Programme

Towards the Child Friendly City

Children’s rights in the built environment

27-29 November 2019
Bristol City Hall, Bristol, England
Welcome to the conference

A warm welcome from Bristol

Thank you for joining us. We are delighted to host a truly international audience for this conference, which tackles one of the most important issues for any city – how do we build cities for the youngest members of our communities?

TheTowards the Child Friendly City conference is a perfect fit for Bristol – a city with the aims and aspirations of its children and young people at its heart, and home to pioneering child-friendly initiatives.

We are proud of our adventure playgrounds, street play initiatives and child-friendly cultural centres - but more than this, we are dedicated to ensuring that every child has the best possible future, regardless of where they live, how much their parents earn, their cultural heritage or their complex needs.

This conference puts children centre stage, which is exactly where they should be, and encourages a conversation about what kind of sustainable future we want for our children now and for generations to come.

We hope you are able to make connections and learn more about the work we and our partners are delivering. This is an exciting conference where you can bring your own knowledge and take away inspiration and insights.

We hope you enjoy the conference, and your time in Bristol.

Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol  Councillor Helen Godwin, Cabinet Member for Children and Families

A message from the European Network for Child Friendly Cities

30 years after the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child became the most widely signed international treaty in history, we are proud to present this first in a new series of conferences on children’s rights in the built environment.

The challenges for the child-friendly city movement are greater than ever. The domination of road traffic, polluted air, poor planning and the disappearance of play areas all make the outside world an increasingly hostile environment for children and young people. Urban planning that places children at the heart of a shared public realm is a moral, economic and public health imperative.

This is why we are proud to welcome to this conference some of the finest researchers and practitioners in this field. Only by considering the evidence and highlighting what works, can we hope to influence policy-makers to give these issues the priority they deserve, and take the steps necessary to creating genuinely child-friendly cities, towns, neighbourhoods and communities.

We hope you will enjoy the conference, be inspired, meet friends old and new, and make the most of your time in this wonderful city.

Adrian Voce OBE  
President of the European Network for Child Friendly Cities
27 November

9.30 - 10.00

**Registration for pre-conference session**

Pre-conference session*

10.00 - 12.30

**Bristol, a child-friendly city in progress***
A live case study of the Bristol Child Friendly City Partnership

**Facilitated by:** Councillor Helen Godwin, Cabinet Member for Women, Children and Young People, Bristol City Council; Alice Ferguson, Playing Out; Amy Harrison, The Architecture Centre, Bristol; Ingrid Skeels, Playing Out and Room 13 Hareclive; and Debbie Watson, University of Bristol.

**Guest speakers:** Tim Gill, Rethinking Childhood, Dinah Bornat, ZCD Architects, Adrian Voce, European Network for Child Friendly Cities, and the Children from Room 13 Hareclive.

*Open to full conference delegates, or as a separate event.

12.30 - 13.20

**Registration for international conference**

**Lunch**

13.30 - 15.30

**Opening plenary session**

13.30  Adrian Voce, European Network for Child Friendly Cities

13.35  Councillor Helen Godwin, Cabinet Member for Women, Children and Young People, Bristol City Council

13.40  **A welcome, and a challenge, from Bristol’s children and young people**
A presentation by the Bristol Child Friendly City partnership, with Room 13 Hareclive

13.50  **Keynote: Towards the child-friendly city:** the power of policy, process and practitioners - Dr. Kate Bishop, Associate Professor of the Built Environment, University of NSW, Sydney, Australia

14.20  **Making cities for people:** focus on our youngest citizens - Jeff Risom, Chief Innovation Officer, Gehl, Copenhagen, Denmark

14.40  **Children’s right to the good city:** the politics of play and everyday life - Dr Wendy Russell, University of Gloucestershire, and independent consultant on children’s play and playwork

15.00  **Panel discussion**

**When a ‘child-friendly’ development may not be for every child:** Learning lessons from the segregated play areas dispute in South London. How can policymakers and planners ensure children’s right to play and participate in their communities are respected and supported by developers and landlords, regardless of economic status?

