

National Autistic Society Scotland

Children's Rights & Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA)

Stage 1: Screening

1. Background to CRWIA's

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is an internationally mandated children's rights framework. The articles of the UNCRC cover all aspects of a child's life, setting out the rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) is the Scottish Government's approach to promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in Scotland.

CRWIA's utilise both UNCRC and GIRFEC frameworks to assess the potential impact of a policy or measure on children and young people's rights and wellbeing in Scotland.

2. Our Charity

The National Autistic Society Scotland provides a range of services and support for Scotland's 56,000 autistic people and their families. As outlined in our 2023-26 strategy 'From Vision to Reality', we believe the role of the National Autistic Society Scotland is to:

1. Support all autistic individuals and their families to live a fulfilled life on their terms.
2. Influence and collaborate with others to improve standards and adjustments.
3. Transform society by building understanding, acceptance and respect for all autistic people.

3. Our Programme

Moving Forward+ with CashBack is a programme delivered by the National Autistic Society Scotland. Funded by CashBack for Communities since April 2017, the programme is aimed at autistic children and young people aged 10-25 and living in deprived areas of Glasgow and West Central Scotland.

4. Elements of Our Programme Affecting Under 18's

Moving Forward+ with CashBack has two strands. The first strand supports autistic children aged 10-15 who have disengaged from school. Programme staff reach out to these children using a very flexible and person-centred approach to encourage a level of positive engagement with us that each child is comfortable with. From there, we aim to gradually build each child's confidence and self-esteem to a point where they can consider returning to school. For those who are unable to return to school, we will look to alternative positive activity, which may include progression to the second strand of our programme, depending on the child's age.

The second strand sees us support young autistic people aged 16-25 who have left school but are not in employment, education or training. The same flexible and person-centred approach is used to help each young person build their confidence and resilience and identify and progress towards their preferred goals. These goals may include further or higher education, training, employment or voluntary work.

Both strands of our programme therefore affect under 18's.

5. Likely Impact on Under 18's

All of the children and young people we support are autistic. Most reside within SIMD 1 & 2 communities, and many have had adverse childhood experiences and been subject to traumatic events. Moving Forward+ with CashBack aims to help each child and young person overcome the complex challenges they face and realise their potential. It is therefore intended that the programme has a direct and positive impact on children and young people, as per the six mandatory outcomes specified in our Grant Offer Letter:

Outcome 1: Young people are diverted from anti-social, criminal behaviour and involvement with the criminal justice system.

Outcome 2: Young people participate in activity which improves their learning, employability and employment options (positive destinations).

Outcome 3: Young people's health, mental health and well-being improves.

Outcome 4: Young people contribute positively to their communities.

Outcome 5: Young people build their personal skills, resilience, and benefit from strengthened support networks and reduce risk-taking behaviour.

6. Conclusion of Screening Process

Given Moving Forward+ with CashBack directly affects children and young people under the age of 18, it was concluded that it would be necessary to undertake a CRWIA.