

Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

Local Housing Strategy
2024-2029

Screening Sheet

Policy Name and Overall aims

South Ayrshire Council's Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2023 – 2028 is the strategic document that sets out the strategy and priorities for the delivery of housing and related services.

The aim of the strategy over the next 5 years is to ensure:

- People across South Ayrshire can find a good quality home that they can afford, that meets their needs and is in an area where they feel safe and connected.
- People across South Ayrshire have a sense of identity and belonging in the places where they live. South Ayrshire's places are distinctive, safe, easy to move around, welcoming, adaptable, resource efficient and impact positively on those who use them.
- The possibility of homelessness is identified by a range of services at an early stage and homelessness prevention methods are utilised to assist. Good quality accommodation, advice and support will be available where it cannot be avoided.
- People with particular needs are able to live with freedom, choice and control in a home that maximises their health, wellbeing and independence.
- People across South Ayrshire live in warm, dry, energy efficient homes which they can afford to maintain.

What aspects of the strategy will affect children and young people up to the age of 18?

All aspects of the LHS will affect children and young people living in South Ayrshire. The Strategy focuses on the delivery of housing and related services. This includes:

- New build housing to meet local needs and ensuring the existing stock is used as efficiently as possible.
- Working in partnership to creating high quality places that support health and wellbeing and tackle inequalities.
- Preventing and addressing homelessness.
- Supporting people including those with disabilities or long-term conditions, or who are frail, to live independently at home or a homely setting for as long as possible.
- Working with health and social care partners to ensure housings contribution towards improved health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities.
- Improving energy efficiency, reducing fuel poverty and child poverty
- Improving house condition to address poor health and wellbeing, poverty, disadvantage and inequality.
- Reducing housing's greenhouse gas emissions and where possible achieving net zero.

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

South Ayrshire's LHS seeks to reduce poverty and disadvantage and improve health and wellbeing outcomes for the local population.

The likely impacts are:

- Provision of high quality, energy efficient new build housing units.
- New wheelchair accessible housing units.
- Energy efficiency measures for existing housing to reduce fuel poverty and carbon emissions.
- Reduction in fuel poverty and child poverty.
- Reduction in disadvantage and inequalities.
- Support to improve house condition in the private sector.
- Support and services tailored to the needs of particular groups.
- Improved housing outcomes for young care leavers.
- Prevention of homelessness, and, where homelessness cannot be prevented, improved housing services and person-centred, trauma informed support.
- Partnership approaches to improve local places, improving health and wellbeing.

Which groups of children and young people will be affected?

The LHS will positively affect all groups of children and young people up to the age of 18.

Is a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment required?

Yes, the LHS is a significant policy detailing the priorities and plans for delivery of housing & related services over a 5 year period. There are direct and indirect impacts for children and young people as this policy progresses.

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

The LHS impacts on the following UNCRC articles:

- Article 2 – Non-discrimination
- Article 3 – Best interest of the child
- Article 5 – Parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities
- Article 6 – Life, survival and development
- Article 10 – Family reunification
- Article 12 – Respect for the views of the child
- Article 16 – Right to privacy
- Article 19 – Protection from all forms of violence
- Article 22 – Refugee children
- Article 24 – Health and Health Services
- Article 23 – Children with a disability
- Article 27 – Adequate standard of living
- Article 30 – Children from minority or indigenous groups
- Article 31 – Leisure, play and culture.

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

South Ayrshire Council is committed to improving outcomes for children and young people who are more likely to experience poorer outcomes because of inequalities, trauma and adversity. The aim of the LHS over the next 5 years is to ensure:

- People across South Ayrshire can find a good quality home that they can afford, that meets their needs and is in an area where they feel safe and connected;
- People across South Ayrshire have a sense of identity and belonging in the places where they live. South Ayrshire's places are distinctive, safe, easy to move around, welcoming, adaptable, resource efficient and impact positively on those who use them;
- The possibility of homelessness is identified by a range of services at an early stage and homelessness prevention methods are utilised to assist. Good quality accommodation, advice and support will be available where it cannot be avoided;
- People with particular needs are able to live with freedom, choice and control in a home that maximises their health, wellbeing and independence; and
- People across South Ayrshire live in warm, dry, energy efficient homes which they can afford to maintain.

Within the strategy we aim to reduce fuel poverty, child poverty and inequalities.

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

It is the intension of the LHS that all groups of children and young people will be positively impacted. Numerous actions within the LHS are aimed at improving existing service provision for more disadvantaged groups.

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

There are no foreseen negative impacts on any rights or groups for children and young people because of the implementation of the LHS.

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

South Ayrshire Council has a duty to safeguard, support and promote the wellbeing of children in their area. South Ayrshire has the 12th highest child poverty levels in Scotland with 12.9% of children under 16 classified as living in absolute low-income families after housing costs. This equates to approximately 2,255 children.

It is the intension of the LHS to support the objectives to ensure:

- Housing Services and partner agencies have a comprehensive understanding of the promise and embed the promise values in their approach.
- Ensure that people with lived experience have the opportunity to participate in housing related service design.

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

An online survey was developed and distributed in July 2022 to communities across South Ayrshire. The survey was also distributed to our partners that provide services to those who are harder to reach and people with, or who share protected characteristics. These services were asked to encourage and support people to participate. The partners we contacted included:

- Housing support providers
- Alcohol and Drug Partnership
- Minorities Group Officer
- Housing Services
- Health and Social Care Partners
- Corporate Parenting Lead Officer
- Community Learning and Development
- Employability and Skills
- Elected Members

To inform the development of the LHS we established three theme groups:

- Placemaking
- Prevention, Provision, and Integration
- Healthy Homes and Fuel Poverty

These theme groups discussed the proposed outcomes and actions based on the feedback from the online consultation along with evidence from national and local agendas, policy, and guidance. Children and young people have been well represented through the process via partners, the third sector and our Corporate Parenting Officer.

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

Our LHS outcomes and actions are informed by our many statutory requirements and national agendas, policy, and guidance. This includes the following:

- Housing (Scotland) Act 2001, 2006, 2010, 2014
- Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 – Tackling the effects of Climate Change
- Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019
- Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS)
- Energy Efficiency Standards for Social Housing (EESH)
- Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017
- Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 – Housing Contribution Statement
- Private Rented Housing (Scotland) Act 2011
- Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020
- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- National Planning Framework
- Scottish Planning Policy
- Planning (Scotland) Act 2019
- Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
- Place Principal
- Housing and Regeneration Outcomes Framework

Furthermore, our LHS considers our local priorities, including:

- Council Plan South Ayrshire' Local Housing Strategy 2017 – 2022
- South Ayrshire Council, Housing Need and Demand Assessment 2021-2026
- Local Outcomes Improvement Plan
- Locality Plans
- Local Development Plan (LPD)
- South Ayrshire's Economic Strategy
- South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan
- Child Poverty Action Plan

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

Progress towards achieving the outcomes and actions will be reviewed annually by the Housing Policy and Strategy and will include all relevant services and partners.

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

Many of the impacts of the LHS will be indirect for children and young people but we will give consideration to the publication of appropriate and accessible information relating to specific services where there is a direct impact.

Sign & Date:

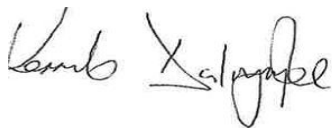
Policy Lead: Laura Thomson

Policy Lead Signature:



Date of Sign Off: 25th May 2023

Assistant Director Signature:



Date of Sign Off: 20th July 2023