**Panellists:** Harriet Grant (journalist, The Guardian), Louise Whitley and Sarina Da Silva (parent-residents, Lilian Baylis estate, London SE1), Dinah Bornat (ZCD Architects), Nicky Gavron (deputy Chair of the Planning Committee, London Assembly), Tim Gill, (Rethinking Childhood).

15.30 - 15.45

**Break**

Timing: Keynote 30m; Workshops 50m; all other presentations 15m
1A Planning, housing, and the neighbourhood environment

**Workshops**
- **Born Thriving:** Policy and practices for infant, toddler, and caregiver neighbourhood planning in Tirana, Albania - Simon Battisti, Director, Qendra Marrëdhënje, Albania
- **Playful public spaces, young people and social sustainability**
  - Claire Edwards, Researcher and Practitioner, Sydney, Australia
- **A Tale of Two Developments** - Marion Briggs, Alliance for Childhood, UK
- **Uses of land awaiting development:** waste, futurity and the reclamation of youth on Joan Littlewood’s urban playgrounds, c.1967-75 - Dr Luke Dickens, King’s College London
- **Workshop What worked?** Evaluation of children’s environments
  - Matluba Khan, University College London

1B Activism and children’s voices

- **Community Safety Audit:** a tool for incorporating children’s views about their local environment - Patrick Meehan, Canterbury Christ Church University, England
- **Building for conversation:** Using the environment to promote language development in young children - Dr Yvonne Wren, Bristol Speech and Language Therapy Research Unit, England
- **Metamorphosis: a child-friendly neighbourhood transformation**
  - Sabine Oberrauter and Marta Palacios Rufo, Austrian Mobility Research, Austria
- **25% of the population, 100% the Future:** The role of youth-led research to embed young voices at the core of policy and practice – Sharon Long, Partnership for Young London

1C Children’s mobility, travel, and transport

- **How child-friendly are the school routes in Germany’s most bicycle-friendly city 2019?**
  - Céline Schmidt-Hamburger and Eva Hoßfeld, University of Bremen, Germany
- **Experience matters:** how children’s neighbourhood travel relates to their psychological well-being Holly Weir, Researcher, University of Westminster, England
- **A little person on the way to school:** barriers to independence for Warsaw’s youngest citizens
  - Beata Patuszyńska, Real estate professional, Warsaw, Poland
- **Active Streetscapes:** a participatory pilot study to explore 9-10 year-old children’s mobility in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England - Nafsika Michail, University of Northumbria, England
- **Workshop 'Doing' play sufficiency**
  - Mike Barclay and Ben Tawil, Ludicology, with Samantha Harman and Tracey Jobber, Sandwell Council, England

1D Play and playwork

- **A new vision for playwork:** Ensuring a legacy of freedom to play - Rob Wheway, Children’s Play Advisory Service
- **Innovative play solutions:** the key to more play - Janne Elise, KOMPAN Play Institute, Denmark
- **Delivering on a child’s right to play:** Equally, Locally, Naturally - Alison King, Andrew Joynt, LUC
- **Formulating effective policy principles for play**
  - Elske Oost-Mulder and Arjan Vreugdenhil, OBB play advisors, The Netherlands

- **Workshop 'Doing' play sufficiency**

17.50 – 18.00

Walk to We the CURIOUS (5 minutes from City Hall)

18.00 - 20.00

**Social**

- **Drinks reception for delegates, speakers, and guests at**
  - We the CURIOUS, One Millennium Square, Anchor Rd, Bristol, BS1 5DB

- **18.00 Arrive**
- **18.30 Welcome to ‘We the CURIOUS’** - Anna Starkey, Chief Executive.
- **18.45 Cities & Health Journal:** Routledge launches a special issue on child-friendly cities, with Marcus Grant, editor-in-chief, and contributors, Tim Gill and Alice Ferguson.

