



SCOTTISH BORDERS  
**CHILDREN'S RIGHTS REPORT**  
2017-2020 / 2021-2023





# CONTENTS

1. Introduction	3
2. What is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)?	3
3. Background to UNCRC in Scotland	5
4. The Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014	6
5. The Children and Young People’s Commissioner Scotland	6
6. UNCRC Incorporation (Scotland) Bill	7
7. Role of Children and Young People	7
8. The Cluster Approach	7
9. What do children and young people know about their rights?	10
PART ONE - What have Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and partners done to improve Children’s Rights in the past 3 years (2017-2020)?	11
PART TWO - What would Children and Young People like to see in the Scottish Borders?	12
10. Next steps proposed by the Council, NHS Borders and Partners	12
11. How will the Council and NHS Borders know they have made a difference?	13
12. Conclusion	13
Appendix 1A	14
Appendix 1B	16
Appendix 1C	18

# 1. INTRODUCTION

Part 1 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires Public Authorities to report, “as soon as practicable” after the end of each 3-year period, on the steps they have taken to secure better or further effect of the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Using the UNCRC as the framework for reporting, Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders have prepared a joint report which sets out:

1. actions implemented in the past 3 years (2017-20), when the duties first commenced) and;
2. an Action Plan of the proposed measures to be taken forward in the next 3 years (2020-23) to further the rights of children living in the Scottish Borders.

In preparing this report, we have consulted with children and young people to ensure they have a say about matters that are important to them. This has included various consultations on a variety of topics, e.g. school holidays and Jedburgh school provision. We are committed to involving children and young people in preparing Child’s Rights Reports in the future, as well as in the design of our services, policies and plans.

Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders Services have also been consulted and have provided various examples of their commitment to securing and furthering Children’s Rights.

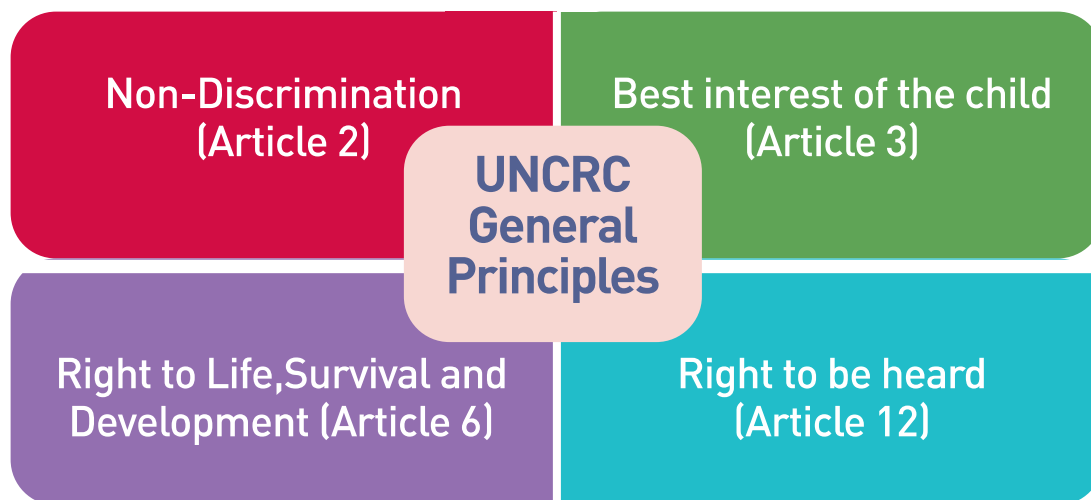
## 2. WHAT IS THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (UNCRC)?

The UNCRC sets out the human rights of every person under the age of 18 and is the most complete statement on children’s rights treaty in history. It was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989 and is the most widely adopted international human rights treaty in history. Progress on implementation of the UNCRC is monitored by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child’s life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It makes clear how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights. (See appendix 1A).

