LHS CRWIA Pre-Screening

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| **Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028 Summary**  The LHS sets out the strategy, priorities and plans for the delivery of housing and related services across Falkirk between 2023-2028. It is the strategic document for housing of all tenures in the area. The local housing strategy covers the planning and prioritisation of housing activities. The LHS contains the following vision, priorities and outcomes:  **Vision**  Partnership working to ensure access to good quality housing and support in safe sustainable connected communities.  **Priorities**   * Priority 1 - Increasing housing supply * Priority 2 - Creating sustainable communities * Priority 3 - Improving access to housing * Priority 4 - Providing housing and support to vulnerable groups * Priority 5 - Tackling Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty * Priority 6 - Improving housing conditions. * Priority 7 - Improving the private rented sector   **Outcomes**   * We will increase the supply of housing across tenures * We will increase the supply of affordable housing * We will regenerate and support local communities * We make the best use of our existing housing supply * We will prevent and address homelessness * We have a range of housing and support options promoting independence for vulnerable people * We will focus on tackling climate change * We will work to improve energy efficiency * We will work to assist those experiencing fuel poverty * We will work to improve property conditions * We have a sustainable private rented sector   The LHS needs to demonstrate how statutory requirements placed on them are being fulfilled and how local policies and actions support a range of Scottish Government Targets including:   * House Condition (Housing (Scotland) Act 2006, Section 10 * Tackling the effects of Climate Change – Section 44 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009; * Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019 * Social housing to meet Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS); * Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESSH) - 2032 milestone; * Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 * Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 (Section 53) * Local authorities duties to homeless people include a statutory responsibility to anyone threatened with, or experiencing, homelessness; * Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 |

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| The LHS links into the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, Strategic Housing Investment Plan and Housing Contribution Statement.  As part of the development of this LHS we have engaged extensively with stakeholders including an online survey which was publicised through many groups including Forth Valley college. A number of focus groups were undertaken which included young people at Link Academy.  The LHS is a 5 year Plan which will be reviewed annually to report on the progress with different actions and indicators. |
| **What aspects of the policy/measure will affect children and young people up to the age of 18?**  The LHS sets out how the Council and its partners plan to address housing issues and demand in the area over the next 5 years. It covers all housing tenures and will impact on people of all ages, sex and backgrounds, living or with the intention of living in Falkirk in the future. This will include children and young people up to the age of 18.  Issues such as having a home that is warm, safe, affordable and accessible (for disabled children) with space to do homework and with opportunities for indoor/outdoor play clearly impact on children and young people, as does homelessness.  Specific aspects of the Local Housing Strategy that we expect will affect children and young people up to the age of 18 include:   * Increasing the overall housing supply but in particular affordable housing supply * Working with communities to undertake regeneration * Homelessness * Energy efficiency and heat decarbonisations * Housing quality and standards, including accessibility * Housing support * Support for home ownership |
| **What likely impact – direct or indirect – will the policy/measure have on children and young people?**  The LHS is not directly aimed at children and young people but it could affect them indirectly in the following ways:   * Increasing the supply of affordable housing, including larger family homes and reduce child poverty as housing costs can be a key driver of poverty. * Preventing homelessness and having clear housing support pathways for those at risk or who have experienced homelessness, especially families and young people. * Increasing access to settled accommodation, including families and young people * Providing a Housing First service to vulnerable clients * Tackling domestic abuse * Support children and families coming to Falkirk through the refugee resettlement schemes * Increasing the supply of specialist wheelchair and adapted homes, especially larger family homes * Improving the energy efficiency of homes will help reduce fuel feels which will help families with children who are experiencing poverty. * Improving house conditions of all tenures mean young people can live well in their homes. |

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| We hope that the LHS will bring benefits to area including children and young people. The LHS seeks to have a positive indirect impact on eradicating child poverty, fuel poverty, homelessness including youth homelessness, and improving children and young people’s health and wellbeing. |
| **Which groups of children and young people will be affected?**  The Local Housing Strategy is not directly aimed at children or young people, but is aimed at the homes and buildings they live in and visit. Although the Strategy will have an indirect impact on all children and young people under 18 including non-documented and non-citizen children, the following groups of children are likely to be at risk of increased impact:   * Children and young people living in poverty, including fuel poverty; * Children and young people with protected characteristics, or living in a household which include adult(s) with protected characteristics; * Children and young people who live in a household with a survivor of Domestic abuse; * Children and young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness; * Care experienced children and young people. * Young people who want to form a new household * Children and young people living in poor housing conditions including overcrowded homes. |
| **Is a Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment required?**  No  The LHS is not a strategy directly aimed at children but there are some direct and indirect impacts which have been considered. These will be further explored at a point when specific policies are developed. |
| **Sign & Date**  Policy Lead Signature & Date of Sign Off: Deputy Director Signature & Date of Sign Off: |