



## **Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) Template**

<b>Title / Piece of work:</b>	<b>Looked After Children - Reduction Expectation Plans</b>
<b>Related MA number (if applicable)</b>	MA-P-JM-2808-19
<b>Name of Official:</b>	Martin Taylor/Alistair Davey
<b>Department:</b>	Enabling People Division, SSID, Health and Social Services Group
<b>Date:</b>	January-July 2019
<b>Signature:</b>	

Please complete the CRIA and retain it for your records on iShare. You may be asked to provide this document at a later stage to evidence that you have complied with the duty to have due regard to children's rights e.g. Freedom of Information access requests, monitoring purposes or to inform reporting to the NafW.

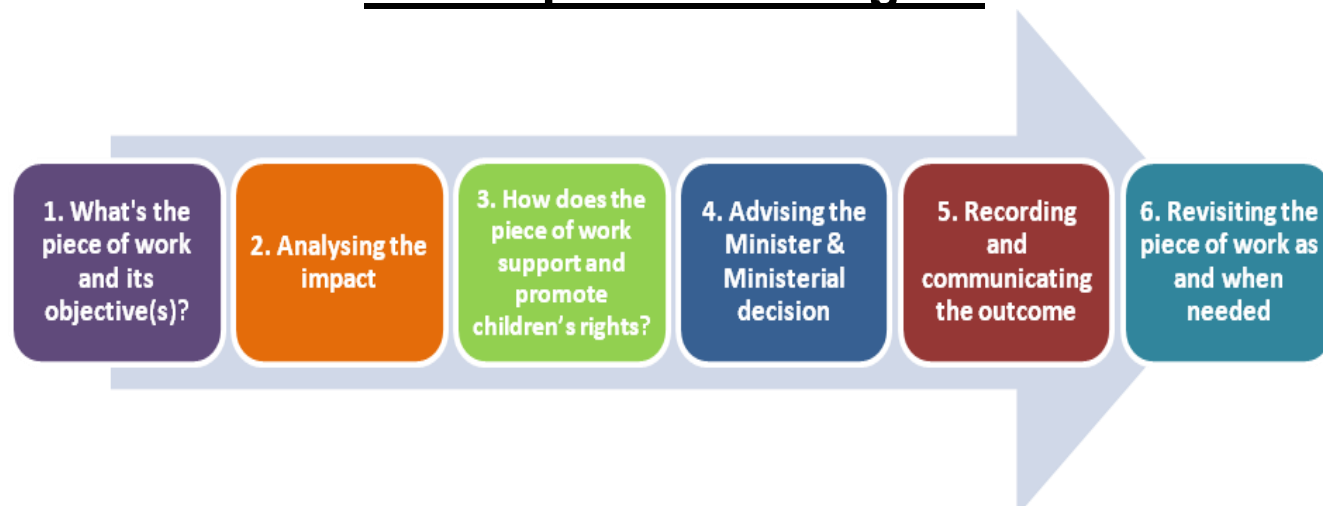
Upon completion you should also forward a copy of the CRIA to the Measure Implementation Team for monitoring purposes using the dedicated mailbox [CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

If officials are not sure about whether to complete a CRIA, they should err on the side of caution and seek advice from the Measure Implementation Team by forwarding any questions to our mailbox [CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

You may wish to cross-reference with other impact assessments undertaken.

**NB. All CRIAs undertaken on legislation must be published alongside the relevant piece of work on the WG website. All other CRIAs must be listed in the WG CRIA newsletter and must be made available upon request. Ministers are however, encouraged to publish all completed CRIAs.**

## **Six Steps to Due Regard**



### **Step 1. What's the piece of work and its objective(s)?**

You may wish to include:

- A brief description of the piece of work
- What the time frame for achieving it is?
- Who are the intended beneficiaries?
- Is it likely that the piece of work will specifically affect children?
- Will the piece of work have an effect on a particular group of children, if so, describe the group affected?
- Provide links to any supporting evidence, data or research which support your proposal.
- A brief description of the piece of work

#### **Reduction Expectation Plans**

Local authorities have been asked to develop Reduction Expectation Plans relating to the looked after children in their care, over the next three years.

