

Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment for the Local Housing Strategy 2021-2026

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CRWIA Stage 1 - North Lanarkshire Local Housing Strategy (2021–2026)

Screening - key questions

The Local Housing Strategy (LHS) is North Lanarkshire's strategic document for housing in its area. The LHS sets out North Lanarkshire priorities and plans for the delivery of housing and related services. It builds on the existing LHS (2016-21) and associated actions. It also sets out the current evidence on housing provision and related services in North Lanarkshire to identify and address housing issues.

The LHS (2021-26) will clearly set out what the statutory housing responsibilities are including homelessness, fuel poverty and house condition and how housing contributes to the integration of health and social care.

The LHS is housing's mechanism for helping to deliver the national outcomes and targets set by Government whilst reflecting and meeting the needs and priorities of our local authority area through the provision of a strategic response to national outcomes and how North Lanarkshire will meet national housing priorities;

- Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS).
- Reduction of carbon emissions.
- Supporting the development of sustainable communities.
- Town centre Living.
- Improvements to environmental and design standards.

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

The Articles of the UNCRC and the child wellbeing indicators under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 apply to all children and young people up to the age of 18, including non-citizen and undocumented children and young people.

All aspects of the LHS will affect children and young people's rights as this document deals with housing and related services to all people in North Lanarkshire communities. This includes:

- the condition of properties to live in
- aspects of homelessness across all groups
- availability and affordability of housing
- fuel poverty
- specialist, accessible or adapted housing
- provision of housing support
- regeneration of communities
- tackling poverty (Including child poverty) through provision of increased economic opportunities
- improve health and wellbeing of all residents

This policy will also take account of wider equalities requirements and fairer Scotland duties to promote inclusive and cohesive communities and

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations across communities
- Protect and promote human rights
- Reduce socio-economic disadvantage

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

'Direct' impact refers to policies/measures where children and young people are directly affected by the proposed changes, e.g. in early years, education, child protection or looked after children (children in care). 'Indirect' impact refers to policies/measures that are not directly aimed at children but will

have an impact on them. Examples include welfare reforms, parental leave, housing supply, or local transport schemes.

Some elements of the LHS will have a direct positive impact on some children and young people and other elements will have an indirect positive impact.

Direct impacts are targeted at the most disadvantaged people within our communities and include elements such as:

- Preventing and tackling homelessness and ensuring the provision of housing support where it is needed
- Improving the life chances and opportunities of looked after and accommodated young people and care experienced young people through a range of specific focussed actions to provide a seamless transition to independent living and the provision of good quality homes with the relevant wrap around support
- Improving access and affordability to good quality homes for single parent families adversely affected by poverty
- Implementing a rapid rehousing approach to homelessness including families with children and young people
- Tackling domestic abuse
- Improving linkages with other services such as Health and Social Care to ensure people have access to the right support
- Creating a Homes First project for those with multiple and complex needs
- Increasing the provision of specialist or adapted homes for people with disabilities including children and young people

Indirect impacts include:

- Promoting more inclusive cohesive communities to address inequalities and tackle discrimination
- Increasing the provision of affordable housing and boosting employment across the authority area to increase income levels
- Reducing area deprivation through the provision of well-connected and high-quality neighbourhoods via regeneration of deprived areas and town centres
- Reducing material deprivation through improvement of affordable, high quality and accessible homes
- Preventing and addressing homelessness for everyone
- Improving house condition across tenures
- Reducing fuel poverty and helping to tackle poverty overall
- Increasing the provision of adaptable and accessible housing provision
- Improving standards and services in the private rented sector

Further detail of indirect impact can be found in the LHS individual sections and corresponding actions.

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

Under the UNCRC, 'children' can refer to: individual children, groups of children, or children in general. Some groups of children will relate to the groups with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010: disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. 'Groups' can also refer to children by age band or setting, or those who are eligible for special protection or assistance: e.g. preschool children, children in hospital, children in rural areas, looked after children, young people who offend, victims of abuse or exploitation, child migrants, or children living in poverty.

North Lanarkshire takes its responsibilities and duties to always consider the best interests of children and young people seriously and the LHS aims to improve housing and housing related services to all.

