

**Executive Board – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Child Friendly Nottingham Twelve Month Progress Review</b>
<b>Corporate Director(s)/Director(s):</b>	Colin Parr Corporate Director for Communities, Environment and Resident Services
<b>Executive Member(s):</b>	Cheryl Barnard Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education
<b>Report author and contact details:</b>	Alison Donaldson alison.donaldson@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
<b>Other colleagues who have provided input:</b>	Nigel Cooke, Ekoa Ghansah, Karla Banfield
<b>Subject to call-in:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Criteria for Key Decision:</b>	
(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
<b>and/or</b>	
(b)	Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital If Capital, provide the date considered by Capital Board Date:
<b>Total value of the decision:</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>Section 151 Officer expenditure approval</b>	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:
<b>Commissioner Consideration</b>	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.
<b>Wards affected:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Date of consultation with Executive Member(s):</b>	
<b>Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:</b>	
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"/>
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):</b>	
This report presents an interim update on the progress of the Child Friendly Nottingham (CFN) programme following the second scheduled six-monthly progress review by UNICEF UK, conducted at the 12-month mark.	
It aligns with Nottingham City Council's Strategic Priority Outcome of Child Friendly Nottingham and its commitment to collaborate with UNICEF UK and its partners to attain recognition as a globally accredited Child Friendly City (CFC).	
The accompanying Appendix A, outlines Nottingham's progress as of twelve months into the	

Delivery Phase of the CFN Action Plan.

**Does this report contain any information that is exempt from publication?**

No

**Recommendation(s):**

1. To note the progress of the CFN Programme.
2. To commit to the active promotion of child-friendly approaches among Nottingham citizens, businesses, and broader partnerships across the public, private, and voluntary sectors, within city wards and council departments. This includes participation in Children's Rights Training with UNICEF UK to support the CFN Action Plan.
3. To foster child-friendly initiatives and methods of communication and collaboration as outlined in the Action Plan.
4. To continue to receive periodic performance reports on the CFN programme.

**1. Reasons for recommendations**

- 1.1 Nottingham City Council is the lead and accountable partner for UNICEF UK (UUK) in the effort for Nottingham to achieve global recognition as a UNICEF Child Friendly City. To realise this ambition, the City Council must formally adopt and support the UUK endorsed CFN Action Plan.

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

- 2.1 The Child Friendly City initiative is a key priority outlined in the Strategic Council Plan, which includes a commitment to working towards achieving the UUK accreditation. This partnership programme is funded by SSBC and Nottingham are one of 9 UK cities working towards Child Friendly status. The programme is a city-wide collaboration aimed at putting children's rights into practice. It focuses on ensuring that children have a meaningful voice in local decision-making processes, and that they can actively influence, and benefit from, the decisions, services, and spaces that impact their lives.

We are now halfway through the delivery phase of the CFN Action Plan<sup>1</sup>, which began in November 2023 and spans a two-year duration. The Action Plan builds on our existing strengths while encouraging innovation, with a focus on fostering a child-friendly culture and embedding this approach into everyday practices.

Success in this programme is closely linked to the Council's ability to improve its OFSTED rating. This is crucial for the well-being of our children and will significantly impact our ability to qualify for accreditation. More importantly, it provides a foundation for future collaboration and co-production between agencies and children and young people under 18.

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

## 2.2 Progress Review

Throughout the delivery phase, we will continue to host training and workshops facilitated by UUK, refresh and submit an annual Child Friendly Nottingham (CFN) Communications Plan and hold six-monthly progress review meetings. These meetings will assess measurable progress across all six badges: Communication, Culture, Cooperation and Leadership, Safe and Secure, Education and Learning, and Healthy.

On November 6th, CFN held its second UNICEF UK Progress Review, which was hosted by the City as Lab.

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.

Extracts of the Progress Note, including a breakdown by badge, is included at Appendix A and in summary:

The Progress Review meeting highlighted numerous clear and positive examples of good practice being developed and implemented across Nottingham. There was a strong emphasis on capturing the voices and input of children and young people, while embedding the Child Rights-Based Approach (CBRA). The programme in Nottingham is being delivered with real energy and creativity, as evidenced by the many practical examples that demonstrate this approach with the evident commitment of the CFN team shining through.

Highlights include:

- The strength of partnership working and relationships across the city should be celebrated, and it was powerful to connect with the City As Lab team (the University of Nottingham) and learn about the developments in digital data tools to enhance creative storytelling, data analysis and community engagement specifically with children and young people locally.
- Work with Nottingham College and the Electoral Services team to revitalise the democratic strategy with a proposed voting age pilot that has the potential to lead the way nationally.
- The introduction of a Partnership Communications Task Group to draw together resources and build momentum across the city.
- As the "golden thread," the Equal and Included badge does not have specific outcomes outlined in the agreed Action Plan. However, there are several positive examples where consideration of this badge is integrated across the other badges. This reflects a positive response to the recommendation from the first Progress Review.

