

2025–2028



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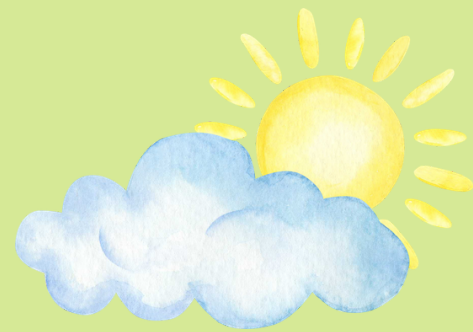
DERRY CITY & STRABANE

CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES & COMMUNITIES





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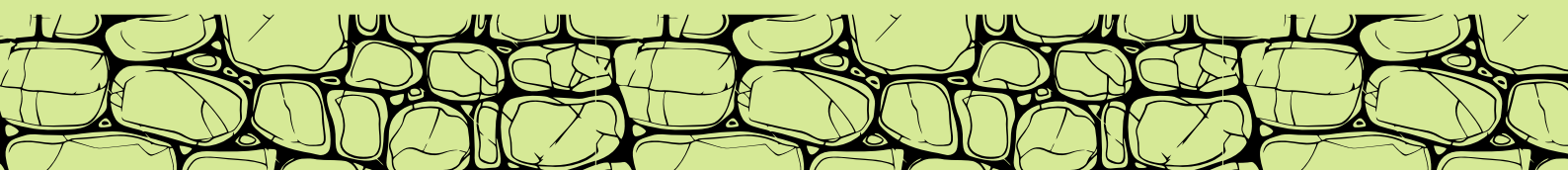
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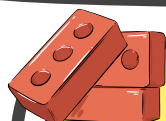
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WHAT IS THE CFC PROGRAMME?



Child Friendly Cities & Communities (CFC) is a programme run by UNICEF UK. It works with local councils and other organisations to help make sure children's rights are part of everyday life until June 2026.



The aim is to build places in the UK where all children - whether they are in care, visiting a library, or going to a children's centre - can have their voices heard and benefit from local services, spaces and decisions that affect them.



This programme is part of a global Unicef project called Child Friendly Cities, which supports nearly 30 million children in 40 countries around the world. Right now, Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) is the only area in Northern Ireland that is part of the CFC programme.

WHAT ARE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS?

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is an important agreement by countries who have promised to protect children's rights.

The Convention explains who children are, all their rights, and what governments need to do to protect them.

All the rights are connected, they are all equally important and they cannot be taken away from children.

There are 42 rights in total, they are called 'Articles'.



IN A CHILD FRIENDLY CITY AND COMMUNITY EVERY CHILD CAN:



Have a say about decisions that affect them

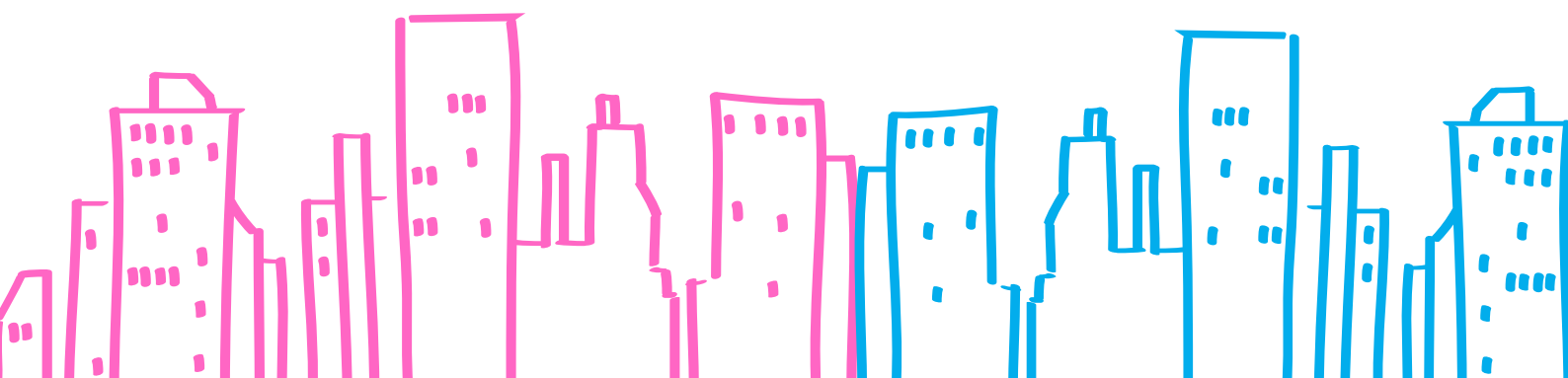
Access good health, education, transport and other services