A safety first approach is being taken to this work – the Welsh Government and the First Minister is clear that nothing overrides the need to protect children from abuse or neglect. The aim of the reduction expectation plans is to encourage a strategic shift to prevention, with better support for children to remain with their families and for those children who need to be in care to be closer to home.

#### **Background**

The numbers of looked after children in Wales has increased by 34% in the last 15 years. As at 31 March 2018 there were 6,405 looked after children in Wales.

In his 2018 Leadership Manifesto, the First Minister highlighted the need to address this issue as a priority area. He is clear that too many children are removed from their families and placed in the care system. He has set the following priority areas:

- To reduce the numbers of children in care;
- To reduce numbers of children placed out of county;
- To reduce numbers of children placed out of Wales; and,
- To reduce the number of children removed from parents with a learning disability.

To inform our approach to developing bespoke reduction expectation plans with each local

authority, a Technical Group chaired by Albert Heaney, Director of Social Services and Integration in the Welsh Government, was established earlier in 2019. The WLGA, ADSS Cymru and the Third Sector are represented on the group and have been actively involved in shaping our approach. The full membership is:

Albert Heaney, Director of Social Services & Integration (SSID), Welsh Government – Chair  
Naomi Alleyne, Director of Social Care and Housing, WLGA  
Nigel Brown, Chief Executive, CAFCASS Cymru  
Sue Cooper, Director of Social Services, Bridgend CBC/ADSS Cymru  
Sarah Crawley, Barnardo's Cymru  
Alistair Davey, Deputy Director, Enabling People/SSID, Welsh Government  
Phil Hodgson, National Adoption Service  
Councillor Geraint Hopkins, Spokesperson for Children's Social Services, WLGA  
Marian Hughes, Head of Children's Services, Gwynedd Council  
Andrew Jarrett, Director of Social Services, Neath Port Talbot CBC/ADSS Cymru  
Natalie Avery, Head of Family Justice, Improving Outcomes for Children, SSID, Welsh Government  
Henry Vaile, , Improving Outcomes for Children Senior Policy Manager, SSID, Welsh Government  
Huw Gwyn Jones, Improving Outcomes for Children Senior Policy Manager, SSID, Welsh Government  
Anthony Maynard, Head of Children's Services, Pembrokeshire Council  
Chris Newbrook, Head of Families First and Flying Start, Children & Families Division, Welsh Government  
Jonathan Scourfield, Specialist Policy Adviser for Social Care  
Bethan Sherwood, Social Services and Population Statistics, Welsh Government  
Catriona Williams, Chief Executive, Children in Wales

As of July 2019, the group has met four times. The WLGA and ADSS Cymru have welcomed our bespoke approach and have committed to work with us on this agenda.

Welsh Government officials have worked collaboratively with individual local authorities to co-produce the approach and a reporting template for local authorities, to set out their own bespoke reduction expectation plans tailored to their populations and demography. Prior to the visits, a discussion framework was developed by the Technical Group and shared with local authorities, setting out the agenda and expectations for the visits in advance of the meetings. During April and May 2019, a programme of visits was undertaken with each of the 22 Welsh local authorities. The Looked After Children Engagement Team was led by an independent Chair, Phil Hodgson and staffed by officials to discuss how local authorities manage their services for looked after children, their approach to risk and how they oversee entrance in to and exits from care.

#### Improving Outcomes for Children Ministerial Advisory Group

The Improving Outcomes for Children (IO4C) work programme is overseen by the Improving Outcomes for Children Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG), chaired by David Melding, AM. It has a broad membership made up of senior stakeholders from all the key agencies involved with care experienced children in Wales.

A IO4C Phase 3 work programme has been developed to last the course of this Assembly term. This is in recognition of the activity undertaken and completed over the last 18 months. It is informed by the key priorities identified within the Appreciative Inquiry (<https://gov.wales/improving-outcomes-for-children-advisory-group>) of six local authorities, recommendations from the Care Crisis Review (<https://www.celcis.org/files/6415/2889/4967/CCR-FINAL.pdf>) and the on-going PAC Inquiry into Care Experienced Children and Young People (<http://senedd.assembly.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=16183>) The IO4C Phase 3 work programme contains 12 key areas of work, across three work streams.

