

## CHILD RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT (CRIA)

Information or assistance in completing the CRIA, please email the Child Friendly Cardiff Team [ChildFriendlyCardiff@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:ChildFriendlyCardiff@cardiff.gov.uk)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Title of policy/strategy/project/procedure/service being assessed:</b> | Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2024/25 |
| <b>Type of Assessment:</b>  | New   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Who is responsible for developing and implementing the policy/strategy/project/procedure/service? |   |
| <b>Name:</b>  | Helen Evans                                   |
| <b>Job Title:</b>   | Assistant Director of Housing and Communities |
| <b>Service/Team:</b>  | Housing and Communities                       |
| <b>Directorate:</b>   | Adults, Housing and 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 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) records income and expenditure in relation to Council Housing. This funding is required to be 'ring fenced' in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and cannot be used for any other purpose. The main source of income to the HRA is from tenants in the form of rents and service charges. Rental income allows Housing Services to invest in the maintenance and improvement of existing homes and neighbourhoods; provide good tenant support services; contribute to the funding of our Community Hubs and build new homes.

The HRA Business Plan is updated each year and provides the opportunity to set out the key council housing priorities for the following year and beyond.

The HRA Business Plan provides details to tenants about how we will continue to develop services for them and how we will achieve this with the income received from the HRA.

The plan outlines a number of specific actions for 2024/25 on how the council will improve housing services.

Services funded by the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) are inclusive, and any improvement to services will benefit all those who access the service, all of the Council's tenants and leaseholders and all those who live in their home including their children.


**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"/> <a href="#">EOTAS</a>                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young Parents                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy Travellers                          |
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Pre-School                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primary School                   | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALN                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Justice                    | <b>Other</b> - 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)  - <a href="#">additional info</a></i> |
|---|---|---------------------|---|
| The Housing Revenue Account is used to invest in the building of new homes. An action is set out in the plan to deliver good quality homes that also provide good access to services, helping to create safe and strong communities will have a positive impact on children and young people by providing good quality homes for them to grow up. | Article 27 - Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development. | Positive            | Click or tap here to add a mitigation.  |

|  |  |                 |   |
|--|--|-----------------|---|
| <p>The Housing Revenue Account is used to ensure the maintenance of the Council's property portfolio. An action is set out in the plan to ensure that tenants homes are upgraded to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard 2023 in a coordinated way, this will have a positive impact on children and young people by improving the quality of their homes.</p>   | <p>Article 27 - Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development.</p> | <p>Positive</p> | <p>Click or tap here to add a mitigation.</p> |
| <p>The Housing Revenue Account is used to ensure the maintenance of the Council's property portfolio. An action set out in the plan to assess the condition of the Council's housing stock and understand the work necessary to meet the requirements of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard 2023 will have a positive impact on children and young people by improving the quality of their homes and ensuring their homes meet the legislative standards.</p> | <p>Article 27 - Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development.</p> | <p>Positive</p> | <p>Click or tap here to add a mitigation.</p> |
| <p>The Housing Revenue Account is used to ensure the maintenance of the Council's property portfolio. An action set out in the plan to continue to invest in improving the response rate to urgent and routine repairs will have a positive impact on children and young people who live in Council properties. By improving response rate of repairs, it will in turn improve the quality of their homes.</p>   | <p>Article 27 - Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development.</p> | <p>Positive</p> | <p>Click or tap here to add a mitigation.</p> |

|  |  |                 |   |
|--|--|-----------------|---|
| <p>The Housing Revenue Account is used to ensure the maintenance of the Council's property portfolio. An action set out in the plan to expand the dedicated 'Dry Homes' team to address the damp and mould in Council properties will have a positive impact on children and young people who live in Council properties, by improving the safety of the property.</p>   | <p>Article 27 - Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development.</p> | <p>Positive</p> | <p>Click or tap here to add a mitigation.</p> |
| <p>The lack of larger affordable properties in Cardiff is resulting in increased levels of overcrowding in both social and private housing in the city. An action within the plan to undertake further work to address overcrowding in Council properties will have a positive impact on children and young people in families that are living in overcrowded homes. Addressing the issue of overcrowding and improving living conditions of families that are overcrowded will have a positive impact on children and young people.</p> | <p>Article 27 - Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development.</p> | <p>Positive</p> | <p>Click or tap here to add a mitigation.</p> |
| <p>The Hub and Library Service aims to contribute to educational, cultural and leisure opportunities by giving children and families positive experiences through providing children's activities, events and access to books. An action within the plan to launch a Young Persons Virtual Hub will have a</p>   | <p>Article 17 - Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources.<br/>Article 31 - Every child has the right to relax, play</p>       | <p>Positive</p> | <p>Click or tap here to add a mitigation.</p> |

|   |   |                 |   |
|---|---|-----------------|---|
| <p>positive impact on children and young people, providing them with accurate information, a space to seek advice and assistance and information on community events and other topics.</p>  | <p>and take a part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.</p>   |                 |   |
| <p>The Hub and Library Service aims to contribute to educational, cultural and leisure opportunities by giving children and families positive experiences through providing children’s activities, events and access to books. An action within the plan to continue to provide services within Community Hubs that attract tenants from the wider community will have a positive impact on children and young people, by providing them with the opportunity to take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.</p> | <p>Article 30 – Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family.<br/>Article 31 – Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.</p> | <p>Positive</p> | <p>Click or tap here to add a mitigation.</p> |
| <p>Community Hubs within the city aim to be as inclusive and welcoming as possible for all the community. An action within the plan to encourage people who are neurodivergent to participate and stay connected with their communities will have a positive impact on children and young people with neurodiversity.</p>   | <p>Article 31 – Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities</p>  | <p>Positive</p> |   |

|  |  |                 |  |
|--|--|-----------------|--|
| <p>The Councils Tenant's Together team provide opportunities for tenants to have their say on Council services. Within the plan there is an action to broaden the reach of the Tenant's Together team and to create volunteer opportunities that will help young tenants to become engaged in their communities. This will have a positive impact on young people by ensuring that they have their opinions heard on Council services.</p> | <p>Article 13 – Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information.</p> <p>Article 15 – Every child has the right to meet with other children and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.</p> | <p>Positive</p> |  |
| <p>There are a set of actions within the plan to improve neighbourhoods and community safety which will have a positive impact on children and young people by providing them with safe and secure environment to grow up in.</p>  | <p>Article 27 - Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development.</p>   | <p>Positive</p> |  |

### 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

All actions within the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan are implemented as actions within the Directorate Delivery Plan for Adults, Housing and Communities that are reviewed quarterly.

**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? ⓘ - additional info**

Not at present, however actions within the plan are to ensure more young tenants are engaged and can provide their opinions on Council services provided.

**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? ⓘ - 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:    | Victoria Williams              |
| Submission Date: | 07/02/2024                     |
| Job Title:       | Policy and Development Manager |

|              |                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Approved By: | Jessica Tomlinson           |
| Job Title:   | Improvement Project Manager |

### **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](mailto: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)

For further information or assistance in completing the CRIA, please email the Child Friendly Cardiff Team [ChildFriendlyCardiff@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:ChildFriendlyCardiff@cardiff.gov.uk)