

UNICEF Review Extracts from Progress Review 2

Notes and Recommendations of each of the Badges

CULTURE

Outcome 1: Nottingham Councillors, leaders and staff across partner agencies confidently and consistently apply a child rights-based approach in their work

Outcome 2: Children and young people can find help from public agencies when they need to and feel confident to do so. Babies, children and young people can find help from public services and organisations who are responsive to their needs and rights.

Under this badge, some progress has been made in a challenging context. However, further evidence is required.

It was a welcome development to learn that there is a new badge lead identified and located within the Corporate function with the postholder sharing experience of culture change and a focus on applied learning and evidencing of iterative behavioural changes. Some suggested points of influence that may be of benefit to the CFC programme were offered, including existing work done in partnership with comms colleagues and considerations underway around how to weave CRIAs into existing EIA processes; demonstrating evidence of this in practice at the next PR would be most welcome.

We heard from the children who had recently participated in the Primary Parliament 'Your Voice Matters' event, during which they had interviewed each other on the topic of communications with and for children and the opportunities to be heard on different platforms. This event culminated in over 50 audio recordings, creating a compelling case for why children & young people should be part of decision making, in their own words; an excellent contribution towards the work of this badge.

There has been a very positive focus on training and engagement of the CFC programme with local businesses via the It's in Nottingham partnership. Testimony from those leading on engagement with the private sector indicated positive feedback on the child rights training offer and a meaningful commitment from private sector partners to engage in this going forward. Those teams who have completed it already are powerfully influencing and engaging peers and speaking to the importance of taking children's rights into their work. There is an appetite for engagement with the UUK Train the Trainer offer to build on this momentum.

The partnerships approach in Nottingham is a real strength of the programme locally and to be celebrated. An overview of the financial support provided by the It's in Nottingham Foundation was highlighted, with a particular focus on organisations with remits aligned with the Safe & Secure and Healthy badges. It was identified that there is a need to galvanise the expressed commitment from local partners and to turn this into action and practical delivery. Therefore, an overview of upcoming events and activities is being developed and a CRBA is being applied to shape it, including children and young people influencing what it looks like. Commitment to and upcoming dates for child rights training by football and sporting leads in the city - Nottingham Forest Community Trust and Notts County Foundation - are a very welcome addition to the thoughtful approach underway and we look forward to seeing evidence of the fruits of this approach in due course.

Transport Directors from UK Government were being hosted by City as Lab and University of Nottingham the day after our Progress Review, so there was an invitation for the practitioners present, in support of CFN, to submit a question or pose a dilemma for the Permanent Secretary's consideration. The question of why there is no longer free transport for children after 9.30am was chosen; this used to be in place and the removal is impacting on school trips, access to culture and swimming initiatives. This opportunity highlighted the strong network and points of influence available across the city when advocating for children's rights in practice.

Recommendations:

- Building on the energy and momentum of the CFN network, evidence should be co-collated by a diverse team of practitioners. A particular focus in the months ahead on developing strong

impact studies and using the CRBA templates provided by UUK will significantly contribute towards a clearer picture emerging of the work underway in this area.

- Work in partnership with your UUK Programme Officer to determine and agree a suite of strong evidence and only upload submissions from this list. Less is more; quality over quantity!

COOPERATION & LEADERSHIP

Outcome 1: Children and young people are actively involved in local decision making.

Outcome 2: Children and young people are actively involved in local democracy.

There has been a significant amount of progress in this badge area, the [review] meeting itself provided updates on the below:

