
CARDIFF CHILD FRIENDLY CITY – Briefing Paper

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee with a report on the progress to date in working towards global recognition for Cardiff as a Child Friendly City, through participation in the Unicef UK Child Friendly City and Communities Programme.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Child Friendly City and Communities initiative is a global programme that brings together Unicef and local government to put children's rights at the heart of communities and public services. It supports Local Authorities and partners in developing a child rights-based approach, when designing, delivering, monitoring and evaluating local services and strategies for children.

- 2.2 Cardiff Council launched its Child Friendly Cardiff Strategy on World Children's Day, 20th November 2018. A detailed multi agency delivery plan was submitted to Unicef UK in April 2019, triggering a 2 year implementation phase. (See attached at Appendix A).

- 2.3 Cardiff's Child Friendly Vision is consistent with our city ambition to make Cardiff 'a great place to grow up'. Specifically it sets out the aim for Cardiff to be:

- A city with children and young people at its heart, where the voices, needs and rights of all children and young people are respected.
- A city where all children and young people, regardless of belief, ethnicity, background or wealth are safe, healthy, happy and able to share in the city's success.

The vision will be delivered through the Child Friendly City Strategy, which outlines five goals and a series of commitments to action.

- 2.4 The five key goals are:

- Every Child and Young person is valued, respected and treated fairly;
- Every Child and Young Person has their voice, needs and priorities heard and taken into account;
- All children and young people grow up in a safe and supportive home;
- All Children and Young people access high quality education that promotes their rights and helps them develop their skills and talents to the full;

- Children and Young people have good physical, mental and emotional health and know how to stay healthy.

3. Progress update

3.1 Goal 1

‘Every Child and Young person is valued, respected and treated fairly’

The key focus of this goal is to achieve a positive, systematic shift in organisational culture, to ensure that all partners engaged in the programme respect the rights of children and young people in the city and demonstrate this through organisational behaviours, policy and strategy.

Good progress is being made in several key areas as outlined below:

Workforce development and training:

- Within the Council, 485 staff members contributed to a baseline survey by sharing their current understanding, attitudes and knowledge regarding children’s rights. This has informed our training programme and will enable us to measure change over time.
- 1,532 council officers have completed the child rights e-learning module on the Cardiff Academy training portal.
- Over 400 staff from the public and third sector have received Child Rights in Practice training delivered by Unicef. This includes a significant cohort of police staff from PCSO’s to Inspector level.
- Over three quarters of Elected Members have received Child Rights in Practice training.

Strategy and decision making

- An area of good practice in strategy development is the application of a child rights approach to the development of the new Cardiff 2030 vision for education and learning. A wide range of learners have contributed their views both in community settings and at a Grand Council event at City Hall. A creative highlight was the additional work that took place with an artist who engaged with young people at the Pupil Referral Unit, anxious learners in the Carnegie Centre and a cohort from Woodlands school to gain their views on education development.
- While working with young people in the drafting of the Children’s Services Strategy, colleagues identified that improvements were required regarding participation structures across services. As a result a participation tool called Mind of My Own has been identified and the commissioning process has been initiated further enhancing opportunities for children and young people to feed in their views.
- Two further examples of a rights based approach are young people shaping the Prejudiced Based Bullying Guidance for Schools, which

has been developed in partnership with Unicef. Alongside over 1,500 pupils shaping the Period Dignity programme that now operates in all Cardiff schools removing a range of barriers to female pupils to receive their educational entitlement.

Communication Strategy

- A Child Friendly City (CFC) communication plan has been developed to ensure proactive promotion and marketing of the initiative. This includes ensuring that the Child Friendly message is promoted at key city events and via social media channels. The CFC brand development has enabled clear and consistent messaging which promotes children's rights and celebrates childhood. (See Appendix B).
- A key highlight is the weeklong presence at the Homeless World Cup, which raised the profile of the CFC programme and gave members of the public the opportunity to find out more about the eighteen services that were hosted in the Child Friendly Cardiff zone on the event site.
- Another key success is the CFC Pop up Park, which has been used by a wide range of partners in communities across the city. The park consists of 100m² of artificial grass, deck chairs, beanbags and play equipment providing additional opportunities for children to relax and play while promoting the work within the CFC programme.
- A Cardiff delegation made up of the Director of Education and a young person from the CFC Advisory Board recently presented at the Unicef UK national conference in London. This highlighted the innovative approach to embedding children's rights across the council and wider partners.
- In October, the Deputy Leader joined two young people from the Advisory Board at the Unicef global Child Friendly City conference in Cologne, to represent the UK. The Summit served as a platform for local leaders, technical experts, children and young people from Child Friendly Cities and beyond to demonstrate and discuss innovative approaches and promising practices of local governance and programming for and with children and young people.

