

Integrated Children and Young People's Plan in  
the Scottish Borders  
Progress Report 2019-21



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## Introduction

Welcome to the 2019-21 Progress Report of our Integrated Children & Young People's Plan for the Scottish Borders. The report reflects progress made in relation to the delivery of shared partnership priorities as set out in the 2018-2021 plan.

The Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (CPP) is committed to safeguarding, supporting, and promoting the well-being of all children and young people across the Scottish Borders. We translate this commitment into action through the work of the Children and Young People's Leadership Group (CYPLG).

The plan is informed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as well as a range of legislation and national policy.

Under the Children & Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014 (Part 3 – Children's Services Planning) there is a duty to prepare and publish an Annual Report.

The report should set out progress on:

- Children's services in a one-year period (April to March) provided in accordance with the Integrated Plan
- What that provision has achieved
- Aims of Children's Services planning
- Outcomes focused on the wellbeing of children and young people in the area.

The report spans two years instead of one, and covers the unprecedented Covid-19 Pandemic in 2020/21, which has undoubtedly had an impact on our ability to deliver actions and services fully. Many of the planned actions have been affected by the Pandemic, in particular those that provide face to face contact with children and families, however, the Leadership Group have also benefitted from new ways of working as a result.

The Children and Young People's Leadership Group brings together partners from Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Police Scotland, the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, and the Third Sector. The group has a key role in linking the work and plans of partners to achieve the best outcomes we can for our children and young people.

This report is based on the shared vision of the Integrated Children & Young People's Plan for the Scottish Borders 2018-2021:

**'Working together we will ensure all children and young people have a sense of belonging, self-worth and self-confidence to achieve their unique potential'**

The Children and Young People's Leadership Group works with shared priorities to deliver meaningful and sustainable improvements to the lives of all our children and young people, to ensure that *everyone* can reach their full potential, and the report outlines progress on the following agreed priorities -

1. Keeping children and young people safe
2. Improving health and well-being and reducing inequalities
3. Targeting support to maximise life experiences and opportunities and ensuring inclusion
4. Increasing participation and engagement

## Highlights

Despite the Covid-19 Pandemic, progress has been made against all priorities and their outcomes. Each of the four priorities are set out in detail in the subsequent pages of the report, and some of the highlights are set out below which demonstrate the breadth of actions undertaken:

- A range of **Child Protection Training** has been undertaken, keeping our front line practitioners up to date with current issues so that they can enhance the safety and well-being of our children.
- 'Programme for Government' funding allowed for **commissioning of additional CAPSM (children affected by parental substance misuse) Link Workers** to work more closely with families with higher levels of need. The Link Workers provide a service to CAPSM children (up to age 18), parents, expectant mothers and (usually kinship) carers.
- Our Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) service have **now fully implemented 1140 hours** of nursery provision. The expansion continues to ensure that quality is at the heart of service delivery and that children are given the best start in life.
- Scottish Borders are the first local authority in Scotland to commit to taking a **whole authority approach to Emotional Health and Wellbeing training in schools**, and are working with partners across Scottish Borders to deliver the project.
- Our school pupils have benefitted from the **Inspire Learning Programme**, with the majority now having access to an iPad.
- Our high schools continue to work towards **LGBT Charter Mark Status** and Earlston High School was awarded the Gold Standard in June 2020.
- **Successful holiday programmes** for early years families were run by multi-agency partnerships in Burnfoot, Eyemouth, Langlee and Selkirk in 2019. **All delivered clear impacts for families**. Programme uptake was high across localities with a combined total of 523 participants.
- **BANG (Borders Additional Needs Group) Holiday Camp** was held in August 2019, providing a combination of physical, health and wellbeing activities for children and families.
- The **Corporate Parenting Strategy** for 2018-21 was implemented and Annual Reports produced.
- An **Intensive Family Support Service** has been established, relating to family support, income maximisation and employability for families who have suffered from generational poverty.
- **MSYPs are supported on Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) related work**. They are supported in meeting with their local MSPs and MPs. Meetings include discussions on the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill and other issues such as disability rights.
- Scottish Borders participated in **National Youth Commission** work on care experience. The commission began in 2018 with the intention of making Scotland a better place for LGBT young people growing up in care.
- The **Community Learning and Development (CLD)** service has increased its range of SQA courses available to its learners and pre-pandemic saw an increase in accreditations on employability courses

