



## Children’s Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) Template

<b>Title / Piece of work:</b>	Natural Resources Policy
<b>Related SF / LF number (if applicable)</b>	MA-P-LG-7176-16
<b>Name of Official:</b>	Leanne Fraser
<b>Department:</b>	ERA EU Strategy and Exit
<b>Date:</b>	August 2017
<b>Signature:</b>	

Please complete the CRIA and retain it for your records on iShare. You may be asked to provide this document at a later stage to evidence that you have complied with the duty to have due regard to children’s rights e.g. Freedom of Information access requests, monitoring purposes or to inform reporting to the NafW.

Upon completion you should also forward a copy of the CRIA to the Measure Implementation Team for monitoring purposes using the dedicated mailbox [CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

If officials are not sure about whether to complete a CRIA, they should err on the side of caution and seek advice from the Measure Implementation Team by forwarding any questions to our mailbox [CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

You may wish to cross-reference with other impact assessments undertaken.

**NB. All CRIs undertaken on legislation must be published alongside the relevant piece of work on the WG website. All other CRIs must be listed in the WG CRIA newsletter and must be made available upon request. Ministers are however, encouraged to publish all completed CRIs.**

# Six Steps to Due Regard



## **Step 1. What's the piece of work and its objective(s)?**

### **Natural Resources Policy.**

The Natural Resources Policy (NRP) is a statutory requirement of the Environment (Wales) Act. The Act requires that it must set out the Welsh Ministers' policies for contributing to the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) and also set out the risks, opportunities and priorities for SMNR including what should be done in relation to biodiversity and climate change. The Act also requires that the NRP is developed and implemented by applying the principles of SMNR.

The Natural Resources Policy is an essential part of the framework for delivering the sustainable management of natural resources. The Act makes provision to help plan and manage Wales' natural resources at a national and local level, through specific requirements (ie) the State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR), the NRP and area statements. The provisions will enable greater integration and simplification of policies, plans and programmes, where this is consistent with existing statutory duties.

Evidence presented in the statutory State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR), shows that none of Wales' ecosystems display all the attributes of resilience. Overall, biological diversity is declining, which can be seen by the loss of habitats and species. The extent of some habitats has also declined significantly. The NRP responds to this through use of international best practice by taking an integrated approach to maintaining and enhancing the resilience of Wales' ecosystems, recognising the interconnected nature of our economy, society, culture and environment.

Through applying the 9 principles of SMNR, the NRP identifies national opportunities and priorities to enable Wales to more sustainably use and manage natural resources.

The NRP identifies where Wales' natural resources currently contribute across the well-being goals and opportunities and priorities to increase their contribution in the longer term, whilst mitigating the risks to the benefits society receives from them.

The NRP recognises that everyone has a stake in our natural resources and a role to play in ensuring these resources are sustainably managed. Through consultation feedback and the findings of our extensive engagement exercise, three national priorities for the management of our natural resources have emerged, namely:

- Delivering nature-based solutions;
- Increasing renewable energy and resource efficiency; and,
- Taking a place-based approach.

These priorities have been designed to work together to help us to tackle challenges and realise opportunities that our natural resources provide.

The NRP also sets out three broad challenges and four headline opportunities:

Key challenges:

- Improving ecosystem resilience
- Climate change and the decline in biological diversity
- The UK's Withdrawal from the EU

Opportunities:

- Supporting successful, sustainable communities;
- Promoting green growth and innovation to create sustainable jobs;
- Supporting a more resource efficient economy; and,
- Maintaining healthy, active and connected communities.

The NRP provides a key contribution to the delivery of programme for government 'Taking Wales Forward', as well as being crucial for the delivery of the objectives of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. It is also a core part of our delivery of headline international obligations under the UN Global Goals, the Paris Agreement and the UN Convention on Biological diversity, which refers to a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources.

In order to realise the opportunities and maintain the current benefits derived from our natural resources, their resilience must be maintained and enhanced, along with that of the ecosystems that support them. This means that the wide range of benefits or services our natural resources provide for us, such as clean air and water, food and materials, the reduction of flood risk and mitigation of the current impacts of climate change, are at risk. In addition, biodiversity, which underpins the functioning of our ecosystems, continues to be in overall decline.

Within the Environment and Rural Affairs portfolio, the Natural Resources Policy is also important in the context of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union. Given the profound implications of EU exit to the current policy, legal and financial framework, the Natural Resources Policy plays a key role as part of the Departmental response and the need to ensure that Wales benefits from the significant opportunities the better management of our natural resources can provide in parallel with addressing the clear challenges we face.

