

UN Sustainable Development Goal Delivery in Scotland: Call for Evidence

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What this survey is

This survey is one of a number of ways in which we are engaging with people across Scotland on Scotland's National Outcomes, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how best to approach achieving them.

Your views will inform development of our overall approach to implementing the National Outcomes and SDGs in Scotland as well as how we will report on this within the UK Government Voluntary National Review (VNR).

You can read more about the SDGs and VNR on the SDG Network Scotland website.

How to respond

You can respond to this survey by **Wednesday 27 February** if you would like to inform development of the UK Government Voluntary National Review (VNR).

Most of this survey take the form of open text responses to prompt questions. This allows flexibility in how you respond. However we would be grateful if you could address your responses to the prompt questions as much as possible.

This survey will remain open after that point until **Friday 29 March** if you are not interested in or unable to contribute to the UK VNR deadline but would like to inform longer term considerations around SDG implementation in Scotland, including a potential Scottish Supplementary Review.

You can either complete the questions in this document and return it by email to nationalperformance@gov.scot or [complete the online version of the survey](#). The questions are the same in both.

Confidentiality

Responses from individuals will be treated confidentially and the data held securely. You will be asked during the survey if you consent for your response to the call to be published on <https://globalgoals.scot> once the exercise is complete.

Organisational responses providing potential content for the VNR may necessarily involve identifying specific organisations or sectors for Scotland's VNR contribution (for example, in terms of describing networks and partnerships working to realise the Goals).

1. Your details

Please indicate if you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation:

I am responding as an individual

I am responding on behalf of an organisation

Your name

Amy Woodhouse

Your organisation (if responding on behalf of an organisation)

Children in Scotland

Email address

awoodhouse@childreninScotland.org.uk

Phone number

0131 313 8810

Are you a member of the SDG Network Scotland?

Yes

No

Please indicate if you are happy to be contacted by the SDG Network Scotland about further opportunities to participate in the SDG agenda

I am happy to be contacted by the SDG Network Scotland

I do not want to be contacted by the SDG Network Scotland

2. Scotland’s approach to the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030

Through the VNR we are expected to report on the national policy and delivery infrastructure we currently have in place to progress the SDGs.

In this section we would like to seek your views on the effectiveness of this and what improvements you think need to be made.

What are you doing?

Please tell us what actions or projects you are currently undertaking to encourage others to be involved with meeting the [SDGs](#).

These can be small or large. Local, national or international.

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **Name** of the project (and a web address if available)
- The project's **purpose**
- The **SDG Goals or targets it contributes to**
- Your observations **on its results, learning, or challenges**

Goal	Project Name	Project Purpose	Results
1 & 2: No Poverty & Zero Hunger	End Child Poverty Coalition #GiveMe5 campaign (ongoing)	Children in Scotland is an active member of the End Child Poverty Coalition and the Give Me 5 Campaign. Both groups are aimed at tackling child poverty in Scotland. The End Child Poverty Coalition specifically focussed on the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act. The Give Me 5 campaign is an ongoing campaign to top up child benefit by £5.	You can find out more about the End Child Poverty Coalition here. https://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/end-child-poverty-in-scotland/
1 & 3: No Poverty & Good Health & Wellbeing	<i>Children’s Sector Strategic and Policy Forum</i> (ongoing)	Children in Scotland co-ordinate the Children’s Sector Strategic and Policy Forum. The Forum is made of leaders from across the children’s sector to tackle issues of strategic importance. The Forum focuses on 3 main areas of work; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing Child Poverty • Promoting Health and Wellbeing 	See https://childreninscotland.org.uk/members-forums/

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embedding the Meaningful Participation and Engagement of Children and Young People 	
2 & 10: Zero Hunger & Reducing Inequalities	Food, Families, Futures	<p>Children in Scotland is leading an innovative project to address a major social issue: food poverty and its links with wellbeing and education.</p> <p>So far the project has focused on working with communities in in Glasgow, West Dunbartonshire, Eastern Perthshire and North Ayrshire – all areas with significant levels of child poverty.</p>	<p><i>Holiday clubs afford a number of benefits to families and children. For example, holiday clubs help to reduce social isolation, provide a structure for family engagement in physical and social activities, provide free, healthy food, and bring communities together.</i></p> <p>https://childreninscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/FFF_CiSMainReport_2017_FINAL_28.6.182.pdf</p>
3: Good Health & Wellbeing	Children & Young People's Mental Health Taskforce (2019-2020)	Children in Scotland is providing support to the generic work strand of the taskforce which is exploring how we can ensure that all children and young people living in Scotland have the best possible mental health and emotional wellbeing.	<p>The taskforce is working towards fulfilling the priorities outlined in the Delivery Plan and is due to report in 20202.</p> <p>https://www.gov.scot/publications/children-young-peoples-mental-health-taskforce-delivery-plan/pages/6/</p>
4: Quality Education	Review of Professional Teaching Standards (2018)	<p>Children in Scotland worked with the General Teaching Council for Scotland to ensure that children and young people were involved in the upcoming refresh of the professional standards for teaching.</p> <p>See https://childreninscotland.org.uk/gtcs-the-review-of-professional-teaching-standards-2018/</p>	<p>The findings from children and young people provide important evidence to shape these standards and point to the importance of achieving balance in a number of key areas, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nurturing and respect for boundaries Rules and freedom Equality and equity Professionalism and creativity
4: Quality Education	My Rights My Say (2018-2022)	The My Rights My Say service is a partnership between Children in Scotland, Enquire, Partners	You can find out more about My Rights My Say here.

