



 #yourpart

# SCOTTISH BORDERS Child Protection Committee

ANNUAL REPORT AUGUST 2017- JULY 2018

*Our Vision: All children in the Scottish Borders have the right to grow up safe from abuse and neglect*



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# MESSAGE FROM THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR

I am pleased to introduce the Annual Report of the Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee (SBCPC) for the 12 months from 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018.



The partners involved in the Committee have a long tradition of appointing an Independent Chair, and I took over this role fully in September 2017, after spending a month shadowing my predecessor, Duncan MacAulay. Duncan was generous with his time and insights, and I will do the same for my successor when the time comes.

The previous year, 2016/17, saw a major overhaul of the Committee's sub-groups, following an inspection (by the Care Inspectorate) of services for children and young people in Scottish Borders published in early 2016. In 2017/18 the new arrangements have continued unchanged, although it is likely that further changes will be made in 2018/19, following on the current review of Public Protection arrangements (see page 4). The main sub-groups of the Committee are:

- The Quality Assurance & Improvement sub-group (QA&I)
- The Training & Communications sub-group (T&C)

In addition, the Committee has strong two-way communications with the multi-agency Child Protection Operational Managers Meeting (CPOMM), which help to keep its deliberations grounded in practicality.

Historically, the Committee has met every two months. In 2016 its meetings were increased to monthly, in response to the number of issues arising from the inspection of services for children and young people. With effect from January 2018 the Committee agreed to return to every two months, with the QA&I sub-group continuing to meet on a monthly basis. Other important links are outlined on page 3.

In November 2017 we held an event for colleagues whose work has a bearing on Child Protection (see page 7 for further details), which was attended by over 70 people, and we intend to repeat this in 2019, as a joint process with the Adult Protection Committee. Other key pieces of work undertaken by the Committee and its sub-groups during the year are covered in the rest of this Report.

Michael Batty  
Independent Chair  
Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee

# Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee Membership

Michael Batty, Child Protection Committee Independent Chair  
Matthew Paden, DCI, Police Scotland  
Ben Leathes (Depute), DI, Police Scotland  
Donna Manson Director, Children & Young People, SBC  
Michelle Strong (Depute), Chief Officer, Education Services, SBC  
Claire Pearce, Director of Nursing, NHS Borders  
Dawn Moss, Nurse Consultant Vulnerable Children, NHS Borders  
Murray Leys, Chief Social Work Officer, SBC  
Stuart Easingwood (Depute), Interim Chief Officer Public Protection, SBC  
Lesley Siewert, Locality Reporter Manager, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration  
Anna O'Reilly, Assistant Director, Children 1st  
Cathie Fancy, Group Manager, Housing Strategy and Services, SBC  
Clare Ketteridge, Consultant Paediatrician, NHS Borders  
Christina Donald, Legal Services, SBC  
Gillian Nicol, Child Protection Lead Officer

## **IN MEMORY OF ANN BLACKIE**

**Ann was a member of the Committee for six years until her untimely death in June 2018. She made a significant contribution during that time, and was both respected and liked by her colleagues on the Committee. We will miss her positive, 'can do' approach**

The Independent Chair and the Child Protection Lead Officer consistently attended and played an active part in the 'umbrella body' Child Protection Committees Scotland (CPCS), which met quarterly throughout the year. We see CPCS as a useful mechanism for collective action on issues where there is a consensus, whilst bearing in mind that our accountability is to the Chief Officers Group for Scottish Borders, known as the Critical Services Oversight Group (CSOG) and consisting of the Divisional Commander for Police Scotland and the Chief Executives of NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council, which also met quarterly throughout the year.

