

**Children’s rights and wellbeing impact assessment**

**Screening form**

Date of screening:	01/12/2023
Name and job title of person undertaking screening:	Garry Walker, Director of Training
Name of policy to be screened:	CashBack Community Connections programme CRWIA
Overall aims of the policy:	<p>The aim of the policy overall is to ensure that across The Larder West Lothian and all engaging partners:</p> <p>Childrens best interest are at the heart of any work we carry out.</p> <p>The views of children are heard and represented in our work.</p> <p>We comply with the United Nation’s Convention on the rights of the Child.</p> <p>Children are protected from abuse or harm.</p> <p>We understand that not all activities at The Larder West Lothian are aimed at or involve children, therefore this policy will be of relevance in projects such as, but not limited to, CashBack Community Connections, Power to Grow and our school groups.</p>

**CRWIA**

<p>CRWIA Stage 2 The CRWIA - key questions</p> <p><b>1. Which UNCRC Articles are relevant to the project?</b> List all relevant Articles of the UNCRC and Optional Protocols. All UNCRC rights are underpinned by the four general principles: non-discrimination; the best interests of the child; the right to life, survival, and development, and the child's right to have their views given due weight.</p> <p>In respect to CashBack Community Connections programme:</p> <p>Article 1 (definition of the child)          Article 2 (non-discrimination)          Article 3 (best interests of the child)          Article 12 (respect for the views of the child)          Article 13 (freedom of expression)</p>
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Article 23 (children with a disability)  
 Article 28 (right to education)  
 Article 29 (goals of education)  
 Article 31 (leisure, play and culture)

## 2. What impact will the project have on children's rights?

*Positive/negative/neutral.*

CashBack Community Connections project will have a positive impact on young people's rights. Our project is aimed at participants aged 10-24 and for those affected under the age of 18 (**Article 1**) is open to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, sex, religion, language, abilities, or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background (**Article 2**). The programme is independently evaluated to give the young people the opportunity to express their views which in turn help inform future developments (**Article 12**). The program has an educational aspect which is flexible and accessible (**Articles 28 and 29**).

The interests of the child are the top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children (**Article 3**).

The programme seeks to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Young people are diverted from antisocial, criminal behaviour and involvement with the criminal justice system.
2. Young people participate in activity which improves their learning, employability and employment options (positive destinations)
3. Young people's health, mental health and wellbeing improves.
4. Young people contribute positively to their communities.
5. Young people build their personal skills, resilience, and benefit from strengthened support networks and reduce risk taking behaviour.

CashBack Community Connections programme contributes to the rights of children in many ways, including but not limited to:

- Provide young people with an opportunity to access education, wellbeing improvement, and building positive futures. We provide a wraparound service delivered by ourselves and expert partners. Topics include Drugs and alcohol, discrimination, consequential thinking, and qualification workshops.
- A need led service and young people can attend for varied lengths of time. Most attend 2-3 groups per week however timetables are bespoke, the course is free to attend for young people aged 10 - 24 who are involved in or on the periphery of the youth criminal justice system, young people can attend regardless of race, religion, sex, language or any other status (**Article 2**) including disability (**Article 23**).

All young people on the programme are asked regularly for feedback, young people are also asked to help in the design and development of the program (**Article 12**), and we encourage young people to always express their opinions, creating a safe space for everyone (**Article 13**).

Young people on the programme have the option to take part in a range of SQA qualifications (Article 28) and any qualifications and teaching is tailored to suit individual needs and abilities (Article 29).

The young people on the programme have opportunity to engage in sport and physical activity, arts and crafts, social activities, and games (Article 31).

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

*Which groups of children will be affected by the project? Are there competing interests between different groups of children and young people, or between children and young people and other groups?*

CashBack Community Connections programme is targeted to young people between the age of 10-24 therefore children between the age of 10-18 will be affected by the programme.

The programme is limited to West Lothian and young people must meet the criteria:

1. Be at risk of offending behaviour including very early intervention prior to charge
2. Be currently involved in the youth justice system.
3. Be due for release from custody or have recently left custody.

