

Section 4 Integrated Impact Assessment

Summary Report Template

Each of the numbered sections below must be completed

Interim report		Final report	X	(Tick as appropriate)
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1. Title of proposal

Development of a Continuing Care – Supporting Care Leavers Policy – **Annual Review (June 2025)**

2. What will change as a result of this proposal?

The policy outlines responsibilities for Council colleagues supporting children and young people who are looked after and leaving care, to support assessments and care planning decisions specifically for those who are eligible for continuing care to help prepare them for adulthood and independent living.

A review of the Continuing Care Policy was undertaken and there were no changes. Procedures and guidance documents are currently being reviewed and developed, and ongoing engagement is taking place with stakeholders, including young people. A further IIA will be held and published as part of this work.

3. Briefly describe public involvement in this proposal to date and planned

For children with a disability, parent focus groups were held to look at transitions. A Development Officer has been seconded from education to engage with schools and parents.

The Senior Champions Board have been looking at the process of leaving/moving on from care, including how they could be better involved in early planning to consider their care and support options into early adulthood. They will continue to look at this over the next year and the plan is to share their thoughts and views in Autumn/Winter 2023 with senior management.

May 2024 - Young people have been encouraged to participate in the Care Inspectorate Review. The Corporate Parenting team have also held a session re TCAC with the senior champions.

12/08/2024 - This IIA has been reviewed as requested at P&S committee when approving the policy. There is currently a Scottish Government consultation on 'moving on' which also covers continuing care and is including children and young people's views and carers views. Edinburgh's response to the consultation will be formulated through a questionnaire and discussions. After the consultation another policy update and IIA will be required for the annual review in spring 2025, which will include more robust engagement prior to the policy review being approved.

Care Leaver Transitions Consultation Engagement Event (22/10/2024) – Event attended by young people from variety of settings (foster care, kinship care,

residential, secure and continuing care), two Scottish Government representatives and three Council colleagues.

Within the Through Care and Aftercare (TCAC) service, there is a dedicated worker whose remit is to engage with care experienced adults who are working with the Council's Justice Services. This colleague has been engaging with care experienced adults, ensuring that they have the opportunity to have their views represented and taken into consideration as part of development of relevant services and associated documentation.

While developing any policy or procedure, the views of people with care experience are actively being sought. Recent examples include development of our Secure Care procedure and CALM physical intervention procedure. This can be done through in person sessions or via Microsoft Forms with support from social workers, support workers and where appropriate our partners.

4. **Is the proposal considered strategic under the [Fairer Scotland Duty](#)?**
Yes

5. **Date of IIA**
27 February 2023 Updated 12/08/2024
Policy Reviewed 01/06/2025 – IIA reviewed 29/07/2025

6. **Who was present at the IIA? Identify facilitator, Lead Officer, report writer and any partnership representative present and main stakeholder (e.g. NHS, Council)**

Name	Job Title	Date of IIA training
Nichola Dadds	Operations Manager & Equality, Diversity and Rights Advisor	23/06/2021
Neil Bruce	Team Manager, Family Based Care (Fostering Adoption and Kinship)	
Steve Harte	Acting Senior Manager, Looked After Children	
Mark Crawford	Team Manager, Looked After Children	
Louise Duncan	Development Officer	17/04/2024
Georgia Robertson	Development Officer	17/04/2024

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?
Data on populations in need	<p>Swift Children Aged Between 15 -17 in the Children's Hearings System – Social Work Scotland Position Statement</p> <p>Children (Scotland) Act 1995</p> <p>Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014</p> <p>Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011</p> <p>Continuing Care (Scotland) Order 2015</p> <p>Children's Social Work Statistics 2022-23-Secure Care - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)</p> <p>Education Outcomes for Looked After Children 2021/22 - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)</p> <p>Independent Care Review – The root and branch review of Scotland's care system.</p> <p>'Moving on' from care into adulthood: consultation - gov.scot</p> <p>CELCIS's response to the Scottish Government's consultation on 'Moving On' from Care into Adulthood</p>	<p>The policy outlines the Council's duties; it will have an accompanying procedure which will have clear roles and responsibilities and flowchart to ensure early engagement with young people to allow adequate preparation.</p> <p>Young People who are in the care of the local authority, which includes Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People (USAC) will be supported to remain in the place they are being cared for/or an alternative care arrangement until their 21st birthday if they choose to do so. However, there needs to be clarity around welfare responsibilities and behaviours which could impact others which will be included in the P&P</p> <p>Young people affected by a disability who are supported by the local authority will be helped through continuing care, with clear pathways when moving responsibility to adult services.</p> <p>Preparation is key to success for young people who are leaving care arrangements, considering all options to avoid cliff edge decisions.</p>
Data on service uptake/access	<p>Swift Celcis Continuing Care and the Welfare Assessment: Practice Note</p>	<p>Impact on resources and challenges around availability, particularly for those affected by a disability.</p>

