

## CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH WORKING TOWARDS CHILD FRIENDLY CITY STATUS IN LIVERPOOL

### ABOUT THE RESEARCH

The overarching aim of this project was to support Liverpool City Council's endeavour to achieve UNICEF Child Friendly City (CFC) status through increasing understandings about the challenges relating to implementing CFC initiatives in Liverpool.

UNICEF's CFC initiative is based on the premise that cities will foster children's rights at a local level, incorporating articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into the core of their work.

Empirical data was collected during February and March 2020 through interviews and discussions with 79 participants. Participants included a range of child/family-facing service practitioners and front-line workers across Liverpool as well as individuals with responsibility for developing a CFC approach within others regions, both nationally and internationally.

### KEY FINDINGS

Four key challenges were identified:

- Increasing awareness of those working with and on behalf of children and families about:
  - > Liverpool's endeavour to become a CFC and the principles underpinning this approach;
  - > the UNCRC and how articles within this apply to their professional practice.
- Developing common, cross-agency goals relating to adopting a children's rights approach
- Increasing the limited take-up, by some families, of activities and services intended for them
- Increasing children's knowledge and awareness of the UNCRC and how articles within this apply in the context of their lives

**"If professionals working with children don't know about the UNCRC then they can't even think about implementing it... [there are concerns that] ...even where people know about the UNCRC, they don't really know what it means to implement it in practice".**

CHILD/FAMILY-FACING SERVICE PRACTITIONER





Edge Hill University



UNIVERSITY OF  
LIVERPOOL

## RELEVANCE FOR LIVERPOOL'S CHILDREN

If all those working with and on behalf of children and their families in Liverpool understand the principles underpinning UNICEF's CFC initiative and articles within the UNCRC, then common, cross-agency goals around implementing a children's rights-respecting approach could be built into policies and practices across Liverpool.

All children in Liverpool should be involved in decisions that impact directly on their lives, experiences and wellbeing. There should be representative engagement of all children (including those considered difficult to reach) in local decision making across the city.

Children in Liverpool need to be supported to understand that they have the right to be involved in decision-making processes about matters affecting them and be equipped with the language, vocabulary and confidence to do so.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Robinson, Quennerstedt & l'Anson (2019) The translation of articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into education legislation. Curriculum Journal (online)

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child – Summary Report

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child – Full Report

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase the visibility of Liverpool's CFC initiative and goals
- Run cross-agency workshops and planning events for those working with and on behalf of children to:
  - > increase knowledge of the UNCRC and the application of principles within this;
  - > develop cross-agency understanding of terminology relating to implementing children's rights;
  - > increase awareness of the importance, and ways, of listening to children and involving them in decision-making processes
- Identify and reach out to families who would benefit from particular activities and services
- Increase children's awareness of their right to be involved in decisions that affect their lives

## CONTACT THE RESEARCHERS

Professor Carol Robinson

Email: [carol.robinson@edgehill.ac.uk](mailto:carol.robinson@edgehill.ac.uk)

Twitter: @ProfCRobinson

## ABOUT LIVERPOOL'S CHILD FRIENDLY CITY PROGRAMME

- > [Liverpool City Council website](#)
- > Email: [cfc@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:cfc@liverpool.gov.uk)
- > [UNICEF website](#)
- > Email: [cfc@unicef.org.uk](mailto:cfc@unicef.org.uk)
- > [Liverpool Health Partners CFC page](#)

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