

PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to enable the Committee to assess the participation and engagement of children and young people (C&YP) in the work of Cardiff Council and wider Public Services as set out in article 12 of the UNCRC. It provides evidence and insights for the committee to review, scrutinise, and ultimately make informed recommendations to improve these practices. The focus is on ensuring C&YP's voices are effectively heard and integrated into the development of policies and services affecting their lives.

Background

2. Local authorities in Wales have a statutory duty to listen to and actively consider the views of C&YP. In Wales, the legislative landscape embedding children's rights is both robust and reflective of the core principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Key statutes include:
 - **Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011:** Mandates Welsh Ministers to consider the UNCRC when making decisions, reinforcing children's rights across government policies.
 - **Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014:** Focuses on the well-being of those needing care, including children, ensuring their views influence decisions affecting them.
 - **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:** Though broader in scope, it promotes sustainability, indirectly supporting children's rights by safeguarding the interests of future generations.
 - **Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018:** Streamlines support for children with additional learning needs, ensuring access to appropriate education and support.

- **Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010:** Aims to improve outcomes for children and families requiring support, laying a foundation for child welfare.
 - **Education (Wales) Act 2014:** Enhances educational standards and management, indirectly upholding children's right to education.
3. Cardiff has fulfilled this statutory duty by becoming the first UNICEF-accredited Child Friendly City in the UK, demonstrating its commitment to listening to and prioritising the views and needs of children and young people in its policies and practices.

Approach and Impact

4. Information will be shared via a series of short presentations highlighting scope, approach, impact and challenges by internal council services with additional supporting information and evidence via [C&YP Scrutiny Session - Participation and Engagement Introductory Briefing April 16th \(padlet.com\)](#) which will include information from South Wales Police and Cardiff & Vale Health Board
- Child Friendly City
 - Children's Services
 - Education
 - Cardiff Youth Service
 - Community Safety