
**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES PLAN 2023-26 AND
INTEGRATED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN ANNUAL
PROGRESS REPORT 2022/23**

Report by Director – Social Work and Practice

COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD

8 June 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents the Children & Young People's Services Plan 2023-26 and the Integrated Children & Young People's Plan Annual Progress Report 2022-23 for endorsement before submission to Scottish Government.**
- 1.2 Part 3 of The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires that each Local Authority, Local Health Board and Partners prepare a Children's Services Plan and subsequently prepare and publish a report on how they have delivered on its plan as soon as practicable after the end of each one-year period (April to March).
- 1.3 This requirement is the responsibility of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) who have delegated the task to the Children and Young People's Planning Partnership (CYPPP), previously the Children and Young People's Leadership Group (CYPLG).

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

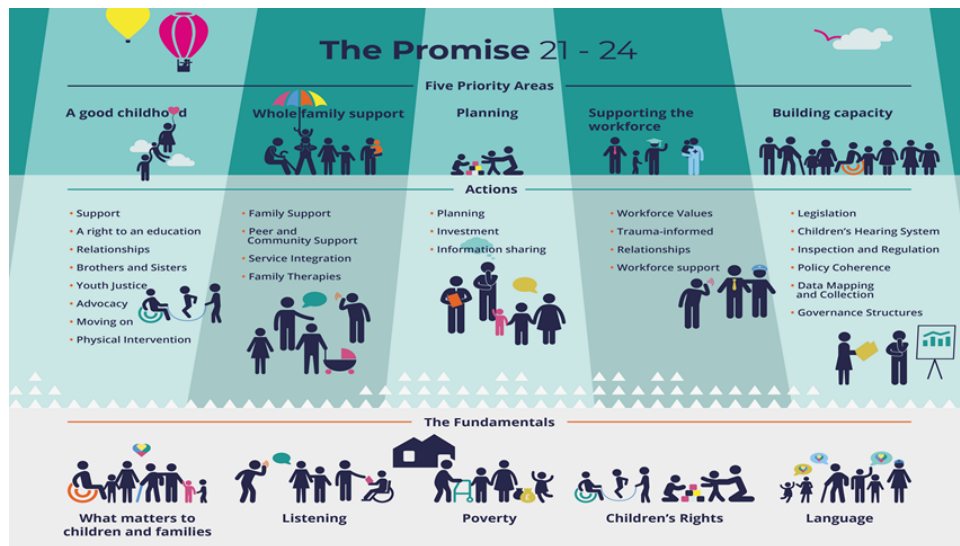
- 2.1 I recommend that the Community Planning Strategic Board endorse the Children & Young People's Services Plan 2023-26 and the Integrated Children & Young People's Plan Annual Progress Report 2022-23 before submission to Scottish Government.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 An integrated approach to service planning by partners is a requirement under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. This is delivered through the Scottish Borders Children & Young People's Services Plan, which is the responsibility of the Community Planning Partnership, delegated to the Children & Young People's Planning Partnership (CYPPP), previously the Children & Young People's Leadership Group (CYPLG).
- 3.2 There is also 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.
- 3.3 The Children & Young People's Services Plan 2023-26 recognises the need to continue to deliver against key priorities within previous plans whilst also making a fundamental shift to placing 'The Promise' at the heart of future planning. The Plan expresses the commitment of the Children & Young People's Planning Partnership to use its collective resources to create a Strategic Plan to deliver the best possible services they can for children, young people and their families.
- 3.4 The 2022-23 Progress Report of the Integrated Children & Young People's Plan reflects progress made in relation to the delivery of shared partnership priorities as set out in the [2021-2023 plan](#), and is the final progress report of this 2021-23 Plan. The report also sets out progress made on local delivery of work relating to the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund.