## Priority 1 - Keeping children and young people safe

**Outcome** - More children and young people will be protected from abuse, harm or neglect and will be living in a supportive environment, feeling secure and cared for

Objective	Action	Lead	What we have achieved
Adopting the principles of joint working, work in partnership with the Child Protection Committee to produce a modernised strategy for public protection, recognising the role of communities and families	Implement the proposed new Public Protection arrangements	Chief Public Protection Officer	<p>The Scottish Borders Public Protection Committee (PPC) was established in January 2020, which represented the culmination of planning and preparation over the previous year, in pursuit of an even more 'joined up' approach to working with vulnerable children and adults, recognising that some of them are in the same families.</p> <p>The development of the co-located Public Protection Service is a significant milestone, providing a stable platform to consider risk through the lens of a 'think family' approach. There is a determination and strong commitment across all partners involved to ensure that the most vulnerable in society are protected.</p>
Establish a partnership Early Intervention Programme to prevent risks escalating in families where there are significant and/or multiple challenges	Continue with current good practice in relation to chronologies, neglect toolkit training, safe and together training and the family nurse partnership	Relevant practitioners	<p>The use of chronologies continues to be monitored across Children and Families Social Work. Chronologies training is now mandatory for all social workers and scrutiny of chronologies and their use in practice is audited every 6 months.</p> <p>A range of Child Protection Training has been undertaken, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Essential Issues in Child Protection Practice Training (Level 1)</li> <li>2. Roles and Responsibilities in Child Protection (Level 2)</li> <li>3. A Child's Journey through Child Protection (Level 3)</li> <li>4. Neglect Toolkit and Child Sexual Exploitation training.</li> </ol>

	Continue the roll-out of 1140 hours of early years provision including vulnerable 2's	Early Years Provision	<p>Front line practitioners also attended the four day, core training for 'Safe and Together' – the model which aims to provide a framework for partnering with domestic abuse survivors and intervening with domestic abuse perpetrators in order to enhance the safety and well-being of children – and a group of managers and policy-makers took part in a one day overview session.</p> <p>'Safe and Together' was also adopted as the basis for multi-agency work on Domestic Abuse in the Scottish Borders and training continues to support implementation of the model locally.</p> <p>'Programme for Government' funding allowed for commissioning of additional CAPSM (children affected by parental substance misuse) Link Workers to work more closely with families with higher levels of need. The Link Workers provide a service to CAPSM children (up to age 18), parents, expectant mothers and (usually kinship) carers as well as raising awareness of the impact of alcohol and drug use on children and develop understanding of resilience and the protective factors that may help the children and the family with practitioners. The Link Workers work closely with Children and Families Social Work Duty Team and Long-Term service and takes a whole family approach. The caseload reflects more in-depth and complex issues around public protection (e.g. child protection, vulnerable young people, domestic violence, custody, and housing issues).</p> <p>Scottish Borders fully implemented 1140 hours from August 2020. During COVID restrictions, Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) was only available to children of key workers and invited children but all settings are now back at full capacity and delivering 1140 hours for all children whose parents have requested it. The expansion continues to ensure that quality is at the heart of service delivery and that children are given the best start in life.</p>
Provide young people with the support and advice they need to ensure they have the skills and confidence at key life stages to assess risk and make appropriate choices.	Maintain commission to youth organisations	CYP Leadership Group	<p>Community-based youth work organisations are commissioned across 7 locality areas in the Scottish Borders to provide early intervention and prevention work with young people. Funding from the Children and Young People's Leadership Group is matched by the National Lottery Community Fund to deliver "Stepping Stones." Throughout 2019/20 and 2020/21, Stepping Stones worked with 266 young people to improve outcomes including equipping young people to deal with risky behaviours that impact on their future life chances. This project is delivered by the Scottish Borders Youth Work Partnership and coordinated by YouthBorders and is funded until August 2024.</p> <p>Youth Borders and NHS Borders commissioned 'The Tea Play' – a live theatre production which was delivered in all nine secondary schools in September 2019. The play explores themes of consent, contraception, and sexual health, and connects young people to the C-Card service available in localities.</p>
	Continue with mental health training in	Practitioners	<p>Scottish Borders are the first local authority in Scotland to commit to taking a whole authority approach to mental health training in schools, and are working with partners across Scottish Borders to deliver the project.</p>

