

# bright new fūtures

For Borders Children and Young People

**Eildon: Eildon Ring Locality Team**



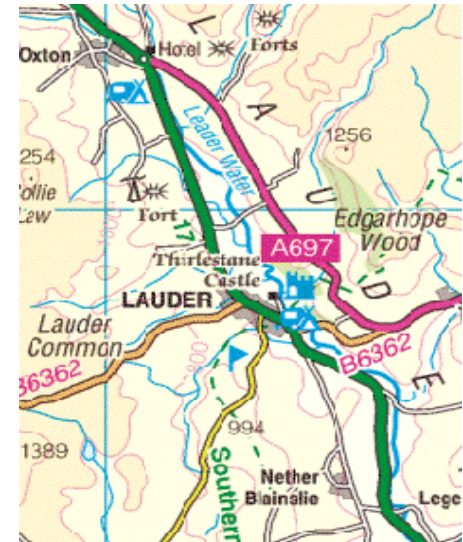
**Local Action Plan**

# Eildon Ring Locality Action Plan

## The Area



The Eildon Ring area covers the school cluster group surrounding Earliston High School and includes the villages of Lauder, Earliston, Gordon, Melrose, Newtown St Boswells and St Boswells plus a number of smaller hamlets such as Oxton, Redpath, Thirlstane and Westruther. The area is one of the most scenically beautiful in the borders but has few of the resources to be found in larger rural communities. Spread along the course of the A68 trunk road, which acts a major highway from Scotland to England and commuter route to Edinburgh the area lacks a central major settlement and most villagers will travel to and from Galashiels for amenities such as shopping, recreation and entertainment. The total population in the area is 11,831 and there are 2,578 children under the age of 18 years 28% of these are 5 years of age or younger. Two of the borders largest employers are located in the area, Scottish Borders Council Head Quarters at Newtown and Borders General Hospital at Melrose. Both are major employers and key resources for borders inhabitants. Out with agricultural and related occupations there are generally few employment opportunities available locally in the villages although a number of small to medium sized businesses are situated in Earliston. Numbers of unemployed young people are amongst the highest in borders at more than 10% of all school leavers.



Although unemployment is generally low there are pockets of social and economic deprivation in most of the settlements especially Newtown, Earliston and St. Boswells. In addition a number of families especially in the smaller hamlets are in low-paid insecure employment in traditional agricultural occupations. Rural isolation and poor public transport compound the effects of unemployment and low household income. In common with other areas of the borders many of the villages act as commuter belt settlements for

Edinburgh and most higher income group inhabitants will work in the Capital. This fact tends to disguise the underlying lack of local opportunities for employment and the relatively large numbers of local people who struggle to maintain a reasonable standard of living. Around 5% of school age children are entitled to free school meals and just over 7% of school age children are entitled to a clothing allowance. Numbers of looked after children are below the regional average as are the numbers of referrals to the Children's Reporters. Numbers of children on the child protection register are amongst the lowest in Borders. Referrals to CAMH's are in line with the regional average.

## **Identified Need**

The Locality Team have clearly identified the need to build capacity in local children's services and maximise the effective use of resources across the area. At the present time the area lacks a co-ordinated approach to capacity development and the lack of an effective community learning and development presence in the area is a major obstacle to this work. Eildon Ring is the only Locality not centred around a major settlement. Effectively this means there is no central focus for resources, no major leisure facilities or transport hub within the area. Voluntary provision for children and young peoples tends to be scattered and lacking cohesion. Small groups of volunteers are active in the villages but this work is overly dependent on the efforts of a very few relatively unsupported activists and therefore highly vulnerable and insecure in the longer term. A notable exception is to be found in the work of the local Early Years Group which provides peer support to early years workers in the area. In addition the locality team approach has enjoyed considerable support from school cluster Head Teachers and local health professionals but without the additional capacity which voluntary sector activity brings it will be difficult to go beyond statutory minimal levels of provision.

Although taken collectively the area has a children's population which is comparable with other localities the perceived level of resources in any village seems very much less than that expected in other larger settlements. In addition there are a number of small pockets of relatively intense deprivation in the communities which tends to go unrecognised through lack of local capacity. It is particularly in this regard that a number of local primary schools have identified a need to form a collective response to the needs of the less well supported child.

