

Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) for the Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Fund

February 2024

Disclaimer

This **draft** document is an **initial assessment** of the impact of Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Fund and Scottish Government will continue to review and update this document where required during the period of the fund. 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 the Equality Impact Assessment.

CRWIA Stage 1 – Screening

1. Brief Summary

The Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Fund (referred to as ‘the Fund’ in this impact assessment) aims to enhance an geographical area’s approach to tackling child poverty and ultimately, drive progress towards the statutory child poverty targets¹. It will support small scale projects to generate evidence on a known problem, adapt a promising approach from elsewhere to work in an area, or re-design a service or services to deliver greater impact on child poverty.

As set out in [‘Best Start, Bright Futures’](#) (‘the delivery plan’) we are committed to delivering place-based projects, testing different approaches to how we provide person centred solutions particularly for priority families².

That is why we are seeking to work in partnership with a small number of areas to deliver accelerator projects, trialling and evaluating new ways of working to overcome known challenges in tackling child poverty and sharing the learning from these projects to inform national policy and practice.

The Fund aims to deliver on the priorities set out below:

- Tackling one or more of the three key drivers of child poverty³
- Prioritisation of one or more of the six priority family groups at greatest risk of child poverty
- Engagement with people with lived experience of poverty in project design and implementation
- Potential scalability/sustainability of the project, if successful
- Enhancing local partnership working
- Generating evidence through rigorous evaluation, building the local and national evidence base
- Innovation to accelerate practice to tackle child poverty

Applications to the Fund will be assessed on these priorities.

Successful bids to the Fund are required to monitor and evaluate their project and will be supported by a national monitoring and evaluation coordinator. This is to ensure rigorous evaluation of projects, to capture and share learning across Scotland to inform local and national policy and practice.

Start date of relevant proposal: 16 October 2023

Start date of CRWIA process: 25 August 2023

¹ [Child Poverty \(Scotland\) Act 2017 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

² [Tackling child poverty priority families overview - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

³ The [three drivers of child poverty](#) are income from employment, income from social security and benefits in kind, and costs of living.

2. Which aspects of the relevant proposal currently affects or will affect children and young people up to the age of 18?

The proposal relates to funding which aims to accelerate action to tackle child poverty at local level, driving reduction in child poverty and improving outcomes for children and their families.

Article 1 of the UNCRC provides that for the purposes of the UNCRC, a child is anyone under the age of 18. However, for the purposes of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017, a child is "(a) a person under the age of 16, or (b) a person who is a qualifying young person for the purposes of Part 9 of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992."⁴ With regard to the latter, a "qualifying young person" is currently a person under the age of 20 (and over 15) who is in "relevant education" or "approved training" under the 1992 Act.⁵

Accordingly, the statutory targets underpinning the delivery plan and the Fund pertain to children under the age of 16 years and qualifying young persons aged between 16 and 19. However, action focused on tackling child poverty is likely to have wider impacts. The uses of the Fund and its likely impacts are also dependent on the specific projects proposed by local authorities and health boards. The Fund can be used for action such as service redesign or increasing uptake of support which may have wider positive impact, including children under 16 as well as 16 and 17 year olds.

The delivery plan and the Fund place particular focus on the priority families which includes families with mothers under 25. Therefore, mothers under 18 are likely to benefit positively from funded projects.

3. Which groups of children and young people are currently or will be affected by the relevant proposal?

[Evidence](#) shows that six types of families are at highest risk of child poverty. These priority families are: larger families (3+ children), families with young mothers (<25yrs), families with a disabled adult or child, minority ethnic families, families with a child under 1 year old, and lone parent families. The Fund places particular focus on delivering for these families.

For assessments of the impact on families with children in island/rural communities, see the Island Communities Impact Assessment. See the Equalities Impact Assessment for assessment of the Fund's impact in relation to the protected characteristics.

Declaration

4. Is a Stage 2 Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment required?

CRWIA required

⁴ [Section 14 of the Child Poverty \(Scotland\) Act 2017](#).

⁵ The applicable definitions of "relevant education" and "approved training" are currently set out in regulation 1 of the [Child Benefit \(General\) Regulations 2006 \(S.I. 2006/223\)](#).

CRWIA not required

5. Sign & Date

Policy Lead Signature & Date of Sign Off: *Emma Teale, 26 October 2023*

Deputy Director Signature & Date of Sign Off: *Julie Humphreys, 27 October 2023*

Date SGLD contacted *6 September*

CRWIA Stage 2 – Assessment of Impact and Compatibility

1. What evidence have you used to inform your assessment? What does it tell you about the impact on children's rights?

In 2023, the Improvement Service published a paper on [understanding child poverty as a children's rights issue](#). It finds that child poverty undermines children's rights guaranteed by the UNCRC, including:

- The right to an adequate standard of living including food, clothing and housing
- The right to education
- The right to the highest attainable standard of health
- The right to legal assistance
- The right to play
- The right to freedom of expression
- The right to benefit from social security
- The right to family life
- The right to alternative care
- The right to protection from all forms of physical or psychological abuse
- A wide range of rights of children with disabilities

As tackling child poverty is a critical mission of the Scottish Government, cross-government work and stakeholder engagement is ongoing and the government's approach is informed by a wealth of evidence and [statistics on child poverty](#).