Express their views freely and be supported to do that

Feel safe and protected from discrimination and harm

Enjoy a clean and safe environment

Enjoy public areas and meet other children freely



WHO IS INVOLVED IN CHILD FRIENDLY DERRY CITY & STRABANE ?

In Derry City and Strabane there are four lead partners from four different organisations. These four organisations are working hard to make Derry City and Strabane a child friendly city.



WHAT DOES RECOGNITION MEAN FOR DERRY AND STRABANE?

Derry City and Strabane District Council is the first region in Northern Ireland and second in the UK to receive international recognition as a UNICEF Child Friendly Community.

Child Friendly Cities & Communities (CFC) is a UK Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK) programme that works with councils to put children's rights into practice.

The programme aims to support councils and their partners to embed a child rights-based approach across local strategy, policy, service delivery and public spaces.

Child Friendly Cities & Communities is part of UNICEF's global Child Friendly Cities Initiative, which reaches over 30 million children in close to 50 countries.

CFC Recognition means we want our area to be a place where children and young people are respected, listened to, and included in decisions that affect them.

We're working with adults, organisations, and schools to make sure children's voices are heard and acted on. We see children as important citizens who help shape the future.

THE LUNDY MODEL

The Lundy Model of Participation is a way to help adults make sure children and young people have a real say in decisions that affect them.

It has 4 parts:

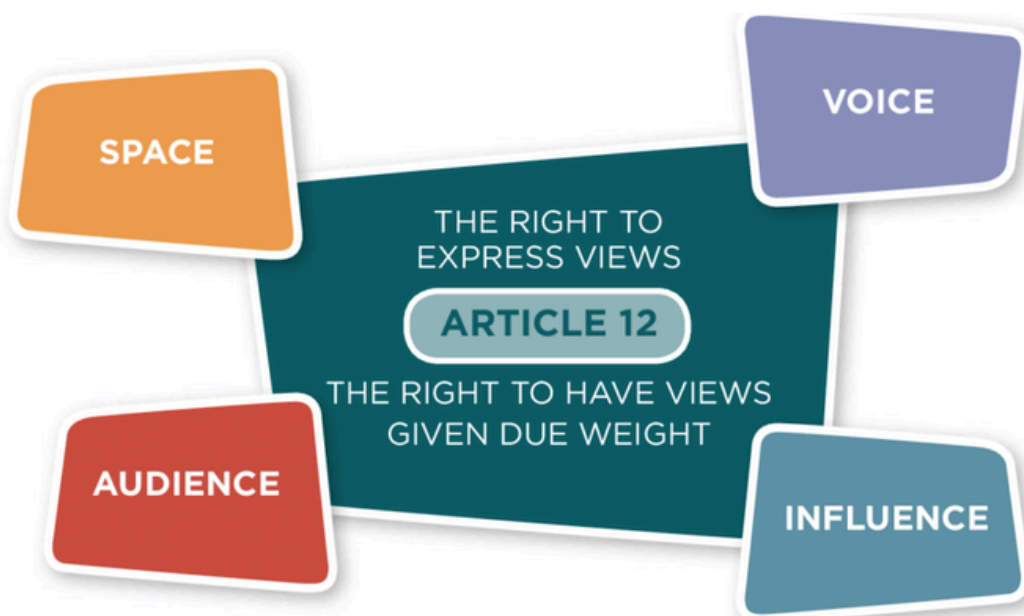
Space - Children need a safe and welcoming place where they can share their views.

Voice - Children must be given the chance to say what they think in a way that works for them.

Audience - Adults must listen to what children say.

Influence - Children's views should be taken seriously and used to help make decisions.

