



SCOTTISH BORDERS

INTEGRATED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

2021/23



#ourpart in their great future

Table of Contents

Foreword.....	2
Introduction	3
A New Context.....	4
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)	4
Child Poverty	4
Covid-19.....	4
The Promise.....	5
Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework	5
Formation of Public Protection Committee.....	5
Our Approach.....	6
Priorities of the Integrated Children & Young People’s Services Plan 2021-23.....	6
Themes into Actions.....	8
Our role as a Children & Young People’s Leadership Group.....	11
Governance	12
Key Plans and Strategies.....	13
Workforce Planning and Development	13
Commissioned Services.....	15
Current Commissioned Services – commissioned to 31 st March 2022.....	16
Monitoring, evaluating and reporting	17
Outcome focused reporting	17
Self-evaluation.....	17
Evaluation	17
Appendix A: Covid-19 Research and Evidence	18
Appendix B: Understanding our demographics and data.....	19
Population	19
Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)	21
Scottish Borders Data.....	23
Wages.....	24
Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan 2021/22.....	24
Appendix C: The Integrated Children and Young People’s Services Plan 2021-23 – “The Plan on a Page”	25
Appendix D: Glossary	26

Foreword

The Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (CPP) is committed to safeguarding, supporting and promoting the well-being of all children and young people across the Scottish Borders. This commitment is turned into action through the work of the Children and Young People's Leadership Group (established in 2014) which brings together partners from Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Police Scotland, the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and the Third Sector. The Group focuses on shared priorities to deliver meaningful and sustainable improvements to the lives of all our children and young people, to ensure that *everyone* can reach their full potential.

The Children and Young People's Leadership Group have refreshed the current Integrated Children and Young People's Plan 2018-2021 and this new Plan covers 2 years for 2021-23 which aligns it with other Integrated Children's Services Plans in Scotland.

We are proud of the way we work in partnership in the Scottish Borders to achieve a holistic and joined up approach to tackling issues for children and families and we will ensure that this new Plan takes account of work that is planned to recover from Covid-19. We recognise the importance of **early intervention and prevention** and of **reducing inequalities**, as the key priorities which underpin the Community Plan and the work of the CPP. This refreshed Plan continues to work towards closing the gap between our most deprived and least deprived families and communities and targets resources to support our most vulnerable children and young people.

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

Councillor Mark Rowley

Chair of Community Planning Partnership

Introduction

This Scottish Borders Integrated Children and Young People's Services Plan 2021-23 sets out the strategic direction for the planning and delivery of services for Children and Young People in the Scottish Borders over the next 2 years from 2021-2023. The subsequent plan will span 3 years to cover 2023-2026 and allows realignment with other local authorities and health boards in Scotland.

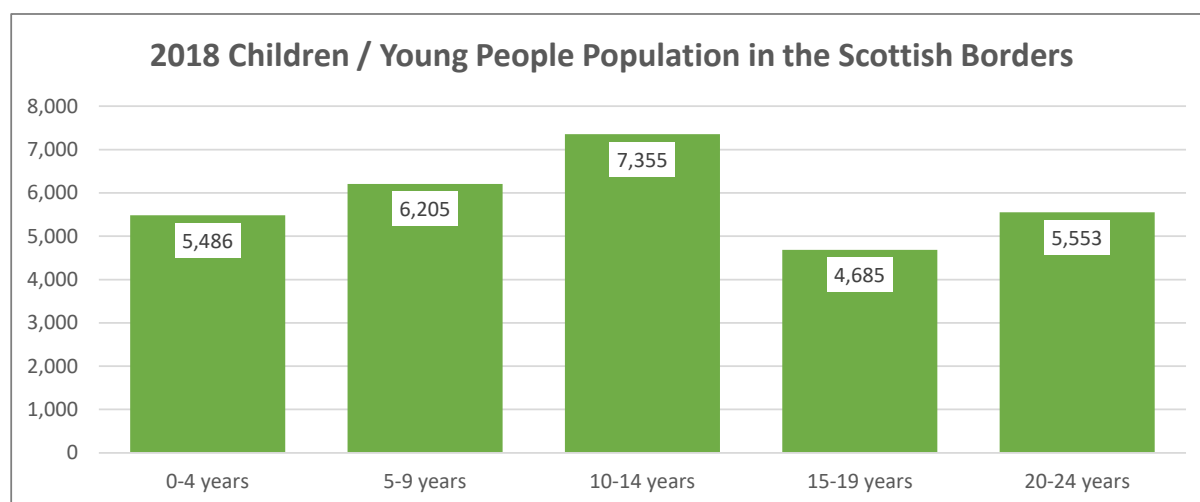
An integrated approach to service planning by partners is a requirement under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. *“The Act seeks to improve outcomes for all children and young people in Scotland by ensuring that local planning and delivery of services is integrated, focused on securing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

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

‘Working together we will ensure all children and young people have a sense of belonging, self-worth and self-confidence to achieve their unique potential.’

The Plan is designed to support all children and young people in the Scottish Borders and help them achieve good outcomes. The Plan is also adaptable, and supports additional services and resources where required.

The graph below shows the number of children / young people by age group. In 2018², there were 19,046 children and young people aged 0 to 15 and a further 10,238 aged 16 to 24, representing 16.5% and 8.9% of the population of the Scottish Borders, respectively.



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

² <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2018>

A New Context

The plan aligns to the outcomes in the Scottish Government's **National Performance Framework 2018** (and in particular the outcome relating to Children and Young People: 'We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential') and locally, to the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership's (CPP) Key Priorities and Actions.

The plan also addresses requirements of, and takes cognisance of the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Child Poverty

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets out the Scottish Government's statement of intent to eradicate child poverty in Scotland by 2030. The Act requires Local Authorities and Health Boards to jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report and an Annual Progress Report. This requirement is delegated to the Child Poverty Planning Group.

This Plan also contributes to Child Poverty Reporting and is committed to addressing child poverty as set out in the Plan priorities.

Covid-19

The Children & Young People's Leadership Group recognises the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic has had on everyone and the greater impact it has had on some of our families.

Services have had to be responsive, adaptive, and creative to this unprecedented challenge. In developing this Children and Young People's Services Plan, the continued pressure on services, and changed ways of working have been recognised. As well as building on the many positive developments from Covid-19 such as Inspire Learning, Community Assistance Hubs, and digital transformation, the Plan has also been informed by national research,

including the experiences of children and young people (see [Appendix A](#)) during the pandemic.

