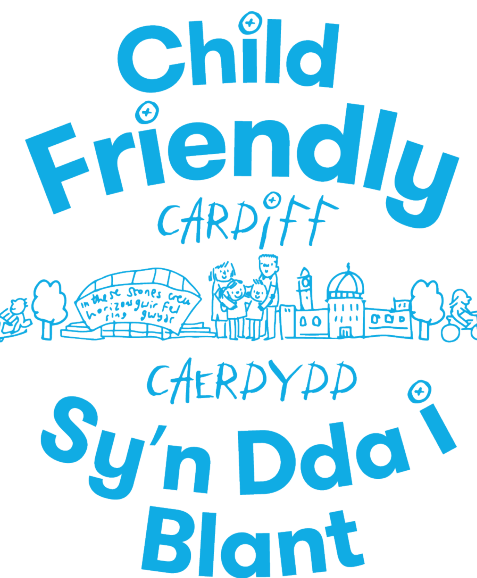


Annual Report 2020/21

This report provides analysis of our progress towards the vision and goals outlined in the Child Friendly Cardiff Strategy, focusing on the progress the city has made since 2020.



Mission

Cardiff is the first city in Wales to participate in UNICEF UK's Child Friendly Cities and Communities initiative. Our ambition is for Cardiff to be recognised as a Child Friendly City (CFC): a city with children and young people at its heart, where the rights of children and young people are respected by all. A great place to grow up!

We recognise the importance of embedding a children's rights approach across public services to deliver lasting solutions to complex problems. Removing the barriers that prevent some of our young people from making a successful transition into the world of work, delivering the best outcomes for children in our care and helping young people to live independently must be a priority for all.

Goals

- 1** EVERY CHILD AND YOUNG PERSON IS VALUED, RESPECTED AND TREATED FAIRLY.
- 2** EVERY CHILD AND YOUNG PERSON HAS THEIR VOICE, NEEDS AND PRIORITIES HEARD.
- 3** ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE GROW UP IN A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE HOME.
- 4** ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE GET A GOOD EDUCATION THAT TEACHES THEM ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS.
- 5** CHILDREN HAVE GOOD PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND KNOW HOW TO STAY HEALTHY.



Goal 1

**EVERY CHILD AND
YOUNG PERSON IS
VALUED, RESPECTED
AND TREATED FAIRLY.**

To achieve success in Goal 1 Cardiff will...

- » Train staff in children's rights.
- » Make it clear about what you can expect from organisations and services.
- » Promote children's rights and celebrate children and young people.
- » Provide children and young people with clear information about opportunities and services.
- » Think about how decisions being made in the city affect the rights children and young people.



Children's Rights Unit

Funding has now been secured for a permanent rights-based team within Cardiff Council.

Responsibilities include the coordination of the CFC delivery programme, staff training, strategic participation, rights-based advice and support.



Children's Rights Training

We have worked with UNICEF UK to coordinate and deliver rights-based training for 128 individuals across identified groups of professionals aligned to the CFC programme, including: Social workers, Psychologists, Youth Services, Youth Justice Early Help team, Police.

Two thirds of Elected members have completed bespoke "children's rights in practice" training to ensure that they consider the best interests of children when making decisions that affect them.

Over 2700 members of staff have now completed their mandatory children's rights online training module bringing the total to 4521.



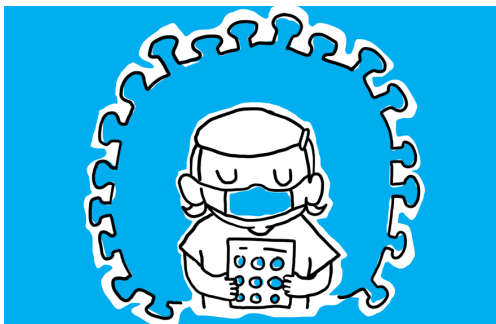
Crafting our Future City

Child Friendly Cardiff in partnership with Cardiff University School of Computer Science and Technocamps Ambassadors, provided children and young people with unique and innovative opportunities to help shape the future of Cardiff by using the virtual gaming platform Minecraft Education.