This model helps adults respect children's rights and make sure their opinions are heard and matter. The Lundy model helps the UNICEF CFC lead partners ensure that children and young people are involved in all the badge/priority areas.



THE 7 PRINCIPLES OF A CHILD RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

A Child Rights-Based Approach is a core part of the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities and Communities programme. A Child Rights- Based Approach helps to make sure that every child is treated with respect, listened to, and given the chance to grow up safe, healthy, and happy. Here's why it's important:

- 🌍 1. To protect all children- It helps keep children safe from harm, like abuse, neglect, or unfair treatment.
- 🧠 2. To help children develop and thrive- It supports children's learning, health, and well-being, so they have the best chance to succeed in life.
- 🗣️ 3. To make sure children have a say- Children get to share their thoughts and be part of decisions that affect them, like in school or in their community.
- ⚖️ 4. To treat all children fairly- No child is left out or treated unfairly because of things like race, gender, disability, or where they live.
- 👩 5. To remind adults of their responsibilities- It makes sure adults – like teachers, parents, doctors, and leaders – know they must respect and protect children's rights in everything they do.



WHAT ARE THE 5 PRIORITIES?

Derry and Strabane are continuing to protect our recognition as a Unicef UK Child Friendly Community, we are chosen 5 key priorities based on our work with children and young people since starting our CFC journey. We are now working on our sustainability plan, which really means we want to keep up the great work.

**WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**

**PARTICIPATION
MAPPING**

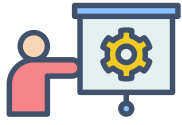
**CHILD RIGHTS
IMPACT
ASSESSMENT**

**CHILD FRIENDLY
COMMUNICATION**

**LUNDY MODEL OF
PARTICIPATION**

Lets have a look at some examples of the key progress we have made on the priority areas in 2025-2026

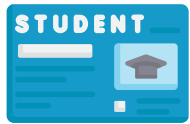




Staff from four partner organisations have taken part in special UNICEF training so they can help others learn about children's rights. Now, all staff who work with children and young people can access this training too.



A simple online Children's Rights learning module is now available on the Social Work Hub, making it easier for staff to learn. So far, 186 council staff have completed the training.



Children's rights are now part of important staff training and learning programmes, including for new social work students, so everyone has a good understanding right from the start.



All staff across the Youth Justice Agency (YJA) and Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre (JJC), including senior leaders, have completed Children's Rights training to help them better support young people.



Police officers, including Youth Diversion Officers and senior staff in the PSNI, have also taken part in Children's Rights training to help them work positively with children and young people.



Staff in the Department of Justice have completed Children's Rights training too, showing a strong commitment to understanding and supporting children's rights at every level.



EA youth staff have training ready to be delivered to children and young people who are in leadership roles and will start this in September.



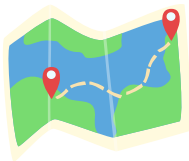
We're creating more chances for children and young people to share their ideas and be heard. This includes fun workshops, small group chats, and activities within services, helping them have a real say in decisions that affect their lives in the Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHSCT).



We are making it easier for all children and young people to join in and share their ideas. We're bringing different groups together and making them stronger, so everyone has a fair chance to be involved and feel listened to across WHSCT children's services.



YJA has made sure services put children and young people first and respect their rights, so they feel listened to, supported, and treated fairly.



Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) and their partners at North West Youth Services (NWYS) have been talking to children and young people in the Moor, Waterside, and Foyle side areas to hear what they think. They shared their views about things like feeling safe, how easy it is to access services, what activities and support are available, and whether their rights are respected.



Local councillors and community leaders came along to special events where young people showed their digital maps of the Moor, Waterside, and Foyle side. They took time to listen carefully to what young people had to say, shared their thoughts straight away, and also followed up afterwards with more feedback.



EA Youth Workers completed an audit of how children and young people were able to have a say in all their centres. They also empowered young people to plan and deliver a participation conference for their peers.



DCSDC are now using Child Rights Impact Assessments to help make sure that every plan or decision takes children and young people into account. It is a simple way of checking that decisions are fair, keep children safe, respect their rights, and listen to their views, so the best choices are being made for their lives and wellbeing.