The Promise

The Independent Care Review was commissioned by the Scottish Government in February 2018. The remit was to take a broad ranging, holistic view of the care system and the care experience of children and young people. This included individual care experiences, a holistic review of multi-agency practice, the care process, legislation, and legal context. As part of the review, over 5,500 individual responses were received, over half of which were from looked after or care experienced children and young people.

The Review was concluded in 2019 and published in February 2020. The main findings are contained within 'The Promise.'

The report has identified five foundations for change, with over 80 specific changes that must be made to transform how Scotland cares for children and families as well as the unpaid and paid workforce.

1. Voice - voice of the children must be heard at all stages;
2. Family - what all families need to thrive;
3. Care - care, that builds childhoods for children who Scotland has responsibility
4. People - people, with a relentless focus on the importance of relationships, and
5. Scaffolding - scaffolding, so that the structure is there to support children and families when needed.

This Plan recognises the importance of The Promise and this commitment is reflected in the Plan priorities.

Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework

The Framework, introduced in January 2020, aims to set out a clear, broad approach that supports children and young people to access mental health and emotional wellbeing support within their community.

The framework specifically addresses establishing or developing community supports and services that target issues of mental and emotional distress and wellbeing rather than mental illness and other needs that may be more appropriately met through CAMHS.

It supports an approach based on prevention and early intervention in order to deliver more sustainable, effective, and easily accessible community supports and services to address mental and emotional wellbeing.

It will assist with the commissioning and establishment of new local community mental health and wellbeing supports or services or the development of existing supports and services, in line with the national framework.

Formation of Public Protection Committee

The Scottish Borders Public Protection Committee (PPC) was established in January 2020, which represented the culmination of planning and preparation over the previous year, in pursuit of an even more 'joined up' approach to working with vulnerable children and adults, recognising that some of them are in the same families.

There is a determination and strong commitment across all partners involved to ensure that the most vulnerable in society are protected.

Our Approach

This Plan has been developed to ensure that the best possible services for children, young people and their families are provided to allow them to flourish.

The CYPLG is committed to collaborative partnership working, and to providing leadership to services to ensure that they target children and families who need the most support, using a whole systems approach, using data and local intelligence, understanding the principles of equity and inequality, and in the context of emerging from the impact of Covid-19, and planning recovery.

To enable this support to be effective, we need to involve children, young people, and families, listen to them, and understand them, and let them inform our decision making. We will work with children, young people, and families to gain an understanding of their direct lived experience, and this will influence the Plan.

To maintain stability, this Plan will continue with the same strategic priorities as the previous plan (2018-2021). These high-level priorities are still relevant, and the themes and actions contained within them reflect new and emerging opportunities and allow for flexibility and responsiveness.

Health impact assessments will be used to help us plan effective and responsive services which are inclusive and equitable for all children and young people.

We will continue to work with other services to influence wider policies such as housing, health, economic development, employability, and transport.

Priorities of the Integrated Children & Young People's Services Plan 2021-23

In pursuit of our vision, we will strive to improve the health, well-being and life chances of all our children, young people, and families by providing high quality, integrated services delivered through the actions set out within four priorities.

We are committed to and focused on ensuring that all our children and young people living in the Scottish Borders have a good childhood and are prepared for adulthood.

We will maintain a strong focus on early intervention and prevention, building resilience and supporting children, young people, and families to develop the skills and capabilities that enable them to navigate the challenges of modern life.

In delivering these priorities we will ensure that the GIRFEC approach and UNCRC is embedded within the work required to achieve our aims. This includes making sure that the voices of children and young people are considered as part of the planning process.

The Integrated Children and Young People's Services Plan for 2021-2023 will focus on the following four priorities. These priorities are informed by our understanding of Children's

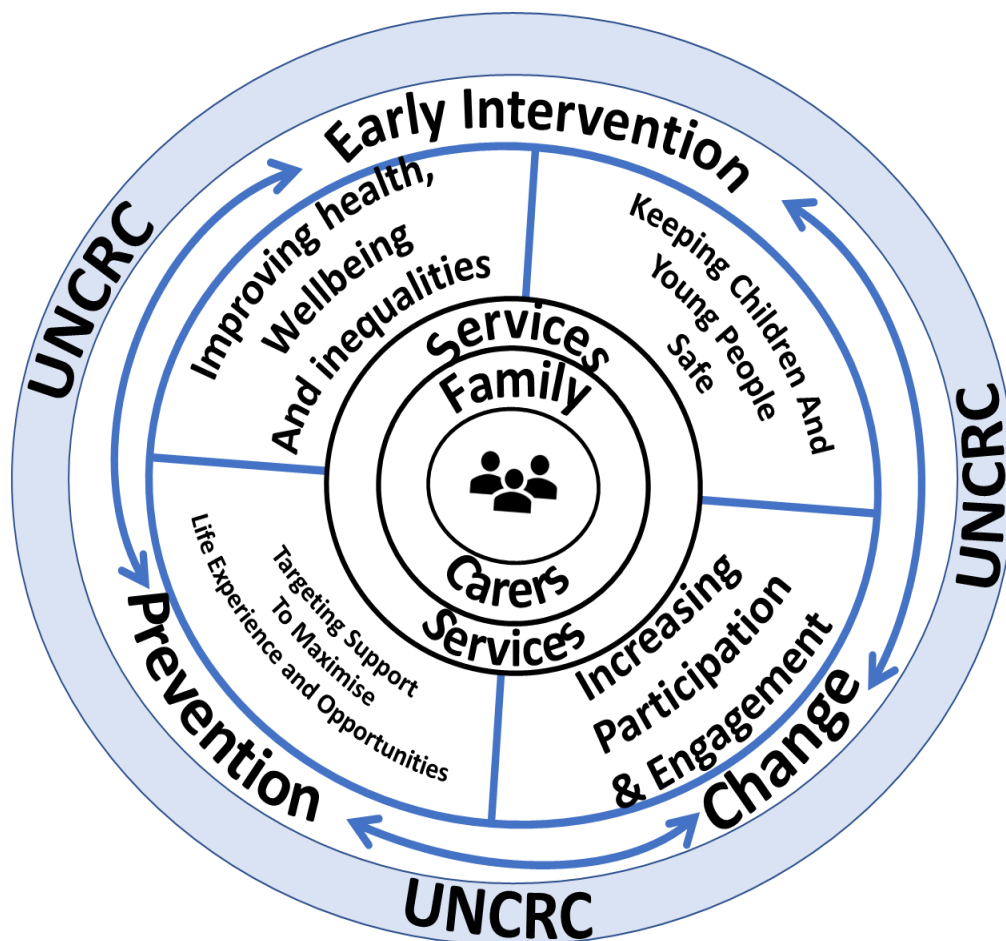
Rights and Fig 1 provides an illustration of how the rights of children are connected to our regional priorities.

