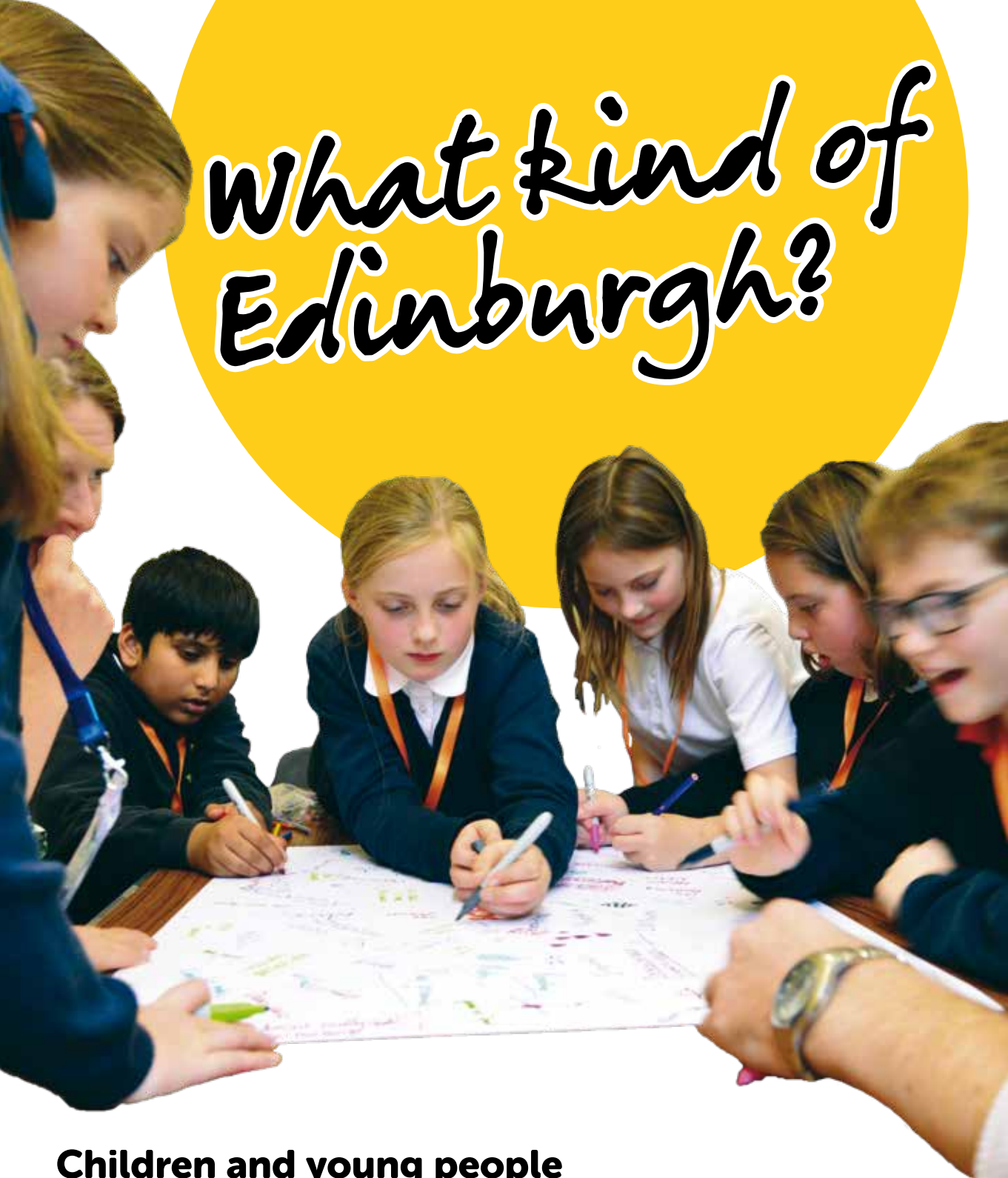


# What kind of Edinburgh?



**Children and young people  
across Edinburgh influencing  
the city's services**

---

Project delivery: August 2018 – March 2019

Project partners:  Children's Parliament •  EDINBURGH • THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL •  Y.E.A. •  NHS Lothian

## About the project

The City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian, Children's Parliament and Young Edinburgh Action worked in partnership to bring together children and young people from across Edinburgh to influence how adults plan and run the city's services. Using a rights-based approach, the aim of the project was to embed children and young people's participation in the planning and delivery of services, and to ensure that children and young people feel involved, valued and their views acted upon.

