



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Report on the compliance with the duty under section 1 of the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011

1 February 2013 – 31 May 2015



1 July 2015

Ministerial Foreword	2
1. Introduction	3
2. The Measure Implementation Team	6
3. The Children’s Rights Scheme Implementation	8
4. Embedding Children’s Rights: The Children’s Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) Process and Toolkit	9
4.1 Changing culture and evolving	11
4.2 Consideration across Government	13
4.3 Children’s Rights for vulnerable groups	14
4.4 The Children and Young People’s Well-being Monitor for Wales	15
4.5 Due regard at a local level	15
4.6 CRIA publication process	16
5. Effectiveness of the CRIA process	17
6. Promoting knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC	19
6.1 Resources	19
6.2 Training	20
6.2.1 Training for Welsh Government staff	20
6.2.2 Online e-learning training for Welsh Government staff	20
6.2.3 Face to face training for Welsh Government staff	22
6.2.4 Legal Services Training	23
6.2.5 Train the Trainers for professionals working with children and young people	24
6.2.6 UNCRC online e-learning training for the public	25
6.2.7 Training by the Children’s Rights Centre of Excellence	25
6.2.8 Training by other organisations who receive Welsh Government funding	25
6.2.9 International sharing of good practice	25
6.3 Participation	26
6.4 Further work	27
7. Scrutiny	29
7.1 Requests for CRIAs from members of the public	30
8. Looking Ahead	31
Annex 1 The Revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales – the Tackling Poverty Division	
Annex 2 The Children and Young People’s Well-being Monitor for Wales	
Annex 3 Online resources	
Annex 4 Train the Trainer outputs	

Ministerial Foreword

Children and young people are full and active citizens in Wales and have a valuable and unique contribution to make to our communities. Their rights should be acknowledged by us all.

The ambition we have is for every child and young person in Wales to realise their rights as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). There may sometimes be barriers to achieving our ambition and we all have a role in considering ways in which these barriers can be removed or overcome.

Our Programme for Government sets out a clear agenda of policies and programmes which together, tackle poverty, raise aspirations, support parents and carers, provide early holistic intervention and support those children and young people most in need in our society.

Delivering effective services leading to better outcomes must also be accompanied by listening to and engaging with children and young people. I am looking forward to working further with 'Young Wales', the national participation programme, to enable children and young people to participate and have a voice in the workings of this Government.

When the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011 was passed, it broke new ground. The Children's Rights Scheme and our Children's Rights Impact Assessment are innovative developments. I am very proud of these and of how we have been brave enough to be the first in the UK, and amongst only a few in Europe and the world, to put such arrangements in place. We are clearly world leaders for this agenda.

This report captures the actions and the progress made in complying with section 1 of the Measure, which places a duty on us as Welsh Ministers to have due regard to the UNCRC when making our decisions. The report also provides an opportunity to reflect on our achievements and to consider the lessons learnt, with an eye towards improvements as we further implement this important legislation.

I urge us all to look to the UNCRC as a guide to what our children and young people should expect and what we should strive to provide both for them and with them.

LESLEY GRIFFITHS AM
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty



1. Introduction

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) ¹ sets out rights for all children and young people up to the age of 18. It recognises not only their basic human rights but gives them additional rights to protect them from harm as one of the most vulnerable groups in society. The UNCRC covers many areas from a child's right to be free from exploitation, to the right to their own opinion and the right to education, health care, and economic opportunity. The three key themes within the convention relate to the Protection, Provision and Participation of children and young people.

We as a Government set out our absolute commitment to the UNCRC by enshrining the UNCRC in legislation with the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011 (the Measure)².

The Measure is an important tool which requires continuous innovation in its implementation. It offers challenges as well as opportunities as we learn from experience.

The Children's Rights Scheme, first published in 2012, sets out the arrangements we have in place to implement the Measure. We published a revised Scheme on 1 May 2014, when the Measure came into full effect and applied to all Ministerial functions, to ensure it was fit for purpose and the processes robust. In doing so, we revisited the practical arrangements which were in place to enable appropriate consideration and weight are given to ensuring compliance with the extended duty. The Children's Rights Scheme 2014³ received unanimous cross party support when it was passed by the National Assembly for Wales.

The Scheme requires we state in the Compliance Report whether a revision of the Scheme is required. We do not feel a revision is appropriate at this point for two principal reasons. The first is the new Scheme is still in its infancy and there are elements of its implementation currently subject to evaluation. The second is Ministers will be obliged to consider the same question when the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child issue their next set of Concluding Observations which is scheduled for 2016. We conclude, therefore, it is neither timely nor desirable.

Section 1 of the Measure places a duty on Welsh Ministers to have due regard to the UNCRC and the Optional Protocols⁴ when making their decisions. The term 'due regard' requires a balanced consideration of issues. This means Ministers must think about how what they are doing relates to the rights and obligations in the UNCRC.

¹ [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)

² [Rights of Children and Young Persons \(Wales\) Measure 2011](#)

³ [Children's Rights Scheme 2014](#)

⁴ [UNCRC Optional Protocols](#)



Section 4 of the Measure requires the Ministers to publish a report, as a minimum every five years, on how they and the First Minister have complied with the duty under section 1. The revised Scheme committed to producing mid-term reports hence, publishing a compliance report every 2½ years.

Our first compliance report was published on 31 January 2013 and covered the period 1 May 2012 to 31 January 2013. This second compliance report will cover two periods:

- 1 February 2013 to 30 April 2014, when the duty applied to developing new or amending existing legislation and/or policies; and
- 1 May 2014 to date, when the full duty was implemented.

Publishing a Compliance Report provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the implementation and effectiveness of the arrangements as set out in our Scheme and therefore with the due regard duty. It also provides an opportunity to reflect on our activity within the wider context of the UNCRC. Therefore, the report also takes into account how our work links to other relevant sources such as Concluding Observations⁵ and General Comments⁶.

The **Children's Rights Scheme 2014** commits to report on specific elements on compliance with section 1 of the Measure, which include but are not limited to:

- Overview of the work of the Measure Implementation Team;
- Overview of the work of the Children's Rights Scheme Implementation Group;
- The number of Children's Rights Impact Assessments (CRIAs) undertaken, reported on a departmental basis;
- The effectiveness of CRIA process, including specific examples; and
- The activities relating to promoting knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC under section 5 of the Measure, including training.

⁵ Concluding Observations are assessments of how countries are implementing the UNCRC. They are issued by the respective [treaty bodies](#) after their examination of the [State Reports](#). They also use additional information, for example, from national or international non-governmental organisations.

⁶ UN General Comments are official documents of the United Nations and are interpretations of the articles within treaties such as the UNCRC. They will often contain a description of the significance of the article, definitions, legal analysis, links to other international treaties or protocols and guidance on implementation of the UNCRC. General Comments can also be used to inform and guide implementation of conventions by Governments and also by non-governmental organisations and individuals to promote children's rights.

We believe in transparency and constructive engagement. Dialogue with our stakeholders allows interested parties an ongoing opportunity to hold us to account on our application of the Measure, and to express their observations on the progress being made.

In preparation for writing this report the Measure Implementation Team has liaised with officials from across all departments within the Welsh Government to secure a full and accurate update of the current position. The Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty wrote to all Cabinet members requesting contributions to the reporting process, to ensure the good work taking place across our departments and examples of positive steps being taken to ensure compliance are clearly demonstrated.



2. The Measure Implementation Team

The Welsh Government maintains a Team which leads on the implementation of the Measure. A list of the roles and responsibilities of the Team is outlined in the Children's Rights Scheme 2014.

However this list is not exhaustive and this report identifies the various ways in which the Team supports Ministers and staff in having due regard and in utilising the Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) process effectively. This includes:

- providing constructive challenge and support;
- providing information on when and how to undertake a CRIA;
- providing examples of good practice;
- providing information on ways in which to consider the effective participation of children and young people;
- enabling staff to draw on children's rights expertise outside of the Welsh Government which contributes to a better understanding of the application and interpretation of the UNCRC within the Welsh Government's work;
- providing options for publication of CRIs; and
- maintaining a central database of all CRIs by department received through the dedicated mailbox.

The Team continues to develop and update resources and templates to ensure there is a clear process for Welsh Government staff to follow in complying with the duty. This is set out in process flowcharts and templates, along with guidance notes on the CRIA process, all located on dedicated intranet advisory pages.