[Evidence on what works in tackling child poverty](#) highlights the need for a person-centred, holistic approach, within a framework of understanding structural barriers, in order to maximise the effectiveness of policies and avoid perpetuating stereotyping and stigma. Also, clear targeting strategies that identify and support priority families are crucial.

Data shows that children in priority families are more likely to be in poverty. The Scottish Government has compiled [evidence on each of the priority family groups](#) which details the unique structural barriers they are likely to face and emphasises the need for services which address these barriers.

The evidence underpinning the delivery plan includes insights from consultation with people with lived experience of poverty and stakeholders who work closely with them. As such, the priorities behind the Fund are informed by what these families have told us about barriers they face and what works to support them.

2. Evidence from stakeholders/Policy Colleagues

The Fund was designed in consultation with external stakeholders including the Peer Support Network of child poverty leads from local authorities and health boards and the Local Child Poverty Co-ordination Group, consisting of national partners

supporting local action on child poverty. Internal stakeholders were also consulted, including policy and analytical colleagues.

Stakeholders have welcomed the initiative as a means to accelerate progress on challenges that are shared across areas, but which require additional expertise or coordination to overcome, and in particular have welcomed a focus on testing and evaluating approaches to improve our collective evidence base.

Consultation indicated a need for support to identify and evaluate practice focused on overcoming the barriers faced by priority families, and on routes to earlier interventions with families not currently well served by mainstream provision. There was also eagerness to test approaches to data sharing to better identify and target families, and to explore options to greater evidence the impact of other sectors on the drivers of child poverty.

3. Evidence from children and young people

The Fund is part of the implementation of the delivery plan, which was written in consultation with community based and national third sector organisations, local authorities, health boards, COSLA, and the Scottish Parliament, in line with the requirements of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

In partnership with The Poverty Alliance, we consulted people with experience of living on a low income. We also conducted deep dive sessions with gender, minority ethnic, and disability stakeholders.

In creating the delivery plan, the Scottish Government engaged with a range of organisations representing children's interests, as well as consulting children and young people themselves (UNCRC 12). Children's Neighbourhoods Scotland contributed feedback from participatory research with 746 children and young people (across 10 schools) who discussed their priorities for wellbeing and enablers/barriers to achieving their goals.

Building on the strategy set out in the delivery plan, the Fund was designed in consultation with the Local Child Poverty Coordination Group which includes third sector organisations which work directly with families with children.

Analysis of the evidence

4. How have the findings outlined in questions 1-3 influenced the development of the relevant proposal?

The assessment has reinforced the importance of tackling child poverty in furthering children's rights. The evidence supports the Fund's holistic, whole-family approach and particular focus on the families at highest risk of experiencing child poverty.

5. Assessing for compatibility against the UNCRC requirements

UNCRC Articles

What impact does/will your relevant proposal have on children's rights

	Positive	Negative	Neutral
Article 1 Definition of the child	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 2 Non-discrimination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article 3 Best interests of the child	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article 4 Implementation of the Convention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article 5 Parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 6 Life, survival and development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article 7 Birth registration, name, nationality, care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 8 Protection and preservation of identity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 9 Separation from parents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 10 Family reunification	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 11 Abduction and non-return of children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 12 Respect for the views of the child	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 13 Freedom of expression	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 14 Freedom of thought, belief and religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 15 Freedom of association	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 16 Right to privacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 17 Access to information from the media	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 18 Parental responsibilities and state assistance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article 19 Protection from violence, abuse and neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 20 Children unable to live with their family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 21 Adoption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 22 Refugee children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 23 Children with a disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Article 24 Health and health services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article 25 Review of treatment in care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 26 Social security	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article 27 Adequate standard of living	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article 28 Right to education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article 29 Goals of education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 30 Children from minority or indigenous groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 31 Leisure, play and culture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article 32 Child labour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 33 Drug abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 34 Sexual exploitation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 35 Abduction, sale and trafficking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 36 Other forms of exploitation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 37 Inhumane treatment and detention	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 38 War and armed conflicts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 39 Recovery from trauma and reintegration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 40 Juvenile justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 41 Respect for higher national standards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 42 Knowledge of rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

First optional protocol

Positive | Negative | Neutral

Article 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Second Optional Protocol

Article 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Article 11	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

6. Impact on children and young people

The use of the Fund and its likely impacts are dependent on the projects proposed by local authorities and health boards. The articles ticked above align with the national strategy for tackling child poverty set out in the delivery plan and so indicate the articles likely to be addressed by funded projects.

