

Island Community Impact Assessment

The purpose of an Island Community Impact Assessment (ICIA) is to improve the work of the Integration Joint Board by making sure it considers whether the impact of any policy, strategy or service on an island community is likely to be significantly differently from its effect on other communities (including other island communities).

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS	Responses
Please provide a brief description or summary of the policy, strategy, or service under review for the purposes of this assessment.	Orkney Child Poverty Strategy 2022 to 2026.
STEP 1 - Develop a clear understanding of your objectives	Responses
What are the objectives of the policy, strategy, or service?	To prevent, reduce, mitigate and ameliorate the impacts of poverty on children.
Do you need to consult?	Yes.
How are islands identified for the purpose of the policy, strategy, or service?	The Strategy covers all of Orkney, including all its inhabited islands. It differentiates between the Mainland and linked south isles, and the ferry-linked isles, since their socio-economic circumstances are distinctly different.
What are the intended impacts/outcomes and how do these potentially differ in the islands?	The strategy aims to reduce and ideally eliminate child poverty in Orkney, although elimination will take longer than the lifetime of this particular plan. This aim applies to all areas of Orkney but will require differential policies on the Mainland/linked south isles and the ferry-linked islands because the causes, contributory factors and services available are different.
Is the policy, strategy, or service new?	The Strategy is developed by the Community Planning Partnership with all statutory and co-opted partners and is part of an ongoing strategic approach to addressing child poverty in Orkney.
STEP 2 - Gather your data and identify your stakeholders	Responses
What data is available about the current situation in the islands?	Data is available for Orkney as a whole but mostly not for individual isles. A selection of available data relating to child poverty in Orkney can be found in Orkney's Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) 2020-21, including benefit claimants, children in low

	<p>income households, households managing well financially, fuel poverty and energy efficiency, single parent households, attainment, health, free school meals and SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation).</p> <p>Scottish Government maintains a dashboard of indicators relating to child poverty (last updated January 2022).</p> <p>Evidence of specific issues emerges from time to time e.g. the Area Dental Committee raised with the Orkney Partnership Board in 2021 the issue of isles residents missing dental appointments because of the cost of ferry travel.</p> <p>A survey conducted to inform the strategy generated 42 responses from families experiencing financial hardship (see below for further detail).</p> <p>An ICIA was conducted by Scottish Government to inform the second national child poverty delivery plan, Best Start Bright Futures 2022-26, published in March 2022. This noted that although child poverty statistics indicated that fewer children were living in poverty on Scotland’s islands than in urban areas, the statistics did not take into account the significantly higher cost of living on islands, demonstrated in several previous pieces of research. The ICIA concluded that it was likely that more children were experiencing poverty and hardship on the islands than was suggested by the data alone. Mitigating actions proposed included the possibility of including one of the island councils in the “Pathfinder” pilot programme which forms part of the national delivery plan.</p>
Do you need to consult?	<p>Consultation has taken place locally, starting in July 2021. A survey targeted at families experiencing financial hardship, Making Ends Meet, was distributed widely and respondents were asked to indicate whether they lived on the Orkney mainland or ferry-linked isles.</p>
How does any existing data differ between islands?	<p>Very little data is available at the level of individual isles. Statistics published by datazone include several islands in each datazone e.g. SIMD but can still be useful to indicate differences between islands linked to the Orkney mainland by causeways and those that are dependent on ferry and/or air links. SIMD 2020(v2) demonstrates that the ferry-linked isles experience higher ongoing levels of deprivation than all areas of the Orkney Mainland/linked south isles other than parts of Kirkwall. All of the ferry-linked isles are found in the lowest scoring eight (the bottom 28%) of Orkney’s 29 datazones. This is due</p>

to a combination of factors including restricted local employment options (reflected in reduced income), restricted housing options and restricted access to public services, historically due to constraints on transport but increasingly attributable to inadequate digital connectivity.

The socio-economic disparity between the ferry-linked and Mainland/south-linked isles led to the “Non-linked” isles being selected as the subject of Orkney’s first Locality Plan for 2018-21.

The table below summarises the SIMD 2020 data and illustrates this disparity.

