

Launch of the UNICEF Child Friendly Communities Programme in the Western Outcomes Group Area at the Foyle Maritime Festival 2018

July 2018

The CYPSP Western Area Outcomes Group, chaired by the Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHST) in partnership with Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) officially launched their joint partnership programme Child Friendly Communities with UNICEF on Thursday 19th July 2018.

The event was attended by local young people as well as the Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Commissioner Koulla Yiasouma, the UNICEF Ambassador from UTV Paul Clark and senior members of staff from UNICEF, Western Health and Social Care Trust and Derry City and Strabane District Council.



Photograph caption: Launch of the Western Area UNICEF Child Friendly Communities Programme on the Foyle River with NICCY Commissioner, Koulla Yiasouma and UNICEF Ambassador, Paul Clark from UTV.

The launch saw the beginning of a partnership that will ensure that Derry City and Strabane becomes the first region in Northern Ireland that is a child friendly community based on the UNICEF principals.

It will be;

- A place where the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are considered and taken seriously. In this CFC in a Child Friendly City **all children**: will have a say about decisions that affect them. Can express their views freely and are encouraged and supported to do that.
- A place where children and families can access good health, education, transport and other services
- A place where children and families can feel safe and protected from discrimination and harm and can enjoy public spaces and meet other children freely.



Photograph caption: Bronagh Donnelly, Tom Cassidy and Ann Mc Duff from the Western Health and Social Care Trust at the launch of the UNICEF project at the Foyle Maritime Festival 2018 on the Foyle River in July 2018.

The programme will work on the 7 Principles focused on a child's rights based approach it will focus on participation, dignity, life survival and development, it will be non-discriminatory and fully inclusive, there will be full transparency and accountability, it will focus on the best interests of our children and young people and it will focus interdependence and indivisibility.

Throughout this journey UNICEF will:

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



Photograph caption: Western HSC Trust in partnership with Derry City and Strabane District Council launch the UNICEF Child Friendly Communities Project

This is the beginning of a journey and partnership that will see Derry and Strabane become the first Child Friendly Community in Northern Ireland. It is a journey that we know our neighbours in Omagh and Fermanagh will also benefit from and that all our partners within the Western Area Outcomes Group will follow on. The West will truly be a place where all children and young people will have a say about matters that affect them.

Contact Us:

For more information about the UNICEF project [click here](#) to download a copy of the UNICEF presentation or alternatively contact Bronagh Donnelly, Western Area Locality Planning Officer by email at bronagh.donnelly@westerntrust.hscni.net