

Children and Young People's Planning Partnership Update September 2023

CYPPP Structure

The CYPPP Strategic Board has met four times since April 2023. All Network Chairs have now been appointed:

- **A Good Childhood Network-** Justin Sinclair, Chief Officer of Education, SBC
- **Whole Family Support Network-** Alison Downie, Service Lead- Speech and Language Therapy, NHS Borders
- **Supporting the Workforce-** Sarah Axford, Service Manager, Children 1st
- **Planning and Building Capacity-** Inspector Robbie Noble, Police Scotland

The four Networks are due to hold their initial meetings in early September 2023, and will meet monthly after that.

Stuart Easingwood, the current CYPPP Board chair is leaving SBC next month. A new CYPPP Chair will be elected by the Board by the end of September.

Summer Holiday Funding

Scottish Borders Summer 2023 Programme is currently in progress, with partners, including Quarriers, Youth Borders member organisations, education, social work, Homelessness services, Community Learning and Development, NHS providers (e.g. Health Visitors) and wider services working together to identify children and families who would most benefit from support and accessing activities, and alerting parents to the opportunities available during the summer.

A range of programmes and approaches are being delivered through; third sector youth work summer programmes, Jedburgh and Duns Swimming pools, Abbotsford Witch Corner, Live Borders, the provision of small grants to support summer activities, participatory budgeting approaches for people who are homeless, kinship carers, care experienced young people, children and young people in conflict with the law, and unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people.

In June 2023 the CYPPP agreed to £254,320 being made available for the development of Summer Activities 2023; the funding was from a number of sources including unspent Summer Holiday 2022 funding, Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund, funding returned by LGBT Youth Scotland and the 2022/23 Whole Family Wellbeing Fund.

On 3 July 2023 notification was received from Scottish Government that £86,853 had been allocated to Scottish Borders for "targeted holiday provision for school aged children" for Summer 2023. This came after Scottish Government had previously announced that no such funding would be available in 2023.

The short timescale between funding being agreed and the commencement of school Summer holidays limited the scope of provision and some areas of provision which had been available in previous years could not be progressed e.g. free "out of school" care or in a different form than previously e.g. provision of food at activity camps was snacks provided by Live Borders rather than Scottish Borders Council catering, due to time constraints. It has also been noted



that the short timescale impacted on effective communication with parents so that they were aware of what was available.

Feedback from partners and families notes the significant impact the funding has had for children, young people and families. The reported impact of poverty on families is significant; the impact report, which will be provided to CYPPP following the conclusion of the Summer 2023 programme, will include examples of the extent to which poverty is impacting families.

One area of significance is the extent to which feedback has noted the need for provision of support beyond Summer 2023, with other holiday periods being identified as equally critical times for families as well as the need to adopt year-round approaches which would transform how we supported families on an on-going basis.

Of the total amount provided, including CYPPP approved funding and Scottish Government funding, £130,657.75 remain uncommitted. The CYPPP have agreed that this funding can be “carried forward” into developing programmes of support during other holiday periods and/or year-round support to targeted families. The working group will be extended beyond Summer 2023 for on-going planning and delivery and be aligned to the Whole Family Support network.

Children and Young People’s Participation and Engagement Strategy

The recent Children at Risk of Harm Inspection highlighted the need for a Children and Young People’s Engagement and Participation Strategy to help us coordinate our youth voice work across Scottish Borders. Work to create a new strategy started back in 2017/18 to create a new strategy, led by CLD. World café style consultations were conducted in all secondary schools, but the actual strategy was never completed, due to a range of issues (staff changes, staff illness and then the covid pandemic).

A brief was written by one of our local MSYPs, Rory Hamilton, in 2022, and an initial meeting was held with education colleagues early in 2023. In June 2023 the CYPPP Board approved the creation of a short life working group to co-produce a multi-agency strategy with a group of children and young people. The Strategy will be launched in Spring 2023.

Children and Young People’s Independent Advocacy Service

Work is ongoing to create a commissioning specification for an Independent Advocacy Service for children and young people aged 5 – 26.

Commissioning Review and Whole Family Wellbeing Fund

A short term task and finish group has been established to develop a new commissioning strategy for the children and young people’s planning partnership, to ensure a more streamlined approach to multi-agency spend. The group has also been tasked with progressing plans for the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund.

This fund has been introduced by Scottish Government to enable the system changes required to shift investment towards early intervention and prevention activities, to ensure families can access support before they reach crisis point. Funding is committed at least over the next 3 years with the ambition that by 2030, at least 5% of community-based health and social care spend should be going towards preventative whole family support measures.





The Fundamentals



What matters to children and families



Listening



Poverty



Children's Rights



Language