**Meetings Feedback form for Borders Community Action Representatives**

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| **Name and purpose of meeting: Community Planning Strategic Board**  |
| **Date of meeting: 06/06/24** | **Attended by:** * Juliana Amaral – Borders Community Action
* SBC
* Fire Service
* Online attendees
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| **Relevant agenda items:*** Children's Services Plan Annual Report 2023/24
* 2023/24 Local Child Poverty Annual Progress Report and 2024/25 Report and Action Plan
* Review of the Locality Plans
* Community Plan Delivery Groups update
* Theme 2: Learning, Skills & Economy update
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| **Comments:*** **Children's Services Plan Annual Report 2023/24** – The Children & Young People’s Planning Partnership (CYPPP) places a duty on the local authority and strategic partners to consider and endorse the plan which has been developed in line with the Promise, GIRFEC and the UN Children’s rights - 2023-2026 plan

The report was presented as part of the meeting papers. Priorities for 2024/25 are set out below in four key themes:Understanding local needUse of policy levers and resourcesUnderstanding our progressUnderstanding our progressRecommendation was agreed by all. * **2023/24 Local Child Poverty Annual Progress Report and 2024/25 Report and Action Plan**

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets out the Scottish Government’s statement of intent to eradicate child poverty in Scotland by 2030. Local Authorities and Health Boards are required to jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Report (including an Action Plan) and subsequently an annualprogress report each year. Community Planning Strategic Board was asked to endorse annual Progress Report 2023-24 before submission to the Scottish Government. Scottish Government’s tackling child poverty delivery plan 2022 to 2026, [Best Start, Bright Futures](https://www.gov.scot/publications/best-start-bright-futures-tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2022-26/pages/3/) sets out how we will work together to deliver on Scotland’s national mission to tackle child poverty.The direct drivers of poverty fall into three main categories:Cllr Jardine highlighted other community supports available that are not reflected in the report. Wider conversations around capturing data and information about what is happening across communities, Jenni Craig suggested that the mapping starts with community teams operating across localities in the council, NHS and other partners. It is important to highlight how groups can be supported to respond to needs in terms of grants that are available. Holiday provision – supported holiday provision, pulling resources with information and funding to youth provisions across localities. Breakfast clubs – work already happening in some localities provided by organisations such as Greggs and Asda Foundation, more needs to be done to support joined up. Moving forward – the plan should be condensed and going forward part of the Community Planning Partnership on theme 1 – Poverty.The plan was endorsed by all.* **Review of the Locality Plans**

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 puts a duty on Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) to produce locality plans. The improvement plan has been reviewed and can be found here: <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20062/strategies_plans_and_policies/387/community_planning/2> In the Borders, five locality plans were published in 2020. Moving forward, plans need to be aligned with Place Plans, Area Partnerships which are also currently under review to be aligned with CPP arrangements.  Moving forward, plans need to explore inequality since over 20% of the Borders scores as most deprived across Scotland. Initial focus on the three most deprived areas:* Bannerfield
* Burnfoot
* Langlee

In order to keep this work at the very local level, it is proposed that the rolling programme is based on high schools clusters, due to the data that comes from partnerships happening around them such as:* Cluster Plans
* Community Learning & Development Plans
* Place Plans (Communities)
* Community Action Plans (Health Visitors)
* Local Policing Plan
* Local Fire & Rescue Plans

Cllr Thorton-Nichol raised the lack of understanding around the plan and the lack of older and working-age population representation – requested that language used and stigma around how this approach is presented. Mr McGrath – raised concerns about duplication of effort. Cathie French – time limitations so a target approach is welcomed. Concerned about raising unrealistic expectations. Jenni Craig reassured everyone around the approach considering all the work that is happening around them since schools are embed in communities. Recommendations were approved. * **Community Plan Delivery Groups update**

Jenni Craig provided an update on theme 1 and key partners' work:Theme 1 – Reducing PovertyTheme 2 – Skills - Local Employability Partnership to lead on this themeTheme 3 – Health and Wellbeing – reducing health inequalitiesTheme 4 – Communities, Connectivity and Place – Juliana provided an update on theme 4 and recruitment of membership for the subgroup.* **Theme 2: Learning, Skills & Economy**

Sam Smith provided an update on the local employability partnership (LEP) leading on theme 2. The four subgroups of the LEP barriers are transitions, skills, employer engagement and leadership (see page 155 in the Agenda pack). Cllr Jardine – asked DYW (Development Young Workforce), Sam confirmed that DYW is very much involved as a partner and leading the Employer Engagement subgroup.Change of the Community Planning Partnership to become an unincorporated association. Questions were raised around risk associated to members of the partnership, a paper will be circulated once the final advice is received. * **Future meetings –** to happen in person
* **AOB**

Mr McGrath –raised the case of participation requests in public decision-making. Community Councils’ capability is not equal across the Borders so improvement needs to be done. **Cllr Jardine –** question regarding community council network and progress on community Councils network review. Support to the Community Council network was provided initially by The Bridge and continues as an interim arrangement by Borders Community Action.Juliana highlighted that the interim arrangement was a provisional measure since the agreement for support was an arrangement with the Bridge. Juliana emphasised that Borders Community Action exists to support third sector organisations, any other arrangement will need to be discussed as part of the review.  |
| **Actions from this meeting:** * Juliana to consolidate the membership for Theme 4 subgroup and arrange a meeting.
* Juliana to discuss volunteering awards and recognition for older people – requested by elected members.
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| **Distribution list for information:*** Borders Community Action membership

**Signed: Juliana Amaral**  |