About You		
1.	**Your Name**	
	Erin R. Murray	
2.	**Your Employer / Organisation**	
	Scottish Borders Council – Child Poverty Index	
3.	**Your Position**	
	Research and Policy Officer	
4.	**Your E-Mail at Work**	
	ERMurray@scotborders.gov.uk	
5.	**Your Address at Work**	
	SBC HQ, Newtown St. Boswells, MELROSE, TD6 0SA	
6.	**Your Telephone Number at Work**	
	01835-824000 ext. 5394	
7.	**Your Role in the Project**	
	Erin is the index developer for the project.	
An Introduction to the Project		
8.	**Please provide a short summary of the project**	
	The Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index (SB CPI) provides a quantitative overview of specific indicators of child poverty in Scottish Borders. The index is an area-based measure that gives an indication of the level of child poverty in a given area (data zone) based on combination of two components: proportion of children in low-income families and proportion of pupils in receipt of school clothing grant. The SB CPI was also created to work alongside the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. SIMD provides a way of looking at deprivation in an area, covering the whole population and does not specifically reflect child poverty. The data gathered provides context for council services and informs decision-making.	
9.	**Does the project have specific aims and/or objectives?**	
	The purpose of the SB CPI is to provide insight into child poverty in the Scottish Borders.	
10.	**Does the project have a title?**	
	Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index.	
11.	**Has it finished? Is it on-going? Does it have an end date?**	
	On-going, with no end date.	
12.	**Which groups of people, if any, are targeted by the service provided?**	
	Children living in low-income households in the Scottish Borders.	
13.	**How many people have been served by the project?**	
	Over 1,000 children have been included in the SB CPI.	
14.	**Where is it delivered?**	

	The project is delivered in the Scottish Borders.
15.	**When did it start?**
	2017.

The Initial Idea	
16.	**Who had the initial idea?**
	The Scottish Borders' Director of Education put in a request for a Child Poverty Index to be developed for the Scottish Borders.
17.	**How did the idea for the project come about?**
	The idea for the project came about to find a better way to assess need for Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) and to understand where PEF may be of the most use.
18.	**Did you draw on any published reports / papers / research evidence or practice you had seen elsewhere to inform your plans?**
	No.
19.	**Who was involved in developing the initial idea of the project?**
	Erin Murray, Research and Policy Officer for the Scottish Borders Council.
20.	**Were those with lived experience of poverty involved in developing the initial idea of the project?**
	No.
21.	**What funding was used, if any, to support the development of the initial idea of the project?**
	No additional funding was required for the development of the initial idea.

22.	**What in-kind resources were needed when developing the initial idea of the project?**	
	Facilities	N/A
	Equipment	N/A
	Local Knowledge	N/A
	Food and Drink	N/A

23.	**What, if any, barriers did you have to overcome when developing the initial idea of the project?**
	There were no barriers during the project's development.
24.	**What, if anything, was helpful when developing the initial idea of the project?**
	Support from the Director of Education was helpful when developing the initial idea.
25.	**What was the timeline between the initial idea and the start of the project?**
	The project started immediately as requested by the Director of Education.
26.	**Who made the decision to introduce the project?**
	The Director of Education.

The Early Development of the Project	
27.	**Did you run a pilot project or carry out a feasibility study?**

	No.	

Accessing the Service and Engaging with Service Users		
28.	**Is there a referral process?**	
	No.	
29.	**How are potential clients made aware of the project?**	
	Through the Scottish Borders' Council Education and Community Planning Partners and the team for Children and Young People.	
30.	**How do you stay connected with service users? Do your service users have a preferred method of contact?**	
	The project is part of the child poverty reporting for Scottish Borders Council.	

Collaborating With People with Lived Experience of Poverty		
31.	**Are those with lived experience of poverty involved in <u>delivering</u> the project?**	
	No.	
32.	**Are people with lived experience of poverty involved in <u>managing</u> the project or project governance?**	
	No.	
33.	**Are people with lived experience of poverty involved <u>in any other aspect</u> of the project?**	
	No.	

Leadership, Governance and Partnership Working		
34.	**Who is responsible for managing the project?**	
	Erin Murray as part of her remit.	
35.	**Is this the only responsibility of the person managing the project?**	
	No. The SB CPI is one analytical project of many.	
36.	**Is there a Project Steering Group?**	
	No.	
37.	**If there is no Steering Group, what governance arrangements are in place to review strategy and performance?**	
	The SB CPI is reviewed once a year by the Scottish Borders Council.	

Links to Wider Policies, Strategies and Statutory Requirements		
38.	**Is the project part of a wider anti-poverty strategy?**	
	Yes. It is part of the Scottish Borders Child Poverty and Anti-Poverty Strategy.	
39.	**Is the project part of any other strategy?**	
	No.	
40.	**Is the project delivering a service that is a statutory commitment?**	
	No, but it supplies data for the statutory Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Action Report.	

