

# Child Friendly Nottingham – Frequently Asked Questions

## What Is Child Friendly Nottingham?

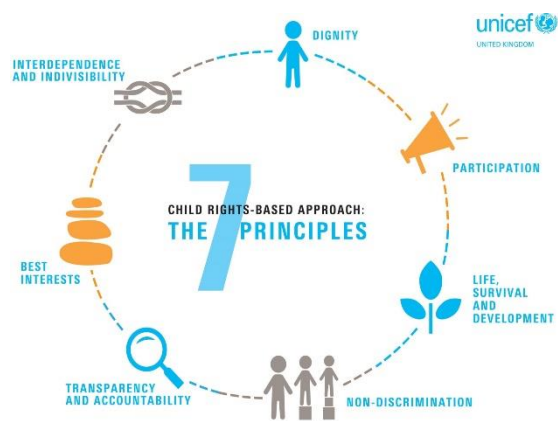
Child Friendly Nottingham is a city-wide partnership programme to put children's rights into practice by working with Nottingham's partners and more importantly children and young people themselves. Nottingham is committed to improving the lives of children and young people by realising their rights as articulated in the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#).

The programme in Nottingham aims to create a city where all children and young people will have a meaningful say in, and truly benefit from, the decisions, services and spaces that shape their lives.

Child Friendly Cities & Communities (CFC) is a UK Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK) programme that works with councils to put children's rights into practice. UNICEF UK works with councils and partners across cities and communities to help them take a child rights-based approach.

## What Is A Child Rights-Based Approach?

UNICEF UK's child rights-based approach is a practical tool made up of seven principles. It is for anyone making decisions that directly or indirectly impact children and young people. For example, this could be from where to build a playground to deciding on budgets or a child's care. Using a child rights-based approach will help ensure that decisions are firmly embedded in children's rights. As a result, this will deliver better outcomes for all children and young people.



## How Do We Work Towards Becoming Child Friendly Nottingham?

The Child Friendly Nottingham programme employs UNICEF UK's badge framework which allow us to focus on defined areas of work during our partnership with UNICEF UK.

Achieving the badges shows how the partnership of the city council, organisations, young and older citizens can make Nottingham truly child friendly. There are three 'core' badges (or priority areas) that are mandatory for all cities, these are;

- **Communications**
- **Cooperation and Leadership**
- **Culture**

Over 9,000 children and young people collaborated to choose three more badges. These are;

- **Safe and Secure**
- **Education and Learning**
- **Healthy**

Nottingham has also decided to work towards the **Equal and Included** Badge. This will be a golden thread linking all the badges together.

## Why Is Making Nottingham Child Friendly So important?

Children's views often go unheard on the many important issues that affect them. Yet we know the healthy development of children is crucial to the well-being of our society and city. Involving our youngest citizens will mean there will be less demand for support services during their adult lives.

Many changes in society are having a disproportionate, and often negative, impact on our children. The badges that the children and young people have chosen are all things that are important to them. Safe and secure, healthy and education and learning are all things that they value. We will encourage our young citizens to work towards leading healthier lifestyles and achieving the best they can. We will provide safe spaces for them to grow. This will help them become adults who work towards and want the same for their children and the future of Nottingham.

## How Much Is This Going To Cost?

In 2014 Nottingham received £45m of funding from The National Lottery Community Fund's ten-year 'A Better Start' programme. Small Steps Big Changes (SSBC) has committed to support the initial funding required for the development of Nottingham as a Child Friendly City, as part of the legacy of the project. This is a great opportunity for us to build on work already started with some of our youngest children, in some of our most diverse communities.

We encourage organisations to make a child rights-based approach part of their plans and delivery of their services. By taking a strategic view, organisations can include how to be Child Friendly in their normal budgeting and planning.

## What Has Been Done So Far?

We have been working with children and young people across the city to gather their views and opinions. The team have also been engaging with the city council and other partner organisations.