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected?
	Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014: Guidance on Part 11: Continuing Care Looked after children statistics 2022: local authority benchmarking tool - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)	<p>Decisions can't be resource based; suitable options must be explored with consideration for all involved.</p> <p>Welfare assessments will be the focus of any upcoming care inspection</p> <p>Clarity around responsibility for engagement and decision making is needed as currently not clear.</p>
Data on socio-economic disadvantage e.g. low income, low wealth, material deprivation, area deprivation.	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation	Support for young people to avoid becoming homeless and to have clear plans and financial support in place.
Data on equality outcomes	equalities-and-diversity-framework-2021-25	<p>Young people will be supported to avoid being disadvantaged as they move into adulthood through targeted support and options</p> <p>Historically young people who are in the care of the local authority have been disadvantaged when support ended at the end of their childhood, aged 16 or 18 years. Continuing care and associated supports will positively impact their outcomes and reduce societal gaps.</p>
Research/literature evidence	Continuing Care (Scotland) Order 2015 Celcis Continuing Care and the Welfare Assessment: Practice Note Staying Put Scotland Guidance (October 2013)	Without clear interpretation of legislation outlined in a Council policy, procedures cannot be robust and are susceptible to challenge.

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected?
Public/patient/client experience information	Do we need to put where the feedback comes from?	Feedback from young people is that preparation and involvement is the key to better outcomes and success.
Evidence of inclusive engagement of people who use the service and involvement findings	Corporate Parenting in Edinburgh	For young people affected by a disability there has been engagement with parents/carers at transition meetings and with parents, parent councils, with feedback given on experience and views.
Evidence of unmet need		Noted that no clear process around timescales and roles and responsibilities, the Procedure will enhance and provide clarity and professional /service accountability.
Good practice guidelines	https://thepromise.scot/ https://thepromise.scot/plan-21-24/ edinburgh-s-promise-plan-2021-to-2024 Principles of good transitions 3 Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) - gov.scot www.gov.scot	Clarity around legislation and looking at how this is interpreted.
Carbon emissions generated/reduced data		No impact
Environmental data		No impact
Risk from cumulative impacts		Procedures are required to ensure welfare of all young people is considered when decisions are made around Continuing Care placements.
Other (please specify)		
Additional evidence required		

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

<p>Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights</p> <p>Positive Young people will be supported through continuing care, to find the best option for them as they move to adulthood.</p> <p>There will be more clarity around responsibilities and timelines through clear procedures.</p> <p>Young people in the care of the local authority will be able to access support to help decision making around their future plans.</p> <p>Negative When young people are 16+, there could be uncertainty around how continuing care may impact on how we enable them to have more control over decisions around their care and how this impacts on their welfare and that of others.</p>	<p>Affected populations. Young people who are in the care of the local authority</p>
<p>Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts</p> <p>Positive Supporting clear pathways will enable young people to transition into adulthood and allow more movement freeing up placements for other young people to reduce the need for out of authority placements.</p> <p>Negative</p>	<p>Affected populations. Young people who are in the care of the local authority</p>
<p>Economic including socio-economic disadvantage</p> <p>Positive Supporting young people to reduce societal gaps and achieve the best outcomes through continuing care will have a positive impact on those who are disadvantaged.</p> <p>Negative If young people are not prepared or supported to transition into independent living, they will not be able to sustain positive destinations through education, employment, and training.</p>	<p>Affected populations. Young people who are in the care of the local authority</p>

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.

Report to Policy and Sustainability, Education and Children's Services Committee(s)

Publication of Policy and Procedures on Council Intranet and Website

Comms to colleagues within Children's Services

11. 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

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.

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:

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward (name and job title)	Deadline for progressing	Review date
Report to E&CS Committee	Steve Harte, Head of Corporate Parenting	September 2023	Spring 2024
Communication to colleagues	Steve Harte, Head of Corporate Parenting	September 2023	
Further consultation with young people through the Customer Hub Consultation Engagement Session	Mark Crawford Senior Manager	October 2024	
Review of policy and development/update of procedures and guidance to support policy	Policy Review - Mark Crawford, Neil Bruce and Georgia Robertson	June 2025	28/05/2025

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward (name and job title)	Deadline for progressing	Review date

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

No

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

We will continue to seek the voice of young people moving through key transitions, from child to adult services, and the voice of their parents/carers - through the statutory review process and the Champions Board.

We will report to strategic partnership groups and national data sets.

We will capture the qualitative and quantitative data/feedback through service performance measures and our accountability to children/young people.

16. **Sign off by Head of Service/ NHS Project Lead**

Original IIA - Kathy Henwood, Service Director, Children's Services and Justice Services (17/07/2023)

Updated IIA - Rose Howley, CSWO and Service Director Performance, Quality and Improvement 29 July 2025

17. **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