# Key developments during the year

- We continued to roll out Neglect Toolkit training to relevant staff
- We agreed to mention Neglect explicitly in our Vision Statement, which now reads: "All children in the Scottish Borders have the right to grow up safe from abuse and neglect"
- We produced a statement to clarify the scope of our work, recognising that we are in the business of being proactive about reducing the risks of abuse and significant harm to children in the Borders, including most notably risks associated with Domestic Abuse, Substance Misuse and Mental Health issues
- We agreed a priority Action Plan for the year April 2018 to March 2019, built around seven key themes
- We prepared a detailed response to the consultation exercise by the Care Inspectorate on a proposed national dataset for Children's Services, working with colleagues from the Alcohol & Drug Partnership, the Corporate Parenting Group and the Violence Against Women Partnership, in recognition of the breadth of the proposals. We prepared a response to the Care Inspectorate's consultation exercise on their updated Quality Inspection Framework (QIF), which will provide the context for inspections of services for children and young people over the next five years
- We engaged in greater dialogue with the Care Inspectorate and will be working with them during the coming year on aspects of self-evaluation, including a programme of self-assessment against the QIF
- We (Independent Chair and Lead Officer) attended the Leadership Event organised by the Scottish Government as part of its Child Protection Improvement Programme
- We (Independent Chair and Lead Officer) engaged actively with the review of Public Protection arrangements which is due to complete in the coming year
- We engaged with a group of young people to develop materials to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation and online abuse
- The Committee kept abreast with various areas of work and invited guest speakers to meetings to speak on human trafficking, young people and mental health, and the work of CEDAR (Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery) locally.



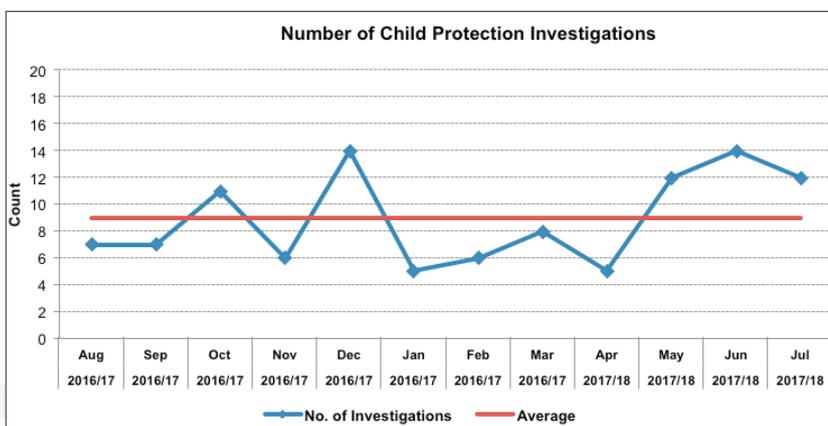
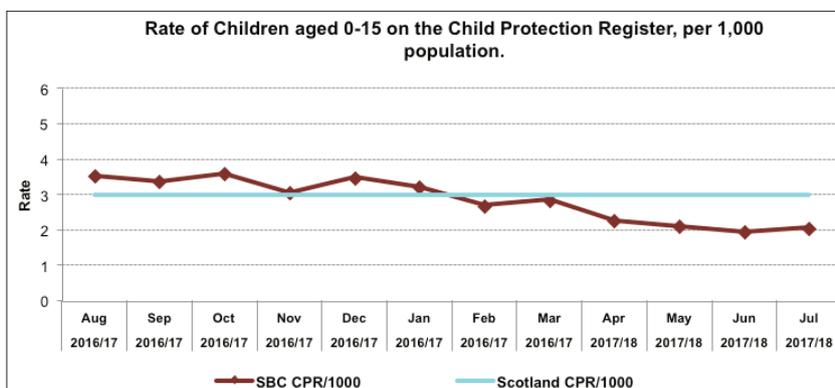
# Performance Management, Promoting Good Practice and Data

We provide a performance report on a quarterly basis to CSOG. During the year the number of children on the Child Protection Register varied from a low of 31 to a high of 44. These figures are within the normal range for Scottish Borders over the last five years. Our rate of Registrations continues to be slightly lower than the average for the whole of Scotland.