	<p>schools for students and staff</p> <p>Launch Drugs, alcohol, and tobacco GLOW site for education staff</p>	<p>Education Service</p> <p>JHIT Youth Borders</p>	<p>Various initiatives and training programmes continue to be undertaken by students and staff in schools and partner organisations. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 'See Me' programme</li> <li>• Scottish Mental Health First Aid Training (completed by 90 S6 pupils across all nine high schools in the Scottish Borders in 2019.</li> <li>• The development of an ambassador model, enabled 80 young people to become Mental Health ambassadors/peer supporters.</li> <li>• An introduction to Mental Health Awareness Sessions was developed, and delivered by the See Me Ambassadors to S6 pupils between June-September 2019.</li> <li>• In excess of a 100 multi-agency partners participated in the 'What's the Harm' Self-harm awareness training</li> <li>• Significant investment resulted in the establishment of a commissioned service aimed at providing counselling support for our young people which delivered by Quarriers.</li> <li>• 'Growing Confidence' is a training programme reaching all students and staff in our schools. It focuses on Mental Health and Resilience and is now entering its third year.</li> <li>• #Borders Wellbeing, a partnership digital campaign which supported the publication of the <i>Young People's Guide to Mental Health and Wellbeing</i> was delivered in autumn 2020. The guide was available on all high school pupils' Inspire Learning IPad.</li> </ul> <p><b>Substance Use in Education (SUE)</b>  A short-life multiagency group led by the Joint Health Improvement Team, Alcohol and Drugs Support Team, and partners in Education included membership from Primary and Secondary Schools, Quarriers and Police Scotland and successfully produced a new Substance Use in Education (SUE) resource. SUE contains materials which are age and stage appropriate and linked to Curriculum for Excellence experiences and outcomes and benchmarks and is available on GLOW. The materials are informed by evidence-based guidelines.</p> <p>As well as age 3-18 resources SUE also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· A parental information leaflet linked to age and stage</li> <li>· Consideration of children affected by parental substance use</li> <li>· Information on Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder</li> </ul>
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	<p>Use technology eg. Inspire learning</p> <p>Continue to develop internet safety and grooming advice for teachers to deliver to P6&amp;7 pupils</p>	<p>Education service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Information on where young people can access support</li> <li>· Latest drug trends from Police Scotland/Crew</li> </ul> <p>Since its launch in November 2019 there have been 14,700 visits to the SUE site and evaluation of the resource will follow.</p> <p><b>Oh Lila</b> Oh Lila is a programme developed by Alcohol Focus Scotland for 3 to 5 year old children with an aim to build resilience and protective factors. Early years workers attend a half day training programme which supports introducing materials in nurseries and early years establishments.</p> <p>Commitment was made for attendance at nine training session from across Borders and four of these were delivered. Sessions scheduled for March 2020 were postponed and are now being progressed remotely due Covid-19.</p> <p>Inspire learning is now established. The majority of our school pupils now have access to an iPad, and this is supported by a comprehensive training programme for all staff, pupils, and parents. Pupils, parents, carers, and staff have all reported the benefits of having an iPad, especially during periods of lockdown due to Covid-19 when schools were closed.</p> <p>The Inspire learning programme curricular links to the technologies curriculum which includes internet safety cyber resilience. SBC are working with Education Scotland to develop a national toolkit in this area which will include the Young Scot 'Did you know?' ambassador programme</p> <p>The 'Always Be Wary' resource was developed in partnership with pupils. 172 young people took part in the training, and it sits as an available resource for schools.</p>
<p>Review and refresh current approaches to interventions delivered within schools and communities by all partners to help young people stay safe</p>	<p>Launch 'Go Safe Borders' in all High Schools in the Scottish Borders</p>	<p>Education service</p>	<p>Work is complete within all our schools now offering 'Go Safe' as part of the curriculum within their Personal and Social Education offer.</p>

