

# Integrated Impact Assessment – Summary Report

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Each of the numbered sections below must be completed  
Please state if the IIA is interim or final

1. **Title of proposal**  
To consider the potential impact of not retendering for the service currently provided by Safe Families.
2. **What will change as a result of this proposal?**  
If this were approved, the support to approximately 90 families would cease as the contract is coming to its natural end.
3. **Briefly describe public involvement in this proposal to date and planned**  
At the time of writing there has been no public involvement in this proposal. The proposal has not been discussed in the public domain as it is prudent to consider the potential impacts of this approach internally prior to engaging with the public such as service users and third sector organisations.
4. **Is the proposal considered strategic under the Fairer Scotland Duty?**  
No, ending the funding will not affect statutory responsibilities or strategic decision as to reducing inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage.
5. **Date of IIA**  
The officers undertaking this Interim IIA met Friday 6 January and Tuesday 10 January 2023.
6. **Who was present at the IIA? Identify facilitator, lead officer, report writer and any employee representative present and main stakeholder (e.g. Council, NHS)**

Name	Job Title	Date of IIA training
Liz Harrison (Facilitator)	Contract Adviser	14 December 2022
Rose Howley (Lead Officer)	Children's Services Senior Manager	
Laura Zanotti	Strategic Planning & Commissioning Manager	15 November 2018
Andrew McWhirter (Service Area Lead)	Acting Senior Manager Children's Practice Teams	

## 7. Evidence available at the time of the IIA

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
Data on populations in need	There is no recent information available	<p>However, during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 (9 months)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 99 new referrals were made to Safe Families during this period</li> <li>• 79 referrals were accepted during this period</li> </ul> <p>In the report period there were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 75 home or online initial assessments</li> <li>• 57 families who completed at least one additional evaluation.</li> </ul>
Data on service uptake/access	<p>Safe Families - City of Edinburgh Council Outcomes Report 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 –</p> <p>Report Provided by Safe Families for Children (Scotland)</p>	<p>During the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 (9 months)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 47 families began support with a volunteer during this period</li> <li>• 109 children have benefitted from support during this period</li> <li>• 17 families are continuing with ongoing support that began before this reporting period</li> <li>• 37 referrals closed without support</li> <li>• 34 referrals are currently in process</li> <li>• 34% of families who began support during this period were identified by the referrer as on a trajectory towards care</li> <li>• 16 bed nights were provided for 2 families</li> <li>• 87 families are currently working with Safe Families across Edinburgh</li> </ul>
Data on socio-economic disadvantage e.g. low income, low wealth, material deprivation, area deprivation.	<p><a href="#">How are young people's life chances patterned by disadvantage and protected characteristics? - The life chances of young people in Scotland: evidence review - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)</a></p>	<p>Safe Families are able to provide support and signposting to specialist organisations to help families and individuals with any debt issues.</p> <p>People in Scotland still experience significant socio-economic disadvantage and resulting inequalities of outcome. In 2016-19, over a million Scots were living in relative poverty after housing costs, including almost one in four children; and</p>

Evidence	Available – detail source	<b>Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal</b>
		health inequalities and educational attainment gaps are far too wide.
Data on equality outcomes		Data on equality outcomes – not available
Research/literature evidence	<p><a href="http://www.gov.scot/resources/documents/2016/06/160601_gov_scot_girfec_wellbeing_funding_getting_it_right_for_every_child.pdf">Whole Family Wellbeing Funding - Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.gov.scot/resources/documents/2016/06/160601_gov_scot_holistic_whole_family_support_routemap_and_national_principles.pdf">Holistic whole family support: routemap and national principles - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)</a></p>	<p>This provides information around Girfec and looks at the holistic whole family support in Scotland.</p> <p>This provides a route map for delivering the vision and principles of holistic whole family support to promote consistent standards of practice across Scotland which will help to deliver improved outcomes for children, young people and families.</p>
Public/patient/client experience information	<p>Safe Families - How Safe Families' approach changes lives - Full Report <a href="http://www.sonnetimpact.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/SAFE-FAMILIES-How-Safe-Families-approach-changes-lives-Full-Report.pdf">Everyone deserves to belong: how Safe Families' approach changes lives - Sonnet Advisory &amp; Impact (sonnetimpact.co.uk)</a></p>	<p>Safe Families takes a collaborative, relational approach within the systems with which it most closely interacts – namely Children’s Services and schools. This has often been effective within these systems, firstly because, in Safe Families’ experience, they tend to support, or intend to support, outcomes for families, and secondly because where they fall short, the solutions are often best reached through collaboration, close partnership working and information sharing.</p> <p>No specific information has been gathered on public/patient/client experience for this IIA.</p>
Evidence of inclusive engagement of people who use the service and involvement findings	<p>Safe Families - How Safe Families' approach changes lives - Full Report (as above)</p>	<p>Although evidence is not available at this time experience in the City of Edinburgh Council and other local authorities show that as families become more stable and build their support networks their overall level of need for support from local authorities is maintained or gradually reduced.</p>