Over 200 children participated in the Minecraft challenges set out by city partners.

Winning designs were fed into the consultation process for 2 planning projects in the city.

Goal 1



CFC City Recovery Plan

During the pandemic Cardiff Council released a detailed city recovery strategy which outlined essential actions that would help mitigate the effects of the lockdown, support the city-centre's recovery and rebuild for the future.

The CFC team took this document and developed a visual, more accessible version in 8 community languages used across Cardiff.

This document was sent out across all schools to young people and their parents.



Girls Rights Network Wales

CFC is now a member of the GRNW (Girls Rights Network Wales). Girls' rights are advocated across the network and members help inform the work being conducted in CFC, as well as signposting services across organisations to support girls and young women in advocating their rights, being heard, and being valued.

Through this partnership children and young people have helped inform the development of the Cardiff Women's Aid App 'Your Space'.



World Children's Day 2020

To celebrate World Children's Day 2020 CFC delivered boxes of chalk to schools across the city to promote children's right to play.

World Children's Day 2021

Child Friendly Cardiff partnered with the City of Arcades to promote the rights of the child on World Children's Day. Several projectors were set up in empty units across four of Cardiff's unique arcades, with messaging about the importance of World Children's Day and Children's Rights beamed onto walls.



Childrens Rights Information for new parents

Kyle Eldridge -Vice Chair of CYPAB- initiated a project to supply free children's rights information to all new parents in Cardiff upon registering the birth of their child through the register office.

This young person-initiated project should see the parents of approximately 3500 children each year receiving children's rights information.

