

Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) Stage 1

Summer Offer for Children and Young People – 'Get Into Summer'

August 2021



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CRWIA Stage 1

Screening - key questions

1. Summer Offer for Children and Young People – ‘Get Into Summer’

Background

Children and Young People in Scotland have experienced significant disruption to almost every aspect of their lives as a result of Covid-19. The restrictions which were put in place to respond to and manage the prevalence and impact of Covid-19 were primarily concerned with protecting the right to life, but evidence suggests that these decisions have also had detrimental physical and mental health effects for children and young people, particularly in terms of social connection and education.

It was the unanimous view of the cross-agency Covid Education Recovery Group (CEREG) that a focus on wellbeing, play and reconnection during the summer, rather than a ‘generic’ learning catch up programme was the best approach. Improved wellbeing and mental health will ultimately support children and young people to be successful learners; confident individuals; responsible citizens and effective contributors in the autumn and beyond.

The Summer Offer is therefore a component of the overall Education Recovery work. In addition, the Summer Offer has been developed to ensure that a rights-based, stigma-free approach is at the centre.

Addressing Inequalities and Improving Outcomes

Existing evidence suggest that access to social interaction, play and activity, particularly outdoors, delivers benefits for children and young people and improves their mental and physical health. A range of interventions, pilot projects, and evaluation over the past three years have provided a body of evidence of good practice and learning on the potential for holiday programmes to help deliver a range of improved outcomes for children and families using a broad range of partners.

As noted, evidence¹ shows that Covid-19 has had a disproportionate adverse impact on certain groups such as children and young people experiencing poverty, disabled children, shielding or clinically vulnerable children and care experienced children and young people. A comprehensive evidence base regarding such impacts is included in the Equity Audit Report² published by the Scottish Government in January 2021 and reports³ published by the Scottish Youth Parliament, Youthlink Scotland and Young

¹ COVID-19: Children, young people and families October 2020 Evidence Summary [COVID-19: Children, young people and families: June 2021: Evidence Summary \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/evidence-summary-children-young-people-and-families-june-2021/evidence-summary/pages/1)

² Coronavirus (COVID-19): impact of school building closures - equity audit: [https://www.gov.scot/publications/equity-audit-deepening-understanding-impact-covid-19-school-building-closures-children-socio-economically-disadvantaged-backgrounds-setting-clear-areas-focus-accelerating-recovery/](https://www.gov.scot/publications/equity-audit-deepening-understanding-impact-covid-19-school-building-closures-children-socio-economically-disadvantaged-backgrounds-setting-clear-areas-focus-accelerating-recovery/pages/1)

³ Lockdown Lowdown: [LockdownLowdown - Breakdown of Key Findings - Young Scot Corporate](https://www.youthlink.scot/publications/lockdown-lowdown-breakdown-of-key-findings-young-scot-corporate/pages/1)

Scot in April and May 2020 provide further specific evidence of these impacts on demographics of young people including by age, gender, education/ employment status, ethnicity, those living in rural and urban areas, and in areas of multiple deprivation.

For many children and young people inequalities mean that access to food, activities and the support they need beyond formal education from early years, school or tertiary education or training depending on their age and stage which may help them rebuild, remain out of reach.

Summer Offer for Children and Young People – ‘Get Into Summer’

On 24 March 2021⁴ Scotland’s First Minister and Deputy First Minister announced the £20 million Summer Offer for Children and Young People which would focus on the wellbeing of children and young people during the 2021 summer holidays which would support existing provision of activities for children and young people and their families over the summer, ensuring they are provided with opportunities to socialise, play and reconnect within their local communities and environments.

The Summer Offer has sought to specifically target those children and young people most impacted by Covid-19, including:

- children from low income households;
- children from those priority family groups identified in the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan: larger families; families with a disabled child or adult; young mothers; families with children under one; and minority ethnic families;
- children from families who have been shielding during the pandemic and whose ability to engage in activities and socialise will have been very limited;
- children with a disability or additional support need;
- care experienced children and young people;
- young carers;
- children in need of protection;
- children supported by a child’s plan and
- children who have undergone significant transitions during lockdown or will experience them this year, including starting in ELC, starting primary school, moving to secondary school and leaving school.