All children and young people will be impacted by the LHS since it is concerned with the delivery of accessible, affordable, high-quality homes and housing support. It will include those:

- On a low income and/or deprived households
- Living in deprived areas
- Part of a single parent family
- That are or become homeless

- That are victims or part of a family affected by domestic abuse
- Being looked after and accommodated or those leaving care
- In the protected characteristics group under the Equality Act e.g. disability, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

5. Will this require a CRWIA?

Explain your reasons.

Yes, the intended impact of the LHS is wide ranging and considers all housing stock within the North Lanarkshire boundary as well as wider impacts on equalities, discrimination and health and wellbeing and as such is a critical policy document to aid the delivery of national outcomes.

CRWIA Declaration

Tick relevant section and complete the form.

CRWIA required ✓

CRWIA not required

Authorisation

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16/03/21

CRWIA Stage 2

The CRWIA – key questions

1. Which UNCRC Articles are relevant to the policy/measure?

List all relevant Articles of the UNCRC and Optional Protocols. All UNCRC rights are underpinned by the four general principles: non-discrimination; the best interests of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and the child's right to have their views given due weight.

Article 2 Non-discrimination

Article 3 Best interests of the child

Article 5 Parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities

Article 6 Life, survival and development

Article 8 Protection and preservation of identity

Article 10 Family reunification

Article 12 Respect for the views of the child

Article 13 Freedom of expression

Article 14 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

Article 15 Freedom of association

Article 16 Right to privacy

Article 18(1,2) Parental responsibilities and state assistance

Article 18(3) Parental responsibilities and state assistance

Article 19 Protection from all forms of violence

Article 22 Refugee children

Article 23 Children with disabilities

Article 24 Health and health services

Article 27(1-3) Adequate standard of living

Article 30 Children of minorities/indigenous groups

Article 31 Leisure, play and culture

Article 32 Child labour

Article 33 Drug abuse

Article 34 Sexual exploitation

Article 35 Abduction, sale and trafficking

Article 36 Other forms of exploitation

Article 37(a) Inhumane treatment and detention

Article 39 Recovery and rehabilitation of child victims

2. What impact will the policy/measure will have on children's rights?

Positive/negative/neutral.

The LHS intention is to improve housing and housing related services in North Lanarkshire and as such intends to have a positive impact across the range of housing and related issues such as:

- Improving housing and living conditions and tackling fuel poverty
- Improving access to accessible, affordable and sustainable homes
- Increasing the provision of specialist, accessible or adapted housing
- Tackling poverty, material and area deprivation through regeneration and increasing economic and employment opportunities
- Preventing and alleviating homelessness
- Tackling domestic abuse and providing safe places for people and their families to live
- Providing housing support to those who need it
- Reducing carbon emissions
- Improving environments and design of communities
- improving health and wellbeing of all residents
- Implementing equality and Fairer Scotland duties to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, foster good relations, protect and promote human rights and reduce socio-economic disadvantage

As such the LHS will impact positively on children's rights as the above measures contribute to the UNCRC rights underpinning general principles.

3. Will there be different impacts on different groups of children and young people?

Which groups of children will be affected by the policy/measure? Are there competing interests between different groups of children and young people, or between children and young people and other groups?

All groups of children and young people will be impacted positively, although some specific actions or interventions are aimed at improving existing service provision for more disadvantaged groups. For example, the following are areas of specific focus within the LHS

- Preventing and tackling homelessness and ensuring the provision of housing support where it is needed
- Improving housing options and choices for young people
- Improving the life chances and opportunities of looked after and accommodated children and young people and care experienced young people through a range of specific focussed actions to provide a seamless transition to independent living and the provision of good quality homes with the relevant wrap around support
- Improving access and affordability to good quality homes for single parent families adversely affected by poverty
- Implementing a rapid rehousing approach to homelessness including families with children and young people
- Tackling domestic abuse
- Improving linkages with other services such as Health and Social Care to ensure people have access to the right support
- Creating a Homes First project for those with multiple and complex needs
- Increasing the provision of specialist or adapted homes for people with disabilities including children and young people

4. If a negative impact is assessed for any area of rights or any group of children and young people, what options have you considered to modify the proposal, or mitigate the impact?

If options to modify the policy/measure are included here, include associated resource implications where relevant.

There are no negative impacts on children and young people as a result of the implementation of the LHS.

