

Achievements & Developments

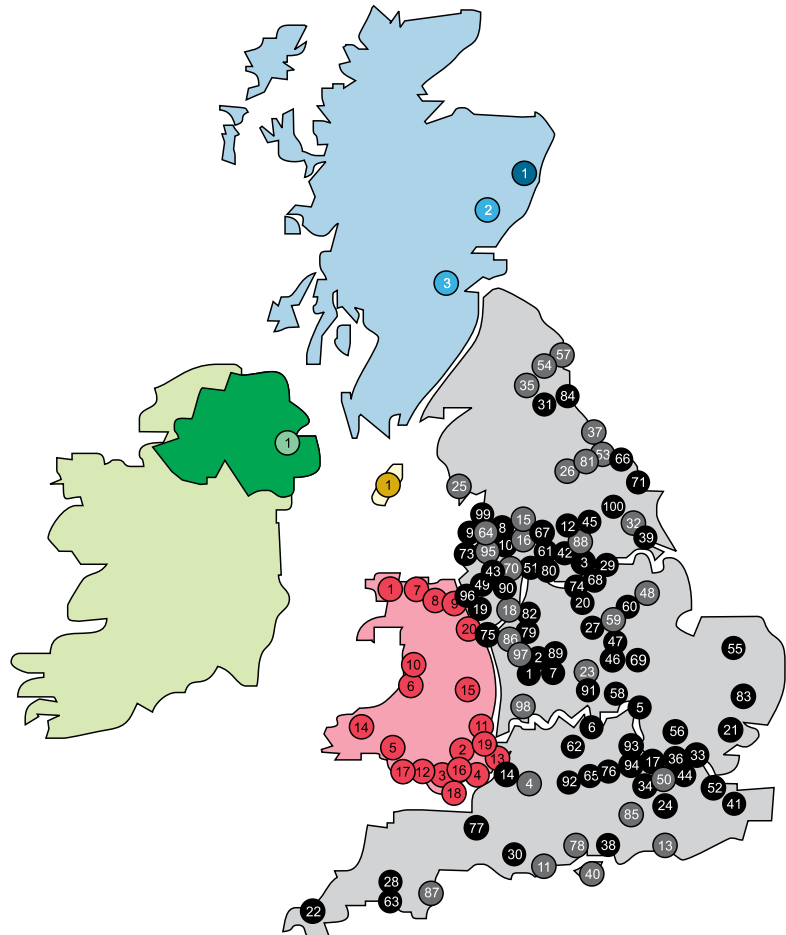
April 2011



Children's University Map April 2011

ENGLAND

- EXISTING ● PLANNED
- 1 Albion Foundation - Dudley
- 2 Albion Foundation - Sandwell
- 3 Barnsley
- 4 Bath
- 5 Bedford
- 6 Bicester
- 7 Birmingham
- 8 Blackburn
- 9 Blackpool
- 10 Bolton
- 11 Boumemouth
- 12 Bradford & District
- 13 Brighton & Hove
- 14 Bristol
- 15 Burnley
- 16 Bury
- 17 Camden
- 18 Cheshire East
- 19 Chester
- 20 Chesterfield
- 21 Colchester
- 22 Cornwall
- 23 Coventry
- 24 Croydon
- 25 Cumbria
- 26 Darlington
- 27 Derby
- 28 Devon
- 29 Doncaster
- 30 Dorset
- 31 Durham
- 32 East Riding
- 33 Enfield
- 34 Fulham FC Foundation
- 35 Gateshead
- 36 Greenwich
- 37 Hartlepool
- 38 Havant
- 39 Hull
- 40 Isle of Wight
- 41 Kent
- 42 Kirklees
- 43 Knowsley
- 44 Lambeth
- 45 Leeds
- 46 Leicester
- 47 Leicestershire
- 48 Lincolnshire
- 49 Liverpool
- 50 London South Bank University
- 51 Manchester
- 52 Medway
- 53 Middlesbrough
- 54 Newcastle Upon Tyne
- 55 Norfolk
- 56 North Hertfordshire
- 57 North Tyneside
- 58 Northamptonshire
- 59 Nottingham
- 60 Nottinghamshire
- 61 Oldham
- 62 Oxford
- 63 Plymouth
- 64 Preston
- 65 Reading
- 66 Redcar and Cleveland
- 67 Rochdale
- 68 Rotherham
- 69 Rutland
- 70 Salford
- 71 Scarborough Borough
- 72 SC Schools
- 73 Sefton
- 74 Sheffield
- 75 Shropshire
- 76 Slough
- 77 Somerset
- 78 Southampton
- 79 Staffordshire
- 80 Stockport
- 81 Stockton-on-Tees
- 82 Stoke
- 83 Suffolk
- 84 Sunderland
- 85 Surrey
- 86 Telford and Wrekin
- 87 Torbay
- 88 Wakefield
- 89 Walsall
- 90 Warrington
- 91 Warwickshire
- 92 West Berkshire
- 93 West Hertfordshire
- 94 West London
- 95 Wigan
- 96 Wirral
- 97 Wolverhampton
- 98 Worcestershire
- 99 Wyre
- 100 York