- The Children and Young People's survey was launched as part of Nottingham's World Children's Day event, accompanied by toolkit and guidance. In a follow-up call after the PR2 meeting, it was great to see how the UUK core questions are now embedded in the survey, how the survey has been drafted to align with existing measures, and clear examples of consultation with children and young people to inform the development of the survey.
- Work with City as Lab on the Data Connector portal. Although this is at an early stage it is an exciting and potentially very impactful workstream, and we look forward to seeing the work to bring together a 'Child Friendly' section on the portal next year.
- Voter registration work - the team shared excellent examples of work with Nottingham College and colleagues in the Electoral Services team to revitalise the democratic strategy. The potential voting age pilot has the potential to lead the way nationally, and it's great to see this being developed, alongside consideration of using local political resources to embed this.
- As one of the core badges it was good to see the natural overlap with other badges, teams and workstreams. In particular with the shared work across the Culture badge, and the partnership working across the city, with an acknowledgement of the challenges faced. In particular the strength of the academic and cultural partnerships across the city were evident, with the additional resource this brings to the programme and it will be great to consider how this can further grow and develop over the coming months.
- An acknowledgement of the challenges the team are facing in evidencing the work so far, and how this will continue over the course of the programme.

In addition, there were a number of pieces of evidence submitted ahead of the meeting, however these didn't directly correlate with the MoV outlined in the updated Action Plan. It was nice to see a few images from the recent Hong Kong experience event, and that the MOU has been agreed with It's in Nottingham, however there needs to be clearer linkage with the evidence required, demonstration of the impact of a CRBA, and work done to pull together existing practice into a clear narrative around the successes of the badge area.

Recommendations:

- Evidence the work that has already taken place. There are so many examples of excellent practice shared as part of the PR2 Meeting, as well as the Action Plan review sessions and the regular internal meetings that hasn't yet been captured explicitly in the evidence. In particular the co-development work with children and young people.
- Further formalise partnerships across the city. Nottingham has so many excellent resources and partners across the city and region, with strong relationships already in place. It would be helpful to include these partners in the suggested review sessions for the badge area to explicitly plan what each partner can contribute to both practice and evidence. The partnership with It's in Nottingham is potentially a huge resource for the programme, and Nottingham could lead the way nationally on how partnerships with the private sector and others can benefit the CFC programme particularly when considering sustainability.
- Continue with the excellent practice in this area - we want to acknowledge that there has been so much good work in this badge area and are excited about the plans for the coming year.

COMMUNICATION

Outcomes 1: Our communications are clear, understandable, and responsive to the views of children and young people.

Outcome 2: A positive view of children and young people is widely held and promoted across Nottingham.

Outcome 3: Our communications will promote and encourage understanding of children's rights across Nottingham.

We are aware of the long-term challenges with the Communication badge, and in particular the very limited internal Communications resource within Nottingham City Council over the past year, meaning that there hasn't been a clear badge lead for a significant proportion of the Delivery phase of the programme. It is also the only badge that wasn't reviewed as part of the recent Action Plan reviewing sessions in September because of this, and so would benefit from a much more thorough exploration as part of the suggested deep-dive review sessions to clearly map out what is feasible and most impactful for the remainder of the Delivery phase. It is however very positive that the newly established Communications Task Group appears to be identifying ways of drawing together resources, identifying challenges, and building partnerships across the city.

The following is a brief summary of what was presented as part of the Progress Review meeting:

- Excellent demonstration of the good work within the Communication workstream through the recent Primary Parliament event, co-delivered with Ignite, and the 'Your Voice Matters' theme. It was attended by 129 children from 30 schools and six partners, with four workshops and a focus on developing communication skills and confidence for the children attending. It was lovely to hear recordings from the children themselves, and good quality wider outputs such as the Children can change the world blog.
- The new Task Group as mentioned above seems to have made good progress in a very short space of time, with a holistic take on the Communication badge and a broad range of thinking from a range of partners.
- The consultation work with children and young people as part of the recent survey design is a good, simple demonstration of embedding a CRBA, and with the range of forms for conducting will hopefully result in good ongoing engagement and higher quality data collection in the longer-term.
- There was a broader discussion of the potential role for children as researchers, in particular with the Nottingham Games project, and the project looking at the response to nature and potential partnership with Oulu in Finland. This creative thinking is a real strength and will hopefully provide a rich source of evidence in future reviews.
- The World Children's Day event ... well thought-out and organised, with a great and engaging offer for the children and young people attending. It again demonstrates strong partnership working across the city, in particular with the input of Leftlion staff, and the plan to use real-life voting booths as a great way of engaging children and young people in an interesting and meaningful activity.

