

UNICEF UK CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

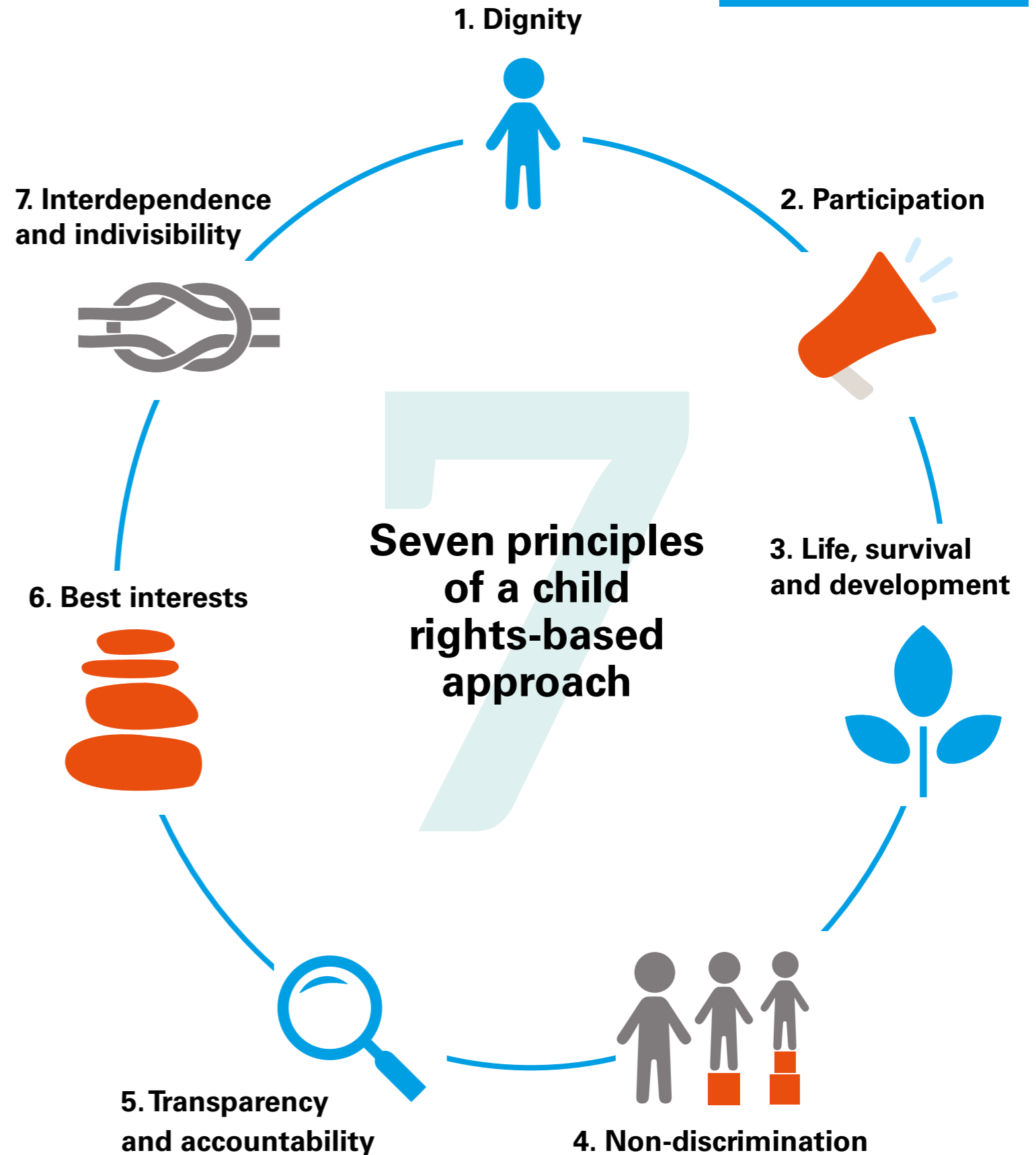


How we work

Child Friendly Cities and Communities is a collaboration between UNICEF UK, councils, their local partners, and children and young people to advance children’s rights. Together, we work on a long-term, strengths-based programme, rooted in local needs and context, to put children’s rights into practice.