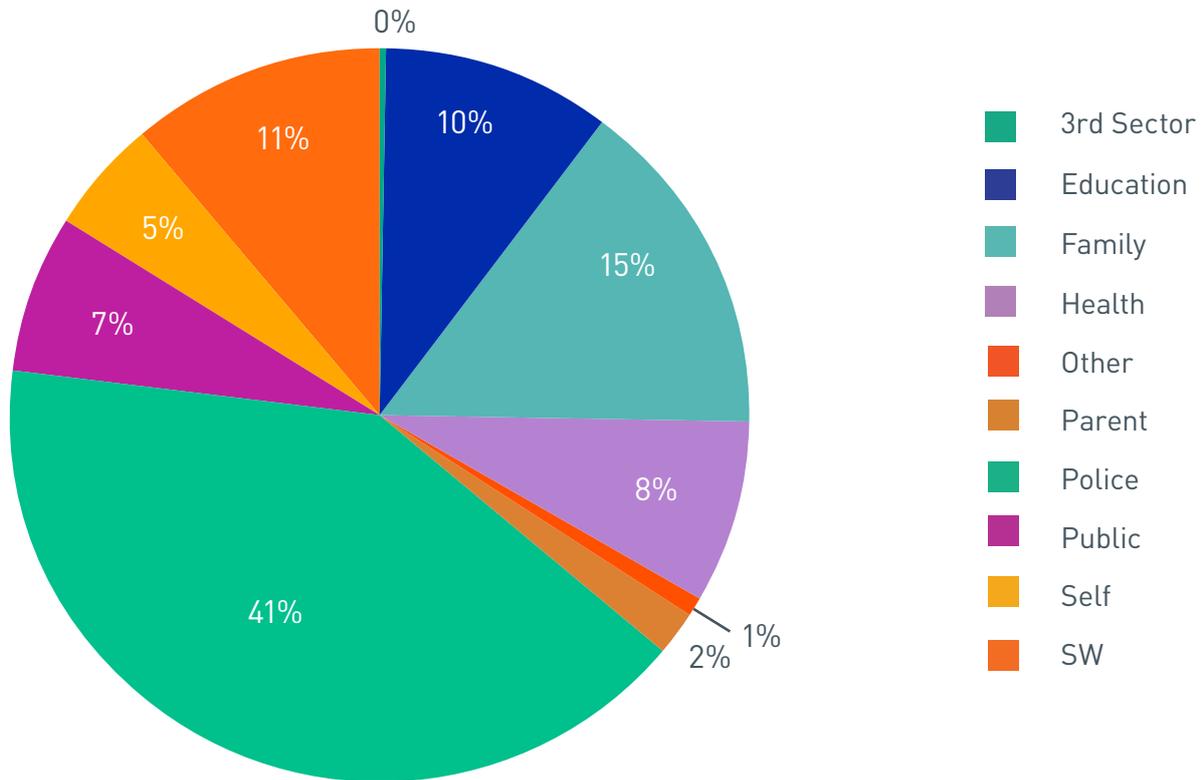


We made a commitment in our Action Plan for 2018/19 to review the dataset which we use, but this piece of work is currently on hold, pending further developments on the proposed national dataset. However, we have added a measure on an interim basis, to monitor the timeliness of resolution of Inter-Agency Referral Discussions (IRDs), following an issue with a backlog occurring in late 2017. The number of Referrals to Child Protection for the Annual Report year was 601 compared to 599 for the previous year.

*The number of children on our Child Protection Register and subject to Investigation is expected to vary. Variation between national and local figures is monitored and in this period the numbers are within the range we expect. Reviews are made of children who are on the Register to ensure children get the best service we can provide.*



## IRD % 01/08/17 - 31/07/18



The source of child protection referrals is difficult to establish due to the wide range of agencies who can be contacted which creates a difficulty for categorising accurately. For example a large number of referrals are attributed to Police Scotland. However, often a member of the public will phone the police about the behaviour of adults also expressing concerns about children in a household; the police attend, resolve the situation and pass through a referral about the safety of the children, so the referral source is actually the member of the public but is likely to be attributed to Police.

Equally, 3rd sector staff do raise concerns but they can pass their concerns on to School staff, Health Visitor or Social Worker who then make the referral. 'Other' includes helplines, staff from other local authorities, Scottish Rescue Fire Service, Domestic Abuse Advocacy Support Service.

If we add together self, family, public referrals and NSPCC helpline we can see that our communities are able to raise concerns.

