

## Discussion Output: General Concerns, Issues, Challenges or Opportunities (1<sup>st</sup> February 2018)

Summary/Area of Discussion:

### Economy, Skills and Learning

- Lot of focus on central Borders in terms of educational opportunities
- Low wage economy, agricultural industry. No good quality employability, lack of opportunity
- Spaces for people to learn not just online
- Business start-ups – lack of premises and units, lack of infrastructure and no incubation space
- Economy in Eyemouth needs investment. Fishing industry has gone what is replacing them?
- Eyemouth High School, increase learning opportunities for students
- Lack of college tuition in Berwickshire
- Lack of apprenticeships
- Excellent facility in Duns Centre, the Volunteer Hall. Borders college non existent
- Need to take steps to encourage grocery retailers other than Co-op, only supermarket in Berwickshire
- Grow the economy
- Improve attainment
- Schools good, children coming from Berwick to Berwickshire schools, young people moving away from the area to find work, no large employers, low wage economy
- Access to information
- Ultrafast digital connectivity, aim 100% and 4G 5G mobile
- Digital communities
- Need to attract employers that aren't low wage
- Partnership funding for preventative services – a new approach?
- Tourism signage throughout, not just coastal routes
- Loss of banks is a major problem for the economy and town centres
- Coastal path should be integral to economy
- Lack of maths teachers
- Adult learning facility missing. Lifelong learning plan focus on young people
- Agriculture and fishing missing from Community Plan
- Employability and Learning support for adults, access to adult learning, lack of training opportunities, transport and connectivity issues
- Poor rural broadband and phone signal

Summary/Area of Discussion:

**Health, Care & Wellbeing**

- GP – If call that day at 8am can usually get an appointment
- GP in Berwickshire provide a very personal experience (old fashioned)
- Not enough being done for mental health problems, 4-6 month wait
- Cross Border health issues
- Knoll Hospital in Duns is old and needs upgrading to act as minor injuries
- Nursing care in the community
- Travel to the BGH is difficult, outreach services required, mobile vans with GP's etc
- Lots of whole community projects, active Mens Shed, Ace Group – Parkrun for all ages
- Primary School in Eyemouth does CPR Training
- Healthy Village or Town competition
- NHS Facility for Chiropody
- NHS, Health and Social Care plan should be one!
- Services need to provide care to reduce delayed discharge
- Mental Health – getting across the door is a challenge, skills sharing and skills match
- Health – one central hospital, lack of travelling
- Few cottage hospitals
- Support for carers – access and affordability of transport, relief and respite for carers - social isolation?

Summary/Area of Discussion:

**Quality of Life**

- 20's Plenty campaign in Berwickshire
- Rural and farming isolation compared to town living
- Rural crime in Berwickshire
- Great community resilience in Eyemouth
- Access to services – all the same in areas
- Tackling inequality
- Social inclusion
- Drivers ignoring speed limits in rural areas and poor condition of roads. Lack of village shops, pubs and banks and not a lot for young people
- Food – Food banks, community café and better knowledge about food
- Micro fund a Caring Café – allows socialising, discussion about mental health, very informal
- Lots of hidden issues behind closed door, how do you shed light and offer support
- Changes in demographics, older population and the impact this has on future issues

Summary/Area of Discussion:

**Our Place**

- Need to map services incl. NHS and education and map success (physical)
- Damage to play areas in Duns
- Mens Sheds needed to combat social isolation, offer coffee and chat – support for the community
- Heavy focus in Eyemouth, perhaps more visible?
- Better use of village halls, people to come together in safe and trusting environments. An asset based approach.
- Lack of shops, too many supermarkets
- Provision of affordable housing in the right areas including elderly care
- Sustaining rural communities through collaboration to help mitigate removal of service points
- Intra and Inter community communication information sharing
- Communities learning from each other
- Housing market stagnant, broadband issues and lack of mobile phone signal

Summary/Area of Discussion:

**Transport**

- Local outcome should be transport accessibility
- Limited options for travel particularly in the evenings
- Why don't bus service providers make sure more services/timetables dove tail? Maximise profit?
- Buses must work more collaboratively with SBC – partnership
- Very little public transport in rural areas, school bus provision is limited – CC launched a community consultation to ask community what is missing and what people want
- Hume – no public transport at all. School bus provision but unsure of the public can use this?
- Transport hub (red cross) will provide but at a cost to the patient
- Limited public transport to BGH especially if a morning appointment, this is an issue and for the elderly
- An on demand transport app?
- Public transport – timing or scheduling difficulties for work, education, health appointments. Lack of return transport for Edinburgh (theatre visits etc)
- Physical connectivity – public transport and community transport
- Rural isolation – lack of accessible and affordable transport options
- A1 Action Group?
- Reston Station is vital!
- Support for Berwickshire Wheels to access education, entertainment and banks
- Lack of availability of transport