

## Appendix 1B - Scottish Borders Child Poverty Annual Progress Report 2023/24

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
<b>Employability</b> Through these actions we will increase support available to parents, and uptake and awareness of that support, as well as giving parents access to skills, training and opportunities. This will strengthen the employment offer to parents and create new fair work opportunities, plus tackling inequalities which stop parents from entering and participating in the labour market.						
<b>Financial Support</b>						
Offer assistance with benefit appeals and specialist advice.	1, 3	SBC Financial Inclusion Team	Number of benefit appeals and specialist advice provided	Children and Families	A2	This is an ongoing service action.
Signposting for help with childcare (aged 2+), travel, digital skills and information on financial support through welfare benefits and Scottish Social Security Benefits.	1, 3	CAB	Increased take up of services and benefit entitlements	Parents	A2	This is an ongoing service action. Signposting provided for help with childcare, travel and digital skills as well as referrals and support to access financial support.
Increase awareness and accessibility of HMRC's Childcare Account for both working families and childcare providers.	1, 3	SBC Early Years	Increased number of families receiving support	Children and Families	A1	This service is regularly promoted so that parents are aware of the support available.
Provide support to parents to help them to take up, extend or sustain employment and maximise their income.	1, 2, 3	SDS	Uptake or extension of employment to maximise income	Parents	B3	Continue to deliver all age career, information, advice and guidance services across the region and lead on PACE (Partnership Action for Continuing Employment) to support individuals who have been made redundant. SDS are supporting the work of the Local Employability Partnership (LEP) with a particular focus on parents.
Administer a client intervention fund to assist with the removal of barriers to employment and support individuals to complete funding applications including Independent Living Fund.	1, 2, 3	SDS	Usage of funding	Families	B3	Barrier removal fund approved by the LEP and administered by the Council. In financial year 23/24 £100k was committed. £28,441 was awarded to 35 clients supported through the Parental

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						Employability Service (PES), £30,749 to 40 No on Left Behind (NOLB) clients and £18,485 was spent on Chromebook and reader pens.
<b>Positive Destinations</b>						
Increase skills and the likelihood of young people impacted by poverty achieving a positive destination.	1	SBC Education SDS DYW Borders Borders College SBC CLD	Increased skills of young people and achievement of positive destinations	Children and Young People	A3	The 2nd annual 3 day event "SkillsQuest" for Care Experienced Young People, Young Carers and invited others was held for S2 and S3 pupils. 80 pupils attended from 8 secondary schools. This was supported by 25+ partners. Schools continue to widen their senior phase curricula, one example being the Level 6 construction course partnership between Galashiels Academy, Morrisons Construction, Borders College and Powering Futures.
Ensure care experienced learners receive ongoing support through transition from school to positive destinations. Increase positive destination rate of learners living in quintile 1 and reduce the poverty gap.	1	SBC Education	Increased positive destination rate of learners	Young People	C3	Ongoing support continues for care experienced learners, this includes the 14+ planning process, partnerships with Borders College and employability services. The poverty related outcome gap in positive destinations continues to narrow.
<b>Fair Work Nation</b>						
Work with employers to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities to employees/workers in line with the principles of a Fair Work Nation.	1	CAB	Increased awareness of workforce challenges and Fair Work Nation	Families	A3	Work with the Employment, Rights & Advice Service, signposting clients who have employment concerns. Attend forums when requested and advise clients on their rights.
Engage with employers to ensure fair, rewarding and sustainable work opportunities are promoted and supported.	1	SBC Employability Service	Increased engagement with employers	Families	A3	Through organised events and outreach activities, we (will) actively engage with local businesses and employers, to ensure we are promoting and supporting fair and sustainable opportunities for people of the Scottish Borders, in accordance with employment laws. Our Employability Service offers in work

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						support and, in accordance with the equalities act, we can assist employers in ensuring appropriate, reasonable adjustments are in place where required.
Work with employers to support delivery of apprenticeship programmes and encourage Fair Work practices including payment of the Living Wage.	1, 2	Borders College SBC Employability Service Interest Link Borders	Number of apprenticeship programmes	Young People	C3	
<b>Childcare</b>						
Offer options for parents to engage in work and access to appropriate childcare.	1	Child Poverty Group Employability Service SBC Early Years	Engagement in work for parents accessing appropriate childcare	Parents	A2	Options provided through SBC Employability Services as part of their ongoing service actions.
Provision of support funding to cover Childcare requirements to enable students to fulfil their attendance, study and work placement requirements.	1	Borders College	Increased attendance levels	Families	A2	Depending on the circumstance, funded students may be entitled to support with childcare costs. This gives the option to place children into nursery or with a registered childminder. The award is based on timetables hours, with flexibility built in to manage study around the everyday challenges families encounter. Those studying a Further Education course can request help with childcare when completing the online funding application. Childcare support is also available through SAAS for eligible HE students. The colleges discretionary fund also provides additional support for childcare costs for FE students in financial hardship.

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<b>Volunteering</b>						
Promote volunteering roles within the CAB Service to support parents/carers returning to the workplace.	1	CAB	Increase of parents returning to work	Parents	A1	Our Volunteer Training & Development Project Team have attended roadshows and groups. Team have attended parent groups and community events.
Develop volunteer peer mentoring to build confidence, responsibility and help with career decisions.	1	Interest Link Borders	Number of members & families supported, volunteers involved and sessions provided.	Families	B1	50 young peer mentors from local schools were involved in our befriending groups. These were mainly in Peebles, Galashiels & Hawick.
Create pathways into youth work and offer opportunities for learning and on the job training through volunteering.	1	Tweeddale Youth Action	Number of young people supported	Young People	C3	We continue to support pathways into youthwork through volunteering opportunities and access to training and learning. Three former service users are now part of our staff team.
<b>Information and Support</b>						
Signposting and provision of information to parents will be done through the library service.	1	Live Borders	Number of parents supported	Parents	A1	Literature available in the library. Staff provide support using information from SBC, DWP, Citizens Advice website.
Signpost or refer parents to local specialist services who are looking for support back into employment.	1	CAB	Increased referrals	Parents	A1	Signposting and referrals completed to specialist services for parents who are looking to re-enter employment.
Provide learning opportunities to support parents into employment.	1	SBC Employability Service	Take up of increased learning opportunities	Parents	A1	This is an ongoing service action within the Employability Service.
Promote employability and other relevant projects across social media channels and through referrals from frontline staff.	1, 2	BHA	Increased employability promotion	Parents and families	A1	Borders Housing Network are members of the Local Employability Partnership and BHA promotes various employability projects via social media channels.
Provide advice, assistance and benefit checks to parents of young children.	1, 2, 3	SBC Employability Service	Provision, value and uptake of benefits and support	Parents	A1	This is an ongoing service action which has been extended to those engaging with Employability and Community Learning and Development Services.

