

Executive Board – 17th September 2024

Subject:	Child Friendly Nottingham Six Month Progress Review
Corporate Director(s)/Director(s):	Ailsa Barr Corporate Director for Children and Education Services
Executive Member(s):	Cheryl Barnard Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education
Report author and contact details:	Ekua Ghansah ekua.ghansah@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Nigel Cooke, Alison Donaldson, Karla Banfield, Jon Rea, David Johns, Nichols Lee, Phillip Broxholme, Lisa Alison
Subject to call-in:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital If Capital, provide the date considered by Capital Board Date:
Total value of the decision:	£0
Section 151 Officer expenditure approval	Has the spend been approved by the Section 151 Officer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/a Spend Control Board approval reference number:
Commissioner Consideration	Has this report been shared with the Commissioners' Office? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Any comments the Commissioners wish to provide are listed below.
Wards affected:	All
Date of consultation with Executive Member(s):	
Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:	
Clean, Green and Connected Communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Working	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carbon Neutral by 2028	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safer Nottingham	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Better Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Serving People Well	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):	
<p>This paper provides an interim update regarding the progress of the Child Friendly Nottingham programme following the first scheduled UNICEF UK six monthly progress review.</p> <p>This supports Nottingham City Council's Strategic Priority Outcome of Child Friendly Nottingham and the commitment within it to work with UNICEF UK and its partners to be recognised as a global UNICEF accredited Child Friendly City.</p> <p>The attached CFC Progress Review Report has been sent from UNICEF UK CFC Team detailing Nottingham's current progress, six months into the Delivery Phase of the CFN Action Plan.</p>	

Does this report contain any information that is exempt from publication? No
Recommendation(s):
1. To note the progress of the Child Friendly Nottingham Programme.
2. To agree to actively promote child friendly approaches with Nottingham citizens, businesses and wider partnerships in the public, private and voluntary sectors within wards and city council departments.
3. To encourage child friendly activity and ways of communicating and working which are included within the Action Plan.
4. To continue to receive periodic performance reports on the Child Friendly City programme.

1. Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 Nottingham City Council is the lead and accountable partner for the UNICEF UK (UUK) to enable Nottingham to become a globally recognised UNICEF Child Friendly City and to achieve the ambition of Child Friendly Nottingham, the City Council needs to formally adopt and support the agreed CFN Action Plan with UNICEF UK.

2. Background (including outcomes of consultation)

- 2.1 Child Friendly City is a priority in the Strategic Council Plan, and this includes the commitment to work towards the UUK accreditation. This partnership programme is funded by SSBC and Nottingham are one of 9 UK cities working towards Child Friendly status. This is a City-wide partnership programme to put children's rights into practice, and support children to have a meaningful say in, and benefit from the local decisions, services and spaces that shape their lives and affect them.

Nottingham's Child Friendly Badges (priorities), voted for by over 9,000 children and young people across the city during the Discovery Phase and, based on the UUK framework and are:

- Safe and Secure
- Healthy
- Education and Learning

U-UK Mandated badges include:

- Cooperation and Leadership
- Culture
- Communication

The golden thread throughout is Equal and Included.

To fulfil UUK requirements, Nottingham City Council are the Lead Accountable Partner with the following structure:

- Programme Sponsor – Alisa Barr, Corporate Director for Children and Education Services
- Political Sponsor – Councillor Cheryl Barnard, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education
- Senior Responsible Officer – Karla Banfield, Deputy Director of Commissioning and Partnerships
- Badge Leads are Nottingham City Council Officers

The delivery phase of the CFN Action Plan¹ commenced in November 2023 and has a 2-year duration.

2.2 Progress Review

During the delivery phase we will continue to host UUK facilitated training and workshops, refresh and submit an annual CFN Communications Plan and host 6 monthly progress review meetings with measurable progress against all six badges. In advance of the progress review meeting, the city / community will share the evidence pertaining to the relevant area of the action plan.