# Engaging with staff and families and Public Information

- We continue to make significant efforts to ensure the views of parents and children are listened to. Feedback surveys have taken place for parents and for children, and new leaflets have been designed for children and parents attending Case Conferences.
- Links and shared learning have been improved with Adult Protection, Criminal Justice and Community Safety by holding regular joint meetings.
- Regular meetings take place with Child Protection Operational Managers and information from this meeting is cascaded by managers to their staff and teams.
- Our Communication Strategy has been reviewed and updated.
- Public awareness of child protection and what to do about concerns has been promoted by use of newsletters, intranets, CPC website, training, posters and leaflets.
- New posters raising Child Protection Awareness with staff were developed to display at partner organisations.
- A SBCPC newsletter is disseminated widely to staff across all agencies. The newsletter is available on the SBCPC website, SBC intranet and Health intranet. In the newsletters staff were reminded about:
  - o The role of fathers in households and that fathers are to be involved in risk assessments.
  - o Escalation of any disagreements between agencies - staff are encouraged to use this policy.
  - o Asking the next questions “Why?” and “What happened?” to improve communication with non-engaging families
  - o Recording precisely to avoid case notes being misconstrued
  - o Chronologies (i.e. records of the main events in a child’s life) and the maintenance of these
  - o The distribution of reports on time prior to Review Case Conferences.



- We circulated advice and a letter to practitioners about the sharing of information and confirmed that GDPR does not change information sharing for Child Protection.
- An experimental public event on internet safety was arranged for an evening but it was poorly attended, prompting us to consider other mechanisms in conjunction with the Community Safety Team.
- We continue to promote awareness to staff and to the public of the risks from Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE):
  - A mailshot about CSE went to all licensed premises in March this year with updated information and updated Children & Family contact details
  - Local major hotels received new posters and information for staff.
  - Caravan parks were also contacted and provided with information.
  - Visit Scotland received their annual visit by a Child Protection Training & Development Officer and all local hotels and bed and breakfasts were circulated child protection awareness information by Visit Scotland.
- We held a multi-agency staff developmental day in November 2017. This provided CPC with the opportunity to engage with a wide range of professionals who are jointly responsible for improving the safety of children and young people in the Scottish Borders

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY NOVEMBER 2017

On arrival attendees were met with a display of posters and images that challenged their use of language - the terms that we commonly use in our practice such as 'chaos' or 'unkempt' or 'good enough'. Comical yet pertinent cartoons were provided depicting commonly faced scenarios to illustrate the range of interpretations that any given term can evoke. Attendees were subsequently prompted to question their own use of language and impressed on the importance of being clear about what and how they document and record.



# Engaging with Children

In June a group of young people from Galashiels Academy attended the Committee to outline the work they are doing on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), which is intended to complete in autumn 2018. Members of the Committee were favourably impressed by their confidence and their commitment to the task, and by their understanding of generational variations in patterns of use of social media.

The group are currently being supported to develop resources to give other young people clear messages around the importance of their awareness of child protection. Work is in the development stage with the aim of producing two videos (a 7 second and a 1 minute film) and accompanying posters to be distributed to secondary schools in the Scottish Borders in the autumn 2018.

The Scottish Borders 3-18 Pathway for Sexual Health, Relationships and Child Protection has now been developed and is currently being piloted in all schools. This will ensure a co-ordinated, equitable and accessible delivery of CP/CSE messages to all children within mainstream schooling in an age appropriate manner. Focus groups will be convened in spring 2019 to review and update materials.

CP awareness raising for pupils in S6 has been developed by CPC training and development officers along with S6 pupils from Galashiels Academy. This awareness raising session was made available to all Secondary schools in Autumn 2017 with the CPC training officers offering to support with the delivery. Feedback from pupils has been positive with many advocating the delivery of CP awareness raising at a younger age.



# Learning and Staff Development

2017/18 has seen a number of developments which reflect SBCPC's commitment to the provision of effective child protection learning and staff development:

- Neglect Toolkit training has been included as a regular course in the multi-agency child protection training calendar. By July 2018 over 330 practitioners had been trained in using the Neglect Toolkit. Feedback to date has been that practitioners are reporting that the use of the Neglect Toolkit better supports the early identification and more effective addressing of childhood neglect concerns.
- CSE and the Neglect Toolkit were key focuses of the 2017-18 annual update for Education, CLD and Early Years practitioners with over 2000 staff attending these updates.
- Evaluation processes have been explored to decide how best to effectively appraise our training and to specifically evidence the impact of training on practice. This has been done through focus groups, sending out evaluations and contacting practitioners directly.
- All training continues to be updated regularly and training specific matrices, to support agencies with their child protection training needs, have been extended to the wider stakeholder group including professional drivers and escorts.
- The Learning and Development guide for staff was updated with CSE training having gone from "optional" to now being "strongly recommended" for all practitioners.
- The CP Team participated in Public Protection training for professional drivers and a local village committee and also assisted in the re-write of procedures with Live Borders, Abbotsford House and YouCanCook,

