

CRWIA Stage 1

Screening - key questions

(Hyperlink will only work within SG)

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

Free bus for 19-21 year olds: This policy will extend the eligibility criteria in The National Bus Travel Concession Scheme for Young Persons (Scotland) Order 2021 (the [Order](#)) so that residents of Scotland aged 19-21 will be eligible to travel under the Young Persons Scheme.

In March 2021 the Scottish Parliament passed the Order giving the Scottish Ministers the powers to establish a national concessionary travel scheme for free bus travel for residents of Scotland aged under 19 (the Young Persons Scheme). On 8 March 2021 the Scottish Government announced that it would extend free bus travel under the new Young Persons Scheme to all residents of Scotland under the age of 22.

The Young Persons Scheme as established under the Order is expected to benefit 770,000 people. By extending eligibility to under 22s, the scheme is now expected to benefit a further 160,000 people.

The purpose of the scheme is aligned with the Scottish Government's National Transport Strategy (2020). This seeks to reduce inequalities and advance equality of opportunity and outcome, take climate action to make travel choices that minimise the long-term impacts on our climate, develop a transport system that will help deliver sustainable and inclusive economic growth and which will be safe and enable a healthy, active and fit nation. The Climate Change Plan Update has also committed to reduce private car kilometres travelled by 20 percent by 2032.

The scheme will help strengthen our response to the climate emergency, supporting our green recovery by embedding sustainable travel habits in young people. Young people have been disproportionately impacted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and free bus travel will open up opportunities for them and help address child poverty by reducing household outgoings.

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

The Articles of the UNCRC and the child wellbeing indicators under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 apply to all children and young people up to the age of 18, including non-citizen and undocumented children and young people.

This policy will extend free bus travel under the new Young Persons Scheme to all young people under the age of 22. This extension will not impact on the young people under age 19 who are already eligible under the terms of the Order.

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

'Direct' impact refers to policies/measures where children and young people are directly affected by the proposed changes, e.g. in early years, education, child protection or looked after children (children in care). 'Indirect' impact refers to policies/measures that are not directly aimed at children but will have an impact on them. Examples include: welfare reforms, parental leave, housing supply, or local transport schemes.

The extension of the Young Persons Scheme to include 19-21 year olds will not have any direct impacts on children and young people up to the age of 18.

Responses to the consultation carried out when developing the Order indicated that bus fares for family trips into town could cost up to £30, making the bus prohibitively expensive compared to using a private car. While this new 19-21 year old cohort are not directly included in the child poverty definition (under 16 or under 19 and in non-advanced education) many of them will still live at home in households with children. Around 66% of people in the UK aged 19-21 were living at home with their parents in 2020.¹ This does not include students who live away from home during term-time and live with their parents out of term-time, so this figure would be higher during the summer for example. It is therefore hoped that extending this scheme will have an indirect positive impact on lower income families by lowering their overall outgoings, supporting familial relationships and opening up more opportunities.

There may also be a positive indirect impact where a parent(s) and child might both be eligible for free bus travel if the parent and child are both under the age of 22.

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

Under the UNCRC, ‘children’ can refer to: individual children, groups of children, or children in general. Some groups of children will relate to the groups with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010: disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. ‘Groups’ can also refer to children by age band or setting, or those who are eligible for special protection or assistance: e.g. preschool children, children in hospital, children in rural areas, looked after children, young people who offend, victims of abuse or exploitation, child migrants, or children living in poverty.

Children and young people aged 5-18 are already eligible for free bus travel under the existing Order. Apart from the indirect impacts mentioned in point 3 which may benefit children living in poverty, extending the scheme to people aged 19-21 will not have any significant additional effect on groups of children or young people up to the age of 18.

5. Will this require a CRWIA?

No, this will not require a CRWIA. This is an extension of the age limit to the Young Persons Scheme. Young people aged 5-18 are already eligible for the scheme and a full CRWIA was carried out for this which can be found [here](#). This extension has limited additional impacts on young people up to the age of 18.

CRWIA Declaration

CRWIA required

CRWIA not required

X

Authorisation

Policy lead

Date

¹

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/families/datasets/youngadultslivingwiththeirparents>

Sadiyah Rehman Concessionary Policy Manager BAAT, Transport Scotland	06/08/2021
Deputy Director or equivalent Laura Murdoch Director of Bus, Accessibility and Active Travel, Transport Scotland	Date 10/08/2021