ISLE OF MAN

- PLANNED
- 1 Isle of Man

NORTHERN IRELAND

- PLANNED
- 1 Belfast

SCOTLAND

- EXISTING ● PLANNED
- 1 Aberdeen
- 2 Angus
- 3 Stirling

WALES

- EXISTING
- 1 Anglesey
- 2 Blaenau Gwent
- 3 Bridgend
- 4 Cardiff
- 5 Carmarthenshire
- 6 Ceredigion
- 7 Conwy
- 8 Denbighshire
- 9 Flintshire
- 10 Gwyneth
- 11 Monmouthshire
- 12 Neath Port Talbot
- 13 Newport
- 14 Pembrokeshire
- 15 Powys
- 16 Rhondda Cynon Taff
- 17 Swansea
- 18 The Vale of Glamorgan
- 19 Torfaen
- 20 Wrexham



72 CU Service Children's Schools are in Belgium, Belize, Brunei, Canada, Cyprus, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Italy, The Netherlands and Turkey, with its head office in Germany.

Introduction

In December 2006, the CU Trust was formed and, with the financial support of the Department for Education (formerly the Department for Children, Schools and Families) and the Sutton Trust, established the national Children's University.



Dr Sandy Bradbrook
Chair



Ger Graus
Chief Executive

Other funding partners have included JP Morgan, Nationwide, Fidelity Foundation and the Garfield Weston Foundation. The Chief Executive, Ger Graus, was appointed in April 2007 who set up the national office in Manchester. The CU Trust's Chair is Dr Sandy Bradbrook.

The Children's University aims to promote social mobility by providing high quality out-of-school-hours activities to children aged 7-14 and engaging the wider communities as learning partners in the realisation of this. At the heart of its work is the ambition to raise aspirations, boost achievement and foster a love of learning, so that young people can make the most of their abilities and interests, regardless of the background into which they were born. The CU aims particularly to reach children and young people facing socio-economic disadvantage through the targeting of grants to, and the promotion of activities in, areas of deprivation. It is here, we believe, that the benefits of high quality provision will be felt most.

An important principle of the Children's University is that participation is voluntary. It is intentionally something other than school – with a different feel, different activities and often a different location, staff and peer group. So the ultimate testament to the effectiveness of the Children's University is that young people give up their time to attend and that they begin to realise that learning can be “... a satellite navigation system to better places in life...” The significant increase in numbers over the past year shows they do indeed attend, and the comments and recommendations of parents, teachers and the children themselves show they are engaged and inspired too.

