

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL'S



EDUCATION EQUITY STRATEGY 2021-2026



RATIONALE

The Equity Strategy has been developed to ensure increased excellence, accelerated progress and embedded equity in our schools and settings to reduce the poverty related attainment gap and improve outcomes for care experienced children and young people (CECYP). The strategy sets out the short, medium and long term outcomes and roles and responsibilities of education staff and partners to improve outcomes for children and young people impacted by poverty. The strategy coordinates the Attainment Scotland Funding streams; Pupil Equity Funding, Strategic Equity Funding and CECYP Funding to ensure maximum impact.

The Equity Strategy is presented in a 'Logic Model' format which includes the high level messages and outcomes of the strategy. This model is used to ensure consistency with Education Scotland documentation related to the [Scottish Attainment Challenge \(SAC\)](#). The individual actions are included in a working RACI model outlining the roles of those responsible, accountable, consulted and informed of the strategy.

BACKGROUND

Reducing inequalities and the poverty related attainment gap are a key focus of the Council Plan, Anti-Poverty Strategy and Education Improvement Plan. The launch of the Equity Strategy and the establishment of an Equity Strategic Board, both key drivers for closing the poverty related attainment gap, are fundamental as we continue to accelerate progress and embed equity in our schools and settings.

Outcomes for CECYP is a key focus of the Council's Corporate Parenting Strategy. Part 9 of The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 specifies Corporate Parenting duties and responsibilities which apply to all CECYP in SBC. We are committed to working with statutory and non-statutory partners to assist them in identifying innovative ideas to enable them to address their Corporate Parenting duties.

The Cabinet Secretary set out in the Scottish Parliament on 23 November 2021 her plans for the next phase of the Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC), developed in close consultation with local government and agreed by COSLA Leaders. This next phase of the SAC builds on the evidence set out in the Scottish Government and Education Scotland [5 year report](#) on progress towards closing the poverty related attainment gap, the [Equity Audit](#), the [Audit Scotland report](#) on educational outcomes, and the [OECD review](#). In summary, the SAC refresh national plans are that, with the support of £1 billion over this parliamentary term, the refreshed programme, from 2022/23, will see:

- a) a broader recognition of children and young people's achievements and attainment,
- b) continued empowerment of school leaders through Pupil Equity Funding,
- c) a clearer and funded strategic role for all local authorities,
- d) funding for Pupil Equity Funding and local authorities confirmed over 4 years to enable long term planning
- e) continued support for care experienced children and young people, and
- f) a clear framework to support recovery and accelerate progress, led by Education Scotland but with clear responsibilities for all parts of the education system which will enable a clearer line of sight right through the system on the impact of local approaches.

Scottish Borders Council will receive the following Attainment Scotland Funding each financial year until end of year 2025-26.

- a) Pupil Equity Funding - £1,923,695
- b) Care Experienced Children and Young People Funding - £149,450
- c) Strategic Equity Funding

2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
£225,440	£448,171	£670,901	£893,632



Scottish Borders Council Education and Lifelong Learning
Equity Strategy Logic Model 2021 - 2026