<p>Priority 1: Keeping children and young people safe</p>	<p>Priority 2: Improving health and well-being and reducing inequalities</p>
<p><i>Article 19: "I have the right to be protected from being hurt or treated badly."</i></p> <p><i>Article 39: "I have the right to get help if I have been hurt, neglected or badly treated."</i></p> <p><i>Article 21: "I have the right to have the best care if I am adopted or fostered or living in care."</i></p> <p><i>Article 25: "I have the right to have my living arrangements checked regularly if I am looked after away from home".</i></p>	<p><i>Article 15: "I have the right to meet with friends and to join groups."</i></p> <p><i>Article 24: "I have the right to good quality health care."</i></p> <p><i>Article 25: "I have the right to a good enough standard of living. This means I should have food, clothes and a place to live."</i></p>
<p>Priority 3: Targeting support to maximise life experiences and opportunities and ensuring inclusion</p>	<p>Priority 4: Increasing participation and engagement</p>
<p><i>Article 20: "I have the right to special protection and help if I can't live with my own family."</i></p> <p><i>Article 23: "If I have a disability, I have the right to special care and education."</i></p>	<p><i>Article 12: "I have the right to be listened to and taken seriously."</i></p> <p><i>Article 17: "I have the right to get information in lots of ways, so long as it's safe."</i></p> <p><i>Article 29: "I have the right to education which tries to develop my personality and abilities as much as possible and encourages me to respect other people's rights and values and to respect the environment."</i></p>

Figure 1: CYP Plan Priorities with a selection of related UNCRC articles using CYPCS Simplified Articles.

Themes into Actions

Children and young people, along with their families and carers, are at the centre of what we do. Our four priorities should impact positively on their lives but be influenced by an approach which sees us intervene as early as possible and focus on prevention. We have shown the links in the diagram below:



To further the priorities of this plan, we will work to develop activities, actions, services and responses around the following 8 themes specifically related to the existing priorities.

These themes apply at all stages of childhood: early years (including peri-natal); school aged children; youth; and young adulthood.

These themes and plan recognise that children and young people are not a homogenous group and that their needs, interests, views and experiences will differ.

Priority 1: SAFETY: Keeping children and young people safe

Outcome: More children and young people will be protected from abuse, harm or neglect and will be living in a supportive environment, feeling secure and cared for.

Theme A: Addressing Child Poverty

Partners will understand the impact of child poverty of life chances, in particular on educational attainment, health, and child protection outcomes of children and young people.

Echoing national research, there is an association within the Scottish Borders between poverty and child abuse health outcomes and neglect. Poverty is only one factor, but perhaps the most pervasive.

The Partnership will plan and deliver services in ways which promote equity and where possible challenge the root causes of poverty and deprivation. Actions and activities associated with this Plan will seek to maximise family income and their available resources and deliver services in a way which is free from stigma or discrimination.

The Partnership will influence and monitor progress on child poverty via the Child Poverty Planning Group.

Theme B: Trauma Informed Practice

The Transforming Psychological Trauma framework is designed to increase understanding of trauma and its impact across the workforce

We know, from listening to the experiences of those who have lived through trauma as well as from the findings of scientific research, that traumatic life experiences can have a significant impact on people's lives, increasing the risk of poorer physical and mental health and poorer social, educational and criminal justice outcomes.

Everyone has a role to play in understanding and responding to people affected by trauma.

We will embed the [Transforming Psychological Trauma Knowledge and Skills Framework](#) to support our workforce and to influence the design and delivery of services across the Partnership and this Plan

Priority 2: WELLBEING: Improving health and well-being and reducing inequalities

Outcome: Inequalities in the health and wellbeing of children and young people are reduced.

Theme A: Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

We will prioritise the emotional wellbeing and mental health of our children and young people through the local implementation of the Community Support and Services Framework. We understand that improving outcomes related to emotional wellbeing and mental health must be taken in the context of wider inequalities. Wherever possible we will support prevention activities which promote wellbeing, including play, youth work, physical activity, arts and creativity. We will provide coordinated early intervention services for children, young people and

Theme B: Trusted Adults

Trusted Adults, sometimes known as 'one good adult' is a description given to an adult that a child or young person may turn to for help. Trusted adults are chosen by the child or young person and play a supportive, caring and nurturing role in their lives. This might be a parent or caregiver, older sibling, family friend, youth worker, teacher, or support worker. This Plan will support children, young people and adults to understand the positive impact of having or being a Trusted Adult. This is an informal relationship, but one which is based on trust, confidentiality, patience, respect and empathy. Research indicates that the

<p>families who need enhanced support. We will work as a Partnership to provide a targeted response for those children and young people experiencing mental illness, and in times of crisis and distress. We will work during this Plan to make such supports and services available and accessible.</p>	<p>presence of a Trusted Adult positively affects life satisfaction, self-esteem, resilience, belonging, and optimism.</p>
<p>Priority 3: INCLUSION: Targeting support to maximise life experiences and opportunities and ensuring inclusion</p> <p>Outcome: Life experiences and opportunities are improved for children and young people who require our targeted support.</p>	
<p>Theme A: Delivering The Promise</p> <p>Delivering The Promise in the Scottish Borders will require leadership, workforce development and cultural changes. The Promise should be at the forefront of our service design and delivery for improved outcomes for Care Experienced young people and their families. Regional governance of delivering The Promise will be provided by the Strategic Corporate Parenting Group supported by all Corporate Parents. The CYPLG will provide leadership and capacity to drive cultural change across all partners at all levels.</p>	<p>Theme B: Supporting Transitions</p> <p>Children and young people’s experiences of transition should be well planned, coordinated and supported. This will require partners to work together with children, young people, their families and community. Additional and focused interventions for transitions will be required for some. Approaches to transitions should be led by the needs of children and young people. Where required support should continue post-transition. Our understanding of transitions should be holistic. Supporting effective transitions at times of change, including but not limited to: in the early years, in primary to secondary, secondary to post-school, for any child or young person with an additional support need, for care experienced children and young people, for young people moving from child to adult health services.</p>
<p>Priority 4: PARTICIPTION: Increasing participation and engagement</p> <p>Outcome: All our children and young people will be encouraged to be involved in the planning, provision and delivery of services and their rights will be respected.</p>	
<p>Theme A: Children and Young People’s Participation and Engagement Strategy</p> <p>Collectively we will further Article 12 of the UNCRC for all children and young people in the Scottish Borders through the co-design of a Participation and Engagement Strategy. We will utilise our partnership resources and relationships to listen to the voice and experience of children and young people, and their families, particularly those who are seldom heard (e.g children in the</p>	<p>Theme B: Communication and Social Research with Children, Young People and their families.</p> <p>To design and deliver services we will be informed by data and research from local children, young people and their families. We will improve our direct communication with children, young people and their families as we deliver this plan and co-design the subsequent plan. We seek insight, qualitative and quantitative data</p>

