



SCOTTISH BORDERS

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES PLAN 2023/26



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Foreword

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 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”.

The Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (CPP) play their part in keeping The Promise in the Scottish Borders through the work of the newly established Children and Young People’s Planning Partnership. This new multi-agency strategic board for children’s services planning replaces the Children and Young People’s Leadership Group and incorporates strategic governance of corporate parenting. It will focus on an accountable and streamlined approach to children’s services design, development, and commissioning.

The cost-of-living crisis, along with unacceptable levels of child poverty present major issues for some of our children, young people, and their families. We are proud of the way we work in partnership in the Scottish Borders to achieve a holistic and joined up approach to tackling such issues and we will ensure that this new Plan takes account of work that is planned to support children, young people, and their families.

The Community Planning Partnership is pleased to approve this plan which sets out a clear vision and refreshed priorities for the future, highlighting our full commitment to working together in partnership to pursue our goal of making a difference to the lives of children, young people, and their families.

Councillor Caroline Cochrane – Chair of Community Planning Partnership

Stuart Easingwood – Chair of Children & Young People’s Planning Partnership

Councillor Carol Hamilton – Executive Member for Developing our Children & Young People

David Robertson – Chief Executive, Scottish Borders Council

Ralph Roberts – Chief Executive, NHS Borders

Sarah Horan – Strategic Lead, NHS Borders



Introduction

Over the last year Scottish Borders children's services partner agencies have been working together to develop thinking around our children and young people's service planning, vision, outcomes, and priorities for the three years ahead (2023-2026).

An integrated approach to service planning by partners is a requirement under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. *"The Act seeks to improve outcomes for all children and young people in Scotland by ensuring that local planning and delivery of services is integrated, focused on securing quality and value through preventative approaches, and dedicated to safeguarding, supporting and promoting child wellbeing¹."*

All partners have made a considerable commitment to participate in the development of this new three-year plan, as well as to a new governance model to ensure strategic oversight and operational delivery of the plan.

We are publishing a plan which 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 plans. As such, Year one will focus on strengthening the foundations to deliver 'The Promise' in the Scottish Borders.

Our approach continues to be rooted in the national 'Getting it right for every child' (GIRFEC) wellbeing framework and includes a number of priorities which we believe will make a significant contribution to achieving the wellbeing outcomes set out.

The Children and Young People's Planning Partnership (CYPPP) are committed to using their collective resources to create a Strategic Plan to deliver the best possible services they can, for children and young people, working with the following vision:

'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.'

We want all children, young people, carers, and families in the Scottish Borders to know that their needs and concerns are at the heart of what we do, and we will ensure that this is the case for the life of this plan and beyond by continuing to communicate with them around the contents of the plan.

We recognise there is much to do to ensure we include and involve children and young people in decisions about their lives and protect their rights, and we are committed to deliver actions to address this in this Plan.

¹ Scottish Government (2020). Children's Services Planning: Guidance.



Our Children and Young People's Services Plan on a Page

A Good Childhood

- Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing of Children and Young People
- Corporate Parenting
- Children in Conflict with the Law

Whole Family Support

- Supporting Families
- Child Poverty

the promise



Planning and Building Capacity

- Commissioning
- Develop a multi-agency shared performance/outcomes framework for Children and Young People
- Develop a Participation and Engagement Strategy

Supporting the Workforce

- Develop a Children and Young People Workforce Strategy and Plan



Our Children and Young People

All Children and Young People	
28,800 people aged 0-24 (2021)	Under 25s make up a quarter of the Scottish Borders population
A quarter live in Galashiels or Hawick, half live in smaller towns and large villages and a quarter live in small villages or in the countryside	Population by age band: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-4s - 4,988 • 5-9s - 6,190 • 10-14s - 6,323 • 15-19s - 5,900 • 20-24s - 5,399
There were 852 live births in 2021	846 White non-UK pupils (6% of roll) and 429 BAME pupils (3% of roll)
Children's Health and Wellbeing	
13% of mothers-to-be smoked during pregnancy (up to 2021/22)	15% of mothers smoked when their baby was 6-8 weeks old (up to 2021/22)
49.6% of babies exclusively breastfed at the first visit (2022)	40% of babies exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks (up to 2021/22)
97% of babies received their "6-in-1" immunisation by 24 months (up to 2021)	11% of toddlers had a developmental concern at their 27–30-month assessment (up to 2021)
70% of Primary 1 children were within a healthy weight range (2020/21)	87% of S3 girls took up the HPV vaccine (up to 2020)
Vulnerable Children	
1,115 pupils lived in SIMD Quintile 1 (8% of roll)	There was a 38% deprivation attainment gap in literacy and a 34% gap in numeracy between Primary pupils in SIMD Quintile 1 and SIMD Quintile 5 (2021/22)
14% of all school pupils received Free School Meals in 2022	109 children referred to Children's Reporter in 2021/22
198 children were Looked After as at June 2022	346 children were in families that were homeless or threatened with homelessness in 2021/22
39 children were on the Child Protection Register as of June 2022	
Education and Economic Activity	
2022 School roll = 14,309 (Primary - 7,758, Secondary - 6,551)	79 languages were listed as a main language across all schools
There was a 5% attendance gap between Primary pupils in SIMD Quintile 1 and SIMD Quintile 5 (2021/22)	There was a 7.7% attendance gap between Secondary pupils in SIMD Quintile 1 and SIMD Quintile 5 (2021/22)
93% of 16–19-year-olds participated in Education, Employment or Training (2022)	Employment rate for 16–24-year-olds was 53.9% (2022)



National Context

National Performance Framework

Achieving our priorities, and the actions contained within them, will contribute to The Scottish Government's [National Performance Framework](#)'s **vision for children and young people:**

“We do all we can to ensure our children grow up in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding. We enhance their life chances through our early years provision and by supporting families when they need it. We ensure childhood is free from abuse, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, poverty, and hunger. Our children are not left worried or isolated. We include and involve children in decisions about their lives and world, and protect their rights, dignity, and wellbeing.

Our communities are safe places where children are valued, nurtured, and treated with kindness. We provide stimulating activities and encourage children to engage positively with the built and natural environment and to play their part in its care. We provide the conditions in which all children can be healthy and active. Our schools are loving, respectful and encouraging places where everyone can learn, play, and flourish. We provide children and young people with hope for the future and create opportunities for them to fulfil their dreams.”

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

In spring 2021 the Scottish Parliament unanimously supported the UNCRC Incorporation (Scotland) Bill – which places a duty on public bodies to respect and protect children's rights in all the work that they do. The Bill also says that public authorities must not act in a way that is incompatible with the UNCRC requirements. The Scottish Government remains absolutely committed to incorporating the UNCRC into Scots law, as far as that is possible within devolved competence, and to doing so as soon as practicable.

This Plan is informed by the universal rights afforded to all children and young people. The Plan will identify priority actions where we can focus our partnership work and resources on those who need additional, enhanced, or targeted supports and interventions, whilst at the same time, recognising our responsibility to ensure that all children and young people are supported through universal provisions in education, health and the third sector.

There are four articles in the Convention that are seen as special. They are known as the “General Principles,” and they help to interpret all the other articles and play a fundamental role in realising all the rights in the Convention for all children and young people. They are:

1. Non-discrimination (article 2)
2. Best interest of the child (article 3)
3. Right to life survival and development (article 6)
4. Right to be heard (article 12)

The Plan priorities will be developed and delivered in a way which recognises these General Principles and the Convention more broadly.



GIRFEC

Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) is Scottish Government's commitment to provide all children, young people, and their families with the right support at the right time. This is so that every child and young person in Scotland can reach their full potential.

Through GIRFEC, everyone in Scotland can work together to build the scaffold of support children and young people need to grow up loved, safe and respected. Some children and young people may need additional help to develop their wellbeing. Where possible, children's needs are met by universal or universal plus service provision such as health professionals and education staff who have a role to nurture wellbeing. A small but significant number of children and young people need targeted support, and an even smaller number may require access to Specialist and intensive services to meet their needs.

The key professional's role is critical within this. There is a single pathway that supports agencies and organisations to work together to assess, plan and assist children, young people and their families and ensure the most timely and proportionate support is available.

GIRFEC provides Scotland with a consistent framework and shared language to promote, support and safeguard the wellbeing of children and young people., It is locally embedded by partners across Children's Services Planning Partnerships, with a focus on changing culture, systems, and practice for the benefit of babies, infants, children, young people, and their families.

The Promise

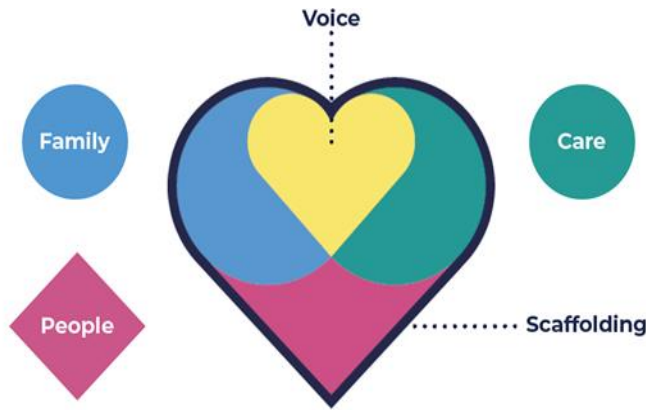
In October 2016, after meeting with, and listening to children and young people in care, Scotland's First Minister announced, "an independent, root and branch review of the care system" to look at "the underpinning legislation, practices, culture and ethos" of that system.