The Convention must be understood as a whole: all rights are linked, and no right is more important than any other. The right to relax and play (article 31) and the right to freedom of expression (article 13) are as important as the right to be safe from violence (article 19) and the right to education (article 28).

There are 4 Guiding Principles of the Convention. These Guiding Principles help to interpret all the other articles of the Convention and play a fundamental role in realising all the rights for all children. As set out in the diagram below:



**Article 2:** states all children have the rights set out in the UNCRC, and individual children and young people should not be discriminated against when these rights are realised. This covers both direct and indirect discrimination.

**Article 3:** states that the interests of children and young people should be thought about at all levels of society, and that their rights should be respected by people in power. In other words, it says adults should think about the best interests of children and young people when making choices that affect them.

**Article 6:** recognises that all children and young people have the right to survive and the right to develop. It says that children and young people should be able to grow up in conditions that do not negatively impact on their physical and mental wellbeing.

**Article 12:** states that the opinions of children and young people should be considered when people make decisions about things that involve them. Their opinions should not be dismissed on the grounds of age. Children and young people's views should be taken seriously, with their evolving capacities taken into account. Children and young people should be given the information they need to make good decisions.<sup>1</sup>

These lead onto the three P's of Provision, Protection and Participation and represent the underlying requirements for all rights to be realised (see table below).

**Provision**  
(survival needs, food and nutrition, health and shelter, and education)

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from CYPCCS.org.uk

These are rights to the resources, skills and contributions necessary for the survival and full development of the child. They include rights to adequate food, shelter, clean water, formal education, primary health care, leisure and recreation, cultural activities, and information about their rights. These rights require not only the existence of the means to fulfil the rights but also access to them. Specific articles address the needs of child refugees, children with disabilities and children of minority or indigenous groups.

## Protection (from all forms of harm and exploitation)

These rights include protection from all forms of child abuse, neglect, exploitation and cruelty, including the right to special protection in times of war and protection from abuse in the criminal justice system.

## Participation (as an active agent in their own lives and in society)

Children are entitled to the freedom to express opinions and to have a say in matters affecting their social, economic, religious, cultural and political life. Participation rights include the right to express opinions and be heard, the right to information and freedom of association. Engaging these rights as they mature helps children bring about the realisation of all their rights and prepares them for an active role in society.

The Convention can be [read in full](#) or accessed in an alternative [simplified formats](#) prepared by the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland.

### 3. BACKGROUND TO UNCRC IN SCOTLAND

UNCRC is an international human rights treaty, which sets out the rights every child has. Scotland is in the unique position of introducing legislation that provides legal protections of these rights in Scots Law. This has been progressed through the Scottish Parliament as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill<sup>2</sup>. Importantly, calls for incorporation came from children and young people too.

Children aged 9-13 who took part in the Children's Parliament consultation sessions demonstrated a clear understanding of the key issues, and expressed concerns that "Children's rights might be forgotten about". They also expressed that they felt rights and duties were important for public services including police, schools and social work. There was a clear call from children to "enforce children's rights instead of just letting it be optional to people".

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Incorporation Scotland Bill – Bills

## 4. THE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2014

However, Ministers have a duty to keep the UNCRC ‘under consideration’, to raise ‘awareness and understanding’ of its principles and provisions, ‘take account’ of views of children and local authorities must submit a report to the Scottish Parliament every three years on the changes that have been made to UNCRC implementation over the period. It also contains a duty on public bodies to report on UNCRC implementation.

The Bill became the newly named ‘Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014’ and while it fell short of incorporation, it provided a focal point for children’s rights discourse. The key point of the Scottish Government’s plan was to make Scotland the best place in the world for children to grow up.

## 5. THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S COMMISSIONER SCOTLAND

The Commissioner’s powers are set out in The Commissioner for Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2003 and amended by The Children and Young People Act 2014. Before the 2014 Act became law the Commissioner could only look into cases that involved human rights of groups of children and young people. As a result of the 2014 Act, the Commissioner can now investigate cases that affect the human rights of individual children and young people.

