



Engaging Children and Young People in Placemaking

Chris Karelse - Belfast Healthy Cities



Taking Action for Child Friendly Places

- ▶ inter-sectoral action plan;
- ▶ Engaging and Empowering Children; Creating Healthier Places and Supportive Environments; Tools for Child Centred Spatial Planning and Design;
- ▶ 7000 children and families were directly engaged with.



KidsSpace (2011-2017)



For more information visit
www.belfasthealthycities.com



ACTIVE SPACE - CREATIVE SPACE - FREE SPACE



Kids Space@ Castle
(Upper Mall)
Saturday 29 March
11am - 3pm

This event is an indoor event

Kids Space is part of Family Friendly initiatives being held during the month of March.

Kids Space creates places for children and families to make their own in the heart of the city. Drop in when you can, stay as long as you like and tell us what you think.

Kids Space is for children of all ages and abilities. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Smoothie Bikes, Junk Art, and lots more fun...





Planning my City (2014)



Belfast
A World Health Organization
Healthy City



Shaping Healthier Neighbourhoods for Children (2011-14)

- ▶ class-based sessions exploring the topic of healthy environments;
- ▶ 400 children aged 8-11 ;
- ▶ walk in the local neighbourhood, Photovoice method, and a final imagining session to share ideas, prioritise and visualise an agreed proposal;
- ▶ Events where children present their ideas directly to senior policy and local government decision makers.



Findings:

- ▶ access to **green and open space** that enables children to play and socialise with a degree of independence;
- ▶ a strong concern for **cleanliness**;
- ▶ better provision for **walking and cycling** and better **traffic management**, including traffic calming and reduced traffic.

Healthy Places, Healthy Children (2015-)

- ▶ Supported by NIHE, PHA and Education Authority and endorsed by RTPi;
- ▶ Stage 2 (children aged 8-11) teaching resource;
- ▶ integrated into the *World Around Us* curriculum - and supports delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum on cross curricular skills (critical thinking, teamwork and problem solving);
- ▶ piloted with over 30 schools in Northern Ireland and beyond.





- ▶ Available online at www.belfasthealthycities.com/hphc



Nettlefield Primary School



Our Lady's Primary School



St Kevin's Primary School

“Our girls are so excited to see their plans come to life. It has allowed them to open their minds to career they may not have considered before. The Healthy Cities programme was enjoyed thoroughly by both staff and pupils and we would really recommend this resource!”

“Healthy cities was a fantastic opportunity for our students to engage in their local area and share their opinions on how to improve it. Keeping them involved in every step of the process gives them a sense of ownership to the proposal we put forward and presenting it makes them feel like their voices are being heard”

