

reducing inequalities

IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS BY 2025
STRATEGIC PLAN, JUNE 2016



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Appendix 1: Reducing Inequalities Strategic Plan Summary: Action Plan and Performance Framework

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FOREWORD

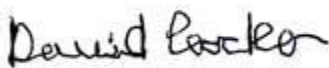
As the fragile economic climate and era of austerity continues, we are reminded of the important social and economic role we play in the Scottish Borders. This Reducing Inequalities Strategic Plan sets out how Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (CPP) will fulfil our responsibilities, refreshing our commitment to tackling inequalities and strengthening the contributions made by all key partners and stakeholders.



We want all residents in the Borders to live longer, healthier, more prosperous lives, regardless of where they live or how much money they have and we want the lives of the most disadvantaged to improve the fastest so that the inequality that exists between the richest and poorest in our communities is reduced.

Issues around inequality are challenging enough, but we are also operating at a time of major changes in the financial and economic worlds. The recession of the last six years and the ongoing banking pressures, as well as the changing political landscapes at Holyrood and Westminster bring additional constraints and challenges. After consulting widely with key partners, partnerships and stakeholders, and taking account of a changing context, we have identified the actions we believe are now required, over and above what is happening anyway within the Community Planning Partnership and within partner agencies.

This document places inequalities on the agenda of every stakeholder in the Borders and re-enforces our commitment as a Council to work with partners, and with the people of the Scottish Borders, to tackle inequalities across our region and make a real difference by 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Parker". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Councillor David Parker

Leader of the Council and Chair of the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership



Executive Summary

This strategic plan for reducing inequalities in the Borders builds on the significant amount of research, analysis and consultation that has been completed previously by the Council, various partnerships, community organisations and other agencies. The Community Planning Partnership has undergone a robust consultation and analysis process to arrive at the priorities, outcomes and actions outlined in this plan.

Five key areas of inequalities in the Scottish Borders have been identified as:

Employment and Income	Attainment , Achievement and Inclusion	Housing and Neighbourhood
Health and Wellbeing		Keeping People Safe

The Scottish Borders covers a large, predominantly rural area resulting in greater potential inequalities in terms of residential location by income level. The research demonstrates clear differences in the nature of inequality across the five areas of inequalities and across the Borders. These differences are significant both in term of the potential implications for delivering effective public services to areas of need, and also for the potential impact on a range of health, wellbeing, social and economic outcomes.

The 5 areas of inequalities are all inextricably linked and it can be challenging to consider each individually in isolation. However one of the key priorities of this strategy is to bring all these areas together, reinforcing the contributions and commitments being made from all partners and to identify where more resource is required. This will require a focused, targeted approach to inequalities and strong partnerships to deliver the identified outcomes.

Reducing inequalities is critical for the future development of the Borders for a number of reasons:

- I. Eliminating disadvantage and promoting equality of opportunity is about creating a ‘fair’ society. Most people want to live in a Borders where everyone has an opportunity to participate and thrive – where factors such as gender, where you live and how much money you have are not the major determinants of people’s life chances and outcomes;
- II. Reducing inequalities supports economic growth and improves the productivity of all our residents. Reducing disadvantage and widening access to opportunities will allow more residents of the Borders to participate and make a greater contribution to the local economy.
- III. Poor educational achievement, poor health and unemployment are all barriers to economic participation. Our future economic success requires the skills and well-being of everyone living in the Borders. Critically, the ageing of our population means that if we want to meet our aspirations

for a more prosperous and ambitious region we must improve economic and social outcomes in our most deprived communities and all individuals affected by inequality.

- IV. Disadvantage and inequality of opportunity also results in increased pressure on our public services and services offered by our partner organisations. Investment to reduce inequalities will lower future costs in the public sector, as well as alleviate social problems. For example, if we can reduce the number of young people leaving school with few qualifications, it is likely we will be spending less on other benefits in the future such as housing benefit, as well as there being a reduction in pressure on some services.

Inequalities are often deeply rooted and significant coordination and collaboration across a huge number of areas and services is required if we are to make a meaningful impact.

Future national policy direction will be one of the key drivers in tackling inequalities in the long term, and there will only be so much we can achieve at a local level to reduce the gap and the effects. We must also acknowledge that major change may even take a generation, however this strategic plan outlines our commitment to prioritising a reduction in inequalities, ensuring all local plans and policies are truly inclusive and will drive progress by 2025.



1. INTRODUCTION

It is unacceptable in this day and age that the people of the Scottish Borders have very different experiences of life opportunities, good health and wellbeing depending on which part of the region they live or on their individual characteristics. In our most disadvantaged areas, it is clear that people suffer significantly more from income deprivation and health problems, whilst those living in the most affluent areas can live significantly longer. This is due to a wide range of complex inequalities.

Significant efforts have been made from a range of agencies and communities to close the gap in inequalities over recent years, yet the gaps remain unacceptable. The Community Planning Partnership (CPP) is committed to trying to break the cycle and so have set out its intentions in this **Reducing Inequalities Strategic Plan** to help enable the work of all stakeholders to focus on a number of key priority areas that will make a difference to people’s lives.

It is well documented that those who have the least access to income, employment and good housing experience higher levels of ill health; often have less physical and psychological resilience to meet challenges; and less power and influence to effect change. Poverty and inequality that is created by prejudice, discrimination or by structural bias diminishes opportunity and life experience. Reducing inequalities and promoting equality of opportunity and improved positive outcomes, therefore, remain the Community Planning Partnership’s major challenge. Although outcomes are generally improving for most people in Borders, the CPP believe that there is still a lot to be done to support and enable the poorest and most disadvantaged households.

Figure 1: Five Main Inequalities Themes

The Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership **Reducing Inequalities Delivery Team** set out to develop this high level strategic plan to tackle and reduce five key areas of inequalities (now referred to as the inequalities “themes”) in the Scottish Borders, shown in Figure 1.



1.1 Strategic Context for this Plan

In 2013, the Scottish Government asked each Community Planning Partnership (CPP) to work towards achieving 5 objectives and 16 national outcomes (part of its National Performance Framework) by developing a Single Outcome Agreement (SOA), based on an assessment and understanding of local need. At its April 2013 meeting, the Community Planning Strategic Board considered the Scottish Borders Strategic Assessment 2013 which drew some strategic conclusions about the priorities for the Borders and helped the Board to coalesce around a focused vision:

“By 2023, quality of life will have improved for those who are currently living within our most deprived communities, through a stronger economy and through targeted partnership action”.

The Board was clear that in order to achieve this ambitious vision, the CPP needed to focus on 3 strategic priorities that clearly contribute to the range of National Outcomes,:

1. Grow our economy
2. Reduce Inequalities
3. Maximise the impact from the low carbon agenda

This Reducing Inequalities Strategic Plan, and the 5 themes within it, aligns closely with the Scottish Government’s National Outcomes and the 3 CPP priorities, as shown in the table below:

Table 1: Inequalities Themes Alignment with National and Community Planning Priorities

Reducing Inequalities Themes	National Strategic Objectives	Community Planning Priorities	National Outcomes
Attainment, Achievement and Inclusion	Smarter	Reduce inequalities	3. We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation
			4. Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens
			5. Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed
			8. We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk
Employment and Income	Wealthier and Fairer	Grow our Economy and maximise the impact from the low carbon agenda	1. We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe
			2. We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people
			13. We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity
			15. Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people’s needs
Health and Wellbeing	Healthier	Reduce inequalities	6. We live longer, healthier lives
			5. Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed
			7. We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society
			8. We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk
			16. Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people’s needs
			10. We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need
Housing and Neighbourhood	Greener	Grow our Economy and maximise the impact from the low carbon agenda	15. Our people are able to maintain their independence as they get older, and are able to access appropriate support when they need it
			12. We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.
			14. We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production
			10. We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need
Keeping People Safe	Safer and Stronger	Reduce inequalities	9. We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.
			10. We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need
			11. We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others



The Scottish Government’s Child Poverty Strategy describes some of the fundamental principles of how we need to break ‘*cycles of poverty, deprivation, unemployment, health inequalities and poor educational attainment which are embedded in particular in our disadvantaged societies*’. Our aspiration is therefore to break these cycles by taking strategic and operational action in collaboration with communities across the Scottish Borders.

1.2 The Reducing Inequalities Vision and Outcomes to be achieved

In order to work towards the SOA strategic priority to *reduce inequality*, the CPP has committed to the following vision:

‘By 2025, the gap between the most deprived and the least deprived in the Scottish Borders will have been reduced’

To achieve this vision and to better understand the inequalities in the Scottish Borders, this strategic plan focuses on five key themes:

Employment and Income	Attainment , Achievement and Inclusion	Housing and Neighbourhood
Health & Wellbeing		Keeping People Safe

Under each of these themes, a number of outcomes have been identified:

Employment & income	Health & wellbeing	Attainment, achievement, & inclusion	Housing & Neighbourhood	Keeping People Safe
<p>More working age people, including school leavers, are supported to enter and sustain quality employment</p> <p>Where work is not possible, income will be maximised to improve quality of life</p>	<p>The inequalities in health and wellbeing between the most and the least deprived people and communities across the Borders are reduced</p>	<p>Inequalities in educational outcomes, attainment and inclusion between the most and least deprived children in Borders are reduced (including vulnerable groups)</p> <p>More young people are equipped with the knowledge and skills to proceed to adult working life</p>	<p>Every person in the Scottish Borders lives in a home that meets their needs</p>	<p>Scottish Borders is the safest place to live, work and visit</p>

Each of the themes and outcomes will be examined in more detail in **SECTIONS 3 to 7**, with a set of clearly defined actions under each theme that the partners within the Reducing Inequalities Delivery Team will be responsible for delivering.

When addressing these outcomes, the CPP will:

- **Focus resources on areas of greatest need** to reduce inequalities, through core service delivery and programmes
- **Maximise impact of locality planning to reduce inequalities**
- **Enhance capacity of staff** to address inequalities and support individuals and families, through training and tools

1.3 Equalities Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment

Scottish Borders Council (SBC) and partners embrace the commitments required under the Equality Act 2010 which brings the general duty to 9 equality strands of age, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion and belief, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership. A full equalities impact assessment has been undertaken in line with SBC and NHS Borders Equality Policy and Impact Assessment. This shows that the strategy has many positive impacts on all of the equality impact groups.

In addition, the protected characteristics under the Equalities Act have underpinned this strategy. These characteristics are important to recognise and address when tackling inequalities and include:

Age	Disability	Gender
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Pregnancy and Maternity	Race / Ethnicity
Religion and Belief	Sexual Orientation	Gender Reassignment

When developing plans, policies and strategies, authorities are required to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). A SEA screening exercise has been carried out and Scottish Borders Council determined there is no requirement for a full SEA.

