



SCOTTISH BORDERS

LOCAL CHILD POVERTY

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

2020/21



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Background

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets out the Scottish Government's statement of intent to eradicate child poverty in Scotland by 2030.

Although the greatest impact on child poverty will occur through nationally set policies and strategies, it is recognised that local agencies and communities have much to contribute to achieving the outcomes desired. As a result, the Act requires Local Authorities and Health Boards to jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report and an Annual Progress Report. The annual progress report should describe activities undertaken and planned locally to contribute towards the child poverty targets set out in the Act.

This report for 2020/21 is the third Annual Report for the Scottish Borders and provides Scottish Government with an update on progress against activities within the Action Plan. The Child Poverty Planning Group and the Community Planning Partnership thank all partners for their input to the report.

Accountability and Governance

The Child Poverty Planning Group (CPPG) manages the implementation of the Plan and is accountable to the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (CPP). The CPPG is a strategic group with senior multi-agency membership.

The CPPG reports to the CPP through the Children and Young People's Strategic Leadership Group (CYPSLG) on the following:

- Key strategic priorities in relation to statutory requirements and local needs
- Progress reports and updates against the high level priorities contained within the Child Poverty Plan, including annual reports for submission to Scottish Government
- The group also reports at least annually to the governance bodies of the key partners e.g. Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders Board etc.

Participation and Engagement

During 2020/21 relationships have continued with stakeholders who have an interest in eradicating Child Poverty.

A multi-agency Child Poverty Planning Group meets regularly on the Child Poverty Agenda and is made up of representatives from Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders as well as the Third Sector and RSLs. Group members have made significant contributions to this report.

What is poverty?

According to the [Joseph Rowntree Foundation \(JRF\)](#), Poverty is when your resources are well below your minimum needs.

How does JRF define poverty in the UK?

Poverty affects millions of people in the UK. Poverty means not being able to heat your home, pay your rent, or buy the essentials for you or your children. It means waking up every day facing insecurity, uncertainty, and impossible decisions about money. It means facing marginalisation – and even discrimination – because of your financial circumstances. The constant stress it causes can lead to problems that deprive people of the chance to play a full part in society.

Child Poverty

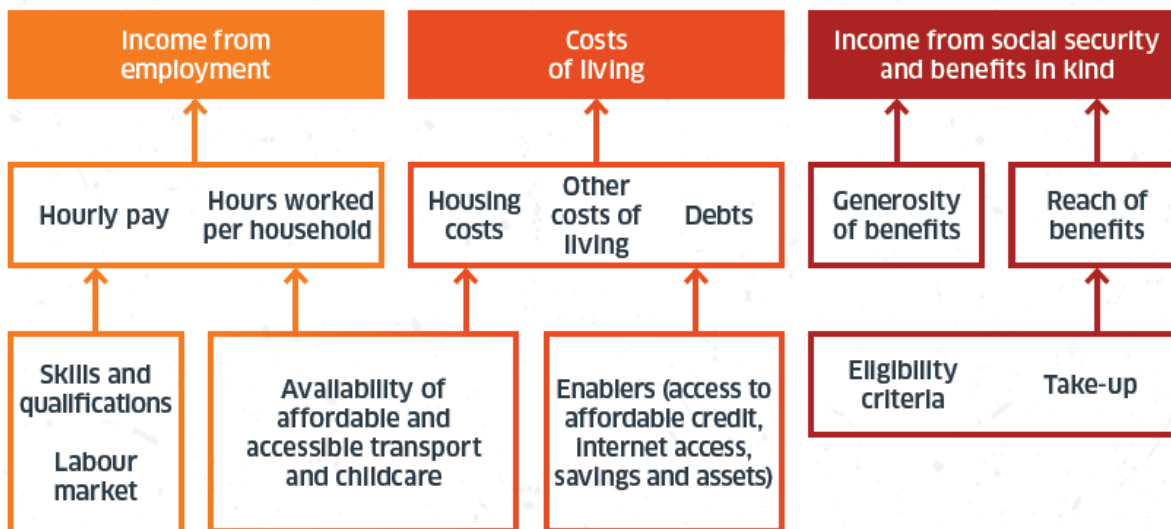
Around one in four children in Scotland lives in poverty.

We find this figure unacceptable, especially in a modern, thriving country like ours. That is why we are working hard to reduce child poverty.

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/poverty-and-social-justice/child-poverty/>

Drivers of Child Poverty

The direct drivers of poverty fall in to three main categories – income from employment, costs of living and income from social security. The relationship of these drivers to wider thematic areas is summarised below.



Source: [Tackling child poverty delivery plan 2018-2022: annex 2 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Key risk groups and targeted interventions

Child poverty action reports are expected to describe measures taken in relation to children living in households where income and/or expenditure are adversely affected as a consequence of a member or members in a household having one or more protected characteristics. The national Child Poverty Delivery Plan also identifies certain priority groups to be targeted as beneficiaries (see Figure 1 below), and notes the need to take account of local geography and demographic profile. For the Scottish Borders, rurality is a key factor. There is also a requirement to report on income maximisation measures taken in the area to provide pregnant women and families with children with information, advice and assistance about eligibility for financial support; and assistance to apply for financial support. This includes work by the NHS Borders and partners to embed financial inclusion referral pathways in health care settings, as well as other settings.

Figure 1 - Nationally identified priority groups at high risk of poverty



National Context

Scottish Government – Current Child Poverty Targets, measures and figures

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 does not specifically define 'poverty', instead it uses four income-based targets as measures.

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/child-poverty-scotland-bill>

	Latest statistics (Scottish Borders)	Latest statistics (Scotland)	2023 target	2030 target
% of children in relative poverty	18% (FYE 2020)	19% (FYE 2020)	18%	10%
% of children in absolute poverty	15% (FYE 2020)	16% (FYE 2020)	14%	5%
% of children in low income + material deprivation	N/A	12% (2017-20)	8%	5%
% of children in persistent poverty after housing costs	N/A	12% (2015-19)	8%	5%

Source: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-second-year-progress-report-2019-20/pages/5/>

Scottish Government Measures Definitions

Relative Poverty

Scottish Government defines relative poverty as: “a household earning less than 60% of average UK household income **for the year (after housing costs), taking account of the size and composition of the household.**”

Absolute Poverty

Scottish Government defines absolute poverty as a household with “less than 60% of average UK household income **for the financial year beginning 1 April 2010**”

Low Income and Material Deprivation

Scottish Government defines “low income and material deprivation” as “less than 70% of average UK household income for the reference year” and “material deprivation” as “when families are unable to afford three or more items out of a list of basic necessities”.

Persistent Poverty

Scottish Government defines persistent child poverty as where a child has lived in relative poverty for three out of the last four years. The Scottish Government target states that less than 5% of children should live in persistently-poor households by 2030.

Food Security

In 2019/20, 25% of Scottish children lived in households that did not enjoy “high” food security. 7% of children lived with “very low” food security. This rises to 14% of children who are living in relative poverty and 15% of children living in absolute poverty.

National Context in Relation to Covid-19 and Child Poverty

[Appendix 1\(a\)](#) sets out some national findings in relation the drivers of child poverty, also taking into account the impact of Covid-19. Information about the nationally identified priority groups at high risk of poverty is also shown.

Public Health Scotland

Public Health Scotland was formed in April 2020 and promotes six national Public Health Priorities. These priorities are intended to support national and local partners across Scotland to work together to improve healthy life expectancy and reduce health inequalities in our communities.

- Priority 1 - A Scotland where we live in vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities
- Priority 2 - A Scotland where we flourish in our early years
- Priority 3 - A Scotland where we have good mental wellbeing
- Priority 4 - A Scotland where we reduce the use of and harm from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
- Priority 5 - A Scotland where we have a sustainable, inclusive economy with equality of outcomes for all
- Priority 6 - A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active

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

In spring 2021 the Scottish Parliament unanimously supported the UNCRC Incorporation (Scotland) Bill – which places a duty on public bodies to respect and protect children’s rights in all the work that they do. The Bill also says that public authorities must not act in a way that is incompatible with the UNCRC requirements.

It is said that a Children’s Rights framework ought to be used by the Scottish Government to shape their work towards achieving their targets as set out in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017. The Children’s Rights framework would allow consideration to be given to the barriers presented by policy areas that may not immediately seem relevant to child poverty, for example, housing, education, health, transport, employment, discrimination, disability and family life.

Most directly the UNCRC says that children and young people:

- Have a right to the best health possible, this includes adequate and nutritious food (article 24)
- Have the right to social security and for this to be fully realised (article 26)
- Have the right to a standard of living that allows them to develop physically, mentally, spiritually and socially (article 27)

Local Context

The need to tackle damaging impacts of child poverty is in sharper focus since the Covid-19 pandemic, and the wide reaching impacts are yet to be fully understood. The impact of Covid-19 is likely to be unequal and may affect children and young people and their families who are already experiencing hardship more than others.

Set out below are some of the actions taken and the challenges faced during 2020/21 by Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and Partners.

The 2020/21 Action Plan Progress Report

Good progress has been made against the actions set out in the 2020/21 Action Plan despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. This is shown in detail in [Appendix 1\(b\)](#). Highlights include:

- Services have adapted working practices to enable them to continue to offer food, support, employment opportunities, digital devices and many other initiatives, as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions
- The Borders Additional Needs Group continued to provide weekly Additional Support Needs (ASN) Youth Groups to 14-19 year olds to support the transition out of education and enhance employability opportunities for ASN young people.
- The Community and Learning Development (CLD) service switched their support to parents to online, telephone, and one to one outdoor meetings so that they could continue to help with issues raised such as provision of free school meals, looking after children's needs whilst shielding, domestic abuse and many others.
- The Parental Employability Support programme has already had success with 35 referrals since October 2020, with some parents already gaining employment.
- Monetary gains for those claiming benefits increased in 2020/21 despite a lower number of referrals due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- New homes were built, and whilst others were paused due to the pandemic, most have started up again.
- Youth work holiday programmes were delivered, despite reduced capacity and opportunity due to COVID-19, and were enhanced by online activities, including cooking workshops.
- Students at Borders College were given online mentoring support.
- Borders College disseminated in excess of £350k in hardship and discretionary funding to students to support living costs and mitigate effects of COVID-19 restrictions.
- The Connecting Scotland programme supported vulnerable people online, helping 382 families, 65 care leavers and 34 other vulnerable people.
- The Borders Housing Network secured £450k from the Scottish Government's Social Housing Fuel Support Fund. This allowed the four housing associations to support those in fuel debt.
- At least 250 young people were supported through the receipt of food parcels by third sector youth organisations throughout 2020/21.

As well as the progress shown in [Appendix 1\(b\)](#), we have some case studies shown in [Appendix 1\(f\)](#) which demonstrate the wide range of activities undertaken by services to help to alleviate child poverty in the Scottish Borders.

Local Covid-19 position

Income from Employment	Job Loss	<p>Youth Pathway to Employment, involving Borders College, DYW, SDS, Youth Borders and SBC was designed and developed in anticipation of need from learners who were at risk of not having a positive destination post-school, particularly those who would have left school for employment.</p> <p>Live Borders was unable to provide work experience opportunities as majority of staff were furloughed.</p> <p>Unemployment figures in the Scottish Borders rose from 1755 in December 2019 to 3505 by December 2020.</p>
Income from Employment	Loss of income	Within the Scottish Borders 3300 workers were furloughed as at 31 October 2020.
Income from Benefits	Benefits	<p>Couples on benefits of £281 per week with two children after housing costs were £120 per week short of the 60% median income poverty level of around £400 per week. In order to surpass the poverty line each parent would need to work 22 hours per week at minimum wage or have their benefits increased by 40% if unemployed. (The Scottish Child Payment per week for aged 6 and under increased benefits by an average of 5%).</p> <p>Within Scottish Borders a single parent with two children receiving benefits of £238 per week after housing costs was £60 per week short of the 60% median income poverty level of around £300 per week. To ensure the weekly income reached the poverty line the single parent would need to be employed for seven hours per week at minimum wage or without employment, have their benefits increased by 25%.</p> <p>The referral e-form to the Financial Inclusion Team was delayed during the pandemic and shall be introduced in 2021-2022.</p>
Costs of living	Impact on families	<p>Scottish Borders Council Social Work Department continued contact with families and reported increased numbers of referrals from families not previously known who were facing emotional and financial issues due to the pandemic.</p> <p>The Community and Learning Development (CLD) Team at Scottish Borders Council supported 94 parents between April and June 2020 with various issues including financial inclusion, food insecurity, and children's needs, and held cooking demonstrations.</p> <p>Live Borders facilities were closed from March 2020 impacting on free access to services and Holiday Programmes were postponed. The delivery of usually face to face Holiday Programmes were converted and provided virtually and in creative ways by partners involved in the Joint Health Improvement Team.</p> <p>With the closure of schools and the impact of losing sight of children and young people, hidden poverty and the pressures pushing families into greater need have been highlighted. On reopening the pressures to provide school uniforms increased.</p> <p>Third sector youth work organisations supported young people with free online and in-person activities throughout 2020/21: including craft sessions, photography, cooking and baking, youth media, day trips, mountain biking and sports.</p>
Costs of living	Housing and	£350,000 in hardship and discretionary funding to students was delivered by Borders College.

	household costs	<p>Although the Financial Inclusion Pilot to be held in Galashiels Health Centre's midwifery clinic was postponed due to Covid-19, NHS Health Visitors enquired at each core visit about financial inclusion.</p> <p>BHA - Fuel debt of tenants increased by 36%.</p> <p>The Early Years Centre in Galashiels used produce to top up 300 food parcels for children and families.</p> <p>SBHA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No-one evicted in 13 month period • Had 66 persons lodged in court, engaging with 60 with repayment arrangements introduced. Prior to the pandemic the figures would have been reversed.
Costs of living	Food insecurity	<p>Foodbank/Foodshare outlets across the Scottish Borders increased from 17 to 25. Supported financially via the Financial Inclusion Fund, these means have included the introduction of the Eyemouth Food Partnership which is now being considered as a pilot for expansion Borders wide. The alliance between the Joint Improvement Health Board with Berwickshire Association of Voluntary Services (BAVS), and funding from SBC, has contributed to ensuring children and families have access to food networks. The Community Larder, funded by the National Lottery allocation to BAVS and the Financial Inclusion Fund is a further initiative utilised by families in the Berwickshire area. BAVS distributed £65,000 in community response. Borders College supported students experiencing food adversity with £450 of supermarket vouchers.</p> <p>Third sector youth organisations provided support to 253 young people with food parcels and through significant contributions from community based youth groups: including Cheviot Hub, TD1 Youth Club, Rowland's, Tweeddale Youth Action and Connect Berwickshire. Collectively an estimated 10,000 food parcels were dispersed to households.</p> <p>Burnfoot Community Futures - From 27.05.2020 – 29.06.2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed 298 recipes • 228 persons benefitted • Distributed 296 ready meals <p>Single parents with a number of children were discouraged from shopping by some supermarkets. Deliveries from Foodshare and support from Early Years Centres provided life lines to families with young children in the Scottish Borders. Over 500 food parcels were delivered during the first 15 weeks of lockdown.</p>
Costs of living	Digital exclusion	<p>Prior to the emergence of COVID-19, timescales to deploy devices to teachers and students were already challenging, and subsequently due to the pandemic needs greatedened and deployments were completed ahead of original timescales. During 2019-2020 devices were provided to teachers and students in all secondary settings by March 2020, three months ahead of schedule. During May 2020 540 iPads were distributed over a three day period to primary school teachers and a further 3,600 iPads delivered to the homes of students based within primaries 6 and 7 and S1 to deliver home school learning from 11th August 2020. This particular rollout was eleven months ahead of the original programme. Extending the project scope to include primaries 4 and 5 pupils with the provision of 2,400 iPads was conducted prior to the October break.</p> <p>Both teachers and students were supported in the use of the devices and from a technical perspective whilst ensuring equity of access and raising attainment levels.</p>

		<p>Scottish Borders infrastructure and resources contributed to remote learning solutions for those within the P4 to S6 settings - unique within the United Kingdom.</p> <p>The Inspire Learning Project is partnered with SBC's IT partner CGI alongside XMA and Apple. Having competed in the Local Government Chronicle (LCG) Awards in 2020 within two categories, future places and public/private partnership, Inspire Learning won both.</p> <p>Borders College mentored 20 senior phase students and provided equipment such as laptops, desks and chairs to ensure commencement of studies. The College partook in the Scottish Government's Youth Guarantee and shall continue to do so in 2021-2022. 500 laptops loans were given to students and 75 WiFi dongles or mobile data packages given to those experiencing financial or access difficulties.</p> <p>As part of the Connecting Scotland Programme, Scottish Borders Council's Homelessness Service supported 10 homeless households and 237 Registered Social Landlord's tenants be become digitally included. Live Borders provided a lending library with 35+ devices loaned and a further 15 progressing.</p> <p>Early Years Centres – Spotlight on Success utilised the Connecting Scotland Programme by supporting 19 families with access to free devices and mifi.</p> <p>Third sector youth organisations assisted young people and their families with the provision of regular data top-ups and loan devices to ensure young people could continue to access online youth work opportunities.</p>
Costs of Living	Fuel Poverty	<p>In March 2020, as a joined up response to COVID 19, Scottish Borders Council put in place Community Assistance Hubs within each of the five localities across the Borders.</p> <p>Working with our partners across the Borders, the Community Assistance Hubs have provided support to their communities through a single point of contact for those who were elderly or otherwise vulnerable. They have assisted with the distribution of PPE to care providers, supported the organisation and delivery of food and medication, provided practical support in relation to pre-paid cards that could be used for the payment of food, fuel (including electricity, gas, petrol and diesel) signposted to services and support groups (including referrals into financial inclusion services) and also coordinated the volunteer response by local community groups.</p> <p>For those who receive support through the Hubs, benefits include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ problems are resolved effectively through partnership working. ▪ good relationships are formed, with some people receiving weekly welfare phone calls. ▪ people are able to be connected quickly to the support that they need, when they need it; whether that was by a community group, volunteer support or social care and health. ▪ staff and volunteers were able to follow up all calls to find out if any other support was required e.g. if someone had to self-isolate, did they need support to get their food shopping organised, medication, assistance with fuel payments or need care or health support. <p>The Community Assistance Hubs have also highlighted clear benefits of collaborative working, along with the importance of the role of the Third Sector, Registered Social Landlords, local Resilience Groups, Community Learning & Development, Communities & Partnership staff and other volunteers.</p>

Involvement of people with direct lived experience

The Poverty and Inequality Commission Review of Local Child Poverty Action Reports in November 2019 recommended that consideration should be given as to how to involve people with direct lived experience. People's voices should be heard and should be used to help shape agendas.

Scottish Borders Council have recently carried out a consultation on their draft Anti-Poverty Strategy. People were asked how they were managing financially before and after the Covid-19 Pandemic. The outcome of the consultation will be reported as part of the Anti-Poverty Strategy work, however many of the replies are relevant to families and children, therefore can be taken into account in our Child Poverty Work.

Below are some of the comments made by families in the Scottish Borders:

- *More affordable child care provision to allow people to work more easily*
- *More trustworthy advice about how to access financial help or financial support to improve your house - i.e. windows, heating. Don't know who to trust.*
- *Stop using children's DLA as part of household income - this is to support the kids disability to replace things they break and to make their life easier.*
- *Stop handing money to those who stay at home anyway (on benefits etc) who receive free school meals and help families who are struggling with the increased cost of everything.*
- *Offer Poverty stigma training*
- *Less stigma & more understanding about what poverty actually is & who could be affected.*
- *There is too much red tape and it's made really hard to access by criteria aimed at stopping those that need it getting it.*

Current position of the Poverty Drivers in the Scottish Borders

[Appendix 1\(c\)](#) shows evidence in relation to the Scottish Borders position on the three drivers of child poverty, high priority risk groups and protected characteristics. Key messages are set out below:

1. Income from employment
 - Scottish Borders average earnings remain lower than the Scottish average by £111 and is the 2nd lowest out of the 32 Scottish Local Authority areas which presents a challenge.
 - A higher proportion of Scottish Borders young adults aged 16-19 entered employment, training or education when compared to Scotland.
 - 18% of children in the Scottish Borders were living in relative low income families in 2020.
2. Costs of living
 - 47.6% of children in Scottish Borders live in areas classified as “Rural” (Accessible-rural or Remote-rural) which presents a difficulty in terms of access to employment and services due to the cost of transport.
 - The use of food banks increased by 8% in the Scottish Borders in 2020 when compared to the previous year, possibly due to the cost of food combined with lower earnings.
 - When compared to Scotland higher fuel poverty figures are reported in the Scottish Borders impacting on 16,000 households.
 - Children in the Scottish Borders are living with limited resources. Data shows those children living with limited resources before housing costs are higher than the Scottish average as are those living with limited resources after housing costs, with the Scottish Borders rated at 6th highest and 4th highest respectively across the 32 Local Authority areas.
3. Income from social security and benefits in kind
 - Scottish Borders Council offer a range of different Financial Inclusion services and are involved in several different work streams with a variety of partners. The total gains for the communities in the Borders from this service in 2020/21 totaled £4,237,007. Financial Inclusion enquiries and referrals are received from sources such as Social Work, Education, Community Assistance Hubs, Self-Isolation Support Grant enquiries and external partner organisations.

The Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index

The Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index (SB CPI) provides additional insight into Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders. The SB CPI works alongside the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). SIMD provides a way of looking at deprivation in an area, covering the whole population and does not specifically reflect child poverty. The SB CPI provides an indication of child poverty levels based on four components. Each area receives a score based on the result of each component with maximum points of 20, where the higher the points the higher the levels of child poverty. These components are:

- Children in Low Income Families (**CiLIF**) – Source is [DWP/HMRC](#). Relative low-income is defined as a family whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of contemporary median income.
- Free School Meals (**FSM**) – Source is SBC. The proportion of pupils recorded for Free School Meals of all pupils in area for school year.
- Clothing Grant (**CLG**) - Source is SBC. The proportion of pupils recorded for Clothing Grant of all pupils in area for school year.
- Educational Maintenance Allowance (**EMA16+**) – Source is SBC. The proportion of pupils who are aged 16 or older (before 01 March of school year) who receive EMA.

The table below shows the results for the Scottish Borders for 2017 to 2020

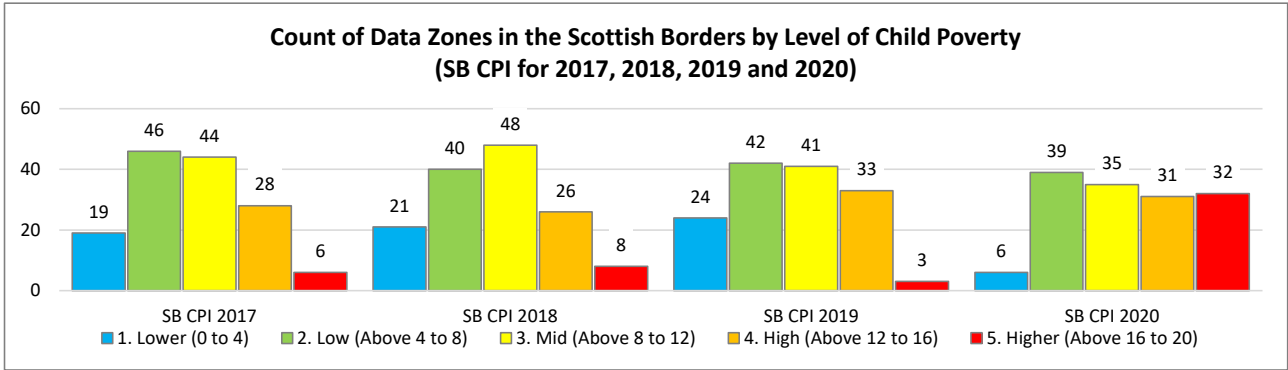
SB CPI Components / Year	For SB CPI 2017	For SB CPI 2018	For SB CPI 2019	For SB CPI 2020
Children in Low Income Families - CiLIF (DWP) ^	19.8%	21.8%	20.6%	22.5%
Free School Meals - FSM (SBC)	10.0%	10.4%	11.6%	15.7%
Clothing Grant - CLG (SBC)	14.6%	15.1%	15.2%	18.1%
Educational Maintenance Allowance 16+ - EMA16+ (SBC) *	8.2%	6.2%	3.8%	16.0%

^ CiLIF: Financial Year End. The calculation of proportion of Children in Low Income Families for the purpose of the Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index differs to 'official statistics' due to the availability of the data from Stat-Xplore. The children in Stat-Xplore are defined as dependent individuals aged under 16; or aged 16 to 19 in full-time non-advanced education or in unwaged government training. The figure for all children is then expressed as proportion of those aged 0 to 15 as published by NRS. It is recognised that this calculation is imperfect, but practical for the purpose of the SB CPI.