Under the legislation, Natural Resources Wales' Area Statements will facilitate the delivery of the policy at a local level, including through wider public service delivery. Local Development Plans and Well-being Plans under the Well-being of Future Generations Act must have regard to the evidence in the Area Statements.

**Timeframe:**

The Natural Resources Policy will be reviewed on a 5 yearly cycle aligned to the Welsh Government elections. After the publication of NRP, NRW will commence the preparation of area statements in late summer/autumn 2017. Welsh Ministers have committed to Area Statements providing all Wales coverage by 2019.

**Step 2. Analysing the impact**

**Part 1 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016**

No negative impacts on children were identified for any of the policy areas contained in the NRP. The following positive impacts were identified:

Wales' natural resources and ecosystems underpin all aspects of our well-being including our prosperity, health and culture. We depend on high quality natural resources to provide our food, clean water and air. We also depend on them for raw materials, water and energy sources for our key industries: forestry, electricity generation, manufacturing, fisheries and agriculture. Used wisely, they support our prosperity, improve our physical and mental health, develop recreation, outdoor activity and tourism and take action to address challenges and improve our resilience to climate change and reduce the risk of shocks and hazards such as flooding.

The three priority themes of the NRP are designed to mitigate the risks to our natural resources through enhancing the resilience of ecosystems whilst maximising the contribution they make across the well-being goals, enabling Welsh Ministers to address sustainable management of natural resources. They are

- Delivering nature based solutions
- Increasing resource efficiency and renewable energy
- Taking a place based approach

The priorities work together, apply across all sectors and are the key areas where we can all take action to reduce the impacts on our ecosystems and natural resources, tackle the key issues and work towards the many opportunities the sustainable management of natural resources provide. In implementing them, the 9 principles of SMNR have been applied in accordance with the section 9 of the Environment (Wales) Act, which includes focusing on the short, medium and long term.

### **Delivering nature based solutions**

Nature-based solutions are where healthy, resilient and diverse ecosystems tackle some of our key challenges. There is growing recognition that nature-based solutions can form part of viable cost effective and efficient solutions to increase our resilience to challenges such as climate change, flood risk management and water pollution as well as support in tackling some of our key public health issues such as diabetes, obesity, air and noise pollution, leading to positive impacts on families and young people.

### **Increasing resource efficiency and renewable energy**

Moving towards a more resource efficient, circular economy that encourages the uptake of clean (non-polluting) technologies, the phase-out of harmful substances and practices, and healthier lifestyles has a key role to play. Sustainably managed natural resources are central to the Welsh Government's commitment to support the development of more renewable energy projects, including community based energy schemes. This approach will lead to better health outcomes through reduced pollution for all age groups including children and provide economic opportunities in the long term.

Renewable energy, such as wind, hydro, solar power and biomass, has contributed to growth in the sector in the last 10 years and offers significant potential for further growth both on land and sea. Actions to move towards a more circular economy, where raw materials are kept in productive use for as long as possible, provide many opportunities for jobs, cost savings for businesses and help to address risks to long-term supply chain security.

### **Taking a place based approach**

A fundamental aspect of our approach to managing natural resources sustainably is to work with people in the places where they live and work. This is the only way to link the differing challenges and opportunities into solutions that bring the widest possible benefits and is an essential part of maximising the contribution of Wales' natural resources across the well-being goals.

Through the three priorities the NRP recognises that our natural resources provide many opportunities to support our communities in new, cost effective and resilient ways. Attractive, accessible and ecologically diverse green and blue spaces provide a focus for community activities and identity. They are associated with better mental and physical health and can provide a focus for community action and volunteering, offer opportunities for play and sport, helping to increase social capital, improve community cohesion and reduce antisocial behaviour. They can also be a stimulus to regeneration and investment which will have a positive long term impact on young people and their families.

Low-income areas are often associated with lower quality housing and education, poor diet, and less access to good quality green space. Such deprivation is closely linked to poor health, yet health inequalities can be significantly reduced in greener areas. Many of our most deprived communities live close to natural assets from which they are disconnected and currently provide very little benefit to those communities.

By focusing on nature based solutions and taking place based approach the NRP will enable actions, to be produced by Natural Resources Wales, to target actions such as green infrastructure on areas where it is most needed.