Children and young people are supported to identify three priority areas to focus on (in addition to three mandatory priority areas) during the highly participatory, three-to-five year programme journey. A child rights-based approach is embedded into decision-making and service delivery, through an iterative planning and delivery approach that results in a gradual deepening and broadening of impact across a city or community.

Becoming a UNICEF Child Friendly City or Community is a global acknowledgement of the progress achieved by a city or community. Children’s rights continue to be advanced after recognition, thanks to the robust networks, relationships and knowledge developed throughout the programme journey.



Badges

There are three mandatory badges and the council chooses an additional three in collaboration with local children and young people.



Co-operation and Leadership



Communication



Culture



Plus three from: Child-friendly Services, Education and Learning, Equal and Included, Family and Belonging, Flourishing, Healthy, Innovation, Participating, Place, Safe and Secure

ACTIVITIES

Collectively advancing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and embedding a child rights-based approach

Councils and their partners receive training from UNICEF UK on children's rights and how to take a child rights-based approach, on Child Rights Impact Assessments, and on how to meaningfully engage children and young people in local governance and decision-making. Councils are upskilled to continue delivering training beyond the duration of the programme.

UNICEF UK works with councils and partners to train children and young people about their rights.

Councils and their partners receive expert support and guidance from UNICEF UK to transform existing culture into one that upholds and promotes children's rights at every level.

UNICEF UK, councils, and local partners collectively gather evidence and disaggregate data to identify inequalities and address the needs of all children – particularly those vulnerable or at risk of being marginalised.

Councils join UNICEF's national and global community of practice of child-friendly cities and communities which offer mutual support, knowledge exchange, resources sharing and opportunities to make connections.



OUTPUTS

Changes in capacities



Duty bearers: individuals

Understand a child rights-based approach and its relevance for their work.

Know how to embed accessible, meaningful child-friendly mechanisms for participation and youth governance.

Know how to uphold equity, inclusion and anti-racism in their work from a child rights-based perspective.

Can ensure a child rights-based approach to governance and decision making is taken.



Duty bearers: organisation/system level

Understand and value the benefits of a child rights-based approach to every aspect of their work.

Understand and value child rights-informed approaches to monitoring, evidence and evaluation, and the need for disaggregated data.



Rights holders: children and young people

Understand their rights.

Understand where to find information, support and services.

Understand how to take part in local decision-making.



OUTCOMES

Changes in practice

Short term



Duty bearers: individuals

Use the language of child rights and a child rights-based approach in all their work.

Model and advocate for child rights and a child rights-based approach.

Long term

Work confidently and sensitively alongside children using practice informed by child rights as a framework.

Are accountable to every child in all matters affecting them.

Protect children from discrimination and harm.



Duty bearers: organisation/system level

Make decisions that are informed by children and young people, through participation and youth governance mechanisms that align with children's evolving capacities and agency.

Design and deliver strategies, policies, information, services and support that focus on equity, inclusion and anti-racism through a child rights lens.

Embed a child rights-based approach to training and evaluation

Routinely use child rights-informed frameworks and tools across local governance, decision-making, planning, commissioning and delivery of services and support.

Share power between duty bearers and children and young people.

Design and deliver services, information and support that are routinely informed by a child rights-based approach.

Ensure internal and external partnerships, joint planning and multi-agency coordination are all informed by a child rights-based approach (e.g. monitoring trends, joint commissioning and allocating resources).

Ensure organisational culture supports child rights and a child rights-based approach.



Rights holders: children and young people

Access equitable, inclusive and anti-racist information, support and services that meet their needs.

Enjoy their rights in their community.

Are active citizens influencing their local community.

Take part in local decision making.

Hold duty bearers to account when their rights are not respected.



IMPACTS

Changes for children and young people

Every child and young person

Feels safe in their community.

Has affordable, accessible play and public spaces.

Enjoys a clean environment.

Enjoys fair, non-discriminatory local services.

Feels welcome, included and a sense of belonging in their community.

Has affordable, accessible culture and leisure opportunities.

Feels listened to, respected and valued in their community.



Goals

Healthy, safe, sustainable, and inclusive cities and communities where children's rights are advanced and every child and young person can flourish.



“Every child will feel free and have the opportunity to do anything, as nothing will be hindering them”

Child in CFC candidate city, UK