## Priority 2 - Improving Health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities

**Outcome** - Inequalities in the health and wellbeing of young people are reduced

Objective	Action	Lead	What we have achieved
Play a key part in the development of the Scottish Borders Child Poverty action plan - leading to changes in practice across all partners that impact on the drivers of child poverty	Form a Strategic Group to ensure that the actions of the Local Child Poverty Action Plan are carried out	CPP	<p>A Child Poverty Planning Group regularly meets to plan actions and report progress in tackling child poverty across the Scottish Borders. The group is a multi-agency group made up of partners from SBC, NHS Borders, Third Sector, and a range of other relevant organisations. A Child Poverty Annual Progress Report was produced in 2019/20 and the 2020/21 Report is in progress. Both reports show progress made across partners.</p> <p><a href="https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/child-poverty-annual-report-2019-20">Child Poverty annual report 2019-20   Scottish Borders Council (scotborders.gov.uk)</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/child-poverty-2020-21-report-and-action-plan">2020-21 report and action plan   Scottish Borders Council (scotborders.gov.uk)</a></p>
Continue to build capacity in universal services to improve health and wellbeing of all children and young people, including their emotional health and well-being and healthy lifestyles – diet, physical activity, alcohol, drugs and tobacco and sexual health	<p>Consider and address inequalities utilising an Equalities and Human Rights approach within our practice</p> <p>Work towards the Foundation LGBT Charter Mark (SBC)</p>	All partners Education, Social Work, Criminal Justice & CLD	<p>Scottish Borders Council Human Resources Team have worked with LGBT Youth Scotland to update their policy on Equality, Diversity and Human Rights: <a href="https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/3675/equality_diversity_and_human_rights_policy">https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/3675/equality_diversity_and_human_rights_policy</a></p> <p>LGBT Youth Scotland have worked with high schools on LGBT Charter Mark and delivered training to teachers and staff. Feedback from the training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Asking about pronouns/not making assumptions</i></li> <li>• <i>Better understanding and awareness of support for parents</i></li> <li>• <i>Really helpful and hopefully provide more focus on embedding LGBT identities</i></li> </ul> <p>Earlston High School were awarded Silver Charter Status in 2019 and Gold in June 2020 <a href="https://www.earlstonhighschool.org.uk/school/diversity-and-inclusion">https://www.earlstonhighschool.org.uk/school/diversity-and-inclusion</a></p> <p>Eyemouth High awarded Bronze – July 2020 Galashiels Silver - July 2019 Kelso High School - July 2019 Selkirk High School - July 2019</p>

			<p><b>Programme for Government - Breastfeeding</b>  The Joint Health Improvement Team received ‘Programme for Government’ funding to increase breastfeeding rates and reduce breast feeding drop off rates at 6-8 weeks following birth. The funding covers three areas of work:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raising awareness of breastfeeding in Eyemouth: a whole community approach</li> <li>2. Breastfeeding in the Borders Peer Support Programme (BiBs)</li> <li>3. Work towards Baby Friendly Accreditation by supporting the current Infant Feeding Advisor with education, audit, evaluation of audit findings, and implementation of recommendations with the aim of achieving sustainability in 2020</li> </ol> <p><b>Child Healthy Weight</b>  The Scottish Government’s Standards for the delivery of Tier 2 and Tier 3 weight management services for children and young people in Scotland were published in 2019. The standards aim to ensure a consistent, equitable and evidence-based approach to the treatment of overweight and obesity for children and young people up to the age of 18 years in Scotland by March 2020.</p> <p>Planning structures were established in the Scottish Borders, including a multi-agency Child Healthy Weight Steering Group. Social marketing research was undertaken to inform the group and the findings and recommendations from the research, focus groups and interviews have allowed the group to agree a pathway. Significant progress has been made in developing the programme for children aged 3-5 yrs and primary school children including the offer of Healthy Start vitamins for women and children and community food groups.</p> <p><b>Sexual Health: Ccard Scheme</b>  We continue to support healthy relationships and our Ccard scheme was delivered across 68 sites in Borders and have supported the roll out of the Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood resource to schools (<a href="http://www.rshp.scot">www.rshp.scot</a>).</p> <p>No Excuses! (SBRCC) designed and delivered capacity building sessions to 35 Youth Workers. The training and resources aim to provide youth workers with knowledge and confidence to lead discussions with young people about consent and healthy relationships and to respond effectively to any incidences of sexual violence.</p>
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	Maintain commission to youth organisations		<p>YouthBorders (with funding from NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council) invested in a Health and Wellbeing Development Officer for 12 months, to support the delivery of health related training for the youth work sector; this included training awareness raising sessions on issues such as gambling education, gaming, games and physical activity, and youth awards.</p> <p>All Commissions to our youth work organisations have been maintained supporting a network of community-based drop-in youth clubs and specialist youth provisions. This has been challenging during the Covid-19 Pandemic, however all services have adapted well and offered online services to ensure that our children and young people were still supported.</p>
Influence the local housing strategy, to focus on the needs of vulnerable young people and families	Work with SBC Regulatory Services to implement 'The housing needs and aspirations of young people Scottish Borders 5 year action plan'		<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>Key highlights and significant achievements -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Develop and implement the private rented sector strategy to improve access to and quality in the private rented sector.</li> <li>• Work with community councils and other community representatives to consider whether there is interest and capacity within communities to enable new community led housing development</li> <li>• Review model of access to social housing in Scottish Borders across all providers to minimise time in temporary accommodation and achieve Rapid Rehousing</li> </ul>