<b>Evidence</b>	<b>Available – detail source</b>	<b>Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal</b>
Evidence of unmet need	No	<p>There is no evidence of unmet need.</p> <p>However, alternative sources of support/information will need to be shared with practitioners when considering access to Practical assistance such as sourcing material goods for families.</p> <p>Befriending, while there are a number of befrienders in the city, Safe Families are able to recruit befrienders with particular skill sets, such as Teachers, Doctors, Health Visitors etc. This is on a citywide basis and taps into a resource that CEC has not developed yet</p> <p>Overnight stays. Safe Families support and provide overnights stays where required.</p> <p>Safe Families support families who we would consider as being on the edge of care and this is something other projects have not developed.</p>
Good practice guidelines	Safe Families - How Safe Families' approach changes lives - Full Report (as above)	<p>Safe Families has a clear set of values which underpin, and help to define its services and activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Love: Loving abundantly – supporting with hope, generosity and dignity</li> <li>• Belonging: Building community - establishing positive relationships that bring security and connection</li> <li>• Faith: Trusting boldly - believing in lives transformed and in a God who can do more than we can ask or imagine</li> <li>• Empowerment: Enabling potential - confident that everyone has the ability to thrive</li> <li>• Humility: Serving together - we know we can't do it alone, so we invest in strong, honest and honouring partnerships.</li> </ul>

<b>Evidence</b>	<b>Available – detail source</b>	<b>Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal</b>
Carbon emissions generated/reduced data		Volunteers can offer support online and in the local community which will reduce the need for travel and therefore less emissions
Environmental data	N/A	
Risk from cumulative impacts		Reduction within other budgets could impact negatively families who may fall outwith the remit of other services.
Other (please specify)	N/A	
Additional evidence required	N/A	

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

<b>Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights</b>	<b>Affected populations</b>
<p><b>Positive</b></p> <p>Opportunity to build on in-house service in collaboration with partners in the delivery of whole family wellbeing support.</p> <p>Opportunity to work with families during the extended contract period agreed from June 23 to 30 September 2023 ensuring all needs will be met - including accessing benefits and other entitlements while we transition to our existing in-house service at the end of the contract.</p>	<p>Whole families, wider groups within the local communities.</p> <p>Whole families, wider groups within the local communities</p>
<p><b>Negative</b></p> <p>Time needed to allow transition of the current cases to the in-house Family and Household Support and Whole Family Wellbeing Approach.</p> <p>A smaller number of volunteers may be able to respond to local and individual need which often prevents the escalation of need.</p> <p>Some relationships with existing volunteers may end leading to a relapse in mental and relational wellbeing for families and a decreased sense of belonging within their community.</p> <p>Families may need alternative support to access appropriate benefits which they may be entitled to to prevent an escalation of need.</p>	<p>Whole families, wider groups within the local communities</p> <p>Families, children, young people, and volunteers</p> <p>Whole families and other statutory agencies such as NHS.</p> <p>Whole families and other statutory agencies such as NHS.</p>

<b>Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights</b>	<b>Affected populations</b>

<b>Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts</b>	<b>Affected populations</b>
<b>Positive</b> No Impact	
<b>Negative</b> No Impact	

<b>Economic</b>	<b>Affected populations</b>
<b>Positive</b> Opportunity to build on a more effective comprehensive service in collaboration with partners in the delivery of whole family wellbeing support.  Opportunity to work with families in-house assisting them accessing relevant benefits.	Whole Families and CEC  Whole Families and CEC
<b>Negative</b> Families may need transition time to access alternative support in relation to benefits advice and guidance.	Whole Families and wider community

**9. Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors and if so, how will equality, human rights including children’s rights, environmental and sustainability issues be addressed?**  
No.

**10. Consider 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? Please provide a summary of the communications plan.**

The contract is coming to a natural end June '23. It will also be extended by an additional three months to allow enough time for a transition period. We have in place a team of internal volunteers who will deliver the required family support. This also includes a contact email address for new referrals to be sent to. This also applies to any communication about existing and ongoing support required. The service area will encourage the incumbent provider to be involved along with service users and other stakeholders in the Whole Family Wellbeing Approach.

- 11. Is the plan, programme, strategy or 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. See section 2.10 in the Guidance for further information.**

No. There are unlikely to be significant environmental effects as a result of this proposal.

**12. Additional Information and Evidence Required**

If further evidence is required, please note how it will be gathered. If appropriate, mark this report as interim and submit updated final report once further evidence has been gathered.

If the Council decide to pursue this option, further evidence will be required to fully understand the impact of the decision. This will entail seeking feedback from service users as to how the need can be met via alternative services and organisations.

- 13. Specific to this IIA only, what recommended actions have been, or will be, undertaken and by when? (these should be drawn from 7 – 11 above) Please complete:**

<b>Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)</b>	<b>Who will take them forward (name and job title)</b>	<b>Deadline for progressing</b>	<b>Review date</b>
Communication to provider regarding exit strategy and transitional planning for for families in need	Commissioning and service area	May 2023	
Carry out a cross organisational scoping exercise as to how we can increase the internal volunteering service and better co-ordinate support families impacted by poverty	Commissioning and service area		

- 14. Are there any negative impacts in section 8 for which there are no identified mitigating actions?**

No, since Childrens Partnership will have in place the whole family wellbeing approach which will deliver more comprehensive and collaborative support including the service delivered via the expiring contract.

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

The Council will work closely with the affected families and the organisation to monitor how those impacted, in particular, those with protected characteristics, are affected.

**16. Sign off by Head of Service**

**Name; Rose Howley**

**Date: 15 September 2023**

**17. Publication**

Completed and signed IIAs should be sent to:

[integratedimpactassessments@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:integratedimpactassessments@edinburgh.gov.uk) to be published on the Council website [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/impactassessments](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/impactassessments)

**Edinburgh Integration Joint Board/Health and Social Care**

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