

Introduction to inclusive environments and engagement for children and youths

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Introduction

This webinar will introduce key issues around inclusive environment and engagement with children and young people.

It is intended to provide an overview to the topic and to help generate ideas to consider in preparation of Town Investment Plans.

The webinar will cover 3 areas: firstly, why young people and urban childhoods matter, secondly, key issues and challenges to address, and lastly, provide some case studies to provide ideas on what successful outcomes could look like.

Why does inclusion matter and what does it look like for young people and children?

Equality vs Equity and Inclusion



In the first image, it is assumed that everyone will benefit from the same supports. They are being treated equally.



In the second image, individuals are given different supports to make it possible for them to have equal access to the game. They are being treated equitably.



In the third image, all three can see the game without any supports or accommodations because the cause of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.

Demographic changes

- The UK population is ageing – in 2017 around 18.2% of the UK population were aged 65 years or over, projected to grow to 20.7% by 2027 and double by 2040.¹
- In 2018 in the 101 Towns 23% of urban dwellers are under 19 on average. This is expected to stay relatively stable in the coming decades.²
- By 2050 30% of the UK population will be of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) background. One in four children under the age of ten in the UK is already from a minority group.³

1. ONS 2018
2. ONS 2018
3. Policy Exchange 2014



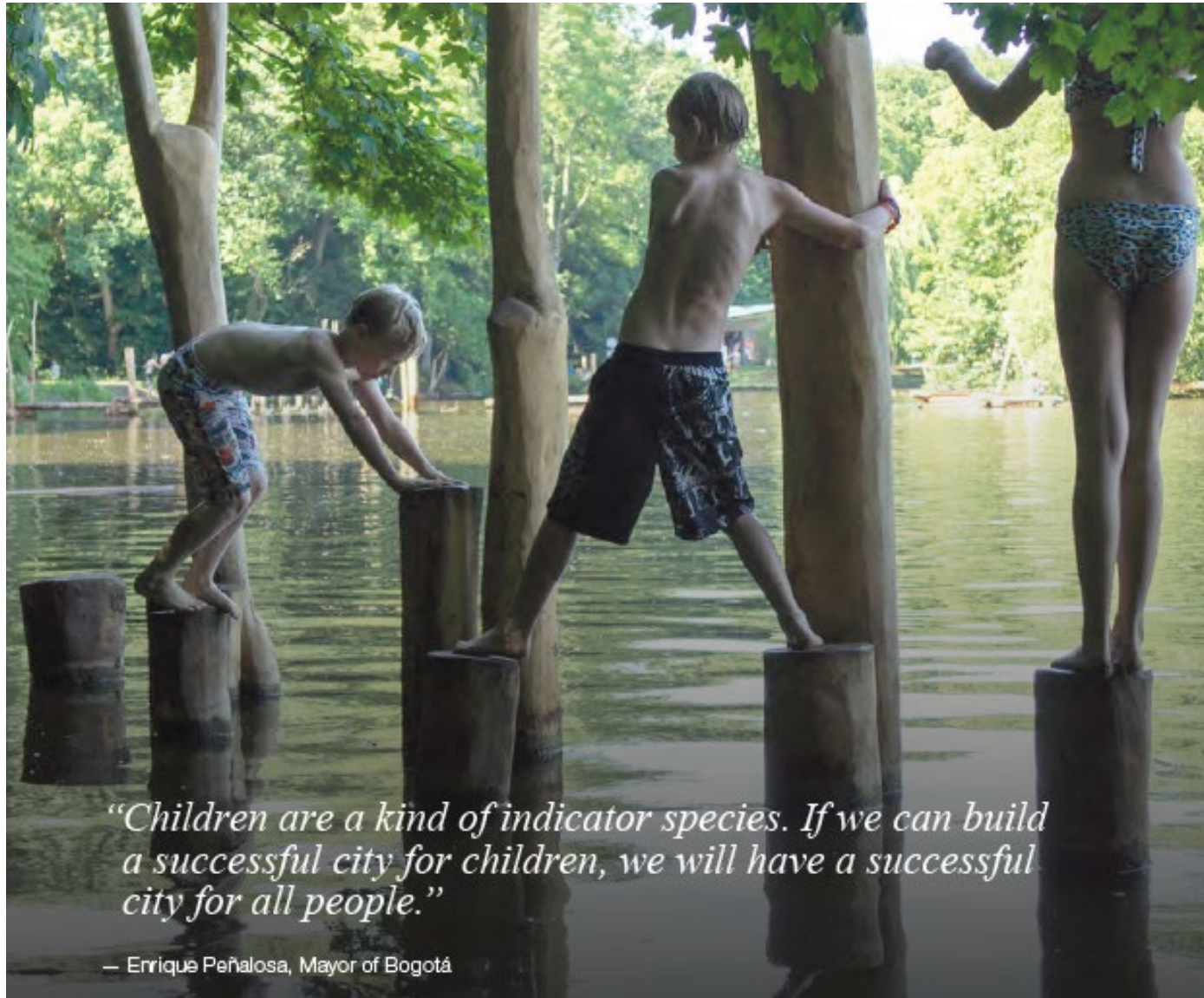
Health and young people

- 80% of the world's adolescent population is insufficiently physically active.¹
- Latest UK figures show that around 23% of children aged 4 to 5 are overweight or obese, increasing to 34% of children who are age 11.²



1. WHO 218
2. NHS 2019

Why children?



A catalyst for improving cities

Focusing on the needs of children has the potential to act as a **unifying theme** to **navigate complex challenges** and gain support for **progressive ideas**.