Goal 1



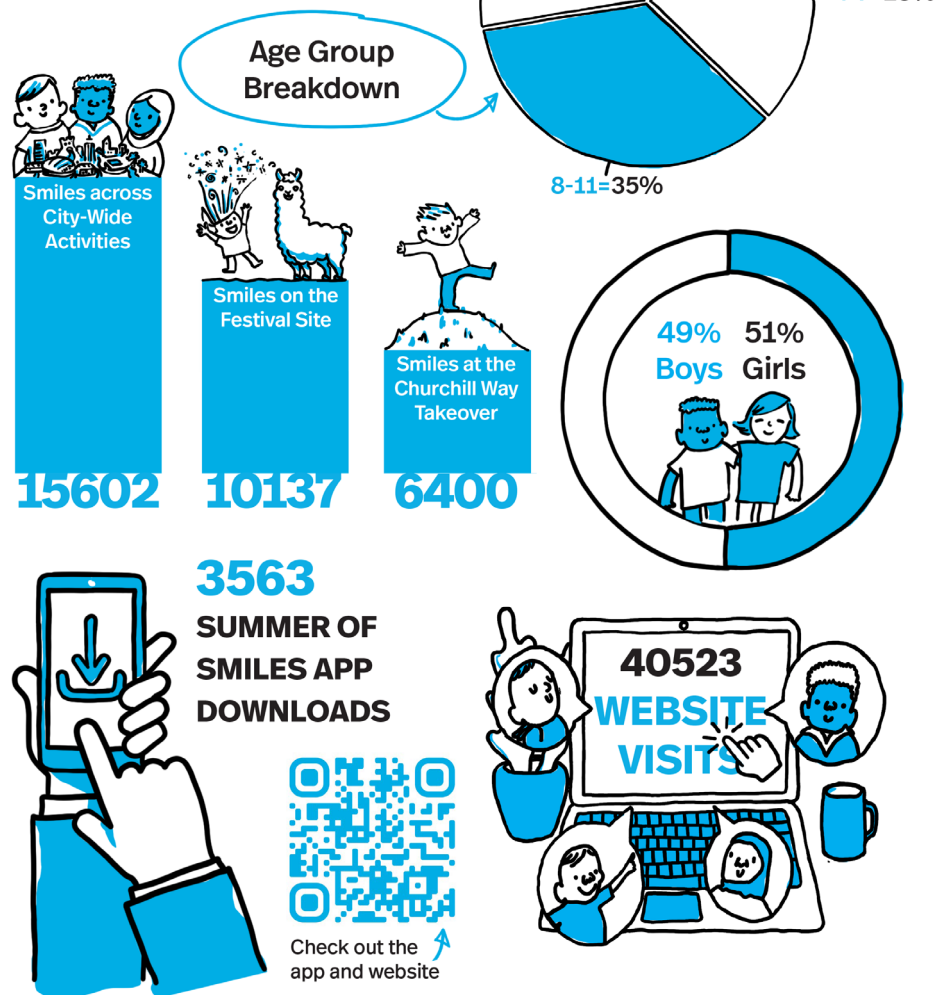
Summer of Smiles

The pandemic has had massive impact on the children and young people of Cardiff, and it is important that we always remember the sacrifice they made to help keep us all as safe as possible.

To thank children and celebrate childhood the CFC team put together the 'Summer of Smiles' festival, which aimed to enhance wellbeing, help people to reconnect with the city, have new experiences and make new friends.

The festival was made up of 3 parts: a festival site on city hall lawn, city-wide activities run with our CFC partners and our Churchill way takeover!

32,139 Smiles*



*when we say 'smiles', we're talking about instances when children & young people (and their families) took part in summer of smiles funded experiences - as recorded by delivery partners.

Goal 2

**EVERY CHILD AND
YOUNG PERSON HAS
THEIR VOICE, NEEDS
AND PRIORITIES
HEARD.**

To achieve success in Goal 2 Cardiff will...

- » Develop the skills of children and young people so they can have their voice heard.
- » Encourage and support children and young people to get involved in shaping the city.
- » Make sure people take the views of children and young people seriously.



Children Youth Council (CYC)

Cardiff Youth Council is a representative body for 11-25 year-olds, who advocate for positive change and children's rights across the city of Cardiff.

Members of the youth council have volunteered over 500 hours of their time, taking part in exciting programmes including, inspecting services, interviewing council officers, hosting conferences, taking part in residential experiences.



Children and Young People's Advisory Board (CYPAB)

Our advisory board have helped us shape the CFC programme by challenging and informing decisions, making sure that communications are in an appropriate format and proposing solutions for challenges faced by C&YP. Recently, they informed on the Summer of Smiles programme and volunteered at the festival and two members have been running workshops for young people!

National UNICEF advisory board

In February, we were very excited to find out that Arthur -the new vice chair of the CYPAB- was chosen to join UNICEF's national youth advisory board.



Cardiff's Skate Community

A reference group of young skaters has been established to work alongside council officers and a landscape architect firm in Canada to develop a vision for skating in Cardiff.

In addition, over 700 skaters took part in a survey to inform the work and local production company with the state community to create a short documentary about the skate scene in Cardiff.

Goal 2



CFC Symposium

Organised by CFC and supported by both the Cardiff and Vale Health Board and the Vale of Glamorgan Council, the Child Friendly Cities Symposium brought together children and practitioners, to plan child friendly environments of the future. Lectures and workshops explored adverse childhood experiences, school building, inclusion, and more.

The session brought together 79 children and young people with 141 adult practitioners. Hundreds of ideas were collected and the feedback from everyone was incredibly positive.



Cardiff Citizens Youth Panel

Cardiff Citizens Youth Panel is a group open to 11 to 25-year-olds from across Cardiff who have agreed to give their views on a number of consultation topics throughout the year, empowering them to be at the heart of decisions in their local authority with the opportunity to win prize draws.



Greener Fairer Stronger

As part of Cardiff Council's planning and recovery out of the Covid-19 pandemic, CFC worked with colleagues in Economic Development to develop and run workshops with Pentreban Primary School, Fitzalan High School, Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and Cantonian High School.

