

DECISION-MAKER:	Health and Wellbeing Board
SUBJECT:	Child Friendly Southampton Briefing for Discussion
DATE OF DECISION:	21 September 2022
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, ADULTS AND LEISURE

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY
None
BRIEF SUMMARY
<p>Southampton City Council has been exploring the potential to become a Child Friendly City since 2017 following the launch of its Restorative Charter in November 2017. The initiative has had the support of both the current and previous administration which has incorporated the initiative into the new Corporate Plan for 2021 to 2025.</p> <p>In February 2022 Southampton City Council 'onboarded' with UNICEF UK as an official candidate city and this continues to be among the main priorities of the new administration and UNICEF have welcomed the consensus there is within Southampton for the initiative.</p>
<p>Responsibility for pursuing a Child Friendly City is led by the Children and Young People's Participation Team within Stronger Communities, working collaboratively with the Children's and Learning Service, with Rob Henderson as the programme sponsor. The rationale for locating the initiative within Stronger Communities is to ensure that the rights of children can be promoted across the organisation as well as city wide. A range of Ambassador organisations have now been appointed. Rights based practice for children is already starting to influence programme designs and local strategies, reflected for example in the current DA/VAWG Strategy (in draft), the Prevention and Early Help Strategy, the Safe City Strategy and the Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Strategy (in draft).</p>
<p>On 21st July 2021 the Corporate Plan for 2021 to 2025 was approved at full council which set the objective to 'Achieve our ambition to become a UNICEF Child Friendly City by 2024/25'.</p> <p>The plan set the following milestones:</p>

- Acceptance onto accreditation programme by Autumn 2021 (achieved)
- Install first children's mayor by May 2022 (achieved)
- New programmes of support and engagement involving children and young people by March 2022 (ongoing)
- Rights of children enshrined in local policy making and scrutiny processes by 2024.

The new Corporate Plan (in draft) has embedded Child Friendly. Rights based practice for children is being incorporated the other initiatives such as the Accessibility Inquiry Report Action Plan, transport initiatives, Child Centred Policing and the Southampton Cultural Education Partnerships, Connecting Cultures Programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

	(i)	That the Health and Wellbeing Board considers and notes this report.
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REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	The Chair requested that the Health and Wellbeing Board Panel receives an update on Child Friendly Southampton.
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ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

	N/A
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DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

2.	Southampton City Council officially joined UNICEF UK as a candidate city joining the programme on 21 st February 2022. The Success in joining the programme means Southampton is the first South Coast City in the UK to join the programme along with Aberdeen, Cardiff, Derry and Strabane, Liverpool, Nottingham, Wokingham and the London Boroughs of Lambeth and Redbridge.
3.	<p>Several local partners have stepped forward to support Southampton's Journey as Ambassadors. Ambassadors' main role is to support the implementation of the programme and to support Children and Young People to be engaged. Ambassadors so far are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saints Foundation, • No Limits, • Solent NHS Trust, • GO! Southampton Business Improvement District, • John Hansard Gallery • The Mayflower Theatre Trust. • Artswork, • City Catering, • Sound Pop Academy, • Yellow Door, • Southampton Cultural Services. • West Quay <p>A bi-monthly ambassadors network meeting takes place to keep ambassadors informed and engaged. Ambassadors also oversee the</p>

	programme as a governance structure with links to the Executive Steering Group.
4.	<p>An internal Executive Steering Group has been established, chaired by the Executive Director for Children and Learning, inclusive of representation from the following teams, who as internal stakeholders have been invested in supporting our ambition to become a Child Friendly City:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health • Cultural Services (and Southampton’s Cultural Education Partnership) • Transport • Urban Design and Planning • Children and Learning • Green City • Strategic Skills • Democratic Services <p>A Child Friendly Youth Board involving young people themselves is being developed.</p>
5.	<p>The Programme is overseen by a dedicated Project Officer who links with UNICEF UK coordinators to ensure the programme is on track and each milestone is being achieved. Investment in a project officer was a pre-requisite for acceptance on to the programme. The Project Officer links with internal and external partners to involve each of them in the many aspects of the programme. Whilst the Project Officer holds the work plan for the programme the achievement of accreditation is a Southampton wide responsibility with the governance structure being key to the movement. Without the support of the Steering Group, Ambassadors, and other key partners the programme would not be possible.</p>
6.	<p>Joining the programme supports us in achieving our vision for children and provides a clear framework to deliver improved outcomes for all children who live or visit the city. Southampton has a strong foundation upon which to build success with Southampton Connect, (representing key partners including business), demonstrating a commitment to support the child friendly ambition – this is articulated in the five-year Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Children and Young People’s Strategy.</p>
7.	<p>Our key priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To hear the voices of children, families, and communities on an individual basis but also on all key decisions within the city. • To develop strong pathways for education, training and employment and post 16 education and learning pathways leading to skilled and meaningful work in our growing economy. • To keep children safe, tackling domestic abuse, youth crime and all forms of exploitation. • To support young people with emotional and mental health issues and ensuring we provide environments where young people can talk and get the support they need. • To ensure that as a city of culture, children are at its core, and we continue to develop and build on our initiatives for children to engage in a range of cultural activities.

