




Children’s Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) Template

Title / Piece of work:	Revised eligibility criteria for free school meals in Wales due to the rollout of Universal Credit
Related SF / LF number (if applicable)	MA(L)/KW/0166/18 MA(L)/KW/0239/18 MA-(L) /KW/0240/18
Name of Official:	Lowri Reed
Department:	Education and Public Services
Date:	23 May 2018
Signature:	

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

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

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

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

Six Steps to Due Regard



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

- A brief description of the piece of work

Overview

The Welsh Government needs to revise eligibility criteria for receipt free school meals in Wales because of the roll out of Universal Credit . Entitlement to free school meals in Wales was formerly based on receipt of one of a number of benefits, which are being replaced by Universal Credit. Universal Credit will also replace other benefits which would not entitle recipients to claim free school meals.

The Welsh Government will consult on its proposals for revised eligibility criteria and this CRIA has been prepared in advance of the consultation.

The background to this piece of work and Welsh Government's proposals are summarised in the paragraphs which follow.

Universal Credit

Universal Credit is a means-tested benefit for people who are on a low income. It is intended to be simpler than the current system of benefits and tax credits and has been introduced by the UK Government to replace six benefits ('legacy benefits'), as part of their Welfare Reform agenda:-

- Income Support,
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance,
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance,
- Housing Benefit,
- Child Tax Credit, and
- Working Tax Credit.

These benefits are a mixture of "in-work" and "out-of-work" benefits (i.e. benefits paid to individuals to supplement their earnings and benefits paid to those who are not working).

Eligibility criteria for free school meals in Wales

In Wales, free school meals are provided to children and young people if:

- they attend school on a full time basis; and
- their families meet the eligibility criteria for the provision of free school meals; and
- a request has been made by, or on behalf of the parent or pupil for free school meals.

Until September 2013, children and young people were eligible for free school meals if they or their parent(s)/guardian(s) are in receipt of any of the following benefits/support payments:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and their annual income does not exceed £16,190
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Pupils who receive income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support or Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance in their own right could also be eligible to receive free school meals .

The cost of free school meals is met from local authority budgets (which includes funding provided through the Local Government Settlement), and the Welsh Government expects local authorities and schools to encourage the uptake of free school meals.

On 6 September 2013, the Free School Lunches and Milk (Universal Credit) (Wales) Order 2013 came into force and temporarily extended the eligibility criteria for free school lunches and milk to include all families in receipt of Universal Credit. This was done as an interim measure to protect the children of Universal Credit claimants who would have been eligible for free school meals under legacy benefits, to ensure they weren't disadvantaged because their parent(s) received Universal Credit instead.

Roll-out of Universal Credit in Wales

To date the number of families in Wales that are eligible to claim FSM because they receive Universal Credit is low. This is because Universal Credit has not yet been rolled out fully to families in Wales.

Universal Credit is being introduced in stages across the UK. In Wales, the rollout of Universal Credit in respect of new claims for families commenced in April 2017 and is due to be completed in December 2018. Some claimants on "legacy benefits" who have had a change in their circumstances have already been migrated on to Universal Credit. All remaining claimants in receipt of "legacy benefits" will begin to be migrated to Universal Credit from July 2019. It is anticipated that by 2022, all existing legacy benefit claimants will have moved to Universal Credit.

Why do we need to amend the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals?

At present all families that receive Universal Credit are entitled to claim free school meals for their children, including those who would have previously not been entitled under the

legacy benefits system. This is not currently an issue as the rollout of Universal Credit to families in Wales is quite limited. However, this will change as the rollout progresses.

When Universal Credit is rolled out fully across Wales, if all families in receipt of Universal Credit were entitled to free school meals, this is estimated to significantly increase the size of the free school meals cohort. As there is no distinction between out-of-work and in-work benefits under Universal Credit and all claimants in receipt of Universal Credit are currently eligible for free school meals, a lot of extra in-work claimants on low incomes would now be eligible. Our analysis suggests that by the time Universal Credit is fully rolled out, around half of all pupils would be eligible for free school meals (compared to 16 per cent in January 2017), which would be unaffordable.

As well as the additional financial burden of funding extra free school meals, any change in the profile of the eligible for free school meals caseload in Wales would affect deprivation indicators used in calculations for grant funding streams, such as the Welsh Government's Pupil Development Grant (PDG), the Education Improvement Grant for schools (EIG) and the Local Government Settlement funding formula.

