



CHILD
FRIENDLY
CITIES &
COMMUNITIES

unicef 
UNITED KINGDOM

© Unicef/Sutton-Hibbert

CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES & COMMUNITIES

PUTTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS INTO PRACTICE

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

The programme 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 close to 30 million children in 40 countries.

In the UK, Unicef provides training based on the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#) and supports councils, their partners, and children and young people, as they work together on an ambitious three-to-five-year journey towards international recognition as a Unicef Child Friendly City or Community.

The programme is currently running in Aberdeen, Barnet, Cardiff, Derry & Strabane and Newcastle.

CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES & COMMUNITIES
unicef.org.uk/child-friendly-cities



© Unicef/Fields

BECOMING A CHILD FRIENDLY CITY OR COMMUNITY

It takes between three-to-five-years for a city or community to be eligible for recognition as a Unicef Child Friendly City or Community.

During that time Unicef UK's team of experts in children's rights, public policy, social work and participation provide training and technical assistance to councils and their partners – from local politicians and social workers, to urban planners, community organisations, the police and health services.

This support is based on evidence from over 20 years of the global Unicef Child Friendly Cities Initiative, including in the UK, which shows that weaving children's rights into local policy, practice and planning can dramatically improve conditions for children.

At the heart of the programme is the **CFC child rights-based approach** – a practical tool based on the UNCRC 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. Using this approach is how councils and their partners are able to bring children's rights to life, making a tangible difference to the lives of their youngest residents.

THE CFC JOURNEY

DISCOVERY - 6 MONTHS

The council, community and children and young people come together to agree their six priorities, known as 'badges'.

DEVELOPMENT - 2-3 MONTHS

An Action Plan is drafted and approved showing how the council will achieve progress in those six badges.

DELIVERY - 2-4 YEARS

The council works with the local community and children and young people to carry out the Action Plan.

RECOGNITION - LASTS FOR 3 YEARS

An independent panel of experts assesses the council's progress and decides whether to recognise the city/community as a Unicef Child Friendly City or Community.

For more information and to get involved contact: Catherine Blenkinsop, Project Manager, Newcastle City Council

T: 0191 2116450

E: catherine.blenkinsop@newcastle.gov.uk