

Scottish Borders Child Poverty Action Plan 2019/20 Progress Report

Appendix 1(a)

Action	Poverty driver*	Partners involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	2019/20 Update
Employability					
Creating apprenticeships and training opportunities through commissioning of new and existing home investment.	1	All RSLs	Annual Evaluation	Young and long term unemployed people	Eildon Housing Association and Harts working in partnership to create apprenticeships and training opportunities through the delivery of affordable housing projects. Eildon and Harts have jointly funded a Community Benefits Officer. A review is expected to be carried out by Eildon Housing. The Scottish Borders Housing Association have employed 7 seasonal workers locally via their Grounds Maintenance Contract, 8 Apprentices at various stages of completion (3 Electricians, 3 Joiners, 1 Plumber and 1 IT). 2 x 2 days work placements have also been delivered.
Development of Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal work streams on infrastructure etc, and integrated Regional Employment Support (IRES) projects.	1	Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region Deal	Increased employment opportunities for young people and children	Disadvantaged groups	Tweedbank infrastructure project under development. Work being undertaken to link Scottish Borders into Construction and Data Information Gateways and other Integrated Regional Employment Support (IRES) projects. SBC leading on Workforce Mobility Project which will start in late summer 2020.
Develop links with relevant Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal programmes and projects	1	Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal	Increased employment opportunities for young people and adults	Disadvantaged groups	Terms of Reference for Deal agreed July 2019. A range of programmes and projects under development which will benefit the Scottish Borders. Borderlands Inclusive Deal approval planned to be before April 2021. Supporting the economic development of the Scottish Borders as a whole with higher quality,

					better paid and more diverse employment opportunities for young people and adults.
Education					
Free access to sanitary products in schools and SBC workplaces	2	SBC	100% of schools and workplaces actively participating	Women and girls	All of Scottish Borders Schools and local authority workplaces are participating in the scheme.
Customer Info Signposting					
Easier and wider access to information, assistance and applications beyond free school meals and clothing grants, via increased digitalisation and self-serve work programme.	2,3	SBC	Uptake rates	All	SEEMiS ParentPortal is a development to deliver a portal for parents to access a suite of education services. Some services are linked specifically to the parent/pupil. The ParentPortal will integrate with MyScotBorders, providing parents with access to other council services through the digital channel.
Avoidance of digital exclusion via advice and training rolled out as part of the digitalisation and self-serve work programme, and the widening of access via provision of the technology and equipment necessary to take advantage of digital options	2,3	SBC		All	Inspire Learning is a £16million 1:1 education transformation programme which the council has centrally funded prior to COVID19. By March 2020 every secondary pupil had their own managed iPad to take home, and by July 2020 iPads were provided to primary pupils in classes P6-P7 for the academic year 2020/21.
Better signposting and cross cutting advice on related topics being included as part of	2,3	SBC		All	Through Digital Customer Access, SBC's digital offering is increasing making it easier for individuals to access services online. Included in this is a review of service information on the website to

consistent digital offering					ensure information and advice is accessible.
Early Years Pathway Pilot Project – improving access to benefits information, advice & Support for early years families	3	SBC Financial Inclusion Team	Referral rates Income generated	Early years families	<p>Period 31/5/19 to 01/3/20</p> <p>The advice facility at Health Centres was arranged as part of the NHS “Pathway initiative” where Midwives are encouraged to refer expectant mothers for benefit advice.</p> <p>Uptake of the service was slow at the outset however as communication of the service improved so did the take up. The advisor now has regular referrals from Health Visitors, Nurses and new and expectant mothers as well as telephone and email messages requesting advice. The number of enquires during the 6 month period totaled 39 resulting in an increase in benefits of £76,000. The majority of enquires concerned pre-birth issues but many of the mothers involved said that they would be contacting the advisor again when the baby was born to ascertain their revised entitlement at that time.</p> <p>A few weeks into the project the Scottish Social Security Area manager attended at the Centre to discuss the new Scottish Best Start and Best Food grants and during that meeting they had the opportunity to help three expectant mothers to claim their grants. We had not anticipated their visits and they were very pleased to have been given the opportunity to have face to face meetings with their target audience for the first time.</p>
Scottish Welfare Fund Awareness Sessions	2	SBC Scottish Welfare Fund Team	Tenancy sustainability	Low income individuals & families	Promotion of the Scottish Welfare Fund continues online, via social media channels and via Social Landlords, CAB and other support based organisations e.g. Veterans 1 st point.
Fareshare Food distribution project –	2	SBC and Eildon Housing	Reduce food insecurity	Low income individuals &	FareShare Networks have increased from 17 to 25 since March, and have supplied thousands of