No additional funding has been provided to the Welsh Government to manage the impact of the UK Government's Welfare Reform agenda on FSM.

Welsh Government's proposals

The Welsh Government proposes to introduce an annualised net earned income threshold of £7,400 from 1 January 2019. We also propose to offer transitional protection, which would ensure that no child would lose their entitlement to free school meals during the rollout of Universal Credit (and beyond for some children).

The objectives are to revise eligibility criteria for free school meals, ensuring :-

- those most in need are able to access free school meals, with the aim of improving health and educational outcomes
- the affordability of free school meal provision for local authorities, which would need to be funded by the Welsh Government, and,
- the affordability of any new related financial burdens for the Welsh Government which might arise

The threshold does not represent a household's total income as it does not include income from benefits, which significantly increase a household's overall income. For example, a typical family earning around £7,400 per annum would, depending on their exact circumstances, have a total household income of between £18,000 and £24,000 once benefits are taken into account¹.

The Welsh Government's intention is to keep the £7,400 earned income constant until the end of the rollout of Universal Credit, to provide stability and help to manage the unknowns during the rollout of Universal Credit, particularly the behavioural impacts of introducing a threshold. However, it will be kept under review.

¹ Source: DfE (2017) Eligibility for free school meals and the early years pupil premium under Universal Credit <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/eligibility-for-free-school-meals-and-the-early-years-pupil-premium-under-universal-credit>

- **What is the time frame for achieving it?**

It is anticipated that the revised eligibility criteria for free school meals in Wales will be applied with effect from 1 January 2019.

The Welsh Government will consult on its proposals for revised eligibility criteria between 6 June and 14 September 2018. This CRIA template has been completed before consultation, but will be reviewed to reflect the consultation responses received.

- **Who are the intended beneficiaries?**

The intended beneficiaries of this piece of work are families who are most in need of free school meals.

- **Is it likely that the piece of work will specifically affect children?**

The revision of eligibility criteria for free school meals will specifically affect children.

- **Will the piece of work have an effect on a particular group of children, if so, describe the group affected?**

The revised eligibility criteria will have most effect on those in need of free school meals, many of whom will be amongst the most vulnerable groups in society, including those living in poverty. Those affected will be school aged children, and also those in school sixth forms.

Step 2. Analysing the impact

- **What positive impacts will this piece of work have on children, young people or their families?**

Overall, an annualised net earnings threshold of £7,400 is estimated to increase the number of children benefitting from free school meals in Wales by around 3,000 by the time Universal Credit is fully rolled out. This represents the estimated net change in the cohort size due to the new eligibility criteria proposed. It is relative to the estimated number of children that would have received free school meals under the benefit system that Universal Credit is replacing. We propose to put in place a transitional protection offer, which would ensure that no child would lose entitlement to free school meals during the rollout of Universal Credit (and beyond for some children).

Those retaining and gaining entitlement to free school meals will have the option to access a nutritious meal in school/sixth form, with the aim of improving their health and

educational outcomes².

- **What are the negative impacts and what compensatory measures may be needed to mitigate them?**

We are proposing to mitigate any negative impacts of the policy by putting in place a transitional protection offer, which would ensure that no child would lose entitlement to free school meals during the rollout of Universal Credit (and beyond for some children). We also plan to keep the threshold under review.

Mitigating action (transitional protection for families affected by the change)

Transitional protection refers to measures which ensure some people are shielded from the effects of a policy change for a limited period of time during the move to new arrangements

We propose a transitional protection offer that would mean the following pupils would be protected against losing their free school meals:

- From 1 January 2019, all existing free school meals claimants would continue to receive free school meals whilst Universal Credit is rolled out (currently expected to be until 2022). This would apply even if they no longer meet the eligibility criteria period (e.g. if their earnings rise above the new threshold) at a later point during this period.
- Any pupil gaining eligibility for free school meals after 1 January 2019 would be protected against losing free school meals during the Universal Credit rollout period. This would still be the case even if they no longer meet the eligibility criteria at a later point during the rollout period.
- Following the completion of the roll out of Universal Credit, any existing pupil that no longer meets the eligibility criteria at that point (e.g. if their parent(s) earn above the threshold or are no longer entitled to Universal Credit) will continue to receive free school meals until the end of their child's current phase of education (i.e. primary or secondary).

- **How will you know if your piece of work is a success?**

Success will be measured in terms of the number, and characteristics, of pupils that are recorded as being eligible for free school meals in the school census, whether this is within estimated parameters, and if no un-anticipated adverse impact is identified.