		in Advocacy and Cairn Legal. The project aims to support young people aged 12-15 to access new rights to have a say in decisions about their learning under the Additional Support for Learning legislation.	https://childreninscotland.org.uk/my-rights-my-say/
10: Reducing Inequalities	Health Inequalities Project (2019-2020)	Children in Scotland has been funded by the Wellcome Trust to carry out a participative research project with children and young people aged 10-18 living in areas of high deprivation in Glasgow and Dundee. The project will explore how community and place impacts on the health of children and young people and the choices that they make about this.	https://childreninscotland.org.uk/health-inequalities-participative-research-project/
16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	Children & Young People's Panel on Europe (2018)	Children and young people have a right to be heard in the discussions about Brexit. Children in Scotland has been working in partnership with Together, the Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights to support a Panel of children and young people to provide advice to the Scottish Government on the main issues for children and young people in relation to leaving the European Union.	Panel members made a series of recommendations on the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Funding • Opportunities to Work, Study and Travel • The Economy, Trade and Jobs • Rights <p>Their report is available at: https://childreninscotland.org.uk/children-and-young-peoples-brexit-panel-june-2018-december-2018/</p>
16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	First Minister's Question: Next Generation	<u>Children in Scotland</u> and <u>YouthLink Scotland</u> are working in partnership to deliver First Minister's Question Time (FMQT) Next Generation, giving children and young people the opportunity to question the First Minister in person, ensuring that the voices of children and young people are heard in Scottish politics.	FMQT Next Generation films and resources can be accessed here: https://childreninscotland.org.uk/fmat-next-generation/

		The project, funded by Scottish Government as part of the <u>Year of Young People</u> , builds on work both ourselves and YouthLink Scotland are currently undertaking to promote the participation of children and young people in civic society.	
16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	Changing our World	Changing our World is the children and young people's advisory group for Children in Scotland. Aged between 8 and 25 years, they help shape our work and make sure that we are actively listening and positively reacting to their views.	See https://childreninscotland.org.uk/childrens-and-young-peoples-participation-and-engagement/

Promotion of engagement with the SDGs

Can you suggest ways in which we could promote engagement in the SDGs more widely across Scotland? In particular how can we ensure no one is left behind with SDG implementation?

Who are you working with?

What are the key organisations working to deliver the SDGs you are involved with and what function do they provide?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **Name** of the organisation
- The organisation's **function**
- The **Sustainable Development Goal(s) it contributes to**
- **Who they work with** (e.g. social groups and/or partner organisations)

In what ways could Scotland improve its SDG delivery internationally and what would this involve (e.g. possible partnerships, policy, resources, practices)?

3. How is Scotland doing in relation to each SDG?



This section asks you to focus on Scotland’s performance and delivery of each of the 17 UN SDGs and their related targets.

There will be one page for each of the SDGs with the same question prompts on each.

Please draw on both your own experience and evidence you are aware of, and the evidence contained in the [discussion paper](#) published alongside this survey.

You can respond to as many or as few SDG sections as you like.

You can use the index of SDGs below to jump to ones you are interested in responding on.

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GOAL 1: No Poverty



We would encourage you to **consider your response in light of the SDG targets** for this indicator - see [End poverty in all its forms everywhere](#) - and also the **initial assessment of Scotland's performance in the [discussion paper published alongside this call for evidence](#)**.

Please tell us how well you think Scotland is progressing towards achieving this goal and related targets: What is your view of the evidence we have on this Goal, and what does your experience tell us about progress on this Goal?

Children in Scotland believe that progress towards tackling Goal 1 of the SDGs has been mixed. Statistics on the numbers living in poverty in Scotland continue to be very concerning and highlight the ongoing challenge the country faces in attempting to eradicate child poverty. The latest Scottish Government child poverty figures indicate that child poverty in Scotland is increasing, with 24% (240000) now estimated to be living in poverty (an increase of 10,000 in the last year)¹. Recent data from the Resolution Foundation also suggests that 29% of children could be living in poverty by 2023 – 2024, this would be a 20-year high².

However, the Scottish Government has been taking action to tackle poverty in Scotland. In 2017, the Scottish Government published the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act, which was supported in 2018 by the publication of the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan. Children in Scotland is strongly supportive of these actions but has some concerns about the lack of progress.

A key commitment in the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan was to deliver an income supplement to support families by 2022. As a member of the Give Me 5 campaign Children in Scotland have consistently argued that families need support now and that the Scottish Government should top up of child benefit by £5 immediately. A £5 top up to child benefit could lift tens of thousands of children out of poverty and make significant progress towards tackling SDG 1.

What do you think are the significant programmes, actions, strategies, and policies currently in place to help deliver this Goal in Scotland (of any scale) and what have they achieved?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **Name** of the programme, policy or action
- **Partners** involved in it
- **SDG target(s)** it contributes to
- **Links with other Sustainable Development Goals** that it also contributes to
- **Outcomes** and evidence on what is being achieved as a result

Child Poverty (Scotland) Act

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act was passed into legislation in 2017. The Act created statutory targets to reduce child poverty that the Scottish Government has to meet by 2030 as well as a series of interim measures to track Scotland's progress. The Act has also created a duty on the Scottish Government to prepare yearly delivery plans³ showing how they will reduce child poverty as well as a duty

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/statistics-publication/2019/03/poverty-income-inequality-scotland-2015-18/documents/poverty-income-inequality-scotland-2015-18/poverty-income-inequality-scotland-2015-18/govscot%3Adocument>

² <https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/app/uploads/2019/03/Wrong-direction-briefing-note.pdf>

³ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/child-chance-tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2018-22/>

on local authorities to create Local Child Poverty Action Reports to track progress locally.

Independent scrutiny of actions to reduce child poverty and progress towards targets is provided by the Poverty and Inequality Commission (<https://www.gov.scot/groups/poverty-and-inequality-commission/>)

Social Security (Scotland) Act

The Social Security (Scotland) Act passed into legislation in 2018 granting the Scottish Government new social security powers. The Act means Scotland is now administering a range of devolved social security benefits and has the power to create new benefits. Children in Scotland is supportive of the new social security powers but would like to see these used in a more ambitious fashion with the Scottish Government making more use of its ability create new social security measures to lift people out of poverty.

The End Child Poverty/Give Me 5 Campaign

Children in Scotland is involved in the End Child Poverty Coalition and a member of the Give Me 5 campaign <https://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/end-child-poverty-in-scotland/>. These groups are made up of organisations across civil society including Child Poverty Action Group and the Poverty Alliance.