Consecutive independent evaluations of the national Children's University by Professor John MacBeath of the University of Cambridge

Dr Sandy Bradbrook
Chair
CU Trust

recognise that “*Children's University pupils attend better by virtue of the activities which enhance their school experience ... achieve better by virtue renewed self-confidence in their own potential ... enjoy learning more because they extend their repertoire of interests and see learning in a new light.*” The third evaluation of the Children's University (2010) was published in January 2011¹.

During 2010, the Children's University worked across 62 local CU centres in England with 85,000 children aged 7 to 14, each in possession of their own *Passport To Learning*, for 1,075,000 hours of high quality learning either side of the school day, at weekends and during school holidays; by April 2011 there were 70 local CU centres in membership in England and a waiting list of 30. There is also a national Children's University presence in both Scotland and Wales involving nearly 17,000 children for in excess of 239,000 hours of learning; plans for the Isle of Man and Northern Ireland are under development.

Each local Children's University has a link with a Higher Education Institution and is encouraged to appoint its own Chancellor. Local CU Chancellors include the author Louis de Bernières, Editor Public Space Broadcasting BBC Anita Bhalla, retired Major General Christopher Callow CB, OBE, author Gervase Phinn, polar explorer Anthony Jinman, High Sheriff of Northamptonshire David Laing and double Olympic medallist Nick Gillingham. The national CU Chancellor is the children's author Michael Morpurgo.

This document highlights key achievements of the CU Trust thus far and what it intends to do in the next year.

Further information about the national Children's University and its impact can be found at www.childrensuniversity.co.uk.

Ger Graus
Chief Executive
Children's University

¹ 'Evaluation of the Children's University 2010' – Third Report', Professor John MacBeath, University of Cambridge, January 2011 (ISBN: 978-0-9561319-4-2)

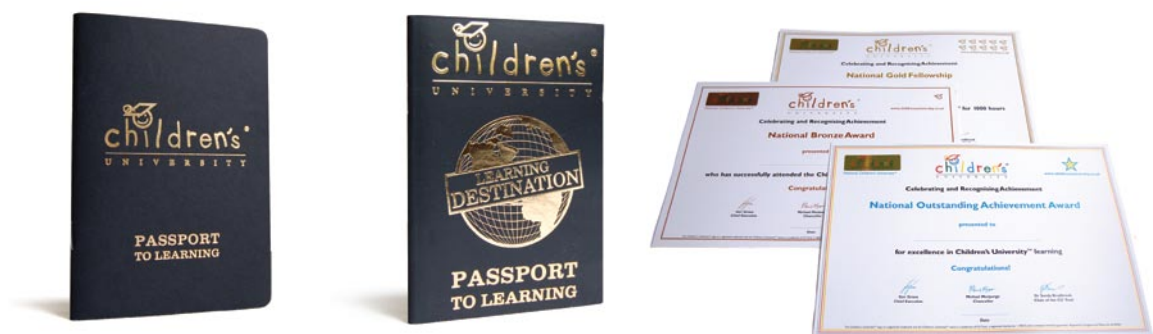
Achievements and Developments April 2011