The Independent Care Review began its work in February 2017, and heard from over 5,500 care experienced infants, children, young people, and adults about their experiences of the 'care system' in Scotland. It listened to their views about what needed to change, concluding its research in February 2020. Seven reports were produced which address the Independent Care Review's findings, financial implications and a 10-year plan going forward. The overall finding was that the care system was broken and required a radical change to make sure our care experienced children and young people enjoy the same opportunities and rights as every other child.

One of the reports the review produced is called 'The Promise' which sets out an overall view of what the new approach should be around 5 foundation principles they identified which are highlighted below. As a local authority and Community Planning Partnership we have been asked to sign up to the 'Promise' and the associated findings.

The review identified five foundations for change, with over 80 specific changes that must be made to transform how Scotland cares for children and families as well as the unpaid and paid workforce by 2030. These foundations must be at the heart of any re-organisation of how Scottish Border thinks, plans and prioritises for children, young people, and their families.





The five foundations are:

Voice: When children speak, adults must really listen to them. Adults must make sure that children are included in decisions about their lives.

Family: If children are living with their family and are safe and feel loved, they should stay there. Their family should be given all the help they need to stay together. If they need extra help when things get difficult, they should get it.

Care: If children cannot stay with the adults in their family, they will stay with their brothers and sisters. The home they live in together will be a place where they feel safe and loved. It should be their home for as long as they want and need it to be.

People: Relationships are important. Adults must make sure children are able to stay close to the people they want to and keep in contact with them. Adults must also help children make new relationships as they grow up. Sometimes adults need some help too. The adults who are close to children must get the help they need to make sure they can do their best for children.

Scaffolding: Help and support must be there for children and families whenever they need it. It must also be there for the adults who are close to children and families. It is important everyone knows where to go for help and that it is ready when it is asked for.



The Promise Plan 2021-2024

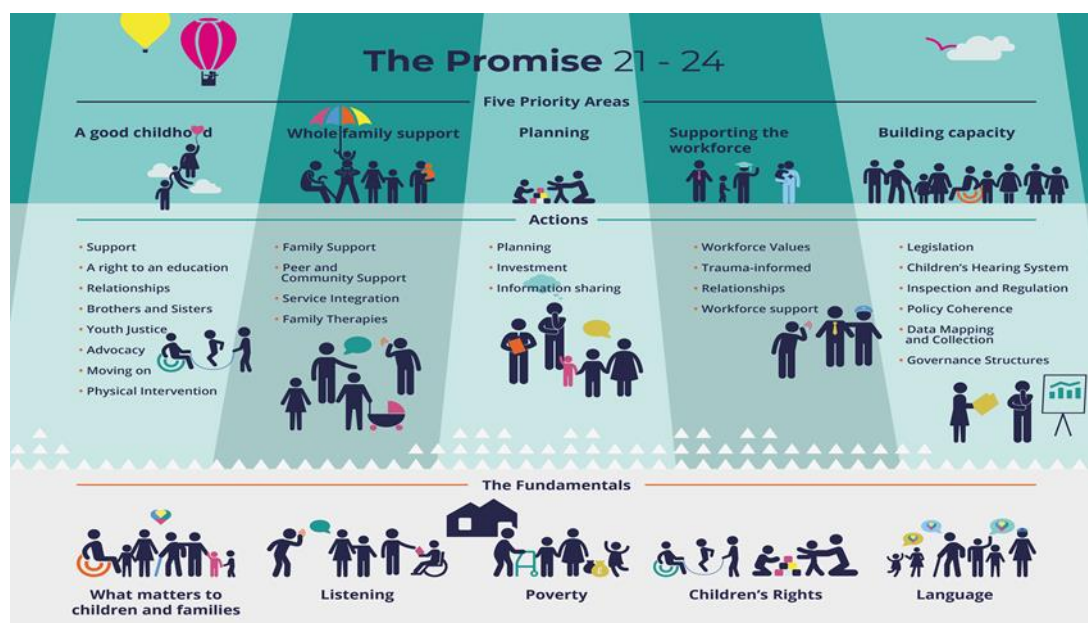


By 2030, the Care Review's vision will be fully realised through a new way of working together resulting in a new 'Business as Usual'



Work to #KeepThePromise between 2021 and 2030 is being shaped by a series of three Plans, each lasting for three years and outlining the priorities and action across that period. Each Plan will build on the progress made by the one before it to make sure transformational change happens across all the Care Review's conclusions.

Taken from The Plan, the diagram below highlights the time plan until 2030, and highlights we are sitting in Years 2-4 phase. By 2030 we aim for the Care Review's vision to be fully realised - that (as Scotland) we will have developed a new "business as usual" which ensures positive outcomes for all Scotland's children, young people, and families.



The Promise Plan 2021 – 2024 outlines Scotland's route map, providing key priorities and areas of focus under which organisations will work to achieve the required change over the next three years. This Plan is based on five priorities and rests on the foundation of five 'Fundamentals.'



The Fundamental principles of **‘What matters to children and families’**, **‘Listening’**, **‘Poverty’**, **Children’s Rights’** and **‘Language’** should be woven into the fabric of how all our organisations in the Scottish Borders work with children, young people and families.

The five priorities are: **‘A Good Childhood’**, **Whole Family Support’**, **‘Planning’**, **‘Supporting the Workforce’** and **‘Building Capacity’**. The Plan gives further clarity for each priority in terms of the areas that we need to look at.

In the Scottish Borders, we will work collectively to deliver the Promise, improving the experiences and outcomes of those who experience care, those who may be described as on the ‘edge of care,’ and those who have a requirement for additional services to support them to live safely at home.

We see the Promise as our umbrella policy driver for *all* our work with children, young people and families. This commitment is reflected in the Plan priorities and through the structure of our new strategic Children and Young People’s Planning Partnership and its networks.

Child Poverty

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets out the Scottish Government’s statement of intent to eradicate child poverty in Scotland by 2030. The national delivery plan 2022 to 2026, [Best Start, Bright Futures](#) sets out how we will work together to deliver on Scotland’s national mission to tackle child poverty.

National Trauma Training Programme/Knowledge and Skills Framework

The Scottish Government has pledged to develop *‘A trauma informed and responsive nation and workforce, that is capable of recognising where people are affected by trauma and adversity, that is able to respond in ways that prevent further harm and support recovery, and can address inequalities and improve life chances’*

The National Trauma Training Programme (NTTP) is part of the Scottish Government’s work to support prevention of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and trauma across the life-course; and to develop trauma-informed responses for children, young people and adults affected by adversity and trauma.

To support the NTTP, NHS Education Scotland (NES) developed a Knowledge and Skills Framework which details the different competencies needed by workers across four practice levels. These levels include:

- (1) trauma informed, which includes all members of the workforce
- (2) trauma skilled, which includes all workers who are likely to come into contact with people who are affected by trauma
- (3) trauma enhanced, which includes all workers with a remit to respond to people who are affected by trauma
- (4) trauma specialist, which includes workers with a remit to provide evidence-based interventions and treatment to those affected with trauma.

The Training Plan is a practical tool designed to be used in conjunction with the Knowledge and Skills Framework to support organisations to develop trauma informed practice.



In the Scottish Borders, a multi-agency steering group involving individuals with lived experience of trauma has been established to help drive forward this agenda and promote trauma informed practice within local services for all children, young people, adults, and older adults with lived experience of trauma.

Local Context

There are a number of local plans, strategies and reports which all contribute to delivering our priorities for Children and Young People's Services across the Scottish Borders.

[The Scottish Borders Council Plan](#)

The [Council Plan](#) from April 2023 sets out a strategic framework for Council decision-making and operations. Their strategic context and vision align well with the priorities set out in this plan.

[Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report](#)

Local Authorities and Health Boards are required to jointly prepare a [Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report](#) and an Annual Progress Report. Tackling child poverty in the Scottish Borders remains a priority of this plan.

[Anti-Poverty Strategy](#)

The Scottish Borders [Anti-Poverty Strategy](#) sets out the way in which the Council and its partners will aim to work together to help reduce poverty across the region and recognises that Child Poverty is included in this aim.

[Children's Rights](#)

Our [Children's Rights Report 2021-2023](#) reports on the steps we have taken to fulfil the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

[Community Planning Partnership Priority Themes](#)

The Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership work with four priority themes to support communities. These are:

- Enough money to live on
- Access to work, learning and training
- Enjoying good health and wellbeing
- A good place to grow up, live in and enjoy a full life

These themes align with aspects of our Children and Young People's Services Plan.

[Equity Strategy](#)

Our [Education Equity Strategy 2021-2026](#) 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 (The strategy coordinates the Attainment Scotland Funding streams; Pupil Equity Funding, Strategic Equity Funding and CECYP Funding to ensure maximum impact.

[Education Improvement Plan](#)

Our [Education Improvement Plan 2022-2023](#) sets out key strategic improvement priorities for our schools and settings. The National Improvement Framework 2022 (NIF) requires each local authority to prepare and publish annual plans and reports describing the steps



they intend to take each academic year to reach each of the five strategic priorities below:

- Placing the human rights and needs of every child and young person at the centre of education
- Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children
- Improvement in children's health and wellbeing
- Improvement in employability skills and sustained positive school leave destinations for young people

Engagement with Children and Young People

Listening and understanding what matters to children and young people needs to be at the heart of all our strategic decision making in the Scottish Borders. Appendix F details a range of different formal engagement exercises which were undertaken with children and young people between 2020 and 2022.

Scottish Borders Youth Voice work continues to be led by the Community Learning and Development team. Over the last eighteen months we have been working to embed a Champions Board approach in the Scottish Borders for care experienced children and young people. The Champions Board is designed to provide a forum that is flexible, accessible and has young people at the forefront of any decision making. It gives a space for care experienced young people to come together and voice their views on issues they may have encountered whilst being a Looked After young person, and also develop stronger relationships with corporate parents. The approach is still early in its development, and work is currently being undertaken to develop Champions Board Hubs in two schools in the Scottish Borders and Borders College.