The End Child Poverty group was instrumental in strengthening the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act, including ensuring the Act acknowledged the importance of housing, childcare and mental health on poverty. The Give Me 5 campaign has helped ensure that topping up child benefit remains on the national policy agenda (it has been taken on as party policy by the Scottish Labour Party and the Scottish Green Party).

The Children's Sector Strategic and Policy Forum

The Children's Sector Strategic and Policy Forum is a national forum that brings together Children in Scotland members to discuss issues of strategic importance for the children's sector. The Forum has a role in scrutinising the implementation of the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan and will supply a report to the Scottish Government in 2019 on cross-government co-ordination in delivering the plan.

What do you think are the key issues, challenges and opportunities we have in achieving this Goal and the related UN targets and what evidence is there to support your view?

The Social Security (Scotland) Act has given the Scottish Government a range of new powers to tackle child poverty in Scotland. As we have discussed above the Scottish Government have made commitments to bring forward an income supplement by 2020.

However, Children in Scotland along with partners across the sector continue to be concerned by a lack of urgency within the Scottish Government to bring forward meaningful actions to reduce poverty. As we have articulated above we believe that the Scottish Government should bring forward its commitment to an income supplement by topping up child benefit by £5 a month. Topping up child benefit by £5 a month could lift tens of thousands of children out poverty, which

given the recent announcement of increasing levels of child poverty in Scotland, becomes even more urgent⁴.

A recent IPPR report also highlighted effective ways to reduce child poverty in Scotland including increasing the child element of universal credit, mitigating the benefit cap and removing the two-child limit⁵. Children in Scotland urgently calls upon the Scottish Government to consider all of these approaches to reduce child poverty in Scotland.

What actions or next steps do you think Scotland should take in response to the key issues, challenges and opportunities you have highlighted?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **What action** you think is needed
- The **timeframe for the action** (e.g. immediate, medium or longer term)
- What possible **barriers exist** to taking effective action
- What will **help this action happen**

Children in Scotland believe the Scottish Government could make more ambitious use of the Social Security System. As we have articulated above, the Social Security (Scotland) Act gives the Scottish Government new powers to tackle child poverty in Scotland.

Children in Scotland was pleased to see the use of these powers to bring forward new means of support including the Young Carers Grant. However, at present the provision delivered by the Scottish Social Security Agency consists of a range of relatively small benefits. Children in Scotland wants to see the Scottish Government use their powers to create new ambitious benefits that represent a modern approach to social security and poverty reduction. As we have already discussed above, Children in Scotland believes that a £5 top up to child benefit would provide one such response.

What, if anything, should Scotland stop doing to improve delivery of this Goal? (For example, this could include specific approaches, policies, projects, funding streams, attitudes)

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GOAL 2: Zero Hunger



We would encourage you to **consider your response in light of the SDG targets** for this indicator – see [Zero Hunger](#) - and also the **initial assessment of Scotland’s performance in the [discussion paper published alongside this call for evidence.](#)**

⁴ [http://www.cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/Budget%20\(Scotland\)%20\(No%202\)%20Bill%20Briefing%20Note.pdf](http://www.cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/Budget%20(Scotland)%20(No%202)%20Bill%20Briefing%20Note.pdf)

⁵ <https://www.ippr.org/files/2018-05/child-poverty-in-scotland-may18.pdf>

Please tell us how well you think Scotland is progressing towards achieving this goal and related targets: What is your view of the evidence we have on this Goal, and what does your experience tell us about progress on this Goal?

Children in Scotland believes that Scotland's progress towards tackling hunger has been mixed. It is clear that the lack of progress in tackling poverty is contributing to hunger across Scotland.

For many families in Scotland food insecurity is a real and pressing issue. Evidence from the Trussell Trust has shown a 1% increase in use of food banks in Scotland in 2018. The Trussell Trust alone provided 87'981 individual food parcels between April and September 2018⁶. Research has shown that families who struggle to access food often consume less healthy diets throughout the month.

We know for families in receipt of free school meals, summer can prove to be a time of acute challenge as they have to provide additional meals for their children over the summer months. Data from Kelloggs UK suggests that 41% of parents had skipped a meal in the summer to feed their child⁷. Families who received a free meal every day for their children have to meet this additional expense over the summer months.

In response to these significant challenges, a range of local projects and responses have developed, aimed at minimising the impact of food insecurity and tackling hunger. Children in Scotland established our award-winning Food, Families, Futures (FFF) project in 2015 and has since worked in seven local authorities across Scotland. FFF works in schools with a high percentage of pupils with free school meal entitlement to tackle food insecurity, improve relationships between families and schools, and increase support within communities. Our clubs provide holistic, child driven support to children, young people and families across the country.

Ultimately though, Children in Scotland believe progress towards tackling Goal 2 is closely aligned to progress towards tackling Goal 1. Poverty is the key driver of hunger and action to reduce hunger needs to address poverty first and foremost if we are to ensure that all children and families have access to sufficient, affordable, good quality food.

What do you think are the significant programmes, actions, strategies, and policies currently in place to help deliver this Goal in Scotland (of any scale) and what have they achieved?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **Name** of the programme, policy or action
- **Partners** involved in it
- **SDG target(s)** it contributes to
- **Links with other Sustainable Development Goals** that it also contributes to
- **Outcomes** and evidence on what is being achieved as a result

Good Food Nation (Scotland) Bill

The Scottish Government has recently released its consultation on the Good Food Nation legislation which aims to improve the food environment in Scotland. The legislation will be supported by a programme of measures that were released in October 2018 and have 5 key strands; Health, Social Justice, Knowledge, Environmental Sustainability and Prosperity.