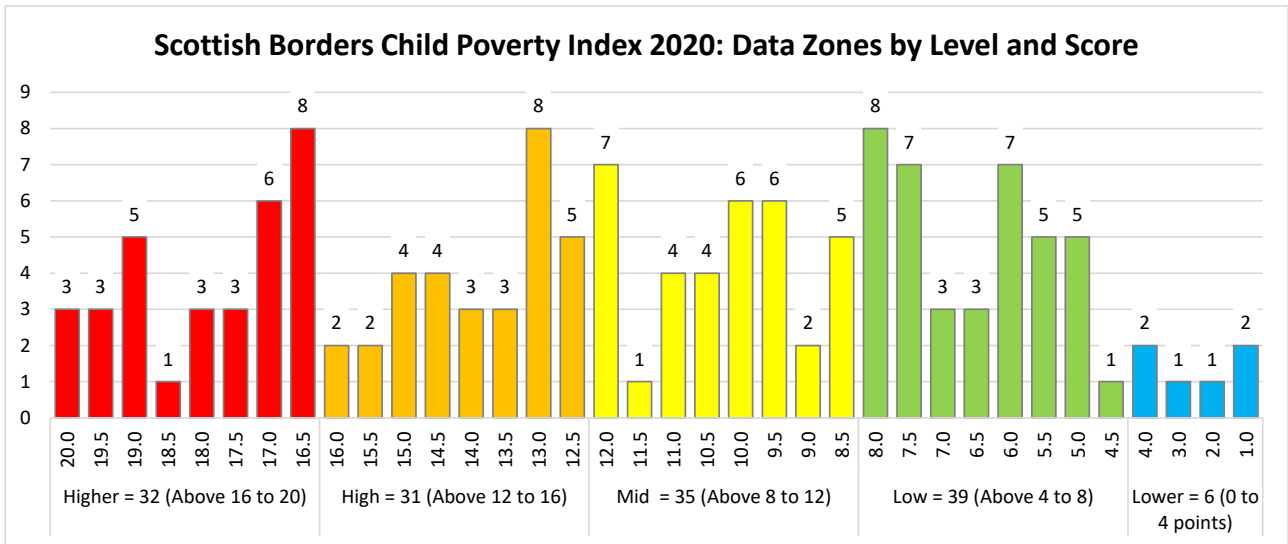
* EMA16+: Pupils that are aged 16 before the 1st of March of the school year

The results for 2020 show some of the Covid-19 Pandemic impact, with an increase in the proportion of pupils receiving free school meals, clothing grant and educational maintenance allowance. It is important to note that the children in low income families relates to 2019/20, so the full impact of Covid-19 pandemic is not reflected in these figures; this will be reflected in the 2021 SB CPI.

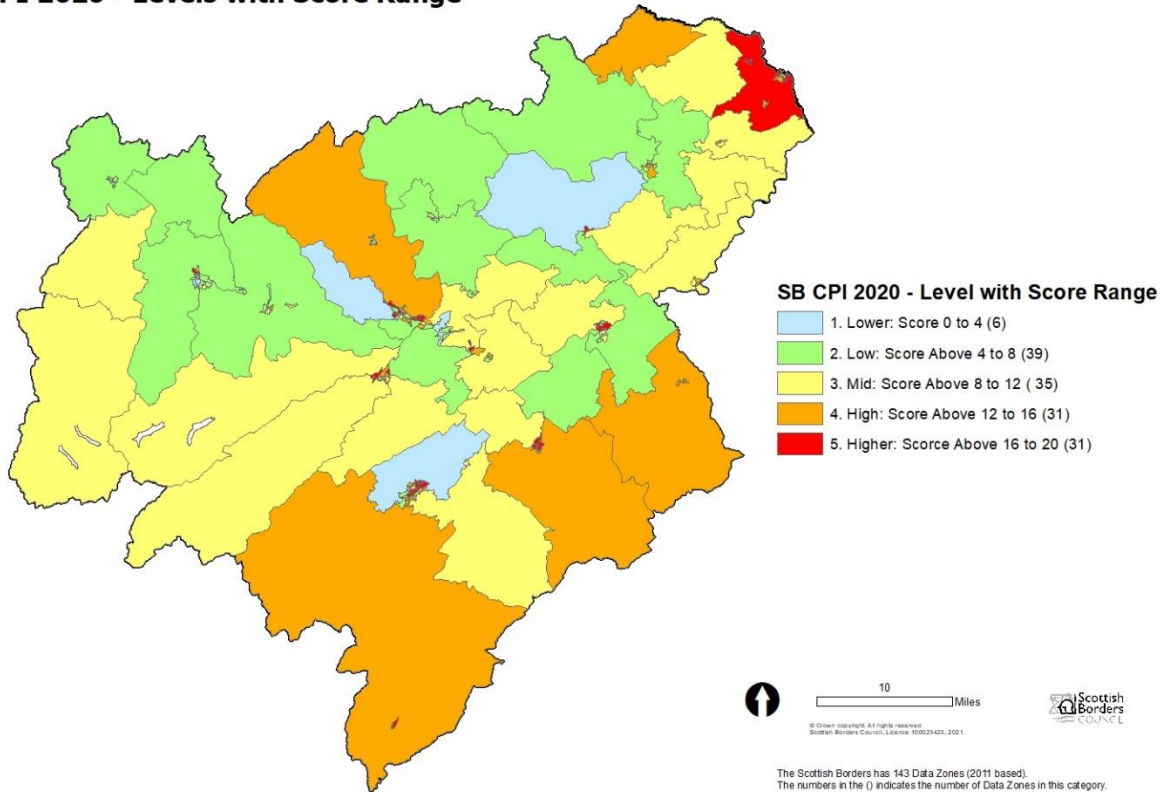
The graph below shows the distribution of data zones by level of child poverty for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. Between 2017 and 2019 the number of data zones in the 'high' and 'higher' level decreased. However, in the SB CPI 2020 the impact of Covid19 is evident, with 63 of the 143 (44%) data zones in the Scottish Borders having 'high' or 'higher' level of child poverty.



The graph and map below shows the Scottish Borders data zones based on the SB CPI 2020 score, grouped into levels of Child Poverty. Higher level (32 data zones) have a score of above 16 to 20; High level (31 data zones) have a score of above 12 to 16; Mid-level (35 data zones) have a score of above 8 to 12; Low level (39 data zones) have a score of above 4 to 8; and Lower level (6 data zones) have a score of 0 to 4. Every data zone in the Scottish Borders has some element of child poverty.



Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020 SB CPI 2020 - Levels with Score Range



Greater detail of SB CPI 2020 can be seen in [Appendix 1\(d\)](#) Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020.

Scottish Borders Council Children and Families Social Work Service

Poverty is only one factor in abuse and neglect, but perhaps the most pervasive. Evidence suggests that direct and indirect impacts of poverty can both operate separately and also interact with other factors to increase or reduce the chances of abuse and neglect. It is within this sphere that children and families social work focus their day to day interactions and interventions.

Children and Families social work (C&FSW) fulfils specific statutory duties to children and young people in the Scottish Borders, primarily contained in the following pieces of legislation:

- Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007
- Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011
- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

C&FSW provides a range of functions and interventions linked to the impact of poverty including:

- an initial response to referrals, investigating concerns that children may be at significant risk of abuse and neglect;
- a comprehensive service for all looked after children, children on the child protection register and those who are at high risk of becoming so;
- work with children affected by disabilities and their families;
- recruitment of and support to foster carers and prospective adopters and assessment of kinship carers;
- residential provision for young people and a satellite unit for young people in transition to independent living;
- support to young people who were previously looked after and;
- specialist assessment and support to young people who have offended and their families.

The statutory role of C&FSW necessitates focussing on those children, young people and families assessed as most in need, supporting them to navigate complex systems which frequently place them in positions of disadvantage, and supporting children and their families who experience poverty to access services or resources that they may not have been able to. Examples include charity applications; sourcing essentials items such as food, household goods, and clothing; the provision of practical support; the provision of funding for utilities such as gas and electricity.

Advice is provided by staff within the service to support budgeting on a long term basis, and support is provided to ensure income maximisation and access to correct benefit payments. Where a child is placed with kinship carers, the set up costs to purchase bed, bedding, clothes and other equipment is offered to assist the successful commencement of the placement.

C&FSW also fund childminding where it is assessed to be in the child/family's best interest.

Self-directed support, where families have increased choice about the support they receive, is currently primarily focused on children with disabilities, however this is a developing area of practice and Scottish Borders C&FSW will continue to engage with Scottish Government to explore options to extend self-directed support to other families.

Scottish Borders C&FSW also commission or purchase a number of services including:

- Aberlour Child Care Trust are commissioned to provide residential respite and day respite play scheme during school holiday periods for children affected by disabilities, and the Sustain Service

- for children and young people at risk of becoming looked after.
- Who Cares? Scotland are commissioned to provide an independent advocacy services for children and young people who are within external placements.
- Children 1st are jointly commissioned by C&FSW and the Children & Young People's Leadership Group to provide an Abuse and Trauma Recovery Service for children and young people who have been the victims of abuse.
- C&FSW also make a contribution to Children Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS) for hospice care services.
- Purchased services include a number of foster placements from independent providers and placements for children and young people who require intensive support in a residential setting.

Impact of Covid-19 During lockdown

Additional support has been needed during this time for people who have been on reduced incomes, those who have lost jobs, the increase in food parcels and access to food banks etc. The impact on employment, the impact on mental health which can impact the ability of an individual to access employment but also their ability to access support possibly pushing them further into poverty. Children and families social work services are working to support people experiencing these difficulties.

Children's Hearings

Children's Hearings are usually conducted on a face to face basis with payments made to Parents for mileage payments, public transport fares and on occasion accommodation depending on the circumstances. These expenses are paid without the requirement to demonstrate financial hardship.

As hearings are currently being conducted virtually, this has provided the ability to cover costs of data for families to be able to participate in children's hearings.

Police Scotland

Provision of training to all frontline officers was provided to assist in the identification of families affected by poverty, addiction and financial hardship.

Police Scotland continued to participate, consult and contribute to the Local Child Poverty Reports and Action Plans and SBC's Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan, whilst working collaboratively with Public Protection Unit Staff to identify issues of poverty amongst other child protection concerns leading to referrals to partners for support and inter agency discussions to progress.

Student Poverty: Borders College

Poverty amongst the student body is an ongoing concern further impacted this academic year due to the ongoing Covid-19 health pandemic and the resulting enforced restrictions.

Many students rely on part-time employment to boost their student funding income. Young people in particular are more likely to be on casual or temporary employment contracts in some of the worst hit sectors, e.g. hospitality, therefore may experience limited access to the job retention schemes in place. This relates equally to mature students and those returning to education following family breaks. Others are experiencing household incomes at much lower levels than normal, again due to business restrictions, redundancies or furlough.

In practical terms, as education moved to an online platform to enable the continuation of meaningful learning, digital poverty has been another major challenge. Access to suitable IT equipment and broadband access is critical in ensuring all students have been able to participate and continue learning on a remote basis.

Further pressure came during the early part of this year when already financially stretched students found themselves back in a second lockdown. During this period students were finding meeting the costs for heating due to the winter weather, along with additional food bills as dependents or siblings normally in school were at home, particularly difficult. We also saw a second wave of need for IT/Digital support as the demand on home broadband systems and existing equipment increased due to home schooling and other household members working from home.

Over the last academic year Borders College have mobilised resources to help support our students and as far as possible, help mitigate some of the additional financial pressures due to COVID. This included the provision of around 500 laptop loans and providing students with data dongles or funding to boost mobile data packages to ensure access to appropriate Broadband.

In addition significant levels of Discretionary and Hardship funding (circa £350K) has been awarded to help mitigate the increased living costs and address Student hardship exacerbated by the pandemic and resulting restrictions and lockdown.

Food poverty remains an ongoing issue. We have addressed this in part by the issue of supermarket vouchers to those in need. This has gone some way to replacing our previous, Student Association led food initiative, which provided basic meal kits, and a food bank on Campus.

Contributions from Strategies, Plans, Budgets and Funding

Several Strategies, Plans and Budgets have contributed to the Local Child Poverty Action Plan for the Scottish Borders. Significant contributions include:

Budgets

Funding was allocated by Scottish Borders Council in February 2020 to specific budget headings intended to help address the impact of child poverty.

Budget	2020/21
Crisis Grants	£88,188
School clothing grants	£247,800
Free sanitary products in schools and workplaces	£52,000
Educational Maintenance Allowance	£335,814

Budgets for various key services were also used in 2020/21 – Holiday programmes c£15.5k for staff time and resources.

An SBC CLD/TD1 Youth Hub Food Insecurity holiday activity was undertaken in Galashiels which was part of a Scottish Government national pilot. Funding of £10,000 was received from Youthlink Scotland via the Scottish Government for this pilot.

At the emergence of COVID-19, society became cashless with the increased use and preference shifting to online purchasing and banking cards. As a Council we are duty bound by the Social Work Scotland Act 1968 and The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 to ensure the risks of financial crisis faced by vulnerable service users and the general public are minimised. Pre-pandemic this would take the form of money being dispensed from locality Social Work offices but due to restrictions, the introduction of All Pay Cards and online banking were introduced in April 2020 to combat the risks posed and to act as a first response when tackling poverty and hardship, and these practices remain.

By adapting operations, the core fundamentals of practice were transferred to assist in accessing and distributing financial support from Cash For Kids, in supporting the reactive commencement of Community Assistance Hubs and utilised by Community Learning Development staff.

Cash for Kids, STV Winter Fund, Youth Scotland Winter Fund, Borders Children's Charity were all utilised by community organisations to support families in need. Some national third sector organisations were able to utilise their own crisis funding for Borders families, including Action for Children and Children 1st.

Between April 2020 and June 2020 Cash For Kids funded £2627.20. Working collaboratively with Children and Families Social Work this ensured 36 families totalling 77 children, aged from birth to 18 years impacted by COVID-19 were provided with financial support using All Pay Cards.

In April and May 2020 All Pay Cards were used by five area Community Assistance Hubs to purchase a total of £1640.00 supermarket vouchers to be dispensed to those in financial crisis.

Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)

In 2020/21, £1,798,854 of Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) was allocated to Scottish Borders schools. Allocations are calculated by Scottish Government, based on the number of enrolled learners claiming Free School Meals. For each eligible learner the school is allocated £1,200. Headteachers use the fund to provide additional and targeted support for all children and young people affected by poverty. As well as Free School Meals data, schools look at other indicators of poverty-related disadvantage in decision-making around use of the additional funding. Their choices of intervention are based on evidence of what works in raising attainment in literacy and numeracy, as well as wellbeing.

In 2020/21 schools have needed to adapt their plans for use of PEF in light of the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on plans to support the most disadvantaged learners. This has included monitoring engagement in home learning and engagement with learning hubs, working with community partners and families to provide additional support where needed and putting re-engagement plans in place for vulnerable children and young people during school re-opening phases. Although no formal data was gathered to measure progress (in line with government guidance in response to Covid-19 pressures) we have monitored support for our most vulnerable children and young people to adapt and change support in light of the various challenges they have faced. Headteachers have worked with colleagues in the Central Education Team to ensure that necessary changes to plans were still driven by a focus on raising attainment and improving wellbeing for children and young people affected by poverty. This involved ongoing analyses of needs, identification of appropriate interventions and flexible and responsive planning to measure the impact of each intervention. This work has been further supported by an Attainment Advisor from Education Scotland.

An Equity & Inclusion Lead Officer within Scottish Borders Council has now been appointed to support this ongoing work and help schools to capture impact and progress data now that children and young people have returned to school. This will inform ongoing PEF work, and identify where further targeted

interventions are required.

Housing Needs and Aspirations of Young People

Over 2020/21, work has been undertaken regarding the delivery of the Housing Needs and Aspirations of Young People 5 Year Action Plan – April 2019. Young People are being enabled to make more successful and sustainable transitions into their own housing and there has been a commitment from a range of partners to facilitate. There is currently work taking place to ensure that SBC and Partners continue to work closely with each other to ensure that this is delivered. The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted on the progress of some pieces of work.

Financial Inclusion

A Financial Inclusion group was formed and is chaired by NHS Borders. This group has partners from Early Years, Health, Third sector, Social Security Scotland (SSS) and Community and Learning Development (CLD).

Scottish Borders Council offer a range of different Financial Inclusion services and are involved in several different work streams with a variety of partners. The total gains for the communities in the Borders from this service in 2020/21 totaled **£4,237,007**.

Financial Inclusion enquiries and referrals are received from sources such as Social Work, Education, Community Assistance Hubs, Self-Isolation Support Grant enquiries and external partner organisations.

Specific Services	
SBC	Partner Organisations
Financial Inclusion Officers	CAB
Macmillan Welfare Benefits	NHS Borders
Early Years	Registered Social Landlords
Homelessness	Borders College
Scottish Welfare Fund	Home Energy Scotland
Discretionary Housing Payments	DWP
Community Assistance Hubs	Social Security Scotland
Free school meals and Education Maintenance Allowance	Food banks/FareShare/Community Larders & Fridges
Covid-19 Response – Proposals to further support individuals facing financial hardship	Charities and Voluntary Organisations

There are generally good links between all of the organisations undertaking Financial Inclusion work and in most cases referral processes are in place if required.

There are concerns about solutions to food poverty and fuel poverty and there is an increasing emphasis on doing more than providing the 'sticking plasters' of Crisis Grants, energy top ups or food parcels. Organisations are encouraging more sustainable long-term solutions e.g., improving energy efficiency, applying for benefits/grants, or signposting to employability services which will increase income and reduce the possibility of a crisis occurring in the future.

Digital inclusion is another factor and a recent study estimated that one in seven adults in Scotland was experiencing 'data poverty' and those on low incomes try to juggle buying food, fuel and having access to the internet.

There is support for some fuel emergencies but there are concerns about the impact when Covid related financial support ends.

A mapping exercise is currently underway to set out all the work streams that the Council is involved in, along with partners and other organisations. This will include specific funding streams, mapping the services that are available, increase awareness of support offered and give advice on signposting.

Best Start Grants

The Scottish Borders has one of the highest application success rates in the country for Best Start Grants. The excellent network we have in the Borders, facilitated by the advice/information given to all

of the midwives, early years centres and other groups has contributed to this success.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/best-start-grant-and-best-start-foods-high-level-statistics-to-28-february-2021/>

Employability and Skills

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) has worked with Scottish Borders Council, Borders College, the Borders Learning and Skills Partnership and SOSE and have shared regional COVID-19 labour market insights. There are currently discussions taking place between SDS and partners across the Scottish Borders and the South of Scotland in order for targeted responses to impacts of Covid-19 to be supported.

SDS has provided a focus on where there are employment opportunities and discussions are underway to explore a package of labour market measures such as Youth Guarantee and digital literacy pathfinder to support transitions into training, education and employment.

The full **Regional Skills Assessment** for the Scottish Borders, which was published in March 2021, can be seen via the following link:

<https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/47100/rsa-infographic-scottish-borders.pdf>

A piece of work was undertaken regarding the Employability Challenge in the Scottish Borders and to set out Scottish Borders Council's approach to employability and training in response to existing and new employability measures introduced by the Scottish and UK Governments.

The full reports can be seen at the following link:

<https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s49403/Item%2010%20-%20Executive%20report%20on%20Employability.%200090221.pdf>

EU Exit

Alongside COVID, the need to adjust to life outside the EU presents a concurrent challenge. Free movement of citizens between the UK and EU has ended and the UK is no longer part of the EU customs union and single market. Instead, it has a Co-operation and Trade Agreement that allows zero tariffs and zero quotas trading of goods on the basis of an agreed set of rules. While some initial trading and bureaucratic issues have eased, and can be expected to ease further as businesses become more familiar with new processes, it is unlikely that they will disappear completely. Among a range of requirements, new Customs & VAT requirements, health and rules of origin checks are a function of the Trade Agreement between the UK and EU. Unless those elements are superseded by new arrangements, they are likely to be permanent liabilities and a potential drag on businesses and business recovery. This has caused experts to predict that the UK economy will be much smaller going forward. It remains difficult to predict the precise impact of this on the Scottish Borders, but it has potential implications for everyone, most of all for the socially and economically vulnerable. Moreover, as already noted, businesses are not dealing only with the consequences of EU Exit, but also with the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and successive lockdowns, and the significant damage to the national and local economies these have already wrought.

Demographic groups that were already disadvantaged before the pandemic are more likely to experience negative effects in many different areas of their life, including in educational opportunities,

employment prospects, financial security, social outcomes and health and wellbeing. Among the most impacted groups are children and young people; older people who are isolated; people with pre-existing mental health problems; people with long-term disabling physical health conditions; unemployed people and those in insecure employment; Black, Asian, and minority ethnic communities; single parents and women.

The number of children in the most deprived deciles was limited. However, there was significant evidence to suggest that Scottish Borders have a higher proportion than comparable rural areas of children and young people who fall into the category of being at risk of falling in poverty. This matters because COVID-19 and EU Exit have made it much more likely that our economy going forward will be much smaller than it was. This has implications with respect to the number of jobs, and how well paid they are. Fewer poorer paid jobs equals more children deprived or at risk of deprivation.

It also likely where children and families are in poverty, their situation is more complex on average than it may have been previously. This reflects the range of factors at play – parents/carers/young people being out of work or, in-work poverty, rising food prices, potential pressure on energy prices, issues over transport access and wider deprivation in relation to connectivity, including digitally.

There is some expectation of a consumer driven economic bounce as we emerge from COVID. Whether that will be sustained and the ability of those families are struggling to catch the wave must be in doubt, however.

The UK Government's Levelling Up funds are, as the title suggests, intended to drive better outcomes for communities that have historically done less well. The Scottish Borders is one of the 13 priority Category 1 areas identified in Scotland under the Community Renewal and it is also priority under the Levelling Up Fund, but the funding arrangements are still 'challenge funds', and it remains an open question as to whether this is the best method of targeting resources to where they are most needed even within regions identified as broadly in need.

Fairer Scotland Duty

The Fairer Scotland Duty (the Duty) places a legal responsibility on particular public bodies in Scotland to actively consider how they can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage when making strategic decisions. To support public bodies in implementing the Duty, the Scottish Government produced interim guidance in March 2018 and is now looking to finalise the guidance through a consultation, which is going on at the present moment. Importantly from a Borders' perspective, South of Scotland Enterprise has been added to the list of public bodies covered by the duty (the Scottish National Investment Bank being the other).

The key issue is how influential the FSD is in practical impact on the services and support to those suffering inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage. The implementation of the Duty remains a work in progress but,

In theory, the FSD should make a difference for communities when socio economic factors have been a consideration, however Scottish Borders Council will need to develop and nurture the practical aspects, as currently only the basics are in place. Poverty and its associated factors are well known in the Borders (and Scotland as a whole), it's the how and what needs to be done to truly meet the merits of the duty that remains a challenge for SBC and Scotland's other 31 councils.

There has been an enormous change since the Council's Corporate Plan was agreed in May 2018. Evidence suggests that nationally and locally our health, economy, societal and cultural outcomes have been deeply negatively impacted and continue to worsen on account of COVID, the

Climate and Nature Emergencies, EU Exit. The Refresh seeks to promote a strengthening of the Council's values and vision, and in a unifying mission which builds on the commitments under the four themes of the Corporate Plan. These values, vision and mission require to be set against a refreshed set of strategic priorities. These also require to be translated into action and, ultimately, results. These steps are being pursued through development of Service Plans and a Review of Performance Management.

A specific goal of the Refresh is to construct:

- A set of values, which includes: a People-focus and Inclusion;
- A vision of 'happier and healthier people and places'; and
- A mission to 'optimise wellbeing' including 'Fairness and equality based on the notions of personal freedom, equality of treatment, respect for all human beings and a belief that one's views matter'.

The goal is to ensure that equality and inclusion are fundamental ways of 'doing' which are built into the fabric of all and everything that Scottish Borders Council does. Thus, the Refresh will not relate to a group or groups with specific protected characteristics. The key issue is how influential the FSD is in practical impact on the services and support to those suffering inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage. The implementation of the Duty remains a work in progress but it is intended to strengthen the culture of the organisation in ensuring that all of our activities are informed by values and vision built on fairness and equality with a mission, which includes actively promoting equality and inclusion outcomes.

Challenge Poverty Week – October 2020

Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and other partners supported Challenge Poverty Week in October 2020 by highlighting the wide range of information, advice and support that is available to support people experiencing financial hardship. In previous years, various workshops and events were held, however due to Covid-19 restrictions, the campaign was publicised through social media channels. The social media plan is shown in [Appendix 1\(e\)](#).

2021-2022 Report and Action Plan

The Child Poverty Planning Group recently met to discuss high level actions for the 2021/22 Action Plan and the group is in the process of developing these. The Report and Action Plan will be presented to the Community Planning Strategic Board in June 2021 for approval.

The impact of Covid-19 and the recovery from the pandemic will continue to feature as a key priority of the 2021/22 Action Plan and many of the actions reflect this.