Locality Integration Team discussions have identified a number of key concerns

- Lack of support for community capacity building
- Inefficient use of community resources
- Lack of support for local voluntary organisations
- Lack of adequate community premises
- Support for learning, home/school links and building positive relationships between parents and schools

## **Existing Resources**

Children's services are provided by nine local primary school's at Channelkirk, Earlston, Gordon, Lauder, Melrose, Newtown, Oxnam, St Boswells and Westruther which act as feeders to the secondary school at Earlston. There are local health centres at Lauder, Earlston, and Melrose. Police stations are located in Lauder, Melrose and Earlston. There are no public access points to Social Work services in the area and there is no social work family support service available in the area. Community resources are very limited. There is only one small Community Learning and Development Centre at Newtown and no CLAD presence or adult literacies service in any of the other villages. Most villages have a community hall which, acts as a centre for a range of voluntary children's and young peoples activities. Uniformed youth organisations are represented in the larger villages and most local churches host some form of youth activity. Day care provision for young children is provided either by childminders or private nurseries in Lauder and Melrose. There are parent and toddler groups in Melrose, Oxton, Newtown, Earlston, St Boswells, Westruther and Darnick. Pre-school education is provided by Channelkirk Primary School, Lauder Primary School, Earlston Primary School, Newtown Primary School and Melrose Primary School. Commissioned pre-school nursery education are also located in, Lauder, Earlston, Newtown, St Boswells and Melrose.

Apart from uniformed organisations national and borders-wide youth organisations are almost entirely absent from the area. Local children's services are currently provided almost exclusively by statutory Health and Education providers, commissioned nurseries and by a small group of dedicated but vulnerable local volunteers

At the present time there is little co-ordinated use of resources and public buildings and other community spaces are often under utilised. Some communities such as Earlston simply lack adequate community facilities. Although Earlston High School continues to be a major provider of extra-curricular activities for young people during the evening the rapid growth in the secondary school role has forced the transfer of some dedicated community facilities to day school use. The school is due to be refurbished and extended under the PPP initiative and the creation of community facilities will form a key part of that development. Local people are actively campaigning for the creation of a community centre in the village.

## **Priorities and Key Outcome Targets**

The Locality Team have identified the need to develop capacity across the whole area by creating opportunities for resource sharing by building voluntary provision including links between groups and the creative use of existing premises. This work will be particularly important in the planning and delivery of community services via the New Earlston High School which we envisage acting as a central resource for children from across the area. It is the view of the Locality Team that the employment of a Community Capacity Development Worker is essential in order to progress the action plan as a whole. At the present time there is a basic deficit in core provision support for communities in an area that depends heavily on voluntary effort to provide non-statutory children's services. The key tasks of this post will include acting as a common point of contact for children's service providers, working with them in order to better co-ordinate their activities, organising shared use of resources, developing a support network for volunteers and to working with local and national voluntary and statutory agencies in an effort to enhance provision. Priorities for this area therefore, reflect the inherent interdependency of the various facets of the plan as a whole.

Support for Community Capacity Development

- Employment of a community capacity development worker

Co-ordination, Joint Planning and Programming of Young Peoples and Children's Services across the area.

- All In the Ring! : Shared Programme of Young Peoples Events and Activities.

Tackling Under Achievement and Support for Learning at Home.

- Home Link project.

The community capacity development worker will have a vital role in supporting the All In The Ring Initiative as well as working closely with schools in the development of home link working in addition to capacity building with local voluntary organisations.

# Eildon Ring Local Action Plan for Children's Services 2005 to 2006

ACHIEVING						
<u>ICSP Outcome Targets</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Stakeholders and Management Arrangements</u>	<u>Time-line</u>	<u>Resource Implications</u>	<u>Measures of Performance</u>	<u>Sustainability</u>
<p>16, 19, 20 21 23</p>	<p><b>Home-link Project</b></p> <p>Promoting more positive involvement between school's, children and families. The project will target those families who presently do not engage effectively with education or other support agencies. Workers will develop relationships with children and their families both within and out with school hours offering advice and hands on help with learning and behaviour issues. Staff will also assist in the development of a programme of support groups and educational opportunities for parents.</p>	<p>Newtown, St Boswells and Gordon Primary Schools.</p> <p>Managed by one Head Teachers working in association with designated manager/ co-ordinator in each school.</p>	<p>Recruit staff August 2005</p> <p>Induction and training September-October 2005.</p> <p>Build individual caseload in each partner school area. November 2005</p> <p>Parent support programme February 2005</p>	<p>1 FTE Home-link worker</p> <p>Salary £25,000</p> <p>Admin/Mileage £5,000</p>	<p>Baseline: There is currently no early intervention work taking place in the area.</p> <p>Numbers of children not achieving national targets xyz.</p> <p>Numbers of children referred to learning support.</p> <p>The project will measure performance against the above baseline data.</p>	<p>The project will work towards incorporation in core service provision.</p>

