



Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership

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| Meeting | CPP STRATEGIC BOARD | DATE 28/2/2017 |
| Delivery Team/Project | Reducing Inequalities | Feb 2017 |

Progress in Current Reporting Period

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

Income

Income maximisation – the welfare benefit service are on track to deliver over £6m in additional benefits in 16/17 to individuals who are entitled to these benefits but would otherwise not have been aware. A particular focus has been on parents in early year's settings and individuals within other disadvantaged groups.

A bid was submitted to the European Social Fund and has been successful. This will support the delivery of 5 new projects:

- Right Track – focused on active inclusion of those who are furthest away from the labour market.
- Pathways to Employment – increase opportunities for individuals with a learning disability, mental health issue or on the autistic spectrum to engage in voluntary work opportunities with the ultimate aim of broadening the pathways to employment
- Project Search – partnership between SBC, NHS Borders and Borders College to supply internships to young people with a learning disability based in NHS Borders
- Care Leavers into Employment – supports care leavers to build their employability skills over 6 months with a view to entering a modern apprenticeship scheme at either SBC or NHS Borders
- Keys to Employment – a 10 week course for homeless or potentially homeless people

Work has commenced to develop of an Employability Strategy for the Borders

Poverty

- A review of outcomes delivered under the Tackling Poverty and Financial Inclusion Strategy is ongoing in addition to considering how this strategy can be linked into the wider Reducing Inequalities agenda to prevent duplication of priorities and roles.
- A review of outcomes delivered by the Fuel Poverty Delivery Plan 2013-16 is ongoing and a new plan for 2017-20 is in the process of being produced.
- The Scottish House Condition Survey data for 2013-15 (published Feb 2017) shows fuel poverty in the Borders at 38%. This is a reduction from 39% (2012-14 data) and 43% (2011-13 data) and is an encouraging trend.
- Between 2010 and 2015 our area based schemes improved the energy efficiency of 11% of households in the Borders (8,422 installed measures across 5,842 households). Those measures resulted in estimated lifetime financial savings of £36.9m and estimated lifetime CO-2 savings of 157,587 tons.
- Since April 2015 an additional £3.5 million has been levered in to support solid wall insulation for around 470 households in Peebles, Innerleithen, Langlee and Tweedbank. Fuel bill savings are expected to be £175-£455 per year per household. There have also been a range of other measures including loft and cavity insulation, and a “home health check” project carried out in Burnfoot.

Unemployment

- The number of unemployed young people in the Scottish Borders aged 18-24, as measured by the claimant count, has decreased from 450 in December 2013 to 270 in December 2016.

Developing the Young Workforce

- DYW project managers are now operational within Scottish Borders Council, the Regional DYW Industry group and Borders College.
- All secondary schools in the Borders have a dedicated DYW representative, with protected time to enable them to make connections with Further Education and local businesses.
- The establishment of a Developing the Young Workforce Industry-led Group using Scottish Government funding provides a new, more structured channel to engage with local businesses. Discussions will include how key sectors can recruit, retain and develop employees, as well as aiming to have a more effective match between Further Education/Higher Education supply and employer and learner demand.
- All nine secondary schools now have an active local business partnership developing work based learning opportunities for pupils and industry links for teachers.
- Agreement has been secured that DYW participation will be a requirement of Local Authority procurement contracts, under Community Benefits. Examples of current delivery include ESH Construction in Gala Academy, Morrison Construction in Kelso High and CH2M. Ongoing monitoring of the contribution made by employers is tracked by the Community Benefits

Coordinator.

- All schools have reviewed their offerings of vocational qualifications this school year and additional courses . Examples of new courses added include, Personal Development Award at Level 4 in Hawick High, the Certificate of Work Readiness in Berwickshire High and the development of targeted pathways to provide 'Skills for Life', for young people at Selkirk High. Gala Academy plan to introduce a new woodwork course and have created a STEM course which focusses on how maths and science are used in the real world. Peebles High now offers an SVQ in Hair & Beauty and 'Skills for Work' in Construction. Eyemouth High is delivering Hair & Beauty and an NPA in Horticulture for the first time this year, along with compulsory volunteering for all S6 pupils. Jedburgh Grammar has involved all S5 pupils in Saltire and plan to roll this out to all year groups over the coming years.

Opportunities for All

- This year 25 of our most vulnerable learners have been supported through an Activity Agreement and have progressed to positive destinations

Modern Apprenticeships

- Borders College obtained agreement to offer two of the new Foundation Apprenticeships in 2016/17. The College will review early adopter information and consider offering two additional Foundation Apprenticeships in 2017/18, potentially in STEM subjects

ATTAINMENT, ACHIEVEMENT AND INCLUSION

Early Years

- A project has been established to provide 1100 hours of childcare for each child by 2020. As part of this model, plans are in place to develop 5 new pilots for ELCC – targeting families who are out of work or in-work poverty. This model would provide 'all year round' early learning and childcare facilities. A successful trial of 'all-day' childcare has been taking place since January 2017 and is providing helpful information in relation to planning for future provision.
- Due to the success of a pilot with the Scottish Childminding association providing childminding for vulnerable families in rural communities, the project will be expanded to other areas.

