

Child Rights Impact Assessment template



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STAGE 1: SCOPING (Background and Rights Framework)

Question 1: Name the measure / proposal being assessed and describe the overall aim
Children's Rights Impact Assessment for the Executive Office's Spending Plans for 2024-2025
<p>1. TEO's aim is wellbeing for all through improved relations, outcomes and governance.</p> <p>2. The 2024-25 budget settlement was agreed by the Executive on 25 April 2024. The outcome for TEO is significantly below forecast need. It is important to recognise however that no Department has been allocated resources to meet their forecast needs. For non-earmarked Resource DEL the Department received a 'flat cash' baseline of £80.8m, rolling forward the opening allocation from 2023-24, along with an additional £1m (against bids totalling £7.5m) giving a total of £81.8m. This non earmarked resource baseline is some £2.2m short of the forecast required need. Challenges facing the Department include pay and price inflation, especially due to the fact that funding has not been increased to reflect the 2023-24 pay uplift, as well as increasing areas of activity for areas of responsibility allocated to the Department.</p> <p>3. The 2024-25 baseline is based on the 2023-24 opening baseline. It is however important to note that allocations for programmes such as T:BUC that had been baselined to other Departments in 2023-24 have now been moved back to TEO. Overall this does not however represent any additionality in funding to the Department. This constrained budget will impact CYP.</p>

4. Living within the 2023-24 baseline meant that the Department had to find savings and apply reductions totalling £10m to live within its means. While TEO did manage to live within this reduced budget settlement in 2023-24 it was only possible through reductions to Good Relations funding; an embargo on the creation of new posts or filling of all but business critical vacancies; and a 10% reduction applied for 2023-24 to budgets across the Department and ALBs, with the exception of Victims and Survivors and Urban Villages.

5. Given the flat budget settlement and the increasing forecast costs, it is therefore clear that difficult decisions will continue to be required for TEO to remain within the 2024-25 baseline budget. TEO will however be seeking opportunities to direct resources towards frontline delivery as far as possible, reflecting feedback from the 2023-24 consultation. As will be described later in the CRIA, Ministers have made additional allocations to Good Relations this year, enabling further on-the-ground delivery. This should enable some mitigation of impacts on CYP groups.

Question 2: Which children’s human rights instruments and articles are relevant to the measure / proposal?		
Human Rights Instrument	Article	Further analysis on the expected / actual effect
<p>CRIAs are a key mechanism for implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)</p>	<p>Article 2: The right to enjoy all human rights, without discrimination Article 3: That the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration Article 4: State parties shall take all appropriate measures to implement children’s economic, social and cultural rights to the maximum extent of their available resources Article 12: The right for children to participate and express their views Reference Articles 3 & 4 of UNCRC specifically.</p>	<p>These articles drive TEO, in deciding the allocation of its available budget, to take account of views expressed by children and young people; to consider the outcomes for children and young people delivered by the Department’s policies and programmes; to seek to maximize those outcomes within the available budget and the need to deliver across a range of groups; to identify opportunities to have additional impact on children’s and young people’s needs; and to monitor and review this decision making on an ongoing basis during the financial year, especially through internal reallocations and the monitoring round process.</p>
<p>CRIA guidance states that it may be appropriate to consider the Human Rights Act and other treaties and mechanisms such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD); 	<p>TEO programmes seek to promote equality of opportunity. TEO acts compatibly with Convention Rights and the UK Government’s commitments in international law including the rights set out in UNCRC rights which are embedded within TEO’s programmes by</p>	<p>TEO’s programmes do not specifically target children and young people with disabilities but aim to be fully inclusive of them. The emphasis therefore is on ensuring accessibility.</p> <p>The Equality Impact (EQIA) Assessment published by TEO examines the impact on those with a disability, including the requirement to comply with Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006.</p> <p>CEDAW has been a key driver in the Department’s work on a strategic framework for Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). 	<p>design at a minimum. The Equality Impact (EQIA) Assessment published by TEO (see link in Qu 1) examines the rights of all Section 75 groups as required by the NI Act 1998.</p> <p>-The EQIA examines the impact on those with a disability, including the requirement to comply with Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006.</p> <p>-This will have flagged any impacts on Children and Young People (CYP).</p> <p>The Rural Needs Impact Assessment will have flagged any impacts on CYP in rural communities.</p>	
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Question 3: Which groups of children are most likely to be affected by the measure / proposal?		
<p>Group of children: The NICCY Guidance on CRIAs states that in most cases the impact will be felt by specific groups of children. In the case of TEO's budget, that group will depend on the specific programme being funded, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in a particular geographical region (Urban Villages or 	<p>How are they likely to be affected?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the allocation of funding for relevant programmes and policies. By any reductions in budgets. For example, some respondents in the 2023-24 EQIA consultation urged that funding in the 'Children and Young People' category should not be reduced 	<p>How will you engage with them? Evaluations of TEO's programmes which have a particular focus on children and young people, including T:BUC Camps and Planned Interventions, are carried out. Children and young people have the opportunity to express their views on these programmes and on the impacts they have had, and the views are incorporated into the evaluations.</p> <p>Where appropriate, arrangements are made for targeted engagement with children and young people as part of the development of a policy which will have a particular impact on them - eg Ending Violence</p>