Children and Young People's Advisory Board

- The Children and Young People's Advisory Board is an essential element of the Cardiff programme. A particular strength of this work was developing an accessible version of the CFC Strategy including a cartoon road map and supporting documentation, which has toured the city's hubs and libraries further promoting the importance of children's rights.

- In addition, young people from the Advisory Board have been working with Cardiff Council Digital Team to develop a Child Friendly Cardiff website, which will promote rights and the importance of childhood by hosting resources, blogs and case studies of rights based programmes.

Key areas of focus to progress this goal include:

- Deliver workforce training in the health sector, which has been delayed partly due to staff turnover within the Learning and Development Team within the Health Board.
- Share best practice in recruitment across council directorates
- Work with Unicef to deliver a train the trainer model

3.2 Goal 2

‘Every child and young person has their voice, needs and priorities heard and taken into account’

The key focus of this goal is to ensure that children and young people can take full advantage of their rights; ensuring the meaningful participation of children and young in policy and decision making processes and greater accountability to children and young people for outcomes that affect their lives.

Good progress has been made in this area of work further building on the good practice developed over recent years. Highlights include:

Participation at a strategic level / service improvement

- Children and young people are represented on a number of strategic boards and committees including two scrutiny committees, Education Development Board and Cardiff Commitment Strategic Board providing opportunity for scrutiny and further accountability.
- A schedule of meetings throughout the year enable elected representatives including Members of the Cardiff Youth Council Executive Committee, Members of both Welsh and UK Youth Parliaments to meet with the Public Service Board to discuss strategic developments in the city.
- Day long termly Grand Council events which provide participants with the opportunity to come to City Hall to have meaningful dialogue on a range of strategic themes including the city’s Play Action Plan, the Education vision for 2030 and improvements to teaching STEM subjects in schools.
- The Young Inspectors programme enables young people to receive training and then inspect services. An interesting example of this is

when Young Inspectors visited ACT training, leading to a report with recommendations for improvements based on young people's views.

- Further progress has been recognised with the Council's Active Involvement Team receiving their national kite mark from the First Minister in November after a team of Young Inspectors assessed their practice.

Training and development

Developing the skills of young people has been a priority with examples including:

- A suite of training resources to develop the skills and confidence of children and young people when designing and evaluating services.
- Opportunities for young people to receive training to become a Young Inspector with their first task being an inspection of the city's youth centres.
- Unicef UK providing training on children's rights and advocacy to members of the Youth Health Board and C&YP Advisory Board in August 2019.

Securing the views of children and young people

A systematic and sustainable approach to gaining the views of children and young people to influence our journey to becoming a Child Friendly City. Progress to date includes:

- A first online CFC Survey for children and young people (8-18), run over the autumn term 2019 by schools, to capture a baseline position on views regarding children's rights and priority areas in the CFC Strategy. Data collected will be provided to school leaders, the Child Friendly Strategy group and other key strategic boards to enable the voices of children taking part to influence service improvement. The survey will be refined and improved next year.
- Young people aged 11-18 have taken part in the UK Youth Parliament Make Your Mark ballot, further enabling stakeholders to gain an understanding of the key issues faced by young people both here and across the UK. These findings will be used by Cardiff Youth Council to set their priorities for the coming year. It is useful to report that the number of ballots completed fell from 13,000 in 2018 to 5,000 in 2019. This is due to the CFC survey and the School Health Research Network biannual survey being live in schools at the same time.

Involvement in recruitment processes

- A best practice tool has been developed for service areas involving young people in recruitment processes. Good progress has been

made in the Education Service who have committed to involving trained young people in the recruitment for any post of Operational Manager Level and above.

- Examples of young people shaping services include Young Interviewers being involved in the recruitment of Assistant Director of Education and Programme Director for SOP. Plans are in place for Young Interviewers to form part of the recruitment process for the Director of Education position in November.
- Recognising the variation in settings is important and a separate guidance for schools has been developed to share best practice when involving pupils in recruitment processes for Head Teachers.