early years, disabled children and young people, LGBTI young people, young travellers, young carers etc.). We will provide information prior to participation and we will build capacity of organisations and individuals to participate and engage locally, regionally, and nationally so that children and young people are heard and understood.	from our community through quality social research. We will work as a Partnership to share research, impact and evaluation which helps us to better understand the needs and experiences of children, young people and their families in Scottish Borders from pre-birth onwards.
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Our role as a Children & Young People’s Leadership Group

The CYPLG is Strategic Planning Partnership made up of key stakeholders who deliver services for Children and Young People in the Scottish Borders and includes Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Police Scotland, Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration (SCRA) and the third sector (Youth Borders). The group is chaired by the Service Director, Young People, Engagement and Inclusion from Scottish Borders Council.

The key aim of the Group is to safeguard, support and promote the wellbeing of children and young people and improve their life chances.

As well as coming together to make things happen and change practice, the members are decision makers within their respective organisations whose work has an impact on the lives of children and young people in the Scottish Borders. The members join together through a shared vision and set of priorities.

The Plan is informed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as well as a range of legislation and national policy, and the Children and Young People’s Leadership Group has a key role in linking the work and plans of our Partners to achieve the best outcomes we can for our children and young people.

The Leadership Group meets monthly to discuss key issues and has established sub groups and other working groups to progress specific actions of the Plan.

Our Approach described on page 7 enables the Leadership Group to focus on the principles of:

- Early intervention and prevention to support children, young people, and their families, where and when they need it most
- Engaging with, and listening to children, young people, and their families to increase our understanding of their issues and vulnerabilities
- Working with children, young people, and their families to help them strengthen their own relationships, and their relationships with services available to them
- Access to services and ensuring children and young people know about what is available

The Group works together to:

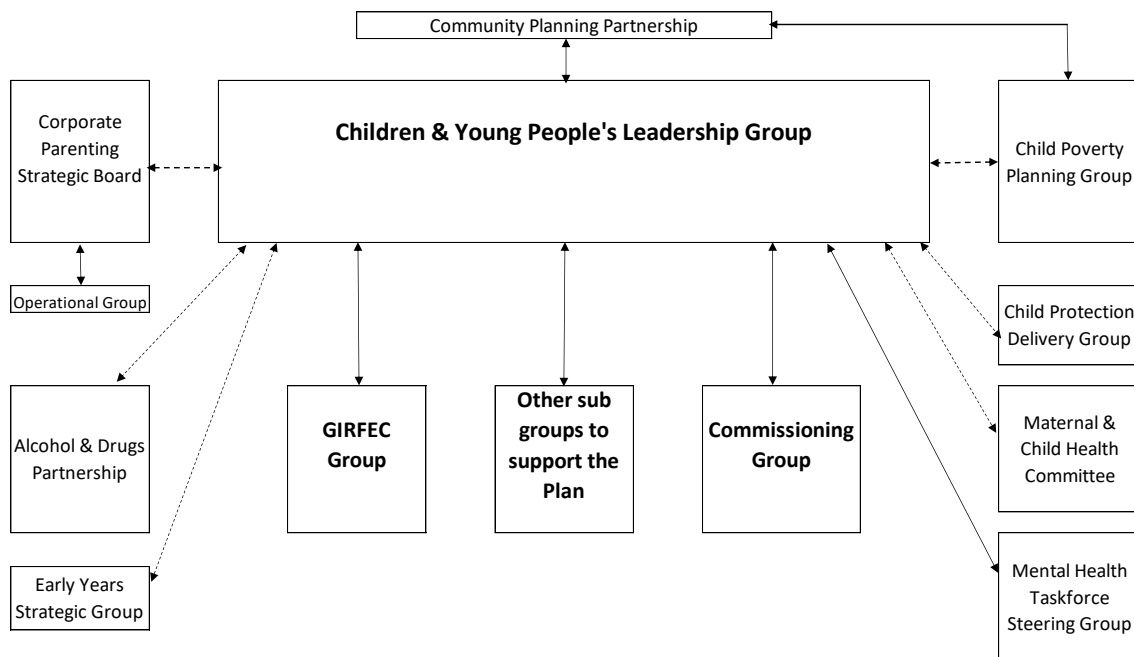
- Provide strategic leadership and direction

- Identify and provide solutions to emerging topics and issues
- Implement strategies and plans where relevant to the Leadership Group
- Engage effectively and listen to the needs of children and young people
- Commission partner organisations to provide specialist services
- Build effective partnerships in addressing priorities
- Monitor progress against the Integrated Plan actions
- Review data and statistics to inform actions
- Promote best practice
- Provide best value
- Enable better communications of successes and priorities
- Promote joint staff training and development

Governance

An integrated approach to service planning by partners is a requirement under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. This is the responsibility of the Community Planning Partnership and is delegated to the Children and Young People’s Leadership Group.

The Governance of the Leadership Group and the relationship it has with other relevant groups is shown in the chart below.



Key Plans and Strategies

As well as the delegated responsibility for the production and delivery of the Integrated Children and Young People’s Plan, the CYPLG produces a range of other Plans and Strategies and contributes to many others across their partner organisations. Key Plans and strategies are shown in Fig 2 below.

Children and Young People’s (Scotland) Act 2014	GIRFEC Approach	Public Health Priorities for Scotland
Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017	Key Plans, Strategies and Legislation	UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill
Scottish Borders Child Poverty Report and Action Plan	Community Planning Partnership Key Priorities 2020/21	Scottish Borders Council’s Corporate Plan 2018/23
National Performance Framework	NHS Clinical Strategy	Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Strategy 2020-23
The Promise	No-one left Behind	Corporate Parenting Strategy
CLD Strategic Plan	Regional Economic Strategy	Scottish Borders Director of Public Health Report (2018)

Figure 2 – Key Plans and Strategies

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

Workforce Planning and Development

To deliver improved outcomes for children and young people we rely on a knowledgeable, experienced and caring workforce who provide a variety of services across the Scottish Borders.

