

Child Protection Policy Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA)

CRWIA Stage 1 Screening - key questions

1. Name the policy, and describe its overall aims.

This document is not Bethany Christian Trust's Child Protection Policy but is an assessment carried out on the policy to determine what impact it may have on the rights and wellbeing of children.

Child Protection Policy: This policy sets out the commitment of Bethany Christian Trust (Bethany) to protect from harm the children/young people who use its services and the children/young people who come into contact with the organisation.

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

Protection from harm and appropriate response if concerns raised that children and young people are at risk of harm.

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

Protection from harm in participation events; concerns dealt with appropriately to reduce harm and provide support.

4. Which groups of children and young people will be affected?

All children and young people who come in to contact with Bethany services.

5. Will this require a CRWIA?

Yes, even though the impact is positive.

CRWIA Declaration

Tick relevant section, and complete the form.

CRWIA required

CRWIA not required



Authorisation

Policy lead

Alasdair Bennett,
CEO, Bethany Christian Trust

Date

6th March 2025

Deputy / Director or equivalent

Paul Stevenson
Director of Homelessness Prevention

Date

6th March 2025

CRWIA Stage 2

The CRWIA – key questions

1. Which UNCRC Articles are relevant to the policy/measure?

Article 2 (Non-discrimination) - Children should not be discriminated against in the enjoyment of their rights. No child should be discriminated against because of the situation or status of their parent/carer(s).

Article 3 - Best interests of the child - Every decision and action taken relating to a child must be in their best interests. Governments must take all appropriate legislative and administrative measures to ensure that children have the protection and care necessary for their wellbeing - and that the institutions, services and facilities responsible for their care and protection conform with established standards.

Article 19 - Protection from all forms of violence - Children have a right to be protected from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation. Governments must do all that they can to ensure this

Article 34 - Sexual exploitation - Governments must protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Article 35 - Abduction, sale and trafficking - Governments must take all possible measures to make sure children are not abducted, sold or trafficked.

Article 36 - Other forms of exploitation - Governments must protect children from all forms of exploitation or maltreatment.

2. What impact will the policy/measure will have on children's rights?

Positive

3. Will there be different impacts on different groups of children and young people?

Those with social, emotional or communication challenges have increased vulnerability and so the positive impact of having this policy in place will be greater for them than others.

4. If a negative impact is assessed for any area of rights or any group of children and young people, what options have you considered to modify the proposal, or mitigate the impact?

N/A

5. How will the policy/measure contribute to the wellbeing of children and young people in Scotland?

Safe - Protected from abuse, neglect and harm by others at home, at school and in the community.

Respected - Having the opportunity, along with carers, to be heard and involved in decisions which affect them

Included - Having help to overcome social, educational, physical and economic inequalities and being accepted as part of the community in which they live and learn.

6. How will the policy/measure give better or further effect to the implementation of the UNCRC in Scotland?

The policy complies with UNCRC requirements and has the potential to advance the realisation of children's rights in Scotland through the implementation of articles 2, 3, 19, 34, 35 and 36 by ensuring internal practices across all services working with children and young people comply with this agreed way of working.

7. What evidence have you used to inform your assessment? What does it tell you?

Children and young people regularly provide evidence that they are protected, safe, included and respected within Bethany services. Feedback is often sought from young people accessing Bethany UpStream's therapeutic support and counselling services in schools and communities. We continue to be open to compliments, comments and complaints via existing structures.

8. Have you consulted with relevant stakeholders?

Staff and managers have been consulted and internal practices that reflect the implementation of the policy are discussed with children and young people as applied.

9. Have you involved children and young people in the development of the policy/measure?

This has not been sought directly in relation to the writing of this policy but the input of children and young people is sought within the services that abide by this policy. Children and young people could be included more in the writing of and review of this policy as it concerns them.

