

# Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) for Inverclyde Council February 2024 Budget-Setting Process

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## 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. While all articles of the UNCRC are given equal weight and are seen as complementing each other, the four general principles of the UNCRC (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) underpin all other rights in the Convention, and should always be considered in your assessment. Please refer to [Annex 1](#) for UNCRC Article set out in Clusters and [Annex 2](#) for General Comments on the Articles.

V Family environment and alternative care

[Article 5](#) parental guidance and child's evolving capacities

[Article 18\(1\) and \(2\)](#) parental responsibilities and State's assistance

VII Education, leisure and cultural activities

[Article 28](#) right to education

[Article 29](#) aims of education

[Article 31](#) right to leisure, play and participation in cultural and artistic activities

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

Negative. The policy/measure may impede or actually reverse the enjoyment of existing rights, requiring mitigating measures be put in place.

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

All children and families will be affected by the proposed budget cuts in some way. Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) have identified that 75% of the proposed February 2024 savings will have a negative impact upon young people. Although the savings proposals will not remove the Rights of Children as such, they will mean that competing priorities to deliver services will mean that not all families and young people can access the same level of service that they previously enjoyed.

## 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?

The Equality Impact Assessments and detailed savings sheets outline the mitigating actions that can be taken to minimise the impact on young people. No Rights will be removed by the proposals but the removal of non-statutory additional services will result in a decline in the enjoyment of existing rights.

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

Not applicable.

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

Between December 2023 and January 2024, the Council conducted its Budget Consultation 2024/26 Phase 1; this was complemented, between January 2024 and February 2024, by its Budget Consultation 2024/26 Phase 2. Additionally, consultation on the Budget Saving Proposals has also taken place directly with young people and their parents and carers via a number of means including the Pupil Council, the Parent Council, and the *Clyde Conversations* young people's engagement events.

The results of the consultation exercises will be considered by our Elected Members.

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

The savings sheets and associated EIAs consider demographic information, research and the results of inspections. Consultations with the wider public has taken place, as outlined above, and the Education, Communities and Organisational Development Directorate has regular meetings with pupil representatives.

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

The Education Service produces an annual Standards and Quality Report which directly monitors aspects of the National Improvement Framework. The Council Plan 2023/28 and the Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan 2023/33 measure success and areas to improve on further. Key performance indicators are identified for the Council and these are monitored and reported on regularly.

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

The Education, Communities and Organisational Development Directorate has regular meetings with pupil representatives which are child friendly. All of our schools are Rights Respecting Schools and the young people have a good understanding of the Articles.

## 10. Sign and Date

Policy Lead Signature and Date of Sign Off: Ruth Binks, Corporate Director – Education, Communities and Organisational Development; 21 February 2024

Deputy Director Signature and Date of Sign Off: Michael Roach, Head of Education, 21 February 2024

**Once signed off, please send to [CRWIA@gov.scot](mailto:CRWIA@gov.scot) and publish on gov.scot website.**

## Annex 1 – UNCRC Article Clusters

### [CRC Clusters \(unicef-irc.org\)](https://www.unicef-irc.org/)

#### I General measures of implementation

- [Article 4](#) implementation obligations
- [Article 41](#) respect for existing standards
- [Article 42](#) making Convention widely known
- [Article 44\(6\)](#) making reports widely available

#### II Definition of a child

##### [Article 1](#)

#### III General principles

- [Article 2](#) non-discrimination
- [Article 3\(1\)](#) best interest to be a primary consideration
- [Article 3\(2\)](#) State's obligations to ensure necessary care and protection
- [Article 3\(3\)](#) standards for institutions services and facilities
- [Article 6](#) the right to life, survival and development (see also: [VI Basic health and welfare](#) )
- [Article 12](#) respect for the views of the child

#### IV Civil rights and freedoms

- [Article 7](#) right to name, nationality and to know and be cared for by parents
- [Article 8](#) preservation of child's identity
- [Article 13](#) freedom of expression
- [Article 14](#) freedom of thought, conscience and religion
- [Article 15](#) freedom of association and peaceful assembly
- [Article 16](#) protection of privacy
- [Article 17](#) child's access to information, and role of mass media
- [Article 37\(a\) right not to be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment](#)

#### V Family environment and alternative care

- [Article 5](#) parental guidance and child's evolving capacities
- [Article 18\(1\) and \(2\)](#) parental responsibilities and State's assistance
- [Article 9](#) separation from parents
- [Article 10](#) family reunification
- [Article 11](#) illicit transfer and non-return
- [Article 27\(4\)](#) recovery of maintenance for the child
- [Article 20 children deprived of their family environment](#)
- [Article 21 adoption](#)