reduce food insecurity. Looking at creation of two new food distribution hubs Hawick and Peebles.				families	families during the Coronavirus pandemic. Eg. Burnfoot Community Futures – up to 200 food bags per day SBC and Eildon Housing have set up a FareShare Food Distribution Centre in Galashiels. This will ensure a robust and consistent service to the FareShare Network in the Scottish Borders.
Promotion of CAB Financial Health Check service – renamed by Scottish Government as Money Talk Team	3	Promoted in the Scottish Borders by all CABx (Peebles, Central Borders and Roxburgh & Berwickshire)	Outcomes - Client Financial Gain and annual satisfaction survey. Central Reporting direct to SG.	Maximise income and ensure that families with children are informed of and assisted where necessary to apply for all the benefits they are entitled to.	This is a national project currently running until October 2020 between Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS) and the Scottish Government (SG). It benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lone parent families • Families which include a disabled adult or child • Larger families • Minority ethnic families • Families with a child under one year old • Families where the mother is under 25 years of age • Older people and those approaching pension age
Increase awareness and training for CASS front line staff in relation to the advice and assistance available for benefit advice in the early years.	3	SBC		Early Years Families	Updates to SBC's website and CRM staff systems are ongoing, this includes links to How to Guides on benefit applications.
Mitigate the impact of Universal Credit through joint working, advice and support	2,3	SBC, RSLs and Third Sector		Families and young people on low incomes	Updates to SBC's website and CRM staff systems are ongoing, this includes links to How to Guides on benefit applications. Borders wide Universal Credit operational group meets quarterly to discuss Universal Credit issues.

Housing					
Deliver 209 new homes by 2021	2	SBC and All RSLs	SHIP return	All families and young people in housing need	141 Affordable homes were delivered throughout the Scottish Borders in 2019/20, 58 (41% of these were in Berwickshire). The SHIP 2020/25 was approved by the Council in November 2019 and proposes the delivery of 1,066 new affordable homes, this will be under-pinned by an estimated investment of £158m over the period of the plan.
Delivery of the Housing Needs and Aspirations of Young People five year Action Plan	2	Local Housing Strategy	LHS Annual Progress and Monitoring Report	All young people aged between 16-34	<p>The Housing Needs and Aspirations of Young People in the Scottish Borders Study was developed throughout 2018 and the findings and report were finalised in April 2019.</p> <p>The focus of this work has been on the housing needs and aspirations of young people aged between 16 and 34 years. The study has been undertaken to support the vision of the Local Housing Strategy 2017-22 in that “every person in the Borders lives in a home which meets their needs”. It also supports the priorities in the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan 2018-21, particularly priorities 2 and 3.</p> <p>A progress report on the first year has been produced including key highlights and significant achievements in 2019/20, as well as key developments for the year ahead. Some of these actions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with transport initiatives and seek to link with housing to maximise impact e.g. Explore opportunities to subsidise first months travel for new Modern Apprentices at SBC • Develop and implement the private rented sector strategy to improve access to and quality in the private rented sector. • Work with community councils and other community representatives to consider

					<p>whether there is interest and capacity within communities to enable new community led housing development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review model of access to social housing in Scottish Borders across all providers to minimise time in temporary accommodation and achieve Rapid Rehousing <p>Housing leads support the development of the Local Child Poverty Plan</p>
Wheelchair Accessible Homes Study	2	Borders Housing Alliance	No. of wheelchair accessible homes	People with disabilities that require wheelchair access	<p>Newhaven Research Scotland Ltd were commissioned to undertake an assessment of the requirements and need for wheelchair accessible housing in the Scottish Borders. To identify the current profile of wheelchair users, the current housing stock suitable for wheelchair users, the challenges wheelchair users face and the current and potential shortfalls in the provision of wheelchair accessible home. The work involved a multi-method approach and a wide range of engagement with wheelchair users and professional stakeholders. A steering group including a range of Community Planning partners have overseen the research and development of the final report.</p> <p>The final report identified a wide range of issues and challenges which will need to be addressed at national as well as at a local Scottish Borders level by the council and partner agencies. The core findings indicate that up to 300 new wheelchair accessible homes will be required across all tenures in order to address unmet need. It is anticipated that this report and its findings will be used to inform interagency planning and resource allocation processes.</p> <p>The finalised report will be used to inform setting a revised proposed Scottish Borders Council wheelchair accessible housing target with a</p>

