

Meeting: [Overview and Scrutiny](#) **Date:** 18th November 2024

Wards affected: [All](#)

Report Title: [Child Friendly Torbay](#)

When does the decision need to be implemented? [N/A as update](#)

Cabinet Member Contact Details: [Cllr Nick Bye, Lead Cabinet Member Childrens Services](#)
nick.bye@torbay.gov.uk

Director Contact Details: [Nancy Meehan, Director Childrens Services](#)
Nancy.meehan@torbay.gov.uk

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report has been prepared to provide Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board with an update on the 'Child Friendly Torbay Programme'

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 Torbay's Child Friendly Programme is part of a UNICEF initiative which 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 programme is part of Child Friendly Cities – a global UNICEF initiative launched in 1996 that reaches more than 30 million children in close to 50 countries.
- 2.2 As part of this programme UNICEF will support the council, our partners, and children and young people, as we work together on an ambitious three-to-five-year journey towards international recognition as a UNICEF UK Child Friendly City or Community.
- 2.3 A child rights-based approach sits at the heart of the CFC programme and is a practical tool that can be used by anyone making decisions that directly or indirectly impact children – from where to build a playground to deciding on budgets or a child's care.

- 2.4 In order to participate in the programme Torbay Council were required to submit an expression of interest (EIO) which was reviewed by UNICEF. They confirmed our acceptance onto the programme towards the end of 2023.
- 2.5 This report has been prepared to provide an update on the programme to date.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

1. That Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board note the update and the progress made to date
2. That Members of the Overview and Scrutiny board consider actions as to how they can support the Child Friendly Programme and achieve our 'recognition' status.

Appendices

Appendix 1: UNICEF Child Friendly Prospectus.