Equity and Excellence

- 3 schools are currently in the Scottish attainment challenge (Burnfoot, St Margaret's and Hawick High School) Good practice in breaking the link between deprivation and attainment has been established including significant progress in literacy and numeracy which has been recognised nationally. This has been cascaded across all Scottish Borders schools.
- £1.8m pupil equity challenge will be received from the Scottish Government to focus on literacy and numeracy in P1 to S3. Funding will be distributed in respect of pupils who are entitled to free school meals. A separate attainment plan is being

progressed.

- Leader Valley School officially opens on Friday 3rd March 2017. This will provide a dedicated, purpose built school for pupils with autistic spectrum needs, allowing more children to be educated in the Scottish Borders.
- Free access leisure pass have been provided to all Looked After and Accommodate and Young Carers for Live Borders sites

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- Public Health Inequalities Plan - Diabetes prevention: a pilot intervention with Live Borders, Health Improvement and the Diabetes Service commenced in January to offer health coaching to a group of recently diagnosed patients.
- Healthy Living Network is supporting the development of diabetes peer support groups in several localities, led by a third sector partner, Scottish Borders Senior Networking Forum.
- A full programme of Mental Health prevention activities are planned for Mental Health awareness week in May. This includes the launch of a resource guide and programme of community awareness and staff training sessions, to enable people to manage their own mental health and facilitate access to what's available in the community.
- Community based initiatives are being developed by the Health Improvement team, Community Learning and Development and the third sector to support women's mental health and to promote volunteering for wellbeing.
- A mental health programme for offenders is being explored through the community justice framework. The needs of families of offenders are also being developed as part of the joint parent support strategy.
- Initiatives are being developed to promote awareness and uptake of health screening programmes with harder to reach groups
- Health literacy is being promoted with a range of staff groups and through focused work in one Learning Community Partnership

HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

- It is anticipated that in the region of 130 new homes will have been delivered in 2016-17.
- The Council agreed its new Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2017-22 in November 2016 prior to submission to Scottish Government. This is an ambitious document which identifies potential sites for up to 1192 units with an estimated investment value of £163M.
- Of particular note, is the intention to deliver 4 new build extra care housing developments in Duns, Galashiels, Hawick and Eyemouth. Eildon and Trust Housing Association have been selected to deliver these developments. It is intended that the Duns and Galashiels developments will be completed in 2019/20, with Hawick in 2020/21, and Eyemouth in 2021/22. Looking beyond the 2017-22 strategy period, it is intended to develop additional developments in Kelso and Peebles.
- The Council has established an Extra Care Housing Partnership Board to oversee the delivery of these developments and commissioning of the complementary care and support services.
- Since April 2016, 315 homeless applicants have secured an RSL Secure tenancy and 153 applicants have been

prevented from becoming homeless through the Council's housing options approach.

KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE

- Work is underway to review the delivery plan to ensure the relationship exists between Community Justice, Equally Safe, Police and Fire Plans underpinned by the Reducing Inequalities Strategy.
- The process will check objectives, measures, actions plans and annual calendar of interventions that cross cut partners within the Safer Communities Team.
- Domestic Abuse – A 3 year Big Lottery bid has been submitted to sustain the domestic abuse service. Part of the conditions of the bid required contributions from CPP partners. Feedback is expected in late March 2017. An additional funding request will be made to the Scottish Government in spring 2017.
- The Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan has passed through the CPP structure and is available for comment on the SBC web site. This consultation period closed on 28/1/17. Submissions will be considered along with feedback from community Justice Scotland. Milestones will need to be identified and the actions added into Covalent. The plan goes live on 1st April 2017.
- Criminal Justice Social Work have established a Through the Gate Integration Working Group to improve the synergy of services as people leave prison, including housing, financial information and health care.
- A separate Criminal Justice project to support individuals with convictions will complement the 'right track' employment work.

Resource Status

- Staff from across the CPP partnership are involved in the 5 Reducing Inequalities strands

Programme Status

- Key actions on-going

Issues and Risks

- Specific issues have been discussed and addressed at the Reducing Inequalities Delivery Board

Planned Activity in Next Reporting Period

- Commence a Fuel Poverty Plan for 2017-2020
- Review of the Tackling Poverty and Social Justice Strategy
- A Mental Health Programme for offenders being developed
- Early Years 2020 project being developed
- Pupil Equity Fund Plans being developed
- Additional foundation apprenticeships in STEM being considered at Borders College
- Domestic Abuse funding for 2017-2020 confirmed
- The Scottish Borders Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan to be published
- Review the 'Keeping People Safe' delivery plan

Prepared by Jeanette McDiarmid

SBC, Depute Chief Executive (People)

Date

28/2/2017