# ACTIVE

<u>ICSP Outcome Targets</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Stakeholders and Management Arrangement</u>	<u>Time-line</u>	<u>Resource Implications</u>	<u>Measures of Performance</u>	<u>Sustainability</u>
21	<p><b>All in the Ring!</b></p> <p>To develop a co-ordinated programme of young peoples sports activities in the area</p> <p>The project will provide support in the form of advice for volunteer coaches, help with access to sports facilities, co-ordinate shared use of transport and develop inter-village events/competitions/leagues etc.</p> <p>The project will also promote access to community facilities such as school's gym halls, local playing fields, skate parks etc.</p>	LIT, local sports clubs, active schools co-ordinators, Borders Leisure Trust, SBC Sports Development, SBC Outdoor Education	<p>Establish 'All in the ring!' Steering group. September 2005</p> <p>Identify programme Spring 2006</p> <p>Publish Programme Easter 2006</p>	<p>Support with costs of co-ordination incl.: Transport. Facility Hire Volunteer Development/Training</p> <p>Budget for youth work / coaching hours.</p>	<p>Baseline: Numbers of young people currently engaging in sports and other active pursuits. Numbers of vulnerable young people currently engaged in active pursuits. Health issues identified by Health Visitors/GP's</p> <p>Increased levels of participation and numbers of opportunities for active pursuits</p>	Establish All in the Ring as an independent voluntary organisation promoting active recreation across the area.

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21 24	<p><b>Earlston High School</b></p> <p>Develop programme of children and family activities in association with Earlston High School. Planning towards the development of a new community wing facility at the school.</p>	<p>Earlston High School, Eildon Ring Association of Young Peoples Organisations.</p> <p>Management arrangements yet to be defined.</p>	<p>Initial discussions Autumn 2005</p> <p>Enhanced programme Spring 2006</p>	?		

## RESPECTED and RESPONSIBLE

<u>ICSP Outcome Targets</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Stakeholders and Management Arrangements</u>	<u>Time-line</u>	<u>Resource Implications</u>	<u>Measures of Performance</u>	<u>Sustainability</u>
23 24	<p><b>Young Peoples Consultation</b></p> <p>The project aims to include young people as active participants in the planning and evaluation of services by</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Training front-line staff in consultation methods.</li> <li>2. Hosting young people's events in association with the various partner agencies and the Eildon Ring LIT.</li> </ol>	<p>All members of LIT. Schools, Police, Youth Organisations Health Professionals.</p> <p>The project will be directly co-ordinated by the LIT.</p>	<p>Devise guidelines May 2005.</p> <p>Include initial response in LAP and feedback at Earlston HS Citizenship day 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2005 June 2005</p> <p>Co-ordinate work with Youth Chex July 2005</p> <p>Host LIT young people's event/s (Youth Council Events). Feedback LAP. Autumn 2005</p>	<p>Trainers fees. £2,000</p> <p>Local young peoples events £2,500</p> <p>Consultancy fee to Youth Chex £1,000</p>	<p>Young people are currently not systematically involved in the planning and evaluation of children's and youth services in the area.</p> <p>The local Youth Chex group will be asked to undertake monitoring and evaluation on behalf of the LIT.</p>	<p>To be incorporated in normal working practices. Youth events will seek funding with support from BVYWF.</p>

# INCLUDED

<u>ICSP Outcome Targets</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Stakeholders and Management Arrangements</u>	<u>Time-line</u>	<u>Resource Implications</u>	<u>Measures of Performance</u>	<u>Sustainability</u>
<p>10 21 23, 24 27</p>	<p><b>Community Capacity Development</b></p> <p>To employ a community capacity development worker specifically</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To develop children's services capacity in the Eildon Ring Area</li> <li>2. Support for volunteers.</li> <li>3. To support young peoples participation.</li> <li>4. To co-ordinate better use of resources across the area</li> <li>5. Develop an integrated programme of children's activities</li> <li>6. Establish Eildon Ring Association of Young Peoples Organisations</li> </ol>	<p>All members of LIT including Police, Schools, Health, Voluntary Organisations and Social Work.</p> <p>The LIT will act as management group for the project</p> <p>BVYWF will provide day to day line management and support.</p> <p>Post will be hosted at no cost in a local agency</p>	<p>Recruit worker August 2005</p> <p>Establish volunteer network Autumn 2005</p> <p>Co-ordinate youth participation event Autumn 2005</p>	<p>1 FTE Children's Services Development Worker</p> <p>Salary £25,000 Admin/Mileage £5,000</p>	<p>Current baseline information: no staff able to build capacity in volunteer development or support for other children's services in the area</p>	<p>Post to incorporated within block award to BVYWF.</p>

## KEY BORDERS-WIDE PRIORITY:

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Key 1	A move to locality Planning and delivery including the co-location of services	Schools, Health, Social Work, Police, Voluntary Organisations, Partnership Nurseries, Young People, Parents	Establish Locality Integration Team February 2005  First draft of Local Action Plan June 2005			