SCOTTISH INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION 2020*

Data Zone	Location	Overall SIMD 2020 rank	Overall decile 2020	Total population 2020
S01011821	Kirkwall - Pickaquoy	1,995	3	411
S01011827	Hoy, Walls & Flotta	2,097	4	516
S01011831	Stronsay, Sanday & North Ronaldsay	2,476	4	845
S01011822	Kirkwall - Town Centre	2,679	4	638
S01011830	Shapinsay, Rousay, Egilsay & Wyre	2,710	4	560
S01011824	Kirkwall - The Meadows East	2,749	4	623
S01011820	Kirkwall - Glaitness Road & Hornersquoy	3,074	5	920
S01011832	Eday, Westray & Papay	3,153	5	808
S01011804	Stromness - South	3,187	5	727
S01011808	Firth	3,402	5	720
S01011828	South Ronaldsay	3,421	5	981
S01011819	Kirkwall - South	4,336	7	734
S01011829	Burray	4,356	7	457
S01011813	Holm	4,373	7	816
S01011823	Kirkwall - KGS & Bignold Park	4,412	7	627
S01011810	Harray	4,434	7	1,036
S01011809	Orphir	4,446	7	696
S01011825	Kirkwall - Papdale West	4,471	7	512
S01011814	Holm East, Toab & Deerness	4,607	7	760
S01011812	Evie, Rendall & Gairsay	4,790	7	665
S01011817	St Ola - West	4,836	7	1,034
S01011826	Kirkwall - Harbour and North	4,851	7	606
S01011811	Birsay & Dounby	4,902	8	1,113
S01011806	Stromness - Outer Town	4,911	8	829
S01011815	Tankerness	4,977	8	895
S01011818	Kirkwall - Holm Road	5,263	8	1,022
S01011807	Sandwick and Stenness	5,424	8	1,070
S01011805	Stromness - North	5,566	8	553
S01011816	St Ola - East	5,616	9	826
* Corrected release SIMD 2020v2				22,000

Are there any existing design features or mitigations in place?

During lockdown, Orkney Islands Council implemented a food voucher scheme for isles

	<p>residents to mitigate against the higher cost of food in the isles shops. This was a universal provision to avoid people needing to claim, thereby minimising delay and potential stigma.</p> <p>Cash payments were provided to eligible families to cover the cost of free school meals during lockdown and holiday periods.</p> <p>The Council doubled to £200 the Scottish Government's £100 holiday payments (at Christmas 2020 and Easter 2021) per child, for children in receipt of free school meals, in part to encourage uptake of free school meals and associated benefits such as school clothing allowance.</p> <p>Targeted mitigation measures are introduced where possible when agencies become aware of a need but much poverty on the isles is hidden.</p>
STEP 3 - Consultation	Responses
Who do you need to consult with?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children who experience disadvantage and poverty. 2. Parents/carers in families experiencing disadvantage and poverty. 3. Service providers for clients who are experiencing or have experienced disadvantage and poverty, who have insights into how these experiences impact on children.
How will you carry out your consultation and in what timescales?	<p>Initial consultation with families took place in summer/autumn 2021. A survey was designed by the Child Poverty Task Force and community planning partners actioned their field staff to distribute the survey and/or interview clients as appropriate. This was extended into a wider public consultation for a limited period, to assess the degree of need which was not already known to agencies.</p> <p>Service providers have direct input into the Strategy via the Child Poverty Task Force and feedback provided for successive LCPARs via Voluntary Action Orkney (VAO). The strategy has been drafted in liaison with the Task Force and with the members of the wider Community Wellbeing Delivery Group. Consultation directly with children has yet to take place and will need careful planning in liaison with schools. This will be actioned as part of the implementation of the strategy.</p>
What questions will you ask when considering how to address island realities?	<p>A question on residency on the ferry-linked isles was included in the survey so that answers from isles families could be collated separately and compared with those from Orkney Mainland (and linked isles) families.</p> <p>Specific questions also addressed whether families thought that living on the ferry-linked isles made a</p>

