

Executive Board –
19th September 2023

Subject:	Nottingham's UNICEF UK Child Friendly City Programme.
Corporate Director(s)/Director(s):	Catherine Underwood. Corporate Director, People.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Cheryl Barnard, Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Education
Report author and contact details:	Nigel Cooke, Strategic Lead, Child Friendly City/Small Steps Big Changes. nigel.cooke@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Ekua Ghansah, Co-ordinator, Child Friendly City Katy Ball, Nigel Hawkins, Jon Rea, Amy Goulden, David Johns, Nicholas Lee. Tom Bonner
Subject to call-in:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Criteria for Key Decision:	
(a) <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £750,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision	
and/or	
(b) Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Type of expenditure: <input type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital If Capital, provide the date considered by Capital Board Date:	
Total value of the decision: £0	
Wards affected: All	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s): 30/8/2023	
Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:	
Green, Clean and Connected Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Working	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carbon Neutral by 2028	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safer Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child-Friendly Nottingham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Living Well in our Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Moving	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve the City Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>
Better Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Serving People Well	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):	
<p>This paper provides a framework and means of realising Nottingham City Council's Strategic Priority Outcome of Child Friendly Nottingham and the commitment within it to work with UNICEF and its partners to be recognised as a child friendly city.</p> <p>The attached Child Friendly City Action Plan will be submitted to UNICEF UK (UUK) to begin the next stage for Nottingham to be accredited as a UNICEF Child Friendly City (CFC).</p>	
Does this report contain any information that is exempt from publication? No.	
Recommendation(s):	

1.	To adopt the Child Friendly City Action Plan and to agree its formal submission to UUK.
2.	To agree to actively promote child friendly approaches with Nottingham citizens, businesses and wider partnerships in the public, private and voluntary sectors.
3.	To encourage child friendly activity and ways of communicating and working which are included within the Action Plan.
4.	To agree to receive periodic performance reports on the Child Friendly City programme.

1. **Reasons for recommendations**

- 1.1 To enable Nottingham to become a UNICEF Child Friendly City and to achieve the ambition of Child Friendly Nottingham, the City Council needs to formally adopt and approve an agreed action plan with UNICEF UUK.

2. **Background (including outcomes of consultation)**

- 2.1 The Nottingham City Council Strategic objective for Child Friendly Nottingham states that the council will work with UNICEF to become a child-friendly city, identify our priorities, promote children's rights and involve children in decision-making so that their voices are heard. The Council has started its journey to achieve this strategic outcome with significant engagement from children and young people of all ages and a broad cross section of partners.
- 2.2 This is a two year plan which draws on our current strengths and encourages innovation. It emphasises building child friendly approaches in to "business as usual". It outlines the outcomes and impacts of the programme. It is written in the mandatory UUK format.
- 2.3 Success in this programme is dependent up on the Council improving its OFSTED rating. This is vital for our children so will logically impact on the prospects of being able to qualify for accreditation. Importantly, it provides a context for future collaboration and joint production between agencies and under 18 year olds.
- 2.4 The Child Friendly City is a partnership with Small Steps Big Changes (SSBC), One Nottingham (ON) and UNICEF UK. It is steered by a multi-sector Oversight Group, chaired by the Corporate Director for People and attended by the Portfolio Holder. The Action Plan connects closely with the Children and Young People's plan and the Children and Young People's Partnership. There will be a children and young people's network and forums which will contribute to the plan's delivery by providing forums for feedback, consultation, engagement and challenge.
- 2.5 Other partners, including youth and children's organisations, the police, health agencies, the universities, education and cultural organisations, It's In Nottingham (the BID) and Nottingham Citizens have been actively involved in its development. It opens up possibilities to engage businesses in creating opportunities and hearing what children and young people have to say.
- 2.6 While it makes demands on the way that the local authority and partners interact with children it does not demand an investment of funding. The funding for the co-ordination of the delivery phase is provided by Small Steps Big Changes Lottery Funding. It will cover the co-ordinator staffing and associated costs until the 2026-27 financial year.