Rewind

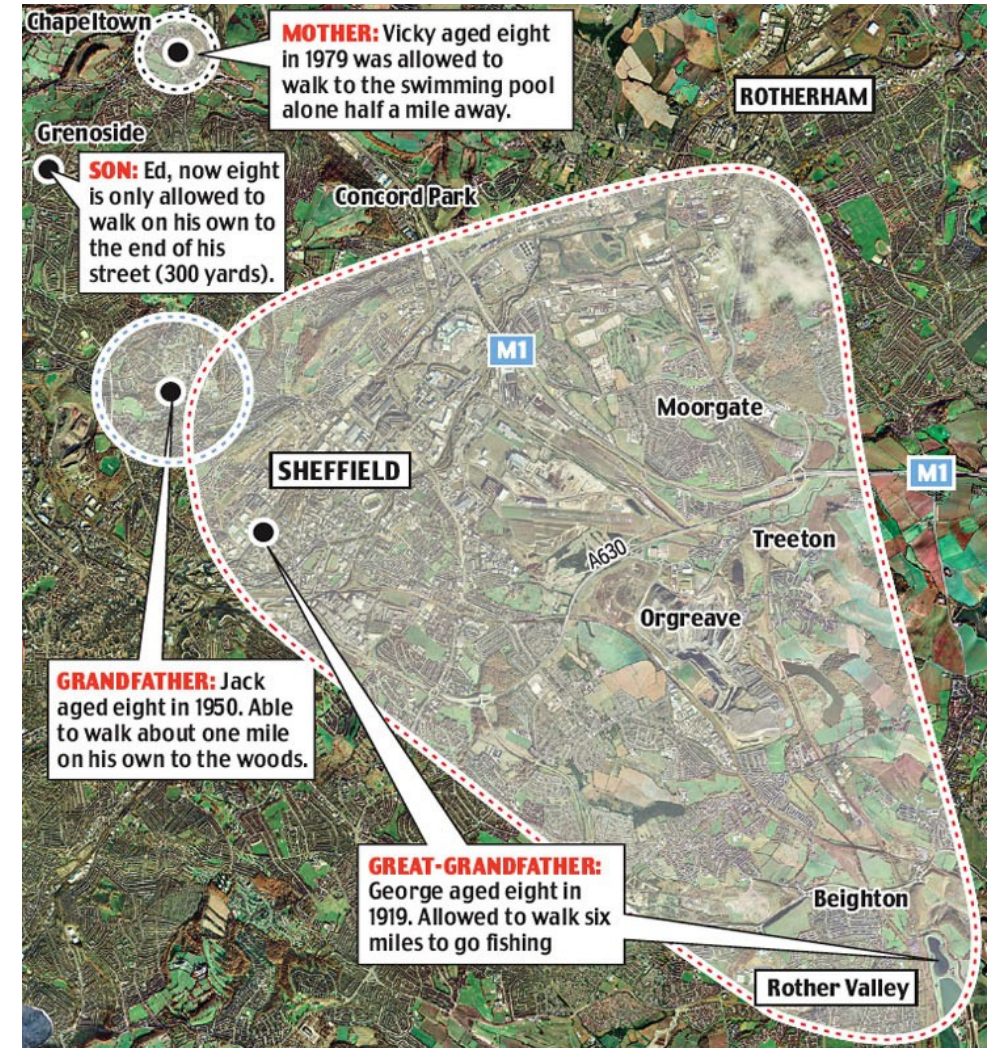


Photo: Almay

Reducing children's ability to roam their neighbourhood

“There is a large body of research that illustrates the importance of environmental experience and contact with nature in childhood to promote children's physical and mental health and wellbeing.” (DCSF, 2010)

Natural England and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds 2007



Today

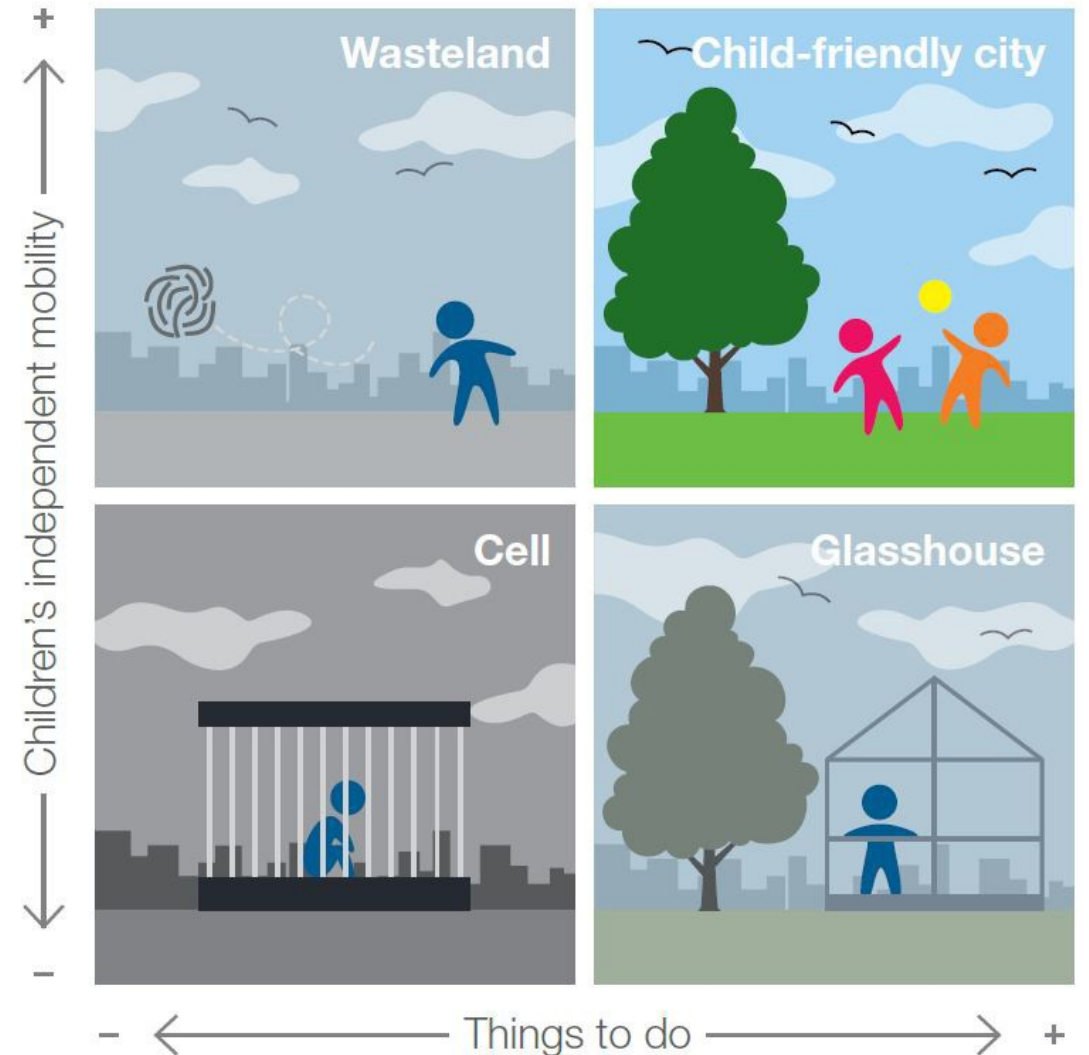


Photo: Chas Pope

Place to Go Things to do

Child-friendliness as a relationship between **the availability of things to do** in an environment and the **levels of freedom or independent mobility** a child has to explore and enjoy them.

