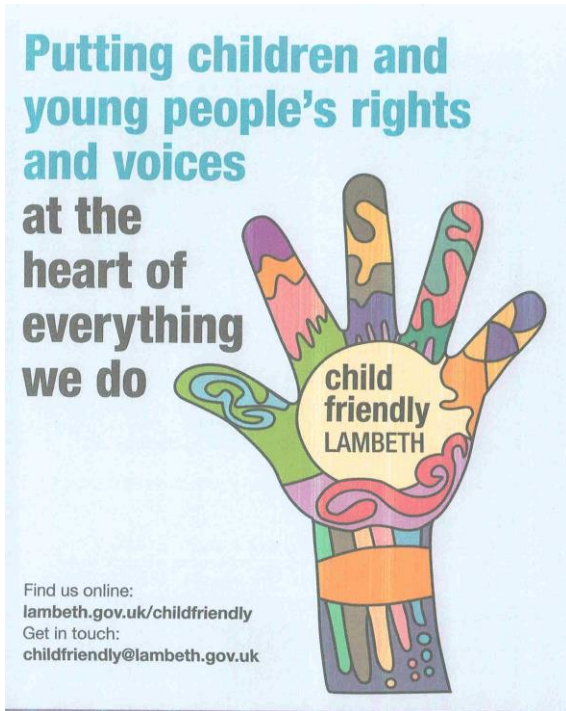


UNA Streatham & Clapham and the UNICEF Child Friendly Communities Programme Sarah Webster, 28th October, 2023



Since the Pandemic we met with UNICEF-UK to hear about their work on the UNICEF Child Friendly Communities Programme, which Lambeth is currently undertaking with UNICEF-UK.

The aim of the Programme is to give a meaningful voice to children and young people in all areas that affect them. It is an attempt to put into practice the fundamental rights embodied in the *UN Convention on the Right of the Child*. In UNICEF's training booklet they describe the aim being "to transform cities and communities into places where all children, including the most vulnerable, feel safe, heard, cared for and able to flourish".

The Programme has 4 stages. The first stage is *the Discovery Stage* when officials try to speak to as many children and young people as possible, while consciously focussing on the most vulnerable groups. The next stages are *Development, Delivery, Recognition*. The 4 stages of the process take 3 to 7 years to complete.

There are currently 8 areas across the UK taking part in the scheme: Aberdeen, Cardiff, Derry/Londonderry, Lambeth, Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham, Redbridge. Other towns and cities can apply to be part of this programme.

At a local Wellbeing event organised by a local group called LittleBigPeace for International Peace Day we had a stall with information on wellbeing, which had been put out online from the various UN Agencies. We took the opportunity to share the publicity from Lambeth explaining their involvement in UNICEF Child Friendly Communities Programme. We explained to people locally what this means in practice for decisions and practices of Lambeth Council.