The role of the Commissioner is as follows:

- Protects the rights for children and young people under 18 or up to 21 if in care or care experienced
- Works to ensure that laws are fair and will challenge people in authority to ensure that they have done what they have promised to do. To ensure that all children and young people grow up in an environment of happiness, love and understanding
- Helps children and young people to understand the importance of children’s rights and that children and young people can demand change if their rights or rights of others are not being respected



## 6. UNCRC INCORPORATION (SCOTLAND) BILL

In April 2019, the First Minister committed to incorporating the UNCRC into law in Scotland and they are set to be implemented 6 months after Royal Assent, currently 2021. This means children's rights will be legally protected in Scotland and public authorities must take steps to represent children's rights in their decisions and actions. It also means that children, young people, and their representatives will be able to use courts in Scotland to enforce their rights.

<https://www.togetherscotland.org.uk/about-childrens-rights/monitoring-the-uncrc/incorporation-of-the-un-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child/>

Scottish Borders Council committed to embedding the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG) at a full Council meeting in August 2019, which have a strong resonance with the UNCRC, particularly inclusive and equitable education and promote lifelong learning for all. Also, to end poverty in all its forms everywhere, with children's rights forming the basis on any decision

## 7. ROLE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

**Article 12** states that children have the right to express their views in all matters affecting them and to encourage adults to listen to the opinions of children and involve them in decision-making. All children and young people have the right to be involved in decisions that involve them and have the right to have their voices heard about issues affecting them, taking into account the child's age and maturity. The UNCRC encourages parents, judges, social workers, childcare workers and other adults responsible for children to consider the child's view and to use that information to make decisions that will be in the child's best interests.

The interest of children in rights issues and the way in which parents handle these issues, will vary according to the age of the child. Helping children understand their rights does not mean pushing them to make choices with consequences they are too young to appreciate or understand. The UNCRC encourages parents to deal with rights issues with their children "... in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child ..." (Article 5). The issues which are discussed, the way parents answer questions or the methods of discipline they use, will differ depending on the age of the child.

## 8. THE CLUSTER APPROACH

The different Articles of the UNCRC are grouped into clusters. This is the structure that is recommended for reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. There are nine clusters, which help facilitate reporting for Children's Rights and these are detailed in the table below. In Scottish Borders we will use this cluster approach to report on Child Right's and to inform our future plans and activity.

Cluster	Description	Meaning	Example
1	General measures of implementation;	Any initiatives that raise awareness of Children's Rights.	Children and young people having their say on the way Council Services are delivered and planning decisions on play parks/new schools.
2	Definition of the child; articles tabled	Child or young person under 18.	For personal learning planning pupils, take responsibility by setting their own learning targets on a regular basis in their learning journeys or through a learning conversation, whatever is appropriate for age and stage.
3	General principles	Any Policy made in the best interests of the child and/or schemes introduced to stop discrimination.	Through Curriculum of Excellence, children and young people develop their spiritual, social, moral and cultural values. Looked after children's right to independent advocacy.
4	Civil rights and freedoms	Primary/high school involves pupils in all aspect of their education.	Curriculum for Excellence is now being implemented across Scotland for all 3-18 year olds wherever they learn. It aims to raise standards, prepare our children for a future they do not yet know and equip them for jobs of tomorrow in a fast changing world.
5	Violence against children	The Scottish Government's law on making it a criminal offence for a parent/carer to use physical punishment against a child.	The Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 which removed common law defence of "reasonable chastisement" from law on 7th November 2020.
6	Family environment and alternative care;	Children and Young People have the right to go into care, and have their rights respected when they are there. There should be independent checks to make sure their rights are respected, especially if disabled or a refugee.	Development of Champions' Board approach in Scottish Borders Corporate Parenting to better represent the voice of looked after and care experienced children and young people in service provision and development.