Illustration © Arup,
based on the work of Marketta Kyttä



**What are the key issues to address
and how to do it?**

Global Frameworks

UN Sustainable Development Goals

Inclusive design provides spaces that are accessible for all potential users, providing:

- Inclusive facilities, services and infrastructure to create equal opportunities to employment, education and sanitation;
- Healthy spaces and active travel to promote physical and mental wellbeing;
- Inclusive buildings that adapt to global trends and are socially sustainable; and
- Collaboration for inclusive design that generates sustainable, long term partnerships.



The core challenges of urban childhoods



**Traffic and
pollution**



**Crime, social
fears and risk
aversion**



**Isolation and
intolerance**

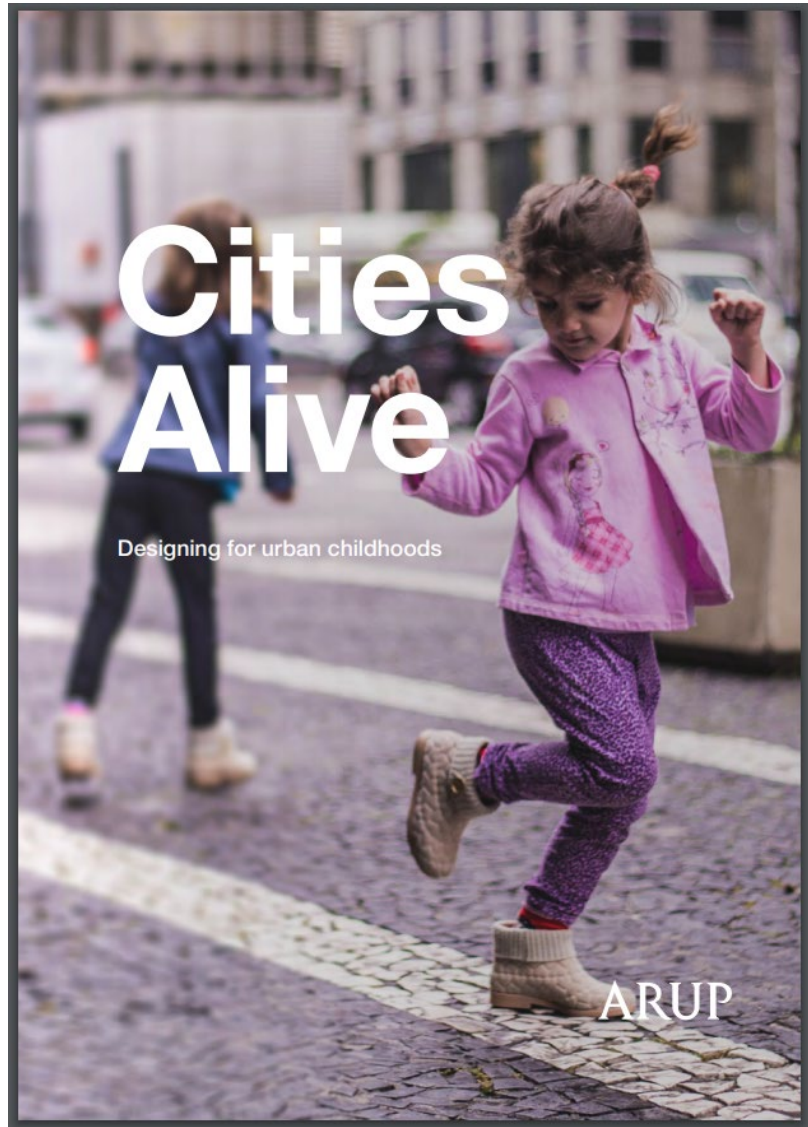


**High-rise
living and
urban sprawl**



**Inadequate and
unequal access
to the city**

Key Benefits of Child Friendly Places



Health and wellbeing

- Physical activity
- Mental wellbeing
- Accessible activities
- Intergenerational activities

- Barcelona Superblocks, Spain
- The Livable Cities Project, India
- Belfast Healthy City, UK



Local economy

- Retention of families
- Vibrant destinations
- Attractive developments
- Space saving

- Darling Quarter, Sydney, Australia
- River District, Vancouver, Canada
- Building Blocks for a child-friendly Rotterdam, Netherlands
- King's Cross Central, London, UK



Safety

- Road safety
- Safe and active streets
- Perceived safety
- Addressing social fears

- Children's priority zone, Bogotá, Colombia
- Global Street Design Guide, New York, USA
- Freiburg Green City, Germany
- School Zone Improvement Project, South Korea
- Criança Fala project, São Paulo, Brazil



Stronger communities

- Generating community
- Time spent together
- Social interaction
- Inclusivity and accessibility

- Bicentennial Children's Park, Santiago, Chile
- Housing Design for Community Life, UK
- Rotterdam social infrastructure, Netherlands
- Banyoles old town, Spain
- Cantinho do Céu Complex, São Paulo, Brazil



Nature and sustainability

- Connection to nature
- Wilder natural spaces
- Risk and adventure
- Wellbeing and sanctuary

- Natuurspeeluin de Speeldernis, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- Natividad Creek Park, Salinas, USA
- Sanlihe River Ecological Corridor, Qian'an City, China



Resilience

- Resilient citizens
- Climate resilience
- Response to threats
- Multifunctionality

- New York City schoolyards, USA
- Copenhagen Cloudburst Plan, Denmark
- Disaster resilience parks, Tokyo, Japan
- Child-friendly floodable green space, Jakarta, Indonesia



A catalyst for improving cities

- Unifying theme
- Citizenship
- Overcoming resistance
- Resourcefulness

- Leeds pop-up parks, UK
- Protest for change, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Car-free experiment, Suwon, South Korea
- Tirana's agents for change, Albania
- Playground Ideas, Melbourne, Australia

Caring for nature and each other

Restoration of Natividad Creek Park in California supported **intergenerational activity**, becoming a space where young people **avoid gangs and violence** and learn about ecology.