The objectives of the Summer Offer are to:

- address the negative impacts on children and young people associated with extended periods of isolation and lack of participation in normal activities;
- have children and young people’s rights, voice and needs at its heart;
- to seek to provide opportunities to connect and socialise while accessing a range of activities combined with broader supports where needed;
- a focus on improving children’s health and mental wellbeing;

⁴ [Enhanced summer offer for all children - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/2021-03-24/enhanced-summer-offer-for-all-children-2021-22/pages/10)

- to improve outcomes for children who have been disproportionately affected by providing targeted support to children from low income households and those priority groups as identified in the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan⁵;
- offer additional opportunities for all children (across all ages) to engage in a range of play opportunities and activities within their local communities, based on what they tell us is important to them and
- involve a coalition of national partner organisations and local authorities.

The intended outcomes of the Summer Offer are to:

- help restore the wellbeing of all children and young people through opportunities to reconnect; play; be active; have fun and an opportunity to engage;
- ensure that all activity provided by partners support the overarching aims;
- ensure that the Summer Offer be effectively monitored and evaluated;
- that the views of children and young people directly inform and be evident in delivery and
- ensure that the Summer Offer is accessible to all children, young people and their families, particularly the target groups.

2. What aspects of the policy/measure will affect children and young people up to the age of 18?

The Summer Offer for Children and Young People will offer all children and young people in Scotland up to the age of 25, the opportunity to engage with the peers and reconnect, either in person or digitally.

3. What likely impact – direct or indirect – will the policy/measure have on children and young people?

The Summer Offer for Children and Young People investment is part of Scottish Government's social renewal agenda following Covid-19 and is focused on getting it right for every child by promoting the wellbeing of children and young people. It complements wider investment in holiday support through free school meal replacement for those eligible for free school meals on the basis of low income, and wider investment in education recovery.

The priority for the £20 million investment is to help address the negative impacts associated with extended periods of isolation and lack of participation in normal activities during Covid-19. This is in acknowledgement of the hugely difficult time children, young people and families across Scotland have experienced.

It is to provide opportunities for them to socialise and reconnect with peers and others during the summer through delivery of a range of activities within local communities.

Using a rights based approach will enable a broad range of children's rights to be further realised during this time. These include the right to play; freedom to meet up

⁵ Every child, every chance: tackling child poverty delivery plan 2018-2022:
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/child-chance-tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2018-22/>

with friends and socialise; right to receive support to help them recover their health, dignity, self-respect and social life. It is also about making sure children and young people's views are listened to and actively inform the next stages of the easing back towards normality.

4. Which groups of children and young people will be affected?

The Summer Offer for Children and Young People intends to offer opportunities to all Scotland's children and young people, with a specific focus on supporting children and young people most likely to be experiencing continued disadvantage and who will therefore have been particularly adversely affected by the pandemic as detailed above. The age range this support is intended to reach is 0 – 25, recognising that support for care leavers extends beyond 18. Several groups of children and young people have particular wellbeing needs which require targeted support. Opportunities include engagement in person as well as digitally.

Whilst the Programme has a specific focus on improved outcomes for children and young people, including their mental health and wellbeing, it is anticipated that this will have a positive impact on those supporting the children and young people for example families, parents, carers or youth workers.

The Scottish Government published guidance⁶ on 7 May 2021 to support local authorities to deliver the Summer Offer and to enhance activities for children, young people and families in the 2021 school summer holidays.

The key areas for specific focus are:

- reaching children and young people most likely to be experiencing continued disadvantage and who will therefore have been particularly adversely affected by the pandemic;
- reaching children and young people in the age range 0 – 25, recognising that support for care leavers extends beyond 18;
- reaching groups of children and young people who have particular wellbeing needs which require targeted support as set out on pages 3 and 4 of this EQIA and
- reaching children and young people in remote / rural areas, where the range of existing provision could be more limited and geographic barriers to access services may be considerable.

5. Will this require a CRWIA?

The delivery of the 2021 Summer Offer for Children and Young People requires a CRWIA.

Additional impact assessments relating to the Programme are being prepared in parallel. These include:

⁶ Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on summer activities for children and young people: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-summer-activities-for-children-and-young-people/>

- Equality Impact Assessment and
- Islands Communities Impact Assessment.