7	Disability, basic health and welfare;	Any Policy that focuses on the health & welfare of all children and the consideration of children with disability rights.	The Inclusion Policy, which outlines the Scottish Borders Framework for Staged intervention, that has been designed to enable staged and proportionate intervention to meet the additional support needs of children and young people within educational establishments in the Borders.
8	Education, leisure and cultural activities;	The right of all children to an education that will help them to achieve their potential without discrimination.	In teaching mathematics, primary 6 pupils of Priorsford were asked what interested them, the response was horses and the countryside. Therefore, the school adapted their maths syllabus around these 2 topics to make the subject relevant to the children.
9	Special protection measures	This focuses on groups of vulnerable and marginalised children who require special protection for example asylum-seeking and refugee children, child victims of trafficking exploitation and children in trouble with the law.	The Scottish Borders refugee resettlement scheme developed in 2015, the aim of which was to resettle 10 Syrian families in the Scottish Borders over 4 years. All eligible looked after children have been actively supported to achieve European Union Settled Status (EUSS).

## 9. WHAT DO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS?

A short survey was circulated to a group of young people to obtain their views about children's rights and the results show that some young people are aware that they have rights about issues that matter to them. Here are some of their comments:

Yes, I feel my comments are heard and I have been able to implement a number of things, for example a suggestion box for pupils

Yes, I have been able to get additional benches to sit on outside due to COVID

Found most people respect their rights

Felt teachers were open to listening

Through Scottish Borders Council Youth Voice have been supported to voice my thoughts on climate crisis

Often found problems brought up are forgotten about, usually because a member of staff has to talk to another member of staff and so on

One pupil struggled with maths all through primary school and it was not until studying for National 5 maths that dyslexia was mentioned and told it was too late for support

Yes and no, if adult thinks it is important they will be more engaged; otherwise, it will be disregarded for example recycling bins in school

We are lucky to be living in a country that's tries to take our rights and views into account when making decisions. For example Young Scot 5Rights Group which is a focus group on technology and digital rights.

Mostly teachers listen but when I looked into recycling bins at my school, I was told nothing could happen

In most case, but cases involving staff and mental health of students problematic as a lot of children and young people feel they are not taken seriously especially during panic attacks

## PART ONE

### What have Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and partners done to improve Children's Rights in the past 3 years (2017-2020)?

Over the 3-year period, a number of initiatives have been undertaken which have recognised Children's Rights and so have enabled children and young people an opportunity to state their views.

Significant highlights are detailed below, and the full list is shown in Appendix 1B attached:

The Integrated Children and Young People's Plan for 2018/2021 focused on the following 4 priorities. The priorities are written with Children's Rights in mind.

<p><b>PRIORITY 1</b> Keeping children and young people safe</p>	<p><b>OUTCOME</b> 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.</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY 2</b> Improving health and well-being and reducing inequalities</p>	<p><b>OUTCOME</b> Inequalities in the health and wellbeing of young people are reduced</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY 3</b> Targeting support to maximise life experiences and opportunities and ensuring inclusion</p>	<p><b>OUTCOME</b> Life experiences and opportunities are improved for children and young people who require our targeted support</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY 4</b> Increasing participation and engagement</p>	<p><b>OUTCOME</b> All our children and young people will be encouraged to be involved in the planning, provision and delivery of services and their rights respected</p>

1. Scottish Borders Council were given a presentation by Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament on their campaign "Right Here Right Now" in April 2018 which seeks to promote the rights of young people in Scotland. They outlined the background to the setting up of the Youth Parliament and advised that the topic for the campaign had been chosen following a survey of 5000 young people across Scotland, including 800 from the Scottish Borders.
2. The Councils' Inclusion Policy 2018 covers the key principle of a child's right to education with a commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Policy provides guidance to all learning establishments in promoting positive relationships and ensuring that the needs of all children and young people are met, which is important to Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC), the successful delivery of the Curriculum for Excellence and reducing the poverty related attainment gap.
3. Participation model - The Additional Support for Learning Policy sets out the definitions, background and legislative framework of Additional Support Needs and Additional Support for Learning. It specifies the services available, the processes for accessing these services, what service users can expect and the rights of parents and young people who use these services.
4. A resource was developed by S3 from Galashiels Academy on behalf of the Child Protection Committee which was shared with all secondary schools. The short clip provides a stark and meaningful message to all people about internet safety.

