



CHILD  
RIGHTS  
PARTNERS



**UNICEF – London Borough of Barnet  
PARTNERSHIP:  
Towards a Child Friendly  
Community**



# ABOUT UNICEF

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Unicef is the world's leading organisation for children and their rights, working in over **190 countries**.

**Our vision is a world where the rights of every child are realised.**

In everything we do, we work to achieve a world where all children, especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, have equal opportunities to survive and thrive.



We are the only organisation mentioned by name in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

# ABOUT UNICEF UK

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In the **UK** we work with hospitals, schools and local authorities to put child rights at the heart of what they do through **three programmes**:



We also raise funds for Unicef's global work to protect children around the world, and work to change government policies and practices to make them more child-centred.



# ABOUT CHILD RIGHTS PARTNERS

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Child Rights Partners brings Unicef UK together with local councils to help make cities and communities places where **all children, including the most vulnerable, feel safe, heard and nurtured.**

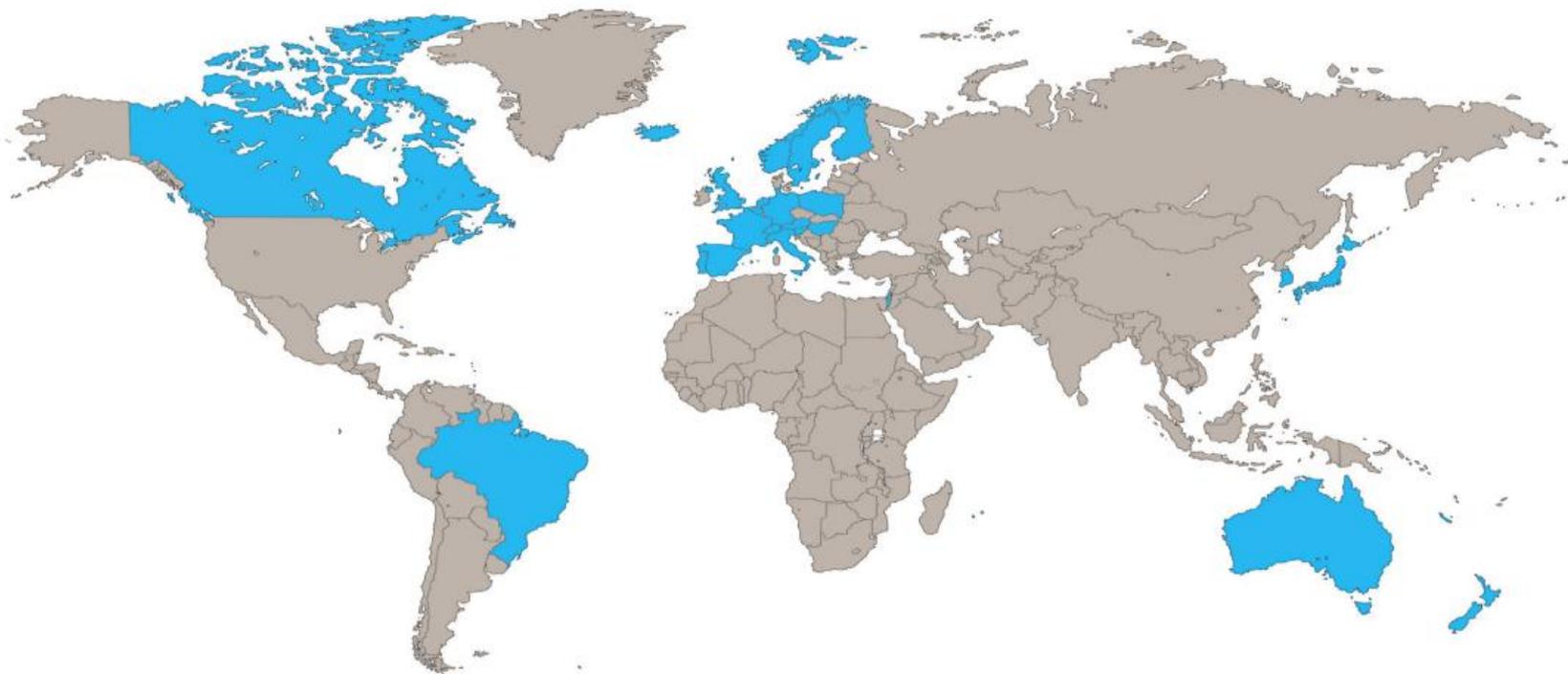


Using the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as our guide, we work with political leaders, frontline staff, children and families to **transform and strengthen local systems and services.**

# CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

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Child Rights Partners is part of [Unicef's global Child Friendly Cities and Communities Initiative](#) which helps cities and communities in more than 20 countries to put children's rights and well-being at their heart.