'Article 12 at the Heart' workshops are being developed for children and young people who have quieter voices, e.g., children and young people not attending school, children and young people with additional support needs, unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people and other children and young people with protected characteristics. It is hoped that some of the young people involved with this project will become involved in the new CYPSP Strategic Board and networks as co-chairs; however, this will be discussed with the young people once the project is established.

A new Youth Autism Advisory Group is due to be launched in Spring/Summer 2023 for autistic young people aged 16 – 24 to support the engagement and inclusion of Autistic Youth Voices in local Autism Strategy work.

In order to ensure we have a consistent and streamlined approach to participation and engagement activities across multi-agency children and young people's services, a Youth Participation and Engagement Strategy which is co-produced with children and young people needs to be developed. This is one of the actions under 'Planning and Building Capacity' within this 2023 – 2026 plan.



Our Children & Young People's Planning Partnership

In order to fully and effectively implement The Promise in the Scottish Borders, we recognise the need for a clear, strategic governance structure.

The previous arrangements under the Children and Young People's Leadership Group did not facilitate nor enable strategic leadership, monitoring and development of corporate parenting and The Promise. Strategic planning needed to be more joined up to prevent duplication of networks and ensure a more accountable and streamlined approach to children and young people's services design, development, and commissioning.

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.

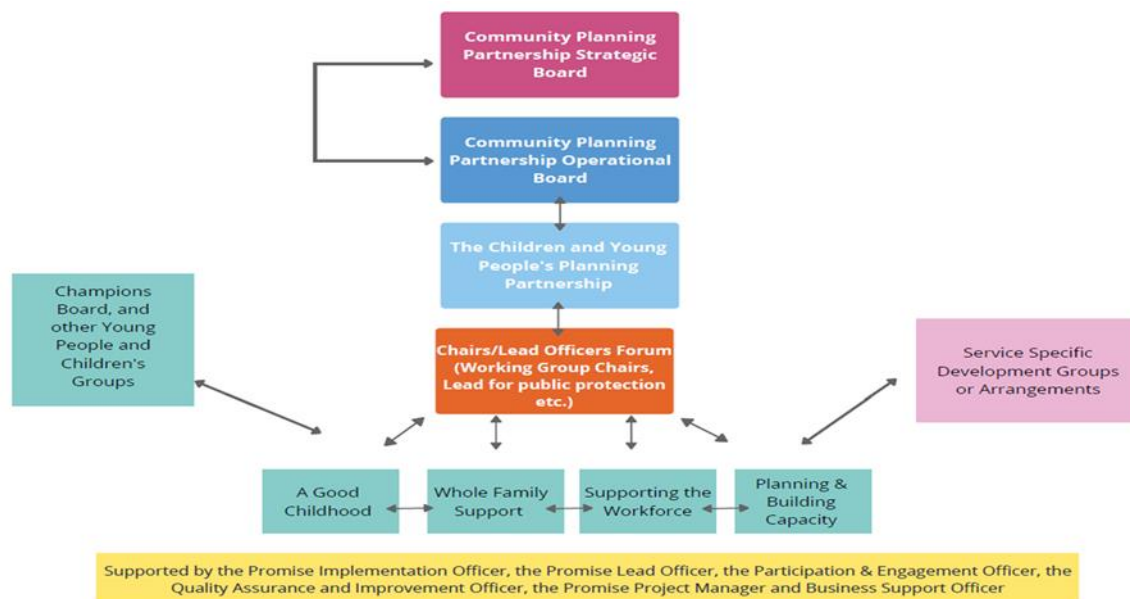
The Partnership will receive reports and updates from the priority networks of The Promise. These networks align to the five priority areas set out in the Plan 2021-2024:

- **A Good Childhood** – Support, A Right to an Education, Relationships, Brothers and Sisters, Youth Justice, Advocacy, Moving on, and Physical Intervention.
- **Whole family support** – Family Support, Peer and Community Support, Service Integration, and Family Therapies
- **Planning and Building Capacity** – Planning, Investment, and Information Sharing, Legislation, Children's Hearing System, Inspection and Regulation, Policy Coherence, Data Mapping and Collection, and Governance Structures
- **Supporting the Workforce** – Workforce Values, Trauma Informed, and Relationships, Workforce Support

In 2023-24, each network chair will lead on the development of a work plan directly informed by the priorities of the Children & Young People's Services Plan 2023-26. These action plans will incorporate performance measures and set measurable targets for new activities, to monitor their implementation, and keep plans under regular review.



Children & Young People's Planning Partnership Structure Chart



Children & Young People's Planning Partnership Core Membership

Strategic Lead for The Promise (Chair – no vote)

2 -3 Child/Young person representatives

Scottish Borders Council Elected Member

NHS Borders Board Member

Director of Education

Youth Borders Chief Officer

NHS Borders Strategic Lead

Locality Reporter Manager SCRA (Scottish Children's Reporter Administration)

Local Area Commander Police Scotland

In Attendance

Chair of the Corporate Parenting Operational Group & Operational Lead for The Promise

The Promise Lead Officer

The Promise Implementation Officer

The Promise Project Worker

Child & Adult Protection Lead Officer

Chair of the 'A Good Childhood' Working Group

Chair of the 'Whole Family Support' Working Group

Chair of the 'Supporting the Workforce' Working Group

Chair of the 'Planning and Building Capacity' Working Group



Key Plans and Strategies

As well as the delegated responsibility for the production and delivery of the Children and Young People’s Services Plan, the Children & Young People’s Planning Partnership are responsible for a range of other Plans and Strategies and make a contribution to many others across their partner organisations. Key Plans and strategies are shown in the table below.

Key Plans, Strategies and Legislation		
Children and Young People’s (Scotland) Act 2014	GIRFEC Approach	Corporate Parenting Strategy
Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017	National Performance Framework	NHS Clinical Strategy
UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill	The Promise	Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Strategy 2020-2023
	Public Health Priorities for Scotland	Scottish Borders Director of Public Health Report (2018)
	No-one left Behind	Regional Economic Strategy
	Best Start, Bright Futures	CLD Strategic Plan
	Young Person’s Guarantee	Local Child Poverty Report and action plan
		Anti-Poverty Strategy
		Education Equity Strategy 2021-2026
		Education Improvement Plan 2022-2023

Key: Green (National Legislation), Blue (National Strategy), Pink (Local Plans)



Covid-19 Recovery

COVID-19 has been the catalyst to fundamental changes to how we engage with children, families, and partner agencies e.g., the “virtualisation” of work through the increased use of digital technology.

The necessity of operating differently has given us the opportunity to understand what we can do, and what we may want to continue doing whilst exploring changes to demand and opportunities for collaboration. As we move forward, a balance between utilising technology and face-to-face approaches is required to best meet the needs of children, young people, and families and to ensure we maintain a focus on relationship-based engagement, where we provide emotionally intelligent, empathic, and compassionate support.

COVID-19 has had a significant emotional impact on children, young people, and their families, and on staff across services. The lack of socialisation has impacted greatly on children and young people and services are experiencing more and more distressed and traumatised children and young people within an increasingly pressurised environment; this pressure is now being added to by the cost-of-living crisis and further funding pressures being experienced across services.

Public Health Scotland reported in 2022 that almost half of parents felt that COVID-19 had a negative impact on their child’s physical activity levels and three quarters felt they had more screen time. These findings are echoed in a [report](#)² raising concern about the impact of sedentary lifestyles on the already high rates of childhood obesity in Scotland. While some child health activities (e.g., Health Visitors) were protected during the pandemic, there was a reduction in access to more routine services such as oral health, allied health professionals and primary school health checks. While there is concern about the longer-term impact on children and young people’s health and wellbeing from the changes to lifestyle or ability to access services it is not possible to evidence any changes at this time.

Trauma-responsive approaches are essential, and this extends to the physical and emotional environment in which we conduct our business, and we are committed to ensure trauma-informed practice is at the heart of delivering our plan. We recognise there are many continued impacts as a result of COVID-19 which will be experienced for many years, and our priorities reflect the need to ensure we engage with children, young people, and families to recognise and respond to these impacts.