⁶ <https://www.trusselltrust.org/news-and-blog/latest-stats/mid-year-stats/>

⁷ Kellogg's (2015) Isolation and hunger: the reality of school holidays for struggling families, Manchester: Kellogg's, P.2

Children in Scotland was a member of the Scottish Food Commission, which helped to support the development of the Good Food Nation <https://www.gov.scot/policies/food-and-drink/good-food-nation/>. However, we are concerned that the legislation and supporting programme of measures will not make the necessary progress towards improving the food environment and meaningfully reducing child hunger in Scotland. We believe that the programme of measures as currently outlined is too focussed on food production to the detriment of social justice and ultimately reducing child food insecurity. We will discuss our concerns in more detail below.

What do you think are the key issues, challenges and opportunities we have in achieving this Goal and the related UN targets and what evidence is there to support your view?

Children in Scotland believes the main barrier to making progress against Goal 2 is an ongoing failure to reduce levels of child poverty and its underlying causes. Children in Scotland is clear that the key driver of hunger in Scotland is poverty and that food insecurity cannot be eradicated while families are still living in poverty. We have clearly articulated in response to Goal 1 how we think the Scottish Government could make meaningful progress towards tackling child poverty today.

The Good Food Nation is the Scottish Government's flagship policy aimed at promoting a positive food environment for all. We have concerns that the programme of measures that will support the Good Food Nation legislation are not ambitious enough to tackle hunger in Scotland.

For the Good Food Nation to be successful in reducing hunger among children, young people and families, it must be much more clearly linked with poverty reduction measures. We support the use of the Good Food Nation legislation as a catalyst for wider anti-poverty action.

We will discuss the range of measures we would like to see in this area below.

What actions or next steps do you think Scotland should take in response to the key issues, challenges and opportunities you have highlighted?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **What action** you think is needed
- The **timeframe for the action** (e.g. immediate, medium or longer term)
- What possible **barriers exist** to taking effective action
- What will **help this action happen**

Children in Scotland believes that a range of policy actions are required at Scottish Government level to tackle hunger in Scotland and make progress towards Goal 2.

We believe that there needs to be a more ambitious and joined up approach to the Good Food Nation that places social justice at its heart.

In order to achieve this, it is our views that the following actions are required:

- The Scottish Government to bring forward a Right to Food as part of the Good Food Nation.
- Top up child benefit by at least £5 a month.

- Continue to fund summer holiday food provision in alignment with the Food, Families, Futures model.
- Fund whole family food literacy approaches
- Ensure children and young people are able to have a say about food provision within education settings.

What, if anything, should Scotland stop doing to improve delivery of this Goal? (For example, this could include specific approaches, policies, projects, funding streams, attitudes)

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GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being



We would encourage you to **consider your response in light of the SDG targets** for this indicator – see [Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages](#) – and also the **initial assessment of Scotland’s performance in the discussion paper published alongside this call for evidence.**

Please tell us how well you think Scotland is progressing towards achieving this goal and related targets: What is your view of the evidence we have on this Goal, and what does your experience tell us about progress on this Goal?

Children living in Scotland experience some of the poorest health in Europe, and there are marked inequalities in the health they experience. The RCPCH State of Child Health Report presented worrying statistics about the health of Scottish children. In 2015/16 roughly 23% of children entering school in Scotland were overweight or obese, children from more deprived backgrounds were more likely to enter school as obese or overweight⁸. A higher proportion of young people coming from more deprived backgrounds were also likely to smoke⁹. Both smoking and experience of overweight and obesity have been linked to a range of negative health outcomes later in life¹⁰.

Similarly, outcomes for child and adolescent mental health are extremely troubling. A 2018 Audit Scotland report showed a 22% increase in referrals to specialist services since 2013/14¹¹. The report also showed that 26% of children and young people are waiting more than 18 weeks to see a specialist, an increase of 11% since 2013/14. Recent research by SAMH has also shone a light on the high rejected referrals rate from CAMHS¹².

In response to these challenges, a range of initiatives has been developed by both the Scottish Government and civil society. Fundamentally the Scottish Government’s Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)¹³ approach places the health and wellbeing of children and young people at the heart of the Scottish Government’s focus. GIRFEC needs to be at the centre of any response to child

⁸ https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2018-09/soch_2017_uk_web_updated_11.09.18.pdf

⁹ https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2018-09/soch_2017_uk_web_updated_11.09.18.pdf

¹⁰ https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2018-09/soch_2017_uk_web_updated_11.09.18.pdf

¹¹ http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2018/nr_180913_mental_health.pdf

¹² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/rejected-referrals-child-adolescent-mental-health-services-camhs-qualitative-quantitative/>

¹³ <https://www.gov.scot/policies/girfec/>

health and wellbeing. Additional steps to improve health and wellbeing include the creation of a Scottish Government children and young people's mental health taskforce, moves to an LGBT inclusive curriculum and proposed reforms to the delivery of Personal and Social Education.

Children in Scotland believes that Scotland must do more to take an upstream approach to supporting positive mental health and wellbeing in children and young people. As a co-lead of the generic workstream of the children and young people's mental health taskforce, we recognise the opportunity the taskforce represents to improve outcomes for children and young people's mental health in the future.

There is a clear issue with the distribution of health issues in Scotland, with children living in areas of high deprivation experiencing poorer health outcomes than the general population. Children from more deprived backgrounds are more likely to enter school as overweight or obese for example¹⁴. It is clear progress is needed to improve the physical health of all children and young people regardless of their background. Again we would argue that reducing child poverty would have a positive impact on this goal.

We would encourage engagement with the [State of Child Health Report](#) and the [State of Child Health: Scotland 2 Year On](#) as part of the analysis of Scotland's delivery on Goal 3. The report provides a clear analysis of the health of children and young people with a specific breakdown for outcomes in Scotland.

What do you think are the significant programmes, actions, strategies, and policies currently in place to help deliver this Goal in Scotland (of any scale) and what have they achieved?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **Name** of the programme, policy or action
- **Partners** involved in it
- **SDG target(s)** it contributes to
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- **Outcomes** and evidence on what is being achieved as a result

GIRFEC

The Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach outlines the Scottish model for supporting children, young people and families. GIRFEC is underpinned by eight wellbeing indicators and a practice model to identify and address wellbeing needs. Children in Scotland is strongly supportive of the GIRFEC approach and views it is central to supporting the health and wellbeing of all children and young people in Scotland.