We engaged with over 200 children and young people (C&YP) to listen to their experiences and gather their thoughts on what Cardiff Council should consider when planning the city's recovery out of the pandemic.



Young Programme

The Young Programme is made up of three different projects: Young Inspectors, Young Interviewers and Young Commissioners. Young people undertake training in the different aspects of the programme that gives them the skills and knowledge needed to participate in inspections, interviews, or commissioning.

In the past year CFC has helped support the training of:

46 - Young Interviewers
35 - Young inspectors

Goal 2



Child Friendly Cardiff and Cardiff University Hackathon

In partnership with Child Friendly Cardiff, Cardiff University's enterprise team put out a call to action for students to immerse themselves in a child rights approach to tackling the 5 goals set out in the Child Friendly Cardiff Strategy.

25 Students were given a briefing on Children's Rights in Practice from UNICEF UK programme officer, Jeni Bainbridge. It provided the foundation for generating tangible solutions to 1 or more of the CFC goals.



One Planet Cardiff

A subgroup of Cardiff Youth Council (CYC) was formed to discuss the One Planet Cardiff draft strategy and give their perspective on the issues.

The subgroup developed and sent out a consultation to schools and had 875 responses.

One of the most important outcomes was the integration of carbon literacy for all into the strategy.

The strategy was updated to include education, and resources were invested to bring the One Planet Cardiff agenda into the school curriculum.



Playground Consultation

Earlier this year, the CFC team supported Cardiff parks department to engage with school children across the city when seeking to redesign 'destination' playgrounds. The support package developed by CFC enabled pupils to provide their thoughts and ideas on what would make the 'playground of their dreams'.

Pupils from Creigiau Primary School, Kitchener Primary School, Millbank Primary School, Severn Primary School, St Cuthbert's Primary, St David's Primary School, St Monica's Primary School as well as separate entries from other children submitted their drawings and ideas.



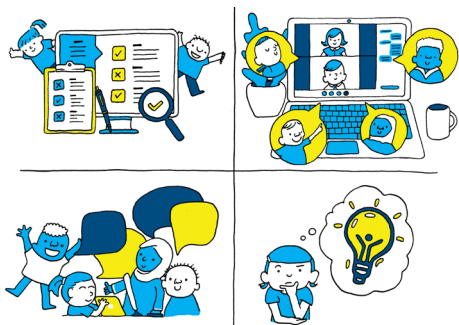
Young Creators

The Young Creators is a group of young people who work collectively with the support of youth workers to develop multimedia skills.

This programme allows young people to develop skills that help them express themselves and share their views.

As well creating as independent work, the group has helped shape steer and promote projects for the youth service and other teams across the council - such as "the Voice of Young People on Safeguarding" and the "Summer of Smiles".

Goal 2



Pupil Engagement Roadmap

In the wake of the pandemic, the CFC team developed a Pupil Engagement Road Map that detailed the range of tools that pupils could choose to use to share their views.

This included the Cardiff Ideas Summer Challenge, Webcast Q&A with Director of Education and Cabinet Member of Education and a newly convened Pupil Task Group who could help give feedback and shape decisions.



Cardiff Summer Ideas Challenge

In the Summer of 2020, CFC launched a city-wide competition asking children to share their best ideas for making Cardiff a better place to grow up.

Zero Waste Network

The winning idea was developed by Divya Joshi and aimed to help shape a greener future for our city!

CFC supported Divya to bring her idea to life, which led to the creation of Cardiff's very own Zero Waste Network, leading to the increase of TerraCycle drop off points across the city and a webpage that helps users find drop off points and recycle normally hard to recycle materials!



School Restart Webinars and FAQs

2 school restart webinars were hosted by Child Friendly Cardiff, Director and Cabinet Member for Education. An opportunity for children and young people to engage with Council Leaders on the topic of School Restart.

