



Department of

**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

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Regulatory Impact and Rural Proofing Screening Assessments

A Safeguarding Policy for Children and Young People in Northern Ireland

Regulatory Impact Screening Assessment – A Safeguarding Policy for Children and Young People

Introduction

This regulatory impact screening assessment has been conducted for the purposes of determining whether the policy proposals as outlined in the document 'A Safeguarding Policy for Children and Young People 2014/15' are likely to have a direct or indirect impact on businesses or on the community and voluntary sector in terms of imposing costs or savings on these organisations.

The safeguarding policy for children and young people is being updated at this time to reflect changes in legislation and in structures since the last policy document was developed and published in May 2003. The aim of the new safeguarding policy document in development is to provide an overarching framework for all those with a role in safeguarding children and young people. It outlines how organisations and individuals must work together to promote the welfare of children and young people and ensure they are safeguarded as effectively as possible.

	Screening Questions	Response to Screening Questions	Full Appraisal Required	Justification / Key Issues and Groups to Focus On
	Is the policy or amendment to the policy likely to have a direct or indirect impact on businesses	Yes	No	<p>The policy will have only a negligible impact on businesses in terms of imposing costs or savings.</p> <p>The policy requires that businesses which provide services to children and young people must ensure that safeguarding needs are reflected at all levels in their organisational policies and procedures including governance arrangements. However this is not expected to have a direct significant impact in terms of the costs of the organisation.</p>

	Is the policy or amendment to the policy likely to have a direct or indirect impact on community and voluntary sector	Yes	No	<p>The policy will have only a negligible impact on community and voluntary sector organisations in terms of imposing costs or savings.</p> <p>The policy requires that community and voluntary organisations who provide services to children and young people must ensure that safeguarding needs are reflected at all levels in their organisational policies and procedures including governance arrangements. This applies regardless of whether the community or voluntary sector organisation is 'not-for-profit' and 'for profit' charitable organisation. It is not expected to have a direct significant impact in terms of the costs or savings to any organisation.</p>
	Conclusion		No	A full Regulatory Impact Assessment is not required.

Introduction

The following statement provides an initial analysis of rural issues in relation to the impact the new safeguarding policy for children and young people. It demonstrates that rural dimensions have been considered as part of the work to review and update the child safeguarding policy to reflect changes in structure and legislation since the last policy was developed and published in May 2003.

Rural Proofing Statement – Review, Update and Pre-Consultation Phase

Policy Stage	Impact Statement
Design	<p>The ‘Safeguarding Policy for Children and Young People in NI – 2014/15’ provides an overarching policy framework for all those with a role in safeguarding children and young people. It outlines how organisations and individuals must work together to promote the welfare of children and young people and ensure that they are safeguarded as effectively as possible.</p> <p>The policy’s focus is on promoting the welfare of children generally, preventing harm from occurring through early identification of risk and appropriate intervention and protecting children and young people from harm irrespective when this is required.</p> <p>At this stage of the policy development no potential rural or local impacts which differ from the regional impact of the policy have been identified.</p> <p>It is not expected that the application and implementation of this policy will present specific rural impacts.</p>
Evidence	<p>The policy is predicated on the principle that safeguarding encompasses both prevention and protection. While it is not possible at this stage to predict evidential impacts of the policy each HSC Trust will continue to capture and collate children’s social care statistics in respect of ‘children in need’ and ‘child protection’. This will over time provide evidence on the impact of the policy.</p> <p>To date there is no evidence that the policy will present differential rural impacts.</p>

Consulting	No rural issues were raised during the review and update or pre-consultation phases of the policy development.
Monitoring and Outcomes	<p>The Safeguarding Board for NI has a statutory duty to ensure that organisations from the statutory, community and voluntary sectors co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in NI. SBNI member organisations have a duty to co-operate with SBNI and each other to safeguard children and young people.</p> <p>The SBNI reports to the DHSSPS for the discharge of its statutory functions. The Chair of the SBNI reports direct to the Minister for HPSSPS.</p> <p>The SBNI will produce an annual report setting out their work, a copy of which will be laid before the NI Assembly.</p> <p>Each HSC Trust will continue to capture and collate children's social care statistics in respect of 'children in need' and 'child protection' which may provide an indication of the effect of the policy in rural / urban areas given the different demographics in HSC Trust areas.</p>