



# UNICEF CHILD RIGHTS PARTNERS

Part of the global Child Friendly Cities & Communities Initiative

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM: NORTHERN IRELAND

Please refer to the participation criteria and read through all of the questions before completing this form.

### 1. LOCAL AUTHORITY DETAILS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Local authority name: Derry and Strabane District Council

#### Primary contact person for the local authority:

Name: Claire Lynch

Role/job title: Children and Young Peoples Coordinator

Telephone: 02871 253 253 (8277)

Email: Claire.lynch@Derrystrabane.com

#### Secondary contact person for the local authority

Name: Patrick Doherty

Role/job title: Community Development Officer

Telephone: 02871 253 253 (4386)

Email: Patrick.O'Doherty@Derrystrabane.com

#### Primary contact person for the Western Area Outcomes Group.

Name: Bronagh Donnelly

Role/job title: Locality Planning Coordinator for Children and Young People

Telephone: 02871269082 ext 224941

Email: Bronagh.donnelly@westerntrust.hscni.net

#### Secondary contact person for the Western Area Outcomes Group.

Name: Kevin Duffy

Role/job title: Head of Service, Children and Women's Services

Telephone: : 02871321127 ext 224181

Email: Kevin.duffy@westerntrust.hscni.net

### 2. MOTIVATION

#### 2.1 Tell us why you would like to participate in the programme (max. 500 words).

Derry City and Strabane District Council and the Western Area Outcomes Group have identified a need to review policy and participation structures across the district to ensure that Child Rights are at the heart of decision making processes and service design.

The Child Rights Partner Programme provides an opportunity to build on the existing work within the District with specialist support and access to professional resources within the field of Child Rights.

**2.2 Tell us why you have decided to submit a joint DCSDC and WAOG application (max. 500 words).**

Local Government reform in NI has brought the Community Planning process to the forefront of the strategic planning process. The Strategic Growth Plan (Community Plan), is a Council led process which adopts a co-design approach with partners and communities to work together to develop a shared, long-term vision to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the District. Over 5,000 people were consulted over a two year period which lead to the development of an outcome based plan. Each pillar (Social, Economic and Environmental) outlines key outcomes and the actions which will need to take place to achieve the outcomes identified.

The development of the Strategic Growth Plan and supporting Local Community Plans in each of the eight District Electoral Areas (DEAs) (Ballyarnett, Foyleside, The Moor, Waterside, Strabane, Faughan, Sperrin and Derg) has created the landscape for aligning the governance arrangements for the Children and Young Peoples theme with the Western Area Outcomes Group and the Community Planning structures (formally agreed by Derry and Strabane District Council in October 2017).

The WAOG has the responsibility for outcomes based planning for the Western Trust Area. The membership of the WAOG reflects the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership with representation from the statutory agencies and the voluntary and community sector. Due to the joined up nature of the Western Area Outcomes Group and the new governance arrangements which are now in place for the Strategic Growth Plan, Children and Young Peoples theme it was agreed that a strength based approach, building upon the existing good practice and partnership arrangements for outcome based planning for children and young people would form a strong basis for the UNICEF Child Rights Partner programme. This partnership approach will ensure that Child Rights is embedded throughout the Statutory, Community and Voluntary Sector Organisations within the District.

**3. RESOURCING**

**Are you able to meet the direct cost?**

Yes  No

*N.B. The direct cost for Derry City and Strabane District Council's participation in the programme is £20,000 annually, which is a discounted fee for 'pathfinder' local authorities. Given the broad range of partners involved in this joint DCSDC-WAOG application, additional support days may need to be agreed. This will be discussed and agreed with the partnership.*

**Tell us how you plan to ensure you can meet any indirect costs (max. 500 words).**

The cost for the programme will be split between Derry and Strabane District Council and the Western Health Trust. £15,000 from each organisation has been formally agreed and ring fenced for payment of direct and indirect costs for the programme.

#### 4. COMMITMENT AT ALL LEVELS AND CROSS-COUNCIL BUY-IN

**Has this programme been endorsed at the local authority cabinet (or equivalent) level?**

Yes  No

Ratified at full Council on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (Appendix 1).

