

## Scottish Borders Child Poverty Annual Progress Report 2022/23

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>Parental Employability Project</b>						
Continued support for the Parental Employability Project through collaborative development and implementation of Introduction to Childcare Course with Borders College.	1	SBC Borders College	Increased parental income and employment	Parents	A1	Delivery of Introduction to Social Care for Parents working with Parental Employability Support Team.
Support and enhance the Delivery of the Parental Employability Project through new Child Poverty monies and current NOLB funding.	1	SBC	Increase of parental employability	Parents	A1	SBC's Parental Employability Service continue with the provision of Community Drop-ins in both Galashiels and Hawick for parents seeking employability support. Childcare is provided within Burnfoot if required.
<b>14+ and Transitions</b>						
<p>Regular 14+ transition meetings with schools and partners. Signpost resource and support for those eligible students to help secure a positive and sustained destination. Offer taster sessions to try out volunteering.</p> <p>Work with partners including DYW, SDS and employers to start the barrier removal process for those 14+ that are on track to a negative destination. Work with the Employability Support Service (ESS) to develop pathways for young people into Project Search, MA's and Kickstart programmes.</p>	1	SBC Education CLD ESS SDS	Increased 14+ meetings Increased positive and sustained destinations	Children & Young People	A	<p>Regular meetings take place with all secondary schools and partners. Employability staff offer employability related activities, from barrier removal to supported employment.</p> <p>Those identified with additional needs have pathway meetings and NOLB Stage 1 are present at those meetings. Employability services are regular attenders at pathway and career events.</p> <p>The UK Government's Kickstart programme has ended as planned but continue to promote Modern Apprentice opportunities. The 14+ framework has been refreshed and been reviewed to reflect national developments in transitions for ASN young people. The three core partners that support 'Team Around the</p>

	Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
							School Transitions' are school, SDS and DYW.
	Undertake the Borders College 'Care Aware' initiative to provide support and a named person for care experienced young people and student carers.	1	SBC	Increased positive and sustained destinations	Young People	A	Work around transitions, and in particular school/college to post school, continues to be the focus of the YPG priority.
	Work with and support ASN young people to better understand their World of Work and barriers they may encounter. This is supported through the ASN Learning Network funded by SDS and facilitated by Inspiring Scotland.	1	BANG Inspiring Scotland SDS	Removal of barriers to work for ASN Young People	Young People	A3	<p>World of Work barriers report finalised. Volunteer opportunities increased with Saltire Award registration.</p> <p>Eight ASN Youths working weekly with SBC The Promise Team on Human Rights, self-advocacy and understanding of local and national decision making responsibilities.</p> <p>ASN Transition planning workshop held on 18<sup>th</sup> January and attended by school DYW Leads and other professionals to promote multi-agency approach to improve transition planning and ensure consistency across Scottish Borders secondary schools. Input from Arc Scotland on the Principles into Practice and mapping current practice and reality of transitions process.</p> <p>The South of Scotland ASN Learning Network received an additional years funding from the South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) and is facilitated by Inspiring Scotland. A report on progress shares recordings of spotlight sessions from young people across the region including the Employment Support Service of Scottish Borders Council.</p>
	YouthBorders will employ a Network Officer to connect and facilitate third sector organisations	2	Youth Borders	Number of young people	Young People	C3	Youth Borders host quarterly 'Trusted Connections' network meetings for

	Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
	who provides services for young people / young adults aged 16-25 - this project aims to lead to improved transitions in all aspects of young people's lives. e.g. housing, employment, education, mental health and wellbeing - and will be informed by the lived experience of service users.			supported			organisations working with this age group, as well as regular working group meetings.
	Continue to support ASN youths with access to safe digital social and peer platforms and are launching a new digital online support service for ASN youths in Sept 2022.	2,3	BANG SDS	Number of families supported	Families	A2	<p>The free ASN Summer Camp 2022 supported over 297 ASN families including Young Carers and ASN youths. In addition 23 ASN Parent Carers in Galashiels and 10 Hawick ASN Parents were supported.</p> <p>SDS continues to develop transition programmes and information through the use of technology to support with transitions from primary to secondary. This includes young people making videos about themselves and secondary teachers delivering elements of curriculum to primary pupils using technology. All schools are using Showbie as transition tool from primary into secondary.</p>
	Work in partnership with Borders College to identify support for those students who are winter school leavers, have started college but not aged 16 and ineligible for Borders Young Talent.	1	SBC Borders College	Increased support for winter school leavers	Children & Young People	A	Borders College introduced a mentoring initiative to support those young people most at risk of not sustaining a positive learning journey through College. Progress is tracked and monitored to provide positive interventions to aid successful completion of their programme.
	Work with partners to deliver a Careers event aimed at care experienced children and young people in secondary schools.	1	SBC	Delivery of Careers event	Children & Young People	A	Completed in April 2023.
	Continue delivery of the Project 'Search', which supports young people with a learning disability or autism to transition into work. This is delivered in	1	SBC EES	Increased employment	Young People	C3	SBC EES continues to offer Project SEARCH an employability course for young people aged 16-29 years old

	Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
	partnership with NHS Borders and Borders College.						<p>with additional needs based at the Borders General Hospital.</p> <p>During Covid there were extreme challenges with restricted access to the hospital. The Project continued delivering online learning and employability training. With restrictions lifted the 2022/2023 course was conducted from the hospital offering more external work rotations giving the interns the opportunity to work out with a hospital environment. This has provided opportunities for some of the interns to secure paid employment with ongoing support.</p>
<b>Positive Destinations</b>							
	Develop new tracking and monitoring procedures with Skills Development Scotland and Borders College to ensure sustained positive destinations for care experienced children and young people.	1	SBC SDS Borders College	Increase of sustained positive destinations	Children & Young People	A	<p>At Borders College all Care Experienced young people have the opportunity of a meeting with a Careers Advisor. The College works closely with SDS through their further education partnership agreement to provide withdrawal information and to aid the tracking and monitoring of all Care Experienced young people.</p> <p>SDS have a Care experienced tracker in place which is updated on a monthly basis by SDS and SBC's Virtual Head Teacher. Where young people have not sustained a destination, or are at risk of not sustaining, appropriate interventions are discussed.</p>
	Continue to deliver Employability Support, based on the Supported Employment model, to all disadvantaged Borders residents.	1	SBC	Maintain employability support levels for	Parents	A1	SBC's Parental Employability Service continued to offer employability support to disadvantaged people in the region. Working with partners and referral

	Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
				disadvantaged Borders residents			organisations, attending team meetings to promote all aspects of the service, marketing of the service through flyers, social media, working with schools to target young people without positive destinations and supporting them to overcome barriers to employment or further education.
	Promote the value of youth work and seek investment in to third sector youth work to maximize the number of youth work opportunities which are available to young people in the Scottish Borders; and to advance Scotland's youth work outcomes.	1	Youth Borders	Increased awareness and participation of youth work	Children & Young People	C2	Beyond Earlston provides opportunities for young people to participate in youth achievement awards provided by Youth Scotland, Saltire Awards and support for young people with volunteering. Activities are programmed around the outdoors and these groups are well attended with an opportunity to get outdoors and to explore. Eat Sleep Ride CIC have a modern apprenticeship programme as well as offering foundation apprenticeships and GCAS apprenticeships. They also provide work experience, alternative school provision and youth achievement awards.
	Work with schools and encourage children and young people to sign up to Saltire Awards.	1, 2	Volunteer Centre Borders	Number of children and young people supported	Children & Young People	B1	<p>During the January to March 2023 period VCB's Youth Volunteering Development Officer gave 9 Saltire Awards and Volunteering/opportunities presentations and group talks to young people. 438 young people attended these talks, learning more about volunteering, opportunities and the benefits of getting involved with the Saltire Awards Scheme.</p> <p>14 young people signed up to Saltire to record their volunteering and 28 young people registered as interested volunteers.</p>
<b>NOLB</b>							
	Work in partnership with employers – e.g. SBC on	1	Eat Sleep	Number of	Parents	A3	One young person was employed in