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Offer employability training to those requiring support, including young people and parents.	1	SBC ESS	Increased number of participating parents and young people at training	Parents and Young People	A1	<p>Our Pre-employability programme is designed to assist individuals in gaining skills, confidence, and resilience. The Key-Worker support assists people who face challenges and barriers into employment, education, or training, by implementing individualised, strengths-based programmes. Each bespoke programme can include a variety of workshops, learning opportunities, work experience, personal and wellbeing support, and guidance to become more independent and active within the community, at a pace determined by each individual and their personal circumstances.</p> <p>Our Employability Training provides individuals the opportunity to obtain accredited qualifications in employability, personal development, core skills and customer care. Training can be delivered to individuals, small groups, or within a workplace environment. As part of or training, work closely with local businesses and employers to provide opportunities to participate in workplace tasters, to speak to employers through engagement presentations and to explore opportunities in further education.</p>
Grow the BookBug Programme to support young parents and develop signposting alongside "return to work" schemes.	1	Live Borders	Increased parental participation of BookBug programme	Parents and families	A1	<p>Bookbug sessions are available in every Live Borders Library apart from Earlston (opening times restrict at present). Literature is available in all libraries. Staff are available to help with enquiries.</p>
Develop partnership approaches to jointly run events with roadshows/leaflets.	1	Live Borders	Increased participation at jointly run events	Parents and families	A1	<p>Library staff attended the Scottish Borders School Employment Fair to promote employment opportunities within Live Borders.</p>

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Collaborate with partners to offer digital skills in library spaces.	1	Live Borders	Usage of Connecting Borders devices	Parents and families	A1	Technical issues with Wi-Fi in libraries has prevented progress.
Offer activities, respite and unlimited support for family members to develop friendship networks, confidence and communication skills.	1	Interest Link Borders	Number of family carers benefitting and sessions provided	Families	A1, B1, C2	115 children and young people with learning disabilities and autism have been supported. 200 family carers benefited through respite. Two new groups for ages 18+ focused on skills development.
Expand outreach Careers guidance and employability support activities.	1	SDS Job Centre	Increased engagement from customers including parents and carers	Parents and families	A1	SDS closed their public access centre at Waukrigg Mill, Galashiels and now co-locate with the Job Centre at New Reiver House, Galashiels. Community delivery included all secondary schools, Borders College, SDS Hawick Public Access Centre, Abbey Row Community Centre, Eyemouth Community Centre, Southfield Community Centre, Food Punks and various cafes and community venues across the Borders.
Monthly drop-ins at EY centres to provide Parental Employability Support (PES) for parents who are entitled to Eligible 2's placements.  Fortnightly drop in support from the Parental Employability Service (PES).	1	SBC ESS DWP	Take up of training opportunities  Eligibility of parents entitled to support	Children and Families  Parents	A1	Parental employability support workers visit and offer support to parents and families who attend the Early Years Centres across the Scottish Borders, on a monthly basis.
Provide numeracy courses for parents through the Government's Multiply initiative.	1	SBC ESS	Increased number of participating parents	Parents	A1	The service is working closely with Multiply to identify gaps within localities where Multiply programmes can be delivered to our families.
Offer 1-1 employability support to care experienced young people and engage with support services to ensure wrap around support is provided.	1	SBC ESS	Number of care experienced young people supported	Young People	C1	The service works closely with agencies and partners, including Social Care, Education and NHS Borders, to support young people with care experienced backgrounds, in accessing and sustaining employment. They offer a dedicated Employment Support Worker to provide

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						ongoing support and mentoring to individuals to find, and sustain, positive opportunities and destinations.
<b>Projects and Programmes</b>						
Shape a delivery plan and actions through the provision of local skills training and targeted interventions, including travel vouchers to ensure accessibility.	1	Borders College Local Employability Partnership SBC ESS DWP	Formulation of delivery plan and actions	Young People	A1	Those who qualify for funding support are eligible for free travel. This is available to anyone living more than 3 miles from their College base. Those between 5-21 years old are eligible for free bus travel.
Develop a Community Pop Up Hub employability programme.	1, 3	SDS DWP SBC	Increased engagement from individuals	Families Parents Disabled Minority Ethnic Mothers	A1	A community pop up model was piloted in 2022 on a weekly basis in the Burnfoot Community Café involving partners SBC, SDS, DWP and NHS. Due to low footfall accessing the services, this was paused in March 2023 with partners exploring the option of working with Community Officers to offer employability support and wellbeing information across the region working closely with established community groups. Most recent focus has been on individual partners supporting the Social Work What Matters Hubs.
Deliver programmes promoting independence/life skills and offer awards in volunteering to support participants to gain the skills required to enter paid work.	1	Borders College	Number of volunteering awards	Young People	C3	Through the Department of Business and Enterprise, Borders College delivers a range of leisure and community courses including National 4, 5 and Higher certificated courses. They also deliver a range of employability courses in partners with DWP and SBC. Skills for Life and Work programmes are designed to equip candidates with skills they need to lead successful and fulfilling lives. Awards within these programmes start an entry level and can progress to level 4. These include courses like 'Ready for Life', 'Tenancy' and 'Employability'.