Some areas of the Welsh Government's work are easily recognisable as being relevant to and having an impact on children and young people. Others are less identifiable and the Team assists in providing an alternative perspective in order to consider wider relevance on these areas of work.

The Team advises on the breadth of issues surrounding consideration of children's rights, for example article 12; children having a voice and being listened to in decisions which affect them. This includes advising colleagues on when and how they might engage with children and young people as part of their work, for example, as part of stakeholder engagement or a consultation process. Further details on our approach to participation are provided in section 6 of this report.

The Team works with colleagues responsible for policy making advice and guidance to secure inclusion of a section on consideration of children's rights in all submissions to Ministers. Within this section, staff are required to consider whether children's rights and the UNCRC are relevant to the piece of work on which a Ministerial decision is being requested and if so, whether or not a CRIA has been completed. This provides a final checkpoint prior to any Ministerial decisions being taken.



In addition to the above, we have recently included a new section on poverty in all submissions to Ministers. Within this new section, staff are required to set out any links to the tackling poverty and child poverty agenda, with a specific focus on how they are contributing to the priorities of the Tackling Poverty Action Plan⁷ and revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales⁸. This provides an additional mechanism for ensuring departments are focussing on addressing the barriers experienced by those living in poverty and associated links to children's rights and the UNCRC.

⁷ [Tackling Poverty Action Plan](#)

⁸ [Child Poverty Strategy](#)



3. The Children's Rights Scheme Implementation Group

The duties within the Measure apply to all Ministers. Welsh Government staff support Ministers in having due regard to the UNCRC when Ministers make decisions. A Children's Rights Scheme Implementation Group, with representation across all Welsh Government departments, meets to ensure consistency in the support and advice Ministers receive to comply with the duty under the Measure.

This is the key internal group which originally convened as a steering group but its primary role has now evolved into championing implementation of the arrangements set out in the Children's Rights Scheme 2014 within each department. The Scheme provides an outline of the roles of the Group members, including their contribution to ensuring cross-departmental compliance with the duty.

Meetings take place on a quarterly basis and are an opportunity to bring feedback from their departments, share best practice and collectively address blockages to the implementation process.

The Group has been critical in supporting the Implementation Team to develop the procedural mechanisms and resources for ensuring Ministerial compliance, for example, the CRIA process flowcharts.

The Group has provided feedback on the UNCRC e-learning training for staff and was also the pilot group for the internal face to face training workshops.

Members of the Group have been very active and innovative in championing the rights of children within their departments, for example leading on presentations, attending senior team meetings and creating their own departmental information with relevant examples.

Examples of departmental raising awareness actions undertaken by the Children's Rights Implementation Group

- Organising and funding departmental UNCRC training sessions for 60 - 70 senior people from the department. The training was successful in ensuring understanding of the legislation and enabled delegates to ensure both they and their teams applied due regard to the UNCRC in future work.
- Creating 'Case Study' example scenarios following a request from departmental colleagues who were concerned their work was not always directly linked to children and they could not always see relevance to what they do.
- Creating departmental intranet pages providing advice on the CRIA process for departmental staff.
- Developing departmental templates for staff.
- Facilitating agenda items in team meetings at all levels.



4. Embedding Children’s Rights: The Children’s Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) Process and Toolkit

A clear CRIA process has been set out in our Scheme to assist Ministers and staff in having due regard to the UNCRC.

The process includes six key steps to follow when considering the potential relevance and impact any decision may have on children and young people and encourages thinking about how to maximise positive impact whilst mitigating negative ones. A CRIA toolkit is collectively made up of a CRIA template, process flowchart and guidance notes on the CRIA process which is located on our intranet pages. The CRIA toolkit helps to document the evidence to confirm children’s rights are being considered with appropriate rigour in our work.



In developing the CRIA process, we were mindful that the purpose was not simply to ensure compliance but so “*decision makers can be better advised...as to its effect on the rights of the child*” as stated in the 2008 Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. We are therefore careful to utilise the CRIA process for this purpose.

The CRIA process was revisited and updated in May 2014 in preparation for the full implementation of the Measure, following significant consultation and engagement with stakeholders.

The Implementation Team continuously considers how the CRIA toolkit can be amended and improved. One future inclusion will be a prompt requesting consideration of the way in which the decision being made by the Minister may impact on child poverty.

In implementing the CRIA process we have found the decisions on how to apply due regard are not always straight forward. Due regard and the assessment of the impact of a decision on children’s rights can range from thinking about the impact of decisions on children in the course of day-to-day work activity, through to the formal application of the CRIA six step process and use of the toolkit, providing a record of the outcome and decisions. Applying due regard does not always necessarily mean



undertaking a CRIA; alternatively, one may not be required at a particular point in time but may need to be considered at a later stage.

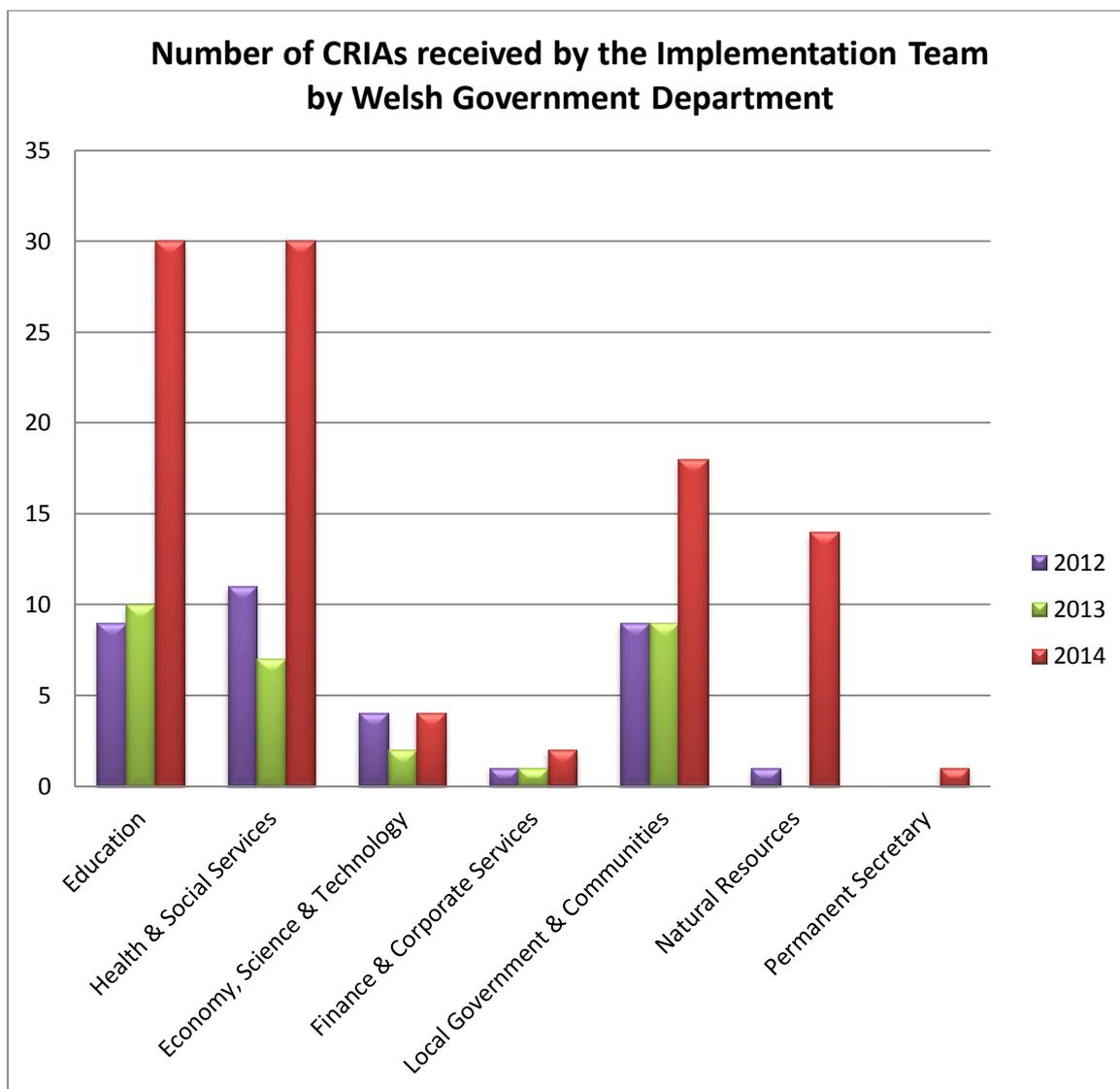
One such example is a consultation on a Land Transaction Tax. When the relevant team was drafting initial impact assessments for a consultation document, it was too early on in the process to make informed assessments when considering due regard as it was not at a policy formulation stage. A CRIA regarding the impact of a Land Transaction Tax could potentially have offered a number of positives and negatives relating to children's rights but would have been based on assumptions on Ministerial intentions and lacking in detailed analysis.