Key areas of focus to progress this goal include:

- Work with Unicef to deliver Participation and Engagement training to relevant stakeholders
- Promote the suite of learning materials across all partners
- Evaluate and refine the CFC Survey

3.3 Goal 3

‘All children and young people grow up in a safe and supportive home’

Deliver a new Family Help and Support model, which fully embraces a child’s rights approach

- Cardiff Family Advice and Support Service phased approach in place with full service launch planned for November 2019.
- Good progress has been made with staff teams recruited across all elements of the model. A positive approach in the development of this model has been the involvement of young people in the recruitment process ensuring the most appropriate personal are in post. Systems are functioning well with referrals being made to Family Help, Support for Families and Cardiff Parenting Team.
- In the first four months of the Family Gateway being active they received 3,870 calls with an answer rate of 96%.
- Key highlights to report include recruitment process is complete and the process to prevent housing evictions is now in place. In addition the service to homeless 16/17 year olds continues and Young Carers project for Cardiff has been brought in house.

- A particular strength to highlight is the Cardiff Parenting Team are delivering a variety of services for parents and families across Cardiff with crèche facilities available. These services currently include:
Gro Brain (Ante-natal)
Parent Nurturing Programme
Strengthening Families
Parents First (Psychology-led 1:1 Home based Parenting support)
Teen Triple P

There is a particular focus on those families who need parenting support to help improve parenting confidence, skill, well-being, resilience and family relationships.

Improve the wellbeing of children and young people who are, or have been in care

- Work to improve the wellbeing of children and young people who are, or have been in care is underway including Unicef Child Rights in Practice training received by all Children's Services Managers to ensure they knowledgeable and confident.
- As previously reported practices with Children's Services have been reviewed. With actions to improve opportunities for children and young people to have their voice heard planned including commissioning of Mind of My Own tool.
- An element to highlight within this goal is plans for a specialist city centre youth provision for Looked After Children and Care Leavers to help develop skills, reduce isolation and provide a significant adult in their lives. The staff team will be appointed in November with provision opening shortly after.
- Care experienced young people have been trained to become Young Commissioners and assisted in the evaluation of housing contracts for vulnerable young people.

Implement Unicef Baby Friendly Standards

- A significant development is the successful implementation of a set of global Unicef standards across all early years health settings including antenatal, midwifery and health visiting. Evidence was required as part of a detailed assessment resulting in full Unicef accreditation being received ensuring the best possible start and healthy attachment for babies.

Key areas of focus to progress this goal include:

- Roll out of Cardiff Family Advice and Support Service
- Improve participatory practice within Children's Services

- Work with children and young people to develop the new Corporate Parenting Strategy

3.4 **Goal 4**

'All children and young people access high quality education that promotes their rights and helps them develop their skills and talents to the full'

Prioritise the education of Looked After Children

- Improvements regarding the educational outcomes of Looked After Children have been implemented. For example Personal Education Plans (PEP) are in place for every child looked after, overseen by the Child Looked After Education Officer and they are reviewed half yearly.
- PEP training has been given to designated teachers and social workers and THRIVE assessments have been completed for all Looked After Children, with an identified programme to address their individual needs at home and school. There is good evidence of Thrive assessments of looked After Children impacting on improved provision to meet their emotional needs.
- A key element in this goal is the additional support to transition from school post 16. All Looked After Children are now identified as red (potentially vulnerable) on in the Vulnerability Assessment Profile system and communication protocols have improved within the Education Directorate to address issues earlier. In addition, new KS4 PEP documents propose destinations at an early stage.
- Progress has been made regarding pupils at KS4 being identified for additional tuition and they are receiving this additional support to reach their potential.

Rights Respecting Schools

- Significant progress can be reported on the roll out of the Rights Respecting School Award across Cardiff. A citywide approach has been developed to embed children's rights into the curriculum including subsidised registration, assessments and centrally funded training opportunities.
- Ninety-one schools have registered on the programme, forty-nine have achieved bronze (submitted a high quality action plan), fourteen have attained the Silver award (Rights Aware and progressed from bronze) and three schools have achieved Gold award.

Education Other Than At School

- Progress has been made regarding improving outcomes for pupils receiving their education outside of a school setting. This includes young person led inspections of provision at ACT training provider leading to an action plan based on the views of young people.
- A review of pupil participation in the Fair Access Panel process to ensure ongoing and sustained pupil engagement.
- A network of EOTAS child rights champions have been identified and trained.