The NRP recognises the importance of long term economic opportunity for young people and seeks to increase the resilience of our supply chains in key industries, respond the implications EU exit and realise future economic and social opportunities for young people through fostering growth in fledgling industries. Our primary production industries are vital to our rural economy and we have a unique opportunity to build on Wales' reputation for high quality food and other goods and services, underpinned by high quality natural resources and animal welfare standards across both local and international markets. There is potential to develop new markets, both through new and innovative products that add value along the supply chains and replace less sustainable products and through diversifying to further develop markets in carbon, water, biodiversity, energy and tourism, providing opportunities for current and future generations

### **Climate Change**

Under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Welsh Ministers are under a duty to include policies in relation to climate change. The NRP puts in place policies for a nature based action on climate change, recognising the importance of the Welsh Government initiated *International Memorandum of Understanding on Nature Based Climate Action*.

The impacts of climate change can affect health, nutrition, education as well as adding pressures on households, such as rising food and energy prices. How much emissions are reduced and adaptation is delivered will determine the future climate risks for children. An assessment of the Articles under the UNCRC has been applied and Article 6, 12, 24 and Article 27 are applicable.

As a result of historical carbon emissions we are already locked in to a certain amount of climate change over the next 30-40 years. Whilst climate change is a global phenomenon, the impacts of climate change are also felt at a local level, by vulnerable people such as children who have limited ability to adapt to extreme weather events and climate change e.g. those living in deprivation, the less educated and those who are physically or mentally ill.

The NRP commits to embedding the Natural Resources Policy into the Welsh Government pathway to decarbonisation. Part 1 and 2 of the Environment (Wales) Act – on the management of natural resources and climate change – which were designed to work together. The Welsh Government's aim is to set out a clear pathway within the context of its existing UK and EU obligations for at least an 80% reduction in emissions by 2050. A clear pathway for decarbonisation not only provides transparency but will also have a positive impact on the environment, people, the economy and communities. For instance work on energy efficiency not only helps to reduce emissions but also ensures people are living in warm homes, whilst also providing local jobs and skills for young people. Work on pollution and prevention control helps to ensure that we have access to clean and accessible water, air quality and green spaces, which has health benefits for children.

Whilst work on green growth provides investment in to a circular economy, opportunities for decarbonisation will shape the future skills set needed by children as they enter the workforce.

If emissions are reduced and resilience to climate change increased, it will not only help to ensure delivery on the targets but help to provide wider benefits to current and future generations, whilst limiting the impacts of climate change on those future generations.

When the Welsh Government sets any new proposals and policies for meeting carbon budgets, they would be subject to an engagement process and full and detailed assessments which would include a Children's Rights Impact Assessment.

Following the National Assembly for Wales' election, the Welsh Government published its programme for government; Taking Wales Forward 2016-2021. It sets out four areas where the Government believes it can have the biggest impact: prosperous and secure, healthy and active, ambitious and learning and united.

These areas are interwoven and will be tackled through one national strategy 'Prosperity for All'. The priorities in the Natural Resources Policy support the delivery of the national strategy. There is a clear link between our natural resources and their effective management and our mission as a government to deliver prosperity for all.

The ways our natural resources can support our aims include:

- ***A United and Connected Wales Improving community and individual well being through a place based approach***
- ***Promoting a Healthy and Active Wales***
- ***Fostering a Prosperous and Secure Wales***
- ***Education and skills***

By mitigating the risks to our natural resources and using the priorities and opportunities in the NRP supports the delivery of the objectives of the Child Poverty Strategy. The NRP directly supports objectives:

1. To reduce the number of families living in workless households, as children living in work-less households are particularly at risk of living in poverty.
2. To increase the skills of parents and young people living in low-income households so they can secure well-paid employment and in-work progression, as in-work poverty is a growing issue.
3. To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the most poor. Preventing poverty is fundamental to our long term vision for supporting low income households.
4. To use all available levers to create a strong economy and labour market that supports the tackling poverty agenda and reduces in-work poverty in Wales.

As part of the engagement and communication strategy, Welsh Government produced the following animation on Natural Resource Management, which is accessible by children.

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/natural-resources-management/find-out-more/natural-resources-management-in-wales-video/?skip=1&lang=en>

A factsheet on the Environment (Wales) Act is also available online.