² [Pandemic has worsened global childhood physical inactivity crisis – and Scotland is no exception | About | University of Stirling](#)



Priorities of the Children & Young People’s Services Plan 2023-26

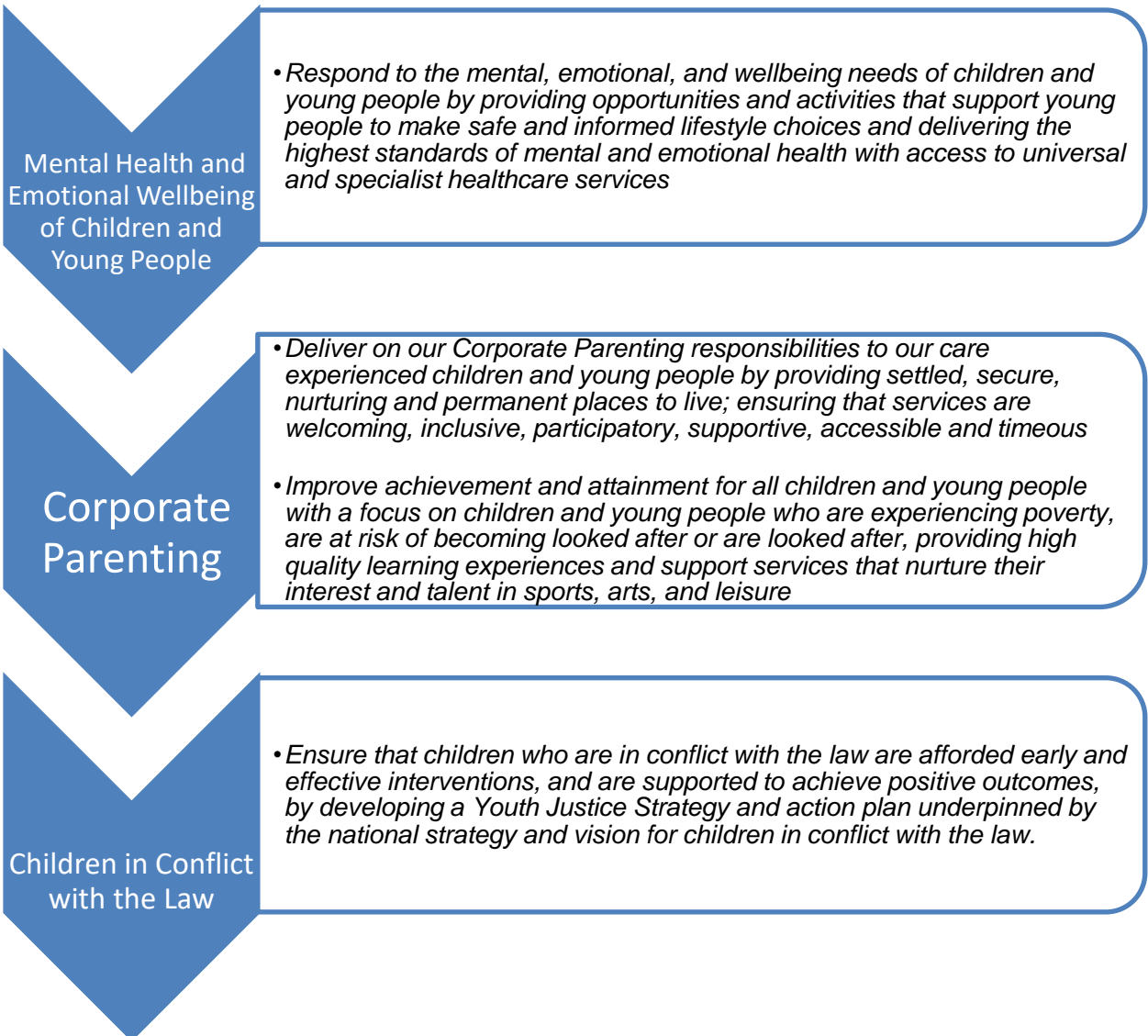
In developing our plan, we have used a range of sources, including the recent Primary and Secondary Health and Wellbeing Census, the S4 Substance Use Report, a Parental Involvement and Engagement Census, SHINE Mental Health Survey, Child Poverty Dashboard, Local Government Benchmarking Framework, and national data reports. We will continue to use these sources to help us develop our Performance Outcomes Framework which is identified as an action in our priorities.

Additionally, we have made use of information from a number of forums, including the Mental Health and Wellbeing Board, Champions Board, Autism Strategy Group, Community Justice Partnership, Alcohol and Drug Partnership, Corporate Parenting Operational Group and Public Protection Committee. These forums have helped us to refine our thinking and support our approach of aligning our priorities to national strategies and frameworks.

Multi-agency partners collaborated in a number of workshops in late 2022 and early 2023, where our areas of priority were agreed. These priorities build on the priorities of the 2021-23 Children & Young People’s Plan and take account of Scottish Government Feedback. As result, we believe the plan will provide a strong foundation for developing the best support for children, young people, and families in the Scottish Borders.

Our priorities are summarised below and are set out in more detail in Appendices 1A to 1D. They are organised to align to the priorities of The Promise.







Supporting Families

- *Help all families and carers give their children the best start in life in a nurturing, safe and stable environment by focusing on activities which support prevention and early intervention, improve outcomes and reduce inequalities*
- *To support children and young people to remain in positive care environments and support families to ensure children and young people achieve their fullest potential.*

Child Poverty

- *Reduce the number of children in poverty and reduce the impact of living in poverty on families. Ensure that children and their families are given the opportunity to contribute to shaping local policy and actions to reduce the social and economic impact of poverty.*





Commissioning

- Ensuring that we have the right services by developing a commissioning strategy which takes into account the needs of children, young people, carers and families who require additional support and the right to access advocacy

Develop a multi-agency shared performance and outcomes framework for Children and Young People

- Ensuring a shared understanding of critical indicators to gauge the extent to which we are collectively making progress on the wellbeing outcomes for children, young people and families by developing a performance and outcomes framework

Develop a Participation and Engagement Strategy

- 'Voice' is at the heart of the Promise, the Plan 21-24 and also the UNCRC. In Scottish Borders we will listen to children, young people and families and ensure that what matters to them is at the heart of everything we do.
- We will aim to ensure their views are central to strategic decision making processes, as well as service design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation.



Supporting the workforce



Develop a Children and Young People Workforce Strategy

- *Ensuring we have the right skills and experience within our workforce to ensure children, young people, carers and families have the best possible experience across all services by developing a children's services workforce strategy that is underpinned by trauma informed practice.*



Resources

Budgets and specific funding for 2023/24 which contribute to the delivery of Children and Young People's Services within the Scottish Borders are shown in the table below.

Scottish Borders Council Budgets 2023/24 plus known additional funding	2023/24 Budget £000s
Pupil Equity Funding	1,919
Whole Family Wellbeing Fund	669
Strategic Equity Fund	448
Education	116,824
Community Learning and Development	1,036
Mental Health Wellbeing Framework Supports & Services	335
Child Protection	224
Children & Families Social Work	18,319
Free School Meals (including holidays)	3,241
School Clothing Grant	391
Counselling in Schools	328
Specific Commissioned Services for Children and Young People	547
Access to sanitary products - schools	44
Access to sanitary products - public bodies	50
Care Experienced Children & Young People Funding	149
Total	144,524

NHS Borders Budgets 2023/24 plus known additional funding	2023/24 Budget £000s
Health visitors (not restricted to children)	2,311
School Nursing	768
School Immunisation	236
Child and Adolescent Mental Health (not including medical staff)	770
Paediatric Services (both acute and community services)	4,827
Total	8,912



Other NHS services, of which an unknown proportion is associated with children	
Women's Services	6,151
Allied Health Professions (AHP)	8,166
Primary Care Services e.g., GPs, pharmacy, private dentistry, optometry)	31,487
Public Dental Services	4,360
Total	50,164

The Nuffield Trust estimate health spend of around £900-£1k per year per person for under 18s: <https://amp.theguardian.com/society/2016/feb/01/ageing-britain-two-fifths-nhs-budget-spent-over-65s>. In our local context this would equate to an estimate of around £16-18m of spend.

Monitoring, evaluating and reporting

Various mechanisms are currently used to monitor, evaluate and report as outlined below:

Outcome focused reporting

Many of the actions within our priorities require reporting mechanisms for a specific purpose and these are also used to update the Planning Partnership. For example, a requirement of the Child Poverty Act (Scotland) 2017 is the production of an Annual Report to Scottish Government. This will also be considered by the Planning Partnership as evidence that the work is being undertaken by partners to achieve desired outcomes.

Self-evaluation

The Planning Partnership carries out an ongoing process of gathering evidence of the effectiveness of each action and priority by visiting service providers, attending celebratory events and other activities. This is an important duty of the group and provides networking opportunities as well as a sense of achievement.

Commissioned Services are required to submit a self-evaluation report every 6 months. This report provides an update to the group on what the service have used their funds to achieve, what outcomes they are working towards and whether their activity is still appropriate and in line with their service specification.

Evaluation

The Planning Partnership will be presented with updates from each priority area shown on the Governance Chart (page 14). This will enable them to check that progress is being made against each priority, discuss any issues, and provide strategic direction where required.

Evidence based decision making is used to develop services based on local need, and Health Inequalities Impact Assessments (HIIA) inform this practice.

External verification – Joint inspections of services for children and young people are carried out by the Care Inspectorate. They take account of the experiences and outcomes of children and young people by looking at services provided for them by community planning partnerships in each local authority area. This includes the work of health visitors, school nurses, teachers, doctors, social workers, police officers and other people who work with children, young people, and their families. They also evaluate the effectiveness of collaborative leadership.



