

Child Friendly City

Action Planning Report

February 2019



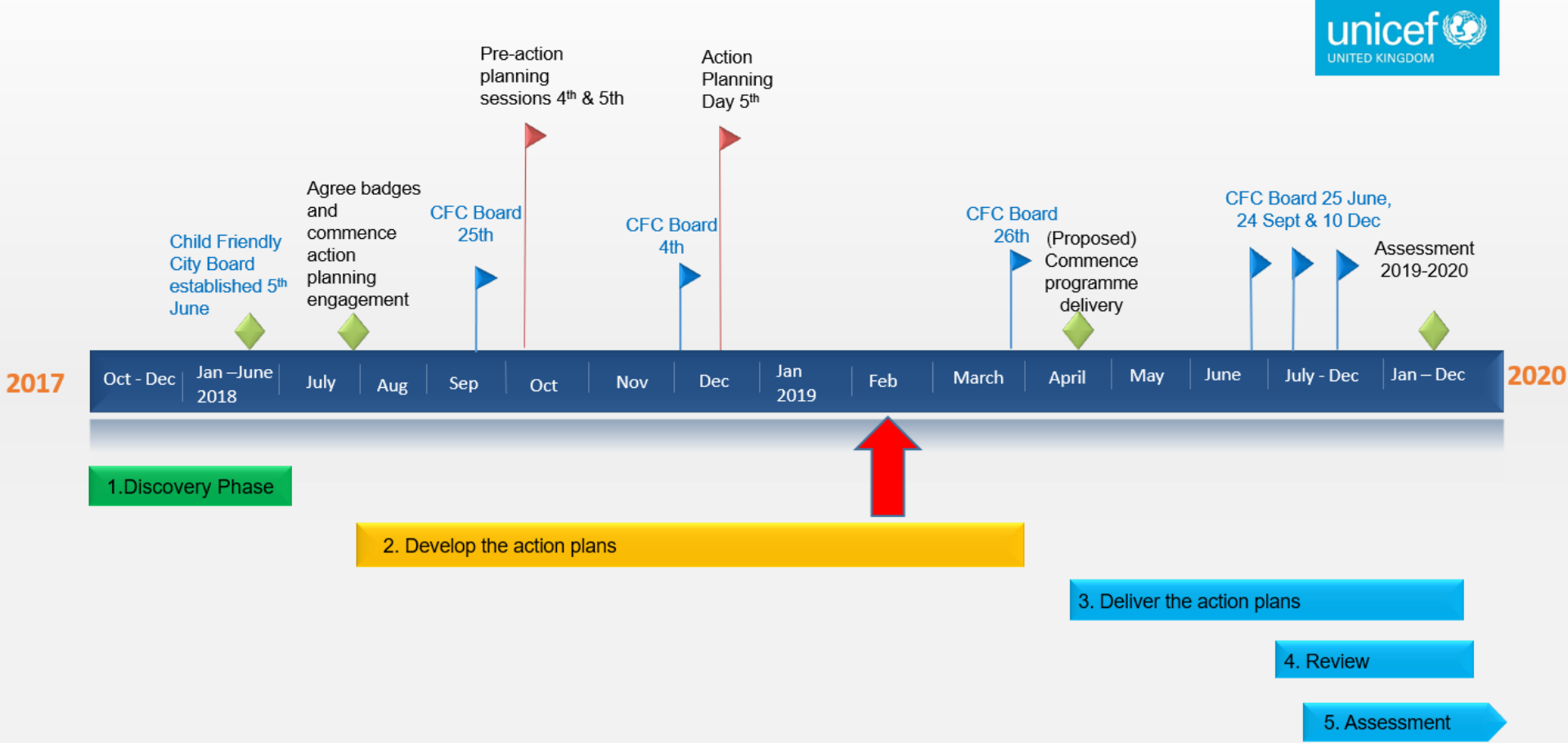
Child Friendly Cities and Communities Programme

Child Friendly Cities & Communities is a Unicef UK programme that works with councils to put children's rights into practice. The programme aims to create cities and communities in the UK where all children – whether they are living in care, using a children's centre, or simply visiting their local library – have a meaningful say in, and truly benefit from, the local decisions, services and spaces that shape their lives.

The term 'child-friendly' is not just about baby-changing facilities or asking for children's views on play equipment – although both are important – but about a profound shift in how children are viewed and treated in a city or community.


Where we are now...

Newcastle Child Friendly City Programme Timeline



About the programme – foundational badges


We will work towards Child Friendly City status through six badges, three that are chosen by Unicef:



Communication

Across the city


- Information about children’s rights is shared with children, young people and adults in different ways
- People know when important decisions affecting children, young people and families are being made



Co-operation & Leadership

Across the city

- People work together to make the city better for children and young people
- Decisions are made involving children and young people



Culture

Across the city

- People value and respect children and young people
- People know about and respect children’s rights

About the programme – optional badges

A further three badges from a list of ten were selected by over 150 children and young people in Newcastle during the discovery phase October 2017 to June 2018.