Funding		

41.	**Who funds the project?**	
	Funding is absorbed by the Council. The cost for developing and utilising the tool is included in Erin Murray's remuneration.	
42.	**How is the project funded?**	
	N/A	
43.	**How much does the project cost?**	
	N/A	
44.	**Is future funding based on pre-agreed outcomes or outputs being delivered?**	
	N/A	
Staffing and Resources		
45.	**Which partners are involved in delivering the project (local authorities, organisations, community groups, etc.)?**	
	No partners are involved in delivering the project. The project is delivered solely by the Scottish Borders Council.	
46.	**Which paid staff participate in delivering the project?**	
	Paid staff include Erin Murray–Research and Policy Officer for the Scottish Borders Council.	
47.	**Are volunteers involved in delivering the project?**	
	No.	
48.	**What in-kind resources do you need to deliver your project?**	
	Facilities	N/A
	Equipment	N/A
	Local Knowledge	N/A
	Food and Drink	N/A
49.	**For each of the in-kind resources listed above, who provides it?**	
	Facilities	N/A
	Equipment	N/A
	Local Knowledge	N/A
	Food and Drink	N/A
50.	**Did you have to buy or develop new IT systems, software (databases, apps) or technology to deliver your project?**	
	No. The SB CPI is developed using Microsoft Excel. Data is collected using StatXplor and the Scottish Borders Council's SEEMIS System.	
51.	**Was more staff training required to deliver your project?**	
	No.	
Monitoring and Evaluation		
52.	**What information, if any, do you collect about your project?**	

	Number of users	N/A
	Profile of users	The main users are practitioners involved in understanding and addressing child poverty in the Scottish Borders.
	Experience of users	N/A
	Anything else	N/A
53.	How often is data collected? Who collects the data?	
	Data is collected once a year by the Scottish Borders Council. They use StatXplore and their SEEMIS System to do so.	
54.	Do you have baseline data on what things were like before the start of the project or before users started the project?	
	The Scottish Borders Council has annual data on child poverty in the area starting from 2017. As a council, some data was collected prior to this. However, the SB CPI was developed due to lack of accurate data on child poverty.	
55.	Do you produce an annual report?	
	The Scottish Borders Council produce an annual report on the SB CPI, which is usually issued between April and May. This report is a component of the Council's broader report on child poverty.	
56.	In what ways, if at all, do you use the data that you collect to adapt the service that you provide?	
	The SB CPI provides context for educational and council services, often informing decision-making.	
57.	Have you employed an external organisation to formally evaluate your project?	
	No, however it is part of the Scottish Borders Council's wider work with their Improvement Service. This includes knowledge sharing with the Improvement Service and Rural Child Poverty Group.	
58.	Do you intend to employ an external organisation to evaluate the service that you provide in the future?	
	No.	
Reach and Impact		
59.	What difference has the project made?	
	It has improved understanding of child poverty in the Scottish Borders. The data gathered has also given context for council services and informs decision-making, particularly in schools.	
60.	How do you know this? What evidence proves impact (metrics, interviews, feedback)?	
	Local Child Poverty Action Reports illustrate that there is more accurate data on child poverty due to the SB CPI.	
61.	To what extent have the aims of the project been achieved?	

	The aims of the project have been achieved. For instance, it is now possible to clearly see fluctuations in child poverty according to data zones. It is also possible to see the proportion of children living in poverty, what level of poverty they live in and what their geographical area is.	
62.	**How, if at all, have conditions changed since the project was introduced?**	
	Child poverty increased during the COVID-19 pandemic and with the cost-of-living crisis.	
63.	**In your opinion, is the project having an impact on tackling child poverty?**	
	Yes, as it provides more precise data than the records collected before 2017. Because the project informs council decision-making, for instance where PEF should be distributed, children living in great need now have further support.	

Learning from Experience		
64.	**What is working well?**	
	One aspect that is working well is that the SB CPI provides improved contextual evidence of child poverty. This then informs which policies or initiatives are working in different geographical areas.	
65.	**What, if anything, is working less well?**	
	The SB CPI is not a tool to address the root causes of child poverty. it acts as a proxy for understanding the level of child poverty within the Scottish Borders.	
66.	**What are the key learning points that you would like to share with other practitioners? For example, is there anything that you would do differently?**	
	This is a useful tool for any authority with access to accurate underlying data sources. It is key to keep track of reliable child poverty indicators which can change over time depending on policies.	
67.	**What plans do you have to develop or expand the project in the future?**	
	The Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index was reviewed in November 2023. As a result, the components changed from 4 to 2. The use of the two-component index was applied to all years of the Scottish Borders Child Poverty Index. The were some minor changes but the overall results were similar to the four-component index. The components removed were: • % pupils in receipt of free school meals – the policy decision to provide free school meals to all pupils up P5 meant that it was no longer a robust indicator. • % of pupils in receipt of Educational Maintenance Allowance – this indicator had high level of fluctuation, and the overall number of pupils was very small.	
68.	**How easily do you think your project could be replicated in another setting?**	
	Easily, particularly if councils have access to correct underlying data. CPIs are already being implemented in other areas.	

Social Media and Further Information		
69.	**Please enter social media contact details and weblinks to supporting documents or resources below:**	
	Web Pages	SB CPI 2023: https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/12816/scottish-borders-child-poverty-index-2023

Facebook	N/A	
Instagram	N/A	
Twitter	N/A	
Tik-Tok	N/A	

GDPR Consent (Please say yes or no in the box)	
I give my permission to be named in the Tackling Poverty Locally directory and associated public outputs.	Yes.
I give permission for our organisation to be named in the tackling poverty locally directory and associated public outputs.	Yes.
I give permission for me to be contacted by directory users.	Yes.