The CRIA process was not used for the reason above and the consultation document explicitly stated this. This allowed anyone wishing to contest the particular decision not to undertake the CRIA process to do so. The document did however note a full CRIA process would, in all likelihood, be required in the future as Ministers consider policy options in structuring the new tax. This is a pragmatic approach which shows we are applying due regard and are profiling it in consultation documents, to allow for openness within the process.

The CRIA process does not necessarily lead to particular pre-defined outcomes. It is possible that the highest quality, most robust and comprehensive CRIA does not change the findings/outcome of the decision being made. It may be that the process confirms a decision has no impact or it is broadly positive and the direction of travel does not need to change. It is about how decisions are taken and the considerations which are made to reach a conclusion, not necessarily the conclusion itself.

As a result of the Measure being fully implemented and the due regard being applied to all Ministerial functions, it is clear there has been a substantial increase in the number of full CRIA processes having been undertaken since the Measure was fully implemented in May 2014.

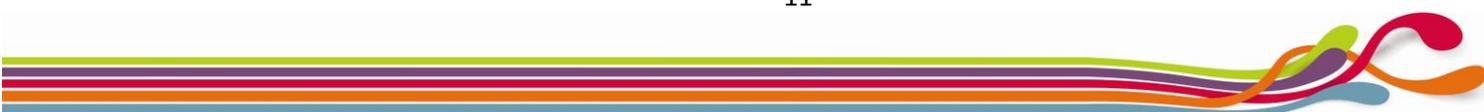




4.1 Changing culture and evolving

The due regard duty can be utilised in a number of ways. In some functions, the UNCRC is used as a guiding framework with particular focus on how the decisions or policy is likely to realise children's rights. There are also examples of the UNCRC being central to the development of policy itself, where the UNCRC is embedded in the design of the policy – using a 'rights based approach'. One such example is the Welsh Government's revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales, which was published on 27 March 2015.

The Welsh Government approaches tackling child poverty using the UNCRC as a basis, recognising tackling poverty is as much about improving children's well-being as it is about addressing income poverty. Whilst the revised Strategy recognises child poverty is a direct reflection of the poverty of their parents, it also acknowledges the child as a rights bearer who has specific needs in the here and now. These



rights, whilst contributing to improving the position of their families and communities, may also extend beyond the family.

The Strategy commits to ensuring the Welsh Government has due regard to the UNCRC as policies and programmes are developed to support children and young people. Furthermore it states this will be critical to addressing child poverty and improving outcomes. The completion of the CRIA process provides an ideal opportunity to link both the children's rights and child poverty agendas (see Annex 1).

Another example of the UNCRC being the starting point of policy-making is that in compliance with the duty on Welsh Ministers under the Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011, the Welsh Government's legislative programme has paid due regard to children's right to rest, leisure and play as set out under Article 31 of the UNCRC.

On 1 February 2013, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child adopted a General Comment which clarifies for Governments worldwide the meaning and importance of Article 31 (the right of the child to rest, leisure, play, recreational activities, cultural life and the arts). Through General Comment 17, the Committee strongly encourages States to consider introducing legislation to ensure the rights under article 31 for every child, together with a timetable for implementation.

Wales is the first country in the world to legislate for play and consider the principle of sufficiency as part of its anti-poverty agenda.

In July 2014, Welsh Ministers fully commenced section 11, Play Opportunities, of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010. This places a duty on Local Authorities to assess for and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas. *Wales - a Play Friendly Country* Statutory Guidance was published to support Local Authorities in complying with this duty. Play Sufficiency Assessments are completed every three years and annual Play Action Plans are developed and implemented to ensure continuing improvement in children's opportunities to play.

There are also examples of having due regard without going through a formal CRIA process which demonstrate there is an ingrained culture of thinking about children's rights in the Welsh Government.

We have recently experienced applying due regard when exercising functions which are as a result of actions from UK Government and deciding whether or not to agree to allow the UK Government to legislate on areas which have been devolved.

An example of this was the [Legislative Consent Memorandum](#) in relation to the Legislative Consent Motion (LCM) on the UK Government's Serious Crime Bill. The excerpt from the Welsh Government's Memorandum below evidences due regard in concluding the LCM should be agreed:



“Children who are sexually exploited whether for financial gain or other reasons should not be referred to as prostitutes and should be recognised as victims. The removal of references to ‘child prostitute’ and ‘child prostitution’ in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (‘the 2003 Act’) does not alter the scope of the relevant offences but does send an important signal as to how society should treat children who are exploited in this way. Sexually exploited children are not criminals and must not be regarded as such. The primary law enforcement response must be directed at perpetrators who groom children for sexual exploitation.”

This was also the case with the UK Government’s [Legislative Consent Memorandum](#) for the LCM on the Modern Slavery Bill which Welsh Ministers also consented to on the basis of *‘Female Genital Mutilation is a form of abuse, often perpetrated against children, and as such tackling FGM is a priority for Welsh Government.’*

As part of the wider review of supporting resources, we will consider if there is a need to revisit the processes of formally recording decisions of this nature or if the existing systems are sufficient.

The development of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is a case of the Measure having an impact on the legislative process. In particular, the Welsh Government amendment to the “assessments of local well-being” section of the Act.

The Act requires Public Services Boards to produce a local well-being plan setting out its local objectives and the steps proposed to take to meet them. Public Services Boards have to first produce an assessment of local well-being.

A Government amendment to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 introduced at Stage 2 of the National Assembly for Wales (NAfW) legislative process meant the assessment of well-being may include analyses of particular categories of people. One of the categories in this amendment to the Act was ‘children’. A further amendment also referred specifically to ‘young people entitled to support under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014’.

These changes were borne out of a combination of:

- officials actively considering the due regard duty, particularly in the context of vulnerable young people, which led to comprehensive discussions between departments within the Welsh Government;
- the Welsh Government engaging directly with children and young people’s organisations; and
- the formal National Assembly for Wales Committee scrutiny process which was heavily influenced by discussions based around the due regard duty and more specifically the Welsh Government’s CRIA.

4.2 Consideration across Government

There is emerging evidence which shows how using the articles of the UNCRC via the CRIA process supports the capturing and recording of the lateral approach to



policy. It enables staff to record the way in which their work links to or has an impact on other areas. Using the articles of the UNCRC helps to contextualise those considerations. This leads to thinking on the wider impacts of work outside a particular policy area as consideration is given to the articles of the UNCRC, such as play (see above).

This is the approach which will be taken when we publish our draft Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) for Alcohol Bill before the summer recess. It will consider examples such as how alcohol consumption during adolescence is also associated with health issues such as unprotected sex, teenage pregnancy and the likelihood of contracting sexually transmitted infections. The CRIA process for MUP will also consider the context of alcohol abuse by parents, how that might link to domestic violence and how this affects the emotional well-being of children and young people.

The Implementation Team often directs staff to other policy areas and makes useful links across the Welsh Government, contributing to coherent and coordinated policy development.

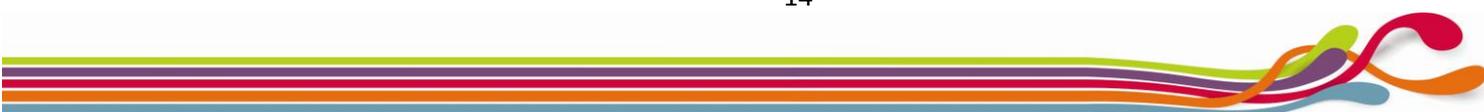
Welsh Government will often work in partnership. An example of this is *Creative learning through the arts – an Action Plan for Wales* which seeks to embed arts and creativity into the curriculum to improve attainment. A Welsh Government sponsored body; the Arts Council of Wales is tasked with delivering a number of the key actions contained within the Plan. The Welsh Government agreed with the Arts Council of Wales for the CRIA process to be a collaborative activity leading to a shared document. This is a pragmatic and innovative approach which assists in raising awareness and understanding of children's rights within organisations not directly covered by the due regard duty.