Healthy

Children and young people:

- Have good physical, mental and emotional health
- Are supported if they have any additional needs
- Know how to stay healthy

Equal & Included

All children and young people, regardless of their background, culture, ability or anything else

- Feel welcome in the city
- Have the same opportunities to grow, learn, explore and have fun
- Are protected from discrimination

Safe & Secure

Children and young people:

- Feel safe in their homes, neighbourhood and across the city
- Feel able to trust the police, teachers and other adults
- Can share ideas about improving safety in the city and can speak out if they feel unsafe or worried

Action Plans

Each of the six badges will have an action plan with three outcomes developed with children and young people.

It is delivery of this action plan along with the views of children and young people that will determine whether we achieve Child Friendly City status.

Over the summer we went out to a number of events around the city to meet with children and young people. We talked about the badges and about what they thought should be included in the action plans.

Summer engagement - we talked to over 150 children and young people about the badges at these events

Birthday
Beach Party @
Byker Sands



Family Fun Time
@ Nunsmoor
Centre



Hop, Skip &
Jump @
Galafield

Young People Safe
in the City Event
@ Civic Centre



Parks Summer
Festival @
Galafield

Street Fest @
The Gate



Street Fest @
Harbottle Park,
Byker

Summer engagement – some of the ideas from children and young people

Access to free sports

A free phone (box) that you can use to ring the Council to ask for help

More social events. More outdoor activities to build a community, social place for kids to attend

We need more electric cars, there's too many cars polluting the atmosphere.

University to be more supportive of breastfeeding mums. i.e. affordable creche on campus. Students sometimes have to make difficult choices between breastfeeding and continuing studies

Open fast food shops offering healthy options. Junk food needs to be stopped

More support for young parents, you only parent how you were parented. We want to learn how to do it

More barriers on roads

Games equipment in public spaces

More safe havens for young people especially young parents i.e. business, shops, banks etc.

Developing the Action Plans

October to December 2018

Colleagues from Unicef held workshops at Walker Central CE Primary School and Skills 4 All.

They also provided class work for students at Hadrian School and Sir Charles Parsons School.

The information from the workshops, class work and summer engagement was gathered together for the Action Planning Day on the 5th December.

Developing the Action Plans

Action Planning Day 5th December 2018

Our Action Planning Day was hosted by Newcastle United Football Club at St James' Park.

Around 30 students attended with their teachers from Heaton Manor School, Hotspur Primary School, Walbottle Campus and Skills 4 All to help us develop our action plans.

Unicef talked about what a child friendly city is, and about each of the badges before we were joined by around 30 professionals from:

Newcastle City Council

NE1

Newcastle Eagles

NHS

Northumbria Police

NUFC

NUFC Foundation

Skimstone Arts

Your Homes Newcastle and The City of Dreams

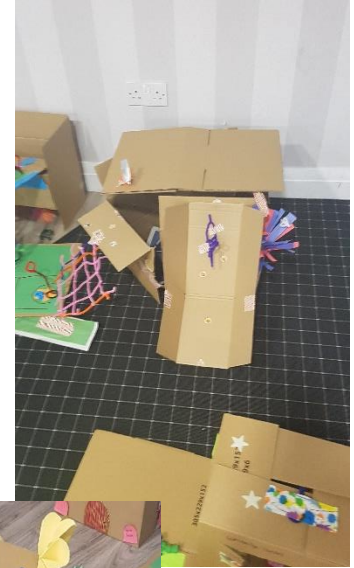


Developing the Action Plans

Action Planning Day 5th December 2018



We made teams with the adults and designed and built a child friendly space together.

We then talked about the badges, and the ideas gathered earlier from other children and young people.



Developing the Action Plans

Action Planning Day 5th December 2018

We spent time in groups talking about outcomes (stars)  that could be included in the plans and actions (balloons)  needed to achieve those outcomes.

We then all voted for the actions we felt were most important to achieve the outcomes we wanted included in the action plans.