As a Leadership Group, we value the workforce and we will continue to invest in and support staff at all levels through multi-agency training, information sharing and briefing to increase skill levels and knowledge and support delivery of our priorities. We will work with the third sector and other partners, supporting their training and skills delivery on the ground to build capacity across all sectors, thereby developing stronger and more robust support to children and young people at a local level.

We will work within the framework of the *Common Core of Skills, Knowledge and Understanding, and Values* for the Children’s Workforce in Scotland (Scottish Government 2012) to strengthen our shared understanding and practice across different services to meet needs and improve outcomes for children young people and families.

Essential Characteristics of those who work with children, young people and families in Scotland

	UNCRC guiding principles			
	Non-discrimination	Best interests of the child	Right to life, survival & development	Respect the views of the child
	<i>As an employee or a volunteer you will:</i>			
Context A: Relationships with children, young people and families	<p>A1. Recognise that the needs and strengths of children, young people and families are unique and will be influenced by their environment, backgrounds and circumstances</p> <p>A2. Understand your impact on children, young people and families and how they might perceive you. Adapt your tone, language and behaviour to suit the circumstances</p>	<p>A3. Help identify and work with the needs and strengths in parents, carers and their networks in the interests of children and young people for whom they care</p> <p>A4. Ensure children, young people and families understand what information will be kept in confidence; and why some information from or about them may be shared</p>	<p>A5. Be aware of how children and young people develop, seek to understand vulnerability and promote resilience</p> <p>A6. Understand appropriate child protection procedures and act accordingly</p> <p>A7. Consider the needs and potential risks for each child & young person in the context of where they live, their relationships and their wider world</p>	<p>A8. Include children, young people and families as active participants, listening to them, offering choices</p> <p>A9. Explain decisions and ensure children, young people and families fully understand them and their implications, especially if the final decision isn't what they hoped for</p> <p>A10. Keep children, young people & families informed of progress</p>
Context B: Relationships between workers	<p>B1. Be aware of who can help when provision for the needs or promotion of the strengths of children, young people or families is affected by their environment, backgrounds and circumstances</p> <p>B2. Be aware of who can help when you cannot communicate effectively with children, young people or families for any reason</p>	<p>B3. Understand the extent of your own role and be aware of the roles of other workers</p> <p>B4. Respect and value the contribution of other workers</p> <p>B5. Know what information to share, when to share it and with whom</p> <p>B6. Be aware of who can help parents or carers identify their own needs or strengths</p>	<p>B7. Know who to contact if you have a concern or wish to make a positive recommendation about a child, young person or family</p> <p>B8. Contribute to assessing, planning for and managing risks in partnership with others</p>	<p>B9. Seek to support children, young people and families in partnership with them, their networks and other workers</p> <p>B10. Recognise that timely, appropriate and proportionate action is appreciated by children, young people and families as well as other workers</p>

We recognise the challenges and demands on staff time and available capacity and resources across our partners, however, this does not lessen our commitment to ensuring that our children and young people are supported by a knowledgeable, experienced, and caring workforce. We are committed to continue to deliver the training and development needed to sustain progress on the priorities in this plan and the programmes that underpin it.

Commissioned Services

We want to ensure that the best possible services are provided for children and young people. To complement our universal services and provide additional support, a range of targeted services for children and young people are commissioned and delivered through statutory and third sector services.

Our current Commissioning Strategy (2017-2022), sets out the following principles which we apply to commissioning services:

- Focus on early intervention and prevention; ensuring we target families early enough
- Ensure that children and families' needs are at the centre of service design and delivery
- Ensure reducing inequalities is a priority across all services but that we get an appropriate balance between resourcing targeted and universal services
- Improve integrated working and focus on combined resources
- Work with and empower communities
- Improve outcomes for every child and their families.

The Strategy identifies a number of areas to be addressed through targeted commissioned services, these are:

- Positive emotional & mental health wellbeing of children and young people
- Availability, access, and support for young carers
- Consistency of access to quality youth work services
- Supporting choices:
 - Equality & inclusion
 - Positive life choices
- Availability and access of advocacy services
- Support to children and families who are affected by parental substance use

Appropriate commissioned services have been appointed to deliver these targeted areas, making best use of statutory, independent and third sector provision.

Additional sources of funding to commission services have been awarded by individual partners and this is used to complement current resources.

We will continue to develop partnership models of service delivery and funding, to ensure that the best use of resources, knowledge and expertise is utilised in meeting the needs of our children and young people.

Work will begin in the autumn of 2021 on a new Commissioning Strategy and a review of the current commissions. This Plan will help to inform the Strategy through the four priorities, their outcomes, and actions.

Current Commissioned Services – commissioned to 31st March 2022

- The provision of significant funding in Children and Families Social Work Service, which allows for the delivery of early intervention work with children and families on a non-statutory basis.
- A service which provides a holistic model of generic support for children and young people aged 10 to 18 years to improve and promote emotional health and wellbeing for those who are vulnerable or are involved in risk taking activity, utilising psychologically informed approaches such as alcohol support.
- A sustainable model which offers consistency of access to quality Youth Work services in addition to and supporting positive life choices, equality & inclusion with a focus on targeted work to support the most vulnerable young people.
- Funding to contribute to Youth Community Officers within Police Scotland. The Police Officers work as part of the Locality Team, addressing local problems and issues through partnership working. They are protected from 'routine' operational duties and their role is to complement the school curriculum of personal and social development and support service users through successful interventions to prevent offending or re-offending.
- Ongoing support of children and young people with caring responsibilities; providing a service with improved availability and access to enhance the quality of life as a child and young person.
- A service to provide support to children and families who are affected by parental substance use.
- A service for children and young people who have complex health needs and enables them to be cared for as close to home as possible. It is a holistic model of nursing support and provides supported transition to Adult Services as well as advice to parents and carers to enable children and young people to participate in education.
- A service for children and young people who have experienced sexual, physical and/or emotional abuse and where there is an impact of parental issues. Through 1:1 support, the service aims to minimise the impact of sexual, physical and/or emotional abuse to support recovery.
- A service for LGBTI Young People who require an additional level of support and would benefit from opportunities to build networks with other LGBTI young people. Through a range of activities such as youth groups and 1:1 support, the service supports LGBTI Young People to be more confident and increase their levels of self-esteem.

