

Appendix 7: LHS 2023-2028 Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessments (CRWIAs)

CRWIA Stage 1 (Screening - key questions)

1. Name the policy, and describe its overall aims.

Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028

The Housing (Scotland) 2001 Act makes it a statutory requirement for all Scottish local authorities to prepare and submit a Local Housing Strategy (LHS) to Scottish Ministers. The LHS sets the strategic direction to tackle housing need and demand in the Scottish Borders and informs future investment in housing and related services across the Scottish Borders. The LHS is regularly reviewed and updated every five years.

The LHS is Scottish Borders Council's primary strategic document on housing. The new Local Housing Strategy (LHS) will set out how Scottish Borders Council and its partners plan to address the housing and housing related opportunities and challenges over the five year period 2023 – 2028. This new plan will build on the significant progress made on the issues identified in the current LHS 2017-2022 and will address newly arising housing matters particularly in response to the publication of new LHS Guidance, Housing to 2040 and the Covid-19 pandemic.

The LHS sets out the vision for housing in the Scottish Borders that "Everyone in the Scottish Borders has access to a home that meets their needs and is part of a sustainable community". There are five strategic outcomes that will help to achieve this vision, these are:

1. More homes in well designed, sustainable communities that increase opportunity for all and support our economy to thrive.
2. People have access to homes which promote independence, health and wellbeing.
3. Improved energy efficiency of homes and a reduction in fuel poverty while supporting a Just Transition to Net Zero through decarbonising domestic heating and energy.
4. Communities are regenerated through improving the quality and condition of housing and the built heritage.
5. Homelessness is prevented wherever possible, and a range of housing options are provided so people can secure a suitable and sustainable housing outcome as quickly as possible.

There are numerous strategies and plans that sit under the LHS which feed into the strategy, these include; Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP), Housing Supply Strategy 2018-2028, Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019-2024 and the Affordable Warmth and Home Energy Efficiency Strategy 2019-2023.

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

The LHS is inclusive to all individuals regardless of age. Supply of new affordable housing that meets the needs of the communities should provide a range of choice of housing for families, which in turn should benefit the health and well-being of children and young people. There are a number of actions set out in the RRTP to tackle youth homelessness and to support young people to sustain their tenancies.

The Young Peoples Housing Needs and Aspirations: Scottish Borders 5 Year Action Plan identified four priorities and outcomes to help young people meet their housing needs and aspirations:

- Priority 1: A holistic strategic approach for jobs, housing and transport
Outcome 1: Community planning partners take a holistic and strategic approach to the skills and employment, housing and transport needs of young people in the Scottish Borders
- Priority 2: Increasing housing choice and options

Outcome 2: Young people are able to access a range of different housing options which enable continued skills development and access to employment in the Scottish Borders

- Priority 3: Meeting the needs of vulnerable young people

Outcome 3: Young people are able to access a range of housing information, advice and support to enable independent living

- Priority 4: Monitoring and review of the Action Plan

Outcome 4: The housing needs of young people are understood and services implemented in the context of a wider Local Housing Strategy and the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan

Specific parts of the LHS that we expect to affect young people and children include:

- Affordable housing supply
- Placemaking
- Rural housing
- Homelessness
- Private and social rented sector
- Support for home ownership
- Energy efficiency and heat decarbonisations
- Housing quality and standards, including accessibility

We will also undertake an annual review of the LHS action plan. This will include setting out the progress we are making and identifying where changes might be needed to correct our course. As part of this, we will consider the outcomes of impact assessments.

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

The LHS seeks to have a positive indirect impact on eradicating child poverty, fuel poverty, homelessness including youth homelessness, and improving children and young people's health and wellbeing.

We recognise that affordable housing helps to tackle child poverty, with cost of living, including housing costs being a key driver of child poverty. The LHS's commitment to continue to deliver good quality, affordable homes will continue to make an impact on child poverty levels. In addition, warm, healthy, safe and non-overcrowded homes and positive neighbourhoods play an important role in improving children's and young people's health and wellbeing, providing a healthy start and contributing to their social and physical development. Good homes with room for children to play, learn and study can contribute to educational attainment.

While we anticipate positive indirect impacts of the LHS on children and young people, these will be considered in detail as the specific policies within the LHS are developed and implemented over the next five years.

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

As mentioned above, the LHS will affect the lives of people of all ages, sexes and backgrounds living in the Scottish Borders (and in the future) and across all housing tenures. This will include children and young people up to the age of 18. We recognise, however, that there will be certain groups of children and young people who may be most influenced by the indirect impact of the LHS. These include, but are not limited to, the following groups:

- Children and young people living in poverty, including fuel poverty;
- Children and young people with protected characteristics, or living in a household which include adult(s) with protected characteristics;
- Children and young people who live in a household with a survivor of Domestic abuse;
- Children and young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness;
- Care experienced children and young people;

- Households with a disabled parent or child;
- Children in rural areas.

5. Will this require a CRWIA?

No.

The Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028 provides the overarching strategy for housing in the Scottish Borders. It provides the strategic framework for housing over the next five years with strategic outcomes and strategic actions that will help to achieve the vision of the LHS. The LHS will be monitored regularly and an annual update on the action plan and progress report will be submitted to Scottish Government and Council.

While some direct and indirect impacts of the LHS have been identified and considered, our view is that these should be further explored at a point when specific policies and / or legal provisions outlined in the LHS are developed to ensure a comprehensive assessment of their impact on children's rights and wellbeing.

CRWIA Declaration

Tick relevant section, and complete the form

CRWIA required

CRWIA not required

Not Required

Authorisation

Policy lead

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Donna Bogdanovic

Date

10th November 2022
27th September 2023

Deputy Director or equivalent

Name, title, division (or equivalent)

Date