



To: Education and Children's Scrutiny Board (2)

Date: 17th October 2024

Subject: Child Friendly Cov

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 This note is to update the Education and Children's Scrutiny Board (2) on the activity and impact of Child Friendly Cov to date.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Scrutiny Board (2) are recommended to:
- 1) Read this note in conjunction with the 'Child Friendly Cov Impact Report 2023/2024'. (Appendix 1)
 - 2) Note the current progress and impact for children and young people.
 - 3) Identify any recommendations for the appropriate Cabinet Member.

3 Background and Information

- 3.1 Child Friendly Cov was introduced as part of Coventry Family Valued. It is a partnership approach, between Coventry City Council, partners and local businesses, to make Coventry the best city in the UK for children and young people to live and grow-up in.
- 3.2 Child Friendly Cov is co-produced with children and young people across Coventry, with Children and Education Services Participation Team being key to driving this forward, and co-ordinating young people, partner and business involvement.
- 3.3 Child Friendly Cov launched on 15th February 2023, and since this time there has been considerable progress made. Some of the impact that Child Friendly Cov has made in its first year can be found in the Child Friendly Cov Impact Report 2023/2024. (Appendix 1)

4 Child Friendly Cov Pledges

- 4.1 Initially there were four Child Friendly Cov pledges, with a fifth pledge added following the first year. The Child Friendly Cov pledges are that all children and young people in Coventry will:
- Be and feel safe

- Be and feel loved
- Be and feel healthy
- Be and feel valued
- Have opportunities

4.2 All of the priorities for Child Friendly Cov sit underneath one or more of these five pledges.

5 One Big Voice

5.1 The One Big Voice Survey took place in 2024, with plans for this to be a bi-annual survey. The purpose of One Big Voice was to give children and young people across Coventry the opportunity to help to shape the direction of services for children and young people in the city. The survey looked to seek the views of what Coventry's children and young people consider to be their priorities, and the results were analysed to influence the priority areas for Child Friendly Cov for 2024/2025.

5.2 There were 3660 One Big Voice Surveys sent to schools, and 2797 surveys were completed. 30 schools in Coventry took part in the survey, 26 primary schools and 4 secondary schools. The results of the One Big Voice Survey are outlined in the Child Friendly Cov Impact Report 2023/2024.

6 Child Friendly Cov Priorities 2024/2025

6.1 The One Big Voice Survey results helped to shape the priorities for Child Friendly Cov for 2024/2025. These priorities are as followings:

- Promoting a healthy city
- Continuing to empower youth voice
- Addressing climate change
- A city for all
- Providing recreational opportunities
- Prioritising safety
- Fostering pride in Coventry

7 Progress against the priorities

7.1 The following are some of the activities which have taken place under the 'promoting a healthy city' priority:

- CAMHS Commissioning Service have created a website for children and young people outlining the different mental health and wellbeing services in the city.
- Coventry Rugby Club Development Team hosted 4 schools for sports day sessions on the day of Pupil Parliament.
- Sky Blues in the Community are running a Street Soccer Academy for care experienced young people.

7.2 Below are some of the activities which have taken place under the 'continuing to empower youth voice' priority:

- The second Pupil Parliament was hosted at the University of Warwick in June 2024. 18 primary schools from across the city were represented, with over 90 young people in attendance.
 - A Young Person Accountability Group has been set up to feed into the partner led Child Friendly Cov Steering Group.
 - The Participation Team and My Tomorrow (West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership) are co-hosting quarterly sessions with key decision makers in the city. The first session took place with senior representatives from West Midlands Police and Coventry's Youth Justice Service, and the Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands.
 - The Herbert Art Gallery has hosted 'The Unspoken Word of Art Exhibition', featuring artwork created by children in care.
- 7.3 To 'address climate change', the 'Running Out of Time' Relay Team visited Coventry on their journey from Ben Nevis to Big Ben, and the team ran a session focussing on climate change with young people as part of Pupil Parliament.
- 7.4 Under the umbrella of 'a city for all' the following activities have taken place:
- Consultation is taking place with young people around the provision for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to review the local offer and identify any gaps in service provision.
 - The Care to Dance project has commenced, with performances planned for the Care Leavers Awards (November 2024) and Children in Care Awards (February 2025).
- 7.5 Alongside the recreation activities which have already been noted under other priorities, the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme continues to 'provide recreational opportunities' for children and young people during the school holidays.
- 7.6 As part of the 'prioritising safety' priority, the Safe Spaces initiative has been launched alongside West Midlands Police, providing safe spaces across the city for young people who need support.
- 7.7 To support young people to 'foster pride in Coventry', one of the hosts of Pupil Parliament was an inspirational person from Coventry, who has gone on to be educated at Harvard. Coventry Live published a spotlight on his achievements.

8 Future Governance and Accountability

- 8.1 Key to Child Friendly Cov is the partnership approach across the city as a whole. While Child Friendly Cov is largely driven from within Children and Education Services, there are aspirations for Child Friendly Cov to be viewed not only as a Coventry City Council initiative but an opportunity for the whole city to come together for Coventry's children and young people.
- 8.2 To drive this partnership approach further, the Child Friendly Cov Steering Group has been restructured, with representatives from across the partnership, voluntary and business sectors, with the Young Person Accountability Group, feeding into this group and holding members to account. There are also plans in place for partners to lead on workstreams, under each of the Child Friendly Cov pledges, in order to drive the work of Child Friendly Cov forward, from both inside Coventry City Council, and wider, with stakeholder events planned with a focus on the pledges.

Appendix 1: Child Friendly Cov Impact Report 2023/2024

Authors:

Hannah Bedford, Family Valued Programme Manager, Children and Education Services
Matt Clayton, Strategic Lead, Children in Care, Children with Disabilities and Care Leavers, Children and Education Services

Contact Details:

hannah.bedford@coventry.gov.uk

matt.clayton@coventry.gov.uk