Reclaiming streets through community action

Play Streets in Bristol, London, Melbourne, New York and Tokyo are small yet catalytic steps creating **space and freedom** for community interaction while highlighting problem areas for change.

Advocates for urban transformation

Bogotá and Tirana see **children as agents of change**, driving a sense of ownership and influencing behaviours from **reduced car use to sustainable waste management.**



1

Everyday freedoms

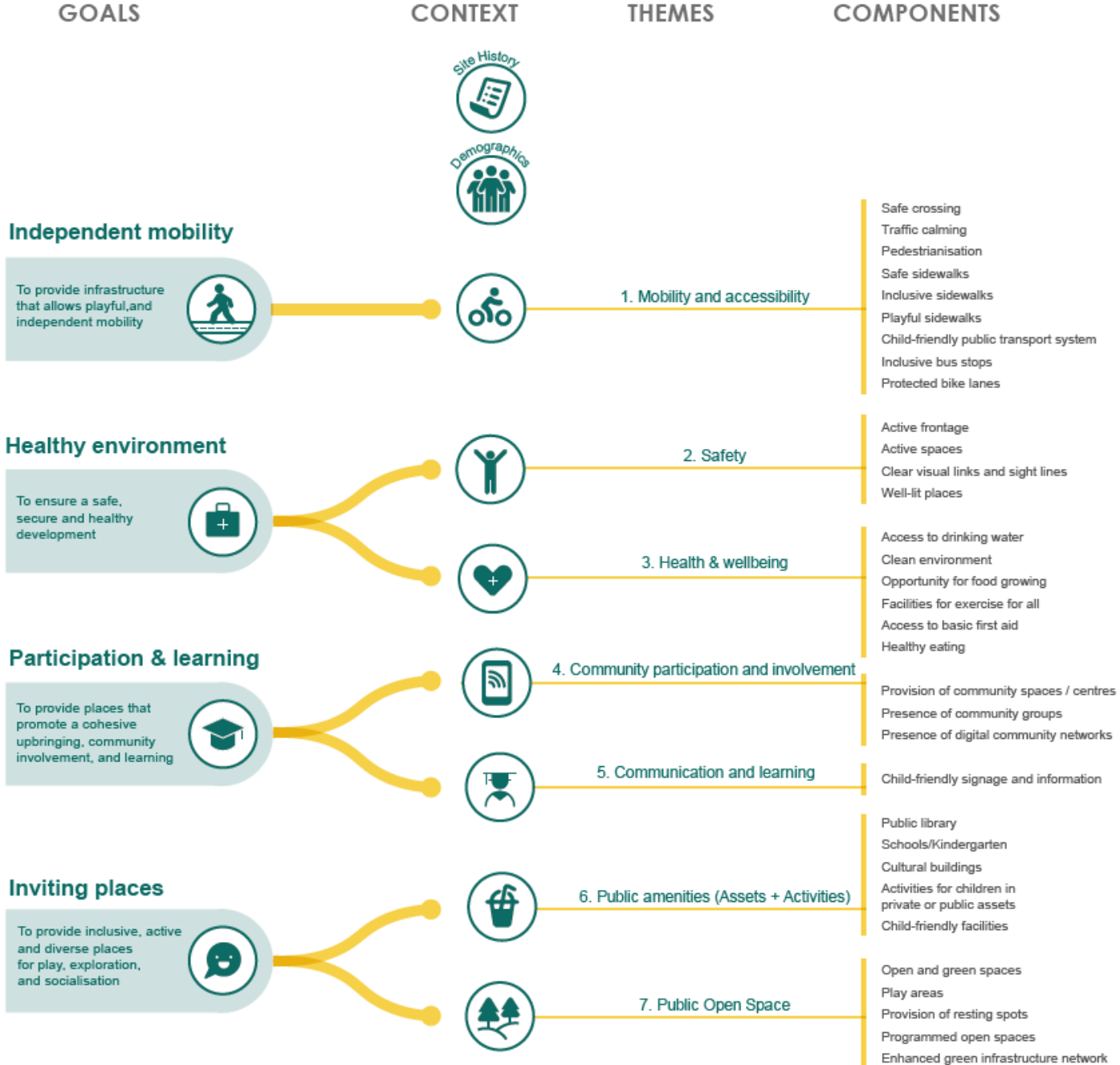
Playful behaviours and freedom to explore should be part of everyday life, throughout the city.



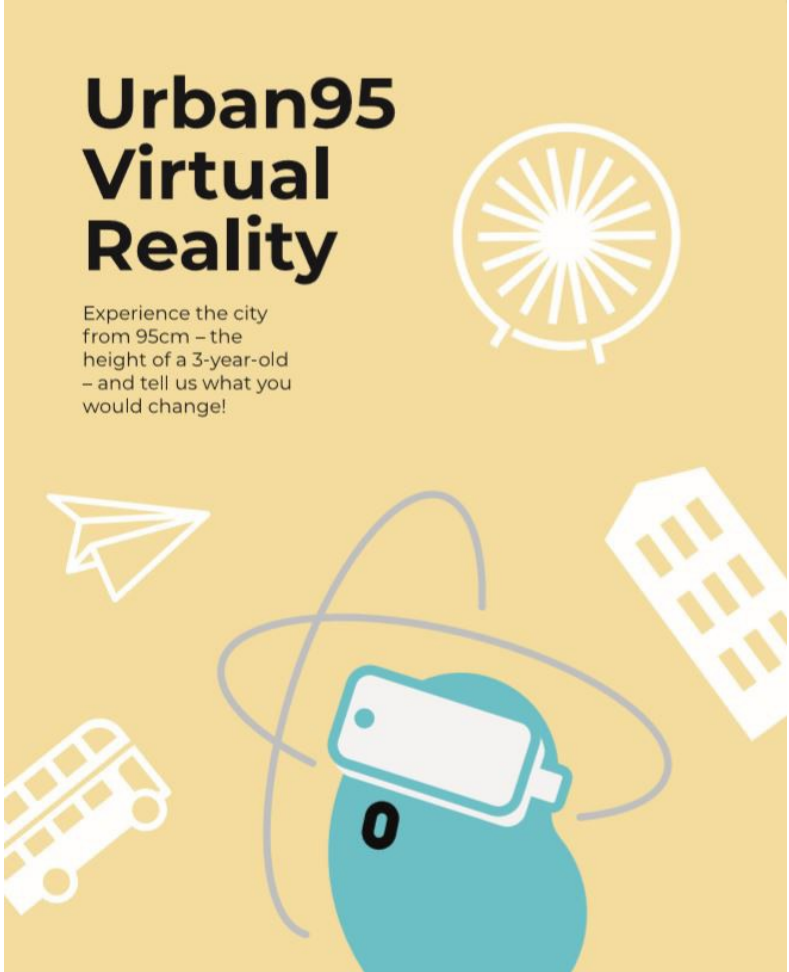
2 Children's infrastructure

The network of spaces, streets, nature and interventions which make up the key features of a child-friendly city.

