

# **Best Start: Strategic early learning and school age childcare plan for Scotland, 2022-26**

## **Island Communities Impact Assessment Template**

October 2022

## Island Communities Impact Assessment Template

Please ensure this template is completed in conjunction with the Island Communities Impact Assessment (ICIA) Guidance on the [Scot Gov Website](#)

Name of Policy, Strategy or Service	<i>Best Start: Strategic early learning and school age childcare plan for Scotland, 2022-26</i>
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### STEP ONE – DEVELOP A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR OBJECTIVES

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the objectives of the policy, strategy or service?</li>   <li>• What are the intended impacts/ outcomes and how do these potentially differ across the islands?</li> </ul>	<p>In October 2022, the Scottish Government will publish <i>Best Start: Strategic early learning and school age childcare plan for Scotland, 2022-26</i> (the Plan).</p> <p>The Plan will set out our vision for early learning and school age childcare over the rest of this Parliament. It will be a high-level document, providing a framework tying together our vision, our strategic priorities, and the outcomes that these intend to deliver. We have been working closely with our partners in the sector, our analysts and academic experts to ensure that our approach is informed by the latest evidence and learning.</p> <p>The four strategic priorities are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Realising the benefits of the expansion to 1140 hours of funded Early Learning and Childcare for children and families.</li> <li>2. Progressing the expansion of our childcare offer, including building a future system of school age childcare and a new early learning and childcare offer for one and two year olds.</li> <li>3. Ensuring that the delivery of our priorities is supported by a sustainable, diverse, and thriving sector and profession.</li> <li>4. Ensuring that our ambitions are underpinned by fair funding and outcomes frameworks, robust data, and organisations that work together to regulate services and support quality improvement.</li> </ol> <p>While the Plan will set out how we intend to work with children, families and our partners in the sector, the Plan will not in itself set out any changes to policy. Nor will it set out detailed delivery or implementation plans for our childcare policies or programmes.</p>
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	<p>Any further developments of policy or implementation plans in pursuit of the four strategic priorities in the Plan will be subject to their own processes of consultation with stakeholders. Equalities impacts will be considered as part of this, with formal programme-specific or policy-specific ICIA's developed where necessary.</p>
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## STEP TWO – GATHER YOUR DATA AND IDENTIFY YOUR STAKEHOLDERS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What data is available about the current situation in the islands?</li> <li>• Who are your key Stakeholders?</li> <li>• How does any existing data differ between islands?</li> <li>• Are there any existing design features or mitigations in place?</li> </ul>	<p>As the Plan will not introduce any changes to policy or set out detailed delivery or implementation plans for our childcare policies or programmes, we have not sought to identify relevant data on islands impacts, design features or mitigations at this stage.</p> <p>Any further developments of policy or implementation plans in pursuit of the four strategic priorities in the Plan will be subject to their own processes of consultation. At that stage, we will work with stakeholders and identify and gather data necessary to understand impacts for island communities.</p>
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## STEP THREE - CONSULTATION

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there are information already gathered through previous engagements?</li> <li>• How will you carry out your consultation and in what timescales? Public meetings/Local Authorities/key Stakeholders</li> <li>• What questions will you ask when</li> </ul>	<p>As the Plan will not introduce any changes to policy or set out detailed delivery or implementation plans for our childcare policies or programmes, we do not consider it necessary to undertake any consultation on islands impacts.</p> <p>Any further developments of policy or implementation plans in pursuit of the four strategic priorities in the Plan will be subject to their own processes of consultation. At that stage, we will consult as necessary in order to understand and address island realities.</p>
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<p>considering how to address island realities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separate consultation events for Island communities/Local Authorities?</li> </ul>	
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#### STEP FOUR - ASSESSMENT

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does your assessment identify any unique impacts on island communities? (Further detail in the Guidance): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Demographic</li> <li>– Economic</li> <li>– Gaelic</li> <li>– Social</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Does your assessment identify any potential barriers or wider impacts?</li> <li>• Are there mitigations already in place for these impacts raised?</li> </ul>	<p>As noted above, while the Plan will set out how we intend to work with children, families and our partners in the sector, the Plan will not in itself set out any changes to policy. Nor will it set out detailed delivery or implementation plans for our childcare policies or programmes. On this basis, our assessment is that the publication of this Plan will not introduce any unique impacts on island communities.</p> <p>Any further developments of policy or implementation plans in pursuit of the four strategic priorities in the Plan will be subject to their own processes of consultation with stakeholders. At that stage, we will undertake work to identify unique impacts on island communities, and will develop and publish formal programme-specific or policy-specific ICIA's where necessary.</p>
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## **Is a full Island Communities Impact Assessment required?**

You should now determine whether, in your opinion, your policy, strategy or service is likely to have an effect on an island community which is significantly different from its effect on other communities (including other island communities). To form your opinion, the following questions should be considered:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Are there mitigations in place for the impacts identified and noted above from stakeholders and community consultations? (If further ICIA action is not required, complete the section below and publish).</li><li>• Does the evidence show different circumstances or different expectations or needs, or different experiences or outcomes (such as levels of satisfaction, or different rates of participation)?</li><li>• Are these different effects likely?</li><li>• Are these effects significantly different?</li><li>• Could the effect amount to a disadvantage for an island community compared to the mainland or between island groups?</li><li>• If your answer is 'no' to the above questions, please complete the box below.</li><li>• If the answer is 'yes', an ICIA must be prepared and you should proceed to Step 5.</li></ul>	<p>Our assessment is that the publication of this Plan will not have an effect on an island community which is significantly different from its effect on other communities (including other island communities).</p> <p>Our view is therefore that a full Island Communities Impact Assessment required is not required.</p>
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## **A full Islands Community Impact Assessment is NOT required**

In preparing the ICIA, I have formed an opinion that our policy, strategy or service is **NOT** likely to have an effect on an island community which is significantly different from its effect on other communities (including other island communities). The reason for this is detailed below.

Reason for not completing a full Islands Communities Impact Assessment: The publication of *Best Start: Strategic early learning and school age childcare plan for Scotland, 2022-26* (the Plan) will set out how we intend to work with children, families and our partners in the sector. However, the Plan will not in itself set out any changes to policy. Nor will it set out detailed delivery or implementation plans for our childcare policies or programmes.

Any further developments of policy or implementation plans in pursuit of the four strategic priorities in the Plan will be subject to their own processes of consultation with stakeholders. Equalities impacts will be considered as part of this, with formal programme-specific or policy-specific ICIA's developed where necessary.

Screening ICIA completed by (name)	<b>Andrew Burke</b>
Position	<b>Early Learning and Childcare Strategic Planning and Evaluation Officer</b>
Signature and date	<b>Andrew Burke, 5 October 2022</b>
ICIA authorised by (we recommend DD level)	<b>Eleanor Passmore</b>
Position	<b>Deputy Director, Early Learning and Childcare Division</b>
Signature and date	<b>Eleanor Passmore, 5 October 2022</b>



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