

Statement to Council, September 11th 2014

Council heard earlier tonight a statement relating to the Child Friendly City initiative. A Statement was also made to Cabinet last night.

I have every confidence that this Administration embraces the principles of the UNICEF promoted Child Friendly City and Communities Initiative, first launched in 1998 to act on the resolution of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, to make cities liveable places for all; in UNICEF terms, aiming to put "children first", recognising the importance of their rights and creative input. The UN Conference declared that the well-being of children is the ultimate indicator of a healthy habitat, a democratic society and of good governance.

A number of key Partnership Organisations and individuals, within the Local Authority Area have formed a Steering Group with aspirations to work towards achieving the Unesco supported Status, I am on the steering Group, and I recommend Council to *work in partnership with the Group* to enable our area to achieve this status.

Certainly this Authority Area of Bath is already welcoming and friendly for all, and particularly families, with its excellent Schools and sport, culture and leisure opportunities, and the many local creative child orientated community initiatives such as the "Kickstart" Project, "School without Walls"

<https://vimeo.com/schoolwithoutwalls> and "Forest of The imagination"

<http://www.forestofimagination.com/>

it is also recognised the value the Council places on the youngest voices in our communities, and it would be a natural progression to seek to be more formally considered a "Child Friendly City and Community" alongside the many other international cities and communities across the World, who have sought to be awarded this status.

Currently only Newry in Northern Ireland in the UK is recognised. This is a journey of progression and there are steps to take for Bath and surrounding communities to achieve and maintain this status, but I believe it deserves to join Newry and other UK Cities who are now aspiring towards this recognition.

The first event in which the Group will be seeking to involve young people and children's input in how they see their City, and how they might influence change, will take place at the Egg Theatre on 1st October:

<http://us2.campaign->

[archive2.com/?u=84a16c0e3e73b6ddb0522310a&id=cf750fa943&e=d4ffe5ec4a](http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=84a16c0e3e73b6ddb0522310a&id=cf750fa943&e=d4ffe5ec4a)

There will be a series of events following with the aim to make 2015 The year of our Child Friendly City. Please do contact the Bath Cultural Forum for more information, or myself.

Councillor Cherry Beath