National Third Sector GIRFEC Project (NTSG)

Children in Scotland hosts the NTSG project, which aims to support local and regional third sector organisations to influence children's services planning and place the views of children and young people at the heart of decision making. The projects three main areas of work are connecting, engaging and influencing.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Wellbeing Taskforce

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Wellbeing Taskforce was set up in 2018 to respond to tackle issues raised in recent research into child and

¹⁴ https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2018-05/state_of_child_health_2017report_updated_29.05.18.pdf

adolescent mental health such as the Audit Scotland report and SAMH's research into rejected referrals; these reports highlighted high waiting times, gaps in community-based support and a lack of out of hours provision¹⁵¹⁶¹⁷. The taskforce has a two year lifespan and aims to provide inputs across a range of key areas that can be found [here](#).

The Taskforce has 4 main workstreams; generic, specialist, neurodevelopmental, and additional services for children and young people at risk.

Children in Scotland supports the generic workstream of the Taskforce which is exploring how we can ensure that all children and young people living in Scotland have the best possible mental health and emotional wellbeing. The impact of the Taskforce cannot yet be measured as it is still at an early stage of its work. Children in Scotland believes that it provides an unparalleled opportunity to ensure that children and young people can experience the best mental health and wellbeing possible and receive appropriate support at the earliest possible stage.

Scottish Government Diet and Food Policy

The Scottish Government is currently pursuing a range of work to promote good health and wellbeing by tackling the food environment that children, young people and families experience.

We have previously discussed the Good Food Nation proposal and shared our concerns about its ability to make meaningful strides towards tackling hunger. Please see our response to Scotland's progress towards Goal 2 for more detail in this area.

The Scottish Government has also carried out consultations on a range of other policy proposals related to food and health recently including on the proposed (and subsequently published) Diet and Healthy Weight Strategy and Restricting the Promotion and Advertising of Foods High in Salt, Fat and Sugar¹⁸¹⁹. Children in Scotland is encouraged to see action in this area but believes that the current Scottish Government response could be more ambitious. We will outline the policy actions we would like to see below.

Health Inequalities: Participative Research Project

Children in Scotland has recently commenced a participative research project looking at how local community and place impact on health and the choices children and young people make about their health.

We will work with children and young people aged 10-18 in Glasgow and Dundee and will make recommendations to local and national and policy makers about how to create communities that support good health and wellbeing among children and young people. More information about this project can be found [here](#).

¹⁵ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/children-young-peoples-mental-health-taskforce-delivery-plan/>

¹⁶ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/rejected-referrals-child-adolescent-mental-health-services-camhs-qualitative-quantitative/>

¹⁷ http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2018/nr_180913_mental_health.pdf

¹⁸ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/healthier-future-scotlands-diet-healthy-weight-delivery-plan/>

¹⁹ <https://consult.gov.scot/health-and-social-care/reducing-health-harms-of-foods/>

What do you think are the key issues, challenges and opportunities we have in achieving this Goal and the related UN targets and what evidence is there to support your view?

A key issue that Children in Scotland sees in achieving this goal is the complexity of the policy landscape. The work of the Children's Sector Strategic and Policy Forum has revealed that many areas of national health and wellbeing policy, including those outlined above, are not well linked at a Scottish Government level. This creates challenges in providing the holistic wellbeing based support that children and young people need. It is clear that the Scottish Government needs to make progress in this area to streamline a confused policy arena and better support the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

Children in Scotland also has some concerns about some of the policy decisions taken by the Scottish Government to support better health and wellbeing, and we question whether there is a reliable evidence base underpinning them. The 2018 Programme for Government for example committed to a school counsellor in each school as an upstream approach to tackling mental health and wellbeing. Children in Scotland believes this still focuses to heavily on traditional service provision and would prefer to see greater emphasis on promoting positive health and wellbeing and preventing poor mental health at an earlier stage.

There has also been a distinct lack of progress made in publishing Programme for Government commitment to a Child and Adolescent Health and Wellbeing Action Plan in 2018. The Action Plan was meant to lay out how Scottish Government would improve health and wellbeing among children and young people. Children in Scotland believes this action plan could provide an opportunity to link up disparate child health policy, but is worried that it is quietly being side lined, as other priorities have risen up the policy agenda.

What actions or next steps do you think Scotland should take in response to the key issues, challenges and opportunities you have highlighted?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **What action** you think is needed
- The **timeframe for the action** (e.g. immediate, medium or longer term)
- What possible **barriers exist** to taking effective action
- What will **help this action happen**

Children in Scotland believes that more progress could be made towards improving health and wellbeing in Scotland if the Scottish Government explicitly focused on using anti-poverty measures and the social security system as a policy lever in this area. As we have previously articulated in this response, a £5 top up to child benefit could lift tens of thousands of children out of poverty and would put them in a position to experience better health and wellbeing as a result.

We would also advocate of action to promote health and wellbeing including more sustained funding for early intervention and prevention services. This should involve a clearer link and role for the third sector. The Scottish Government should continue to work with the Children's Sector Strategic and Policy Forum to ensure the appropriate connections between the third sector and Scottish Government are made nationally. while also continuing to support the National Third Sector GIRFEC project to make sure that organisations locally and regionally can play their part effectively.

Children in Scotland also believes that more could be done at a national policy level to improve the food environment to support children, young people and

families to consume a healthier diet. Measures we believe would support this include;

- Top up child benefit by at least £5 a month
- Restrict the promotion, marketing and advertising of unhealthy foods to children and young people
- Reduce the density of fast food restaurants in areas of high deprivation
- Tighten regulations on the amount of fat, salt and sugar allowed in foods
- Fund whole family food literacy approaches
- Ensure children and young people are able to have a say about food provision within education settings.