Building blocks



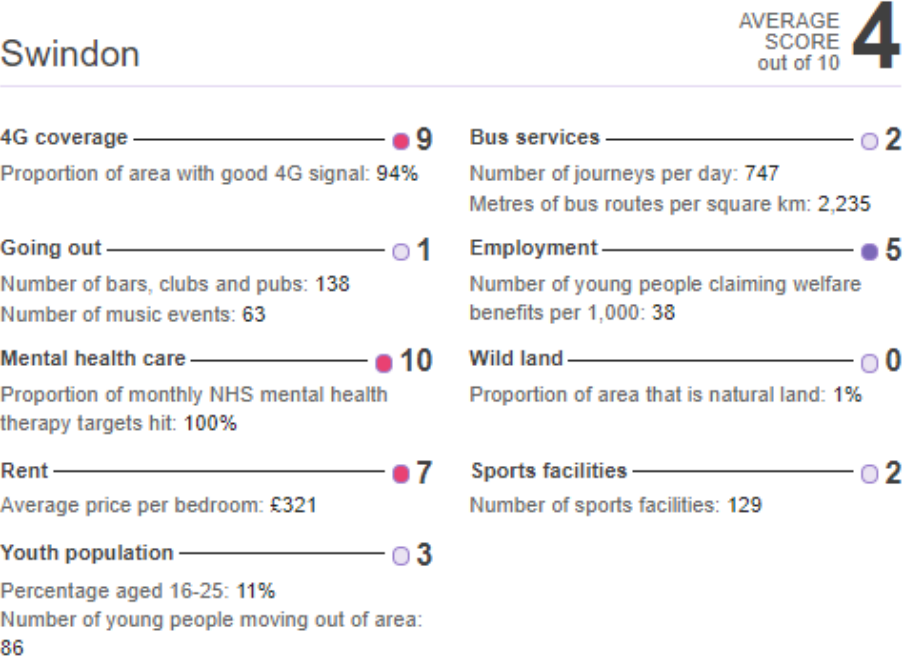
Urban95 VR



National Ranking

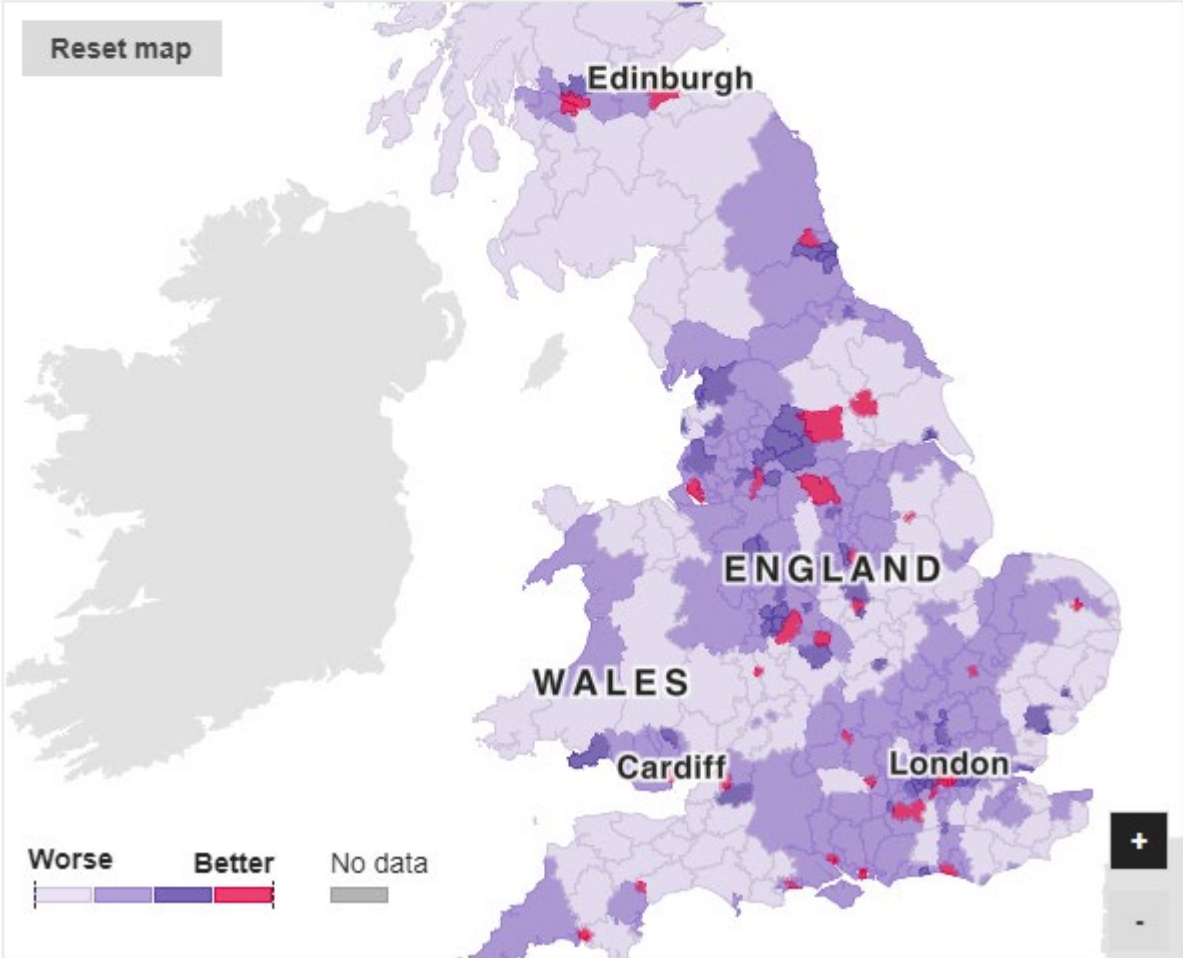
Know Your Place

BBC project (2019) to create a ranking of places to be young (under 25) in the UK
Looked at 11 measures and crossed checked with a poll of over 1,000 young people.