Timing: Keynote 30m; Workshops 50m; all other presentations 15m
28 November
9.00 - 11.00
Workshops, where indicated, will commence at 10.10

Parallel session 2
Where time allows, sessions will include facilitated discussion and Q&A

Timing: Keynote 30m; Workshops 50m; all other presentations 15m

2A Planning, housing, and the neighbourhood environment
Play space policy in the sustainable city - Wim Seghers, City of Antwerp, Belgium
Making London a child friendly city: Designing for Children's Independent Mobility - Rae Whittow-Williams, Greater London Authority and Anna Mansfield, Publica

Back to the future: can we learn lessons from a 1970s council estate?
Sally Watson, School of Architecture, Planning & Landscape, Newcastle University

Addressing childhood obesity and the climate crisis through urban design: school street closures and low traffic neighbourhoods - Simon Wasser, Sustrans

Workshop Child friendly planning policy in the UK: a review - Dr Jenny Wood, A Place in Childhood, Dinah Bornat, ZCD Architects, Professor Aude Bicquelet-Lock, RTPI

2B Activism and children’s voices
Child-friendly cities = human friendly cities - Aminah Ricks, Future Planners, New York City, USA

Hearing their voices, empowering their actions: Methods for engaging pupils in school grounds design and change - Mary Jackson, Learning through Landscapes, UK

Making play normal again: Unbraiding the Landscape, Sympathetic Environments
Penny Wilson, Playwork practitioner and author

What are children’s environmental concerns? What can be done to foster children’s pro-environmental behaviour? - Matluba Khan, University College London

Children’s participation in urban policies: the Citizenship Chart - Manuel Jacinto Sarmento and Gabriela de Pina Trevisan, University of Minho, Braga, Portugal

11.00 - 11.15
Break

11.15 - 13.00
Workshops: 12.10

Parallel session 3
Where time allows, sessions will include facilitated discussion and Q&A

3A Planning, housing, and the neighbourhood environment
A place standard tool for children and young people: addressing social and spatial justice in Scotland - Cherie Morgan, Play Scotland and Jenny Wood, APIC

10 design principles of great play and public city spaces - Maria Sokolova, Aleksandr Frontov, and Sergey Tatarinov, The Landscape Bureau AFA, Moscow, Russia

The roots of difference and the path to compassion: an introduction to the Flourish Values Model, Wendy Elliat, CEO, Save Childhood Movement, UK

Workshop Inclusive environments: How might we design places that work better for young people? - Sue Morgan, Elli Thomas and Catherine Horwill, Design Council

3B Activism and children’s voices
Youth council participation in city planning: The Case of Oslo - Taylor Sawyer, University of Glasgow

Empowering young children and their caregivers in urban environments: Case Study of Istanbul, Turkey - Ozlemnrur Atoal, Eindhoven University of Technology

‘If we don’t tidy this up, where are people going to play?’: Insights from a youth-led placemaking project - Laurel Gallagher, co-director, Urban Wilderness CIC

Is there childhood in dumping grounds? - Children’s voices of the sanitary landfill of Rio de Janeiro
Alain Flandes, PhD student in Architecture, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

3C Children’s mobility, travel, and transport
Walking and staying with lively streets in early childhood: observing children’s dialogues with cities
Dr. Penny Lawrence, University of Roehampton, London

Children’s mobility and right to play in travelling - Dr. Maria Sokolova, MSUPE, Moscow, Russia

‘Now’s the time!’: A short film by children from Room13 Hareclive, an independent artists’ studio run by children in Hartcliffe South Bristol, UK, introduced by Ingrid Skeels, Room 13

Workshop Southamptom child friendly streets: innovation and engagement with Sustrans’ street-kit - Alex Bottrill and Benedicte Dubiez, Sustrans, and Carolyn Ireland, Southamptom City Council

2D Play and playwork
The Playful City: How can we make cities happy, healthier places by making them more creative and participatory places? What can children teach city planners? - Dr Penny Hay, Centre for Cultural and Creative Industries, Bath Spa University, and Amy Harrison, The Architecture Centre, Bristol

Child friendly city with play acupuncture: A collaborative partnership - Christine Yuihwa Lee, Taiwan Parks & Playgrounds for Children by Children

Wild children, wild city: Enabling families and schools to access and enjoy nature in an urban setting - Lucy Hellier and Freya Morgan, Avon Wildlife Trust

Empowering teenagers to improve engagement with physical activity: The ACTIVE Project - Michaela James, University of Swansea