What, if anything, should Scotland stop doing to improve delivery of this Goal? (For example, this could include specific approaches, policies, projects, funding streams, attitudes)

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GOAL 4: Quality Education



We would encourage you to **consider your response in light of the SDG targets** for this indicator – see [Quality Education](#) – and also the **initial assessment of Scotland’s performance in** [the discussion paper published alongside this call for evidence](#).

Please tell us how well you think Scotland is progressing towards achieving this goal and related targets: What is your view of the evidence we have on this Goal, and what does your experience tell us about progress on this Goal?

Children in Scotland believes that progress towards providing quality education has been mixed in Scotland.

Scottish education policy is underpinned by a positive forward-thinking curriculum (Curriculum for Excellence), which places an important emphasis on health and wellbeing for providing the building blocks for learning. It is supported by the Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) approach (see Goal 3). Children in Scotland is supportive of both CfE and GIRFEC and believes that good wellbeing is critical if we are to create a national of successful learners.

However, while CfE and GIRFEC are both well established in Scotland, and internationally respected, children living in Scotland still experience a number of disadvantages in their learning. A poverty related attainment gap still persists, meaning that children and young people living in more disadvantaged areas do worse, on average that those living in more affluent areas. Scottish Government figures show a gap in levels of attainment in school aged children across the measures used²⁰. Research has also shown that gaps in cognitive development already exists by the age of 3 and has widened by the age of 5²¹.

²⁰ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/summary-statistics-attainment-leaver-destinations-healthy-living-8-2018-edition/pages/4/>

²¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/growing-up-scotland-changes-child-cognitive-ability-pre-school-years/pages/7/>

For this reason, Children in Scotland see the early years as a key time when steps can be taken to narrow the attainment gap. By supporting parents to understand their role in healthy child development, and providing opportunities for all young children to learn and develop through play, we could prevent some of this gap from developing in the first place. The Scottish Government's plans to expand free early learning and childcare entitlement to 1140 hours by 2020, could add a significant contribution to this ambition²². However, we do not at the moment see adequate emphasis being placed on quality play experiences and parental engagement within context of the expansion to give us great confidence that these improvements are central to its purpose. We will explore this in more detail below.

Scotland also has a progressive policy on supporting the inclusion of children and young people with additional support needs within education systems. A presumption of mainstreaming has existed in law since 2000²³, and aims to ensure that all children and young people are educated in a mainstream education setting unless they are assessed as having needs that require specialist provision. Children in Scotland is broadly supportive of this objective, although we have repeatedly raised questions about how effective this approach is working in practice. We will explore the challenges in this area below.

What do you think are the significant programmes, actions, strategies, and policies currently in place to help deliver this Goal in Scotland (of any scale) and what have they achieved?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **Name** of the programme, policy or action
- **Partners** involved in it
- **SDG target(s)** it contributes to
- **Links with other Sustainable Development Goals** that it also contributes to
- **Outcomes** and evidence on what is being achieved as a result

GTCS: Professional Standards for Teaching

Children in Scotland worked with the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) in 2018 as part of their refresh of the Professional Standards for Teaching. Children in Scotland engaged with 591 children and young people to find out what makes a good teacher. The results were used to inform the professional teaching standards, and influence the qualities and standards to which all teachers should aspire.

Article 12 of the UNCRC states that children and young people have the right to be listened to, and for adults to take what they say seriously²⁴. We are pleased that children and young people involved in the GTCS have had the opportunity to be listened to by the organisation that sets out the criteria for good quality teaching. We are clear that teaching standards which are informed by the views of children and young people are more likely to better support children's needs and create more positive educational experiences.

Learner Panel

²² <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/publication/2017/03/blueprint-2020-expansion-early-learning-childcare-scotland-2017-18-action/documents/00515637-pdf/00515637-pdf/govscot%3Adocument>

²³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2000/6/contents>

²⁴ <https://www.cypcs.org.uk/rights/uncrcarticles>

The Scottish Government funded Children in Scotland, Young Scot, Scottish Youth Parliament and Children's Parliament to convene a Learner Panel in 2018. The project has focused on 3 key themes;

- Wellbeing
- Learning and curriculum
- Participation

The Learner Panel has worked in 8 schools across 8 local authorities to identify what children and young people feel needs to change in the education and to ensure their views are at the heart of education policy.

Children in Scotland is pleased to have been involved in the project and welcomes efforts by the Scottish Government to include children and young people in strategic discussions about Scottish education. We believe that Scottish Education and Scottish Government education policy will benefit from the direct engagement with children and young people.

It is our position that the scale and ambition of engagement work with children and young people to inform education policy should increase substantially to ensure that the views of children and young people are able to shape Scottish Government education policy in a more strategic and systematic fashion.

Early Learning and Childcare Expansion

The Scottish Government has committed to expanding free childcare provision for all children aged 3-4 to 30 hours per week by 2020. Children in Scotland hosts the CHANGE project, which aims to identify community led responses to ensure that residents in Glasgow North East are able to access their entitlements under the expansion²⁵. The project has found that many parents, particularly those living in areas of high deprivation, experience a range of barrier to accessing childcare, which we are not convinced that the expansion will solve, indeed that it might, in some cases, exacerbate. These include geographic inaccessibility (where providers are located), lack of flexibility around times and days, e.g. to fit shift work and lack of choice of provider (e.g. childminders).

There are also specific barriers faced by parents of young children with additional support needs, who can often find that local childcare providers are not equipped to support their children's needs, thereby making childcare inaccessible to them. In response to this issue, the Scottish Government set up the Early Learning & Childcare Inclusion Fund in 2018, which Children in Scotland currently manages. This fund aims to ensure early learning and childcare settings are more accessible for children with additional support needs and disabilities. A total of £500,000 will be distributed through the fund each year over 4 years.

My Rights My Say

[My Rights, My Say](#) is a partnership between Children in Scotland (including Enquire), Partners in Advocacy and Cairn Legal. My Rights, My Say provides a range of services to ensure that children aged 12-15 are able to use their rights under the Additional Support for Learning Act.