Progress review meetings are held:

- To review progress relative to the local child friendly action plan, with key stakeholders locally and UNICEF UK.
- To have honest reflection; highlighting successes and challenges.
- To see a child rights-based approach in action; hear about how the seven principles are being embedded locally.
- To consider whether the city / community is on track for recognition.

Comprising of...

- Gathering and sharing the *means of verification* (evidence) in advance of the meeting.
- Bringing together of *key stakeholders*, for example the local coordinating team, programme sponsor, champions, badge leads, children and young people for a meeting / event to speak to local progress.

The first UUK Progress Review was held on Friday 10th May with the means of verification for each Badge listed under 'some progress'.

The contents of the submission are included at Appendix A.

A progress review note is provided after the review.

- Compiled by UNICEF UK.
- Provides overview of the review meeting and summary of evidence shared.
- Contains recommendations to strengthen progress moving forward.
- RAG (red-amber-green) rates progress, to provide indication of current journey momentum.

The full Progress Note, including a breakdown by badge, is included at Appendix B and in summary:

Despite being a focussed, online meeting Nottingham made significant effort to ground the review in children's participation, starting with an overview of key youth voice mechanisms and events.

The meeting was reflective and honest in spirit and tone, which is to be celebrated given the recent challenges experienced by the council and there were a huge number of strong, positive updates, that spoke to the progress being made locally. In particular, there was robust political engagement, multiple examples of children and young people having a voice and

¹ [Making Nottingham Child Friendly - Nottingham - A Child Friendly City \(childfriendlynottingham.org.uk\)](https://childfriendlynottingham.org.uk)

influencing local decisions, as well as commitment to embed a child rights-based approach (CBRA) at a systems level with Child Friendly being a priority in the Strategic Council Plan and the ambition to pilot the seven principles of a CRBA within commissioning.

Whilst there was evidently a huge amount of activity, it was not always clear how it linked to and was explicitly embedding the seven principles of a CRBA and from the large amount of evidence submitted some of this did not correspond directly to the action plan.

This was a very strong progress review meeting both in terms of tone and progress being made, despite significant financial challenges locally. The approach to children's participation and the progress made in recent months was impressive and demonstrates that Nottingham remains on track to be recognised as a UNICEF Child Friendly City.

Progress Recommendations (relevant to all badge areas)

- Consider how the seven principles of CRBA can be more explicitly evidenced across activity, outputs and the means of verification; thereby ensuring that the work outlined within the action plan is consistently drawing from and embedding a CRBA.
- Ensure relevance of means of verification submitted to those listed within the action plan.
- Consider utilising UUK impact study template to further elevate case studies and this will support the above.

This learning will be applied for the next progress review, and we will work with the UUK CFC Programme Officer to agree the rationale for any additional evidence submitted and refine the action plan as proportionate as the programme and as further opportunities develop.

2.3 **Additional Delivery Phase Update**

On Tuesday 11th June CFN held a partnership event at the Ice Arena. This was well attended with around 70 representatives from a range of organisations including Nottingham City Council colleagues, education, academia, culture and sports, community sector, police, fire, health and local business.

An introductory menti-meter showed nearly half the room knew only a bit or nothing about children's rights and the CRBA although over 70% engaged a lot with children and young people in their work.

Representatives learnt about the CRBA and the CFN action plan and discussion and activities included the young population of Nottingham and Generations Alpha-Z and engagement and participation with children and young people.

Large numbers of people and organisations are now signing up for the UUK training and to be Child Friendly Nottingham champions to work together towards UUK accreditation.

3. **Other options considered in making recommendations**

- 3.1 No action. If this activity is not taken on Nottingham will not achieve its ambition of recognition as a Child Friendly City.

4. Consideration of Risk

- 4.1 There is a risk that the Council will not achieve its ambition due to lack of resources made available to deliver the actions within the CFN Action 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 of the programme. The Child Friendly Nottingham programme will maintain a risk register.
- 4.2 Success in achieving UNICEF UK accreditation is dependent up on the Council improving its OFSTED rating. It is hoped positive progress will be made over the next year plus as development plans are in place driving forward improvements. CFN provides a context for collaboration between agencies and children and young people.