There was a range of evidence submitted ahead of the meeting, in particular:

- The eBulletin is a great example of a newsletter for partners, pulling together updates, sharing images and resources from events, highlight upcoming opportunities in an accessible way, and incorporating the UNCRC into communications. This has been shared with other cities and communities as an exemplar, and has been well received which is a real achievement, and a resource for the wider network. The ChalleNGe wall planner was also submitted, and again is a good example of well-designed and engaging resources, as well as demonstrating strong partnership working.
- It was good to see documents such as the Comms Plan and the minutes from the recent Comms Task Group meeting, but these don't provide strong evidence demonstrating the impact of the programme itself, so consideration should be given to what can be developed to support the narrative around how the programme is creating practical change.

Recommendations:

- As noted above, the Communication badge wasn't fully reviewed as part of the recent Action Plan review sessions, so it is one to prioritise for the suggested deep-dive sessions to go through in detail to create a clear plan of how best to evidence the work, and where to focus energy and resources for the coming year. It would be great to see the Comms Task Group set the task of prioritising this, and to build on the great creative thinking already happening to develop an exciting plan.
- There have been some really nice examples of great practice shared as part of the Communication badge review - continue to develop this practice, building on learning from the range of good events and resources already established, and continue to make use of the good partner relationships that exist in the city.
- Develop a clear plan for how the great partner resources can work well alongside internal Nottingham City Council structures.

SAFE & SECURE

Outcome 1: 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.

Outcome 2: Nottingham city centre is a child friendly area which makes children and young people feel welcome, engaged, and safe.

Outcome 3: Children and young people to feel safer online and understand how to manage the risks and able to recognise how changing technologies might impact on them.

It was noted that there is an ongoing challenge in engaging with the police as an operational badge lead for Safe & Secure, despite recent in-roads with local police leads. However, the CFS team will be presenting at the Nottingham Community Safety Partnership Board soon which will offer a reset moment for this badge.

Some great recent developments include:

- The decision by the Youth Justice team to adopt the national YJ child- first, preventative approach
- Ask for Ali initiative - a promising draft proposal has been shared for this, originating from the night-time economy scheme Ask for Angela (which began in Nottingham and has been adopted internationally). This proposed, place-based scheme has been adapted specifically for children and young people but is still in the development phase.

It was fantastic to see thoughtful and reflective reference in the proposal to the 7 principles of a child rights- based approach in the evidence submitted, for example the strength of youth voice in initiating this community safety approach.

Development work is required to further strengthen the proposal in line with a CRBA and to ensure the safeguarding and wellbeing of children who avail of the scheme - there was reference to possible 'safe' venues and safety cards that could be carried by children and young people, that require deeper consideration. This initiative was born from the findings of the Youth Endowment Fund research on children's feelings of safety; there were reflections shared during the meeting about the ongoing work underway to resource the co-design of this initiative with children & young people and their parents and carers, as well as to develop meaningful connections with local businesses. It was encouraging to hear that the CFN team are considering conducting a CRIA on the development of the initiative; something we would strongly support at UUK.

Online safety work is underway with the Healthy Schools team, who are busy developing resources for children, parents and carers. The main focus thus far has been on the development of tools children can use to deal with online safety issues or to safely and confidently remove themselves from a

challenging situation. Fantastic to hear about the partnership work with children and young people to develop resources to support this approach.

During the presentation [at the review] of the PARM by City as Lab colleagues, we were delighted to hear about the enormous potential of this digital device to both present findings around safety locally and to engage with children and young people creatively on their feelings of safety within community. We learned about the existing data picture emerging when it comes to the different outcomes for communities during a heat wave depending on their proximity to green space, the current spread of street lighting, cycle- friendliness and opportunities for active travel locally and the location of CCTV. Lots of careful thought has already been given locally to the inclusion of children who are marginalised through the use of this innovative approach, with plans afoot to engage with children who are refugees to understand where they feel safe and welcome as well as the creation of a bespoke map for a neighbourhood with high levels of deprivation (Bulwell) so that children there can interact with the tool in a hyper-local context.