## PART TWO

### What would Children and Young People like to see in the Scottish Borders?

In addition to asking children and young people about their rights, we also sought their ideas about what they would like to see improve in the Scottish Borders.

#### Responses included:

- Digital connectivity
- Recycling and climate change
- Free public transport
- Education and children's rights
- Activities for young people
- Mental health

## 10. NEXT STEPS PROPOSED BY THE COUNCIL, NHS BORDERS AND PARTNERS

The Council, NHS Borders and their partners will continue to take forward measures to improve the wellbeing of all children living in the Scottish Borders and to ensure that their rights are fully realised and protected. The emphasis being on supporting all children and young people to realise their rights through the decisions, priorities and actions of public bodies. Local authorities and their partners must ensure that they act in accordance with UNCRC requirements.

Significant highlights are detailed below, and the full list is shown in Appendix 1C attached:

1. Incorporation of Children's Rights into Scots Law in relation to the current Parliamentary Bill and what incorporation would mean for public bodies. The Council and NHS Borders will review its policies to ensure compatibility with the rights of the child; and supporting the development of future strategies and services which will work to further the UNCRC for children and young people in the Scottish Borders.
2. Implementation of the Independent Care Review's 'The Promise' (2020) across corporate parent organisations in the Scottish Borders. Developments will be led through the Scottish Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-24 and informed by the on-going participation of looked after and care experienced children and young people.
3. For children and young people identified as young carers, current procedures are being updated to encompass directions about offering plans or statements to young carers of people with terminal illness quickly. This is because the powers to issue these regulations can only set timescales from once an offer is accepted. The guidance from the Scottish Government will therefore help to achieve the original policy intention of timescales running from when the authority was first aware of a young carer of someone who is terminally ill.
4. The Council has purchased the British Sign Language (BSL) teaching pack from Highland Council. Once staff have completed the training all schools within the Scottish Borders will be asked to consider learning BSL.
5. The introduction of Mind of My Own (MOMO) – a web-based communication App - to ensure that children who are receiving a service have the right and ability to express their views independently of a Practitioner and/or parent/Guardian.

## 11. HOW WILL THE COUNCIL AND NHS BORDERS KNOW THEY HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE?

The Council and NHS Borders measure the impact of the work carried out for Children's Rights in a variety of ways such as:

- Listening and working with children and young people as partners in measuring progress made by the Council, NHS Borders and their partners
- Implementing actions from the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan
- The work of the Children and Young People's Leadership Group
- Annual Progress Reports on CLD Services, Social Work and Education Services.
- The Scottish Borders Corporate Parenting Annual Report
- Performance indicators and monitoring reports
- Children and young people case studies
- Using surveys to gather information
- Forum meetings with children and young people and reports that provide information on Children's Rights
- Feedback from parent forums, namely parent partnerships

## 12. CONCLUSION

In accordance with Part 1 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 the Council, NHS Borders and their partners have worked together on a number of initiatives to further children's rights over the past three years and continue to do so in their planned actions for the future. The wide range of activity shown demonstrates a clear awareness of the need to embed Children's Rights in our work. As a result of Children's Rights being incorporated into Scots Law, services provided by the Council, NHS Borders and partners will need to ensure that children's rights are embedded into all appropriate policies, plans and strategies and that our decision-making and service delivery is compatible with the rights afforded to children and young people by the Convention.

This work has already commenced and demonstrates our ongoing commitment to Children and Young People in the Scottish Borders.