CRWIA – Stage 3

CRWIA for a policy/measure/guidance

CRWIA title: Child Protection Policy – Bethany Christian Trust Publication date: December 2024	
Summary of policy aims and desired outcomes	<p>To protect from harm the children and young people who use Bethany services and the children/young people who come into contact with the organisation.</p>
Executive summary	<p>Bethany believes that everyone has a right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice which results in anyone being physically or psychologically damaged. This policy outlines how Bethany will strive to achieve this with reference to its duties and responsibilities from legislation and guidance, in particular the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 towards children (including unborn children) who come into contact with the organisation. Harm could be perpetrated by among others family, friends, carers or workers and could be physical, emotional, sexual or neglect.</p>
Background	<p>Bethany believes that everyone has a right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice which results in anyone being physically or psychologically damaged. This policy then guides our practice and how we operate individually and corporately across Scotland.</p>
Scope of the CRWIA, identifying the children and young people affected by the policy, and summarising the evidence base	<p>Bethany principally delivers services to adults although very often these adults have children and so this policy comprehensively includes those children who staff may come in to contact with or be aware of, such as for example the children of residents who reside in one of our residential resettlement units.</p> <p>Bethany does deliver some very specific services direct to children and young people only. These include a homework club in Edinburgh, classroom support, therapeutic support and counselling in Glasgow and East Ayrshire. Bethany also takes responsibility for recognising and actively considering risks to children when such children are not the main focus of its involvement.</p> <p>This policy applies to children and young people under the age of 16 as Bethany can have people who use its services in some of its services who are 16 and 17. For Bethany’s policy on the protection of adults, i.e. people aged 16 and over, we have an Adult Protection Policy. Should there be any issues over the way in which to deal with matters which arise in relation to 16 and 17 year olds a pragmatic, person centred approach will be utilised on a case by case basis at the guidance of the relevant Service Manager and a member of the Senior Management Team to protect children and young people, including unborn children, who, through an adult or adults responsible for them who receive a service or services from Bethany or who come into contact with Bethany in other ways, from harm or neglect caused by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bethany workers, • other people who use Bethany services, • self-harm or • third parties whether they are people who are regarded as being ‘at risk’ or not.
Children and young people’s views and experiences	<p>Children and young people regularly provide evidence that they are protected, safe, included and respected within Bethany services. Feedback is often sought from young people accessing Bethany UpStream’s therapeutic support and counselling services. We continue to be open to compliments, comments and complaints via existing structures. We will continue to seek young people’s views on how we specifically respond to any protection concerns of theirs.</p>
Key Findings, including an assessment of the impact on children’s rights, and how the	<p>Bethany strives to adhere to the principles on the Rights of Child as laid out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and in particular that every child has the right to protection from all forms of abuse, neglect or exploitation.</p>

<p>measure will contribute to children's wellbeing</p>	<p>Bethany will follow each local service's Inter-Agency Child Protection Procedures, produced by the Local Authority for that service area.</p> <p>In addition to UNCRC, Bethany will carry out all its activities within the appropriate legislation and guidelines and regarding child protection in the context of Bethany's areas of operation this includes but the list is not exclusive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (the provisions in force at date of review in April 2021) • Scottish Government (2014) National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland. (Originally published in 2010; refreshed in 2014, 2021 and updated 2023) • Human rights Act 1998 • Local Authority Inter-Agency Child Protection Procedures • Scottish Social Services Council Code of Practice for Social Service Workers and Employers (2016, revised 2024). • The Health and Social Care Standards. (April 2018) • Care Inspectorate quality framework for housing support and offender accommodation services. (Feb 2021) <p>The impact of this policy being in place is positive for all. Those with social, emotional or communication challenges have increased vulnerability and so the positive impact of having this policy in place will probably be greater for them than others.</p>
<p>Monitoring and review</p>	<p>Children and Young People will be included in an appropriate manner to feed into the coproduction of service design and the writing and review of policies that are put in place, including this one. Further child rights and wellbeing impact assessments will be carried out where deemed necessary, in line with best practice. Bethany will continue to seek the feedback from children and young people of their experiences of using Bethany services. Bethany will continually review and monitor its safeguarding policy to make the service for children and young people safe.</p>
<p>CRWIA Declaration</p>	
<p>Authorisation</p>	
<p>Owner of policy Paul Stevenson Director of Homelessness Prevention</p>	<p>Date 6th March 2025</p>
<p>Authorised by Alasdair Bennett, CEO, Bethany Christian Trust</p>	<p>Date 6th March 2025</p>