**This magazine shares their ideas and opinions so that Edinburgh's children and young people's service planners and delivery partners can take direct action and make tangible changes.**

## What we did

Between August 2018 and March 2019, 24 children and 16 young people met with 20 champion duty-bearers from different sectors to discuss creatively how to improve services in Edinburgh. After an initial "meet and greet" event, the children, young people and Champions met at five workshops. Each workshop explored a strategic priority of the Edinburgh Children's Services Plan. These priorities are:

- Best Start in Life
- Health and Well-being
- Participation and Empowerment
- Fairness and Equity
- Achievement and Education

## Participating schools and organisations

Granton Primary, Wardie Primary, St. John's RC Primary, Sighthill Primary, Stenhouse Primary, Sciennes Primary, Preston St. Primary, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce, Leith Academy, Gate 55, Goodtrees Neighbourhood Centre, Army Welfare Service, and Scottish Youth Parliament.

## Our Champions

The project Champions are duty-bearers who are in a position to influence change in the planning and delivery of services throughout Edinburgh. Our Champions are from organisations like the City of Edinburgh Council, the Edinburgh Children's Partnership Board, NHS Lothian, Police Scotland and third sector organisations. At each workshop, Champions made pledges about what they could do to improve things for children and young people based on what they heard and reported back on what they had done.

Some changes have already taken place, but this is just the beginning and there's still work to do!



**"It was a timely reminder that children and young people do have very clear views about what matters to them and I don't think we always pay enough attention when designing and developing our services." (Champion)**

**"I have promoted an Education Scotland resource on pupil participation and have plans to provide some professional learning for teachers." (Champion)**

**"This project gave children and young people a voice with important public institutions. It will be exciting to see where this goes next" (Teacher)**



# Always Remember

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) was at the centre of all the activities undertaken by the children and young people. They had some important messages on how they want to be treated that we, as adults, should always remember.

**Look  
Listen  
Act**

- We want to be safe
- We want fairness in our schools + communities
- We want LOVE, kindness and respect
- We want adults to be honest
- We want to be happy
- We want to know our rights

**"I can talk confidently to adults about different things, I'm better at making friends and I have learnt about children's rights."  
(Participant)**



**"Children have the right to be listened to and taken seriously."  
(UNCRC, Article 12)**

# Best Start in Life

For children and young people, the "best start in life" means that before their first day of school they have everything they need to grow up healthy and safe, and their mothers have everything they need when they are pregnant. It means that children's rights are respected and that children have positive relationships with the adults that take care of them.

**1. Every family should have enough money to live on.**

*We need to get people out of poverty by building more homes and flats that are inexpensive.*

**2. Every child should have love, care and support.**

**"We need to provide all children with the highest quality of learning, care and love in our nurseries."**  
(Champion's pledge)

**"Babies need food, medicines, toys, hugs and lots of love."**  
(Participant)

**5. A positive community environment is really important because families need healthy outdoor spaces.**

**4. Every family needs to be taught how important early years development is.**

**3. Parents and carers need to be able to recognise the needs of their children and they will need support with this.**

**"We need to promote early parenting programmes across the city."**  
(Champion's pledge)

*help to make a better environment*

*MORE HELP FOR PARENTS WHO NEED SUPPORT TO CARE FOR THEIR CHILDREN*

*parental mentor for parents "peer support"*

*Pay attention  
Say 'I love you'*

*Parents and members of extended family could spend more time with the kids in the family*



# Health & Well-being

Children and young people explored what is needed for positive mental, physical and social health. For children and young people, what really matters is that adults actively listen to them and act on what they hear.

