

COUNCIL: 29 NOVEMBER 2018

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS STATEMENT

Child Friendly Cardiff Strategy Launch

I was delighted to attend and speak at the launch of the Child Friendly Cardiff Strategy by the Cardiff Public Services Board on 20th November 2018 at City Hall. The launch event coincided with World Children's Day and was organised by members for the Child Friendly City programme's Children and Young People's Advisory Board. Almost 100 attendees joined the young people and Cardiff Public Services Board members at the event to mark the launch of the strategy, including Anna Kettley, UNICEF UK's Director of Programmes, who also spoke at the event.

Cardiff, alongside four other cities and communities in the UK, has been working with UNICEF UK to gain international recognition as a UNICEF Child Friendly City. The launch of the new strategy marks a significant step towards Cardiff achieving international recognition as one of the UK's first UNICEF Child Friendly Cities. It places the rights and voices of children and young people at the heart of Cardiff's policies, strategies and services; involving them in decision making and addressing the barriers which limit their life chances.

Our commitment to becoming a UNICEF Child Friendly City must be shaped by children and young people in Cardiff. Since the very beginning of our journey, they have worked with us so that we can find out where they think our priorities should lie. Based on what they have told us, we will be prioritising the three areas of education; family and belonging; and health as part of the new strategy.

New Curriculum for Wales

On 23rd October 2018, the Education Development Board hosted an Education Convention at Sophia Gardens Cricket Ground, which was attended by over 300 people. The event, which included a plenary session and series of workshops, brought together education professionals and young people from across the city to capture perspectives on shaping a new curriculum for Wales, and to crystalize ideas and thinking for the future. The event also included a marketplace of 50 employers, schools and partners, exhibiting opportunities and best practice. We are facing a once in a generation opportunity to develop a new curriculum for Wales and it was good to see the commitment of stakeholders, including employers, children and young people, communities and parents, to this important work.

Cardiff Governors Association

The Cardiff Governors Association held another successful annual training conference on 17th November 2018 at City Hall. The conference focused on the new curriculum for Wales and over 50 schools were represented by governors from across the city.

Ty Golding, Head of Curriculum Design & Development, from Welsh Government spoke at the conference and provided an update on the work being undertaken across Wales, including the cascading of learning from pioneer to non-pioneer schools. The Council's Assistant Director of Education & Lifelong Learning, Jackie Turner, gave a presentation on the role for governors in the new curriculum. I also provided an update on some key Council priorities, including the launch of the Child Friendly Cardiff Strategy.

Foodservice Catey Awards 2018

Cardiff's multi-award winning School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP), called Food and Fun, has picked up its ninth award at the renowned 2018 Foodservice 'Catey' Awards. The programme received the Corporate and Social Responsibility Award, with judges commenting that Food and Fun 'demonstrated a holistic approach to community and enhanced social value' and 'is particularly impressive due to its ambition for a national impact and setting out a blueprint for others'.

Food and Fun is a joint partnership project between Cardiff Council, Food Cardiff, Sport Cardiff, Public Health Wales and Cardiff & Vale University Health Board. It provides an element of education, sporting activity and quality, healthy meals, delivered in a safe, nurturing and fun environment during school holidays.

Thornhill Primary School – Armistice Cantata

Thornhill Primary School has won a Welsh Schools Heritage Award and a National Lottery Education Award 2018 for their Armistice Cantata, a musical play based on popular tunes from the First World War, which has been performed on multiple occasions, including at the recent Welsh Festival of Remembrance and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Earlier this month, the school also won the Heritage Angel Award 2018 for 'Best Contribution to a Heritage Project by Young People'.

Allensbank Primary School

Allensbank Primary School has recently achieved the prestigious Schools of Sanctuary Award and is the first primary school in Cardiff to do so. The school will be officially awarded with Schools of Sanctuary status on Friday 23rd November 2018 and I understand that a number of other Cardiff schools are also interested in achieving this award.

A School of Sanctuary is a school that helps its students, staff and wider community understand what it means to be seeking sanctuary and to extend a welcome to

everyone as equal, valued members of the school community. The Sanctuary Awards programme forms part of the City of Sanctuary Network.

International School Linking

The Council has recently hosted 60 visitors from 8 European countries (Spain, Poland, France, Norway, Finland, Turkey, Romania and Portugal) who have participated in the following three projects:

- Teacher training on family engagement – Spanish teachers have visited and received training from Grangetown Primary School, Ty Gwyn Special School, Ely and Caerau Children’s Centre, Flying Start and one of our Inclusion team officers.
- Project management and teacher training for ‘On Your Bike’, a 3-year project supporting Cardiff’s Cycling Strategy – in addition to project management training, participants have also received training on our strategy from transport and road safety officers; visited Whitchurch Primary School and Radnor Primary School which are involved in the project, and some have even used Next bikes!
- Project management and teacher training for ‘My Place, Your Place, Our Place’, a 3-year project looking at cultural heritage – in addition to project management training, participants have received training from the Welsh Centre of International Affairs and visited Trowbridge Primary School and Birchgrove Primary School.

A fourth group of visitors have taken part in a European Local Authority Network (ELAN), which was set up specifically to support direct collaboration with local authority education departments across Europe.

National Safeguarding Week – Young People’s Conference

On Wednesday 14th November 2018, a Young People’s Conference was held at St Teilo’s Church in Wales High School as part of National Safeguarding Week, which was attended by pupils from 10 secondary schools in Cardiff. The conference was opened by the former Children’s Commissioner for Wales, Keith Towler, who is now the Vice Chair of the National Independent Safeguarding Board. Key speakers at the event were reformed gang members from St Giles in London who spoke to the pupils about the dangers of gang culture, knife crime and County Lines. Nine interactive workshops were held in line with the national theme of exploitation and covered subjects such as drugs & alcohol; suicide & prevention; safe sharing; children’s rights; homelessness; Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and healthy relationships. CSE ambassadors also delivered a presentation to the pupils, outlining their role and raising awareness about the dangers of CSE.

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Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills
23 November 2018