<p>Communities in Transition target areas);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a specific age group (eg T:BUC Camps is for children and young people 9-25); or • only children accessing a particular service (eg free provision of period products). <p>Often measures will have a differential impact based on inequalities already present in society, for example experienced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children in low-income households; • children with disabilities; • newcomer children; • children of different genders, or gender non-binary; • children from ethnic minority groups; or • children of different religious backgrounds. <p>'Age' is one of the Section 75 groups considered in an EQIA. Data included in TEO's EQIA does show that a significant proportion of participants in TEO programmes are children and young people, and this is likely to be reflected in the consultation responses and TEO's actions in response to them, as will people with dependents. Children and Young People will be a key</p>	<p>for the most deprived in communities eg, Sure Start Programmes, Neighbourhood Renewal Programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When impacted by intersectionality, eg children who come from low income households who could disproportionately be impacted by cuts. 	<p>Against Women and Girls, Good Relations. It is important that such engagement gives a fair picture of the spread of views across different groups of children. TEO engages partners such as the EA's children's panel, and specialist assistance in facilitating engagement with young people, as required.</p> <p>All stakeholders will have the opportunity to engage through the publicly available consultations on the TEO website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • through the 12 week CRIA consultation; • through the 12 week EQIA consultation; • through the 12 week Rural Needs Impact Assessment consultation. <p>All these public consultations should help to flag any major differential impacts on CYP.</p>
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Section 75 group for TEO and its ALBs.		
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Question 4: Which stakeholder groups should be engaged during the policy development process? (e.g., parents/carers, NGOs, unions, NICCY, academics, etc.)		
Stakeholder group	What can they contribute to the process?	How will you engage with them?
<p>These groups of interested parties are likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and carers; • Children & Young People themselves; • NGOs working with children generally, or with the specific groups of children you have identified; • Academics who may have undertaken research on the issues; • Unions • Political Parties; and • NICCY. 	<p>Practical and professional experience of what the likely impact of TEO's spending plans are likely to be.</p>	<p>All stakeholders have the opportunity to engage through the publicly available consultations on the TEO website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • through the 12 week CRIA consultation; • through the 12 week EQIA consultation; • through the 12 week Rural Needs Impact Assessment consultation. <p>In addition, throughout the business year TEO officials have a proactive programme of meetings and engagement with bodies relevant to strategic its aims, eg through the Good Relations Engagement Forum, in respect of newcomer children, and with local community groups in the Urban Villages and Communities in Transition areas.</p>

STAGE 2: CONTEXT AND COLLABORATION



Question 5: Which Programme for Government outcomes does this policy aim to impact on?

At the time of writing there are proposals to be put to the Executive for a Programme for Government in early course; however the Programme has not yet been agreed and published.

Question 6: Which Children and Young People’s Strategy (CYPS) outcomes does this policy aim to impact on? Resource: CYPS	
Children’s Strategy Outcome	Way in which the policy will have an impact
The TEO budget funds a very wide range of activity. As such, it is difficult to give a comprehensive answer without going into inordinate detail. However the following provide illustrations of how TEO’s budget has an impact.	
Are physically and mentally healthy	The Urban Villages Programme has worked to bring the “Our Generation” programme on taking responsibility for health to thousands of children in the UV areas.
Enjoy play and leisure	Urban Villages has delivered new play areas, eg at Marrowbone Millennium Park and Páirc Nua Chollan. There is a particular emphasis on providing equipment that is inclusive of children with physical disabilities.
Learn and Achieve	TEO-funded programmes include Surestart, English for Speakers of Other Languages, IT training, employment training, and programmes which get young people involved in advocacy. Young people are provided with opportunities to gain leadership experience.
Make a positive contribution to society	The T:BUC Trees initiative has supported the planting of 3,500 trees across all Council areas here.