4.3 Children's rights for vulnerable groups

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 includes provision that “*a person exercising functions under this Act in relation to a child ...must have due regard to Part 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.*”

This is a provision which clearly sets out the Welsh Government's commitment to ensuring many of Wales' most vulnerable children and young people must receive services which respect and uphold their rights. This is a far reaching application of the due regard duty which will have a direct impact on service delivery and will require providers of services to consider whether or not the way in which they are delivering services to children and young people upholds their rights under the UNCRC. This significant obligation reinforces the way in which the regulations, statutory guidance and codes of practice under the Act have been or are to be child rights impact assessed and where due regard under the Measure has been applied through the Ministerial duty.

There is early anecdotal evidence of organisations who are likely to provide services under the Act recognising the commitments made by the Welsh Government as well as the specific obligations placed through the Social Services and Well-being Act



(Wales) 2014. We are aware of providers of such services who have provided training for their staff on the UNCRC.

4.4 The Children and Young People's Well-being Monitor for Wales

The United Nations recommends state parties to the UNCRC collect data “*on persons under the age of 18 years for all areas covered by the Convention, including the most vulnerable groups*” (Committee on the Rights of the Child Thirty First Session).

The Children and Young People's Well-being Monitor for Wales was developed to provide a multi-dimensional picture of children and young people's wellbeing (aged 0 to 25) in Wales using a variety of well-being indicators and other statistical and research sources.

The Welsh Government has committed to publish another edition of the Children and Young People's Well-being Monitor for Wales. This is a clear commitment to children's rights given the expectations of the UN Committee for this type of resource as well as the way in which the monitor is based on the UNCRC as the headings are aligned with the [Seven Core Aims](#) for children and young people.

The Monitor is also a useful resource for Ministers and staff when considering evidence for CRIAs and has a direct impact on the implementation of the Children's Rights Scheme.

The Monitor (see Annex 2) has been well received and stakeholders have been particularly supportive of the way in which the monitor brings together the data for a range of different population indicators, as well as research evidence and the views of children and young people themselves.

4.5 Due regard at a local level

The message conveyed through the passing of the Measure in 2011 cannot be underestimated. It was a clear statement in Wales, children have rights, and as a nation we take our responsibility to uphold these rights seriously.

Whilst not possible to make a direct correlation, it appears the Welsh Government's duty is permeating to a local level with organisations identifying ways to replicate the commitment to children's rights.

For instance, the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University (ABMU) Health Board has committed to a Children's Charter, based on the UNCRC. Similarly, the City and County of Swansea has developed a Children's Rights Scheme very similar to ours and Pembrokeshire County Council has published a strategy for participation and children's rights.



We commend these initiatives and welcome all positive steps being taken. Welsh Government will continue to note effective practice and encourage other organisations to learn from it, be they in the public sector or beyond.

4.6 CRIA publication process

In May 2014, all Ministers agreed to make CRIAs publicly available.

CRIA documents relating to legislation are published on the Welsh Government website. This is also the case for subordinate legislation which includes, for example, regulations made under primary legislation.

For non-legislative decisions, all completed CRIAs are listed in a Newsletter which is issued on a quarterly basis. It provides links to all published CRIAs during the quarter and lists the titles of all those CRIAs which are available on request. The Newsletter provides a bank of information and allows the Implementation Team access to statistical data on the uptake of the publication.

The question of when to publish CRIAs has been a critical element in implementing the revised Children's Rights Scheme. The guidance provided in the Scheme provides assistance on the timing of publication and suggests Ministers incorporate the CRIA into consultation processes and encourages engagement on the initial assessment of impact. It is important the policy is not prescriptive and does not constrain the ability of Ministers to effectively utilise the CRIA process in a flexible way to best effect.

Staff are always encouraged to see the CRIA as an ongoing process rather than a one-off event and should be revisited and updated throughout a given process.

CRIAs have been published at various stages of different pieces of work, for example, consultation stage; in legislation at Explanatory Memorandum; or alongside final published Strategies and Action Plans.



5. Effectiveness of the CRIA process

It is important to remember why we have the Measure. It is not just about compliance through following processes, important as they are. The key elements reflected in case law on due regard duties are knowledge, awareness and a culture of day to day consideration. This takes time and the purpose of the Children's Rights Scheme 2014 is to provide a framework which enables us to gradually build a substantive appreciation of children's rights in order to improve the way in which we do things. In doing so, we can ensure we give our children and young people the very best start in life.

The intention behind the Measure of initiating culture change and substantive consideration and understanding of children's rights can manifest itself in different ways. Throughout this report we refer to examples of various ways in which due regard has been applied, sometimes not necessarily via the formal CRIA process. The examples are however, testament to the fact this government has and is still experiencing a culture change in terms of children's rights.

For example, the previous Children's Commissioner for Wales' response to the consultation on what became the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 commented on the CRIA. He highlighted concerns that not enough prominence was given to the personal safety of children and young people in the Bill.

In doing so the Commissioner also drew attention to the fact the current guidance on Assessment of Walked Routes to School focused on traffic safety issues and did not consider a wider range of factors which could affect personal safety. These were issues such as whether a route was well-lit, contained isolated areas or areas known for anti-social behaviour by older children or adults. The Commissioner was of the opinion article 19 of the UNCRC was not adequately being taken into account.

As a result of these deliberations, the delivery guidance for the Active Travel Act was strengthened to ensure better engagement and consultation with children and young people.

In addition, the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport pursued the point regarding the assessments of walked routes to school and, as a result developed new statutory guidance on walked routes to school which Local Authorities are now required to consider. The guidance includes specific provision for personal safety which was informed by the views of children and young people, in addition to expectations regarding their participation in implementing the guidance.

The CRIA process shaped the clauses in the Active Travel Bill and also influenced the development of another set of guidance relating to the safety of children walking to school. It illustrates how the Measure enables discussions and engenders a culture where children's rights are considered and a participative approach to working is applied in the best interest of children.



The Scheme includes a commitment to “*evaluate how the full range of duties has been implemented across Welsh Government*”. A key element of this commitment is an independent evaluation of the CRIA process which the Wales Observatory on Human Rights of Children and Young People has been commissioned to undertake. It will encompass the following:

- the CRIA process - focusing on process quality and substance quality;
- to understand the impact of the CRIA output on policy/legislation; and
- to gain an additional perspective (enriching the document analysis) on the quality of completed CRIAs.

This will be the first evaluation of its kind in Wales.

The evaluation report, which will be accompanied by recommendations, will be finalised by September 2015 and will make a valuable contribution to the future implementation of the Measure and inform the next compliance report. The evaluation has started and there are early themes emerging from the work which have also fed into this report. The initial work suggests there will be merit in examining areas such as:

- ways in which the Implementation Team can further support staff across Government;
- the materials developed to support staff;
- a review and update of the CRIA template; and
- the design and content of training.

Whilst there are no final recommendations for action at this stage of the work, the Implementation Team is committed to start work on the basis of the emerging themes and as such, actions are identified within this report.



6. Promoting knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC

Section 5 of the Measure places a duty on Ministers to take such steps as are appropriate to promote knowledge and understanding amongst the public, including children and young people, of the UNCRC and the Protocols. This duty is designed to give effect to obligations on government, ensuring the UNCRC is part of the framework for all decision making. This is set out in Article 42 of the UNCRC which states Governments should make the Convention widely known to adults and children alike. Knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC and its Optional Protocols amongst children, adults and organisations has a very important part to play in ensuring the rights and obligations they contain are respected.

We have worked to address this duty with a number of approaches which can be captured under the following three key headings; Resources, Training and Participation.

6.1 Resources

We have developed a wide range of resources aimed at promoting awareness and understanding of children's rights.

These include a series of general materials such as postcards and UNCRC posters which have been distributed to schools, events, conferences, training events, youth services, Local Authorities and children's services settings such as Flying Start.

We have produced resources such as a media tool kit to challenge negative stereotypes of children and young people and materials for education professionals regarding pupil voice and participation. Other resources are aimed at raising awareness of children's rights within a specific context. Examples of this would include toolkits to raise awareness of the rights of young carers and gypsy and traveller children; as well as resources aimed at empowering children and young people and challenging stereotypes.

