

# Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

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The four general principles of the UNCRC underpin all work and assessment with children and Venture Trust extend this to all of the young people we support. These principles are:

- **Article 2: Non-discrimination.** The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, sex, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.
- **Article 3: The best interests of the child.** The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.
- **Article 6: Life, survival and development.** Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.
- **Article 12: Respect for the views of the child.** Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right applies at all times, for example during immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life.

Venture Trust also identifies the following Articles to have a particular relevance to its activities and operations:

- **Article 13: Freedom of expression.** Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.
- **Article 19: Protection from violence, abuse and neglect.** Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.
- **Article 28: Right to education.** Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.
- **Article 29: Goals of education.** Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.
- **Article 39: Recovery from trauma and reintegration.** 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.
- **Article 40: Juvenile justice.** A child accused or guilty of breaking the law must be treated with dignity and respect. They have the right to legal assistance and a fair trial that takes account of their age. Governments must set a minimum age for children to be tried in a criminal court and manage a justice system that enables children who have been in conflict with the law to reintegrate into society.

## HOW VENTURE TRUST'S WORK CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

### Article 2: Non-Discrimination

**Inclusive Outreach:** We actively engage with diverse communities to ensure that programme opportunities are accessible to individuals from various backgrounds.

**Tailored Support:** Our programmes are designed to provide personalised support, addressing the unique needs of each participant, irrespective of their background, abilities, or circumstances.

**Cultural Sensitivity:** We encourage a culturally sensitive environment, celebrating and respecting the diversity of participants' cultural backgrounds.

**Equality in Opportunities:** We promote equal opportunities for skill development, personal growth and support - creating an inclusive environment for all participants.

### Article 3: The best interests of the child

**Individualised Planning:** Programme plans are tailored to prioritise the best interests of each child or young person, considering their unique needs, circumstances, and developmental stage.

**Holistic wellbeing Approach:** We take a comprehensive approach to well-being, addressing not only immediate needs but also considering the long-term development and best interests of the participants.

**Empowerment and Participation:** Our programmes and programme development activities actively involve participants in decision-making processes, ensuring their views are considered and respected, and that their best interests guide the design and implementation of the programmes.

**Continuous Assessment:** We complete ongoing assessments and evaluations to ensure that programme activities consistently align with the best interests of the participants, adapting strategies as needed to meet evolving needs.

### Article 6: Right to Life, Survival and Development

**Safety:** Venture Trust prioritises the safety of participants as a fundamental principle in our operating guidelines, ensuring that programme activities are designed and implemented with a commitment to preventing harm and avoiding retraumatising.

**Facilitating Access to Support Services:** We actively facilitates access and signpost to a range of support services beyond our own, ensuring that participants can readily access resources that contribute to their overall life, survival and development.

**Mental Health Resources:** We incorporate support for, and recognises the significance of, positive mental health. Venture Trust understands the importance of emotional wellbeing in the overall life, survival and development of participants.

### Article 12: Respect for the views of the child

**Empowerment Through Expression:** We have an environment that encourages and values the expression of participants' views on matters affecting them, ensuring that their voices are heard and respected.

**Feedback:** We have routes for participants to provide feedback on the programme, creating a two-way communication channel and demonstrating the organisation's commitment to respecting their opinions.

**Ongoing Training:** All staff are provided with training on facilitating and respecting the views of participants, ensuring that delivery and engagement workers are equipped to create an inclusive and participatory environment.

## **Article 13: Freedom of Expression**

**Encouraging Self-Expression:** We create environments that encourage participants to express their thoughts, ideas and feelings freely during programme activities.

**Respecting Diverse Perspectives:** We ensure that delivery workers respect and value the diverse perspectives and expressions of participants, creating a culture of open communication.

## **Article 19: Protection from Violence, Abuse, and Neglect**

**Safe and Supportive Environment:** We maintain a safe and supportive environment that protects participants from all forms of violence, abuse and neglect.

**Clear Policies and Procedures:** We have implemented clear, and accessible, policies and procedures to prevent and respond to incidents of violence, abuse, or neglect; with a commitment to zero tolerance.

**Training for Staff:** Our staff receive comprehensive training on recognising and addressing signs of violence, abuse, trauma and neglect. Ensuring a vigilant and protective environment.

