

Assessment No	1278	Owner	rickeera.kaur
Resource	HSCP	Service	Joint
	FirstName	Surname	Job Title
Head Officer	Rickeera	Kaur	Contracts & Commissioning Officer
Members	Sharon Laing, Senior Manager, Children's Social Work Services Lesley James, Head of Service, Children's Social Work Services Neil McKechnie, Quality, Contracts & Commissioning Manager		
	<i>(Please note: the word 'policy' is used as shorthand for strategy policy function or financial decision)</i>		
Policy Title	Contract - Family Support and Day Respite for Children with Disabilities		
	The aim, objective, purpose and intended out come of policy		
	The service area are developing a family support and day respite service for children and young people with disabilities, funded through partners at the Carer's centre service.		
	The aim is to design an outcomes driven service specification, with input from potential partners, and to award a three year contract based on the tender process.		
	Service/Partners/Stakeholders/service users involved in the development and/or implementation of policy.		
	Aberlour children's trust have undertaken a consultation with local families and services in order to summarise community need and make recommendations to the service about responding to these.		
Does the proposals involve the procurement of any goods or services?			Yes
If yes please confirm that you have contacted our procurement services to discuss your requirements.			Yes
SCREENING			
<i>You must indicate if there is any relevance to the four areas</i>			
Duty to eliminate discrimination (E), advance equal opportunities (A) or foster good relations (F)			Yes
Relevance to Human Rights (HR)			Yes
Relevance to Health Impacts (H)			Yes
Relevance to Social Economic Impacts (SE)			Yes
Who will be affected by this policy?			
Children and young people affected by disabilities age 5-18years who are eligible for support from the social work team, and their families/carers. Workforce of the Provider. Workforce of the children's services social work teams.			
Who will be/has been involved in the consultation process?			
Aberlour children's trust undertook consultation with a number of families and social work staff through a range of: • Consultations with families and professionals • Engagement events • Research activities			

Please outline any particular need/barriers which equality groups may have in relation to this policy list evidence you are using to support this and whether there is any negative impact on particular groups.

Specific group to consider	Needs	Evidence	Impact
Age	The service is required for children age 5-18. This was evident from the consultation undertaken that identified trends and areas of need, alongside statutory roles and duties.	Children (Scotland) Act 1995 Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 - updated 2023, Scottish Government UNCRC	Positive: The age range appears to meet statutory duties and highest population of need.

Disability	The service is specifically for children with disabilities and their families, with key aims of improving wellbeing indicators. This should have positive impact in reducing inequality if the service meets aims.	Communities of disabled children and young people within West Dunbartonshire are growing. This is reflected within the increase of specialist educational provision and the growth within the specific special educational pupil roll. Local authority data for developmental concerns, disability, and additional support needs indicators 2022-23 (LA Data) indicate that 27.7% of 27–30-month-olds within the West Dunbartonshire are viewed as having a developmental concern. This was a higher percentage than any other local authority with the lowest being Aberdeen City at 10.2%. Collectively the data for 2022/23 Public Health Scotland's Early Child Development Data suggests that there were developmental concerns for 12-18% of Scotland's infants. The statistical contrast between the local and national view for infants may suggest a significantly larger population of young people with early indicators of disability within West Dunbartonshire than the national average. This assumption is further supported by local data gained within local stakeholder engagement which suggests that 47% of all children educated within West Dunbartonshire have an additional support need with a reported increase in need and complexity within the disabled pupil population. Aberlour Consultation Report, 2024	Positive: the service aims to reduce inequalities and improve wellbeing. This will be measured through evaluation of the service's impact, that is determined within the service specification forming the contract..

Gender Reassign	There is a lack of readily available evidence/data/research about children with disabilities and gender. Many people with a learning disability are trans. However, there are often assumptions that trans and/or gender divergent people with a learning disability don't exist or their gender identity and expression is because they lack capacity to make decisions (Keates et al., 2022). Trans people with a learning disability argue that these perspectives are harmful and patronising.	Guidance for children and young people's services on the inclusion of transgender including non-binary young people. Care Inspectorate, July 2025	Neutral - no impact.
Marriage & Civil Partnership	There are varying needs for families, including discrepancies in support available to single parents. The service must be attuned to understanding such issues and delivered by a provider experienced in providing support to parents and carers.	Single Parents with disabled children Issues, challenges & policy actions Briefing May 2024 - One Parent Families Scotland	Positive - increasing available support in the local community, support hours allocated as per assessment of need.
Pregnancy & Maternity	As above, families have unique experiences and pregnancy within a family can significantly affect caring abilities and dynamics.	Supporting disabled children, young people and their families: guidance. Scottish Government, 2023	Positive - as above.
Race	Families from minority ethnic groups are under represented in services in Scotland that support people with disabilities and there appears to be numerous barriers to equal access to support. E.g. , recent research in Scotland has shown families with disabled children often feel isolated, report that interpreters are not always available, and that not enough information is translated into minority languages. The service will require to undertake evaluation throughout the 3 year period of operation, including to evidence accessibility..	New analysis shows disparity in statistics collected about disabled children in Scotland - CELCIS 2024 Supporting disabled children and their families in Scotland: A review of policy and research - Joseph Rowntree Foundation	Positive - as above.