My Rights, My Say provides the following services:

- advice and information about a child's rights
- advocacy to support a child to have their voice heard when talking to their school

²⁵ <https://childreninScotland.org.uk/change-childcare-and-nurture-glasgow-east/>

- independent support to make sure the child's views are heard in formal process (such as assessments)
- support to enhance professional practice in listening to children's views
- legal representations to support a child making a reference to the Additional Support Needs Tribunal.

My Rights, My Say has been in place since January 2018, when these new rights for 12-15 year olds came into affect. In this time, the following referrals have been made to the service:

- 91 referrals for advocacy
- 4 referrals to the legal services
- 4 referrals to the children's views service

"I felt like I could share any thoughts, feelings and opinions and all of them were took in to account in a way which made me feel like I'd properly been heard and like I truly mattered." – feedback from a child working with My Rights, My Say

The partnership has been funded to continue until 2022, and it is anticipated that referrals will increase year on year.

Pupil Equity Funding & The Scottish Attainment Challenge

In 2015 the Scottish Government began its Scottish Attainment Challenge as a response to the poverty related attainment gap. The Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) followed in 2016 and gives money directly to schools based on the proportion of pupils who receive free school meals to allow for local responses to their needs²⁶. Funding should be used for activity targeted at closing the poverty related attainment gap.

While we welcome the additional resource provided and the policy intent, Children in Scotland is aware of a number of concerns raised by our members and others about how effectively the fund is being managed, and the extent to which any impact will be achieved on attainment will be achieved through this significant investment. Children in Scotland shares these concerns and believes that if the Scottish Government wants PEF to make a positive contribution to quality education in Scotland they need to evaluate progress so far and provide robust guidance on effective approaches to reduce the poverty related attainment gap for Headteachers.

What do you think are the key issues, challenges and opportunities we have in achieving this Goal and the related UN targets and what evidence is there to support your view?

As highlighted above, Children in Scotland has raised concerns about how effective the presumption of mainstreaming policy is working in practice for children and young people with additional support needs in Scotland. In 2018 Children in Scotland, together with the Scottish Autism and the National Autistic Society surveyed over 1400 parents of autistic children about their experiences of children being out of school. The report Not Included, Not Engaged, Not Involved highlighted many instances of autistic children are being unlawfully excluded from school²⁷, contrary to national guidance.

It was clear from the report that being out of school, whether formally excluded or not, has a negative impact on the health, wellbeing and learning of children and young people with additional support needs, as well as their parents. In the report,

²⁶ <https://www.gov.scot/policies/schools/pupil-attainment/>

²⁷ <https://www.notengaged.com/download/executive-summary.pdf>

the authors made a series of recommendations to the Scottish Government about how to make the education system work better for autistic children including the need for specialist training and development for all staff in schools, and positive inclusive school cultures. Children in Scotland believe that it is inclusive education that works for all children and young people with additional support needs, is achievable, but requires concerted effort and resource to remove the current barriers it faces.

As a member of the Play not Tests campaign, Children in Scotland also has a number of concerns about the new Scottish National Standardised Assessments introduced by the Scottish Government in 2018, and particularly the assessment at P1. While we agree that teacher assessment of individual pupils is important at all stages, we do not believe a standardised assessment in P1 provides any additional value to support educational attainment. We are not convinced that the P1 assessment as introduced has proven evidence behind it of its effectiveness or reliability as a measure²⁸, and believe its introduction runs counter to Curriculum for Excellence emphasises on health and wellbeing in the early stage. Children at this stage can also experience periods of rapid developmental growth which may mean that results quickly become out of date²⁹. We are also concerned that SNSAs may introduce another barrier for children and young people with ASNs and reduce flexibility and inclusion within the education system. For these reasons, we have argued that the P1 assessment, at least, should be withdrawn.

What actions or next steps do you think Scotland should take in response to the key issues, challenges and opportunities you have highlighted?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **What action** you think is needed
- The **timeframe for the action** (e.g. immediate, medium or longer term)
- What possible **barriers exist** to taking effective action
- What will **help this action happen**

In response to widespread criticism of its policy, the Scottish Government commissioned an independent review of P1 assessments, the report of which we understand will be submitted by the authors in May 2019. We recognise that the outcome of this review will inform any next steps by Scottish Government.

While not pre-empting the results of this review, Children in Scotland believes that P1 standardised assessments should be withdrawn at the earliest opportunity. We believe that resources for implementing and analysing the results of standardised assessments would be much more effectively spent supporting the wellbeing of young children at the early stage, to build the foundations of learning as they grow.

In terms of what makes a good teacher, the Professional Standards for Teaching should make clear reference to the findings of our engagement with children and young people. The children and young people we spoke to clearly articulated the qualities they would like to see in a good teacher, of which 'kindness' and 'fairness' were the most commonly highlighted. This learning must be utilised to ensure that the teaching profession is supported to ensure that these qualities are embodied in their teaching work and relationships with pupils.

Finally, to make education more inclusive for children with ASNs, we believe the Scottish Government should implement all the recommendations from the Not

²⁸

²⁹ <https://childreninScotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/NIF-Final.pdf>

Included, Not Engaged, Not Involved report. While this was focused on the experiences of autistic children, the report recognises that if the changes required were introduced at a whole school level, they would benefit all children, not just those with autism.

What, if anything, should Scotland stop doing to improve delivery of this Goal? (For example, this could include specific approaches, policies, projects, funding streams, attitudes)

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GOAL 5: Gender Equality



We would encourage you to **consider your response in light of the SDG targets** for this indicator – see [Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls](#) – and also the **initial assessment of Scotland’s performance in the discussion paper published alongside this call for evidence.**

Please tell us how well you think Scotland is progressing towards achieving this goal and related targets: What is your view of the evidence we have on this Goal, and what does your experience tell us about progress on this Goal?

