

The story so far...



"The Imagineers have had significant impact on officials in ACC, elected members and on ACC policy and strategy. They have engaged with senior officers and ensured their views and comments were central to locality planning, decision making and the Integrated Children's Services Plan. They have given children's views and rights a face in Aberdeen and challenged some adult preconceptions of their capacity to engage and feedback on decisions. They have challenged planned policy and ensured that children are now featured in all service plans, policy decisions and thinking going forward. They have modelled effective communication, encapsulated United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and helped shaped the future of the city".



Learning and impact on Aberdeen City Council and its partners.

The purpose of the Imagining Aberdeen programme is to connect the lived experience of children with strategic decision making. Colleagues in Aberdeen City commented on the impact and influence the Imagineers have had...

"I have never come across a project that has captured the imagination and enthusiasm of so many officers. The day it was discovered the Imagineers were in the foyer talking to staff, there was a rush of colleagues to go down and meet them. Officers have been very willing to listen to the views of the Imagineers and their peers, and to take this into consideration when planning."

"This project has helped to propel the importance of considering and engaging with young people to engage their views within numerous services at ACC. In addition to this, the inspirational and emotive mural has been frequently requested by ACC officials to promote the views of children and young people and, correspondingly, it has been displayed in venues across the city."



Children's illustrations taken from the Imagineers', Imagining Aberdeen Mural (2016). Available to view here: bit.ly/ImaginingAberdeenMural

"I liked going on the trips and meeting everyone, being in the film and making the mural – being part of the whole project really."

"I like that adults listen to you."

"I learned to draw, and that adults should care for their children."

Learning and impact on the children.

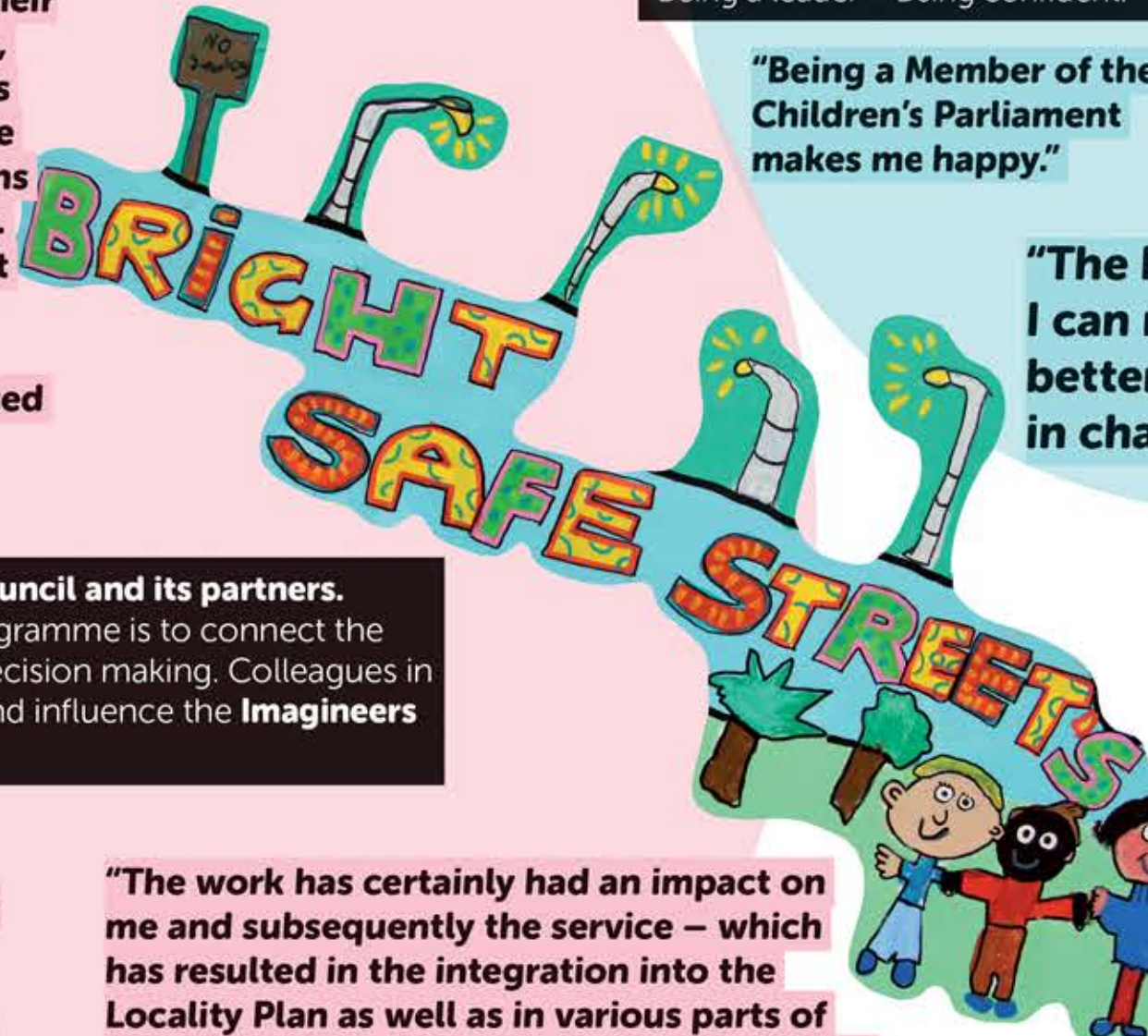
Being an Imagineer is about being creative, having fun and influencing adults. To do this we want our Imagineers to have these characteristics:
Being a good listener – Being respectful of others – Being a problem-solver
– Being a team player – Being brave – Being helpful – Being trustworthy – Being a leader – Being confident.

"Being a Member of the Children's Parliament makes me happy."



"Being an MCP makes me feel nervous AND brave."

"The best thing is that I can make Aberdeen a better place. I have a say in changing the city."



"He has developed resilience through the project which is helping him deal with issues out with school. The work has really allowed him to realise that his voice can make a difference within and beyond the school."



"I cannot believe the difference there has been in her through involvement with this project. She has shown increased confidence and self-esteem and will push herself beyond her comfort zone. I was proud and surprised by her speaking at events – a year ago she would not have been able to do so. This project has helped her find her voice and be able to realise that she can make a difference in life."

Adult feedback.

The adults who are closest to the Imagineers; teachers, PSAs and parents, recognise the impact made in terms of peer relationships, self-esteem, relationships with adults, and engagement with school and learning. Adults have said these things - names have been removed for privacy, and because some of this is so good we wouldn't want to embarrass any one of our Imagineers with such glowing reports.

"I love the way new experiences are incorporated – the Imagineers are encouraged to think about their community, their environment."

"Without his involvement with this project I feel that he may have gone off the rails. However, for the most part he has been a model pupil. He has stunned me this year with his confidence in speaking to adults. I want him to make sensible choices in his life! His role as an Imagineer and his work with Children's Parliament has been such a valuable and beneficial experience."



MCP Dignometer: MCPs (Members of Children's Parliament) use dignometers to tell us what helps and what gets in the way of their human dignity.

#imaginingaberdeen