The programme is split into three key headline areas for action, of which the first is 'Safely reducing the number of children in need of care'.

The development of reduction expectation plans complements the continuing focus of the Improving Outcomes for Children work programme on reducing the need for care and securing the best possible outcomes for care experienced children.

- **What is the time frame for achieving it?**

The Reduction Expectation Plans will span the course of three years with expectations to meet at 12 months, 24 months and 36 months. There will be quarterly reviews which will set out short, medium and long term outcomes. A Monitoring Group is being established to oversee this element of the process including representation from Welsh Government officials, ADSS Cymru, Heads of Children's Services, WLGA, CAFCASS Cymru and the independent Chair of the Looked After Children Engagement Team who led the visits to the 22 Welsh local authorities.

- **Who are the intended beneficiaries?**

Children and their families. More effective early intervention and prevention alongside a greater focus on the safe reunification of children with their parents will help safely reduce the number of children placed in care and reduce the time children spend in care.

- **Is it likely that the piece of work will affect children?**

This work will directly impact on children and with the clear aim of enabling more children to be brought up by their parents, where it is safe to do so.

- **Will the piece of work have an effect on a particular group of children, if so, describe the group affected?**

This work is designed to have a positive impact on all looked after children and those leaving care that need care and support. It will also affect those children living in families on the edge of care.

In addition, it will benefit parents from cohorts where the evidence suggests they are more likely to have their children taken into care. These include care leavers, parents with learning disabilities and parents who already have had a child taken into care.

## **Step 2. Analysing the impact**

- What positive impacts will this piece of work have on children, young people or their families?
- What are the negative impacts and what compensatory measures may be needed to mitigate them?
- How will you know if your piece of work is a success?
- Have you considered the short, medium and long term outcomes?
- Have you developed an outcomes framework to measure impact?
- Do you need to engage with children & young people and/or stakeholders to seek their views using consultation or participatory methods?
- If yes to above, how have their views influenced your work?
- Do you need to produce child friendly versions of proposals/consultations?
- Does the piece of work have any links to delivering the key objectives of the [Child Poverty Strategy for Wales](#)?
- If so, state how the work may impact on child poverty.

## **Positive Impacts**

The work is about producing positive, qualitative outcomes in terms of safely reducing the numbers of looked after children and ensuring, through prevention and early intervention, children stay with or are unified with their parents. A further impact will be the reduction of pressures on local authorities in this area, by re-balancing the system in favour of early intervention and prevention services.

### The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

The fundamental principles of the 2014 Act underpin the work being undertaken to develop reduction expectation plans -

- Voice and control: Putting the child at the centre of their care and support enabling more children to be brought up by their parents where it is safe and appropriate to do so.
- Prevention and early intervention: Increasing preventative services within the community to stop needs growing and cases escalating to crisis points.
- Co-production: Working with local authorities so they develop and have ownership of their Reduction Expectation Plans.
- Multi agency: Strong partnership working between all agencies and organisations, with integration being the key driver for change.
- People: Children and their families are at the centre of this work.
- Well-being: supporting people to achieve their own well-being and measuring the success of care and support. 'Well-being' is a broad term applied across several areas within the Act and includes safeguarding (the prevention of and protection from abuse, harm and neglect), but it also applies to the physical, mental and emotional well-being of an individual.

### Delivery and alignment to aims of 'Taking Wales Forward' and 'Prosperity for All'

This work is also aligned to the 'Taking Wales Forward' commitments which say we will -

- Examine ways of ensuring children in care enjoy the same life chances as other children and if necessary reform the way they are looked after.
- Work to reduce unnecessary use of care, building on the work of the Integrated Family Support Service to work with and support the most vulnerable children and families in Wales.