8.	<p>The UNICEF programme will support Southampton City Council and its partners through a three-stage process of Discovery, Development, and Implementation.</p> <p>Our key priorities will be established towards the end of Discovery in October 2022 following extensive engagement.</p> <p>The main aim of Discovery is to talk to Children and Young People about their thoughts and feelings. Throughout June, July and August a Children and Young People’s survey has been undertaken capturing this information. This will be presented at a Discovery Day in October where the city will vote on their top three badges (areas) from a list provided by UNICEF UK:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe and Secure • Flourishing • Education and Learning • Participating • Child Friendly Services • Place • Family and Belonging • Healthy • Equal and Included • Innovation <p>This sits alongside three mandatory badges Communication, Culture and Co-operation and Leadership.</p>
9.	<p>A badge rationale report will be submitted to UNICEF UK based on the evidence from the Discovery Phase which will be written by the steering group. This will lead into the Development Phase where Southampton will write 6 actions plans based on each badge which will be the focus of the journey for the following 3-5 years (Delivery Phase).</p>
10.	<p>To date we have had 955 qualitative interactions with Children and Young People under the age of 18. This has been via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstream online/ paper survey • Easy read online / paper survey • 5 online / paper activity sheets • Focus group with Looked After Children • Roadshow visiting youth settings through June • Attendance at events such as Mela, SPCA Play Day and more • Engagement via Ambassadors, Steering Group and Schools <p>Most interactions have been in person at a range of community events and have been supported by Stronger Communities Team staff who have interviewed or interacted with children.</p>
11.	<p>Other points to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst all Child Friendly activity is encouraged, UNICEF UK expect applicant cities to first focus on activity that will be recognised under the badge scheme. Early business engagement work has started, but this is a longer-term ambition to ensure accreditation is prioritised. • There are currently no cities in the UK that have yet been given recognition but four are expected to be, by 2023.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are exploring the potential to partner with other cities in the international network of accredited cities, including cities in Poland, Japan and Canada. Contact has already been made with Cardiff and Barnet to support peer learning, with close connections maintained with other Child Friendly Cities: as part of a bi- monthly coordinators meeting
12.	<p>Other key milestones that support our ambition include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The launch of Southampton's first Children's Mayor who was appointed at this years' 800th Mayor Making Ceremony The Child Friendly Youth Board aims to launch in September 2022. The group will work alongside existing governance structures to oversee the implementation of the programme. Discovery Day on 25 October 2022 when badges will be agreed. International Children's Day on 20 November 2022 when the Child Friendly flag will be raised at the Civic Offices.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
13.	Accreditation to the programme is on a pro-rata basis determined by City size and is £35,000 per annum which is within the allocated budget for the programme, confirmed with finance. A full time Child Friendly Project Officer has been appointed to steer the programme. There are however no other resources currently budgeted for and contributions or in-kind support from programme partners will in time be necessary to ensure meaningful engagement with children can take place.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
14.	None
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
15.	S.111 Local Government Act 1972
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
16.	The inclusion of, or reference to children's rights into Southampton City Council legal processes will be better understood once the city embarks on the 'Delivery Phase' of the programme.
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
17.	The proposals are included with the current Corporate Plan for 2021-2025 and the new draft Corporate Plan (yet to be published).
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
18.	The process of ensuring that children's rights are embedded in local processes will require some further work to understand the implications within our constitutional and legal frameworks.

KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	UNICEF UK CFC Participation Criteria
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Documents In Members' Rooms

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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	No
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Data Protection Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents

Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

None	
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