

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 25 JANUARY 2022

Report title: Child Friendly Lambeth Programme

Wards: All

Portfolio: Cabinet Member for Children and Young People: Councillor Edward Davie

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REPORT SUMMARY

With relatively high levels of poverty, violence, obesity, inactivity, ill-health, and air pollution affecting many of Lambeth's children and young people, the Council want to do more to ensure children and young people growing up in our borough get a better start in life. As part of those efforts Lambeth has applied to become a UNICEF Child Friendly Community. UNICEF UK has accepted our expression of interest and in November 2021 Lambeth has begun its three-to-five-year journey to gain accreditation by:

- a. putting the rights of children and young people at the centre of decision-making.
- b. amplifying the voice of children and young people to have more say in decisions that affect them; and,
- c. supporting more children and young people to access greater opportunities.

It is important to note that this is not solely a Lambeth Council or Children Service's directorate initiative – this must be a partnership between children and young people themselves, their families and communities, the voluntary and community sector, business, and public services including the NHS, police, fire, schools, armed forces, and anyone else concerned about the safety, health and development of children and young people. We will ensure that children, young people, and their families are at the heart of our planning, delivery and evaluation and that this programme underpins everything we do with the rights of the child at the centre.

FINANCE SUMMARY

There is a £35,000 per annum fee payable to UNICEF over the three-year discovery and delivery phases. The project will also incur costs around programme management, to deliver the six-month consultation phase and support the partnership in our delivery phase of the programme. Funding has been sourced from the Council's Social Value Fund, has received growth funding and match funding within the Council and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) respectively. The Council will continue to source further funding across the partnership throughout the programme. All funding aligned to the programme is revenue-based.

RECOMMENDATION

1. To note the report and consider the Council's and partner's input into the programme.

1. CONTEXT

- 1.1. According to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), local authorities and their partners play a huge role in shaping children’s lives through the services and spaces they provide, whether through universal, targeted or specialist services. Children’s experiences of the services and provision that they come in to contact with have a significant impact on their lives. For children to thrive – and truly feel safe, heard, cared for and able to flourish – then services and spaces should be run and designed with children’s rights in mind.
- 1.2. The Child Friendly Cities (CFC) Initiative is UNICEF-led and supports local authorities and their partners to realise the rights of children at local levels using the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as its foundation. CFCs can comprise a city, town, or community in which the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are an integral part of public policies, programmes and decisions.
- 1.3. A CFC is a city, town, or community where children:
 - a. are protected from exploitation, violence and abuse;
 - b. have a good start in life and grow up healthy and cared for;
 - c. have access to quality social services;
 - d. experience quality, inclusive and participatory education and skills development;
 - e. express their opinions and influence decisions that affect them;
 - f. participate in family, cultural, community and social life;
 - g. live in a safe, secure and clean environment with access to green spaces;
 - h. meet friends and have places to play and enjoy themselves; and,
 - i. have a fair chance in life regardless of their ethnic origin, religion, income, gender or ability
- 1.4. The CFC Programme works with local authorities to put children’s rights into practice. The programme aims to create cities and communities where all children have a meaningful say in, and truly benefit from, the local decisions, services and spaces that shape their lives. While the primary responsibility for ensuring that children’s rights are realised lies with local governments, other stakeholders such as the public and private sectors, educational establishments, and the media, as well as children themselves, have an important role to play in building child-friendly communities.
- 1.5. It has been agreed that the Child Friendly Lambeth Programme will be a strategic programme for the Council and the findings from the programme’s consultation (discovery phase) will underpin the refresh of Lambeth’s Children and Young People’s Plan.

2. PROPOSAL AND REASONS

- 2.1 As the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in Lambeth’s children’s homes from the 1930s to the 1990s clearly shows, there have historically been children and young people that Lambeth’s public services have failed to protect and nurture.
- 2.2 In the present day, far too many Lambeth children and young people are, among other challenges, growing up in poverty, are victims of, or living in fear, of violent crime and are exposed to high levels of air pollution. The Council also recognises that Lambeth’s black children and young people are disproportionately affected by these disadvantages.
- 2.3 It is important that meaningful and measurable action to deliver improvements based on the CFC criteria are undertaken. The table below makes some initial suggestions on how to do this and on the need to establish baseline data and measure improvements. As you can see health partners are vital in the delivery of some of these criteria especially the first one.

