

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

Stage 1 Scoping and Assessing for Relevance

Section 1 Details of the Proposal

A. Title of Proposal:	Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Report 2025-26 and Progress Report 2024-25
B. What is it?	A new Policy/Strategy/Practice/Project ☐ A revised Policy/Strategy/Practice X
C. Description of the proposal: (Set out a clear understanding of the purpose of the proposal being developed or reviewed (what are the aims, objectives and intended outcomes, including the context within which it will operate))	The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 requires Local Authorities and Health Boards to jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report and an Annual Progress Report. As per the Scottish Government's statement of intent to eradicate child poverty by 2030, the objective is to identify and reduce child poverty by mitigating financial and hardship risks. The report contains revised data and evidence on child poverty and refreshed action plan for the forthcoming year. Revised and new actions invoke the requirement for an IIA.

	This work is facilitated by multiple partners, their action plans, workshops, poverty drivers, impact analysis and intended beneficiaries.
D. Service Area: Department:	Resilient Communities
E. Lead Officer: (Name and job title)	Janice Robertson, Strategic Planning & Policy Manager
F. Other Officers/Partners involved: (List names, job titles and organisations)	Multiple – these are cross-partnership Reports incorporating partners from Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and the third sector. These can be made available upon request.
G. Date(s) IIA completed:	April 2025 May 2025

Section 2 Will there be any impacts as a result of the relationship between this proposal and other policies?

Yes
If yes, - please state here: Scottish Borders Council Anti Poverty Strategy Children and Young People's Services Plan 2023/26 Council Plan 2025 Community Plan Community Learning & Development Plan Children's Rights Report 2023/26 Scottish Government Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022/26 Best Start Bright Futures

Section 3 Legislative Requirements

3.1 Relevance to the Equality Duty:	
Do you believe your proposal has any relevance under the Equality Act 2010? <i>(If you believe that your proposal may have some relevance – however small please indicate yes. If there is no effect, please enter “No” and go to Section 3.2.)</i> YES	
Equality Duty	Reasoning:
A. Elimination of discrimination (both direct & indirect), victimisation and harassment. <i>(Will the proposal discriminate? Or help eliminate discrimination?)</i>	The proposals for revised and new action will help to eliminate direct and indirect discrimination, as all proposals are inclusive. The report highlights activities undertaken in 2024/25 showing the intended beneficiaries and

	how sets out our progress in working towards Scottish Government targets.
B. Promotion of equality of opportunity? <i>(Will your proposal help or hinder the Council with this)</i>	The 6 priority family groups at highest risk of poverty are lone parents, disabled, 3+ children, minority ethnic, youngest child aged less than 1 and mothers aged less than 25. The Drivers of Child Poverty fall into 3 main categories; Income from Employment, Cost of Living, Income from Social Security. The report sets out how all of these groups have been considered and all actions detailed confirm that agencies involved are working collaboratively to promote equality and reduce exclusion.
C. Foster good relations? <i>(Will your proposal help to foster or encourage good relations between those who have different equality characteristics?)</i>	Relationships have been established between all partner agencies. Under the Equality Act there are nine protected characteristics. The plans make positive impacts on many of these as outlined below.

3.2 Which groups of people do you think will be or potentially could be, impacted by the implementation of this proposal? (You should consider employees, clients, customers / service users, and any other relevant groups)				
Please tick below as appropriate, outlining any potential impacts on the undernoted equality groups this proposal may have and how you know this.				
	Impact			Please explain the potential impacts and how you know this
	No Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	
Age Older or younger people or a specific age grouping		X		The plans are inclusive of all children, young people and their families regardless of age.
Disability A physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities. This may be visible or invisible, progressive or recurring.		X		Commissioned Services are in place which deliver positive emotional and mental health support to all children and young people who require it.

Gender Reassignment anybody who is proposing to undergo, is undergoing, or has undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning the person's sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex.		X		The reports are inclusive to all children, young people and their families irrespective of gender reassignment/gender identity.
Marriage or Civil Partnership people who are married or in a civil partnership	X			These are not nationally identified key risk groups in relation to Child Poverty. Lone parents are identified as a group within significant vulnerability to child poverty, and their needs are highlighted as a focus of action within the report.
Pregnancy and Maternity (refers to the period after the birth and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth),		X		The Early Years Financial Inclusion Team campaigns, provides advice and support in relation to maternity payments, childcare and entitlement to Best Start Grants and Scottish Child Payments. Midwives and Health Visitors are proactive in referring expectant and new mothers for benefit checks. In 2024-2025 over 500 referrals were made resulting in benefits gains of approx. £1m.
Race: including colour, nationality, ethnic origins, including minorities (e.g. gypsy travellers, refugees, migrants and asylum seekers)		X		Minority Ethnic Groups are a nationally identified key group and are recognised within the plan. The reports are inclusive to all children, young people and their families irrespective of race
Religion or Belief: different religious or philosophical beliefs, customs (including atheists and those with no aligned belief) e.g. Christianity, Islam, Hindu, pacifism, vegetarianism, gender critical.	X			Religion and Beliefs are not nationally identified key risks in relation to Child Poverty. The reports are inclusive to all children, young people and their families irrespective of religion.
Sex women and men (girls and boys)	X			Sex is not nationally identified as impacting key risk groups in relation to Child Poverty. The reports are inclusive to all children, young people and their families irrespective of sex.
Sexual Orientation , e.g. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Heterosexual	X			Sexual Orientation is not nationally identified as impacting key risk groups in relation to Child Poverty. The reports are

