



SCOTTISH BORDERS

INTEGRATED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2023-24



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Introduction

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Progress Report of our Children & Young People's Services Plan for the Scottish Borders. This report reflects progress made in relation to the delivery of shared partnership priorities as set out in the [2023-2026 plan](#) and is the first annual report, as well as the first progress report prepared by the new Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPPP).

The CYPPP is a new multi-agency strategic decision-making forum for Children and Young People's services in the Scottish Borders and carries out this work on behalf of the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (CPP). The CYPPP (previously the Children and Young People's Leadership Group) brings together partners from Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Police Scotland, the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA), and the Third Sector.

Under the Children & Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014 (Part 3 - Children's Services Planning) there is a duty to prepare and publish an Annual Report.

The report should set out progress on:

- Children's services in a one-year period (April to March) provided in accordance with the Integrated Plan
- What that provision has achieved
- Aims of Children's Services planning
- Outcomes focused on the wellbeing of children and young people in the area.

The Partnership leads on the development, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the Children's Services Plan and considers the Promise, the national 'Getting it right for every child' (GIRFEC) wellbeing framework, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and corporate parenting responsibilities as policy drivers in their work in the Scottish Borders. The Scottish Government's [National Performance Framework](#)'s vision for children and young people: "we grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential" is also taken into account.

The priorities of the 2023-26 Children and Young People's Services Plan are set out within four identified networks. The networks reflect the priority areas of the Promise, and the following pages of this Annual Report outline good progress made within each of these:

1. A good childhood
2. Whole family support
3. Planning and building capacity
4. Supporting the workforce

As well as reporting progress on our 2023-2026 Children & Young People's Services Plan, this report also shows progress made on local delivery of work relating to the Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF). This enables the communication of data and evidence to demonstrate accountability for use of local resources by Community Planning Partners as well as providing an evaluation of the WFWF. Full progress is shown in Appendix A.

The CYPPP wishes to thank all partners for their collaborative hard work in improving outcomes for all children, young people and their families in the Scottish Borders.

Keeping The Promise in Scottish Borders

In the Scottish Borders, the Promise is considered an umbrella policy driver for children and young people's services, as we see its relevance and application extending to *all* children and young people, not just those who are care experienced.

This commitment is a fundamental shift which places the Promise at the heart of our plans, and this progress report focuses on strengthening the foundations to deliver the Promise in the Scottish Borders. A dedicated Promise Team has been created to support the work of the CYPPP and implementation of the Promise locally.

Some high-level examples of the Promise work are outlined below.

- A 'Brothers and Sisters' working group have developed local guidance around this area of work with siblings and a case study shown in Appendix B outlines the success of this important element of the Promise.
- Progress in planning and implementing activities using the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund is ongoing and this is reported in Appendix A. The CYPPP have highlighted the need to improve and better coordinate the delivery of early intervention support services to children, young people and their families who are in need to additional support. Recommendations were made to the CYPPP following a review of other models of practice and these are set out in Appendix A.
- The Scottish Borders Champions Board continues to support young people aged between 14 and 21 years old in foster care, residential care, or supported/independent living. This is a structured forum focused on participation work but also builds relationships and supports individual needs.

A plethora of work has been undertaken to keep the Promise in the Scottish Borders; however, promoting awareness of the Promise across the multi-agency partnership requires improvement. A robust communications strategy is now needed to ensure all staff and the wider community are aware of the work being undertaken and what they can do/how they can get involved to #KeepThePromise.

Commissioning

To ensure that we have the right services, the 2023-2026 Children's Services Plan makes a commitment to 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.

Current commissions are under review and Scottish Borders Council's Commissioning Framework will be used to undertake this work. It is envisaged that a new Commissioning Strategy will be in place for April 2025.