<p>Ensure that play is an integral part of life for our children</p> <p>Promote opportunities and the use of local spaces for young people to spend free time with friends</p>	<p>Implement the Scottish Borders Play Strategy</p> <p>Review holiday programmes to identify opportunities for effective collaboration and coordination of resources across partners</p> <p>Continue Arts and Health Wellbeing work</p>	<p>CYPLG</p> <p>CLD</p> <p>Borders Additional Needs Group</p> <p>Third Sector Youth Organisations</p>	<p>The Scottish Borders Play Strategy has not progressed into a published document and will be incorporated into the new Integrated Children and Young People's Plan for 2021-23 which is currently under development.</p> <p>Successful holiday programmes for early years families were run by multi-agency partnerships in Burnfoot, Eyemouth, Langlee and Selkirk in 2019. Key partner organisations involved were: Healthy Living Network (HLN), Community Learning and Development service (CLDS), Early Years Centres, Primary Schools, Live Borders, and a range of local partners. The models varied according to need, resource, and capacity but all delivered clear impacts for families. Programme uptake was high across localities with a combined total of 523 participants. This included 356 children and 167 adults. Some children and families were invited to attend head teachers and agencies who thought summer programmes may provide additional support during the school holiday period. An evaluation of the Summer 2019 programme was carried out by NHS Borders Public Health Registrar.</p> <p>Families described the programme as positive and parents/carers progressed into other learning and community opportunities as a result of taking part.</p> <p>BANG Holiday Camp Aug 2019 – a combined child/adult camp providing a combination of physical, health and wellbeing activities for children and families  <a href="https://www.bordertelegraph.com/news/17853364.additional-needs-summer-camp-goes-bang/">https://www.bordertelegraph.com/news/17853364.additional-needs-summer-camp-goes-bang/</a></p> <p>Community-based youth work organisations provided Summer Programmes in 2020, delivered in line with Covid-19 Guidance setting out permitted youth work activity at that time.</p> <p>TD1 Youth Hub with CLD Youth Learning team, delivered online and in person youth work activity as part of a Scottish Government pilot to tackle the impacts of food insecurity using a youth work approach.</p> <p>Scottish Borders Strategic Youth Work Partnership and CLD Youth Learning team made a successful bid to the Scottish Government's Youth Work Education Recovery Fund in autumn 2020; this funding will deliver youth work holiday provision through 2021 for young people most impacted by Covid-19.</p> <p>Active schools Programmes continue to be delivered across the Scottish Borders</p>
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	Explore options for a Live Borders reduced rate access card		Pilot Gaming/E-sports session – Heart of Hawick (Nov 2019) further work to develop concept with young people  Scoped but no further action taken
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### Priority 3 - Targeting support to maximise life experiences and opportunities and ensuring inclusion

**Outcome** - Life experiences and opportunities are improved for children and young people who require our targeted support

