STATES OF JERSEY

PROPOSED BUDGET 2027-2030 (P.73/2026): FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT (P.73/2026 AMD.(15)) – CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Presented to the States on 24th November 2026
by Deputy L.M.C. Doublet of St. Saviour

STATES GREFFE

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT (CRIA)

PART 1: SCREENING

Name and title of Duty Bearer:	Deputy L.M.C. Doublet of St. Saviour
Type of Duty Bearer: (Minister, Elected Member or States Assembly Body)	Elected Member
Assessment completed by (if not completed by duty bearer):	Members' Resources Team and Deputy Doublet
Date:	

1) Name and brief description of the proposed decision
'Decision' means:
- an Assembly proposition
- an amendment (or further amendment) to a proposition
- for Ministerial duty-bearers, policy under development

This amendment seeks to increase Government funding for the charity Brighter Futures which supports families facing challenges and difficulties and bring in a 3-year funding cycle for the charity. It also proposes a child poverty strategy.

2) Which groups of children and young people are likely to be affected?
Groups of children could include early years, primary or secondary education; young adults; children with additional learning needs; disabled children; children living in poverty; children from particular ethnic backgrounds; migrants; refugees; care experienced children and LGBTQ+ children

All children whose families may be facing challenges and difficulties and whose parents are looking to create strong family relationships and provide their family with a reasonable standard of living.

3) What is the likely impact of the proposed decision on children and on their rights?
Impacts may be positive or negative, direct or indirect
Include whether different groups of children will be affected differently by the decision

Increased funding, a three-year funding cycle, and a child poverty strategy will have a positive impact on –
- Best interests of the Child (Art 3) to be a top priority
- Respect for the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents (or where applicable, extended family or community) to guide their child as they grow up (Art 5)
- Responsibilities of both parents in the upbringing and development of their child (Art 18)
- Children must not be separated from their parents against their will unless it is in their best interests (Art 9)
- Protection from violence, abuse or neglect (Art 19)
- Recovery from trauma and reintegration (Art 39) - Children who have experienced neglect, abuse, exploitation must receive special support to help them recover their health, dignity, self-respect and social life.
- Right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet the child's physical and social needs and support their development (Art 27)

- Leisure, play and culture (Art 31) - Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in cultural and artistic activities
- Sexual exploitation (Art 34)
- Drug abuse (Art 33)
- Children belonging to a minority or an indigenous group (Art 30)

4) Is a full Children's Rights Impact Assessment required?
If you have identified impacts on children and their rights, a full CRIA should be completed. If no impacts are identified then a Full CRIA is not required, but please explain your rationale and how you reached this conclusion

Yes, a full CRIA will be required.

If screening determines that a full CRIA is needed, complete Part 2

Part 2: FULL CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5) What will be the impacts (positive or negative) of the proposed decision on children's rights?

For each of the UNCRC articles described below, click to identify any that may be relevant ☒

Category	UNCRC Article	Impact? YES	NO
Guiding Principles	Non-discrimination (Art 2)	☐	☐
	Best interests of the Child (Art 3) to be a top priority	☒	☐
	Right to Life survival and development (Art 6)	☐	☐
	Respect for the child's views (Art 12)	☐	☐
Civil Rights & Freedoms	Right to birth registration, name and nationality (Art 7)	☐	☐
	Right to an identity (Art 8)	☐	☐
	Freedom of expression (Art 13)	☐	☐
	Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion (Art 14) Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose	☐	☐
	Freedom of association (Art 15) Every child has the right to meet with other children and to join groups and organisations	☐	☐
	Right to Privacy (Art 16) including family and home life	☐	☐