<p>Live in safety and stability</p> <p>Live in a society which respects their rights</p>	<p>Communities in Transition is working to empower communities to resist paramilitary control. TEO's development of a strategic framework and action plan for Ending Violence Against Women and Girls will provide further support for girls experiencing violence in whatever way, and address the root causes.</p>
<p>Live in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted</p>	<p>Together: Building a United Community is the Executive's strategy for good relations, and is currently being revised. Children and young people have been engaged as part of the redesign.</p>

<p>Question 7: What opportunities are there to promote joined up outcomes for children? Resource: Children's Services Co-operation Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (CSCA).</p>		
<p>Department and policy area</p>	<p>Shared outcome / cross cutting issue</p>	<p>How will you engage with them? (eg joint working, keep informed, consultation, etc)</p>
<p>The aim is to identify cross-cutting issues and promote joined-up government, as required by the Children's Services Co-operation Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (CSCA).</p>	<p>As a central Department, TEO is uniquely placed to use its statutory responsibility for co-ordination to influence work being done across Government in a particular area and ensure that key priorities are addressed. Current examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work on Refugee and Asylum Seeker Integration, where a thematic action plan has been drafted to secure real improvements in key areas identified through consultation; • the Test and Learn Pilots, bringing Government Departments together alongside 	<p>Strategies, joint working groups, inclusion of sector representatives, putting staff "on the ground" in local communities, circulation lists.</p>

	<p>a local community to identify and find ways of addressing fundamental issues and blockers to progress;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Travellers Sub-Group, where TEO seeks to co-ordinate the work of relevant Departments and ensure priorities are geared in ways that will make the most impact on the Traveller Community. 	
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STAGE 3: EVIDENCE GATHERING

Question 8: What quantitative evidence have you used to inform your assessment? What does it tell you?		
Evidence collected	Evidence source	Explanation of the importance
<p>As part of statutory EQIA process for TEO's Spending Plans for 2023-24 a range of sources were used; some of these had direct relevance to CYP, while some was of limited relevance as regards CYP impacts.</p> <p>The EQIA used the following data sources, of both quantitative and qualitative data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 Census; • Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency statistics; • Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) programme data; 	<p>As opposite.</p>	<p>The age profile of Central Good Relations Fund (CGRF) participants indicates that around two thirds were under 18. Across all areas of the programme, some 26,000-28,000 children and young people participated in 2021/22. Given the high proportion of CGRF funding that is allocated to projects that directly support children and young people, a cut to the CGRF would have a more significant and adverse impact on this group than on other categories.</p> <p>The Planned Intervention Programme is for children and young people from 10 up to the age of 25 (circa 1,300 people), however the outcomes delivered by the programme impact on people of all ages by addressing anti-social behaviour and community tensions.</p> <p>A third of participants in the District Council Good Relations Programme are 18 or under (circa 35,000 people).</p> <p>Since the T:BUC Camps programme began in 2015/16, over 750 Camps have been delivered to over 26,000 young people between the ages of 11-19. Not funding the T:BUC Camps Programme would have an adverse impact on Children and Young People. The latest outcomes data shows that having taken part in a Camp:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 97% had made new friends with someone from a different religious/community background. • 87% felt more favourable towards people from a different religious/community background. • 86% felt more favourable towards people from a different ethnic background.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Good Relations Fund (CGRF) data; • Business Consultancy Services (BCS) review of Minority Ethnic Development Fund (MEDF); • Crisis Fund data; • District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) data; • Planned Interventions Programme (PIP) data; • Racial Equality Indicators Report: 2014 – 2021; • Good Relations Indicators Report 2020; • Refugee Integration Strategy EQIA; 		<p>In addition, 98% felt a personal benefit from taking part in the Camp e.g. increased confidence, new skills, participation which improves the wellbeing of the young people.</p> <p>There are currently 37 T:BUC Camps Good Relations Ambassadors who are midway through their Ambassadors Programme. Withdrawing funding would prevent them from completing their programme. They would be unable to complete the OCN qualification they are working towards.</p> <p>The Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Strategy will consider risks identified as more prevalent among younger people from EVAWG and online abuse of young people.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NI Safe Community Survey 2019/20; • Draft EQIA screening – Victims and Survivors Strategy; • T:BUC headline actions data; • Draft Ending Violence against Women and Girls EQIA. <p>Data from the Urban Villages Programme was considered. However this is sourced from a variety of project types and cannot be always be broken down to analyse CYP for this type of analysis.</p> <p>The Department has also concluded that there is not enough sufficient robust data to determine impact on many Section 75 groups, including those relating to age and concerning CYP directly. The services</p>		
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<p>provided by the TEO are generally universal in nature and provide benefit to all citizens. It is therefore difficult to assess the impact of service reductions on specific groups. The Department will seek to gather further information on potential impacts through consultation.</p>		
<p>Question 9: What qualitative evidence have you used to inform your assessment? What does it tell you?</p>		
Evidence collected	Evidence source	Explanation of the importance
<p>See Question 8. A mixture of quantitative and qualitative data sources were used.</p> <p>Submissions from TEO's Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs) were also collected as part of the EQIA process. Some their activities cut across groups and encompass CYP.</p>	<p>See Question 8. A mixture of quantitative and qualitative data sources was used.</p>	<p>As opposite. Some consultation responses to TEO's Spending Plans EQIA during 2023-24 have noted the impact on Children and Young People in the most deprived communities, who could well be impacted by reductions in Good Relations funding.</p> <p>Some respondents urged last year that the 'Children and Young People' area should not be cut or the most deprived in communities eg, Sure Start Programmes, Neighbourhood Renewal Programmes also need to be protected further. Some council submissions noted the impact on the District Council Good Relations Programme, which is heavily involved in funding CYP related projects.</p> <p>It is the groups who more often face discrimination or key inequalities that in many cases will be differentially and more negatively impacted by cuts - people with disabilities, particularly learning disabilities, people from a range of minority ethnic groups; including Newcomers, older people, children, LGBT+ people, women and people with caring responsibilities. Across the equality grounds, people in or at risk of poverty are amongst those most impacted.</p>