Key staff at DCSDC have completed online Child Rights Impact Assessment training with UNICEF UK, helping them better understand children's rights and how to make sure these are considered in decisions that affect young people.



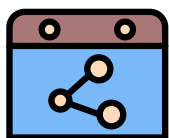
Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) training is available on the Council's eLearning platform for all staff, helping them learn in a simple way how to respect children's rights and make positive decisions for children and young people.



CRIA e-learning modules are now on the SW Hub, helping WHSCT staff learn in an easy way how to think about children's rights and make sure services are fair, safe, and good for children and young people.



WHSCT is continuing to work with partners to share ideas and good ways of working. Training on children's rights will be included in upcoming programmes, helping staff better understand children's rights and use them in their everyday work with children and young people.



YJA committed to creating a shared CRIA template with partners, making it easier to use a consistent, child-friendly approach when planning and reviewing services for children and young people.



Children's rights were shared with Primary 1 children in a fun and simple way, working together with WHSCT school nurses, NICCY and DCSDC. Each child received a special pack with a colouring book and crayons, helping them learn about their rights through pictures and activities that were easy to understand and relevant to them.



The Council IT team is looking at ways to make the website easier and more fun for children and young people to use, including creating a special section just for them where they can find information that matters to them.



WHSCT has set up a special group to make sure meetings are more welcoming and easier for children and young people to be part of. They are helping to create child-friendly information, improve how things are explained and shared, and make sure children's and young people's voices are listened to and included.



WHSCT are helping staff learn how to communicate in ways that are easy for children and young people to understand. Staff can also find helpful tips and examples on the SW Hub to support them in their work.



Young people helped shape YJA leaflets and surveys by sharing their ideas in group discussions and one-to-one chats. They gave their views on how things should look, what words should be used, and what information is important, so everything is clear, helpful, and easy for other young people to understand.



Young people have also helped make YJA offices feel more welcoming and comfortable by sharing their ideas, naming rooms, and helping to design spaces that feel like their own.



The EA Youth Service has created child-friendly policies and procedures and action plans, so children and young people can easily understand how services work and what to expect when they take part.



WHSCT is helping children and young people have more opportunities to share their views and be involved in decisions that affect their lives, making sure their voices are heard and valued across services, by using the Lundy Model in day to day practice.



A Child Rights and Participation Board has been set up to help make sure children's rights and voices are part of important decisions. Senior leaders also regularly hear directly about the views, ideas, and concerns of children and young people so they can listen and take action where needed.



The Lundy Model is included in staff training to help staff better support children and young people to share their views. Everyday changes, like improving communication, meetings, and engagement activities, are helping children and young people feel more involved and listened to across services.



The Lundy Model of Participation helps guide how YJA listens to children and young people through consultations, focus groups, and activities, making sure their voices are heard, valued, and used to help shape decisions and services.



Children and young people have been directly involved in the planning and design processes of the City Deal project both in Derry City and Strabane. They were given the 'space' to share their 'voice', and an 'audience' with decision makers.



North West Ministry of Youth continues to meet with councillors and Council leaders to share the views and experiences of children and young people from across the district, helping their voices be heard by decision makers.

