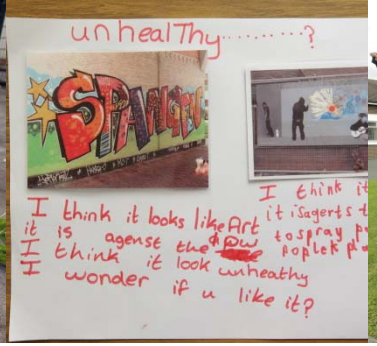

Child Friendly Spaces

Laura McDonald

Belfast Healthy Cities

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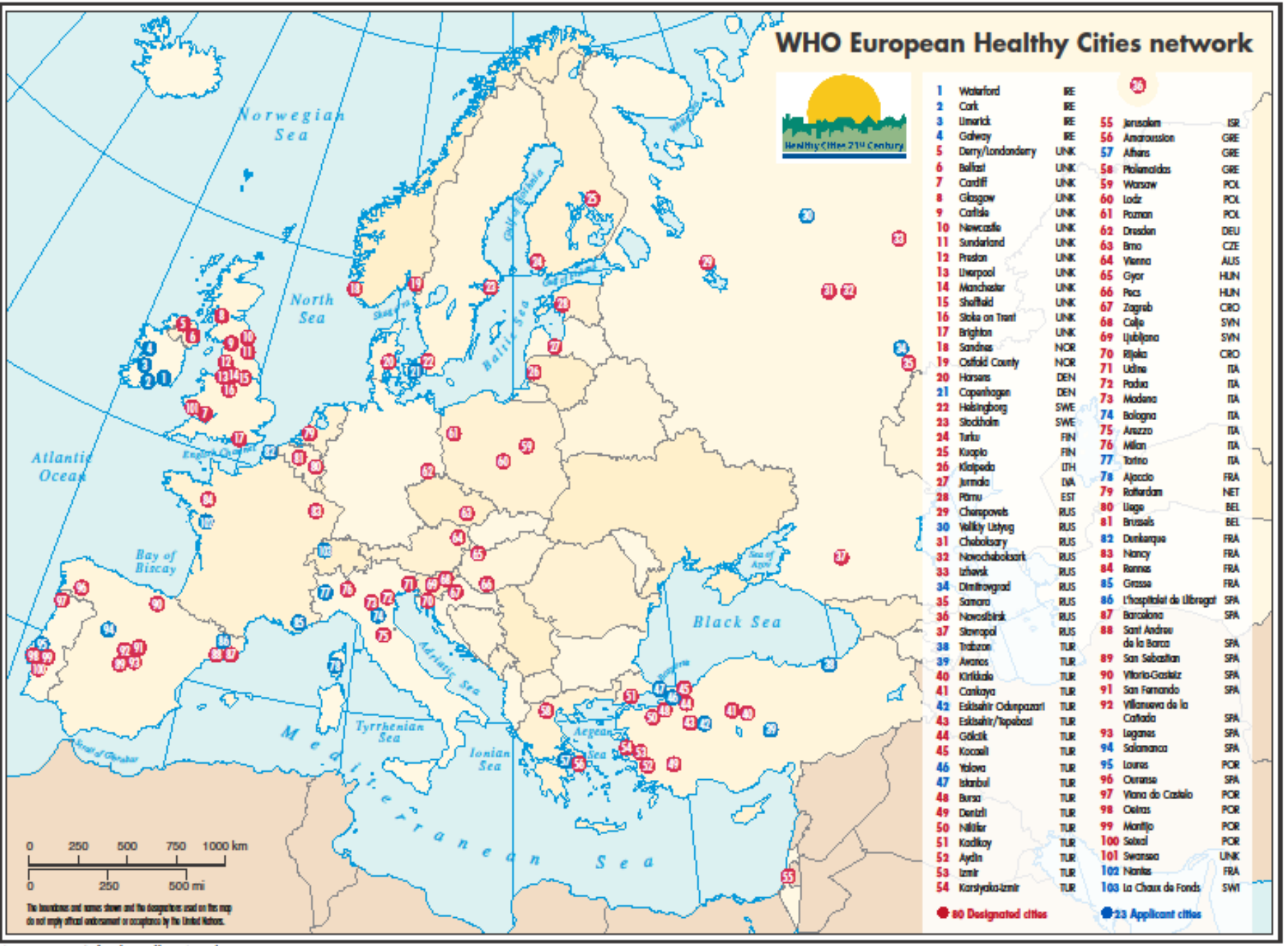
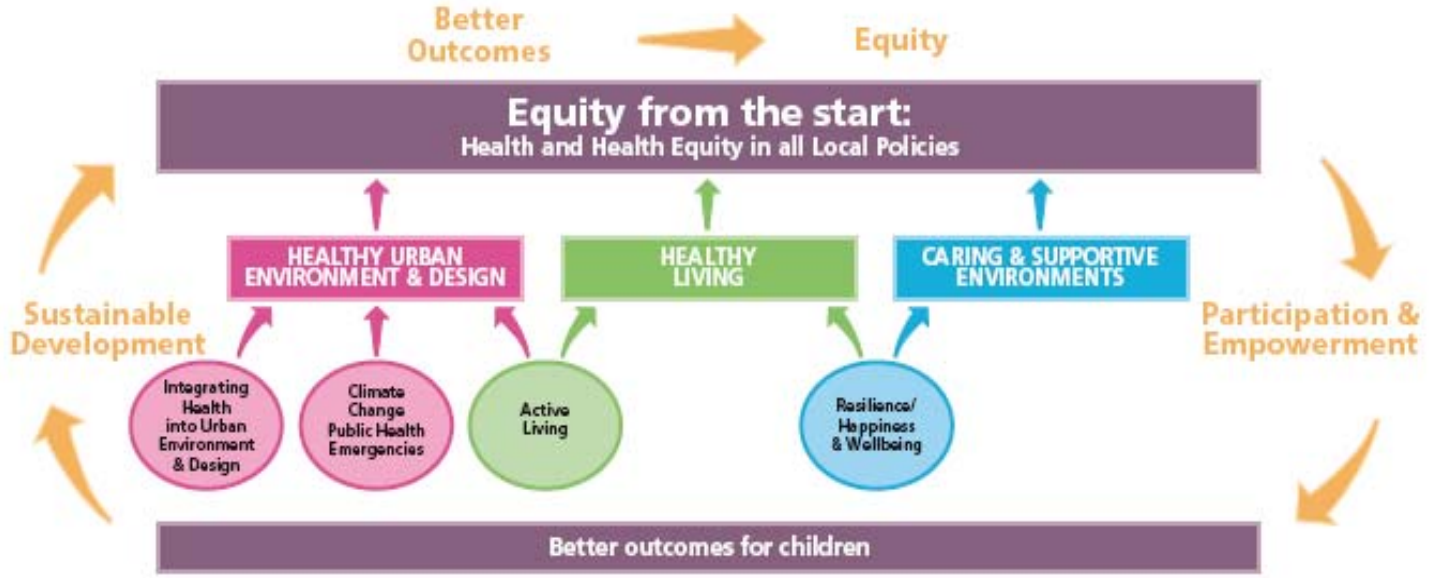

