
CHILD FRIENDLY CITY PROGRAMME

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with the opportunity to carry out pre-decision scrutiny on the Child Friendly City Programme, attached at **Appendix A**, prior to its consideration by Cabinet at its meeting on the 21 January 2021.
2. Also attached at **Appendix B** is a copy of the Child Friendly Cardiff Strategy.

Key Proposals of the Cabinet Report

3. The Cabinet Report proposes the following:
 - To provide the Cabinet with an update on the progress to date in working towards global recognition for Cardiff as a Unicef Child Friendly City;
 - To seek Cabinet support to ensure continuity of commitment to our Child Friendly Cardiff vision, within and beyond the Council; and
 - To advise Cabinet of the next steps in preparing for potential recognition as a Child Friendly City in Autumn 2021.

Background

4. 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.

5. Cardiff Council launched its Child Friendly Cardiff Strategy on World Children's Day, 20th November 2018 (attached at **Appendix B**). A detailed multi agency delivery plan was submitted to UNICEF UK in April 2019 triggering a 2 year implementation phase.
6. Cardiff's Child Friendly Vision is at the core of our Capital 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
7. The vision will be delivered through the Child Friendly City Strategy (see **Appendix B**), which outlines five goals and a series of commitments to action. 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; and
 - Children and Young people have good physical, mental and emotional health and know how to stay healthy.

Issues highlighted in the report to Cabinet

8. The report attached at **Appendix A** highlights the following issues:

- Progress Update
 - Unicef Monitoring Visit (*paragraphs 9-12*)
 - Culture, Cooperation & Leadership (*paragraphs 13-14*)
 - Communication (*paragraphs 15-16*)
 - Family & Belonging (*paragraphs 17-18*)
 - Education (*paragraphs 19-20*)
 - Health (*paragraphs 21-22*)
- COVID-19 Recovery Planning (paragraph 23)
- Pathway to Recognition – Next Steps
- Addressing the recommendations in the Unicef Progress Report (*paragraph 24*)
 - Monitoring and Evidence (*paragraph 25*)
 - Governance (*paragraph 26*)
 - Sustainability (*paragraph 27*)
 - Meaningful Participation of young people (*paragraph 28*)

9. The report also contains:

- Financial Implications (*paragraph 29*)
- Legal Implications (*paragraph 30*)
- HR Implications (*paragraphs 31-34*)
- Property Implications (*paragraph 35*)

Recommendations set out in the Cabinet Proposals

10. The Cabinet is recommended to agree that Cardiff Council will:

- Continue to sponsor a Council wide commitment to action to embed a child rights approach across all Council services;
- Commit to the meaningful involvement of children and young people in COVID-19 city-wide recovery planning;

- Work towards embedding the Child Rights Impact Assessment into the Policy framework;
- Receive an Annual Child's Rights Report at Council, to capture progress and areas for improvement annually alongside the Council's Wellbeing report;
- Develop a sustainable approach to rights based training including mandating child rights training for senior managers;
- Maintain a meaningful approach to the participation of children and young people in policy, strategy and decision making where changes will impact upon their lives; and
- Support the evaluation of progress towards the Child Friendly Vision for Cardiff as we embark upon the recognition phase with Unicef in 2021.

Scope of Scrutiny

11. The scope of this scrutiny is for Members to consider and provide comments on the draft report to Cabinet, prior to its consideration of the report on the 21 January 2021.

Previous Scrutiny

12. CYPSC has previously considered this issue on the following dates:

- 13 November 2018¹
- 19 November 2019²

At these meetings, Members received updates on progress which can be found in the links below. This includes issues previously raised by the Committee via the Chair's Letter. Members may wish to receive a further update at a future meeting.

¹ [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 13th November, 2018, 4.30 pm : City of Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

² [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 12th November, 2019, 4.30 pm : City of Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Way Forward

13. Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education Employment, Skills), Melanie Godfrey (Director of Education and Lifelong learning), Suzanne Scarlett (Operational Manager, Partnerships & Performance) and Lee Patterson (Community Education Officer) will be attending the meeting and available to answer any questions Members may have.

Legal Implications

14. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

15. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Review and assess the information contained in the draft Cabinet Report, attached at **Appendix A**, together with any information provided at the meeting; and
- b) Provide any recommendations, comments or advice to the Cabinet Member prior to the report's consideration by Cabinet on the 21 January 2021.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

13 January 2021