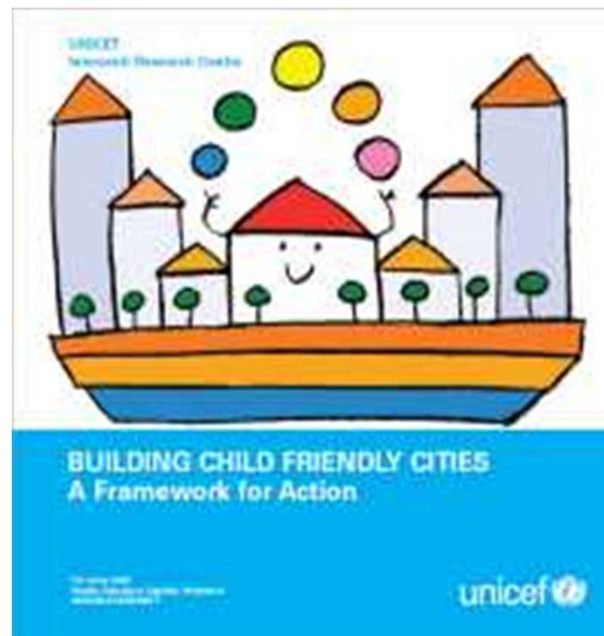


# Bath and North East Somerset as a Child Friendly City and Community



*Children shape our cities, and our cities shape our children  
Children are the future*

## **Vision for Bath and North East Somerset:**

- Key aspect of the Creative and Cultural Strategy
- Current focus on public spaces, access to arts, culture and play opportunities and children making a contribution to their city
- Step change from viewing children as passive (or a burden) to 'a vital city asset' whose creativity and ideas can help develop solutions
- Children and young people as responsible, active and model citizens.

## **Why now?**

New UNICEF initiative that is seeking champions

Concern about child health and wellbeing in the UK

Innovative collaborations/partnerships ready to help take the project forward

Positions Bath as a world leader in children's city experience

# INSPIRATION

Enrique Peñalosa, the visionary former Mayor of Bogota promoted designing for children as a first priority - a city model which gave priority to children and public spaces.

***'If a city is successful for children, then it will be successful for all people'***



***Reggio Emilia places children and young people at the heart***

# UNICEF Child Friendly Cities

Global initiative to develop child friendly cities/communities

A child friendly city is actively engaged in fulfilling the potential of every young citizen to:

- Influence decisions about their city
- Develop leadership skills
- Participate in family, community and social life
- Walk safely in the streets on their own
- Meet friends and play responsibly
- Nurture green spaces for plants and animals
- Live in an unpolluted environment
- Participate in cultural and social events
- Be an equal citizen of their city with access to every service, regardless of ethnic origin, religion, income, gender or disability

European CFC Network: [www.childfriendlycities.eu](http://www.childfriendlycities.eu)

## **9 building blocks to become a child friendly city:**

1. Ensure children's participation
2. Have a child friendly legal framework
3. Develop a city-wide children's engagement strategy
4. Create a children's rights unit or a coordinating mechanism
5. Ensure a child impact assessment and evaluation
6. Have an appropriate children's budget
7. Ensure a regular state of the city's children report
8. Make children's rights known among adults and children
9. Support independent advocacy for children

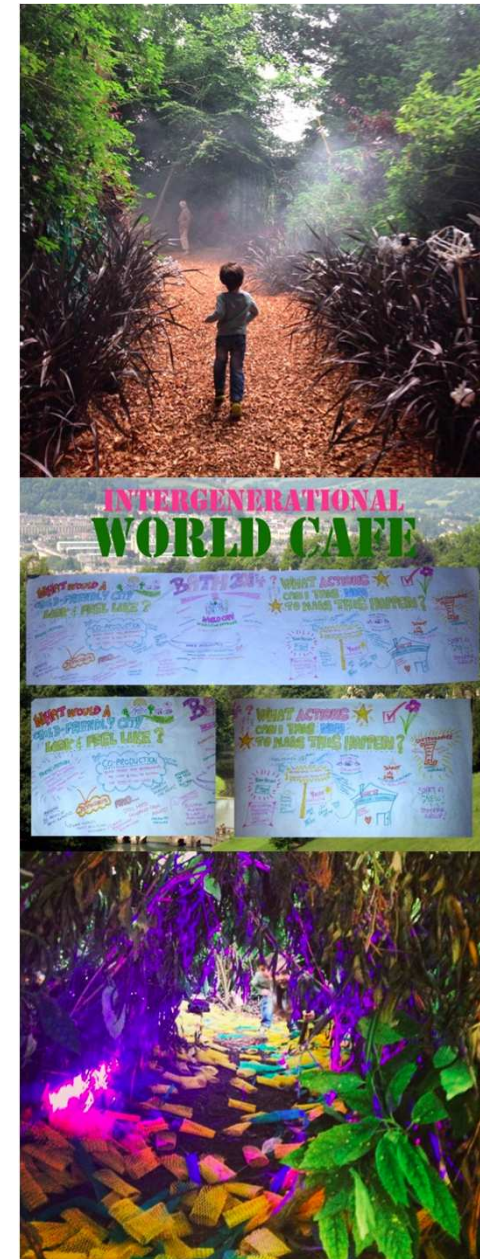
## RESEARCH AND SCOPING

- Diverse range of proactive and children/young people focused organisations in the City (creative, arts and culture, education, play, children's rights and voice, child and youth participation)
- Aim for UNICEF accreditation – gives a sense of mission and offers a long term vision