The Child Poverty Planning Group has identified the following headings for inclusion in the 2021/22 Action Plan:

- Impact of Covid-19 pandemic including local issues
- Addressing Food insecurity
- Financial Inclusion including mapping current services and promoting awareness of these
- Employability opportunities including the Parental Employment Project, the Intensive Family Support Service and modern apprenticeships in Early Years
- Costs of the school day
- Housing services working with tenants to prevent and alleviate homelessness, avoid rent arrears and manage fuel debt
- Holiday programmes with specific ring-fenced funding from Scottish Government
- The continuation of the successful Connecting Scotland Programme to get people online

Conclusion

In accordance with The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017, the Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Annual Report for 2020/21 describes the activities undertaken and planned locally to contribute towards Child Poverty targets set out in the Act. These are very important and ambitious targets which are designed to reduce child poverty by 2030. Without intervention and mitigation at both a national and local level, these will be difficult to achieve. Current levels suggest that 1 in 4 Scottish children are affected by child poverty and Local Child Poverty Action Plans must address this.

It is clear from the Annual Progress Report for 2021/21 that Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders is an important issue which Partners take seriously. This is illustrated in the tremendous amount of work undertaken in 2020/21 in challenging circumstances. The Covid-19 pandemic has forced services to think differently so that they could continue to carry out their actions in response to child poverty, and many children and families have benefitted as a result, and will continue to do so in 2021/22.

The Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index, the continuation of Scottish Government PEF Funding, Financial Inclusion work, food security work and other important actions will all assist the Local Authority, Health Board and partners to continue to develop plans to address child poverty in the Scottish Borders, so that they can make a difference to children and families experiencing hardship.

We will continue to raise the profile of our collective need to reduce child poverty as we develop the Action Plan for 2021/22, particularly recognising the impact of Covid-19 and the Community Planning Partnership's Key Priorities and Actions.

Appendices

Appendix 1(a) – National Context in Relation to Covid-19 and Child Poverty.

National context is set out in the table below and shown against the Drivers of Child Poverty

Information is also shown for the nationally identified priority groups at high risk of poverty

Income from Employment	Job Loss	<p>One quarter of adults concerned about providing for their families.</p> <p>One in five households with dependent children reported serious financial difficulty.</p> <p>Lower income households are twice as likely to have increased debts.</p> <p>Ethnic minority groups with high representation in lower paid and high in-work poverty sectors eg accommodation and food services. Single parents, most likely female, more likely work in these sectors, also working part time resulting in higher poverty rates.</p> <p>In-work poverty driven by underemployment ie not working as many hours as would like. Main factor of underemployment is pay, ie low pay adding to the issue.</p> <p>Those in accommodation and food services, retail and health sectors see higher underemployment figures.</p> <p>Families in Scotland pay less for childcare costs but difficulties arise to access childcare in conjunction with working hours.</p> <p>Scotland has one of the lowest provision of childcare for full-time working parents compared to rest of UK.</p> <p>JRF research identifies families on low incomes work atypical hours, resulting in difficulties accessing childcare.</p> <p>Low-paid workers, underemployed workers, women and ethnic minorities impacted by pandemic.</p> <p>Inequality as those on lowest-paid sectors most likely furloughed and made redundant.</p> <p>In May 2020 household incomes had fallen across the UK by 4.5% compared with the previous year.</p> <p>More people now claiming benefits – Nov 2020 count was 210,750 – reason principally of being unemployed.</p> <p>Prior to pandemic in-work poverty in Scotland was 10% in 2018-2019, lowest in the UK with those in food and wholesale, and retail faced with highest in-work poverty rates by industry. Over four in ten workers are employed in these sectors.</p>
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		<p>Pre pandemic, underemployment in Scotland was approximately 10%, and more problematic in different geographical areas due to job proportion.</p> <p>From March to June 2020, median hourly pay rate for Scotland was £12.74. Scotland has some of the lowest median hourly pay rates by industry.</p> <p>Family and Childcare Trust – for a part time place at Scottish nursery for children under two costs on average £111.26 per week. This is the lowest rate in the United Kingdom but more than those on low incomes can afford.</p> <p>Number of hours worked in Scotland reduced, as it did in the UK. Mean hours worked per week reduced from 32 at start of 2019 to 25 up to June 2020.</p> <p>By July 2020, UK households with earnings of over £35,000 had increased net bank balances.</p>
Income from Benefits	Benefits	<p>Increase in welfare payments have mitigated falls in income for some lower income households.</p> <p>Increase in welfare payments dampened by policies such as the benefits cap and the two child limit.</p> <p>Wait for Universal Credit can take at least five weeks.</p> <p>Key financial support measures to be reversed in April 2021.</p> <p>Scottish Government introduced Job Retention Scheme (JRS) to support jobs.</p> <p>Scottish Government supplemented policies by extending eligibility for the Self Employed Income Support Scheme.</p> <p>Government increase in Universal Credit of £20 per week.</p> <p>Pre coronavirus half of those in poverty in Scotland lived in families in receipt of income-related benefits.</p> <p>Children living within households in receipt of income-related benefits are three times more likely to live in poverty that those not in receipt.</p> <p>Scottish Government’s Tackling Child Poverty delivery plan – the introduction of the Scottish Child Payment to low-income families with children aged under six.</p> <p>Low quality and precarious jobs, or those living in areas where furlough is high have contributed to UC claims.</p> <p>Younger workers aged under 30 accounted for a third of all claimants</p>

	<p>due to sector shut downs or zero hour contracts.</p> <p>Difficulties faced in establishing what support available and entitled to and using multiple systems eg DWP, HMRC, Social Security Scotland and local government.</p> <p>DWP's Great Britain-wide disability benefits system identified as source of anxiety as reluctance to apply due to stressful medical assessments, not being believed, future reviews and benefit disruption.</p> <p>In September's Programme for Government 2020-2021 Scottish Government announced further boost to Discretionary Housing Payments (extra funding up to £8 million) and intention to start a Tenants Hardship Loan Fund worth £10 million. Anticipated to be available from November 2020 to support those not eligible for DHP and SWF as not eligible for UC, JRF to conduct research by consulting tenants to establish if mix of grants and loans are meeting their needs.</p> <p>Emergency protections assist in short term, but long term issues faced include those out of work and redundant, lack of job vacancies, dwindling savings, increased debt, threats of eviction = pulling more households into poverty.</p> <p>Prior to pandemic one million people in Scotland in poverty, crisis will have meant deeper poverty with new poverty experiences for many.</p> <p>Parental Employment Support Fund (PESF) received investment. Provides intensive person centred employability support for low income parents in and out of work, with a focus on equalities. This is small in relation to other commitments in reducing child poverty. PESF includes support for disabled parents should continue to rise and the programme be extended to end of next parliamentary term in 2026.</p> <p>Discretionary Housing Payments, protocols and mediation, tenant loans may not be sufficient in supporting low income households.</p> <p>Gaps in benefits can be filled by Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) and the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF).</p> <p>In October 2020 473,500 persons in Scotland receiving Universal Credit, increase of 94% since January 2020, increase of 109% since October 2019.</p> <p>Scottish Welfare Fund crisis grant applications 46% higher in the first quarter of 2020-2021 than in the same quarter of the previous year.</p> <p>Universal Credit applications increased. By May 2020 there was a 65% increase in number of households in receipt of UC compared to start of year.</p> <p>UC claimants in employment increased to 34%.</p> <p>UK Government increased local housing allowance and Scottish</p>
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		Government introduced Discretionary Housing Payments. 47,000 more households claimed support with housing costs in May 2020 than in Feb 2020, increase of 10%.
Costs of living	Impact on Families	<p>Living costs accounts for a large proportion of income.</p> <p>Lower income households to be twice as likely to have increased debts, save less and increased use of credit cards.</p> <p>Entered pandemic with significant numbers of households in temporary or unsuitable accommodation, including families with children.</p> <p>An increase in borrowing creates future problems. As the furlough scheme ends, borrowing levels may increase to plug the gap between income and expenditure. Creates long term debt problems and possible eviction.</p> <p>To reduce risk of eviction, Scottish Government extended emergency protection for renters until March 2021 (subject to Parliamentary approval)</p> <p>Currently limited evidence on level and severity of Private Rental Sector arrears and possession proceedings. PayProp data, source referred to in Scottish Government report, recorded from Jan to May 2020 those in rent arrears increased from 8% to 14% during that period.</p> <p>Scottish Government support directed at supporting jobs and businesses. Supported housebuilders and Registered Social Landlords with loans, decreased regulatory burdens and extra grant funding.</p> <p>Homeless stats from August 2020 showed there were 31,333 households assessed as homeless in 2019-2020. An increase of 4% on previous year. 11,665 households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2020, increase of 6% including 7,820 children ie 7% more than the previous year.</p> <p>Scotland 2019, 31% of renters had no savings, with 21% with less than £1000. JRF's June poll showed 9% of all PRS had borrowed money.</p>
Costs of living	Housing and household costs	<p>Direct and immediate economic effects are falling disproportionately.</p> <p>Prior to pandemic, poverty rates in private sector (PRS) had fallen from 36% in 2011-2014 to 33% in 2016-2019.</p> <p>50,000 fewer people in private renting were in poverty by 2016-2019 compared to 5 years previously. This was due to real terms fall in housing costs. The income spent on rent in the private sector increased marginally from 28% to 29% between 2014-2019.</p> <p>JRF believe lower income households are spending in excess of 30% of incomes on rent, cutting back on essentials.</p> <p>40,000 social renters in poverty by 2016-2019 due to policies such as</p>

	<p>benefit freeze, benefit cap and two-child limit.</p> <p>Poverty rates in Social Rental Sector and Private Rental Sectors in Scotland are high although lower than England and Wales.</p> <p>Greater availability of Social Rental Sector housing assists in lower poverty rates in Scotland.</p> <p>Steps taken by Scottish Government and housing providers to accommodate homeless and implemented the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group recommendations.</p> <p>Coronavirus halted construction, resulting in the 50,000 affordable homes (incl 35,000 social homes) becoming unachievable by May 2021.</p> <p>Constraints on supply of housing results in further demands placed on local housing and homelessness services. Ways to ensure tenants experiencing financial difficulties required and challenges in accessing lower cost housing for families with children living in unaffordable accommodation.</p> <p>Discretionary Housing Payments increased by 13% between June 2019 and June 2020.</p> <p>Not known if Discretionary Housing Payments are meeting the needs of those under financial pressure.</p> <p>Lack of money increases family's inability to purchase materials. Living in overcrowded households, cold or damp, disadvantaged neighbourhood, difficulties in accessing food.</p> <p>48% of households using more fuel since social distancing introduced.</p> <p>A third of households in Scotland, 34%, were financially vulnerable in 2016-2018 ie not enough savings to cover basic living costs for three months. This increased to 55% of households in the lowest 10% income grouping and just 12% of those in the highest income group.</p> <p>In July 2020 58% of Scottish adults agreed pandemic would have financial impact on selves and family with a quarter concerned about paying bills.</p> <p>Social Rented Sector (SRS) rent arrears from £150 million in April 2020 to £163 million by July 2020.</p> <p>In June 2020 26% renters surveyed by Citizens Advice Bureau concerned re making payments, compared to 19% of mortgage holders.</p> <p>Poverty rates in social renting sector (SRS) increased from 35% in 2012-2015 to 40% in 2016-2019, mostly due to rising rents, with housing costs rising by 9%.</p> <p>In August 2020 social landlords issued 647 notice of proceedings for rent</p>
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		<p>arrears, recovering 30 properties.</p> <p>Lower housing costs in Scotland has lessened the shortfall between income and expenditure. By June 2020 5% of households in Scotland were behind on their housing costs compared to 5% in Northern Ireland, 6% in England and 8% in Wales.</p> <p>Cheaper SRS rents in Scotland (20% lower than in England over the last decade) have assisted families to stay afloat. Income reductions have resulted in 32% of SRS fallen into arrears, 15% council tax, 12% rent (YouGov poll conducted by JRF in June 2020).</p> <p>Scotland has smaller proportion living in Private Rental Sector of 14% than compared to England and a larger proportion in Social Rental Sector of 24%.</p> <p>Scottish Housing Regulator depicted by August 2020 total arrears in SRS increased to over £165 million, averaging 6.37% compared to £137.3 million for the full year to March 2019. 48% of SRS tenants have seen income drop during pandemic.</p> <p>PRS been hit hard – JRF’s June poll concluded 45% of PRS tenants had drop in incomes since March, much higher proportion that those with a mortgage 36% or rented through a housing association or local authority 27%. Although on 3% of PRS renters fell behind on rent, a quarter of these households fell behind on bills.</p>
Costs of living	Food insecurity	<p>One quarter of adults reported being very or somewhat worried about affording enough food for themselves or households.</p> <p>Scottish Government financial support contributed to a further 53,000 children becoming eligible for free school meals (FSM) during pandemic. With additional £12.6 million available to provide support during summer holidays.</p> <p>Based on projections, Food Foundation estimates between 252,000 and 337,000 working aged adults will become food insecure in the six months from September 2020.</p>
Costs of living	Digital exclusion	<p>Young persons are first stage adopters of social media and smart phones, which may be to their advantage.</p> <p>Excessive media coverage of COVID-19 may have negative impacts on children and young people, as does exposure to online predators, cyberbullying and harmful content.</p> <p>Increased screen time can be associated with health issues, eg obesity, snacking.</p> <p>Social media is a vital tool for young persons to have contact.</p> <p>Disadvantages noted by young people include overload of screen time due to schooling, socialising, games.</p>

		<p>Reliance of technology raises issues with inequalities of access eg equipment, broadband, data packages and mobile phone credit.</p> <p>Low income families disadvantaged.</p> <p>Digital access, or lack of it, impacts on social connection and education.</p> <p>Workshops held in Scotland identified differential access to digital technology as a source of inequality.</p> <p>Barrier to social engagement and educational development.</p> <p>UK wide survey – within secondary schools 54% of pupils had own electronic device, 43% shared one and 3% had no access. Scottish participants reported 47% had own device, 50% shared devices and 3% had no access.</p> <p>69% of young people in UK aged 12-15 years have a social media profile.</p> <p>2018 Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HSBC) reported 95% of young people owned wi-fi connected smartphones.</p> <p>In households where parents were unemployed, covering all age groups, 9% of students did not have access to device, compared with 3% of those whose parents/carers were employed or employed and furloughed.</p> <p>UK Co-Space survey concluded 42.8% of parents reporting child’s screen time as a main source of stress.</p> <p>Scottish Online in Lockdown Survey – 24% of young people experienced bullying online during first lockdown.</p> <p>Survey of parents/carers established 84% of secondary students needed access to a computer.</p> <p>Lack of access impacted on attainment. 30% of teachers and school staff in a Young Minds survey were not confident pupils had appropriate resources for online learning.</p> <p>Office for National Statistics (ONS) reported 9% of parents/carers identified lack of devices as main reason for child struggling with home learning, particularly the case in one-adult households</p>
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Lone Parents	<p>Single parents, most likely female, more likely work in food and wholesale, and retail sectors, also working part time resulting in higher poverty rates as are ethnic minorities.</p> <p>Lack of access impacted on attainment. 30% of teachers and school staff in a Young Minds survey were not confident pupils had appropriate resources for online learning.</p> <p>Office for National Statistics (ONS) reported 9% or parents/carers identified lack of</p>
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	<p>devices as main reason for child struggling with home learning. Particularly the case in one-adult households. Barrier to social engagement and educational development.</p>
Disabled	<p>No progress in reducing poverty rate for those with a disability in recent years.</p> <p>DWP's Great Britain-wide disability benefits system identified as source of anxiety as reluctance to apply due to stressful medical assessments, not being believed, future reviews and benefit disruption.</p> <p>Parental Employment Support Fund (PESF) received investment. Provides intensive person centred employability support for low income parents in and out of work, with a focus on equalities. This is small in relation to other commitments in reducing child poverty. PESF includes support for disabled parents should continue to rise and the programme be extended to end of next parliamentary term in 2026.</p> <p>The shift towards digital learning will impact different groups in different ways. Online learning will be a benefit for students who have fluctuating health conditions, but poses a challenge in making learning accessible for disabled students.</p> <p>Poverty amongst disabled people – rate is higher in Scotland than UK. 23% of people have disability or long-term illness in 2016-2019 compared to UK percentage of 21%.</p>
Ethnic Minority	<p>Ethnic minority groups with high representation in lower paid and high in-work poverty sectors eg accommodation and food services.</p> <p>Women, single parents and ethnic minorities more likely to work in high poverty sectors.</p> <p>Low-paid workers, underemployed workers, women and ethnic minorities impacted by pandemic.</p> <p>Home learning where English is an additional language or where children have additional needs have experienced additional barriers. Online survey parents who believed their children would be behind in their learning on return to school increase from 16% in Week 1 to 25% in Week 4.</p>

Appendix 1(b) - Scottish Borders Child Poverty Action Plan 2020/21 Progress Report

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
Employability					
Launch Intensive family support service	1	City Region Deal SBC	Number of participants Number of employment opportunities	Families who are geographically isolated from existing services Young parent families Families where parents are aged 30-39	Start delayed due to pandemic. Planned start now April/May 2021
Engage with the Job Centre to support and advise individuals affected by COVID-19 or facing redundancy	1	Volunteer Centre Borders (VCB)	Number of participants	Young People and families	In 2020, due to Covid, intervention in this area had to be put on hold due to emergency support needed for those suffering from redundancy or reduced income due to the Pandemic. Engagement with Job centre should commence in Summer 2021 to deliver workshop sessions and a possible Partnership Fair to support a wider range of people.
Work experience opportunities promoted via networks for young people	1	Live Borders	Number of work experience opportunities available and taken up	Young People	From March 2020 and ongoing majority of staff furloughed and no further recruitment across the organisation
Promote the Youth Volunteering Ambassadors Project and the Saltire Awards Scheme to all young people under the age of 25.	1	VCB	Number of participants	Young People under the age of 25	The Ambassador project and recruitment of volunteers was moved online due to the covid-19 pandemic. We had 9 active ambassadors from April – December 2020 and 7 have stayed on and are still in the role now. They took part in multiple projects over the course of 2020 including take over days, wellbeing promotions, training, good news videos of stories of amazing volunteering, community empowerment, project development or fundraising efforts from children from right across the region, they shared their experiences and connected with the primary school's team's platform.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
Support Skills Development Scotland and Activity Agreements to find opportunities for young people who may be vulnerable or lacking in confidence	1	VCB	Number of participants	Vulnerable young people	Due to restrictions, it has been challenging to continue this work, however as organisations have become more resilient, opportunities began to open up on a virtual basis, and 10 young people have been placed since October 2020 in opportunities who are still volunteering now. We have signposted 14 young people to organisations. These young people have either been referred to VCB by school, SDS or activity agreement or Quarriers. From March 2020 - October 2020 we placed another 25 referred young people to local opportunities.
Encourage participation in the Borders College Youth Pathway Project	1	VCB YouthBorders	Number of participants	Young People	Youth Pathway to Employment, involving Borders college, DYW, SDS, Youth Borders and SBC was designed and developed – in anticipation of need from learners who were at risk of not having a positive destination post school, particularly those who would have left school for employment. The pathway was not delivered in 2020/21 but remains available for future delivery.
Engagement with Community Job Scotland opportunities for young people's employment	1	Third Sector Youth Organisations (YouthBorders)	Number of opportunities	Young People	At least 5 opportunities were created in Third Sector Youth Organisations. CJS Opportunities were provided by Cheviot Youth, Stable Life, Tweeddale Youth Action and TD1 Youth Hub.
Provide a weekly ASN Youth Group for 14-19 year olds to support the transition out of education and enhancing employability of ASN young people	1	Borders Additional Needs Group	Number of opportunities	ASN young people	From July 2020 – March 2021 Total number of sessions: 30 Outdoor sessions: 10 Indoor Sessions: 2 Online Sessions: 18 Total YP engagements: 165 Average #YP per session: 5.5
Work with local partners to address the impact of Covid-19 on the local	1	South of Scotland Enterprise	Number of opportunities Sustained	ALL	South of Scotland Enterprise's primary focus for 2020/21 was to do everything it could to help the South of Scotland respond and recover from the

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
economy to deliver a range of support measures to sustain businesses and jobs and address growth opportunities.		(SOSE)	employment		impacts of Covid-19. Through the funding that it provided to businesses and community organisations, SOSE safeguarded or supported the creation of over 3,700 jobs.
Promote the principles of 'Fair Work', encouraging organisations to meet the expectations of the living wage	1	SOSE	Number of jobs paying the living wage	ALL	South of Scotland Enterprise promotes Fair Work to the businesses that it works with. Applicants for South of Scotland Enterprise funds must evidence in grant applications how the business is addressing the Fair Work Agenda. All SOSE grant appraisals include an assessment of how the business is addressing the Fair Work Agenda and officials identify where improvements can be made, or where examples of good practice are in place.
Education					
Run family learning programmes targeted at 18 of our primary schools where there are the highest levels of poverty	1,3	SBC CLD	Maximised income for families, enhanced financial capabilities and increasing their income levels through improved employment	Families, children and young people	Jul –Dec 2020: 66 parents took part in learning opportunities. Of these learning opportunities, 41 resulted in achievement of one or more positive outcomes for their family. Severely impacted due to Covid 19 and lockdowns. Work is still in place with the identified 18 primary schools. Some work was transferrable to remote learning approaches but many courses not deliverable in this way.
Provide telephone/online support to parents/carers. This includes support/signposting and learning around financial inclusion and delivering programmes to develop employability skills	1	SBC Adult Learning Team	Number of participants	Parents and carers	The CLD service have provided support for parents via phone, online via Teams and occasionally through one to one meetings outdoors when Covid-19 restrictions allowed. April – June 2020: 94 parents contacted (phone, Facebook/messenger, Whatsapp). Deliveries of Fareshare food to vulnerable families in Selkirk area. Cooking videos, demonstrating

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
					<p>how to use some of the Foodbank/Fareshare food were created and posted on Facebook.</p> <p>Issues raised by parents included:;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of free school meals • Children with additional support needs, including return to school • Looking after young children’s needs while shielding; having no garden for children to play in, children visiting parents in different homes • Marriage break-up • Police involvement with family member • Domestic/ sexual abuse (current and historic) • Pregnancy • Foster care • No access to Council and other services • Return to school, including transitions • Post-natal depression <p>The Adult Learning team continued their telephone/online support to parents/carers throughout the pandemic despite the restrictions they have worked with 142 learners, 90 of whom completed courses that developed employability skills.</p>
Recruit 2 Parental Employability Support Workers (Government Funded) aiming to increase parental income through employment	1	SBC	Increased parental income and employment	Parents	<p>Workers recruited and programme started Oct 2020.</p> <p>35 referrals</p> <p>Employment outcomes: 2 parents gained employment.</p> <p>Further learning outcomes: 2 parents enrolled on “Prepare to Care” course at Borders College; 15 expressed interest in “Introduction to Childcare” course at Borders College starting April 21.</p> <p>4 parents enrolled on Open University Access course.</p> <p>Financial advice: 15 parents referred to SBC</p>

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
					Welfare Benefits Advisor
Support the reduction of costs of the school day by facilitating and contributing to school uniform swaps and clothing banks	2	Third Sector Youth Organisations (YouthBorders) Early Years Centres	Reduced cost to families	Children and families	At least 5 Third Sector Youth Organisations supported this action. Some organisations facilitated clothing swaps or provided vouchers for clothing and school equipment. There are also clothing rails in some schools. Organisations noted the impact of building/school closures due to Covid-19 impacting on uptake of this support. Early Years Centres have been supporting the operation of Clothes Banks as one of their key areas of work.
Draw up individual school plans for targeted intervention to close the poverty related attainment gap	2	SBC Education Scotland	Indicators on attainment	School children	Every school in SBC which qualifies for Pupil Equity Fund has developed plans which outline the key interventions they are putting in place to identify, close and mitigate all poverty-related attainment gaps. In addition two of our schools have been identified as Scottish Attainment Challenge schools and have received additional funding targeted at supporting the attainment of their most disadvantaged learners. Planning across all of our schools include a strong focus on developing literacy and numeracy skills, as these are recognised as gateways to achievement and attainment across the curriculum. We have also incorporated planning to support learner wellbeing, to ensure that children and young people are ready to learn and set up to succeed.
Roll out poverty related training to all staff in Education Service	2	SBC	Indicators on attainment	School children	This was re-prioritised to inclusion and nurture training. This programme is in the process of being rolled out to all staff.
Create an equity network and link to other Local Authorities to share best	2	SBC Other Local	Uptake to sharing best practice	School children	Now led by our Equity and inclusion Officer who links to SEIC colleagues and relevant national networks.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
practice in education for children and young people affected by poverty		Authorities			
The CLD service and third sector partners provide targeted programmes to support disadvantaged young people to succeed and achieve.	1	SBC Third Sector Youth Organisations YouthBorders	Success in obtaining non-formal qualifications and becoming employable	Disadvantaged young people	At least 103 young people achieved a SCQF credit-rated qualification through Third Sector Youth Organisations. These include Youth Achievement and Dynamic Youth Awards. This activity was delivered by organisations including: TD1 Youth Hub, Beyond Earlston, Eat Sleep Ride, Rowland's, Stable Life and Cheviot Youth. Again the delivery of this had been impacted by Covid 19 particularly the school lockdowns which is where most of the work is done by CLD staff. 165 young people participated in 179 courses.
Participate in Scottish Government's Youth Guarantee by the offer of an appropriate study programme for all school leavers who apply	1	Borders College	Uptake Numbers enrolled Numbers successfully completing	All school leavers	This is an ongoing initiative and will continue for AY21-22. Working with partners we offer the most appropriate option to enable YP to access further education and participate in courses leading to a recognised qualification
Information & Advice					
Provide benefits advice and support to children with families. This service is aimed at Pre-natal through to secondary school and is carried out by a dedicated Early Years Welfare Benefits Assistant. Continue to deliver the Early years Pathway Project – improving access to benefits information, advice and support for early	3	SBC Financial Inclusion Team	Increased awareness of the benefits available Assistance to claim, including challenging negative benefit application decisions where appropriate	Early Years Families	Monetary gains have increased in 2020/21 despite a lower number of referrals due to Covid restrictions. Face to face meetings have not been possible and the majority of enquiries are dealt with by phone. The Financial Inclusion Group promotes the Health Scotland eLearning Child Poverty Health and Wellbeing http://www.healthscotland.scot/learning-resources/child-poverty-health-and-wellbeing The new Parental Employability Support Team (PES) started up at the latter end of last year and

