

Scottish Borders Anti-Poverty Strategy 2021

About poverty



Poverty means you are poor and not able to

- heat your home
- pay your rent
- buy the things you or your children need.



People can be in poverty because they do not get paid much.

- In 2020 the weekly pay for full time workers in the Borders was £481.
- That was around £100 less than workers in other parts of Scotland.



The number of people claiming benefits because they were not working went up in 2020.

More about poverty



About 16,000 households in the Scottish Borders are **fuel poor**.

This means they cannot afford to heat their homes.



Many children live in families that do not have much money.



In January 2020 there were 17 foodbanks in the Scottish Borders.

In July 2020 there were 40 foodbanks.



A lot more people are using foodbanks, **FareShare** places and community kitchens.

FareShare is a group that saves good food that is going to waste and gives it to charities.

More about poverty



Many houses do not have good broadband.

People need broadband to get on the internet.

This means many people cannot do things on the internet that might save them money.



There are more people getting Universal Credit benefit.

- In March 2020 there were 4,600 people.
- In November 2020 there were 8,300.

What are people doing about poverty?



Scottish Borders Council and others want to make sure that nobody in the Borders is in poverty.



They are making a plan about how they will do this.



- They want to know more about what causes poverty.
- They want to know how poverty affects people.



The plan has 6 **Themes** or headings.

Each Theme has **Outcomes**.

Outcomes are things that we want to happen.

The 6 Themes and Outcomes

Theme 1 – Pockets



- People get the money they should be getting.
- People do not have to spend as much money.
- People can get access to services.
- People are socially included. This means everyone can be involved in their community.
- People are digitally included. This means they are able to use devices like computers and smart phones and the internet.
- People are financially included. This means they can use money services like banks and loans.

More about the 6 Themes and Outcomes

Theme 2 – Prospects



- **Education** – people become the best they can be.



- **Employment** – people stay in jobs. They get training so they can find other jobs.



- **Health and wellbeing** – everyone has the same chance to be healthy and stay healthy.

More about the 6 Themes and Outcomes

Theme 3 – Places



- **Houses** - everyone lives in warm houses they can afford.



- **Transport** - everyone is able to get where they want to go and can afford it.



- **Digital** – everyone can use things like computers and mobile phones. They can afford to do this.

More about the 6 Themes and Outcomes

Theme 4 – People



- **Community** - People can be fully involved in their community. They can make changes in their community.

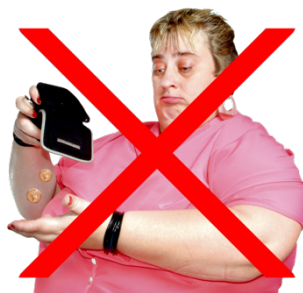


- **Poverty Awareness and Responsibility** - everyone is responsible for doing something about poverty.

Theme 5 – Partnerships



- **Working together** - more groups work together using technology.
- People are trained to know more about poverty.



- There will be projects to reduce poverty.

More about the 6 Themes and Outcomes

Theme 6 – Pathways



- A **pathway** is a way to make sure people get the help they need.
- There will be pathways to support people to be independent.

What will happen next?



When the plan is ready it will have actions – things that need to be done.

A group will be set up to make sure the actions in the plan are done.



The group will be made up of 7 councillors from Scottish Borders Council.

The Council and other organisations will talk to as many people as possible.



They will include people who are poor. This will help to make sure the action plan is right.

More information



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