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Develop physical and mental health, mindfulness and meta skills through an employability boot camp.	1	Borders College SBC	Increased physical and mental health skills	Families	A3	In partnership with SBC, Utility Warehouse and DWP, Borders College ran the Employability - Developing Skills for Employment course. This course, which is aimed at people who are unemployed, provided opportunities including upskilling, recognised certificated, confidence building and interview experience. A further 'Train for Life' course provides training in customer service, data science, employability, health living and IT skills.
Provide an all age employability service (16+), including travel pass and digital connectivity access.	1	SBC Employability Service	Number of young people supported	Young People	C3	This is an ongoing service action within the Employability Service.
Work with local partners to provide targeted employability skills training and support people into ancillary roles in the NHS.	1	Borders College SBC NHS	Improved target employability skills	Families	A3	Borders College, SBC, SBCares and NHS Borders work together to deliver an integrated health and social care partnership through the Care Career Academy, which provides a range of flexible training opportunities. This enables individuals to learn while they earn, develop a range of skills and offer progression on to chosen career pathways into health, nursing, care and social care.
Undertake meaningful industry insight visits over the summer to a broad range of key industry sectors.	1	SDS DYW	Visits conducted	Young People	A3	12 SDS industry insight placements took place across the South of Scotland over the summer of 2023 with 61 individual visits. Formal evaluation of the visits scored 8.8/10. Planning is underway with the DYW Regional Group for further visits in summer 2024.
Support partnership planning for poverty related issues by producing labour market information including Regional Skills Assessments.	1	SDS	Evidence from Regional Skills Assessments conducted	Families	A3	Regional Skills Assessments and Sector Skills Assessments are published by SDS on an annual basis and are available to support planning. Most recent publication was February 2024 - <a href="http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/wh">www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/wh</a>



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						<a href="#">at-we-do/skills-planning/regional-skills-assessments</a>
Break the intergenerational cycle of poverty by working with partner agencies to target hard to reach families.	1, 2, 3	SBC ESS Social Work Early Years	Take up of services	Families	B1	Targeted advice and support focusing on the 6 priority family groups, and offering generational support is being developed with providers including Housing and 3rd Sector.

## Education

Through these actions we will continue to tackle the poverty related attainment gap and support the health and well-being of children and young people. This will in turn help children and young people to achieve better lifelong outcomes, thus helping to break the cycle of poverty.

### Attainment

Achieve medium term outcomes of Scottish Attainment Challenge strategy to improve outcomes whilst closing the poverty-related attainment gap.	1	SBC Education	Achievement of medium term outcomes	Children and Young People	C2	All short and medium term outcomes of the Equity Strategy have been achieved. Work continues to narrow poverty related outcome gaps, including the setting of stretch aims in schools and the local authority.
Narrow the poverty attainment gap through resourcing improvements in pedagogy, curriculum development and learning teaching and assessment by utilising Strategic Equity Funding.	1	SBC Education	Narrowing of poverty attainment gap	Children and Young People	C2	Equity is at the heart of the new SBC Way breakthrough curriculum. All schools are engaging in the 3-year implementation plan. Strategic Equity Funding (SEF) has been devolved to clusters to support enhance initiatives to narrow the poverty related attainment gap. This is planned and monitored to ensure impact.
Develop a curriculum reflecting the aspirations of the OECD Review of Curriculum for Excellence as well as The Hayward Review on national qualifications and assessment.	1	SBC Education	Evaluation of practices, approaches and experiences of staff and children	Children and Young People	A2	Our new 3-year plan of the SBC Way, includes all schools engaging in improvements to the curriculum in literacy, numeracy and pedagogy. We await further national guidance on the Hayward review and the future of national qualifications and assessments.
Ensure Learning for Sustainability, UNCRC and The Promise are integral to our new curriculum and culture.	1	SBC Education	Evaluation of practices, approaches and experiences of	Children and Young People	A2	Work continues to ensure these areas are embedded in our schools, including rights respecting schools and the BrightSpots improvement programme.

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			staff and children			
Plan and lead interventions with children and parents/carers to close poverty related attainment gaps.	1	SBC Early Years	Attainment gap improvements	Children and Families	C2	This is an ongoing service action within the Early Years Service and Early Years Centres.
<b>Transport and Travel</b>						
Ensure all young people have access to the Young Scot website, support to apply for their Travel Card and free bus travel for under 22s is promoted.	1	SBC CLD Borders College SBC EES Tweeddale Youth Action CAB	Increased applications for Travel Cards Increased uptake of travel entitlement  Increased bus travel applications	Young People	A2, C3	All pupils who have Ipads have a tile on their desktop to access Young Scot. All young people are encouraged by CLD and our 3rd sector partners to access travel cards.
Students who do not qualify for national travel entitlement schemes are provided with bus or train tickets where they meet the eligibility requirements of student bursary.	1	Borders College	Increased distribution of bus and train tickets	Young People	A2, C3	All students living within 3 miles of a College base are offered free travel as part of bursary support.
<b>Digital Support</b>						
Identify children and young people with learning disabilities and autism who would benefit from devices and connections.	1	Interest Link Borders Connecting Scotland Connecting Borders	Increased uptake in digital devices	Children and Young People	A2	4 Ipads have been given to eligible individuals
Student advice, guidance and support is available to all students and supported by a comprehensive student information portal to support successful learner outcomes.	1, 2, 3	Borders College	Positive learner outcomes	Families	B3	The Student Advice Centre is open to students Monday-Friday and offers a range of support including advice and guidance on travel, finances, academic issues and wellbeing. The college's student portal provides links to a range of

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						information to support their studies, including assessment information, learning support, student support, IT support and funding information. We are currently in discussions to develop a careers tile to support students with employability skills and are about to launch 'Report for Support' which is an accessible internal bullying and harassment reporting tool
<b>Information and Support</b>						
Provision of support funding to cover Childcare requirements to enable students to fulfil their attendance, study and work placement requirements of college qualifications.	1	Borders College SBC CLD	Increased attendance levels Increased access to childcare	Families	A2	Funded students may be entitled to support with childcare costs. This gives the option to place children into nursery or with a registered childminder. The award is based on timetables hours, with flexibility built in to manage study around the everyday challenges families encounter. Those studying a Further Education course can request help with childcare when completing the online funding application.
Libraries offer drop in craft and reading sessions and the 'summer ready challenge' for children.	1	Live Borders	Number of children supported	Children	C2	The summer reading challenge was available to all children during the summer holidays. A programme of activities was offered alongside the challenge to encourage children to visit the library and take part in the scheme.
Identify and support pupils, in partnership with schools, whose education may be affected by poverty factors.	1, 2, 3	SDS Schools	Number of young people supported	Young People	C3	SDS deliver a targeted service offer in schools. Careers Advisers work with school guidance staff to identify those pupils most at risk of not progressing to a positive and sustained destination. Validation activity takes place twice a year and SIMD is a contributing factor. The school leaver destination publication shows an improving picture of the gap between the 20% most and least deprived.

