

CHILD RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT (CRIA)

Information or assistance in completing the CRIA, please email the Child Friendly Cardiff Team ChildFriendlyCardiff@cardiff.gov.uk

Title of policy/strategy/project/procedure/service being assessed:	Housing Emergency in Cardiff - Cabinet Report
Type of Assessment:	Existing

Who is responsible for developing and implementing the policy/strategy/project/procedure/service?	
Name:	Helen Evans
Job Title:	Assistant Director, Housing & Communities
Service/Team:	Housing & Communities
Directorate:	Adults, Housing & Communities

STAGE 1: PURPOSE/SCOPE

- 1. What is the policy/strategy/project/procedure/service? Summarise its overall aims and any aims specific to children.**

The purpose of the proposal is to brief Cabinet on the Housing Emergency in Cardiff, and the unprecedented pressures this is placing on homelessness services. Including but not limited to, record numbers of individuals and families seeking help from homelessness services, lack of social housing for those on the common waiting list, resulting in presenting as homeless being perceived by some as a short cut to access social housing and emerging pressures such as the Home Office accelerating their decision making on asylum cases where at over 450 households will seek support with housing over a short period of time.

The proposal provides an update to Cabinet on the steps already being taken to address these pressures including a strengthened homelessness prevention service, improvements in mediation services and referring those who present to the service with no local connection back to their originating local authority for help. Steps taken also include the opening of additional temporary accommodation including use of hotels within the city, and the meanwhile use of land and modular units to further increase supply.

The report seeks approval for changes to existing policies which impact on homeless assessment, (in line with current homelessness legislation). These changes are listed below:

- The consideration of intentionality in making homelessness decisions, where there is clear evidence that an applicant has deliberately made themselves homeless.
- The removal of areas of choice for homeless applicants on the Common Housing

Waiting List.

- Offering private rented accommodation outside the Cardiff area in neighbouring local authorities, where appropriate.

The proposal also details solutions to the current housing pressures through larger scale property purchases and package deal arrangements and the continuation of the meanwhile use of brownfield sites to deliver new modular homes for temporary accommodation, using the existing arrangements in place within our Cardiff Living Partnership and with the current modular providers.

The proposal requests that Cabinet approve:

Approve a consultation process on the policy changes outlined in the report, including the consideration of intentionality in making homeless decisions, the removal of areas of choice for homeless applicants on the Common Housing Waiting List and offering private rented accommodation outside the city, in neighbouring local authority areas.

To delegate the final decision on these changes to the Director Adults, Housing and Communities in consultation with the Cabinet Member, Housing and Communities following a full impact assessment and consultation with stakeholders.

Approve the acquisition of the properties following the completion of all due diligence.

Approve in-principle the award of a new contract for the meanwhile modular delivery of temporary accommodation.

Delegation of the final sign-off of each of the sites to the Corporate Director, People & Communities in consultation with the S.151 Officer and the Cabinet members for Housing & Communities and Finance. Final approval will be conditional on the following; Approval of TACP grant from Welsh Government, Agreement of lease arrangements with Welsh Government and Cardiff & Vale Health Board for the sites identified in appendix 2 and a suitable financial viability assessment for each of the sites

2. Please select the groups of children and young people who will be directly and/or indirectly impacted. Please review after completing the form.

<input type="checkbox"/> Protected Characteristics	<input type="checkbox"/> EOTAS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Young Parents	<input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy Travellers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children of Single Parents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asylum Seekers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Southern Arc Children	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BAME Community
<input type="checkbox"/> Children of Deaf Parents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Care Experienced
<input type="checkbox"/> Young Carers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-School
<input type="checkbox"/> Primary School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secondary School
<input type="checkbox"/> Welsh First Language	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Native Speakers of English
<input type="checkbox"/> Set Locality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citywide
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ+	<input type="checkbox"/> ALN


Youth Justice

Other - Click or tap here to enter other identified groups

STAGE 2: BUILD AND ASSESS

The General Principles of the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) are at the heart of a child rights approach. [This link](#) will take you to a page on our website with a full list of Children's Rights and supporting information. [Click here](#) to access a list of articles grouped into common themes.