[Article 25](#) periodic review of placement and treatment

[Article 19](#) protection from all forms of violence

[Article 39](#) rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of violence (see also: [VIII - Special protection measures](#) )

VI Basic health and welfare

[Article 6](#) right to life, survival and development (see also: [III - General principles](#) )

[Article 18\(3\)](#) support for working parents

[Article 23](#) rights of disabled children

[Article 24](#) right to health and health services

[Article 26](#) right to social security

[Article 27\(1\)-\(3\)](#) right to adequate standard of living

VII Education, leisure and cultural activities

[Article 28](#) right to education

[Article 29](#) aims of education

[Article 31](#) right to leisure, play and participation in cultural and artistic activities

VIII Special protection measures

#### **A - Children in situations of emergency**

[Article 22](#) refugee children

[Article 38](#) children and armed conflict

[Article 39](#) rehabilitation of child victims (see also: [V Family environment and alternative care](#) )

#### **B - Children involved with the system of administration of juvenile justice**

[Article 40](#) administration of juvenile justice

[Article 37\(a\)](#) prohibition of capital punishment and life imprisonment

[Article 37\(b\)-\(d\)](#) restriction of liberty

[Article 39](#) rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims (see also: [V Family environment and alternative care](#) )

#### **C - Children in situations of exploitation**

[Article 32](#) child labour

[Article 33](#) drug abuse

[Article 34](#) sexual exploitation

[Article 35](#) sale, trafficking and abduction

[Article 36](#) other forms of exploitation

#### **D - Children belonging to a minority or an indigenous group**

[Article 30](#)

[Optional Protocol to the UNCRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict Governments](#) should ensure that children under 18 who are members of the armed forces do not take a part in combat. Any recruitment of children under 18 must be voluntary and carried out with the full consent of the child's parents/carers. The UK Government has entered interpretive Declarations to this Optional Protocol. The UK would not exclude the deployment of under 18s who are members of the armed forces in direct combat if there is a genuine military need; it is not practicable to withdraw them before deployment; or doing so would undermine the operational

effectiveness of their unit. The minimum age at which children may join the UK armed forces is 16 years, with parental consent required.

[Optional Protocol to the UNCRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography](#) Governments must prohibit 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.

## Annex 2 – General Comments

General Comments are non-legally binding interpretive aids issued by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to provide State parties with assistance regarding the interpretation of an article or issue relating to the UNCRC, and what actions governments should take to ensure its implementation. New General Comments appear at irregular intervals.

[Treaty bodies Search \(ohchr.org\)](#)

1. [The aims of education \(2001\)](#)
2. [The role of independent National Human Rights Institutions in the protection and promotion of the rights of the child \(2002\)](#)
3. [HIV/AIDS and the rights of children \(2003\)](#)
4. [Adolescent health and development in the context of the Convention on the Rights of the Child \(2003\)](#)
5. [General measures of implementation on the Convention on the Rights of the Child \(2003\)](#)
6. [Treatment of unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin \(2005\)](#)
7. [Implementing child rights in early childhood \(2005\)](#)
8. [The right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment \(2006\)](#)
9. [The rights of children with disabilities \(2006\)](#)
10. [Children's rights in juvenile justice \(2007\)](#)
11. [Indigenous children and their rights under the Convention \(2009\)](#)
12. [The right of the child to be heard \(2009\)](#)
13. [The right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence \(2011\)](#)
14. [On the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration \(2013\)](#)
15. [On the right of the child to enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health \(2013\)](#)



16. [State obligations regarding the impact of the business sector on children's rights \(2013\)](#)
17. [On the right of the child to rest, leisure, play, recreational activities, cultural life and the arts \(2013\)](#)
18. [On harmful practices \(Joint General Comment with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women\) \(2019\)](#)
19. [Public budgeting for the realisation of children's rights \(2016\)](#)
20. [Implementation of the rights of the child during adolescence \(2016\)](#)
21. [Children in street situations \(2017\)](#)
22. General principles regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration [\(Joint General Comment with the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families\) \(2017\)](#)
23. State obligations regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration in countries of origin, transit, destination and return [\(Joint General Comment with the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families\) \(2017\)](#)
24. [General comment No. 24 \(2019\)](#) on children's rights in the child justice system
25. [General comment 25 \(2021\)](#) Children's Rights in relation to the digital environment.