

Play Scotland

Children's Rights & Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) Statement

What is a CRWIA?

CRWIA is a purpose built policy and legislation impact assessment (IA) originally developed for use by Scottish Government officials (but can also be used by external organisations). It was launched on 15 June 2015 as part of the implementation strategy for Ministerial duties under Part 1 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

CRWIA covers individual children, groups of children, and all children up to age 18. It has been developed as an approach, a tool and a published output. It is intended to help us champion the interests of children, as well as challenge us to think about what more we can do to place children and young people at the centre of our policies.

Why is it important?

Ministers committed to CRWIAs as a means of delivering their children's rights duties under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 which embeds UNCRC rights in Scottish legislation.

The reach of the UNCRC is far wider than Equalities legislation although some categories of individuals may be covered by both, for example those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010: disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

The UNCRC considers all individual children or groups of children, for example by age band or setting, or those who are eligible for special protection or assistance, e.g. preschool children, children with additional support needs, children in hospital, children in rural areas, looked after children (children in care), young people who offend, children affected by violence, drugs or alcohol, poverty or deprivation, homelessness, victims of abuse or exploitation (trafficking, economic or sexual), child asylum-seekers or refugees

How might it impact decisions in a positive way for play?

Play Scotland works strategically to make the child's right to play a reality so that all children can reach their full potential and be able to confidently inhabit an inclusive public realm, as well as help shape child friendly communities.

We are pleased to welcome the incorporation of UNCRC into Scottish law and look forward to the impact we consider this will have on all aspects of life.

Play Scotland wants to champion the use of CRWI assessments as a way to ensure that local authorities and partners are considering the impact of their decisions on children's play opportunities, which directly links with children's health and wellbeing, as well as being a right under UNCRC. Through the Getting it Right for Play Project, sectors not directly involved in children's play, but whose decisions have a significant impact, such as planners, transport, environmental services are given information about the importance of play and asked to consider how improvements can be made to increase play opportunities of children and young people, and particularly children and young people who are further disadvantaged by poverty, disability, or other characteristic.

The primary articles which Play Scotland's activities promote and enable are:

ARTICLE 31 (*play, cultural and artistic activities*) – *Every child and young person has the right to relax, play and take part in cultural and artistic activities.*

ARTICLE 12 (*respect for child's views*) – *Every child and young person has the right to express their views on matters that affect them, and for these views to be taken into consideration.*

ARTICLE 15 (*freedom of association*) – *Every child and young person has the right to meet individual people and groups of friends, set up or join an organisation and take part in peaceful protest.*

ARTICLE 2 (*non-discrimination*) – *The rights set out in the UNCRC apply to every child and young person whatever their race, colour, gender, language, religion, ethnicity, disability or any other status.*

Our Board, staff and partners take pride in taking a rights-based approach, which has been the basis for our work since our incorporation.

Play Scotland contributed to the Children and Young People's Commissioner's Independent Impact Assessment in July 2020, in order to draw attention to how the rights of children and young people had been overlooked during the coronavirus crisis.

All Play Scotland policies, where appropriate, will take account of the UNCRC as they are reviewed. This will begin in our usual review cycle in January 2021 and be completed by March 2022. Policies are reviewed and updated if required on a bi-annual basis.

Play Scotland

Adopted September 2020, to be reviewed September 2021

CEO Marguerite Hunter Blair

Contact details 07795954856 marguerite@playscotland.org

Scottish Government's CRWIA Training Tool

www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2015/06/childrens-rights-wellbeing-impact-assessments-crwia-guidance/documents/crwia---guidance-for-scottish-government-officials---version-2---february-2019/crwia---guidance-for-scottish-government-officials---version-2---february-2019/govscot%3Adocument/CRWIA%2B-%2BGuidance%2Bfor%2BScottish%2BGovernment%2Bofficials%2B-%2Bversion%2B%2B-%2BFebruary%2B2019.pdf

Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland

www.cypcs.org.uk/coronavirus/independent-impact-assessment/