

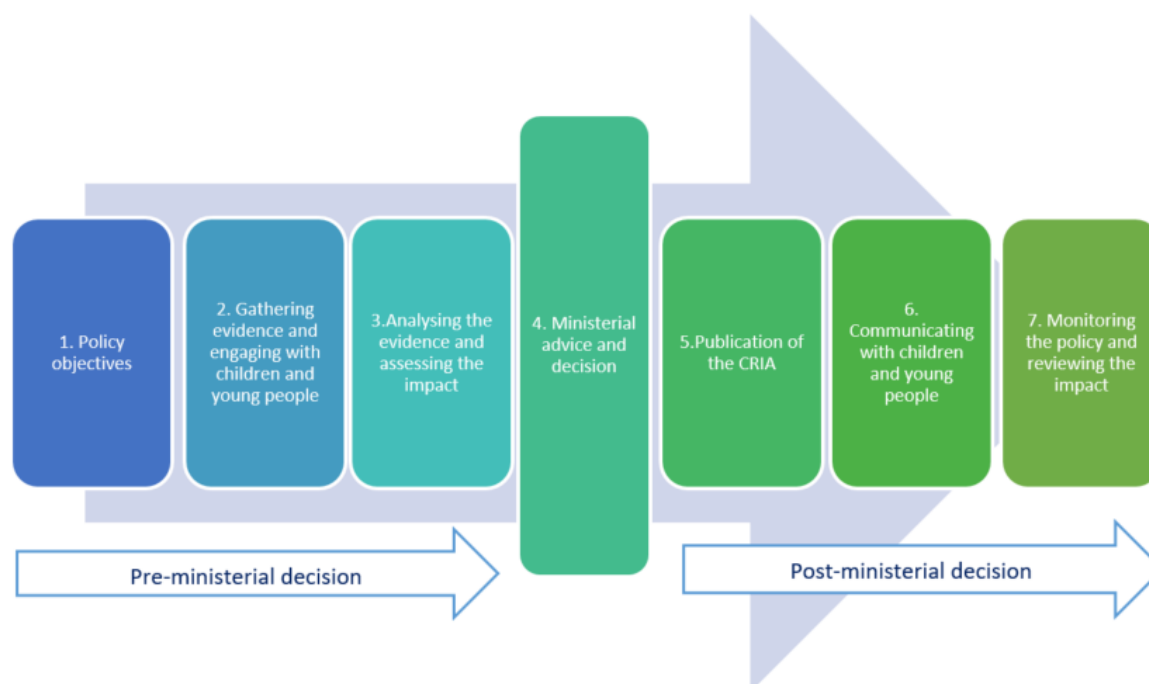
A. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT

All completed Children's Rights Impact Assessments must be sent to the CRIA@gov.wales mailbox

The Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011 places a duty on the Welsh Ministers to pay due regard to the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#) and its [Optional Protocols](#) when exercising any of their functions.

The CRIA process is the agreed mechanism officials should use to support Ministers to meet this duty and ensure they give balanced consideration to children's rights in their decision making. A CRIA should be used to inform ministerial advice and must be completed prior to a ministerial decision being made. Once a decision has been reached, your CRIA must also be published.

Please note we have an established Children's Rights Advisory Group (CRAG), comprising the Children's Commissioner for Wales's office, UNICEF, the Wales Observatory on Human Rights of Children and Young People, and Children in Wales, who can be used to discuss or test your draft CRIA. Please contact the Children's Branch CRIA@gov.wales for further information.



For further advice and guidance on the CRIA process, please consult the [Children's Rights Manual for Staff](#) or contact the Children's Branch CRIA@gov.wales

1. Policy objectives

The proposal is to introduce the draft Regulated Services (Inspection Ratings) (Wales) Regulations 2025 to make provision for a system of inspection ratings for care home service providers (for adults and children) and domiciliary support providers, placing requirements on providers of these services to display inspection ratings, both online and within premises (with some exceptions).

The Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 (“the 2016 Act”) provides the statutory framework for the regulation and inspection of social care services and the regulation of the social care workforce in Wales. Section 37 of the 2016 Act contains a regulation making power for the Welsh Ministers to make provision about ratings that may be given in relation to the quality of care and support provided by a service provider who has been inspected. Inspection ratings are a widely used tool in the armoury of regulators across the world – i.e. Estyn, Food Standards, Care Quality Commission etc. – and can be a powerful driver of improvement, and a way to give citizens information about public services. Ratings will allow people to compare the quality and safety of services and will foster a culture in which service providers are encouraged to aim for excellence rather than simple compliance. The draft Regulated Services (Inspection Ratings) (Wales) Regulations 2025 (“the draft regulations”) provide requirements for a system of published inspection ratings for care home service providers and domiciliary support service providers, developed to implement the objective set out in the primary legislation. The draft regulations deal with three aspects of the system – displaying inspection ratings, appealing against inspection ratings and offences.