Recommendations:

- Within the time on the day, there was not space for further reflections on this badge, which, coupled with very little evidence submitted in advance, meant that there remain some key areas from the plan, for which there is not an update at this time. This needs to be addressed before the next progress review, for example your workstreams around safer transport and travel options and ways in which you're working together on a more welcoming and engaging city centre.
- While there is clearly some fantastic practice in certain areas of this badge, a review of the workstreams in line with the areas in which you can realistically demonstrate progress is needed. Not dissimilar to other areas of focus in Nottingham, the challenge here is the collation of high quality, clear and child rights-based evidence.

HEALTHY

Outcome 1: Children and young people are aware of what mental health and wellbeing support is available and are able to access local services. Local Health and Care Organisations and Children and Young people working close together 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.

Outcome 2: Timely support for children and young people with identified mental health need and preventative action to maintain good mental wellbeing.

Outcome 3: 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. Workstream 1 - Schools

None of the stated evidence was submitted, however on the day, we heard from Public Health about the various celebrated partnerships and initiatives that have been nurtured over the past 6 months in support of the work in this badge area:

- Beginning with schools on tobacco and vaping, the badge lead described a rights-based approach to developing child friendly resources in collaboration with schools and innovating with Padlet online resource packs for school. It was interesting to learn that there had been some close partnership work between police and public health when it comes to seizing illegal vape providers within the vicinity of schools.
- The Achieve Well awards will be launching by the end of the year in support of Nottingham's work on the CFC Healthy badge. This initiative will be shaped by children and young people and run by participating schools.

There were strong reflections shared on the influence of child and youth voice in this area of work; the recently collated health & wellbeing survey responses from children have demonstrably shaped the approach and chosen areas of focus (smoking & vaping, free school meals, takeaways & planning and mental health).

We learned about several areas of work that support Outcome 3:

- the work of the Thriving Nottingham healthy schools and physical activity programme - targeting rising obesity levels through careful engagement with parents, carers and children. The initiative is in operation across 3 pilot schools, working in partnership with children to introduce new foods and explore with them the different ways they might like to engage with physical activity
- the new co-produced weight management programme for teenagers; crucially this work is shaped by them with a focus on the development of skills and opportunities. Currently this is a pilot but there are plans locally to roll this out across the age group
- the launch of a community weight management play-based initiative that provides an offer of fun park activities and access to trampolines

The Best Start strategy for 0 - 5 year olds has brought together partners to discuss how 'it takes a whole village to raise a child' and how to practically put children at the centre of provision development. Included in this was a welcome reflection to incorporate the voice of the infant in order to engage with the youngest children and support their input to the development of a strategy that affects them. Evidence of this important engagement work would be a real asset to this badge.

Many health-related strategies are under development or on the horizon (Integrated Care for Children & Young People; 0- 19 Service Continuous Improvement; Suicide Strategy and accompanying listening project) alongside the relaunch of the NottAlone website and mental health resource, the Partnership award for healthy start vitamins in pregnancy and the small grants programme in support of mental health initiatives. It was acknowledged that there is positive scope for the development of CRIAs in support of these important developments; demonstrating work in this area at your next progress review would be an asset.

Recommendations:

- A review of the evidence for each workstream is needed in order to ensure that good areas of practice are being robustly captured and can be considered in the round, in support of the stated outcomes in your rights- based action plan.
- We need to see clear demonstration of the 7 principles across all your outcome areas; be explicit and consistent in how you approach this.

EDUCATION AND LEARNING

Outcome 1: Children and young people are enabled to use their imagination and creativity to celebrate diversity and their cultural heritage.

Outcome 2: 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.

Outcome 3: Children and young people will be empowered to be active learners and champions for all children and young people's voices.

There have been a number of challenges for the Education and Learning badge - most clearly with the withdrawal of funding for the RRSA work that was they key deliverable for Outcome 3. At UUK we are currently following up with RRSA colleagues around what potential alternatives there may be, but we also suggest reflection within Nottingham around whether there are other strands of work that could potentially meet a similar aim.

