

The purpose of Aberdeen City Council is to protect the people and the place of Aberdeen from harm, enabling them to prosper and supporting them in the event of harm happening.

The purpose of an Integrated Impact Assessment is to evidence that Aberdeen City Council are making decisions in an informed way, and that the impact of decisions made is understood and accepted. The legislation that is considered within this assessment are:

- Section 2 [Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics](#)
- Section 3 [Socio-Economic](#)
- Section 4 [Human Rights](#)
- Section 5 [Children and Young People’s Rights](#)

The term ‘policy’ is used throughout this document and applies to policies, proposals, strategies, provision, criteria, functions, practice, budget savings and activities that includes delivery of our services.

## 1. About the Policy

### 1.1 Title

Children’s Services Board Annual Report

### 1.2 What does this policy seek to achieve?

[The Children’s Services Plan](#) (agreed April 2023) presented an overview of outcome data known at the time of publication. Reviewing all available data supported the Community Planning Partnership to identify areas to be progressed over the period 2023-2026.

This Annual report provides an overview of the work of the Children’s Services Board over the first year of delivering the Plan, and considers additional data published over the reporting period to determine the adequacy of the current Plan and consider any further areas that require focus from the Children’s Services Board.

It is being proposed that Committee agree the need to continue to deliver on our agreed Plan for 2023-26 (which was subject to an IIA at the time of writing) and also invest our time and energy in some additional areas which include:

- Developing our use of data to be able to access more granular data at community/group level to enable a more bespoke response based on community need, there will be a need for this work to be closely aligned to Locality Plans. Time will also be invested in more fully understanding and tracking outcomes for those living in SIMD1.
- Linked to the first, is the need to review how services engage with our most vulnerable in SIMD1 given the clear evidence that current arrangements are not realising improved outcomes. Taking an approach that promotes human rights and is family led will be important. It will be important to engage with various groups(including those with protected characteristics) as new models are

being developed to ensure that new approaches take account of the different challenges facing different groups and are shaped by them.

- There is a need to look at how to prevent childhood obesity through a coordinated preventative strategy. It will be important to engage with various groups (including those with protected characteristics) as new models are being developed to ensure that new approaches take account of the different challenges facing different groups and are shaped by them.
- Continue to prepare for the incorporation of the UNCRC later this year
- Implement the recommendations for Corporate Parents from the Secure Care Pathways report:
  - A clear plan for the provision of consistent mental and emotional health support for young people in and on the edges of secure care
  - Health boards should lead work with other corporate parents to ensure that young people receive consistent support to address emotional distress including self-harm and suicide risks
  - Work with community-based services and secure care providers to ensure the suitable provision of substance misuse support for young people in and on the edges of secure care
  - Ensure that young people who have left secure care don't experience a drop off in support and that all relevant multi-agency partners are involved in the planning and delivery of support at this stage

### 1.3 Is this a new or existing policy?

This is an existing Plan, but additional areas of focus are being proposed for action following our review of data published over the year.

### 1.4 Is this report going to a committee?

Yes.

### 1.5 Committee name and date:

Education and Children's Services Committee (Feb 20<sup>th</sup> 2024)

Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee (March 20<sup>th</sup> 2024)

### 1.6 Report no and / or Budget proposal number and / or Business Case reference number:

CFS/24/041 (ECS) and CFS/24/042 (APIC)

## Impacts

This section demonstrates the considerations that have been made in relation to the policy - and that the impact of proposals made is understood and accepted.

## 2: Equality Act 2010 - Protected Characteristics

Aberdeen City Council wants to ensure everyone is treated fairly. This section identifies the [protected characteristics](#) that the policy potentially affects and records the impact and mitigating steps.

2.1 What impact could this policy have on any of the below groups?

What is the impact?
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Protected Characteristic	Negative			Neutral	Positive
	High	Medium	Low		
<a href="#">Age</a>					√
<a href="#">Disability</a>					√
<a href="#">Gender Reassignment</a>				√	
<a href="#">Marriage and Civil Partnership</a>				√	
<a href="#">Pregnancy and Maternity</a>				√	
<a href="#">Race</a>				√	
<a href="#">Religion or Belief</a>				√	
<a href="#">Sex</a>				√	
<a href="#">Sexual Orientation</a>				√	

The limitations of our data, as outlined earlier, has impacted on our ability to draw firm conclusions on intersectionality across different protected characteristics. Further work on data will help strengthen our understanding of the needs of our citizens.