Workshop How playwork qualifications are helping to shape a shared vision for play sufficiency
Marianne Mannello, Play Wales

3D Play and playwork
The ideal pavement; a child’s perspective - Purva Ladge, University of Surrey, Guildford, England

Increasing playful geographies with puppetry - Matt Smith, University of Portsmouth

Urban Toys: An ongoing process of resignification and community building - Leticia Lozano, MACIA Estudio, Mexico

Who plays and where? An exploration into the influencers of outdoor child’s play in urban host communities and the role of co-design in evoking play equality - Marie Williams, Dream Networks and UCL Institute of Global Prosperity

Play for our youngest citizens: Dramatic without language? - Jeanette Fich Jespersen, KOMPAN Play Institute

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28 November

14.00 - 15.40

Workshops: 14.50

Parallel session 4

Where time allows, sessions will include facilitated discussion and Q&A

**4A Planning, housing, and the neighbourhood environment**

*(UN) Play in a NON-child friendly city* - Tasniva Rahman Muma, University of Edinburgh, Scotland

*Child-friendly? Teenagers’ everyday experiences of their urban neighbourhood* - Dr. Jackie Bourke, University College, Dublin

*An investigation of youth's environmental behaviour, attitudes and knowledge* - Athina Georgiou Shippi, University of Edinburgh

*What indicators can guide the way to a healthy urban childhood?* - Lessons from summit Healthy Urban Childhoods, Uppsala, Sweden, 2019 - Dr. Petter Åkerblom, summit chairperson, 2019

*Designing better spaces for play* - Daniel Rees-Jones, Scrapstore Play Services, Bristol

**4B Activism and children's voices**

*Voiceless political engagement: potentials of play for rebellion and resistance* - Lucy Benson, Islington Play Association

*Learning for resilience: eleven top tips for successful engagement* - Dr. Sara-Jayne Williams, Bristol; University of the West of England.

*Can I influence urban change? Chinese young people's participation in an age of globalization* - Dr. Yupeng Ren, Lecturer in Town and Regional Planning at Yantai University, China and Dr. Jenny Wood

*Nothing about us without us*: using digital technologies with youth activists to create child-centred cities - Sean Peacock, Open Lab, Newcastle University, UK

*Children and dogs in school spaces: activism and the sharing of space with non-human actors* - Professor Debbie Watson, University of Bristol

**4C Planning, housing, and the neighbourhood environment**

*Find your village: a systemic response to supporting migrant families with young children* - Dr. Tom Allport, University of Bristol Community Children’s Health Partnership, and Samira Musse, Bristol Somali Resource Centre, England

*An exploration of cross-generational childhood outdoor play experiences in Chinese communities* - Yuanyuan Shi, Department of Landscape Architecture, The University of Sheffield

**4D Play and playwork**

*School spaces and parents' associations in two Roman neighbourhoods* - Giulia Barra, University of Rome ‘Sapienza’.

*School grounds: An untapped resource for urban biodiversity, play and inclusion* - Michael Follett, OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) UK

**Break**

15.40 - 16.00

16.00 - 18.00

**Closing plenary session**

16.00 *Playing Out: a parent-led movement for change* - Alice Ferguson, co-founder and director, Playing Out CiC, UK

16.15 *Build a community in a day: resources for developing child-friendly environments* - Professor Peter Kraftl and Dr. Sophie Hadfield-Hill, School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham, UK

16.30 *The Barcelona Play Plan: towards a more playable city,* Maria Truñó, Commissioner for Education in Deputy Mayor’s Office for Culture, Education, Science and Community in Barcelona City Council

16.45 *The Croatian experience of child friendly cities, towns and districts* - Professor Josip Grgurić, University of Zagreb, School of Medicine

17.00 *Building cities fit for children,* Insights and lessons from around the world - Tim Gill, Rethinking Childhood

17.20 *Making children's rights a statutory duty in the UK* - Phil Royal, The Children First Alliance

17.30 *Conference reflections and conclusions* - Dr. Kate Bishop, Adrian Voce, and parallel session facilitators.

17.50 *Closing remarks* - Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol, with a final message from the children of Bristol.