Our national strategy 'Prosperity for All' also sets out -

- Children in care should have a secure place to live, receive a good education, safe contact with their family, and be protected from abuse and neglect. They should expect to be listened to and be helped to develop positive relationships. We need to ensure looked after children receive as much help as possible and enjoy the same early years support and life chances as other children.
- raise the educational attainment and improve life chances of children in care, adopting a child centred approach, through the collaboration of education, social services and others.
- strengthen edge of care services to provide families with timely support to reduce the numbers needing care provision and provide assistance in the key transitional phase post 16 to access further education, jobs and housing for those leaving care.

### Alignment with the Improving Outcomes for Children work programme

This exercise is aligned with the activity continuing under the Improving Outcomes for Children programme overseen by the Ministerial Advisory Group, particularly the focus of Work Stream 1

around prevention and early intervention and safely reducing the need for care.

Together this demonstrates our firm commitment to rebalancing the looked after children system so that the right support can be provided to enable families to support their own children and outcomes for those children in care are maximised.

#### Consensus and collective responsibility

There is collective responsibility across government, the public and third sectors and the wider community that care experienced children should be provided with the best care and support available, to allow them to flourish in a safe environment and enjoy the same opportunities as any other child would expect. There is also consensus that, where possible, children should be supported to stay with their birth families.

#### Rising numbers and profile of looked after children population

Statistics show at 31 March 2018 there were 6,405 looked after children in Wales. In the last 15 years the number of looked after children in Wales has increased by 34%. A May 2019 report from the Wales Centre for Public Policy notes that this rise cannot be attributed to austerity alone.

The rate of looked after children per 10,000 population in Wales is 102. However there is significant variation in the rate across Welsh authorities, ranging from 50 per 10,000 population at the lowest to 191 per 10,000 population at the highest. Although deprivation is an important factor in this variation, there are also variations in practice.

Almost 25% of looked after children are placed out of county and 5% are placed outside Wales. Whilst there will often be good reasons why these children are placed out of area, for example in specialist placements or with wider family or friends, we want to explore whether a proportion of these children could be placed more appropriately closer to home.

#### Bespoke discussions with local authorities

In April and May 2019, the Looked After Children Engagement Team visited every local authority in Wales and were impressed by the scale of work being undertaken to support children and families and avoid the need for statutory intervention. Discussions held with local authorities were well participated in and received.

Conversations focused on the need for collective responsibility for children's services at a corporate level to support improved outcomes for children. Local authorities were encouraged to demonstrate how they manage the business of children's services, including information about the practice framework they operate, data about the services provided to children and families, performance monitoring and tracking.

Local authorities have been encouraged to be aspirational and ambitious in developing their Reduction Expectation Plans. There is a need for action to re-balance the system, focusing on prevention and early intervention to support the best interests of children and their families.

Local authorities are assured that penalties are **not** being considered.

#### Consequences of not taking action

There are clear consequences of not taking action. While official statistics on the numbers of looked after children will not be available for 2018/19 until November 2019, local authorities reported early figures (as of March 2019) which show a potential increase in the number of looked after children of around 470, leading to a rate of 109 per 10,000 population. To compare this with other UK nations, In Northern Ireland, for example, the rate is much lower at 71 per 10,000, despite levels of deprivation being higher overall than in Wales. Based on existing trends, if we were not to



take action, numbers could continue to increase by an average of 6% per year.

The monitoring and evaluation of action will span the course of three years, both quarterly and at the end of each year.

Local authorities have themselves acknowledged the pressures of increasing numbers of children entering the care system, not least in evidence to the ongoing PAC Inquiry in to Care Experienced Children and Young People: <http://senedd.assembly.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?lId=16183> The President of the Family Division of the High Court, Sir Andrew McFarlane, has spoken in similar terms: <https://www.theguardian.com/law/2018/jun/13/legal-system-of-child-protection-is-in-crisis-says-senior-judge> and the Care Crisis Review (linked earlier) is clear about the impact and pressures of rising numbers.

#### The role of partner organisations

Local authorities have consistently highlighted that the Judiciary, CAFCASS Cymru and Local Health Boards also have key roles in supporting the implementation of the Reduction Expectation Plans.

In October 2019, we are arranging a national Learning and Peer Support event so that key messages and best practice from this work can be shared. This event is being co-produced by Welsh Government officials, ADSS Cymru, Heads of Children's Services, WLGA, CAFCASS Cymru.