# GOAL

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**A child friendly city or community (CFC) is a place where the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are considered and taken seriously.**



# WHAT IS A CFC?

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In a Child Friendly Community **all children**:

- Have a say about decisions that affect them
- Can express their views freely and are encouraged and supported to do that
- Can access good health, education, transport and other services
- Feel safe and protected from discrimination and harm
- Can enjoy public spaces and meet other children freely

# THE UK PILOT

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Three-year pilot 2013-2016 to test and refine the model

Goal: Make the global initiative 'fit for purpose' in the UK



- Five local authorities
- Specific, thematic projects
- Focus on learning, exploration, experimentation
- No set parameters
- Documenting emerging good practice and scalable, replicable models

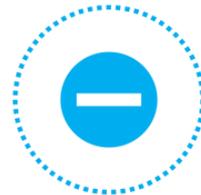
# KEY LEARNING: NEED

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Child rights **knowledge and understanding** very limited; scarce access to child rights training

→ Improves skills and confidence in implementing child rights



Children **not systematically included** in policy or decision-making

→ Children's needs, experiences of public services and **context** better understood



Strong **focus on processes** / protocols / thresholds / targets risks children falling through the cracks; risk of distrust in services

→ Improved relationships between children and services



Tendency to operate in a 'top-down mode'

→ Better understanding of 'place' and context, more empowered service users & frontline workforce

→ Better cooperation between statutory services and other organisations

# WHO IS INVOLVED?

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# UNICEF'S ROLE

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Throughout your journey, we will

- ✓ provide a 'child rights lens' & implementation framework
- ✓ help you develop a vision underpinned by child rights
- ✓ provide guidance and support
- ✓ advocate for your success
- ✓ build the capacity of your workforce
- ✓ support you to raise awareness across the whole community
- ✓ ask provocative questions, offer constructive critique
- ✓ support you to achieve our common goals
- ✓ help you evaluate your progress and results

# WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT WILL WE GET?

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- 40 days of Unicef **staff time**
- High quality, interactive **training**
- **Technical assistance**
- **Project management** support
- **Mentoring**
- Digital & physical **resources**
- Virtual **networking** groups
- **Annual** knowledge exchange, awards and networking **conference**
- **Recognition of progress**
- A seat on the Unicef UK **Child Rights in Practice Forum**



Access to:

- Guided use of the Unicef UK partnership **logo**
- A **global** Unicef Child Friendly Cities and Communities **movement**

# HOW DID WE GET CHOSEN?

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- 4-5 Local Authorities accepted to the programme in 2017
- A series of conversations with Unicef in 2016
- A formal Expression of Interest submitted to Unicef UK evidencing:
  - ✓ Readiness to commit to the programme
  - ✓ Commitment at the senior level
  - ✓ Commitment to children's rights
  - ✓ Awareness of own strengths as well as areas for improvement

# OUR VISION

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Embracing and embedding a robust child rights-based approach will help Barnet achieve its broader ambition of being London's most Family Friendly borough by 2020.

*“We will ensure that children within our borough, including the most vulnerable children, can be supported to grow up healthy, happy, safe and resilient.”*

*LB Barnet*



# WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO?

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- Achieve **6 badges**
  - 3 of which are foundational (and mandatory)
  - and 3 are thematic (optional) – it's up to us which ones we choose
- Demonstrate and evidence **sustainable progress** in each badge area
- Assessment will be made by an independent panel of experts in children's rights, well-being, local government and public policy

