



## Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA)

<b>Title / Piece of work:</b>	Energy Efficiency Strategy
<b>Related SF / LF number (if applicable)</b>	SF/CS/1192/15
<b>Name of Official:</b>	Lucy Thomas
<b>Department:</b>	Natural Resources
<b>Date:</b>	June 2015
<b>Signature:</b>	LT

# Six Steps to Due Regard



## **Step 1. What's the piece of work and its objective(s)?**

Action on energy efficiency:

- contributes strongly across our wellbeing goals,
- is a major factor in green growth, jobs and supply chains,
- is the most cost effective means of meeting our commitments to reduce carbon emissions,
- lowers the costs for businesses and the public sector,
- can directly address fuel poverty and reduce fuel bills.

The Welsh Government has had significant impact with its energy efficiency programme to date, and by setting out long-term direction in a first Wales Energy Efficiency Strategy, we have the opportunity to engage more widely in realising the opportunities and addressing barriers to uptake.

An energy efficiency call for evidence was held between 16 October 2014 and 8 January 2015 seeking the views of stakeholders on a potential vision for energy efficiency in Wales and options for a way forward. A collation of responses document sharing the results of the call for evidence will be published alongside the draft strategy consultation.

The knowledge, experience and evidence-based policy development approach underpinning this strategy has enabled officials to gather the best available objective evidence to help identify and understand the issues; and to shape an energy efficiency strategy that can drive the delivery of the desired outcomes.

Within the consultation documentation for the strategy, the Welsh Government reaffirms its vision for energy efficiency in Wales, as follows:

We want to ensure that Wales is in the best possible position to realise its full energy efficiency potential and to be a major exporter of energy efficiency technology and know-how.

Five key areas of action to ensure delivery of the vision are as follow:

- People, communities, businesses and other organisations recognise the benefits of energy efficiency and take action.
- We have the supply chain that we need across Wales to deliver energy efficiency improvements to buildings, products and processes, and those businesses go on to grow and export their expertise and know how.
- We have effective education and skills in place to deliver on the energy efficiency challenge, through from raising awareness in schools to a qualified and skilled workforce and investment in higher level skills to support R&D and innovation.
- We support innovation in new energy efficiency products to deliver solutions in Wales, and to benefit from the wider opportunities presented by this global challenge.
- We have clear funding mechanisms, a sense of direction and a stable framework that is attractive to investors.

The strategy will have a positive impact on children and young people. Those living in fuel poverty will be particularly impacted.

## **Step 2. Analysing the impact**

This strategy specifically makes reference to the fact that energy efficiency should feature in the education of young people from an early age.

Protecting young people from the potential impacts of climate change and fuel poverty are key aims of this policy. The Welsh Government has recently published a revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales<sup>1</sup>. This includes a new objective on supporting families living in poverty to increase household income through debt and financial advice, action to address the “poverty premium” (where households pay disproportionately more for goods and services) and action to mitigate the impacts of welfare reform. Work being taken forward to provide advice and support for those households on the lowest income and living in the most energy inefficient properties, through Welsh Government Warm Homes – Nest, will make an important contribution to delivering this key objective.

There is evidence that cold indoor temperatures can negatively affect children’s health, well-being and educational attainment. The strategy makes reference to improving the energy efficiency of the homes of low income and vulnerable households, which includes children, to help them heat their homes at a more affordable cost. Not developing this strategy could result in a worse outcome for children and young people.

We have liaised with colleagues working in the field of Children’s Rights, and produced this CRIA, to ensure that due regard to children and young people has been given

<sup>1</sup> <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/children-and-young-people/child-poverty/?lang=en>

The following organisations were invited to respond to the energy efficiency call for evidence and will be invited to take part in this consultation: Promo Cymru, Pupil Voice Wales, Children in Wales – Plant yng Nghymru and Save the Children.

We will work on ways in which the impact of the energy efficiency strategy on future generations, children and young people could be analysed in the future.

### **Step 3. How does your piece of work support and promote children's rights?**

The Energy Efficiency Strategy aims to ensure that Wales is more energy efficient. Energy Efficiency plays an important role in delivering the Well-being of Future Generations Act goals.

The strategy supports children's rights through the following articles:

**Article 6:** All the children have the right of life. Government should ensure that children survive and develop healthily. Evidence suggests that colder temperatures at home can affect the health of children and young people. This strategy, therefore, seeks to ensure that they live in warm homes.