Safe & Secure: the outcomes, actions and votes

Children and young people felt some outcomes were very important and voted for them, these are shown with ★ and the number of votes



Outcome 1:


Children and young people feel safe in their homes, neighbourhoods and across the city

	Proposed actions to achieve this outcome	Votes
	More youth clubs and drop in centres	4
	More parks and playgrounds with more lights to make them more child friendly at night and to make people feel more safe and secure	4
	Hobby clubs, football, dancing, singing and more community spaces	
	Have more support groups/clubs for minorities, LGBTQ /ethnic minorities	3
	Positive messages, buddy systems, information boards, safe place system, social media, Worry walls-website/apps	5
	Create safe havens	3
	Promote safer driving, people need to watch and pay attention to the roads and people who are crossing especially for people who are listening to music on their headphones and can't hear their surroundings. i.e. more '20 is plenty areas'	4
	A place where friends can meet in a big park	6



Outcome 2:

There will be more opportunities for children and young people to develop relationships with the police. The police will understand how to work with them and listen to them

	Proposed actions to achieve this outcome	Votes
	Police to hold open days for children to visit	6
	Police in schools for visits	4
	More interactions between children, young people and police to raise awareness of what they actually do.	3
	People could meet the police / police could go into schools and explain what they do to keep the city safe	3

Safe & Secure: the outcomes, actions and votes

Outcome 3:



Children and young people will understand more about how to keep themselves safe online and who they can go to for support when they feel worried about this

An icon of two red balloons with white strings.	Proposed actions to achieve this outcome	Votes
	Limited time on social media sites like Facebook	
	A named person to go to for support	3
	Tighter internet controls	3
	More education about what to do if you become a victim of cyberbullying – who to tell or approach	3

Outcome 4:




Parks and public transport like buses and trains will feel welcoming safe and clean for everyone to enjoy them

An icon of two purple balloons with white strings.	Proposed actions to achieve this outcome	Votes
	Someone to jump on & off buses throughout the day to check they are clean	2
	Pictures on transport	
	Games and puzzles to play with on a journey	6

Healthy: the outcomes, actions and votes


Outcome 1:

Children and young people know how to stay healthy

	Proposed actions to achieve this outcome	Votes
	More opportunities for younger children to go to the gym	5
	No photoshopping pictures of people to make them look more beautiful	2
	Create a trustworthy platform for young people to go for help about physical and mental health information	3
	Build gyms for people who have additional needs	4
	Vending machines should also sell fruit and other healthy snacks	
	No car day - people leave your cars at home	1
	Outdoor gym for all ages under 13s can be accompanied by an adult	5

Outcome 2:


Children and young people have good physical, mental and emotional health

	Proposed actions to achieve this outcome	Votes
	Talk about sensitive things more openly	3
	Quicker access to mental health care	8
	More education on health and wellbeing	3
	External support for mental health aside from school	2
	More smoke free public spaces - outdoors	4
	Easily accessible information	

Healthy: the outcomes, actions and votes


Outcome 3:

Less pollution and plenty of car free spaces around the city

	Proposed actions to achieve this outcome	Votes
	More green spaces that are car and bus free reducing pollution and encouraging relaxation. Make sure to keep it inclusive buses are the main form of transport for lots of people.	3
	Have a regular/annual anti car day where people are discouraged from using cars unless <u>absolutely necessary</u> .	1
	More electric car spaces and fines for non-electric cars using electric car parking spaces for ease.	4

Outcome 4

More leisure & sport services for young people which are close by them. Low cost and welcoming - this will improve their physical and mental health


	Proposed actions to achieve this outcome	Votes
	Older children and teens shouldn't be discouraged from going to parks and using the equipment they just need to learn to respect the equipment. Spaces should be safe fun AND inclusive	2
	Create more free sports for children/youths to have access to easily	7
	More events and crafts to make money and give towards charity	
	More leisure centres to improve physical health	3

Equal & Included: outcomes, actions and votes

Outcome 1:




Better understanding of people and who they are and raise awareness of discrimination and stereotypes

	Proposed actions to achieve this outcome	Votes
	Raise awareness of common disabilities and sexuality	3
	Promote young people to be themselves - You don't have to use anything your gender uses e.g. women don't have to wear makeup	6
	More education on equality and inclusion	3
	Celebrate and integrate different races and religion by getting people to meet each other and see what they are like	6
	People should stop blaming problems that should be solved by the government on minorities and immigrants THEY CONTRIBUTE 2	

Outcome 2:



Public transport will be accessible to all children


	Proposed actions to achieve this outcome	Votes
	Children and young people to be able to use the Mobikes - more car free areas so can cycle safely	
	Teachers & bus drivers to monitor the behaviour of students on scholars buses - ban those who smoke or fight	2
	Can't buy a day ticket anymore. POP card costs and takes a while to issue -something cheaper and quicker to get into town	3
	A bus children can use to visit friends	4
	You may not feel welcome at night walking the streets when there may not be public transport running Also, the tables showing the times could be clearer and lower down.	
	Make bus routes free at certain times before school and after school, children might not be able to get to school on time because they don't have enough money	4
	More bus routes and electric buses could be useful	
	School buses would be useful to get children to school without using all the energy that all the cars could produce	
	Improve security on buses for example smoking is a big issue every so often police could get on buses to help about security	3