## APPENDIX 1A

<h3>Summary of the articles</h3> <p>Full content- Children's rights articles</p>	
<p><b>Four General principle of United Nation of Children's Rights Convention</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-Discrimination (2)</li> <li>• Best interests of the child (3)</li> <li>• Life, survival and development (6)</li> <li>• Respect for the views of the child (12)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Civil rights and freedom</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birth registration, name, nationality, care (7)</li> <li>• Protection and preservation of identity (8)</li> <li>• Freedom of expression (13)</li> <li>• Freedom of thought, conscience and religion (14)</li> <li>• Freedom of association (15)</li> <li>• Right to privacy (16)</li> <li>• Access to information; mass media (17)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Violence against children</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection from all forms of violence (19)</li> <li>• Right to education (28 (2))</li> <li>• Sexual exploitation (34)</li> <li>• Inhumane treatment and detention (37(a))</li> <li>• Recovery and rehabilitation of child victims (39)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Family environment and alternative care</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities (6)</li> <li>• Separation from parents (9)</li> <li>• Family reunification (10)</li> <li>• Abduction and non-return of children (11)</li> <li>• Parental responsibilities and state assistance (18 (1, 2))</li> <li>• Children deprived of a family (20)</li> <li>• Adoption (21)</li> <li>• Review of treatment in care (25)</li> <li>• Adequate standard of living (27(4))</li> </ul>
<p><b>Disability, basic health &amp; welfare</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life, survival and development (16)</li> <li>• Parental responsibilities and state assistance (18 (3))</li> <li>• Children with disabilities (23)</li> <li>• Health and health services (24)</li> <li>• Social Security (26)</li> <li>• Adequate standard of living (27(1-3))</li> <li>• Drug abuse (33)</li> </ul>

<p><b>Education, leisure and cultural activities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Right to education (28)</li> <li>• Goals of education (29)</li> <li>• Children of minorities/indigenous groups (30)</li> <li>• Leisure, play and cultural (31)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Special protection measures</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refugee children (22)</li> <li>• Children of minorities/indigenous group (30)</li> <li>• Child labour (32)</li> <li>• Drug abuse (33)</li> <li>• Abduction, sale and trafficking (35)</li> <li>• Other forms of exploitation (36)</li> <li>• Inhumane treatment and detention (37(b-d))</li> <li>• War and armed conflicts (38)</li> <li>• Recovery and rehabilitation of child victims (39)</li> <li>• Juvenile justice (40)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Optional protocol to the UNCRC on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict</b></p>	<p>Governments to ensure children under 18, who are members of the Armed Forces, do not taken part in armed conflict – any recruitment of a child under 18 must be voluntary and with the consent of the parents/carers</p>
<p><b>Optional protocol to the UNCRC on the sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography</b></p>	<p>Governments must ban the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and recognise the vulnerability of child victims, protect their privacy, provide appropriate support services and ensure their safety.</p>