CFC criteria	How we could deliver and measure this
Have a good start in life and grow up healthy and cared for	- Commission and provide high quality midwifery, perinatal mental health, health visiting, early health checks. Important to note disproportionately poor outcomes for black women and children around childbirth and take action to address this. The Health and Wellbeing Board, CQC, Lambeth Together, commissioners and providers all have a role in assessing this
Have access to quality social services	- Ambition to get to Good and then Outstanding as assessed by Ofsted
Experience quality, inclusive and participatory education and skills development	- Maintain and increase 97% Good and Outstanding Ofsted rating for early years and schools - Ensure high quality Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision - Address disproportionality poor outcomes for Black Caribbean and Portuguese-speaking children and others - Reduce permanent exclusions and other means of excluding children with an ambition to eliminate it altogether
Express their opinions and influence decisions that affect them;	- Add new category to decision-making processes to ensure children are involved and consulted
Participate in family, cultural, community and social life	- Increase cultural, community and social opportunities for children and young people by, for example, creating a scheme to give free tickets and trips to theatres, sporting events, museums and galleries
Live in a safe, secure, and clean environment with access to green spaces	- Create a new 'Child Friendly' Lambeth Special Planning Document to ensure all that more children have access to decent housing, green, play and community space and well-lit, active travel routes that design out crime
Meet friends and have places to play and enjoy themselves	- Invest in youth services, after school activities and other opportunities
Have a fair chance in life regardless of their ethnic origin, religion, income, gender, or ability	- Collect comprehensive demographic data on health, educational and other outcomes and take measures to address disproportionately poor outcomes affecting children and young people with protected characteristics

- 2.4 The Council will be asking people and organisations in Lambeth to contribute by, for example:
- a. providing funding, expertise and support to the Child Friendly Lambeth Initiative;
 - b. undertaking the UNICEF Child Friendly training when offered;
 - c. ensuring children and young people's voices and opinions are heard and their rights respected when making decisions that affect them;
 - d. offering jobs, apprenticeships and training to children looked after, care leavers and other Lambeth children and young people, especially those living in deprived circumstances;
 - e. offering sporting, cultural, work and other experiences to children and young people especially those who would find it harder to access them by other means;
 - f. ensuring excellent education, play, health, social care, advice and policing services for children and young people; and,
 - g. creating genuinely affordable, quality housing, well-lit, accessible green, play and community space well served by active travel routes.

- 2.5 CFC recognition is only given to partners who have undergone UNICEF's programme's various checks and balances to ensure that policies and practices are maintained to a high level to give adequate support to those children that need it. After a minimum of three years, an independent panel of experts on human rights, child wellbeing and public services – as well as local children and young people – decide whether to recognise the city or community as a UNICEF CFC. Recognition lasts for up to three years.
- 2.6 The programme consists of four main stages. Following on from our launch (November – December 2021) this is now entering the 'discovery phase'. This will be for at least six months where the Council will work with children and young people, local communities, and services across Lambeth to ascertain our priorities for the programme. There will then be a short 'planning phase' to develop Lambeth's programme plan for the next 3-5 years. It is anticipated for this to become our Children and Young People's Plan for Lambeth for the next three years. The programme will culminate in an independent panel from UNICEF, including children and young people, who will judge us to determine whether Lambeth can be recognised as an official child friendly community.

Programme Management

- 2.7 Lambeth will have a small delivery team to co-ordinate the delivery of the programme with partners, this includes input from our care experienced apprentices, and the Council will be looking to recruit another apprentice to the programme.
- 2.8 Lambeth will work to secure an evaluation partner to support us in understanding the impact the CFC programme has on our children and young people.
- 2.9 The programme delivery will have a multi-agency governance structure around it and utilise Lambeth Children's Partnership as a reference group. The Council will also be developing a children and young people's working group to support the programme made up of child friendly ambassadors.
- 2.10 Task and finish groups will be established to coordinate and manage the operational delivery of each element of the programme.
- 2.11 A detailed draft project plan has been developed alongside an engagement strategy.
- 2.12 UNICEF will work in partnership with Lambeth for the duration of the programme and provide training on children's rights across the partnership.

