

Impact Assessment

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
National Delivery Framework for School Age Childcare and Local Delivery Plans
1.2 What does this policy seek to achieve?
The purpose of the report is to update Committee on the National Delivery Framework for School Age Childcare and on local delivery plans in Aberdeen.
1.3 Is this a new or existing policy?
New National Delivery Framework but on existing work.
1.4 Is this report going to a committee?
Yes
1.5 Committee name and date:
Education and Children’s Services Committee – 20 February 2024
1.6 Report no and / or Budget proposal number and / or Business Case reference number:
CFS/24/014

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?

Protected Characteristic	What is the impact?				
	Negative			Neutral	Positive
	High	Medium	Low		
Age					X
Disability					X
Gender Reassignment				X	
Marriage and Civil Partnership				X	
Pregnancy and Maternity					X
Race				X	
Religion or Belief				X	
Sex					X
Sexual Orientation				X	

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

School Age Childcare services play a vital role within our communities, offering a variety of options which families can rely on to support their childcare needs before and after school and during school holidays. It is not currently a statutory service, like Early Learning and Childcare. However it is a crucial service for many families who rely on it to enable them to work or study and it contributes positively to the economic development of the city as well as improving outcomes for children and young people.

The National Delivery Framework outlines the Scottish Government's School Age Childcare commitments and the action areas for the next 3 years. Its key policy drivers are: Tackling child poverty; and improving outcomes for children and families. The Framework highlights that an expanded childcare offering for school age childcare is crucial to the national mission to tackle child poverty, to promote family wellbeing, drive greater gender equality and to #Keep The Promise to our care experienced children.

The School Age Childcare offer will be directed towards six priority family types, as identified in *Best Start, Bright Futures: tackling child poverty delivery plan 2022-26*:

- Families with a baby under one
- Families with three or more children
- Lone parent families
- Families with a young mother (under 25)
- Minority ethnic families
- Families with a disabled adult or child

In Aberdeen, we have a mixed model of School Age Childcare provision. 42 settings deliver nearly 1700 registered places on a daily bases across the city. In addition, 931 registered breakfast club places as well as a number of unregistered services offering free or low cost breakfast.

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?

The National Delivery Framework was published in October 2023 but has been developed over the past 5 years with input from parents, children and providers across Scotland including Aberdeen. Aberdeen City Council was represented on the initial Reference Group which drafted the Framework.

A local Parent and Carer consultation was undertaken in December 2023 / January 2024 on the provision of School Age Childcare in Aberdeen. We undertake this a minimum of every 2 years in line with our duties under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

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

A local Parent and Carer consultation was undertaken in December 2023 / January 2024 on the provision of School Age Childcare in Aberdeen. We undertake this a minimum of every 2 years in line with our duties under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

We also consult regularly with School Age Childcare providers.

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)?

A local Parent and Carer consultation was undertaken in December 2023 / January 2024 on the provision of School Age Childcare in Aberdeen. We undertake this a minimum of every 2 years in line with our duties under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

2.4 What mitigations can be put in place?

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

Not applicable – there are no negative impacts.

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 \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-duty/guidance-for-public-bodies/)

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.					X
Low and/or no wealth – those who can meet basic living costs but have no savings for unexpected spend or provision for the future					X
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					X
Area deprivation – consider where people live and where they work (accessibility and cost of transport)					X
Socio-economic background – social class, parents' education, employment, income.					X

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

The National Delivery Framework outlines the Scottish Government's School Age Childcare commitments and the action areas for the next 3 years. Its key policy drivers are: Tackling child poverty; and improving outcomes for children and families. The Framework highlights that an expanded childcare offering for school age childcare is crucial to the national mission to tackle child poverty, to promote family wellbeing, drive greater gender equality and to #Keep The Promise to our care experienced children.

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- Lone parent families
- Families with a young mother (under 25)
- Minority ethnic families
- Families with a disabled adult or child

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?

The National Delivery Framework was published in October 2023 but has been developed over the past 5 years with input from parents, children and providers across Scotland including Aberdeen. Aberdeen City Council was represented on the initial Reference Group which drafted the Framework.

A local Parent and Carer consultation was undertaken in December 2023 / January 2024 on the provision of School Age Childcare in Aberdeen. We undertake this a minimum of every 2 years in line with our duties under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

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

Officers and partner organisations are regularly included and consulted with.

Scottish Out of School Care Network event in November 2023 had good representation from across the sector and included input from Scottish Government on the National Framework. Officers and partners had the opportunity to share their views.

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?

A local Parent and Carer consultation was undertaken in December 2023 / January 2024 on the provision of School Age Childcare in Aberdeen. We undertake this a minimum of every 2 years in line with our duties under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

3.4 What mitigations can be put in place?

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

N/A – There are no negative impacts.

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?

Human Rights Article	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Article 6: Right to a fair trial		X	
Article 7: No punishment without law		X	
Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence		X	
Article 9: Freedom of thought, belief and religion		X	
Article 10: Freedom of expression		X	
Article 11: Freedom of assembly and association		X	
Article 12: Right to marry and start a family		X	

Article 14: Protection from discrimination in respect of these rights and freedoms		X	
Article 1 of Protocol 1: Right to peaceful enjoyment of your property		X	
Article 2 of Protocol 1: Right to education			X
Article 3 of Protocol 1: Right to participate in free elections		X	

4.2 In what way will the policy impact Human Rights?

The policy will positively impact Human Rights by prioritising key family groups who may be affected by poverty.

4.3 What mitigations can be put in place?

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

N/A – there are no negative impacts.

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

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

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

Positively. School Age Childcare is crucial to the national mission to tackle child poverty, to promote family wellbeing, drive greater gender equality and to #Keep The Promise to our care experienced children.

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- Minority ethnic families
- Families with a disabled adult or child

5.3 What mitigations can be put in place?

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

N/A – there are no negative impacts.

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

Any further positive or negative impacts on individuals or groups that have been considered?
None
Overall summary of changes made as a result of impact assessment.
None – the Policy has a positive impact on children, young people, families and the economy.
Outline of how impact of policy will be monitored.
Return to Committee in September 2024 with updated School Age Childcare Policy. National Framework detailed Delivery Plan will be developed by Scottish Government in 2025/26. This will set out what a targeted School Age Childcare offer will look like for families within communities and provide a clear timescale for delivery. We will monitor this closely. Meantime, we will continue to deliver school age childcare services in line with demand.
If there are any remaining negative impacts after mitigation, what is the justification for why this policy should proceed.
N/A

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Date	31 January 2024
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Date	31 January 2024