Young people were empowered, and their questions and concerns were fed into school restart FAQs (published in 8 languages).



Coronavirus & Me

The CFC team supported the rollout of the Coronavirus & Me survey from the Child Commissioner for Wales.

The survey collected information on the lived experiences of children and young people during lockdown and local data informed decision making as part of recovery planning.

Goal 3

ALL CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE GROW
UP IN A SAFE AND
SUPPORTIVE HOME.

To achieve success in Goal 3 Cardiff will...

- » Work with children and families to get the support and help they need.
- » Improve the lives of children and young people who are not able to live with their families.
- » Ensure children have the best start in life.



Early Years innovation

Cardiff has applied to become a pathfinder for the Welsh Government Early Years Integration Transformation Programme which is focused on developing a more joined-up, responsive early year's system that puts the unique needs of each child at its heart.

There is an agreed commitment from service leads in Health, Education, Children's Services and 3rd Sector organisations to work in collaboration to make the early years system more responsive.

A multi-agency task group will now start to plan the way ahead in the coming months.



Christmas Event Tickets

The CFC team purchased coordinated the distribution of tickets for over 5500 individuals to performances at 3 theatres and 2 outdoor Christmas events across the city. We utilised our connections throughout children's services, rights respecting schools', and our external network of partners across the city to share the opportunity with families who needed it the most.



"Becoming a Young Parent" pack

Cardiff Commitment put together a pack for young parents which provided information and details of courses which could support parents and children.

It also provided information on returning to education should they feel ready.

Goal 3



Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021 - 2024

Cardiff Council released its new corporate parenting strategy which sets out what the local authority needs to do as corporate parents to support our looked after children and care leavers to enable them to thrive and improve outcomes.

It outlines five key priorities that have been formed based on the views and experiences of Looked after Children in Cardiff.

This Strategy's development has been an inclusive process led by elected members, involving children, young people and professionals supported by an action plan.

Child's Rights Across the Health Board

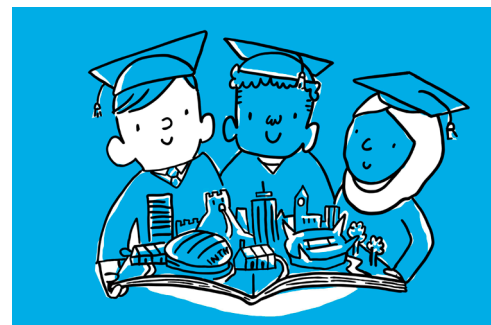
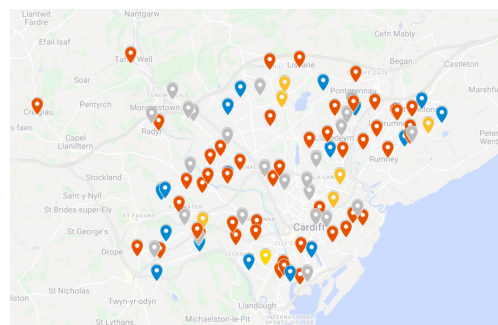
Staff training on the topic of children's rights and the University Health Board Charter is now in place. All new health board staff now receive this as part of their induction.

The Youth Board meet regularly to consult on UHB strategic decisions, interview for new staff (including the new CEO) and regularly present on key children's issues to the board of executives.

Sustainability has been established by the Youth Board's inclusion to the Volunteer department and is now supported by a permanent member of staff.

Goal 4

**ALL CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE GET A
GOOD EDUCATION THAT
TEACHES THEM ABOUT
THEIR RIGHTS.**



To achieve success in Goal 4 Cardiff will...

- » Make sure that children and young people who are not able to live with their family have a good education.
- » Work with UNICEF to ensure that all schools teach and respect children's rights.
- » Provide all pupils with an education that meets their needs, wherever possible within on school site.
- » Work together to help prepare children and young people to be adults for independent living, active citizenship and the world of work.

UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA)

Over the past year, CFC has supported schools to make significant progress in embedding a children's rights-based approach to education and has become the first Local authority in England and Wales to fund full access to the RRSA for all their schools.

"The centralised model of providing all Cardiff schools with access to RRSA support and accreditation has seen record numbers of schools engage with the programme. Making training and support accessible to all has enabled schools to make faster progress than would typically be seen." - The UK Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK)

Cardiff Children's University

Children's University is coming to Cardiff! Children's University is a charity that works in partnership with schools to develop a love of learning in children.

In Cardiff, we will do this by encouraging and celebrating participation in extra-curricular activities in and outside of school.

The impact of these activities is proven to be positive which is why we're committed to creating a level playing field of opportunity and opening access to children of all backgrounds.

Admissions Guidance

The CFC team supported Cardiff school admissions team in the development of a new simple guidance for applying to primary and secondary schools.

The child-friendly animations and 7 tips, in 8 languages, facilitates the admissions process by explaining the importance of using all options available and applying on time etc.

Goal 4



Growth Sector Videos - Youth Engagement

Child Friendly Cardiff worked with Cardiff Commitment to support with children and young people's engagement on the development of commissioned videos which will help to inform and educate C&YP (Children & Young People) on the growth sectors, the careers within them and the various career pathways available.

Cardiff Commitment received funding from the SEREN network to produce these videos which will be utilised across various networks.



Anti-Bullying Guidance

Welsh Government published new anti-bullying guidance, which has been created to challenge bullying in schools in Wales.

The guidance, aimed at governing bodies for maintained schools, local authorities, parents, carers and children and young people, was launched ahead of Anti-Bullying Week November 2019.

A Task and Finish group was developed to address areas of work covered by the LA which CFC was a key member of to ensure the voices of C&YP are heard and valued in the development and delivery of the new guidance.



Addressing Digital Deprivation

Throughout the pandemic Cardiff Council worked to address the issue of digital deprivation to ensure all children had the same opportunities to engage with remote learning whilst schools were closed.

Over 15 thousand digital devices and 2 thousand 4G routers have delivered to digitally deprived children and young people through their schools.

"This scheme promotes Cardiff's long term strategy to provide every child with the appropriate connectivity, both during and after lockdown."

- Cabinet Member for Education and Deputy Leader, Cllr Sarah Merry



Self-organised Learning Environment (SOLE)

SOLE sessions were brought to Cardiff by Child Friendly Cardiff and a pilot programme was launched in February to April 2021.

A SOLE is a simple, free and fun way to encourage enquiry based, child-led learning. All that is required is a computer, internet connection and students.

With great success of the pilot the demand for SOLE in Cardiff schools has grown and has now expanded to develop a SOLE Network for Wales, working in partnership with the International School Linking Team and Start SOLE Colleagues in the USA!

Goal 4



Educated Other Than At School (EOTAS)

Cardiff EOTAS provision is putting children's views at the heart of its practice and policies. Upskilled young people have carried out inspections of the provision, sat on interview panels for lead officer positions, reviewed its referral processes and have evaluated grant applications.

Young people have been involved in a community teaching review and additional youth mentor posts have been established across teams to provide extra support to young people who are care experienced or have a disability.



The Voice of Young People on Safeguarding

The Voice of Young People on Safeguarding provides a multi-agency approach to help ensure young people in Cardiff are safe, happy and thrive.

The document was developed collaboratively between Cardiff Council's Education, Children's and Youth Services. It outlines an approach to safeguarding young people during adolescence and the transition period from child to adult, helping to promote resilience, reduce risks and address harm so that young people can live safely in their families and communities.

Goal 5

CHILDREN HAVE GOOD PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND KNOW HOW TO STAY HEALTHY.

To achieve success in Goal 5 Cardiff will...