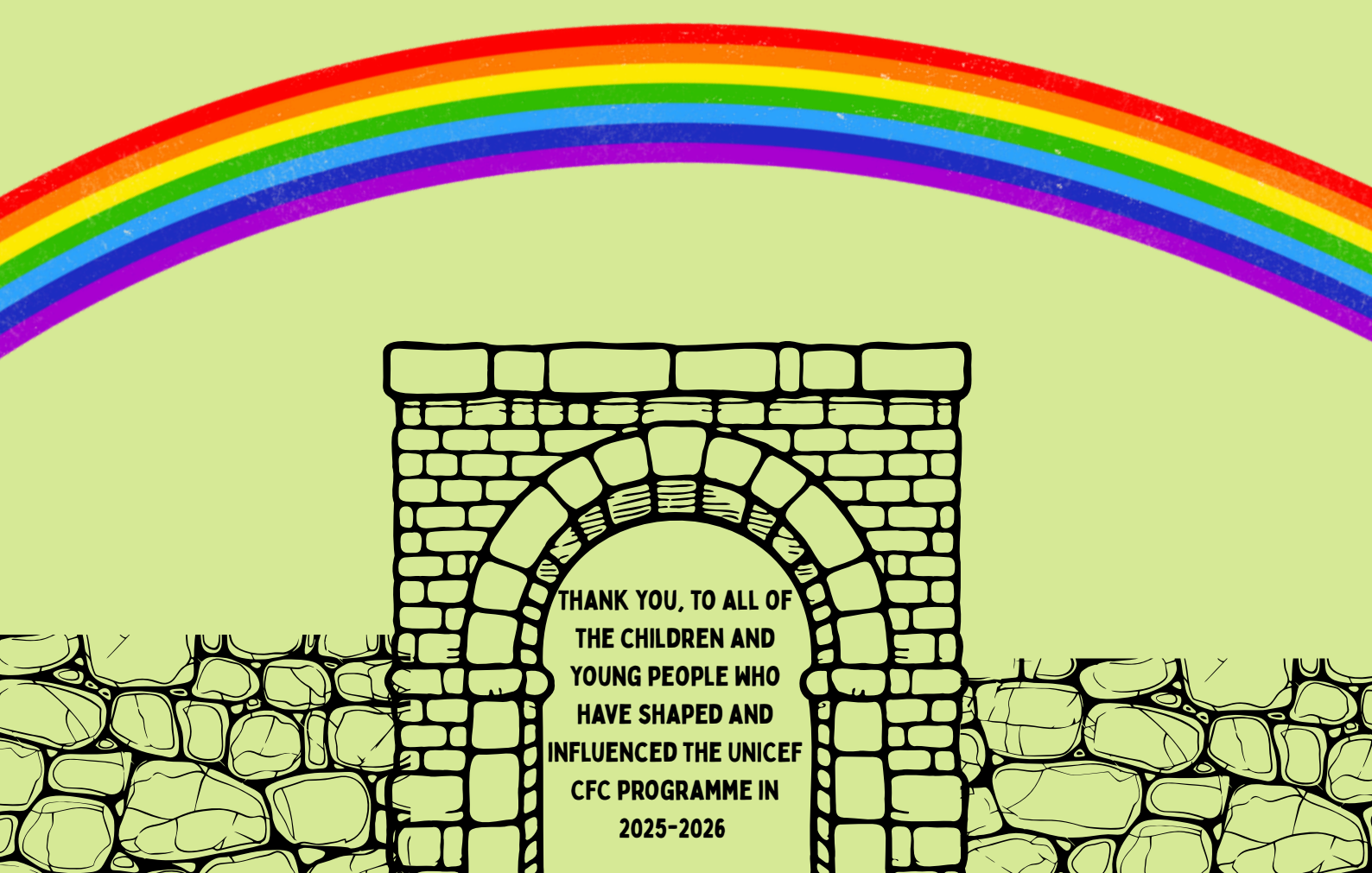


North West Ministry of Youth have been involved in a number of consultations this year including the Good Relations action plan, Online Safety and Participation.



**I COME FROM TRAUMA, MUSIC, AND PAIN,
FROM LESSONS LEARNED THROUGH LOSS AND GAIN.
I CARRY TALENT, STRENGTH, AND FIRE,
A VOICE THAT SPEAKS, A HEART'S DESIRE.
I OFFER KINDNESS, ACCEPTANCE, GRACE,
FAMILY, LOVE, A WARM EMBRACE.
I CARRY DIFFERENCE, A UNIQUE MIND,
IN ACTIVISM, I SEEK TO FIND.
FAITH AND LOVE ARE CLOSE TO ME,
FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE, FOR ALL TO BE FREE.
FROM THE PAST, I RISE WITH LIGHT,
I OFFER A FUTURE WHERE ALL ARE RIGHT.**

A POEM BY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN DERRY CITY AND STRABANE



**THANK YOU, TO ALL OF
THE CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE WHO
HAVE SHAPED AND
INFLUENCED THE UNICEF
CFC PROGRAMME IN
2025-2026**