

INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY REPORT TEMPLATE FOR EMERGENCY DECISIONS

1. **Title of proposal**
Interim Guidance – Child Protection

2. **What will change as a result of this proposal?**
The interim guidance sets out considerations for practice in the context of COVID-19 restrictions. In essence, the guidance highlights areas of current practice that need to be altered in light of social distancing principles.

3. **Briefly describe public involvement in this proposal to date and planned**
The interim guidance is for professional use and was developed as an emergency response to COVID-19 restrictions. There has been no public consultation or involvement. Given this guidance is in place on an interim basis, and adapts established Lothian wide procedures to account for public health advice, no engagement with the public is planned.
Were the guidance to be required for 12 months or more, consideration would be given to public engagement via the respective Public Protection Committees.

4. **Date of IIA**

5. **Who was involved in carrying out the IIA?** (please list lead officer and other staff)

Name	Job Title
Euan Currie	Lead Officer – Edinburgh Child Protection Committee
Suzan Ross	Equalities Diversity and Rights Advisor

6. Evidence available at the time of the IIA

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you about different groups who may be affected?
Data on populations in need	Children’s social work statistics which includes information on age, ethnic group, gender and additional support needs of children engaged with social work services, are available at https://www.gov.scot/publications/childrens-social-work-statistics-2017-2018/ Some of the information including numbers of children on the child protection register, are broken down by local authority	Numbers of referrals and contacts will be monitored and compared with activity pre COVID-19 so that any specific gaps identified can be addressed
Data on service uptake/access	The Edinburgh Child Protection Annual Report 2018-19 includes Edinburgh data Local authority level statistics for child protection are available at:	See above – numbers of referrals will be monitored

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you about different groups who may be affected?
	https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/sourcesandsuitability/LAlevelCP and includes both numbers of children on the child protection register and child protection conferences	
Data on socio-economic disadvantage e.g. low income, material/area-based deprivation.	See links above	
Data on equality outcomes	n/a	
Research/literature evidence	See links above	
Public/patient/client experience information	n/a	
Insight from public / service user engagement	n/a	
Evidence of unmet need	Not yet available however as mentioned, numbers of referrals will be monitored and where numbers show any fall in engagement in specific areas, this will be addressed	
Good practice guidelines	Scottish Government Supplementary National Guidance for Child Protection https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-supplementary-national-child-protection-guidance/	The Scottish Government stresses that the rights of children and young people do not change during this pandemic. This is reflected in our local guidance which adapts existing processes to

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you about different groups who may be affected?
		protect children while ensuring their right to safety is prioritised
Carbon emissions generated/reduced	n/a	
Environmental data	n/a	
Risk from cumulative impacts	n/a	
Other (please specify)	n/a	
Additional evidence required?	n/a	

7. In summary, what impacts were identified and which groups will they affect?

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights	Affected populations
<p>Positive</p> <p>Risk assessed measures are in place to ensure that essential child protection visits and case conferences continue to be carried out, ensuring that the most vulnerable are protected.</p> <p>Negative</p> <p>Where it is deemed necessary to carry out direct contact with an individual, there is a risk that the staff member carrying this out will inadvertently result in coronavirus being transmitted into the household.</p> <p>There is a risk that staff carrying out direct contact will become infected with coronavirus despite the use of PPE, social distancing and pre-contact risk assessment.</p> <p>Some individuals may be unable to engage with services using virtual methods and as such may be more vulnerable.</p>	<p>People who are in contact with child protection services</p> <p>All individuals who have contact with child protection services.</p> <p>All staff carrying out direct contact with individuals</p> <p>Children and adults particularly those experiencing sensory</p>

Some individuals may feel inconvenienced or frustrated if they are unable to access or use virtual technology.	impairment, learning difficulties or physical disabilities.

<p>Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts</p> <p>Positive</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>Negative</p> <p>n/a</p>	Affected populations
---	-----------------------------

<p>Economic including socio-economic disadvantage</p> <p>Positive</p> <p>Negative</p> <p>Families without access to mobile telephones or internet enabled devices may be prevented from accessing services to the same extent as those who do. However, child protection services primarily initiate the contacts with families and will continue to do so. The frequency of letter and phone contacts and/or contact attempts will not change.</p> <p>Some individuals/families without the necessary technology will be unable to participate in case conferences however other avenues will be explored to facilitate their participation and essential risk assessed child protection visits will continue.</p>	<p>Affected populations</p> <p>Individuals and families experiencing poverty who do not have access to specific information technology.</p>
--	--

8. Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors and if so how will equality, human right, including socio-economic disadvantage, environmental and sustainability issues be addressed?

N/A

9. Describe how you will communicate information about this policy/ service change to children and young people and those affected by sensory impairment, speech impairment, low level literacy or numeracy, learning difficulties or English as a second language?

This guidance is for professional use. Engagement with any of the above groups as a result of this guidance will take place on an individualised basis, with consideration given by the team around the family to their particular needs.

10. Is the policy likely to result in significant environmental effects, either positive or negative? If yes, it is likely that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be required and the impacts identified in the IIA should be included in this.

No

11. What, if any, actions are recommended in response to the impacts identified above? This can include keeping the proposal under review, gathering more data, or specific actions to mitigate identified impacts.

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include responding to financial implications, mitigating negative impacts, action to manage the risk of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward (name and job title)	Deadline for progressing	Review date
Social Work teams to ensure that families without access to personal devices with Internet access are provided with alternative methods of contact.	Andy Jeffries	In place/ongoing	Review weekly
PPE to be available to all staff carrying out direct contact with individuals during COVID-19 restrictions Other protective measures will be employed where possible during essential visits for example, social distancing within the home, and/or isolating a particularly vulnerable individual(s) while visits take place.	Andy Jeffries/Scott Dunbar	In place/ongoing	Review weekly
Relevant data for example number of referrals, essential visits, case conferences conducted and levels of engagement from families/individuals involved in child protection will be monitored and compared with pre-COVID-19 activity. This will ensure that any service gaps are addressed.	Euan Currie	In place/ongoing	Review weekly
Staff will continue to keep abreast of the evolving COVID-19 landscape and relevant publications highlighting emerging issues e.g.	Jackie Irvine	ongoing	Review weekly

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include responding to financial implications, mitigating negative impacts, action to manage the risk of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward (name and job title)	Deadline for progressing	Review date
https://www.gov.scot/publications/supporting-vulnerable-children-young-people-data-intelligence-report/			

12. Are there any negative impacts in section 7 for which there are no identified mitigating actions?

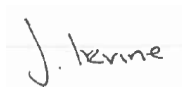
no

13. How will you monitor how this proposal affects different groups, including people with protected characteristics?

Groups potentially impacted have been identified and ongoing monitoring in relation to numbers of essential visits and case conferences conducted will take place to ensure that the impact of the interim measures on the most vulnerable is minimised.

14. Sign off by Head of Service

Name



Date

29/04/20

15. Publication

Completed and signed IIAs should be sent to strategyandbusinessplanning@edinburgh.gov.uk to be published on the IIA directory on the Council website www.edinburgh.gov.uk/impactassessments