2. Gathering evidence and engaging with children and young People

In preparation for the draft regulations establishing a system of published inspection ratings, Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) piloted a system of ‘silent’ or unpublished inspection ratings between June 2023 and April 2024. An independent evaluation of this pilot, commissioned by CIW, was conducted between January and April 2024 published an [evaluation report](#), which assessed CIW’s consistency of practice in applying ratings, as well as the impact on service providers and inspection teams. The researcher engaged with people and their families and received 9 responses, one of which related to children and young people. The recommendations of the evaluation setting out how ratings can be improved have been considered and taken forward in preparation for ratings being published from April 2025.

The Welsh Government undertook a 12-week [consultation](#) between 29 July and 14 October 2024, inviting respondents to submit their views via the online form, by email or post. Notification of the consultation was sent via email to a range of stakeholders, including children’s and young people’s representative organisations, with an interest in the proposals. The consultation was highlighted through social media and the CIW newsletter.

3. Analysing the evidence and assessing the impact

The consultation responses as summarised in the consultation summary of responses [report](#) have informed our consideration of the final regulations.

The requirement to display the rating certificate does not apply to care homes for children. Although a number of responses opposed this aspect of the proposal the draft regulations have not been amended because it is consistent with the policy intention of ensuring a more homely, family environment in care homes for children. Providers of care home services for children still have the flexibility to display their rating if they feel it is appropriate to do so. It will also be publicly available on their website (if they have one) and providers will be required to make their latest inspection rating available on request. CIW does not routinely publish inspection reports for care home services for children but does make inspection reports available on request. Inspection ratings must be included in inspection reports produced by CIW.

In developing the policy approach, we have considered the feedback provided by care experienced children as part of a report commissioned by CIW from the Children's Commissioning Consortium Cymru's Young Commissioners about what makes an excellent quality care home. The clear message was that it should look and feel like any other family home. As part of the analysis of the consultation responses, the impact of the policy on the children and young people using the service has been carefully considered.

UNCRC Articles or Optional Protocol	Enhances (X)	Challenges (X)	Explanation
Right to non-discrimination (article 2)	X		Our proposals have included an exemption to the requirement to display inspection ratings to care homes for children. This exemption has been determined based upon the feedback provided by care experienced children as part of a report ¹ ('the report') commissioned by CIW, which sought the views of children and young people about what makes an excellent quality care home.
Commitment to the best interests of the child (article 3)	X		In the report the children and young people said that a children's home

¹ CIW commissioned the Children's Commissioning Consortium Cymru (4Cs) to seek the views of their Young Commissioners about what makes an excellent quality care home based on their lived experience. The report is available [here](#).

			shouldn't look any different to any other child's family home.
Right to be heard (article 12)	X		The approach in the regulations does not negatively impact the right to be heard. In the report the children and young people said they do not want homes that stand out as children's homes and did not want any signs (corporate signage) identifying their home as a children's home, which may have an associated stigma of being 'looked after.'
Article 16 (right to privacy)	X		The approach in the regulations maintains the right to privacy. In the report the children and young people said they do not want homes that stand out as children's homes and did not want any signs (corporate signage) identifying their home as a children's home, which may have an associated stigma of being 'looked after.'
Article 17 (right to information)	X	X	Service providers must prepare a written guide about the service which can include information relating to the inspection rating. The guide must be in an appropriate language, style, presentation and format, and the service provider must ensure that all individuals receive such support as is necessary to enable them to understand the information contained in the guide. Providers of care home services for children still have the flexibility to display their rating if they feel it is appropriate to do so. It will also be publicly available on their website (if they have one) and

			<p>providers will be required to make their latest inspection rating available on request. CIW does not routinely publish inspection reports for care home services for children but does make inspection reports available on request. Inspection ratings must be included in inspection reports produced by CIW.</p> <p>Under the broader regulatory framework service providers must prepare a written guide about the service which may include information relating to the inspection rating. The guide must be in an appropriate language, style, presentation and format, and the service provider must ensure that all individuals receive such support as is necessary to enable them to understand the information contained in the guide.</p>
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4. Ministerial advice and decision

The regulatory impact assessment has been influenced by the consultation responses including the impact of the regulations on the children and young people living in a care home. A summary of the consultation feedback and a consultation response report has been included in the ministerial advice. Based on the feedback from the consultation the Minister decided not to make any changes to the draft regulations. A response to the consultation has been published and is available [here](#).

5. Publication of the CRIA

- *Following the ministerial decision, the CRIA should be published on the Welsh Government website.*
- *Send sections 1 and 8 of your IIA and the CRIA (Annex A) to your departmental web manager for publishing.*

➤ **All** completed CRIAs must also be sent to the CRIA@gov.wales mailbox.

Once completed and signed off by Welsh Ministers, sections 1 and 8 of the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) and the Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA (Annex A)) will be published on the Welsh Government website.

6. Communicating with Children and Young People

The regulatory impact assessment has been influenced by Children's Commissioning Consortium Cymru (4Cs) [report](#) (commissioned by CIW) which sought the views of their Young Commissioners about what makes an excellent quality care home based on their lived experience. This report is integral to the [guidance for registering a care home for children](#) published by CIW and the Welsh Government which sets out best practice for service providers to consider when setting up a care home service for children.

7. Monitoring and Review

The impact of the regulations will be monitored in conjunction with CIW, the service regulator.