The overall RAG rating for the programme is currently Amber and this has changed from the Green rating from May 2024.

UUK has stated;

“There is a lot of excellent practice that is taking place across Nottingham but very little of this is being systematically captured. We suggest an open reflection for each badge area to outline how they will realistically and reliably capture good practice so far, and how this will be captured moving forward ahead of PR3 in May 2025”

UUK overall recommendations recognise the exceptionally challenging circumstances for the city and the need for dynamic and adaptive delivery in the current environment:

Recommendations:

- UUK suggest that we draw a line under the existing means of verification for Progress Reviews 1 and 2 with individual deep dive sessions for each badge area with an overhaul of the existing Action Plan to support systematic capturing of the excellent practice that is taking place across Nottingham.
- Make evidence a priority for everyone across CFN, acknowledging that it will take a lot of work and resource to create a strong evidence base.
- Ensure that the embedding of a CRBA is clear and be explicit to demonstrate the seven principles and the impact of this on children and young people across all the badge areas.

In response to this, evidence review sessions are planned in collaboration with UUK, commencing at the end of January.

The next progress review is scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

### **2.3 Additional Delivery Phase Update**

The first city wide Nottingham Children and Young People’s Perception Survey was launched on World Children’s Day, November 20th, 2024. This survey has been designed to be accessible to a wide audience, with language and questions tailored to different age groups. It aims to complement other ongoing surveys in Nottingham, building on the existing data and insights we currently have.

On World Children’s Day children from schools across Nottingham came together to mark the day with an event at the Council House themed around ‘Your Voice Matters – Get it Heard.’ Children took part in website design, voting exercises, designing their own Nottingham children’s magazine, with Leftlion magazine, working with sports clubs Nottingham Forest Community Trust and Notts County Cricket Club and key Nottingham partners. The event highlighted the importance of children and young people getting opportunities to be heard and have their views and experiences taken seriously. The City Council Electoral Service team organised elections and voting with the children using red and green hand cards and real ballot boxes.

### **2.4 Implementation Plan for 2025**

CFN is due two more reviews before UNICEF is scheduled to make a decision on whether Nottingham can be recognised as a Child Friendly City. This recent UNICEF review opened the door to a successful outcome for Nottingham.

However, it also flags up the potential for UNICEF to recommend a longer period of development.

Most of the recommendations outlined in this review had been anticipated prior to it taking place, consequently work had begun on refreshing and simplifying the plan across all six badges. The consistent picture described by UNICEF is one of good, sometimes leading and groundbreaking practice. Importantly, our primary activity in working towards the third review will be to address weakness evidenced.

Outline Implementation Plan:

1. An Implementation plan will be adopted by the Oversight group [the steering group for this programme] and will agree the key measures to be taken.
2. As stated previously, a review of the badges will take place with UNICEF.
3. Badges leads have been appointed in order to strengthen the programme.
4. Partner resource will be realigned to enable progress.
5. Some key activities will be prioritised and focused on.
6. Progress will be assessed after review three by the Oversight Group.  
A further will report will be provided to the governance of the programme, including to the Exec Board

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

- 3.1 No action. If this activity is not undertaken, Nottingham will be unable to achieve its ambition of gaining 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 CFN programme will maintain a risk register.
- 4.2 The successful attainment of UNICEF UK accreditation is contingent upon the Council improving its OFSTED rating. It is anticipated that significant progress will be made over the coming year, as development plans are already in place to drive improvements. The CFN programme provides a framework for collaboration between agencies, 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. This programme does not require additional resource investment. It is designed to leverage and strengthen existing partnerships within the council, utilizing current resources and integrating seamlessly into standard operations. The value of this initiative will be realized by optimizing existing resources and adopting a sustainable approach.

### **6. Commissioner comments**

- 6.1 4.2 identifies that the UNICEF UK accreditation is contingent upon the Council improving its Ofsted rating and re-enforces the importance of the Council with its partners focusing their resources and energy on this as the highest priority activity.

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

- 7.1 The service has 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.

Nilufa Begum – Senior Commercial Business Partner – 17/01/25

## **8. Legal colleague comments**

- 8.1 The content of the report is noted and raises no significant legal issues.

Beth Brown, Director of Legal and Governance, 16 January 2025

## **9. Other relevant comments**

- 9.1 Additional comments were not required from Procurement / Strategic Assets and Property, HR or IT.

## **10. Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)**

- 10.1 The CFN Action Plan has the support of the Nottingham Safer and Stronger Partnership and was 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 assessment and Child Rights Impact Assessments (CRIA). Work is in progress with the EDI Team to embed the CRIA within the NCC EIA.

## 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 complementary 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 Review 2 Extracts Appendix A

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