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
No One Left Behind (NOLB).		Ride CIC	employment opportunities			March 2022 through NOLB. Initially homeless, the young person was supported in securing property and in gaining child awareness, mental health and first aid qualifications. An employee recruited through NOLB during the previous year continues at Eat Sleep Ride.
NOLB and Young Person's Guarantee (YPG) offer bespoke pathways to young people to help those 16+ who are furthest from the job market and to overcome barriers to employment, volunteering and further education. PES and IFSS offer this to parents and families.	1	SBC	Increase parental/guardian income	Parents & Young People	A2	SBC's Parental Employment Service continued to offer employability training and awareness sessions including 1-1 support for those who require additional support to help overcome barriers to employment volunteering and further education.
Work with parents on No One Left Behind (NOLB) scheme to help them into employment.	1	SBC	Increase parental/guardian income	Parents & Young People	A2	Joint Initial visits between SBC's Parental Employability Service and No-one Left Behind continued and identified holistic support offered to the family. In adopting a 'Whole family' approach contributed to identifying the barriers to employment and perpetual cycle of this amongst families.
Teach hospitality and catering skills to support young people entering the food industry through the Food Punks Project. Work in partnership with local hotels and restaurants. Support young people referred from the Criminal Justice Service into sustained employment. Support Kickstart placements and NOLB.	1	Tweeddale Youth	Increased employment and work experience opportunities within catering industry	Parents	A3	Food Punks continued to support cohorts of school refusers through the school day as well as encouraging 16+'s into employment, including through Food Punks via NOLB.
Support a new initiative within the Burnfoot community centre to deliver a bespoke employability hub for the residents of Burnfoot in Hawick.	1	SBC	Deliver an employability hub for the residents of Burnfoot	Parents	A1	SBC's Parental Employability Service continued working with partners: SDS, DWP, NOLB Stage 1, Parental Support and SBHA, providing a weekly one stop session offering support within the Burnfoot Community. PES representatives attended sessions at the parent club in Burnfoot.
<b>ASN</b>						
Work with charities/grassroots who support disadvantaged or marginalised groups to	1,2,3	Volunteer Centre	Support given to families in need		B4	ASN Enhanced Work Experience Provision (pilot in Galashiels); this new

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
encourage volunteering. Support them to find volunteers through advertising and campaigning.		Borders SDS DYW SBC Education				project initiated by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) aims to ensure that all young people can access work placements despite any extra support they may need. Seven placements have been currently found by VCB.
Provide targeted learning programmes to support disadvantaged young people to succeed and achieve.	1	SBC CLD Third Sector	Increased learning programmes for disadvantaged young people	Children & Young People	A	Through the YES Teams programme, 12 BANG ASN youths participated in this project which created social enterprise. BANG worked with SDS Borders to co-produce reflective toolkit for career advisors, providing ASN youths with opportunity to participate and engage with The Promise Team.
Support ASN youths with ILF transition funding applications, accessing qualification both national and local and launching Youth Enterprise Scotland YES teams programme in August 2022 to provide qualification SVQ 3 to ASN youths and access to social innovation, enterprise.	1,3	BANG	Increased successful funding applications	Young People	A3	ILF Transition funding workshops delivered to youths.  1-1 support with ILF transition funding  Warm and Well funding to ASN families December to Match disseminated £5,000 funding.
Promote ASN supports via social media and referral.	1,2	SBC	Number of families supported and referred	Families	B2	The Intensive Family Support Service targets specific areas including Employment, Family Support and income maximisation for families where generational unemployment is a feature. Over 2022, 28 families were supported with income maximisation.  The Throughcare Aftercare Team encouraged persons to maximise the uptake of available Care Experienced Council Tax Exemption by writing to all young people eligible for the benefit informing them of this on a 6 monthly basis. The initial mailshot will be sent in April 2023, following collation of necessary contact details.
Raise awareness of Autism with organisations, create a video on Autism by Young people, and	1	BANG	Number of young people	Young People	A3	BANG supported 89 ASN Youths between 11-25 years of age with direct

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
an Autism Reflection toolkit to support organisations with Person centred approach. Work with Borders College to launch Quiet induction for ASN/Autism Students.			supported			weekly sessions and 13 with targeted support with high demand for the Statutory sector.
Provide training to ASN parents on subjects to support them to manage their emotional health and well-being. In addition we have ASN parent carer volunteers whom we support and we employ ASN parents within our funded projects/ summer camps .The supportive approach supports ASN parents.	1,2	BANG	Uptake of service, and families supported	Parents	A1	BANG launched a new weekly ASN Parent peer support group in Galashiels and Hawick with JHIT funding. Monthly thematic workshops are held from Enquire, Voiceability, Social Security Scotland, Children and Families Social Work, Self-Directed Support, CONTACT and transition with SBC pilot.  Thirty one parent carers attended the Summer Camp held in July 2022.
<b>Volunteering</b>						
Promote volunteering roles within the CAB Service and an extensive training programme to develop skills and build confidence to return to the workplace particularly after a period of being at home looking after children.	1	CAB	Increase of parents returning to work	Parents	A1	CAB obtained funding through the Robertson Trust. CAB have recruited 1.6FTE Training & Development Officers to recruit and train volunteers to cover all the Scottish Borders Area CAB's.
Deliver cross service volunteer policy and expansion of younger people into volunteering roles in Live Borders.	1	Live Borders	Increased volunteering in Live Borders by younger people	Parents & Young People	C3	Live Borders Volunteer Policy is in operation. 215 young people volunteered through the Active Schools programme.
Support our network to improve the lives of young people through their participation in quality voluntary and community-based youth work.	1	Youth Borders	Increased numbers of volunteers in community-based youth work	Children & Young People	C2	Membership organisations such as Stable Life, Beyond Earlston and Eat Sleep Ride continue to offer quality volunteering opportunities, which offer access to training and learning new skills.
Run summer camps and volunteering for juniors, allowing parents to be able to work a full day.	1	Eat Sleep Ride CIC	Attendance level of summer camps	Children & Young People	A2	The Get into Summer programme delivered 8 full day sessions with transport provided. Twenty people benefitted from this with a further 10 junior volunteers involved.
Work with partners to make sure that everyone should have equal access to volunteering opportunities.	1,2	Volunteer Centre Borders	Number of individuals supported	Families	B3	VCB continues to promote and access the Volunteer Scotland Volunteer Friendly Award, VCB has assisted 3



Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
						organisations with their volunteer friendly in the last six months, with 3 more recently applying to complete the training/learning to achieve the award.
Promote an employee volunteering scheme with companies/organisations to encourage more people to give up their time to support the local community.	1,2,3	Volunteer Centre Borders SOSE	Evaluation of participants taking part in scheme	Families	A3	SOSE has a live volunteering policy which provides 2 volunteering days per annum. Communities clients are made aware of this at the point of engagement and all opportunities/proactive requests are shared across the organisations.
<b>Information and Support</b>						
Give information to clients about local opportunities and organisations which may be of interest and support to develop their goals.	1	CAB		Families	A1	CAB use a local information database. Social media and other information sources are utilised to both promote and obtain information which clients may find of interest.
Through our Borders wide employment project, liaise with employers to ensure they know their responsibilities to employees and are paying at least minimum wage.	1,2	CAB	Improved employee care Increased minimum wage recipients	Parents	A3	The ERAS Project has been busy dealing with issues from employees. The pilot is likely to be extended and there is more provision for liaising with employers.
Support employees with enquiries regarding their employment and make them aware of their rights and responsibilities and how to challenge any inequality.	1	CAB	Better employee awareness of rights	Parents	A3	Additional training has been available to ensure that most employee enquiries can be dealt with.
From pregnancy we inform clients of their employment rights and eligibility around maternity allowance or pay, time off and employer's responsibilities. Offer benefit checks due to change of circumstances and information and support on how to claim.	1	CAB	Better understanding of employment and maternity rights	Parents	C1	CAB continue to receive a number of enquiries around maternity rights and pay. Specialist resources are utilised for signposting purposes. On-going contact and changes which result once the baby is born is encouraged.
Continue support of the library service with signposting and information for parents.	2	Live Borders	Increased parental use of library service	Parents	A1	Visitor numbers to Live Borders libraries have continued to increase with 119,536 visitors in 2022/2023 compared to 48,858 in 2021/22. There has also been an 86% increase in the use of library pc's with the Public Network reservation rate increasing from 4105 in 2021/22 to 7622 2022/23.
Maximise parental/guardians' income, by	1	SBC	Increase	Parents &	A2	Full Income Maximisation assessments

	Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
	signposting to appropriate services. Support all learners in travelling to and from venues for their learning and in some cases provide childcare. Support our 16+ learners who are furthest from the job market with digital devices to help them seek opportunities in learning, volunteering or employment.			parental/guardian income	Young People		<p>were conducted for all parents working with SBC's Parental Employment Service.</p> <p>On a fortnightly basis, PES representatives attended all DWP Job Centres within the Scottish Borders. Signposting, with support, to access further learning opportunities, therapeutic interventions, health appointments, housing appointments, depending on the individual needs of the parent.</p> <p>Where appropriate parents were supported to apply for devices through Connecting Scotland.</p>
	Provide parent employability support through the Financial Inclusion in Early Years Group.	1	NHS Borders SBC	Increased support to parents.	Parents	A1	Employability support is provided by the Early Years Financial Inclusions Team who offer holistic support with benefits checks, signposting and referrals for emergency assistance including Crisis Grants or food parcels.
	Support the Ukraine Refugee crisis group to ensure that effective and efficient employment support is available. This is in conjunction with partners in JC+.	1	SBC Job Centre	Ensure there is efficient employment available for Ukrainian Refugees	Parents	A1	<p>An Employment Development Officer post was funded last year, (October 2022), in order to ensure efficient employment opportunities for Ukrainian Refugees.</p> <p>In continued collaboration with Job Centre+ this offers CSCS Course and individual support and promoting ESOL Classes enrolment and SB College Course applications. Work continues in identifying potential job opportunities and build relationships with employers to ensure Ukrainian refugees have reliable and efficient employment options available to them.</p>
	Support the effective planning and delivery of new SG child poverty monies and targets which will	1,3	SBC	Improved access to	Families	A2	Training provided to Duns Community Nursery in the development of their

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
include improving access and availability of childcare.			childcare			CIC with PES/IFSS providing support to parents. PES worked with partners to ensure the availability of funded places for hard to reach families.
Continue to offer support to disabled clients (both learning and physical) to find and sustain paid work.	1	SBC	Increased employment	Parents	B2	SBC's Parental Employability Service continued to engage with referral sources to promote employability support and opportunities to those who reside in the Scottish Borders with additional support needs and barriers to work. By offering 1-1 key worker wrap around support to individuals to support them to reach their employment goals of finding and sustaining paid employment.
Continue to support all clients to maximise their income through improved jobs and /or increased hours.	1	SBC	Increased income	Parents	B3	Working with a key worker and reviewing client's current circumstances is part of the conversations key workers from SBC's Parental Employability Service have with their clients. This is to ensure persons are supported if they wish to work more hours to maximise their income or potentially when ready to look for another job.
We will support the maximum number of parents into employment which will help their children to have a better start in life.	1	SBC	Increased parental employment	Families	C1	SBC's Parental Employability Service maintains community engagement within Early Years Centres, promotion amongst Social Work, Health, DWP and Education to work with partners to identify parents with barriers to employment.
Continue growth of the BookBug Programme for young parents and develop signposting along wide collaborative work with "return to work" schemes.	2	Live Borders	Increased parental participation of BookBug programme	Children	A1	Bookbug numbers have continued to increase with 825 sessions in 2022/23 with 4823 children attending and 4775 adults attending with them. In comparison, there were 238 sessions in 2021/22 with 2432 children and 2215 adults attending with them.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
Continue to engage with the Job Centre and the PACE team to support and advise individuals facing redundancy.	1	SBC Job Centre PACE	Maintain support to those facing redundancy	Parents	A1	Scottish Borders Local PACE Partnership meet on a quarterly basis to review any PACE activity undertaken.  The number of PACE interventions was relatively low throughout 2022/23 with only 2 employers with greater than 20 employees at risk requiring PACE intervention.
The Employability Support Service will continue to work in partnership with employers and employer's representatives to ensure our clients have the best possible chances of securing and sustaining paid jobs. We will support employers to ensure they have any assistance they need to engage with some of the Scottish Borders most disadvantaged citizens.	1,3	SBC	Increased employment	Parents	A3	SBC's Parental Employability Service continue working with employers to form relationships that in turn ensures better understanding of clients' needs and enabling the best support being offered to clients. Providing in work support to the employer and clients enhances the chances of clients sustaining paid employment.
Promote the Young Person's free Bus travel through the National Entitlement Card (NEC) or Young Scot National Entitlement Card (Young Scot NEC).	1,2	SBC CLD	Number of children and young people accessing free bus travel	Children & Young People	A2	The Young Scot app is now included on all I pads in schools.
Work with clients to make them aware of their rights and responsibilities, what is available locally and how to access these services.	1,3	CAB	Number of families supported	Families	A2	This is a particular focus of Our Money Talk Team Project, funded by the Scottish Government (currently funded to end June 2023).
<b>Projects and Programmes</b>						
Get into Summer Entry level job creation for young people to work in culture and leisure services.	1	Live Borders	Increased employment within culture and leisure services for young people	Parents & Young People	C3	Through Live Borders, 20 young people were recruited as Activity Leaders through the summer holidays to lead and support activity camps.
Continue Youth Leadership programme in Sport.	1	Live Borders	Maintain Youth Leadership programme in sport	Parents & Young People	C3	Live Borders supported delivery of Youth Leadership Programmes in Selkirk, Earlston and Kelso High Schools. Leadership programmes took place in Galashiels, Peebles and Duns.

	Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
							The Young Leadership Academy operated across all nine cluster areas taking 18 students through a year-long mentoring and education programme to support their development in sports coaching. Primary 6-7 leadership skills in 23 Primary Schools across the Scottish Borders was re-instated in teaching core skills of teamwork, safety, confidence, resilience, organisation and planning.
	Introduction of Borders Employment and Mentoring project (BEAM) by the Borders Housing Network (BHN) to engage social housing tenants and families towards employment.	1	SBC BHN BHA	Increased employment amongst BHN tenants	Parents	A1	A total of 91 referrals were made to BEAM for BHN Tenants. Of these, 50 Tenants engaged with the service and 22 went on to secure employment.
	Work with Hawick Employability Pilot Partners to provide employability wraparound support in Burnfoot. Remove barriers to employment by supporting individuals to have a better understanding of their own mental health needs and develop coping strategies.	1	NHS Borders SDS JHIT	Increased employment within Burnfoot	Parents	A1	Burnfoot Employability Hub pilot was launched in September 2022 with various partners including SDS, DWP, ESS, NHS, PES and SBHA. There was a weekly presence every Thursday morning at Burnfoot Community Centre. Despite promotion and various interventions there was low footfall, and the decision was taken by the multi-agency working group to cease in March 2023.
	Provide a Skills learning programme through Food and Bike Punks. Provide supported employment opportunities within TYA and signposting to organisations' such as Works+. Connection with local employers also supports post 16 employment opportunities.	1	Tweeddale Youth	Increased supported employment opportunities	Parents	C3	Tweeddale Youth Action supported the employment of 5 young people with local employers and one directly with TYA.  Food and Bike Punks continue to operate, and Food Punks are collaborating with Works+ to feed young people from Tweeddale and to support cookery to existing participants.
	Continue to deliver Scottish Borders Council's 'Family Firm' which supports Care experienced	1	SBC	Increased employment	Families	C3	SBC's Borders Family Firm is a project that continues to support Care

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
young people to transition into work.						Experienced Young people to transition into work. Further funding is being explored to ensure continuation as current funding from the European Social Fund ended as of March 2023.
Delivery of the Young Persons Guarantee by supporting appropriately aged individuals and creating opportunities for them both within and outwith Scottish Borders Council.	1	SBC	Increased opportunities	Young People	C3	The Young Persons Guarantee Group is a subgroup of the Local Employability Partnership. The group meets regularly and focuses on the needs of young people in the region, ensuring a regional approach creates and offers appropriate employment opportunities.
Continue to employ modern apprentices when possible.	1	BHA	Increased levels of Modern Apprentices	Young People	C3	BHA continues in the recruitment of modern apprentices despite previous attempts to recruit apprentices having very low take-up.
Offer a range of apprenticeship opportunities dependent upon funding. Work with contractors to ensure they offer work experience and apprenticeship opportunities through local schools.	1	BHA	Increased apprenticeships available	Young People	C3	BHA attends careers events at local High Schools and promotes careers in housing. BHA also has good links with job centres and employability networks.
Establish a Foundation Apprenticeship Programme with Borders College and work with Borders Housing Network and Scottish Borders Council on the Borders Guarantee.	1	SBHA SBC Borders College BHN	Increased Apprenticeship employment	Young People	C3	Borders Housing Network continues to work in partnership to enhance apprenticeship opportunities.
Continue to support the creation of modern apprentice opportunities at Scottish Borders Council.	1	SBC	Increased Modern Apprentice opportunities	Young People	C3	During 2022/23 SBC recruited 29 modern apprentices and continues to promote and support apprentice opportunities within the organisation.
<b>Education</b>						
<b>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.</b>						
<b>Early Years</b>						
Equity and Excellence Leads to be placed in large SBC Early Learning Childcare (ELC) settings in areas of high deprivation.	1,2	SBC Early Years Team	By end of Primary 1 current attainment data for achieving early level will	Families	C2	Equity and Excellence Lead Officers supported 4 schools based on identified need. All are focused on narrowing developmental gaps for individuals in ELC. There is evidence of the gap narrowing in these ELC

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
			be above 80%			settings with significant progress being made at Jedburgh, making a difference to attainment by end of P1.
Continue to deliver Psychology of Parenting Project (PoPP) parenting groups targeted at those in highest areas of deprivation.	1,2	SBC Early Years Team	Number of participants	Families	C2	This programme continues and face-to-face delivery is re-starting.
Continue to support free access to Community Centres for nursery provision and also support the development of these groups.	2	Live Borders	Number of families supported and accessing services	Families	A2	Early Years provision is established in Tweedbank, Duns, and Selkirk.

### Projects and Programmes

Develop an implementation plan following publication of Scottish Government's strategic plan for their childcare commitments.	1,2	SBC Education	Outcomes of implementation plan met	Families	A2	Early stage thinking and discussion is taking place relating to workforce planning in relation to a further expansion of provision for 2-year-olds and 1-year-olds.
Undertake a mentoring initiative to support those most at risk of disengagement to successfully transition through senior phase of school to college and for those at greatest risk of disengagement during their first year at college.	1	SBC	Uptake of Scheme	Children & Young People	B1	A 3-day Skills Quest Event for care experienced young people was conducted in April 2023. Organised by Virtual Head Teacher and DYW, the event focused on developing skills including budgeting, team working and cooking on a budget.
Pilot a schools Resource Pack for children and young people that promotes sustainability, linked to the Curriculum for Excellence.	2	SBC Education	Uptake of Scheme	Children & Young People	B1	It is hoped this pilot will be conducted in 2023/24.
Ensure UNCRC and Children's Rights are taken into account in Child Poverty work in the Scottish Borders Future Actions.	1	SBC Partners	Child Poverty work to incorporate UNCRC and Children's Rights	Families	C1	UNCRC and Children's Rights are taken into account in appropriate child poverty actions. Addressing child poverty is a priority of our Children & Young People's Plan, which is written with policy links to the UNCRC articles and engages with children and young people, taking their rights into account.

### Financial Inclusion

Through these actions we will help maximise income of low income households, lifting children out of poverty and combatting the cost of living crisis.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
<b>Financial Inclusion Fund</b>						
Disperse funds from the Financial Inclusion Fund to those most in need.	3	SBC	Monetary gains, support given	Families	B2	Forty groups have received awards from the Financial Inclusion Fund. This has included projects such as Low and Slow, which has allowed additional community groups to deliver the programme in their local area. £160,000 has been allocated to groups so far.
Continue to support the Financial Inclusion Practitioners Group to raise awareness of financial support (68 current members).	1,2,3	SBC	Number of organisations funded whose activities indirectly or directly address child poverty	Families	B3	£190,000 has been allocated across the Scottish Borders to 10 groups/organisations to support financial inclusion via the financial inclusion fund.
Raise the profile of financial inclusion through the Financial Inclusion Practitioners Group	1,2,3	SBC	Number of organisations funded whose activities indirectly or directly address child poverty	Families	B2	The Financial Inclusion Practitioners Group met 3 times in 2022/23. A multi-agency network was formed as a result. The Cost of Living Strategic and Operational Groups continued this work and have raised the profile of financial inclusion through the dispersal of £1.2M cost of living funds.
<b>Benefits</b>						
Encourage families to have a benefit check to ensure they are getting all the support they are entitled to and how their earned income may be supplemented.	1,2	CAB	Increased benefits checks	Families	A1	Income maximisation benefit checks are on offer and are widely accepted. A focus around the changes to The Scottish Child Payment criteria was a priority.
Provide direct support to maximise family income, including help to access Scottish Child payments and all other welfare benefits.	3	BHA	Tracked and evaluated using the Scottish Federation Housing Associations (SFHA) social value toolkit	Families	B4 B2	BHA supported £5,200 gains from Scottish Child payments and £674,825 total benefit gains for 2022/2023. (provisional)
Increase take up of school clothing grants -	3	SBC	Increased take	Families	B3	A take up campaign undertaken in



Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
Extend eligibility for school Clothing Grants to include receipt of Council Tax Reduction in eligibility (and link to take up campaign for Council Tax Reduction) and link to other benefits (e.g., Scottish Child Payment and Best Start Grants).			up, monetary gains			Summer 2022 to identify potential eligible families from data held from other benefits and the process will take place annually. Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction applications also include applications for free school meals and clothing grants to maximise take up.
Provide financial inclusion support for early years through maximising take up of child related benefits and resources, and signposting to relevant services including child specific welfare support, access to food resources and clothing grants.	3	BHA	No. of clients, Demographic information (if given), Client financial gain	Children and Young People	B2	BHA supported £5,200 gains from Scottish Child payments and £674,825 total benefit gains for 2022/2023. (provisional)
Make direct winter payments to eligible families with low income (£100 per child) as agreed at Scottish Borders Council meeting on 25.08.22	2,3	SBC	Monetary gains, support given	Children and families	B3	Almost 2,700 children benefitted from this direct payment in 2022.
Provide school leavers or their parents contacting our service with further education options and the financial implications to and for them.i.e., loss of child related benefits and financial support through bursaries and grants for further/higher education.	1	CAB	Improved understanding of further education options and any financial implications	Families	C3	CAB attend school careers events, with enquiries dealt with as and when presented. In particular the loss of child related benefits prompts people to seek CAB's assistance.
Provide parents with support to accessing benefits, services and supports parents to advocate. Provide advocacy training for ASN Parents and work 1-1 with ASN parents through advocacy to access other support.	3	BANG	Uptake and successful completion of training	Parents	B3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Security Scotland focus groups</li> <li>• 1-1 sessions and group session-supported</li> <li>• 12 ASN parents apply for benefits and Bus Passes</li> <li>• Completed 7 applications for DLA or renewal of DLA</li> <li>• Completed 4 applications with ASN Parents on new Child Grant</li> </ul>
Continue with Health Visitors asking about money worries at every contact and refer to the SBC Financial Support and Inclusion Team where required.	2,3	NHS Borders SBC JHIT	Record gains made, monitor national child poverty levels, Monitor Scottish Government	Families	B2	Midwives and Health Visitors continue to be proactive in referring expectant and new mothers for benefits checks. In 2022-2023 there were 500 referrals resulting in an uplift in benefits of £1.2million.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
			benefit statistics			
<b>Cost of Living</b>						
Provide financial inclusion support through partnership Community meetings and distributing supermarket gift cards to individuals in crisis (Financial Hardship Fund)	2,3	SBC	Monetary gains, support given	Families	B2	Over £5,000 worth of supermarket gift cards have been distributed to local foodbanks and fareshare providers as well as to prominent groups within communities that are supporting individuals with the cost of living crisis. Further Supermarket Gift cards have supported specific groups such as Violence against Women and Drugs and Alcohol partnership. Social Security Scotland have attended all 5 community meetings and provided updates on how to access welfare and the support that Social Security Scotland provides. Our in-house Welfare Benefits team have also provided regular updates at community meetings
Proactively promote free school meals (FSM) and clothing grant provision.  Increase take up of free school meals - Identify people who are potentially eligible but not claiming (particularly those with children who already receive universally free school meals in P1-P5) and link to other benefits (e.g., Scottish Child Payment and Best Start Grants). Increase take up of educational maintenance allowance (EMA) – identify those who are potentially eligible.	2	SBC	Increased uptake	Children & Young People	B3	A take up campaign undertaken in Summer 2022 to identify potential eligible families from data held from other benefits and the process will take place annually. Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction applications also include applications for free school meals and clothing grants to maximise take up.
Increase take up of Council Tax Reduction – a campaign to include advertising and direct contact with those who are potentially eligible which will link to Clothing Grant take up.	3	SBC	Increased take up, monetary gains	Families	B3	A phased campaign started in early 2023 to identify and contact potential applicants.
Continue to work on the cost of the school day, using pupil equity funding to support this.	2,3	SBC Education	Monetary gains	Families	B2	Development plan agreed with Education Scotland. Updated information sent to all schools with plans to engage schools in further

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
						professional learning, develop a framework and support schools with self-evaluation. Where possible, schools continue to use pupil equity funding to ensure those pupils impacted by poverty are supported and do not miss out on experiences.
<b>Information and Support</b>						
Continue to encourage partners, local employers and suppliers to adopt the real living wage which will increase the level of income coming into a household.	1	SBC Partners	Increased adoption of the real living wage Increased income	Families	B3	Individualised Family Income Maximisation Assessments are undertaken as part of the Introduction to Service for PES/IFSS.
<b>Communities &amp; Partnerships</b>						
<b>From these actions we will work with partnership, third sector and community organisations to provide holistic and whole family support.</b>						
<b>Food Networks</b>						
Work with partners to support Foodbanks, Fare Share, Community Larders and other food organisations to pilot and implement sustainable food options - Low & Slow. The project also provides holistic benefits and fuel/energy & debt advice to individuals and families.	2,3	SBC Food Banks	Participation and Engagement data. Programme impact evaluation report	Families	A1	Low and Slow projects are running across 5 areas. Seven Low and Slow projects are running. Cyrenians provide a food larder and cook club in: Jedburgh, Selkirk, Walkerburn and Galashiels.
Develop a Food Network through quarterly Food Conversations with Partners. The Food Network will include a holistic approach to support and information.	2	SBC	Support given	Families	A1, B3	Food conversations have taken place throughout 2022/23 and a food network has been developed and will continue.
Continue to invest in estates and community facilities including community food gardens.	2	BHA	Number of people supported	Families	B1	Two community food gardens in Duns and Ayton run in partnership with Abundant Borders. BHA has also provided £25,000 to local foodbank and larders from the National Lottery Community Anchor fund, accessed through the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations.
<b>People and Place</b>						
Support Place Planning across the Scottish Borders to develop 5 Locality Plans.	2	SBC	Number of organisations	Families	B1	Meetings in Borderland towns have resulted in a starting point for forming

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
			funded whose activities indirectly or directly address child poverty			Town Teams in each locality. These plans also aim to incorporate rural areas that are in close proximity. Town Team planning is being led by community members and groups and their skills and experiences are helping to shape other communities' plans.
Active role in place making and capacity building.	2	BHA	Number of people supported	Families	B1	BHA's will maintain its role in local place making and support capacity building where possible with internal and external community support funding.
YouthBorders will develop, grow and strengthen opportunities for collaboration and partnership within and between third sector and community organisations; and with the public sector.	2	YouthBorders	Number of opportunities for young people	Children & Young People	B1	YouthBorders current membership size is 51 organisations and reached 5600 young people in youth work opportunities.
BHA will continue to promote 'Ride Pingo' for its customers across Berwickshire	2	BHA	Number of families supported	Families	A2	Ongoing, via BHA social media channels
Provide transport to families and encourage car sharing among parents.	2,3	Eat Sleep Ride CIC	Number of families supported	Families	A2	Eleven people utilised the Pingo bus to attend sessions. Car sharing is actively encouraged with at least 4 households opting for car share.
<b>Holistic and Whole Family Support</b>						
Wider support and linkage to reduction in child poverty action and policy networks.	2	BHA	Number of organisations funded whose activities indirectly or directly address child poverty	Families	A3	Ongoing whereby BHA continues to access other funding to support poverty reduction in the Scottish Borders.
Provide holistic and whole family support – e.g., equine therapy and access to mental health services.	2,3	Eat Sleep Ride CIC	Evaluation of support given	Families	B1	Thirty-three people accessed therapy support, 56 care parcels were distributed to low income households, and over 45 young people had access to a range of support. This has been provided funding from: Warm and Well, National Lottery, SBC and