**"Take notice of our behaviours, actions and other forms of communication. Tell us what's going on."**  
(Participant)

**"Being happy is important. We need to help youth workers to be confident in supporting children and young people, and help them when required."**  
(Champion's pledge)

**"When things get tough, children and young people need support."**  
(Participant)

**1. Really listen to children and young people!**

**2. Well-being needs kindness, respect and happiness.**

**3. All children and young people should have access to a safe space and someone they can talk to.**



**"Children and young people should see their social worker more often, in the weekends too."**  
(Participant)

**5. All children and young people should know about services that can help them.**

**"We need to shape better support systems in school to help children and young people talk when they need to."**  
(Champion's pledge)

**4. Adults should be kind, friendly and not shout at children and young people.**

**Adults need to stop shouting at children - it doesn't just effect the child or the child who are being shouted at. IT effects everyone.**

# Fairness

Children and young people discussed what fairness means to them and shared it with the adult Champions. They worked together to find out what is good and what can be improved in their homes, schools and communities to make Edinburgh a fairer city.



"Adults think they are consulting with young people, but unless this leads to action or change, we are just ticking a box."  
(Champion's pledge)

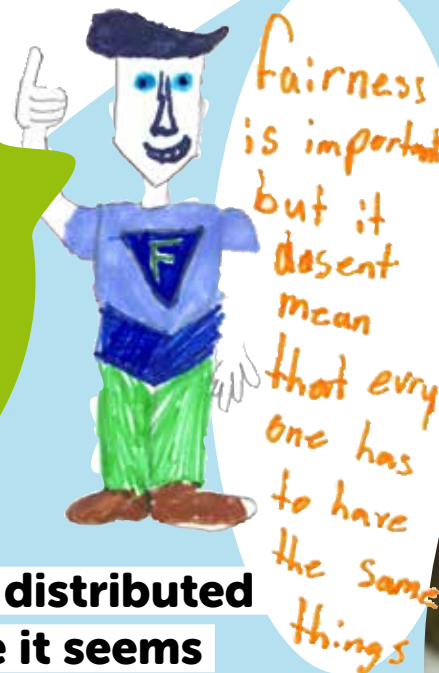
"There are not enough teachers and subject choice is not the same in every school. Some playgrounds have lots of litter and lack proper resources."  
(Participant)

**5. Opportunities within education should be fair across the city.**

**4. We do not want a negative reputation depending on where we live.**

"People, including adults, judge us and what we can achieve based on which area we're from and the reputation it has."  
(Participant)

"Encourage schools to see children & young people as agents of change, listen and respect their views, and involve them in decisions legitimately."  
(Champion's pledge)



**1. Funding needs to be distributed in a fairer way, because it seems like it doesn't reach the people who need it.**

"Parks should get cleaned regularly and have more bins. Walkways need more light to feel safe."  
(Participant)

**2. Outdoor places need to be made safer, more suited for children and young people and be looked after properly – no matter where we live.**

**3. Services should meet children and young people's needs fully: for example, expand the variety of sports, especially in the evenings, and make clubs more affordable.**

*Be realistic about what young people need*





# Achieving Your Best in Education

Education is so precious to children and young people and they want it to be a happy and safe experience through which they can learn and flourish. After a discussion about achievement and the obstacles that might get in the way, children and young people shared ideas about what can be done to make sure everyone achieves their best in education.

## 1. Relationships between children and young people and teachers should be improved by getting to know each other.

Step 1: Instead of detention we should have 'Reflection time' to talk things through and make it better!

"Teachers should greet students nicely even if they're late."  
(Participant)

## 2. Poverty shouldn't hold us back.

Poverty shouldn't hold us back - every child and young person should have access to healthy lunches, school uniform, resources and trips. We need to raise awareness about Poverty.