	Access to information from the media (Art 17) Right to access reliable information from a variety of sources, in a format that children can understand	☐	☐
	Protection against torture or other cruel, degrading or inhumane treatment or punishment (Art 37(a))	☐	☐
Family Environment and Alternative Care	Respect for the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents (or where applicable, extended family or community) to guide their child as they grow up (Art 5)	☒	☐
	Responsibilities of both parents in the upbringing and development of their child (Art 18)	☒	☐
	Children must not be separated from their parents against their will unless it is in their best interests (Art 9)	☒	☐
	Family reunification (Art 10)	☐	☐
	Abduction and non-return of children abroad (Art 11)	☐	☐
	Right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet the child's physical and social needs and support their development (Art 27)	☒	☐
	Special protection for children unable to live with their family (Art 20)	☐	☐
	Best interests of the child in the context of Adoption (Art 21)	☐	☐
	Review of treatment whilst in care (Art 25) If a child has been placed away from home for the purpose of care or protection (for example, with a foster family or in hospital), they have the right to a regular review of their treatment, the way they are cared for and their wider circumstances.	☐	☐
	Protection from violence, abuse or neglect (Art 19)	☒	☐
	Recovery from trauma and reintegration (Art 39) Children who have experienced neglect, abuse, exploitation, torture or who are victims of war must receive special support to help them recover their health, dignity, self-respect and social life.	☒	☐
Basic Health and Welfare	Rights of disabled children (Art 23)	☐	☐
	Right to health and health services (Art 24)	☐	☐
	Right to social security (Art 26)	☐	☐
	Right to adequate standard of living (Art 27)	☒	☐
Education, Leisure and	Right to education (Art 28)	☐	☐
	Goals of education (Art 29)	☐	☐

Cultural Activities	Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full		
	Leisure, play and culture (Art 31) Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in cultural and artistic activities	☒	☐
Special Protection Measures	Special protection for refugee children (Art 22)	☐	☐
	Children and armed conflict (Art 38 and Optional Protocol #1) Governments must do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war and armed conflict.	☐	☐
	Children and juvenile justice (Art 40) Right to be treated with dignity and respect, right to legal assistance and a fair trial that takes account of age.	☐	☐
	Inhumane treatment and detention (Art 37 (b)-(d)) Children should be arrested, detained or imprisoned only as a last resort and for the shortest time possible.	☐	☐
	Recovery from trauma and reintegration (Art 39) Children who have experienced neglect, abuse, exploitation, torture or who are victims of war must receive special support to help them recover their health, dignity, self-respect and social life	☐	☐
	Child labour and right to be protected from economic exploitation (Art 32)	☐	☐
	Drug abuse (Art 33)	☒	☐
	Sexual exploitation (Art 34)	☐	☐
	Abduction, sale and trafficking of children (Art 35)	☐	☐
	Protection from other forms of exploitation including for political activities, by the media or for medical research (Art 36)	☐	☐
	Children belonging to a minority or an indigenous group (Art 30)	☒	☐
	Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	☐	☐
	Optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict	☐	☐

6) Information and research What evidence has been used to inform your assessment?		
Evidence collected (include links to relevant publications)	What did the evidence tell you?	What are the data gaps, if any?

Brighter Futures - 2025 Annual Impact Report Booklet	Brighter Futures provides support to families experiencing difficult situations and provide one-on-one support as well as free programmes to parents and children to improve family resilience.	This document is produced by Brighter Futures so is necessarily skewed in the charity's favour.
"'Help for parents to bring their children up well' was selected by 30% of respondents aged between 7 and 18+ years as one of the top five things that would make life in Jersey better for children and young people." (Life on the Rock, 2021, p. 74)	Young people recognise that parents need support.	Life on the Rock was published in 2021, and more recent information would be useful. These were small focus groups of children, a larger cohort would be helpful.
"Some children have less parental monitoring and may find themselves in risky situations while others may have additional chores to do at home. Children are aware the work culture pays for the family lifestyle but they would like to spend more quality time together as a family." (CAG's Key Messages: Family Life, Life on the Rock, p. 79)	A key issue for Jersey children is wanting to spend quality time together as a family.	Life on the Rock was published in 2021, and more recent information would be useful. These were small focus groups of children, a larger cohort would be helpful.
"Leisure time and Sport – Leisure time – 90% reported enjoying spending time with their parents or carers" (Jersey Children and Young People's Survey Report, p. 31)	Children value time spent with parents and carers.	The survey lacks depth in terms of qualitative information.
"Leisure time and Sport – Leisure time – 20% of year 10s stayed outside their home past 10 p.m. with no adult present at least weekly" (Jersey Children	There are 14 and 15-year-olds who are in potentially risky situations without adults present.	The survey lacks depth in terms of qualitative information.