**Has this programme been endorsed by the Western Area Outcomes Group at the highest decision-making level? Please tick below and explain your answer briefly.**

Yes  No

Endorsed by all members of the Western Area Outcomes Group on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Further update regarding timescales and call for champions given on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

**Tell us which champions, including one political champion for the local authority, you plan to nominate as part of the programme, why these particular champions and how you plan to ensure coordination between them (max. 250 words).**

LA Champion 1: (Political champion) Eric McGinley, Sinn Fein Councillor chosen through D'Hondt method

LA Champion 2: Barry O Hagan, Head of Leisure and Community Development

LA Champion 3: Open call for young person in the authority currently in progress

WAOG Champion 1: Statutory representative

WAOG Champion 2: Voluntary representative

WAOG Champion 3: Community representative

Youth Champion 1: TBC when Youth Council is recruited

Youth Champion 2: TBC when Youth Council is recruited

Youth Champion 3: TBC when Youth Council is recruited

UNICEF Child Rights Champions will meet initially on a bi-monthly basis (this will be reduced to a quarterly basis when deemed appropriate) to steer the direction of the Child Rights Partner programme and to ensure coordination between the champions. The champions will be supported by additional volunteers as part of the Child Rights working group, a subgroup of the Western Area Outcomes Group (WAOG).

#### 5. PLACE-BASED APPROACH

**Tell us about the key people, council departments and partner organisations, including any regional bodies that will be involved in implementing the programme and how they will work together (max. 500 words).**

Derry City and Strabane District Council and the Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHSCT) will act as lead partners as part of a wider community and voluntary sector approach to embed the Child Rights Framework across the District. This partnership approach will take place through the existing structure of the Western Area Outcomes Group (WAOG).

The WAOG has the responsibility for outcomes based planning for the Western Trust Area. Outcomes based planning gathers information from statistics and communities to understand how well children and young people are doing in terms of certain outcomes, and putting in place services designed to improve these outcomes, that can't be put in place by agencies acting separately.

The WAOG is chaired by Ciaran Downey, Director of Women and Children Services in the Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHSCT). The WAOG is coordinated by Bronagh Donnelly, Locality Planning Coordinator for Children and Young People. This staff member also coordinates the Locality Planning meeting for Children and Young People. The membership of the group reflects the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership with representation from the statutory agencies and the voluntary and community sector (Appendix 2. WAOG synopsis of organisations).

Derry City and Strabane District Council are represented on the WAOG through Barry O Hagan, Head of Leisure and Community Development and/ or Claire Lynch Children and Young Peoples Coordinator. These staff members are linked into the Local Community Planning structures within the eight Local Community Planning Areas (Ballyarnett, Foyleside, The Moor, Waterside, Strabane, Faughan, Sperrin and Derg).

DCSDC are in the final stages of the Community Planning process for the Strategic Growth Plan, a Council led process which adopts a co-design approach with partners and communities to work together to develop a shared, long-term vision to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the District. The development of the plan took place with consultation from over 5,000 people including specific focus groups targeted at Young People aged 12-18 and school based consultation for Children aged 5-11.

The existing structures and alignment of governance arrangements demonstrate a commitment to inclusive, community-wide partnership working which can be strengthened through participation in the Child Rights Partner Programme.

At an operational level the UNICEF Child Rights Champions will meet on a bi-monthly basis with will be reduced to a quarterly basis to steer the direction of the Child Rights Partner programme (Governance arrangements identified in section 6).

## 6. GOVERNANCE

**How will the programme be governed? Please describe governance and accountability arrangements briefly, including the relationship between DCSDC and the WAOG and key people involved. (max. 500 words).**

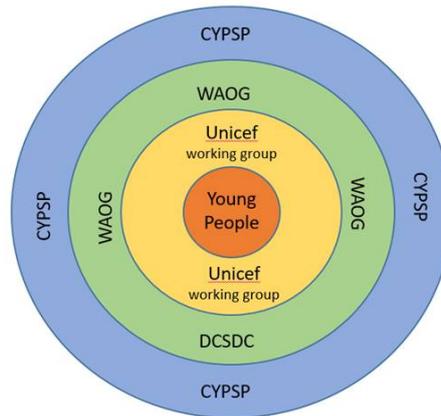
The Governance arrangements for the Unicef pilot will adopt a strengths based approach by building upon the existing structures of the WAOG which are considered a good practice approach in partnership working for the identification and improvement of outcomes for Children and Young People.