WHO European Healthy Cities network
Healthy Cities 21st Century
Norwegian Sea
North Sea
Baltic Sea
Atlantic Ocean
Bay of Biscay
Black Sea
Sea of Azov
Mediterranean Sea
Tyrrhenian Sea
Adriatic Sea
Ionian Sea
Aegean Sea
Gulf of Bothnia
Gulf of Finland
Skagerrak
English Channel
Strait of Gibraltar
Bosporus
0 250 500 750 1000 km
0 250 500 mi
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
1 Waterford IRE
2 Cork IRE
3 Limerick IRE
4 Galway IRE
5 Derry/Londonderry UNK
6 Belfast UNK
7 Cardiff UNK
8 Glasgow UNK
9 Carlisle UNK
10 Newcastle UNK
11 Sunderland UNK
12 Preston UNK
13 Liverpool UNK
14 Manchester UNK
15 Sheffield UNK
16 Stoke on Trent UNK
17 Brighton UNK
18 Sandnes NOR
19 Ostfold County NOR
20 Horsens DEN
21 Copenhagen DEN
22 Helsingborg SWE
23 Stockholm SWE
24 Turku FIN
25 Kuopio FIN
26 Klaipeda LTH
27 Jurmala LVA
28 Parnu EST
29 Cherepovets RUS
30 Veliky Ustyug RUS
31 Cheboksary RUS
32 Novocheboksark RUS
33 Izhevsk RUS
34 Dimitrovgrad RUS
35 Samara RUS
36 Novosibirsk RUS
37 Stavropol RUS
38 Trabzon TUR
39 Avanos TUR
40 Kirikkale TUR
41 Cankaya TUR
42 Eskisehir Odunpazari TUR
43 Eskisehir/Tepebasi TUR
44 Golcuk TUR
45 Kocaeli TUR
46 Yalova TUR
47 Istanbul TUR
48 Bursa TUR
49 Denizli TUR
50 Nilufer TUR
51 Kadikoy TUR
52 Aydin TUR
53 Izmir TUR
54 Karsiyaka-Izmir TUR
55 Jerusalem ISR
56 Amaroussion GRE
57 Athens GRE
58 Ptolemaidas GRE
59 Warsaw POL
60 Lodz POL
61 Poznan POL
62 Dresden DEU
63 Brno CZE
64 Vienna AUS
65 Gyor HUN
66 Pecs HUN
67 Zagreb CRO
68 Celje SVN
69 Ljubljana SVN
70 Rijeka CRO
71 Udine ITA
72 Padua ITA
73 Modena ITA
74 Bologna ITA
75 Arezzo ITA
76 Milan ITA
77 Torino ITA
78 Ajaccio FRA
79 Rotterdam NET
80 Liege BEL
81 Brussels BEL
82 Dunkerque FRA
83 Nancy FRA
84 Rennes FRA
85 Grasse FRA
86 L'hospitalet de Llibregat SPA
87 Barcelona SPA
88 Sant Andreu de la Barca SPA
89 San Sebastian SPA
90 Vitoria-Gasteiz SPA
91 San Fernando SPA
92 Villanueva de la Canada SPA
93 Leganes SPA
94 Salamanca SPA
95 Loures POR
96 Cduanse SPA
97 Viana do Castelo POR
98 Cascais POR
99 Montijo POR
100 Setuil POR
101 Swansea UNK
102 Nantes FRA
103 La Chaux de Fonds SWI
80 Designated cities
23 Applicant cities