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
years families.					a Welfare Benefits Assistant provides benefit advice to referred unemployed young families where required. Cases can be referred to the Team where benefit claimants are unemployed and want help in finding employment. Most of the families are simply looking to check their existing benefits and most think they have their full entitlement but with the introduction of the new Scottish payments and grants, many were surprised to find that they had additional entitlement and benefits for the cases referred totalled around £50,000 over the 5 month period to March 2021.
Continue to ensure that the Welfare Benefits Assistant builds up networks within the Early Years Centres, local primary & secondary schools, NHS health visitors, GP surgeries, dental services etc to ensure that access to benefits advice is readily available across a range of services who are already supporting vulnerable families.	3	NHS Midwifery NHS GP Surgeries NHS Health Visitors NHS Dental Services Education Services RSL's Social Work	Quarterly statistical reporting on referral numbers and monetary gains Number of referrals from Partners	Vulnerable families	The HVs are asking about financial inclusion at all core visits and recording signposting and referrals on NHS Borders database (EMIS) - quarterly data report in place
Deliver the Financial Inclusion Pilot in Galashiels Health centre where money advisor support is provided during midwifery clinic. Covid-19 restrictions caused this to be put on hold. This will re-start when the situation allows.	3	SBC NHS Borders	Increase take up	Pregnant women	The pilot has been paused due to COVID19.
Continue to promote Take	3	SBC	Increased take up	Families	The promotion of the Best Start Grants and

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
up campaigns for Scottish Government benefits eg Best Start Grants in schools, health centres and early years centres.		NHS Borders	Number of grants authorised and total income paid out		<p>Scottish Child Payment is a Quick Link on the NHS Borders Money Worries App and Social Media</p> <p>Scottish Child Payment commenced in February 2021</p> <p>SBC Best Start Grants - Applications 1.925 Authorised 74% Income £458k</p>
Continue to promote the SBC website pages on Welfare Benefits for Families with children.	3	SBC	Increased income into the poorest households	Families	Additional content has been added to include details of the Social Security Scotland benefits and website has been used to promote hardship payments funded by Scottish Government for families who are entitled to free school meals which has also led to an increase in take up for free school meals and clothing grants.
<p>Finalise and launch a Money Worries app to provide information on benefits/support available. (Supported by Scottish Government Financial Inclusion Funding)</p> <p>Money worries resources made available for midwives and health visitors.</p> <p>Continue to develop systems to record conversations/response to money worries enquiries</p>	3	SBC NHS Health Improvement Team	Number of downloads of the Money Worries App	Families	The Money Worries App was successfully launched on 16 th March 2021, following a period of testing and improvements. Launch week communications has demonstrated a combined social media reach of 21,594. Reporting processes are currently being agreed.
Introduce e-form for referrals to Financial	3	SBC NHS Borders	Uptake of use of e-form	Families	Progress has been delayed due to Covid but will be introduced in 21/22.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
Inclusion					
Commitment to free access to family days out in museums service and outdoor play area (Harestanes Park) and active promotion of low/no-cost access to family days out	2	Live Borders	Number of participants	Families	From March 2020 facilities/sites closed. Partial reopening in July 2020 with access to parks/play areas. Further closure at the end of year and only partial re-opening of free access facilities.
Accessing emergency funds for families in crisis via routes such as Borders Children's Charity, Cash for Kids, or organisation specific crisis funds	2	Third Sector Youth Organisations YouthBorders NHS Borders C&F SW	Number of awards applied for	All families in crisis	<p>From a sample of Third Sector Youth Organisations, 70% had accessed emergency funding for families. This sample of organisations had sought funds to assist 223 families.</p> <p>Between April 2020 and June 2020, Cash for Kids funded £2627.20 to C&F SW. This ensured 36 families totalling 77 children, aged from birth to 18 years impacted by Covid-19 were provided with financial support using All Pay Cards.</p> <p>Cash for Kids, STV Winter Fund, Youth Scotland Winter Fund, Borders Children's Charity were all utilised by community organisations to support families in need. Some national third sector organisations were able to utilise their own crisis funding for Borders families, including Action for Children and Children 1st.</p>
Raise awareness of specific information on welfare benefits, social security Scotland and all relevant information regarding finances, hearing and carers allowances to ASN families	3	Borders Additional Needs Group	Increased benefits	ASN families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distributed National Lottery Funding £10,000 to 23 children - Distributed RRR foundation Scotland funding of £1,500 to 14 families - Supported 8 families claim DLA - Held 2 workshops on ILF Transition Funding and supported 5 families apply for funding - Supported 10 families with Food parcels
Create a dedicated website for ASN parents and carers	3	Borders Additional	Increased benefits	ASN families	Website and ASN monthly Bulletin produced.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
to improve access to specific information		Needs Group			
Promote Challenge Poverty Week 5 th -11 th October 2020	1,2,3	SBC NHS Partners	Uptake of various promoted schemes	All	Scottish Borders Council and Partners supported Challenge Poverty Week by highlighting the wide range of information, advice and support that is available to support people experiencing financial hardship. A news release was used to launch the week's activities and different messages were posted on social media each day.
Continue to raise awareness of Child Poverty by holding a Child Poverty Partnership Event	1,2,3	All Partners	Creation of effective Action Plan with input from Partners	All	A virtual Child Poverty Workshop was held in July 2020. Child Poverty Planning Group Partners attended along with other key groups and services. The workshop gave all partners the opportunity to provide an update on their work relating to child poverty. The Group then submitted their actions for inclusion in the 2020/21 Report and Action Plan.
Improve the use of the Neglect Toolkit by the Child Protection Delivery Group in relation to income maximisation support for families. Collation of what income maximisation support is being offered to families and when, as well as following up on what difference the support has made	3	SBC Child Protection Delivery Group	Audit activity Child Protection Indicators	Children and young people most at risk of needing the Child Protection System	Taking cognisance of the learning from the Neglect audit (2020) practitioners have subsequently been provided with new materials to better support their use of the toolkit. Materials were disseminated in November 2020: a Neglect Toolkit pathway providing clarity around expectations of the use of the Neglect Toolkit as well as a learning aid powerpoint / accompanying notes (for managers to deliver in lieu of Covid-19 impacting on delivery of training). Poverty is discussed in our CP/AP training briefly but we intend to strengthen this as we go forward. The quarterly Child Protection Minimum Dataset now includes reporting on the relationship between children on the Child Protection Register and deprivation. This data suite, with accompanying analysis, is considered and scrutinised by the CPDG, Public Protection

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
					Committee and then the Critical Services Oversight Group (CSOG). The Financial Inclusion Team are undertaking a project to map out available services. This will be used by the CPDG once available.
Award discretionary funding to students in financial hardship as a result of family circumstances for housing and food costs	3	Borders College	Number of awards	Students in financial hardship	Borders College disseminated in excess of £350K in hardship and discretionary funding to its students to support living costs and mitigate effects of COVID19 restrictions.
Housing & Energy					
<p>New Affordable Housing: Deliver an estimated 122 new homes during 2020-2021</p> <p>Through the Local Housing Strategy (LHS), continue to monitor the level of affordable housing being built</p> <p>Through the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP), set out the strategic investment priorities for affordable housing over a 5 year period.</p>	2 2 2	SBC and all RSL's	<p>Number of affordable homes completed</p> <p>Number of people receiving housing support</p>	All families and young people in housing need	<p>108 affordable homes delivered throughout the Scottish Borders, some projects having been delayed as a result of Covid.</p> <p>Scottish Borders Housing Association completed a new development of four three bed family homes at Heriotfield in Oxton. These homes feature air source heating: an energy-efficient, low-carbon home energy solution for off-grid homes, allowing tenants to both heat their homes economically and reduce their impact on the environment.</p> <p>The 2021/26 SHIP proposed delivery of 1,125 new affordable homes, under-pinned by an estimated investment of £166m</p> <p>The SHIP 2021/26 includes proposals for Scottish Borders Housing Association to build 4 homes as part of a collaboration with Aberlour to provide a specialist young person's service facility.</p> <p>SBHA's Development Programme will deliver 22 new build affordable homes early 2021-22.</p> <p>SBHA will seek to maximise our financial capacity to increase our contribution to new homes in the</p>

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
					coming years and will confirm further in 2021-22.
Delivery of the Housing Needs and Aspirations of Young People five year Action Plan	2	Local Housing Strategy	LHS Annual Progress and Monitoring Report	All young people aged between 16-34	<p>The plan has developed a range of policy and practical responses, with commitment from a range of partners. This will enable young people to make more successful and sustainable transitions into their own housing.</p> <p>Work is currently underway towards ensuring these actions are delivered and Scottish Borders Council continue to work closely with our partners.</p> <p>Progress on some of the actions has been delayed somewhat due to the pandemic and the impact upon staffing resource that this has had.</p>
<p>Implement the Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plan</p> <p>SBHA continue to increase lets to homeless people. (60% year to date for 2020/21 compared to 43% for 2019/20)</p>	2 2	<p>Borders Homelessness and Health Strategic Partnership & LHS Partnership Group</p> <p>CAB Healthy Living Network</p> <p>SBHA</p>	<p>Number accessing Housing Options service</p> <p>% of unintentionally homeless household accessing settled accommodation</p> <p>Annual reporting against KPI's established in the Action Plan</p> <p>Increased % of lets to homeless people</p>	All, particularly those at risk of homelessness	<p>CAB – Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and policies put in place to stop evictions etc there was less risk of people being made homeless. Through our Warm & Well Borders Project in partnership with SBC & Changeworks we have assisted approx. 250 people with income maximisation and energy issues. Also worked in partnership with NHS/Healthy living network, SBC and others to devise and launch NHS Borders Money worries App. Throughout the last year we have continue to offer a service by telephone and e-mail with the majority of our advisers working remotely.</p>
The Regeneration of Beech Avenue, Galashiels	2	Waverly Housing/SBC	<p>More people living independently in affordable and sustainable homes</p> <p>More people able to afford to heat their</p>	Waverley Housing tenants and families (existing and future)	<p>Although full application of RRTP resources were delayed due to the COVID-19 emergency the following key actions were achieved;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part one of the Crisis Intervention Fund aimed at supporting households who face homelessness due to rent arrears was launched

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
			homes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisations were invited to tender for the delivery of Housing First support service. • Increase in temporary accommodation to manage the additional demand brought about by the Covid-19 emergency • Successful applications submitted to the Connecting Scotland programme supported 10 homeless households and 237 RSL tenants become digitally included. • EHA adopted a new allocations policy in October 2020 which includes platinum pass for statutory homeless and other key priority groups. <p>SBHA is a partner in the Borders Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) and through this work we are now making 42% of our lets to homeless households (this compares to 29% in 2018-19).</p> <p>During 2020/21 the Council used Second Homes Council Tax to Waverley Housing to progress the regeneration of Beech Avenue Galashiels. There are 229 homes in the study area and the proposals envisage the demolition of 159 homes and provision of 109 new build energy efficient homes for social rent.</p> <p>The project also includes the refurbishment of 68 homes, which is now substantially complete. The refurbishment element of the project comprises the installation of external wall insulation ('EWI'), work being undertaken to properties along with roof repairs, replacement main doors and entry systems.</p> <p>Contract work started on site in January 2020 based upon a 30 week notional timescale. Due to Covid-19 restrictions the programme of work was interrupted, and the revised completion date for</p>

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
					these refurbishment works is April 2021.
Deliver the New Home development programme	2	Berwickshire Housing Association (BHA)	Statutory compliance measures relating to improved energy efficiency and performance of homes	BHA tenants	Springfield Phase 1, Duns completed 29 new homes, with handover and sign ups commencing on 9/12/20. Further developments include; Ayton Beanburn Phase 1 – which is on site. Phase 1 started on site 6/1/20 and will deliver 31 new homes by June 2021. 3 further sites are within planning phases and could deliver a further 80+ new homes within Berwickshire within the development programme.
Planned major improvement to existing homes	2	BHA	Statutory compliance measures relating to improved energy efficiency and performance of homes	BHA tenants	Major works were halted for much of 2020/21 owing to Scottish Government guidelines. BHA have rolled capital budget forward into 2021/22 to ensure we meet all statutory compliance targets and measures within the revised delivery timescales.
Provide financial support to third sector partners and social enterprises on community capacity building Provide funding and sponsorship of specific projects including school food events, access to recreational activities, intergenerational initiatives and tenant run pilot projects eg. Berwickshire Swap	2	BHA	Increased local and accessible opportunities to grow and develop – building confidence and capacity across our communities Number of participants Parents and guardians are reliably supported to improve	BHA tenants	Berwickshire Housing Association provides a wide range of financial support and undertake a variety of initiatives in the Community. These are detailed in Appendix 1(f).

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
Provide funding and support to existing local projects that engage directly with children impacted by poverty and low income			their prospects and the environment they nurture children within		
Deliver full EESSH (Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing) compliance. Current compliance is 96.2% from under 30% in 2016.	2	Scottish Borders Housing Association (SBHA)	Full compliance (100%)	SBHA Tenants	Since 2015 SBHA's investment programme has improved the warmth of our homes to EESSH standards from 31% in 2015-16 to 98.3% at the end of 2021-22 - this has significantly impacted on families. Going forward we expect to make significant investment to raise our homes to EESSH 2.
Develop a vulnerability assessment toolkit to identify the most at risk households. This will support plans to be put in place to enhance tenancy sustainment and improve life choices.	2	SBHA	Number of tenants managing to sustain tenancies	SBHA tenants at risk	The percentage of SBHA Tenants who sustained their tenancy for more than a year increased by 2% in 2020-21. SBHA will develop a Wellbeing Framework which will enable us to identify Tenants with specific needs and target our services appropriately. SBHA will introduce emergency community monitoring tool software in 2021-22 which will risk assess our tenants' support needs and determine the levels of contact and intervention required.
Implement a toolkit to measure the impact of social housing in Scotland with a specific aim of supporting Scottish Government's child poverty targets.	2	SBHA	Additional social housing	SBHA tenants	In 2021-22, SBHA will implement a Social Value Impact toolkit, developed with SFHA, to measure the social value attributed to support services accessed by Tenants. A pilot will commence in May on the impact of the Social Housing Fuel Support Fund.
Health & Wellbeing					
Explore options for early intervention models, including an intensive	1,2,3	SBC Children & Families Social Work	No of participants New employment	Families in need of support from Children & Families Social	Pilot project for family group agreed. Decision has been drafted and will be progressed.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
family support service (via Citydeal), and family group decision making to support families to become more resilient and determine their own solutions to issues.				Work services	
Children & Families Social Work are focussing on the impact that COVID-19 is having on children and families struggling through the Pandemic. The service is exploring opportunities for collaboration focused on outcomes. This involves listening to, and involving children, young people and their families with lived experience of poverty in shaping their response.	1,2,3	SBC Children & Families Social Work	Opportunities taken up	Families in need of support from Children & Families Social Work services	Ongoing interaction and contact with families. Families are having additional emotional and financial issues throughout the pandemic. There is also an increase in new families that have not previously used the C&F SW Service.
Provide Holiday clubs for Additional Special Needs (ASN) families with free lunches (funded by Scottish Government School Hunger Programme)	2	Borders Additional Needs Group	Number of lunches provided	ASN families	Received no funding from Scottish Government Hunger Programme in this financial year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Held Social outings at Farm x 4 weeks - 8 week Forest School for youths - Created Online video and music session x 6 - Filmmaking opportunities for ASN youths
Provide sensory toys and cleaning materials for families with an ASN child who may be sensory seeking/bed wetting	2	Borders Additional Needs Group	Number of items bought and given out	ASN families	Distributed support to 39 families with sensory toys and sensory equipment
Continue to promote online videos to mothers on support for weaning through the Early Years Centres.	2	SBC NHS Borders	Uptake of scheme	Mothers with babies	Weaning video clips on Facebook: 17 video clips were released; they have reached 16,138 people, with 825 video views and 194 reactions, comments shares.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
					Weaning Plus video clips on Facebook: 8 video clips were released; they have reached 4315 people, with 276 video views and 114 reactions, comments shares.
Issue wellbeing packs to young people identified by CLD Youth Learning Staff	2	CLD Youth Learning Staff	Number of packs issued	Targeted children and young people	No progress was made in this area in 2020/21. There are plans to undertake this action 2021/22.
Co-ordination and development of Holiday Programmes for children and young people which include provision of positive and engaging activities and food	2	Community Learning & Development Health Improvement Live Borders YouthBorders	No of programmes No of participants Evaluation of Programmes	Targeted communities	<p>Some Holiday programmes paused due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Face to face holiday programmes have been translated into the virtual food environments & activities in many creative ways across partners.</p> <p>Meals & More funding has been offered to Early Years Centres.</p> <p>Due to Lockdown restrictions no programmes happened in October or Easter but discussions and planning are underway for Summer 2021. Limited Programmes due to furlough, demand and restrictions</p> <p>Scottish Borders Council worked in partnership with TD1 Youth Hub. The programme was delivered primarily online, with STEM sessions, baking, photography and self-care. Young people and their family received a food parcel each week, with themed meals recipes. All young people had the chance to start a Youth Achievement Award or Dynamic Youth Award.</p> <p>A case study in Appendix 1(f) highlights youth work and food insecurity through a programme delivered by TD1 Youth Hub in with the Community and Learning Development Service (CLD).</p>

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
Specific Project in Burnfoot to encourage greater participation in sport/physical activity for the whole family group	2	Live Borders SBC	Evaluation framework of participants	Targeted communities	From March 2020 and ongoing majority of staff furloughed. No further progress at present
Active Schools Holiday Camps Programme to actively support children and families to have affordable child care options during school holidays	2	Live Borders SBC	Number of participants Number of programmes Healthier, Happier, Stronger in-house evaluation methodology	All	From March 2020 and ongoing majority of staff furloughed. No further progress at present
Provide free or low cost access to activities, experiences and trips during evenings, weekends and school holiday periods	2	Third Sector Youth Organisations YouthBorders	Number of participants Service user feedback	Young People (8+)	<p>From a sample of 13 Third Sector Youth Organisations, they provided free or low-cost activities to 711 young people. This is a quarter of the YouthBorders network, so this figure could be as many as 2800 as a projection. This is half of the total number of young people associated with the YouthBorders network in our annual membership census. Opportunities and activities were impacted by Covid-19 restrictions for a large part of the year.</p> <p>Feedback from Young People involved in community-based Youth Work activity: <i>“I like being part of groups where people are interested in the same things as me because then we can talk and I feel comfortable”.</i></p> <p><i>“I like the opportunities we get. You help us find things we are interested in, and it helps for the future.”</i></p> <p><i>“I join in with group stuff now and feel welcome and listened to.”</i></p>

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
Deliver an outdoor activity/nurture summer holiday programme to young people entitled to free school meals or LAC.	2	CLD Youth Workers Cashback for Communities	Number of participants	Young people entitled to free school meals or looked after children	Due to Lockdown restrictions no programmes happened in October or Easter but discussions and planning are underway for Summer 2021 to improve inclusion rates in summer programmes for those that require additional support.
Promote the development of Young Scot membership and rewards which support wellbeing, provision of trusted information, and provide opportunities and experiences to young people	2	CLD Youth Learning YouthBorders JHIT	Uptake	Anyone aged 11-25	The #BordersWellbeing campaign in autumn 2020 saw the development of local content focused on 6 ways to be well. The campaign increased Young Scot membership in the Borders by 45 users; reached 20k users on across social media platform; and offered 27 new Young Scot rewards; 40% of which were claimed by young people in SIMD 1 and 2. Outline programme discussed with Young Scot. Funding to develop this requires to be agreed.
Undertake a mentoring initiative to support those most at risk of disengagement to successfully transition through senior phase of school to college	2	Borders College	Uptake	Care experienced young people, those in rural areas, social isolation, young carers and school refusers	As school pupils did not access the College physically this AY due to COVID restrictions the resource was diverted to support those senior phase pupils who had received support last year with additional assistance to ensure their enrolment and commencement of their studies was fully supported. 20 senior phase pupils who have transitioned to college are care experienced, young carers or from the most deprived postcodes, and at most risk of poverty, received this mentoring support which included ensuring they were provided with the materials they required to commence their studies as well as equipment such as laptops and desks and chairs were made available.
Undertake 'Care Aware' initiative to provide support and a named person for care experienced young people and student carers.	2	Borders College	Number of participants Successful income maximisation	Care experienced young people and student carers	88 care experienced students and 61 student with caring responsibilities enrolled on College programmes AY 20-21 all offered a named person for 1-1 contact whenever required and ensured that they were receiving maximum student funding

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
The initiative works to address barriers and provide information to maximise funding, access learning support and nurture.					packages.
Continue to provide free sanitary products to students in need through a sustainable partnership whereby products are delivered to students rather than them collecting them.	3	Borders College	Uptake	Students in need of sanitary products	This is an ongoing programme. Around 100 students took advantage of this scheme during AY 20-21
Communities & Partnerships					
Launch Capital Credit Union schools programme pilot at Burnfoot Community School		Capital Credit Union SBC Burnfoot Community School	Uptake of pilot	Children (and families) associated with Burnfoot Community School	Paused due to Covid-19 pandemic. Plans were in place to pilot April 2020.
Tackling Digital Exclusion					
Connecting Scotland Programme - £15M funding - national investment to help 22,000 households get online. SBHA have distributed 46 devices and a further 45 are pending delivery – (phase 1 shielding and older people)	2	SBC NHS Borders SBHA		Households with children including pregnant women with no child in the household Care leavers up to the age of 26 eligible for aftercare support	SBC participating in Connecting Scotland Programme which was launched in response to the pandemic to help support vulnerable people online. People are gifted an appropriate device and access to connectivity and paired with a digital champion to help provide support. The total number of devices for Scottish Borders for this phase were: - 481 – 238 ipads - 235 Chromebooks - 460 MiFis

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
					<p>This helped support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 382 families - 65 care leavers - 34 other vulnerable people <p>SBHA has distributed a total of 190 IT devices to Tenants to improve digital inclusion and 40 Digital Champions in SBHA teams support this programme. Feedback from Families with school-age children who have benefited from this has been overwhelming.</p>
Device lending library of ipad/chromebook devices for excluded families	2	Live Borders	Uptake	Families with no access to electronic devices	Completed via Connecting Scotland Programme 35+ Devices and further 15+ progressing
Free access to digital content for children and families as part of library offer	2	Live Borders	Uptake	Children and families	Further investment in digital content. Significant growth during pandemic
Inspire Learning Programme – roll out of iPads to Primary 4 and 5 pupils	2,3	SBC	Number of iPads distributed	All	2400 iPads were delivered to P4 and P5 prior to the October break 2020.
Provide laptop loans and wifi provision to all students who require to engage in online studies	3	Borders College	Number of laptop loans	Students who do not own a laptop	Approximately 500 laptop loans were mobilised by Borders College during AY20-21 to ensure that all students who required IT kit to engage in their studies had access to this. A further 75 WiFi dongles or mobile data packages provided for those who could not afford suitable broadband or data packages or for those who did not have access at the time.
Fuel related activity					
Deliver the Warm and Well Project to tackle fuel		SBC	More people able to afford to heat their	Families with young children	Home Energy Scotland - The Warm & Well Project is now in its second year. In response to