We will agree priority areas based on national funding requirements and assessed need. We will make best use of statutory, independent and third sector provision, and appoint appropriate commissioned services to deliver:

- 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
- Equality & inclusion
- Positive life choices
- Availability and access of advocacy services
- Support to children and families who are affected by parental substance use

A Good Childhood

The 'A Good Childhood' Network has a bi-monthly focus on corporate parenting. The outcomes within the Network action plan are:

1. To increase school attendance, qualifications and post-school positive and sustained destinations of care experienced children and young people in line with education.
2. To develop multi-agency early and effective intervention approaches for children and young people in conflict with the law.
3. To reduce the number of children and young people in out of authority placements
4. To promote and share the learning from the sector-leading work of Wheatlands Children's House locally and nationally.
5. To ensure children and young people living in the Scottish Borders will have access to independent advocacy up to the age of 26.
6. To ensure that the community mental health improvement plan and the CAMHS improvement plan reflect the needs of children and young people.

Progress towards these outcomes so far:

- Baseline data in relation to part-time and build up timetables is being collated. A new school attendance policy will be launching in August 2024, which will require schools to register all build-up timetable details centrally.
- Attendance of primary aged care experienced children has increased from 88% in 2022/23 to 89.7% as of May 1st 2024.
- There has been a 2% increase in care experienced school leavers in a positive post-school destination at the initial review stage in the last academic year
- Targeted early intervention and prevention work is being undertaken, which aims to reduce the number of referrals sent to SCRA. This includes the Youth Justice team working with education colleagues to ensure the 'No Knives Better Lives' programme is being shared with all S1 and S2 pupils across the Borders.
- The Youth Justice team are in the early stages of developing preventative work which focuses on 10- and 11-year-olds who are at risk of coming into conflict with the law.
- A council project has been set up to reduce the number of children and young people being placed in Out of Authority placements. To date, the Project team has undertaken a mapping exercise and gap analysis of services and completed a review of approaches developed in other children's strategic planning partnership areas. Additionally, a survey has been undertaken to identify parental need and gaps in service provision.
- Ongoing funding for a Children and Young People's Independent Advocacy Service has been secured, an initial consultation exercise with parents and carers has been undertaken, and a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) is underway.
- A small working group has started to meet to establish STRETCH aims in relation to the CAMHS and community mental health improvement plan.

Whole Family Support

The Whole Family Support Network has a focus on:

1. Ensuring there is a co-ordinated approach to prevention and early intervention support for children, young people, and families from pre-birth.
2. Supporting a coordinated approach to school holiday provision carried out by the Holiday Funding group and Child Poverty group.
3. Improving joined up approaches to supporting asylum seeking, refugee and gypsy/traveller children and young people living in the Scottish Borders.
4. Ensuring that the revised Scottish Government GIRFEC guidance is interwoven through policy and practice across the children and young people's workforce in Scottish Borders.

Progress towards those outcomes so far:

- Since November 2021, Scottish Borders Council has accommodated Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking children (UASC). Placement types range from foster care to supported accommodation. Service developments include:
 - New roots – access to participation opportunities
 - Enrolment in Scottish Borders schools
 - Health assessments
 - Welcome packs and orientation programmes
- School holiday funding was made available in 2023/24 and the partnership worked with various organisations to provide activities for targeted children and young people
- Activity around the need to improve and better coordinate the delivery of early intervention support services to children, young people and their families who are in need to additional support is reported in Appendix A.
- The GIRFEC approach continues to be embedded across all networks and partners of the CYPPP and a new action plan is being created to further upskill staff.

Planning and Building Capacity

This Network is working to deliver four broad outcomes which are:

1. Developing a Youth Participation and Engagement strategy which is co-produced with children and young people.
2. Developing a multi-agency performance outcomes framework for children and young people which can be used across the partnership.
3. Developing a multi-agency communications strategy for the CYPPP.
4. Ensuring organisations working with children and young people in Scottish Borders are ready for the UNCRC being incorporated into Scots Law.

Progress towards those outcomes so far:

- A consultation questionnaire for young people went live in March 2024 and has attracted over 700 responses to date. The survey has been promoted to those with quieter voices and 16–25-year-olds out-with education
- Preparation of the Participation and Engagement strategy itself and making plans for a launch in Autumn 2024
- A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to assess the current health and wellbeing needs of Scottish Borders children, young people and families is underway. Key performance indicators will be developed thereafter.
- A Communications strategy is under development and the first newsletter has been published. This work will continue to ensure that the work of the CYPPP is understood by children and young people, as well as practitioners and CYPPP Partners.
- A response to Scottish Government's consultation on statutory guidance for the incorporation of UNCRC into Scots Law has been submitted on behalf of the CYPPP.
- CRWIA (Children's Rights Wellbeing Impact Assessment) work is progressing and will be adopted across the partnership.
- Rights Respecting Schools work is progressing in Scottish Borders Schools.