3. FINANCE

- 3.1 There is a fee to UNICEF over the three-year discovery and delivery phases £35,000 per annum. The project will also incur costs around programme management and to deliver the phases of the programme. Funding has been sourced from the Social Value Fund, growth funding and match funding within the Council and CCG. Further funding will be sourced across the partnership to enhance the programme. As this is still in the planning phase of the programme, it is yet unclear how much funding will be required across the whole programme, but the Council is confident to have adequate funding until financial year 2023/24 to undertake our discovery and planning stages. It is anticipated that the delivery phase of the action plan will be met mostly within existing council and partner budgets.

Funding Source	Sept- March 21/22	Year 2 22/23	Year 3 23/24	Year 4 24/25
Social Value Fund	54,000	100,000	38,828	161,172
CCG Funding	80,000	20,000	0	0
Youth and Play	80,000	0	0	0
MTFS Growth funding	0	140,000	280,000	0
Total Funding	214,000	260,000	318,828	161,172

3.2 In kind funding will also be sought from the partnership for seconded officers and venues as well as opportunities such as apprenticeships, jobs, training, enrichment and mentoring for children and young people. Officers are also exploring external funding to support the programme evaluation.

4. LEGAL AND DEMOCRACY

4.1 There are no specific legal issues arising from this report.

4.2 There were no further comments from Democratic Services.

5. CONSULTATION AND CO-PRODUCTION

5.1 The discovery phase (first six months of the programme) has a clear focus on consultation, across Lambeth's children, young people, local communities, and partners to ascertain our priorities. This is a mandatory phase within the UNICEF programme. Lambeth will choose six priority areas aligned to the UNICEF programme badges following on from our consultation. The programme has already been socialised widely and have buy in across the partnership. There will be engagement with young people as champions to support the delivery of consultation and have developed a consultation strategy with clear principles. The plan that is developed following the consultation phase will be co-produced with children and young people, with Lambeth's two care experienced apprentices to support the delivery of the programme.

5.2 As part of our discovery/consultation phase the Council will be working with schools to develop child friendly lesson plans to support our consultation. Young people will be trained in consultation and group facilitation so they can lead sessions and listen to other children and young people. Lambeth will employ a variety of consultation methods to hear a wide range of voices, including the use of disposable cameras for our younger age group and those children in more complex special educational needs and disabilities, social media, and online surveys, in addition to focus groups. The Council will ensure the right support is in place to support children and young people to fully participate where English is not their first language.

5.3 The Council has worked to build strong connections within the voluntary and community sectors to engage those young people who may not traditionally engage in consultation and to explore innovative ways to ensure they are involved, and their voices are heard. This includes organisations who work specifically with black / black British communities and children and young people who are unaccompanied asylum seekers to secure their involvement and ensure their voices are central to our work. Lambeth Young Advisors are also eager to support our journey and were part of developing and starring in our film. One of our key partners will be Black Thrive in this work and The Black Prince Trust have been involved in making our child friendly Lambeth film.

5.4 Lambeth undertakes constant consultation and will pull together all the strands of consultation to underpin findings and to ensure that work already undertaken is not duplicated.

5.5 Lambeth’s Health and Wellbeing Board considered the report at its 8 July 2021 meeting.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 The main risks that impede on the successful delivery of this procurement and contract are:

Table 1 – Risk Register

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Score	Control Measures
Wide range of children and young people’s voices not heard during consultation	1	4	4	Engagement of wide range of services to support the consultation phase to reach out into local communities Young people will deliver consultation events to gain wider engagement
Lack of buy in across the partnership	1	4	4	The programme has been socialised across the partnership for the last three months to ensure buy in. The programme will adopt a multi-agency planning and delivery approach

Key

Likelihood	Very Likely = 4	Likely = 3	Unlikely = 2	Very Unlikely = 1
Impact	Major = 8	Serious = 4	Significant = 2	Minor = 1

7. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 An equalities impact assessment is currently being drawn up for the programme following on from the confirmation from UNICEF that Lambeth has been accepted onto the programme. This will then be submitted to the Equality Impact Assessment Panel.