Participation

- ✓ **By the end of 2010 there were 62 local CU centres in England, all with a clear focus on challenging socio-economic deprivation.** This represents an increase of 53 centres – or 590% – since the national organisation was founded in 2007. From 1st April 2011 there were 70 local Children's Universities in membership in England.
- **Our aspiration is to have 72 CUs in England by April 2012,** an increase of a further 10 local centres on the 2010 figures. The 'Children's University Map' already evidences significant progress towards this target.
- ✓ **46 of the 86 most deprived areas of England² now have CU provision;** all other CU centres are focused on local contextual deprivation.
- **A further 10 Neighbourhood Renewal Unit areas will be targeted for inclusion during 2011/12.**
- ✓ **During 2010 85,000 children took part in 1,075,000 hours of CU learning in England –** an increase of 35,000 children and 475,000 hours of additional provision from 2009. By the end of 2010, 17,000 children in Scotland and Wales took part in 239,000 hours of CU learning activities.
- **For 2011/12 the aim is to engage 92,000 children in 1,100,000 hours of CU learning in England.** Figures in Scotland and Wales are also expected to increase whilst Children's University activity will be established in the Isle of Man and Northern Ireland.
- ✓ **The CU Passport To Learning was developed in 2009 and almost 90,000 passports were issued by the end of March 2011.** The *Passport To Learning* engages children individually as members of the national CU and encourages them to access a wide range of high quality accredited learning at *CU Learning Destinations*. Each child, with his or her own passport, collects 'stamps' toward the award of National Certificates.
- **We aim to have at least 117,500 passports in use by April 2012.**
- ✓ **A CU electronic Passport or E-Passport is being piloted during 2011 and will be available nationally in the summer.** The *E-Passport* will work alongside the *Passport To Learning* linking in with school management information systems and reducing the bureaucratic burden.
- **By April 2012, the aim is for 250 schools and Academies in England to be using the E-Passport on an annual licence.**

Partnerships

- ✓ **The CU has made engagement with Higher Education a priority to raise the aspirations of children.** An audit in December 2010 revealed that all CUs had a substantial link with 71 different Higher Education Institutions including Teacher Training as well as 21 Further Education Institutions.
- **During 2011/12 all local CU centres will continue to develop tangible links to Higher or Further Education Institutions, and particularly Teacher Training, with a clear focus on outcomes for children.**



Passports To Learning ... at ... Learning Destinations ... lead to ... National Certificates

² Neighbourhood Renewal Unit (NRU) areas (www.neighbourhood.gov.uk)

- ✓ **1,500+ Learning Destinations** have been validated by CU over the last two years, including local schools, clubs, museums, libraries, galleries, theatres and stately homes, for example Chatsworth House in Derbyshire, Millennium Point in Birmingham, the Wedgwood Museum in Stoke-on-Trent and the Houses of Parliament, the Kunsthalle in Bielefeld (Germany) for Service Children's Schools, and even the Palazzo Strozzi in Florence (Italy). During 2010/11, **315 CU Validators** have been trained to quality assure Learning Destination provision, totalling **500 CU Validators** since 2009.

- **By April 2012 we aim to have in excess of 1,900 public Learning Destinations** published on the national CU website. **A further 150 CU Validators** will have been trained to provide a total capacity of **650**.

Curriculum and innovation

- ✓ **The range of curriculum provision** has developed significantly in the last year. Examples of provision include: 'Outdoor and Adventure', 'Expo Enterprise Studies', 'Robotics', 'Masterchef', 'Nature Detective Trail', 'Museum Club' and 'Policing for Success'. Arts-based projects are promoted through the development of national partnerships such as those with Stagecoach, Shakespeare 4 Kidz and the Royal Northern College of Music, as well as the Kunsthalle (Bielefeld), the University of Paderborn (Germany) and the Palazzo Strozzi (Italy). Local CUs have elements of the expressive and creative arts as part of their provision.
- **Curriculum development and innovation will continue during 2011/12 as will the development of national learning partnerships with organisations such as the BBC, B&Q, Nationwide, Teach First and the Ministry of Defence as part of the Service Children's CU. Examples of best practice will be published as part of a collection of national 'Case Stories'.**
- ✓ **To strengthen links with universities further, the new initiatives of CU Lectures and CU Chancellors were introduced in December 2009.** CU Chancellors act as figureheads, role models and ambassadors for local CU centres – and include university academics, Vice Chancellors and senior figures



Michael Morpurgo
children's author and national CU Chancellor

from business and local government. The national CU Chancellor is the children's author Michael Morpurgo. CU Lectures aim to raise the aspirations of children by giving them the opportunity to experience a tailored lecture delivered by university students, staff or other providers often in a Higher Education setting.

