



The Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Rural Needs Impact Assessment Template



SECTION 1 - Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

1A. Name of Public Authority - Department of Health

1B. Please provide the official title/ description of the Strategy, Policy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative:

A consultation on the Report Recommendations from the Independent Review of Children's Social Care Services.

1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to -

Developing a:	Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a:	Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a:	Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Revising a:	Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Designing a Public Service		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Delivering a Public Service		<input type="checkbox"/>				

1D. Please provide the aims and/or objectives of the Strategy, Policy, Plan or Public Service:

The Review involved an examination of children's social care services focusing on quality, equity, resilience and sustainability. The intended aim is to ensure that children's social care services are:

- capable of responding to current and potential future demand/pressures and the level and complexity of need;
- effectively meeting the needs of the children, young people and families with a range of vulnerabilities and sufficiently and supportively engaging them in decisions affecting their lives; and
- adequately supporting staff and carers in the exercise of their statutory and other duties and in the course of their caring responsibilities.



1E. Which definition of 'rural' is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?:

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition)

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below)

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable¹

SECTION 2 – Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes No

Please explain:

If implemented, the recommendations are intended to improve children's social care services for any child or family needing to access them across Northern Ireland regardless of where they live.

If the response is **NO** after entering explanation **GO TO Section 3**

¹If a definition of 'rural' is not applicable, the policy is unlikely to fall under the scope of the Act and you should be able to screen out at this stage



2B. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it will impact people in rural areas differently:

N/A

2C. Please indicate the rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on (see list at note 1):

N/A



SECTION 3 – Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Yes

No

Please explain:

No specific evidence has been identified relating to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

If implemented, the recommendations are intended to improve children’s social care services for any child or family needing to access them across Northern Ireland regardless of where they live. Ongoing development will continue to monitor this.

If the response is **NO** please explain above and **GO TO Section 4**

3B. Please indicate which methods or information sources were used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas (see note 2 for examples) and provide details including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc:

N/A

3C. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified:

N/A

SECTION 4 – Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas identified by the Public Authority:

As with Section 3 above, it is not expected that the application and implementation of this policy will present specific barriers to delivery in rural areas. If implemented, the recommendations are intended to improve children's social care services for any child or family needing to access them.

If it is assessed, at consultation stage, that the policy principles, proposals and recommendation may have a bearing on rural needs, mitigating actions to assess the social and economic needs of persons in rural areas will be considered at that stage in the process.

SECTION 5 – Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revision of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

Yes

No

Please explain:

Given that the overall aims and objectives of the policy principles, proposals and recommendations relate to children social care services across Northern Ireland, it is considered that rural needs will not be impacted differently at this consultation stage of the policy.

If highlighted as an issue during the consultation period, further rural needs assessments will be undertaken at that point in the process.



SECTION 6 – Documenting and Recording

6A. I confirm that details of the Rural Needs Impact Assessment will be recorded on the Public Authority’s Annual Monitoring Return and the RNIA Template retained by the Public Authority (please check box)

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Bernie Redmond
Position / Grade:	DP
Division/Branch	FCPD / DoH
Signature:	<i>Bernie Redmond</i>
Date:	August 2023
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Máire Redmond
Position / Grade:	Grade 7
Division / Branch	FCPD / DoH
Signature:	<i>Máire J Redmond</i>
Date:	August 2023



Note 1

Rural Policy Areas (relates to question 2C):

- Rural Businesses
- Rural Tourism
- Rural Housing
- Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas
- Education or Training in Rural Areas
- Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas
- Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas
- Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas
- Poverty in Rural Areas
- Deprivation in Rural Areas
- Rural Crime or Community Safety
- Rural Development
- Other (Please specify)

Note 2

Examples of methods or information sources used (relates to question 3B):

- Consultation with Rural Stakeholders
- Consultation with Other Organisations
- Surveys or Questionnaires
- Other Methods or Information Sources (include details)
- Published Statistics
- Research Papers
- Other Publications