1.4 Rural Proofing

A rural proofing exercise was carried out in Aug 2015 to ensure that the needs of rural areas are fully taken into account in the development of this Strategy and would not be adversely affected. Rural proofing applies to all areas of Scottish Borders out with the towns of Hawick, Galashiels, Peebles, Selkirk, Eyemouth, Jedburgh and Kelso. The exercise determined that this plan will not have any adverse impact on the rural area and that needs of rural areas have been taken into account.



2. UNDERSTANDING INEQUALITIES IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

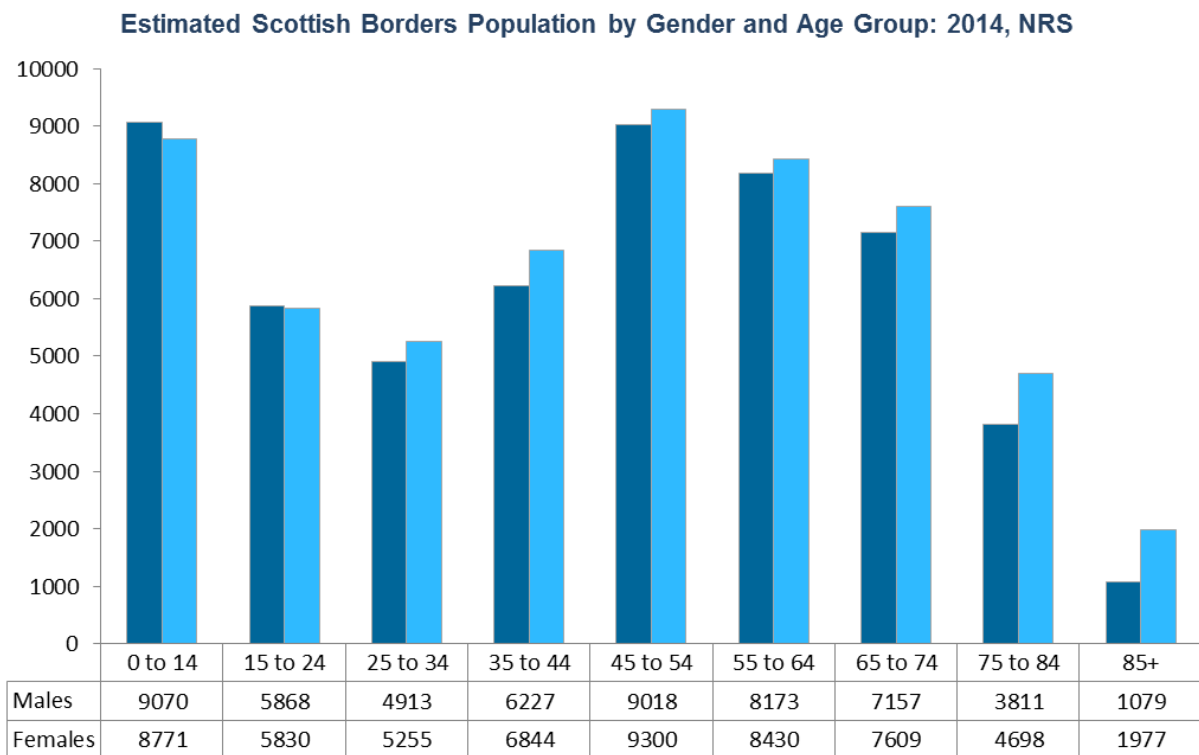
2.1 The Scottish Borders Context

- Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) identifies 5 datazones in the Scottish Borders as being in the 15% most deprived in Scotland. However, SIMD is less accurate when applied in rural areas so there could be areas of hidden poverty.
- The Scottish Borders has a lower proportion of people that are considered income deprived compared to Scotland (10.1% vs 13.2%). Within the Borders Langlee and Burnfoot are the two areas where 20% of the population is considered income deprived areas.
- Child Poverty ranges from 0% to 26% between settlements (13% overall).
- The poorest in our society die earlier and have higher rates of disease, including mental illness.
- In 2013, 10% of the Scottish Borders working age population were claiming out of work benefits compared to 13% for Scotland however, the Langlee and Burnfoot areas both have a much higher %, 24.1% and 20.2% respectively.
- 43% of households in the Borders are in Fuel Poverty (12% are in extreme fuel poverty).
- Compared to Scotland, the Scottish Borders has a better life expectancy for both men and women (78 vs 77 and 82 vs 81). However, there are areas in the Scottish Borders where both male and female life expectancy is below the level for Scotland; Galashiels West, Galashiels North and Langlee.
- Areas of deprivation have higher rates of people claiming health related benefits.
- In 2012, the Scottish Borders ranked 29 out of 32 for lowest average weekly wage and is significantly lower than the Scottish average (17% below the level for Scotland, equating to over £70).
- 5.8% of people over 60 are claiming pension credit in the Scottish Borders lower than the level for Scotland. Eyemouth and Hawick have a greater proportion claiming pension credit compared to Scotland.
- 97% of all victims of gender based violence in Scottish Borders are female
- Areas with more low weight singleton births between 2011/12 and 2013/14 compared with Scotland include Peebles North, Langlee, Burnfoot and area, Cheviot East, Hawick Central, Jedburgh and Hawick West End.
- Between 1997 and 2014 the workplace based gross median weekly pay in the Scottish Borders has been 17% below the level for Scotland, equating to over £70.
- Those experiencing poverty in rural and urban areas face the same problems, but due to the rurality of the Scottish Borders these problems can be more acute.

The Scottish Borders is a rural local authority with 5 towns with a population of between 5,000 and 15,000 (Hawick, Galashiels, Peebles, Kelso and Selkirk) and a further 5 towns with a population of 2,000 to 5,000 (Jedburgh, Eyemouth, Innerleithen, Duns and Melrose). According to the Scottish Government's 6-fold urban-rural classification, 47% of the population of the Scottish Borders live in rural areas compared to 18% for all of Scotland. The rural nature of the Scottish Borders can lead to additional challenges for those experiencing inequalities.

In 2014 it is estimated that there are 114,030 people living in the Scottish Borders; the age-group and gender breakdown can be seen in Figure 2 below. Compared to Scotland the Scottish Borders has a similar proportion of children (16%), less people of working age (61% vs. 66%), but more people aged 65 and older (23% vs. 18%).

Figure 2: Population by Gender and Age Group

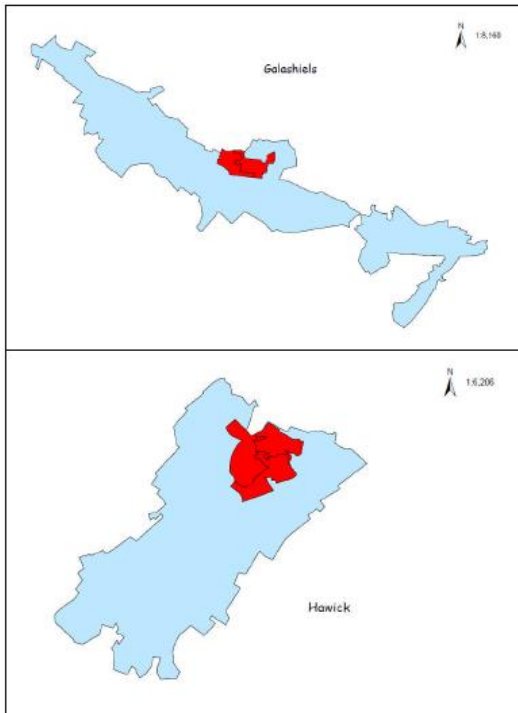


The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the Scottish Government's official tool for identifying those places in Scotland suffering from deprivation. There are seven domains in SIMD, used to measure the multiple aspects of deprivation, which are: employment, income, health and education, geographic access to services, crime and housing. Of the 130 datazones¹ in the Scottish Borders, 5 are found in 15% of the most deprived datazones in Scotland, compared to 5 in 2009, 3 in 2006 and 2 in 2004. These deprived datazones are in Galashiels and Hawick and account for 3.5% of the population of the Scottish Borders.

¹ The SIMD ranks small areas (called datazones) from most deprived (ranked 1) to least deprived (ranked 6,505). People using the SIMD will often focus on the datazones below a certain rank, for example, the 5%, 10%, 15% or 20% most deprived datazones in Scotland.



Figure 3: SIMD 15% Most Deprived Areas in the Scottish Borders (2012)²



In the Scottish Borders, the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation does not provide a true and accurate picture of deprivation. Although 5 datazones in the Borders were identified as being in the top 15% most deprived in Scotland, it could be argued that this does not take into account small pockets of deprivation in more rural areas. It is important that all residents who are living in poverty or deprivation benefit from this strategic intervention, particularly following a period of severe economic downturn and benefit changes from the UK Governments welfare reform programme, which has left more people facing financial insecurity. As such, geographical location, although significant, has had a relatively minor influence on strategy development.

An analysis of inequalities in the Scottish Borders was carried out using the ScotPHO “Health and Wellbeing Profiles 2015”³ as a base coupled with additional data sets. The ranking matrix in Table 2 shows the rank (1 to 29) for each of the small area geographies and each of the 46 inequality indicators.