Supporting the Workforce

This Network is tasked with ensuring that we support our workforce to develop nurturing, patient, kind, compassionate, trusting and respectful relationships with children, young people and their families so that children in the Scottish Borders grow up feeling loved, safe and respected.

The Network is working to deliver five broad outcomes which are:

1. The CYPPP and its members have a comprehensive understanding of who constitutes the workforce, their shared value and learning and development framework.
2. The workforce will receive the multi-agency learning and development opportunities they need to be able support children, young people, and their families to flourish.
3. Develop a participation and engagement plan for the network that aligns with other networks and the work of the CYPPP.
4. The workforce and the organisations for which they work will be able to demonstrate that they are embedding trauma informed practice across their work and within their workforce.
5. Young people entering the workforce in Scottish Borders will have their individual needs understood and supported by employers.

Progress towards those outcomes so far:

- We have developed a comprehensive workforce mapping document which considers the workforce in its broadest sense as outlined in the Promise – anyone who spends time with or has responsibility towards children, young people, and families.
- We are working on gathering information for a multi-agency workforce learning and development mapping tool to establish what training is currently available and identify where the gaps are. Borders College are an important partner and provide qualifications which are essential to embark and progress in careers within the children and young people workforce, including Early Years and childcare.
- We have started to develop a shared training expectation and a clear tiered L&D framework for our children and young people's workforce. This will include some core training expectations such as attachment, trauma, child development, and child poverty.
- The Integrated Psychological Trauma Steering Group which feeds into this Network around the embedding of trauma informed practice is currently progressing well with a trauma informed practice training plan and piloting of Trauma Needs Assessments which include consideration of supporting supervision, organisation policies and procedures, leadership, and training.

Conclusion

The Children and Young People's Planning Partnership are proud of the work done in 2023/2024 under the Children and Young People's Services Plan for 2023-2026

The Partnership itself is developing well, as are the four networks as outlined above. Year two of the Partnership and Plan will build on the foundations of what has been achieved to date. We look forward to working with partners to continue to deliver the priorities contained in the Plan.

The partnership will continue to work towards enhancing the lives of our children, young people and their families and contribute to the priorities and outcomes of the CPP.

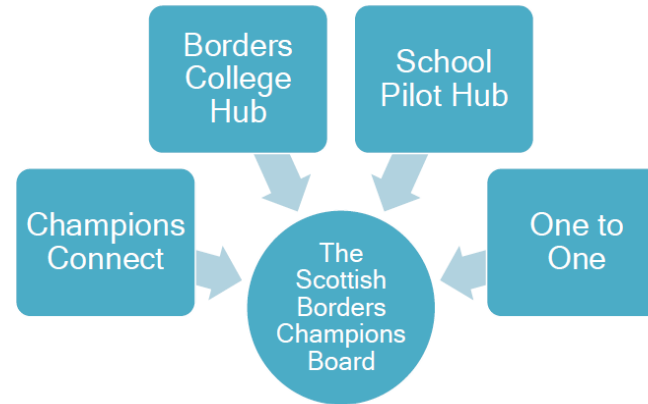
We will ensure that listening to and making sense of what is heard is embedded into all practices and processes that engage with children and families, avoid duplication and make a difference to the lives of children, young people and their families in the Scottish Borders.