				inclusive to all children, young people and their families irrespective of sexual orientation.
3.3 Fairer Scotland Duty This duty places a legal responsibility on Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to actively consider (give due regard) to how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socioeconomic disadvantage when making <u>strategic</u> decisions. The duty is set at a strategic level - these are the key, high level decisions that SBC will take. This would normally include strategy documents, decisions about setting priorities, allocating resources and commissioning services.				
Is the proposal strategic? Yes If No go to Section 4				
If yes, please indicate any potential impact on the undernoted groups this proposal may have and how you know this:				
	Impact			State here how you know this
	No Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	
Low and/or No Wealth – enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future.		X		Income from employment is one of the 3 main drivers of child poverty. The report shows multi agency actions undertaken, how these are assessed, intended beneficiaries and the progress of such actions. Income maximisation work and employability work contribute to ensuring families have enough money to live. A specific project to provide budgeting advice is underway in partnership with the Citizens Advice Bureau. This is funded by the Scottish Government Child Poverty Accelerator Fund and is proving to be successful in terms of client financial gains already realised.

Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies		X		Costs of Living is one of the 3 main drivers of child poverty. The Report shows multi agency actions undertaken, how these are assessed, intended beneficiaries and the progress of such actions. Berwickshire Swap hold events to help families access clothing and equipment for children. They also provide emergency parcels where referrals come from schools, health visitors, midwives etc. 45 events were held over the last year, with 2085 children benefitting.
Area Deprivation – where you live (e.g. rural areas), where you work (e.g. accessibility of transport), see rural proofing guidance		X		The under 22's free bus travel scheme continues to assist young people travelling to work or college.
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parents' education, employment and income		X		Income from employment is one of the 3 main drivers of child poverty. The Report shows multi agency actions undertaken, how these are assessed, intended beneficiaries and the progress of such actions. The Parental employability service works to upskill and/or re-train people to enable them to gain employment. Personalised support is also provided for parents who face barriers to progressing in their careers.
Care experienced people		X		The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund has a focus on providing a family group decision making service involving care experienced people.
Carers paid and unpaid including family members		X		The CHIMES service engages with each school cluster to re-emphasise the importance of support for young carers and encourage the completion of young carers statements.
Homelessness		X		The homelessness team work with families to ensure that they have a home.
Addictions and substance use		X		These are not nationally identified key risk groups in relation to Child Poverty. Our commissioned youth services signpost specialist support, including mental health and drug and alcohol services to young people who attend their clubs. This information is clearly displayed so that young people can access it.

Those involved within the criminal justice system		X		The criminal justice team work with schools to deliver specific programmes to keep children and young people out of the system, eg. No knives, better lives.
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3.4 Armed Forces Covenant Duty (*Education and Housing/ Homelessness proposals only*)

This duty places a legal responsibility on Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to actively consider (give due regard) to the three matters listed below in Education and Housing/ Homelessness matters.

This relates to current and former armed forces personnel (regular or reserve) and their families.

Is the Armed Forces Covenant Duty applicable?

No

Covenant Duty	How this has been considered and any specific provision made:
The unique obligations of, and sacrifices made by, the armed forces; The <u>MOD Statutory Guidance</u> gives the following examples: • Danger • Geographical Mobility • Separation from Family • Service Law • Unfamiliarity with Civilian Life • Hours of Work • Stress	

The principle that it is desirable to remove disadvantages arising for Service people from membership, or former membership, of the armed forces;	
The principle that special provision for Service people may be justified by the effects on such people of membership, or former membership, of the armed forces.	

3.5 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)	
Scottish Borders Council (SBC) has a duty not to act, or fail to act, in a manner incompatible with the requirements of the UNCRC. This only applies to certain matters, where SBC is acting under: • An Act of the Scottish Parliament. • Regulations made under an Act of the Scottish Parliament. • A general (common law) legal duty. Is the UNCRC Duty applicable? Yes The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 If "Yes", please complete below	
Which of the General Principles of the UNCRC are engaged? <i>(Tick all that apply)</i>	

Non-discrimination (Article 2)	√	
Best interests of the child as a primary consideration (Article 3)	√	
Right to life, survival and development (Article 6)	√	
Right to be heard (Article 12)	√	
None		
If you have ticked yes for any of the Articles, please list the effect and state whether this is positive, negative or neutral.	Effect	Pos/ Neg/ Neutral
	Child poverty work does not discriminate. All interventions are carried out to assist children and families regardless of status.	Positive
	Partners contributing to alleviating child poverty have children and their families at the heart of what they do therefore article 3 is a primary consideration	Positive
	Work relating to the cost of living contributes to article 6. Education, training and employability services contribute to this article. The new Whole Family support service is designed to provide a holistic approach to families, and their work also contributes	Positive
	The new YELL strategy (Youth Engagement Listen to Learn) contributes to the right to be heard	Positive

Section 4 Full Integrated Impact Assessment Required

Select No if you have answered “No” to all of Sections 3.1 – 3.5.

Yes

If yes, please proceed to Stage 2 and complete a full Integrated Impact Assessment

If a full impact assessment is not required briefly explain why there are no effects and provide justification for the decision.

N/A

Signed by Lead Officer:	Janice Robertson	
Designation:	Strategic Planning and Policy Manager	
Date:	June 2025	
Counter Signature Director:	Jenni Craig Director Resilient Communities	
Date:	June 2025	