- 2.7 While the council has committed strategic leadership capacity to support the programme there remains a need to think about sustainability post accreditation. Building a child rights based approach, through the Council's core "business as usual" planning and workforce development are key to future success.
- 2.8 The UUK approach will provide external scrutiny and recognition of progress. To date drafts of the plan have been considered by UUK as part of the development process. They have welcomed our submission and are looking forward to receiving the final draft, which will form a joint agreement between the council and UUK after the Executive Board meeting in September. In the comments received so far UUK said that:
"This is a really exciting and wide ranging plan. There are good balanced commitments to improving children and young people's perceptions of services with objectively improving service provision".
- 2.9 UUK acknowledge the strength of the partnership engaged around the plan and the engagement of businesses and other sectors. They see lots of positive commitment and recognise how we have built it on 'business as usual' while seeking to be innovative with our engagement of children and young people.
- 2.10 It has been considered at partnerships including One Nottingham (who are the strategic partnership sponsor), the Nottingham Growth Board, the Stronger Safer Nottingham Partnership Board, the Place Based Partnership and it is continuing to be presented and discussed at further boards.
- 2.11 Other local authorities involved in the programme, who also provide a peer network, include, Cardiff, Derry, Lambeth, Liverpool, Manchester, Redbridge, Southampton and Tower Hamlets. Other major local authorities are waiting to be admitted to the programme.

Proposal or Issue.

- 2.12 The UUK Child Friendly City programme provides a framework for the City Council's Child Friendly Nottingham Strategic Outcome – "Every child in Nottingham will have the opportunity for the best start in life, regardless of their circumstances".
- 2.13 At the centre of the UUK Child Friendly Cities programme is the local authority and its partners who recognise children as stakeholders who have legitimate views, and concerns about decisions which impact upon them. The Council's Strategic plan reflects this –

"We will work with children, parents, neighbourhoods, schools and nurseries to ensure Nottingham is a 'child-friendly' city, where the views and needs of children and their parents or carers are actively listened to and embedded across all of our activities. We will transform our services to ensure resources are focussed where they need to be. We will also encourage our partners to do the same, to help jointly deliver a step change in the opportunities and life chances for children in Nottingham.
- 2.14 Through SSBC's support we engaged with parents of children under 4 years old, and with over 9,000 children and young people, who all took part in selecting the badges or themes and actions included in this plan.

The badges selected are:

- Safe and Secure
- Healthy
- Education and Learning
- and a 'Golden thread' of Equal and Included.

With the compulsory UUK core badges of;

- Culture,
- Co-operation and Leadership and
- Communications

The attached plan draws on the insight and views of the children and young people who say that they:

- ✓ Want a safe and secure city.
- ✓ Want a green and clean, cultural and fun city, which is easy to move around in.
- ✓ Like parks and a green city.
- ✓ Value healthy lifestyles, exercise, community and cooperation.
- ✓ Enjoy diversity,
- ✓ Want to learn and to share.
- ✓ Want to be treated with respect.
- ✓ Are concerned about poverty, mental health, crime and anti-social behaviour.

2.15 Children and young people talked about imaginative ways of making them feel safe, they showed a wide perspective of what a healthy and green lifestyle could be, they expressed views on broader areas of learning. They want Nottingham to be a kind city, for people to show kindness to children and to one another, very much reflecting the wider priority outcomes of the council.

2.16 Conversations continue with children's and young people's organisations about communications and use of language which are accessible and understandable to children and young people. There are significant elements of co-design with children and young people included in the plan.

2.17 The action plan includes a golden thread, Equal and Included. To reflect the diversity of the city and to recognise the demographic, racial, ethnic, social, health and economic challenges facing children and their families. Through this golden thread the plan seeks to support the council's corporate parenting role,

Nottingham's UUK Child Friendly City Outcomes in the Action Plan.

1. A kind and inclusive city

Nottingham is an inclusive and kind city where children and young people are celebrated, valued, respected and listened to.

2. Children's rights at work

Nottingham leaders and staff across partner agencies confidently apply a child rights-based approach in their work.

3. Children and young people can access support when they need it.

Parents of young children, children and young people can find help from public services and organisations who are responsive to their needs and rights.

4. Children's decision making

Children and young people are actively involved in local decision making.

5. Children's democracy

Children and young people are actively involved in local democracy.

6. Communicate clearly with children.

Our communications are clear, understandable, and responsive to the views of children and young people.

7. Promote understanding of children's rights

Our communications will promote and encourage understanding of children's rights across Nottingham. A positive view of children and young people is widely held and promoted across Nottingham.

8. Confident and safe in communities

Children and young people feel confident and safe in their communities, such as in the park, neighbourhoods and on the way to and from school.

9. Child friendly city centre

Nottingham City centre is a child friendly area which makes children and young people feel welcome, engaged and safe.

10. Children feel safe and are safe online

Children and young people are safe online, they feel that they are safe online, they recognise AI and use it in a safe way.