Appendix A - Whole Family Wellbeing Funding – Reporting progress as part of annual Children’s Services Plans (CSP) Reports (March 2024)

SECTION 1: Activities, WFWF Logic Model Outcomes, and Budget Allocated

Question 1: Activity title and description	Question 2: During this year, how has this activity contributed (or is expected to contribute) toward one or more short-term, intermediate, or long-term WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) identified in your WFWF Initial Plan template? Please describe this using evidence and citing sources.	Question 3: Estimate of % of WFWF funding spent on this activity to date and estimate of % of this activity out of total WFWF budget.
Activity 1: Building staffing capacity within the CSPP	<p>The outcome was to increase staffing capacity to implement the WFWF plan and implementation of the Promise in Scottish Borders. Building on the Promise Implementation Officer role becoming a permanent post and the creation of a three-year Promise Project Worker post in 2022-23, 2 additional posts were advertised in 2023-24. These posts are a Participation and Engagement Officer who works collaboratively to support, advise and promote participation activity across statutory and third sector Children’s Services; and The Promise Quality & Improvement Officer will work alongside partners at both an operational and senior management level to develop and deliver an action plan based on the five foundations of the Promise. The posts were advertised and appointed to in March 2024, and the successful candidates do not start in their new posts until April / May 2024.</p>	<p>This activity represents 6.1% of total WFWF budget for this year.</p>
Activity 2: Analysis and evaluation of existing family support	<p>As part of the development of a new Whole Family Support Team and, in an associated project looking at reducing the number of care experienced young people being looked after out with the Scottish Borders, a mapping exercise and gap analysis of services was undertaken. This resulted in a clear gap in provision for holistic family and parenting support. This was accompanied by a survey of presenting parental needs with holistic support, parenting, mental health and poverty being prevalent. These findings have informed the development of the partnership Whole Family Support Team (see Activity 5) and broader planning around enhancing prevention and early intervention services.</p>	<p>Estimate that 0% of WFWF funding spent on this activity as of 01/04/2024 and estimate that this activity represents 0% of total WFWF budget for this year. This is misleading however as again it is difficult to accurately represent the role played by The Promise Lead Officer has played a lead role in this area.</p>
Activity 3: Engagement with children and families	<p>The Champions Board continues to be the primary approach to participation work with care experienced children and young people in the Scottish Borders. The Statement of Purpose for the Champions Board is “To provide a platform for care-experienced young people to raise and discuss key issues that have affected them whilst being a looked after young person in the</p>	<p>This is difficult to extrapolate as elements of both the Promise Lead Officer post and Promise Project Worker post are involved in engaging with children and families. The</p>

Scottish Borders, and to develop strong relationships with their corporate parents to ensure that together we can improve the care system by tackling and overcoming the issues discussed". The approach is managed through the Promise Team and the young people who are involved. As in the previous reporting period, the approach has continued to be develop a schools' Champions Board pilot setting up Champs Hubs in high schools.



Champions Board Hubs began in Jedburgh Grammar Campus and Berwickshire High School in early 2023 and have expanded to Peebles High School, with a plan to establish a Hub at Galashiels Academy in the next couple of months.

A New Roots group is a Champions Board project for unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people in Scottish Borders. It helps provide a support infrastructure for this group of young people and aims to:

1. Offer a safe space for peer support and a welcome to new arrivals to the Scottish Borders.
2. Provide a platform for unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people living in the Scottish Borders to have a voice and influence change.
3. Support the creation of new links within the community, ensuring young people know who their corporate parents are and the range of support services and opportunities available to them in Scottish Borders.
4. Learn and share information about other cultures (including both the young people's cultures and Scottish cultures).

The group runs fortnightly and began in January 2024.

The Champions' Board approach to participation is planning to develop for those young people who are looked after in out of authority placements – Champions Connect is a project which will be established later in 2024.

combined posts represent 6.1% of total WFWF budget for this year. This is complimented by other specific partnership and engagement posts within Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders.

