Our current programme of work focusses on improving the quality of life for those currently living within our most deprived communities through a stronger economy and through targeted partnership action.

Our Priorities

In June 2013, the jointly agreed SOA was submitted to the Scottish Government, which focussed on 3 key areas for the Scottish Borders. These priorities were agreed following the compilation and analysis of a comprehensive Strategic Assessment using SIMD and other data – collected in partnership. This approach ensured that the CPP considered the national priorities but gave flexibility to focus on local needs. The Strategic Assessment was refreshed in 2014 and the CPP agreed that there were no significant changes to the previous assessment.

- Reduce inequalities (targeted approach)
- Economy and Low Carbon (inward investment focus, railway & tourism). Maximise the impact from the renewable sector (on economic growth and employment, income, health, fuel poverty)
- In order to provide greater clarity regarding the role CPP’s play in public service reform, a fourth strand has been added in 2014 – The Future Services Reform Delivery Programme

Economy & Low Carbon

Scottish Borders Council and our partners have developed both an Economic and Low Carbon Strategy. These documents sets out the Council’s, and its Community Planning Partners’, vision for a prosperous economy in the Scottish Borders and our strategic approach to the development of the economy – through development and implementation of infrastructure, support to business, increasing employment, the facilitation of external funding and European investment, and national, UK and European lobbying.

The Low Carbon strategy is aligned to the Scottish Borders Economic Strategy 2023 and with the wider Community Planning Partnership priorities. It sets out a vision for a resilient, low carbon future, and goes on to identify priority actions which I hope will set us on that path.

Future Services Reform Programme

A new delivery team of CPP partners who are developing a programme of work which will look at a range of opportunities under the following headings:

- Co-location of services
- Welfare reform & digitilisation
- Community benefits through (joint) procurement opportunities
- Asset and Workforce development
Reducing Inequalities

We have recently completed, in partnership, the most comprehensive profile of inequalities within Scottish Borders. This profile, plus local partnership intelligence will enable the CPP to target resources to specific areas and communities, and the baseline established will allow us to track our progress more effectively in future years. This data will also be a platform on which to base our forthcoming Reducing Inequalities Strategy and Action Plan, which is currently being developed.

Public Health has been working closely with Community Planning partners to develop a local Reducing Inequalities Strategy. The partnership has been able to use data from a range of sources including local and national surveys to understand the characteristics of inequalities in the Borders as these relate to health and wellbeing, economic, education, community safety and housing. We are now considering how this shared intelligence on inequalities can be used to inform service delivery, working closely with local communities to achieve better outcomes.

Case Study: Reducing Health Inequalities in Scottish Borders (attached)

Public Health has the opportunity to work with Community Planning Partners to tackle inequalities at a number of levels, taking a whole systems approach. This includes -

- Mitigating the impact of inequalities by providing equitable services and programmes sensitive to needs of particular groups
- Preventative action taken by reducing barriers to health and improving living and working conditions

Detect Early Cancer Programme:

The overall objective of the DCE programme is to increase the proportion of Scots diagnosed in the first stage of cancer by 25% by 2015 compared to the baseline period 2010/11. For Scotland overall this means increasing the percentage of stage 1 cancers from 23.2% to 29% (briefing attached)

Primary School Flu vaccination Programme

High quality universal immunization programmes are extremely effective in reducing inequalities as they are able to reach all communities including the most deprived communities. We now have the final (or almost final) uptake figures for the school flu immunization programme this year which we offered the new Fluenz vaccine to all Borders primary school children-over 8000 children. I am pleased to say that Borders tops the uptake table by a clear ‘length’ at 82.7%. Average for Scotland was 71.5%. This is due in no small measure to the hard work of our brilliant immunization team and school nursing services led by Julieann Brennan and Mary Carryer and the excellent cooperation given by SBC Education services led by Gillian Mackensie and Graham Cresswell. Not only has our uptake been great but we are also using the most cost effective model in Scotland as we are the only Board piloting the use of Health Care Assistants to provide the vaccination.

Reducing Health Inequalities: Early Years

NHS Borders is working with partners in SBC and other sectors to improve support for families with small children from the antenatal period onwards. The development of 4 Early Years Centres in areas of higher deprivation of the Borders provides a focus to coordinate services and information
and support for families. The opening of the first of these centres in Langlee in Galashiels in 2014 has already enabled the Health Improvement team to offer practical programmes to support breastfeeding, healthy eating, peer support and access to financial help. In addition midwives and health visitors are using the centre for clinics. New opportunities for closer working among services and with local communities are already apparent.

The development of the Early Years centres grew out of the local joint Early years strategy and was directly informed by consultation and engagement with parents.