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

- 5.1 This programme does not demand an investment of additional resources. It is built upon the council and the partnerships strengthens and as such it will utilise current resources and be built into business as usual. Our value will be achieved through maximising current resources.

6. Commissioner comments

- 6.1 Commissioners are content with this report

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

This is the delivery phase of the Child friendly Nottingham and substantial progress has been made during the six month which is evidence by the Green RAG rating given by the UK Committee for UNICEF. This is a strong progress and SSBC has committed for an additional year funding. (Refer to finance comments as per 7.1 to 7.6)

- 7.1 The service have been able to secure additional funding budget of circa £100,000 to fund CFC activities until March 2026, this will support the extended delivery phase and help the project transition to financial independence. The funding has been secured from the National Lotteries.
- 7.2 The costs for this project currently sit on cost centres N-10205 and N-16500 Commissioning and procurement management costs and Children's Directorate.
- 7.3 This is all grant funding and the monies will be used to meet costs relating to the UNICEF fee, the salary with on costs for the Programme Lead and a small budget for resources to engage with children and young people during the delivery phase during 2025/26.
- 7.4 Any funding received in advance will be transferred to the year it relates to.

- 7.5 All costs will be met within the grant funding that will be received. It is anticipated that the project will be self-sufficient beyond March 2026, officers are currently working on a long-term sustainability plan
- 7.6 The programme lead posts holder is currently employed from Nottingham city council and it is anticipated that the person will be re-deployed or will be at risk of redundancy as the project is completed in March 2026 should there be no other additional funding secured to make the project self-sufficient. Any costs arising from redundancy will have to be met within the children's directorate in line with the existing HR policies and guidance at Nottingham city council.

Noureen Safdar, Senior Commercial Finance Business Partner –
Childrens. 12/08/2024

8. Legal colleague comments

There are no significant legal comments required at this time.

Beth Brown, Head of Legal and Governance. 08.08.24

9. Other relevant comments

- 9.1 Having reviewed the content of this report and the appendices, there are no workforce / staffing implication based on the information provided.

Marie Read, HR Business Lead – Directorate for Children & Education
Services. 20/08/2024

10. Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)

- 10.1 The CFN Action Plan has the support of the Nottingham Safer and Stronger Partnership. It has been produced in collaboration with Community Safety and Nottinghamshire Police.

11. Social value considerations (If Applicable)

- 11.1 Not applicable.

12. Regard to the NHS Constitution (If Applicable)

- 12.1 The CFN Action Plan is supported by the Place Based partnership and the Director of Public health. CFN is also named on the refreshed Integrated Care Partnership forward plan.

13. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

No



An EIA is not required because the CFN Action Plan contains a "Golden Thread of Equal and Included" and aspects of the programme will be required to complete an Equality Impact assessments and Child Rights Impact Assessments.

14. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

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

No



A DPIA is not required because as this is a broad programme co-ordinated by Nottingham City Council and containing a number of different workstreams, a DPIA will be considered in areas required within the programme.

15. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

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

No



A CIA is not required because: The CFN Action Plan will not have carbon footprint beyond the current business as usual.

We have seen the strength of opinion mobilised already by our children and young people in the city around the climate crisis highlighted by the development of the Nottingham Youth Climate Assembly (NYCA). Previous 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 2023, with the challenge of developing CN28 communications to work better for youth audiences.

We are discussing how CFC can contribute to the development of the next phase of the 'Green Light In The City' partnership project which aims to develop community spaces for engagement and involvement with our seldom heard groups with an emphasis on the green agenda.

Members of the NYCA now form part of the city's wider Nottingham Green Partnership and it would certainly be welcome to connect the CFC programme with them as the key group working on delivery the CN28 agenda across the city.

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

16.1 None

17. Published documents referred to in this report

17.1 The CFC Progress Note – CFN 6 Month Review Report

17.2 The Child Friendly Nottingham Action Plan is available online ([Making Nottingham Child Friendly - Nottingham - A Child Friendly City](#) (childfriendlynottingham.org.uk) or on request from the CFN Co-ordinating Team: child.friendly@nottinghamcity.gov.uk