Objective	Action	Lead	What we have achieved
<p>Focus on ensuring positive outcomes for children who are living at home but subject to statutory measures (and are therefore Looked After Children at home)</p>	<p>Implement the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-21 and Action Plan and produce an Annual Report</p>		<p>Corporate Parenting has progressed throughout 2020 and corporate parents have worked together in taking forward the Action Plan.  <a href="#">Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-21   Scottish Borders Council (scotborders.gov.uk)</a>  <a href="#">Annual Report 2019-20   Scottish Borders Council (scotborders.gov.uk)</a></p> <p>Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Core Commitment 1</b> - In order to meet their responsibilities, corporate parents will listen and respond to the voices of children and families/carers, a full audit of participation practices was carried out across corporate parents. Pockets of excellent practice were recognised, but it was also clear that there is a lack of consistent, systematic inclusion of children, young people and their families in strategic and practice developments across services. In response to these challenges a clear strategic approach and plan for relaunching participation work with care experienced young people going forwards, which is monitored and reviewed regularly is currently being written and funding for the development of participation was identified for 2020-21. The aim is to develop a Champions Board (using the learning from existing models across Scotland).</li> <li>• <b>Core Commitment 2</b> - All looked after children and care experienced young people will be treated fairly, have equality of opportunity, and have a sense of belonging in their communities – in terms of educational attainment, improvements in academic achievement, attendance, positive destinations, and reductions in exclusions for looked after children. The continuation of the ‘Virtual School’ approach has clearly influenced these</li> </ul>

			<p>improvements. In terms of permanence planning for children, there has also been continuous improvement in reducing timescales for securing permanence for looked after children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Core Commitment 4</b> - Children and young people will be supported to improve their physical, emotional, and mental health and wellbeing - the Joint Health Improvement Team have led on 2 initiatives for vulnerable young people over the past year: work on self-harm included delivery of 'What's the Harm' training for partners across Borders. What's the Harm Training was delivered to 100 multi-agency staff; and the 'See Me' schools programme (funded by Scottish Government &amp; Comic Relief) which aims to help young people understand the importance of good mental health, recognise how it affects young people, and builds confidence to talk openly about mental health.</li> <li>• <b>Core Commitment 5</b> - Young people making the transition to adulthood will be supported to achieve their full potential – a series of improvements and initiatives relating to accommodation and housing; health and wellbeing and employability initiatives for looked after and care experienced young people have been taken forward. These have included the on-going success of Albert Place (see later Action), C-Card training for staff on sexual health, improvements in the number of modern apprenticeships for care experienced young people and, Skills Development Scotland's 'Next Steps' initiative.</li> </ul>
Identify and address the barriers that get in the way of individuals and families feeling included and supported within communities across the Scottish Borders	<p>Identify vulnerable excluded families and engage with them to provide support for their specific needs</p> <p>Continue to work with the Parent Council Chairs Forum (PCCF) to redesign engagement processes. Report on working groups already formed for the Dyslexia Strategy, Drugs, Alcohol</p>	<p>Relevant practitioners</p> <p>Education service</p>	<p>Work has progressed in establishing an Intensive Family Support Service (funded by the Edinburgh and South of Scotland City Deal). The service proposal was successful (August 2020) and a small service focusing on specific outcomes relating to family support, income maximisation and employability for families who have suffered from generational poverty started in January 2021.</p> <p>Engagement processes with parents have developed. The Dyslexia group produced communication tools in partnership with parents. Parents continue to be involved in other groups and Inspire Ambassadors have been recruited to develop parental engagement in the Inspire Programme. The Education Service has invested heavily in a new Inclusion Framework and training programme for all staff. Much of this work moved online in 2020 in a bid to ensure that such initiatives could continue.</p>