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
poverty		Home Energy Scotland SBHA NHS Borders Scottish Government	homes		<p>the Covid-19 pandemic the delivery model and staffing requirements had to adapt. Colleagues were creative and flexible and were able to respond by offering support digitally, on line, over the phone etc. and tailoring advice accordingly.</p> <p>The scheme has seen significant savings with over 300 households having been supported with benefit checks, new benefits secured and energy advice and sign posting to grants to improve affordable warmth. Over £300,000 has been secured to support those experiencing fuel poverty.</p> <p>The Warm & Well Project was established in March 2020 and funded through the Scottish Government's Investing in Communities Fund. This is central to our future commitment to supporting people in fuel poverty, particularly families. This has established an in-house Warm & Well Co-ordinator, in partnership with Changeworks, to provide specialist advice and train SBHA Team members to expand our energy advice offer. He will support 1,015 SBHA households living in fuel poverty. To date, 119 tenants have received support and benefited from c£25,000 in financial savings. In addition, the Borders Housing Network (BHN) recently secured £450,000 from the Scottish Government's Social Housing Fuel Support Fund. As at the end of April 2021, SBHA has supported 46 Tenants to benefit from this fund, with c£40,000 having already been claimed.</p>
Continue to engage with the Scottish Borders Home Energy Forum.	2	NHS Borders Home Energy Scotland	Number of vouchers given out	Early years families	Home Energy Scotland - The Forum continues to ensure that a strategic, multi-agency approach is taken to help reduce fuel poverty, improve energy efficiency and improve health and well-being in the Scottish Borders, particularly for the most

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
					<p>vulnerable households within the region.</p> <p>The Partnership comprises organisations representing housing associations, statutory bodies, advisory groups, bodies associated with energy, affordable warmth, health and income maximisation.</p> <p>The Forum has acted as a catalyst for building collective support for ongoing strategies including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EES:ABS and the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH) • Funding opportunities • Joint proposals have been planned and submitted • Upcoming funding opportunities are discussed • Has facilitated the establishment of a new Construction Sector and Supply Chain Forum <p>Served as a platform to promote and facilitate measures and schemes that target alleviating fuel poverty and increasing energy efficiency in households; as well as improving health and wellbeing.</p>
Deliver the Home Energy Efficiency Programme	2	SBC Home Energy Scotland Changeworks	Households living in fuel poverty Number of private sector energy efficiency measures installed Number of households provided with energy advice/information	Tenants	<p>The HEEP:ABS was renamed the Energy Efficient Scotland Area Based Scheme (EES:ABS). There were significant challenges to delivery due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. There were still opportunities to support households and applications of interest have been taken forward into the next scheme delivery year to ensure to one who is eligible for support misses out.</p> <p>In the financial year 2019-20 SBC were awarded</p>

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
					<p>£1.34m in EES:ABS funding. No installations were able to take place between March and July 2020 and following the nationwide lockdown restrictions remained on works taking place inside people's homes. It was still possible to install 100 of the planned 278 energy efficiency measures supporting over 75 households.</p> <p>For the 2020/21 programme (expected to complete in December 2021) SBC have been allocated over £1.7m, a record allocation for the Borders. Renewable technology including Air Source Heat Pumps and PV and Battery storage will be part of the measures delivered.</p>
Food related activity					
Continue to support Third Sector partners financially to provide community based food schemes and support groups	2	SBC CLD	<p>Reviews and evaluations of schemes</p> <p>Participation, achievement and attainment</p>	Children and families	<p>CLD service have been heavily involved in the Community Assistance Hubs and supporting community food schemes in partnership with the Communities and Partnership team.</p> <p>7 CLD staff have either provided the lead for a CAH or worked in one. They worked within the Community Assistance Hubs providing support and assistance to those in need, including those that have been shielding. This has included food provision, assistance with fuel costs & clothing, referrals into financial inclusion support. Families and individuals have been given short term emergency support to those who have been in crisis. However, the referral in to services that can provide longer term sustainable support will be key to income maximisation and pathways out of poverty.</p> <p>Financial support has been given to Foodbanks & FareShare outlets to assist with practical issues – white goods etc.</p>

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
Provide recipes to align with available produce and food distributed to Early Years Centres	2	NHS Joint Health Improvement Team	Review and evaluation	Families with young children attending Early Years Centres	Appendix 1(f) shows details of 'Spotlight on Success – Early Years Centres, supporting families during the pandemic'
Address food insecurity through the provision of food to individuals and families via Fareshare and other food distribution schemes including food growing and community cafes	2	Third Sector Youth Organisations YouthBorders	Number of referrals Number of food parcels Sustained engagement	Young People (8+)	At least 253 young people were supported through the receipt of food parcels. Over the year at least 10,000 food parcels were distributed by Third Sector Youth Organisations. The organisations which made most provision were Cheviot Youth, TD1 Youth Hub, Rowland's, Connect Berwickshire. <i>These figures exclude young people who took part in online cooking workshops within youth work programmes and where ingredients were provided</i>
Promote Free school meals and increase uptake	2	SBC	Increased % uptake of free school meals	Eligible children	This has been promoted as part of the holiday support payments for eligible FSM families 190 new families signed up for FSMs
Deliver a breakfast programme for S1-S4 young people entitled to free school meals.	2	CLD Youth Workers	Uptake of programme	S1-S4 young people entitled to free school meals	Funding has been secured to develop this but it has not been a priority for schools this year due to the Pandemic
Continue to establish breakfast clubs in schools. Breakfast clubs are established in a number of schools in areas of greatest need but the aim is to have one in every school.	2	SBC Schools	Children from poorer households will have had at least two nutritional meals per day whilst at school.	All children and young people	Funding has been secured to develop this but it has not been a priority for schools this year due to the Pandemic
Provide recipes and information to community assistance hubs for people in receipt of food boxes, contributing to food	2	Joint Health Improvement Team	Review and evaluation	All	This work is complete. All community hubs were offered support.

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
security.					
Support extended food distribution schemes in partnership with Criminal Justice Services Social Work	2	Joint Health Improvement Team	Review and evaluation	All	Funding has been allocated for the financial year 2021/22 to continue with the development of our Greenhouse Project. This includes partnership work with Action for Children & Children First.
Support food distribution work in communities with funding, recipes and practical support to provide meal bags for children and families	2	Joint Health Improvement Team	Review and evaluation	All	Funding from SBC to LINKS Eyemouth is ongoing via a partnership with BAVS as an anchor agency. This is helping to grow this children & families food network.
Enhance community food support available via Burnfoot Community Futures	2	Joint Health Improvement Team	Review and evaluation	All	NHS Borders funded BCF during furlough phase to support staff hours for food distribution activities. This project is complete.
Set up a Scottish Borders Food Network to promote and raise awareness of opportunities for children and families	2	SBC NHS Borders	Uptake to network Number of participants	All	At the start of the pandemic there were approximately 17 foodbank/FareShare outlets in the Scottish Borders. This has now increased to 25, with other informal community larders etc in very rural and remote locations across the Borders. The Foodbank/FareShare outlets have been supported through the Financial Inclusion Fund. The Eyemouth Food Partnership has also been supported via this fund, and is being considered as a pilot to test this approach, and if it could be expanded Borders-wide in the future.
Continue with 'Food Friday' to provide students with food bags to make a dinner. Tesco and Asda contribute to this initiative run by the Students	3	Borders College Students Association	Number of food bags provided	Students in need of food	Up until lockdown in March, the Students Association had managed an initiative which saw Tesco and Asda supply almost sell by produce to them for dissemination amongst our student cohort. This was also supported by recipe packs being made up so that students had all the

Action	Poverty Driver*	Partners Involved	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries/target group	Update
Association at Borders College					ingredients and instructions for a simple meal. After lockdown College purchase supermarket vouchers so that we could provide these to any students experiencing food hardship. We have disseminated around £450 worth of these.

***Poverty Drivers**

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

Appendix 1(c) - Statistical evidence

Statistical evidence about the Drivers of Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders

Earnings

- Scottish Borders median gross weekly pay (workplace based) in 2020 for full-time workers was **£481** a week. (Nomis)¹
- This is **£111 lower** than the Scottish average of **£593** and is the 2nd lowest out of the 32 Scottish Local Authority areas.(Nomis)

Skills and qualifications

- An estimated **6.3%** of working-age people in the Annual Population survey had no qualifications in 2020. This is better than the Scottish average of **8.0%**. (Nomis)
- **95%** of Scottish Borders 16-19 year olds were participating in employment, education or training in 2020, according to Skills Development Scotland (SDS) data. This is slightly higher than the Scottish average of **92%**.²
- **72%** of Scottish Borders young adults aged 16-19 participated in Education in 2020; similar to the Scottish average of **72%**.(SDS)
- **222%** of Scottish Borders young adults aged 16-19 entered employment, training or another positive destination other than education in 2020. This is similar to the Scottish average of **20%** (SDS)

Accessible transport

- **47.6%** of children in Scottish Borders live in areas classified as “Rural” (Accessible-rural or Remote-rural) by the Urban-rural Classification system in 2018.³

Childcare

- 5,370 children were registered by the Care Inspectorate for Early Learning and Childcare in 2019 in the Scottish Borders. This is **28.2%** of all children, slightly higher than the Scottish average of **27.2%**.⁴

Food insecurity and food costs

- The January 2020 Independent Food Aid Network⁵ reported six participating independent food banks in the Scottish Borders between April 2018 and September 2019. They gave out **3,915** food parcels, an **8%** increase on the previous year. This shows that there is sustained and increasing food insecurity in the Scottish Borders, which is certain to get worse in 2020. Following the outbreak of Covid-19, IFAN analysed data from independent food banks in Scotland comparing February to July 2019 with February to July 2020. The table below shows the results for Scotland.

¹ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

² <https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/47100/rsa-infographic-scottish-borders.pdf>

³ <https://statistics.gov.scot/home>

⁴ <https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/statistics-and-analysis>

⁵ <https://www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk/scotland-food-bank-data>

Table 2: The number of people supported by independent food banks in Scotland (February to July in 2019 and 2020)

Month	2019	2020
February	9,209	10,137
March	9,483	12,614
April	9,279	19,613
May	9,778	18,897
June	8,972	17,415
July	9,470	17,060

Internet access

- The Scottish Household Survey estimates that **90%** of households in Scottish Borders had home internet access in 2019, an increase of 2% since 2018. This has been steadily increasing year after year and is now higher than the Scottish average of **88%**.⁶

Fuel Poverty

- Around **29%** of all households in the Scottish Borders are fuel poor, equivalent to approximately 16,000 households. There seems to be a higher level of fuel poverty in the Scottish Borders compared to Scotland (25%), although it is not statistically different.⁷
- Households with higher levels of fuel poverty in the Scottish Borders are those that are Older (38%) and those in Social Housing (51%).
- Around **15%** of all households in the Scottish Borders are in extreme fuel poverty, which is not significantly different to the 12% for Scotland.

Children in families with Limited Resources⁸

- **20.4%** of children in the Scottish Borders are living with limited resources **before** housing costs compared to 17.3% for Scotland. This is above the Scottish average and is 6th-highest out of the 32 Local Authority areas.
- **24%** of children are living with limited resources **after** housing costs, compared to 20.7% for Scotland. The Scottish Borders is still 4th-highest out of the 32 Local Authority areas.

Children in Low Income families⁹

- **18%** of children in Scottish Borders were living in relative low income families for the financial year end 2020, similar to 19% for Scotland.

⁶ <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sg-scottish-household-survey-data-explorer/>

⁷ [Scottish House Condition Survey: Local Authority Analyses to 2016-2018 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/children-in-families-with-limited-resources/)

⁸ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/children-in-families-with-limited-resources/>

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics#contents>

Statistical evidence about the high priority groups and other statistics

- **8.1%** (or 4,241) of Scottish Borders households in the 2011 Census¹⁰ were a lone-parent family. This is a lower proportion than the Scottish average of 11.1% of households (263,360 households)
- The Scottish Borders has a lower crude rate of teenage pregnancies (per 1,000 females aged 15 – 19) of **27.2** compared to 30.5 for Scotland.¹¹
- According to SBC's internal Education Management Information System SEEMIS, 95.4% of pupils have English as their "First-Language".
- According to Scottish Government statistics¹², there were 187 children in the Scottish Borders in 2020 who were Looked After by the Local Authority in a variety of settings, equal to which 0.7% of the population aged 0 to 17, compared to 1.4% for Scotland. Of the children looked after by Scottish Borders Council 18% are aged under 5, similar to the 19% for Scotland.

Other high level statistical evidence relating to child poverty in the Scottish Borders

- In Scotland Young Carers are more common in lone parent families and these Young Carers also contribute the most hours 47% (3 years ago this figure stood at 28%) of Young Carers in the most deprived areas care for 35 hours a week or more, compared with 24% (previously 17%) of Young Carers in the least deprived areas, who provide care for 35 hours a week or more. As at 21st September 2018, there were 75 carers recorded on Seemis (the Council's Education Management Information system).

¹⁰ <https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/>

¹¹ https://scotland.shinyapps.io/ScotPHO_profiles_tool/

¹² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/childrens-social-work-statistics-2019-20/>

Appendix 1(d) - Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020

SB CPI: Purpose, Reason for Reboot and Scoring

The purpose of the Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index (SB CPI) is to provide additional insight into Child

Poverty in the Scottish Borders. This work has been triggered by the Scottish Government's allocation of Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) and SBC's Corporate Management Team's view that allocation could be improved. The SB CPI was also created to work alongside the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. SIMD provides a way of looking at deprivation in an area, covering the whole population and does not specifically reflect child poverty.

The SB CPI is a tool to help inform the Local Child Poverty Action Plan and which is a requirement of the Child Poverty Act (Scotland) 2017.

The SB CPI was first developed for 2017 and then updated for both 2018 and 2019. Then in 2020 the component sourced from HMRC "Children in Low Income Families" changed significantly meaning that a 'reboot' was required for 2020 including redoing the SB CPI results for 2017, 2018 and 2019. Additionally, in early 2020 the Scottish Government updated the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). This means that the SIMD2020 is a better comparison to SB CPI.

The index 'reboot' is based on data related to four components for area in the Scottish Borders. These components are:

- Children in Low Income Families (**CiLIF**) – Source is [DWP/HMRC](#).¹³ Relative low-income is defined as a family whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of contemporary median income. Gross income measure is Before Housing Costs (BHC) and includes contributions from earnings, state support and pensions. For the SB CPI uses the most recent available year's data, currently there is an one year lag e.g for SB CPI 2020 uses the CiLIF data for 2019/20.
- Free School Meals (**FSM**) – Source is SBC. The proportion of pupils recorded for Free School Meals of all pupils in area for school year.
- Clothing Grant (**CLG**) - Source is SBC. The proportion of pupils recorded for Clothing Grant of all pupils in area for school year.
- Educational Maintenance Allowance (**EMA16+**) – Source is SBC. The proportion of pupils who are aged 16 or older (before 01 March of school year) who receive Educational Maintenance Allowance of those pupils in SBC School of all pupils aged 16 or older (before 01 March of school year).

The table below shows the results for Scottish Border for 2017 to 2020

SB CPI Components / Year	For SB CPI 2017	For SB CPI 2018	For SB CPI 2019	For SB CPI 2020
Children in Low Income Families - CiLIF (DWP) ^	19.8%	21.8%	20.6%	22.5%
Free School Meals - FSM (SBC)	10.0%	10.4%	11.6%	15.7%
Clothing Grant - CLG (SBC)	14.6%	15.1%	15.2%	18.1%
Educational Maintenance Allowance 16+ - EMA16+ (SBC) *	8.2%	6.2%	3.8%	16.0%

^ CiLIF: Data is one year lag ; e.g. for 2020 the DWP data is for 2019

* EMA16+: Pupils that are aged 16 before the 1st of March of the school year

¹³ The calculation of proportion of Children in Low Income Families for the purpose of the Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index differs to 'official statistics' due to the availability of the data from Stat-Xplore. The children in Stat-Xplore are defined as dependent individuals aged under 16; or aged 16 to 19 in full-time non-advanced education or in unwaged government training. (Not just those aged under 16 – unable to group into age bands). The figure for all children is then expressed as proportion of those aged 0 to 15 as published by NRS. It is recognised that this calculation is imperfect, but practical for the purpose of the SB CPI.

The results for 2020 show some of the Covid-19 pandemic impact, with an increase in the proportion of pupils receiving free school meals, clothing grant and educational maintenance allowance. It is important to note that the children in low income families relates to 2019/20, so the full impact of Covid-19 pandemic is not reflected in these figures; this will be reflected in the 2021 SB CPI.

The table below shows the score that an area will receive based on the result for each component. The SB CPI allows for an area to have a score ranging from 0 to 20, where 0 indicates no element of child poverty and 20 the highest levels of child poverty.

Children in Low Income Families (DWP)	Free School Meals (SBC)	Clothing Grant (SBC)	Educational Maintenance Allowance 16+ (SBC)
0 / 0: None	0 : None	0 : None	0: None
1: Under 10%	1 : Under 5%	1 : Under 5%	0.5: Under 5%
2 : 10% to Under 20%	2 : 5% to Under 10%	2 : 5% to Under 10%	1.0: 5% to Under 10%
3 : 20% to Under 30%	3 : 10% to Under 15%	3 : 10% to Under 15%	1.5: 10% to Under 15%
4 : 30% to Under 40%	4 : 15% to Under 20%	4 : 15% to Under 20%	2.0: 15% to Under 20%
5 : 40% or More	5 : 20% to Under 30%	5 : 20% to Under 30%	2.5: 20% to Under 30%
	6 30% or More	6 30% or More	3.0: 30% or More

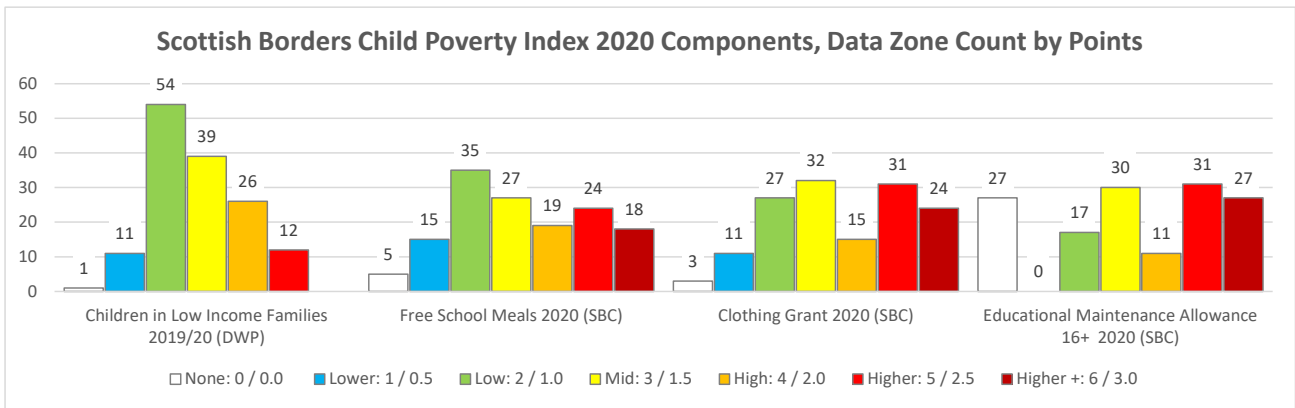
Note that the EMA scores are half the other components reflecting the population size.

A summary position for each primary school may be seen in: **Sub-appendix 1: Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index (SB CPI) 2020: Primary School Ranking.**

The tables and graph below shows the allocation of data zones in the Scottish Borders for each of the components. It is interesting to note that for each component there are at least 1 data zones that does not have that specific component. However, every data zone in the Scottish Borders has some evidence of child poverty.

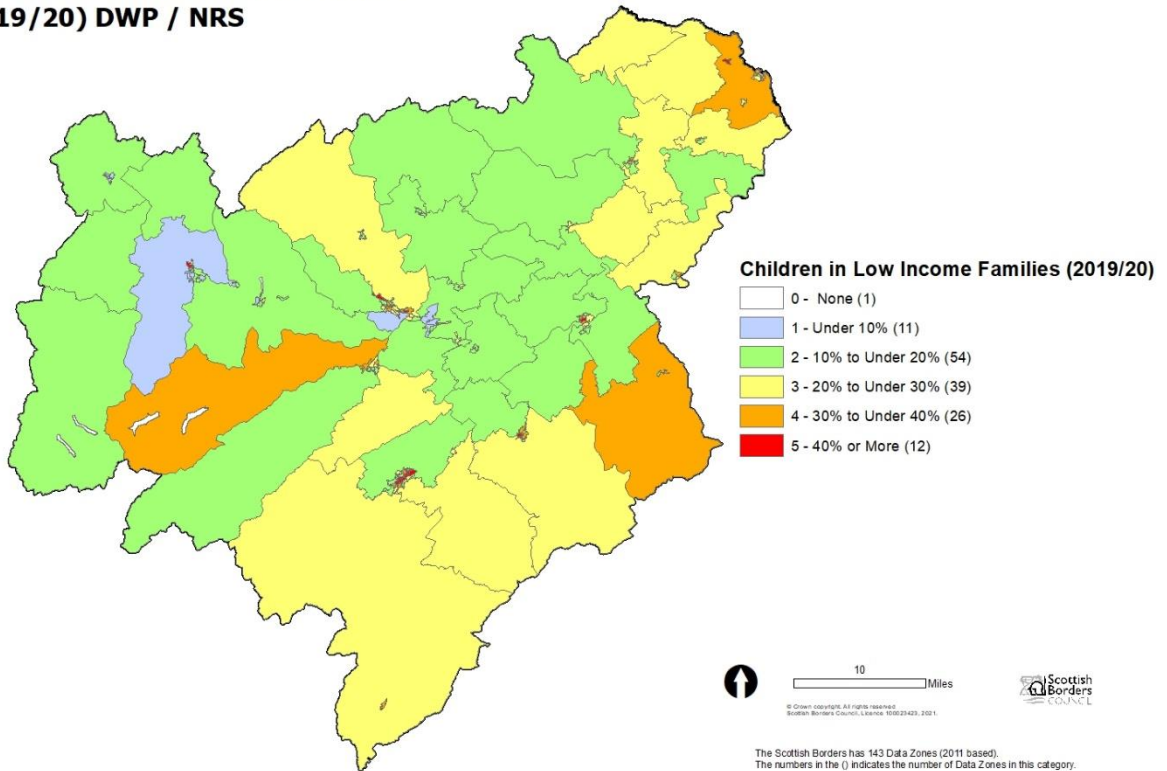
SB CPI Score for 2020 by Scottish Borders Data Zones - Count	Children in Low Income Families 2019/20 (DWP)	Free School Meals 2020 (SBC)	Clothing Grant 2020 (SBC)	Educational Maintenance Allowance 16+ 2020 (SBC)
None: 0 / 0.0	1	5	3	27
Lower: 1 / 0.5	11	15	11	0
Low: 2 / 1.0	54	35	27	17
Mid: 3 / 1.5	39	27	32	30
High: 4 / 2.0	26	19	15	11
Higher: 5 / 2.5	12	24	31	31
Higher +: 6 / 3.0		18	24	27
SBC Data Zones	143	143	143	143

SB CPI Score for 2020 by Scottish Borders Data Zones - Percent	Children in Low Income Families 2019/20 (DWP)	Free School Meals 2020 (SBC)	Clothing Grant 2020 (SBC)	Educational Maintenance Allowance 16+ 2020 (SBC)
None: 0 / 0.0	0.7%	3.5%	2.1%	18.9%
Lower: 1 / 0.5	7.7%	10.5%	7.7%	0.0%
Low: 2 / 1.0	37.8%	24.5%	18.9%	11.9%
Mid: 3 / 1.5	27.3%	18.9%	22.4%	21.0%
High: 4 / 2.0	18.2%	13.3%	10.5%	7.7%
Higher: 5 / 2.5	8.4%	16.8%	21.7%	21.7%
Higher +: 6 / 3.0		12.6%	16.8%	18.9%
SBC Data Zones	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

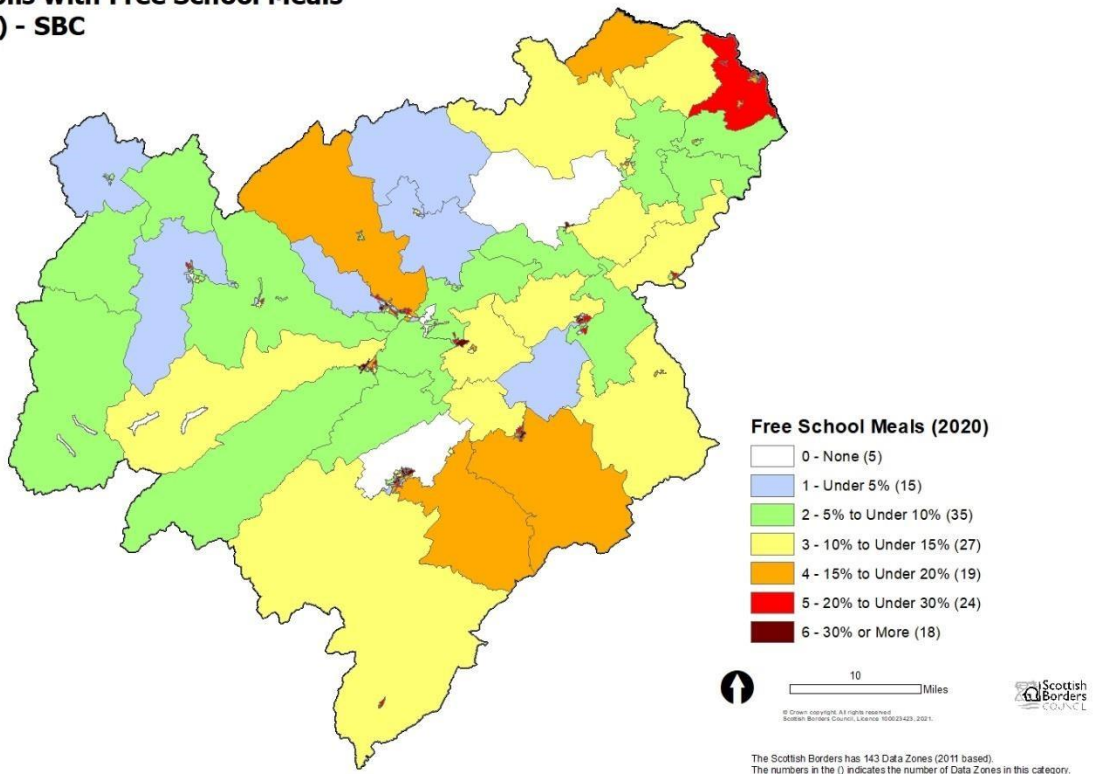


Below are the maps for each component, showing the results for each of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders.