## APPENDIX 1B

<b>What have Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and partners done to further Children's Rights in the past 3 years (2017-2020)?</b> <b>These are some examples of initiatives carried out</b>	
1	Partners have developed a planned programme that covers suicide awareness, intervention skills, mental health awareness, dealing with change, promoting wellbeing and resilience to increase emotional wellbeing and resilience of children and young people, which was started in 2018.
2	Galashiels Academy developed actions to promote universal approaches, take on early intervention ways to support emotional wellbeing for all, and work to tackle drug and alcohol misuse across all communities.
3	In partnership with NHS Borders the roll out of programmes such as 'Growing in Confidence' and 'Peaches & Aubergines' which was launched in September 2018. This was seen as a healthy relationship resource, comprising of 3 short films made by young people for young people, and looks at matters relevant to them around healthy relationships, consent and respect.
4	Piloted in one primary school, training on the dangers of sexting and grooming was provided in partnership with the Chairs of the Parent Partners, a local Youth Group and High School pupils.
5	Delivered senior S6 school leaver Child Protection Awareness Raising across our 9 High Schools.
6	Child Protection Committee (CPC) Training Officers made links with Rowlands Youth Club over summer 2019 and in autumn at Selkirk High School to engage more young people in creating a pilot training programme aimed at upper primary school age pupils in order to prevent, protect and report online abuse. Pupils spoke to the Chairs of Scottish Borders Council Parent Partnership to take on board their views about delivering child protection training to younger aged pupils and in so doing incorporated primary 5 pupils into the pilot. The results of the training highlighted that young people are being contacted online by strangers and by putting privacy settings on their accounts they can reduce the risk of this contact. In this pilot, primary 5 aged pupils (age 9-10 years) were identified as being targeted by strangers more than primary 6.
7	The Healthy Living Network and Community Learning developed and put in place a summer activity programme in 2019. Activities included good food sessions, physical activity and family learning support. Events took place in Burnfoot, Langlee, Eyemouth and Selkirk and were attended by 305 children.
8	Under the Locality Partnership Model and as a result of COVID 19, 16 childcare hubs were opened for the families of key workers, identified children and vulnerable young people.
9	The Children and Young People's Leadership Group commissioned the Quarriers Service to put in place a resilience and wellbeing practitioner in each of our 9 high schools.
10	Implemented procedures in relation to mental health and wellbeing for pupils and staff.



11	Self-harm awareness information available for parents and young people. Guidance and training introduced on self-harm and where to access help when required.
12	The Inspire Team worked with a network of school leavers and digital ambassadors in secondary schools to plan and develop high quality professional learning which supports changing the way learning is delivered in schools.
13	The addition of Wellbeing Ambassadors in secondary schools in partnership with the third sector created an App for students to assist them in changing the attitudes of peers' independent from initiatives of adults in the school community.
14	The Council has signed up to the LGBT Charter, which enables them to proactively include LGBTI people in every aspect of services the Council provide, protecting staff and providing a high-quality service to children and young people and customers of Scottish Borders Council.
15	Earlston High School achieved the LGBT Youth Scotland Gold Charter mark by creating an inclusive learning outcome for all and special thanks to students and teachers for making this happen.
16	Childsmile is a national health improvement programme designed for the health of Children in Scotland and reduces inequalities both in dental health and access to dental services.
17	Child Poverty - Financial Inclusion in Early Years ensuring children and young people have a right to food and shelter through the provision of advice and support to families who may be entitled to benefits.
18	UNICEF Baby Friendly Gold Award - Maternity Services - helping mothers to give their children the best start in life by encouraging breastfeeding.
19	Development and embedding of the Housing Options Protocol, a joint Scottish Borders Council – Registered Social Landlord initiative to ensure care leavers are not registered as homeless in order to secure independent accommodation.
20	Identifying young carers and ensuring they are receiving the support they require to ensure mental wellbeing and offering young carers a statement that outlines the support they need.
21	Policy, procedure and guidance review and updating of Scottish Borders Permanence procedures (now concluded) to ensure appropriate, permanent arrangements are made for children in a timeous manner.
22	A 6 monthly Children and Families Quality Assurance Report developed to ensure quality of service, including the rights of children, young people and their families, are delivered at a high standard.
23	Introducing a nurturing approach to the classroom, developing an inclusive practice so staff become practitioners and understand their personal responsibility to develop inclusion and nurturing of children and young people across the Scottish Borders.
24	Commissioning of the Aberlour Sustain service – an 'edge of care' service aimed at retaining vulnerable children within their families and communities (where appropriate).