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY

8.1 A focus within this programme will be around safer communities and safe spaces. This will link to the Lambeth Made Safer Programme and influence programme direction. The consultation phase of the programme will underpin wider work around community safety.

9. ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmental

9.1 A focus on the environment and climate change will be a key element of our consultation and action plan and form part of the work with young people to understand their priorities around this and the actions to take together.

Health

9.2 It is envisaged that healthy communities will form part of our priorities within the programme, and the consultation and delivery plan should influence wider strategic and operation plans relating to health.

Corporate Parenting

- 9.3 Children looked after and care leavers will be integral to the consultation and delivery of the programme. The Council will also be engaging foster carers as child friendly champions, will have recruited to two care experienced apprenticeships who will also support the design and delivery of the programme, and will also work closely with Visions of Success, our children in care council.

Staffing and accommodation

- 9.4 There is a small team to lead and coordinate the programme and support the delivery of each phase. The team will work both at home and when allowed in the Civic Centre.

Responsible Procurement

- 9.5 Not applicable.

Good Quality Jobs with Fair Pay and Decent Working Conditions

- 9.6 The programme will involve training across the partnership for staff around children's rights and how to put them into practice in operational delivery but also in policy development and decision-making. Further employment opportunities for Lambeth's children and young people will be developed through working with partners.

Quality Apprenticeships, targeted Employment for Lambeth residents and Lambeth Priority Group

- 9.7 Lambeth's two new care experienced apprentices will be supporting the development and delivery of the programme. It is hoped to employ a further apprentice specifically for this programme and to develop further apprenticeship opportunities and targeted employment opportunities across Lambeth for residents.

Reduce Emissions: Lambeth Council has a commitment to being Zero Carbon by 2030

- 9.8 Our priorities are yet to be determined, but this area will form part of our consultation/discovery phase.

Single Use Plastics

- 9.9 Our priorities are yet to be determined, but this area will form part of our consultation/discovery phase.

Positive Health and Wellbeing

- 9.10 Both staff and young people who engage on this programme will develop new skills, with the Council's services being underpinned by the rights of the child.

10. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 10.1 UNICEF are clear that the stages can be amended according to the needs of Lambeth. The table below details the stages and indicative deadlines of the Programme:

Timeline	Phase	Actions
November – January 2021	Launch	Launch of Lambeth's Child Friendly Communities programme across the partnership and within our local communities
January – June 2022	Discovery Phase	Wide consultation programme across Lambeth to ascertain our priorities (badges) for the programme
July – August 2022	Development Phase	Development of Lambeth's Action plan to outline how to achieve goals aligned to the chosen priorities

2022 – 2024/26	Delivery Phase	Lambeth's children, young people and partnership carry out the agreed action plan
2024/26	Recognition	Lambeth receives accreditation and is recognised as a UNICEF Child Friendly Community

AUDIT TRAIL

Name and Position/Title	Lambeth Directorate	Date Sent	Date Received	Comments in paragraph:
Councillor Edward Davie	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	05.01.22	05.01.22	
Merlin Joseph, Strategic Director	Children's Services	23.12.21	05.01.22	
Rachel Harrison, Finance	Finance and Property	11.11.21	16.11.21	
Fateha Salim, Legal Services	Legal and Governance	11.11.21	14.12.21	
David Rose, Democratic Services	Legal and Governance	11.11.21	16.11.21	

REPORT HISTORY

Original discussion with Cabinet Member	November 2020
Report deadline	xx.xx.xx
Date final report sent	
Part II Exempt from Disclosure/confidential accompanying report?	No
Key decision report	No
Date first appeared on forward plan	N/A
Key decision reasons	N/A
Background information	Child Friendly Cities (CFC) Initiative CFL Film CFL Music video Lambeth's Children and Young People's Plan Health and Wellbeing Board 8 July 2021
Appendices	N/A