Background Documents

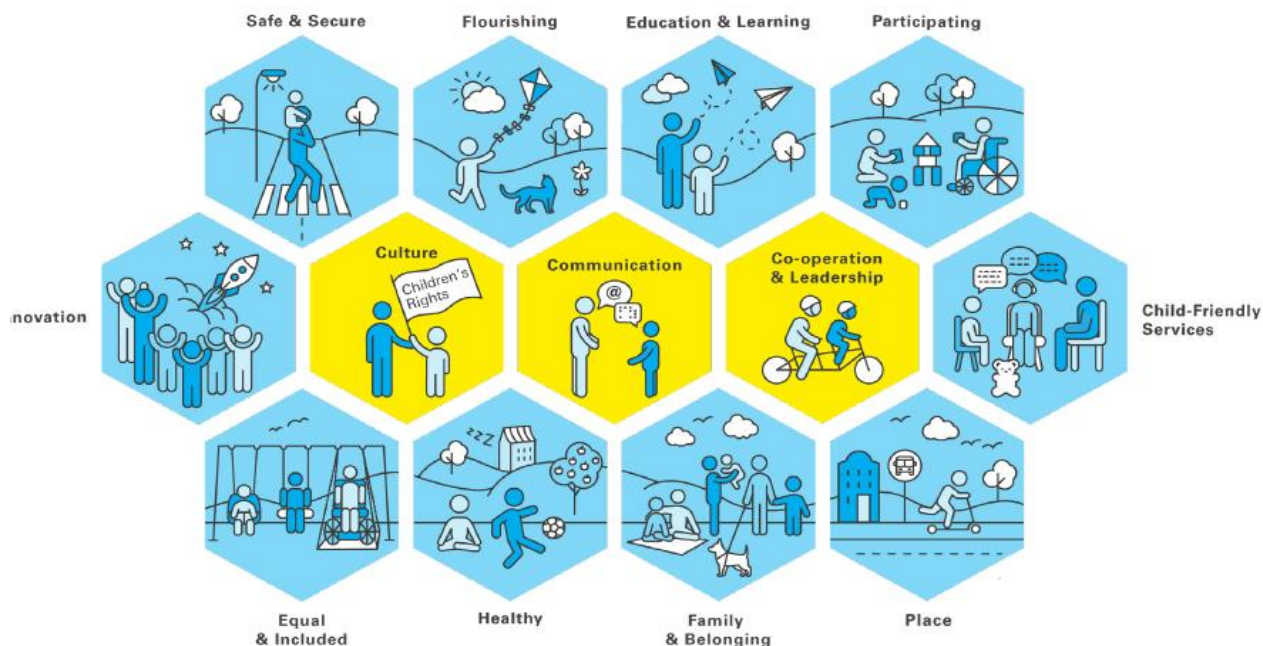
N/A

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Torbay's Child Friendly Programme is part of a UNICEF initiative which 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 programme is part of Child Friendly Cities – a global UNICEF initiative launched in 1996 that reaches more than 30 million children in close to 50 countries.
- 1.2 As part of this programme UNICEF will provide training based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and will support the council, our partners, and children and young people, as we work together on an ambitious three-to-five-year journey towards international recognition as a UNICEF UK Child Friendly City or Community.
- 1.3 A child rights-based approach sits at the heart of the CFC programme and is a practical tool that can be used by anyone making decisions that directly or indirectly impact children – from where to build a playground to deciding on budgets or a child's care.
- 1.4 In order to participate in the programme Torbay Council were required to submit an expression of interest (EIO) which was reviewed by UNICEF. They confirmed our acceptance onto the programme towards the end of 2023 and a MOU has been signed.
- 1.5 Once accepted onto the programme, councils move through a four-stage process 'Discovery, Development, Delivery and Recognition' – detailed as follows:

The first is the **Discovery Phase**, during which UNICEF UK begins to deliver expert training in children's rights to local politicians, council staff, partners such as the police, health services, commissioned services, voluntary organisations, and children and young people. The council also comes together with the local community, including children and young people, at a 'Discovery Day' to see where things are going well for children and where things need to change – this is still to be planned in Torbay.

Based on this training and analysis, the city or community chooses six priority areas – or 'badges' (please see diagram below) – and, with support from UNICEF UK, drafts a realistic Action Plan during the **Development Phase**, setting out how they will work towards achieving progress in their badges over the following two to four years.



Councils must show sustainable progress in all six of their badges during the **Delivery Phase** to gain **Recognition** as a UNICEF UK Child Friendly City or Community. Recognition lasts for three years.

For more information please see the UNICEF prospectus which can be found at appendix one.

1.6 Since Torbay Council has been accepted onto the programme the following key activities have taken place:

- Programme Briefing took place involving Council Officers, Members, VCS, partner and agencies (January 2024)
- Comms on programme officially launched (both internal and external) and UNICEF comms issued introducing Torbay Council as part of the programme
- Project Initiation Document prepared and signed off by the Chief Executive (and chair / SRO of the Child Friendly Torbay Project Board).
- Child Friendly Project Board meetings established – attended by Council Officers, Members, VCS and partner agencies.
- Training session on ‘rights based approach’ took place on the 18th June – colleagues from across the Council invited to attend as well as young people and key partner agencies i.e. health, police, VCS, etc
- ‘Workforce’ and ‘Children and Young People’s’ surveys launched as part of the ‘baselining exercise’ – this will assist us in understanding the current picture of children’s rights in Torbay – closing date was 3rd November
- Circulation of ‘remote participation packs’ via our participation team, and the youth justice service over the summer months – these will also shortly be distributed via our VCS colleagues (‘Imagine This’) - as part of this exercise children and young people are asked to vote and comment on the ‘badges’ that they felt were most important to them.
- Monthly coordinator and quarterly management meetings taking place with UNICEF colleagues and key project documentation being prepared (i.e. outline project plans

etc)

- To support the programme moving forwards a Project Manager (FTC 12 months) has recently been appointed – they will commence in post as from January 2025.