3. What is the likely/ actual impact of the proposal on children's rights? Is it positive, negative, or neutral?

<i>Describe the Impact</i>	<i>Impacted UNCRC Articles</i>	<i>Impact Scale</i>	<i>How to mitigate impact (if negative)  - additional info</i>
There are currently 707 families with children residing in temporary accommodation in Cardiff. The report shows that that 28 more families are entering temporary accommodation than are exiting into permanent accommodation each month, so demand for accommodation is far outstripping supply. Due to this demand many families are now residing in emergency hotel accommodation. The report sets out proposals to deal with this demand, reduce the use of hotel accommodation and move people on quickly to settled, permanent accommodation.	Article 27 - Adequate standard of living Article 31 - Right to play and leisure	Negative	The proposals set out in this report will address the impact of children residing in hotel accommodation. The proposals aim to reduce the use of hotels by developing increased temporary and permanent accommodation across the city. Support from council staff is available on site and other services, such as Early Help, Play, and Advice Services also provide assistance from these locations, however the use of hotels is not ideal and spending time in any form of temporary accommodation can be unsettling for children.
The changes proposed with regards to considering intentionality where there is clear evidence that an applicant has deliberately made themselves homeless.	Article 20 - children unable to live with their family, Article 27 - adequate standard of living	Neutral	Changes will not apply to young people aged under 21, care leavers aged between 21 to 24, pregnant women and homeless applicants with children, unless they have been intentionally homeless twice within a 5-year period. This is unlikely to be the case but is still possible. Housing & Communities work closely with Children's Services on any case where a

			decision is made that there is no homeless duty to ensure the right support is in place.
The removal of areas of choice for homeless applicants on the Common Housing Waiting List will reduce the amount of time spent in temporary accommodation, particularly for families	Article 27 - adequate standard of living, Article 28 - right to education, Article 9 - separation from parents	Negative	It is accepted that moving to a different area of Cardiff may be disruptive for children in terms of their education and their family support networks. The proposals in the report that aim to reduce the time spent in temporary accommodation will enable families to move into a settled home more quickly and are therefore beneficial to families and children. We will also ensure advice and support is in place to assist families with education choices.
Offers of private rented accommodation outside of Cardiff	Article 27 - adequate standard of living, Article 28 - right to education, Article 9 - separation from parents	Negative	It is accepted that moving out of Cardiff may be disruptive for children in terms of their education and their family support networks. The proposals in the report that aim to reduce the time spent in temporary accommodation will enable families to move into a settled home more quickly and are therefore beneficial to families and children. We will also ensure advice and support is in place to assist families with education choices.
Click or tap here to add an impact.	Click here to enter an article.	Choose a value.	Click or tap here to add a mitigation.
Click or tap here to add an impact.	Click here to enter an article.	Choose a value.	Click or tap here to add a mitigation.
Click or tap here to add an impact.	Click here to enter an article.	Choose a value.	Click or tap here to add a mitigation.
Click or tap here to add an impact.	Click here to enter an article.	Choose a value.	Click or tap here to add a mitigation.

STAGE 3: VOICE AND EVIDENCE

4. How do you plan to review the policy/ strategy/ project/ procedure/ service to ensure that it respects, protects and fulfils children's rights? [i](#) - additional info

The report is a proposal at present - advising cabinet of the current housing emergency in the city.

5. **Have you sourced and included the views and experiences of children and young people? What do you know about children and young people's views and experiences that are relevant to the proposal?** [i - additional info](#)

Not at present, however consultation with a wide range of stakeholders on the proposals outlined in the report, at which time the impacts will be further assessed.

STAGE 4: BUDGET

It is important to consider the resource and budgetary elements which are directly attributed to children and young people to enable oversight.

6. **What is the budget for this policy/ strategy/ project/ procedure/ service? In your answer, include any allocations specifically for children and young people and whether any of the budget will be used to mitigate negative impacts identified above.**

N/A

STAGE 5: IDENTIFIED ACTIONS

7. **What actions have been identified or changes made to the policy/ strategy/ project/ procedure/ service as a result of this assessment?** [i - additional info](#)

None

AUTHORISATION

The template should be completed by the Lead Officer of the identified policy/ strategy/ project/ procedure/ service and approved by the appropriate manager.

Completed By:	Jessica Tomlinson
Submission Date:	24/11/2023
Job Title:	Improvement Project Manager
Approved By:	Click or tap here to enter name.

Job Title:	Click or tap here to enter job title.
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Governance & Decision-Making

Where it is considered that a CRIA is required, you must append the completed form to the Cabinet or Officer Decision Report. A copy must also be emailed to the Child Friendly Cardiff Team ChildFriendlyCardiff@cardiff.gov.uk

Advice & Support

UNICEF Child Rights Impact Assessment Guidance for Local Government:
[Child rights impact assessment - Child Friendly Cities & Communities \(unicef.org.uk\)](https://www.unicef.org.uk/child-rights-impact-assessment-child-friendly-cities-communities)

For further information or assistance in completing the CRIA, please email the Child Friendly Cardiff Team ChildFriendlyCardiff@cardiff.gov.uk