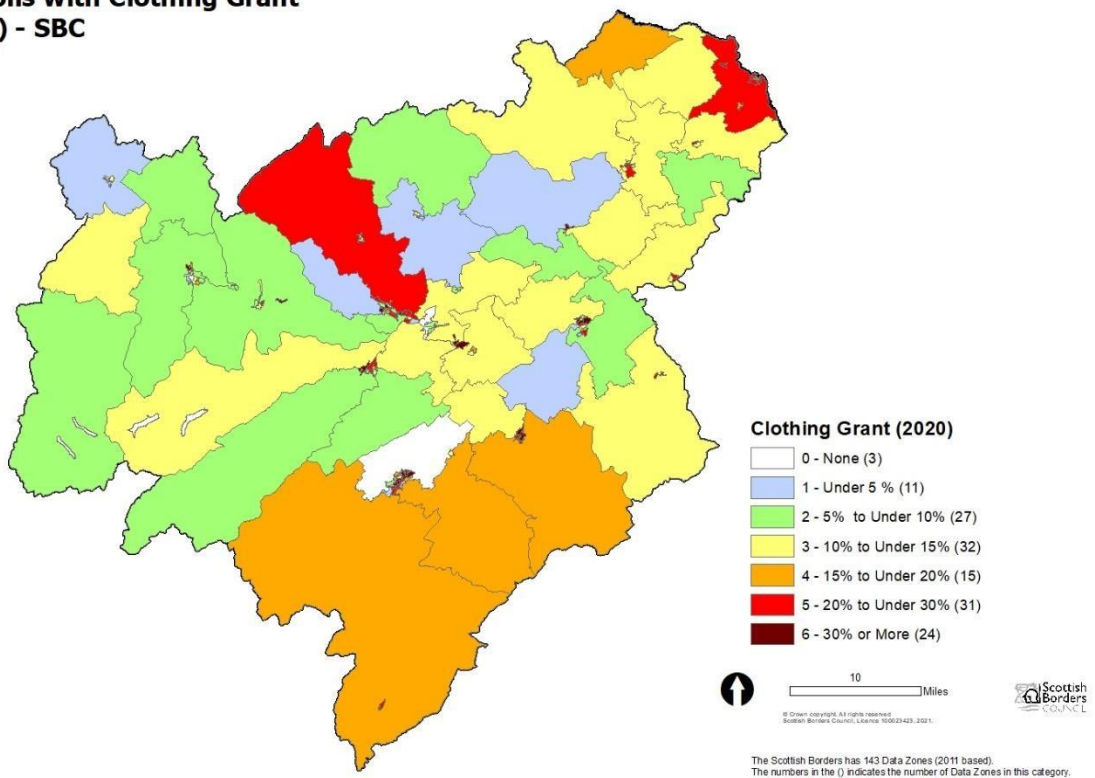
Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020 % Children in Low Income Families (2019/20) DWP / NRS



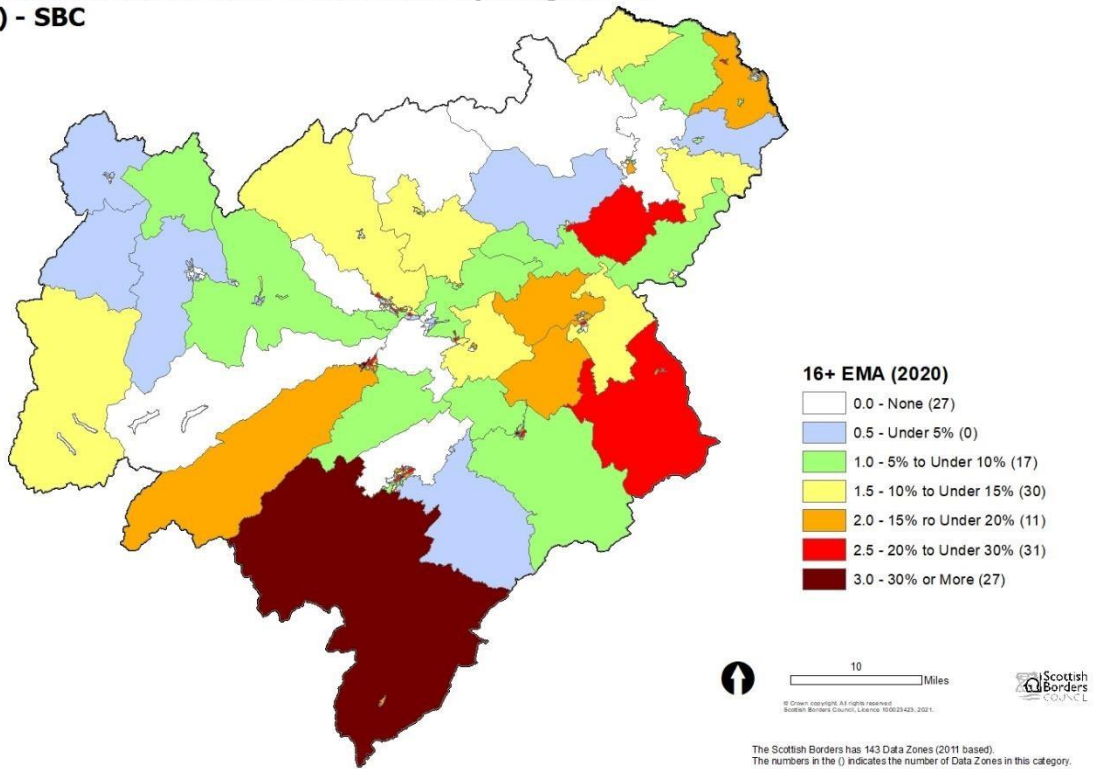
Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020
% Pupils with Free School Meals
(2020) - SBC



Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020
% Pupils with Clothing Grant
(2020) - SBC



Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020
% Educational Maintenance Allowance Pupils Aged 16+
(2020) - SBC

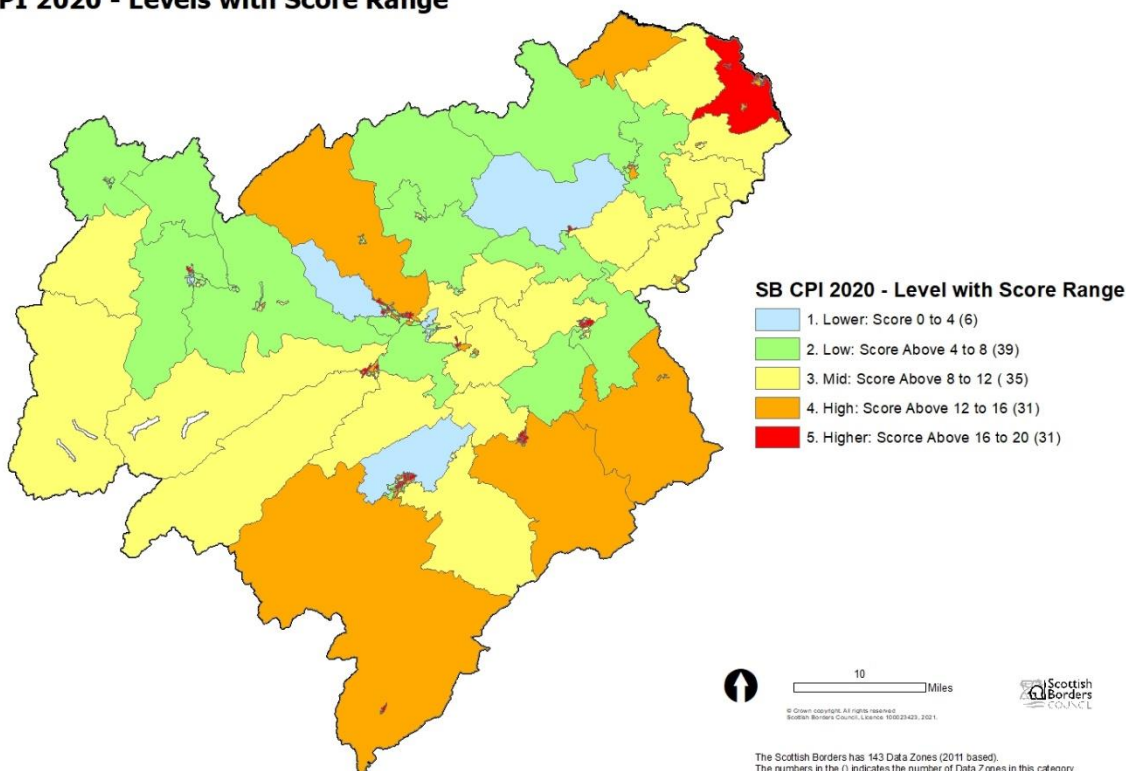


Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020 Scores

The graph and map below shows the Scottish Borders data zones based on the SB CPI score, grouped into levels of Child Poverty. Higher level (32 data zones) have a score of above 16 to 20; High level (31 data zones) have a score of above 12 to 16; Mid level (35 data zones) have a score of above 8 to 12; Low level (39 data zones) have a score of above 4 to 8; and Lower level (6 data zones) have a score of 0 to 4. Every data zone in the Scottish Borders has some element of child poverty.

Sub Appendix 2: Change in SB CPI Level by Locality lists the data zones within each locality along with its SIMD2020 decile and the SB CPI level for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

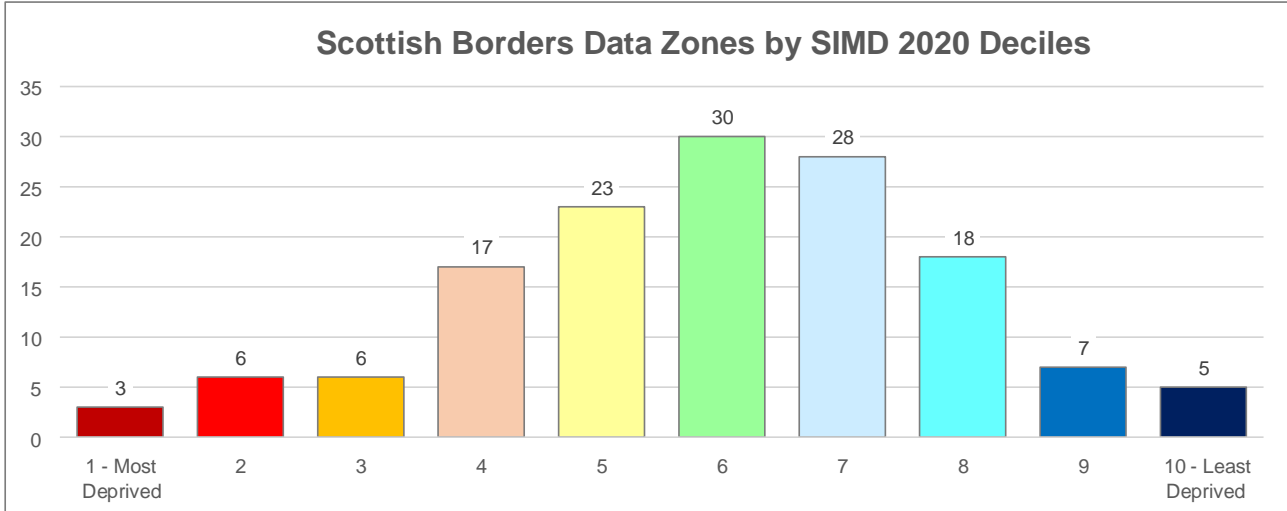
Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020 SB CPI 2020 - Levels with Score Range



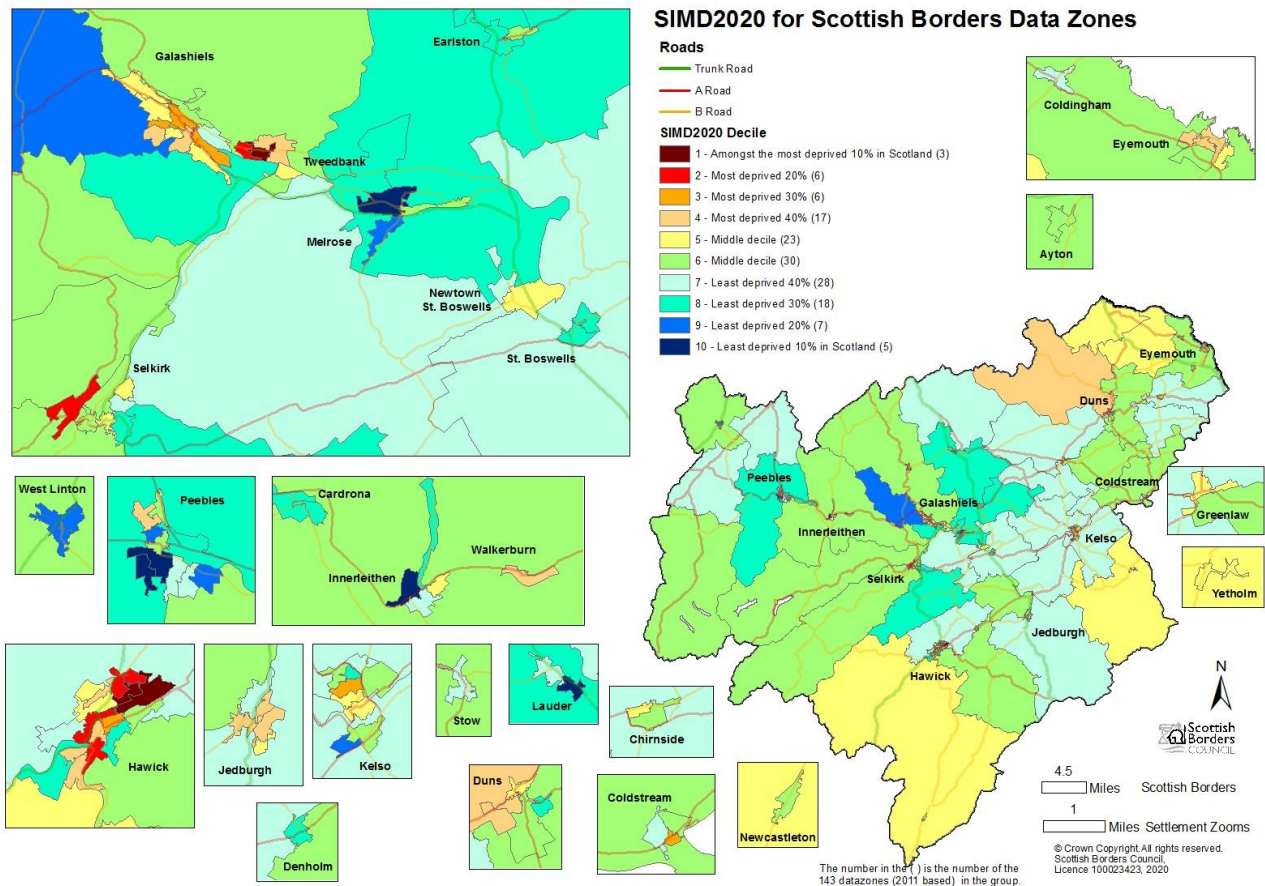
Comparing Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020 to SIMD 2020

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a good tool for identifying overall deprivation, however, it is not poverty specific or child focused. The SB CPI is a tactile index created to enable better insight in to child poverty within the Scottish Borders. This is a basic comparison between SIMD2020 Decile and SB CPI Score.

The graph below shows the count of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders by the SIMD 2020 Decile.



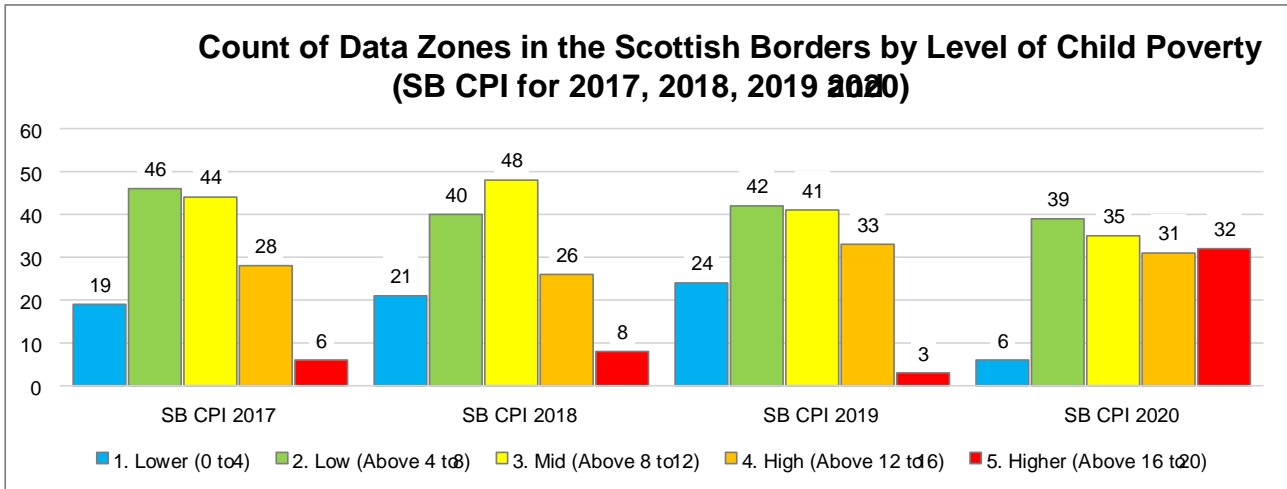
The map below shows the Scottish Borders data zones and the SIMD2020 decile.



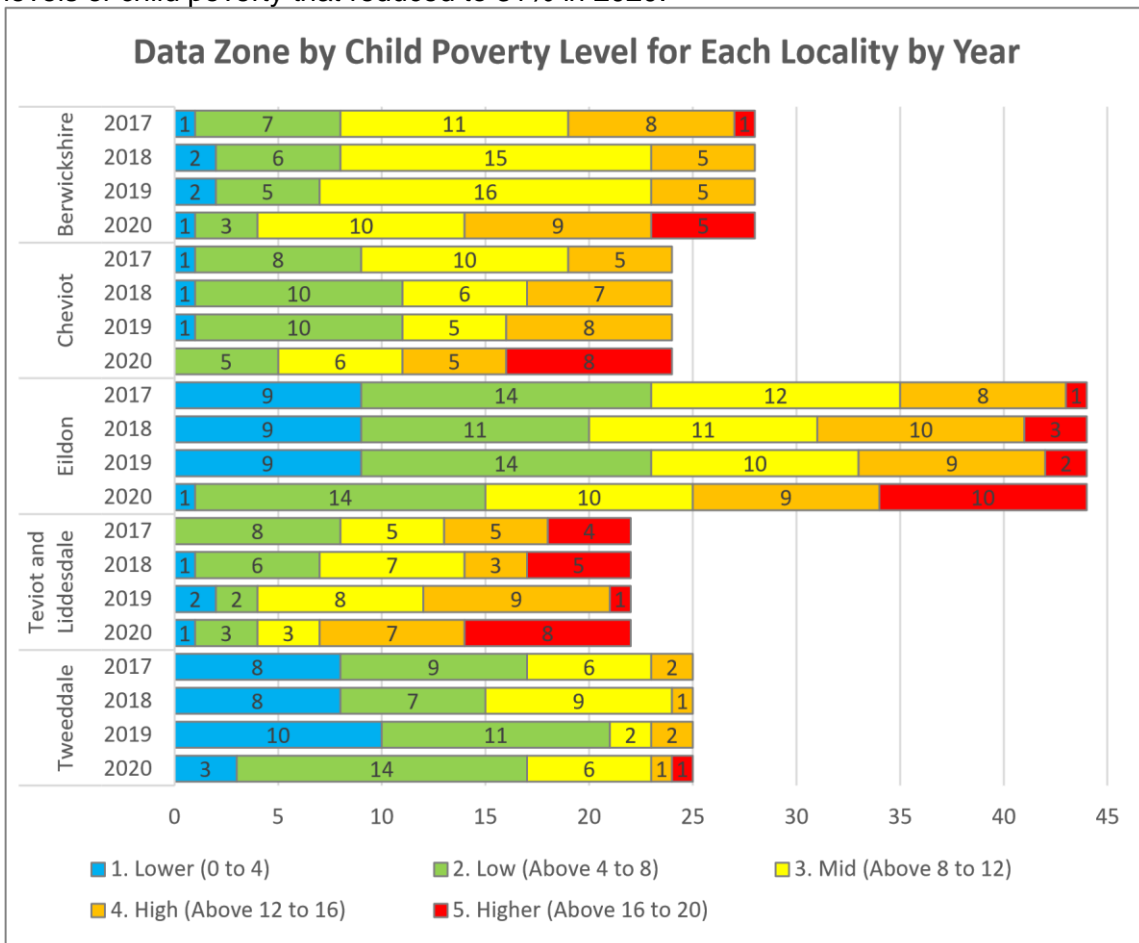
The graph below shows the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders by SB CPI 2020 score and

Scottish Borders Child Poverty Level Change Over Time and By Locality

The graph below shows the distribution of data zones by level of child poverty for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. Between 2017 and 2019 the number of data zones in the 'high' and 'higher' level decreased. However, in the SB CPI 2020 the impact of Covid19 is evident, with 63 of the 143 (44%) data zones in the Scottish Borders having 'high' or 'higher' level of child poverty.



The graph below shows the distribution of data zones in each of the localities by level of child poverty for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. Again between 2017 and 2019 the number of data zones with 'high' or 'higher' levels of child poverty decreased. However, in 2020 the impact of Covid19 can be seen in all areas of the Scottish Borders. In 2019 46% of the data zones had 'lower' or 'low' levels of child poverty that reduced to 31% in 2020.



Sub Appendix 1: Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index 2020: Primary School Ranking

The table below ranks the non-denominational primary schools in the Scottish Borders by the 'Average of SB CPI Score' for the primary school based best fit data zones. The components of the SB CPI 2020 are:

- Percent of Children in Low Income Families (CiLIF) 2019/20 from DWP / NRS
- Percent of Pupils in Receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) 2020 from SBC's SEEMIS
- SEEMIS Percent of Pupils in Receipt of Clothing Grant (CG) 2020 from SBC's
- Percent of Pupils Aged 16+ in Receipt of Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) 2020 from SBC's SEEMIS

Each primary school is allocated into a SB CPI level based on the school's score.