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
						YouthBorders.
<b>Housing &amp; Energy</b>						
<b>Through these actions we will help to keep housing costs low, provide support with rising energy bills and tackle homelessness for families.</b>						
<b>Tenancy Sustainment</b>						
Continue to assist clients with rent and mortgage arrear issues and at risk of eviction or repossession to look at their income and expenditure, any possible eligibility to additional financial support (e.g., DHP) and negotiate a repayment schedule on their behalf.	2	CAB	Number of families supported	Families	B4	Rent and eviction freezes until 31/3/23 has slowed down with landlords and lenders from moving to these extremes. This allows opportunities to reach repayment of arrears.
Continue to work in partnership with Shelter Scotland for representation to clients at the court stage of the eviction process.	2	CAB Shelter Scotland	Number of families supported	Families	B4	CAB continues the referral partnership with Shelter. Cases which were on hold during the pandemic are now continuing to court stage.
Provision of tenancy sustainment services including financial inclusion advice and BeWell mental health project directly funded by BHA. Comprehensive advice and signposting are also provided for fuel debt, mental wellbeing and other areas that support family households, including children.  Provide support for young people leaving care through early intervention by tenancy sustainment services at the start of their tenancy	2	BHA	Tracked and evaluated using the Scottish Federation Housing Associations (SFHA) social value toolkit	Families	B1	BHA has a new operating model that includes a dedicated Tenancy Sustainability Team providing financial inclusion, fuel and food support and access to BHA BeWell tenancy support and wellbeing service. Operated by Penumbra, BeWell will expand and extend its reach to engage young people under 25 with their first tenancy having secured funding from the recent Community Mental Health and Wellbeing funding round.
Work with SBHA Tenants to promote tenancy sustainment and reduce the number of Tenants who lose their home.	2	SBHA	Less tenants evicted, and increase in those able to sustain tenancy for more than one year	Families	B4	SBHA carried out 9 evictions in 2022-23 depicting 0.16% of all SBHA's tenancies. The majority (67%) of the evictions were for non-payment of rent.
Review and update Scottish Borders Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan in order to prevent families from becoming homeless and, where homelessness cannot be prevented, to support families to secure settled, mainstream housing as quickly as possible.	2	SBC	Reduced number of families homeless, increased support provided	Families	B4	The Borders Health and Homelessness Strategic Partnership are in the process of revising the RRTP and accompanying action plan, which is due to be submitted to Scottish Government in June 2024.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
<b>Warm Affordable Homes</b>						
Create new social housing though warm, affordable housing and infrastructure	2	BHA	Tracked and evaluated using the Scottish Federation Housing Associations (SFHA) social value toolkit	Families	B4	New build ongoing at Springfield in Duns (phase 3). This is due for completion later this year.
SBHA will build 300 homes over the next 7 years.	2	SBHA	Number of homes completed	Families	B4	SBHA has provided no new homes in 2022-23, however 15 properties have been purchased from the open market of which 10 will be available for social rent and 5 for mid-market rent.
Continue implementation of pilot Housing First Model that meets the needs of people with multiple needs in the Scottish Borders and which, as far as is possible in a rural context, conforms to the 7 principles of Housing First.	2	SBC	Principles of Housing First model adhered to	Families	B4	Housing First delivery continued throughout 2022/2023.
<b>Fuel Vouchers</b>						
Provide fuel poverty support including BHN distribution of SG Fuel Support funding and Fuel Bank vouchers to over 2,400 households.	2	BHA BHN	Tracked and evaluated using the Scottish Federation Housing Associations (SFHA) social value toolkit	Families	B4	BHN members have continued to issue vouchers from the Fuel Bank Foundation to tenant households on pre-paid meters. There has been increasingly high demand for this fund with 1,727 vouchers costing £75,206 distributed in calendar year 2022. This support has helped 3,162 people including 1,028 children from some of the lowest income households in the Scottish Borders. BHN also secured a third tranche of SG Fuel Support funds in late 2022. BHN has now been successful in all three rounds of SG Fuel Support Funding and has secured just over £1m additional income to mitigate the impact of fuel poverty in the Scottish Borders.
Provide fuel vouchers to clients where possible.	2	Eat Sleep Ride CIC	Number of fuel vouchers issued	Families	B4	Through Youth Scotland Winter Fund, vouchers were issued to families who

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
						were in fuel poverty. Additionally, via the Corra Hardship funding 12 families were supported with 100 fuel payments.
Issue fuel vouchers to SBHA Tenants on pre-paid meters.	2,3	SBHA	Number of vouchers issued	Families	B2	A total of 390 SBHA Tenants were issued with a fuel voucher in 2022-2023.
<b>Warm and Well</b>						
Support ASN youths with ILF transition funding applications.	1,3	BANG	Increased successful funding applications	Young People	A3	Warm and Well funding to ASN families December to Match disseminated £5,000 funding.
Continue with SBHA's affordable warmth service 'Warm and Well', providing energy saving advice (an average of £188 per household savings in the year.	2	SBHA	Number of tenants supported monetary gains	Families	B3	A total of 648 SBHA Tenants accessed SBHA's Warm and Well Service in 2022-23 with the interaction generating a total of £117,000 in savings, an average of £181 per household.
Support Tenants with their heating costs and reduce their fuel debt using £150,000 from the Scot Government Fuel Debt Fund for 2022-23.	2,3	SBHA	Number of tenants supported monetary gains	Families	B4	A total of 115 Tenants received a payment from the Fuel Debt Fund to clear their fuel debt (£150,000 in total payments made), an average of £1,300 per household. SBHA will continue to provide this service into 2023-24.  BHN has secured £84,000 from SBC's Cost of Living Fund to continue with the employment of SBHA's Warm and Well Coordinator and to recruit an additional energy adviser to support referrals.
Continue to check for energy savings measures and any concessionary funds and grants available to pass on to clients.	2,3	SBC CAB	Monetary gains and support given	Families	B3	Following a successful and busy 2022/23 delivering the Warm & Well scheme, CAB have secured further funding to allow the continuation of the Warm & Well Scheme to be delivered in partnership with SBC across 2023/24.  In addition to the core income maximisation support and activities have also now been able to secure

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
						additional funding and support for an Energy Advisor role within the scheme, further providing support and advice particularly for those households in or at risk of fuel poverty.
<b>Information and Support</b>						
Continue to refer clients to the Homelessness team at SBC and explain process and procedures to client.	2	CAB SBC	Number of referrals made	Families	B4	On-going, when required. Working with the Homelessness Team is very beneficial for the client.
Support partner agencies in helping to reduce household costs through advice, signposting and specific learning programmes.	2	SBC	Uptake of services	Families	B4	PES/IFSS have worked closely with SBHA Energy specialist to apply for funds to reduce debt and look at ways to reduce energy usage. This includes: signposting families to Warm Hubs to ease fuel costs and applications to Cash for Kids for support with 'Heat the Person not the House'. This grant provided warm bedding, clothes for the whole family and individual support for applications to Housing Associations for fuel vouchers.
Support young people and families to access heating payments to support rising fuel costs (through the Peeblesshire Food Bank). Signpost young people and advocate for them with SBC's Homelessness team.	2	Tweeddale Youth	Number of families supported	Families	B4	In the past year Tweeddale Youth have supported two young people through homelessness and signposted and collaborated with Peeblesshire Foodbank on a cookery project, supported the distribution of ingredients and setting up a Food Punks cookery channel on YouTube to share with food bank participants. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/@foodpunksofficial">https://www.youtube.com/@foodpunksofficial</a> . We have also distributed supermarket vouchers to families in need.
SBHA's Financial Inclusion Team to continue to work with Tenants to support them to generate additional household income via money management and budgeting skills.	2	SBHA	Number of tenants supported, monetary gains	Families	B3	A total of 1,111 SBHA Tenants accessed SBHA's Financial Inclusion Service in 2022-23 generating a total of £610,000 in income for those households (£549 per household).



Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
Continue to deliver SBHA's Wellbeing Framework which is designed to ensure Tenants can access the support and or intervention needed to sustain their tenancy, identifying potential barriers early on and identifying the correct pathway for support.	2	SBHA	Number of tenants supported, number of tenants sustaining tenancies	Families	B1	SBHA's Wellbeing Framework is now fully operational for all new SBHA Tenants. A total of 352 assessments have been carried out with 9% identified as high risk and specialist interventions required to support tenancy sustainment.
Continue to develop strong partnerships with JHIT, CAB and ChangeWorks etc. to support the 9 Low & Slow Projects which aim to reduce energy costs and provide nourishing food.	2	SBC JHIT CAB ChangeWorks	Uptake of Services	Families	B4	ChangeWorks are no longer an active delivery partner but have worked with local partners to continue to provide energy advice to the project. Public Health are delivering an information/train the trainers event in April 2023, with the aim of building capacity so that groups can effectively deliver the provision.
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>						
<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>						
<b>Financial Support</b>						
Liaise with school and small grants / donations to support youth clubs, nurseries, school projects and community activities for children and young people.	2	BHA	Number of families supported	Families	C2	BHA continues to provide small and very limited funds to support community groups, including helping to re-start activities following Covid.
<b>Cost of Living</b>						
Continue to deliver LINKS Eyemouth community led food project that aims to support children and families to try new recipes that focus on healthy, lower budget eating. The project also supports wider wellbeing by promoting social connections and peer support opportunities for families, and the provision of meal bags with healthy recipes and ingredients mainly sourced from surplus foods to reduce food waste.	2	NHS Borders LINKS Eyemouth JHIT	Evaluation of project, and families supported	Families	C2	Between December 2022 and March 2023, the following activities were delivered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 Christmas recipe bags,</li> <li>• 4 energy efficiency workshops,</li> <li>• a creative upcycling session,</li> <li>• 12 Low and Slow sessions with 16 participants,</li> <li>• a warm hub provided for families and individuals meeting twice weekly during March 2023.</li> </ul>
Continue to offer free food at youth club drop-in sessions and support young people living	2,3	Tweeddale Youth	Number of young people	Young People	B3	Tweeddale Youth Action continues to offer free food at most of our drop-ins

	Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
	independently with food and essentials such as data when required. We also link families and young people with our local food bank and distribute supermarket vouchers to families in need.			supported			but the continuing increase in the numbers attending and the cost of food is making this increasingly difficult to staff and fund. We continue supporting young people living independently and distributing supermarket vouchers to families in need.
	Following public consultation, a proposal is being considered for further discussion in relation to period poverty.	2	SBC	Number of people supported	Families	B2	Fareshare has agreed to help distribute FPP to food banks and food larders. SBC and Live Borders premises identified for distribution. Locations are promoted through SBC Communications and website.
	Continue to establish breakfast clubs in schools. Breakfast clubs are established in a number of schools in areas of greatest need, but the aim is to have one in every school.	2	SBC	Number of breakfast clubs established	Children & Young People	B2	£60,000 has been allocated to support the setting up, continuation or provision of a free breakfast club offer across the Scottish Borders. Nineteen schools were successful in their application for funding along with 1 community based group.
<b>Mental Health</b>							
	Tweeddale Youth Action has a role in maintaining young people's mental health and emotional well-being, offering a safe space for young people to socialise, access information and advice, take part in activities and feel a sense of belonging and connection that they don't always have in other areas of their life. Act as a bridge between activities, opportunities and services that our young people will benefit from.	2	Tweeddale Youth	Uptake of service, and number of young people supported	Young People	B1	Currently open 5 days and 5 evenings per week, Tweeddale Youth Action offers a range of activities, including 5 a side football, art, cookery, film/digital and casual access youth drop-ins. Through Stepping Stones we continue to offer 1:1 and small group work support, feeding vulnerable young people, activities and opportunities available at TYA and wider through partners. We also continue to offer free holiday programmes and trips away. There are 6 other youth organisations across the Borders offering similar support.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
Provide support to children under 12, through the employment of a trauma councillor.	1,2,3	Eat Sleep Ride CIC	Number of children supported	Children	A1	Eat Sleep Ride supported 4 young people, all diagnosed with SEN through CAMHS to 12 sessions and each young person is now re-engaged in education.
Ensure that clients have timely access to mental health support through the 'No one Left Behind' programme.	1, 2, 3	SBC EES	Number of participants and employment opportunities	Families	B1	A mental health support worker was funded to provide sharp intervention through NOLB. Support and access to appropriate mental health services was provided.
<b>Disabled</b>						
Continue to provide 15 fortnightly peer-age befriending groups for children and young people with learning disabilities & autism aged 8-25 across the Scottish Borders.	1,2,3	Interestlink Borders	Number of members and families supported, volunteers involved and sessions provided. Annual outcomes survey of members, carers and volunteers.	Children & Young People	B1	Fortnightly befriending groups for children and young people with learning disabilities & autism aged 8-25 across the Scottish Borders continues.
<b>Projects and Programmes</b>						
Continue with expansion of programme and access to free places for museums and galleries, including workshop provision for families to attend.	2	Live Borders	Number of participants	Families	B1	35 creative workshops were offered through the summer of 2022 with an average 69% occupancy and 344 visits. Gala, Hawick, and Peebles programmes were the busiest. Free places were offered to low income families but uptake was low. Heart of Hawick offered free group access to film screenings with 6 groups taking up