The vision is that Young People will be at the heart of the Governance arrangement through the establishment of the Derry and Strabane District Youth Council. Three representatives from the Derry and Strabane Youth Council will act as Youth Champions on the Unicef Child Rights Champions working group. The working group will also consist of members of the WAOG, DCSDC and other interested partners who do not have a seat on the WAOG.

Terms of reference, key priorities and timeframes will be agreed by the working group. All decisions will be cascaded and agreed by the wider Youth Council, WAOG and DCSDC management structures.

Work with UNICEF will also be shared with the Regional Northern Ireland body responsible for Children Services planning (Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership). This will support to meet the aspirations that Northern Ireland can become the first Unicef Child Friendly Region.

The governance structure is outlined below;



The key people involved are;

Youth Council	Youth Champions will be appointed during the Youth Council recruitment process.
Unicef Champions	Recruitment in progress (see section 4).
Ciaran Downey	Director of Women and Children Services in the Western Health and Social Care Trust.
Barry O Hagan	Head of Leisure and Community Development.
Bronagh Donnelly	Locality Planning Coordinator for Children and Young People.
Claire Lynch	Children and Young Peoples Coordinator for Derry and Strabane District Council.

## 7. LOCAL VISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

**What do you hope to achieve for children and young people in your community by participating in this programme? Describe this briefly (max. 500 words).**

The Strategic Growth Plan (Community Plan) outlines the vision for Children and Young People – our children and young people have the best start in life (Programme for Government outcome 14).

To achieve this vision two key outcomes have been identified;

- Our children and young people are safer, healthier, more respected and included

- Our children and young people are better able to fully realise their potential and become active, responsible citizens.

There are a range of actions which have been identified which will support with achieving the outcomes. The Western Area Outcomes Group (WAOG) has also sighted the Voice of Children and Young People through youth participation structures as a key priority. There is a unified belief that the Unicef Child Rights Framework will support the District to move towards the outcomes identified.

By participating in the programme the District hopes to achieve;

- A shared understanding across senior/ middle management and front line service delivery staff and partners of good practice approaches to involving young people through the Child Rights Training.
- The development of a new Participation Policy and procedure for involving young people in decision making processes which is shaped by young people, outlining clear and realistic expectations for the meaningful involvement of Children and Young People. DCSDC will be the first Council in N.I to develop and endorse a Participation Policy. (Council currently has a Participation Policy of Intent in place).
- The development of new Youth Council structures, which feed into the Council decision making processes.
- The development of a youth manifesto.
- The development of a child rights accountability framework within appropriate commissioning/ tendering structure going forward.
- A youth led training programme for youth involving organisations.
- Staff training will enable staff to understand how to embed Child Rights in their daily working practices.

## **Outcomes for Children and Young People**

### **Children and Young People will;**

- understand their rights;
- have the skills and support to constructively challenge and campaign when their rights are being overlooked;
- are aware of and can access the support they need, when they need it;
- are satisfied with the services that they experience;
- feel they have the ability to influence and shape services which affect them.

## 8. COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

**Tell us about a project, service, strategy or other local initiative (past or present) that you feel demonstrates your authority's commitment to children's rights (max. 500 words).**

### **Present work:**

DCSDC have invested significantly in the voice of children and young people to shape programming. Over 10,000 young people were consulted in the run up to the European Youth Capital bid. From the 10,000 young people consulted EYC Youth Champions and volunteers for steering groups were recruited, to shape the bid and programme of activities for 2019.

Although the EYC bid was unsuccessful there has been a commitment from the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) that Council will continue to invest in a Year of Youth for 2019. The key themes for the Year of Youth will be those identified during the consultation process for European Youth Capital;

- Democracy
- Education and Skills
- Health and Wellbeing
- Access and Inclusion
- Cultural Programming

In addition to the financial investment and commitment for the Year of Youth 2019, Council has also committed to funding a full time resource for the coordination of Children and Young Peoples activities.

Further commitment and resource has been invested through the development of a programme of PEACE IV funded activities for Children and Young Peoples programmes which includes a two year fixed term contract for an officer leading on Youth Health and Leadership.

