amount provided, including CYPPP approved funding and Scottish Government funding, £130,657.75 remain uncommitted. The CYPPP have agreed that this funding can be “carried forward” into developing programmes of support during other holiday periods and/or year-round support to targeted families. The working group will be extended beyond Summer 2023 for on-going planning and delivery and be aligned to the Whole Family Support network.

Children and Young People’s Participation and Engagement Strategy

The recent Children at Risk of Harm Inspection highlighted the need for a Children and Young People’s Engagement and Participation Strategy to help us coordinate our youth voice work across Scottish Borders. Work to create a new strategy started back in 2017/18 to create a new strategy, led by CLD. World café style consultations were conducted in all secondary schools, but the actual strategy was never completed, due to a range of issues (staff changes, staff illness and then the covid pandemic).

A brief was written by one of our local MSYPs, Rory Hamilton, in 2022, and an initial meeting was held with education colleagues early in 2023. In June 2023 the CYPPP Board approved the creation of a short life working group to co-produce a multi-agency strategy with a group of children and young people. The Strategy will be launched in Spring 2023.

Children and Young People’s Independent Advocacy Service

Work is ongoing to create a commissioning specification for an Independent Advocacy Service for children and young people aged 5 – 26.

Commissioning Review and Whole Family Wellbeing Fund

A short term task and finish group has been established to develop a new commissioning strategy for the children and young people’s planning partnership, to ensure a more streamlined approach to multi-agency spend. The group has also been tasked with progressing plans for the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund.

This fund has been introduced by Scottish Government to enable the system changes required to shift investment towards early intervention and prevention activities, to ensure families can access support before they reach crisis point. Funding is committed at least over the next 3 years with the ambition that by 2030, at least 5% of community-based health and social care spend should be going towards preventative whole family support measures.

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CPP Forward Planner

		Meeting dates	
Programme Board		Strategic Board	
16/08/23	→	07/09/23	
25/10/23	→	16/11/23	
14/02/24	→	07/03/24	
15/05/24	→	06/06/24	

Meeting cycle	Subject	Org	Officer	Joint Programme Board	Strategic Board
Autumn 2023 Theme 1: Enough money to live on	Theme 1: Borders Credit Union	SBC		16/08/23	07/09/2023
	Theme 1: Anti-Poverty Strategy Update	SBC	J Craig/J Robertson	16/08/23	07/09/2023
	Refreshed Community Plan	CPP	J Craig		
	Community Plan 2018 Progress report	CPP	J Craig	16/08/23	07/09/2023
	Theme updates	SBC / SDS / Public Health / Police Scotland	Theme Leads	16/08/23	07/09/2023
Winter 2023 Theme 2: Access to Work, learning & training	Progress update on Community Learning and Development Partnership Plan 2021-24	SBC	L Munro	25/10/23	16/11/23
	Whole Systems Approach	NHS/SBC	F Doig	25/10/23	16/11/23
	Theme updates	SBC / SDS / Public Health / Police Scotland	Theme Leads	25/10/23	16/11/23
	Improvement Plan update - Governance	SBC	J Craig	25/10/23	16/11/23

Forthcoming

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