#### Relationships between local authorities and the Judiciary

Through the ongoing work on the Reduction Expectation Plans, a strengthened relationship between local authorities and the Judiciary is expected to develop. In particular around safe Care Order decisions, the use of Supervision Orders, Placement with Parent Orders and the 'No Order Principle'.

#### Development of a whole system approach

The Reduction Expectation Plans work will support a whole system approach to families and looked after children. The continuing joint working relationship between social services, education, housing and health, particularly around appropriate accommodation, good education and therapeutic support, will help support the delivery of the right services for children in care and/or at the edge of care. This joint working relationship is managed at the Welsh Government level via the IO4C Ministerial Advisory Group.

#### Improved decision making

Reduction Expectation Plans will help improve the robustness of decision-making, support the development of practice frameworks and focus developments on making sure the appropriate workforce is in place.

#### **Potential negative impacts**

If this work is not carried out, there is a risk that some children may not be supported to live with their families where this should be possible and that practice which does not place the best interests of children at the centre of decision making, continues. There is also a risk that some children who could be accommodated closer to home continue to be placed out of county or out of country.

Some have commented that that the Reduction Expectation Plans work may present perverse incentives to local authorities: where their focus is switched to reducing numbers without giving full consideration to whether it is safe for a child to remain at home. The Welsh Government priority to

shift the balance of investment towards early intervention and prevention services and efforts local authorities are making to do so, will very likely ensure that such a situation would not arise.

### **Short, medium and long term outcomes**

The Reduction Expectation Plans will span the course of three years with expectations to meet at 12 months, 24 months and 36 months. There will be quarterly reviews which will set out short, medium and long term outcomes. A Monitoring Group is being established to oversee this element of the process including representation from Welsh Government officials, ADSS Cymru, Heads of Children's Services, WLGA, CAFCASS Cymru and the independent Chair of the Looked After Children Engagement Team who led the visits to the 22 Welsh local authorities.

### **Engagement of children and young people and/or stakeholders**

Children in Wales is one of the partners participating in meetings of the Technical Group providing feedback on our approach. Children in Wales will also be members of the monitoring group once the Reduction Expectation Plans have been finalised.

In addition, this work has been reported to the Improving Outcomes for Children Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) and feedback has been requested. The Vice-Chair of the MAG is a care leaver and members include the Children's Commissioner for Wales, Voices from Care and Children in Wales.

### **Link to child poverty**

This policy is highly relevant to supporting families in poverty. Children in the most deprived communities in Wales are many times more likely to be in care than children in the least deprived communities. Based on 2015 data, a report from the Child Welfare Inequalities Project found that children in the 10% most deprived areas were 13 times more likely to be looked after and living away from family and friends (i.e. not in kinship care or placed with parents) than children in the 10% least deprived areas. Therefore a focus on supporting more children to stay with their families will affect children in poverty more than other children.

## **Step 3. How does your piece of work support and promote children's rights?**

Dependent upon the impact of your piece of work, use balanced judgement to assess:

- Which UNCRC articles are **most** relevant to the piece of work? Consider the articles which your piece of work impacts upon. <http://childrensrights.wales/images/PDF/UNCRCRights.pdf>
- Explain why these articles are relevant and how the piece of work promotes them.
- How are you improving the way children and young people access their rights?
- What aspects of children's lives will be affected by the proposal?
- What are the main issues that the CRIA should focus on?
- Does the piece of work help to maximise the outcomes within the articles of the UNCRC?
- If no, have any alternatives to the current piece of work been considered?
- Include any evidence from consultation(s), if applicable, here.

### **Article 1 - Everyone under the age of 18 has all the rights in the Convention.**

The Reduction Expectation Plans will apply to all children under 18.

**Article 2 - The Convention applies to every child whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say, no matter what type of family they come from.**



This work is wholly focussed on supporting families and so that, where safe and appropriate, children can continue to stay with their families and flourish and be re-unified with their families if they are in care.