Over £1,200,000 has been allocated through PEACE IV programmes to "embed peace and reconciliation" within the area. The Children and Young Peoples programme are;

- Early Intervention Programme
- Marginalised Youth (Wellbeing)
- Youth Participation and Democracy
- Youth Leaders and Citizenship
- Skills/ Learning Pathways for Young People
- Pilot Youth Zone

Young people will be recruited to steering groups, supported and trained to enable them to become more involved and voice their opinions. This information will be used to shape each of the programmes.

### **Past work:**

Derry City Council (Legacy Council) was involved with UNICEF since the initiation of the Child Rights Partners Programme back in November 2011 and helped shape the current Child Rights Partners programme via a partnership approach.

Over the past 6 years Council has worked in partnership with UNICEF to assist in the delivery of the following Programmes and Initiatives using a Child Rights based approach:

1. One Plan – The development of the Early Intervention Catalyst Programme.

2. Derry City Council's Children and Young People Action Plan 2012-2015.
3. The development and endorsement of Derry City Council Children and Young People Participation Policy of Intent.
4. Updated Derry City and Strabane District Council Children and Young People Participation Policy of Intent to reflect the New Super Council.
5. The development and implementation of Derry City Council Youth Council Partnership agreement with WELB Youth Service.
6. The development and implementation of Derry City Council Youth Council Action Plan.
7. Updated Derry City and Strabane District Council Partnership agreement with EA Youth Service to reflect the New Super Council.
8. Updated Derry City and Strabane District Council & Youth Council Action Plan to reflect the New Super Council.
9. Draft Strategic Community Plan.
10. Comprehensive Children and Young People Consultation process regarding the Community Planning process and development.
11. The development of the EYC 2019 Initiative.
12. Working with the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People's Office to provide Child Rights Awareness Training with Council Staff & Derry Youth Council members.

## 9. A MEANINGFUL COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

**Tell us about any strengths your local authority has in terms of children's participation (max. 500 words).**

DCSDC have demonstrated a commitment to Children and Young Peoples participation through both monetary investment, support and opportunities. The Community Planning process has involved Children and Young People throughout. The development of the plan took place with consultation from over 5,000 people including specific focus groups targeted at Young People aged 12-18 and school based consultation for Children aged 5-11. The feedback from young people was used to shape areas across the Economic, Environmental and Social pillars. Young people have also been involved in shaping a video which would help to communicate the plan, in the language of young people with people their own age. This gave young people the opportunity to focus on the areas of the plan that they felt were important.

As evidenced above in question 8, Council has been directly committed to the participation of children and young people since November 2011. The Children & Young Peoples post was established in 2011 to build upon the significant achievements of Derry Children's Commission from 2001. The creation of the Children and Young People's post was a clear demonstration of Council's determination to mainstream the children and young people agenda within Council's business. The

pro-active participation of children and young people in Council’s business has been the core element of work to date.

## 10. COMMITMENT TO LEARNING AND REFLECTION

**Are you ready to participate in ongoing programme monitoring and evaluation?**

Yes  No

**(OPTIONAL) Tell us about any research partners you’d like to be involved in programme monitoring and evaluation (max. 500 words).**

- Queens Centre of Child Rights
- Northern Ireland Commission for Children and Young People

## 11. YOUR EXPECTATIONS

**Outline the support, ways of working or other commitments you hope to see from Unicef UK (max. 500 words).**

DCSDC and WAOG have identified key areas of support which would be needed from Unicef (Appendix 3). To include: UNICEF to regularly promote and market Programme developments both nationally and regionally on an on-going basis.

## 12. YOUR PRIORITIES

**Describe briefly two or three key issues relating to or affecting children and young people in your local authority that you are hoping to tackle or address through your participation in the programme (max. 500 words).**

Through the participation in the programme we are hoping to;

- Develop an understanding of how children and young people are currently being involved: reviewing policies and procedures, processes, good practice and areas for improvement.
- Improve the culture and expectations surrounding the participation of Children and Young People, to ensure it is meaningful and realistic and that young people from all backgrounds are supported to develop the confidence, skills and expertise to become more involved in future.
- Children and Young People have a meaningful voice in decision making and the allocation of resource through the development of participation structures which form part of the formal decision making processes.

The review of policy and participation and the development of new structures to support the involvement of young people as equal and active participants will take place across a range of statutory, community and voluntary sector organisations and services. As a results areas such as mental health/ alcohol and drug services and support for young people experiencing bullying and anti-social behaviour which have repeatedly been identified during consultation as areas of importance will be impacted.