4 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES PLAN 2023-26

- 4.1 The Children & Young People's Services Plan 2023-26 for the Scottish Borders is set out in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 The Promise, published in March 2020, reflects what Scotland must do to make sure its most vulnerable children feel loved and have the childhood they deserve, and states that Scotland has an ambition '*to be the best place in the world to grow up*' so that children are '*loved, safe, and respected and realise their full potential*'. The vision of the Scottish Borders Children's Services Plan 2023-26, '*working together we will ensure all children and young people have a sense of belonging, self-worth and self-confidence to achieve their own unique potential*' is continued from the 2021-23, as the CYPPP agree that this is still relevant, and has synergy with The Promise.
- 4.3 The Plan aligns to Scottish Government's [National Performance Framework](#) and is informed by UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) and GIRFEC (Getting it right for every child). The Plan is also based on the five priorities of The Promise, and rests on the foundation of five 'fundamentals' as shown below:



- 4.4 Listening and understanding what matters to children, young people and their families should be a key element of strategic planning and decision making in the Scottish Borders. A variety of valuable formal and informal engagement exercises undertaken with children and young people are listed in appendix 1F, and these have been used to inform this Plan.
- 4.5 The Children & Young People’s Planning Partnership has now replaced the Children & Young People’s Leadership Group and will provide strategic leadership for Children and Young People’s Services across the Partnership and will also act as the Strategic Corporate Parenting Steering Group. The Partnership reports directly to the Community Planning Partnership and is a multi-agency group of senior managers and executives, with responsibility for leading the strategic direction of The Promise.
- 4.6 The strategic priorities of the Plan were agreed by multi-agency partners, building on the previous plan and provide a strong foundation for developing the best support for children, young people and families. They align to the priorities of The Promise and are set out in detail in appendices 1A to 1D.



- 4.7 A key task of the CYPPP is to monitor, evaluate and report on the delivery of the plan. Various mechanisms will be used to achieve this, including outcome focused reporting, self-evaluation and external verification. In addition, the Partnership will receive reports and updates from the priority networks of The Promise, who will lead on the development of a work plan directly informed by the priorities of the Plan. These action plans will incorporate performance measures and set measurable targets for new activities, to monitor their implementation, and keep plans under regular review.

5 INTEGRATED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2022/23

- 5.1 The Integrated Children & Young People's Plan Annual Progress Report 2022-23 is set out in Appendix 2.

- 5.2 The Children & Young People's Leadership Group (CYPLG) have worked together in 2022/23 with shared priorities to deliver meaningful and sustainable improvements to the lives of all our children and young people. Progress is reported 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

5.3 **Priority 1 – keeping children and young people safe**

During 2022/23, a joint psychological trauma steering group was established which will help to destigmatise trauma and advocate that all people in contact with our services receive a compassionate human response. Informed by people with lived experience, the group will provide a co-ordinated approach to trauma training across our workforce to ensure robust governance and consistency is in place.

5.4 **Priority 2 – improving health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities**

A Project Board has continued to oversee the delivery of the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework. Kooth and Togetherall are digital platforms covering the 10-18 year old age group & 16+ age group. Children and young people use the services throughout the year, with an average of 50% accessing this online support out with working hours. The main areas where support is offered are; anxiety, depression or low mood, suicidal thoughts, and self-harm. Current registrations for Kooth and Togetherall are circa.4500 and 850.

5.5 **Priority 3 – targeting support to maximise life experiences and opportunities and ensuring inclusion**

A range of developments to support implementation of The Promise were undertaken, including the Brothers and Sisters project. The project worked with 12 families throughout the year to identify solutions for families to support brother and sister relationships. The Wheatlands Children's House received a grade 6 (excellent) from the Care Inspectorate following their unannounced visit in May 2022.

Work around transitions has continued, with a refresh of the 14+ framework to reflect national developments in transitions for additional support needs (ASN) young people. Partnership working is particularly strong in this area, with SBC, Borders College and SDS (Skills Development Scotland) working closely to achieve good outcomes for our young people.

5.6 Priority 4 – Increasing participation and engagement

The Champions Board approach has continued to develop over the year with care experienced children and young people. The board have worked with schools and colleges to set up support hubs for students and staff. Scottish Borders pupils have participated in the Scottish Schools Health and Wellbeing Improvement Research Network (SHINE) between October 2022 and January 2023, and a Health and Wellbeing Census in March 2022. The outcomes of this research will be used by the Mental Health and Wellbeing Project Board to support improvements in young people's wellbeing.