There are 9 Intermediate⁴ Geographies (small areas) in the Scottish Borders with 20% (9 of the 46) of indicators ranked between 1 and 5. These are:

Table 2: Intermediate Geographies Inequalities Ranks

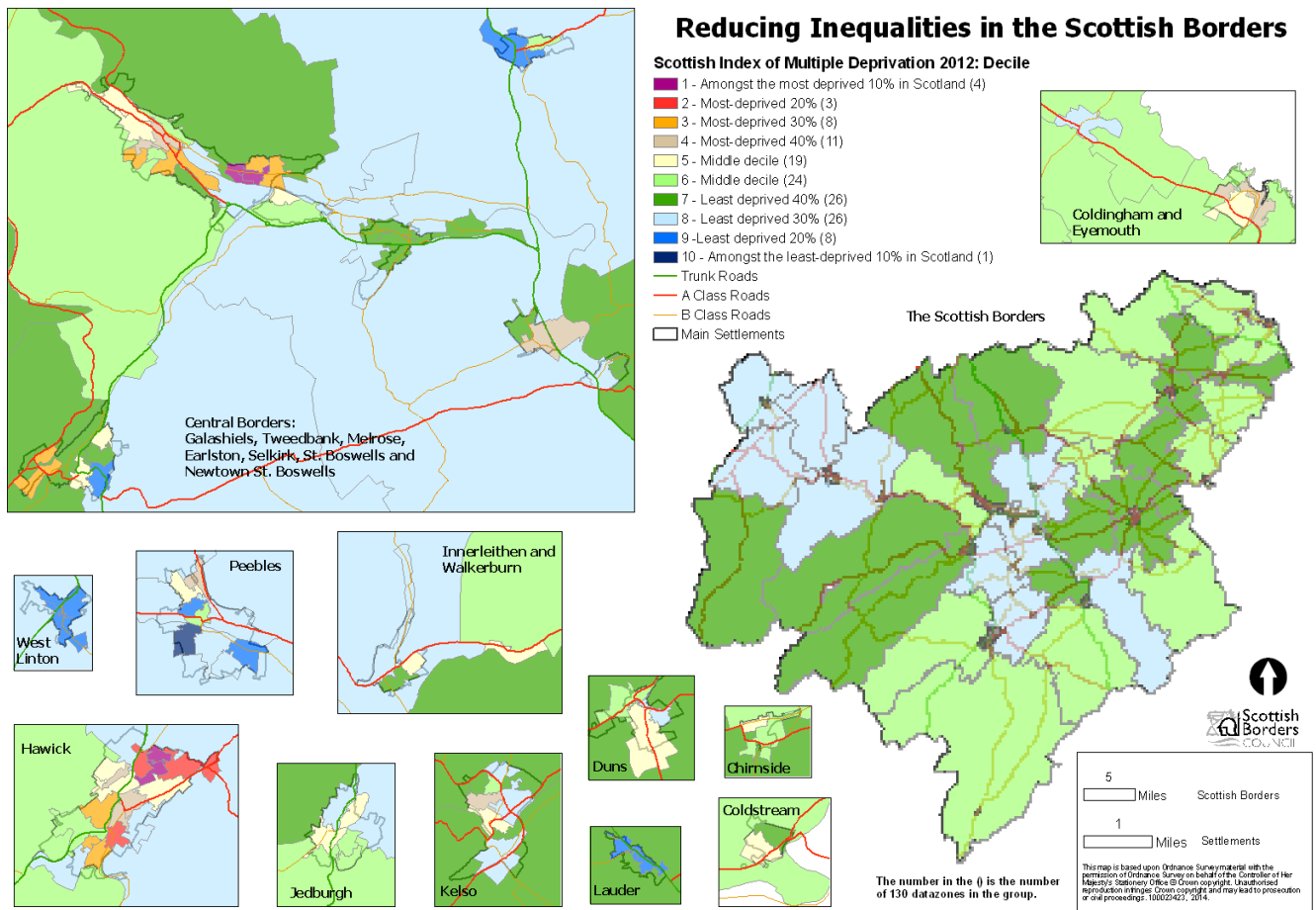
Area Name / Indicator	Number of Indicators Ranking 1 to 5 of 29	% of Indicators Ranked 1 to 5 out of 29
Langlee	31	67%
Burnfoot and area	28	61%
Eyemouth	22	48%
Galashiels West	22	48%
Hawick Central	15	33%
Galashiels North	14	30%
Hawick North	11	24%
Coldstream and area	10	22%
Hawick West End	10	22%

² The low numbers of deprived datazones in the Scottish Borders is typical of rural local authorities and reflects the inherent anti-rural bias in deprivation area data; the SIMD is more suited to measuring poverty in an urban environment and less accurate when applied to a rural context such as the Scottish Borders. As a result this may underestimate the extent of rural deprivation.

³ ScotPHO (the Scottish Public Health Observatory) create profiles of related to public health which can be found at: <http://www.scotpho.org.uk/comparative-health/profiles/online-profiles-tool>

⁴ The intermediate zones are aggregations of data zones within local authorities and contain between 2,500 and 6,000 people.

Figure 4: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2012 - Deciles



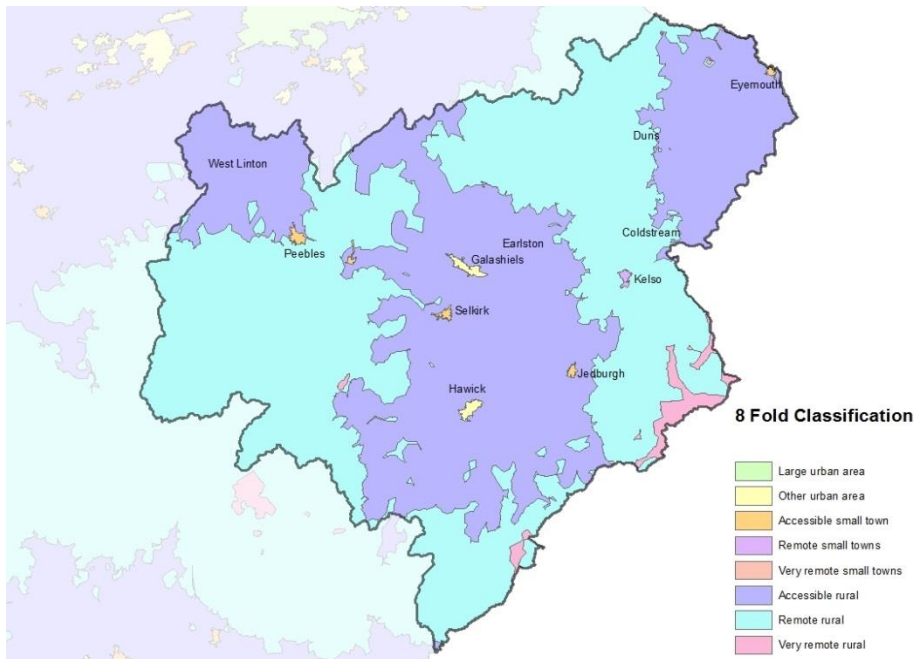
2.2 Rurality and Accessibility

The rural nature of the Scottish Borders and the challenges this brings is a cross cutting theme and should always be considered when examining the five core themes of this strategic plan. There are no cities in the Scottish Borders, only a few towns and scattered villages and there are only two settlements with a population over 10,000; Galashiels and Hawick. The remainder of the population is in smaller towns and settlements, with as much as a third of the population living in settlements of less than 1,500 people.

The Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification provides a standard definition of rural areas in Scotland. Figure 5 clearly shows that Scottish Borders is predominately classed as accessible rural and remote rural, there are no large urban areas only two other urban areas (Settlements of 10,000 to 124,999 people), Galashiels and Hawick.



Figure 5: Rural/Urban Classification 2013/14



'Our Rural Numbers are Not Enough' (March 2011) support the arguments made in this report highlighting that there are particularities to rural living which may exacerbate the problems around inequalities in rural Scotland. Some of the key findings of the report include⁵:

- Higher cost of living: Food and transport fuel, in particular, cost more in rural areas.
- Higher levels of consumption: More money is required to heat homes adequately in rural areas and the greater distances to employment and services mean more money must be spent on transport.
- Fewer opportunities to earn an adequate income: Although employment rates compare favourably with urban areas, low pay, seasonal employment and the historical low take-up of welfare benefits in rural areas each depress household income.
- Dispersed 'invisible' deprivation: Many rural communities appear affluent and thriving, yet deprivation exists beneath this veneer. Deprivation in rural areas is not clustered but can be spread over considerable distances and can be found adjacent to affluence.
- Independence and self-sufficiency are more highly valued in rural areas making it more likely that unmet need is unknown need to policy makers and service providers.
- Research shows that part-time work is favoured by some women in order to balance other commitments. In rural areas, part-time work tends to be low paid and below workers' skill levels and qualifications, further exacerbating the gender pay gap.

⁵ JH McKendrick &co (2011) 'Our Rural Numbers Are not Enough'

- Access is *the* underpinning issue in rural areas, affecting all aspects of life - access to services, information, transport links, support, employment opportunities, learning and training – the list is endless. Access difficulties also add complexity where the identification of need is concerned: they will not only have most impact on the least mobile groups, e.g. elderly people, people with long term illness, people who are reliant on public transport, for whom access to services is most vital – but also such issues are harder to identify in rural populations with their complex socio-economic profiles. Thus even though access issues compound and exacerbate individuals' need, in rural areas that need is harder to spot (to factor into service planning) and to address (through increased service delivery costs).
- Fuel Poverty: Households in rural areas are more likely to be at risk of being classed as being in fuel poverty or extreme fuel poverty than in more urban areas and is examined in more detail under the Housing and Neighbourhood theme.
- Housing affordability patterns for rural Scotland reflect what we already know of the challenges that a lack of affordable housing can bring to a rural area; younger generations having to move away from their home area, locals being priced out of the market, and targets for growing businesses and providing services more difficult to achieve without the necessary housing for the often lower-paid workforce in rural communities.

The Scottish Governments 'Taking Forward the Government Economic Strategy' states:

"In rural areas other factors may also contribute to poverty, such as lack of access to services and the fragility of remote communities. These can compound the effects of low income, educational achievement and poor health on life opportunities and capacity to seize them".

Accessible infrastructure and services are essential to modern life in rural Scotland. Initiatives over many years have targeted specific areas and communities; thus harnessing the lessons learnt continues to be essential. There is a need for strategic, innovative approaches that also build in user's priorities and experiences.

Around 30% of people in the Scottish Borders are considered to be access deprived based on travel time to public and private services

Within the Scottish Borders, the road network makes it easier to travel north-south compared to east-west. The Borders Railway (opening September 2015) will enhance access between Edinburgh and the central Borders. There is a strategic network of bus services that run between the majority of the main towns and villages in the Scottish Borders. The majority of these services are provided by private bus companies, although most routes operate with subsidies provided by Scottish Borders Council.



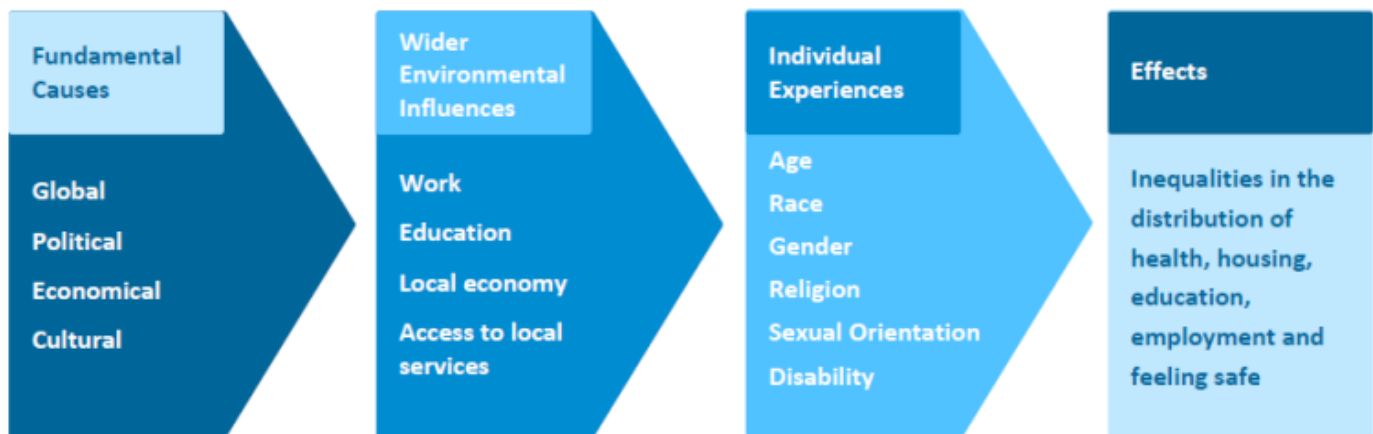
The roll out of Superfast Broadband is underway across the South of Scotland with a number of localities already upgraded to fibre broadband. The roll out continues and further areas will be upgraded to bring Superfast Broadband coverage in the South of Scotland to around 94% of premises by the end of 2017.

