

Annex E: Child Rights and Wellbeing Screening

Brief Summary

An independent review of the Scottish planning system ‘Empowering planning to deliver great places’ was published on 31 May 2016. The independent Panel recommended that ‘training of elected members should be mandatory, monitored and enforced’. The subsequent public consultation and June 2017 Position Statement indicated broad support for mandatory training for elected members. The position statement explained that there was strong consensus that mandatory training was for all local elected members who are involved in a planning committee or any other body as it was highlighted that the training could help to improve consistency within decision-making.

Mandatory training for elected members was included in the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, alongside a package of measures to improve the performance of the planning system as a whole. Section 45 of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 prohibits elected members from carrying out certain planning functions (e.g. taking decisions on planning applications) if they have not completed the training specified by Scottish Ministers.

At present, elected members undertake training on a voluntary basis and as the content and volume of current training for Elected Members is not prescribed or monitored by legislation, the Scottish Government or any other individual body, current practice varies across Scotland.

What aspects of the policy/measure will affect children and young people up to the age of 18?

We consider that mandatory training on planning for elected members will not affect the wellbeing indicators under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, which applies to all children and young people up to the age of 18, including non-citizen and undocumented children and young people. This is because elected members must be over the age of 18 and will not involve children and young people as defined in the Act.

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

We do not envision the implementation of mandatory training to have a negative direct or indirect impact on children and young people.

Elected member training is seeking to make training mandatory and therefore elected members would not be able to carry out their specific planning functions, which includes taking decisions on planning applications, without completing the training.

The training of elected members will help to create more robust and sound planning decisions which will ultimately improve public trust in the planning system. It is conceivable that children and young people of all groups could be affected at some time by a proposed development and the consideration of a planning application decision taken by elected members. However the purpose of mandatory training is to not influence decision-making on certain types of proposed developments, rather provide the appropriate level of knowledge to help elected members take decisions that are robust in relevant policy and legislation. Therefore the implementation of mandatory training would not be considered to have to have a direct or indirect impact on their rights or wellbeing.

Which groups of children and young people will be affected?

We do not believe any groups of children or young people would be affected by the implementation of mandatory training.

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

A CRWIA is not required.

Sign & Date

Tasha Liddiard: 21 June 2023

Deputy Director Signature & Date of Sign Off: Fiona Simpson 22 June 2023