	<p>and tobacco, and literacy and numeracy.</p> <p>Implement the requirements of the Young Carer's Strategy including the provision of a Young Carer's Statement</p>	<p>Education service/Action for Children commission</p>	<p>The Young Carer's Strategy is used to guide schools, parents and carers, and young carers on what advice and support is available to them, including the offer of preparing a Young Carer's Statement. The statement sets out their individual circumstances, and allows services to provide appropriate support to them. Action for Children's CHIMES Service was commissioned to support young carers with their statements and schools and other organisations refer young carers to them for assistance. This has been successful and more young carers are now taking the opportunity to do a statement. A record is kept of those who take up the offer and those who don't.</p>
<p>Using new opportunities e.g. through the South of Scotland Economic Partnership, design approaches to support all young people moving into adulthood - healthcare, housing, tenancy sustainment, income maximisation, employability. This should include mentoring and expansion of the 16+ transitions project, priorities identified by the CPP Reducing Inequalities Delivery Team</p>	<p>Continue to implement the 16+ Transitions Project to improve outcomes for care leavers by providing targeted support on a range of issues including employability and expanding the provision of accommodation for this vulnerable group.</p>	<p>Social Work service</p>	<p>Albert Place Supported Accommodation Project for vulnerable young Care Leavers celebrated its tenth birthday in March 2020 having opened on the 10th of March 2010. It is a joint Scottish Borders Council (Throughcare Aftercare and Homeless Teams) and Scottish Borders Housing Association (SBHA) initiative which provides semi-supported accommodation for care experienced young people. Albert Place has had significant success in providing support and accommodation for care experienced young people and enabled many of them to sustain permanent tenancies of their own following the period of transitional support. Having had the opportunity to take their first steps towards independent living within Albert Place, 33 young care leavers out of 36 have been successful in maintaining a tenancy for 12 months or more. This equates to a success rate of 91.66% which is exceptional in terms of outcomes.</p> <p>As stated in the previous Action, one of the focus groups for the Intensive Family Support Service, which became operational in January 2021, is young parents (aged approximately 17–21). This group was identified in the initial project proposal discussions in January 2020 as being particularly vulnerable to the cumulative effects of poverty, unemployment, and parenting difficulties.</p>

## Priority 4 - Increasing participation and engagement

**Outcome** - All our children and young people will be encouraged to be involved in the planning, provision and delivery of services and their rights will be respected.

Objective	Action	Lead	What we have achieved
<p>Co-produce a robust and effective Children's Rights and Participation Strategy which raises their awareness of children's rights and encourages children and young people to become involved, including establishing a Young Borders Action Team</p>	<p>Support our young people to attend events such as Policy seminars held by Youth Link Scotland and Scottish Government around UNCRC incorporation into Scots law and Youth Work.</p> <p>Form a Young Borders Action Team</p>	<p>CYPLG</p> <p>Relevant practitioners</p> <p>CLD</p>	<p>YouthBorders provided information to their network and partners about relevant opportunities for young people to have their say in national consultations and developments; this included the development of the national youth work strategy.</p> <p>Youth groups are supported to find the best platform for them to address their issues. For example, the Youth Ambassadors for Sustainability to attend the council's sustainability committee and presenting at the next series of area partnerships.</p> <p>The Education Executive representatives are supported to identify any issues they wish to raise to attend council meetings.</p> <p>We are working on a consultation from the Scottish Government for young people to have their say on National Planning Framework 4 and other national consultations.</p> <p>CYPLG members and strategic leaders participated in a Learning Session with Together, the Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights, to explore the developments in Children's Rights legislation in Scotland.</p>