5. How will the policy/measure contribute to the wellbeing of children and young people in Scotland?

Outline how the implementation of the policy/measure will support public bodies in Scotland to meet their duties to safeguard, support and promote the wellbeing of children in their area, with wellbeing defined by eight wellbeing indicators. The indicators are: Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, and Included.

As a local authority, NLC has a duty to promote the safety, health and wellbeing of the communities in the area and meet the national outcomes identified by the Scottish Government. The LHS therefore links into wider health and social care plans as well as development and regeneration activity and crosses the multitude of departments and services operating within North Lanarkshire.

The LHS intends to assist in meeting the wellbeing indicators through the following activities:

Safe

- creating safe and secure homes and spaces for everyone in our communities
- regenerating areas of deprivation and poor housing
- tackling domestic abuse and providing safe places for people and their families to live
- providing housing support to those who need it
- staff and wider partners awareness and training around child protection processes and procedures
- tackling anti-social behaviour
- improving environments and design of homes and communities
- improving fire safety and prevention measures

Healthy

- improving housing and living conditions
- tackling fuel poverty
- reducing carbon emissions
- improving access to accessible, affordable and sustainable homes
- preventing and alleviating homelessness
- providing housing support to those who need it
- increasing the provision of specialist, accessible or adapted housing
- improving environments and design of communities
- improving health and wellbeing of all residents

Achieving

- tackling poverty, material and area deprivation through regeneration and increasing economic and employment opportunities
- improving access to accessible, affordable and sustainable homes
- improving digital connectivity within homes
- preventing and alleviating homelessness

Nurtured

- improving environments and design of communities
- creating safe and secure homes and spaces for everyone in our communities
- regenerating areas of deprivation and poor housing
- tackling domestic abuse and providing safe places for people and their families to live
- providing housing support to those who need it
- developing pathways and protocols with wider partners that help nurture and support children and young people

Active

- supporting and encouraging the people we support to engage in meaningful activity
- assisting in the creation and development of safe places for children and young people to play
- promoting improved health and wellbeing through encouragement and support to be more active and take up leisure activities
- contribute to the creation of sustainable communities which encourage and promote active travel, safe walking and cycling

Respected

- implementing equality and fairer Scotland duties to eliminate discrimination
- advance equality of opportunity
- foster good relations
- protect and promote human rights and reduce socio-economic disadvantage

Responsible

- the LHS ensures housing are held accountable for developing appropriate actions and for progressing those actions to a conclusion
- it also places responsibilities on other partners and wider stakeholders in the delivery of specific actions which may be partnership actions
- residents are encouraged to engage positively with the actions and be responsible citizens
- staff and wider partners awareness and training around child protection processes and procedures

Included

- supporting and encouraging participation of all residents in the development of the LHS
- connecting to local youth groups and wider young people to help inform issues for them
- increasing the provision of specialist, accessible or adapted housing ensures those with specific needs feel more included
- wider work around improving access to community services, employment, education or leisure activities.

6. How will the policy/measure give better or further effect to the implementation of the UNCRC in Scotland?

This will inform Scottish Ministers' duty to report to Parliament on children's rights under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Numerous consultation events have taken place with various stakeholders and interested groups to inform the development of a draft LHS. A consultation was also completed on the draft LHS and the feedback from this consultation process has informed the finalised LHS.

NLC is also part of a Scottish Government Peer Review process where other LA's will feedback on the quality and actions of the LHS.

There is an LHS Steering Group in place who will monitor the progress of actions. Regular views are sought around progress from tenants and resident groups and inform how the plan progresses.

Progress on the LHS and actions contained therein are monitored regularly and progress reported annually. This will provide some insight into how the LHS is contributing the children's wellbeing.

There is also an annual update completed to the LHS which is published on the Council website.

Housing is also a member of the Children's Services Partnership Group and Board, and as such contributes to the Children's Services Plan which also sets out how the LHS contributes to improving children's wellbeing.

7. What evidence have you used to inform your assessment? What does it tell you?

The development of the LHS takes account of a wide range of local and national data sources and evidence to identify areas where improvements or actions are needed.

A suite of thematic evidence papers including papers specific to young people, homelessness, housing need and demand and housing support as well as a review of the following data, plans and research.