**Langlee Health Action Group**

This is a community based partnership planning group that focuses on co-creating projects that meet need in Langlee. This group was set up in 2014 and is made up of NHS, SBC and third sector and community partners. The group has met on three occasions and has influenced the development of the Langlee Community Flat (a partnership between the Langlee Residents Association and Waverley Housing) and they are planning other key projects including a social enterprise and proposals for a community shop. The health action group has also been consulted by the ADP on the development of an alcohol post and will act as a source of community support. The Health Action Group will have a direct link into the Galashiels Community Learning Partnership.

**Burnfoot Community Futures**

The Burnfoot Community Hub aims to deliver long term sustainable change, tackling inequalities through the enablement and empowerment of the community and its own resources. The Community Hub project will transform a derelict/disused building into a sustainable Community Hub, using £2.1m raised by the community and managed by Burnfoot Community Futures (BCF), a charitable company limited by guarantee. The Hub is scheduled to open in June 2015 and will incorporate a nursery suite (providing 35 childcare spaces to enable and support people back into training, education or work), a community café (focus on healthy eating, cooking to a budget and creating a good food culture), a multi level soft play (focussing on active play and providing opportunities for linking hard to reach young families into local services), 4x office spaces (to be let to third parties including Healthy Living Network with potential to create a multi-sensory/treatment room), multi-purpose function room (focus on education and physical activity - dance studio, workshops, training, events, etc), garden and growing space (links to healthy eating, outdoor activity and food production). In addition, the project will create 5.84 FTE direct project jobs, 9 indirect jobs (created or sustained), 30 volunteering opportunities and has a comprehensive Business Plan showing a sustainable Hub by Year 4 through its income generating services.

**Walkerburn Healthy Living Network**

HLN have been working in partnership with the Walkerburn Community and The Bridge over the last year to co-produce a health programme for older people who were not already engaged in activities, who were more isolated and living with long-term conditions. An appointment was made in partnership with interviews being conducted by both services and the community. This post has trialled various different activities including: fuel efficiency sessions, stress management, IT classes and created an archive of social photographs which can be developed in the future. This project has also made connections to Scottish Borders Council’s Resilient Communities through a mapping
exercise and this work is ongoing in an attempt to create a voluntary database of those who are most vulnerable or define themselves ‘at risk’, alongside a list of skills that Walkerburn has that can be shared. Recent planning suggested that critical to this work is to ensure that the ‘old Walkerburn culture’ of informal neighbourhood support is filtered through into the next generation. A scenario event has been planned for 2015 which will mobilise the resilient community co-ordinators, the community and partners.

**Community Learning & Development Strategy – Learning Community Partnerships**

HLN are key partners in the Hawick, Galashiels, Selkirk and Berwickshire Learning Community Partnerships. This work has been developed to deliver on the five/seven key themes of the reducing inequalities strategy and brings together partners across SBC, NHS and third sector who are ‘working on the ground’ to co-produce projects that meet the specific needs of those learning communities. CL&D partnerships have mapped out the assets/resources available to them and are focusing on creating action plans for each area.

**Men’s Shed**

Partnership project between NHS Borders, Volunteer Centre Borders and the Langlee community has seen the development of a Men’s Shed project to engage men in activities that promote inclusion and reduce isolation. The Men’s Shed have taken on the lease of an old disused SBC building to develop activities that ensure men are connecting and actively contributing to their community. The men’s shed are in initial stages of becoming a formally constituted group with support from The Bridge.

**Borders Healthy Living Network** - service comprising of SB Community Planning Partnership, Local Communities, Licensing Board, Care Service Providers, Borders College and the Lifestyle Advisory Service. The Healthy Living Network are currently involved in planning for the physical move from premises at the Health Flat to becoming an anchor tenant within the HUB. In addition they are working with BCF to co-produce an evaluation plan that will meet the needs of the array of funding providers and demonstrate health outcomes. HLN are using small scale funding to trial a participatory budgeting project that will enable BCF to deliver HLN work. This evaluation will enable us to evaluate the effectiveness of a participatory budgeting approach at a local level.

**Joint Dementia Service** - Co-location and service delivered in partnership: NHS Borders, SBC and key partners of the CPP.

**Community Safety Unit** - Co-location and services delivered in partnership: NHS Borders, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue & SBC.

**Borders Railway** - The Borders Railway being re-instated and the development of the Borders Business Park which will involve SB CPP and key partners.

**Third Sector Interface** - Third Sector Improvement Pilot All CPP partners have been involved in the pilot, and the CPP would seek to formally approve and adopt the forthcoming Action Plan.