A catalogue of Welsh Government children's rights resources has been shared with stakeholders and will be published which will allow any organisation in Wales to request copies of our printed materials.

We provide promotional resources and materials which feature in Welsh Government events and are happy to provide promotional resources and materials to external organisations.

Annex 3 provides additional information on various online resources.

Staff have been scoping the range of resources and materials available both from Welsh Government and external organisations. As a result of this exercise, work has started to engage with relevant stakeholders to work collaboratively to ensure



resources which are developed by the Welsh Government and others are up to date, relevant and effectively promoted and utilised.

6.2 Training

Training delivered by the Welsh Government or in partnership with external organisations includes:

- Training for Welsh Government staff;
- Online e-learning training for Welsh Government staff;
- Face to face training for Welsh Government staff;
- Private Office Training;
- Legal Services Training;
- Online e-learning training for any member of the public;
- Train the Trainers for professionals working with children and young people;
- UNCRC online e-learning training for the public;
- Training by Children's Rights Centre of Excellence;
- Training by other organisations who receive Welsh Government funding; and
- International sharing of good practice.

6.2.1 Training for Welsh Government staff

As outlined within the Children's Rights Scheme 2014, we are committed to continuing to raise awareness and train staff. To enable this we have developed a number of resources to provide staff with knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC and help them to understand the process they need to follow to support Ministers to comply with the due regard duty.

We have worked hard to ensure the guidance, training and support on the UNCRC available to staff is as accessible as possible.

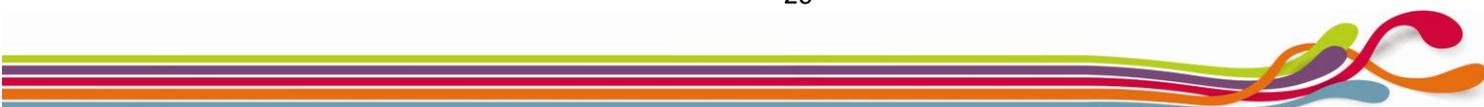
An internal training strategy has been developed which brings together the different children's rights training tools and methods and sets out the following for the year ahead:

- the aims for training and developing staff;
- the training priorities;
- what type of training is available; and
- a Training and Development Implementation Plan.

It is critical the due regard duty is mainstreamed into generic training and guidance within Welsh Government. An example is the advanced policy skills course which looks at impact assessments, including the CRIA.

6.2.2 Online e-learning training for Welsh Government staff

Ministers must be confident that proper consideration has been given to children's rights in the decision making process. One of the important developments has been training for all staff which is available online and provides an interactive introduction



to the UNCRC and how children's rights may impact on their work. This is an effective way of delivering training across all Welsh Government departments.

The online training has been designed to be undertaken individually but can also be cascaded and used within team settings.

In May 2014 the online training was updated to ensure compliance with the full implementation of the duty and was awarded mandatory training status by the Welsh Government Operations Group.

The online training is available on the Welsh Government's dedicated policy-making and public service delivery intranet pages and the Welsh Government's Learning Portal.

The content of the resource will be reviewed and updated to reflect future developments.

UNCRC online training statistics

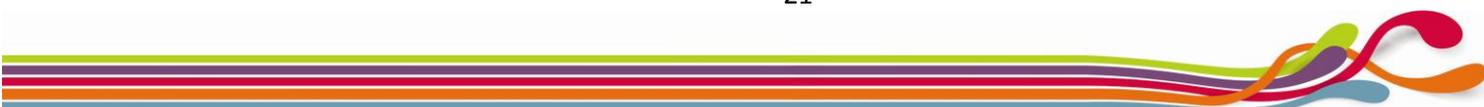
Prior to 1 May 2014 well over **2000** officials across Welsh Government had undertaken the previous version of the UNCRC online training.

Section 6 of the Children's Rights Scheme published in May 2014 committed to reporting on the take up of training by Welsh Government Department.

From the 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2015 the numbers who have undertaken the revised online training are:

Figure 1:

Department	Number
Dept for Education & Skills	43
Dept for Health & Social Services	268
Economy, Science & Transport	136
Finance & Corporate Services	67
Local Government & Communities	61
Natural Resources	469
Permanent Secretary	5
TOTAL	1049



6.2.3 Face to face training for Welsh Government staff

The provider for Welsh Government's main programme of training and development, delivered 23 Children's Rights UNCRC sessions. The sessions were delivered by an expert in human rights between July and December in 2014 and were targeted at management and executive level staff.

Each session lasted for 2 hours and aimed to build on the online training for those who need a more thorough understanding of the Measure and the duty, as their role involves providing options and advice to Ministers, on a regular basis, on legislation/policy/decisions which affect children and young people.

The sessions gave staff an opportunity to explore their role and responsibilities in supporting Ministers and look at the CRIA process. The sessions also explored how the CRIA process can help to make the decisions and policies the best they can be, by ensuring they have a positive effect on children, young people and their families in Wales.

Training figures

Department	Number
DHSS	24
EST	26
DfES	10
FCS	9
LGC	26
Legal Services	3
Natural Resources	1
TOTAL	99

Salary Band	Number
Support Officer	13
Management	56
Executive	30
TOTAL	99

In reflecting on the CRIA process and the initial findings of the evaluation of the CRIA process, we have decided to review the course content. Additional emphasis is required on the CRIA process itself as well as tailored materials on how the UNCRC may impact on their particular policy area. We intend to develop a suit of bespoke training sessions with specific departments with a view to rolling this out across all departments. This will include example or case study CRIAs and will be a more proactive approach.

The Implementation Team has responded to a number of ad hoc requests to deliver training or attend team meetings to provide information on the UNCRC and the CRIA process. An example of this is a request from a Ministerial private office⁹ staff. The Ministerial private offices and correspondence units provide Ministerial support. In April 2014 the Implementation Team delivered UNCRC training to Private Office staff which focussed on the impact of the full implementation of the Measure from 1 May 2014.

⁹ A team of staff who provide support to Ministers.



6.2.4 Legal Services Training

The Legal Services within the Welsh Government play a critical role in implementing the due regard process.

Ministers will very often refer to legal advice in exercising Ministerial functions, for instance, in clarifying competencies to act and statutory compliance regarding a range of obligations.

Legal Services were identified as a priority on our Training and Development Strategy Implementation Plan for 2014-15.

In April 2014 two bespoke training sessions were delivered to 48 delegates from the Legal Services department. This has had a far reaching and positive effect in increasing capacity for children's rights expertise within the Welsh Government and complements the work of the Implementation Team.

A number of teams within Legal Services have supported policy staff in considering the potential relevance and impact of their work within the context of children's rights, as part of the CRIA process.

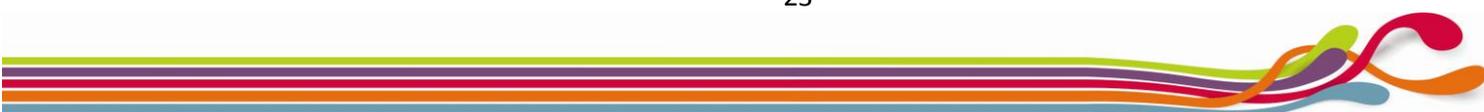
Legal Services have also informed relevant policy staff on case law outside the National Assembly for Wales' competence which may help inform the work of the Ministers. Examples include the application of the under occupancy penalty element of the UK Government's housing benefit reform and also on family justice cases. Whilst not immediately applicable to the functions of the Ministers, the information does enhance the understanding of the legal applications of the UNCRC.

The Legislation Handbook which is an information resource for staff makes clear the expectation on legislation teams regarding CRIAs. This was updated following the Measure coming into full effect. Information on the due regard obligations has also been mainstreamed into the Legislation Education Programme which focuses on policy development.

The legislative submission template to Ministers¹⁰ was also updated to ensure Ministers are made aware of the due regard obligation and how the duty has been met.

Legal Services are considering what further action may be desirable in the context of future training plans.

¹⁰ The template used to provide information and advice to inform Ministerial decisions on matters relating to legislation.



6.2.5 Train the Trainers for professionals working with children and young people

When the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child examined the UK Government in September 2008 it made a series of recommendations which included:

“The reinforcement of adequate and systematic training of all professional groups working for and with children, in particular law enforcement officials, immigration officials, media, teachers, health personnel, social workers and personnel of the child care institutions”

In 2012 the Welsh Government provided funding to Children in Wales to pilot the delivery of UNCRC training to key professional training personnel across Wales through a Train the Trainers initiative.