Scottish Borders	22.5%	15.7%	18.1%	16.0%	13.0	3. Mid	6	39	35	31	32	143
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SB CPI 2020 Primary School Rank	Secondary School	Primary School	Average of % CiLIF 2019/20 (DWP)	Average of % FSM 2020 (SBC)	Average of % CLG 2020 (SBC)	Average of % EMA16+ 2020 (SBC)	School SB CPI 2020 Score (Max 20)	School SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level					Count of Data Zones
									Lower	Low	Mid	High	Higher	
1	Hawick High School	Burnfoot Primary	39.5%	44.5%	49.6%	31.5%	19.0	Higher					4	4
2	Eyemouth High School	Coldingham Primary	47.5%	20.4%	24.5%	40.0%	18.0	Higher					1	1
3	Galashiels Academy	Langlee Primary	33.7%	25.2%	30.4%	29.4%	17.5	Higher		1			3	4
4	Hawick High School	Newcastleton Primary	31.4%	23.2%	23.2%	33.3%	17.0	Higher					1	1
4	Jedburgh Grammar	Jedburgh Primary	31.3%	25.1%	28.5%	31.6%	17.0	Higher				2	4	6
4	Selkirk High School	Philiphaugh Primary	25.0%	25.6%	30.1%	39.6%	17.0	Higher		1			1	2
4	Berwickshire High School	Greenlaw Primary	21.0%	30.4%	30.4%	16.7%	17.0	Higher					1	1
8	Galashiels Academy	Burgh Primary	39.3%	22.1%	29.1%	24.6%	16.5	Higher			1		2	3

Scottish Borders

22.5%	15.7%	18.1%	16.0%	13.0	3. Mid	6	39	35	31	32	143
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SB CPI 2020 Primary School Rank	Secondary School	Primary School	Average of % CiLIF 2019/20 (DWP)	Average of % FSM 2020 (SBC)	Average of % CLG 2020 (SBC)	Average of % EMA16+ 2020 (SBC)	School SB CPI 2020 Score (Max 20)	School SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level					Count of Data Zones
									Lower	Low	Mid	High	Higher	
9	Hawick High School	Trinity Primary	37.8%	18.3%	23.5%	63.3%	16.0	High				1	1	2
10	Eyemouth High School	Eyemouth Primary	31.0%	19.2%	22.6%	15.1%	15.0	High			1	2	2	5
10	Eyemouth High School	Ayton Primary	29.9%	21.4%	21.4%	19.9%	15.0	High				1	1	2
10	Earlston High School	Newtown Primary	20.2%	22.8%	24.5%	19.9%	15.0	High		1		1	1	3
10	Kelso High School	Yetholm Primary	12.7%	20.0%	28.0%	33.3%	15.0	High				1		1
14	Hawick High School	Drumlanrig St Cuthberts Primary	28.1%	18.6%	21.0%	23.2%	14.5	High		3		4	2	9
14	Galashiels Academy	Balmoral Primary	27.7%	22.4%	26.1%	13.7%	14.5	High		1		1	2	4
14	Kelso High School	Broomlands Primary	25.5%	19.2%	22.0%	23.4%	14.5	High		1	1		2	4
14	Kelso High School	Edenside Primary	25.0%	17.3%	20.0%	22.4%	14.5	High		1	2		2	5
14	Selkirk High School	Knowepark Primary	24.2%	18.3%	20.3%	27.4%	14.5	High			1	3	1	5
14	Galashiels Academy	Fountainhall Primary and Heriot Primary	20.7%	19.7%	22.2%	20.0%	14.5	High				1		1
20	Eyemouth High School	Cockburnspath Primary	29.2%	15.2%	15.2%	20.0%	13.5	High				1		1
21	Kelso High School	Morebattle Primary	32.2%	11.1%	13.3%	37.5%	13.0	High				1		1
21	Berwickshire High School	Coldstream Primary	24.8%	18.3%	21.3%	7.8%	13.0	High			2	2		4
23	Hawick High School	Wilton Primary	20.4%	12.8%	16.4%	23.8%	12.5	High			1	1		2

Scottish Borders

22.5% 15.7% 18.1% 16.0% 13.0 3. Mid 6 39 35 31 32 143

SB CPI 2020 Primary School Rank	Secondary School	Primary School	Average of % CiLIF 2019/20 (DWP)	Average of % FSM 2020 (SBC)	Average of % CLG 2020 (SBC)	Average of % EMA16+ 2020 (SBC)	School SB CPI 2020 Score (Max 20)	School SB CPI 2020 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level					Count of Data Zones
									Lower	Low	Mid	High	Higher	
24	Galashiels Academy	St Peters Primary	18.9%	15.1%	18.5%	19.9%	12.0	Mid		1		2		3
25	Berwickshire High School	Duns Primary	23.8%	12.2%	15.4%	11.7%	11.5	Mid		2	2	2		6
25	Peebles High School	Walkerburn Primary	18.8%	7.6%	30.3%	12.5%	11.5	Mid			1			1
27	Berwickshire High School	Chirnside Primary	25.2%	12.9%	15.6%	6.8%	11.0	Mid			2	1		3
27	Eyemouth High School	Reston Primary	24.0%	11.3%	11.3%	15.4%	11.0	Mid			1			1
27	Berwickshire High School	Swinton Primary	20.4%	9.1%	10.3%	30.0%	11.0	Mid			2			2
27	Kelso High School	Ednam Primary	19.5%	11.9%	14.9%	31.6%	11.0	Mid			1			1
27	Earlston High School	St Boswells Primary	16.2%	14.9%	15.3%	15.5%	11.0	Mid		1	1	1		3
32	Selkirk High School	Yarrow Primary	33.3%	14.0%	14.0%	0.0%	10.0	Mid			1			1
32	Hawick High School	Denholm Primary	29.3%	14.7%	14.7%	8.0%	10.0	Mid			2			2
32	Selkirk High School	Kirkhope Primary	20.0%	6.5%	9.7%	33.3%	10.0	Mid			1			1
32	Peebles High School	Kingsland Primary	18.4%	11.7%	15.3%	5.5%	10.0	Mid		4	1		1	6
36	Galashiels Academy	Tweedbank Primary	19.3%	9.9%	12.9%	21.0%	9.5	Mid		1	1	1		3
37	Selkirk High School	Lilliesleaf Primary	22.6%	8.8%	9.6%	12.5%	8.5	Mid			1			1
37	Hawick High School	Stirches Primary	20.6%	5.7%	8.6%	13.3%	8.5	Mid	1			1		2
37	Peebles High School	Newlands Primary	15.2%	9.2%	11.8%	10.0%	8.5	Mid			1			1
37	Peebles High School	Broughton Primary	14.7%	9.0%	9.0%	20.0%	8.5	Mid			1			1
37	Peebles High School	St Ronans Primary	12.6%	9.8%	12.7%	11.5%	8.5	Mid		3	1	1		5
42	Galashiels Academy	Glendinning Primary	19.9%	10.3%	12.0%	0.0%	8.0	Low		1				1
42	Earlston High School	Earlston Primary	19.5%	7.6%	9.6%	16.8%	8.0	Low		1	2			3
42	Jedburgh Grammar	Ancrum Primary	15.1%	7.3%	7.8%	18.8%	8.0	Low		1	1			2
42	Earlston High School	Lauder Primary	14.1%	6.5%	6.8%	17.6%	8.0	Low		2	1			3
42	Kelso High School	Sprouston Primary	12.8%	5.4%	5.4%	18.8%	8.0	Low		1				1
42	Peebles High School	Eddleston Primary	11.3%	8.2%	8.2%	15.4%	8.0	Low		1				1
48	Earlston High School	Gordon Primary	15.9%	5.1%	5.1%	11.1%	7.5	Low		1				1
49	Earlston High School	Melrose Primary	12.6%	6.8%	6.9%	3.5%	6.5	Low	1	2	1			4
49	Peebles High School	Priorsford Primary	10.5%	6.5%	7.5%	2.2%	6.5	Low	2	3	1			6
51	Galashiels Academy	Stow Primary	13.4%	6.4%	6.4%	0.0%	6.0	Low		1				1
51	Peebles High School	West Linton Primary	8.9%	5.8%	6.3%	6.5%	6.0	Low		3				3
53	Earlston High School	Channelkirk Primary	19.8%	3.9%	5.3%	0.0%	5.0	Low		1				1
54	Earlston High School	Westruther Primary	13.8%	0.0%	0.7%	9.5%	4.5	Low	1					1
55	Galashiels Academy	Clovenfords Primary	13.1%	3.3%	3.3%	0.0%	4.0	Low	1					1

Sub Appendix 2: Change in SB CPI Level by Locality Berwickshire

SETTLEMENT (Best Fit)	Data Zone 2011 Code and Name	SIMD2020 Decile v2	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level
Ayton	S01012309: Ayton	6	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High
Chirnside	S01012320: Chirnside - West	5	4. High	4. High	4. High	4. High
	S01012321: Chirnside - East	6	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
Coldingham	S01012311: Coldingham	7	5. Higher	4. High	3. Mid	5. Higher
Coldstream	S01012325: Coldstream - West	7	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid
	S01012326: Coldstream - South	3	4. High	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
	S01012327: Coldstream - East	6	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High
Duns	S01012305: Duns - South	6	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High
	S01012306: Duns - West	4	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High
	S01012307: Duns - North	5	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
	S01012308: Duns - East	8	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
Eyemouth	S01012314: Eyemouth - Gunsreen	5	4. High	3. Mid	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012315: Eyemouth - Seafront Harbour	4	2. Low	1. Lower	3. Mid	3. Mid
	S01012316: Eyemouth - Central	4	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High
	S01012317: Eyemouth - South	6	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High
Greenlaw	S01012318: Eyemouth - North	4	4. High	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012300: Greenlaw	5	4. High	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
Rural - Berwickshire	S01012301: Swinton Leithholm and Fogo Area	6	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012302: Cranshaws - Abbey St Bathans Area	4	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012303: Westruther and Polwarth Area	7	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower
	S01012304: Gordon and Hume Area	7	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012310: St Abbs and Eyemouth Landward	6	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid	5. Higher
	S01012312: Reston and Coldingham Moor Area	5	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
	S01012313: Cockburnspath and Area	5	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	4. High
	S01012319: Preston and Manderston Area	6	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low
	S01012322: Whitsome Allanton and Hutton Area	7	3. Mid	2. Low	1. Lower	3. Mid
	S01012323: Foulden and Area	7	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
	S01012324: Birgham and Ladykirk Area	6	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid

Cheviot

SETTLEMENT (Best Fit)	Data Zone 2011 Code and Name	SIMD2020 Decile v2	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level
Jedburgh	S01012349: Jedburgh - Howden	5	4. High	3. Mid	4. High	4. High
	S01012350: Jedburgh - Doom Hill	4	4. High	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012351: Jedburgh - East Central	4	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012352: Jedburgh - West Central	7	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012353: Jedburgh - Abbey	4	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	5. Higher
Kelso	S01012330: Kelso S - Pinnaclehill	6	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	3. Mid
	S01012331: Kelso S - Maxwellheugh	9	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012334: Kelso N - High Croft Orchard Park	6	4. High	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012335: Kelso N - Hendersyde Oakfield	7	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low
	S01012336: Kelso N - Abbotseat	8	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012337: Kelso N - Poynder Park	3	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012338: Kelso S - Bowmont and Edenside	5	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	5. Higher
	S01012339: Kelso S - Abbey	5	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012340: Kelso S - Broomlands	6	4. High	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
Rural - Cheviot	S01012329: Morebattle Hownam and Area	5	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low	4. High
	S01012332: Smailholm Stitchill and Ednam Area	7	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012333: Sprouston and Area	7	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012341: Oxnam and Camptown Area	7	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	4. High
	S01012342: Ancrum and Lanton Area	6	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012343: Roxburgh Heiton Eckford Area	7	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
St Boswells	S01012346: Dryburgh Charlesfield Maxton Area	7	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012347: St Boswells - East	8	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High
	S01012348: St Boswells - West	8	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
Yetholm	S01012328: Town Yetholm	5	4. High	4. High	3. Mid	4. High

Eildon

SETTLEMENT (Best Fit)	Data Zone 2011 Code and Name	SIMD2020 Decile v2	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level
Darnick and Gattonside	S01012289: Gattonside - Darnick - Chiefswood	8	2. Low	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower
Earlston	S01012269: Earlston - West	8	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012270: Earlston - East	6	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
Galashiels	S01012274: Galashiels - N - Halliburton	6	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012275: Galashiels - N - Town Centre	3	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012276: Galashiels - N - Windyknowe	5	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012277: Galashiels - N - Wood St	5	4. High	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012278: Galashiels - W - Old Town	4	4. High	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid
	S01012279: Galashiels - W - Thistle St	3	5. Higher	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012280: Galashiels - W - Balmoral Rd	4	3. Mid	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012281: Galashiels - W - Balmoral Pl	5	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
	S01012282: Galashiels - S - Netherdale	8	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012283: Galashiels - S - St Peters Sch	5	4. High	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
	S01012284: Galashiels - S - Huddersfield	3	4. High	4. High	4. High	4. High
	S01012285: Galashiels - S - Glenfield	7	2. Low	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012286: Gala - Langlee - East	4	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	5. Higher
	S01012287: Gala - Langlee - Central	1	4. High	5. Higher	5. Higher	5. Higher
	S01012288: Gala - Langlee - West	2	4. High	5. Higher	5. Higher	5. Higher
Lauder	S01012296: Lauder - South	10	2. Low	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012298: Lauder - North	7	3. Mid	3. Mid	1. Lower	3. Mid
Melrose and Newstead	S01012290: Melrose - Newstead	6	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012291: Melrose - Dingleton Hill	9	2. Low	2. Low	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012292: Melrose - High Street	10	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low
Newtown St Boswells	S01012344: Newtown St Boswells - South	5	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
	S01012345: Newtown St Boswells - North	7	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	5. Higher
Rural - Eildon	S01012268: Earlston and Melrose Landward	8	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012271: Heriot - Fountainhall - Stow Landward	6	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High
	S01012297: Blainslie and Legerwood	8	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012299: Oxtou and Area	7	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012376: Ashkirk Lilliesleaf and Midlem Area	8	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012377: Bowden and Lindean Area	7	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012378: Ettrick Water and Bowhill Area	6	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012379: Yarrow Water and Sunderland Area	6	1. Lower	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
Selkirk	S01012380: Selkirk - Shawburn	5	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012381: Selkirk - Town Centre	5	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High	4. High
	S01012382: Selkirk - Hillside Terrace	8	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012383: Selkirk - Shawpark	7	3. Mid	4. High	3. Mid	4. High
	S01012384: Selkirk - Dunsdale	6	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High
	S01012385: Selkirk - Heatherlie	6	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low
S01012386: Selkirk - Bannerfield	2	4. High	5. Higher	4. High	5. Higher	
Stow	S01012272: Stow	7	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
Tweedbank	S01012293: Tweedbank - West	6	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	4. High
	S01012294: Tweedbank - North	5	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
	S01012295: Tweedbank - East	7	3. Mid	2. Low	1. Lower	2. Low

Teviot and Liddesdale

SETTLEMENT (Best Fit)	Data Zone 2011 Code and Name	SIMD2020 Decile v2	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level
Denholm	S01012356: Denholm	8	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid
Hawick	S01012359: Hawick - Burnfoot - South East	1	5. Higher	5. Higher	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012360: Hawick - Burnfoot - Central	1	5. Higher	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012361: Hawick - Burnfoot - West	2	4. High	5. Higher	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012362: Hawick - Burnfoot - North	2	5. Higher	5. Higher	5. Higher	5. Higher
	S01012363: Hawick Central - Wellogate	2	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High
	S01012364: Hawick Central - Trinity	3	4. High	3. Mid	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012365: Hawick Central - Millers Knowes	8	2. Low	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012366: Hawick Central - Town Centre	4	5. Higher	5. Higher	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012367: Hawick Central - Weensland	6	4. High	4. High	4. High	4. High
	S01012368: Hawick West End - Wilton Dean	7	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low
	S01012369: Hawick West End - Crumhaughill and Parkdale	8	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012370: Hawick Central - Drumlanrig	4	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High
	S01012371: Hawick West End - Crumhaugh	4	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High
	S01012372: Hawick North - Commercial Road	2	4. High	5. Higher	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012373: Hawick North - Wilton Hill	5	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
S01012374: Hawick North - Stirtches	5	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	4. High	
S01012375: Hawick North - Silverbuthall	4	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	
Newcastleton	S01012354: Newcastleton	6	2. Low	4. High	3. Mid	5. Higher
Rural - Teviot and Liddesdale	S01012355: Teviothead and Hermitage Area	5	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High
	S01012357: Minto Cauldmill and Boonraw Area	7	2. Low	3. Mid	1. Lower	1. Lower
	S01012358: Bonchester Bridge and Chesters Area	6	2. Low	2. Low	3. Mid	3. Mid

Tweeddale

SETTLEMENT (Best Fit)	Data Zone 2011 Code and Name	SIMD2020 Decile v2	SB CPI 2017 Level	SB CPI 2018 Level	SB CPI 2019 Level	SB CPI 2020 Level
Cardrona	S01012261: Cardrona	8	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
Innerleithen	S01012264: Innerleithen - North	8	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012265: Innerleithen - East	5	3. Mid	3. Mid	4. High	4. High
	S01012266: Innerleithen - South	7	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012267: Innerleithen - West	10	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
Peebles	S01012251: Peebles - N - Connor St	4	4. High	4. High	4. High	5. Higher
	S01012252: Peebles North - Dalatho	6	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012253: Peebles - N - Cuddyside	6	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012254: Peebles - N - March St	9	2. Low	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012255: Peebles - N - Eastgate	8	2. Low	2. Low	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012256: Peebles - S - Calvalry Park	9	2. Low	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012257: Peebles - S - Gallow Hill	7	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012258: Peebles - S - Edderston Rd	10	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower
	S01012259: Peebles - S - Caledonian-Springhill	10	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower
	S01012260: Peebles - S - Victoria Park	7	3. Mid	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
Rural - Tweeddale	S01012244: Carlops Romannobridge	6	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012247: Eddleston and Area	7	2. Low	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012248: Stobo - Blyth Bridge - Skirling	7	3. Mid	3. Mid	2. Low	3. Mid
	S01012249: Broughton and Upper Tweed	6	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
	S01012250: Glentress and Manor Valley	8	2. Low	2. Low	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012262: Tweeddale East Landward	6	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low
	S01012273: Clovenfords and Area	9	2. Low	2. Low	1. Lower	1. Lower
Walkerburn	S01012263: Walkerburn	4	4. High	3. Mid	3. Mid	3. Mid
West Linton	S01012245: West Linton - Lower	9	1. Lower	1. Lower	1. Lower	2. Low
	S01012246: West Linton - Upper	9	1. Lower	2. Low	2. Low	2. Low

Appendix 1(e) - Challenge Poverty Week – 5-11 October 2020

DATE	Messaging
Mon	This week we're supporting Challenge Poverty Week by highlighting the wide range of information, advice and support that is available across the region to support people experiencing financial hardship #ChallengePoverty www.scotborders.gov.uk/news/article/3935/council_to_mark_challenge_poverty_week_by_raising_awareness_of_support_that_is_available
Tue	The Scottish Welfare Fund helps families and people in Scotland who are on low incomes through Crisis Grants and Community Care Grants. Find out more at: https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20000/benefits_and_grants/471/community_care_grant_and_crisis_grant #ChallengePoverty
Wed	Did you know Citizens Advice Bureau could help with income maximisation and advice on bills? Visit their website to find your nearest CAB office: https://www.cas.org.uk #ChallengePoverty
Thurs	If you're worried about your energy bills or struggling to stay warm at home, contact Home Energy Scotland. They offer a free and impartial service and are committed to keeping you warm. Call them for free on 0808 808 2282 or visit: https://www.homeenergyscotland.org #ChallengePoverty
Fri	If you receive Housing Benefit or Universal Credit (housing element) but still struggle to meet the shortfall in your rent, you may be eligible for Discretionary Housing Payment. Find out more at: www.scotborders.gov.uk/dhp #ChallengePoverty
Sat	Did you know you can receive financial help during pregnancy and with a child up to school age? Check our website to see what financial support is available – including our Financial Help in the Early Years information sheet https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20075/help_applying_for_benefits/301/how_can_the_financial_support_and_inclusion_team_help #ChallengePoverty
Sun	We are continuing make sure that the most vulnerable people in our communities receive the support they need through our Community Assistance Hubs. Find out how they could help you or someone you know at: www.scotborders.gov.uk/cahs #ChallengePoverty

Appendix 1(f) - Case Studies

YOUTH WORK AND FOOD INSECURITY

Tackling food insecurity is an ongoing challenge for those who live with the shadow of poverty and low wages. This affects a significant number of children and young people, and puts unacceptable barriers in place to their wellbeing, education and future life path and happiness. YouthLink Scotland has been working with Scottish Government Tackling Food Insecurities Unit to explore the benefit of working with the youth work sector to address the impacts of food insecurity. The pilot involved six projects delivered across the school summer holiday period. These took place in Moray, Dundee, South Lanarkshire, East Ayrshire, Falkirk and Scottish Borders. We look at the practical approach taken in the Borders. TD1 Youth Hub delivered the programme on behalf of the Community Learning and Development Service at Scottish Borders Council.

Young people were identified through the crisis support TD1 workers provided during lockdown and from referrals made by the school pastoral team prior to lockdown. Given the restrictions in place, the programme was delivered mainly online. Activities provided a range of opportunities for young people to develop skills, engage with their peers and improve health and wellbeing. This included STEM sessions, baking, photography and self-care. All young people were offered the opportunity to work towards a Youth Achievement Award or Dynamic Youth Award, to recognise their learning and achievement during the programme. In collaboration with school, TD1 workers will provide ongoing support to allow young people to complete these awards now they have returned to school.

Alongside the activities and group work, all young people were offered one-to-one support via what's app, texts and phone. Each week a food parcel was delivered to participants. This provided food for both the young person and their family, recipe suggestions based on a weekly theme and included any equipment the family needed to cook the meals. Digital poverty has meant some young people do not have a home WiFi connection or access to home technology. TD1 workers sought to overcome these barriers by providing a mobile device (Raspberry Pi). Where it has not been possible to connect digitally, TD1 youth workers continued support by phone or on the doorstep during initial lockdown. Towards the end of the summer programme TD1 workers were able to meet outdoors with those young people who were vulnerable or had struggled with the digital side of the project. Those trusted relationships built with youth workers ensured young people were supported, reducing anxieties and helping prepare for the return to school.

“Over the period my son has been working with TD1, it has had a phenomenal impact on my son, his confidence and self-belief has increased massively. The support provided by TD1 has been first class and for me as a parent having access to these resources through the food, the STEM kits, the coding project has been so helpful. I would not have been able to provide all these activities to my son. It has also helped him catch up with schoolwork as the coding was something they had been doing at school, but he was struggling. Providing a device and weekly sessions has allowed him to catch up and he is now a lot more confident about the move back to school. I can't thank TD1 Youth Hub enough for all their support to my son.” Parent of young man, aged 13

“I have loved doing all the cooking stuff over the summer, I wasn't really into cooking or that, but over the summer TD1 would drop me stuff to cook with. It was actually really easy as you joined the Zoom session if you wanted to extra help - which I always needed. It was good though as a video was posted online showing you what to do and an ingredients/how to do it sheet was with the pack. I felt really buzzed that I was cooking food which even my parents liked and would eat it too! I even cooked a few times using the same recipe on my own as I was getting really confident with it. I don't know what I would have done all summer without doing this, was highlight of my week every week!” Participant, aged 15

“There’s a lot of young people and families that are very proud and will not actually open up and share that they’ve got difficulties. There’s a lot of affluent areas in Galashiels, but there’s a lot of deprived areas. My worry is that some young people are overlooked, and we wouldn’t necessarily know that there was actually any kind of issues with regards to food in the local community”.

Teacher, Scottish Borders

“With shielding, and the delivery of food parcels for shielding, I think that was reducing the stigma of people asking for help, because people were seeing food parcels being delivered in the community”.

Youth Worker, Scottish Borders

“I think the good thing is we’ve got engagement, I think the worry was having that time out away from school, with young people not necessarily returning, particularly with attendance being a strong issue within that locality, especially in that postcode area, attendance is fairly poor on the whole. But attendance has been very good from the young people that have been involved in the programme”.

Teacher, Scottish Borders

“One pupil really struggles with writing. He doesn’t like to admit that, and he doesn’t like anyone to know that he’s struggling. So that wasn’t really an issue in the project because they allowed the young people to take photos of things, like take photos of the steps that they were doing. So there wasn’t really a pressure to write things down”.

Teacher, Scottish Borders

“Forget the programme, the biggest key part here was the relationship that TD1 have got with families in the community... They have got a phenomenal relationship, they’re really well-known, they go over and above for young people. So there was trust there from the parents from the beginning. TD1 had full buy-in and the support, whether that be food, whether that be the activity packs, whether it be online sessions, there was trust there, and that was key”.

Teacher, Scottish Borders

“A multi-agency approach was definitely key, it meant that no young people were missed out”.

Teacher, Scottish Borders

GREENHOUSE PROJECT

The Joint Health Improvement Team works in partnership with Scottish Borders Council's Community Justice Team to grow a wide range of seasonal produce at a Greenhouse site in Galashiels. Produce is distributed back into the community through service settings and activities that support children and families.

The project has developed incrementally to offer new activities:

- REHIS training & cooking classes with Community Justice Clients
- Live cookery classes in early years settings
- Recipe bags to support home cooking and healthier meals
- Welfare boxes & food distribution during COVID
- Distribution of plants to encourage home growing

Produce distributed included:

Spring onions, onions, leeks, rocket, mint, coriander, sage, rosemary, fennel, oregano, spinach, parsley, basil, cucumbers, sweet peppers, carrots, beetroot, radish, pea pods, jalapeno chilli, rhubarb, courgettes, thyme, cayenne chilli, broad beans, tomatoes, potatoes.

Galashiels Early Years Centre:

The Early Years Centre used the produce to top up 300 food parcels for children and families. Families reported:

- Eating more varied and healthier diets
- Tasting new foods
- Cooking more home-made meals

New partnerships have developed in the last year with:

- Children 1st
- Action for Children
- LINKS Eyemouth

Feedback from all services suggests the produce helped:

- Families to cook healthier meals & grow their own produce
- Services to maintain connections with families

Quotes from families & staff confirm the benefits:

"Thank you so much for the fresh veg last week, I managed to make a pan of soup and a tomato sauce for pasta. We are currently in rent arrears and struggling to get through the week, your food top ups make a huge difference." (Parent)

"Overall I am extremely glad and grateful for the opportunity to work with Mos, the Gala Greenhouse project, and the NHS health Team, I hope the partnership will continue." (EYC Manager)

"Being part of this project has been an especially wonderful experience for our service during the lockdown – the fresh vegetables were highly appreciated by the families we support (single mothers especially found it difficult to go grocery shopping, and receiving those herbs and vegetables made their day); it also gave us at Children 1st an opportunity to see them and keep connected during times of lockdown, even if just at their doorstep" (Children 1st Staff Member)

BURNFOOT COMMUNITY FUTURES

Feedback received: Great ideas for making different foods and enjoy making the recipes as some people never cook.