CRWIA Declaration**CRWIA required**

Required

Authorisation**Policy lead**

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06/08/2021

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<p>Scope of the CRWIA, identifying the children and young people affected by the policy, and summarising the evidence base</p>	<p>The Summer Offer for Children and Young People intends to offer opportunities to Scotland’s children and young people, with a specific focus on supporting children and young people most likely to be experiencing continued disadvantage and who will therefore have been particularly adversely affected by the pandemic. The age range this support is intended to reach is 0 – 25, recognising that support for care leavers extends beyond 18. Several groups of children and young people have particular wellbeing needs which require targeted support.</p> <p>Opportunities include engagement in person as well as digitally, which broadens the reach to more than target groups.</p> <p>The Scottish Government published guidance⁷ on enhancing activities for children, young people and families in the 2021 school summer holidays for Local Authority partners.</p> <p>The key areas for specific focus are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reaching children and young people most likely to be experiencing continued disadvantage and who will therefore have been particularly adversely affected by the pandemic; • reaching children and young people in the age range 0 – 25, recognising that support for care leavers extends beyond 18; • reaching groups of children and young people who have particular wellbeing needs which require targeted support as set out on page 17 and • reaching children and young people in remote / rural areas, where the range of existing provision could be more limited and geographic barriers to access services may be considerable.
<p>Children and young people’s views and experiences</p>	<p>Throughout the Covid-19 and associated restrictions, the Scottish Government have been gathering evidence collected from children and young people in what they see as the impact of Covid-19 and related mitigations on their lives. In addition to qualitative research and several focus groups undertaken with children and young people and parents and carers, evidence sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid-19 Early years resilience and impact survey (CEYRIS) (1) • Covid-19 Early Years Resilience and Impact Survey (CEYRIS) – round 2

⁷ Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on summer activities for children and young people: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-summer-activities-for-children-and-young-people/>

- Children’s Parliament national wellbeing surveys
- Scottish Youth Parliament, YouthLink Scotland and Young Scot survey Lockdown Lowdown
- TeenCovidLife survey
- Survey on In isolation instead of in school (INISS)
- Covid-19 Education Recovery Group statistics
- Education Scotland National overview of practice: Supporting the quality and effectiveness of the delivery of remote learning
- NSPCC Childline data
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): impact on equality research
- Child Poverty Action Group survey on the cost of learning in lockdown
- IRISS Insight: Outcomes for people through the COVID-19 pandemic
- Covid-19 Shielding Programme (Scotland) Impact and Experience Survey

Key messages emerged on a range of aspects including:

- mental health and wellbeing
- relationships;
- physical health and wellbeing;
- views on Covid-19;
- play;
- education;
- child protection and
- poverty.

In April 2021 the Scottish Government commissioned focus groups with children and a young people specifically regarding their vision as part of Covid recovery. Key messages emerged which confirmed overall themes from national data, which includes:

- support would be valued to combat anxiety about moving back into society and meeting others;
- a desire to reconnect again with family and friends in ways which does not exclusively involve a digital channel and
- a sense of losing their ‘place’ in the world, particularly with the move to online learning.

The aims and objectives for the Summer Offer for Children and Young People were considered based upon the evidence and consultation outcomes and informed the Guidance issued to all delivery partners.

	<p>Extensive consultation with children and young people had been undertaken by each local authority, which directly shaped and informed the development of summer activity offers.</p>
<p>Key Findings, including an assessment of the impact on children’s rights, and how the measure will contribute to children’s wellbeing</p>	<p>Accompanying guidance was published alongside the funding awards to support the aims of the Summer Offer which set out the focus as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity should provide opportunities to (re)connect with friends, peers, wider community and the outdoors, as well as with trusted adults (General principles: Articles 2, 3, 6 and 12) • Providing opportunities for children and young people to play, be active and enjoy themselves. Such activities will provide key learning opportunities and help support children’s return to school in the autumn by boosting wellbeing and confidence. Activities should be wide ranging and inclusive as possible to cover all interests, backgrounds and circumstances and shaped around a theme of fun and play with a view to providing positive experiences. Activities may include: sports; expressive arts; crafts; outdoor learning; trips and visits. Time outdoors should be optimised. (<u>Education, leisure and cultural activities: Articles 28, 29 and 31</u>) (<u>Disability, basic health and welfare: 18, 23, 24,26,27 and 33</u>) • Equity - Activities should be accessible to target families and barriers to participation such as transport should be mitigated as far as possible. Consideration should be given to how to meet wider needs, including through the integration of food, childcare, financial inclusion, family support and referral on to wider services where needed. Principles of dignity and human rights should be applied, promoting non-stigmatising provision of services and supports. (<u>Violence against children: Articles 19 28, 34 and 39</u>) (<u>Family environment and alternative care: Articles 5, 18 and 27</u>) • Engagement – It will be important to build on existing trusted relationships and communication methods so that children and families know about the offer and are encouraged to engage with it. Communication and promotion of the summer offer should be coordinated locally in order to maximise engagement among target groups. A national marketing strategy has also been developed to support this and includes a stakeholder

toolkit that local partners can use to promote their own activities⁸. (**Civil rights and freedoms: Article 17**)