- **Have you considered the short, medium and long term outcomes?**

Yes.

In the short term, because of the rollout of Universal Credit, it is necessary to revise the eligibility criteria for free school meals, ensuring that the most deprived families retain their entitlement and that the costs remain within available resource. In the medium term, transitional protection has been considered for those affected by the changes. Long term, officials will monitor the situation to address unanticipated outcomes.

² The following evidence suggests a positive link between free school meals, health, behaviour and educational attainment: <https://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/9202>; [http://jandonline.org/article/S0002-8223\(05\)00151-3/fulltext](http://jandonline.org/article/S0002-8223(05)00151-3/fulltext) <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0047272714002497>; <http://www.nature.com/ejcn/journal/v64/n11/full/ejcn2010150a.html?foxtrotcallback=true>;

In the longer term for children themselves, there is evidence that suggests a positive link between free school meals, health, behaviour and educational attainment.

- **Have you developed an outcomes framework to measure impact?**

No specific outcomes framework has been devised. However, subject to the introduction of revised eligibility criteria, the situation will be kept under review, by monitoring whether the number of eligible pupils differs substantially to what the Welsh Government has projected. If there is a significant variation to Welsh Government's projections, the threshold may need to change.

- **Do you need to engage with children & young people and/or stakeholders to seek their views using consultation or participatory methods?**
- **If yes to above, how have their views influenced your work?**
- **Do you need to produce child friendly versions of proposals/consultations?**

It is not considered appropriate to consult directly with children and young people who are the recipients of free school meals. Not only is this a very technical subject area, but some children and young people might not be aware that they, or their classmates, receive free school meals. There is a risk that in highlighting this issue directly with children or young people, it will cause distress and make them worry about household finances and/or create stigma for those that receive benefits/support payments and passported benefits such as free school meals.

No specific consultation with children and young people has been planned. However, during the consultation period, Welsh Government officials will meet with stakeholders including representatives of local authorities and Third Sector organisations.

No child friendly versions of the consultation have been produced for the reasons given above.

Consultation

This CRIA has been prepared in advance of a formal consultation on Welsh Government's proposals, following which they may need to be reconsidered, depending on the feedback received during the consultation.

- **Does the piece of work have any links to delivering the key objectives of the Child Poverty Strategy for Wales?**
- **If so, state how the work may impact on child poverty.**

Links with the Child Poverty Strategy for Wales

Free school meals feature in the Child Poverty Strategy for Wales in two ways:

- The provision of free school meals features in the income maximisation logic model set out in the strategy as a key policy designed to ensure that families are supported to increase their household income and make their money go further.
- Eligibility for free school meals is used as a proxy indicator for pupil age deprivation in monitoring progress made in narrowing the attainment gap between pupils from

more affluent backgrounds and those who are less well off.

A key objective of revising the eligibility criteria for free school meals is to ensure that those most in need (i.e. children in low income families) are able to access free school meals.

Changes to the cohort of pupils who are eligible for free school meals will affect our ability to monitor attainment of pupils who are eligible for free school meals, and the progress made in narrowing the attainment gap. We remain committed to publishing data on the attainment of disadvantaged pupils but recognise that we will also need to take into consideration increases in the numbers of pupils eligible for free school meals whilst Universal Credit is rolled out.

The impact of free school meals on child poverty

As stated above, the provision of free school meals features in the income maximisation logic model set out in the Child Poverty Strategy for Wales as a key policy designed to ensure that families are supported to increase their household income and make their money go further. For the families that need them, free school meals have a considerable monetary value³. A key objective of this piece of work is to set new eligibility criteria for that will ensure those most in need are entitlement to free school meals.

There is also evidence that eating a nutritious meal at lunchtime (*Fair and Square: A policy Report on the Future of Free School Meals*. The Children's Society, 2012) :

- has important health and educational benefits for children
- can improve their diet and increase their concentration during afternoon lessons
- can potentially decrease health inequalities

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

- **Which UNCRC articles are most relevant to the piece of work?
Consider the articles which your piece of work impacts upon.**

Provision of free school meals is directly linked to 4 UNRC articles, namely:

- **Article 6**
Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily
- **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 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

³ Funding for free school meals is estimated to be around £400 a year per child. This provides an indication of the extent to which parents benefit from free school meals. However, the amount actually spent on food by families for school lunches may be higher than this. An article by Dearden, L. and Farquharson, C. (2017) reports that some families with one child spend around £70 on food each week
<https://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/9202>.

this.