	difference to their family's situation.
What information has already been gathered through consultations and what concerns have been raised previously by island communities?	<p>The Making Ends Meet survey generated 42 responses from families experiencing financial hardship, including four families on the ferry-linked isles. This was insufficient for meaningful quantitative analysis but respondents provided detailed commentary about the challenges they faced in their daily lives, including the additional challenges associated with living on the ferry-linked isles, which has been valuable in developing the strategy. Particular issues raised were the cost and inconvenience of inter-island ferry travel and the higher cost of living (notably fuel and food) on the isles.</p> <p>The Orkney Partnership Board consulted on proposed new strategic priorities for its Local Outcomes Improvement Plan in spring 2021. This consultation demonstrated a high level of public concern about the socio-economic impact of the pandemic on families in Orkney. A new delivery group was convened to progress actions relating to the priority of "Community Wellbeing". The Child Poverty Task Force, a short life working group within the Orkney Partnership Board, reports to this group and will do so until a permanent framework for the planning, monitoring and reporting of children's services in Orkney – including those relating to child poverty – has been established. This is scheduled to be done during 2022/23.</p> <p>VAO conducted a Place Standard consultation in spring 2021 in the West Mainland and Kirkwall, the results of which informed the action plan drawn up by the Community Wellbeing Delivery Group and will also inform future locality planning by the Partnership to combat socio-economic deprivation. The National Island Plan Survey, conducted by the James Hutton Institute and published July 2021, provides a wealth of information about the experiences of individuals aged 18-75 throughout Scotland's islands. In response to requests from island agencies, survey respondents were divided into "mainland" and "outer isles" categories in each island area. For Orkney this means that data for Mainland, South Ronaldsay and Burray is recorded separately from data for the ferry-linked isles. Scottish Government plans to recommission this survey every two years for the lifetime of the National Islands Plan.</p>
Is your consultation robust and meaningful and sufficient to comply with the Section 7	Yes, with respect to families/caregivers and service providers. Further work is required with regard to

duty?	consulting with children themselves.
STEP 4 – Assessment	Responses
Does your assessment identify any unique impacts on island communities?	Yes. Families and children living on remote islands and in remote rural areas experience poverty and disadvantage differently to those on the Mainland. Orkney’s children experience poverty differently to those on the Scottish mainland. A key difference is that the cost of living is higher for families on islands, and higher still on the smaller isles. The available evidence demonstrates that measures available to assist families in Orkney are not always accessed by those eligible, especially on the isles.
Does your assessment identify any potential barriers or wider impacts?	Access to and communication with children in the outer isles and remote rural areas can be difficult. Some poverty is hidden for cultural and historical reasons, and may continue through generations.
How will you address these?	Our aim is to minimise disadvantage to children living in poverty, and our strategy will seek to ensure that all forms of support on the Orkney Mainland are also available to families and children in the isles. If delivering equal services isn’t possible for some reason, then an equally fair solution will be sought – the aim is to level up, not level down. Where families on the isles experience unique disadvantages, then bespoke solutions will be found.

You must now determine whether, in your opinion your policy, strategy, or service is likely to have an effect on an island community that is significantly different from its effect on other communities (including other island communities).

If your answer is **NO** to the above question, a full ICIA will NOT be required, and **you can proceed to Step SIX**. If the answer is **YES**, an ICIA must be prepared, and **you should proceed to Step FIVE**.

To form your opinion, the following questions should be considered:

- Does the evidence show different circumstances or different expectations or needs, or different experiences or outcomes (such as different levels of satisfaction, or different rates of participation)?
- Are these different effects likely?
- Are these effects significantly different?
- Could the effect amount to a disadvantage for an island community when compared to other islands in Orkney (especially the Mainland)?

STEP 5 – Preparing your ICIA	Responses
In Step Five, you should describe the likely significantly different effect of the policy, strategy, or service:	

<p>Assess the extent to which you consider that the policy, strategy, or service can be developed or delivered in such a manner as to improve or mitigate, for island communities, the outcomes resulting from it.</p>	<p>Families on the ferry-linked isles are one of the local priority groups explicitly addressed by the Strategy. Our target outcome for this group is that the differential effect of the Strategy will be to “level up” the takeup of services and support to families on the isles compared with those on the Orkney Mainland/linked south isles.</p> <p>For example, an issue on the isles is families failing to claim support to which they are entitled. The survey was designed to alert families to resources that they may be entitled to and encourage them to seek help. A supporting factsheet with brief descriptions and contact details for all relevant sources of support was prepared for distribution with the survey. This included information about how to access Mainland-based services in the isles, e.g. Orkney Foodbank.</p>
<p>Consider alternative delivery mechanisms and whether further consultation is required.</p>	<p>Consultation is continuing and will inform future iterations of the Strategy and local delivery plan. It is likely that different delivery mechanisms will be required during the lifetime of the strategy given that Orkney will be, at time of publication, still in the recovery phase from the pandemic.</p>
<p>Describe how these alternative delivery mechanisms will improve or mitigate outcomes for island communities.</p>	<p>These will be developed during the lifetime of the Strategy and this ICIA will continue to be a work in progress.</p>
<p>Identify resources required to improve or mitigate outcomes for island communities.</p>	<p>Within the 2021 revision of the community planning framework in Orkney, the Child Poverty Task Force is currently reporting to the Board via the Community Wellbeing Delivery Group. Any additional resources required to improve or mitigate outcomes for isles communities will be referred to the Delivery Group for consideration and onward to the Board as necessary. There is resource for islands coming on stream from the programme funding for the implementation of the National Islands Plan, including a Healthy Living funding stream, which is closely aligned to the aims of the Community Wellbeing strategic priority. There may also be future funding streams arising from the implementation of the Scottish Government’s second child poverty delivery plan, Best Start Bright Futures 2022-26, including, as noted above, the possibility of an Islands Pathfinder pilot.</p> <p>The Community Wellbeing Delivery Group is working on the development of a “Poverty Pledge” to be taken by members of the Orkney Partnership Board, which make the mitigation and prevention of poverty in Orkney a commitment for individual partner organisations as well as the Partnership as a whole. This proposal will be put to the Board in June 2022.</p>