Religion and Belief	The service must consider the assessment of the team around the child, and undertake their own ongoing assessment as to the family's needs, including of religious and cultural beliefs and practices.	Children (Scotland) Act 1995 UNCRC	Positive - as above.
Sex	There are known inequalities in relation to sex from people with disabilities in Scotland, for example in service accessibility, insight and diagnosis.	Scotland: Population characteristics. Learning Disabilities and Autism. Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory.	Neutral.
Sexual Orientation	There is significant evidence that people from LGBTQI+ communities experiences numerous challenges in accessing support from services.	Life in Scotland for LGBT Young People: Health Report 2023. LGBT Youth Scotland	By utilising national policy and guidance such as GIRFEC, the provider is required to undertake individualised assessment with each child/young person in order to better understand and respond to their unique needs.
Human Rights	There are several human rights considerations for children with disabilities, their families, and carers. The service specification directs that the Provider must embed UNCRC and rights based approaches to the service.	Supporting disabled children, young people and their families: guidance. Scottish Government, 2023	Positive - as above. The Provider's expertise in understanding the rights of people with disabilities and their families will be crucial.
Health	Many children with disabilities have a range of healthcare support needs, including personal care, that are not met within universal services. Specialist supports are required to ensure skilled workforce, safeguarding, and child centered practices. Children with learning disabilities are thought to account for 14% of all British children with a diagnosable psychiatric disorder. They face barriers to accessing mainstream mental health services, and there is a lack of specialist services across social care, health, and education (Mutch J 2023).	Supporting disabled children, young people and their families: guidance. Scottish Government, 2023	Positive - the service will be required to have the skills, training and experience necessary to support children with a wide range of possibly complex needs, including behaviours that challenge, healthcare needs, day to day support needs and overcoming barriers to communication.

Social & Economic Impact	There is extensive evidence that children affected by disabilities experience increased and more prevalent poverty. There are numerous barriers to carers employment and income maximisation. Research by the disability charity Scope in 2019/20 (that is before the Cost-of-Living Crisis) found that – On average, disabled households (with at least one disabled adult or child) needed an additional £975 a month to have the same standard of living as non-disabled households. The average additional costs in Scotland were the highest in any part of the UK. In Scotland over 40% of children living in poverty come from a household containing a disabled adult or child. The child poverty rate is “stable”, that is it has neither risen nor fallen after the introduction of the Scottish Child Payment².	Disabled People: Fuel Poverty and the Cost-of-Living Crisis. Inclusion Scotland.	Positive - the service will undertake individual assessment and direct work with families to promote improved wellbeing - this may include some advocacy or signposting to highlight and support financial or social economic hardships.
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Cross Cutting	There are numerous cross cutting considerations for children with disabilities services. There are a range of vulnerability factors including: Age; Communication barriers; Access to services; Risk and severity of impact of poverty; Health and wellbeing; Isolation; Safeguarding considerations. Each child's experiences will be unique and it is essential that the service delivers child-centred support that allows them to get to know each person as an individual and to meaningfully understand the impact of multiple adversities.		Positive - the service specification directs the requirement for a person centred, rights based, and empowering approach to supporting children and their families.

Actions

Policy has a negative impact on an equality group, but is still to be implemented, please provide justification for this.

N/A

Will the impact of the policy be monitored and reported on an ongoing basis?

Contract monitoring and quality assurance will be undertaken by the service area and commissioning/ contracts team. A key requirement of this service is ongoing evaluation and monitoring of outcomes.

Q7 What is your recommendation for this policy?

Introduce

Please provide a meaningful summary of how you have reached the recommendation

West Dunbartonshire currently lacks a range of suitable supports for children with disabilities. This was very evident within the consultation report that highlighted long waiting times for service input and the impact this had on children and their families. Increasing service provision, particularly that which requires child-centred planning and delivery, is hoped to assist in supporting children in their community and to meeting statutory duties.