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| **Strategic meeting:**  Community Planning Strategic Board | |
| **Date of meeting:**  14/11/2024 | **Attended by:**  J Amaral |
| **Relevant agenda items:**   * Update on CPP Website * CPP Operating Framework * SBC Community Conversations | |
| **Specific points of interest:**  **Update on CPP Website** – the Board was presented with an overview of the new CPP website.  Cllr Thorton- Nichol asked regarding audience and who would be the beneficiaries of the website. Clare Malster explained that the website would link all the partners together and would be used to provide ongoing update on progress of the CPP plan and other strategic partnerships such as REP and CYPPP.  CPP Operating Framework -  **CPP Operating Framework –** Clare Malster provided an overview of the Strategic Board membership as follows:   * Integration Joint Board: one representative   • Live Borders: one representative  • NHS Borders: two representatives  • Police Scotland: one representative  • Registered Social Landlords: one representative  • Scottish Borders Community Councils Network: one representative –  under review  • Scottish Borders Council: three representatives, which shall be the Executive Member, one member of the Administration and one member of the Opposition  • Skills Development Scotland – one representative  • Scottish Fire and Rescue Service: one representative  • South of Scotland Enterprise: one representative  • Third Sector Interface: one representative  Membership delivery Board:  • Berwickshire Housing Association  • Borders College  • Eildon Housing Association  • Historic Environment Scotland  • Integration Joint Board  • Live Borders  • NatureScot  • NHS Borders  • Police Scotland  • Scottish Borders Council  • SBHA  • Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  • Skills Development Scotland  • SEStran  • South of Scotland Enterprise  • Sport Scotland  • Third Sector Interface  • Waverley Housing    Chair function will be shared among the key partners responsible for the delivery plan:   * NHS Borders   • Police Scotland  • Scottish Borders Council  • Scottish Fire & Rescue Service  • South of Scotland Enterprise  This will be a two-year term of office.  Quorum: not less than a third of the membership organisations – strategic Board quorum = 6 while delivery Board quorum = 6  Support will continue to be available via SBC for the secretariat.  Suggestion was made for Cllr Cochrane to continue as Chair of the Strategic Board for the next two years  Each organisation will be flexible in terms of who would be best to provide representation.  **SBC Community Conversations:** these have been running for 3 years now. 10 community conversations as well as 2 Youth led conversations were held. Partners have also attended these sessions.  Key points raised by communities:   * Transport * Transparency in communications * Access to affordable housing   2025 conversations starting with an ask to reach out to communities jointly as part of shared events. Cllr Jardine emphasised that the conversations and points raised are used to shape the council’s plan, including budget decisions – ‘You said, we did’ approach.  Wider discussion for collaboration and partnership for community outreach and engagement. Including the third sector.  Theme 1 Poverty - Efforts to map partner activities across the Borders are ongoing to understand current initiatives. To ensure alignment and avoid duplication, a few key priorities have been chosen to measure the performance of Theme One. The action plans from the Council’s Anti-Poverty and Child Poverty Strategies will soon be published and used to assess performance across partners. A slight delay in presenting this information occurred due to the need to align both strategies.  Locality Plans are being developed for Burnfoot, Bannerfield, and Langlee, with information gathering underway, including a survey in Burnfoot. While no data is available yet, future updates will align with the strategies' actions. Despite ongoing information gathering, significant efforts are being made to tackle poverty in the Scottish Borders, with the CPP endorsing the Anti-Poverty Strategy and supporting Locality Plan development.  Theme 2 Employability - The commissioning process for No One Left Behind Funds is being reviewed to improve efficiency, with ongoing discussions involving local authorities and the SBC procurement team. The LEP Exec Team has met to set priorities for the next financial year, with a follow-up meeting scheduled for February.  The Employability Team is now almost fully staffed, with only two positions still being advertised. New team members are settling in well. Despite staffing challenges, all staff have completed Trauma-Informed Level 1 training, with Level 2 expected to be completed by June 2025.  A session on Commercial Sexual Exploitation and its links to poverty, delivered as part of the Gender-Based Violence 16 Days of Action, was attended by 43 staff and led to further collaboration. Staff have also completed training with the Scottish Borders Rape Crisis Centre on responding to disclosures of sexual harm and with the Self Harm Network Scotland to improve support for clients in distress.  A new Borders Careers Collaborative working group has been established to coordinate career services, reduce duplication, and enhance collaboration among partners. The group first met in October, with the next meeting scheduled for January. Subgroup leaders continue to align their work with CPP themes in decision-making.  Theme 3 – Health and Wellbeing  The NHS Borders and partners are implementing a multi-faceted strategy to prevent and address health inequalities, with a strong focus on social prescribing, mental health support, and screening accessibility. Key initiatives include the development of wellbeing advisors, improved collaboration in primary care, and targeted screening efforts for underserved populations. Digital solutions and transport partnerships aim to reduce barriers to healthcare access, while vaping prevention and mental health initiatives are being integrated into schools.  Efforts also extend to employment and housing, with targeted programs for disadvantaged groups, including employability support, fuel poverty reduction, and rehabilitation initiatives within the criminal justice system. A partnership-based approach is being used to embed health considerations across policies and services, including sustainable food systems and community-led interventions.  Data-driven decision-making is emphasized through health inequality metrics, preventative spending analysis, and rural-specific measures. The strategy also includes work on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and gender-based violence prevention, with a shift towards a public health approach in tackling domestic abuse.  Theme 4 – Communities, Place and Connectivity  Summary of Workstream Progress  Digital Inclusion  The group discussed Scotland’s refreshed Digital Inclusion Charter and encouraged signatories.  Focus on digital skills development, particularly in the Borders and Dumfries & Galloway.  A joint approach will align with regional economic priorities.  Housing & Sustainable Communities  A new Borders Strategic Housing Forum was established, chaired by Cllr Carol Hamilton.  Objectives include addressing the housing emergency, improving collaboration, and exploring funding for new homes.  Community Support & Resilience  A Project Board was set up to develop a Sport & Physical Activity Strategy, adopting Public Health Scotland’s framework.  A draft strategy will be presented to the Council in January 2025 for public consultation.  Transport & Connectivity  The Transport Strategic Action Group is working on a transport prospectus, data collection, and network development.  Priorities include workforce mobility, community transport, and rural investment.  Plans are underway for a Borders Rail 10-year celebration event in September. | |
| **Actions from this meeting:**  Meeting with Selkirk Councillors outstanding, Juliana waiting for dates and Cllrs availability | |
| **Distribution list for information:**  BCA Team + Third Sector Leaders  **Signed: J Amaral** | |