Provide more opportunities for children and young people to be active during their daily lives by:

- » Making the roads safer with more 20mph areas
- » Providing safe places to play
- » Providing safe walking and cycling routes
- » Work with schools to encourage pupils to safely walk, scoot or cycle to school

Make sure that children and young people are happy and healthy by:

- » Providing them with the support and help they need when they need it
- » Giving them someone to talk to when they need it
- » Teaching them how to stay happy and healthy



Baby-Friendly Initiative (BFI) Report

Early years midwifery and health services have once again been reaccruited with UNICEF Baby-Friendly status.

A new full-time Health Visiting Infant Feeding Coordinator is now in place to ensure BFI Health Visiting Standards are sustained

It was recognised that staff are recognised to have high levels of knowledge and BFI standards are met at 80% pass rate. Ongoing staff training and revisions of Cardiff and Value University Health Board action plans will help ensure BFI standards are sustained.



Emotional Health and Wellbeing

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board delivers services for children and young people experiencing emotional wellbeing and mental health concerns.

Demand for services has increased significantly over the duration of the Covid pandemic. Some of the key initiatives to increase capacity include:

- A Single Point of Access, including a consultation line for professionals
- Creation of a dedicated assessment team
- Extension of the CAMHS crisis service to 24/7
- Further development of the Children & Young People's Specialist Eating Disorder Service

The new website cavyoungwellbeing.wales provides information about the services available and self-help pages on a variety of topics for children and young people.

Goal 5



Play Lanes

A new initiative to transform lanes and alleyways into fun, green and safe spaces for children to play, is being piloted in Grangetown. A joint partnership between Cardiff Council, Cardiff University and Grange Pavilion, the Play Lanes Project aims to increase opportunities for children to play safely whilst promoting community cohesion and helping to reduce anti-social behaviours, such as fly-tipping.

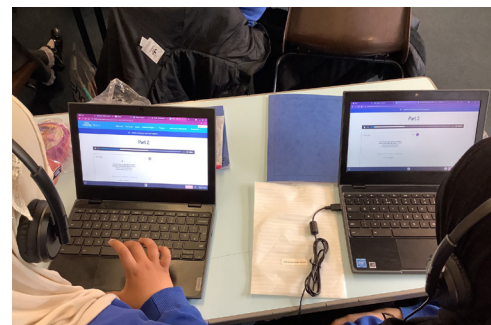
Toolkit has been developed so that other community groups can replicate the programme across the city



Play Signage

Child Friendly Cardiff have redesigned information signs for playgrounds across the city to reflect new legislation that protects children. No Smoking / Dog fouling signs now frame the message around the importance of article 31 of the UNCRC; the right to play.

In addition, the team created "Children have the right to play here" signs to encourage more outdoor play in safe spaces. These were distributed across communities.



Story Trails

An award-winning storyteller has been commissioned by the Child Friendly Cardiff Team to create bespoke bilingual story trails with the help of school children across Cardiff.

The trails are designed to encourage outdoor play, fun and exploration Cardiff's natural landmarks.

The stories are located at: Cardiff Bay, Bute Park, Forest Farm, Cefn Onn.

Four more are on the way at: Park Tredelerch, Coed-y-Nant, Caerau Hillfort, Hendre Lakes.



A&E Safeguarding Measures

A rights-based approach has been taken to improve services for 16 and 17 year olds in Cardiff's accident and emergency department including training for existing staff, improved protocols, and 2 new specialist staff members.

Goal 5



Raincoats for Schools

Through the 'All-Wales' play opportunity grant, CFC have supplied 800 raincoats across 23 schools (with highest levels of FSM). These coats will enable children without appropriate outdoor clothes to play outdoors during wet weather break times.



Active Travel

Safety for children and young people in Cardiff's streets has been improved the introduction of 20mph limits on two thirds of roads in the city and 14 "School Streets" installed with a further 10 planned for 2022/23.

Active travel to and from school is being enabled and promoted through the development of Active Travel Plans put in place by 94 schools, and the deployment of over 80 bike fleets and 50 bike shelters.