Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA)

for Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028

# Introduction

As set out in Part 1 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, Scottish Ministers must keep under consideration whether there are any steps which they could take which would or might secure better or further effect in Scotland of the UNCRC requirements, and if they consider it appropriate to do so, take any of the steps identified by that consideration. Undertaking a CRWIA helps Ministers to fulfil this duty.

There are two key considerations when undertaking a CRWIA:

Participation: The United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child (UNCRC) sets out that children have the right to participate in decisions which affect them. When assessing the impacts of the policy/measure, you are recommended to consult with children and young people. You can do this directly, through organisations that represent children and young people or through using existing evidence on the views and experiences of children where relevant. Participation of children and young people should be meaningful and accessible.

Evidence: You are recommended to gather evidence when assessing the impact of the policy/measure on children’s rights and also for measuring and evaluating the policy/measure. If you identify any gaps in the evidence base, you can discuss how you will address these with analytical colleagues.

# 1. Which articles of the UNCRC does this policy/measure impact on?

List all relevant Articles of the UNCRC and Optional Protocols. All UNCRC rights are underpinned by the four general principles: non-discrimination; the best interests of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and the child’s right to have their views given due weight.

The relevant articles of the UNCRC to the Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2023-2028 are as follows:

Article 2 Non-discrimination

Article 3 Best interests of the child

Article 5 Parental guidance and a child’s evolving capacities

Article 6 Life, survival and development

Article 10 Family reunification

Article 12 Respect for the views of the child

Article 16 Right to privacy

Article 18(1,2) Parental responsibilities and state assistance

Article 18(3) Parental responsibilities and state assistance

Article 19 Protection from all forms of violence

Article 22 Refugee children

Article 23 Children with disabilities

Article 24 Health and health services

Article 27(1-3) Adequate standard of living

Article 30 Children of minorities/indigenous groups

Article 31 Leisure, play and culture

Article 39 Recovery and rehabilitation of child victims

# 2. What impact will your policy/measure have on children’s rights?

The Local Housing Strategy intention is to improve housing and housing related services in Inverclyde. The development of the new Local Housing Strategy is likely to have a positive impact on all children and young people in Inverclyde irrespective of any protected characteristic. Housing plays a key role in safeguarding, supporting and promoting the wellbeing of children through the delivery of:

* a range of housing options and choices for young people and families with children
* safe homes and neighbourhoods
* affordable and suitable homes
* warm and energy efficient homes
* connected places with support services.

# 3. Will there be different impacts on different groups of children and young people?

All children will be impacted positively by working to achieve the outcomes and actions of the Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy. This will be achieved by implementing the LHS action plan and delivering the following outcomes:

1. People in Inverclyde live in quality homes in connected communities.
2. People in Inverclyde find it easier to access and sustain a home.
3. People in Inverclyde are supported to live independently and well at home.
4. People in Inverclyde live in good quality, carbon friendly homes and energy efficient homes which reduce fuel poverty.

More specifically, the following actions and interventions will be made over the period of the Inverclyde LHS (23-28) to improve housing outcomes for young people and more specifically those who are disadvantaged.

**Action(s) and Commitments for Outcome Delivery:**

Continue to improve housing outcomes across a range of measures for young people, including care leavers and young adults with complex needs

**Baseline:**

* Current housing outcomes for young people

**Indicator or Measure:**

* Increase in positive housing destinations achieved by looked after young people
* Increase in number of tenancies sustained by young people for more than 12 months
* Increase in number of young people with complex needs receiving housing support

**Milestones:**

* Map housing and support needs of young people, including previously looked after children, to identify gaps in insight and baseline needs assessment
* Review care pathways for care experienced young people and young adults with complex needs
* In partnership with the Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), develop processes and procedures to plan housing outcomes for young adults based on their housing need
* Ensure consistent approach to identifying and planning for housing needs of young adults across Inverclyde.

# 4. If a negative impact is assessed for any area of rights or any group of children and young people, can you explain why this is necessary and proportionate? What options have you considered to modify the proposal, or mitigate the impact?

There are no negative impacts on children and young people as a result of the implementation of the Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy.

# 5. How will the policy/measure give better or further effect to the implementation of the UNCRC in Scotland?

The LHS Outcomes address the main housing issues which need action, investment and partnership over the next 5 years and have been co-produced with partners and stakeholders from public, private and independent sectors. The Action Plan, activities and targets will be reviewed annually to ensure partners are able to respond flexibly to changes in need across the Inverclyde region.

Annual review of the LHS action plan will provide updates on delivery of actions and in relation to this assessment the action identified in question 3:

*‘Continue to improve housing outcomes across a range of measures for young people, including care leavers and young adults with complex needs.’*

Completion of this action will contribute towards better or further effect to the implementation of the UNCRC in Scotland and inform Scottish Ministers’ duty to report to Parliament on children’s rights under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

# 6. How have you consulted with relevant stakeholders, including involving children and young people in the development of the policy/measure?