## Badges Chosen By Nottingham's Children and Young People

### - Safe and Secure

Children and young people said that they don't feel safe enough going to parks, crossing roads or on the way to school. Older young people expressed concerns about their relationships with the police. "If we had a safe and secure city and everyone feeling safe and secure more people would move around the city and visit the city". "If people don't feel safe they will stop coming". "We should think about others which will be important as this will make them feel safer too".



### - Education and Learning



Children and young people said they feel pressure around their futures. They feel that they have limited opportunities for further educations and practical experiences. "We all will need to get a job and education and learning will help you get a better job and make good money". "Education is good for careers, It is good to learn from the past". "(Education and learning) helps us follow our dreams and be responsible".

## - Healthy

Children took a wider view of health. Many commenting that there are not enough activities to support their general health. They wanted more educations in how being active helps improve their mental health. Young people linked healthy diets with healthy and active lives. They want suggestions for more education on how to eat and be healthy. "Poor health leads on to anti-social behaviour and crime, poor eating leads to other problems, poor health will impact on jobs and family life". "(We need to) look after ourselves and our emotional health".



## - Equal and Included

A Child Friendly City is one that promotes children's rights and encourages children to have more of a say in decisions that affect them. It creates inclusive places where children are



- are healthy
- feel protected and safe
- educated
- don't experience discrimination (in language or deeds)
- live in a city which is rich in culture
- has a cohesive and culturally rich environment.

Broadly speaking it ensures that children and their needs are central to the city and community agenda.

## UNICEF UK Mandatory Badges

### - Culture

People value and respect children and young people and know about and respect children's rights. Children and young people should consistently enjoy interaction with city organisations' staff and people within their community who know and understand how to use a child rights-based approach to improve their work. Children and young people will feel welcome and respected in everyday interaction, communication and conversation (i.e. talk, acts, words and gestures) with adults and their peers. They don't feel judged or stereotyped because of;

- who they are
- where they live
- what they look like or anything else connected to their identity



Their rights are understood and respected by all in society and publicly championed by all leaders.

## - Communication

All children and young people understand how they can find information they need. That is information about their rights and support that might make their lives easier, healthier, safer and happier. The community has a better awareness and understanding of Child Rights locally and the situation for Children and Young People and understand how they can make positive change. When important decisions affecting children, young people and families are being made information will be shared in effective ways. Organisation's communications staff and local media understand and value children's rights and know how to put them into practice. This will enable children and young people to see positive stories about their achievements celebrated in the media.



## - Cooperation and Leadership

People work together to make the city better for children and young people. They give children the opportunity to be involved in decision making. All adult decision makers value the importance of incorporating children's rights. They work together and have the skills to make this happen. All staff and leaders – no matter where they work - are skilled Child Rights Champions, and are able to use tools such as Child Rights Impact Assessments. They will collaborate and cooperate across organisations on all issues relating to the rights of children and young people.



## - Nottingham's Child Friendly City Action Plan

A city-wide Child Friendly Nottingham Action Plan has been developed through badge working groups and engagement with children and young people groups and partner's support. Some of the partners involvement across the city to include the Police, Health partnerships, all departments within the Council, the Universities (UoN and NTU), Education partners, ChalleNGe and the cultural partnership as well as the voluntary organisations and many other partners. The Child Friendly Nottingham Action Plan includes 16 outcomes and numerous workstreams and activities with plans to produce evidence to showcase both the cultural and systemic change of supporting a child-based rights approach and positive transformation for Nottingham's children and young people.

### Where Can I Find Out About Child Friendly Nottingham?



You can find out more about Child Friendly Nottingham here

[Child Friendly Nottingham - Nottingham City Council](#)

Contact: [child.friendly@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:child.friendly@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

### Where Can I Find Out More About The UN Convention On The Rights Of The Child (UNCRC) or Child Friendly Cities and Communities?

You can find out more about the UNCRC here: [The Convention on the Rights of the Child: The children's version | UNICEF](#)

You can find out more about UNICEF UK's CFC here: [Child Friendly Cities & Communities.](#)