19.30 *Informal networking dinner* - Za Za Bazaar, Harbourside, Bristol, BS1 5SUH. All delegates, guests and speakers welcome RSVP

Timing: Keynote 30m; Workshops 50m; all other presentations 15m
**29 November**

**10.00 - 13.00**

### Special workshops and field trips

**A. Child’s Place:** exploring children’s voice and agency within the city through an artist’s talk, guided exhibition tour and group discussion.

Discover how Bristol’s Architecture Centre and artists Kirsty Claxton and Cat Boot, creatively explored the theme of place with 3 and 4 year-olds from two Bristol Children’s Centres; and how young artists from a South Bristol Primary School have been central to Bristol’s Child-Friendly City campaign so far. With Penny Hay, Bath Spa University, artist Kirsty Claxton, Room 13 Hareclive, and Amy Harrison, The Architecture Centre.

**B. Frog Marsh:** engaging the creativity of children and communities in placemaking around their local school.

Explore the new design for the pedestrian space outside a community primary school. The space was created through a road closure initiated by a government scheme to encourage more people to walk and cycle, and improve the health and wellbeing of children and residents. The development process has engaged children and residents in a discussion about the potential of creative practice in public space. With Lucy Badrocke, freelance curator and producer, Sarah Jones-Morris, director, Landsmith Associates, and Bahbak Hashemi Nezhad, designer, with the Friends of Bannerman Road (See, also, poster presentation)

**C. Felix Road Adventure Playground:** placemaking as children do it.

Explore a traditional adventure playground and hear about how the playwork ethos of enabling children and young people to construct environments from their own imaginations, and for their own purposes, has implications for placemaking in the wider public realm. With Eddie Nuttall, senior playworker, Felix Road Adventure Playground and Amica Dall, co-founder, Assemble architects co-operative, and tutor with the Architectural Association, London.

**D. Pioneering Places:** child-led reflection on the environment.

Pioneering Places is a child-led project by architectural and art practitioners straddling geography, philosophy, heritage, art, design and technology. The project is being delivered by Turner Contemporary with over 60 primary school children. This workshop aims to give a background to the project, and to share some of the ideas, methods and exercises used by the delivery team working in the schools. With Fran Edgerley, co-founder, Assemble architects co-operative, Josephine Martin, Pioneering Places Project Manager, and Joanne Ursell, Turner Contemporary Navigator.

### 13.00 - 14.00

**Lunch at location / Conference ends**

In addition…

**Poster Presentations**

*What we have learnt from three cycles of play sufficiency in Wrexham, Wales:* Changes that make a difference - Mike Barclay and Ben Tawil, Ludicology, with Gareth Stacey, Wrexham Council’s Play and Youth Support Team.

*Time, space and permission to play:* the views of children - Marianne Mannello, Play Wales

*Associations between urban greenspace and the health and wellbeing of children* (Research in progress) - Deborah S. Cracken, Heriot-Watt University

*Frog Marsh: Engaging the creativity of children and communities in placemaking around their local school* - Lucy Badrocke, freelance curator and producer, with Friends of Bannerman Road, Bristol

*Playing Out in Twinnell House & Wills Drive, Bristol:* Improvements for neighbourhood play - Tamsin Harcourt, Up Our Street and George Lovesmith, Architect

*Born in Bradford - Young Ambassadors Group:* Supporting children’s voices for active participation in research - Aamnah Rahman, Study coordinator, Healthy Happy Children study, NHS England

**Liminal spaces**

Because some of the best things happen in the margins…

*The Playworkers Travelling Journal, special edition:* The Playworkers Travelling Journal records the personal insights and reflections of practitioners supporting children’s play, usually in playwork settings. This special edition will be for conference delegates to contribute observations of how their professional practice can support the right to play for all children and young people in the wider public realm - Vicky Edwards, play manager, England

*The Games Generator:* a pop-up play pavilion in which delegates can develop and play their own street games - Anna Horton Cremin, Artists, One Five West

*Puppet Play:* Matt Smith, University of Portsmouth

**Child-friendly bookseller**

Meynell Games Bookseller, specialist stockist of books on play, playwork, childhoods, and related themes. All cheaper than Amazon!

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