In terms of mobile phone coverage Ofcom has recently reported that outdoor 3G coverage in Scotland is at 96.6%, but there is major disparity between urban and rural areas. These high figures do not reflect the reality of user experience in rural areas such as the Scottish Borders. According to data from Ofcom Infrastructure Report 2014 coverage in the Scottish Borders for 2G is 40-60%; for the 3G it is 20-40% for EE and Three and 0-20% for O2 and Vodafone; and 0% for 4G. These proportions mask significant gaps in outdoor coverage, particularly in relation to 3G. Also the Scottish Borders is one of only eight local authorities in the UK which has more than 10% of its B roads in complete 'not spots'.

2.3 What do we mean by inequalities?

Inequalities can be defined as the gap between the most deprived and least deprived, (Health Scotland, 2014⁶) and can be expressed in terms of outcomes: e.g. life expectancy for people in different areas or in terms of other impacts such as income levels.

Figure 6: Causes and Influences around Inequalities



Inequality refers to **unfair** differences in a range of economic and social factors that influence well-being, including income, education, and health as well as disparities in earnings, derived from paid employment and in household incomes. It can also refer to inequalities in access to services e.g. health care or education.

⁶ Health Scotland, 2014, Health Inequalities Policy Review for the Scottish Ministerial Task Force on Health Inequalities <http://www.healthscotland.com/uploads/documents/23047-1.%20HealthInequalitiesPolicyReview.pdf>

Inequality and poverty are distinct but interrelated concepts. Changes to either poverty or inequality may occur independently of each other but generally higher rates of poverty or deprivation will be linked or related to inequalities. The nature of inequalities and the factors that generate them are complex, dynamic and relational, and the diagram above tries to demonstrate the causes, influences and effects of inequalities. Tackling and reducing inequalities needs joined-up action to grasp these problems effectively.

2.4 National Policy

Reducing inequalities is about achieving social justice for everyone and the impact on health should not be under stated. There is significant focus of action on tackling health inequalities at a national and local level and this strategic plan for reducing inequalities in the Borders will align closely with that work.



Health inequalities are most often described in terms of socioeconomic status and linked to poverty and deprivation which is why there has been careful consideration of work being done to address health inequalities. At a national level the Scottish Government Action Plan '**Equally Well**' gives a direction on this, and recent reports from the Ministerial Task Force have highlighted research on what is effective and not effective, plus the recognition of the importance of addressing the fundamental causes of health related inequalities. The ambitious approach taken by the Scottish

Government has been to take the emerging understanding of the underlying causes of health inequalities and turn it into practical and linked action across all of national and local government's key responsibilities: for making Scotland Smarter, Wealthier and Fairer, Greener, Safer and Stronger and, ultimately, Healthier.

Scotland's Economic Strategy sets out an overarching framework for a more competitive and a fairer Scotland and identifies four broad priority areas where our actions will be targeted to make a difference. One of the key areas of the strategy is to ensure that the benefits of economic growth are shared more equally across society is just as important as boosting overall growth.



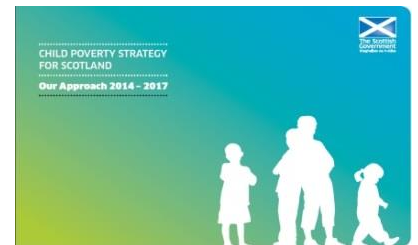
The Scottish Government Framework aimed at tackling poverty and income inequality in Scotland was launched in November 2008. **Achieving Our Potential** sets out the joint approach of the Scottish Government and outlines the key actions required; such as the strengthening of income maximisation work and supporting people who find it hardest to get into jobs or use public services.



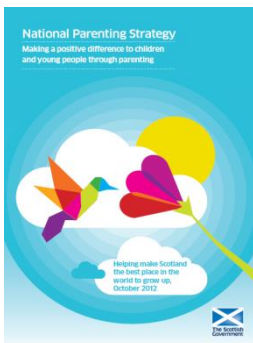
In December 2008, **The Early Years Framework** was launched, signifying the Scottish Government and COSLA's commitment to the earliest years of life being crucial to a child's development. It is increasingly evident that inequalities in health, education and employment opportunities are passed from one generation to another. The framework signals local and national government's joint commitment to break this cycle through prevention and early intervention and give every child in Scotland the best start in life.

The national **Child Poverty Strategy (2014-17)** sets out what the Scottish Government will do to reduce the levels of child poverty in Scotland, and to ensure that as few children as possible experience any kind of socio-economic disadvantage. There are two very distinctive aims within the strategy:

- To reduce the levels of child poverty by reducing income poverty and material deprivation.
- Improve children's wellbeing and life chance - with the ultimate aim being to break inter-generational cycles of poverty, inequality and deprivation.



Supporting families into work, improving living standards and raising educational attainment are the fundamental aims set out in the government's Child Poverty Strategy.



The National Parenting Strategy highlights the value and importance of parenting, recognising that parents are the biggest influence on the life chances of our children, the future generation of our society. The Strategy is for mums and dads, grandparents and the wider family, as well as foster, kinship and adoptive parents – in other words, anyone involved in bringing up children. And it covers parenting of children of all ages – from pre-conception and early childhood, through school years and adolescence to adulthood.

The Scottish Borders has integrated the national strategy into its current plan and developed (additional) Corporate Parenting Strategy to further support and ensure inclusion and for all children.



The Commission on Housing and Wellbeing: A blueprint for Scotland's future (June 2015) has undertaken a wide ranging assessment of links between housing and wellbeing in order to offer proposals for the future direction of housing policy in Scotland. The report sets out 47 recommendations with the aim of sustaining and improving the wellbeing of the Scottish population through

policies and programmes which reinforce the importance of good housing in building strong local communities and helping people to live better lives.

Creating a Fairer Scotland: Employability Support: A Discussion Paper

Scotland's Economic Strategy sets out the Scottish Government's view that building a more competitive economy and a fairer society go hand in hand. Employability services are vital in improving economic opportunities for those out of work and from 1st April 2017, employment support services in Scotland will change. New powers to provide employment support for disabled people and those at risk of long term unemployment will be devolved to Scotland.



Equally Safe: Scotland's Strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls (2014)



The Scottish Government definition of gender based violence states that “gender based violence is a function of gender inequality, and an abuse of male power and privilege. It takes the form of action that result in physical, sexual and psychological harm or suffering to women and children, or affronts their human dignity, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in the public or private life”. Gender based violence is considered to be a cause and consequence of gender inequality.

The aim of Equally Safe is to prevent and eradicate violence against women and girls, creating a strong and flourishing Scotland where all individuals are equally safe and respected, and where women and girls live free from such abuse – and the attitudes that help perpetuate it.

2.5 Welfare Reform

Apart from the unprecedented economic and financial climate we have faced over the last decade, there are other key policy areas which impact on the levels of inequalities in the Borders such as the reform of the welfare system. An effective response to Welfare Reform requires a co-ordinated approach between Scottish Borders Council and Community Planning Partners, Registered Social Landlords, and the voluntary sector.



This approach focuses upon awareness and support for families to minimise debt and maintain tenancies, budgeting, financial inclusion and education, life skills such as cooking - which can both reduce household expenditure and improve health - and ongoing employability work which focuses



both on getting people into work and on gaining the skills and opportunities to move into more secure, better paid employment.

Scottish Borders Council, in partnership with its community planning partners, has established a five-year Welfare Reform Programme to cover all likely implications of the changes to the welfare system. This includes impacts on the residents of the Borders and how to mitigate the worst effects, on the Council and its related functions, impact on the local economy and impacts on other organisations such as RSLs.

The programme is extremely important as the current changes to welfare benefits are more far-reaching and profound than have been seen for 60 years, involving changes to entitlement, their value and how they are to be paid, as well as initially being introduced at a time of economic recession. These reforms are likely – at least in the short term – to widen the gap in inequalities particularly as the groups most likely to be impacted by the welfare benefit changes and economic recession will be the most vulnerable in our society. The Welfare Reform Programme identified above therefore underpins this strategic plan.

2.6 Conclusion and Implications for the Reducing Inequalities Strategic Plan

Whilst many of the indicators SBC use to assess quality of life show that the Borders is generally a good place to live, we have seen little improvement in outcomes for people within our most deprived areas over the last 10 years, despite significant interventions and additional resources being deployed in these areas by public sector partners (as covered in Section 2.1). Many of the Borders-wide indicators e.g. for breastfeeding, smoking during pregnancy, attainment, are above the Scottish average but when examined at local level, large disparities exist between our most and our least deprived areas. **This strategy is therefore an important part of tackling the challenges that the CPP faces.**

SECTIONS 3 – 7 now look at each of the 5 inequalities themes in turn, examining the following for each:

- The key issues
- Current key national strategies, and Scottish Borders Partnership plan/strategies
- What we want to achieve (outcomes)
- What else needs done
- Key actions, with identified lead partnership

We will demonstrate that inequalities have reduced by reviewing and reporting annually on a range of measures under each of our 5 key themes, and where possible present local area information (See Section 8 and **Appendix 1**)

3. EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

3.1 What are the key issues?

The summary below sets out our understanding of the key issues in relation to Employment and Income

- Borders has lower GVA per capita than Scotland (lower value jobs)
- We have consistently lower wages (& greater need for in-work benefits)
- Although rates of child poverty are lower than Scotland, there are some areas where it is as high as 27.8%
- Although Borders workforce is more qualified than Scottish (NVQ), a developing and diversifying local economy will require new skills and knowledge from workforce

3.2 Current key national strategies and Scottish Borders Partnership plan/strategies

National

Creating a Fairer Scotland: Employability Support: A Discussion Paper (2015)

Developing the Young Workforce - Scotland's Youth Employment Strategy (2014)

Disabled people, work, & Local Authorities in Scotland (2015)

Scottish Government Economic Strategy (2015)

Local

Key partnership plans/strategies	How they focus on reducing inequalities
Scottish Borders Economic Strategy Action Plan 2023	The SB Economic Strategy and the Borders Railway Blueprint will help improve the economy generally, bringing more and higher value jobs to the Scottish Borders
Borders Railway Blueprint Action Plan	
Tacking Poverty & Achieving Social Justice Strategy 2013-18	This strategy has an overall purpose to help minimise the impact of poverty and financial exclusion on the residents of the Borders. Its objective is to ensure that people are equipped to cope with the challenges they currently face; including those of the economic recession and the welfare reforms.