The delivery plan and the Fund feature a focus on the six priority families at highest risk of child poverty: lone parent families, minority ethnic families, families with a disabled adult or child, families with a younger mother (under 25), families with a child under one, and larger families (three or more children). Families in these groups are especially likely to benefit positively from the Fund.

7. Negative Impact/Incompatibility

No likely negative impacts have been identified. Local and national monitoring and evaluation will monitor for any unintended consequences and will inform any modifications.

With regards to compatibility with the UNCRC – Article 1 of the UNCRC provides that for the purposes of the UNCRC, a child is anyone under the age of 18. However, for the purposes of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017, a child is "(a) a person under the age of 16, or (b) a person who is a qualifying young person for the purposes of Part 9 of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992."⁶ With regard to the latter, a “qualifying young person” is currently a person under the age of 20 (and over 15) who is in “relevant education” or “approved training” under the 1992 Act.⁷

Consideration of this issue is contained in section 2 on page 3 of this assessment.

8. Options for modification or mitigation of negative impact or incompatibility

N/A. National and local monitoring and evaluation of funded projects will allow us to monitor for any unintended consequences and inform modifications.

9. Positive impact: Giving better or further effect to children’s rights in Scotland

The aim of the Fund is to accelerate action to reduce child poverty in Scotland and to drive progress towards the statutory child poverty targets set out in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

The specific uses and impacts of the Fund depend on the projects designed by local partners. In tackling child poverty, the Fund is likely to impact a range of children’s rights including the right to an adequate standard of living including food, clothing and housing and the right to the highest attainable standard of health.

The Fund is part of the implementation of the delivery plan, which is intended in the best interests of children, working to move them out of poverty. It focuses on the six priority families at higher risk of child poverty, working to mitigate the discrimination they often face.

10. Impact on Wellbeing: does or will the relevant proposal contribute to the wellbeing of children and young people in Scotland?

The wellbeing indicators are:

- **Safe** - Growing up in an environment where a child or young person feels secure, nurtured, listened to and enabled to develop to their full potential. This includes freedom from abuse or neglect.
- **Healthy** - Having the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, access to suitable healthcare, and support in learning to make healthy and safe choices.
- **Achieving** - Being supported and guided in learning and in the development of skills, confidence and self-esteem, at home, in school and in the community.

⁶ [Section 14](#) of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

⁷ The applicable definitions of “relevant education” and “approved training” are currently set out in regulation 1 of the [Child Benefit \(General\) Regulations 2006 \(S.I. 2006/223\)](#).

- **Nurtured** - Growing, developing and being cared for in an environment which provides the physical and emotional security, compassion and warmth necessary for healthy growth and to develop resilience and a positive identity.
- **Active** - Having opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport, which contribute to healthy growth and development, at home, in school and in the community.
- **Respected** - Being involved in and having their voices heard in decisions that affect their life, with support where appropriate.
- **Included** - Having help to overcome inequalities and being accepted as part of their family, school and community.
- **Responsible** - Having opportunities and encouragement to play active and responsible roles at home, in school and in the community, and where necessary, having appropriate guidance and supervision.

The uses of the Fund and the consequent impacts on wellbeing are dependent on the projects designed by local authorities and health boards so the likelihood of impacting each wellbeing indicator is unknown. However, the overarching aim of the Fund is to tackle child poverty and reducing poverty is conducive to improving all the above indicators.

The Fund and the delivery plan align with Getting It Right For Every Child ([GIRFEC](#)) principles which are embedded at local authority and health board level.

Post Assessment Review and sign-off

11. Communicating impact to children and young people

Each project supported by the Fund will include its plans for project design, monitoring and evaluation, and communications. The Fund guidance highlights the importance of engaging with people with lived experience of child poverty in the design and implementation of projects and this features in the assessment criteria for fund applications.

The value of the funding is low and therefore it is inappropriate to include a specific requirement for funded projects to communicate directly to children and young people. However, this will be considered at a national level in communications about the Fund overall.

As set out in the CRWIA for the delivery plan, the Scottish Government is committed to ongoing engagement with people with lived experience of child poverty – including engaging with the voices of children and young people.

12. Planning for the review of impact on child rights (Stage 3)

CRWIAs for actions undertaken through funded projects are the responsibility of the respective local authority/health board. Successful bids to the Fund are required to monitor and evaluate their project and will be supported by a national monitoring and evaluation coordinator.

Stage 3 of the CRWIA will take place as part of the assessment processes for the national delivery plan. The Scottish Government's third tackling child poverty delivery plan will be prepared during 2025/26 – two years into the Fund – and will present an appropriate time to review the CRWIA.

13. Compatibility sign off statement

This relevant proposal has been assessed against the UNCRC requirements and has been found to be compatible.

Policy Lead Signature & Date of Sign Off: Emma Teale, 26 October 2023

Deputy Director Signature & Date of Sign Off: Julie Humphreys, 27 October 2023

SGLD Sign Off: Yes No



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