

**COUNCIL: 30 JUNE 2022**

---

## **DEPUTY LEADER & EDUCATION STATEMENT**

---

### **Child Friendly City**

Cardiff is continuing to work towards becoming the UK's first Child Friendly City, as a partner in the UNICEF UK programme. Good progress is being made across all the goals of our Child Friendly Cardiff Strategy, which aims to make child rights a reality for all children and young people in the city and, in particular, for the most vulnerable. We aim to submit our 'story of change' to UNICEF UK by September 2022, to enable the assessment phase to be completed during the Autumn term.

The Rights Respecting Schools approach forms a significant element of our Child Friendly Cardiff Strategy, focusing upon a rights-based approach to education. 80 schools have now achieved an award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) and a further 18 schools have registered to commence their journey.

Over 160 pupils from 25 Cardiff schools also attended a Rights Respecting Schools event that was held at Techniquest on 13 June 2022. The event enabled staff to share practice and ideas alongside UNICEF UK clinics to support schools on their rights-based journey. Throughout the day, pupils took part in workshops that captured their views on how well Cardiff is doing as a Child Friendly City as part of our UNICEF assessment process. Children and young people will continue to be actively engaged in the assessment period throughout the summer.

### **Summer of Fun Festival and Holiday Programme**

As part of our Child Friendly Cardiff commitments, I am pleased to confirm that plans are now in place to host another Cardiff festival for children and young people during the school summer holidays, including the return of the festival site on City Hall lawn for the first two weeks of the school summer holidays.

As with last year, the 'Summer of Fun' will be supported by funding from the Welsh Government as part of their Covid Recovery approach. In addition to the festival site, the programme of events will provide a city-wide suite of skills and adventure activities, including cycle training, sailing, a triathlon event and our young drivers' programme. Community grants will be coordinated by Cardiff Third Sector Council (C3SC) and an arts programme will be coordinated by Arts Active. Families will be able to book on to these activities by the end of this month.

## **School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) – Food and Fun**

I was pleased to open the recent meeting of Food and Fun stakeholders to plan this year's programme, which was attended by over 80 school staff and partner organisations. Cardiff's multi-award-winning school holiday programme, Food and Fun, continues to expand with 30 schools (2 Welsh medium primary schools, 2 Welsh medium secondary schools, 1 special school, 1 Pupil Referral Unit school, 3 English medium secondary schools and 21 English medium primary schools) delivering the programme this summer. This year, Food and Fun has again been extended to include communities beyond the traditionally Welsh Government funded targeted areas. Partner organisations will be providing a range of enrichment activities, with each child enjoying at least one hour of physical activity, a healthy breakfast and lunch daily, as well as nutrition and food sessions, all delivered in a fun, safe and friendly environment.

This will be our seventh year of delivering the Food and Fun programme. We are enormously proud that since it was developed by the Cardiff Food and Fun Team in 2015, it has been adopted by Welsh Government in 2016 and rolled out across Wales in 2017. It has been used as an example of best practice across the UK and Wales is now recognised as having the most advanced holiday provision in the UK.

## **Cardiff Commitment**

Last month, the Cardiff Commitment – in partnership with the Central South Consortium – delivered training on the new Curriculum for Wales to over 120 employers in Cardiff. The training aimed to stimulate further development of careers and work-related experiences for children and young people in Cardiff, and to build capacity to create more authentic and contextualised teaching and learning experiences across the six areas of learning in the new curriculum. The training also highlighted to employers and partners how engagement with schools will need to change in order to meet the objectives of the Curriculum for Wales.

The Social Value Officer within the Cardiff Commitment Team is working with the Procurement & Commissioning Team to help secure sustainable opportunities for children and young people. One successful example is a project with Greenhill Special School and the Pupil Inclusion Project, which has enabled 16 pupils to start learning about the construction industry. The project is run by volunteer tradesmen sourced by Volunteer It Yourself and funded by Centregreat, which has been awarded the Street Lighting contract by the Council. Over the next 18 months, the project will provide this cohort of young people with a series of enrichment sessions from a variety of partners from the construction industry.

## **Project Search**

A project to help young people with additional learning needs enter the world of work has launched in Cardiff. Project Search is a full-time, one year programme which provides training and work experience placements to young people with additional learning needs and/or autism, with the aim of preparing and supporting them in their transition from school to full-time employment. Young people are referred to the Project Search team by their school between the ages of 16 and 18.

The project is a partnership between Cardiff Council, the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Cardiff & Vale University Health Board as the employment partner. Since its initial

pilot in September 2021, seven pupils from Woodlands High School and Whitchurch High School in Cardiff and Ysgol Y Deri in Penarth have enjoyed a range of supported work experience placements at several departments at the University Hospital Wales, including pharmacy, cellular pathology, catering, switchboard, linen, housekeeping and portering. Two of the pupils have since secured employment as a direct result of their involvement with this project.