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Ensure all young volunteers qualify for Saltire Awards.	1	Interest Link Borders	Number of volunteers	Young People	C3	All young volunteers achieved their Saltire Award in 2023/24.
<b>Projects and Programmes</b>						
Provide a mentoring programme specifically aimed at supporting, advocating and coaching young people who are most at risk of not sustaining a successful learning journey.	1	Borders College	Number of students supported	Families	C2, C3	The Borders Young Talent Mentor scheme provides mentoring support to care experienced students and student carers. Our student wellbeing coordinator provides dedicated wellbeing support for students who are struggling with their wellbeing. We also have two partnerships with external mental health organisations who support targeted interventions, including the delivery of counselling sessions.
Deliver enhanced inclusive economic growth through the Regional Economic Partnership, whilst continuing to adopt and embed the Fair Work approach.	1, 3	SOSE	Number of organisations funded whose activities indirectly or directly address child poverty	Families	A2	Sharing prosperity and inclusive growth are established as key values within the Regional Economic Strategy. The Regional Economic Partnership are reviewing their delivery plans but will continue to adopt and embed the Fair Work approach.
<b>Information &amp; Advice</b> Through these actions we will help to ensure families receive the support they are entitled to. We will provide support to help overcome barriers to accessing this support, as well as improving the quality and availability of advice services.						
<b>Transport and Travel</b>						
Signpost to relevant services where it appears there is an entitlement to support with transport e.g. free bus pass.	1	SBC Financial Inclusion Team	Uptake of Travel Cards	Families	A2	This is an ongoing service action which has been extended to those engaging with Employability and Community Learning and Development Services.
Advertise and promote free bus travel for under 22s and Job Start Payment.	1, 2, 3	SBC Financial Inclusion	Number of young people supported	Young People	C3	Independent, sustainable travel forms an integral part of the work done with young people seeking opportunities for work, education and/or training. As part of our intervention, we support all participating young people in applying for, and utilising, free bus travel, available through Young Scot.

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<b>Signposting and Advice</b>						
Signpost specialist support, including mental health and drug and alcohol services to young people attending youth club.	1, 2, 3	Tweeddale Youth Action	Number of Young People signposted	Young People	B1	Signposting continues through visible posters at our youth clubs, social media and our website as well as through targeted inputs/conversation at sessions.
Provide a holistic and whole family support library service by signposting and provision of authoritative sources of information.	1, 2, 3	Live Borders	Uptake in signposting	Families	B1	Information available in libraries from SBC/NHS staff helps to signpost customers using information from SBC and Third sector websites.
Signpost or refer to local and national employment support if relevant.	1, 2	CAB	Number of young people supported	Young People	C3	CAB provides advice, information and support to all 16+. Income maximisation advice and support to apply for all benefits. Social Security Scotland also provide assistance with Scottish Child Payment applications.
<b>Available Support</b>						
Develop and produce a service directory which outlines available support for children and young people, families and professionals.	1, 2	SBC Financial Inclusion Team	Increased available support	Families	B1	Scottish Borders Council's website has been updated with a page showing support for families. <a href="#">Parents, children and young people   Benefits and Financial Support   Scottish Borders Council (scotborders.gov.uk)</a>
Proactively promote free school meals (FSM) and clothing grant provision, conduct benefit take up campaigns and provide linked advice and support.	2	SBC Financial Inclusion Team	Increased uptake	Children and Young People	A3, B3	A take-up exercise is undertaken every summer before the start of the new school year
Students are supported to ensure that they access the maximum and appropriate funding sources available to them.	1, 2, 3	Borders College CLD	Uptake of funding sources	Families	B3	The Student Funding team provide ongoing support to students to access the funding available to them. The team are available to meet with students. They also provide workshops, 1-1s, drop ins and intro to funding sessions at various points throughout the academic year. The funding team is supported by the wider student services team who can also offer information and advice in relation to funding, support students to meet with the funding team, and complete applications to relevant community funds.

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<b>Housing &amp; Energy</b> Through these actions we will help to keep housing costs low, provide support with rising energy bills and tackle homelessness for families.						
<b>Tenancy Sustainment</b>						
Support families to secure settled, mainstream housing as part of the Rapid Rehousing Transition plan.	1, 2	SBC Homelessness	Reduction in homelessness	Families	A1, B4	A budget is assigned to our RRTP in Funding to Families with Children in the form of the Housing Intervention Fund (HIF) and the Crisis Intervention Fund (CIF). The team seeks to identify the needs of families and children at the initial point of contact, so that they can assist quickly. They also offer a Deposit Guarantee Scheme to help families and individuals attain the deposit they need for private rented accommodation, so that they are not missing out on opportunities, as well as supermarket gift cards as well as bus vouchers to access transport. The service aims to house families and individuals as quickly as possible, taking into account all their needs, determining appropriate access to amenities, school, work, other family networks etc.
Parents are signposted for advice and support on housing or tenancy related matters.	1, 2, 3	SBC Financial Inclusion SBC Homelessness	Number of families supported	Families	B4	Referrals are made between the financial inclusion team and the homelessness team. The service also engages with CAB where needed.
Use social media and campaign marketing to encourage people facing homelessness to engage early with a view to set up repayment options and/or other suitable debt remedies.	1, 2, 3	CAB Landlords	Number of families supported	Families	B4	Relevant information is shared on social media. A specialist energy project was undertaken in 2023/24 to assist with complex cases. Money advice workers assist with debt issues and fuel bank and discretionary funds requests are made when appropriate.
<b>Fuel and Energy</b>						
Award Crisis Grants or signpost to external partners to assist with fuel costs.	1, 2, 3	SBC Financial Inclusion CAB Changeworks	Number of families supported	Families	B4	Referrals are made between partners to address specific issues for clients.

