

Initial Integrated Impact Assessment Form

Section 1 - The Policy	
Policy title	BUDGET SAVINGS PROPOSALS 2023/24 – 5% reduction in budget to external providers
Implementation date	April 2023
<p>Please provide an overview of the policy including the key aims and expected outcomes:</p> <p>This area of service within the Education, Skills and Children’s Service Department is responsible for: Lewis and Harris Children’s Social Worker Team, Uist and Barra Children’s Social Worker Team, Child Protection, Education Psychology, Residential Services, Extended Learning, Fostering and Kinship Care, Children’s Services Management and External Provider Contracts.</p> <p>This budget saving proposal is to reduce the funding the Comhairle provides to external providers of Children’s Services by 5%. This could impact on the level of service offered by these providers.</p>	
<p>Detail the budget implication relating to the policy:</p> <p>This proposal aims to save £43,000 per annum by reducing the budget across three external providers at a rate of 5% reduction. This equates to a saving of 1.1% of the total budget.</p>	
<p>What will change as a result of this policy?</p> <p>External providers are responsible for delivering services to children and their families on behalf of the Children and Families Social Work service. A reduction in the budget for external provision may reduce the level of service that is provided on behalf of the Comhairle.</p>	
<p>Indicate which groups of people will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy?</p> <p>Children and families</p>	
Responsible Persons	
Department / Section	Education, Skills and Children’s Services
Lead Officer	Jack Libby
IIA Team Members	
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Children’s Services



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Section 2 - Evidence		
<p>What data and information has been reviewed as part of the policy development process? Some external providers have received additional monies from the Scottish Government to support their work and therefore there is the possibility that any impacts could be mitigated by this funding provision.</p>		
<p>Detail what consultation has taken place as part of the policy development process? There has been discussion with the external providers at this early stage and the impact of a 5% cut is being calculated.</p>		
<p>What does the information collected and the outcome of any consultation indicate regarding potential impacts of the policy?</p>		
<p>Are there any gaps in knowledge? If further evidence or consultation required as part of the policy development process please detail: As discussion with service providers is at an early stage, it is unclear what potential impacts could result from a reduction in funding.</p>		
Section 3 - Initial Integrated Impact Assessment		
Impact Overview	Yes	No
Is the policy strategic?	x	
Will individuals have access to, or be denied access to a service or function as a result of the policy or the changes being proposed to services or functions?	x	x
Will the implementation of the policy, or the changes to the policy, result in individuals being employed, a change in staffing levels, or a change in terms and conditions, employer or location, either directly or indirectly?		x
Is there a change in the size of a budget?	x	
Will a service be withdrawn, changed or expanded?		x
Will the policy have consequences for or affect people?		x
Does the policy have the potential to have an impact on equality even when this only affects a relatively small number of people?		x
Does the policy have the potential to have an impact on the economy and the delivery of economic outcomes?		x
Is the policy likely to have a significant environmental impact?		x
<p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Budget Strategy is strategic with an aim of saving over £1.7million in 2023-24. This proposal aims to save £43k. 		



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- The budget will be reduced by 1.1%, which is £43k.
- This proposal will reduce the budget to external providers by 5%. As discussion has not yet taken place with these providers, it is not yet clear whether there would be potential impacts on service users. It is unlikely that services would be withdrawn or significantly changed on the back of a 5% reduction, but further assessment will be required to fully understand the impact of this proposal.

Section 3 – - Initial Integrated Impact Assessment Continued

Which groups of people will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy?	Yes	No	Comments
age	x		This proposal is to reduce the Children and Families budget, with a 5% reduction proposed for external providers, who deliver services on behalf of the Comhairle. The impact on advocacy work for children and young people will be mitigated against by the fact that Western Isles Advocacy have received addition funding from the Scottish Government. This will be adequate to cover the fact that Who Carers? Scotland will reduce their service from 5 days to 4 days per week. The impact of the Foyer Service is yet to be determined although the number of homeless young people seems to be reducing which will mitigate against the impact. In terms of Action for Children, this is less clear as Action for Children are in receipt of monies from other sources. There will be an impact though and decisions will need to be taken in term of priority need. The Extended Learning Resource does have some cross-overs with Action for Children in terms of outreach support and this may mitigate against the impact.
disability	x		
sex		x	
gender reassignment		x	
marriage and civil partnership		x	
pregnancy and maternity		x	
race		x	
religion or belief		x	
sexual orientation		x	
Do you have evidence or reason to believe that this policy will or may	Yes	No	Comments



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impact on socio-economic inequalities?			
Socio-economic Disadvantage		?	
Low Income/Income Poverty		?	
Low and/or no wealth			
Material Deprivation			
Area Deprivation		x	
Socioeconomic Background		x	
Do you have evidence or reason to believe that this policy will or may affect individuals Human Rights?	Yes	No	Comments
Human Rights		?	
Do you have evidence or reason to believe that this policy will have wider impacts as outlined below?	Yes	No	Comments
Health and Wellbeing	?		
Economic and Social Sustainability		x	
Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change and Energy Management		x	
The Gaelic Language		x	
Island Proofing		x	
Is there the potential for cumulative impact?	x		

Section 4 - Decision

Based on the initial Integrated Impact Assessment is a full IIA required?

Yes

Full IIA Lead Officer: _____

Estimated completion date: _____

With little information on potential impacts available at this stage, it is possible that a full impact assessment will be required. Once more detail is available, it will be necessary to update this IIA.

No

If an IIA is deemed not to be required please detail the decision rational below:



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Section 5 – Lead Officer and authorising Director	
Lead Officer (print name)	Jack Libby
Designation	Chief Social Work Officer
Date	03/02/2023
Print name of Head of Service or Director responsible for the policy	
Date	