Inputs	Activities	Short Term Outcomes (2021/22)	Medium Term Outcomes (2022/23 - 2023/24)	Long Term Outcomes (2024/25 - 2025/26)	Requirements for success	Vision
<p>Funding ASF (Pupil Equity Fund, Strategic Equity Fund, SAC Schools, Care Experienced Fund)</p> <p>Staffing Equity & Inclusion Lead Officer/Virtual School Headteacher</p> <p>Policy Scottish Attainment Challenge guidelines and related documents</p>	<p>There will be a system wide focus on improving leadership at all levels. This will include high quality learning and teaching at school level and collaboration with families and communities</p> <p>Quality Assurance calendar of school visits and reviews</p>	<p>Increase and improve communications regarding Attainment Scotland Fund both in the local authority and beyond</p> <p>Increase strategic governance of Attainment Scotland Fund in line with Scottish Attainment Challenge Refresh and development of local authority and school Stretch Aims</p> <p>Increase confidence and build capacity in understanding equity and excellence with practitioners</p> <p>Increase confidence and knowledge in data literacy with senior leaders of initial identified schools</p> <p>Increase monitoring and tracking of care experienced children and young people regarding attendance, attainment and positive destinations</p>	<p>Continue to increase and improve communications regarding Attainment Scotland Fund both in the local authority and beyond</p> <p>Continue to embed strategic governance of Attainment Scotland Fund</p> <p>Improve understanding in writing outcomes and measures with headteachers to articulate improvement and demonstrate impact</p> <p>Increase excellence and reduce the poverty related attainment gap (Local authority stretch aims – provide support and challenge to enable schools to meet school stretch aims set for June 2023 and June 2024)</p> <p>Increase confidence and knowledge in data literacy with senior leaders and practitioners of Quintile 1/PEF schools through Professional Learning sessions and school engagements</p>	<p>Embed communications regarding Attainment Scotland Fund both in the local authority and beyond</p> <p>Sustainability of the impact of Attainment Scotland Fund</p> <p>Continue to improve understanding in writing outcomes and measures with headteachers to articulate improvement and demonstrate impact</p> <p>Increase excellence and reduce the poverty related attainment gap to exceed national and virtual comparators (Local authority stretch aims – provide support and challenge to enable schools to meet school stretch aims set for June 2025 and June 2026)</p> <p>Continue to increase confidence and knowledge in data literacy with senior leaders of Quintile 1/PEF schools through professional learning sessions and a school engagements</p>	<p>Observations in schools/settings</p> <p>Feedback from partners and to schools</p> <p>Continuous self-evaluation</p> <p>Data accessibility</p> <p>Shared ownership and systems approach</p> <p>Effective and efficient communication between internal and external partners</p> <p>Maximisation of funding and grants</p> <p>Opportunities to work and review in collaboration with partners</p> <p>Improved attainment data and positive leaver destinations</p> <p>Improved achievement data and access to opportunities</p> <p>Effective planning to continue existing approaches, adjusted as required to manage new/emerging challenges as a result of Covid-19 and do so within existing funding levels</p>	<p>Using education to improve outcomes for children and young people impacted by poverty with a focus on tackling the poverty related attainment gap.</p> <p>Why Regardless of background or socio economic status - all children and young people will have access to both tools and opportunities to reach or exceed their potential.</p> <p>How The equity strategy will use the logic model to provide a coherent plan which will inform, support and challenge colleagues in SBC to achieve our vision in closing the poverty related attainment gap.</p> <p>What Increase excellence, accelerate progress towards embedding equity by closing the poverty related attainment gap between the least and most disadvantaged</p>
<p>Support and Collaboration Local Authority Equity Strategic Board Performance & Improvement Team Headteachers and senior leaders Equity School/Setting Leads Business Services Finance Practitioners CE Coordinators Equalities Forum CLD Social work The Promise Team/ Champs Board Corporate Parenting Ops Group Placement Overview Group Anti-poverty/cost of living crisis ops group Elected Members</p>	<p>Diarised data reviews to measure progress against outcomes</p> <p>Collaborative planning and reviews with attainment advisor</p> <p>Plan and deliver professional learning sessions</p> <p>Communications plan</p> <p>Destinations workshops with SDS</p> <p>Regular attendance at relevant meetings and groups</p> <p>Regular monitoring and tracking procedures</p>					

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<p>Partners/Agencies Skills Development Scotland Developing Young Workforce Borders College NHS Community partners Youth Borders Tertiary Sector</p> <p>Regional and National SEIC CELCIS Education Scotland</p> <p>Data Attainment; ACEL, Insight, SNSA, NIF, Seemis etc Attendance and exclusions SIMD Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index LGBF Community and contextual Care Experienced</p>	Internal and external reporting through statutory reports	Develop and implement initial use of Strategic Equity Funding	<p>Implement new governance and increase quality of schools Pupil Equity Funding plans</p> <p>Continue and refine monitoring and tracking of care experienced children and young people's attendance, attainment and destinations. Implement mentoring pilot(s) for CECYP through CE Funding in collaboration with social work and partners to improve attendance, attainment, achievement and positive destinations. Monitor and track use of Strategic Equity Funding to ensure Impact Develop long term plans for use of Strategic Equity Funding and exit strategy</p>	Increase attainment, positive leaver destinations, achievement and attendance of care experienced children and young people to exceed national and virtual comparators Monitor and track use of Strategic Equity Funding to ensure impact		

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