	<p>Additionally, the Youth Engagement Listen to Learn (YELL) Group is a team of young people from across the Borders, aged 12 - 25 who are co-producing a Youth Participation Strategy for the Children and Young People's Planning Partnership to guide better engagement and consultation with young people. Focus of participation and engagement work in 2024-25 will be increasing consistency in approaches across the partnership and using the new Participation and Engagement Officer post- increasing participation and engagement with families.</p>	
<p>Activity 4: self-assessment of readiness to change</p>	<p>As part of the development of a new Whole Family Support Team, a mapping exercise and gap analysis of services was undertaken. This resulted in a clear gap in provision for holistic family and parenting support. Additionally, work was undertaken to focus on parental need and gaps in service provision.</p> <p>Within the Planning and Building Capacity Network of the CYPPP, work is ongoing to complete a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and a self-assessment of readiness to change using the Supporting Families National Self-Assessment Toolkit for Change. These will further inform partnership work and develop a multi-agency Performance Outcomes Framework for children and young people.</p>	N/A
<p>Activity 5: Scale-up of transformative and effective whole family support services</p>	<p>The Scottish Borders CYPPP Board agreed the following in relation to the scale-up of transformative and effective whole family support services in October 2023. Based on similar national and local examples, a Whole Family Support team, which covers the whole of the Scottish Borders is to be developed. The team will deliver holistic support to address a whole range of individual and family issues, including parenting, housing issues, health and wellbeing issues, offending behaviour, school related difficulties, employability, income maximisation, drug and alcohol issues, etc. The governance, management and staffing of the team will sit in SBC's Resilient Communities but will have a multi-agency component at both managerial and operational levels. The service builds on an existing Intensive Family Support Service which operates locally. The development of the team has been delayed but should be up and running during July 2024. Outcomes for families involved in the existing Intensive Family Support Service have been impressive in terms of parenting support, income maximisation and employability and it is hoped that this will be replicated in the new service.</p> <p>The WFWF has also been used to fund Children 1st delivery of a Family Group Decision Making service and fund Summer Activities for children, young people and families across the Scottish Borders. Although temporary funding, the outcomes of both have been significant.</p>	<p>It is difficult to calculate the % of WFWF spent on the development of the service. Once it is up and running however it will represent a significant amount of the WFWF spend at around 61% of the total funding.</p> <p>Family Group Decision Making - £120,000 Summer Activities for disadvantaged children, young people and families - £150,000 The above temporary funding arrangements made up 39.2% of WFWF for 2023-24.</p>

SECTION 2: Progress Narrative for your overall WFWF plans

Questions	Responses
<p>Question 4: Overview description of what has been achieved to date and how this compares to intended plans, including specific partners who have been involved, particularly third sector organisations.</p>	<p>The development of a new multi-agency children’s services partnership governance structure in 2022-23 was significant and this structure has been embedded and developed in 2023-24 resulting a comprehensive partnership approach to service governance and development. Developments in participation and engagement and implementation and embedding UNCRC have been significant and led by WFWF resources. The WFWF posts are partnership posts working across both statutory and third sector organisations in the Scottish Borders. Organisations such as Youth Borders, Children 1st, Borders Additional Needs Group and local youth groups have been directly involved in the governance of Children’s Services and the use of the WFWF and, in developments relating to participation and engagement and, the scale-up of transformative and effective whole family support services. The Chief Executive of Youth Borders is the Vice-Chair of the CYPPP Board in the Scottish Borders and the local Service Manager of Children 1st chairs one of the supporting network groups.</p>
<p>Question 5: Main successes to delivery and factors enabling these successes.</p>	<p>See above (question 4). The funding of the Promise Lead Officer and the Promise Support Worker posts through the WFWF has continued to enable specific resource to be dedicated to both the new children’s services governance structure and transforming services in line with the principles and requirements of the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund. Despite delays in key activities and developments, short term funding for Children 1st delivery of a Family Group Decision Making service and Summer Activities for children, young people and families across the Scottish Borders has been significant in terms of impact and outcomes. The new WFWF Participation and Engagement and The Promise Quality & Improvement Officer posts will enable improved capacity for service development across the Children and Young People’s Planning Partnership in to 2024-25.</p>
<p>Question 6: Main challenges to delivery, and how these have been or plan to be mitigated. Please include any details on any activities which have not progressed as expected.</p>	<p>The main challenge to delivering progress on the WFWF has been the time it has taken to develop the new early intervention Whole Family Support Service. We are confident that the teams are nearly ready for deployment and should be fully operational in July 2024. This will significantly improve early intervention support capacity for children and their families in the Scottish Borders.</p>
<p>Question 7: How have the activities and outcomes in Section 1 been informed by different stakeholders? (especially third sector partners and children and families)</p>	<p>All major stakeholders have been involved in the use of WFWF. Decisions regarding the use of the funding and associated developments are all agreed by the multi-agency CYPPP board. Direct feedback has been received from service users of the current Intensive Family Support service in development of the Whole Family Support Team and family feedback is integral to the success of the Family Group Conferencing model. Increasingly proposals will be discussed by the Champions Boards and other children and young participation forums in line with the co-produced children and young People’s participation and Engagement Strategy.</p>
<p>Any other comments, innovative work, relevant learning, or unexpected changes identified during this year?</p>	<p>Scottish Borders have taken time to plan for transformational change in line with the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund over the past 2 years, and we are now in a position where we have an effective multi-agency governance and decision-making structure, a staff team dedicated to developing services across the Partnership and, a plan to significantly enhance early intervention support over 2024-25.</p>