## **Current Workforce Child Protection Training (multi-agency) courses include:**

- E-Learning Introduction (General Workforce - 40 minutes)
- Essential Issues in Child Protection Practice (General Workforce - 3 hours)
- Roles and Responsibilities in Child Protection (Specific Workforce - 2½ hours)
- A Child's Journey through Child Protection (Intensive Workforce - full day)
- Child Sexual Exploitation (3 hours)



# LEARNING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Available Training Statistics for the period August 2017 - July 2018:

## CHILD PROTECTION E-LEARNING (Mandatory for NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council staff)

- Completed by **79%** of SBC employees (July 2018)
- Module completed by **100%** of new staff attending induction

## ESSENTIAL ISSUES IN CHILD PROTECTION PRACTICE (General contact workforce)

- **7** sessions **121** attended (reduction of **41%** from last year because new employees in Education, CLD and Early Years are now attending CP Induction and CP Updates instead of the Essential Issues in Child Protection Practice)

## CP ANNUAL UPDATES 2017-18 (Teaching /non-teaching staff, CLD, Early Years practitioners)

- **31** sessions **2271** attended (exempt for staff who had attended CP training in last year)

## CP INDUCTION 2017-18 (Teaching/non-teaching staff, CLD, Early Years practitioners)

- **5** sessions **116** attended

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN CHILD PROTECTION (Specific contact workforce)

- **6** sessions **107** attended (**35%** increase from last year).

## A CHILD'S JOURNEY THROUGH CHILD PROTECTION (Specific contact workforce)

- **4** sessions **76** attended (attendance in keeping with last year).

## CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) Training

- **7** sessions **101** attended (attendance in keeping with last year).

**FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION** This continues to be periodically offered by the Scottish Borders Violence Against Women Partnership with CPC Training Officers supportive of delivery. Future sessions are planned.

## NEGLECT TOOLKIT TRAINING (Targeted mainly for Children and Families Social Workers, Health Visitors, School Nurses, Pastoral teachers, Head and Deputy Head Teachers and Locality Integration Police Officers)

- **10** sessions **191** delegates

## Bespoke CP Training – Over 250 attendees from a variety of settings:

**Borders College** – 48 delegates

**West Linton Centre** - Essential Issues in Child Protection Practice – 19 Delegates

**LIVE BORDERS** - Youth Coaching Academy – 17 delegates

**Professional Drivers** – 85 delegates

**You can cook** – 10 delegates

**Interest Link** – 13 delegates

**Peebleshire Youth Trust** – 14 delegates

**Little Reivers** – 5 delegates

**Ashkirk Village Hall** – 8 Delegates

### HEALTH

**NHS Volunteers** – 15 Delegates - One hour Public Protection Session

**Midwives** – 12 delegates

**Chaplaincy Centre** – 7 Delegates – Public Protection Training

### REVIEWING OUR COURSES

All participants are asked to tell us if the course met the respective learning outcomes and whether their understanding around child protection has improved. This information is used to constantly update our courses. Our courses generally receive positive evaluation. The courses are also updated in light of any local or national child protection developments. All our training courses are version controlled.

# Self Evaluation

SBCPC recognises the responsibility of all partner agencies who work with children and their families to offer services which meet national standards for child protection, and where possible, to exceed them. SBCPC continue to be committed to creating a positive and transparent culture of continuous learning based upon feedback from those who use and experience our services – children and young people, their families, local communities, and from staff and volunteers, from front line practitioners to senior strategic managers.

Responses continue to be fed back from a children's survey, parental survey and CPRO survey following on from Case Conferences.