<p>Further develop peer support models to encourage children and young people to become involved</p>	<p>Support our three members of Youth Parliament</p> <p>National Youth commissions LGBT Youth Scotland will support young people to be actively involved with the three National Youth Commissions on Gender Recognition, Housing and Homelessness, Care Experienced Youth Commission.</p>	<p>CLD</p> <p>LGBT Youth Scotland</p>	<p>MSYPs are supported to work on any Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) related work such as campaigns, the manifesto consultations and they are helped to prepare for SYP national sittings. They are supported in meeting with their local MSPs and MPs. These meetings include discussions on the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill and other issues such as disability rights.</p> <p><b>LGBTYS Care Experienced Youth Commission –</b> Scottish Borders participated in National Youth Commission work on care experience. The commission began in 2018 with the intention of making Scotland a better place for LGBT young people growing up in care.  <a href="https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/news/2020/youth-commission-on-care-experience-alex-s-journey/">https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/news/2020/youth-commission-on-care-experience-alex-s-journey/</a>  <a href="https://www.celcis.org/knowledge-bank/search-bank/blog/2020/10/listening-voices-care-experienced-lgbt-people-scotland/">https://www.celcis.org/knowledge-bank/search-bank/blog/2020/10/listening-voices-care-experienced-lgbt-people-scotland/</a></p> <p>Short Film -  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvCpijs0vCc&amp;feature=emb_title">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvCpijs0vCc&amp;feature=emb_title</a></p> <p><b>LGBTYS GRA Youth Commission</b>  12 young people have engaged with the Gender Recognition Youth Commission, a national programme to influence decision-making on GRA reform. Young trans and non-binary people have met with MSPs and produced a range of resources to inform and influence changes in legislation and future public consultations. In addition, young people participating in the GRA Youth Commission contributed to writing the Life in Scotland report where they talked about their experiences.  <a href="https://sway.office.com/iENhWAHV4APK3bN?ref=Link">https://sway.office.com/iENhWAHV4APK3bN?ref=Link</a></p> <p><b>LGBTYS Housing and Homeless Commission:</b></p>
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			<p>This year, 10 young people engaged specifically with frontline practitioners, policy leads and service managers from across the housing sector as well as key staff from Health, Policing and Criminal Justice, Social Work and Third Sector organisations. Two young people from the Scottish Borders were involved in this work and they have also been instrumental on leading consultations with LGBT young people across Scotland.</p> <p>The Scottish Housing Regulator recently published new <a href="#">regulations</a> which came in to force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019, outlining an expectation that <i>“landlords must collect data relating to each of the protected characteristics for their existing tenants, new tenants, people on waiting lists, governing body members and staff. Local authorities must also collect <b>data on protected characteristics</b> for people who apply to them as homeless.”</i> It is essential therefore that services have an understanding of appropriate language and terminology, recognise their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and understand how to reduce barriers and include LGBT people in service and policy development.  <a href="https://www.housingregulator.gov.scot/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-work/equalities-statement-2019-2022">https://www.housingregulator.gov.scot/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-work/equalities-statement-2019-2022</a></p>
<p>Establish a range of effective methods to engage with parents and make schools accessible</p>	<p>Continue with the development and design of Parental involvement/engagement including strategic engagement with Parent Council Chairs</p> <p>Develop a group to support parents of LGBT young people</p>		<p>A Partnership with Parents Framework is now complete and signed off by Scottish Borders Council’s Corporate Management Team and Education Executive Committee. Work has begun with all schools regarding implementation. We have completed a Parental Involvement and Engagement Census which gives us baseline strategic data in our work with parents for the first time. Strategic engagement with Parent Council Chairs has improved to include training offers and a greater frequency of meetings facilitated by Microsoft teams.</p> <p>A group has been set up called Transparents Borders: A parent led group which supports the parents and carers of transgender young people</p>

	<p>Provide tools and support for all Scottish Borders High Schools to offer a safe inclusive space for LGBT pupils and allies</p>		<p>All schools which have worked towards the LGBT Charter have met the criteria to provide a safe space within schools. Some schools have an equality group with others developing a specific LGBT Space.</p> <p>“Developing a Gender and Sexual Orientation Alliance (GSA): a toolkit for young people and teachers,” our comprehensive and easy-to-follow guide to establishing GSAs in Scottish Schools. This has been designed to take young people, supported by their teachers, through the steps and considerations required in the journey towards establishing an effective and organised GSA.</p> <p><a href="https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/media/1290/developing-a-gsa.pdf">https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/media/1290/developing-a-gsa.pdf</a></p>
<p>Encourage stronger partnerships with the third sector and other partners to support alternative learning and achievement routes</p>	<p>Work with Borders College, NHS Borders and the third sector to encourage a greater take up of alternative learning routes and a wider range of SQA accredited courses.</p>	<p>Education service</p>	<p>The Community Learning and Development (CLD) service has increased its range of SQA courses available to its learners and pre-pandemic saw an increase in accreditations on employability courses. There has also been an expansion of MA opportunities. Consultation with Borders College and young people has taken place on the range of courses offered by the College. Project Search has been established with NHS Borders for young people with Learning Difficulties.</p>

## Conclusion

The Children and Young People's Leadership Group are proud of the work done in 2019/20 and 2020/21 under the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan for 2018-2021.

Working in partnership, Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Police Scotland, the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, and the Third Sector have delivered key actions to support each priority and achieve outcomes which have made and will continue to make a difference to the lives of all our children and young people, despite the setbacks and challenges of Covid-19.

The Children and Young People's Leadership Group have developed a new Integrated Children and Young People's Plan for 2021/23. The new Plan will build on previous actions and reflect what needs to be done in partnership to tackle the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic for our children, young people and their families.

We will continue to work towards enhancing the lives of our children, young people and their families throughout the life of the new plan for 2021/23 and beyond.

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