The primary intended outcomes of the initiative were:

- to raise the knowledge and understanding about children's rights and the UNCRC of the key educators in each of these professional groups;
- to introduce a range of resources and teaching activities about children's rights and the UNCRC;
- to raise awareness of how children's rights and the UNCRC are applicable in the work of each of these professional groups and therefore useful and relevant; and
- to empower and enable these key educators to include an education on children's rights and the UNCRC as part of their curriculum in the training of other professionals.

The learning from the pilot coupled with the recommendations made in the evaluation report have allowed this initiative to be taken forward and further contracts were awarded both in 2013/14 and 2014/15.

For the summary of outputs from each of these contracts refer to Annex 4.

The Implementation Team has reviewed the training model and is developing an alternative specification which will be aimed at a longer term and sector specific approach which will seek to collaborate with relevant professionals to develop both content and approaches to promotion of the training. The tendering process for this will be initiated over the summer of 2015.



6.2.6 UNCRC online e-learning training for the public

The UNCRC training for the public was created and launched to raise awareness amongst the public in learning more about children and young people's rights. The training includes examples of case studies, links to additional information and related websites.

The content of the resource is currently being reviewed and updated. The refreshed online training will be available on the Children's Rights Wales website and can also be found at www.bit.ly/e-learningpackage.

The training has been adopted by a number of Local Authorities and we continue to promote the resource as part of our awareness raising strategy.

6.2.7 Training by the Children's Rights Centre of Excellence

Some funding streams are specifically aimed at the awareness raising agenda. The most notable example of this is the awarding of funding under the Children and Families Delivery Grant to Children in Wales who will lead a consortium to develop a Children's Rights Centre of Excellence who will provide training and information for children, young people and professionals.

6.2.8 Training by other organisations who receive Welsh Government Funding

We provide direct funding to children and young people's organisations and services who promote children's rights, for example, the Children's Commissioner for Wales, Children in Wales, Pacey, Mudiad Meithrin, Play Wales, schools and Youth Services.

6.2.9 International sharing of good practice

The Welsh Government has also contributed to a number of activities which raise awareness and levels of understanding of the UNCRC on an international level. For instance, by supporting Swansea University's international conference on children's rights, which was the pre-congress to the VI World Congress in Pueblo, Mexico in 2014. The two days were used to draw on the experience from other nations but also focused on promoting children's rights progress in Wales.

In the same way Senior Welsh Government staff have received invitations to present the developments in Wales and to participate in discussions and seminars on implementation of children's rights legislation and specifically on CRIAs. These events in Catalonia and New Brunswick, Canada were opportunities to showcase the work of Welsh Government and examine the different models for implementation. This contributes to the Welsh Government's understanding of children's rights concepts.



6.3 Participation

A key element of our commitment to raising awareness of their rights among children and young people is through our participation agenda.

On a national level, an important aspect of this is the funding awarded to a consortium within the third sector, led by Children in Wales, through the Children and Families Delivery Grant. They aim to create a centre of excellence for children's rights which will include ensuring the voice of the child is heard in decisions which affect them, raising awareness, establishing and promoting best practice and providing evidence based advice to issues related to children's rights.

The key elements for the project are:

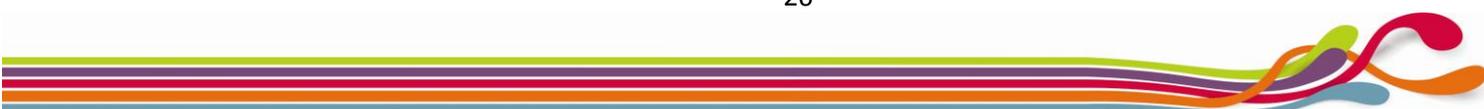
- informing and enabling children and young people to participate effectively and have their views heard by Ministers and policy makers – this is now branded as Young Wales;
- ensuring the children and young people's workforce is informed of children's rights to participate and for structures to be in place which facilitate the sharing of effective methods of participation;
- supporting a better informed and engaged multi agency cross-sector workforce including policy makers and practitioners to deliver Welsh Government policy; and
- effective influencing and contributing to policy and practice development with an emphasis on early intervention, prevention and mitigation of poverty, underpinned by Welsh Government strategic priorities.

All of the key objectives play an important role in assisting the Welsh Government to raise awareness and understanding of children's rights. Welsh Government is committed to enhancing these provisions through its own activity.

Another example of an organisation delivering good participation work on a national level is CAF/CASS Cymru, who support the family court system. CAF/CASS has developed *Your Voice*, a three year participation plan, which will assist the organisation to deliver a programme of projects to support and benefit the children and young people who use its services. The intention is for *Your Voice* to further enable the voice of the child to be heard within the family justice system.

Your Voice will help CAF/CASS Cymru meet its commitments to the UNCRC, the Welsh Government Participation Standards and the values and strategic goals of CAF/CASS Cymru. These are in addition to improving the service provided to children and young people involved in family court proceedings in an age appropriate and sustainable way. There are 3 overarching themes within *Your Voice*, which are: Listen and Learn; Involve and Inform; and Work Together and Share.

A Participation Board has been established to support the delivery of the programme. In the first year of the plan, the programme of projects included the



promotion of UNCRC; the development and launch of a children and young people's focussed website; a review of its communication methods with children and young people (including further development of children's information packs); the creation of a jargon buster; facilitating children and young people involved in family proceedings to communicate their wishes and feelings to the Judiciary and linking the organisation's participation work with the Family Justice Network Wales and the Family Justice Board.

CAFCASS Cymru has engaged with children and young people across Wales to help shape the plan and plan to launch *Your Voice*.

As well as this, the local structures of participation are critical to raising awareness within communities and the Welsh Government has been committed to creating a framework by which the voice of children and young people and the awareness of their rights to have their voice heard is secured.

In December 2012, under Section 12 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010, the Welsh Government issued statutory guidance to Local Authorities, through *Shared Practice, Shared Delivery* (Single Integrated Planning guidance) to promote and facilitate participation by children and young people in decisions which might affect them.

During 2014 staff from the Welsh Government visited each Local Authority to get a picture of participation by understanding how this duty is being delivered locally. The Welsh Government has mapped these examples of good practice against the Seven Participation Standards¹¹.

A paper has been shared with stakeholders with a view to promoting best practice locally. We were very pleased to see continued commitment and innovation on a local level and will continue to offer our support.

6.4 Further work

We recognise the need to continue to increase levels of awareness of the UNCRC across Wales and will revisit our Raising Awareness Strategy which focuses on:

- developing and investing in resources and materials aimed at promoting and raising awareness of children's rights;
- training and awareness; and
- ensuring the meaningful participation of children and young people within the workings of the national and local government and in decisions which affect them.

We will aim to meet with stakeholders to specifically discuss ways of sharing resources and maximising effort to make sure we can reach as many children and

¹¹ [Seven Participation Standards](#)



young people, and professionals who work with them, as possible. We will look to reinforce this work and avoid duplication, making best use of resources.



7. Scrutiny

A key principle which, to a large extent, the Welsh Government has taken upon itself to implement is facilitating effective scrutiny of the implementation of the Measure.

From the commitment to transparency of CRIAs to securing a plenary debate using Government Business time, the Welsh Government has sought to put into place the expectations expressed in the UN Committee's General Comment 5 on General Measures of Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child:

"Publication and wide dissemination of and debate on such reports, including in parliament, can provide a focus for broad public engagement in implementation."

It has also become apparent that the National Assembly for Wales (NAfW), as the legislature, has responded to the Measure. This helps put into effect General Comment 5 General Measures of Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child:

"The development of a children's rights perspective throughout Government, parliament and the judiciary is required for effective implementation of the whole Convention."

On a number of occasions, particularly in legislation Scrutiny Committees, the due regard duty and CRIAs specifically have been subject to assessment and discussion. There are numerous examples of stage 1 Committee Reports making references to the UNCRC and the due regard duty and in some cases specific recommendations for Ministers, for example:

"In considering evidence from children's organisations on this matter we accept the view that the Bill does not necessarily contravene the UNCRC convention. However, we recommend that the Deputy Minister makes a statement...on how...this Bill will ...promote and protect the underpinning principle of the best interest of the child..."