We are aware of local rivalries and have an extensive referral process to ensure positive group dynamics and safeguard the young people attending the program.

*Negative impacts identified:*

Young people outside of the catchment zone of West Lothian will not be able to attend.

**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?**

*If options to modify the policy/measure are included here, include associated resource implications where relevant.*

A possible negative impact of the programme is that CashBack Community Connections programme is targeted to young people living in West Lothian who are engaged in or are on the periphery of the criminal justice system.

This may have a negative impact on young people who live on the outskirts of West Lothian but do not fall within the catchment area.

The Larder West Lothian and other partners on the programme will signpost to programmes running in the areas of anyone referred who does not meet the area criteria. For example, if someone fell under an Edinburgh postcode, we could look at different support available in Edinburgh and make any relevant referrals.

**5. How will the project contribute to the wellbeing of children and young people in Scotland? Outline how the implementation of the policy/measure will support public bodies in Scotland to meet their duties to safeguard, support and promote the**

*wellbeing of children in their area, with wellbeing defined by eight wellbeing indicators. The indicators are: Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, and Included.*

The project contributed to the wellbeing of children and young people as outlined by the eight indicators of wellbeing.

**Safe** – all staff on the program have a PVG covering working with children and vulnerable adults, on top of this staff have had training on working with vulnerable young people.

**Healthy** – The course promotes physical and mental wellbeing, young people on the course can engage in sport and physical activity. Young people on the course also take part in a number of sessions to help understand different mental health difficulties and provide them with coping mechanisms.

**Achieving** – Participants are offered learner-centric support throughout the course. Any barriers to learning are addressed and supported with including behaviour issues and learning difficulties. The course has no set level for ability which allows young people to learn at a pace and level which suits them. The opportunity to complete SQA qualifications is encouraged but optional.

**Nurtured** – The participants are given a wide range of support on the programme from all involved partners as well as signposting to other agencies.

**Active** – The course encourages young people to engage in activities which keep them active such as walking and using the multisport pitches. One optional qualification is the wellbeing award where young people can choose to improve their physical fitness or get more active.

**Respected** – While participating in the course, young people are given a clean slate from barriers which may have previously prevented them from engaging or achieving in the past. We understand the value of respect and aim to show all learners the highest level of respect.

**Responsible** – The participants can achieve a number of SQA qualifications and can choose which ones they do; this will be helpful in them learning new life skills and seeking future education and employment opportunities. The young people are given employability support and due to the flexibility of the program they can stay on the course until they feel ready to move on to new opportunities.

**Included** – Barriers to inclusion have been considered in the delivery and design of the course. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks are available to all students attending the course and there is access to free hygiene products as well as clothes. Young people are also included in the design of the program and give regular feedback.

**6. How will project give better or further effect to the implementation of the UNCRC in Scotland?** This will inform Scottish Ministers' duty to report to Parliament on children's rights under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Application of the policy to our work will further extend the reach, approach, and values of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child in Scotland by virtue of its application across a wider set of provision, and so extending its impact on a wider group of young people.

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

*The evidence base may include demographic information, academic research, service, Monitoring/inspection reports, service evaluation reports, user surveys, etc. In particular, look at what existing evidence tells you about children and young people's views and experiences of the relevant service(s); and/or what it tells you about children and young people's views of the policy proposal. Identify any gaps in the evidence base and set out how you will address these.*

Our assessments include the following evidence;

Attendance figures – directly represents young people's participation.

Stakeholder feedback – indirect feedback on impact programme has had on young people (example: community safety meetings, schools).

Participant surveys – direct feedback from young people.

Equality monitoring – monitoring and demonstration of equality information of young people.

Case studies – direct and indirect examples of programme impact on young people.

This information combined will inform us on the effectiveness of the program both directly on the young people and the Communities in west Lothian. We can use this feedback to ensure we are supporting the young people as best as possible and implement any necessary change.