- **Explain why these articles are relevant and how the piece of work promotes them.**

A key objective of revising the eligibility criteria for free school meals is to ensure that those most in need are able to access free school meals (Articles 26 and 27). For low income families, the provision of free school meals represents an important reduction in their expenditure.

There is some evidence⁴ that provision of a healthy school meal and free school meals for those that need them, has health benefits and potentially allows children in low income families to have a nutritious meal (Articles 6 and 24).

- **How are you improving the way children and young people access their rights?**

The Welsh Government wants to ensure that the benefits of healthy school meals, as set out above, continue to be available, free of charge, to children and young people most in need.

- **What aspects of children's lives will be affected by the proposal?**

Providing free school meals can prevent hunger and give pupils the opportunity to access a free, healthy meal at school. There is also anecdotal evidence⁵ that healthy school meals can help improve educational attainment by improving classroom behaviour and helping to improve academic performance

- **What are the main issues that the CRIA should focus on?**

- The potential benefits of free school meal provision for those most in need
- The necessity of delivering its objectives around free school meals with the limited resources available.

- **Does the piece of work help to maximise the outcomes within the articles of the UNCRC?**

Yes. As set out above, this piece of work is closely aligned to 4 UNRC articles.

- **Include any evidence from consultation(s), if applicable, here.**

⁴ *Fair and Square: A policy Report on the Future of Free School Meals*. The Children's Society (2012): https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/tcs/fair_and_square_policy_report_final.pdf

⁵ *Evaluation of Universal infant Free School Meals*. Education Policy Institute. (2018): <https://epi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/UIFSM-evaluation-7.compressed.pdf>

This CRIA has been prepared in advance of consultation and will be adapted, where necessary, to take account of the responses received.

Step 4. Advising the Minister and Ministerial decision

- **Outlining the ways in which the piece of work helps to maximise the outcomes within the articles of the UNCRC?**

When providing advice and making recommendations to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services with regard to revised eligibility criteria for free school meals, officials have outlined how the policy helps to maximise the outcomes within the articles of the UNCRC.

- **Has any conflict with the UNCRC articles within the proposal been identified?**

No conflict with the UNCRC articles has been identified.

- **Outlining the wider impact; does the proposal affect any other policy areas?**

There is a potential impact in a number of other policy areas. Policy leads from the areas concerned have contributed to and commented on the advice. The Cabinet Secretary for Education and the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services have been briefed on the wider impact of the options submitted for consideration.

- **With regard to any negative impacts caused by the proposal; can Ministers evidence that they have allocated as much resources as possible?**

The Welsh Government is considering financial support to meet the impact of the £7,400 threshold and the transitional protection offer. We will work with local authorities to manage the distribution of this financial support, in particular through the Distribution Sub-Group which advises on the Local Government Settlement formula.

- **What options and advice should be provided to Ministers on the proposal?**

Advice submitted to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services with regard to revised eligibility criteria for free school meals in Wales due to the rollout of Universal Credit, set out a number of options which examined:

- Free school meal eligibility for families most in need
- Potential to deliver within available resource

- Transitional protection for families

The Cabinet Secretary for Education's agreement was to consult on her chosen proposal. Additional advice and recommendations will be submitted to the Cabinet Secretaries as a result of consultation responses received.

- **In relation to your advice on whether or not to proceed with the piece of work, is there any additional advice you should provide to the Minister?**

As above. The Cabinet Secretary for Education's agreement was to consult on her preferred option. Additional advice and recommendations will be submitted to the Cabinet Secretaries as a result of consultation responses received.

- **How undertaking this CRIA has influenced your advice to the Minister.**

Advice to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Service remains consistent. Options for consideration by the Cabinet Secretaries were prepared with children's rights in mind.

- **Is it appropriate to advise the Minister to reconsider the decision in the future, in particular bearing in mind the availability of resources at this time and what resources may be available in the future?**

As above. The Cabinet Secretary for Education's agreement was to consult on her preferred option. Additional advice and recommendations will be submitted to the Cabinet Secretaries as a result of consultation responses received.

Subject to the introduction of an earned income threshold as proposed, the situation will be kept under review by officials and, additional advice will be submitted if appropriate.