Parents have the right to appeal against a decision made at a multi-agency Case Conference, which usually means they are appealing against a decision to place a child or children on the Child Protection Register. These appeals are considered by the Independent Chair, who can either uphold the original decision or ask for it to be re-considered. During the year there were four appeals, of which three were turned down and one was upheld, on procedural grounds, and referred back to the Case Conference for further consideration.

There were no new SCRs (Significant Case Reviews) over the year although the action plans from two previous SCRs were approved. Progress on these plans has been made and is ongoing – it is hoped that they will be complete in early 2018/19. There was one ICR (Initial Case Review) over the period; as a result we gathered information and decided there were no issues which required further lessons to be learned and it was agreed the case should not proceed to SCR.

The Quality and Improvement Calendar continues to be used for multi-agency planning and data collection. The CPC continues to seek examples of cases with good outcomes from all agencies and an audit is underway on managing child protection issues where parents have significant learning disabilities or mental health and/or substance misuse issues. Multi-agency audits and quality assurance which began in July 2017 are becoming standard practice. Initial areas of learning in relation to both the auditing process and professional issues are now being identified.

A review of children who are being reviewed in the planning system was undertaken to establish whether needs and risks were being appropriately managed. As a result the 'Universal Plus' status was introduced which ensured two agencies would work together to support children with additional needs throughout their childhood. In addition the 'Reflective MAC' process was introduced to ensure children were gaining the appropriate services and supports at the right time.

# Business Plan

The Child Protection Committee chose seven key themes to work on during the April 2018 to March 2019 year and these are:

- To improve the delivery of key processes, including:
  - o Assessing and responding to risk and need
  - o Planning for individual children.
- To ensure that staff, families and children have information to identify and mitigate Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).
- To continue to build on young people's participation in shaping priorities and services and ensure that children and families are able to have their voices heard in their plan of support.
- To develop greater capability and capacity in relation to Quality Assurance and self-evaluation.
- To assess the impact of the training on and implementation of the Neglect Toolkit.
- To assess and respond to proposals emerging from the review of Public Protection arrangements.
- To assess and respond to proposals emerging from the Scottish Government's Child Protection Improvement Programme.



# List of Acronyms

CLD	-	Community Learning and Development
CP	-	Child Protection
CPC	-	Child Protection Committee
CPCS	-	Child Protection Committees Scotland
CPRO	-	Child Protection Reviewing Officer
CSE	-	Child Sexual Exploitation
CSOG	-	Critical Services Oversight Group
C&FSW	-	Children and Families Social Work Team
C&YP	-	Children & Young People
FGM	-	Female Genital Mutilation
GDPR	-	General Data Protection Regulations
GIRFEC	-	Getting it Right for Every Child
ICR	-	Initial Case Review
JIIT	-	Joint Investigative Interview Training
MAC	-	Meeting Around the Child
NHS	-	National Health Service
SBC	-	Scottish Borders Council
SBCPC	-	Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee
SCR	-	Significant Case Review
VRI	-	Video Recording Interviewing



# What to do if you have a concern

**CHILD PROTECTION IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY!**

## **DUTY TEAM**

All new referrals for a C&F Social Work Service should be directed to the duty team, if you are unsure and want to discuss concerns you have about a child please contact:

C & F Social Work Duty Team  
Unit 8 Langlee Complex  
Marigold Drive  
Galashiels  
TD1 2LP  
(Tel – 01896 662787)



## LONG TERM TEAMS

If you know that the child is open to one of the Long Term Teams please contact the relevant team as follows:

### LONG TERM TEAM WEST

Galashiels: 01896 664158  
Peebles: 01721 726310

### LONG TERM TEAM EAST

Duns: 01361 886115  
Hawick: 01450 364777

**Emergency Duty Team (EDT) out-with office hours: 01896 752111 (ask for Social Work)**



Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee website <http://onlineborders.org.uk/community/cpc>  
You can get this document on audio CD, in large print, and various other formats by contacting us at the address below. In addition, contact the address below for information on language translations, additional copies, or to arrange for an officer to meet with you to explain any areas of the publication that you would like clarified.

Scottish Borders Council | Council Headquarters | Newtown St Boswells | MELROSE | TD6 0SA  
tel: 01835 824000 | email: [customerservices@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@scotborders.gov.uk)  
[www.scotborders.gov.uk](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk)