**8. Have you consulted with relevant stakeholders?** *This would include public or targeted consultations with children and young people, their parents/carers and the children's workforce.*

We work regularly with contributing stake holders such as, but not limited Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Community learning and development teams and West Lothian Council.

We regularly work with people across all business sectors but particularly the third and public sector who refer young people onto the program, we are always seeking opportunities to work alongside other organisations whose services could benefit the young people.

**9. Have you involved children and young people in the development of the policy/measure?** *Is there enough information on the views of the children and young*

*people who will be affected by the policy/measure that enables you to make an informed assessment of impact?*

The views of young people are sought on a quarterly evaluation, on top of this we had young people involved in the design of the course to ensure it would meet the needs of beneficiaries.

### Stage 3 – authorisation of CRWIA

<b>Is this a new or existing policy?</b>	New
<b>Who has authority to make changes?</b>	Garry Walker – Director of Training
<b>Who else is involved in approving the policy (e.g. committees, stakeholders)</b>	Youth Action Project, West Lothian College, Project Scotland.
<b>Name of policy owner</b>	The Larder West Lothian
<b>Summary of policy aims and desired outcomes</b>	<p>The overall aim of this policy is to ensure that, across The Larder West Lothian:</p> <p>Children's best interests are at the heart of our work.</p> <p>The views of the child are heard and represented in our work.</p> <p>We comply with the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child.</p> <p>Children are protected from abuse or harm.</p> <p>We recognise that not all Larder activities are aimed at or include children, and so this policy will be of relevance in projects such as, but not limited to, CashBack Community Connections, Power to Grow and our schools' groups.</p>
<b>Executive summary</b>	<p>CashBack Community Connections project is delivered in collaboration with The Larder West Lothian, Youth Action Project, West Lothian College, and Project Scotland.</p> <p>CashBack Community Connections programme works to provide young people with an opportunity to access education, physical and mental wellbeing and building positive futures as well as diverting them from the criminal justice system. Delivered by expert partners, topics include Drugs and</p>

	<p>alcohol, consequential thinking, SQA qualifications and wellbeing. The programme is flexible, and most students attend 2-3 group sessions per week with bespoke timetables, it is a free to attend programme, for young people aged 10-24 who are involved or on the periphery of the criminal justice system.</p> <p>This policy seeks to ensure that this work is delivered in such a way that the policy aims, and desired outcomes are achieved, both directly and indirectly; allowing for the SHANARRI indicators to be achieved.</p> <p>On top of this policy document staff will also engage in the UNCRC training tool below:</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/childrens-rights-wellbeing-impact-assessments-crwia-training-tool/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/childrens-rights-wellbeing-impact-assessments-crwia-training-tool/</a></p>
<p><b>Scope of the CRWIA (identifying the children and young people affected by the policy, and summarising the evidence base)</b></p>	<p>The scope of the CRWIA is limited to participants involved in the CashBack Community Connections. The programme is targeted at young people aged 10-24 and is open to all young people without discrimination. These young people will be from West Lothian.</p>
<p><b>Children and young people’s views and experiences</b></p>	<p>The views of young people are sought through a quarterly evaluation of the project these will be included in the ongoing development of the project.</p> <p>It should be noted that, daily, young people can provide feedback directly to staff delivering the project. They also have the chance to design elements of the programme in real time, such as choosing their qualifications and engaging in sessions deciding what they feel is important to learn about.</p>

<p><b>Key findings (including an assessment of the impact on children’s rights, and how the measure will contribute to children’s wellbeing)</b></p>	<p>CashBack Community Connections programme has a positive impact on reducing the offending rates of young people as well as improving their mental and physical wellbeing and promoting better relationships with education.</p>
<p><b>Monitoring and review</b></p>	<p>This policy will be next reviewed in December 2024.</p>
<p><b>Authorisation</b></p>	
<p><b>Policy Lead (name and title)</b>  Garry Walker – Director of Training</p>	<p><b>Date:</b> 18/12/2023</p>
<p><b>Head of Department (name and title)</b>  Garry Walker – Director of Training</p>	<p><b>Date:</b> 18/12/2023</p>