3.3 What we want to achieve (Outcomes)

More working age people, including school leavers, are supported to enter and sustain quality employment

Where work is not possible, income will be maximised to improve quality of life



3.4 What else needs done?

- The CPP needs to focus on helping people access these job opportunities, removing barriers, and ensuring appropriate skills of current and future workforce
- Tackling Poverty strategy requires updated in the current economic context and ongoing welfare reforms

Employability is defined by Scottish Government as: “the combination of factors and processes which enable people to progress towards or get into employment, to stay in employment and to move on in the workplace.”

3.5 Key actions, with identified lead partnership

A1: Develop a Strategic Plan for Employability in the Scottish Borders (including Developing the Young Workforce) LEAD: Borders Learning and Skills Partnership / SBC Strategic Housing & Employability Services
A2: Review and Implement the Tackling Poverty & Social Justice Strategy LEAD: Strategic Partnership against Poverty/SBC Strategic Housing & Employability Services
A3: Continue to deliver the Welfare Reform Programme LEAD: Strategic Partnership against Poverty/SBC Strategic Housing & Employability Services

4. HEALTH & WELLBEING

4.1 What are the key issues?

The summary below sets out our understanding of the key issues in relation to health & wellbeing:

- Although child obesity (P1) is slightly lower than Scotland, no significant reduction since 03/04
- 71% of adults in the Borders are overweight compared to 65% for Scotland (BMI of 25 or more)
- 5.5%, diabetes prevalence (5.2% for Scotland)
- 15% of the adults have 'Non-limiting long-term illness' (14% for Scotland).
- % of adults with a 'Limited long-term illness' in the Borders is 36% (Scotland = 31%)
- Borders rate of hospitalisation for Coronary Heart Disease(CHD) is reducing but is now slightly higher than Scotland
- People within our most deprived areas score worse when asked about level of happiness, depression, anxiety and sleep disturbance;
- Rates of emergency hospitalisations have increased by 11% between 2002 and 2013 (1% increase for Scotland)

4.2 Current key national strategies and Scottish Borders Partnership plan/strategies

National

Equally Well (2008)

Equally Safe (2014)

Consultation on the Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People Strategy (2015)

NHS - Health Inequalities Policy Review (2013)

NHS – Health Inequalities Briefing Paper (2015)

Audit Scotland health Inequalities in Scotland (2012)

World Health Organisation - The Case for Investing in Public Health (2014)

Local

Key partnership plans/strategies	How they focus on reducing inequalities
Health & Social Care (H&SC) Strategic Plan 2016-19	The H&SC Strategic plan has “early intervention and prevention” and “reducing health inequalities” as 2 of its key objectives. Others include
Alcohol & Drugs Partnership (ADP) Delivery Plan 2015-18	The ADP Delivery Plan focuses on 7 core outcomes that will help reduce social, health & economic inequalities



Integrated Children & Young People's Plan 2015-18 (inc Early Years Strategy)	This Plan also addresses the well-being and health of, especially, the most vulnerable children and young people
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4.3 What we want to achieve (Outcomes)

The inequalities in health and wellbeing between the most and the least deprived people and communities across the Borders are reduced

4.4 What else needs done?

- Evidence/good practice indicates a focus on issues such as diabetes will have a positive impact in the med /long term & has potential to reduce inequalities, & the burden on health and social care services- strategic approach is required
- We need to improve inclusion and participation in sport, physical activity and culture, especially for our most vulnerable young people
- A need has been identified for both Parenting and Play strategies focused on all-age health and well-being

Equally Well
 “Scotland’s health is improving rapidly but it is not improving fast enough for the poorest sections of our society. Health inequalities remain our major challenge.”

4.5 Key actions, with identified lead partnership

A4: Develop and implement a Public Health Inequalities Action Plan with a focus on: preventable illness (especially Diabetes), mental health, inclusion and well-being
LEAD: Public Health
A5: Implement Early Years Strategic Action Plan and develop Early Years Centres
LEAD: Early Years Group
A6: Develop and Implement a Play Strategy for Scottish Borders to support families at risk of health inequalities
LEAD: CYP Leadership Group
A7: Develop and Implement a Parenting Strategy to support families at risk of health inequalities
LEAD: CYP Leadership Group
A8: Develop and Implement a Children and Young People’s Sport, Physical Activity and Culture Strategy, with a focus on inclusion and participation
LEAD: CYP Leadership Group

5. ATTAINMENT, ACHIEVEMENT AND INCLUSION

5.1 What are the key issues?

This summary sets out our understanding of the key issues in relation to inequalities in attainment and achievement:

- Attainment of pupils from deprived areas is below Borders attainment, although improving
- Areas of Borders where only 78% of school leavers sustain a positive destination (SB = 92.7%)
- Proportion of school leavers with 'no passes at SCQF Level 3 or better' has increased.
- At 31 July 2015 the proportion of children looked after in the Scottish Borders in residential accommodation was 16.9% compared to 9.9% for Scotland.
- In 2015, the rate per 1000 of children in on the Child Protection register is 1.5 compared to 3 for Scotland, although the number increased from 2014 (from 16 to 28)
- Number of young people participating in youth work, number of family learning opportunities and number of adult learning completions dropped between 13/14 and 14/15, although outcomes improved

5.2 Current key national strategies and Scottish Borders Partnership plan/strategies

National

Scottish Government Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland (2014 Revision)

Early Years Framework (2009) and Early Years Collaborative

Joseph Rowntree Foundation: Closing the Attainment Gap in Scottish Education (2014)

Scottish Government National Parenting Strategy (2012)

Curriculum for Excellence (2009)

Raising Attainment for All Programme (2014)

Getting it Right for Every child (GIRFEC)

Opportunities for All implementation (2012)

Local

Key partnership plans/strategies	How they focus on reducing inequalities
Integrated Children & Young People's Plan 2015-18	CYP Plan focuses on: Early Years collaborative, Increasing the Raising Attainment for All programme, Closing the gap, Inclusion for All, Developing the Young Workforce
Corporate Parenting Strategy 2014-18	Corporate Parenting strategy focuses on improving life experiences, opportunities & outcomes for Looked after children
Community Learning & Development Strategic Plan 2015-18	CLD Plan focuses on employability, volunteering, emotional health & wellbeing, rural transport, information sharing, partnerships to support reducing inequalities



5.3 What we want to achieve (Outcomes)

Inequalities in educational outcomes, attainment and inclusion between the most and least deprived children in Borders are reduced (including vulnerable groups)

More young people are equipped with the knowledge and skills to proceed to adult working life

5.4 What else needs done?

- Our most vulnerable young people need to be supported throughout their education to gain and sustain employment
- See Health and Well-being section 4.4 above in relation to Participation, Play, and Parenting

5.5 Key actions, with identified lead partnership

A9: Deliver “Developing the Young Workforce”, ensuring alignment with SB Employability Strategy & focus on the most vulnerable (**A1**)

LEAD: CYP Leadership Group

See Actions A6, A7, A8 in HEALTH & WELLBEING (above)

6. HOUSING & NEIGHBOURHOOD

6.1 What are the key issues?

This summary sets out our understanding of the key issues in relation to Housing and Neighbourhood inequalities across the Scottish Borders

- Between 2005-2015:
 - Average house price increased by 29.2% (£133,112 to £171,942)
 - volume of house sales decreased by 36.3% (2,757 to 1,755)
 - Overall the housing market value decreased by 17.8%, worse than the decrease of 12.3% for Scotland.
- 42% of dwellings are in need of repair, compared to 28% for Scotland
- 43% of households in the Scottish Borders experience fuel poverty (36% for Scotland)
- In 2014/15 1.2% of households made a homeless application (1.4% for Scotland), predominantly single person, male
- In 2012, the average household size in Borders was 2.14 people compared to 2.18 for Scotland. By 2037, the average household size for both Scottish Borders and Scotland is to drop to 1.98 and 2.03 persons per household respectively.

6.2 Current key national strategies and Scottish Borders Partnership plan/strategies

National

Joint Housing Delivery Plan for Scotland May 2015

Housing Generation Rent: What are the Challenges for Housing Policy in Scotland? (June 2015)

Commission on Housing and Wellbeing: A blueprint for Scotland's future (June 2015)

Local

Key partnership plans/strategies	How they focus on reducing inequalities
Local Housing Strategy 2017 – 22	Actions within the new LHS will ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The supply of housing meets the needs of communities- More people live in good quality, energy efficient homes- Less people are affected by homelessness- More people are supported to live independently in their own home
Fuel Poverty Delivery Plan (FPDP) 2013-2016	FPDP aims to prevent and reduce the effects of fuel poverty, an issue for Borders
Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2017-22	SHIP- key plan targeting affordable housing investment



6.3 What we want to achieve (Outcomes)

Every person in the Scottish Borders lives in a home that meets their needs

6.4 What else needs done?

- There is a need to build CPP understanding, especially amongst the Reducing Inequalities theme, on Housing issues and identification of cross cutting issues
- There is a need to develop specific strategic plans in relation to the housing needs of older people and homelessness
- CPP should maximise funding available from the Scottish Government in relation to alleviating Fuel Poverty

6.5 Key actions, with identified lead partnership

A10: Presentation of LHS development to RI Group (including Reducing Inequalities contribution statement) LEAD: Local Housing Strategy Group
A11: Develop a Strategic Plan to address the housing needs of older people LEAD: Local Housing Strategy Group
A12: Develop a Strategic Plan to reduce homelessness (explore creating a health & homelessness plan) LEAD: Local Housing Strategy Group (in conjunction with Public Health)
A13: Update Fuel Poverty Delivery Plan, with a focus on maximising funding, and responding to updated national policies. LEAD: LHSG

7. KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE

7.1 What are the key issues?

This summary sets out our understanding of the key issues in relation to inequalities of keeping people safe:

- Domestic Abuse / Gender Based Violence are issues in the Scottish Borders (80 per 10,000 in 14/15) as well as for Scotland as a whole (112 per 10,000)- both increasing
- Crimes per 10,000 are down from 332 in 13/14, to 280 in 14/15 (Scotland = 479)
- In recent years the Borders rate of alcohol related deaths has increased, against a downward trend for Scotland
- Accidental Dwelling Fires attributed to suspected alcohol or drug use is higher than the Scottish average.
- More people are killed or seriously injured as a result of a road traffic accident in the Scottish Borders compared to the Scottish average.
- Between 12/13 and 13/14 the number of hospital admissions due to unintentional injury or death increased by 5.7% (Scotland by 1.9%)- highest rates amongst under 5s and over 75s)
- Scottish Borders has more falls accidents in the over 75 age group than the Scottish average.