"Schools should run a 'be in someone else's shoes for a day' campaign."  
(Participant)

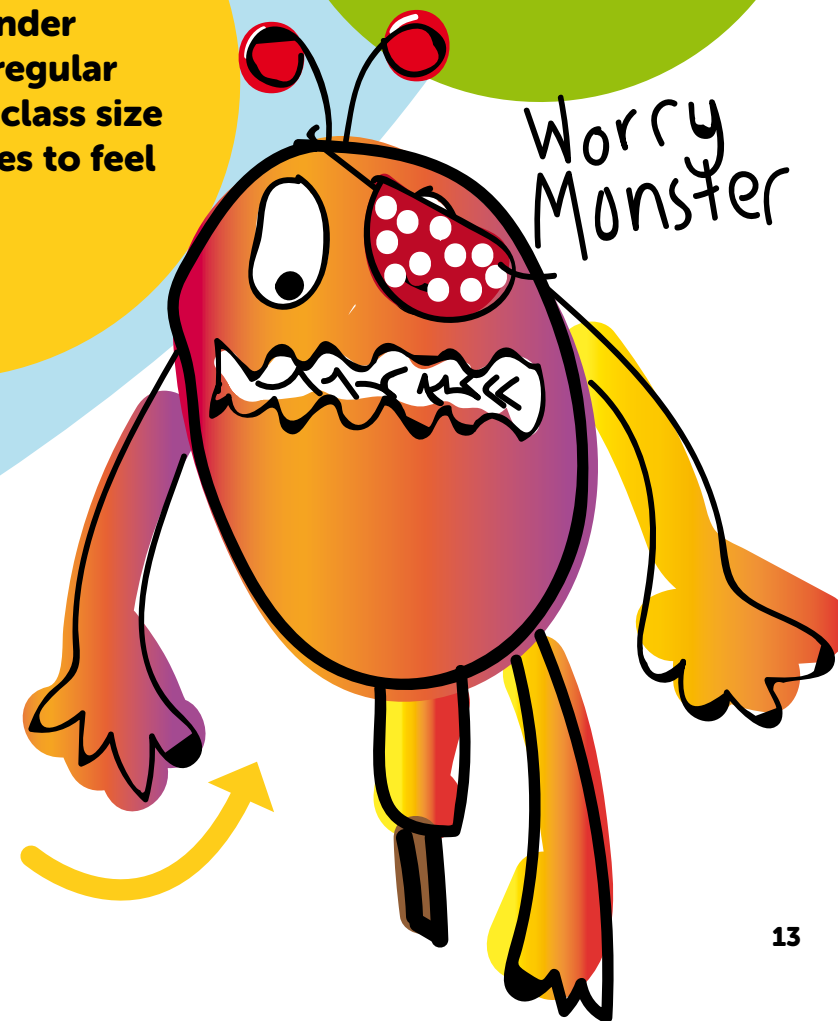
## 3. Bullying is still a problem in schools. We need to do something to sort it out properly.

## 5. School environment should be improved.

"Schools should have better facilities accessible to everyone, gender neutral toilets, regular repairs, smaller class size and happy spaces to feel safe and relax."  
(Participant)

"I pledge to work with poverty action plan to look at provisions of after school activities and links to housing and use of PEF funding."  
(Champion's pledge)

## 4. Don't overwhelm children and young people with the constant focus on tests and exams.



# Participation and empowerment

The What Kind of Edinburgh? project was all about empowering children and young people to take part in the planning and delivery of services in Edinburgh. In the last workshop, they all came together alongside the Champions to reflect on their participation throughout the project, exploring what good participation looks like. Here are eight tips from children and young people on how to ensure good quality participation.

- 
1. Build positive relationships.
  2. Don't judge people for their ideas.
  3. Make sure everyone is heard and has the opportunity to share ideas.
  4. Have fun and work as a team.
  5. Be equal and help each other.
  6. Have good people to support you.
  7. Include us from start to end.
  8. Be prepared to open up to new learning.

"I have gained confidence and the skill to speak out and I've lost the fear of speaking out loud and that's great because now I can say things I want to say."  
(Participant)



*You have seen what we have  
done. You have heard what we  
would like to happen.*

**NOW  
IT'S  
UP  
TO  
YOU!**

*What kind of  
Edinburgh?*

**Children and young people  
across Edinburgh influencing  
the city's services**

**Find out more at  
[www.childrensparliament.org.uk](http://www.childrensparliament.org.uk)  
or [www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk)**

Project delivery: August 2018 – March 2019

Project partners:  **Children's  
Parliament**  **• EDINBURGH •**  **Y.E.A.**  **NHS  
Lothian**