

Statistical evidence about the Drivers of Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders

Earnings

- Scottish Borders average earnings in 2019 for male or female, full-time or part-time workers are **£509.40** a week.
- This is **lower** than the Scottish average of **£548.40** and is the 11th lowest out of the 32 Scottish Local Authority areas.
- Scottish Borders average earnings in 2019 for full time workers only are **£462.30** a week.
- This is **lower** than the Scottish average of **£543.30** and is the 7th lowest out of the 32 Scottish Local Authority areas.

Skills and qualifications

- An estimated **8.2%** of working-age people in the Annual Population survey had no qualifications in 2019. This is better than the Scottish average of **9.8%**.
- **94%** of school leavers enter a positive destination
- **92%** of Scottish Borders 16-19 year olds were participating in employment, education or training in 2019, according to Skills Development Scotland data. This is similar to the Scottish average of **91.6%**.
- **72.6%** of Scottish Borders school leavers aged 16-19 participated in Education in 2018. This is slightly higher than the Scottish average of **71.3%** (Skills Development Scotland)
- **25.2%** of Scottish Borders school leavers aged 16-19 entered employment, training or another positive destination other than education in 2018. This is similar to the Scottish average of **25.3%** (Skills Development Scotland)

Accessible transport

- **47.6%** of children in Scottish Borders live in areas classified as “Rural” (Accessible-rural or Remote-rural) by the Urban-rural Classification system in 2018

Childcare

- 5,430 children were registered by the Care Inspectorate for Early Learning and Childcare in 2018 in the Scottish Borders. This is **28.5%** of all children, slightly higher than the Scottish average of **27.5%**.

Food insecurity and food costs

- The January 2020 Independent Food Aid network reported six participating independent food banks in the Scottish Borders between April 2018 and September 2019. They gave out **3,915** food parcels, an **8%** increase on the previous year. This shows that there is sustained and increasing food insecurity in the Scottish Borders, which is certain to get worse in 2020.

Internet access

- The Scottish Household Survey estimates that **85%** of households in Scotland had home internet access in 2017. Scottish Borders is slightly behind the Scottish average with **81.3%**.

Debt, savings and assets

- **31.4%** of households lived in Fuel Poverty in the Scottish Borders, compared with **27.3%** in Scotland.

- **7.8%** of households are in “Extreme fuel poverty” in the Scottish Borders, compared with **7.6%** in Scotland.

Benefits

- **20%** of children in the Scottish Borders are living with limited resources **before** housing costs. This is above the Scottish average and is 6th-highest out of the 32 Local Authority areas.
- **24%** of children are living with limited resources **after** housing costs. The Scottish Borders is still 6th-highest out of the 32 Local Authority areas.

Statistical evidence about the high priority groups and other statistics

- **8.1%** (or 4,241) of Scottish Borders households in the 2011 Census were a lone-parent family. This is a lower proportion than the Scottish average of 11.1% of households (263,360 households)
- **6.5%** of first time mothers in the Scottish Borders were aged 19 and under in the 3-year rolling average period up to 2018/19 – this is 76 births. This is similar to the Scottish average of 6.6% of first-time mothers, or 4,364 births.
- According to SBC’s internal Education Management Information System SEEMIS, 797 out of 14,679 school-age children in the Scottish Borders (**5.4%** of the 2018/19 school roll) spoke a language other than monolingual mainstream English at home. 495 of them (**3.4%** of the school roll) received Learning Support on the grounds of having English as an Additional Language, although some of these also had other Additional Support needs. This information was collected as part of research into participation in extra-curricular sports, and found that having English as an additional language was a challenging issue for only a small minority of pupils.
- According to Scottish Government statistics, there were 205 children in the Scottish Borders in 2018 who were Looked After by the Local Authority in a variety of settings, which is a rate of 9.6 per 1,000 children. This is lower than the Scottish average rate of 14.3 per 1,000, or 14,736 children. Of the 205 Looked after Children, 57 were Looked After at home, 74 were in foster care, 48 were in another community placement and 26 were in residential care.

Other high level statistical evidence relating to child poverty in the Scottish Borders

- In Scotland Young Carers are more common in lone parent families and these Young Carers also contribute the most hours 47% (3 years ago this figure stood at 28%) of Young Carers in the most deprived areas care for 35 hours a week or more, compared with 24% (previously 17%) of Young Carers in the least deprived areas, who provide care for 35 hours a week or more. As at 21st September 2018, there were 75 carers recorded on Seemis (the Council’s Education Management Information system).