Appendix A - A good childhood

Priority	Description	Action	Policy Links - GIRFEC	Policy Links - UNCRC
Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing of Children and Young People	<p><i>Respond to the mental, emotional, and wellbeing needs of children and young people by providing opportunities and activities that support young people to make safe and informed lifestyle choices and delivering the highest standards of mental and emotional health with access to universal and specialist healthcare services</i></p> <p>Whilst the majority of children and young people will experience good mental health along with the normal challenges and stresses of growing up, we recognise that a proportion of children and young people will require extra help at some point, some of whom may even require additional or specialist services intervention. This may be because of factors relating to their development or health, or because of the impact of adverse experiences on them, their family or community.</p> <p>There is a recognition that mental and emotional health issues among children and young people have significantly increased in the past few years, and emerging evidence suggests that the impact of COVID-19</p>	<p>Re-evaluate the model of stage intervention and what services/provision is available at all 4 stages – (universal, universal plus, targeted intervention, and specialised provision) for children and young people across the Scottish Borders. Counselling in Schools will also be reviewed.</p> <p>Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) will support children and young people, including new and enhanced Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Supports, by providing consultation, advice, and training, and where appropriate, supervision of those staff providing psychological interventions.</p>	Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included	<p>Article 3 - Best Interests of the Child</p> <p>Article 6 - support to live and grow</p> <p>Article 23 - if I have a disability, I have the right to special care and education</p> <p>Article 24 - Good quality Health Care</p> <p>Article 28 - Right to Education</p>



	<p>on children, young people and their families has been significant.</p> <p>As such we have agreed that improving the mental and emotional wellbeing of children and young people will continue to be one of the highest priorities for Scottish Borders over the next 3 years, building an approach to support children, young people and families that will ensure they receive the right care and interventions at the right time and in the right place.</p>			
Corporate Parenting	<p><i>Deliver on our Corporate Parenting responsibilities to our care experienced children and young people by providing settled, secure, nurturing, and permanent places to live; ensuring that services are welcoming, inclusive, participatory, supportive, accessible and timeous</i></p> <p><i>Improve achievement and attainment for all children and young people with a focus on children and young people who are experiencing poverty, are at risk of becoming looked after or are looked after, providing high quality learning experiences and support services that nurture their interest and talent in sports, arts, and leisure</i></p> <p>Corporate Parenting is the collective responsibility of the council, elected members, health board and the other key partner agencies to provide the</p>	<p>The Scottish Borders Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan 2021 – 2024 details the planned developments to meet our responsibilities laid out in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.</p> <p>The plan is based on the national Promise Plan 2021-24 and provides a clear framework to make the planned changes necessary to improve outcomes for looked after and care experienced children and young people. The Scottish Borders Corporate Parenting Ambition – Plan for 2021–2024 shows clear action areas for service developments and improvements.</p> <p>Specific areas include:</p> <p>Continue to develop a participation culture across services to ensure care experienced children and their families are listened to, and meaningfully and appropriately involved in decision-making about their care, with all those involved properly listening and responding to what children want and need.</p>	Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included	<p>Article 3 - Best interests of the Child Article 7 - Birth registration, name, nationality, care Article 8 - protection and preservation of identity Article 9 - Separation from parents Article 18 - Parental responsibility Article 20 - children unable to live with their family Article 21 - right to best care if adopted Article 22 - refugee children and young people should have the same rights as children born in Scotland Article 28 - Right to Education</p>



	<p>best possible care and protection for our looked after children.</p> <p>This means that each specified public body has the statutory responsibility to act for a looked after child in the same way that every parent wants to act. We want the best for our children and young people, to see them flourish with good health, to be safe and happy, to do well in education and enjoy healthy relationships.</p> <p>We want our children and young people to make the most of the available cultural and leisure opportunities, and to develop towards adulthood fully prepared to lead independent lives.</p>	<p>Reduce the number of looked after children; reduce the number of looked after children in 'external' placements; and increase the number of children and young people who return home from external placements. This will be addressed in part, by a greater focus on early intervention services and partnership working across corporate parenting organisations.</p> <p>Improve achievement and close the attainment gap for children and young people who are experiencing poverty, are at risk of becoming looked after or are looked after by developing alternative approaches to support from within schools, using partnership approaches and work with the third sector.</p> <p>Develop a relationship-based approach to care within the Scottish Borders residential care service.</p> <p>Commission an Independent Children's Advocacy Service for the Scottish Borders.</p> <p>Ensure care experienced young people receive appropriate support, accommodation and sustained training and employment opportunities.</p> <p>Continue to be alert to and promote the health and wellbeing of children and young people. Providing opportunities for them to have their health needs assessed and met and ensuring that they have opportunities to access the appropriate services to support them to improve their health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Work with our third sector partners to ensure care experienced brothers and sisters' relationships are maintained and sustained regardless of their circumstances, and that they can expect that their rights are promoted and upheld to protect their relationships with each other.</p>		
Children in conflict	<i>Ensure that children who are in conflict with the law are afforded early</i>	Following the Independent Care Review in 2020, 'The Promise' was introduced, that Scotland's Children and Young	Safe, Healthy Achieving	Articles 28 and 29 - right to an education



<p>with the law (Strategy and Plan)</p>	<p><i>and effective interventions, and are supported to achieve positive outcomes, by developing a Youth Justice Strategy and action plan underpinned by the national strategy and vision for children in conflict with the law.</i></p> <p>Scotland's vision for children and young people in conflict with the law includes ensuring children, young people and their families are supported at an early stage through early intervention and preventative approaches and notes their rights must be upheld, their life chances improved and services and systems must support them effectively to address their needs and the circumstances which have led to their behaviour, in order to achieve positive outcomes.</p> <p>It is essential that children and young people are diverted away from the criminal justice system, wherever possible and appropriate, in order to avoid the criminalisation of their behaviour, and receive effective support.</p> <p>It is also essential that support for victims is enhanced to ensure that victims are appropriately protected irrespective of the age of the person who has caused the harm.</p>	<p>People will grow up loved, safe and respected in relation to care experienced young people. In particular it recognises the disproportionate criminalisation of care experienced young people, that 16- and 17-year-olds will no longer be placed in young offenders institutions on sentence or remand, and sufficient community-based alternatives to detention will exist.</p> <p>The new National Strategy for Community Justice has similar aims and priority actions for adults in the justice system in relation to alternatives to custody and community support to improve desistance. Aspects of governance of Youth Justice are reported through the Scottish Borders Community Justice Board.</p> <p>The Community Justice Board are developing the understanding around lived experience and community justice. This will assist the partnership in assessing activity locally against the content of the National Strategy for Community Justice, and Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework, resulting in a revised local plan.</p> <p>The Community Justice coordinator will assess current work, improvement actions, measures and risks which will reflect in the Community Justice Plan for the Scottish Borders.</p>	<p>Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included</p>	<p>Article 36 - protection from things that may harm my development Article 37 - Inhumane treatment and detention Article 40 - Juvenile Justice</p>
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Appendix B - Whole family support

Priority	Description	Action	Policy Links - GIRFEC	Policy Links - UNCRC
Supporting Families	<p><i>Help all families and carers give their children the best start in life in a nurturing, safe and stable environments by focusing on activities which support prevention and early intervention, improve outcomes and reduce inequalities. 'Families' means all families including families of origin, families with children and young people with complex additional needs, kinship, foster and adoptive families. Support will not be predicated on the setting of care.</i></p> <p><i>To support children and young people to remain in positive care environments and support families to ensure children and young people achieve their fullest potential.</i></p> <p>We recognise the important role that services play in promoting family wellbeing and supporting families to lead safe, happy and healthy lives.</p> <p>Although families are generally the best source of care and nurture for their children, many parents and carers across the authority may need help, and we want them to be able to access this help where and when they need it, and for as long as is required, to protect and promote their children's wellbeing.</p>	<p>Use a data driven approach to understanding children and young people's health needs.</p> <p>Expand provision of early years support through Allied Health Professions (AHPS) and additional provision.</p> <p>Review availability of parenting programmes</p> <p>Develop our approach to whole family support using the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund and building on our initial plan which was shared with Scottish Government in Autumn 2022.</p> <p>An evaluation report in respect of Family Group Decision Making is currently being prepared for consideration with a view to exploring options for continuation of the service beyond the test of change period by utilising part of the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund.</p>	Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included	All articles



	<p>In the Scottish Borders we aspire to services for families to be primarily based on prevention and early help such as those provided by the universal services of health visiting, early years settings, and schools; we also recognise there is a need for more targeted or specialist support which is well-resourced, supportive, accessible and timely.</p> <p>We respect the right to family life and to grow up loved, safe and respected so that children can reach their potential; we also understand our additional responsibility to protect the rights of particular groups of children and young people who experience barriers to success and achievement.</p> <p>In particular personalisation and transitions are areas requiring attention and we recognise that effective multi-agency partnership working is required to ensure improvements are progressed.</p> <p>Whilst links with parents and young people's groups already exist, we are committed to build upon these to ensuring that children and young people are at the heart of decisions which affect them.</p>			
Child Poverty	<p><i>Reduce the number of children in poverty and reduce the impact of living in poverty on families. Ensure that children and their families are given the</i></p>	<p>We actively work in partnership to tackle child poverty, examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of cost-of-living specific funding packages 	Safe, Healthy, Nurtured,	Article 3 - Best Interests of the Child Article 23 - if I have a disability, I have the right



	<p><i>opportunity to contribute to shaping local policy and actions to reduce the social and economic impact of poverty.</i></p> <p>We recognise the importance of tackling child poverty and are determined to make a difference to children and families in the Scottish Borders.</p> <p>Across Scotland, almost 90% of children who are in relative poverty are from at least one of the below noted priority groups and, as well as wider actions to successfully reduce child poverty, we need to reach these groups and meet their needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lone-parent families • a household where someone is disabled • families with three or more children • ethnic minority families • families with a child under one year old • families where the mother is under 25 years of age. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • financial inclusion support to help families maximise their income • promotion of equity in education to ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed • employment opportunities for parents • Childcare and whole family wellbeing plans • support for fuel poverty, food poverty and period poverty. <p>Our Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan sets out our key actions and priority areas of work to help tackle child poverty.</p>	Active, Included	to special care and education Article 26 - my family should get the money it needs to help bring me up
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Appendix C - Planning and Building Capacity