## 2.2 In what way will the policy impact people with these protected characteristics?

### Age

The Plan has been developed to help ensure that all children and young people fully realise their rights. This has been achieved by looking in detail at changes in trends across life stages and for different vulnerable groups. Taking this approach has shown that there is evidence of improvement across a number of outcome measures for those in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2 and 3. Whilst this is encouraging, there is a need to amend our working arrangements to take account of increased vulnerabilities in those living in communities serving high proportions of families living in SIMD1. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a relative measure of deprivation across 6,976 small areas (called data zones). If an area is identified as 'deprived', this can relate to people having a low income, but it can also mean fewer resources or opportunities. SIMD looks at the extent to which an area is deprived across seven domains: income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime, and housing.

In addition, there is also evidence that obesity is flagging as an area of risk in both mothers and young children. As a result, the annual report recommends action in this area given the long-term impact of obesity on wider health and wellbeing outcomes. The limitations of our data, as outlined earlier, has impacted on our ability to draw firm conclusions on intersectionality across different protected characteristics around obesity. Further work on data will help strengthen our understanding of the needs of our citizens. The Annual Report recognises that it will be important to continue to develop our use of data so that we can look at outcomes at community level and by group, taking this approach will help us better target interventions. This should help improve outcomes across a number of communities and groups in the longer term, but we require to build the functionality in the first instance.

## 2.3 What considerations have been made in reaching the above assessment?

### What internal or external data has been considered? What does this data tell us?

A review of all published data has been undertaken to identify any changes following the comprehensive review of data undertaken a year ago. Particularly helpful sources have included the Scottish Public Health Shiny Apps site, Improvement Service Community Planning Outcomes Tool, the Improvement Service Local Government Benchmarking data and the data gleaned.

The data tells us that delivery of our current plan is positively impacting families living in SIMD 2 and 3, but not yet closing the gap to those living in SIMD1. The data also gives early warning that levels of

obesity are rising. As well as continuing to deliver against the agreed Children’s Services Plan, it will be important to address these changed trends.

Previously completed IIA was also used to develop this proposal [20b Childrens Services Plan 2023 2026 11-03-23.pdf \(aberdeencity.gov.uk\)](#)

**What consultation and engagement and has been undertaken with officers and partner organisations?**

The report has been developed by the Children’s Services Board (which comprises all Community Planning Partner)s and the draft report has been shared with all Outcome Groups serving the Community Planning Partners for review prior to be finalised. The draft report has been shared with members of the Extended Corporate Management Team for review.

In addition, an engagement session was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 where over 40 participants reviewed our findings and agreed next steps.

**What consultation and engagement and has been undertaken with people who may be impacted by this policy (e.g. citizens, community groups, or other people/groups)?**

Between 6 October and 5 November 2023, Aberdeen residents were asked what our focus should be by using a range of methods. Approaches included:

- an online survey,
- 6 in person events (2 sessions in each locality, with one being in a priority neighbourhood)
- targeted Support/Facilitation
- a children and young persons’ version

470 people participated (309 through the online engagement; 55 through the locality events and 106 through the children and young people’s version) and the findings drawn into a comprehensive report which has directly informed the development of the Annual Report.

2.4 What mitigations can be put in place?

**What mitigations are there against any negative impacts (if applicable)?**

No negative impacts have been identified.

**With mitigations in place, what is the new overall rating of the negative impact(s)?**

High
Medium
Low
Negative Impact Removed

### 3: Socio-Economic Impacts

This section is used to consider the impact of the policy on people who might be **unemployed, single parents**, people with lower **education** or **literacy**, **looked after children**, those with **protected characteristics** as examples.

Use this guide to understand more on socio-economic inequalities: [The Fairer Scotland Duty: Guidance for Public Bodies \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

#### 3.1 What impact could this policy have on any of the below groups?

Group	Negative			Neutral	Positive
	High	Medium	Low		
Low income / income poverty – those who cannot afford regular bills, food, clothing payments.					√
Low and/or no wealth – those who can meet basic living costs but have no savings for unexpected spend or provision for the future					√
Material deprivation – those who cannot access basic goods and services, unable to repair/replace broken electrical goods, heat their homes or access to leisure or hobbies					√
Area deprivation – consider where people live and where they work (accessibility and cost of transport)					√
Socio-economic background – social class, parents' education, employment, income.					√

#### 3.2 In what way will the policy impact people in these groups?

The Annual Report includes the Aberdeen City Child Poverty Action Plan. Undertaking an annual review of the scale and impact of our work, in tandem with a review of outcome data by those more vulnerable to poverty, is helping us closely track the impact of interventions around child poverty more comprehensively.