Appendix B - Brothers and Sisters

In August 2021 Scottish Borders Council and Children 1st made a joint application to the Promise Partnership for two years funding.

We were successful in our application and became one of three local authority areas chosen to pilot a Brothers and Sisters Project. Getting it Right for Brothers and Sisters was an investment allocated to help organisations understand more about local needs and gather evidence on what works to ensure relationships between brothers and sisters are cherished and protected.

Our hope was to achieve the development of holistic, child-centred, and recovery focused support for Brothers and Sisters whose family circumstances and past experiences have impacted on sibling relationships. We recognised that though not always straightforward, supporting Brothers and Sisters relationships can give those with care experience some emotional and physical safety, continuity, and familiarity, and support positive child development, promote reparative care and provide lifelong benefits to care experienced children and young people.

We started our project by recruiting a Children 1st Team Leader and Project Worker and setting up a Project Board and Operational Group for Governance which are both made up of Children 1st and SBC representatives. We produced an initial baseline data report using data from the social work database which gave us some sense of care experienced children and their brothers and sister relationships. The analysis of the data included a breakdown by age, placement type, legal order, relationship type, distance lived from their sibling/s.

Early in the project we did some engagement sessions with social workers and initially identified six families to support work through a test, learn and develop approach. Children 1st offered individual and joint therapeutic sessions, support around family time and Family Group Decision Making (FGDM).

Over the two years, Children 1st has worked with 17 families including 62 children and 35 adults (parents, foster carers, and kinship carers) to offer therapeutic support and there are increasing requests for FGDM from social workers to consider sibling relationships as part of the support for the family. There have also been an unforeseen number of requests for support through FGDM where a parent has died, and the brother or sister is to be considered as the main carer for their younger siblings. Children 1st have also supported social work colleagues with sibling tracing – approaching siblings or family members as part of permanency or exploring Kinship options.

There has been a significant shift in practice around considerations for placing Brothers and Sisters and their ongoing relationship when they are separated. Scottish Borders Council's Children and Families Social Work developed and implemented Brothers and Sisters - Policy, Guidance and Practice Standards in December 2021. The document included an assessment template and guidance. A comprehensive Brothers and Sisters assessment should always be undertaken and completed in the following circumstances:

- Where there are significant differences in planning for or placement of siblings at any stage in their care journey, including separation.
- In the permanence planning process where siblings are involved.

- When a decision is made that a comprehensive sibling assessment would aid in the planning process for children.

Specific training on Brothers and Sisters Assessment was commissioned and delivered by the Association of Fostering, Kinship and Adoption Scotland (AFKA) to social workers in 2023 and confidence around the completion of assessments is starting to build with further practice development planned.

Scottish Borders Council and Children 1st have worked collaboratively to input into social work sibling assessments and joint reflective practice space for colleagues involved in complex sibling arrangements. Social workers are now supporting some sibling groups to have family time independent of social work involvement with older siblings taking younger siblings out for lunch or activities themselves.