Monitoring, evaluating and reporting

To enable the delivery of the key actions within the four priorities, the Children and Young People's Leadership Group must ensure that appropriate work is being undertaken and more importantly that it is making a difference and results in outcomes being met.

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

Outcome focused reporting

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

Self-evaluation

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

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

Evaluation

The Leadership Group provides opportunities for groups shown on the Governance Chart (page 13) to present their work to them. This gives the Leadership group the chance to ensure that these groups are making progress against actions in the Plan.

Sub groups of the Leadership Group have reporting responsibilities as outlined in the terms of reference of the Leadership Group.

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

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

Appendix A: Covid-19 Research and Evidence

This Plan is supported by evidence found in the following links:

[The impact of COVID-19 on children and young people - 10 to 17-year-olds - Downloads - Public Health Scotland](#)

[COVID-19 Early Years Resilience and Impact Survey \(CEYRIS\) – findings from Round 2 - Downloads - Public Health Scotland](#)

[Dec2020-LockdownLowdown-Voice-Seldom-Heard-Groups-COVID19-Pandemic-Updated-December-2020.pdf \(syp.org.uk\)](#)

[Children & Young People's Evidence Bank](#)

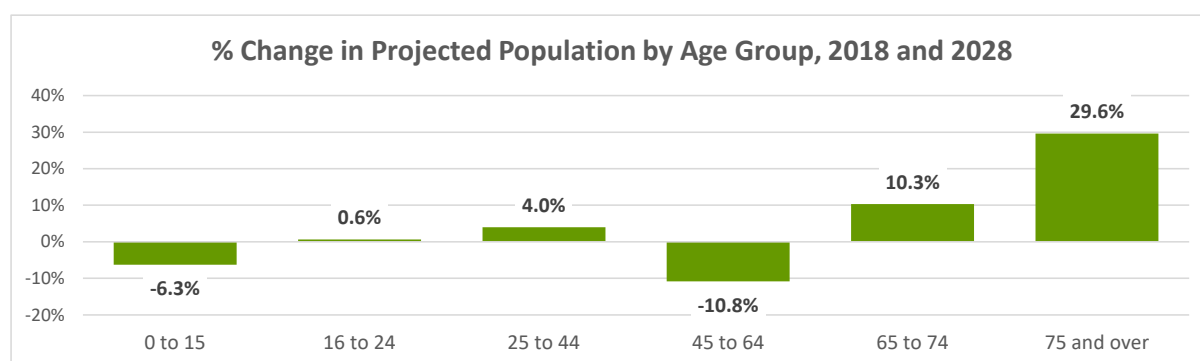
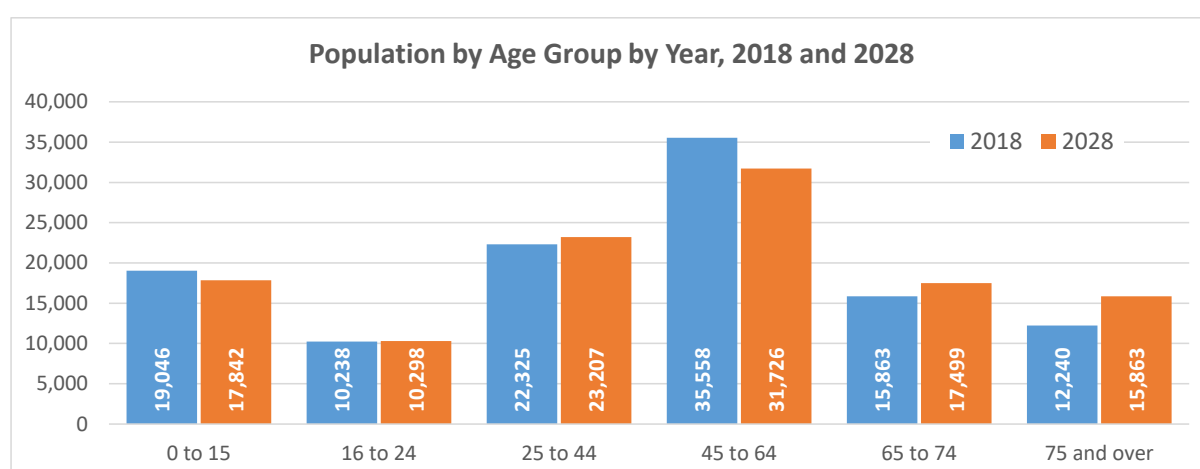
Appendix B: Understanding our demographics and data

Population

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

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

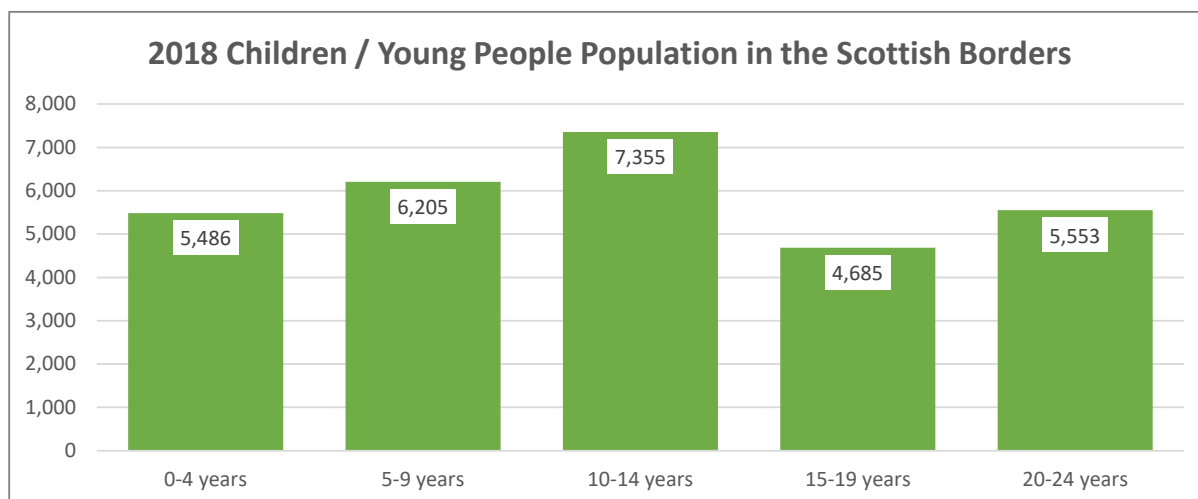
It is important to note that the number of children is projected to decrease by 6.3% to 17,842 in 2028.



