

# Children's Wellbeing Impact Assessment (Interim)

## Proposal to reduce funding to independent advocacy services

Carried out on 13<sup>th</sup> March from 3-5pm via Teams

### Attendees

<b>Name</b>	<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Date of IIA training</b>
Andrew Main	Strategic Planning & Commissioning Officer, ELHSCP Planning and Performance Team (Lead Officer)	March 2023
Jillian Peart	Senior Project Worker, ELC Transformation Team	
Iain Templeton	Chief Officer, Partners in Advocacy	
Kelly Shade	Chief Officer, EARS	
Jane Crawford	Chief Officer, CAPS	
Paul Currie	General Manager, Strategic Integration, ELHSCP	
Lisa Shine	Quality Assurance Manager, Children's Services, ELC	
Kari-Ann Johnston	Lead Officer, the Promise, Children's Services, ELC	
Jane Ogden-Smith	Equalities and Engagement Officer (Facilitator/report writer)	September 2009 December 2022

## 1. Which articles of the UNCRC does this policy/measure impact on?

- Article 3 (best interests of the child) The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.
- Article 6 (life, survival and development) Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential
- Article 23 (children with a disability) A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community. Governments must do all they can to support disabled children and their families,

## What impact will your policy/measure have on children's rights?

(how will it address the rights outlined above?)

- **Negative** – a reduction in funding for services that support parents with mental health, substance use problems etc may have a negative impact on the home life of children and young people.
- **Negative** - a reduction in funding for services that support parents of children in the Children's Hearing system may have a negative impact on the home life of children and young people.

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

- The Integrated Impact Assessment for this proposal in relation to adults recognised that the impact would be felt most severely by adults who were already dealing with intersectionalities of protected characteristics and life experiences and PIA and CAPS noted that most of the people that they supported lived in the areas of greatest deprivation in East Lothian – Musselburgh, Prestonpans and Tranent.
- Any reduction in services to parents in this group resulting from cuts to funding would also impact on anyone living with them, including their children.

## 4. If a negative impact is assessed for any area of rights or any group of children and young people, can you explain why this is necessary and proportionate? What options have you considered to modify the proposal, or mitigate the impact?

- No. The group felt that there were no mitigations for reducing funding to Independent Advocacy organisations, particularly bearing in mind the current levels of unmet need and pressures the organisations are facing.

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

- It won't.

6. How have you consulted with relevant stakeholders, including involving children and young people in the development of the policy/measure?

- We have taken account of engagement feedback from young people and parents gathered during the engagement for the East Lothian Independent Advocacy Strategic Plan, which closed in December 2023. This underlined unmet need and the positive role that IA plays in supporting very vulnerable people and their families, including children.

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

- The needs assessment and engagement carried out to inform the development of the East Lothian Independent Advocacy Strategic Plan.

8. How will the impact of the policy/measure be monitored?

- Further Integrated Impact Assessments and Children Rights and Wellbeing Assessments.

9. How will you communicate to children and young people the impact of the policy/measure on their rights?

- Communications will be planned should this proposal be accepted with service-users, potential service-users, staff and partners. They will be produced in accessible formats.



**Signed (head of service) – Laura Kerr, General Manager, Planning and Performance, ELHSCP**

**Date – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024**