	<p>As noted in the Strategy, there is not much that the Partnership can do about national fiscal policy, which largely determines the key drivers of poverty. Resourcing preventative measures is always a challenge. Some of the proposed actions in the outline delivery plan are aspirational and we acknowledge that the longer-term actions will require significant policy decisions, which can never be taken for granted.</p> <p>Nevertheless, by adopting this strategy, the Orkney Partnership Board will commit the Partnership for the foreseeable future to improving outcomes for children living in poverty, and we anticipate that partners will do everything in their power to achieve this.</p>
STEP 6 - Making adjustments to your work	Responses
Should delivery mechanisms/mitigations vary in different communities?	The survey was made available both online and in hard copy, and on request posted out to isles families who did not have enough bandwidth to complete it online. We will ensure that future consultation is also made as inclusive as possible. Interventions will be targeted to communities, families, and children where evidence of specific disadvantage is revealed. They will vary depending on local circumstances in each island community.
Do you need to consult with island communities in respect of mechanisms or mitigations?	Not with regard to the current strategy as this has already been done. Where necessary with regard to future interventions, consultation with specific communities will be factored into our ongoing consultation programme.
Have island circumstances been factored into the evaluation process?	Orkney's population is very small, and population in the remote islands and rural areas even smaller. Quantitative analysis of numerical results at this scale is not statistically significant due to small numbers. The qualitative findings from the consultation were more relevant and this will probably continue to be the case.
Have any island-specific indicators/targets been identified that require monitoring?	There is a range of nationally available local statistics and indicators included in the Strategy, and these will be monitored on an ongoing basis to assess progress and identify any change in trends, good or bad. These include data published as part of the Scottish Government's Child Poverty Dashboard of indicators. However, little of this data is available at the level of individual islands. <p>The Scottish Household Survey includes data on household income and whether families are doing well or are in financial difficulties. This measure has been included in the new Community Plan 2021-23 as it is a key indicator under the Community</p>

	<p>Wellbeing priority and will help to triangulate the data collected from the Task Force survey.</p> <p>The National Islands Plan survey includes questions on household finances e.g. “In the past year, I have had to choose between keeping my home warm and buying food or essentials for myself and my family”.</p> <p>This survey will be repeated in 2023 providing another source of data to triangulate our own survey results.</p>
How will outcomes be measured on the islands?	The National Islands Plan survey differentiates between families on the isles and those on the Mainland/linked south isles. Local consultation also splits out these two groups. It should therefore be possible to monitor outcomes for the isles and the mainland separately.
How has the policy, strategy, or service affected island communities?	The strategy is new. The Child Poverty Task force (or any successor partnership group) will gather evidence of impact and report back as part of annual LCPAR reporting.
How will lessons learned in this ICIA inform future policy making and service delivery?	ICIA is a new process and learning from all ICIA's conducted by partner agencies will be shared as part of the process of embedding it in future policy making.
STEP 7 - Publishing your ICIA	Responses
Have you presented your ICIA in Easy-Read Format?	No. The survey form was screened to ensure it was easy to read. General information about the Strategy will be provided in simple language and this will include information about the isles.
Does your ICIA need to be prepared in Gaelic, or any other language?	No, but translation will be offered and available on request.
Where will you publish your ICIA, and will relevant stakeholders be able to easily access it?	On websites www.orkney.gov.uk and www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/COMMUNITYPLANNING/
ICIA completed by:	Anna Whelan.
Position:	Service Manager, Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions, Orkney Islands Council.
Signature:	
Date complete:	24 May 2022.
Who will sign-off your final ICIA and why?	Stephen Brown, Chief Officer of the IJB.
Signature:	
Date approved:	24 May 2022.