Priority	Description	Action	Policy Links - GIRFEC	Policy Links - UNCRC
Commissioning	<i>Ensuring that we have the right services by developing a commissioning strategy which takes into account the needs of children, young people, carers and families who require additional support and the right to access advocacy</i>	<p>We will review our current commissions and develop a new Commissioning Strategy.</p> <p>We will agree priority areas based on national funding requirements and assessed need.</p> <p>We will make best use of statutory, independent and third sector provision, and appoint appropriate commissioned services to deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive emotional & mental health wellbeing of children and young people • Availability, access, and support for young carers • Consistency of access to quality youth work services • Supporting choices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Equality & inclusion ○ Positive life choices • Availability and access of advocacy services • Support to children and families who are affected by parental substance use 	Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included	Article 3 - Best Interests of the Child Article 12 - right to be listened to and taken seriously
Develop a multi-agency shared performance/outcomes framework for Children and Young People	<p><i>Establish a shared suite of indicators which can be used to monitor progress against the plan's outcomes. Co-ordinate these in a format that facilitates insight and oversight.</i></p> <p>Scotland's National Performance Framework (NPF) provides a clear vision of what everybody is working towards to improve the individual</p>	<p>A performance framework will be co-produced to promote transparency and shared accountability for performance improvement across the partnership. This will focus on key metrics that will contribute to the delivery of the key outcomes. This framework will set out which agencies are responsible for leading and contributing towards specific outcomes, themes and actions of the plan.</p> <p>In order to inform the performance framework, a joint strategic needs assessment will be carried out.</p>	Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included	Article 3 - Best Interests of the Child



	<p>and collective wellbeing of Scotland's population.</p> <p>Within children and young people's services we have numerous data and performance information, however at present this is not contained within one framework which hinders reporting outcomes in a meaningful and transparent way.</p> <p>In order to bring people together in a way that assists developing a shared understanding of what contributes to improving the lives of children and families we shall develop a performance and outcomes framework that evidences how we are impacting on the lives of children, young people, carers and families.</p> <p>This will include ensuring connection between different areas of work including child protection, children/young people's mental health, poverty, drugs/alcohol, and housing.</p>			
<p>Develop a Participation and Engagement Strategy</p>	<p><i>'Voice' is at the heart of the Promise, the Plan 21-24 and also the UNCRC. In the Scottish Borders we will listen to children, young people and families and ensure that what matters to them is at the heart of everything we do.</i></p>	<p>We will develop a multi- agency children and young people's participation and engagement strategy in partnership with children and young people</p> <p>We will work with partners to continue to develop the Champions Board Approach and the 'Article 12 at the Heart' work to ensure children and young people with quieter voices are at the heart of decision-making in the Scottish Borders.</p>	<p>Active, Respected, Included</p>	<p>Article 12 - right to be listened to, and taken seriously Article 13 - right to find out and share information Article 17- right to get information in lots of ways</p>



	<p><i>We will aim to ensure their views are central to strategic decision-making processes, as well as service design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation.</i></p> <p>Work is continuing with children and young people across the Scottish Borders, including those with protected characteristics, to ensure they have an understanding of and an opportunity to be part of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Promise and the UNCRC, • The Champions Board, • The 'Article 12 at the Heart' working group. 	<p>We will undertake a mapping exercise of current participation and engagement opportunities for parents, kinship carers, foster carers and adoptive families in the Scottish Borders to identify areas for development and improvement</p> <p>We will invite young people to participate, and have a vote, in the Children and Young People's Planning Partnership</p>		
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Appendix D - Supporting the Workforce

Priority	Description	Action	Policy links - GIRFEC	Policy links - UNCRC
Develop a Children and Young People Workforce Strategy and Plan	<p><i>Ensuring we have the right skills and experience within our workforce to ensure children, young people, carers and families have the best possible experience across all services by developing a children's services workforce strategy that is underpinned by trauma-informed practice.</i></p> <p>In order to attract and retain high quality staff we recognise the need to take a more collective approach to workforce planning and development.</p> <p>A workforce planning whole-system approach should be adopted to ensure that we have the right number of people with the right values, skills and training employed in the right place at the right time across our organisations.</p> <p>To improve recruitment and retention across the partnership we need to develop a joint workforce plan harmonising terms and conditions, workforce values and training which should all be underpinned by trauma-informed practice.</p>	<p>We will create a multi-agency children and young people's workforce plan which will be aligned to individual organisation plans and the IJB plan and underpinned by the fundamentals of The Promise Plan 21-24 and trauma-informed practice.</p> <p>We will identify trauma training needs across the multi-agency workforce and develop a training plan in line with the National Trauma Training Programme (NTTP) and the Knowledge and Skills Framework.</p>	Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included	<p>Article 3 - best interests of the child</p> <p>Article 42 - everyone should know about the UNCRC</p>



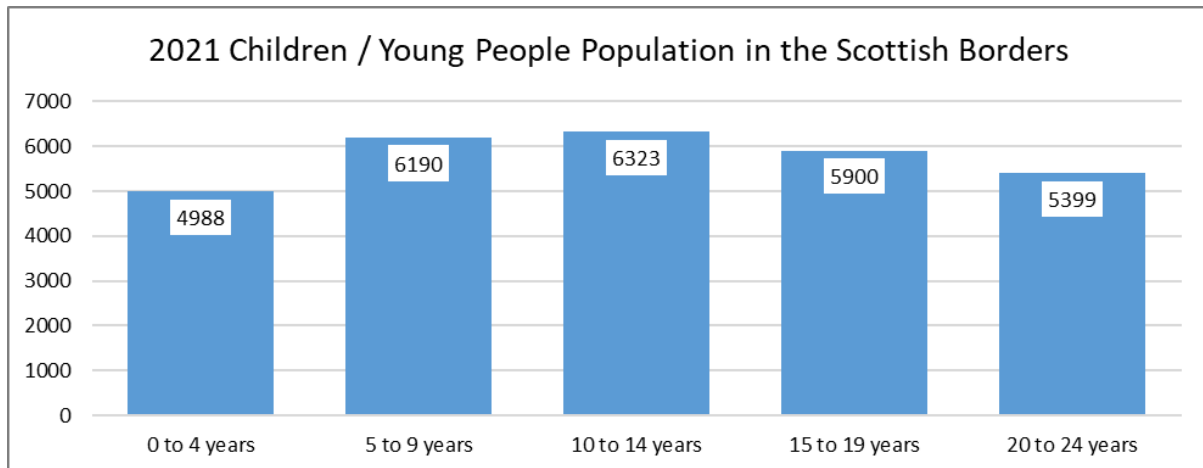
	<p>This will be done through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• creating positive workplace cultures,• ensuring strong and compassionate leadership;• supporting our current staff and their wellbeing;• joining up learning and development pathways across the partnership;• providing support to carers;• working in partnership across organisations whilst still retaining organisational autonomy.			
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Appendix E - Understanding our demographics and data

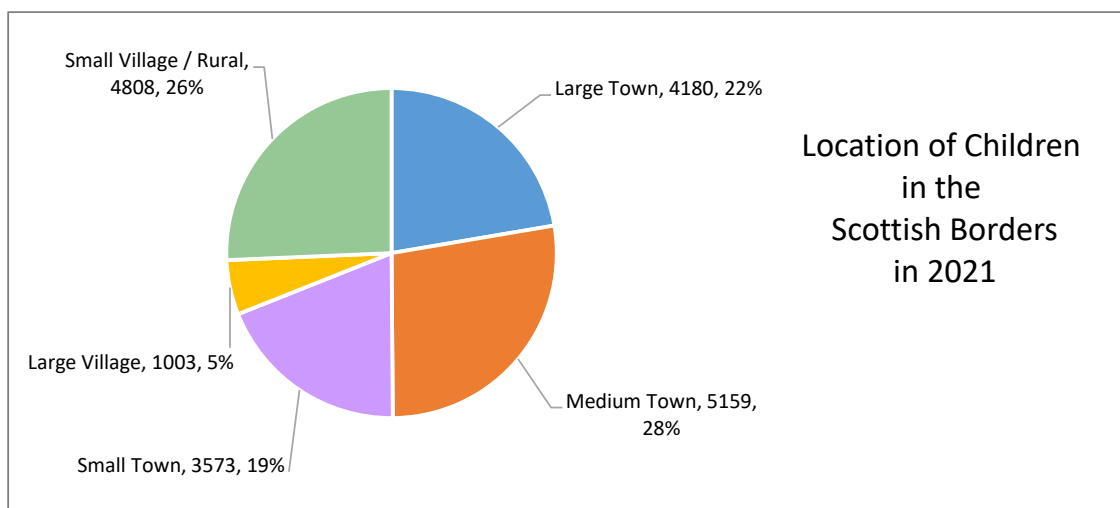
Current Population Estimates

According to the NRS profile for the [Scottish Borders](#) the population in 2021 was 116,020 with those aged 0 to 15 making up 16.1% (18,723) and those aged 16 to 24 making up 8.7% (10,077). The graph below shows the number of children / young people by age group in 2021.



Source: NRS [Scottish Borders Council Area Profile \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/statistics/council-area-profile)

The graph below shows the population aged 0 to 15 in the Scottish Borders by settlement size. Over 30% of children and young people in the Scottish Borders live in villages with fewer than 1,000 people or more rural environs meaning they are likely to experience some level of “access deprivation,” affecting their ability to participate in activities out with the school day and at weekends.