Question 10: What key missing information / evidence would have been beneficial to your analysis?

It is generally acknowledged that the presence of children or other dependents can make it more difficult for women to leave a violent home.

Some comments on the lack of gender based budgeting data were raised by consultees during the main EQIA consultation for 2023-24. These could not be addressed given the limited time available, although Gender is a recognised Section 75 group and has been considered in TEO's considerations. It is likely that further research will be conducted as the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) programme develops. This programme will impact a subsection of the CYP grouping.

Question 11: What existing evidence on children and young people views has been considered in the development of the proposal or measure?

Group of children	Source of Information	Please provide a brief description of process	What were the findings?
Children and Young People generally	Non-statistical and participant survey feedback, anecdotal feedback from the vast majority of T:BUC projects and their impact on CYP to date has been generally very positive and any learning is integrated into the design of subsequent TEO programmes and projects.	As opposite.	As opposite.

Question 12: What groups of children and young people have been directly involved in developing the proposal or measure?			
Groups involved [✓ if those affected by the proposal]	✓	How were they involved?	What were the findings?
<p>No CYP have been involved directly during the development of TEO's spending plans, due to the lack of time, but also due to the fact that TEO's programmes and projects in which CYP are involved are comprised a large group of non-homogeneous funding directed across a range of activities.</p> <p>However, CYP stakeholders and interest groups have had the opportunity to submit responses to the consultation on TEO's Spending Plans. Children and young people themselves are also consulted in the evaluation of individual programmes, eg in the Good Relations sphere.</p>	✓	<p>Opportunity to submit responses to the public consultations on the EQIA on TEO's Spending Plans, the consultation on this CRIA and the consultation on Rural Needs Impact Assessment on TEO's spending Plans.</p>	<p>Interim findings relevant have been reported in this document, in the published 'Report and Recommendations on the EQIA for the Executive Office Spending Plans' (which will be updated at the close of the consultation period).</p>

Question 13: What stakeholder groups have been engaged in developing/reviewing the proposal or measure?		
Stakeholder group	How were they involved?	What were the findings?
<p>Details of the main consultation on the TEO Spending Plan EQIA were sent to all contacts on TEO's</p>	<p>As opposite.</p>	<p>See Question 9, feedback related to the CYP grouping indicated that they will be significantly impacted by reductions in funding across TEO Programmes.</p>

<p>consultee list. This contained a wide variety of groupings, sectors and interest groups.</p> <p>Details were all sent to all TEO's funded Good Relations groups and ALBs and posted on a page on the Citizen Space portal for public consultation responses on the EQIA.</p>		
<p>Submissions from TEO's Arm's Length Bodies were also collected as part of the EQIA process. Some their activities cut across groups and encompass CYP.</p>	<p>As opposite.</p>	<p>It is the groups who more often face discrimination or key inequalities that in many cases will be differentially and more negatively impacted by cuts - people with disabilities, particularly learning disabilities, people from a range of minority ethnic groups; including Newcomers, older people, and including CYP, women and girls and people with caring responsibilities. Across the equality grounds, people in or at risk of poverty are amongst those most impacted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will also be examples of sub-groups within categories and in relation to particular areas, for example in education, pupils entitled to free schools meals, particularly boys, including those who are from a Protestant community background; carers; single parents - disproportionately female; women and girls who are the majority of those subject to violence and abuse.