and Young People's Survey Report, p. 31)		

7) Engagement with children What groups of children and young people (or those who speak on their behalf, such as social workers, teachers or youth workers) have been directly or indirectly involved in developing the decision?		
Groups consulted	How they were involved	What were the findings?
Children at the World Children's Day event hosted by the Jersey Children's Commissioner and her team	The children presented the report 'Less Money, More Stress' alongside the adults from the commissioner's office. They were also part of mixed groups around the room giving views on child poverty and hardship.	I was struck by how aware the children were of money difficulties in their own communities, and they expressed to us the wide impacts of financial difficulties. I heard how they know that children who cannot afford to take part in leisure activities, clubs and hobbies, miss out on the experiences and opportunities to be creative and active, and also are then feeling left out and socially isolated when peers form friendships around these experiences. Children spoke with great clarity about how there are plenty of 'rich people' in our island and they felt that it was unfair that some people didn't have enough to eat or warm clothing when some have so much to spare. They felt that leaders should fix these problems.

8) Assessing Impact on children's rights Based on the information collected and analysed above, what likely impact will the proposed decision have on the specific children's rights identified in question 5)?		
Relevant UNCRC Articles (rights) identified in Q5	Describe the positive or negative impacts on these rights	Which group(s) of children are likely to be affected?

Best interests of the Child (Art 3) to be a top priority	"Some children have less parental monitoring and may find themselves in risky situations while others may have additional chores to do at home. Children are aware the work culture pays for the family lifestyle but they would like to spend more quality time together as a family." (CAG's Key Messages: Family Life, Life on the Rock, p. 79)	All children but particularly those whose parents have less free time due to work commitments.
	Brighter Futures mission includes - "To support families facing challenges and difficulties. […] To deliver a targeted service through the provision of evidence based programmes and one to one support." (2025 Annual Impact Report Booklet. p. [4])	Any child in a family facing challenges and difficulties.
Respect for the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents (or where applicable, extended family or community) to guide their child as they grow up (Art 5) Responsibilities of both parents in the upbringing and development of their child (Art 18) Children must not be separated from their parents against their will unless it is in their best interests (Art 9)	"'Help for parents to bring their children up well' was selected by 30% of respondents aged between 7 and 18+ years as one of the top five things that would make life in Jersey better for children and young people." (Life on the Rock, 2021, p. 74)	All children.
	Brighter Futures mission includes - "To help to create strong family relationships,	Any child in a family seeking to create strong family relationships,

	where parents can support each other." "To support parents in their role as their child's key educator." (2025 Annual Impact Report Booklet. p. [4]) Brighter Futures saw 180+ completed parenting and parent-child programmes in 2025. (2025 Annual Impact Report Booklet. p. [10])	where parents can support each other.
Protection from violence, abuse or neglect (Art 19) Recovery from trauma and reintegration (Art 39) Children who have experienced neglect, abuse, exploitation, torture or who are victims of war must receive special support to help them recover their health, dignity, self-respect and social life.	"Families come to Brighter Futures from a variety of backgrounds and for a number of reasons such as suffering from post-natal depression, substance misuse or addiction, depression or anxiety, financial difficulties, domestic abuse or isolation. The impact on children within the family associated with any of these issues is significant. All of these factors leave children in a position of disadvantage and without a safe and supportive home life and as a consequence, children can struggle to develop emotionally, physically, psychologically and verbally." Brighter Futures Limited - Members	Any children exposed to domestic abuse.
Leisure, play and culture (Art 31) Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in cultural and artistic activities	Brighter Futures Dads Club programme – "As a single dad, it can be hard to find spaces where you feel welcome and where your kids can just be kids. Dads Club gave us that. My two children loved having activities to do,	Children of single dads.