<http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/160321-overview-en.pdf>

### **Step 3. How does your piece of work support and promote children's rights?**

#### **Sustainable Management of Natural Resources**

With respect to Articles 2, 3, 4, 6, 24, 27 and 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), an outcome of the sustainable management of natural resources will lead to benefits for local communities of all ages, by encouraging decision makers to consider the economic, social and environmental impacts of decisions on current and future generations, including young people. Better decision-making and managing our natural resources sustainably has the potential to have a positive impact on groups, including children, who are most vulnerable. The priorities of the NRP and the opportunities that it will promote and risks it will mitigate will specifically support Articles 24.1 *“states parties recognise the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. States parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of access to such healthcare services”* and 24.2(f) *“to develop preventative healthcare, guidance for parents and family planning education and services”*; and Article 31.1 *“states parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and participate freely in cultural life and the arts”*.

#### **Children's development and rights to a healthier future.**

Access to green space has multiple positive physical and mental benefits to children and young people and is consistent with fulfilling our UNCRC duties under articles; 6 (life, survival and development); 24 (health and health services); 27 (adequate standard of living); 31 (leisure, play and culture). The National Environmental Education Foundation highlights the positive impact access to green space has on children and young people. They highlight that children have lost 25% of play time and 50% of unstructured play time – green infrastructure can help reverse this trend. They also highlight that children who spend time outdoors are less likely to be overweight by 27-41%, children who live within 2-3 miles of a park with a playground can be up to 5 five times more likely to have a healthy weight and that a 20 minute walk in nature can help children with ADHD concentrate better.

#### **Climate Change**

The impacts of climate change can affect health, nutrition, education as well as adding pressures on households, such as rising food and energy prices. How much emissions are reduced and adaptation is delivered will determine the future climate risks for children. Work on pollution and prevention control, helps to ensure that we have access to clean and accessible water, air quality and green spaces, which have health benefits for children. Whilst work on green growth provides investment towards a circular economy and opportunities for decarbonisation, which will shape the future skills set needed by children as they enter the workforce.

If emissions are reduced and resilience to climate change increased, it will not only help to ensure delivery on the targets but help to provide wider benefits to current and future generations, whilst limiting the impacts of climate change on those future generations. An assessment of the Articles under the UNCRC has been applied and Articles 2, 6, 12, 24 and Article 27 are applicable.

#### **Step 4. Advising the Minister and Ministerial decision**

The Cabinet Secretary for the Environment and Natural Resources has been kept fully informed and briefed during the development of the Natural Resources Policy.

The NRP has been approved by the Cabinet Secretary for the Environment and Rural Affairs before being cleared by the First Minister and agreed by Cabinet, including the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children.

The Children's Rights impact assessment will be published alongside the Natural Resources Policy.

#### **Step 5. Recording and communicating the outcome**

**Final version to be retained on i-share**

This Children's Rights Impact Assessment is stored on the Welsh Government's record management system (iShare), and will be published to the Welsh Government website for public access.

This is a live document and has been updated during the development of the Natural Resources Policy. It will be reviewed in accordance with the NRP review guidelines.

#### **Step 6. Revisiting the piece of work as and when needed**

As highlighted above, this is a live document and has been updated during the development of the Natural Resources Policy. The NRP gives a firm commitment to develop an evaluation framework to demonstrate the extent to which Welsh Government is deliver our priorities in the NRP, supported by performance measures aligned to those in the suite of 'National Indicators for Wales'.

Post-implementation review will also be facilitated through ongoing monitoring and assessment activities and processes, which have been built into SoNaRR, and area statements.

These could also be reviewed if the Welsh Ministers review their well-being objectives, as set under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. This is anticipated to happen late in 2017.

**Budgets**

<p><b>Does the piece of work have any associated allocation of budget?</b></p> <p><b>Can you identify how much of this budget will be used for children and young people?</b></p> <p>It is important that where any changes are made to spending plans, including where additional allocations or savings have been made, that this has been assessed and evidenced as part of the CRIA process.</p> <p><b>Has any additional spend been identified to ensure children and young people have been given an opportunity to contribute to the piece of work and have their opinions heard? If so, how much?</b></p>	<p><b>NO</b></p> <p><b>n/a</b></p> <p><b>n/a</b></p>
<p><b>Please give any details:</b></p>	

**Monitoring & Review**

<p><b>Do we need to monitor / review the proposal?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p><b>If applicable: set the review date</b></p>	<p><b>On statutory review of the NRP in accordance with the Environment (Wales) Act.</b></p>

Please forward a copy of this CRIA to [CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk) for monitoring purposes



# THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

[www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk](http://www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk)

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international agreement that protects the human rights of the children under the age of 18. On 16 December 1991, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland formally agreed to make sure that every child in the UK has all the rights as listed in the convention. The Welsh Government has shown its commitment to the convention by adopting it as the basis for policy making for children in Wales.