- Area Profiles
- Housing Contribution Statement
- Housing Need and Demand Assessment 2 and 3 (currently underway)
- Locality Health and Social Care Profiles
- Local Housing Systems Analysis
- The Local Development Plan
- The Strategic Commissioning Plan
- The Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan

- Specialist Provision and Needs Data
- National Research on Housing Need, Demand, Aspirations and Challenges (which is of relevance in a North Lanarkshire context)

Numerous consultation events have taken place with various stakeholders and interested groups to inform the development of a draft LHS. A consultation was also completed on the draft LHS and the feedback from this consultation process has informed the finalised LHS.

8. Have you consulted with relevant stakeholders?

This would include public or targeted consultations with children and young people, their parents/carers and the children's workforce.

Numerous consultation events have taken place with various stakeholders and interested groups to inform the development of the draft LHS and the outcomes and issues from those discussions have been pulled together into one overall report. Consultation events include focus groups, tenant surveys, wider survey's across community groups and multiple stakeholder discussions across all groups involved or linked to the delivery of housing and associated services. Consultation has been completed on the draft LHS and feedback has informed the finalised LHS.

Focus groups and some survey elements were targeted at young people, although our target audience is those aged 16 plus so limited input from younger children were sought in the consultation process.

9. Have you involved children and young people in the development of the policy/measure?

Is there enough information on the views of the children and young people who will be affected by the policy/measure that enables you to make an informed assessment of impact?

Focus groups and some survey elements were targeted at young people, although our target audience is those aged 16 plus so limited input from younger children were sought in the consultation process.

CRWIA – Stage 3

Publication Template

CRWIA for a non-legislative policy/measure

CRWIA title: North Lanarkshire Local Housing Strategy (2021 – 2026)

Publication date: 21/12/21

Summary of policy aims and desired outcomes

The LHS intention is to improve housing and housing related services in North Lanarkshire and as such intends to have a positive impact across the range of housing and related issues such as:

- Improving housing and living conditions and tackling fuel poverty
- Improving access to accessible, affordable and sustainable homes
- Increasing the provision of specialist, accessible or adapted housing
- Tackling poverty, material and area deprivation through regeneration and increasing economic and employment opportunities
- Preventing and alleviating homelessness
- Tackling domestic abuse and providing safe places for people and their families to live
- Providing housing support to those who need it
- Reducing carbon emissions
- Improving environments and design of communities
- improving health and wellbeing of all residents
- Implementing equality and fairer Scotland duties to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, foster good relations, protect, and promote human rights and reduce socio-economic disadvantage

Executive summary

The development and delivery of North Lanarkshire's Local Housing Strategy sets out the key aims, objectives and actions to improve housing and housing related issues across the local authority.

Whilst housing can only be accessed by those aged 16+, the council recognises the impact of housing and related services on children and young people.

All groups of children and young people will be impacted positively, although some specific actions or interventions are aimed at improving existing service provision for more disadvantaged groups. For example, the following are areas of specific focus within the LHS:

- Preventing and tackling homelessness and ensuring the provision of housing support where it is needed
- Improving housing options and choices for young people
- Improving the life chances and opportunities of looked after and accommodated children, young people and care experienced young people through a range of specific focussed actions to provide a seamless transition to independent living and the provision of good quality homes with the relevant wrap around support
- Improving access and affordability to good quality homes for single parent families adversely affected by poverty
- Implementing a rapid rehousing approach to homelessness including families with children and young people
- Tackling domestic abuse
- Improving linkages with other services such as Health and Social Care to ensure people have access to the right support
- Creating a Homes First project for those with multiple and complex needs
- Increasing the provision of specialist or adapted homes for people with disabilities including children and young people

Background

Scope of the CRWIA,

identifying the children and young people affected by the policy, and summarising the evidence base

All groups of children and young people will be impacted positively, although some specific actions or interventions are aimed at improving existing service provision for more disadvantaged groups and some of these are listed in the executive summary

As a local authority, NLC has a duty to promote the safety, health and wellbeing of the communities in the area and meet the national outcomes identified by the Scottish Government. The LHS therefore links into wider health and social care plans as well as development and regeneration activity and crosses the multitude of departments and services operating within North Lanarkshire.