The guiding principles to underpin this approach are:

- **Co-creation with children, young people, and families:** The summer offer has children's rights and wellbeing at its heart, founded in the UNCRC and GIRFEC. It is important that, as far as possible, any local offers are shaped around what children and young people of all ages say/have said that they want and need, and what would help them to recover and re-engage in their local communities. The particular priorities of those in the target groups outlined above should help shape delivery plans to ensure that support reaches those who would most benefit. (**General measures of implementation: Article 4**)
- **Building on existing services, assets and knowledge of what works.** Much activity will already be in place at a local level, many local authorities and other local third sector and community partners, including faith groups, deliver holiday activities and holiday childcare currently and plans may be underway for this summer. The aim of this investment is to enhance any such existing work, building on and learning from existing good practice. It is anticipated that this funding will support improved coordination of existing provision, fill gaps and create new opportunities, led by local knowledge and experience. (**General measures of implementation: Articles 43-54**)
- **Partnership working and coordination:** It is expected that existing and new local partnerships will play a key role in ensuring the coordination and reach of provision. In particular the Children's Services Strategic Partnerships will take the leading role in planning to ensure a joined up whole system approach to its development and delivery. Working with the existing childcare sector (ELC and school age childcare), outdoor education providers, activity providers (including sports clubs) and the youth work and CLD sectors will ensure a broad range of interests can be supported. (**General measures of implementation: Articles 43-54**)

The objectives of the Summer Offer for Children and Young People are:

⁸ [Get Into Summer | Parent Club](#)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to address the negative impacts on children and young people associated with extended periods of isolation and lack of participation in normal activities; (<u>Nurtured: UNCRC articles 4, 5, 18, 20, 21, 25, 27</u>) • to have children’s rights and needs at its heart; (<u>Respected: UNCRC articles 2, 3, 4, 8, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18</u>) • to seek to provide opportunities to connect and socialise while accessing a range of activities combined with broader supports where needed; (<u>Safe: UNCRC articles 11, 19, 22, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38</u>) • a focus on improving children’s health and wellbeing; (<u>Healthy: UNCRC articles 3, 6, 24, 39</u>) (<u>Achieving: UNCRC articles 4, 18, 28, 29</u>) • to improve outcomes for children who have been disproportionately affected by providing targeted support to children from low income households and those priority groups as identified in the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan; • to offer additional opportunities for all children (across all ages) to engage in a range of play opportunities and activities within their local communities, based on what they tell us is important to them; (<u>Active: UNCRC articles 31</u>) • to involve a coalition of national partner organisations and local authorities; <p>The intended outcomes of the Summer Offer for Children and Young People are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to help restore the wellbeing of all children and young people through opportunities to reconnect; play; be active; have fun and an opportunity to engage; • that all activity provided by partners support the aims of The Programme • that The Programme be effectively monitored and evaluated; • that the views of children and young people directly inform and be evident in The Programme’s delivery; (<u>Responsible: UNCRC articles 3, 12, 15, 15, 40</u>) • that the Programme is fully accessible to all children, young people and their families, particularly the target groups; (<u>Included: UNCRC articles 3, 6, 18, 23, 26, 27</u>)
<p>Monitoring and review</p>	<p>The Scottish Government is undertaking a national evaluation of the Programme. To inform the evaluation, Local Authorities and national organisation delivery partners will provide light-touch reporting, providing information on delivery and reach of the</p>

funding and help inform future policy and practice, as well as equalities monitoring.

Integrating opportunities to learn and adapt throughout project delivery is encouraged and will help inform reporting and any next steps.

This document is an initial assessment of the impact of the Summer Offer for Children and Young People and Scottish Government will continue to review and update this document if required. Any future iterations will reflect an increased understanding of these impacts as the amount of data and research available continues to grow.

This impact assessment should be read in conjunction with impact assessment developed in parallel; which relates to the Summer Offer for Children and Young People, including:

- Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) and,
- Island Communities Impact Assessment (ICIA)

CRWIA Declaration

Authorisation

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