Belfast – A World Health Organization Healthy City Phase V (2009 – 2013)

Policies and actions are consciously developed from the start in a way that contributes to health and health equity.



Evidence Base/ Effective interventions	Health Risks/Social Distribution/Monitoring	Capacity Building/ Skills/Knowledge/Tools	Inter/Action/Equity Plans Innovations/Risk Taking	Leadership/Stewardship/ Collaboration	Political Engagement & Civic Society
Building Foundation					

Solidarity & Friendship

Working in partnership

HEALTHY CITIES Belfast

What is a child friendly space?

- Children are active agents; their voices and opinions are taken into consideration and influence decision making

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Children & the built environment

- Children are not always considered in the planning process for the built environment
- No mechanism for engagement
- Children sometimes play in less than ideal conditions

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Children and the built environment

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Benefits of a child friendly environment

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Benefits of a child friendly environment

- Encourages physical activity which may help to address obesity
- Supports mental and social development
- Degree of independence
- Healthy risk taking
- Natural meeting place
- Helps against anti-social behaviour
- Can help towns and cities economically

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Child Friendly Cities

- Shaping Healthier Neighbourhoods for Children – schools project (2011/2012 & 2013/2014)

- KidsSpace – Exploring Child Friendly Space in Belfast City Centre (2011 - 2013)

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Schools Project: Aims and objectives

- 100 children aged 9-11 from Schools in Suffolk and Lenadoon area of West Belfast & an afterschools club
- 4 main aims:
- Offer children an opportunity to express their views and wishes
  - Photography and art chosen to facilitate range of abilities
- Identify ways of engaging children in decision making process
- Generate information to support policy and decision making
- Create a model for engaging with children
  - Found to have relevance to NI curriculum

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Workshops

- ***Workshop 1:*** *Introducing the Issues*, healthy and unhealthy environments
- ***Workshop 2:*** *Picturing our Environment*, photographs, after thoughts and observations
- ***Workshop 3:*** **Imagining our Environment**, developed photos returned to children, presentations of what they like, don't like and want to change

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Workshops

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Findings: Clean, green, safe spaces

- Strong preference across groups for
  - Green space
  - Clean public spaces
  - Calmer traffic
- Resonates with academic literature
- Children's Charter: summarising views in policy relevant language

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What we did next

- Promote the Children's Charter
- Launched at event in City Hall Feb 2012 by then Lord Mayor & Junior Ministers with remit for children
- Children questioned a panel of senior decision makers
- Inform DSD Regeneration Initiatives

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Exploring Child Friendly Space in City Centres – KidsSpace

- What? – Large scale demonstration event, different venues across city
- Why? - intended to explore what child friendly space in a city centre could look like and how it might work
- Who? – collaborative approach, Active Belfast

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KidsSpace

- Shared family play key feature
- Active space – spin/smoothie bikes, sports coaches, Jump Jiggle & Jive
- Free space – adapted by children, snug kits, large games
- Creative space - sparked ownership and ideas, artists
- Age range toddlers to teenagers – key group 3-11 years olds
- Over 1000 children and families attending events
- Consultation opportunity – feedback to decision makers

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Feedback/evaluation

- Showed what child friendly space might look like
- Much can be done with the existing space through new approaches and attitudes
- Key ingredient – permission to take ownership
- Inform DSD regeneration initiative's

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Feedback from parents & children

- '*Much more of this kind of activities – art and gardening workshops, juggling workshops, roller blade hire*'
- Interactive street art and play structures doted around – support street play
- '*Use what we have effectively*' – e.g. fountains in Custom House Square, play areas in big shops, pocket parks
- '*Child friendly spaces and events would attract us to the city*'

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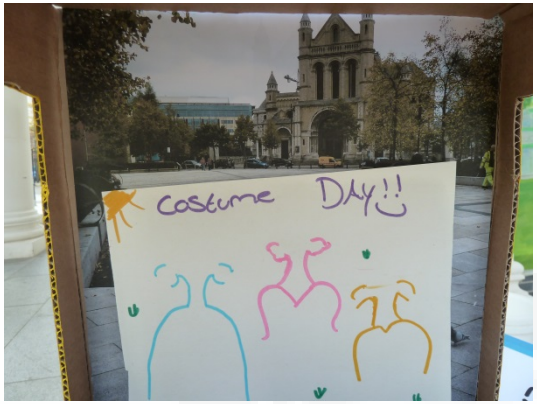

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What next?

- Similar event potentially for teenagers
- Engagement with children in the New Lodge Area to redevelop an unused space – Long Streets (NIHE, Ashton Community Association, Newington Housing Association)
- Work with DSD to inform their Regeneration Initiatives across the city
- Continue to work towards bringing the work to Strategic level

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Thank you

- Reports are available at www.belfasthealthycities.com/publications
- Further info: laura@belfasthealthycities.com, 028 9032 8811

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