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		Home Energy Scotland RSL's				
Utilise funding from the Scot Govt Fuel debt fund 2023/24 to support tenants with their heating costs and reduce their fuel debt.	2, 3	SBHA	Number of tenants supported, monetary gains	Families	B4	Since June 2021, the Borders Housing Network has distributed £1,543m in funds received from the Scottish Government's Fuel Debt Fund to over 5,000 social rented Tenants across the Scottish Borders who are in fuel poverty. This funding has reduced their heating costs and cleared their fuel debt. Of the 5,000 social rented Tenants supported, a total of 2,300 children are residing within these homes.
Support 2,000 social rented tenants through continued funding of the Warm and Well Co-ordinator and Energy Advisor.	2, 3	SBHA	Number of tenants supported, monetary gains	Families	B4	Over 5,000 social rented Tenants have received support from the Borders Housing Network's 2 x Warm and Well Coordinators, with 2,481 Tenants supported in 2023-24, against a target of 2,000. The increase in support over the past year can be attributed to the cost-of-living crisis and increased energy costs. Following an additional award from SBC's Cost of Living Fund for £40,000, the Borders Housing Network have been able to retain 1 x Warm and Well Coordinator to continue the service for another year, with an aim to support 1,000 social rented Tenants, reflecting a reduction in the service provision. The Network will continue to explore funding opportunities with partners to continue this invaluable service beyond 31 March 2025.
<b>Warm Affordable Homes</b>						
Creation of new social housing though warm, affordable housing and infrastructure.	2	BHA	New social housing creation	Families	B1	Berwickshire Housing Association (BHA), recognise the profound impact of safe, secure homes on families and children. In 2023-24 they expanded their commitment by developing 21 new homes in Duns at Springfield Drive. Through increased

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						investment, they are enhancing heating systems and improving thermal efficiency to reduce costs for customers. Partnering with WarmWorks has enabled them to implement Air Source Heat Pumps, along with PV and battery storage systems, ensuring that customers benefit from reduced heating expenses. They also remain dedicated to acquiring new sites for development to bolster housing stocks.
<b>Information and Support</b>						
Engage with support services to ensure they are easily accessible and available to all, as well as funding information.	1, 2, 3	SBC ESS	Number of families supported	Families	B4	Key worker support is a mandatory element of the delivery of employability services. This ensures parents and clients are aware and able to access the opportunities available. Engagement with RSL energy advisors as well as Sustainable Selkirk offer professional advice and support to those in fuel poverty.
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b> Through these actions we will provide financial, practical and emotional support, helping to tackle and mitigate the impact of poverty as well as preventing it.						
<b>Food and Healthy Eating</b>						
Secure funding to continue to support families with vouchers and continue to provide food at evening drop-in sessions.	1, 2, 3	Tweeddale Youth Action	Number of vouchers distributed Food provided	Young People	B1, B2	Tweeddale Youth Action continue to offer a free evening meal at drop-ins and school holiday activities and distribute occasional vouchers.
Invest in estates and community facilities including community food gardens.	1, 2, 3	BHA	Uptake in accessing benefits assistance	Families	B1	BHA continues to provide land and support for two community food gardens in Duns and Ayton in partnership with Abundant Borders. Various activities take place in the gardens to encourage the local community to participate and become involved in food growing and preparation, including children and families. BHA's community programme supports community groups with modest funding for activities that will benefit the



Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
						whole community including support to local foodbanks and larders.
Work with third sector services providing family support to build capacity in relation to health and wellbeing (eg healthy eating on a budget).	1, 2	JHIT		Families	B1	Community Food Workers (CFW) delivered several cooking on a budget sessions in the community including super snacks/meals on a budget. Approx numbers attending were 29 adults and 20 children. Support in the Summer Programme included 'fussy eaters fund with food' family lunch and food activity with 42 parents and 72 children participating. Additional cooking sessions were delivered for Post Natal Depression Group and via drop ins.
Offer students a free breakfast, supermarket vouchers, lunch/breakfast bars and provide regular drop in 'Wellbeing' cafes.	1, 2, 3	Borders College	Number of students supported	Families	C1	Breakfast packs and supermarket vouchers are available from the student services teams. Themed wellbeing cafes provide opportunities to discuss and raise awareness for key equalities themes, including corporate parenting, mental health and wellbeing and menopause.
Provide training to support Breakfast Clubs to deliver nutritious food for children.	2	JHIT	Number of children supported	Children	C2	A Breakfast Club Guide in line with current guidance was developed to support staff delivering breakfast clubs with examples of suitable foods to offer at clubs both to fit with the guidance and in keeping with a health promoting school/community ethos. JHIT and SBC delivered training to all 20 recipients of Breakfast Club funding. All participants were provided with supporting documentation.
Promote 'Ride Pingo' for its customers in Berwickshire and enable older people to attend lunch clubs and social community events.	1	BHA Berwickshire Wheels	Number of transport users	Families	A2	Ride Pingo is promoted via BHA social media and attendance to lunch clubs and local events is a key aim of BHA Befriends group activities. A total of 976 invites were made to befriends to attend 65 plus events with 64 individuals attending one or more of these local