- **During 2011/12 we will continue the development of CU Lectures and introduce CU Master Classes and Seminars whilst encouraging more local Children's University centres to appoint local Chancellors.**

Quality assurance

- ✓ **The national Children's University has developed a robust quality assurance framework, *Planning for Learning*³, to ensure that the highest quality of learning is evident in all CU activities** and in all learning provision at *Learning Destinations* accredited by the CU.
- ***Planning for Learning* will continue to provide the quality benchmark for *Learning Destinations* and local CU centres' provision.**
- ✓ **The national Children's University has also developed a comprehensive organisational quality assurance process for its centres, *Planning for Excellence*⁴, published in 2011.** All local CUs are registered for the programme and 35 have already reached Emerged, Established or Advanced status.
- **All local CUs currently registered are expected to reach at least the first phase of the organisational quality assurance, Emerged status, in the next 12 months.**

³ *Planning for Learning – A National Framework for Validating Learning* by John MacBeath, University of Cambridge, and Ger Graus, Children's University, 2011 (ISBN 978-0-9561319-0-4)

⁴ *Planning for Excellence – Children's University Handbook for Organisational Quality Assurance* by Ger Graus, Peter Eavers, Children's University and Joanne Moore, Quality in Study Support and Extended Services, 2011 (ISBN: 978-0-9561319-1-1)

Project funding and inward investment

- ✓ **Grants awarded by the national Children's University since 2007 total £1,292,979 to 50 local CUs** – averaging nearly £26,000 each. Grants awarded are either for start-up or expansion funding. Every £1 of national project funding has generated £2.69 of local investment in CU centres from local government, schools, Further and Higher Education and business, totalling £3,478,114. All CU centres which received funding are now self-sustaining.
- **The national CU will continue to target project funding at NRU areas and other areas with contextual relative deprivation.** We also aim to at least **match our achievement in the last year of generating £2.69 of inward investment in local Children's University provision for every £1 of project funding** support received from the CU Trust.

Other plans for 2011/12:

- **Further develop the website** www.childrensuniversity.co.uk to include: *Learning Destinations*, signposting of learning provision and web-links to other online learning; the publication of 'Case Stories' of outstanding practice; 'broadcasting' CU Lectures and providing further information for local centres on leadership, management, including CU Chancellors and volunteering.
- **Expand CU provision** by piloting CU access for 5-6 year olds, focussing specifically on family learning, working in partnership with organisations from the voluntary, community and business sectors.
- **Introduce a national CU volunteering accreditation** to nationally and locally take a lead in the Government's '**Big Society**' agenda.
- **Widen its network of partnerships** to enhance the quality of provision for children, particularly evidenced through the *Learning Destinations*.
- **Continue its support for local centres** through national and regional meetings, the annual conference, enabling peer mentoring and sharing of good practice. **CU training will also continue**, specifically in the areas of *Planning for Learning*, *Planning for Excellence*, the *E-Passport* and the national CU volunteering accreditation.
- **Engage in research and evaluation** through Professor John MacBeath of the University of Cambridge, the Department for Education and the Fischer Family Trust whose combined work will continue to contribute to the CU's national profile.
- **Publish national and local newsletters and examples of 'what works'** in areas such as: curriculum innovation; Higher and Further Education partnerships; leadership and management and children's involvement in directing their own learning.
- **Improve achievements** specifically in English and Mathematics of the most able 9-14 year olds through the introduction of Children's University Challenge centres (CUC) which will be run through existing local CUs in partnership with Higher Education and Teacher Training Institutions. The CU Trust will actively seek to procure external funding and support to deliver this aspect.
- **Continue to generate income** through membership and a range of other sources to offset the increases in costs essential to its growth. The development of a national CU volunteering accreditation is intended to aid local CU centres in managing their growth.
- **For any further ideas please visit** www.childrensuniversity.co.uk



The 'why' Answer!





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