Curriculum For Life

- A Curriculum for Life Officer is now in post with another being recruited in November.
- Resources on healthy relationships and knife crime have been developed and now available to schools.
- Work is underway to analyse the data from the CFC survey to identify development areas highlighted by children and young people.

Key areas of focus to progress this goal include:

- Systems are in place to enable effective tracking and monitoring of educational attainment targets, outcomes and destinations for Looked After Children but more refinement is needed to ensure that data is readily available to those systems.
- Analysis of why a number of Looked After Children do not have their entitlement to a full time education.
- There is a need for a dedicated Educational Psychologist service for Looked After Children with most complex needs.
- Twelve schools to receive a Silver Rights Respecting Schools assessment by April 2020 with additional training planned to enable registered schools to progress.
- Develop work around the new curriculum and the cross cutting theme of the UNCRC to enable schools to deliver the new curriculum confidently.
- Development of a right based charter for EOTAS provision.
- Work with Young Carers to develop their life skills.

3.5 **Goal 5** **‘Children have good physical, mental and emotional health and know how to stay healthy’**

Improve the opportunities for children and young people to be active during their daily lives

Active Travel

- A full time officer is now in post and overseeing a range of initiatives including Active Travel Plans in schools.
- The Healthy Travel Charter has been launched and implemented across public sector organisations in Cardiff, which impacts on children and young people's travel. It is anticipated that young people will be involved in liaising with organisations on their progress against Charter commitments to share best practise and improve service design.

Street Play

- Cardiff Street Play pilot has been implemented and reviewed, with five streets applying to close for two hours a month to enable children to play out. A task group of stakeholders including the Council Play Team and Play Wales have overseen the programme with 85 streets expressing an interest in the next phase. However, it is important to note that there was a high dropout rate with only 10 streets now active with residents on a reserve list now being invited to apply to the programme.

Symposium

- The Public Health Team have secured funding to host a rights based symposium in March 2020. The event will be held at Cardiff City Stadium and enable young people to work with a wide range of adult stakeholders to explore a rights based approach to wellbeing. Including urban planning, obesity and positive emotional health.

Improve the emotional health and wellbeing care experienced by children and young people

- Young people have been involved in the governance of the CAMHS Repatriation Project aiming to improve services and reduce waiting times.
- Progress has been made with regards to a Wellbeing and Resilience Pathway for schools to ensure professionals, friends and family understand the impact of trauma and stress including delivery of adverse childhood experiences training and trauma informed practice across ninety schools.
- Members of Cardiff Youth Council (CYC) have worked with the C&YP Scrutiny Committee Mental Health Task Group to identify areas for improvement in service structures and design.

- Schools have additional support with five new resilience workers now in post. However, there needs to be further work undertaken to ensure that they are being used to their potential.

Key areas of focus to progress this goal include:

- Plans for a preventative locality model being developed delivered around school and Primary Care clusters with three new Senior Primary Mental Health workers has not come to fruition. This was due to the uncertainty of the funding in the next financial year. Work is underway to consider the best use of this funding.
- A Welsh Government grant to support work within the Youth Service has been received and preparations are underway to develop plans to improve young people's wellbeing.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 Good progress has been made across all the Child Friendly goals. However, ongoing monitoring and evaluation will have to take place to measure change overtime. The data from the staff and pupil survey have provided a baseline to use within a performance framework. The submission of a detailed action plan to Unicef has triggered an implementation phase to be followed by an assessment by a panel of experts.
- 4.2 The assessment will only have a positive outcome if the CFC programme has profile across all directorates in the Local Authority. Currently this is not the case and work to address this issue must be a priority.
- 4.3 Engagement within the political landscape is a strength with numbers of Elected Members attending training being a positive indicator.
- 4.4 The use of a Child Rights Impact Assessment will play an important role in developing a sustainable, strategic approach to embedding children's rights and therefore should be a priority.
- 4.5 Work across the health sector is significant but without appropriate resourcing to support the work outlined in the Health Right Charter and Youth Health Board could be limited.
- 4.6 Governance plays an important part in the success of the CFC programme. The role of the Children and Young People's Advisory Board is a strength and should be recognised but a review of the role and membership of the CFC Strategy Group is required to ensure it is effective.

- 4.7 A key focus of the CFC programme should be to ensure a sustainable approach to embedding a child rights approach across the council and wider partners.