The Improvement Projects being driven forward as part of the Children's Services Plan are progressing well. The impact of our work on child poverty (relative to other Local Authorities) is improving. According to Improvement Service data, 82% of our communities are performing better than could be expected compared to only 78% a year ago. This suggests a need to maintain current approaches in order to secure continuous improvement.

There are indications that those living in SIMD 2 and 3 are securing more positive outcomes, this is not being replicated by those living in SIMD 1. There is a need to co-design an approach with families living in SIMD 1 to help close the outcome gap. Taking a more agile and family-led approach is likely to secure more positive outcomes for this group.

#### 3.3 What considerations have been made in reaching the above assessment?

**What internal or external data has been considered? What does this data tell us?**

A review of all published data has been undertaken to identify any changes following the comprehensive review of data undertaken a year ago. Particularly helpful sources have included the Scottish Public Health Shiny Apps site, Improvement Service Community Planning Outcomes Tool, the Improvement Service Local Government Benchmarking data and the data gleaned from engagement around the refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

The data tells us that delivery of our current plan is positively impacting families living in SIMD 2 and 3, but not yet closing the gap to those living in SIMD1. The data also gives early warning that levels of obesity are rising. As well as continuing to deliver against the agreed Children’s Services Plan, it will be important to address these changed trends whilst continuing to plan for changing national policies.

**What consultation and engagement and has been undertaken with officers and partner organisations?**

The report has been developed by the Children’s Services Board (which comprises all Community Planning Partner)s and the draft report has been shared with all Outcome Groups serving the Community Planning Partners for review prior to be finalised. The draft report has been shared with members of the Extended Corporate Management Team for review.

In addition, an engagement session was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 where 40 participants reviewed our findings and agreed next steps.

**What consultation and engagement and has been undertaken with people who may be impacted by this policy? citizens, community groups, or other people/groups impacted by this policy?**

Between 6 October and 5 November 2023, Aberdeen residents were asked what our focus should be by using a range of methods to engage to ensure we would have the best chances of hearing as many voices as possible.

Approaches included:

- an online survey,
- 6 in person events (2 sessions in each locality, with one being in a priority neighbourhood)
- targeted Support/Facilitation
- a children and young persons’ version

470 people participated (309 through the online engagement; 55 through the locality events and 106 through the children and young people’s version) and the findings were drawn into a comprehensive report. This report has directly informed the development of the Annual Report.

It will be important to engage with families living in SIMD 1 to co-design changed approaches to improving outcome for those living in SIMD 1.

3.4 What mitigations can be put in place?

**What mitigations are there against any negative impacts (if applicable)?**

Not applicable

**With mitigations in place, what is the new overall rating of the negative impact(s)?**

High
Medium
Low
Negative Impact Removed

**4: Human Rights Impacts**

The Human Rights Act 1998 sets out the fundamental rights and freedoms that everyone in the UK is entitled to. It incorporates the rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into domestic British law. The Human Rights Act came into force in the UK in October 2000

The Act sets out our human rights in a series of ‘Articles’. Each Article deals with a different right.

Use this guide to understand more about [Human Rights](#).

4.1 What impact could this policy have on Human Rights?

<b>Human Rights Article</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Positive</b>
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Article 6: <a href="#">Right to a fair trial</a>		√	
Article 7: <a href="#">No punishment without law</a>		√	
Article 8: <a href="#">Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence</a>		√	
Article 9: <a href="#">Freedom of thought, belief and religion</a>		√	
Article 10: <a href="#">Freedom of expression</a>		√	
Article 11: <a href="#">Freedom of assembly and association</a>		√	
Article 12: <a href="#">Right to marry and start a family</a>		√	
Article 14: <a href="#">Protection from discrimination in respect of these rights and freedoms</a>		√	
Article 1 of Protocol 1: <a href="#">Right to peaceful enjoyment of your property</a>		√	
Article 2 of Protocol 1: <a href="#">Right to education</a>		√	
Article 3 of Protocol 1: <a href="#">Right to participate in free elections</a>		√	

4.2 In what way will the policy impact Human Rights?

The recommendations in the annual report, in particular the need to review how we work with families living in SIMD 1, may positively impact on the human rights of parents and carers. This will require to be revisited as plans progress further and as co-design work with families is progressed.

4.3 What mitigations can be put in place?

**What mitigations are there against any negative impacts (if applicable)?**

**If mitigations are in place, does this remove the negative impact?**

No – negative impact remains

Yes – negative impact reduced

Yes - negative impact removed

## 5: Children and Young People’s Rights Impacts

The United Nations Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child’s life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.

Children’s rights apply to every child/young person under the age of 18 and to adults still eligible to receive a “children’s service” (e.g. care leavers aged 18 – 25 years old).