Equal & Included outcomes, actions and votes

Outcome 3:




Children and young people will feel welcome in the city, they will not feel judged or stigmatised because of who they are, where they live, what they look like or anything else connected to their identity

	Proposed actions to achieve this outcome	Votes
	More social events throughout the city and more accessible to all - wheelchair access, more information about events etc	4
	All children should take part in all games and not feel excluded but feel included	
	School swaps - we can learn there are different ways of doing things/to share best practice	1
	All children to be included in all activities	
	Teachers to have an open-door policy for real	
	Pop up parks and activities to attract children from all backgrounds	
	Special area where children can meet lots of areas to walk around	
	Buildings with lots of toys where children can go to feel safe and talk	

Outcome 4:




Children will easily be able to get the information they need about growing up in Newcastle.

	Proposed actions to achieve this outcome	Votes
	Library where children can find out what is happening in Newcastle	5

Communication: outcomes, actions and votes


Outcome 1:

We will learn about and celebrate all the different cultures and ways of life across our city and beyond

	Proposed actions to achieve this outcome	Votes
	Taste food from different countries	5
	Take part in different festivals	1
	Visit different religious buildings	
	Big outdoor party for everyone	2
Opportunities for communities to come together and enjoy time at free events, building understanding between each other		

Outcome 2:

Children and young people will see happy stories about their achievements celebrated in the media like newspapers, on tv, radio


	Proposed actions to achieve this outcome	Votes
	Contact at media office to tell our stories to	3
	Awards for the best story	3
	Change image of stereotypes through media so stereotypes aren't seen in a certain perspective	5

Communication outcomes, actions and votes

Outcome 3:




The voices of children are taken seriously in the media

	Proposed actions to achieve this outcome	Votes
	Page/blog for young people in magazines from council and NE1 /Get into Newcastle magazine	9

Outcome 4:



One central point where children and young people will be able to access information they need about their rights and support that might make their lives easier, healthier, safer and happier. |

	Proposed actions to achieve this outcome	Votes
	A contact person who you can speak to and ask questions	4
	Information points in schools	1
	Use the youth council elections to consult with young people about where they go for information - what kind of information do they need? - need agreement by Jan 19	4
	Information in symbols, braille or Makaton	7
Raise awareness of children's rights	10	


Co-operation & Leadership outcomes, actions and votes



Outcome 1:



Council, schools, police etc to listen to our concerns and issues and act on them


	Proposed actions to achieve this outcome	Votes
	Better communication of youth councils so we know when & where they meet and how to join	2
	Include groups such as LGBT as role models who other Children and young people can talk to comfortably	7
	Non-judgemental support groups can build confidence for the future - leaders of the future	2
	Advertise youth council on media boards and buses	2



Outcome 2:



Children and young peoples' voices are heard and influence decisions in the city |


	Proposed actions to achieve this outcome	Votes
	Young people sitting on The Parks Trust	1
	Votes at 16	11

Culture outcomes, actions and votes




Outcome 1:

Children and young people feel welcome in the city when they're travelling, playing and when they're learning.

	Proposed actions to achieve this outcome	Votes
	Make sure people feel welcome and know it. Be respectful. Place welcome signs	
	Benches in the city are uncovered and should be covered.	2
	More music and new green spaces. Green spaces on pavements.	1
	Spaceship play area	
	It would be good if you were complemented and thanked more and if people were polite and friendly.	
	It would be very good if there were more places to shelter in the rain.	3


Outcome 2:

Children will feel valued and have their rights respected

	Proposed actions to achieve this outcome	Votes
	Staff in Local Authority and their statutory partners Police and Health are trained in Children's Rights	
	Staff in Local Authority and their statutory partners promote children's rights to children and adults	
	Staff in voluntary sector who work with children are trained in Children's Rights	

Outcome 3:

Childhood is valued by staff in the Local Authority, partner organisations and society

	Proposed actions to achieve this outcome	Votes
	Staff know and understand how to use the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a framework to improve their work	
	Staff in Local Authority and partner organisations promote children's rights	
	There are Child Rights Champions in organisations across the city	

Next Steps

- **We will now:**
 - **Write the action plans based on the outcomes and actions that received the most votes.**
 - **Get the action plans agreed**
 - **Work together to deliver the plans**

Once we begin delivery we will work with Unicef to see if our work is awarded Unicef Child Friendly City status.

We will share the draft plans with you later in the spring.

Contacts

Thank you very much for sharing your ideas to help us to develop the plans.

If you want to be involved in the Youth Advisory Group for the Unicef Child Friendly City Programme or would like any more information please contact:

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