

# **Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) for Scotland's Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-2025: CRWIA Stage 1 - Screening**

March 2023

# Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) for Scotland's Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-2025: CRWIA Stage 1 – Screening

## **Disclaimer**

This **draft** document is an **initial assessment** of the impact of Scotland's Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-2025 and Scottish Government will continue to review and update this document where required during the implementation of actions. Any future iterations will reflect an increased understanding of these impacts as the amount of data and research available continues to grow.

This impact assessment should be read in conjunction with the Equality Impact Assessment and the Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment (as set out in the Equality Statement)

## Brief Summary

In April 2021 the Scottish Government launched its [Equality Data Improvement Programme \(EDIP\)](#) to take action to make equality evidence more wide-ranging and robust, enabling policy makers to develop sound, inclusive policy. A stronger and more complete equality evidence base will support the collective effort across the Scottish public sector to fulfil the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty. The EDIP helped to ensure that Scotland's next equality evidence strategy is based on a good understanding of the challenges and opportunities, building on the achievements of the [Equality Evidence Strategy 2017-2021](#).

The Scottish Government carried out a [public consultation](#) in summer 2022 on its draft improvement action plan and commissioned an external analysis of responses. The responses received through this consultation helped to shape this plan, which formed the basis of the new Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-2025. Alongside the written consultation, the Scottish Government also carried out a series of stakeholder engagement events to further understand what practical steps it can take to address the barriers to collecting, analysing and using equality evidence.

The [Equality Evidence Strategy](#), covering the years 2023 to 2025, presents a refreshed vision for equality evidence improvement and a comprehensive action plan for improvement activity.

The Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-2025 vision is:

To tackle structural and intersectional inequality of outcomes, Scotland's equality evidence base will become more accessible, wide-ranging and robust. A stronger evidence base will enable the development and delivery of sound, inclusive policies and services and enable the measurement of improvements in the lives of all of Scotland's people.

This is framed around three vision principles:

- more robust and comprehensive data and evidence will be gathered on the intersecting<sup>1</sup> characteristics of people in Scotland across a range of outcomes
- equality evidence will be made more easily accessible so users will be able to access what they need, when they need it
- good practice will be shared and promoted to support increased confidence and competence in the production and use of robust equality evidence

The strategy presents 45 actions that will be implemented by analysts across all areas of the Scottish Government and NRS to strengthen the evidence collected, analysed, published and used across the characteristics covered by the strategy.

Start date of relevant proposal: The [Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-2025](#) was published on 24 March 2023

Start date of CRWIA process: The gathering of evidence that informed impact assessments, including this CRWIA, commenced in September 2020 with the [commissioning of research that explored the range of equality data collected by public sector organisations](#). This Screening Form was completed followed the

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<sup>1</sup> The definition of intersectionality is discussed in the glossary to this strategy.

conclusion of the analysis of the public consultation and engagement events, and signed off ahead of publication of the strategy.

### **Which aspects of the relevant proposal currently affects or will affect children and young people up to the age of 18?**

The Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-2025 covers evidence on children and young people under the age characteristic. In addition, specific actions in the Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-2025 action plan that we expect will affect children and young people include:

- Action 1: Looked after children
- Action 2: Child protection
- Action 3: Growing up in Scotland
- Action 4: School leaver attainment
- Action 17: Various: poverty related surveys/associated analytical resources
- Action 31: Core Data for Tier 2 and Tier 3 Weight Management Services for Children/Young People and Adults in Scotland

As mentioned above, the Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-2025 provides a vision, and set of accompanying vision principles, and an action plan for equality evidence improvement over the next three years. While there are actions in the strategy that focus on improvements to data collected about or from children and young people up to the age of 18, the implications of these actions should be considered as they are implemented. Decisions will be made on whether CRWIAs will therefore be carried out as that work is taken forward and as policies using the data are developed.

An interim progress review of the Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-2025 will be carried out in late 2024. As part of this, we will reconsider the need to carry out impact assessments including CRWIA.

### **Which groups of children and young people are currently or will be affected by the relevant proposal?**

We anticipate that the Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-2025 will result in improvements to the equality evidence base across a range of characteristics, including evidence collected from and about children and young people. There are expected to be positive indirect impacts on the development of inclusive policies that tackle inequality experienced by children and young people through the provision of more robust evidence.

Based on the actions included in the strategy, mentioned above, certain groups that might be most influenced by the indirect impact of the strategy include (but are not limited to):

- care experienced children and young people
- children and young people living in poverty
- children and young people accessing NHS Weight Management Services

## Declaration

Is a Stage 2 Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment required?

CRWIA required

CRWIA not required

Explanation why CRWIA is not required: The Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-2025 provides a vision and principles for equality evidence improvement over the next years and an action plan that will be taken forward by analysts across the Scottish Government and NRS. While some indirect impacts of the Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-2025 have been identified and considered, our view is that these should be further explored as actions are taken forward and specific policies are developed using the evidence generated to ensure a comprehensive assessment of their impact on children’s rights and wellbeing.

## Sign & Date

Policy Lead Signature & Date of Sign Off: Jon Hunter 17/03/2023

CRWIA author, if different from policy lead, Signature & Date of Sign Off: Maisy Best 17/03/2023

Deputy Director Signature & Date of Sign Off: Mick Wilson, 17/03/2023

Date SGLD contacted: Contact with SGLD throughout the strategy development process. Sign off from SGLD on 17/03/2023.



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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

ISBN: 978-1-80525-681-6 (web only)

Published by The Scottish Government, March 2023

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA  
PPDAS1268862 (03/23)

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