The graph below shows the number of children / young people by age group and gender. In 2018³, there were 19,046 children and young people aged 0 to 15 and a further 10,238 aged

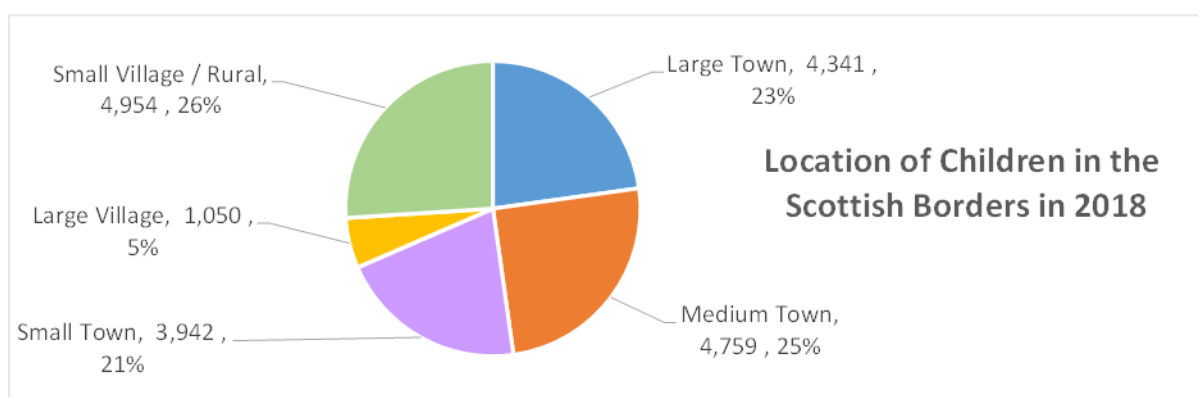
³ <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2018>

16 to 24, representing 16.5% and 8.9% of the population of the Scottish Borders, respectively.



Of the 19,046 children in the Scottish Borders:

- **23%** live in settlements of 10,000 or more (Hawick and Galashiels)
- **25%** live in settlements of between 3,000 and 9,999 (Peebles, Kelso, Selkirk, Eyemouth, Jedburgh, Innerleithen)
- **21%** live in settlements of between 1,000 and 2,999 (e.g. Duns, Lauder, Melrose, Coldstream)
- **6%** live in settlements of between 500 and 999 (e.g. Cardrona, Newcastleton, Stow, Yetholm)
- **26%** live in settlements with fewer than 500 people or more rural environs

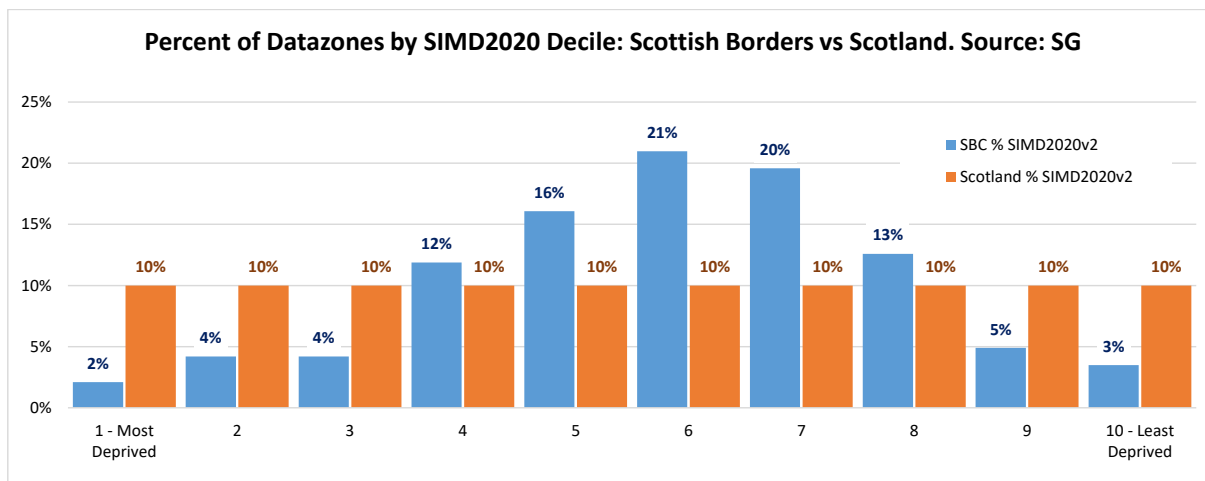


Over a quarter of children and young people are therefore likely to experience some level of “access deprivation,” affecting their ability to participate in activities out with the school day and at weekends.

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

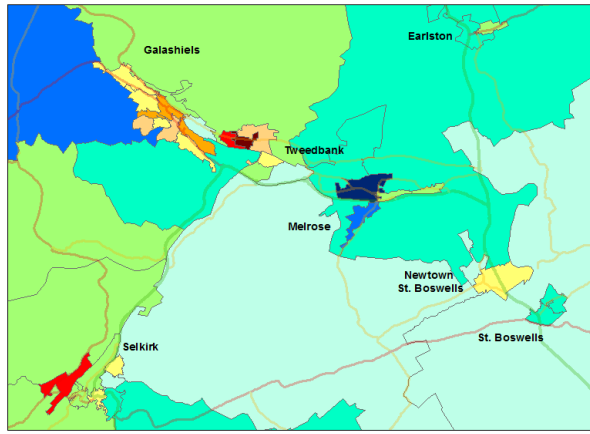
The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the official tool for finding the most deprived areas in Scotland⁴. The [SIMD2020](#) consists of over 30 indicators across 7 Domains: Employment, Income, Education, Health, Access, Crime and Housing.

The SIMD2020 shows that the 6% (9) of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders are part of the 20% most deprived of all of Scotland. A further 16% (24) of the data zones in the Scottish Borders are amongst the 21-40% most deprived in Scotland. The distribution of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders can be seen in the graph and map below.