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
						events. The project also supported 96 lonely and isolated older people with individual befriending via 26 volunteer Befrienders. BHA Befriend was awarded a further three years funding by the National Lottery in January 2024.
<b>Mental Health</b>						
Offer Books on Prescription and signpost to mental health services.	1	Live Borders	Increased uptake Increased signposting	Families	B1	Books on prescription are available for loan. Free requests mean customers can access books from any library, offering them a greater choice.
Provide of tenancy sustainment services, direct and intensive support to prevent tenancy failure including financial inclusion and BeWell mental health project.	1, 2, 3	BHA	Uptake of sustainment services Number of families supported	Families	B1, B4	Total annual benefit gains generated for BHA customers amounted to £785,208 secured in the last financial year. This includes over £18k in Child Benefit and Scottish Child Payment awards. BeWell capacity expanded and extended to work with more customers under age 25. By December 2023 the project had supported 34 people since April 2023 and over 70 BHA customers since BeWell was initiated in November 2021.
Lobby for renewed funding for the student mental health counselling service. Continue to work with local third sector providers to provide collaborative interventions that will support student mental health and wellbeing.	1, 2	Borders College	Uptake in mental health counselling services	Families	B1	Scottish Government committed to a further allocation of mental health and wellbeing transitional funding in 2023-24. This funding was used to continue counselling provision while upskilling current staff, building on partnerships with the third sector and developing internal services.
Co-deliver Continuous Professional Development training on Mental Health Awareness including Trauma Informed Practice and Self Harm and Suicide Prevention.	1	NHS Borders SDS	Increase of trained SDS Advisors	Families	B1	The SDS leadership team and NHS Borders Mental Health Practitioners co-delivered Trauma Informed Practice training in March 2023 followed by Mental Health First Aid training in May 2023. This was complemented with an online module and signposting materials.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
<b>Information and Support</b>						
Provide five fortnightly peer-age befriending groups for children and young people with learning disabilities & autism aged 8-25. Also fifteen 1:1 befriending links.		Interest Link Borders	Number of members & families supported, volunteers involved and sessions provided.	Children and Young People	B1	16 groups for children and young people operated in the community, in-school and by Zoom. Young people aged 18-25 took part in a further 17 intergenerational groups. Fifteen 1:1 links operated.
Provide information on maternity rights, additional support offered, benefit checks and claim support.	1, 2, 3	CAB	Number of families supported	Families	C1	Benefit checks offered to all clients with information on maternity rights and support to make any relevant applications.
Provide local breastfeeding support groups.	1	JHIT	Number of parents supported	Parents	C1	Evaluation of Breastfeeding in the Borders is in progress. There are noted improvements in breastfeeding rates between women living in most and least deprived communities. Breastfeeding groups running in 8 areas across the Borders.
Provide Healthy Start Vitamins.	1	JHIT	Number of children supported	Children	C1	Evaluation of Health Start Vitamins and Vitamin D is in progress. The reach of distribution has increased over the last year supported by a new promotional campaign.
Provide weaning and healthy groups for families.	1	JHIT	Number of families supported	Families	C1	Weaning groups are taking place face-face, on-line and within breastfeeding groups. Face to face weaning sessions were provided to 73 people and virtual weaning to 28. The service have also piloted 'weaning on a budget' resources.
<b>Projects and Programmes</b>						
Implement the Team Around The Cluster approach in our school communities.	1, 2, 3	SBC Education	Uptake of families supported	Children and Families	B1	The Team Around the Cluster approach continues to be embedded in school communities with more resource being devolved to clusters (e.g Strategic Equity Funding). Cluster Lead 'pathfinders' have been appointed in each of the 9 clusters.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
Increase the number of school and settings evaluating themselves as good or better for QI 3.1. Provide training for child protection coordinators and designated managers on aspects of The Promise and roll out play pedagogy.	1	SBC Education		Children and Young People	C1	A new 'Sharing the Standard' programme of activities has been launched with school leaders. Designated Managers have received input on The Promise. Schools have engaged with the Bright Spots programme. Further work in this area will be identified through the Bright Spots Action Plan and the Scottish Government's proposed Promise Education Outcomes strategy when this is published. All school leaders have received input on play pedagogy.
Monitor and evaluate whole family support provided to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the families.	1, 2, 3	SBC Early Years	Evaluation of support provided	Families	B1	This is an ongoing service action and is reviewed as part of the wider Early Years service alongside the Whole Family Support Network of the CYPPP.
Provide a programme of Bookbug for babies and toddlers.	1	Live Borders	Number of children supported	Children	C1	Bookbug sessions are available in all libraries (apart from Earlston) Duplo sessions and under 5 story times are available in larger libraries.
Support delivery of School Holiday programmes.	1	JHIT	Number of families supported	Families	C1	Participation in Christmas Grant Allocation Process & Easter Assessment Panel to review, discuss and agree funding awards. Draft submission to PHIRST For PH Funded Evaluation of programme, awaiting outcome.
Undertake core work with families on playing with their children through a number of sessions, ie Bookbug, Stay and Play, Tots Time.	1	SBC Early Years	Number of families supported	Families	C1	This is an ongoing service action within the Early Years Service. All nurseries and Early Years Centres offer stay and play sessions as part of core business.
<b>Tackling Digital Exclusion</b> <b>Through these actions we will expand the Connecting Scotland Programme and help to provide devices for families in poverty to enable access to appropriate services and support.</b>						
Utilise Connecting Scotland, NOLB and SPF resources to ensure all parents gain access to a device and appropriate IT training.	1	SBC EES	Access to digital devices	Parents	A2	Through the Barrier removal fund and key worker support, advice and support is provided to ensure parents/clients have the access they require to engage in support services and training.

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Provide a laptop loan system whereby anyone who requires a laptop, digital device or broadband access receives this.	2	Borders College	Uptake of digital devices	Families Young people	C2, C3	All students who do not have their own laptop are provided with one via our loan laptop scheme. We have further laptops available across our campuses within laptop lockers. These can be loaned our short-term to students, which they access with their student card.

### Communities & Partnerships

From these actions we will work with partnership, third sector and community organisations to provide holistic and whole family support.

#### People and Place

Deliver our vision for place and regeneration and support communities to form Place Plans.	1, 2	SBC Communities	Partnership working with third sector and community organisations	Families	B1	60+ place plans are under development in communities
Provide library membership for every baby born in the Scottish Borders.	1	Live Borders SBC Registrars	Number of families supported	Families	C1	ECALM (Every child a library member) is progressing in partnership with SBC registrars.
Support the delivery of play park programmes through the Capital Investment Scheme and Sport and active living funding opportunities.	1	SBC Communities	Delivery of play parks Number of children and young people supported	Families	C1, C2	The Play park investment programme has involved a number of engagement sessions with communities. Seven playparks have been completed in 2023/24 with a further 3 scheduled to be completed. Improvements to playparks in Newcastleton, Heiton, Broughton, Kelso and Burnfoot is planned.
Develop new partnerships, in both the third sector and community organisations to gain improved outcomes for our clients.	1, 2, 3	CAB	Number of families supported	Families	B1	The CAB are engaged in a pilot project with Social Security Scotland to ensure clients are supported to apply for Scottish Benefits. Pilot project completed ensuring clients are applying for Council Tax Reduction when appropriate.

#### Funding

Initiate and support community projects through community funds, some of which are now social enterprises.	1	BHA	Increased community projects	Families	A3	BHA continues to support community groups where possible, including seed funding, endorsement of larger funding applications and other partnership work,
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Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
						including ad hoc support to local foodbanks and larders
Work in partnership with third sector and community organisations, attend fortnightly/monthly community meetings and co-deliver warm and well grant funding.	1, 2, 3	SBC Communities	Partnership working with third sector and community organisations	Families	B1	Funding was awarded to Borders Community Action from the National Lottery Fund and Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Partnership. A total of £40k was obtained to support local communities.
Work with strategic partners to ensure there is help with heating costs through Cost of Living Support initiatives.	2	SBC Planning & Strategy	Cost of Living initiatives	Families	B2	The cost of living support initiatives continue to provide help with heating costs where appropriate
Support the roll-out Money Guiders Training Programme in partnership with Money and Pensions Service.	1, 2, 3	JHIT	Response to Money Guiders Training Programme	Families	B3	Staff from Health Improvement and Borders Addiction Service have taken part in the Money & Pensions Service National Evaluation and shared the partnership approach by working with SG Improvement Service and the Money & Pensions Service and facilitating presentations to share learning with the Scottish Money Guiders Network & the MAPS team in Bedford.
<b>Holistic and Whole Family Support</b>						
Provide holistic support through the Stepping Stones project and signpost to other organisations.	1, 2, 3	Tweeddale Youth Action	Number of referrals received	Young People	B1, B2	Stepping Stones delivery and signposting continues to have a significant positive impact on highly vulnerable young people.
Work cohesively in family assessments to provide a package of support as part of a shared 'whole family approach.'	1	SBC ESS	Increase to packages of support delivered	Families	B1	Initial meetings with referred families examine possible referral routes such as: Housing, Mental Health, Income maximisation. The service ensures that appropriate links are made with all services supporting the family to enable everyone's needs and wellbeing to be considered. Families are actively engaged in the process and work within a robust support plan which has a multi-agency and family focus.