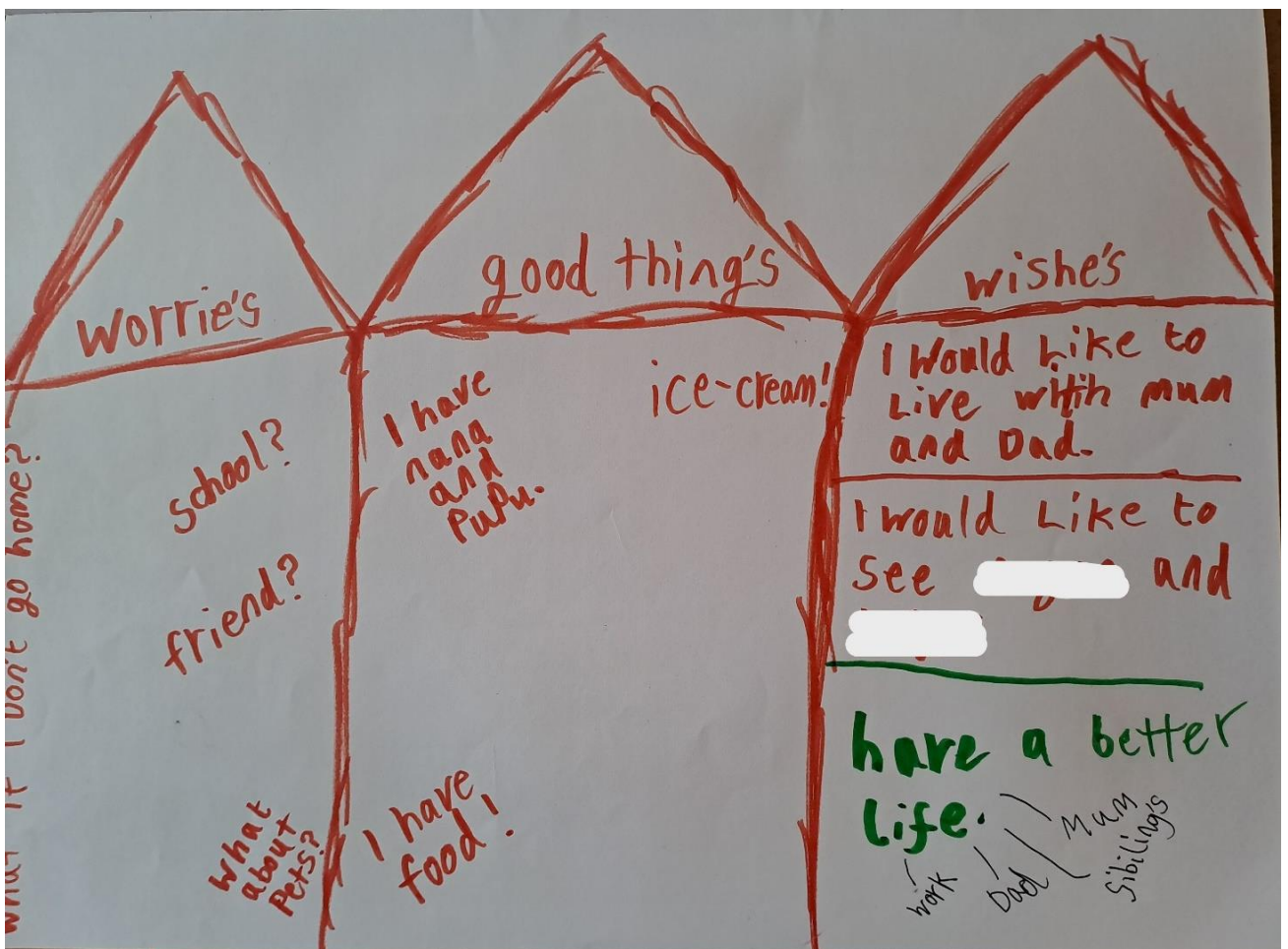
Brothers and Sisters relationships are evident in Child's Plans and prominent in discussions within children's review meetings – information from these processes is providing fuller data around Brothers and Sisters relationships and practice change. We have also moved towards a narrative approach to recording and documenting therapeutic work, family time, and significant events for Brothers and Sisters so that recording about them tells their story in a way that is individual and meaningful to each child through the duration of working together and later in life.