The project organisers are now looking to expand and need other employers and organisations to come forward to support future work placements. Interested organisations should contact [CardiffCommitment@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:CardiffCommitment@cardiff.gov.uk)

### **Cardiff Debate Mate Cup Final**

Supported by FinTech Wales and Invest in Cardiff, the Cardiff Commitment 'Debate Mate' debating programme has inspired young people by providing diverse role models and insights into future FinTech career opportunities. As part of the 12-week programme, pupils from eight Cardiff secondary schools (Cardiff West Community High School, Cantonian High School, Cathays High School, Willows High School, St Teilo's Church in Wales High School, Eastern High, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf and Fitzalan High School) have participated in hour-long debating workshops held every week, which have helped to educate pupils on current finance topics and enabled them to engage with leading Welsh financial service providers.

The Debate Mate final took place on 22 July at the Principality Stadium and I want to congratulate the debate team from Willows High School on winning the competition. A special mention should also go to the team from Eastern High who finished second.

### **Qualifications Arrangements**

The summer exam series is nearing completion and I would like to wish all our learners across the city the best of luck and thank all our teaching staff who have worked so hard to support our learners through this period after two years of disruption due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

On 13 May 2022, Qualifications Wales confirmed that advance information will be provided to schools and colleges to help prepare learners for made-for-Wales GCSE, AS and A level qualifications in the 2022/23 academic year. Any previous GCSE, AS and A level adaptations will no longer apply. The advance information provides an indication of the topics, themes, texts or other content that learners can expect in their exams, and its main aim is to support learners' preparation.

The WJEC will also release advance information for the November 2022 exam series before the end of the current summer term. Advance information for the January 2023 and summer 2023 exam series will be released in autumn 2022 and spring 2023 respectively.

On 16 May 2022, Qualifications Wales launched the "[Have Your Say on summer 2022 exams](#)" [online questionnaire](#) inviting learners, teachers, lecturers and anyone with an interest in this year's summer exams to complete a short questionnaire. Feedback from the survey will help them to monitor the qualifications system in Wales. The survey can be completed anonymously and will close on 4 July 2022.

### **Edible Playgrounds**

The second year of the Edible Playgrounds programme is underway with environmental charity, Trees for Cities, and I was delighted to attend the opening of the Edible Playground at Greenway Primary School earlier this month. This year, we are also piloting two Healthy Playgrounds schemes, encompassing a wider range of sustainable play and learning initiatives. Interest is currently being sought from schools who will then be visited to assess their suitability for the projects.

### **Schools of Sanctuary**

As part of this year's Refugee Week (20-26 June 2022), three of the city's primary schools have celebrated becoming official Schools of Sanctuary. St Monica's Church in Wales Primary School in Cathays, Herbert Thompson Primary School in Ely, and St David's Church in Wales Primary School in Pentwyn have each committed to creating a culture of welcome, safety and inclusion for refugees and people seeking asylum. To achieve the award, each school has demonstrated an understanding of what it means for someone to be seeking sanctuary and has created a welcoming and caring environment for people in need of help. These three schools join other schools in the city that have achieved School of Sanctuary status, which include Adamsdown Primary School, Allensbank Primary School, Llanishen High School and Stacey Primary School.

### **Lansdowne Primary School**

I would like to extend my congratulations to Michelle Jones, Headteacher at Lansdowne Primary School in Canton, who was awarded an MBE in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours for her services to education and, in particular, her work with the community throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. This followed on from her success in this year's St David's Awards in April 2022 where she was a winner in the Critical (Key) Worker category, alongside the Deputy Headteacher, Catherine Cooper, for the support they gave to families at their school during the Covid-19 pandemic. This included transporting children to ensure that they were able to attend school, providing families with food and other essentials, and making themselves available 24/7 to offer help and advice to the community.

### **Roath Park Primary School**

Roath Park Primary School held a celebration event on 15 June 2022 with Castle Park Primary School in Caldicot, Monmouthshire in relation to a unique and proactive blended learning project that they worked jointly on. Year 6 teaching staff and pupils worked collaboratively through the use of technology to look at different school communities and how the new Curriculum for Wales can help them become ethical, informed citizens and more sustainable in their lives. The project included interviewing Professor Graham Donaldson and working with the Children's Commissioner for Wales, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, local MPs and Councillors. The children also organised a "Big Discussion" event where over 350 Year 6 pupils came together online via Teams to discuss important environmental issues.

**Councillor Sarah Merry**  
**Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Education**  
**23 June 2022**