Altogether there are 54 articles in the convention. Articles 43-54 are about how adults and governments should work together to make sure all children are entitled to their rights. The information contained here is about articles 1-42 which set out how children should be treated.



**Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government**

[www.cymru.gov.uk](http://www.cymru.gov.uk)

## Article 1

Everyone under 18 years of age has all the rights in this Convention.

## Article 2

The Convention applies to everyone whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say and whatever type of family they come from.

## Article 3

All organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child.

## Article 4

Governments should make these rights available to children.

## Article 5

Governments should respect the rights and responsibilities of families to direct and guide their children so that, as they grow, they learn to use their rights properly.

## Article 6

All children have the right to life. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily.

## Article 7

All children have the right to a legally registered name, the right to a nationality and the right to know and, as far as possible, to be cared for by their parents.

## Article 8

Governments should respect children's right to a name, a nationality and family ties.

## Article 9

Children should not be separated from their parents unless it is for their own good, for example if a parent is mistreating or neglecting a child. Children whose parents have separated have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this might hurt the child.

## Article 10

Families who live in different countries should be allowed to move between those countries so that parents and children can stay in contact or get back together as a family.

## Article 11

Governments should take steps to stop children being taken out of their own country illegally.

## Article 12

Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making

decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.

## Article 13

Children have the right to get and to share information as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others.

## Article 14

Children have the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide their children on these matters.

## Article 15

Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

## Article 16

Children have a right to privacy. The law should protect them from attacks against their way of life, their good name, their families and their homes.

## Article 17

Children have the right to reliable information from the mass media. Television, radio and newspapers should provide information that children can understand, and should not promote materials that could harm children.

## Article 18

Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their children, and should always consider what is best for each child. Governments should help parents by providing services to support them, especially if both parents work.

## Article 19

Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

## Article 20

Children who cannot be looked after by their own family must be looked after properly, by people who respect their religion, culture and language.

## Article 21

When children are adopted the first concern must be what is best for them. The same rules should apply whether the children are adopted in the country where they were born or taken to live in another country.

## Article 22

Children who come into a country as refugees should have the same rights as children born in that country.

## Article 23

Children who have any kind of disability should have special care and support so that they can lead full and independent lives.

## Article 24

Children have the right to good quality health care and to clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that they will stay healthy. Rich countries should help poorer countries achieve this.

## Article 25

Children who are looked after by their local authority rather than their parents should have their situation reviewed regularly.

## Article 26

The Government should provide extra money for the children of families in need.

## Article 27

Children have a right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs. The Government should help families who cannot afford to provide this.

## Article 28

Children have a right to an education. Discipline in schools should respect children's human dignity. Primary education should be free. Wealthy countries should help poorer countries achieve this.

## Article 29

Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, and their own and other cultures.

## Article 30

Children have a right to learn and use the language and customs of their families, whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not.

## Article 31

All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.

## Article 32

The Government should protect children from work that is dangerous or might harm their health or their education.

## Article 33

The Government should provide ways of protecting children from dangerous drugs.

## Article 34

The Government should protect children from sexual abuse.

## Article 35

The Government should make sure that children are not abducted or sold.

## Article 36

Children should be protected from any activities that could harm their development.

## Article 37

Children who break the law should not be treated cruelly. They should not be put in prison with adults and should be able to keep in contact with their families.

## Article 38

Governments should not allow children under 15 to join the army. Children in war zones should receive special protection.

## Article 39

Children who have been neglected or abused should receive special help to restore their self respect.

## Article 40

Children who are accused of breaking the law should receive legal help. Prison sentences for children should only be used for the most serious offences.

## Article 41

If the laws of a particular country protect children better than the articles of the Convention, then those laws should stay.

## Article 42

The Government should make the Convention known to all parents and children.

For further information on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child please visit: The Welsh Government's UNCRC Website: [www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk/](http://www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk/)

Cic - The National Information and Advice Service for Young People [www.ciconline.co.uk/news/](http://www.ciconline.co.uk/news/)

