



# **Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Local Municipality**

## **Children's Policy 2021-2026**

# CHILDRENS POLICY

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## 1. DEFINITION OF TERMS

In this policy, unless the context indicates otherwise

**“Act”** a statute passed by parliament or law made by parliament. Also means conduct, deed, something that is done, to perform a function

**“Age of maturity”** a child moves on into adulthood, that is turns 18, he or she becomes major.

**“Adoptive child”** this means a child that can be adopted by parents who are not his or her biological parents, because the child has either been abandoned, abused, neglected, or because his or parents cannot be found or are unable to care of the child.

**“Biological parent”** father or mother who brought the child into the world, this means they biologically created the child.

**“Chronic illness”** means an illness or condition that will last a long time. Sometimes there is no cure for chronic illness. Example of chronic illness or conditions are high blood pressure, diabetes, asthma and tuberculosis.

**“Circumcision”** to cut off the skin at the end of the penis of a man or boy or to cut off the clitoris or outer sexual organs of a woman or girl. Circumcision is an important rite in some religion.

**“Consent”** to agree, accept or approve what is planned or done by another.

**“Constitution”** sets out the basic rules according to which a country is governed. A constitution may be unwritten or written.

**“Court order”** an official order by a judge telling someone to do something or to stop doing something.

**“Custody by parents”** when parents exercise care and control over their children.

**“Disability”** a condition either physical or mental where someone is unable to function in a normal way due to a lack of ability, power, or fitness to do a certain action.

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integrated manner. Different stakeholders identified are also single out to ensure that they play a role in the lives of children.

### **3. PURPOSE**

- 3.1. South Africa has made significant progress in fulfilling the rights of children. This is because the country has one of the most progressive constitution in the world including systems of laws and programmes to ensure the realisation of children's rights and the delivery of services to children. Despite the gains that have been made in expanding services to all groups and regions, the income situation of a child's family, race, location and to a lesser degree gender, determines the extent of inequalities in the fulfilment of children's rights.
- 3.2. The children's Act recognises the role that the Local Government sphere can play in the care and protection of children by making provision for assignment of partial care services to a municipality if the municipality concern has the capacity to perform this function. The Department of Social Development (DSD) is the custodian of the Children's Act No. 38 of 2005, as amended; therefore, it is accountable for its implementation and processes.
- 3.3. Care and protection of children is one of the priorities of the Winnie Madikizela Mandela's IDP agenda. More and more children, because of family circumstances are exposed to abuse, neglect and other forms of deprivations. The Children's Act has provided a number of temporary care options for children by persons other than their parents. Although the number of parents are in the workplace and there is a relatively high number or proportions of single parent household.
- 3.4. The number of children who are left without visible care during certain hours of the day, and the increased number of parents who have become economically active remain to be a challenge to be addressed by the district. There is also limited policy option available pertaining to temporal respite care, hospital and after-school programmes in the district.
- 3.5. The figures in the Annexure 1 of the situational analysis, shows that there is a high drop rate of children up to school going age. The case is therefore made for after school programme to play a key role in reducing violence, gangsterism

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- Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, No 13, 2005.

### **5. SCOPE OF APPLICATION**

- 5.1. The children's participation should be the core in the Children's Rights Policy and Winnie Madikizela Mandela has the obligation to ensure that the voice of children is heard.
- 5.2. Children should be consulted in the development and finalisation of the Child policy in meaningful and appropriate manner.
- 5.3. This policy seeks to safeguard children's right to participate in matters affecting them as a core principle in the implementation of Children's Rights Strategy.
- 5.4. The involvement of the public should promote the development, the content of children's right strategy so that it is published and is accessible to the public as such, the public should always remain informed of the progress made in the implementation of the strategy.

### **6. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

- 6.1. To ensure the provision of adequate resources for children.
- 6.2. To develop a communication process for the partial care strategy.
- 6.3. To ensure that partial care facilities and programmes are compliant with the requirements of the Children's Act in terms of registration and the norms and standards.

### **7. VISION**

A range of developmental, child centred partial care services that care and protect children in all communities.

### **8. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT.**

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### **9.2.1. POVERTY**

- 9.2.1.1. Winnie Madikizela Mandela shall facilitate the provision of subsidies for basic housing and the access to free water.
- 9.2.1.2. The Municipality shall ensure that children living in poverty and rural areas have access to early childhood development programmes, basic education and health care and other social services.
- 9.2.1.3. The Municipality should also provide capacity development and material support relating to food security programmes.
- 9.2.1.4. The municipality shall assist in the prevention services and responding to child involved with child labour activities.
- 9.2.1.5. Municipality shall provide housing, water and sanitation.
- 9.2.1.6. To ensure that all children have access to safe drinking water and safe sanitation facilities.
- 9.2.1.7. That the Municipality develop program to provide basic housing, access to safe drinking water and safe sanitation.

### **9.3. CHILDCARE AND PROTECTION**

- 9.3.1. The Municipality should ensure all children within the municipality have access to social security.
- 9.3.2. The Municipality should also work with relevant departments to identify children in need of care dependency grants.

### **9.4. CHILD SURVIVAL**

- 9.4.1. In order to improve child, youth and maternal health, the district should facilitate the provision of comprehensive HIV/AIDS services and promote access to friendly adolescent youth family planning services.

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- 11.1. Strategic partnership with civil society organisation should be formalised in order to promote, protect and fulfil the Children's right and to network with small community based organisation in the rural areas.
- 11.2. The civil society organisation has the responsibility to seek to engage with respective government departments on matters pertaining to children.
- 11.3. The provincial steering committee shall determine the involvement of civil society organisations at a regional level and sub-structures.

### **12. WMMLM CHILDREN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

- 11.1 The members of this committee shall consist of representatives from all the directorate of government departments of the district, local municipality and members of the community.
- 11.2 The role of this committee shall serve as a mechanism for coordinating, facilitating and monitoring broad framework of PPA for children.
- 11.3 The WMMLM Children's Advisory committee shall operate on a clearly outlined Terms of Reference (TOR) that shall not be limited to include the following:
  - Fostering of participation of children
  - Consultation and broader participation
  - Reporting and accountability
  - Frequency of meetings
  - Communication and involvement of civil society organisation.
- 11.4 The WMMLM Children's Advisory Committee shall serve a period of five years or be reviewed as and when there is a need

### **13. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING & EVALUATION**

- 13.1. The ANDM should submit an annual report on the progress made with the implementation of the Child Strategy for the presentation to the Council.



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### **17. REVIEW DATE**

17.1 The policy will be reviewed annually and or as and when it is necessary.

Approval of the Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Local Municipality Children Policy



Mr. L. Mahlaka  
Municipal Manager