7.2 Current key national strategies and Scottish Borders Partnership plan/strategies

National

The Strategy for Justice in Scotland

Equally Safe - Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls

A New Framework for Local Partnerships on Alcohol and Drugs

National Outcomes and Standards for Social Work Services in the Criminal Justice System (2010)

Introduction to Safer Communities Programme - Guidance

Promoting Positive Outcomes: Working Together to Prevent Antisocial Behaviour in Scotland

Safer Lives: Changed Lives: A Shared Approach to Tackling Violence Against Women in Scotland

Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2020

Scottish Community Safety Network Annual Report 2014



Local

Key partnership plans/strategies	How they focus on reducing inequalities
SB Safer Communities Action Plan 2016 -20	Strategic assessment has shown that the following issues need to be tackled in Borders, helping to reduced inequality. Plan will address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender based violence • Crime and ASB • Substance misuse • Poor Driver Behaviour • Accidents in the home
SB Equally Safe Strategy & Delivery Plan (2016-20)	Equally Safe focuses on preventing & eradicating violence against women and girls, addressing gender inequality
Community Justice Transition Plan 2016	Community Justice Transition Plan takes a wide view of issues e.g. families, housing, employment, health

7.3 What we want to achieve (Outcomes)

Scottish Borders is the safest place to live, work and visit

7.4 What else needs done?

- Build CPP understanding, especially amongst the Reducing Inequalities theme, and make valuable connections e.g. around keeping children and young people safe
- Long term sustainability of Domestic Abuse services needs to be addressed
- Integrate Community Justice into CPP, ensuring that a partnership approach is taken to Prevention and Reducing Offending

7.5 Key actions, with identified lead partnership

A14: Presentation of Action Plan to Reducing Inequalities delivery team LEAD: Safer Communities
A15: Develop a sustainable, partnership approach to the delivery of Domestic Abuse services LEAD: Domestic Abuse Pathway Board
A16: Implement the Community Justice Transition Plan and embed it into the CPP LEAD: Community Justice Strategic Board

8. FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

In order that we can work toward achieving the vision in this strategic plan, we need a clear framework that

- sets out our commitments as a CPP under each of the 3 themes;
- explains how we will monitor the delivery of actions;
- sets out how we will measure the impact that our action is having.

8.1 Our commitments

CPP COMMITMENTS

- CPP will influence relevant stakeholders to include actions to address inequalities in their respective corporate plans and policies
- Members of the CPP will agree to remove any barriers to collaboration and identify opportunities to enable the CPP to address the underlying causes of inequalities locally
- The CPP will challenge all stakeholders in the Borders to work collaboratively to maximise impact from existing resources and will work with partners to help build their capacity and identify further opportunities to address inequalities
- The CPP will encourage improved partnership working, more co-production of plans and policies and sharing of information among the Council and its partners
- The CPP will play a lead role in informing and influencing others to support reducing inequalities
- CPP will encourage innovative, local approaches and solutions to meet some of the challenges
- Partners will improve delivery and effectiveness of services for at-risk groups by reviewing access to services and identifying any barriers to access or participation
- CPP will prioritise investing in communities and supporting community empowerment and resilience
- The CPP will support improvements in the quality and frequency of evaluative activity to enable us to fill gaps in information and to improve understanding of outcomes and what works

Partners will also commit to continuing their role as leaders and ambassadors in tackling inequalities by ensuring appropriate staff training across services, and improving joined up working.



8.2 Monitoring and evaluating the Reducing Inequalities Strategic Plan

This strategic plan is directed towards those in our society who experience disadvantage and unequal opportunities that result in poor outcomes, either through individual circumstances or as members of a group that confronts issues such as discrimination, or any other barriers to achievement.

It is therefore important that progress of this plan is reviewed, in terms of:

- how the actions are progressing (*i.e. are we delivering what we said we would?*)
- the impact that they are having (e.g. *is quality of life improving for those in our most deprived areas?*)

8.2.1 Monitoring the progress of actions

The Reducing Inequalities Delivery Team consists of the leads of the key partnerships that are responsible for delivery of the actions detailed in Sections 3-7 of this document (and presented in **Appendix 1**). The Team will meet on a regular basis (every 6-8 weeks) to review the actions that each of the partnerships are progressing and to identify where there are barriers/blockages.

Even though it is acknowledged that tackling inequalities is a significant challenge, and there will always remain factors which are out with the remit of this strategy and local control, progress against the actions that have been committed to must be regularly assessed. However, it is always acknowledged that actions may have to be amended or added, to respond to the external context.

8.2.2 Evaluating impact

The CPP has agreed an initial set of performance measures which will give us an indication as to how well we are doing. These are presented, under each of the 5 themes, at **Appendix 1**. The CPP commits to reviewing the most up to date data annually and amending its action plan accordingly, should any longer term issues or national policy changes become apparent.

The majority of data presented are from national sources, available on an *annual* basis (but with a lag in some cases). Some data sets become available at “intermediate zone” i.e. at a “sub” Scottish Borders level, which is a useful way of “health- checking” the Scottish Borders averages and seeing whether or not they hide issues that need to be tackled (often, this local area data has a further time lag in becoming available).

9. RESOURCING THE REDUCING INEQUALITIES STRATEGIC PLAN

The CPP and partners commit to examining the way in which resources have been invested over the years. Where gaps are identified, CPP partners are committed to act to fill those gaps as required. Where duplication is identified, partners will show leadership and engage in different approaches to planning and commissioning. Locality Planning, for example, in the context of the integration of health and social care in particular will provide further scope for more integrated delivery and service improvements. Localities and neighbourhoods are also usually where the greatest impact on outcomes can be achieved.

Given the huge amount of work across the Borders from SBC and a range of community planning partners and third sector organisations, delivering the Strategic Plan may not necessarily need more resources – but may want more *focus* on commitments from partners and improved coordination of service delivery.

Table 3: Resourcing the Strategy

Outcome	Resources
<p>More working age people, including school leavers, are supported to enter and sustain quality employment</p> <p>Where work is not possible, income will be maximised to improve quality of life</p>	<p>SBC Core Funding, Scottish Enterprise Funding, Skills Development Scotland Funding, European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund, LEADER, City Deal (potentially) DWP.</p>
<p>The inequalities in health and wellbeing between the most and the least deprived people and communities across the Borders are reduced</p>	<p>NHS Core Funding, SBC Core Funding, Scottish Government programme funding, external funding and partnership resources</p>
<p>Inequalities in educational outcomes, attainment and inclusion between the most and least deprived children in Borders are reduced (including vulnerable groups)</p> <p>More young people are equipped with the knowledge and skills to proceed to adult working life</p>	<p>SBC Core Funding, Developing the Young Workforce, DWP Funding, Attainment Scotland Fund</p>
<p>Every person in the Scottish Borders lives in a home that meets their needs</p>	<p>SBC Core Funding, HEEPs, Scottish Government Affordable Housing Investment programme, RSLs private sector borrowing,</p>
<p>Scottish Borders is the safest place to live, work and visit</p>	<p>Core funding from SBC, Police Scotland, Fire & Rescue, and NHS. Partnership funding from Scottish Government and external grant sources.</p>



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Appendix 1: Reducing Inequalities Strategic Plan Summary: Action Plan and Performance Framework

The Community Planning Partnership (CPP) will focus on 5 key themes known to impact upon inequalities:				
Employment & income	Health & wellbeing	Attainment, achievement, & inclusion	Housing & Neighbourhood	Keeping People Safe
Key issues, from "Know Borders" Strategic Assessment 2016, in relation to the 5 key themes:				
<p>Borders has lower GVA per capita than Scotland (lower value jobs)</p> <p>We have consistently lower wages (& greater need for in-work benefits)</p> <p>Although rates of child poverty are lower than Scotland, there are some areas where it is as high as 27.8%</p> <p>Although Borders workforce is more qualified than Scottish (NVQ), a developing and diversifying local economy will require new skills and knowledge from workforce</p>	<p>Although child obesity (P1) is slightly lower than Scotland, no significant reduction since 03/04</p> <p>71% of adults in the Borders are overweight compared to 65% for Scotland (BMI of 25 or more)</p> <p>5.5%, diabetes prevalence (5.2% for Scotland)</p> <p>15% of the adults have 'Non-limiting long-term illness' (14% for Scotland).</p> <p>% of adults with a 'Limited long-term illness' in the Borders is 36% (Scotland = 31%)</p> <p>Borders rate of hospitalisation for Coronary Heart Disease(CHD) is reducing but is now slightly higher than Scotland</p> <p>People within our most deprived areas score worse when asked about level of happiness, depression, anxiety and sleep disturbance;</p> <p>Rates of emergency hospitalisations have increased by 11% between 2002 and 2013 (1% increase for Scotland)</p>	<p>Attainment of pupils from deprived areas is below Borders attainment, although improving</p> <p>Areas of Borders where only 78% of school leavers sustain a positive destination (SB = 92.7%)</p> <p>Proportion of school leavers with 'no passes at SCQF Level 3 or better' has increased.</p> <p>At 31 July 2015 the proportion of children looked after in the Scottish Borders in residential accommodation was 16.9% compared to 9.9% for Scotland.</p> <p>In 2015, the rate per 1000 of children in on the Child Protection register is 1.5 compared to 3 for Scotland, although the number increased from 2014 (from 16 to 28)</p> <p>Number of young people participating in youth work, number of family learning opportunities and number of adult learning completions dropped between 13/14 and 14/15, although outcomes improved</p>	<p>Between 2005-2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average house price increased by 29.2% (£133,112 to £171,942) • volume of house sales decreased by 36.3% (2,757 to 1,755) • Overall the housing market value decreased by 17.8%, worse than the decrease of 12.3% for Scotland. <p>42% of dwellings are in need of repair, compared to 28% for Scotland</p> <p>43% of households in the Scottish Borders experience fuel poverty (36% for Scotland)</p> <p>In 2014/15 1.2% of households made a homeless application (1.4% for Scotland), predominantly single person, male</p> <p>In 2012, the average household size in Borders was 2.14 people compared to 2.18 for Scotland. By 2037, the average household size for both Scottish Borders and Scotland is to drop to 1.98 and 2.03 persons per household respectively.</p>	<p>Domestic Abuse / Gender Based Violence are issues in the Scottish Borders (80 per 10,000 in 14/15) as well as for Scotland as a whole (112 per 10,000)- both increasing</p> <p>Crimes per 10,000 are down from 332 in 13/14, to 280 in 14/15 (Scotland = 479)</p> <p>In recent years the Borders rate of alcohol related deaths has increased, against a downward trend for Scotland</p> <p>Accidental Dwelling Fires attributed to suspected alcohol or drug use is higher than the Scottish average.</p> <p>More people are killed or seriously injured as a result of a road traffic accident in the Scottish Borders compared to the Scottish average.</p> <p>Between 12/13 and 13/14 the number of hospital admissions due to unintentional injury or death increased by 5.7% (Scotland by 1.9%)- highest rates amongst under 5s and over 75s)</p> <p>Scottish Borders has more falls accidents in the over 75 age group than the Scottish average.</p>