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<b>Projects and Programmes</b>						
Explore the possibility, working in collaboration with NHS, to ensure timely mental health support is offered to clients accessing employability services.	1	SBC ESS NHS	Delivery of collaborative working with NHS	Families	B1	Conversations are continuing with NHS but there are some resource issues to provide NHS mental health specific support to employability clients. The week of Wellbeing is being delivered by the NHS Wellbeing Team – A taster session and additional support is offered if required.
Work in collaboration with Peebles High School to offer daytime, vocational support for disengaged young people. Work towards PHS using SQA framework to recognise achievement through this support and tie in with business and enterprise.	1	Tweeddale Youth Action	Number of young people supported	Young People	C2	Food and Bike Punks are currently supporting cohorts of school refusers and those on blended timetables during the school day. PHS have recently allocated a teaching resource to support accreditation of young people accessing provision at TYA during the school day. Collaboration with CLD supports accreditation through youth awards.
Attend school career fairs to raise awareness of all types of support could be available depending on their circumstances.	1, 2, 3	CAB	Number of children supported	Children	C2	CAB attend local groups, pensioners groups, U3a, school and career fairs and parent groups. Energy training is offered and provided to both external groups and partners and resources provided.
Inform and shape provision based on the Annual Participation Measure, focusing on areas with poor participation.	1	SDS LEP YPG	Number of families supported	Families	C2	Use of data from school leaver follow up activity and participation data for 16–24-year-olds to target provision in areas of greatest need. For example, delivery of NOLB Stage 2 and 3 in Eyemouth and Hawick. Annual Participation Measure 2023 for the Scottish Borders was 95.6% versus 94.3% nationally and was an increase of 2.4% in 2022.
Improve the effectiveness, consistency and impact of 14+ meetings through a refreshed framework and event for core partners.	1	SDS LEP YPG	Number of young people supported	Young People	C3	The 14+ framework was updated and an online session held with all 14+ leads in March 2024, co-delivered by SDS and Education and covering SLDR, data hub completeness and use and overview of LEP. 14+ meetings are being held regularly in all schools and the improvement in school leaver destinations

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						is evidence of impact. In the most recent publication 96.8% of 22/23 school leavers were in a positive destinations versus 95.9% nationally.
Engage fully in identifying, supporting and addressing child poverty throughout the Local Employability Partnership key themes of transitions, barriers, employer engagement, skills and leadership.	1, 2, 3	SBC Employability Service	Number of young people supported	Young People	C3	Parental and practitioner engagement events have been held across the 3 most deprived areas in the region with clients and the following partners: Borders Housing Network, SDS, DYW, DWP, SOSE, Employability, CLD.
<b>Fuel related activity</b>						
Through these actions we will tackle fuel poverty and provide support with rising energy bills.						
<b>Warm and Well</b>						
Offer libraries as warm spaces during autumn and winter 2023/24. Signpost to the SBC Cost of Living Crisis website.	2	Live Borders	Number of participants Number of families supported	Families	B2, B4	Cost of living literature and information to help support people available in the library. All Libraries registered on warm spaces website and available as a warm space during opening hours.
Allocate Warm and Well funding to support the operation of warm spaces in communities during the winter period.	1, 2, 3	SBC Communities	Number of families supported	Families	B4	A total of 30 grant applications were received and 22 were awarded funds. The grants benefitted a wide range of community groups and organisations spread across the 5 localities. Approx 3,900 people benefitted from activities.
Attend Warm Spaces and other community groups to be pro-active to discuss energy saving ideas, schemes and funds available to help families.	1, 2, 3	CAB	Number of families supported	Families	B4	Energy training offered & provided to local groups and stakeholders in order to share knowledge & resources. Discretionary funds made available and referrals to crisis energy support provided.
<b>Fuel and Energy</b>						
Provide ongoing support to mitigate fuel poverty including distribution of SG Fuel Support funding, Fuel Bank vouchers and energy saving advice.	2	BHA	Funding and voucher allocation	Families	B2	BHA has supported 85 customers with large fuel debt amounting to £31,960 averaging £374 per household. Fuel Bank vouchers continue to be dispensed with BHA allocating 605 vouchers last year, helping 887 adults and 476 children. Borders Housing Network (BHN) collectively allocated 2,122 vouchers in the last year. BHN has distributed 5,395



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						FB vouchers in the Scottish Borders since 2021 helping 10,406 people.
Signpost clients to Housing Providers as part of Initial Assessment to ensure eligibility of all additional funds for Fuel costs.	2	SBC ESS	Increased eligibility identified from Initial Assessments	Families	B2	The service works with the Housing network to create a referral pathway, which will be consistent across all 4 RLSs and homelessness services, this will include referral to PES/IFSS and to Welfare Benefits for income maximisation.
<b>Partnership Working</b>						
Work in partnership on specific projects such as Low and Slow and provide energy training in local communities.	2	SBC Communities Changeworks CAB	Uptake of Low and Slow Project	Families	B2	The Low and Slow project has delivered a 6-week programme where families learned a new way of working, shared recipes and enjoyed good food.
Work in partnership with Borders Home Energy Forum members to support fuel poverty interventions.	2	JHIT	Number of families supported	Families	B4	Ongoing sharing of information with/from the partnership. Contribution to the LHEES Strategy Consultation through co-ordination and submission of a PH response.
Continue the partnership delivery of the Warm & Well Scheme in 2023/2024, including the services of an Energy Advisor.	2	SBC CAB	Monetary gains and support given	Families	B4	Specialist energy advice & support provided with delivery of the Warm & Well project.
<b>Financial Inclusion</b>						
Through these actions we will help maximise income of low income households, lifting children out of poverty and combatting the cost of living crisis.						
<b>Education Settings</b>						
Students under the age of 18 are assisted to apply for Education Maintenance Allowance and to ensure that they maximise the student income streams they are eligible for.	1, 2, 3	Borders College	Number of students supported	Young People	C2	Students are provided with support via our student funding team and student support team to apply for EMA.
Schools will work more collegiately in clusters on the cost of the school day, using pupil equity funding to support it.	2, 3	SBC Education	Monetary gains	Families	B2	A new cost of the school day network has been formed and collation of effective practice has taken place. Each cluster has an identified person to lead on COSD. CPAG Scotland have engaged with the network to enhance our knowledge. The network's focus moving forward will be aimed at establishing relationships with partners, developing a framework for schools/settings, including