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
						the offer and 215 individuals accessing free tickets.
Support Early Years Centres to continue to lead on a summer programme of activity with children and families across Eyemouth, Galashiels, Hawick and Selkirk.	1,2	NHS Borders SBC JHIT	Uptake of service and number of children supported	Children	C1	A successful four week summer programme took place. A total of 71 days of learning and play supported 902 children and 425 parents. Over 1500 meals were provided. A wide variety of learning and play activities were on offer. A highlight for many families was a trip to the beach.
Continue to provide free social activities and Summer respite camps in Summer, and school holidays.	2	BANG	Uptake of service, and families supported	Families	A2	BANG launched a new weekly ASN Parent peer support group in Galashiels and Hawick with JHIT funding. Monthly thematic workshops are held from Enquire, Voiceability, Social Security Scotland, Children and Families Social Work, Self-Directed Support, CONTACT and transition with SBC pilot.
Deliver 'Get into Summer 2022' for children and families of low income households which provides coordinated access to food, childcare, sports, leisure and cultural activities during the holidays.	2	Live Borders	Uptake of service and families supported	Children & Families	A2, B2	Over 4170 visits were made by children and young people to Live Borders activities. This resulted in 91% occupancy in activities with 69% places occupied free of charge to identified children and families of low income. Data includes the specific BANG camp partnership programme for families of children with a disability which saw over 50 attendances per week.
Develop a plan to transform holistic whole family support services through early intervention and prevention activities, to ensure families can access support before they reach crisis point.	1,2,3	SBC	Uptake of service and families supported	Children & Families	B1	A new governance board was developed in 2022/23: (The Children and Young People's Planning Partnership). The new structure leaves Scottish Borders in a much better position to use the WFWF to develop and transform service approaches to early intervention. The Whole Family Support work stream will be the primary route for developments in these areas.
Completion of new pathway to ensure appropriate	1,2,3	SBC	Compliance with	Children &	B1	The development of an App which will

	Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
	Mental Health Services and supports are in place.			legislation	Families		<p>enable children and young people to know which services are available within their own area is under development. It is hoped this will be placed on Ipads for August 2023. Further work will be required on this throughout the next year.</p> <p>A service directory is also being developed which outlines which services are able and how to access them. A draft will be available by summer 2023.</p>
	Develop an action plan based upon agreed Health and Wellbeing census outcomes.	1,2,3	SBC Education	Compliance with legislation	Children & Families	B1	<p>The 4 areas for action from the Health and Wellbeing census:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bullying – The Respectful Relationship and Anti-Bullying Policy 2023 is in the final draft stage and will include additional resources to support learning setting moving forward.</li> <li>2. Caring responsibilities – Presentation at February 2023 Child Protection Coordinators business meeting by CHIMES (Action for Children) to re-emphasise the importance of support for young carers</li> <li>3. Body Image – summer term PSHE programmes reviewed to ensure an increased focus, using up-to-date materials.</li> <li>4. Loneliness, stress and worry are discussed with children and young people and the appropriate actions taken by their schools to support them.</li> </ol> <p>Kooth and Togetherall support is</p>

	Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
							available for children and young people, in particular with a focus around exam stress. Summer term - further work required to support schools in this area.
	Identify 'Nurture Bases' in each locality to support primary school aged children with social and emotional difficulties.	1,2,3	SBC Education	Number of nurture bases identified, and children supported	Children & Young People	B1	Schools and settings to evidence progression in embedding the nurture principles.
	Full facility family pass trial for those families in most need to support access to a wider range of activity.	2	Live Borders	Number of families accessing services	Families	A2	The number of referrals received totalled 123 from a range of partners. Of these, 46 families (37%) made use of the pass. Teviotdale was the most popular site for attendance with 499 total visits made by families.
	Promote summer programmes as relevant to the Berwickshire locality.	2	BHA	Number of families accessing service	Children	A2	Ongoing via BHA social media channels.
	Provide life coaching programmes for BHA tenants and work closely with the Bewise group to support parents into employment through husbandry accreditations, support to manage their wellbeing, help filling out benefit forms, accessing support groups, transport costs and support to access public transport.	1,2,3	Eat Sleep Ride CIC BHA Bewise Group	Number of parents supported, and employment gained following participation	Parents	A1	Eat Sleep Ride supported 4 families through this period and worked alongside Penumbra.
<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>							
<b>Connecting the Borders</b>							
	Continue roll out of Connecting Borders (Devices, data and mentoring support) with the 12 members of community partnership.	2,3	Live Borders	Evaluation of project, number of families supported	Children & Families	A2	Live Borders had 225 referrals in 2022-2023. Of these, 77 include children in the household. 100 Chromebooks, 106 iPads, 176 MiFi were distributed.

	Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
<b>Support</b>							
	Continue to support households in receipt of a Connecting Scotland device.	1,2,3	SBHA	Evaluation of service, number of families supported	Families	A2	SBHA's Digital Champions network continues to support the 224 households who received a device via Connecting Scotland, to ensure they access all benefits of being online and improve their digital skills. In addition, the Borders Employment Advice and Mentoring (BEAM) project purchased 20 laptop computers and software for Tenants to enhance their job search and job applications.
	BHA has provided hands on digital support for individuals and contributes to Berwickshire networks developments to enable digital access for all.	2	BHA	Number of families supported	Families	A2	Let's Get Digital Berwickshire transferred to BAVS with digital activities delivered under their Berwickshire About project.
	Introduce software to increase benefit take up. Software to be acquired which will use information already held to identify people whose information is held within SBC databases and encourage them to apply for benefits where there is potential entitlement, which are not being claimed.	3	SBC	Increased take up, monetary gains	Families	B3	Introduced in early 2023 and several campaigns have started. Increased temporary resource in Financial Inclusion Team will allow this to be expanded in Summer 2023.
<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 these supports, as well as improving the quality and availability of advice services.							
<b>Equity Strategy and Funding</b>							
	Respond to the opportunities of the Scottish Attainment Challenge, targeting resources where the poverty related attainment gap is greatest to deliver improved attainment in literacy and numeracy.	1,2	SBC Education	Increased attainment	Children & Families	C2	Strategic Equity Funding continues to be used to increase leadership capacity by funding 3 additional Depute Head Teachers at our schools with the highest number of children living in SIMD Quintile 1.

	Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
	Continue to implement outcomes in the Equity Strategy to target action and resource to address inequalities in attainment and achievement.	1,2	SBC Education	Increased attainment	Children & Young People	C2	All short term outcomes of the equity strategy were achieved or exceeded in year 1. Year 2-3 outcomes are now in progress.
<b>Economic Growth</b>							
	Establish and deliver enhanced inclusive economic growth for the South of Scotland through the Regional Economic Partnership.	1,3	SOSE	Number of organisations funded whose activities indirectly or directly address child poverty	Families	A2	<p>This year SOSE has financially supported 5 organisations whose activities indirectly or directly address child poverty. Across the organisation our funding support has also enabled the creation of 267 jobs and safeguarded 323 jobs across the Scottish Borders.</p> <p>SOSE continues to champion Fair Work and lead by example by strengthening our approach to Fair Work. In 2022/23 we sought to promote the opportunities that Fair Work offers to address the challenges that enterprises face around skills gaps, talent attraction and retention, disengagement and in-work poverty.</p>
<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>Money Worries App</b>							
	Circulate flyers (1 for each area of the Borders) which provide essential contact details for those in crisis.	2,3	SBC	Monetary gains, support given	Families	B3	Continued promotion of the NHS Money Worries App and provided flyers to foodbanks and local fareshare providers.
	Continue to promote the Money Worries App to aid people by providing access to information and support to prevent escalating money worries.	2	NHS Borders	Monetary gains, support given	Parents	A2	The combined total number of users/downloads for the financial year 2022/2023 is 868. Training has since



	Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries or target groups	Best Start, Bright Futures Indicator**	Update
	Deliver Bitesize Information Sessions to 1) Raise Awareness of the NHS Borders Money Worries App, 2) Encourage 'real-time' download of the App, 3) Enable participants to promote and signpost people to the App.						evolved through partnership with the Money & Pensions Service. We have facilitated the first cohort of multi-agency staff through the MAPS Money Guiders self-directed e-learning.

\*Poverty Drivers

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

\*\*Best Start, Bright Futures Indicators

- A – Employment offer actions
  - 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