

# Draft Integrated Children and Young People's Plan

IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS 2015-2018  
SUMMARY



# DRAFT INTEGRATED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2015-2018

## INTRODUCTION

This Integrated Children and Young Peoples Plan (ICYPP) has been developed by the Scottish Borders Children & Young People's Leadership Group. The members are from Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Police Scotland, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and the third sector organisations who are responsible for providing services for children and young people across the Scottish Borders. The plan sets out how services will work together to make things better for all children and young people, to help them have a good start in life and to go on to have success as adults.

Whilst a large number of our children are doing really well across many areas of their lives, we know that some because of where they live or their family arrangements need extra support to ensure they can have the success other children and young people achieve. Over the next 3 years, the Children & Young People's Leadership Group will aim to make sure that all children and young people can achieve their potential regardless of their background.

**David Parker**

Chair of Community Planning Partnership

# DEVELOPING THE PLAN

In developing this plan, the Leadership Group has worked e to understand more fully where extra attention is needed to make things better for children and young people in the Scottish Borders. The Scottish Borders is a safe and healthy place to live when compared with other areas in Scotland. However, information has shown that just living in certain areas can make things more difficult and this means that:

- In some areas, exam results are not as good as across the Scottish Borders as a whole
- In some communities, children and young people have poorer health and wellbeing.

Taking forward this plan will mean that services will continue to work together and will concentrate on reducing the differences that are experienced by some children and young people across the Scottish Borders. The Leadership Group will make sure that all services use the key aims of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the Getting It Right For Every child approach to provide the right support for our children and young people.

The Children and Young People's Leadership Group is proud of the services for children and young people in the Scottish Borders. There have been some real achievements and improvements over the last 3 years, some examples of these are:

- The Wellbeing Web tool has been introduced to obtain the views of children and parent/carers and to track the progress of support
- Members of the Youth Parliament have been supported to represent the views of young people
- An innovative set of integrated services have been established to provide support for children and young people affected by domestic abuse
- Early Years Centres have opened in 3 target areas
- Fostering and residential services have achieved improving grades in recent care inspections
- The Psychology of Parenting programme has been introduced in the Scottish Borders
- There has been an upward trend over the last 4 years in attainment levels for young people.

However it is clear that there is more to do. Below is the vision for our services.

# OUR VISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS



The following priorities have been included in the plan as areas where children and young people's services will focus on more closely over the next 3 years.

# PRIORITIES

- Raising attainment and achievement for all and closing the gap between the lowest and highest achievers
- Improving health and reducing health inequalities
- Keeping children and young people safe
- Improving the wellbeing and life chances for our most vulnerable children and young people
- Increasing participation and engagement.

# WHAT WILL SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

**Over the next 3 years, we aim to make real improvements in the following ways:**

- Reduce the differences in exam results between the highest achieving areas and those communities that have the lowest exam results
- All Children and Young People have the knowledge and skills to proceed to adult working life
- Differences in the health outcomes that children and young people experience will be reduced, taking account of the importance of family situation and background. To make improvements in health for all children and young people we will expand the range of activities and opportunities available in and out of school
- Ensure that children and young people who need extra support feel more secure and cared for and fewer children and young people experience abuse and neglect
- The life chances for all children and young people will be improved regardless of their own backgrounds and family arrangements
- Ensure that our children and young people are encouraged to be involved in planning and to have a say in how services are provided.

To achieve these priorities, we will review the way services are organised to ensure that a range of services is available across the Scottish Borders. Our staff are skilled and committed and the right training will be provided to help them make things better for our children and young people.

**Below are some examples of the type of work which will be taken forward over the next 3 years to achieve improvements:**

- every young person leaving school in the Scottish Borders will have the offer of a job, training or further education opportunity
- there will be an increase in the number of schools that will work together to focus on improving exam results for young people in the communities right across the Borders
- It will be easier for parents to be involved in all parts of children and young people's learning, providing ways for families to learn together
- services will be organised across the Borders to better support children and young people as soon as they need help in order to stop problems becoming more serious
- the mental health needs of children and young people will be considered in the same way as physical needs and mental health support will be increased if required
- staff will continue to have access to the right kind of training to help them build and increase the skills, knowledge and confidence to keep children and young people safe
- young people who may self-harm will be more easily identified and supported
- arrangements and support for children and young people who are in care will be improved
- children and young people will be better supported to deal with a range of difficulties
- the range of volunteering opportunities for children and young people will be increased.

# CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1: Do we have the right priorities?

Please provide details of any areas we also need to consider.

QUESTION 2: Do you agree with the aims and outcomes set out in the plan?

QUESTION 3: Do you think that the plan will help us deliver our vision that all children and young people achieve their unique potential?

QUESTION 4: Is the plan easy to understand?

QUESTION 5: Is it clear around what it hopes to achieve for children and young people?

QUESTION 6: To be able to deliver on the priorities we have set out in the plan, what areas do you think we should focus on in the next 3 years?

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#### CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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