THEMATIC BADGES

Healthy

Place

Participating

Innovation

Equal & Included

Education & Learning

Flourishing

Family & Belonging

Safe & Secure

Child-Friendly Services

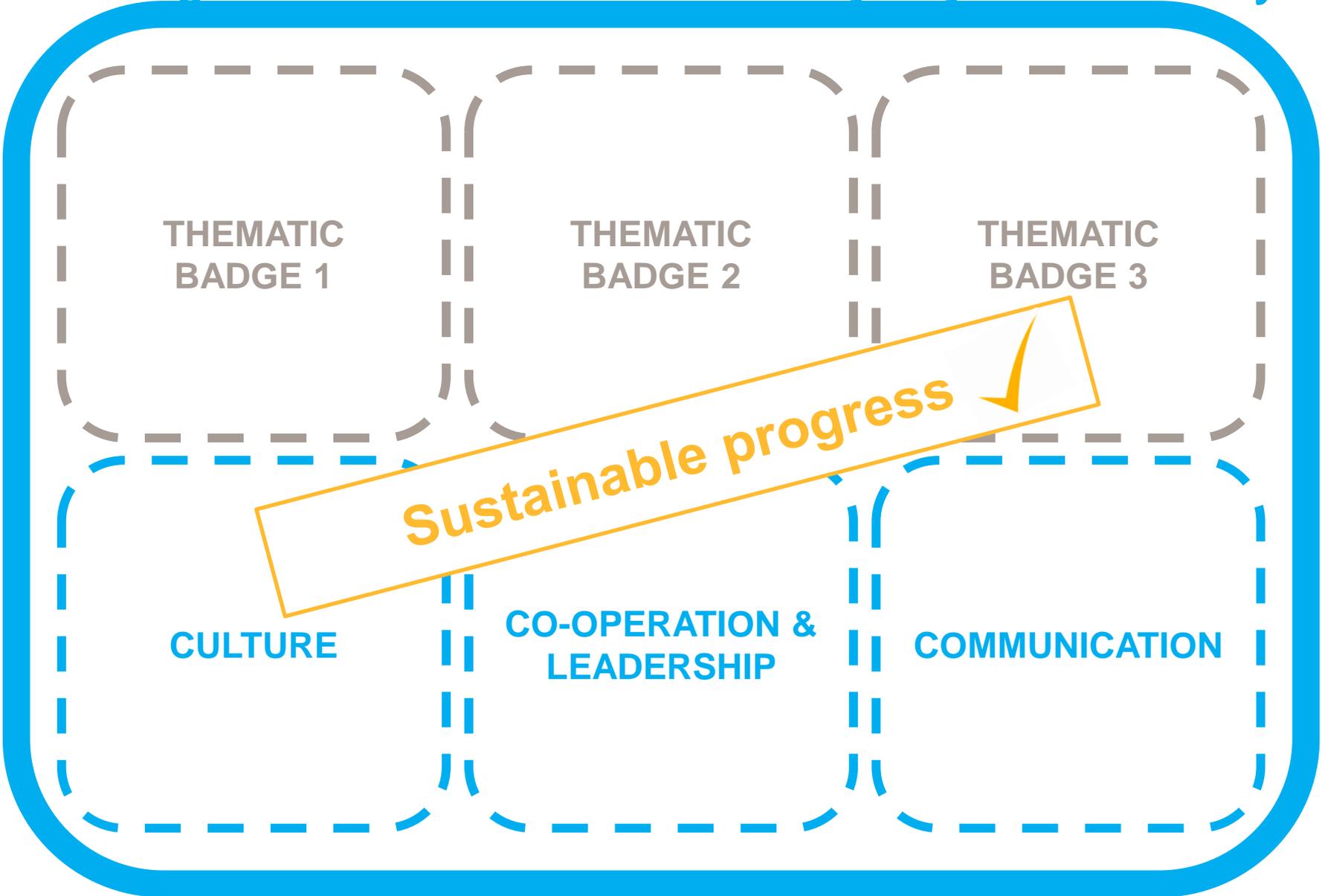
Culture

Co-operation &  
Leadership

Communication

FOUNDATIONAL BADGES

# Recognition as a Unicef Child Friendly City or Community



THEMATIC  
BADGE 1

THEMATIC  
BADGE 2

THEMATIC  
BADGE 3

**Sustainable progress**

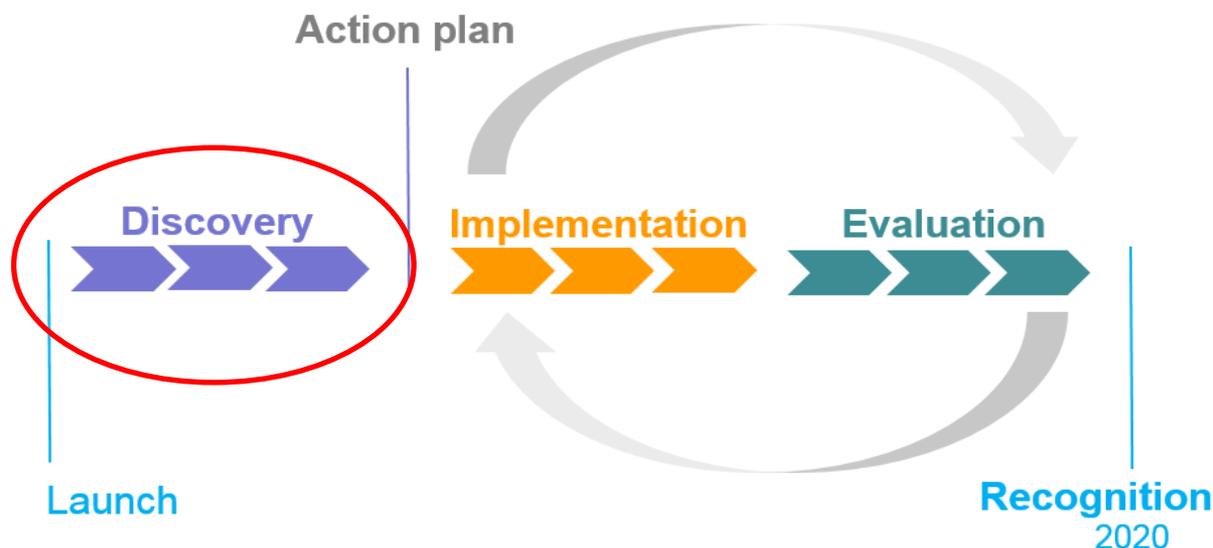
CULTURE

CO-OPERATION &  
LEADERSHIP

COMMUNICATION

# WHERE ARE WE NOW AND WHAT NEXT?

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- 'Discovery' Phase lasts will conclude with the agreement of a tailored action plan- January 2018
- Additional data and analysis opportunities will take place over the next few months- focus groups (professionals and young people) and surveys

**FOCUS GROUP- 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

# ARE WE A CHILD-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY?

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**UNCRC, Article 24: health and health services:** Lack of timely access to mental health support - establishing good mental health support is critical to becoming a Child-Friendly Community.



**UNCRC, Article 13: freedom of expression:** Limited access to information on what is available for children and young people within the borough and how to get support if needed.

**UNCRC, Article 12: respect for the views of the child:**  
Young Person's Resident Perception Survey (December, 2016)

➤ 46% young people say they are involved when decisions are made.

**UNCRC, Article 3: best interest of the child:** We are aware that we need to work collectively to drive up our practice standards and put children at the centre of everything we do. We need to ensure our work understands and records the lived experience of children and young people and focuses on improving their outcomes (**Ofsted 2017**).

# WHY A CHILD RIGHTS BASED APPROACH?

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*“A child rights-based approach provides a set of values and principles which supports reflective practice, enabling adults to actively listen and make sense of situations through the eyes of a child”*