Source: NRS https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/statistics/council-area-data-sheets/scottish-borders-council-profile.html#population_estimates

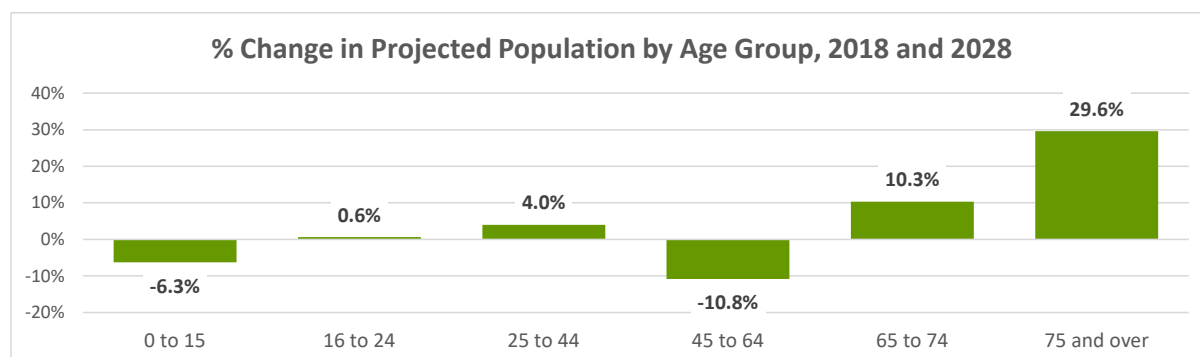
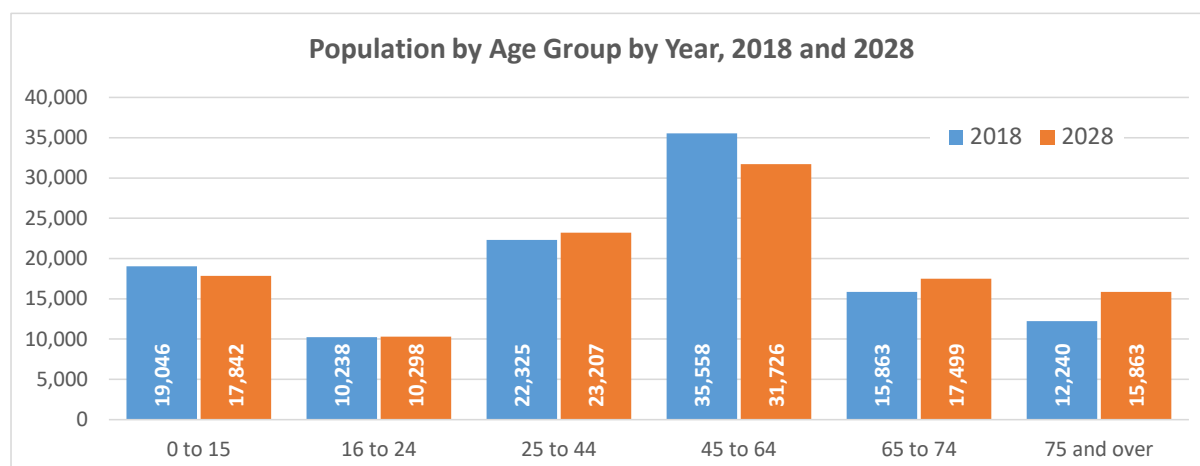


Population Projection

According to the NRS profile for the [Scottish Borders](#) the population in 2018 was 115,270 and is projected to increase by 1.0% to 116,435 by 2028.

The graphs below show the number of people by age group for both 2018 and 2028 and the percentage change between the two years. In 2018, there were 19,046 children and young people aged 0 to 15 and a further 10,238 aged 16 to 24, representing 16.5% and 8.9% of the population of the Scottish Borders, respectively.

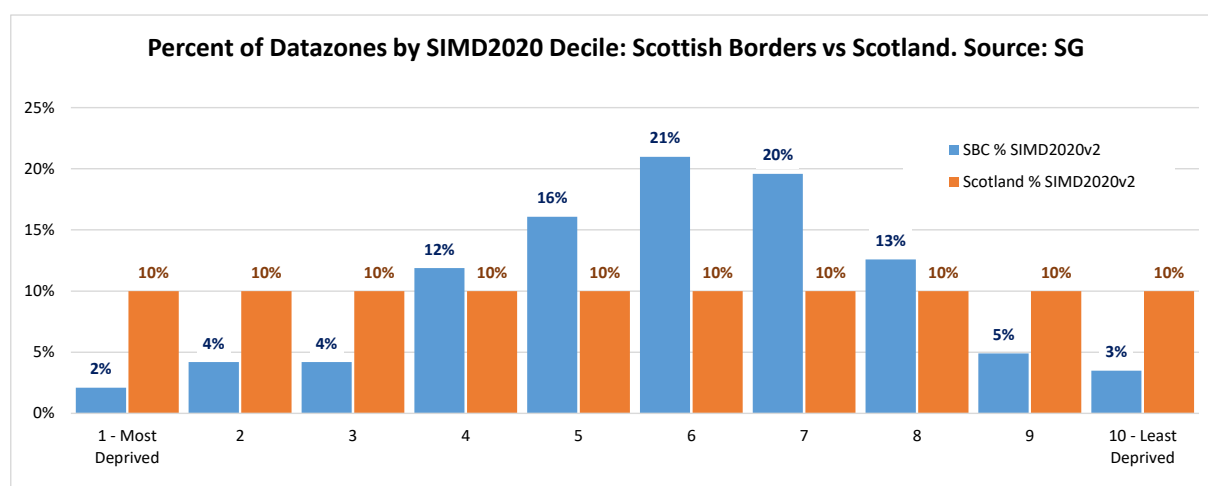
It is important to note that the number of children is projected to decrease by 6.3% to 17,842 in 2028.



Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

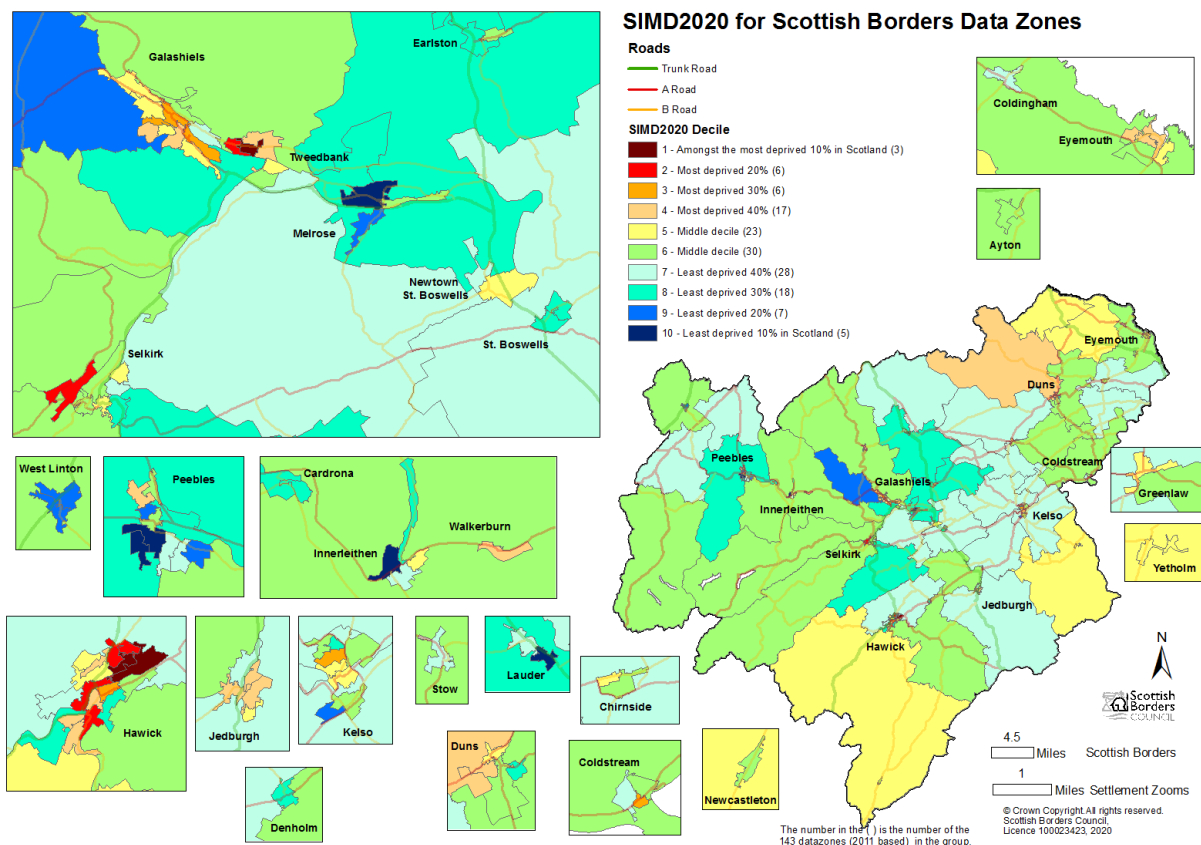
The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the official tool for finding the most deprived areas in Scotland³. The [SIMD2020](#) consists of over 30 indicators across 7 Domains: Employment, Income, Education, Health, Access, Crime and Housing.

The SIMD2020 shows that the 6% (9) of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders are part of the 20% most deprived of all of Scotland, or “SIMD Quintile 1”. **These are shaded red and dark red in the map below.** A further 16% (24) of the data zones in the Scottish Borders are amongst the 21-40% most deprived in Scotland. The least-deprived 20% of data zones, i.e., “SIMD Quintile 5”, are shaded royal blue and navy blue in the map below. The distribution of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders are shown in the graph and map below.



³ <https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>





Wages

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings produced by ONS (Office of National Statistics) and published on NOMIS⁴ contains information on wages.

In 2022, the **median gross weekly pay** for full time workers working in the Scottish Borders (workplace based) was £571.30, £69.20 less than the £640.50 for full-time workers working elsewhere in Scotland. This is **89% of the Scottish figure**.

In 2022, the **median gross weekly pay** for full time workers living in the Scottish Borders (residence based) in the Scottish Borders was £617, **£23 below** the £640 for Scotland or **96% of the Scottish figure**.

The regional pay gap between Scottish Borders and Scotland has improved since 2020.

