

WELSH GOVERNMENT INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Additional financial support towards funeral and other associated costs for the death of children under 18

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1. Describe and explain the impact of the proposal on children and young people.

Providing additional financial support to bereaved families that have lost a child will have a number of indirect and direct impacts on children. Direct impacts will mainly be felt either where the parent or guardian is also a young person, or felt by bereaved siblings whose families receive additional financial or emotional support through the scheme.

This proposal should be considered an integral part of Welsh Government's commitment to support children and families, alongside the work that is already being undertaken in Wales to improve health and inequality outcomes for children and families.

Positive:

- Delivering a fair and consistent approach across Wales to ensure all families are supported equally and that no family is disadvantaged because of where they live or because of their financial circumstances;
- Alleviating some of the financial burden on bereaved families that have lost a child, including the most vulnerable families where additional financial hardship could have longer term impact on the family; and
- Better supporting the health and well-being of the parent/legal guardian and wider family by reducing unnecessary stress and bureaucracy when they are at their most vulnerable.

Negative:

- We don't believe there will be any direct negative impact on children.

Children, parents, guardians and families have not been directly consulted due to the sensitive nature of the policy area. However, the Welsh Government Bereavement Support Working Group were engaged as part of the review due to the work they do directly supporting bereaved families that have experienced the loss of a child.

2. Explain how the proposal is likely to impact on children's rights.

Due regard has been given to children's rights and the impact on relevant articles:

Article 2 (non-discrimination) – The convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, sex, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

The policy will apply to all families who lose children below the age of 18 in Wales without discrimination.

Article 3 (best interests of the child) - The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

Article 26 (social security) - Every child has the right to benefit from social security. Governments must provide social security, including financial support and other benefits, to families in need of assistance.

The policy will provide financial assistance in circumstances that may otherwise have caused financial hardship. This will help support families to continue being parents for as long as possible as one of the last acts they can do is to provide a fitting funeral for their child. It will also help to alleviate the financial burden on families, including the most vulnerable families where additional financial hardship could have longer term impact on the wider family – including any other surviving children.