1.7 The key activities expected over the coming months are as follows:

- Results from surveys (Workforce and Children’s surveys as well as participation activities) to be analysed – this is due to take place by the end of November and once done will inform how our Discovery Day will be planned
- To ensure that children’s voices form part of any future planning consideration to be given to a ‘youth governance structure’ going forward and how this will work together with the CFT Project Board
- Communications plan to be developed and further development of the Project Plan to take place
- Planning / arrangements for ‘Discovery Day’ to be considered (as per the above this will be in line with the analysis of the surveys undertaken as this analysis will be used to inform the Discovery Day) – it is likely that this event will be planned for early 2025.
- Torbay Council ‘Badges’ to be chosen (as per the above)

2. Options under consideration

2.1 N/A as no other options required.

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

3.1 N/A

4. Legal Implications

4.1 N/A

5. Engagement and Consultation

5.1 As stated above a number of key communication and consultation activities have already taken place (please see sections 1.6 and 1.7 as above)

5.2 A detailed communications plan is being developed and consideration to a ‘youth governance structure’ for the programme is also being undertaken.

6. Procurement Implications

6.1 N/A

7. Protecting our naturally inspiring Bay and tackling Climate Change

7.1 N/A

8. Associated Risks

8.1 N/A

9. Equality Impact Assessment

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
Age	<p>18 per cent of Torbay residents are under 18 years old.</p> <p>55 per cent of Torbay residents are aged between 18 to 64 years old.</p> <p>27 per cent of Torbay residents are aged 65 and older.</p>	<p>The Child Friendly Programme has been created to support cities and communities to enable children to have a meaningful say in, and truly benefit from the local decisions, services and spaces that shape their lives. The programme aims to support us in embedding children's rights across Torbay and therefore by Torbay Council participating in this programme it is intended that this will have a positive impact on Children and Young people living in Torbay.</p>		
Carers	<p>At the time of the 2021 census there were 14,900 unpaid carers in Torbay. 5,185 of these provided 50 hours or more of care.</p>	<p>No differential impact / as above</p>		
Disability	<p>In the 2021 Census, 23.8% of Torbay residents answered that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by</p>	<p>No differential impact / as above</p>		

	a physical or mental health condition or illness.			
Gender reassignment	In the 2021 Census, 0.4% of Torbay's community answered that their gender identity was not the same as their sex registered at birth. This proportion is similar to the Southwest and is lower than England.	No differential impact / as above		
Marriage and civil partnership	Of those Torbay residents aged 16 and over at the time of 2021 Census, 44.2% of people were married or in a registered civil partnership.	No differential impact / as above		
Pregnancy and maternity	Over the period 2010 to 2021, the rate of live births (as a proportion of females aged 15 to 44) has been slightly but significantly higher in Torbay (average of 63.7 per 1,000) than England (60.2) and the South West (58.4). There has been a notable fall in the numbers of live births since the middle of the last decade across all geographical areas.	No differential impact / as above		
Race	In the 2021 Census, 96.1% of Torbay residents described their ethnicity as white. This is a higher proportion than the South West and England. Black, Asian and minority	No differential impact / as above		

	ethnic individuals are more likely to live in areas of Torbay classified as being amongst the 20% most deprived areas in England.			
Religion and belief	64.8% of Torbay residents who stated that they have a religion in the 2021 census.	No differential impact / as above		
Sex	51.3% of Torbay's population are female and 48.7% are male	No differential impact / as above		
Sexual orientation	In the 2021 Census, 3.4% of those in Torbay aged over 16 identified their sexuality as either Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or, used another term to describe their sexual orientation.	No differential impact / as above		
Veterans	In 2021, 3.8% of residents in England reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. In Torbay, 5.9 per cent of the population have previously serviced in the UK armed forces.	No differential impact / as above		
Additional considerations				
Socio-economic impacts (Including impacts on child		No differential impact / as above		

poverty and deprivation)				
Public Health impacts (Including impacts on the general health of the population of Torbay)		No differential impact / as above		
Human Rights impacts		No differential impact / as above		
Child Friendly	Torbay Council is a Child Friendly Council and all staff and Councillors are Corporate Parents and have a responsibility towards cared for and care experienced children and young people.			

10. Cumulative Council Impact

10.1 None

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

11.1 None.