**Article 3 - All organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child.**

**Article 6 - All children have the right of life. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily.**

**Article 21 - When children are adopted the first concern must be what is best for them. The same rules should apply whether the children are adopted in the country where they were born or taken to live in another country.**

**Article 23 - Children who have any kind of disability should have special care and support so that they can lead full and independent lives.**

**Article 30 - Children have a right to learn and use the language and customs of their families, whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not.**

**Article 34 - The Government should protect children from sexual abuse.**

**Article 36 - Children should be protected from any activities that could harm their development.**

**Article 39 - Children who have been neglected or abused should receive special help to restore their self respect.**

The success of this work is dependent on a whole system approach, with local government, health, the Third sector and the Judiciary working together to ensure the rights of children in care and at the edge of care are protected. For example, in relation to the right accommodation, child-centred care and support services, good quality education, therapeutic support and, as far as possible, in accordance with the language, culture and customs of their families.

A core feature of this work is its safety first approach. Nothing overrides the need to protect children from abuse or neglect.

**Article 9 - Children should not be separated from their parents unless it is for their own good, for example if a parent is mistreating or neglecting a child. Children whose parents have separated have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this might hurt the child.**

This work is about providing high quality outcomes for children and ensuring that through effective prevention and early intervention, children can stay with their families or are unified safely with their parents. Also, where children need to be looked after, they should, where appropriate, be living close to their families.

**Article 12 - Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.**

**Article 20 - Children who cannot be looked after by their own family must be looked after properly, by people who respect their religion, culture and language.**

This work is focused on enabling more children to be brought up by their parents where it is safe to do so and enabling voice and control for children, putting them at the centre of their care and support and, as far as possible, in accordance with the language, culture and customs of their

families. Where children need to be looked after, they should be able to live in their home areas in most cases.

The work will help do this by improving the robustness of decision-making, supporting the development of practice frameworks and focusing developments on making sure and appropriately skilled and qualified workforce is in place.

**Article 18 - Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their children, and should always consider what is best for each child. Governments should help parents by providing services to support them, especially if both parents work.**

This work is about and ensuring that through prevention and intervention children stay or are unified with parents where it is safe and appropriate to do so.

**Article 19 - Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.**

A core feature of this work is its safety first approach. Nothing overrides the need to protect children from abuse or neglect.

**Article 25 - Children who are looked after by their local authority rather than their parents should have their situation reviewed regularly.**

A key aim of this work is for local authorities to be focused on reuniting children with their parents, where it is safe and appropriate to do so and during children's time in care, helping this to happen. The care planning review processes are designed to support this. They should also be close to home, in most cases.

**Article 26 - The Government should provide extra money for the children of families in need.**

Aligned to the Reduction Expectation Plans is an additional £30m for the Integrated Care Fund made available to Regional Partnership Boards in 2019-20, bringing the total level of revenue investment in this Fund to £89m.

£15m of this additional funding is to provide early intervention initiatives for children on the edge of care. The funding [will](#) help address some of the concerns of the Children's Commissioner for Wales and the Heads of Children's Services about the need for a stronger focus on the children's agenda at Regional Partnership Board level.

£9m recurrent funding has been included in the local authorities Revenue Support Grant for edge of care services such as Reflect and for care leavers, the St David's Day Fund. Third sector grant funding is also provided to organisations such as The Fostering Network, Children in Wales and Voices from Care to support their work delivering for looked after children, care leavers and young people on the edge of care.

**Article 27 - Children have a right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs. The Government should help families who cannot afford to provide this.**

This work is about and ensuring that through prevention and intervention children stay or are unified with parents where it is safe and appropriate to do so. Children should not be going into care because of poverty.

