

Scottish Borders Child Poverty Action Plan

Update for Community Planning Partnership Strategic Board

Background

As part of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017, the Scottish Government must publish child poverty delivery plans in 2018, 2022, and 2026 and report on these plans annually. The first national delivery plan 'Every child, every chance - The Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-22' was published in March 2018.

Responsibilities

Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders have a statutory responsibility to report annually to Scottish Government on activities and plans that contribute to meeting the national targets for child poverty reduction. The first annual progress report is due to be submitted to Scottish Government by the end of June 2020.

Scottish Borders Child Poverty Action Plan

The Scottish Borders Child Poverty Action Plan was prepared and submitted to Scottish Government in June 2019 following consultation with key members of the Community Planning Partnership Reducing Inequalities Delivery Group. The Child Poverty Planning group now manages the implementation of the Plan on behalf of the CPP. This is a strategic group with senior multi-agency membership. It reports to the CPP through the CYP Leadership Group.

The Plan describes the challenges faced in measuring child poverty locally, how it links to existing activity, what has been delivered in the reporting period 2018/19 and what we are committed to delivering in 2019/20.

National scrutiny has been provided by The Poverty and Inequality Commission's Review of the Local Child Poverty Action Reports which was published in December 2019. The Commission were impressed with the quality and range of actions included in reports and also made a number of recommendations to assist in enhancing plans to ensure that they clearly articulate how to achieve improved outcomes in the short and longer term. This valuable feedback will now be used to develop our plan for the future, recognising that partnerships are key to the achievement of our outcomes.

Next Steps

- A multi-agency workshop facilitated by the Improvement Service and NHS Health Scotland will be held in March 2020. The focus will be –
 - To capture activities undertaken towards meeting the action plan for 2019/20
 - To discuss the Poverty and Inequality Commission's recommendations
 - To consider the Scottish Borders landscape
 - To consider strengths and identify gaps/key priorities to inform an action plan for 2020/21 and beyond
 - To identify a measurement framework to monitor progress once priorities are agreed
- Develop a communications plan setting out timescales, to raise the visibility of child

poverty and to ensure all Partners are aware of their roles and responsibilities in delivering actions towards meeting actions

- Continue with key areas of work to reduce the impact of poverty on families with children eg. financial inclusion and income maximisation programmes; holiday programmes, home energy efficiency programmes; reducing the cost of the school day and closing the poverty related attainment gap
- Engage with communities and families affected by poverty to ensure work is informed by their direct lived experience

Key dates

- Multi-agency workshop – March 2020
- Report writing with input from partners for 2019/20 Progress Report – April/May 2020
- Report writing with input from partners for 2020/21 Action Plan – April/May 2020
- 2019/20 Child Poverty Action Plan Progress Report to be presented to CPP – June 2020
- 2020/21 Action Plan to be presented to CPP – June 2020
- Submission of Progress Report to Scottish Government – end June 2020