**Participant Empowerment:** We empower participants with knowledge about their rights and provides them with the tools to report any concerns about their safety.

## **Article 28: Right to Education**

**Holistic Learning Approach:** Venture Trust has a holistic learning approach that goes beyond traditional education; encompassing personal development, life skills, employability and practical knowledge that participants develop through experiential learning opportunities.

**Accessible Learning Opportunities:** Our programmes are designed so that learning opportunities are accessible to all participants, regardless of their background, abilities or educational history.

**Practical Skill Development:** We integrate practical skill development within educational activities, preparing participants for real-world challenges and employment opportunities.

## **Article 29: Aims of Education (Development of Personality, Talent, and Abilities)**

**Action Plans:** Each participant creates and works towards their own action plan, focusing on nurturing their unique personality, talents and abilities.

**Experiential Learning Opportunities:** We provide experiential learning opportunities that allow participants to discover and develop their abilities and skills using the outdoors and physical activity as a catalyst for growth.

## **Article 39 (Recovery from Trauma and Reintegration)**

**Trauma-Informed Approaches:** Venture Trust takes a trauma-informed approach in all work we do, to create a supportive environment that recognises and addresses the impact of past traumatic experiences and reduces the risk of re-traumatisation.

**Support Plans:** Staff create support plans for each participant, considering their unique experiences and needs in the recovery process.

**Holistic Wellbeing Focus:** Prioritise the holistic wellbeing of participants, addressing not only physical health but also mental health, dignity, self-respect and social integration.

**Therapeutic Outdoor Activities:** Integrate therapeutic outdoor activities, leveraging the transformative benefits of nature to contribute to the recovery and reintegration of participants.

**Continuous Monitoring and Adjustment:** We continuously monitor the progress of participants and adjust support strategies as needed, recognising that recovery is an ongoing process.

## Article 40 (Juvenile Justice)

**Dignity And Respect:** At Venture Trust we understand the importance of treating every child and participant in conflict with the law with dignity and respect throughout legal processes.

**Reintegration Support:** Develop and implement programmes that support the reintegration of children and young people who are involved in the criminal justice system, recognising the importance of facilitating their successful return to society and their communities.

## WILL THERE BE DIFFERENT IMPACTS ON DIFFERENT GROUPS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE?

Our multi-disciplinary Locality teams facilitate opportunities tailored to meet the needs of each child, young person, and their family.

By bringing together our skilled team of Outdoor Therapists, Employability and Outdoor Practitioners, we are able to build support around each person at a time and pace that works for them.

Our services include 1:1 clinical Outdoor Therapy, structured community or wilderness-based 1:1 and group programmes, focusing on personal development and employability, harnessing the therapeutic benefits of being outdoors and in nature.

## HOW WILL VENTURE TRUST CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNCRC IN SCOTLAND?

Venture Trust holds the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in high regard, recognising it as a foundational framework that aligns with our commitment to promoting the wellbeing and development of every participant that engages in our support. In line with the UNCRC principles, we are dedicated to ensuring that every participant is not only aware of their rights but is empowered to exercise them. Our programmes actively incorporate elements of human rights education, providing participants with the knowledge and tools to understand and advocate for their rights. Through transparent communication, participant involvement in decision-making processes and ongoing feedback, we aim to create an environment that fosters a deep understanding and appreciation of the rights outlined in the UNCRC.

Regular reviews of our CRWIA in line with how we manage and develop our other policies and procedures. All relevant staff will undertake CRWIA training to ensure they are able to evaluate and record impact.

We will use the UNCRC as a framework to inform developments and decisions, ensuring that we always consider children's rights.

## **HOW WE GATHER EVIDENCE, WHERE IS IT FROM AND WHAT IMPACT WILL IT HAVE?**

We consistently gather feedback and evidence through participant monitoring and surveys and feedback, as well as multi-agency partners, in line with the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators. Through this we get a good understanding of the impact of our work, embedding the wellbeing of children, young people and all Venture Trust participants at the heart of our work.

Our Participant Panel meets regularly to gather opinion and feedback on their experience of our services, as well as how we can evolve to meet the changing needs of our participants and communities.

### **Policy Lead Signature & Date of Sign Off:**

*Fraser Taylor*

*20/12/2023*

### **Director Signature & Date of Sign Off:**

*Gemma Jones*

*20/12/2023*