The LHS intends to assist in meeting the Scottish Government wellbeing indicators through the following activities:

Safe

- creating safe and secure homes and spaces for everyone in our communities
- regenerating areas of deprivation and poor housing
- tackling domestic abuse and providing safe places for people and their families to live
- providing housing support to those who need it
- staff and wider partners awareness and training around child protection processes and procedures
- tackling anti-social behaviour

Healthy

- improving housing and living conditions
- tackling fuel poverty
- reducing carbon emissions
- improving access to accessible, affordable and sustainable homes
- preventing and alleviating homelessness
- increasing the provision of specialist, accessible or adapted housing
- improving health and wellbeing of all residents

Achieving

- tackling poverty, material and area deprivation through regeneration and increasing economic and employment opportunities

Nurtured

- improving environments and design of communities
- regenerating areas of deprivation and poor housing

Active

- supporting and encouraging the people we support to engage in meaningful activity
- assisting in the creation and development of safe places for children and young people to play
- promoting improved health and wellbeing through encouragement and support to be more active and take up leisure activities

Respected

- implementing equality and fairer Scotland duties to eliminate discrimination
- advance equality of opportunity
- foster good relations
- protect and promote human rights and reduce socio-economic disadvantage

Responsible

- the LHS ensures housing are held accountable for developing appropriate actions and for progressing those actions to a conclusion
- it also places responsibilities on other partners and wider stakeholders in the delivery of specific actions which may be partnership actions

- residents are encouraged to engage positively with the actions and be responsible citizens

Included

- supporting and encouraging participation of all residents in the development of the LHS
- connecting to local youth groups and wider young people to help inform issues for them
- wider work around improving access to community services, employment, education or leisure activities

Children and young people's views and experiences

Numerous consultation events have taken place with various stakeholders and interested groups to inform the development of the LHS and the outcomes and issues from those discussions have been pulled together into one overall report. Consultation events included focus groups, tenant surveys, wider survey's, across community groups and multiple stakeholder discussions across all groups involved or linked to the delivery of housing and associated services. These include agencies and staff of those providing services to children and young people.

Focus groups and some survey elements were targeted at young people, although our target audience is those aged 16 plus so limited input from younger children were sought in the consultation process.

Key Findings, including an assessment of the impact on children's rights, and how the measure will contribute to children's wellbeing

A range of specific actions have been identified within the LHS across numerous areas of housing related business. The following actions have direct and indirect impacts on children and young people with a clear focus of improving lives.

- Delivering alternative tenure housing to meet a broad range of needs and deliver sustainable, inclusive, and diverse communities.
- Maximise provision of affordable homes, to meet a range of housing needs.
- Improving community connectivity through investment in physical, social, and digital infrastructure.
- Improve economic opportunities and outcomes for all.
- Implement the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.
- Review housing options and homeless prevention activity.
- Improve housing support and accommodation services to meet the needs of homeless households.
- Increase the supply of adaptable, accessible and wheelchair housing.
- Improve our understanding of the housing and related support needs of ethnic minority groups and others who experience disadvantage and inequality.
- Begin a just transition towards a Net Zero North Lanarkshire.
- Improve the energy performance of our housing stock and help households out of fuel poverty.
- Improve stock condition in mixed tenure and other estates
- Ensure owners are engaged and informed about repair and maintenance issues.
- Improve private sector housing advice.
- Work with private landlords to improve access, management, and quality standards within the PRS.

Monitoring and review

Numerous consultation events have taken place with various stakeholders and interested groups to inform the development of the draft LHS and the outcomes and issues from those discussions have been pulled together into one overall report. Consultation events included focus groups, tenant surveys, wider survey's, across community groups and multiple stakeholder discussions across all groups involved or linked to the delivery of housing and associated services. Consultation has been completed on the draft LHS and feedback has informed the finalised LHS and associated actions and will be published on the Council's website.

NLC is also part of a Scottish Government Peer Review process where other LA's will feedback on the quality and actions of the LHS.

There is an LHS Steering Group in place who will monitor the progress of actions. Regular views are sought around progress from tenants and resident groups and inform how the plan progresses.

Progress on the LHS and actions contained therein are monitored regularly and progress reported annually. This will provide some insight into how the LHS is contributing the children's wellbeing.

There is also an annual update completed to the LHS which is published on the Council website.

Housing is also a member of the Children's Services Partnership Group and Board, and as such contributes to the Children's' Services Plan which also sets out how the LHS contributes to improving children's wellbeing.

CRWIA Declaration

Authorisation

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