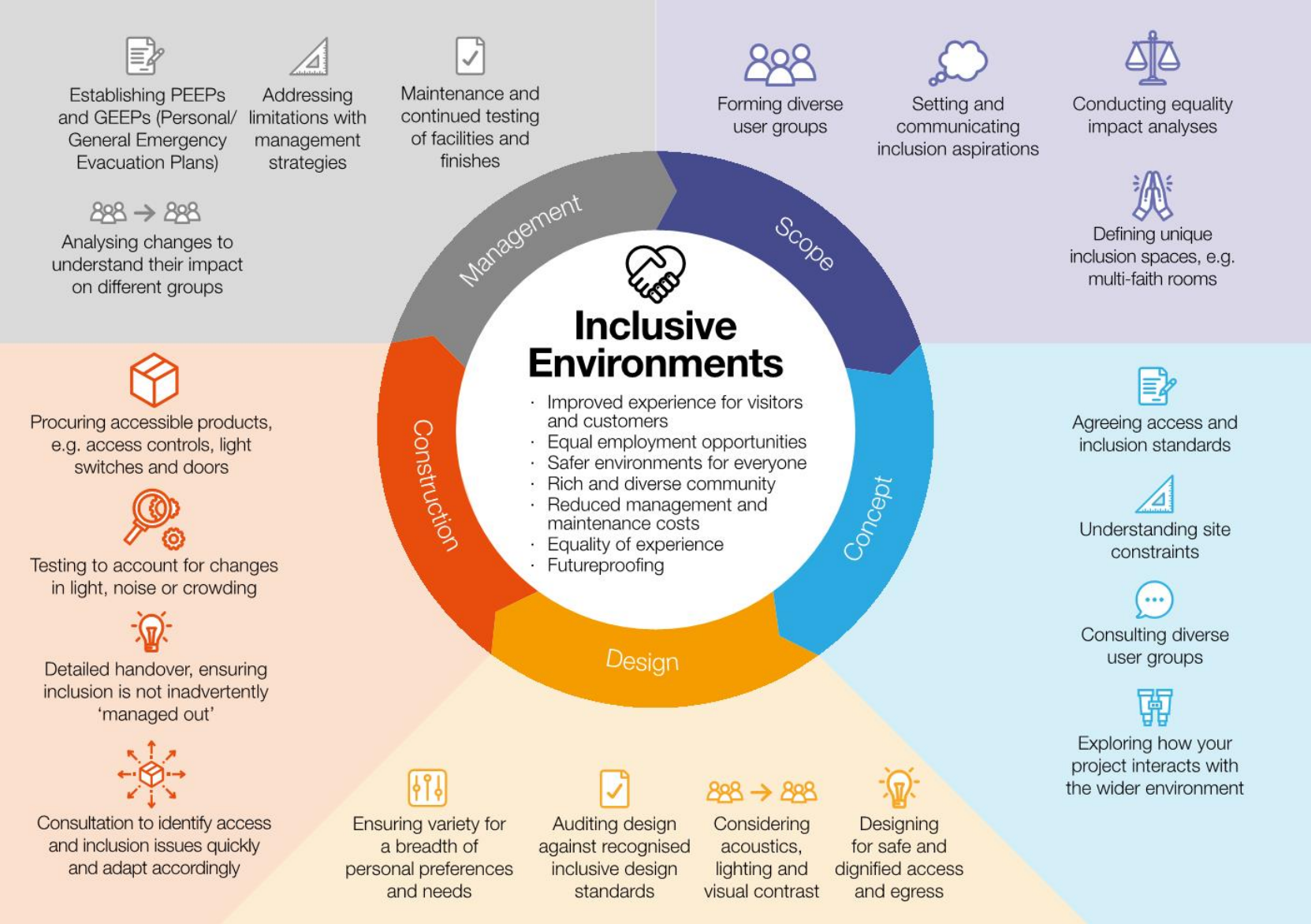


How good is your place for young people?

Enter a postcode or local authority



Project Life Cycle



Key Stakeholders



Politicians and policy makers



Investors and developers



Built Environment professionals

Building places for young people

YOUTH ZONE AT HOME: [ON-SIDE'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19](#)



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WE WORK IN PARTNERSHIP...

...with young people, the local community, local businesses and the local authority in a cross-community collaboration between public, private and voluntary sectors.



91% OF LOCAL BUSINESSES BELIEVE THAT A YOUTH ZONE HAS IMPROVED THE QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT



OF LOCAL BUSINESSES BELIEVE A YOUTH ZONE HAS INCREASED COMMUNITY SAFETY



OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO COMPLETED THE 'GET A JOB' PROGRAMME PROGRESSED INTO WORK OR FURTHER STUDY

Creating opportunities for young people



START SOMETHING



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The Teenage Market

Giving young people a free platform to showcase their creative talents

ould New Orleans
ore child-friendly?



Actively Engaging with young people

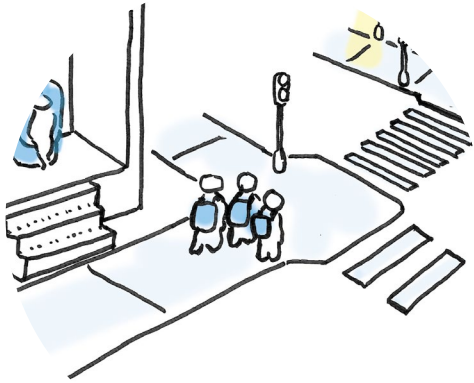
Youth Mayors in Oldham, Newhaven and Stevenage, **Young offender** programmes, local schools and **youth clubs** – there are many ways to reach out to young people and find ways to work together. And **social media** helps too.

What might good look like?

