



## Report of the Cabinet Member for Children Services

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 March 2021

# Children & Young People's Rights Scheme Annual Progress Report 2020

<b>Purpose:</b>	To present the report on the progress of the implementation of the Children & Young People's Rights scheme in Swansea 2018-20
<b>Content:</b>	This report includes details of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An overview of how the Children &amp; Young People's Rights Scheme was developed and is being implemented</li><li>• Details of how we have promoted knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC through training and awareness raising sessions</li><li>• How we have taken a whole Council approach to embedding Child Rights</li><li>• The participation of Children &amp; Young People in decisions that affect them (Article 12)</li><li>• Accountability and compliance</li><li>• Next steps looking ahead</li></ul>
<b>Councillors are being asked to:</b>	Give their views on the progress in relation to the Children & Young People's Rights Scheme and how the UNCRC has become embedded in Councils Policy Framework.
<b>Lead Councillor(s):</b>	Councillor Elliott King – Cabinet Member for Children Services
<b>Lead Officer(s):</b>	Jane Whitmore – Integrated Partnerships and Commissioning Team Manager
<b>Report Author:</b>	Katie Spendiff – Children's Rights Co-ordinator 07471145410 <a href="mailto:katie.spendiff@swansea.gov.uk">katie.spendiff@swansea.gov.uk</a>
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Lucy Moore
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Chris Davies
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 As outlined in the Children & Young People's Rights Scheme the Council's Scrutiny Programme Committee will assess the work undertaken and the way the scheme is being implemented across the Council and its impact on children and young people.

## **2. Annual Report**

- 2.1 This report is the fourth progress report on the due regard duty for embedding the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) into the local authority policy framework and specifically focuses on progress made in the areas outlined in our Action Plan 2018-20.

- 2.2 The full report on the annual progress of the implementation of the Children & Young People's Rights Scheme in Swansea is **appended**. A bridging paper on progress made during lockdown is also attached for the attention of members.

- 2.3 This report includes details of:

- An overview of how the Children & Young People's Rights Scheme was developed and is being implemented
- Details of how we have promoted knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC through training and awareness raising sessions
- How we have taken a whole Council approach to embedding Child Rights
- The participation of Children & Young People in decisions that affect them (Article 12)
- Accountability and compliance
- Next steps looking ahead
- Work undertaken in respect of engagement during lockdown.

## **3. Legal Implications**

- 3.1 There are no legal implications.

## **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Whilst there are no immediate financial implications arising from this report, it should be assumed that any resultant future spending needs will need be contained within existing budget provision and have full and due regard to the budget principles set out in the medium term financial plan and the likely levels of future budgets.

## **5. Equality and Engagement Implications**

- 5.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

- 5.2 The Children & Young People's Rights Scheme highlights the intrinsic links between the protected characteristics outlined in the Equality Act and the rights of children and young people.

When thinking about children's rights, there are equality implications in regard to age, and sometimes in relation to the other protected characteristics.

The due regard duty placed upon the Local Authority seeks to ensure that when decisions are made that affect children and young people, children's rights must be considered and acted upon if it is deemed that decisions being made have adverse effects on children and their equality rights. The inclusion of the UNCRC within the EIA process is contained within the report (Appendix 1).

There are no equality implications for the Children and Young People's Rights Scheme Annual Report (Appendix 1).

- 5.3 The UNCRC embraces children's right to be able to express themselves, and receive information in a language of their choice, including Welsh. The report outlines opportunities for participation where children and young people have been able to engage through the medium of Welsh.

Once Appendix 1 is approved and signed off, it will be published and promoted to children, young people, their families and other relevant stakeholders. Copies will be available in English and Welsh, as well as other languages if required.

- 5.3 No EIA screening report is required for the development of Appendix 1. A full EIA for Swansea's Children and Young People's rights scheme was produced at the time of its development (2014), and a new Screening Report and Full EIA will be developed based on recommendation within this report, as the renewed Children's Rights Scheme is developed (2021).

**Background Papers:**

Children & Young People's Rights Scheme

<http://www.swansea.gov.uk/childrensrightsscheme>

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Annual Report on the Progress of the Implementation of the Children & Young People's Rights Scheme in Swansea

Appendix 2: Children's Rights Annual Monitoring Bridging Report