**Article 17:** Children have the right to reliable information from the mass media. Television, radio and newspapers should provide information that children can understand and should not promote materials that could harm children. This strategy strongly supports the sharing of information on energy efficiency, information that is important to children's health and wellbeing.

**Article 24:** Children have the right to good quality health care and to clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that they stay healthy. Rich countries should help poor countries achieve this. The strategy seeks to use energy more efficiently. This reduced demand for energy leads to reduced carbon emissions resulting in a cleaner environment in the long term.

**Article 27:** Children have a right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs. The Government should help families who cannot afford to provide this. The strategy seeks to direct most help towards our most vulnerable citizens. Within the Finance section it is made clear: 'We recognise that grant funding support for those households living in the most inefficient properties and on the lowest incomes needs to continue, and ensuring that our own funding is effectively targeted is critically important.'

**Article 29:** Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, and their own and other cultures. This strategy highlights the importance of learning about energy efficiency in schools and should help them to learn to live peacefully and respect the environment.

**Article 31:** All children have the right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities. This strategy supports social inclusion in communities and helps to ensure children are living in a warm comfortable home. Energy efficiency is beneficial to well-being, good physical and mental health in both urban and rural areas.

#### **Step 4. Advising the Minister and Ministerial decision**

This Children's Rights Impact Assessment has been developed to ensure due regard is given to Children's Right when making ministerial decisions around the Energy Efficiency Strategy. There are no conflicts with the UNCRC, however, the Minister has been advised of the possible positive impacts the Energy Efficiency Strategy may have on the citizens of Wales.

The Minister has been advised how this strategy is supporting objectives in the Welsh Government revised Child Poverty Strategy 2015.

Our approach to improving energy efficiency in Wales is an early demonstration of our application of the five principles outlined in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. Improving energy efficiency across Wales will improve the wellbeing of the people of Wales in a whole range of different ways.

#### **Step 5. Recording and communicating the outcome**

All paper work in relation to the development of the Energy Efficiency Strategy has been retained and all evidence that supports the strategy has been saved on i-share.

A collation of responses document resulting from the call for evidence has been published alongside the draft strategy for consultation.

#### **Step 6. Revisiting the piece of work as and when needed**

The Energy Efficiency Strategy will be reviewed regularly to ensure our proposals are being achieved and we will revisit the CRIA at the same time.

The CRIA will be reviewed following the consultation.

#### **Budgets**

**As a result of completing the CRIA, has there been any impact on budgets?**

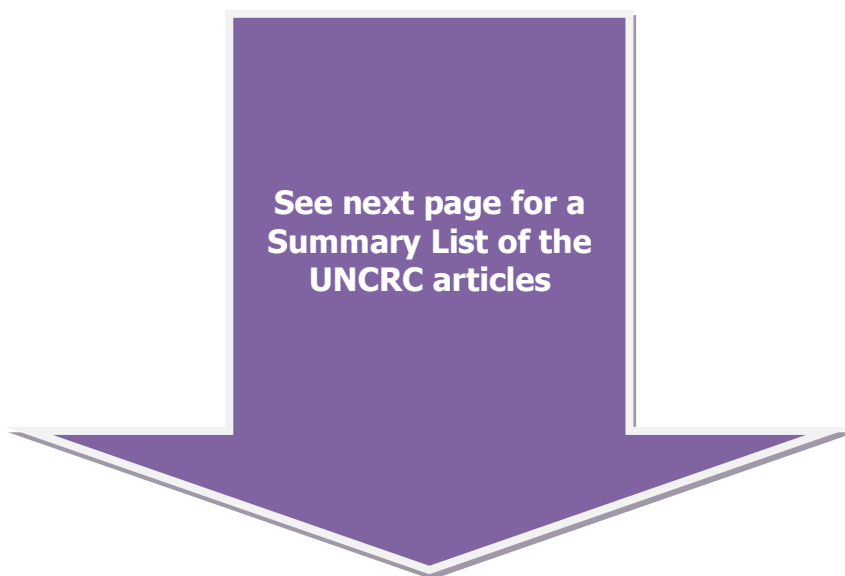
It is important that where any changes are made to spending plans, including where additional allocations have been made, that this has been assessed and evidenced as part of the CRIA process.