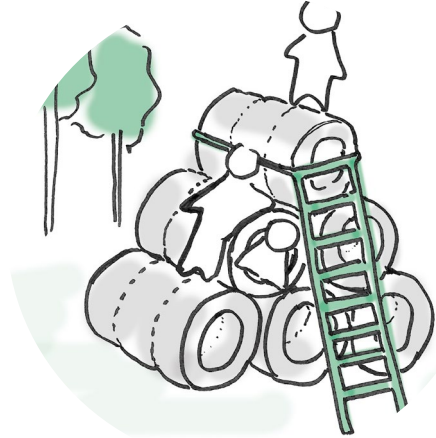
Youth Engagement



Vision and objectives



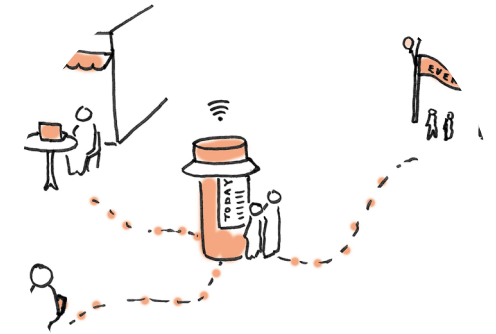
Create Safe Routes, Safe Streets, and a walkable New Orleans



Transform blight into play spaces

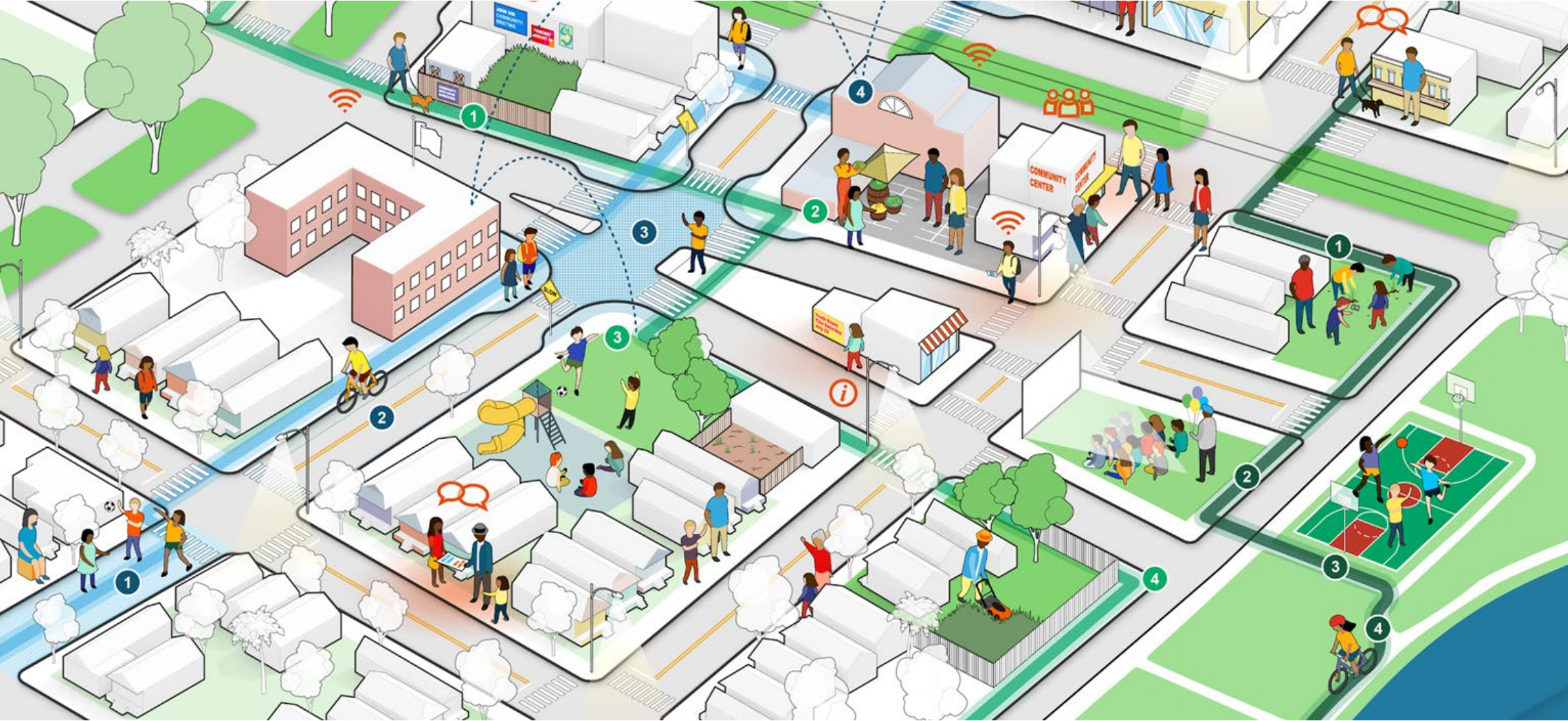


Create New and Strengthen Existing Access to Nature, Recreation, and Water



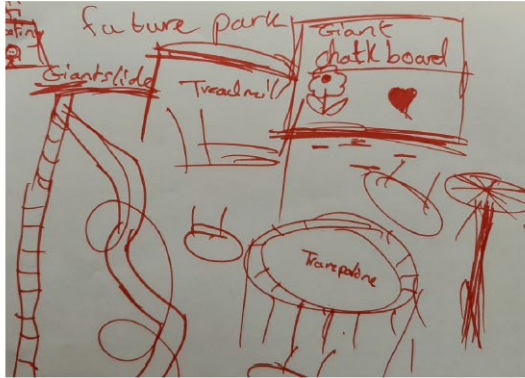
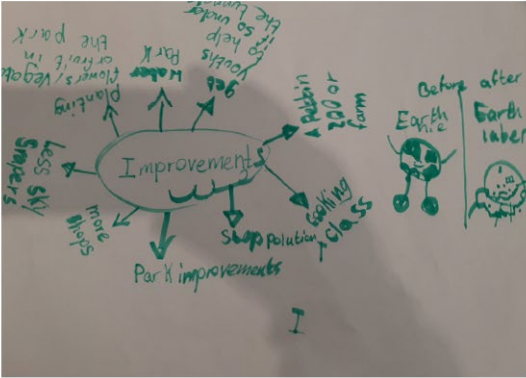
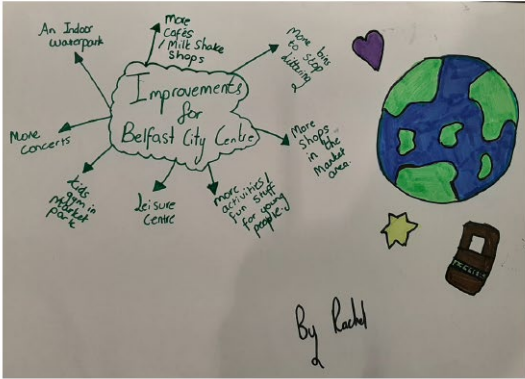
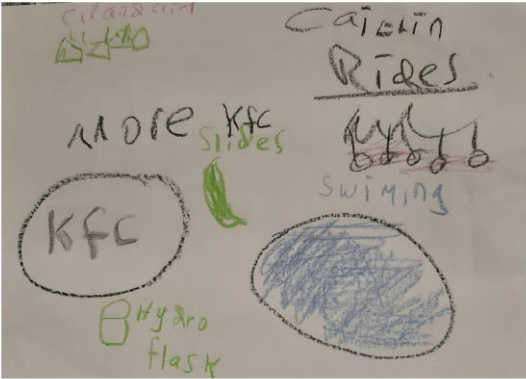
Establish Communication and Awareness Strategy & Platform