The Conventions are also known as the “General Principles” and they help to interpret all the other articles and play a fundamental role in realising all the rights in the Convention for all children. They are:

1. Non-discrimination (Article 2)
2. Best interest of the child (Article 3)
3. Right to life survival and development (Article 6)
4. Right to be heard (Article 12)

You can [read the full UN Convention \(pdf\)](#), or [just a summary \(pdf\)](#), to find out more about the rights that are included.

### 5.1 What impact could this policy have on the rights of Children and Young People?

UNCRC and Optional Protocols	Negative	Neutral	Positive
<b>Article 1:</b> definition of the child		√	
<b>Article 2:</b> non-discrimination			√
<b>Article 3:</b> best interests of the child			√
<b>Article 4:</b> implementation of the convention		√	
<b>Article 5:</b> parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities		√	
<b>Article 6:</b> life, survival and development			√
<b>Article 7:</b> birth registration, name, nationality, care		√	
<b>Article 8:</b> protection and preservation of identity		√	
<b>Article 9:</b> separation from parents		√	
<b>Article 10:</b> family reunification		√	
<b>Article 11:</b> abduction and non-return of children		√	
<b>Article 12:</b> respect for the views of the child		√	
<b>Article 13:</b> freedom of expression		√	
<b>Article 14:</b> freedom of thought, belief and religion		√	
<b>Article 15:</b> freedom of association		√	
<b>Article 16:</b> right to privacy		√	
<b>Article 17:</b> access to information from the media		√	
<b>Article 18:</b> parental responsibilities and state assistance			√
<b>Article 19:</b> protection from violence, abuse and neglect			√
<b>Article 20:</b> children unable to live with their family			√
<b>Article 21:</b> adoption		√	
<b>Article 22:</b> refugee children		√	
<b>Article 23:</b> children with a disability		√	
<b>Article 24:</b> health and health services			√
<b>Article 25:</b> review of treatment in care		√	
<b>Article 26:</b> social security		√	
<b>Article 27:</b> adequate standard of living			√
<b>Article 28:</b> right to education		√	
<b>Article 29:</b> goals of education		√	
<b>Article 30:</b> children from minority or indigenous groups		√	



<b>Article 31:</b> leisure, play and culture		√	
<b>Article 32:</b> child labour		√	
<b>Article 33:</b> drug abuse		√	
<b>Article 34:</b> sexual exploitation		√	
<b>Article 35:</b> abduction, sale and trafficking		√	
<b>Article 36:</b> other forms of exploitation		√	
<b>Article 37:</b> inhumane treatment and detention		√	
<b>Article 38:</b> war and armed conflicts		√	
<b>Article 39:</b> recovery from trauma and reintegration		√	
<b>Article 40:</b> juvenile justice		√	
<b>Article 41:</b> respect for higher national standards		√	
<b>Article 42:</b> knowledge of rights		√	
<b>Optional</b> Protocol on a Communications Procedure			

### 5.2 In what way will the policy impact the rights of Children and Young People?

The review of data published over the last year, has highlighted that some groups (particularly those living in SIMD 1) are less able to claim their rights as their peers, this is evident when the data when reviewed by SIMD quintile. It is important that we recognise that current approaches are not successfully securing outcomes and co-design new ways of working with families and children. The policy itself has no negative impacts on Children and Young People.

### 5.3 What mitigations can be put in place?

#### **What mitigations are there against any negative impacts (if applicable)?**

It is recommended that we co-design new ways of working to better address the needs of this group. This IIA will require to be revisited as plans are shaped further.

**If mitigations are in place, does this remove the negative impact?**

No – negative impact remains

Yes – negative impact reduced

Yes - negative impact removed

√

## 6: Sign Off

<b>Any further positive or negative impacts on individuals or groups that have been considered?</b>
There is a need to carefully focus on those we have corporate parenting responsibility for. The vast majority of care experienced young people live in SIMD 1, but it will be important to track the impact of changes on CEYP as a distinct group.
<b>Overall summary of changes made as a result of impact assessment.</b>
There will be a need to take a co-design approach with families, and a need to track the impact of any changes to ensure that there are no unintended consequences.
<b>Outline of how impact of policy will be monitored.</b>
Data for particular groups will be routinely monitored to ensure that we take an agile and evidence based approach. A further annual review will be undertaken in 2025.
<b>If there are any remaining negative impacts after mitigation, what is the justification for why this policy should proceed.</b>
No, but on-going monitoring of data trends will be important.

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<b>Date</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2024
<b>Chief Officer</b>	Shona Milne and Graeme Simpson
<b>Date</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2024