- **Have you provided advice to Ministers on a LF/SF and confirmed consideration of the UNCRC at the relevant paragraph i.e. statutory compliance?**

Yes. In providing the Cabinet Secretary for Education and the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Service with advice in support with regard to revised eligibility criteria for FSM in Wales due to the rollout of UC, it was confirmed that the options supported the UNCRC.

- **Is the advice supported by an explanation of the key issues?**

Yes. In providing the Cabinet Secretaries with advice with regard to revised eligibility criteria for free school meals in Wales due to the rollout of Universal Credit, a full explanation of the key issues was provided.

Step 5. Recording and communicating the outcome

Final version to be retained on i-share

Evidence should be retained that supports:

- How the duty has been complied with **(Steps 1-3 above)**
- The analysis that was carried out **(Steps 1-3 above)**
- The options that were developed and explored **(Steps 1- 3 above)**
- How have the findings / outcomes been communicated? **(Step 4 above)**
- ‘Tells the story’ of how the assessment has been undertaken and the results **(Step 4 above)**
- Include any hyperlinks to additional background information which may be of relevance.
- All CRIAs undertaken on legislation must be published alongside the relevant piece of work on the WG website. All other CRIAs must be listed in the WG website CRIA newsletter and must be made available upon request. Ministers are however, encouraged to publish all completed CRIAs.

This CRIA will be published on the Welsh Government’ website, alongside the consultation document “Revised eligibility criteria for free school meals in Wales due to the rollout of Universal Credit”

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

In revisiting the piece of work, consider any monitoring, evaluation or data collection that has been undertaken:

- Has your piece of work has had the intended impact as set out in Step 2.
- Have you engaged with stakeholders to discuss how the policy or practice is working.
- If not, are changes required.
- Identify where improvements can be made to reduce any negative impact.
- Identify any opportunities to promote children’s rights, bearing in mind any additional availability of resources at this time.

This CRIA will be reviewed as necessary following consultation.

Budgets

Does the piece of work have any associated allocation of budget?

Can you identify how much of this budget will be used for children and young people?

The Welsh Government is considering financial support to meet the impact of the £7,400 threshold and the transitional protection offer. We will work with local authorities to manage the distribution of this financial support, in particular through the Distribution Sub-Group, which advises on the Local Government Settlement formula.

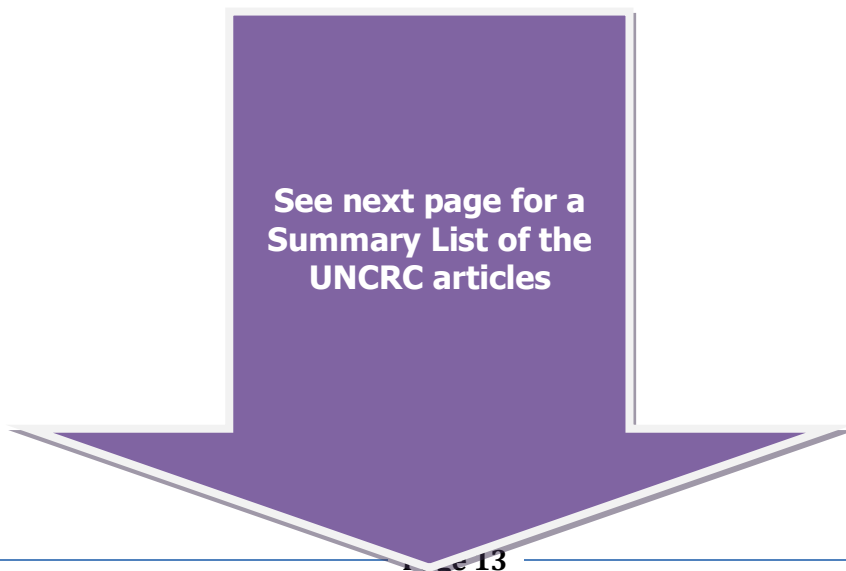
As any funds allocated will be used to fund FSM, it is arguable that 100% will be used for children and young people.

<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>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?</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>Please give any details:</p>	

Monitoring & Review

<p>Do we need to monitor / review the proposal?</p>	<p>Yes -</p>
<p>If applicable: set the review date</p>	<p>Month / Year The proposal will continue to be monitored throughout the rollout of Universal Credit across Wales (to 2022).</p>

Please forward a copy of this CRIA to CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk for monitoring purposes



THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

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

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 of 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/

Cic - The National Information and Advice Service for Young People www.ciconline.co.uk/news/