## APPENDIX 1C

### Next steps proposed by the Council, NHS Borders and partners for 2020-2023

1	To produce a Children's Rights and Participation Strategy to raise awareness of Children's Rights and encourage children and young people to participate and be involved. Establishment of a Young Borders Action Team.
2	Development of Scottish Borders Community Plan – Whereby the Council, NHS Borders and their partners work together with local communities to improve the quality of life for all who live, work or study in the Scottish Borders.
3	The Council's Corporate Plan is being reviewed (with the existing one being 2018-2023). These developments are likely to feature children's rights prominently, especially with developments around incorporation of UNCRC.
4	Review NHS Borders Clinical Strategy.
5	Refresh Scottish Borders Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-24 incorporating play and parenting.
6	A refresh of the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan 2021-23 incorporating play and parenting. The plan will be a Child's Rights Led Plan.
7	Roll out of Transforming Trauma Informed Practice.
8	Review the Children & Young Peoples Forum so that children and young people can participate in decisions that affect their lives.
9	Virtual Headteacher - the Virtual School acts as a local authority champion to promote the educational achievement, attainment and experience of all of our looked after and care experienced children and young people. As a member of the corporate parenting group, the Virtual School works alongside our colleagues in Social Work, Health and other agencies to advocate for learners and provide educational support and direction.
10	Workforce development: multi-agency training and development courses for staff to develop skills and knowledge in supporting young people's emotional health.
11	Building the resilience of children and young people: training for young people and peer support. Providing information and resources for families and young people.
12	Development of pathways so that young people can get the right information, advice and support at the right time.
13	Opportunities for children and young people to get involved in Participatory Budgeting.
14	Continuing to raise awareness of the impact of adverse childhood experiences and child poverty on emotional health and wellbeing.
15	Build on the Childcare Hubs that were implemented as a result of COVID 19 and support engagement and look at ways of improving the services provided in conjunction with children and young people.
16	The Inspire Learning Programme will be rolling out iPads to all primary 4 and 5 pupils and all high school pupils. Also in partnership with Borders College provide on loan, laptops to students who do not own a laptop.

17	Development of the Locality Model with all agencies coming together for multi-disciplinary meetings to support vulnerable young people, and developing What Matters Hubs. The idea being anyone can access services by contacting the virtual office and be transferred to the agency that can provide the help they require at that time, namely education, social work or welfare benefits etc. Before the service is rolled out across the Scottish Borders a pilot will be run in one of the 5 localities.
18	Family Nurse Partnership Age limit not all 1st time mums – A home visiting programme for first time mums and their families helping them to achieve the best start for children.
19	Development of initiatives for children and young people to be involved in the way Council services are delivered.  i) Children and Families Social Work to introduce a strengths-based approach in how we work with families, with a particular focus on the introduction of Family Group Decision Making, ii) Improve Transitions planning and processes across all service areas (using a co-production approach with children, young people and their families).
20	As part of Global Day for Climate Action 2021 on 19 March, the Scottish Borders' Youth Ambassadors for Sustainability launched their #OurPromiseToThePlanet campaign for the coming year.
21	Review the Getting it Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) Information sharing protocol of confidential and consent to support children and young people's wellbeing between NHS Borders, Council, Police and Child Protection.
22	Scottish Borders Council is among a range of organisations who have participated in the Connecting Scotland digital programme providing devices to those most in need so that they are able to connect online. Participating organisations, including the Council, identified people facing barriers to digital inclusion to benefit from the scheme, including households with pre-school and school age children and young care leavers on low incomes. The total number of devices for Scottish Borders for this phase was 481 – 238 iPads, 235 Chromebooks and 460 MiFis helping to support 382 families, 65 care leavers and 34 other vulnerable people.
23	Scottish Borders CLD Strategic Partnership Plan 2020-22 engagement and implementation.

You can get this document on audio CD, in large print, and various other formats by contacting us at the address below. In addition, contact the address below for information on language translations, additional copies, or to arrange for an officer to meet with you to explain any areas of the publication that you would like clarified.

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES**

Scottish Borders Council | Headquarters | Newtown St Boswells

MELROSE | TD6 0SA

email: [HQOperations@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:HQOperations@scotborders.gov.uk)

