

Appendix 1: Programme of Family Friendly activity

1. Family friendly programmes

Year round city centre events for families

Halloween Titanic Slipways Saturday 31 October

Christmas Lights Switch-On City Hall Saturday 14 November

BBC Sports Personality of the Year and Outreach Programme SSE Arena Sunday 20 December

St Patricks Celebrations City Centre and Custom House Square Thursday 17 March

Spring into Easter Belfast City Hall *Sat 26 - Tues 29 March

Circuit of Ireland Rally City Centre Fri 8 – Sat 9 April

Belfast City Marathon Citywide Monday 2 May

Belfast Titanic Maritime Festival Queens Quay Abercorn Basin Titanic Slipways Sat 28 – Mon 30 May

Proms (delivered by the BBC) Titanic Slipways Saturday 10 Sept

All Ireland Irish Dancing Championships Belfast Waterfront 28 Oct – 6 Nov 2016

Year round Council funded programmes

Andersonstown Traditional and Contemporary Music School – music classes, workshops and events for primary school upwards

Beat Initiative – programme of family friendly carnival workshops, classes, events throughout the year for primary school upwards

Belfast Community Circus School - programme of family friendly circus workshops, classes, events throughout the year for ages 3+

Cahoots NI – a professional children's theatre company based in Belfast, they perform throughout the year across the city in schools and theatres

Cinemagic – use film TV and digital technologies through screenings festivals and workshops to educate and inspire young people

DU Dance –innovative contemporary dance with young people across communities and schools, including intergenerational work

Kids in Control – an all ability youth theatre company working with schools and communities and showcasing in the Lyric
Replay Productions – produce professional theatre for young people, from babies to teenagers, and work with PMLD children. They also recently organised BabyDay.
Streetwise Community Circus – offer circus skills training for all ages including a strand for children and a summer school
Wheelworks – engage marginalised young people and offer a multi strand arts programme and tour their ArtCart, a mobile creative hub
Young at Art – produce the Belfast Children’s Festival, create programmes for children and young people from babies upwards, and carry out projects including Fighting Words
Council’s small grant scheme provides funding for community groups to provide activity programmes throughout the year for summer or other thematic activity directly benefiting communities, children or families. E.g. Summer schemes and Parks small grants such as Rodney to Turf Spooky Treasure Hunt & Markets Development Association Spring Park Celebration. Alongside the funding arrangements for capacity building and resourcing the community and voluntary sector.
Ur city 2 neighbourhood renewal monies commissioned to NRPs from Council’s CYP Unit runs a series of Children and Young People activities shaped through engaging children and families many of which are in the bordering neighbourhoods of the city centre
Partnership initiatives
Through the Belfast Strategic Partnership the Family Friendly Initiative was established and has recently refocused on its original agenda and is offering the following programme up to end March 2016: <i>Movie mornings at the Ulster Hall</i> Monday, 26 th October: Friday, 30 th October Tuesday, 22 nd December Monday, 28 th December 13 th February: Thursday 31 st March Saturday 2 nd April 16 <i>Acoustic Picnics at the Oh Yeah Music Centre</i> Sunday 8 th November; Saturday 5 th December; Saturday 9 th January; Saturday 6 th February 16

The **Belfast City Centre Management** action plan includes the co-ordination of an annual city centre animation programme. It also includes a specific action in relation to the promotion of family friendly infrastructure with retailers for example, WCs, baby changing and disabled access.

Belfast Healthy Cities is leading the child friendly agenda and recently brought key stakeholders together to agree a co-ordinated sustainable approach to integrating children's needs in the city. This will inform future policy and practice. Specific initiatives include Kids space initiatives in the city centre.

Existing Council work streams

The Investment Programme and Playground Improvement programme reflects the commitment by council in developing physical play provision.

Belfast Bikes has been a positive investment in affordable access throughout the city centre hopefully attractive to families and renewing the routes also contributing greatly to appealing to families, communities and individual young people to make their way into the city;

Council's play team operate in neighbouring communities to the city centre offering free sessions for children and families and uniquely develops play sessions where there is limited open space e.g. Sailorstown. Working in partnership with Clanmil to organise access to play sessions.

There is a community safety led app for the city which is incorporating a Youth Forum proposal of identifying youth friendly sites, shops and space in the city centre

Council invests in Belfast City Centre Management to derive a safe and thriving city centre which commissions T13 in developing alternative play in the city centre.

Council's Youth Forum has a programme in place for the duration of their term (up to June 16) and includes several city centre focused events for young people to bring their families and raise awareness on hidden homelessness 'Push it Home' sofa push, poverty and a shared space in the city. Work is ongoing in these areas to establish a 'pop up shared space' for young people in the city centre in 2016.

A youth market is taking place on 10 December in St George's market led by Young Enterprise and supported by the Youth Forum
There is a Centenaries' programme shaped by the Youth Forum for Young people emerging as part of the Decade of Centenaries' in the city centre from Jan – April 16
Council's inner-city community centres also offer full weekly programmes for children and families along with our partner organisations.

New opportunities

People and Communities Action plan areas. An annual programme of events and activities for children and young people.

PEACE IV Funding Council has agreed in principle a key family friendly related proposal namely 'Play, space and shared space'. This programme is underpinned by the right to play across the city and is specifically aimed at what better looks like for children.

Girdwood whilst outside the city centre boundary it does provide opportunity in a current programme of work to be family friendly outcome focused through the programming and ongoing management of the site.

As part of Council's involvement in the Family Friendly initiative there is a proposal to form an evidential picture of what families need from the communities nearest to the city centre. As agreed in the earlier paper, the integration of the family friendly agenda through active and effective engagement in future relevant policies can be built into all future practice.

2. Family Friendly spaces

Within the new Regeneration and Investment strategy there is room to explore family friendly improvements under Shared Space and Social Impact primarily through Public realm interventions.

Year round spaces funded via Tourism, Culture and Arts

Black Box – the venue has a large performance space and a green room with exhibitions, children’s games, diverse children’s workshops and weekly family friendly board game events; and it is open 6 days per week

Golden Thread Gallery – a welcoming space for the public to engage with contemporary visual art they also run programmes working with young people and a children’s summer school.

Grand Opera House – the venue presents family and child friendly productions and also run regular workshops and programmes for young people

Linen Hall Library – in addition to its city centre library and open space which is used by many young people 6 days per week, there are also regular events and exhibitions

MAC – the Metropolitan Arts Centre offers shared open family friendly space with a dedicated area on the ground floor, open 7 days per week. They also programme family friendly events and exhibitions.

Oh Yeah Music Centre – offer a family friendly venue and a wide range of events and opportunities for participation in the city centre including regular family music picnic events.

YouthAction NI – offer a city centre space and theatre where young people take part in arts programmes including the Rainbow Factory

Community centres bordering the city centre include Markets, Sandy Row, Carrickhill and Donegall Pass. As part of other funding streams independent centres exist providing resources to families etc