

Aberdeen City Council

Education and Children's Services



CYP Act 2014



Consultation on ICS plan: Overview of Engagement with Children and Young People

- Partnership with Unicef UK to take forward Rights Respecting Schools (RRSA)
- Partnership with Children's Parliament to explore what children need to keep them safe, happy and healthy
- Youth Work in and out of schools
- Youth Democracy
- ACE group



Continued

- City Wide Pupil Voice Group (reps from each secondary school)
- Locality Planning consultation events
- City Centre master plan consultation
- Digital Children's Ideas Hub



UNCRC Rights Respecting Schools

Aberdeen City funds a strategic lead/ team who:

- Promote, liaise and manage RRSA– including training
- Builds capacity within the LA by recruiting and training assessors
- Trains and informs elected members and senior officials
- Assesses schools with Recognition of Commitment, Level 1 and Level 2 awards including revalidations
- Is accountable to UNICEF UK for all rights-respecting school work



Impact of RRSA

- Improved self-esteem and well-being
- Improved relationships and behaviour (reductions in bullying and exclusions and improved attendance)
- Improved engagement in learning
- Positive attitudes towards diversity in society and the reduction of prejudice
- Children and young people's enhanced moral understanding
- Children and young people's support for global justice
- **Children and young people become more involved in decision-making**



Children's Parliament and Aberdeen City Council

Children's Parliament has been working with Aberdeen City's 4 Attainment Challenge schools, engaging P4, 5, 6 children in whole class and small group workshops (300 children aged 8 to 11 years old).

- Community reports capture the child's lived experience.
- Senior officials and elected members engage throughout.
- 20 children become Imagineers and represent the work of their peers in a mural and film.
- The Imagineers shared their work, asking adults: What can you do to help deliver the Lighthouse messages – children have presented to ECS and CHI committees, and NHS Board
- **The work was central to development of the Children's Services Plan.**

Imagining Aberdeen film:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/imaginingaberdeen/imagining-aberdeen-film/>



Children's Rights Programme



**Shaping
Aberdeen**

- **Leadership skills activities have been delivered to pupils in primary 6 and 7 from Loirston and Charleston primary schools**
- **Each course lasts 12 weeks.**
- **The activities were designed to develop children's rights through leadership development**
 - **The skills and qualities of positive leadership**
 - **Problem solving skills and activities**
 - **Communication skills**
 - **Recognising individual and group strengths**
 - **Decision-making skills**
 - **Dealing with challenging situations**
 - **UNCRC articles and rights**

Northfield Academy

Engaging Young People

- 1 to 1s – mentoring development
- Culture Café
- Small group work on UNCRC
- Daily lunch drop in sessions
- Multi Arts Project in partnership with ACC Communities Team and St Nicholas Rotary
- Saltire Volunteering Accreditation



Culture Cafe

- Set up to provide a space for vulnerable young people to go to
- Provides leadership and organisational opportunities for volunteers
- Is financially self-sustaining
- Programme is influenced by participants and Senior Phase volunteers - young people led
- Young people's voices are heard and actioned





ABERDEEN
CITY COUNCIL



**Increase
confidence**

**Working with
skills**



**Senior pupils supporting
younger peers**

Youth Democracy

- **Supports Aberdeen City Youth Council (ACYC)**
- **Manages Scottish Youth Parliament elections for Aberdeen city**
- **Supports Scottish Youth Parliament members**
- **Supports local youth forums such as Torry squad and Kincorth south catchers**
- **Promotes children's rights and voice in decision making**
- **Holds officials to account**



Case Study – Torry Squad

Torry squad are the self-named group of young people from Torry who came together in 2015 after an engagement event was held at Torry academy. Through the work they do, Torry squad aims to:

- Consult their peers on matters that are important to young people
- Represent the views of young people at local and city-wide forums
- Encourage others to become young activists
- Build their own skills and capacities



Torry Squad Achievements so far



- Consulted over 400 pupils at Torry Academy using the British youth council's "mark your mark" survey
- Led discussions on young people's issues at a locality planning event
- Attended Torry learning partnership meetings
- Visited MP Calum Mccaig at his Torry office
- Raised awareness of young people's mental health to young people and adults
- Learned about mindfulness techniques
- Hosted a stand at a "we love Torry" event at which they promoted mindfulness techniques and encouraged discussion about mental health
- Painted a mindfulness mural at Aberdeen's wellbeing centre
- Hosting a youth democracy show at shmu



Torry Squad at “the riding”, the ceremony that opens the new Scottish Parliament



WHAT IS A.C.E?



- A.C.E stands for Aberdeen Care Experienced
- A.C.E. is made up of a group of care experienced young people.
- A.C.E. empowers young people to share and discuss issues they have faced during their time in care.
- These issues are then brought to the Aberdeen Champions Board with an aim to make a change and have fun doing it!
- A Champions Board is made up of professionals from different organisations who have the power to make positive changes for young people. They meet with the young people 4 times a year to offer their support, to listen to what needs to be done and to take responsibility for their organisation in making being in care better for young people.
- A.C.E is for young people, up to the age of 26, who have at some point in their life lived in one of the following:
 - Residential/Secure – In a children's home
 - Foster care – With a carer
 - Kinship – With family/friends
 - At home – on a supervision order





**WE CAN
AND WE
WILL
MAKE A
CHANGE**

How we have supported staff



**Shaping
Aberdeen**

- RRSA strategic lead and team offer CPD and support to individual schools when requested
- Leaflet on meaningful participation which has been shared with all teachers
- Sharing of practice through newsletter and Glow Group
- Development of our own award to ensure that schools have plans in place to deliver UNCRC outcomes
- Input at Aberdeen Learning Festival
- Survey Monkey to audit practice





'We are the Imagineers!'

'Things that have changed since we became Imagineers!'



- We can have a say
- We have new friends
- Adults are listening to us
- More creative about ideas
- Better at public speaking
- Our families are proud of us

We are more confident



Stop bullying
Smoking and alcohol
Help more people
How we are talked to
How people see us
Clean up dog poo

Fighting
Cleaner streets
and more street lights
Make kinder communities
Make schools more joyful
by asking children what they think
Better drivers so safer roads



'These are things that still need changed in Aberdeen!'

Next Steps

- Continue to engage with Children's Parliament and RRSA
- Digital Children's Ideas Hub
- Year of Young People – Young Ambassadors
- Participation Charter with partners
- Unicef Childs Rights Partners – 3-5 year programme of engagement