Where relationships for Brothers and Sisters are most complex, we have observed high levels of distress, trauma-based behaviour, and coping responses which then means children need more time to build therapeutic working relationships with the professionals trying to support them. Some of the themes of work for the children directly supported within the project have been loss, rejection, nurture, sense of self and relationships with others and struggles to build trust and form narratives around their lives. One of the key things we have recognised is the need for therapeutic support to be paced and bespoke to the circumstances of the family.

We have developed more insight into the factors and system pressures that contribute to levels of distress and impact on Brothers and Sisters relationships and are actively working to develop improved practice around these areas. These include:

- How to reduce uncertainty over long term placements, returning to the family home, permanence processes and outcomes of Children's Hearings.
- Working with the children who have remained living with their parent whilst their sibling is looked after, what this means moving forward to each child in the family when the looked after child is returning home.
- Levels of distress and trauma-based behaviour impacting on school and learning.
- Planning for family time in a way that is positive, reducing patterns of distressed behaviour between children, and looking objectively at sibling time to keep each child's need central and prioritise quality time over quantity.

We have also learnt new ways to maintain connections for Brothers and Sisters who are separated through cards, letters, photos, gifts, facetime, etc. There is more thought around planning for reconnecting, making this manageable and paced and considering how this will be maintained and made sustainable by carers/family.



Appendix C - BANG/UNCRC Case Study 2023

Borders Additional Needs Group (BANG) is a charity for families of children with additional support needs that regularly provides dedicated Additional Support Needs (ASN), youth programmes, social activities, parent carer walks, summer respite camps, sensory film screenings, and a wide variety of family days out. It has a directory of information accessible to all its members containing information on benefits, funding, holidays, and information specific to various conditions. BANG have strong links with local and national stakeholders, representing the needs of this sector.

Scottish Borders Youth Voice (SBYV) is the name we give to activities for young people (aged 12 to 25 years) to get actively involved in decision-making and youth-led campaigns in the Scottish Borders. Based on Article 12 of the UNCRC, which states that 'a child or young person has the right to be heard in all decision-making processes that affect them', SBYV offers a range of ways to engage and be listened to.

Through a number of discussions between staff members at Scottish Borders Council (SBC) working within participation, we identified that we needed to engage the voice of young people with additional needs better and in more depth than we had done previously. Through another project entitled 'Article 12 @ the heart', we engaged with BANG and developed further links in orders to develop this project, as they also wished to gain a better understanding of the UNCRC for their young people.

In January 2023, we came together to discuss how we could work with the young people to increase their knowledge of Children's Rights and the UNCRC.

It was decided that SBYV and The Promise team would deliver a 6-week project across 2hrs each Friday with a small group of young people to assess their knowledge and develop their understanding of how this translated into their day to day lives in the community.

How did we do this?

Through the medium of building blocks (LEGO), we worked with a group of 4 young men to have discussions on their rights and build island communities out of LEGO that represented what they felt should be the rights available to young people in those communities. We discussed the rights they felt they had available to them and if those rights were easily accessible to them in their daily lives.



There was a great deal of knowledge amongst the group of young people around their rights, some misunderstandings, but also an awareness that despite having those rights, they were not often upheld in their lives.

As part of these sessions, a few members also engaged in a UNCRC discussion on the BANG podcast with the Youth Engagement worker from SBYV and staff from BANG.

Out of these sessions came an understanding that more needed to be done around this subject, ensuring that young people with additional support needs know about their rights and get them upheld in their communities.

Further discussions took place with BANG and Alchemy Arts about the creation of a short film to put this into a more understandable format that would be created by the young people themselves.

Appendix D – Glossary

AFKA	Association of Fostering, Kinship and Adoption
ASN	Additional Support Needs
BANG	Borders Additional Needs Group
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CRWIA	Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment
CPP	Community Planning Partnership
CYPPP	Children & Young People’s Planning Partnership
FGDM	Family Group Decision Making
GIRFEC	Getting it right for every child
L&D	Learning and Development
SBYV	Scottish Borders Youth Voice
SCRA	Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the rights of the child
WFWF	Whole family wellbeing fund