#### **Step 4. Advising the Minister and Ministerial decision**

When giving advice and making recommendations to the Minister, consider:

- Outlining the ways in which the piece of work helps to maximise the outcomes within the articles of the UNCRC?
- Has any conflict with the UNCRC articles within the proposal been identified?
- Outlining the wider impact; does the proposal affect any other policy areas?
- With regard to any negative impacts caused by the proposal; can Ministers evidence that they have allocated as much resources as possible?
- What options and advice should be provided to Ministers on the proposal?
- In relation to your advice on whether or not to proceed with the piece of work, is there any additional advice you should provide to the Minister?
- How undertaking this CRIA has influenced your advice to the Minister.
- Is it appropriate to advise the Minister to reconsider the decision in the future, in particular bearing in mind the availability of resources at this time and what resources may be available in the future?
- Have you provided advice to Ministers on a LF/SF and confirmed consideration of the UNCRC at the relevant paragraph i.e. statutory compliance?
- Is the advice supported by an explanation of the key issues?

Ministerial agreement has been sought and provided throughout the entirety of this programme of work. On each occasion, the advice to the Minister of Health and Social Services and Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services confirms that this CRIA is under development.

In considering the Articles of the UNCRC, on balance, we believe that Part 6 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 gives full effect to the UNCRC.

No conflict with UNCRC Articles has been identified.

## **Step 5. Recording and communicating the outcome**

**Final version to be retained on i-share**

Evidence should be retained that supports:

- How the duty has been complied with **(Steps 1-3 above)**
- The analysis that was carried out **(Steps 1-3 above)**
- The options that were developed and explored **(Steps 1- 3 above)**
- How have the findings / outcomes been communicated? **(Step 4 above)**
- 'Tells the story' of how the assessment has been undertaken and the results **(Step 4 above)**
- Include any hyperlinks to additional background information which may be of relevance.
- All CRIAs undertaken on legislation must be published alongside the relevant piece of work on the WG website. All other CRIAs must be listed in the WG website CRIA newsletter and must be made available upon request. Ministers are however, encouraged to publish all completed CRIAs.

The evidence provided in Steps 1-3 above sets out in more detail the way in which rights of children and young people have been addressed.

The overall intended effect of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 Part 6 Regulations and Code of Practice is to safeguard and promote the well-being of looked after and accommodated children and care leavers; maintain the child within the family where it is safe to do so; and to enable each child or young person to achieve recovery and healing from past harm. It also aims to promote resilience and the achievement of personal well-being outcomes.

Social Care Wales hosts an online Hub of resources to assist practitioners in carrying out their social services functions: <https://socialcare.wales/hub/sswbact>

## Step 6. Revisiting the piece of work as and when needed

In revisiting the piece of work, consider any monitoring, evaluation or data collection that has been undertaken:

- Has your piece of work has had the intended impact as set out in Step 2.
- Have you engaged with stakeholders to discuss how the policy or practice is working.
- If not, are changes required.
- Identify where improvements can be made to reduce any negative impact.
- Identify any opportunities to promote children's rights, bearing in mind any additional availability of resources at this time.

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 contains provisions to allow for Ministers to monitor functions of the Act carried out by local authorities and other bodies. Ministers may require these bodies to report on their duties in implementing the legislation.

The Welsh Government has commissioned an evaluation of the 2014 Act to enable the impact of the new legislation to be considered. That evaluation is now underway.

As noted above, this work has been reported to the Outcomes for Children Ministerial Advisory Group, which has a broad membership made up of senior stakeholders from all the key agencies involved with care-experienced children in Wales, and there will be ongoing dialogue with this group.

Officials will continue to monitor the impact of the legislation in relation to UNCRC.

### Budgets

<p><b>Does the piece of work have any associated allocation of budget?</b></p> <p><b>Can you identify how much of this budget will be used for children and young people?</b></p> <p>It is important that where any changes are made to spending plans, including where additional allocations or savings have been made, that this has been assessed and evidenced as part of the CRIA process.</p> <p><b>Has any additional spend been identified to ensure children and young people have been given an opportunity to contribute to the piece of work and have their opinions heard? If so, how much?</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p>
<p><b>Please give any details:</b></p>	

### Monitoring & Review

<b>Do we need to monitor / review the proposal?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>If applicable: set the review date</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Please forward a copy of this CRIA to [CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk) for monitoring purposes





# THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

[www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk](http://www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk)

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international agreement that protects the human rights of the children under the age of 18. On 16 December 1991, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland formally agreed to make sure that every child in the UK has all the rights as listed in the convention. The Welsh Government has shown its commitment to the convention by adopting it as the basis for policy making for children in Wales.