5.7 Whole Family Wellbeing Funding

Appendix 2A reports progress on Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF). This is a specific Scottish Government template and enables the integration of progress reporting on all aspects of the WFWF to take place within the statutory annual Children's Services Plans reporting cycle. Activities undertaken to date include the setting up of the new governance structure (CYPPP) and a Whole Family Support Network which will have oversight of the WFWF.

6 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial

Significant funding which contributes directly and indirectly to the delivery of Children and Young People's Services within the Scottish Borders is set out in Appendix 1.

6.2 Risk and Mitigations

- a) Risks associated with this report relate to the non-delivery of actions set out within the priorities of the Children & Young People's Services Plan 2023-26, and the potential impact this may have on children, young people and families.
- b) Appendix 2 outlines the progress made against priorities in the 2022-23 Annual Progress Report, which demonstrate a commitment to the delivery of actions to support children, young people and families.
- c) The establishment of a new governance structure (CYPPP) will help to mitigate any risks through the implementation of a robust reporting regime.

6.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

An integrated impact assessment has been carried out in relation to this report and is attached as Appendices 3 and 4. The Plan and Report are fully inclusive of all, therefore there are no specific implications.

6.4 Sustainable Development Goals

In considering each of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the following may be considered to make a difference:

- a) **Goal 1 - End poverty in all its forms** – Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and Partners have prepared a Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan for 2023/24 and an Anti-Poverty Strategy is in place. Progress against poverty is reported in these, demonstrating a commitment to end poverty in all its forms.
- b) **Goal 2 - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture** – local action is taken in various forms through the multi-agency approach to service delivery in this plan. Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and Partners have prepared a Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan for 2023/24 which outlines actions in relation to food security.
- c) **Goal 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages** – local action is taken in various forms through the multi-agency approach to working with partners outlined in this plan. The Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework incorporates work in relation to emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people. It is supported by on-going and enhanced commissioning of a number of services, including Quarriers Resilience for Wellbeing Service, Action for Children Young Carers and support for children and young people impacted by parental substance use, and Children 1st Abuse and Trauma Recovery Service.
- d) **Goal 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all** – vulnerable children and young people are offered support and given opportunities in this plan. The Promise is at the forefront of service design and delivery for improved outcomes for all children and young people and their families.

Supporting effective transitions including but not limited to: in the early years, in primary to secondary, secondary to post-school, for any child or young person with an additional support need, for care experienced children and young people, for young people moving from child to adult health services are all referenced within the Plan.

Young people are represented at Scottish Borders Council Education Sub Committee and have their voices heard on issues.

- e) **Goal 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls** – our engagement with children, young people and families is inclusive of all, ensuring that everyone has a voice. Our 'Article 12 at the heart' work is designed to ensure children and young people with quieter voices are at the heart of decision making in the Scottish Borders.
- f) **Goal 10 – Reduce inequalities** – This Plan continues to work towards closing the gap between our most deprived and least deprived families and communities and targets resources to support our most vulnerable children and young people. The Partnership will plan and deliver services in ways which promote equity and where possible challenge the root causes of poverty and deprivation. Actions and activities associated with this Plan will seek to maximise family

income and their available resources and deliver services in a way which is free from stigma or discrimination.

- g) **Goal 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe resilient and sustainable** - Partnership opportunities such as meetings with local green organisations, local MP discussion, and food growing initiatives all contribute to this goal.

6.5 Climate Change

There is no impact on climate change as a result of this report.

6.6 Rural Proofing

There are no rural proofing implications contained within this report.

6.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

6.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to the Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation as a result of this report.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Director (Finance & Corporate Governance), the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Stuart Easingwood
Director Social Work and Practice

Signed

Author(s)

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Background Papers: n/a

Previous Minute Reference: Community Planning Strategic Board 10.06.21

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Janice Robertson can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Janice Robertson, Council HQ, Newtown St.Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA, 01835 824000, jrobertson@scotborders.gov.uk