Interventions

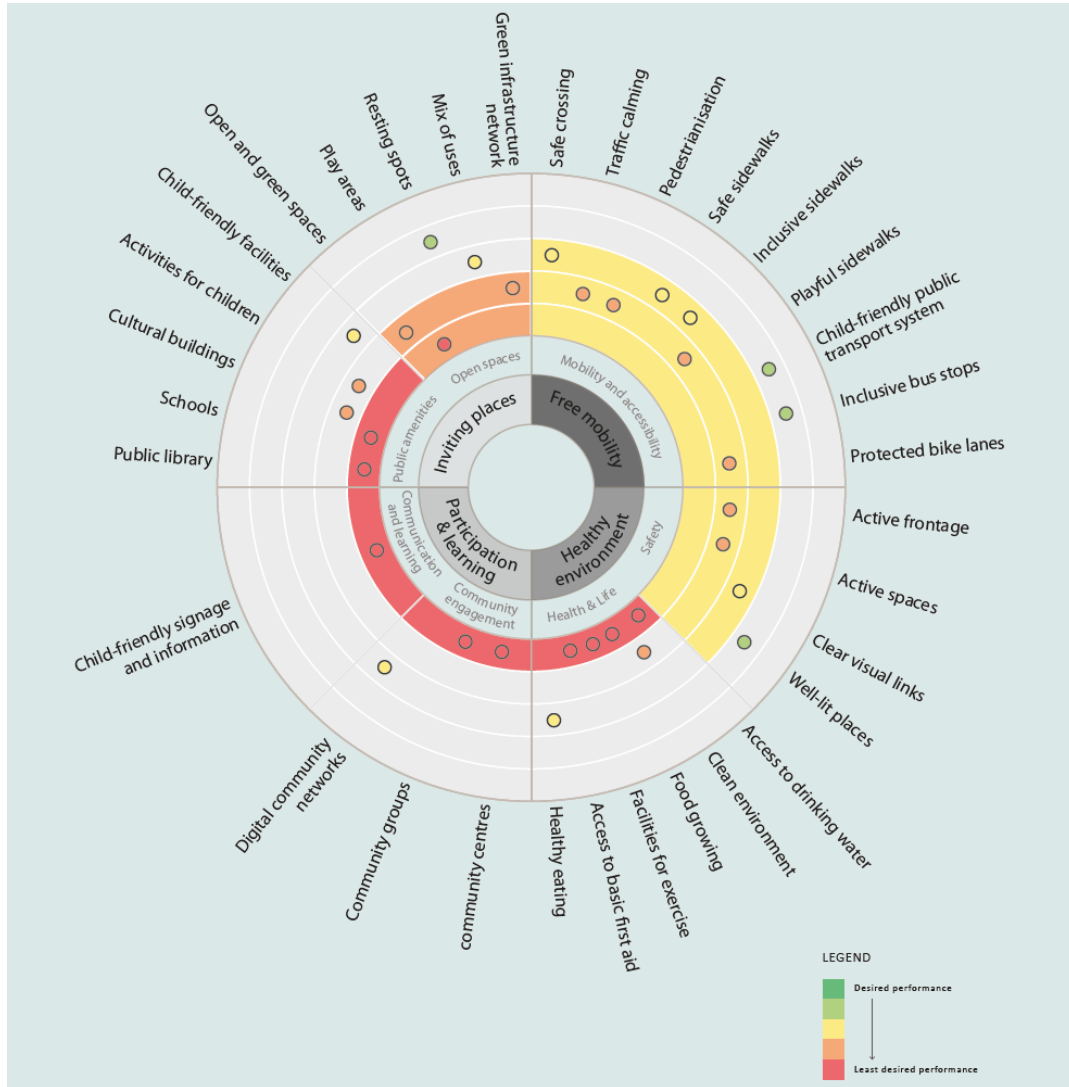


Belfast Urban Childhoods Engagement

To understand their perceptions and aspirations of the children. The outputs as input for developing interventions.



Analysis



Belfast Urban Childhoods



Cardiff Recovery - Castle Street



July 2020



August 2020





Tottenham Talks...

to the

Greater London Authority

The research behind this

- Dandelion and 2020 discussed a plan of action for the asset trail
- Our team – 50+ young Tottenham residents - collected views and opinions
- We brain stormed, produced images, maps and posters



The research behind this

- Dandelion and 2020 team went on an **asset trail**
- We interviewed and consulted with **local businesses, residents and stakeholders**
 - took photographs



**1995:
Made in Tottenham
2025:
Stayed in Tottenham**



Invest in the place

- Improve Park Lane and the High Road



Invest in business

- **Invest in businesses** which will **create jobs** and sustainable employment
- **Encourage independent business** on the high street, alongside household brands
- Create the Tottenham village buzz with markets, independent traders, pop up shops, and 639 High Road - enterprise units



Invest in people

- **Tap the potential** – the people and the place
- We have a strong sense of community
- Creative talent and entrepreneurial culture
- Diverse community, family and future first



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