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						recommendations and encouraging professional learning for staff.
Support parents to be more confident as parents and co-learners in the education of their children and help their child flourish as a member of the school and wider community.	1	SBC CLD	Number of families supported	Families	C1	CLDS delivers parental support programmes such as Living with Parents.
<b>Income Maximisation</b>						
Work in partnership with other local authority and third sector organisations to support families with income maximisation and access to benefits and grants.	1, 2, 3	SBC Education	Uptake of families supported	Children and Families	B3	Clusters are building relationships with partners through various means, including the Cost of the School Day Network.
Provide Financial Inclusion and signposting to relevant services including child specific welfare support, access to food resources and clothing grants. Maximise take up of child related benefits and resources.	1, 2, 3	BHA	Uptake in accessing assistance Update of benefits	Families	B2, B3, B4, C1	BHA tenancy support service generated an annual benefit gain for BHA customers amounting £785,208 in the last financial year. Regular referrals to foodbanks and clothing resources are made as part of ongoing support provided.
Provide a comprehensive Income maximisation assessment to clients to ensure all funding streams are explored for families both unemployed and in work. Ensure all eligible families are in receipt of the package of 5 family benefits.	1, 2, 3	SBC ESS	Volume of Income Maximisation Assessments	Families	B2	Recruitment of a welfare benefits assistant has provided the offer of an in-work Benefit calculation to all participants engaging with Employability services. The delivery of a Parents Programme includes the offer of a welfare benefits check to each parent to ensure income maximisation.
Provide benefit checks and advice (including referrals from Employability Team) and signposting	1, 2, 3	SBC Financial Inclusion SBC Early Years	Uptake of referrals Updates in benefits checks	Families	A3, B2, B1	Dedicated support is now in place within the Employability Service which will make a difference to families in providing benefit checks.
Provide support and signposting for applications for disability benefits and assist with appeals if required.	1, 2, 3	SBC Financial Inclusion	Uptake in benefits applications	Families	B2	This is an ongoing service action.
<b>Projects and Programmes</b>						
Provide pilot pop up welfare/employability hubs offering wellbeing and employability support and advice.	1, 2, 3	SBC ESS SBC Communities	Attendance at hubs	Families	B3	In collaboration with LEP partners and external agencies, such as housing and NHS Borders, the service will provide opportunities for individuals and communities, to engage in hubs

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
						promoting and supporting wellbeing and employability.
Undertake take-up campaigns to encourage people to apply for benefits or support where parents might not have been aware of their potential entitlement.	1, 2, 3	SBC Financial Inclusion	Referral intake	Families	B3	Specific campaigns have included free school meals, clothing grants and Scottish Child Payment.
<b>Money Worries</b> <b>Through these actions we will put money directly in the pockets of low income households, lifting children out of poverty and combatting the cost of living crisis.</b>						
<b>Cost of Living</b>						
Provide funds to run free breakfast clubs across 20 schools.	2	SBC Communities	Attendance at breakfast clubs	Children and Families	B2	£50k was made available to 16 schools/organisations to enhance or start a breakfast club. Feedback is currently being gathered.
Ensure all students eligible to receive student funding have received additional cost of living payments to help mitigate the cost-of-living crisis in the 22-23 academic year.	2	Borders College	Continuation of Scottish Government funding	Families	B2 B4	Cost of living payments continue to be provided to students at Borders College, of up to £5,000 per year. This is provided in installments across the year. Students are invited to apply for this payment by e-mail (they just need to respond saying they would like to receive it). All students who made an initial application will automatically be provided with further instalments throughout the year.
Support families 1:1, liaison with housing, vouchers available for supermarkets, linking with and referrals on to charities. Hold clothing swap shops.	1, 2, 3	SBC Early Years	Number of families supported	Families	B4	This is an ongoing service action within the Early Years Service.
<b>Income and Benefits</b>						
Increase awareness of benefits among parents of primary and secondary pupils through continued campaigning.	3	SBC Financial Inclusion Team	Monetary gains, support given	Families	B3	Specific campaigns have included free school meals, clothing grants and Scottish Child Payment. Where appropriate, referrals are sent to CAB for money advice.
Work with people and families to maximise their income in person, by telephone, near me digital service and mail, attending community events and outreach services.	1, 2, 3	CAB	Increase to number of families supported	Families	B3	Income maximisation is provided in person, by telephone, email and near me video call. Debt advice provided to clients with debt issues and attended community events to raise awareness.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
Provide support with Housing Benefit and Discretionary Housing Payment applications to assist with rent payments.	1, 2, 3	SBC Financial Inclusion	Number of families supported	Families	B4	A campaign to identify parents affected by the Benefit Cap was undertaken and awareness sessions with other partners delivered.
Promote welfare benefits and Scottish Government benefits relevant to the young person.	1, 2, 3	CAB	Number of young people supported	Young People	C3	Benefit checks are offered to all clients to ensure they are receiving full entitlement. Clients are also encouraged to attend Social Security Scotland drop-in service in bureau.
<b>Information and Support</b>						
Promote the Money Worries App to increase uptake	1, 2, 3	JHIT CAB NHS Borders	Usage of Money Worries app Number of families supported Monetary gains	Families Parents	B3, C1, A2	The Money Worries App continues to be promoted to clients.

\*Poverty Drivers

- 1 – Income from Employment
- 2 – Costs of living
- 3 – Income from Social Security and benefits in kind

\*\*Best Start, Bright Futures Indicators

- A1 – A strengthened employment offer to parents
- A2 – Connectivity and childcare
- A3 – Transforming our economy
- B1 – A transformational approach to People and Place
- B2 – Enhanced support through social security
- B3 – Income maximisation
- B4 – Access to warm affordable homes
- C1 – Best start to life
- C2 – Supporting children to learn and grow
- C3 – Post school transitions