Altogether there are 54 articles in the convention. Articles 43-54 are about how adults and governments should work together to make sure all children are entitled to their rights. The information contained here is about articles 1-42 which set out how children should be treated.



**Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government**

[www.cymru.gov.uk](http://www.cymru.gov.uk)

## Article 1

Everyone under 18 years of age has all the rights in this Convention.

## Article 2

The Convention applies to everyone whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say and whatever type of family they come from.

## Article 3

All organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child.

## Article 4

Governments should make these rights available to children.

## Article 5

Governments should respect the rights and responsibilities of families to direct and guide their children so that, as they grow, they learn to use their rights properly.

## Article 6

All children have the right to life. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily.

## Article 7

All children have the right to a legally registered name, the right to a nationality and the right to know and, as far as possible, to be cared for by their parents.

## Article 8

Governments should respect children's right to a name, a nationality and family ties.

## Article 9

Children should not be separated from their parents unless it is for their own good, for example if a parent is mistreating or neglecting a child. Children whose parents have separated have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this might hurt the child.

## Article 10

Families who live in different countries should be allowed to move between those countries so that parents and children can stay in contact or get back together as a family.

## Article 11

Governments should take steps to stop children being taken out of their own country illegally.

## Article 12

Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making

decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.

## Article 13

Children have the right to get and to share information as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others.

## Article 14

Children have the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide their children on these matters.

## Article 15

Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

## Article 16

Children have a right to privacy. The law should protect them from attacks against their way of life, their good name, their families and their homes.

## Article 17

Children have the right to reliable information from the mass media. Television, radio and newspapers should provide information that children can understand, and should not promote materials that could harm children.

## Article 18

Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their children, and should always consider what is best for each child. Governments should help parents by providing services to support them, especially if both parents work.

## Article 19

Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

## Article 20

Children who cannot be looked after by their own family must be looked after properly, by people who respect their religion, culture and language.

## Article 21

When children are adopted the first concern must be what is best for them. The same rules should apply whether the children are adopted in the country where they were born or taken to live in another country.

## Article 22

Children who come into a country as refugees should have the same rights as children born in that country.

## Article 23

Children who have any kind of disability should have special care and support so that they can lead full and independent lives.

## Article 24

Children have the right to good quality health care and to clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that they will stay healthy. Rich countries should help poorer countries achieve this.

## Article 25

Children who are looked after by their local authority rather than their parents should have their situation reviewed regularly.

## Article 26

The Government should provide extra money for the children of families in need.

## Article 27

Children have a right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs. The Government should help families who cannot afford to provide this.

## Article 28

Children have a right to an education. Discipline in schools should respect children's human dignity. Primary education should be free. Wealthy countries should help poorer countries achieve this.

## Article 29

Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, and their own and other cultures.

## Article 30

Children have a right to learn and use the language and customs of their families, whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not.

## Article 31

All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.

## Article 32

The Government should protect children from work that is dangerous or might harm their health or their education.

## Article 33

The Government should provide ways of protecting children from dangerous drugs.

## Article 34

The Government should protect children from sexual abuse.

## Article 35

The Government should make sure that children are not abducted or sold.

## Article 36

Children should be protected from any activities that could harm their development.

## Article 37

Children who break the law should not be treated cruelly. They should not be put in prison with adults and should be able to keep in contact with their families.

## Article 38

Governments should not allow children under 15 to join the army. Children in war zones should receive special protection.

## Article 39

Children who have been neglected or abused should receive special help to restore their self respect.

## Article 40

Children who are accused of breaking the law should receive legal help. Prison sentences for children should only be used for the most serious offences.

## Article 41

If the laws of a particular country protect children better than the articles of the Convention, then those laws should stay.

## Article 42

The Government should make the Convention known to all parents and children.

For further information on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child please visit: The Welsh Government's UNCRC Website: [www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk/](http://www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk/)

Cic - The National Information and Advice Service for Young People  
[www.ciconline.co.uk/news/](http://www.ciconline.co.uk/news/)