⁴ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>



Scottish Borders Data

<p>13.2% of pregnant women admitted to being current smokers in 2019/20-2021/22, slightly higher than the Scottish average of 12.9%. This is the lowest in the Scottish Borders since records for this indicator began.</p>
<p>15.3% of new mothers were current smokers 6-8 weeks after their baby was born in 2019/20-2021/22, slightly better than the Scottish rate of 15.8% This is also the lowest rate in the Scottish Borders since records for this indicator began.</p>
<p>3 out of 1,000 children and young people were referred to the Children’s Reporter for offences in 2020/21, lower than the Scottish average of 4.7 and the lowest rate since 2015.</p>
<p>1,432 per 100,000 children under 5 were admitted to hospital for an unintentional injury in 2019/20 – 2021/22, significantly higher than the Scottish average of 1,005 per 100,000.</p>
<p>11% of under 25s in the Scottish Borders were living in a relatively crime-affected neighbourhood by Scottish standards (SIMD Quintile 1 for crime) in 2020, which is significantly lower than the Scottish average of 20.7%.</p>
<p>80.4 per 100,000 young people aged 15-25 were admitted to hospital due to assault in 2018/19-2020/21. This is slightly below the Scottish average of 92 per 100,000 and is at its lowest level since the indicator began.</p>
<p>190.7 per 100,000 young people aged 11-25 had an alcohol-related hospital admission in 2019/20-2020/21/22, below the Scottish average of 255.2 per 100,000. This rate has significantly improved in the past 10 years.</p>
<p>160.4 per 100,000 young people aged 11-25 years had a drug-related hospital admission in 2019/20-2021/22, below the Scottish average of 167.7 per 100,000. This rate has significantly improved in the past 10 years.</p>
<p>The infant death rate for children under 1 was 2.4 per 1,000 live births in 2017-21, below the Scottish average of 3.4 per 1,000. This figure has remained largely unchanged at the same low rate for the past 20 years.</p>
<p>The death rate in children aged 1-15 years was 7.8 per 100,000 in 2017-21, slightly below the Scottish average of 10.1 per 100,000. This rate has progressively come down in the last 20 years.</p>
<p>6.9 per 100,000 young people aged 11-25 died by suicide in 2017-21, below the Scottish average of 11.1 per 100,000. This rate has steadily decreased in the past 20 years</p>
<p>6.5% of babies were born prematurely in 2019/20-2021/22, slightly below the Scottish average of 8.2. This measure has always been below the Scottish average.</p>
<p>82.9% of babies were born a healthy weight in 2019/20-2021/22, slightly below the Scottish average of 84.1%. This rate has remained the same for the past 20 years.</p>
<p>26.1% of pregnant women were obese at the time of antenatal booking in 2019/20-2021/22, similar to the Scottish average. This figure is increasing in the Scottish Borders and Scotland.</p>
<p>39.8% of babies were exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks, higher than the Scottish average of 31.9% in 2019/20-2021/22.</p>
<p>97.4% of babies received their “6-in-1” immunisation by the age of 24 months in 2019-21, slightly higher than the Scottish average of 97.1%. This rate has been consistently high at 97% or above for the past 20 years.</p>



96.1% of babies received their MMR immunisation by the age of 24 months, higher than the Scottish average of 94.4%, in 2019-21. This rate has been consistently above 95% for the past 10 years.
12% of toddlers had a developmental concern at their 27–30-month assessment, lower than the Scottish average of 14.7%, in 2017/18-2019/20. This is the lowest rate since the current record began in 2014.
69.8% of Primary 1 children were within a healthy weight range in 2020/21, the same as the Scottish average.
65.1 per 100,000 children and young people were hospitalised due to asthma in 2019/20-2021/22, below the Scottish average of 112 per 100,000. Childhood asthma hospitalisations dropped sharply in 2018 and are continuing to fall.
80.4% of Primary 1 children had no dental decay in 2021/22, higher than the Scottish average of 75.2%. This is the highest percentage since the record began in 2012.
82.8% of Primary 7 children had no dental decay in 2019/20, higher than the Scottish average of 75%. This rate has steadily improved since 2012.
<p>4,980 applications were received by Scottish Borders families for Scottish Child Payment between February 2021 and December 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This amounts to 36,160 payments worth £2,739,955, made to Scottish Borders families, between Feb 21 and Dec 22 (ScotGov) • Scottish Child Payment statistics are expected to increase from December 2022 since the benefit was increased to £25 per week and includes all children aged under 16 from low-income families
7.5% of people aged under 25 in the Scottish Borders are living in the most income-deprived neighbourhoods in Scotland (SIMD 2020 Income-deprivation Quintile 1). This is significantly below the Scottish average of 19.7%.
32.1% of people aged under 25 in the Scottish Borders are living in the most access-deprived neighbourhoods in Scotland (SIMD 2020 Access-deprivation Quintile 1). This is significantly higher than the Scottish average of 20.8%.
18.5% of Scottish Borders pupils received a clothing & footwear grant in 2022-23, up from 16% the previous year and 15.2% the year before
14% of pupils aged 16+ received Educational Maintenance Allowance in 2022-23 to encourage them to stay on at school.
There was a 20.6% gap in claims for EMA (Educational Maintenance Allowance) between Scottish Borders pupils aged 16+ living in the most-deprived and the least-deprived neighbourhoods in Scotland (SIMD 2020 Quintile 1 and Quintile 5) in 2022/23. 27.4% of over-16s pupils living in Quintile 1 claimed EMA , compared with 6.8% of 16+ pupils living in Quintile 5 .
4.5 per 1,000 children and young people were excluded from school in Scottish Borders in 2020-21, which is much lower than the Scottish average rate of 11.9 per 1,000. This rate has always been below average and is continuing to fall .
52% of school pupils walked or cycled to school in 2021/22, slightly above the Scottish average of 50.8% . This has remained consistent for the past decade or more.



4.1% of school leavers failed to achieve at least 1 qualification at SCQF Level 4 (National 4 level) in 2020/21, this is above the Scottish average of 3.8%. This statistic has **remained consistent** and around the Scottish average in most academic years since 2012.

66% of secondary school pupils achieved at least 5 awards at SCQF level 5 (National 5 equivalent) or better in 2020-21. This is **just below** the Scottish average of 67%. This metric is **usually above-average** in Scottish Borders, and this is **only the second time since 2016** that attainment in Scottish Borders for this metric has dipped below the Scottish average.

43% of secondary school pupils achieved at least 5 awards at SCQF level 6 (Scottish Higher equivalent) or better in 2020-21. This is **just above** the Scottish average of 41%. Scottish Borders has been **consistently above average** for this metric since 2016, except for one year.

64.7% of school leavers achieved at least 1 qualification at SCQF Level 6 (Advanced Higher level) in 2020/21, **slightly lower** than the Scottish average of 66%. This statistic has **remained close to the Scottish average** in most academic years since 2012

96.6% of 16–19-year-olds were participating in education, training or employment in 2022, **better** than the Scottish average of 95.7%. This measure has been **better** than the Scottish average in most years since 2016.

The estimated **employment rate for 16- to 24-year-olds** in 2022 was **53.9%** in the Scottish Borders, slightly lower than 57.9% in Scotland. This has **increased** by 14.2% in the Scottish Borders and increased by 4% in Scotland **from the previous year**.

7.8% of 16–24-year-olds were claiming out-of-work benefits in 2020-21, **slightly higher** than the Scottish average of 7.2% and **higher than the rate of 5.4% for all working-age people**. Scottish Borders has had an **above average rate** for the past 3 years and the rate **rose rapidly throughout Scotland** at the start of the Covid pandemic.

24% of pupils from P6 and P7 combined reported low mood (SHINE Pupil Mental Health Survey, Autumn 2022)

16% of pupils from S1 to S6 reported ‘at risk of depression’ (SHINE Pupil Mental Health Survey, Autumn 2022)

35% of pupils from S1 to S6 reported difficulties with hyperactivity, and 27% reported difficulties with emotions (SHINE Pupil Mental Health Survey, Autumn 2022)

42% of pupils from P5-P7 said that they had been bullied in the last year (Scottish Borders Health & Wellbeing Census 2022)

31% of P7 pupils have caring responsibilities (Scottish Borders Health & Wellbeing Census 2022)

23% of S1 to S6 pupils said ‘I never have breakfast during weekdays’ (Scottish Borders Health & Wellbeing Census 2022)

63% of S1 to S6 pupils said they have an adult in their life that they can trust and talk to about any personal problems (Scottish Borders Health & Wellbeing Census 2022)



Appendix F - Engagement

- Catch the Light - MHWB in the Scottish Borders November 2022. Exec Summary
- Child Healthy Weight - Final Report 310320
- Consultation Report - CMHWB Fund
- Health Wellbeing Census – Executive Summary 2022
- Interest Link 2022 CYP Impact Report
- On the Street ADP
- Primary School-Health Wellbeing Census 2022
- S4-Substance2022-Report
- Secondary School-Health Wellbeing Census
- Parent Involvement and Engagement Census Data
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- SHINE Scottish Borders Primary School data
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- SHINE Scottish Borders Secondary School Data



Appendix G - Glossary

ACES	Adverse Childhood Experiences
AHP	Allied Health Professions
BAME	Black and Minority Ethnic
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CECYP	Care Experienced Children and Young People
CLD	Community Learning & Development
CPP	Community Planning Partnership
CYPPP	Children and Young People's Planning Partnership
EMA	Educational Maintenance Allowance
FGDM	Family Group Decision Making
HPV	Human Papilloma Virus
NES	NHS Education for Scotland
NIF	National Improvement Framework
NPF	National Performance Framework
NRS	National Records of Scotland
NTTP	National Trauma Training Programme
ONS	Office of National Statistics
SCQF	Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework
SCRA	Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
SIMD	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