An extensive consultation and engagement programme was delivered to support development of the new Inverclyde LHS. This offered a range of opportunities for local people, communities and wider stakeholders to share their views on the most pressing housing challenges facing Inverclyde, as potential ideas for change and improvement. Opportunity to engage with the Local Housing Strategy and provide input to the strategy’s formation was widely accessible to all interested parties and residents using the following methods

**LHS early engagement survey:** A survey to inform the priorities of the new Local Housing Strategy was made available to communities and residents across Inverclyde, enabling them to express their views on which local housing issues ‘matter most’. The survey was open for 8 weeks from September to November 2022 and was completed by 475 residents and community representatives. The early engagement survey was heavily promoted across Inverclyde Council’s digital and social media channels. It was also promoted via the local press, by Steering Group partners and marketed to employees in Inverclyde Council and the HSCP. The survey was made available online with alternative survey formats on including telephone and freepost options. The survey was also shared via partner agencies of the Inverclyde Council for Voluntary Services, with support available to encourage the participation of hard-to-reach groups.

**Stakeholder conference**: To encourage and enable widespread participation, a full day LHS development conference was held in November 2022 via Microsoft Teams. Over 50 partners and stakeholders attended the event, including representatives from public, private, third and community sectors.

# 7. What evidence have you used to inform your assessment?

The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 (‘the 2001 Act’) places a statutory requirement on local authorities to produce a LHS that sets out its strategy, priorities and plans for the delivery of housing and related services. The 2001 Act states that the LHS must be supported by an assessment of housing provision including the need and demand for housing and related services, that it must be submitted to Scottish Ministers, and that local authorities must keep their LHS under review.

The Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA) is a primary element of the evidence base for the LHS and Development Plans, and its findings should help determine outcomes and priorities for future housing and related service delivery. HNDAs are designed to give broad, long-run estimates of what future housing need might be, rather than precision estimates. The Centre for Housing Market Analysis HNDA Tool enables local authorities to develop long-term strategic views of housing need and demand based on nationally produced data sets.

The Inverclyde LHS 23-38 has been informed by evidence from the draft 2022 Glasgow City Region Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA3). HNDA3 provides housing estimates for each of the eight local authorities that make up the Glasgow City Region area (including Inverclyde) as the basis for setting Housing Supply Targets in the LHS and Housing Land Requirements in the LDP.

The LHS was also informed by the use of national statistics, including:

* Population projections,
* Household projections,
* House Sale data, and
* Housing register data shared with the Council by our partners within the RSL sector.

Furthermore, where the HNDA and LHS process identify shortages of affordable or specialist housing types in parts or all of the areas, proposals for this should be clearly set out in the LHS, as per guidance.

A specialist housing review was undertaken in Inverclyde prior to the development of the LHS and included extensive consultation with HSCP partners. This process included analysis of the housing requirements of all specialist housing groups listed within the Scottish Government’s LHS guidance. This work required service leads within the HSCP to provide future estimations of the housing requirements for their service. Children and Young People are among these groups for consideration. The subsequent action noted in question 3 was included within the action plan to address this area.

The LHS is set within the wider Community Planning framework for the Council and its partners, the following strategic documents were also used to inform the production of the LHS and subsequent actions:

* Inverclyde Housing Contribution Statement 2019-2024,
* Inverclyde Local Development Plan 2,
* Inverclyde Strategic Commissioning Plan 2019-2024,
* Inverclyde Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.

# 8. How will the impact of the policy/measure be monitored?

**Strategic governance:** The Inverclyde LHS development process was led by the LHS Steering Group which provides a multi-agency governance framework for the development and implementation of the LHS. Representatives include partners from Inverclyde Council, (Safer Communities, Planning, Housing Strategy, Regeneration and Planning and Performance, Alcohol and Drug and Homelessness Services), Registered Social Landlords and the Voluntary Sector.

These governance arrangements will continue following the publication of the LHS to monitor the ongoing delivery of the LHS action plan. Of particular interest to this assessment will be the action identified previously:

*‘Continue to improve housing outcomes across a range of measures for young people, including care leavers and young adults with complex needs.’*

Inverclyde Council, HSCP and partners within the RSL sector are responsible for safeguarding, supporting and promoting the wellbeing of children. This action will be monitored and reported on through the LHS strategic governance arrangements and will be regularly monitored through annual updates of the LHS as per Scottish Government guidance.

# 9. How will you communicate to children and young people the impact of the policy/measure on their rights?

Following a stakeholder consultation and Scottish Government peer review process, the Inverclyde LHS will be made publicly available to all residents and accessible via the Inverclyde Council website. Comments on the strategy will be welcomed via the Council website and will be reflected upon and strategy appropriately amended if required via the annual update of the LHS as per Scottish Government guidance.

# 10. Sign & Date

**Policy Lead Signature & Date of Sign Off:**

Patrick Rodger, Housing Strategy Officer, Inverclyde Council 17/07/2023

**Deputy Director Signature & Date of Sign Off:**

Martin McNab, Public Protection Manager, Inverclyde Council 17/07/2023

**Once signed off, please send to** **CRWIA@gov.scot** **and publish on gov.scot website.**