Employment & income	Health & wellbeing	Attainment, achievement, & inclusion	Housing & Neighbourhood	Keeping People Safe
Current key partnership plans and strategies				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Borders Economic Strategy Action Plan 2023 • Borders Railway Blueprint Action Plan • Tackling Poverty & Achieving Social Justice Strategy 2013-18 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Social Care Strategic Plan 2016-19 • Alcohol & Drugs Partnership (ADP) Delivery Plan 2015-18 • Integrated Children & Young People’s Plan 2015-18 (inc Early Years) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Children & Young People’s Plan 2015-18 • Corporate Parenting Strategy 2014-18 • Community Learning & Development Strategic Plan 2015-18 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Housing Strategy 2017 – 22 • Fuel Poverty Delivery Plan (FPDP) 2013-2016 • Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2017-22 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB Safer Communities Action Plan 2016 -20 • SB Equally Safe Strategy & Delivery Plan (2016-20) • Community Justice (CJ) Transition Plan 2016, and Outcomes Improvement Plan (April 2017)
How do these plans focus on reducing inequalities?				
<p>The SB Economic Strategy and the Borders Railway Blueprint will help improve the economy generally, bringing more and higher value jobs to the Scottish Borders</p> <p>The Tackling Poverty strategy aims to minimise the impact of poverty and financial exclusion, and ensure people are equipped to cope with the challenges they currently face</p>	<p>The H&SC Strategic plan has “early intervention and prevention” and “reducing health inequalities” as 2 of its key objectives (there are 9)</p> <p>The APD Delivery Plan focuses on 7 core outcomes that will help reduce social, health & economic inequalities</p> <p>CYP Plan also addresses the well-being and health of, especially, the most vulnerable children and young people</p>	<p>CYP Plan focuses on: Early Years collaborative, increasing the Raising Attainment for All programme, Closing the gap, Inclusion for All, Developing the Young Workforce</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Strategy focuses on improving life experiences, opportunities & outcomes for Looked after children</p> <p>CLD Plan focuses on employability, volunteering , emotional health & wellbeing, rural transport, information sharing, partnerships to support reducing inequalities</p>	<p>Actions within the new LHS will ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The supply of housing meets the needs of communities - More people live in good quality, energy efficient homes - Less people are affected by homelessness - More people are supported to live independently in their own home <p>FPDP aims to prevent and reduce the effects of fuel poverty, an issue for Borders</p> <p>SHIP- key plan targeting affordable housing investment</p>	<p>Strategic assessment has shown that the following issues need to be tackled in Borders, helping to reduced inequality :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender based violence • Crime and ASB • Substance misuse • Poor Driver Behaviour • Accidents in the home <p>Equally Safe focuses on preventing & eradicating violence against women and girls, addressing gender inequality</p> <p>CJ Plan will take a wide view of issues e.g. families, housing, employment, health, inclusion</p>

Employment & income	Health & wellbeing	Attainment, achievement, & inclusion	Housing & Neighbourhood	Keeping People Safe
What <u>more</u> needs done?				
<p>The CPP needs to focus on helping people access these job opportunities, removing barriers, and ensuring appropriate skills of current and future workforce</p> <p>Tackling Poverty strategy requires updated in the current economic context and ongoing welfare reform</p>	<p>Evidence/good practice indicates a focus on issues such as diabetes will have a positive impact in the med /long term & has potential to reduce inequalities, & the burden on health and social care services- strategic approach is required</p> <p>We need to improve inclusion and participation in sport, physical activity and culture, especially for our most vulnerable young people</p> <p>A need has been identified for targeted work in relation to Parenting and Play focused on all-age health and well-being</p>	<p>Our most vulnerable young people need to be supported throughout their education to gain and sustain employment</p>	<p>Build CPP understanding, especially amongst the Reducing Inequalities theme, on Housing issues and identification of cross cutting issues</p> <p>There is a need to develop specific strategic plans in relation to the housing needs of <i>older people</i> and <i>homelessness</i></p> <p>CPP should maximise funding available from the Scottish Gvt in relation to alleviating Fuel Poverty</p>	<p>Build CPP understanding, especially amongst the Reducing Inequalities theme, and make valuable connections e.g. around keeping children and young people safe</p> <p>Long term sustainability of Domestic Abuse services needs to be addressed</p> <p>Integrate Community Justice into CPP, ensuring that a partnership approach is taken to prevention and reducing offending</p>
What outcomes do we want to achieve?				
<p>More working age people, including school leavers, are supported to enter and sustain quality employment</p> <p>Where work is not possible, income will be maximised to improve quality of life</p>	<p>The inequalities in health and wellbeing between the most and the least deprived people and communities across the Borders are reduced</p>	<p>Inequalities in educational outcomes, attainment and inclusion between the most and least deprived children in Borders are reduced (including vulnerable groups)</p> <p>More young people are equipped with the knowledge and skills to proceed to adult working life</p>	<p>Every person in the Scottish Borders lives in a home that meets their needs</p>	<p>Scottish Borders is the safest place to live, work and visit</p> <p>Understanding of community justice is improved; services are more joined up and accessible; interventions prevent and reduce the risk of further offending; life chances are improved</p>



Employment & income	Health & wellbeing	Attainment, achievement, & inclusion	Housing & Neighbourhood	Keeping People Safe
Specific actions now required :				
<p>A1: Develop a Strategic Plan for Employability in the Scottish Borders (including Developing the Young Workforce) LEAD: Borders Learning and Skills Partnership/SBC Strategic Housing & Employability Services</p> <p>A2: Review and Implement the Tackling Poverty & Social Justice Strategy LEAD: Strategic Partnership against Poverty/SBC Strategic Housing & Employability Services</p> <p>A3: Continue to deliver the Welfare Reform Programme LEAD: Strategic Partnership against Poverty/SBC Strategic Housing & Employability Services</p>	<p>A4: Develop and implement a Public Health Inequalities Action Plan with a focus on: preventable illness (especially Diabetes), mental health, inclusion and well-being LEAD: Public Health</p> <p>A5: Implement Early Years Strategic Action Plan and develop Early Years Centres LEAD: Early Years Group</p> <p>A6: Develop and Implement a Play Strategy for Scottish Borders to support families at risk of health inequalities A7: Develop and Implement a Parenting Strategy to support families at risk of health inequalities LEAD: CYP Leadership Group</p> <p>A8: Develop and Implement a Children and Young People’s Sport, Physical Activity and Culture Strategy, with a focus on inclusion and participation LEAD: CYP Leadership Group</p>	<p>A9: Deliver “Developing the Young Workforce”, ensuring alignment with SB Employability Strategy & focus on the most vulnerable (A1) LEAD: CYP Leadership Group</p>	<p>A10: Presentation of LHS development to RI Delivery Team (including Reducing Inequalities contribution statement) LEAD: Local Housing Strategy Group (LHSG)</p> <p>A11: Develop a Strategic Plan to address the housing needs of older people LEAD: LHSG</p> <p>A12: Develop a Strategic Plan to reduce homelessness (<i>explore creating a health & homelessness plan</i>) LEAD: LHSG (with Public Health)</p> <p>A13: Update Fuel Poverty Delivery Plan, with a focus on maximising funding LEAD: LHSG</p>	<p>A14: Presentation of Action Plan to RI Delivery Team and ensure key links are made LEAD: Safer Communities</p> <p>A15: Develop a sustainable, partnership approach to the delivery of Domestic Abuse services LEAD: Domestic Abuse Pathway Board</p> <p>A16: Implement the Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan, linking it across the 5 inequalities themes and embedding it into the CPP LEAD: Community Justice Strategic Board</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">When delivering these actions, the CPP will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus resources on areas of greatest need to reduce inequalities, through core service delivery and programmes • Maximise impact of locality planning to reduce inequalities, engaging with & involving communities & stakeholder at every opportunity • Enhance capacity of staff to address inequalities and support individuals and families, through training and tools 				

How will we demonstrate that inequalities have been reduced?

The CPP commits to reviewing the most up to date data annually and amending its action plans accordingly, should any longer term issues become apparent. A framework has been produced for each of the 5 inequalities themes and is presented on the following pages. However, it should be noted that the indicators may change after discussions at the **Reducing Inequalities Delivery Team**, and as more appropriate data becomes available.

The majority of data within the framework are from national sources, available on an annual basis (but with a lag in some cases). Some data sets become available at “intermediate zone” i.e. at a “sub” Scottish Borders level, which is a useful way of “health- checking” the Scottish Borders averages and seeing whether or not they hide issues that need to be tackled (often, this local area data has a further time lag in becoming available).

KEY						
	better than Scottish average	worse than Scottish average	Positive long term trend	Negative long term trend	Little long term change	Data not available at sub-Borders level

NOTE: Indicators in red, listed below under each of the 5 reducing inequalities themes, are still to be confirmed as part of strategy development. For example, indicators in relation to Community Justice are being developed in line with national and local outcome improvement planning.



EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

Outcomes	Key Indicators	Scottish Borders	Scotland	SB/Scotland	SB Long term trend	Source
More working age people, including school leavers, are supported to enter and sustain quality employment	Residence Based Full-Time Median Weekly Pay - Gross for Males	£548	£561			NOMIS 2015
	Residence Based Full-Time Median Weekly Pay - Gross for Female	£426	£474			NOMIS 2015
	Workplace Based Full-Time Median Weekly Pay - Gross for Males	£471	£563			NOMIS 2015
	Workplace Based Full-Time Median Weekly Pay - Gross for Female	£429	£475			NOMIS 2015
Where work is not possible, income will be maximised to improve quality of	Claimant Count	1.9%	2.3%			NOMIS March 2016
	Population income deprived	10.1%	13.2%			SIMD 2012, SG
	Employment Rate	76.2%	73.1%			NOMIS 2015
	Working age with no qualifications	5.7%	9.4%			NOMIS 2015
	Children Living in Poverty (percent)	10.9%	15.3%			HMRC 2012

- Borders wages have, over the last 3 years, remained relatively unchanged, after a sharp rise between 2012 and 2013, and they have not caught up with Scottish averages, which have increased more gradually over time.
- Those who live in the Borders but who can travel out with the area to jobs earn more than those who live and work in the Borders, and there is still a gap between male and female earnings in the Scottish Borders.

Worst Intermediate Zone/Locality	Best Intermediate Zone/Locality	Scottish Borders Gap
2.7%	0.9%	1.8%
23.4%	5.0%	18.4%
27.8%	4.5%	23.3%

Claimant count is provided at Ward level and shows areas of the Borders where the rate is above the current national average

There are areas where the **% of population who are income**, and **% children living in poverty** are well above the Scottish average, even though the Borders average compares favourably to the Scottish average

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Outcomes	Key Indicators	Scottish Borders	Scotland	SB/Scotland	SB Long term trend	Source
The inequalities in health and wellbeing between the most and the least deprived people and communities across the Borders are reduced	Male life expectancy (in years)	78.7	76.6	✓	👍	NRS 2011
	Female life expectancy (in years)	82.0	80.8	✓	👍	NRS 2011
	All-cause mortality among the 15-44 year olds (rate per 100,000)	82	101	✓	👍	NRS 2012-2014
	Patients discharged from hospital with Coronary Heart Disease (CHD)- rate per 100,000	452	440	✗	👎	ISD 2011-13
	Alcohol-related hospital stays (rate per 100,000)	465	672	✓	👍	ISD 2014/15
	Body Mass Index - primary 1	9.1	10.1	✓	👎	CHSP-S 2013/14
	Body Mass Index - adults	71%	65%	✗	👎	SHeS 2012-14
	Prevalence of type 2 diabetes	5.5%	5.2%	✗	👎	Scottish Diabetes Survey 2014
	Fruit & Veg consumption	23%	21%	✓	👎	SHeS 2012-14
	Screening uptake: breast (50-70)	76.4	72.5	✓	👎	ATOS, 2010-12
	Screening update: bowel (50-74)	61.1	56	✓	👍	ATOS 2011-13
	Mental Health Scores (% with scores of 4 or higher)	19%	15%	✗	👎	GHQ12
	Early years Scorecard gap measurement + parenting and play indicators (programme participation rates and outcomes of programmes)					

- Coronary Heart Disease, Body Mass Index (Adults), Diabetes and Mental Health indicators are all worse than the Scottish average
- Indicators in **red** are still to be confirmed as part of strategy development

Worst Intermediate Zone/Locality	Best Intermediate Zone/Locality	Scottish Borders Gap
74.7	83.6	8.9
79.1	89.5	10.4
199 (2011-13)	0 (2011-13)	199
638	234	404
1490 (13/14)	123 (13/14)	1367
21.4%	0%	21.4%
23%	12%	11%

There are significant difference in health outcomes for people in some areas of the Borders, with rates significantly higher than Scottish averages



ATTAINMENT, ACHIEVEMENT AND INCLUSION

Outcomes	Key Indicators	Scottish Borders	Scotland	SB/Scotland	SB Long term trend	Source
Inequalities in educational outcomes, attainment and inclusion between the most and least deprived children in Borders are reduced (including vulnerable groups)	S6: % of pupils achieving 5+ awards Higher or above	34.3%	29.3%			LGBF 2014/15
	S6: % Pupils from <u>deprived</u> areas achieving 5+ awards at Higher or above	11.8%	12.8%			LGBF 2014/15
	No passes at SCQF level 3 or better	1.5%	1.7%			Scottish Gvt 2014/15
	Positive Destinations- school leavers' initial destination	95.3%	92.9%			SDS 2014/15
	Positive Destinations: school leavers- 6 months on	94%	91.7%			SDS 2013/14
	Secondary School exclusion rate (per 1000 pupils)	37.2	49.6			Scottish Gvt 2014/15
	Looked After children cared for in foster/family placement rather than residential accom.	83%	90%			LGBF 2014/15
More young people are equipped with the knowledge and skills to proceed to adult working life	Higher Education: Full time student success rate	75%	71%			Borders College 14/15
	Claimant Council 18-24	3.9% (310 young people)	3.4%			NOMIS March 2016
	CLD Participation: youth work	2426	n/a	n/a		SBC 2014/15
	CLD Participation: family learning;	632	n/a	n/a		SBC 2014/15
	CLD Participation: adult learning	615	n/a	n/a		SBC 2014/15
	Participation amongst vulnerable groups (link to CYP Performance Framework)					TBC

- In terms of general educational attainment, Scottish Borders is above Scottish averages. Trends are generally upwards in all areas (including positive destinations) although the % of pupils from deprived areas achieving 5+ Highers is lower than the Scottish average (but has improve over the last 3 years).
- As of end March, the Claimant Count for 18-24yr olds was slightly higher than the Scottish average and hasn't come down much over the longer term (staying above the 16-64 year old rate). This shows that younger people are bearing the brunt of Scottish Borders unemployment
- Placing children within a family setting (rather than residential) is an ongoing but important challenge if outcomes are to be improved
- Although the numbers participating in Community Learning and Development are down, outcomes have improved for those participating (based on local information)
- Indicators in red are still to be confirmed as part of strategy development

Worst Intermediate Zone/Locality	Best Intermediate Zone/Locality	Scottish Borders Gap
11.8	34.3%	22.5%
78.3%	100%	21.7%
60 young people*	10 young people*	50

There are still fewer young people from deprived areas achieving 5+ Highers.

Some areas of the Borders achieve only 78% of positive destinations (6 months on), compared to 100% in some areas.

*because numbers are low, rates are difficult to calculate, so actual numbers have been given, at ward level

HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

Outcomes	Key Indicators	Scottish Borders	Scotland	SB/Scotland	SB Long term trend	Source
Every person in the Scottish Borders lives in a home that meets their needs	Number of Affordable Unit Completions	220	n/a	n/a		SBC 15/16
	Average House price	£172k	£167k			ROS Property Market Report 2005-15
	% of Households in Fuel Poverty (10% of income on fuel)	39%	35%			SHCS 2012-14
	% of Dwellings that fail the Scottish Housing Quality Standard overall - Owner Occupied	49%	50%			SHCS 2012-14
	% of Dwellings that fail the Scottish Housing Quality Standard overall - Private Rented	73%	60%			SHCS 2011-13 (note 2012-14 sample too small)
	% of Registered Social Landlord (RSL) properties meeting the Scottish Housing Quality Standard	90%	91%			Scottish Charter 2014/15
	Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH) Compliance Pls					
	Number of Homeless Assessments	532	29565	n/a		SG Homeless 2014-15
	Repeat homelessness assessments as a percentage of all assessments	4.5%	7.1%			SG Homeless 2014-15
	Tenancy Sustainment					

- Average house prices have risen in recent years in Borders and are now slightly higher than the Scottish average. Whilst in a general “economic” context, this would be viewed as positive but it does create inequality, especially when considered against the context of lower than Scottish average workplace based wages.
- The condition of our social housing is better than the condition of our owner occupied and private rented housing, although condition is improving over the longer term for owner occupier (55% failing in 2011-13).
- Fuel poverty is a persistent issue in the Scottish Borders, with % of fuel poor households higher than the average Scottish rate, although over the longer term, the % has come down (43%, 2011-13)
- Indicators in **red** are still to be confirmed as part of strategy development

Worst Intermediate Zone/Locality	Best Intermediate Zone/Locality	Scottish Borders Gap
Availability of locality information will be explored by the Reducing Inequalities Delivery Team		



KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE

Outcomes	Key Indicators	Scottish Borders	Scotland	SB/Scotland	SB Long term trend	Source
Scottish Borders is the safest place to live, work and visit	Recorded incidents of domestic abuse- rate per 10,000 population	79.9	112			Police Scotland (2014/15)
	Recorded crime- rate per 10,000 population	280	479			Recorded Crime in Scotland (2014/15)
	Recorded Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents- rate per 1000 population	106.46	n/a	n/a		Police Scotland/Safer Communities team (2014-15)
	% of ASB incidents that are alcohol related	18.3%	n/a	n/a		Police Scotland/Safer Communities team (2014-15)
Community Justice Outcomes TBC	Number of road users killed/seriously injured as a result of a Road traffic accident	68	3.6% of Scotland's accidents			Police Scotland/Statistics Scotland 2014
	Under 5 home accidents- rate per 1000 under 5s	11.1	7.2			ISD (2013/14)
	Over 75s falls- rate per 1000 over 75s	36.9	34.4			ISD (2013/14)
	Rate of accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 dwellings	141.6	195.5			SFRS (2014/15)
	% dwelling fires: suspected alcohol/drug use	22%	14%			ADP (2014/15)
	Community Justice- indicators TBC as part of Outcomes Improvement Plan development (April 2017)					

- Recorded Anti-social behaviour is a combination of incidents recorded by Police Scotland and incidents recorded through the Safer Communities team. There are no comparable Scottish figures as each area in Scotland is set up slightly differently to deal with ASB
- Rates of accidents for under 5s and falls for over 75s are both higher in the Scottish Borders than Scotland, and increasing
- Although the rate of dwelling fires has come down, the % where drug/alcohol use is suspected is increasing
- The number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) as a result of a road traffic accident has come down in 2014 to 68 (from 80 in 2013), after a few years of increasing. In 2013, our KSI numbers accounted for 4.3% of the total Scottish KSI, but the % is now back to where it was in 2011/12 at 3.6%.

Worst Intermediate Zone/Locality	Best Intermediate Zone/Locality	Scottish Borders Gap
194.4 (T&L)	65.55 (Twd)	128.85
<i>Local information to be confirmed</i>		
1.02* T& L	0.36* Tweeddale	0.66
9.19* T&L	3.96* Tweeddale	5.23

ASB rates are significantly higher in Teviot & Liddesdale

*The rate per 1000 total population for under 5 yr old accidents and over 75 yr old falls is highest in Teviot & Liddesdale (note that the rates used in the left hand table are rates per relevant population i.e. under 5, to allow for national comparison)

For any queries on the performance information presented within these tables, email performance@scotborders.gov.uk or Tel: 01835 826542