

CRWIA Stage 1

[Screening](#) - key questions

(Hyperlink will only work within SG)

1. Name the policy, and describe its overall aims.

Free School Meals - The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 (Modification) Regulations 2019. The regulation seeks to maintain the entitlement to the passported benefit of free school meals in the circumstances for people in receipt of both maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit. As a result of a recent change in the National Living Wage any family previously qualifying through being in receipt of those benefits would be at risk of losing their entitlement as their earnings would be above the current threshold of £6,420.

2. What aspects of the policy/measure will affect children and young people up to the age of 18?

The particular eligibility criteria which is the subject of this change is related to the financial circumstances of parents and carers. However, children and young people are the beneficiaries of free school meals entitlement. This policy affects pupils from P4-S6 (free school meals are a universal provision in P1-P3)

3. What likely impact – direct or indirect – will the policy/measure have on children and young people?

There are interim measures in place which further reduce the risk of children and young people not being able to benefit from free school meals in these circumstances. However, if the Regulations were not taken forward, and the current interim measures were to lapse, there would be a direct risk that some children and young people would lose their entitlement to free school meals. There are a number of criteria through which free school meals are provided - this change only relates to one of these criteria (eligibility through receipt of both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit) and therefore the risk is further limited.

4. Which groups of children and young people will be affected?

Free School Meal entitlement is an anti-poverty measure, so it is likely that children and young people whose families are affected by poverty would be affected.

5. Will this require a CRWIA?

A CRWIA will be undertaken. Whilst there are interim arrangements in place to secure provision in the meantime, this legislative vehicle will secure the provision in the longer term because the purpose of the Regulation is to continue to secure a provision which is already in place. Impact is likely to be minimal.

CRWIA Declaration

Tick relevant section, and complete the form.

CRWIA required

CRWIA not required

Y

Authorisation

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