### Other Child Friendly Cities/Communities:

- Newry, Northern Ireland (town scale, arts and public space emphasis)
- Bristol (in progress as partners)
- Leeds (Local Authority led)
- *Also Odense and Melbourne*

- Since 2013 the Bath CFC initiative has been driven by cultural and educational organisations: 5x5x5=creativity, Bath Area Cultural Forum, the egg theatre, Mentoring Plus, Bath Spa University and local schools
- Launch event with RSA Kickstarter Crowdsourcing 18 September 2013
- Forest of Imagination 2014 and 2015
- CFC statement to B&NES Cabinet July 2014
- Job description for CFC Project Manager written by the steering group and sent to B&NES Council 2014
- Intergenerational event with children and young people 1 October 2014
- Glow exhibition 2015 and on going consultation with children and young people
- Proposed International Festival of Childhood 2017 with Save Childhood Movement





## Leeds

- Consultation with C&YP - 12 'wishes' for a Child Friendly Leeds
- Ambassadors from industry
- Specific council aims to reduce number of children in care, reduce NEETs
- High level support across the local authority - employs 4 Council staff



## Newry, Northern Ireland

- Initiated by Sticky Fingers (children's arts org) and local Council parks dept. transforming outside spaces
- Lord Mayor supportive and encouraged change
- Council initiated several cross-sector forums
- Major development of children's story park: Giant's Liar (opened 2015)



## **Common themes from other cities:**

- Consultation with children and young people
- Cross sector stakeholder groups
- Arts and cultural organisations as catalysts
- Support from local universities and businesses
- Broad inclusive ownership
- Strategic support and buy in from Council
- Tackling serious underlying social issues – aim to improve outcomes for C&YP and reduce inequality
- Changing perceptions of children as active citizens
- Need for vision and manifesto (UNICEF guidelines)
- Evolutionary and iterative process

## **What would Bath and North East Somerset look like as a Child Friendly City and Community?**

- Civic policies that have the 'best interests of the child' at their heart
- Children have a voice in decisions which affect them and are actively engaged in discussions about their city/community
- All children have access to the arts and cultural life of the city
- Children feel connected with and across their city and community
- Children feel a sense of belonging and pride in their local environment
- Children feel safe in the streets and in public spaces
- Children are visible in the city and are respected as equal citizens
- Children have the freedom (relative to their age) to move about the city/community independently

## Learn to lead (Ltol)

- An innovative approach to children and young people's (C&YP) participation that redefines our understanding of 'leadership'
- A leadership model based on co-production, providing participation opportunities for all C&YP, whatever their campaign, enterprise, passion or concern

Current research:  
**Impact of Ltol on pupils' experiences  
and outcomes (a pilot)**

- Using existing and new data, co-generated with Ltol pupils
- Trialling collaboration of Ltol with a new instrument to deliver metrics for 'learning power' and pro-social skills
- Informing development of larger scale research

## A proposal for research in B&NES

- Spotlight good practice across B&NES to illuminate approaches to transformative learning for C&YP
- Inform the Bath Child Friendly Community agenda by enriching the C&YP-engaged, bottom-up approach
- Make visible, potentially hidden (below the radar) good practice to inform policy makers

## **Questions:**

What is B&NES's vision for a Child Friendly Community?

Who else could / should be involved?

Who are our Ambassadors?

What resources are available to shape and develop B&NES as a Child Friendly Community?

## **Next Steps**

Confirm our short, medium and long term goals towards securing UNICEF accreditation for B&NES CFC status

Secure resources to deliver these goals

Develop opportunities for wide-ranging consultation, co-production and participation

Establish formal partnerships with key stakeholders

Embed the process across the Council



## **Child Friendly City: Partners**

5x5x5=creativity

Bath Area Cultural Forum

Bath Area Play Project

Bath Artists Studios

Bath City College

Bath City Farm

Bath Festivals

Bath Fringe

Bath Libraries

Bath Museums

Bath Spa University

Bath Spa Institute for Education

B&NES Council

B&NES Children's Services

B&NES Schools and Colleges

Black Families Support Group

Creative Bath

egg theatre

Learn to Lead

Mentoring Plus

Off the Record

RUH Art at the Heart

Young Carers

Youth Parliament

Others?

<b>Child Friendly City Initiative</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Launch event at the egg theatre with Bath Area Cultural Forum, Mentoring Plus and 5x5x5=creativity	September 2013
CFC statement to B&NES Cabinet and Full Council	July 2014
Intergenerational event with children and young people at the egg theatre with 5x5x5=creativity and Bath Area Cultural Forum	October 2014
Job description for CFC Project Manager written by the steering group and sent to B&NES Council	November 2014
Meetings with Councillors and Ben Howlett MP	July 2015
Presentation to Scrutiny Panel for Children and Young People	September 2015
Funding identified CFC Project Manager appointed	October/November 2015
Project Development with Save Childhood Movement/ Learn to Lead	2015-2017
International Festival of Childhood with Save Childhood Movement	May 2017

Visit our blog for more examples of work undertaken by members of the steering group

<https://childfriendlycity.wordpress.com>