**NAfW Health and Social Care Committee; Social Services and Well-being Bill
stage 1 Committee Report July 2013**

This activity within the legislature contributes to the political narrative and is an important way of raising the profile of children's rights as well as increasing understanding.

It is also worth noting that the NAfW committees have taken positive steps and have engaged with children and young people in order to inform their scrutiny work.

This scrutiny has also extended to discussions on budget allocations by Ministers. For example, in advance of the Welsh Government's draft budget 2015-16, the Minister for Health and Social Services responded to a request by the Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee for information on the children's



rights impact assessment process undertaken on the Health and Social Services budget.

General Comment 5 states that the UN Committee “*regards as essential the independent monitoring of progress towards implementation by, for example, parliamentary committees, NGOs, academic institutions, professional associations, youth groups and independent human rights institutions...*”

The work the NafW committees do reflect this, as does the way in which the Welsh Government has enabled external organisations as listed in the General Comment above to play important roles in the implementation of the Measure.

7.1 Requests for CRIAs from members of the public

Members of the public, including young people have also requested specific CRIAs on a number of occasions. This is an important mechanism to allow the public to be able to hold the Welsh Government to account. Such requests are always complied with and CRIAs provided at the earliest opportunity.

A young person’s version of the complaints mechanisms ¹²is also available on the Welsh Government website. As part of our raising awareness work, we will consider whether or not there are ways in which this can be promoted further.

¹² [Young person's version Complaints Mechanism](#)



8. Looking Ahead

Developing the compliance report has provided a valuable opportunity to consider how far we have come and reflect on the progress made in implementing the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011.

We continually assess the effectiveness of what we do and how we do things. This report has also provided a focus for identifying possible areas which merit further attention.

The process of reflection will be informed to a large extent on an independent evaluation of the CRIA process in September 2015 and we look forward to considering the evaluation report's findings and recommendations.

There are areas of work which the Ministers have asked officials to work on in the interim. These areas have been referred to throughout this report but in summary will include the following:

- inclusion of a prompt in the CRIA template requesting consideration of the way in which the decision being made by the Minister may impact on child poverty;
- a review of the supporting materials for the CRIA process with a view to updating them;
- as part of the wider review of supporting resources, we will consider if there is a need to revisit the processes of formally recording decisions of this nature or if the existing systems are sufficient;
- the content of the promotional resources will be reviewed and updated to reflect future developments;
- the course content for the internal face to face training for staff is to be reviewed with a view to providing tailored course content to reflect the specific work of departments;
- the approach regarding provision of UNCRC training for professionals working with children and young is to be changed so it will be sector specific and includes collaboration with relevant professionals to develop both the content and approaches to promotion of the training;
- refresh of the public facing UNCRC online e-learning training;
- continue to increase levels of awareness of the UNCRC across Wales and revisit our Raising Awareness Strategy;
- consider ways to further promote the young person's version of the Welsh Government's complaints mechanism; and

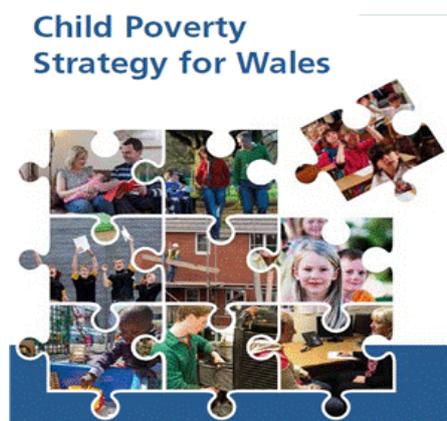


- taking steps to improve the coordination of approaches to raising awareness of children's rights. This will require more collaboration to ensure better use of the resources is made and their availability across Wales. This will ensure maximum value is achieved from all activities, both within and outside Government. This more collaborative approach is aimed at promoting and replicating best practice.

We very much hope these positive steps will result in yet further improvements and this progress will be reflected in the next Compliance Report.



Annex 1



The Revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales – the Tackling Poverty Division

The due regard duty can be utilised in a number of ways. In some functions the UNCRC is used as a guiding framework with particular focus on how the decisions or policy is likely to realise children's rights. There are also examples of the UNCRC being central to the development of policy itself, where the UNCRC is embedded in the design of the policy – using a rights based approach. One such example is the Welsh Government's Revised Child Poverty Strategy, which was published on 27 March 2015.

The Welsh Government has identified child poverty as the main barrier towards realising and upholding children's rights in Wales. Furthermore, the revised Child Poverty Strategy is focussed on improving the outcomes of children and young people, a principle which is at the heart of the UNCRC. For this reason, we have identified the delivery of the Child Poverty Strategy as our priority commitment in relation to the children's rights agenda. In reaffirming the Welsh Government's commitment to the UNCRC, we will make it clear all portfolios and departments have obligations and responsibilities in realising children's rights.

The Welsh Government approaches tackling child poverty using the UNCRC as a basis, recognising tackling poverty is as much about improving children's well-being as it is about addressing income poverty. The revised Child Poverty Strategy specifically recognises that a children's rights based approach links the well-being of children with the well-being of parents and families and puts support for families at the heart of policies to tackle child poverty.

Whilst the revised Strategy recognises child poverty is a direct reflection of the poverty of their parents (and hence the emphasis on increasing household income and access to employment), we also understand and acknowledge the child as a rights bearer who has specific needs in the here and now. These rights, whilst contributing to improving the position of their families and communities, may also extend beyond the family.



The Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan remains the key delivery mechanism for realising the objectives of the revised Strategy. Although this is an *all age* plan, it includes a strong focus on improving the outcomes of children and young people. It sets out six key priorities, which include a focus on providing every child with a flying start in life and improving outcomes in the early years; improving educational attainment amongst pupils eligible for Free School Meals; reducing the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET); tackling worklessness; reducing health inequalities by addressing the inverse care law; and housing and regeneration.

Within the revised Child Poverty Strategy, we highlight the importance of the Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) to ensuring an ongoing focus on improving outcomes. In particular, the revised Strategy highlights the following: "Ensuring we have due regard to the UNCRC as we develop policies and programmes to support children and young people will be critical to addressing child poverty and improving outcomes. The completion of CRIs by Welsh Government Departments provides an ideal opportunity to link both the children's rights and child poverty agendas. We will continue to work collaboratively to ensure child poverty is considered in the development of our policies and programmes through the completion of Children's Rights Impact Assessments."

In order to reflect the cross Government commitment to addressing children's rights, the CRIA template will be amended to include a prompt asking the way in which the decision being made by the Minister may impact on child poverty.

Within the revised Strategy, we set out five strategic objectives. These are focussed on where the Welsh Government can have most impact, in terms of tackling poverty and improving outcomes. They are: 1) to reduce the number of children living in workless households; 2) to increase the skills of young people and parents, to enable them to secure well paid employment; 3) to reduce the inequalities which currently exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families living in poverty, by improving the outcomes of the poorest; 4) to use all available levers to create a strong economy and labour market which supports the tackling poverty agenda and reduces in-work poverty in Wales; and 5) to support 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.

The revised Strategy includes a series of logic models (one for each objective) highlighting the policies and programmes which will contribute to delivering these objectives, the indicators in place to measure the population outcomes we want to see change, and the relevant articles of the UNCRC. A focus on outcomes, monitoring and accountability underpins this approach – along with an emphasis on the realisation of specific articles of the UNCRC.



In addition to the above, the Welsh Government has recently introduced a new section on poverty, to include in all submissions to the Ministers. Within this new section, officials are required to set out any links to the poverty and child poverty agenda, with a specific focus on how they are contributing to the priorities of the Tackling Poverty Action Plan and revised Child Poverty Strategy. This provides an additional mechanism for ensuring departments are focussing on addressing the barriers experienced by those living in poverty and associated links to children's rights and the UNCRC.

A CRIA was also developed for the revised Child Poverty Strategy, along with a children and young people's version of the Strategy itself. Ongoing engagement with children and young people to ensure their voices are heard is critical – and the revised strategy includes a commitment to involve the participation of young people in the development of policies and programmes to deliver the targets in the Tackling Poverty Action Plan.

The Welsh Government's Children and Families Delivery Grant and funding being provided to Children in Wales to deliver *Young Wales* will support this commitment by providing young people with a platform to have their voices heard. The revised Strategy also recognises the importance of continuing our engagement with the Children's Commissioner for Wales and the work they are taking forward through their Community Ambassador Scheme, as well as Local Authorities and Anti-Poverty Champions and their work with local youth forums.