11. Mental health and wellbeing solutions

Children and young people are aware of what mental health and wellbeing support is available and are able to access local services. Children and young people are able to identify gaps in mental health and wellbeing support; collaboration and co-design enables children and young people in Nottingham to suggest solutions for these gaps.

12. Support good mental health

Timely support for children and young people with identified mental health need and preventative action to maintain good mental wellbeing is available.

13. Understand health needs and support healthier lives

Nottingham will have a better understanding of children and young people's health needs and preventative health improvement initiatives that support children and young people in Nottingham to live healthier lives.

14. Celebrating culture and diversity

Children and young people are enabled to use their imagination and creativity to celebrate diversity and their cultural heritage.

15. Learning and flourishing

Children and young people feel confident to create and access learning, skills and training opportunities within the city, which enable them to learn new

things, flourish and be guided and supported by trusted adults.

16. Active learners and champions for children and young people voices

Children and young people will be empowered to be active learners and champions for all children and young people's voices.

3. Other options considered in making recommendations.

- 3.1 To do nothing. If this activity is not taken on Nottingham will not achieve it's ambition of recognition as a Child Friendly City.

4. Consideration of Risk.

There is a risk that the Council will not achieve its ambition due to lack of resources made available to deliver the actions with thin the plan and if the support of our partners is not sustained. This risk has been mitigated against as the plan is written on a business as usual model and partners have been engaged at every stage of development. Child Friendly Nottingham will maintain a risk register.

5. Best Value Considerations, including consideration of Make or Buy where appropriate

This programme does not demand an investment of additional resources. It is built upon the council and the partnership's strengths and as such it will utilise current resources and be built in to business as usual. Our value will be achieved through maximising current resources.

6. Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

The total funding required for the development and delivery phases is estimated to be £0.500m and will be provided by Small Steps Big Changes using funds received from The National Lottery Community Fund's ten-year 'A Better Start' programme.

This project commenced in 2022-23 and the funding will cover co-ordinator staffing and associated costs until the end of 2025-26. A forward plan should be developed to ensure any on-going costs after this point are identified and factored into the MTFP.

Advice provided by Ruby Barton – Commercial Business Partner 07/06/2023

In March 2023 the National Lottery Community Fund confirmed that they are in support of the proposal above.

Karla Capstick - the Programme Director Small Steps Big Changes.

Legal colleague comments

There are no significant legal comments required at this time. Any spend must be made in accordance with the grant funding terms and conditions.

Beth Brown, Head of Legal and Governance. 09.06.23.

7. Other relevant comments

Having reviewed the content of this report and the appendices, there are no workforce / staffing implication as a result of the implementation of this programme based on the information provided.

Marie Read, HR Business Lead – Children’s Integrated Services and Education Strategy

8. Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable).

The Action Plan has the support of the Nottingham Safer and Stronger Partnership. It has been produced in collaboration with the Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

9. Social value considerations (If Applicable)

9.1 Not applicable

10. Regard to the NHS Constitution (If Applicable)

10.1 This action plan is supported by the Place Based partnership and the Director of Public health.

11. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

11.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



An EIA is not required because the Action plan contains a “Golden Thread of Equal and Included” and aspects of the programme will be required to complete a Equality Impact assessments and Child rights Impact Assessments.

12. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

12.1 Has the data protection impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

Yes



Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

12.2 Has the carbon impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

Yes



We have seen the strength of opinion mobilised already by our young people in the city around the climate & ecological emergency highlighted recently with the development of the Nottingham Youth Climate Assembly (NYCA). Work has also taken place with our Primary Parliament which also highlights the enthusiasm, interest and passion our young people have on this topic.

We therefore have identified the city’s young people as a critical priority group in the city to engage with the Carbon Neutral Nottingham 2028 (CN28)

agenda. Therefore, Nottingham having child friendly status (CFC) would be hugely beneficial and complimentary to that.

The CN28 action plan already contains an action to “*Engage with groups of young people across the city to raise awareness, generate ideas and promote behaviour change*”. The Council’s Carbon Neutral Policy Team lead this work and are engaging with the Nottingham Schools Trust and the NYCA to inform the development of engagement with young people. This included an initial co-creation session with the NYCA in September 2022, with the challenge of developing CN28 communications to work better for youth audiences. The team are also working with Nottingham Trent University on developing further engagement sessions later this year.

13. List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)

None

14. Published documents referred to in this report

The Badge Rationale Report is available online or on request from the CFN Co-ordinating Team. childfriendly@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child.