

August 23, 2022

Dear Katherine Harford,

Abstract ID#8

We are pleased to inform you that your abstract below has been accepted for the 2022 Annual Business Meeting and Technical Conference! Your abstract will be presented during the parallel sessions as well as included in the Conference Book of Abstracts.

The 2022 Annual Business Meeting and Technical Conference will be a hybrid conference, although we encourage presenters to attend in person if possible. The registration for the conference will open on 1 September 2022 and in your registration, you can indicate how you will participate in the conference – in person in UN City or Online.

Please note that each city and national network in the Healthy Cities Network has a limit to the size of their delegation attending. If you are not a Network Coordinator, we encourage you to contact your Healthy City or National Network Coordinator to share your abstract acceptance and confirm a seat in the delegation.

As we get closer to the conference, we will contact you and ask you to re-submit your final abstract (500 words or less) to be included in the 2022 Book of Abstracts. We will also share the provisional programme, so that you know when your presentation will take place. Please note that you will have a 10 minute presentation followed by 5 minutes of question and answer with the audience.

Please contact the Healthy Cities Secretariat at eurohealthycities@who.int if you have any questions regarding the 2022 Annual Business Meeting and Technical Conference.

Warm regards,

WHO Healthy Cities Secretariat

Accepted Abstract:

Allies for Health and wellbeing across the life cycle, starting with our youngest citizens

Cork's commitment to becoming a UNICEF Child Friendly City was stated in the Cork Healthy Cities Action Plan in 2020. This attracted much attention across civic society indicating an appetite for progressing this work. The UNICEF Child Friendly City Framework underpinned by principles of equity and participation align well Cork Healthy City and other key strategies aiming to improve quality of life for all in the City. 'Child Friendly Cities'...actively pursue the rights of every child to 'grow up in an

environment where they feel safe and secure, have access to basic services and clean air and water, can play learn and grow and where their voice is heard and matters' (UNICEF).

In 2021, intersectoral partners across Cork came together to form a Child Friendly Cities Forum. This Forum is led by Let's Grow Together! Infant & Childhood Partnerships, supported by Cork Healthy Cities and University College Cork, and made up of statutory, community and voluntary and education organisations. The group recognises itself at the discovery phase under the UNICEF Child Friendly City Initiative.

Since its inception Cork Child Friendly City Forum has grown into an allyship of multiple sectors and stakeholders that represent the inter-sectionality of children's lives; focussing on strong relationships based on trust, consistency, action and accountability to children's needs, rights, participation and voice. The concepts of allies, intersectionality, readiness, alignment will be explored in this paper. How was WHO Healthy cities utilised as a lever to enable Cork to become a child friendly city. How have we accessed expertise in children's rights and participation, how have children themselves been involved? Who are the allies, why are they involved? How does the language of co-benefits advance the work of child friendly cities?

Further on, this paper will map some key actions to date including influencing policy with child friendly city considerations inserted into the City Development Plan. The paper will explore the barriers to progress and plans to overcome these. It will conclude by pointing to the direction Cork as a city will travel to place children into the heart of cross sectoral city development planning.