In the Progress Review meeting there was a very helpful discussion around:

- How do we re-focus on delivery? There was due to be a board meeting the following week, involving both academic partners from University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University as well as the heads from the 19 Academy Trusts - it is hoped again that placing CFN at the centre of partnership working will have many positive outcomes. It was also good to hear that there has been space for reflection from the Discovery phase and the renewed focus on

anti-racism and a sense of belonging being key priorities identified by children and young people in Nottingham.

- There are high levels of exclusion in Nottingham, as well as long-term absence from school, particularly since the pandemic, and it was great to hear the thoughtful reflection around this, with a focus on restorative approaches, and what sound like excellent pilot projects - particularly built around mentoring and relationship- based work. It would be great to see this more explicitly built in to the CFN Action Plan.
- It was wonderful to hear from ChalleNGe who are a key partner for the programme in Nottingham. The reflection on inequality of access being a key challenge, provided a nice demonstration of the consideration given to the Equal and Included golden thread, and the ongoing work and programmes celebrating culture and diversity such as the 'Celebrating Languages' project and the Art of Belonging pledge. The Cultural Rucksack offer in particular is a key element of the Action Plan for the Education and Learning badge, and alongside the excellent resources produced and shared, such as the Wall planner and ongoing work such as the Cultural Guarantee pilot. A particular strength with ChalleNGe is their focus on evidencing work and impact, and doing this in a creative and meaningful way, so it would be great to see this expertise further utilised in the follow-up deep-dive review for the badge area.
- As with the other badges, it was also great to hear the organic way that other badges, workstreams and partners were all included in the wide-ranging discussion as part of the meeting, such as the linkage with the Communication badge, the Equal and Included golden thread that runs through a lot of the work, but also the range of partnerships - from linking individual local artists and creatives with partners through to Youth Leadership programmes across the broader area.

The evidence provided for this badge ahead of the Progress Review meeting was limited, but had some good examples of good practice, with Outcome 1 in particular having some nice examples of the work such as the HAF project, the Cultural Rucksack and the Hong Kong experience. However, there were significant gaps in the evidence provided, and much of the great practice evident in the meeting itself isn't referenced.

Recommendations:

- Prioritise resolving the issue around RRSA. Work with UUK and internal partners to consider and define what could be offered in place of the RRSA programme, whether there is any other practice that could meet similar desired aims, or if the Outcome itself needs to be refined or removed.
- In common with the other badges, it would be great to see the excellent reflective discussion as part of the progress review meeting itself further developed and formalised as part of the suggested deep-dive review session for the badge. It may also be helpful to consider broadening the reach of the badge, with more explicit input from people across both the council, but also the wider partners across Nottingham.
- The Education and Learning badge is probably one of the best-placed to implement and demonstrate the Equal and Included golden thread, particularly given that inclusion and anti-racism are explicitly reference in the Action Plan - it would be good to see this formalised, and to see evidence of continued creative thinking around how this is developed over the coming year.

EQUAL & INCLUDED

A kind and inclusive city

As the 'golden thread', the Equal and Included badge doesn't have specific Outcomes as part of the agreed Action Plan. However, there were some nice examples of consideration being given to the badge interspersed throughout the other badges, and this is a positive response to the recommendation from the first Progress Review that there was limited acknowledgement of the Equal and Included golden thread in the evidence submitted.

As with the other badges, Equal and Included would still benefit from consideration given as to how the impact on children and young people will be captured going forward, and if there is anything that would be helpful in trying to capture this more systematically.

There are some really nice examples of specific practice, as outlined below, and it would be great to see these further developed and incorporated in the longer term.

- HAF project - developing activities specifically for asylum-seeking and refugee children and young people
- School exclusion pilot mentioned in the Progress Review meeting
- SEND inclusion with the recent Primary Parliament
- Ignite Futures work with families who are refugees
- ChalleNGe work - celebrating language and tackling accessibility of cultural spaces, a stated commitment to engage with children in the early years in support of inclusive service design.

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A copy of the full Progress Review two note is available from the CFN team on request.

Date of next progress review: 7th May 2025.