Week commencing	Pick ups	Deliveries	Total	Average daily
23 - 29 March	74		74	15
30 March - 6 April	171		171	34
7 - 13 April	92	12	104	21
14 - 20 April	166	8	174	35
21 - 27 April	131	36	167	33
28 April - 3 May	130	52	182	36
4 - 10 May	110	53	163	33
11 - 17 May	94	49	143	29
18 -24 May	85	52	137	27
25 - 31 May	92	57	149	30
1 - 7 June	95	57	152	30
8 - 14 June	67	60	127	25
15 - 21 June	59	55	114	23
22 - 28 June	82	55	137	27
29 June - 5 July	78	78	156	31
6 July - 12 July	65	56	121	24
13 July - 19 July	37	78	115	23
20 July - 26 July				
Totals so far	1628	758	2386	

We also distributed 50 bags of seed potatoes in April and a further 30 since.

During the period 27 May 2020 to 29 June 2020 the Fareshare and Foodshare Service received produce given from local shops and purchased produce to make various recipe packs and ready meals. Recipes provided totalled 298, benefitting 228 people, with 296 ready meals created. Of the ready meals available 262 had these delivered whilst 1053 recipients collected as part of their daily exercise.

“Great ideas for making different foods and enjoy making the recipes as some people never cook” “Felt good to get outside and be productive while picking up groceries”

MONEY WORRIES APP

Early Steps parents said, “We would love to have our stamp on it and work in partnership with those who are willing to go forward and create this app”.

Good financial health has a positive impact on our overall health and wellbeing. To mitigate the impact of ongoing welfare reform and the wider impact of COVID-19 we developed a Money Worries App. The App is intended to help people access quality assured information and support to prevent money worries escalating. The App is a digital directory with quality assured national and local information and links to help with:

- Money
- Health
- Housing
- Work

Download the NHS Borders Money Worries App Today.

The NHS Borders Money Worries App contains up-to-date information to help improve financial health and wellbeing. You can find links and contact details for further support to help with money worries and related concerns.



Key Outcomes:

- The App was developed in response to consultation
- The App has been co-produced by NHS Borders, Scottish Borders Council, Citizen’s Advice Bureau and TD1 Youth Hub, Early Steps Parents Group
- The App reflects the voice of parents living in the Scottish Borders
- 55 people signed up as a volunteer to test the App during the testing phase
- The App was successfully launched on 16th March 2021

Launch Week Impact Data:

Media Release & Social Media Asset	Reach	Engagement	Shares
NHS Borders Social Media	10,478	123	28
Scottish Borders Council Social Media	6,353	29	10
CAB Video Clip	4,763	388	14

Next Steps for the Project Team:

- Generate a series of video clips to increase awareness from a Housing, Health & Work perspective
- Reconnect with partners to confirm launch and build further engagement through conversations



The impact of this programme is measured by:

Monitoring Social Media Data
Listening to the **verbal feedback** from users and partner
SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS – EARLY YEARS CENTRES

Key aim

To develop new and effective ways of supporting families with young children, so they felt less isolated and had confidence in their ability to manage their families and their own health and wellbeing while attendance at an Early Years Centre was not possible.

Who are we trying to reach?

The four Early Years Centre's supported families with young children in their immediate community. They supported families with access to food to feed their family, information and advice on a range of topics relating to health and wellbeing and managing their children, and practical support outdoors for their own mental wellbeing.

Outcome 1: *Children will have nutritious hot meals made by their parent*

The single most urgent thing dealt with throughout 2020 was the access to food for families. The deliveries from Foodshare, neighbourly and other local excess food sources became critical for many parents. Single parents with a number of children were initially discouraged and sometimes barred from shopping together by some supermarkets. Unable to leave the house to shop, and struggling with paying for online shopping, the food parcel deliveries were a life line for many families. As restrictions eased and families were able to go out and shop, they were also encouraged to come to the centre door to collect a food parcel, with only those still shielding continuing to have deliveries.

The impact of this service is measured through verbal feedback from families on using the food parcels distributed and the number of families supported.

Over 500 food parcels were distributed in the first fifteen weeks of the lockdown. An average of 10 families per week are still being supported from each Centre.

"I used the sausages to make meatballs from the recipe on the wee label, the kids weren't sure at first but they tried them and like them"

"The wee yoghurt drinks were good for the kids"

"It cooked really quickly and smells so good!"

Outcome 2: *Families will have a greater repertoire of easily made family meals that can be made from ingredients provided through food parcel. There will be less waste of distributed food*

Teams became a key way of delivering programmes and meeting up with groups of people and supported healthy eating by giving parents ideas and showing them how to make meals with their children.

The impact of the service is measured through observing parents joining in with, and watching sessions, Verbal feedback and pictures shared on Facebook. Cook-a-Long sessions and Face Book cooking films were very popular with a regular 6-8 families attending the teams sessions live every week, with many more, over 90 views watching the films on Facebook.

"I have only just started cooking and I have totally enjoyed it but I find cooking very stressful but hopefully the coming weeks it will get easier for me"

Outcome 3: *Families will be able to successfully engage with virtual support from The Early Years Centre sessions*

Keeping a connection with individual families was very important, regular contact was kept up through text and phone calls whether this is a simple check in: How are you doing?, a request for a doorstep visit or the delivery of a food parcel, many parents found this the easiest way to keep in touch. Group work was delivered through TEAMS, sessions like Christmas for Less included craft making and keeping safe, and was all delivered on Teams.

The Early years centres also promoted other online support programmes with families able to access, breast feeding and weaning sessions through links on the centre Facebook page

The impact of the service is measured through listening to people and responding to their needs. Verbal feedback on the impact on families and monitoring information shared on Facebook pages. Initially uptake was

low, parents were scared of this new way of working and wary of people 'seeing' their houses. Parents also reported that without crèche, trying to engage with sessions while having a toddler in the house was not easy. In response short film clips were made and posted on line. There was a regular level of engagement with a core number of families every week and feedback from these families is very positive.

For some parents access to devices and WIFI were barriers to them engaging, through the Connecting Scotland programme early years centres have been able to support 19 families with access to free devices and mifi so that they could be included.

"Teams was hard to begin with as I haven't used it before, I wish I could change the settings so I can see everyone and not just the loudest person, but once I got used to Teams I loved it"

"I really enjoyed Christmas for Less, I know how to use Teams as I do Cook-Along on Wednesdays. It was nice to chat to folk and not feel judged, the recipes and crafting was really nice"

"You have no idea how much this has helped me, it put me in the right mind set for Christmas, and I've made new friends. The gift for the kids at the end was really appreciated too"

Outcome 4: Parents will feel the benefit of regular exercise and will have increasing confidence in their ability to manage simple improvements in their health and well being

As restrictions eased outdoor sessions booked in advance, enabled the EYCM to meet face to face with one family at a time and parents were encouraged to walk and engage in exercise outdoors. The sessions were popular and quickly booked up. Across the four centres the following have been offered; *Sole Mates Walks, Walk It, Wednesday Wanders, Buddy Walks, Social Strolls*, all an opportunity for fresh air, a bit exercise and a chat. Step challenges were completed in one centre and walks to places of interest were planned.

One EYCM met a parent and child an outside play area for one mum this was her only time outwith her family home. As the weather deteriorated, the EYCM and the parent and child would walk at a local café. Parents welcomed the support of the EYCM in taking their young child into a social space as they were often too scared their child would not behave. For some parents this was their only socialising with another adult in the week. The impact of the service was measured through spaces being booked and verbal feedback from families.

"Love my weekly walk" "Enjoy the blether" "It gets me out the house" "I enjoyed having adult conversation" "I started walking a lot more due to the step counting challenge and walks" "I have totally enjoyed Meet and Play on a Wednesday morning as it's really good fun, I enjoy the activities, I wouldn't change it for anything else. It's totally helped me with my anxiety going out and doing things with my family" "I enjoyed being able to get my exercise early in the morning with nice company and being able to chat, it really set me up for the day"

Outcome 5: Parents will receive practical support at Christmas

Applications were made to a range of different charities and organisations to help families struggling at Christmas and through the winter period. Children received winter coats through an application to Border Children's Charity and Cash for Kids supported with supermarket vouchers.

Mission Christmas and The Salvation Army gave Christmas presents. The Salvation Army provided food hampers along with an extra bag of Christmas supplies mainly mince pies, crisps and crackers. Local organisation and charities donated books, vouchers, money for craft materials, food stuff and toiletries. Craft bags were made up and available at Halloween, Christmas and Easter.

Managers set up and managed community cupboards and larders with non-perishable food stuff, sanitary products and recycled clothing. Families could request / order from these and either pick up or have delivered.

The impact of the service was measured by verbal feedback, pictures of children in coats and numbers of families supported

Over a 150 families were supported across the four centres with Christmas presents. 15 families were given a £100 ASDA voucher per child to use on gifts, food, clothing etc. 17 children got a new padded winter coat.

“Thank you so, so much for the gifts for my tow. They are wonderful and a huge help” “Was not expecting that much I genuinely thought it was going to be one little gift I’m a bit emotional”

Next Steps

Relaunch the Early Years Centres from session 2021/22

- Engage with families in the immediate community to develop support and advice which will have a positive impact on family’s health and wellbeing.
- Develop specific targeted intervention and prevention support sessions based on needs in the community
- Continue to develop the virtual platform, enabling families where ever they are in Scottish Borders, to access support from the centres.

Promote a healthy life style by

- Developing an alternative outside base and planning and facilitating a family learning offer
- Developing opportunities for families to work together such as gardening, cooking and craft
- Listening to parents and facilitating opportunities for parents to improve their own health and wellbeing, both physical and mental.

Empower parents to take responsibility for themselves and their families by

- Engaging parents to develop support networks with each other
- Leading and supporting sessions for others
- Directing parents to learning opportunities to enhance their employability

COMMUNITY FOOD HUBS WORK

In the March 2020 JHIT was contacted to support community assistance hubs responding to the Covid 19 crisis and lockdown. Request made to provide nutritional information and advice for the government food welfare boxes and additional food items offered by SBC.

In May further request was made to support the community hubs with more food related information.

Welfare Food Boxes & Additional Food Items

Nutritional advice and support given included:

- Mapping the government food boxes and additional food items against the Eat well Guide
- Identifying the gaps
- Recommending the alternatives where appropriate
- Advise on selecting appropriate nutritional food items
- Developing appropriate recipes to accompany the welfare food boxes taking into account nutritional value, assumed limited resources and budgeting issues, health literacy and readability.
- Developing the recipes into easy read postcard size resource

Appropriate recipes to accompany the welfare food boxes were developed taking into account nutritional value, assumed limited resources, budgeting issues, health literacy and readability. These were then made into easy read postcard size resources.

E.g. Couscous, Tuna Pasta Bake, Fishcakes, Vegetable Biryani, Potato & Tomato Bake, Vegetable Rice, Tinned Fruit Crumble and Tomato Pasta

The work was reported back to our SBC colleagues with an offer of added input and support if required.

Further requested support

After a short consultation with SBC colleagues it was decided that this information would be based on the experience of staff and volunteers involved in the distribution of food parcels. And who had taken onboard comments and noted patterns of behaviour from clients. This included food waste, food storage and unfamiliar ingredients.

JHIT responded by creating and developing resources and regularly keeping intouch with SBC colleagues, taking on board any further direction or feedback.

Information sheets, nutrition leaflets, recipes for different living situations were shared on a weekly basis with SBC community hub colleagues who were able to further distribute inc food projects like the salvation army.

Some resources redeveloped, created and shared inc:

- Govt food box recipes (resent)
- Microwave recipe booklet
- Easy canned food recipes – Bake Beans Quesadillas, Chana Chaat, Easy Minestrone soup, Tuna pasta salad, Chicken rice casserole, Peach layer delight
- Food safety for canned food
- Cooking for one – 15 recipes – Patata Bravas, Bubble & Squeak Patties, Spaghetti hoops, Lemon/Lime roasted sardines, tuna pasta, Carrot & orange soup, Tasty tortilla wrap, Cheesy beans & sweet corn cakes with salsa, Weekend eggs, Easy minestrone, Pasta in a mug, Make a pizza, Savoury rice, Fruit crumble, yogurt fruit layer
- Cooking for one from fresh, frozen or canned - recipe tips and ideas

- Top tips to eat healthily
- Healthy hydration
- How to use and store herbs
- Tinned and canned food information sheet
- Tips and ideas for tinned tomatoes

Challenges & Success:

The main challenge for this work was the short time frame and turnaround of the information required. All involved had to use their expertise under pressure while responding to other demands of work and changing work environments.

As there was not an opportunity to do the work that would normally involve consulting service users and clients, the work had to develop with assumptions, experience and expertise of all. With limited food items and lack of variety in the welfare food boxes it was exceptionally challenging to put a recipe together and therefore assumptions had to be made on store cupboard ingredients. Although alternative options were given for some ingredients for this reason. No information was available about the additional food items available as this was randomly based on what was available to the Hubs. Once again the recipes were based on general assumptions and observations from Food Hub colleagues on most frequently received items.

The feedback from SBC colleagues was positive. However further information and work is required to gauge what worked and what needs to improve so that we are in a better responsive position should such a need arise again.

An email was sent out with the opportunity through our SBC colleagues to feedback. However no response was received directly from projects.

Recommendations for future:

- Align all recipes to same format in JHIT
- More info around budgeting
- Nutrition investigation /sheet etc on eating canned food etc
- Videos to support recipes (this was requested but we could not fulfil)
- Basic cooking technique videos etc.
- Take on any opportunity to get feedback from clients in receipt of information
- Liaise with SBC colleagues on gathering more info and best ways to support and respond.

COMMUNITY GROWING STRATEGY

Funding from SBC to LINKS Eyemouth is ongoing via a partnership with BAVS as an anchor agency. This is helping to grow this children & families food network.

Case Study for Community Growing Strategy 26/02/21

Priority 6: A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active

Big Eyemouth Eat Better 5 Day Challenge

The Big Eyemouth Eat Better Feel Better 5 Day Challenge took place over five days in January 2020. The concept of the challenge was simple, to ask parents to challenge their families to try a different vegetable and Eat Better Feel Better recipe each day for 5 days.

Participation data demonstrates the level of community engagement with the challenge:

Total no. of families: 18

Total no. of children: 47

Age range of children: 6 months to 15 years

The Eat Better Feel Better 5 day challenge programme has developed over the last three years and has been strengthened by:

Taking a universal, community led health approach

The role of the LINKS Eyemouth Project Support Worker (who had participated in the first 5 day challenge in 2017)

The use of Social Media to engage and communicate with parents

Less reliance on physical attendance at healthy eating sessions

Provision of incentive foods, with lots of fruit & vegetables (reducing the stigma of free foods)

A full programme evaluation has been undertaken, this clearly shows an increase in the amount of fruit and vegetables that families ate during the challenge. The aim and objectives of the programme were met in full.

Families were positive about the impact of the challenge and level of peer support:

"It's social, it's sharing and it's encouraging".

EYEMOUTH LINKS PROJECT

“Firstly I would just like to say thank you so much for all your help with funding for the batch cook. It has been a crazy few weeks getting this sorted. We have had a whopping 81 families sign up and register via a registration form. The information we have received is incredible. Today I have paid for the milk from co-op, the 10% lean beef mince from the local butcher. He gave us an amazing deal with 80 packs of 500g at £260. That’s £3.25 per family on meat. 75p cheaper than I thought it would be. I have ordered all the veg from Fresh Choice in Eyemouth. They also gave us a 20% discount and it came to £129. This was delivered to the church today. We are delivering this tomorrow and everyone is so excited about it. We did not expect this to be so big but with this being such a huge need and importance to the local families we have now used the £500 funding. We are doing lasagna this time. I done a Facebook poll and this was what was wanted”.

EARLY YEARS WELFARE BENEFITS ASSISTANT POST Case Study:

Case study which illustrates the importance and value of joint working: (may need to anonymise further if it is to be publicly published)

I had one particularly satisfying case with the Parental Employability Support Team (PES) last year where a domestic abuse case was referred to me for a benefit check. The claimant involved was an unemployed EU National and therefore unable to claim benefits if she separated from her abusive husband. The PES team were however confident that a part time job could be secured and this would then lead to full benefit cover. The Homeless Team were contacted to check on her entitlement to alternative accommodation and they also agreed to help her. She was therefore advised that she and her children could now escape the abusive relationship with the support of a job, a new home and full benefit entitlement in support. She was delighted and relieved on hearing this news. I have had a number of similar cases in the past where the outcomes were not so positive but with this joined up approach on employment, housing and benefits I now hope for better ones in the future.

COVID example:

I was able to alleviate some quite desperate situations during Covid by advising young families about their entitlement to the new Scottish Grants and payments. There were surprisingly quite a number and sums of £600 to £250 were an absolute lifeline to them particularly around Christmas last year.

BERWICKSHIRE HOUSING ASSOCIATION

There was a successful joint bid between 4 Border RSL's (with Eildon, Waverley and SBHA) to secure 450k of SG Fuel Poverty funding. BHA has a pro-rata share of 72k to help alleviate fuel poverty for our tenants.

Financial Inclusion: the total benefits gains for the year 2020/21 is £1,004,805 - a significant increase of income for BHA customers, especially in such a challenging year for so many.

Continued roll out of 'BeWell', a pilot wellbeing & mental health tenancy support service between BHA and Penumbra.

Distribution of £25k of SG Covid-19 Recovery funding to support communities recover from the pandemic.

Piloting use of HACT social value tool highlight impact of community activity and value from money in SFHA report.

Most activities are continuing online across our many community partner organisations where possible with further emphasis on providing localised support in this new period of lockdown. Online and other non-contact supports are likely to continue for the foreseeable future with digital lending library devices supporting access to online groups for some people. Supporting Communities Funding and Covid-19 Recovery Funding (CRF) secured via SFHA have been distributed in partnership with BAVS to the following community groups:

- Berwickshire Swap
- Allanbank Creative Hub
- Horse Time
- Splash
- Eat, Sleep Ride
- BAVS (neighbourhood bus / digital workshops for village halls)

<https://www.berwickshirehousing.org.uk/news/local-groups-benefit-from-communities-recovery-fund/>

BHA staff have made a number of direct referrals to Horse Time and the workshops are now full with a small waiting list to fill any vacancies that may arise. BHA has also been in discussion with Public Health Scotland and Horse Time to highlight partnership working that may feature in a national trauma case studies project.

'Let's Get Digital Berwickshire' is well underway with 50 devices purchased and 45 now distributed to people in the community via partner organisations. A handover to BAVS has been agreed from mid-May to enable the project to expand and be sustained through recent TNL funding secured by BAVS. This will include a mobile facility and workshops in village halls to promote digital skills. It is hoped this project can provide a working template for future Border-wide digital developments with SBC and Connecting Scotland.

BeWell is now engaging with around 12 tenants experiencing a range of mental health and other support needs. Most are regularly engaging with support offered however some will take longer due to fluctuating mental health conditions and substance misuse issues. Agreements to repay rent arrears, tenancy management and providing comprehensive support with other services are some of the positive outcomes achieved so far. Penumbra have welcomed the ability to provide services flexibly as some people have required more intensive support at times.

BHA has remained part of the Berwickshire Community Assistance Hub which is now moved from 'recovery' to 'response' mode due to new lockdown restrictions. CAH activity remains low, reflecting that most people are managing with local reliance groups and community ladders well stocked to support as necessary. However, this may change rapidly especially if online deliveries are unable to keep up with demand. BeFriend are now attending a similar weekly forum tailored to individual and case specific

responses.

BeFriend staff and volunteers are currently visiting people, outdoors and walking with some people, in line with Covid guidance. Current guidance indicates indoor visits can resume from 17th May.

BeFriend also recently helped support older people in Duns with afternoon tea delivered to homes with a small contribution from the Community Initiatives fund.

<https://www.berwickshirehousing.org.uk/news/bha-supports-duns-senior-citizens-club-with-easter-treats/>

BHA is working in partnership with other Border services to promote and improve mental health and wellbeing through several projects. BHA is an active member of several forums has widely promoted positive mental health messages through our social media channels. The installation of a 'Breathing Space' bench in partnership with the Springfield Group and NHA 24 is a recent example of BHA's commitment to raising mental health awareness and adding value to our estate environment. This was featured as part of national Breathing Space Day on 1st February through a promotional video and BHA press release:

<https://breathingspace.scot/news/2021/its-national-breathing-space-day/>
<https://www.berwickshirehousing.org.uk/news/breathing-space-bench-offers-place-for-reflection/>

A further Breathing Space bench is planned for the Community Garden in Duns and BHA will look to install further benches as a visible and permanent commitment to supporting mental health and wellbeing.

Hygge

The HYGGE programme is now underway in Eyemouth delivering seasonal groups online to around 30 local people. Originating from Scandinavia, the Hygge programme is an activity-based group focusing on aspects of wellbeing and mutual support. This group suspended its spring season programme due to Covid-19, however SCF funding has expanded reach via online support to promote wellbeing and maintain connectedness. The newly developed Hygge@home programme will continue to expand its membership across the community and pilot the use of the short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-Being Scale to measure change before and after participation. The group is now a constituted organisation that remains a BHA tenant led innovation.

Allanbank Arts- Creative Hub

Allanbank Arts- Creative Hub are creating a network using social media platforms to support adults and young people who struggle with anxiety, including young people with disabilities affected through isolation or anxiety by Covid-19. Activities include production of 5/6 YouTube videos featuring artists and their work; delivery of art and craft materials to all participants and group and one-to-one zoom calls with participants and their families where possible to enjoy a "live" studio experience. Allanbank will work with up to 15 people to build resilience, a sense of community and ongoing connections should further periods of lockdown occur. For more information please see:

<https://www.berwickshirehousing.org.uk/news/support-for-allanbank-arts-creative-hub-resilience-project/>

Abundant Borders

Abundant Borders teaches people to grow food in a sustainable way through training courses, workshops and supported learning in the network of community food gardens to address food insecurity at fundamental levels. Restrictions put in place in March meant that the community gardens (two of which are owned by BHA) were closed to visitors and volunteers and all training courses and workshops were suspended. Abundant Borders subsequently moved all training courses on-line and with courses

on Sustainable Growing. To date, over 350 people have joined the on-line courses and there have been thousands of downloads of course material. SCF funding will allow further expansion of on-line courses with a new 'seed circle' 7-module course. This attracted 45 new participants and is likely generate several longer-term outcomes that will increase participation and engagement when restrictions are eased.

The Learning Space

The Learning Space is an independent resource that works with Scottish Borders Council Education and Social departments for around 30 young people within the Berwickshire area. The project is expanding access and infrastructure of its outside Nature Space by extending their current garden area and creating a calm nature and nurture wildlife space where the young people can observe and engage with nature, plant and use fruit, vegetables and herbs and build empathy and respect for the wildlife around them. The Learning Space currently have several young people who find it extremely challenging to be part of any organised social event that would give them this experience, however, through building upon positive relationships they will be able to offer these experiences to them. SCF funding has accelerated activities to allow more young people access to walks in the woods and to local nature areas which may otherwise be a challenge. In addition, new partnerships have been formed with local groups attracting more interest and volunteers.

Splash

Splash is a dynamic community project in Eyemouth that is working in partnership with local volunteers to deliver a food and wellbeing project in the Community. The service has enabled people in the community to ease back into day to day life due to the impact of Covid-19. During the pandemic Splash have worked in partnership with Eyemouth Response Team, East Berwickshire Food Bank, Eyemouth rotary, Links Eyemouth and local businesses. Over 70 volunteers have helped provide food items, meals, shopping, support phone calls and delivery of prescriptions to people in isolation and those struggling with food poverty; something which has been highlighted over the course of the pandemic. Over 50 families receive regular food support and over 1,000 grocery bags have been distributed.

In addition, Splash are an active partner organisation for 'Let's Get Digital Berwickshire' supporting people to get online via the digital lending library. This is will support their ongoing commitment to reducing social isolation for vulnerable people.

Berwickshire Swap

The result of the Covid-19 pandemic will mean there will be many more children in poverty in the future. This BHA tenant led community enterprise project will produce 50 Emergency Clothing Parcels to children in the Berwickshire area on referral through BHA, health visitors, social workers, schools etc. Each clothing parcel is packed up as a gift for the children with a full 7-day wardrobe for each child including, "new in packaging" pants and socks. The clothing for these parcels comes from swap items stored between swaps (except pants and socks), these clothes will be washed, dried, and ironed by volunteers. In addition, the project will offer 15 re-usable cloth nappy packs to parents to try before they decide to cloth nappy their child. Social media has helped promote this resource with over 3500 views and local schools and other groups have been directly contacted. BHA is currently looking at providing no cost storage facilities for this new start up community project.