	and I valued the chance to spend proper time with them without distractions. It was also good to meet other dads and realise I was not on my own. The sessions felt relaxed, supportive, and easy to attend. It has helped me feel more confident as a parent and given my children something to look forward to every month." (2025 Annual Impact Report Booklet. p. [8])	
Drug abuse (Art 33)	"Families come to Brighter Futures from a variety of backgrounds and for a number of reasons such as suffering from post-natal depression, substance misuse or addiction, depression or anxiety, financial difficulties, domestic abuse or isolation. The impact on children within the family associated with any of these issues is significant. All of these factors leave children in a position of disadvantage and without a safe and supportive home life and as a consequence, children can struggle to develop emotionally, physically, psychologically and verbally." (Brighter Futures Limited - Members)	Any children in families experiencing issues with substance misuse or addiction.
• Right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet the child's physical and social needs and support their development (Art 27)	A child poverty strategy with the aim of eradicating child poverty will ensure no child experiences this - "I don't eat as much anymore during the day because the portions are getting	Children living in relative poverty Children in single parent families

	smaller and smaller and the cost is getting higher and higher. My mum can't afford to pay for this five days a week, it's too much." Source – Office of the Children's Commissioner for Jersey report – Less Money, More Stress	

9) Weighing positive and negative impacts
- If a negative impact is identified for any area of rights or any group of children and young people, what options are there to modify the proposed decision to mitigate the impact?
- Could any positive impacts be enhanced?

The amendment would have positive effects for those children living in relative poverty.

10) Conclusions
In summary, what are your key findings on the impact of the proposed decision on the rights of Jersey children?

Brighter Futures offers a range of free evidence-based programmes (25 in total) which address three crucial key areas of family life;

1. Parent and child relationships
2. Wellbeing and positive mental health
3. Personal development and second chance learning

Their Vision:
- For all families in Jersey to live safe, happy and healthy lives, supporting them in times of challenge to realise their full potential.

Their Mission:
- Support families facing challenges and difficulties
- Help to create strong family relationships where parents can support each other
- Support parents in their role as their child's key educator
- Deliver a targeted service through the provision of evidence-based programmes and one-to-one support.

Their Values:
- **COMPASSION, TRUST AND NON-JUDGEMENTAL.** We are committed to creating a compassionate, non-judgemental environment for the families that we work with. Brighter Futures promotes choice, dignity, consideration and respect.
- **COLLABORATION AND EQUALITY.** We are committed to ensuring that the families who use our service are involved in developing our service.

- **QUALITY.** We believe in evaluating our services and improving our practice. We are committed to integrity, objectivity, fairness and ethical business practices.
- **CO-OPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP.** We are a strength-based educational model and are committed to working with other organisations to improve, develop and expand services for families facing challenges in Jersey.

(What we do - Brighter Futures)

Increasing the grant to Brighter Futures means that many more families are able to access this support. The empowering impact of their work means that parents are equipped with the ability to take forward positive changes for themselves and their children, which will have a lifelong ripple effect not just for the family but for the community around them. As well as being morally the right thing to do, this also saves more money year on year as the children grow up, as less intervention is needed from publicly funded crisis services.

A Child Poverty Strategy would help protect children's rights in Jersey by ensuring that all children can access essentials such as adequate food, clothing, housing, health care, education and opportunities to participate in school and community life, regardless of their family's income. The children who contributed to *Less Money, More Stress* described going without meals, not asking for basic necessities, missing out on activities and carrying anxiety about family finances, showing that reducing child poverty is directly linked to upholding their rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.