# IMPACT ON CHILDREN'S LIVES

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**It helps to break down barriers and promotes mutual respect for one another's rights-**

*Teaches children from different backgrounds what they have in common, not what sets them apart.*

**Inequalities for children are reduced-**

*knowledge about rights helps children demand better support*

## Child Rights Based Approach

**Speaking up-**

*Provides a common language for children to understand and claim their rights, giving them the strength to speak up, even in difficult circumstances, and to advocate for the rights of other children, locally and globally.*

**Children feel empowered and build resilience-**

*Putting children's views and interests at the heart of planning and service delivery means that children will have ownership*

# IMPACT ON SERVICES

## **Being more systematic-**

*Its about being more conscious and aware of Children's Rights. To evaluate strengths and weaknesses, and to use this information to improve our work with children.*

## **Children involved in policy and planning decisions-**

*including children in service design results in designing services tailored to need.*

# Child Rights Based Approach

## **Stronger relationships with children-**

*Good relationships with professionals are associated with improved engagement with services, better outcomes for children and young people and reduced staff turnover.*

## **Consistent common goal-**

*The approach requires all partners to begin with the child, creating a common driver that connects services across the whole borough.*



@UNICEF\_uk  
#childfriendlycities

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

# REFERENCES

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1. Unicef UK. 2014. *Child rights in Newcastle: Why local authorities should listen to children and young people*. [ONLINE] Available at: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/child-rights-partners/2015/11/20/child-rights-newcastle/>. [Accessed 20 September 2017].
2. Unicef UK (2014). *Child Rights Partners: Putting Children's Rights at the Heart of public services*. London: Unicef UK. 1-19.