**No**

**Please give any details:**

## Monitoring & Review

<b>Do we need to monitor / review the proposal?</b>	<b>Yes, when the strategy is reviewed. A year after publication if not sooner.</b>
<b>If applicable: set the review date</b>	<b>NA</b>



# THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

[www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk](http://www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk)

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international agreement that protects the human rights of the children under the age of 18. On 16 December 1991, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland formally agreed to make sure that every child in the UK has all the rights as listed in the convention. The Welsh Government has shown its commitment to the convention by adopting it as the basis for policy making for children in Wales.

Altogether there are 54 articles in the convention. Articles 43-54 are about how adults and governments should work together to make sure all children are entitled to their rights. The information contained here is about articles 1-42 which set out how children should be treated.

## Article 1

Everyone under 18 years of age has all the rights in this Convention.

## Article 2

The Convention applies to everyone whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say and whatever type of family they come from.

## Article 3

All organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child.

## Article 4

Governments should make these rights available to children.

## Article 5

Governments should respect the rights and responsibilities of families to direct and guide their children so that, as they grow, they learn to use their rights properly.

## Article 6

All children have the right to life. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily.

## Article 7

All children have the right to a legally registered name, the right to a nationality and the right to know and, as far as possible, to be cared for by their parents.

## Article 8

Governments should respect children's right to a name, a nationality and family ties.

## Article 9

Children should not be separated from their parents unless it is for their own good, for example if a parent is mistreating or neglecting a child. Children whose parents have separated have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this might hurt the child.

## Article 10

Families who live in different countries should be allowed to move between those countries so that parents and children can stay in contact or get back together as a family.

## Article 11

Governments should take steps to stop children being taken out of their own country illegally.

## Article 12

Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making

decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.

## Article 13

Children have the right to get and to share information as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others.

## Article 14

Children have the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide their children on these matters.

## Article 15

Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

## Article 16

Children have a right to privacy. The law should protect them from attacks against their way of life, their good name, their families and their homes.

## Article 17

Children have the right to reliable information from the mass media. Television, radio and newspapers should provide information that children can understand, and should not promote materials that could harm children.

## Article 18

Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their children, and should always consider what is best for each child. Governments should help parents by providing services to support them, especially if both parents work.

## Article 19

Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

## Article 20

Children who cannot be looked after by their own family must be looked after properly, by people who respect their religion, culture and language.

## Article 21

When children are adopted the first concern must be what is best for them. The same rules should apply whether the children are adopted in the country where they were born or taken to live in another country.

## Article 22

Children who come into a country as refugees should have the same rights as children born in that country.

## Article 23

Children who have any kind of disability should have special care and support so that they can lead full and independent lives.

## Article 24

Children have the right to good quality health care and to clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that they will stay healthy. Rich countries should help poorer countries achieve this.

## Article 25

Children who are looked after by their local authority rather than their parents should have their situation reviewed regularly.

## Article 26

The Government should provide extra money for the children of families in need.

## Article 27

Children have a right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs. The Government should help families who cannot afford to provide this.

## Article 28

Children have a right to an education. Discipline in schools should respect children's human dignity. Primary education should be free. Wealthy countries should help poorer countries achieve this.

## Article 29

Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, and their own and other cultures.

## Article 30

Children have a right to learn and use the language and customs of their families, whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not.

## Article 31

All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.

## Article 32

The Government should protect children from work that is dangerous or might harm their health or their education.



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

[www.cymru.gov.uk](http://www.cymru.gov.uk)

## Article 33

The Government should provide ways of protecting children from dangerous drugs.

## Article 34

The Government should protect children from sexual abuse.

## Article 35

The Government should make sure that children are not abducted or sold.

## Article 36

Children should be protected from any activities that could harm their development.

## Article 37

Children who break the law should not be treated cruelly. They should not be put in prison with adults and should be able to keep in contact with their families.

## Article 38

Governments should not allow children under 15 to join the army. Children in war zones should receive special protection.

## Article 39

Children who have been neglected or abused should receive special help to restore their self respect.

## Article 40

Children who are accused of breaking the law should receive legal help. Prison sentences for children should only be used for the most serious offences.

## Article 41

If the laws of a particular country protect children better than the articles of the Convention, then those laws should stay.

## Article 42

The Government should make the Convention known to all parents and children.

For further information on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child please visit: The Welsh Government's UNCRC Website: [www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk/](http://www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk/)

Cic - The National Information and Advice Service for Young People  
[www.ciconline.co.uk/news/](http://www.ciconline.co.uk/news/)