					committee report being drafted for consideration by the Executive Committee in 2020-21. The finalised report will also influence the house type/size mix of individual pipeline affordable housing projects being developed by Borders Registered Social Landlords.
Implementing the Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plan	2	Borders Homelessness and Health Strategic Partnership & LHS Partnership Group	Annual Reporting against KPIs established in the Action Plan	All, particularly those at risk of Homelessness	There has been a significant increase in the housing of homeless people. Scottish Borders Housing Association have increased the proportion of lets to homeless people by 10% from 29% to 39% of overall lets. Implementation of the Scottish Borders Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019/20 was started.
The Regeneration of Beech Ave Refurbishment Programme – 2019/2020; Demolition and new build 2021 – 2024.	2	Waverley Housing/SBC	More people living independently in affordable and sustainable homes; More people able to afford to heat their homes.	Waverley Housing tenants and families (existing and future)	The Council and Waverley Housing have been working closely to consider suitable options for the future of an estate in Upper Langlee, Galashiels. There are 229 homes in the study area and the proposals envisage the demolition of 159 homes, refurbishment of 68 homes and provision of 109 new build energy efficient homes for social rent which will better meet the needs of tenants and residents in the local community and address future housing demand in the Galashiels area. This is a high cost regeneration project with estimated costs of £23m which will be delivered over a number of years. The refurbishment element of the regeneration proposals to 68 homes has been awarded to a contractor with work starting on site in January 2020 with a planned completion date of August 2020. Various consultation methods have been utilised to gauge residents views on the estate regeneration proposals and useful feedback has been obtained on a range of issues such as location of play parks, street names and types of housing to be provided which will be incorporated into the detailed planning

					application for the new build housing which will be submitted to Scottish Borders Council in Spring 2020.
Affordable Warmth	2	SBHA	More people able to afford to heat their homes.	SBHA tenants	SBHA have raised the number of homes reaching the EESSH standard for affordable warmth from 78% to 95%
Health and Wellbeing					
Improvement of financial inclusion pathways: referral tools, improved monitoring, staff awareness and training	3	NHS/ELC	Referral rates Income generated	Early years families	<p>Health visitors agreed to enquire about money worries at every contact. Developments progressing within EMIS to record conversations/response to money worries enquiries. Referral takes place via phone call or form (written or sent by email). Development of Money Worries Leaflet (2019) has been distributed and utilised by health visitors/Midwives.</p> <p>SBC Financial Support and Inclusion Team provide the bulk of money advice to pregnant women and families with young children in the Borders. Benefit gains for young families in the Borders 2018 amounted to over £1m from 362 referrals. From April to November 2019 £580,000 of gains for 249 referrals. This reflects an increase of about 20% in referrals at this time last year. The majority of these were direct referrals from Health Visitors but many came from attendance at the four Early Years Centres and other EY events and benefit surgeries held during the year. One part-time member of staff who provides majority of support (generates 1 million in claims each year).</p> <p>NHS Borders is developing Money Worries APP (informed by consultation with staff), supported by SG Financial Inclusion Funding Best Start, all payments. Scottish Borders had 74% of grants authorised with a total income of £430,000. Currently it is not possible to cross reference with eligibility, rather only number of applications approved following submission.</p>

Coordination & development of Holiday programmes	2	Community Learning & Development Health Improvement Live Borders	No of programmes No of Participants	Targeted communities	4 programmes ran July/Aug 2019 reaching 523 individuals (218 adults, 305 children) Programmes ran in 4 targeted communities (Eyemouth, Langlee, Burnfoot and Selkirk). In addition, 34 families attended who were identified and invited by key partners (particularly likely to benefit from a summer programme)
Expansion of access to no/low cost physical activity opportunities for young people in low income households	2	Live Borders – Active Schools Programme BANG Camp SIMD Pilot programme 2020	Participant numbers User feedback and interviews	Targeted children and young people Children, young people and families with additional support needs	BANG Activity camp (targeted user group) 30 fully funded places for children and families with additional support needs. Combination of physical activity and health and wellbeing activity for their families across a week and also to support families who cannot normally access holiday camps for both support and work. Active Schools Participant numbers are significant Q1 40,264, Q3 101,620 and Q4 58,403 – activity is available for free to all school age children. For 2020 we are also establishing qualitative feedback from participants measuring how healthier, happier and strong participants feel about their engagement in the programme.
Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal IRES Programme project on intensive family support	1	Citydeal Joint Committee	Vulnerable families	Targeted families	Wrap around support for families to enable more opportunities for children, young people and adults. This will support positive destinations for young people and sustained employment opportunities for adults.

***Poverty Driver**

1=Income from employment

2=Costs of living

3=Income from social security and benefits in kind