STAGE 4: ASSESSING THE IMPACT

Complete questions 14-16 for each option being considered

Question 14: What impact will (or does) the proposal or measure have on children and young people's rights?		
Type of impact [please highlight]	Justification for Argument	likely or actual short/medium/long-term outcomes
Negative	<p>Most reductions in budgetary funding (apart from those arising as a result of procedural or process efficiencies) are likely result in some sort of impact on service delivery and potentially on outcomes.</p> <p>We realise this is challenging environment in which all TEO's stakeholders have been forced to operate in.</p> <p>Please be assured that these are not decisions that TEO has not taken the proposed proposals for spending lightly.</p>	Medium

Question 15: Will there be (or are there) different impacts on different groups of children and young people?		
Group of children affected	Initial analysis of the positive impact on rights	Initial analysis of the negative impact on rights
See Question 13: It is the groups who more often face discrimination or key inequalities that in many cases will be differentially and more negatively impacted by cuts. Many	As opposite.	As opposite.

<p>of these are section 75 groups- they also cut across/ contain sub-group of CYP. These include people with disabilities (particularly learning disabilities), people from a range of minority ethnic groups; including Newcomers including CYP, women and girls and people with caring responsibilities. Across all the equality Section 75 groups, people in or at risk of poverty are amongst those most impacted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will also be examples of further CYP impacted sub-groups within these categories and in relation to particular areas, for example in education, pupils entitled to free schools meals, particularly boys, including those who are from a Protestant community background; carers; single parents - disproportionately female; women and girls who are the majority of those subject to violence and abuse. 		
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Question 16: If a negative impact is identified for any area of rights or any group of children and young people, what options are there to modify the proposal or measure to mitigate the impact?	
Negative impact	What options are there to modify the measure(s) or mitigate the impact?
<p>The age profile of CGRF participants indicates that approx. 44.7% under 18. Across all areas of the programme, approx. 10,000 children and young people participated in 2022/23. Given the high proportion of CGRF funding that is allocated to projects that directly support children and young people, a cut to the CGRF would have a more significant and adverse impact on this S75 group than on others.</p> <p>The Planned Intervention Programme is for children and young people from 10 up to the age of 25 (circa 1,300 people), however the outcomes delivered by the programme impact on people of all ages by addressing anti-social behaviour and community tensions.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget allocations may be revisited during the financial year, particularly during the Monitoring Round process. 2. Funding may be reallocated to other priority areas depending on relative spend levels in each TEO business area. 3. Mitigations of £1.25m have been identified to offset last year's reductions in Good Relations programmes.

A third of participants in the District Council Good Relations Programme are 18 or under (circa 35,000 people).

Since the T:BUC Camps programme began in 2015/16, over 750 Camps have been delivered to over 26,000 young people between the ages of 11-19. Reductions in the funding of the T:BUC Camps Programme and the T:BUC Camps Good Relations Ambassadors Programme would have an adverse impact on Children and Young People. Withdrawing/reducing funding would prevent them from completing their programme.

Any reductions to baseline funding would impact the above CYP who participate in the Good Relations Programmes referred to above.

STAGE 5: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Question 17: In summary, what are your key findings on the impact of the measure or proposal on children and young people's rights?

As above, CYP will be significantly impacted across all TEO funded areas. Whilst we cannot change the quantum of the financial impact overall, we will ensure that budget holders in TEO have access to the comments received to the consultation arising from this CRIA, the EQIA and the Rural Needs Impact Assessment, so that they can inform individual decisions made during the course of the year.

TEO will seek to bid for additional funding should the opportunity arise and will further monitor the impact and continue to work closely with councils and other funding partners.

Budget allocations may be revisited during the financial year, particularly during the Monitoring Round process.

Funding may be reallocated to other priority areas depending on relative spend levels in each TEO business area.

The EQIA, CRIA and Rural Needs Impact Assessment consultation responses will be used to inform such reallocations should the opportunity arise.