⁴ <https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>

SIMD2020 for Scottish Borders Data Zones

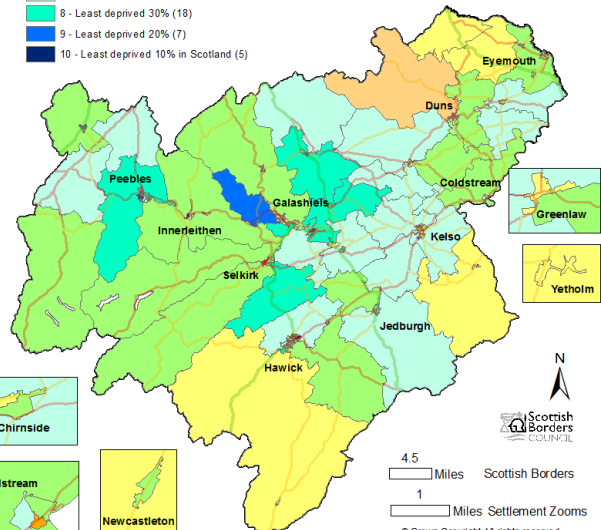
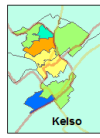
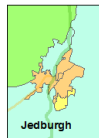
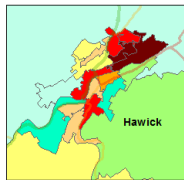
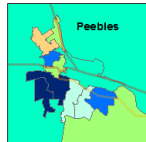


Roads

- Trunk Road
- A Road
- B Road

SIMD2020 Decile

- 1 - Amongst the most deprived 10% in Scotland (3)
- 2 - Most deprived 20% (6)
- 3 - Most deprived 30% (6)
- 4 - Most deprived 40% (17)
- 5 - Middle decile (23)
- 6 - Middle decile (30)
- 7 - Least deprived 40% (28)
- 8 - Least deprived 30% (18)
- 9 - Least deprived 20% (7)
- 10 - Least deprived 10% in Scotland (5)



4.5 Miles Scottish Borders
1 Miles Settlement Zooms

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The number in the **1** is the number of the 143 datazones (2011 based) in the group.

Scottish Borders Data

The following information shows our local situation in relation to the four priorities identified within this plan:

<p>Priority 1 – keeping children and young people safe</p> <p>8.5 out of 1,000 children were Looked After in 2019, down from 9.1 the previous year.</p> <p>5.8 out of 1,000 children were referred to the Children’s Reporter for care and protection in 2018/19, down from 9.4 the previous financial year.</p> <p>5 out of 1,000 children were referred to the Children’s Reporter for offences in 2018/19, up from 4.3 the previous financial year</p>	<p>Priority 2 – improving health and well-being and reducing inequalities</p> <p>23.2 out of 100 maternities had maternal obesity in the 3-year period up to 2020, the same as the previous 3-year period up to 2019.</p> <p>16.2 out of 1,000 maternities had maternal recreational drug use in the 3-year period up to 2020, more than 11.8 the 3-year period up to 2019.</p> <p>83 out of 100 babies were born a healthy weight in the 3-year period up to 2020, down from 84 in the previous 3 year period up to 2019.</p> <p>25 out of 100 Primary 1 children were not a healthy weight in 2019/20, up from 23 the previous year.</p>
<p>Priority 3 – targeting support to maximise life experiences and opportunities and ensuring inclusion</p> <p>22.5 out of 100 children lived in low-income families in 2019, up from 20.6 the previous year.</p> <p>3.2 in every 100 households with dependent children had no adults in work in 2019, up from 2.5 in the previous year.</p> <p>15.7 out of 100 children received free school meals in 2020, up from 11.6 the previous year.</p> <p>16 out of 100 children received a clothing & footwear grant in 2020, up from 15.2 the previous year.</p> <p>16 out of 100 pupils aged 16+ received Educational Maintenance Allowance in 2020 to encourage them to stay on at school. This is much higher than 3.8 the previous year.</p>	<p>Priority 4 – increasing participation and engagement</p> <p>8 out of 10 adults living with children lived within a 5-minute walk of a green or blue space in 2019, same as in previous years</p> <p>58 out of 100 school pupils engaged in “Active Schools” extra-curricular sports participation in 2019-20. This varied between 65 out of 100 in Eildon West learning community and 48 out of 100 in Berwickshire learning community</p> <p>80 out of 100 Primary 7 pupils participated in “Active Schools” extra-curricular sports activities in 2018-19. By S4, only 37 out of 100 pupils did so. This is similar to the previous year.</p>

Wages

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings produced by ONS and published on NOMIS⁵ contains information on wages. The median gross weekly pay (workplace based) for full time workers in the Scottish Borders has consistently been below the level for Scotland (83% between 2002 and 2020).

In 2020, the median gross weekly pay (workplace based) for full time workers in the Scottish Borders was £481, **£111 below** the £593 for Scotland or 81%.

Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan 2021/22

Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and Partners have prepared a Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan for 2021/22. Within the report there are details of:

- Children in Low Income Families
- Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index
- Scottish Borders Covid-19 Recovery Matrix and Index

This information is relevant to this Plan and the link is shown below.

https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/8138/report_and_action_plan_2021-22

⁵ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

Appendix C: The Integrated Children and Young People’s Services Plan 2021-23 – “The Plan on a Page”



Draft Integrated Children and Young People’s Plan 2021-23 Priorities, Outcomes and Themes

1. Keeping Children & Young People Safe

Outcome - More children and young people will be protected from abuse, harm or neglect and will be living in a supportive environment, feeling secure and cared for

Themes:

1. Addressing Child Poverty
2. Trauma Informed Practice

2. Improving Health & Wellbeing and Reducing Inequalities

Outcome - Inequalities in the health and wellbeing of young people are reduced

Themes:

1. Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health
2. Trusted Adults

3. Targeting Support to Maximise Life Experiences and Opportunities Ensuring Inclusion

Outcome - Life experiences and opportunities are improved for children and young people who require our targeted support

Themes:

1. Delivering The Promise
2. Supporting Transitions

4. Increasing Participation and Engagement

Outcome – All our children and young people will be encouraged to be involved in the planning, provision and delivery of services and their rights respected

Themes:

1. Children and Young People’s Engagement Strategy
2. Social Research and Communications

UNCRC 4 Guiding Principles

Non discrimination (Article 2)	Best Interest of the child (Article 3)
UNCRC General Principles	
Right to life, survival and development (Article 6)	Right to be heard (Article 12)



Appendix D: Glossary

CPP	Community Planning Partnership
CYPLG	Children and Young People's Leadership Group
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the rights of the Child
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
PPC	Public Protection Committee
GIRFEC	Getting it right for every child
CYPCS	Children and young People Commissioner Scotland
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex
SCRA	Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
HIIA	Health Inequalities Impact Assessment
NRS	National Records of Scotland
SIMD	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation
ONS	Office for National Statistics
NOMIS	National online manpower information system (office for national statistics)