The Welsh Government has committed to reporting on the Tackling Poverty Action Plan on an annual basis. In 2015, a children and young people's version of the Action Plan will also be published.



Annex 2 The Children and Young People's Wellbeing Monitor for Wales

Background

The Children and Young People's Wellbeing Monitor for Wales was published for the first time in November 2008. A second edition was published in March 2011 and a third edition has been committed to and will be published later this year. Historically the aim of the Monitor has been to provide a multi-dimensional picture of children and young people's wellbeing (aged 0 to 25) in Wales using a variety of wellbeing indicators and other statistical and research sources. Previous editions have provided useful context to policies and outcomes relating to children and young people, such as child poverty and children's rights. It has been well received by external stakeholders particularly those in the third sector. The End Child Poverty Network (led by Children in Wales) and the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty External Advisory Group have both previously commented on the role and value of the monitor. They are particularly supportive of the way in which the monitor brings together the data for a range of different population indicators, as well as research evidence and the views of children and young people themselves.

The Monitor is published as a Government Social Research publication under the responsibility of the Chief Social Research Officer although it includes input from researchers, statisticians, economists and policy officials. External researchers were also involved in areas where specific expertise was required, as for instance Play Wales, Arts Council, Sports Council and Public Health Wales. Both previous versions of the Monitor were also externally peer reviewed. The Monitor's reach has been quite wide and Welsh Government officials have been asked to contribute to a number of relevant international conferences. It comprises a key resource for those working on policy and programme development and has been used internally by Welsh Government officials from several departments and divisions within the Welsh Government and by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to help inform their work on measuring children and young people's wellbeing. In addition, the Monitor has been used by a number of Local Authorities/Local Service Boards for their Single Integrated Plans and outcome indicators as well as by other European countries developing their own indicator systems.

The Monitor has made use of a wide range of existing statistics and research ranging from routine annual data to results of the international Health Behaviour of School-aged Children (HBSC) study and sweeps of the Millennium Cohort Study. The second edition included the results of qualitative research commissioned specifically for the purposes of the Monitor providing information and insights gained from children and young people themselves derived from focus groups. For the second monitor we also commissioned an evidence review, which for the first monitor was done in-house. The Monitor also sought to identify and highlight gaps in data and research that we may wish to address in the future and has served as a means of highlighting to the wider research community where information is currently missing.



Plans and timing for 2015 edition and proposed content

The intention is to produce a version of the monitor every three years. The current aim is to produce an updated version of the 2011 Monitor in November 2015 but without commissioning any bespoke research and focusing on producing shorter summaries of existing statistics and research, while maintaining the same thematic chapters as in the last Monitor. There will also be a new introductory and concluding section respectively on recent child well-being measurement developments and research on international comparison.

The 2015 edition will need to be put in the context of the development of the single Early Years Development and Assessment Framework (EYDAF) that will be used to investigate longitudinally the developmental progress of 0-7 year olds, the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan and the revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales. In particular, there will be a clear overlap between the Monitor and the Early Years Outcomes Framework and we would anticipate the key focus of the chapters on early years being the key outcomes from that Framework. The 2015 Monitor will also include the results of the Child Index of Multiple Deprivation (released in 2015) and will aim to use new data sources that have been developed since the last Monitor such as Foundation Phase outcomes; National Reading and Numeracy tests; Flying Start monitoring data and the results of the 2011 Census. It will also be able to draw on research evidence that has recently been published, in relation to the characteristics of poverty and children's wellbeing in Wales – for example, by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Where possible (and where data is available), indicators and performance measures included in the monitor will be disaggregated by protected characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010) / deprivation/poverty.

For further information on the structure and the likely content of the update please also see [CYP well being monitor 2015 - Structure proposal](#)



Annex 3 Online resources

There are additional online resources available in Wales which are specifically aimed at children and young people. Below are some examples but the list is not exhaustive.

The Children's Rights Wales website www.childrensrights@wales.com

The website focuses on children's rights and among other things, provides both informal and formal resources for professionals for use with children and young people. The website includes news and event features, short films, e-learning and a dedicated twitter feed.

The website is branded separately to the Welsh Government's website and is also designed to appeal to children and young people.



[Ein Hawliau - Cymru/Our Rights - Wales App](#)

An app promoting children's rights has been developed. The app provides information on all 42 articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and also provides details and locations of national services for those seeking information or assistance.

The Implementation Team are currently considering an evaluation of the App which will look at new ways in which the App can be utilised.

Other children and young people's resources in Wales

Young Wales website www.youngwales.wales

The Children in Wales project called *Cymru Ifanc/Young Wales* provides a number of different ways for children and young people to participate, have their say on issues which are important to them, and be heard by the government and others. The project intends to reach significant numbers of children and young people and target those who have different life experiences or are potentially marginalised. It will focus on gathering the opinions of children and young people to inform Welsh Government legislation, policy and programmes.



MEIC www.meiccymru.org

Meic is an advocacy, information and advice helpline for children and young people in Wales, funded by Welsh Government.

The Participation Hub <http://participationhub.org.uk/>

This is a portal highlighting some of the core participation work involving children and young people across Wales. It includes links to websites, training and resources. Funded by the Welsh Government and managed by Children in Wales, discussions are currently being had to consider how to update and develop this resource further. There are also resources aimed at raising children's rights awareness within a specific context:

Young Carers toolkit <http://youngcarerstoolkit.co.uk/>

This online toolkit is aimed at professionals across Health, Education and Social Services, who are identifying, and have contact with young carers and young adult carers.

This is aimed at supporting and meeting the needs of children, young people and their families across Wales. This includes working together to raise awareness and engage young carers and young adult carers.

Education: Pupil Voice Wales <http://www.pupilvoicewales.org.uk/>

This site is a one-stop shop for pupil participation in Wales and offers support to professionals working with children and young people – from nursery through to secondary.

The resources explain how pupil participation links to school effectiveness, and provide information, materials and case studies to help promote and develop pupil participation in various settings.

**Gypsy and Travellers – Travelling Ahead
<http://www.travellingahead.org.uk/toolkit/wag-policy>**

This site contains resources, ideas, and tools to support the rights and participation of gypsy and traveller young people. This includes lesson plans, participation toolkits and guides, leaflets and DVDs.

Some of these resources are specifically targeted at young gypsies and travellers. The remainder address inclusion of all children and young people and can be adapted for use with different groups and settings.



Annex 4 – Train the Trainer outputs

Year 1

Summary of the outputs from November 2012 to November 2013,

- 31 training courses took place with 300 participants taking part in courses.
- A geographical spread was achieved across Wales: 8 courses in North, 6 courses in Mid, 10 courses in South East and 7 courses in South West.
- Youth Justice: 4 youth justice events took place and all 18 of Wales' Youth Offending Teams took part, as well as the only Welsh young people's secure unit.
- Social Work: 5 training courses were delivered for social work departments of a range of Welsh Universities.
- Health: 3 training courses were delivered for trainers & senior managers in the Children's Safeguarding teams of 3 of the 7 health boards in Wales.
- Media: 1 training course took place for media lecturers and 2 local authorities were engaged in training for their media teams responsible for communication with the media.
- Childcare: 6 training courses took place for childcare lecturers and trainers or senior managers responsible for training. An additional bespoke event took place for 2 leading bodies in childcare.
- Education: 3 training courses were delivered for teacher training departments in Welsh Universities.
- Police: 4 training courses were booked for each of the 4 Welsh police forces.
- Senior managers from 3 local authorities representing social services, youth services, youth justice teams and participation teams were brought together.
- Cafcass Cymru: Senior management took part and reviewed the needs for the rest of CAF/CASS Cymru.

Year 2

- From February 2014 to February 2015, Children in Wales delivered the contract on behalf of the Welsh Government.
- In total 22 one day training courses with 274 delegates were delivered.
- The geographical breakdown of courses achieved across Wales: 5 courses in North, 2 courses in Mid, 13 courses in South East and 2 courses in South West.
- Attendees on courses by sector were:
 - 30 Managers & Leaders
 - 26 Education
 - 3 Health
 - 6 Youth
 - 28 Justice & Crime Prevention
 - 2 Sport & Culture
 - 26 Early Years & Childcare
 - 4 Media
 - 34 Third Sector
 - 22 Training & Consultancy
 - 1 Not specified