Children in Scotland believes that Goal 5 should encompass an inclusive definition of gender equality, including equality for cis women and girls as well as transgender and gender non-binary people. We believe that progress has been made across a range of areas to promote gender equality in Scotland with positive actions in the school curriculum, free access to sanitary products, the Equally Safe strategy, Young Women Lead initiative and legislation such as the Gender Recognition (Scotland) Act and Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018. However, it is clear that there remain real and pressing gender inequalities faced by many in Scotland, which are evidence in issues such as the gender pay gap that currently sits at 6.6%³⁰.

What do you think are the significant programmes, actions, strategies, and policies currently in place to help deliver this Goal in Scotland (of any scale) and what have they achieved?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **Name** of the programme, policy or action
- **Partners** involved in it
- **SDG target(s)** it contributes to
- **Links with other Sustainable Development Goals** that it also contributes to
- **Outcomes** and evidence on what is being achieved as a result

As part of our #25Calls Campaign, Children in Scotland emphasised the role that adults have in supporting children to campaign for their human rights around gender equality³¹. The spokesperson for Call 13 was Ruby, aged 9 who has a campaign challenging gender stereotypes, particularly with clothing companies. Ruby's point, which we endorse, emphasises how even subtle messaging through

³⁰ <https://digitalpublications.parliament.scot/ResearchBriefings/Report/2018/3/7/The-gender-paygap-facts-and-figures---2017>

³¹ <https://childreninScotland.org.uk/call-13-support-children-to-become-human-rights-defenders/>

clothing for example, can place limits and boundaries around what girls and boys feel they can and cannot do. As she says,

'I want to tell everybody that we can all adventure'.

Children in Scotland endorse Ruby's views and believes that by encouraging and supporting a new generation of young human rights defenders, we can better identify barriers to gender equality, as experienced by children and young people in their lives today, and work together to address them.

Gender Recognition Act

Call 8 of Children in Scotland's #25Calls campaign calls for reform the Gender Recognition Act to give transgender young people the chance to live full, happy lives³². Children in Scotland is supportive of an individual's rights to self-identify from the age of 12. We also believe that appropriate support must be available to all children and young people who wish to pursue a change in gender identity. This support should be available before the age of 12. Children in Scotland supports the right of people to self-identify beyond the male-female gender binary.

Free Sanitary Products in Schools

Children in Scotland was supportive of the Scottish Government's announcement to fund free sanitary products for schools, colleges and universities. A recent study by Plan International UK found that one in ten young women aged 14 to 21 living in the UK have been unable to afford sanitary products and one in five young women have changed to a less suitable sanitary product due to cost³³. As a consequence, many women and girls are forced to make health care decisions that leave them uncomfortable, ill at ease, self conscious and unable to fully participate in their lives. Children in Scotland welcomes this policy, and believes it will make a positive difference to the health and wellbeing of many young women and girls. Ultimately we believe that Scotland should move to a position where sanitary products are universally available free of charge to all those who need them.

What do you think are the key issues, challenges and opportunities we have in achieving this Goal and the related UN targets and what evidence is there to support your view?

Gender inequality is a systemic issue that will take concerted and consistent effort at all levels of society to address. The First Minister has repeatedly emphasised her commitment to gender equality, through a number of measures including the First Minister's National Advisory Council on Women and Girls, who's remit it is to advice the First Minister on action necessary to tackle gender inequality in Scotland³⁴.

Its recommendations in 2018 included, among others, legislating for candidate quotas for all parties by the 2021 election, incorporation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women into Scots Law and increasing entitlement to paternity leave.

We know that an ongoing lack of realisation of gender equality in Scotland has a continuing impact on people's lives. As we have shown previously the gender pay

³² <https://childreninscotland.org.uk/call-8-reform-the-gender-recognition-act-and-give-trans-young-people-the-chance-to-live-full-happy-lives/>

³³ <https://plan-uk.org/media-centre/1-in-10-girls-have-been-unable-to-afford-sanitary-wear-survey-finds>

³⁴ <https://onescotland.org/equality-themes/advisory-council-women-girls/>

gap still exists. We also know there are particular issues for transgender children and young people who experience high incidences of hate crime, discrimination and see poorer outcomes in their mental health and wellbeing³⁵.

We are particularly concerned about the lack of progress at Scottish Government level in taking forward the proposed changes to the Gender Recognition Act that were consulted on. Children in Scotland believes that the Scottish Government must urgently carry out reforms to the Act to support self-identification for young people from the age of 12.

What actions or next steps do you think Scotland should take in response to the key issues, challenges and opportunities you have highlighted?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **What action** you think is needed
- The **timeframe for the action** (e.g. immediate, medium or longer term)
- What possible **barriers exist** to taking effective action
- What will **help this action happen**

We believe that actions at all levels (national, regional, local, individual) will be necessary to create gender equality in Scotland. Based on Children in Scotland's work and experience, we make the following recommendations, in recognition that other organisations and groups will add their own valuable contribution and recommendations as well to achieve this change;

- Encourage all children to become human rights defenders and support them in challenging instances of gender inequality where they experience them
- Reform the Gender Recognition Act to support self-identification of gender from the age of 12.
- Universal extension of free provision of sanitary products

What, if anything, should Scotland stop doing to improve delivery of this Goal? (For example, this could include specific approaches, policies, projects, funding streams, attitudes)

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³⁵ <https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/media/1354/life-in-scotland-for-lgbt-young-people.pdf>

GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation



We would encourage you to **consider your response in light of the SDG targets** for this indicator – Ensure access to water and sanitation for all – and also the **initial assessment of Scotland’s performance in the discussion paper published alongside this call for evidence.**

Please tell us how well you think Scotland is progressing towards achieving this goal and related targets: What is your view of the evidence we have on this Goal, and what does your experience tell us about progress on this Goal?

What do you think are the significant programmes, actions, strategies, and policies currently in place to help deliver this Goal in Scotland (of any scale) and what have they achieved?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **Name** of the programme, policy or action
- **Partners** involved in it
- **SDG target(s)** it contributes to
- **Links with other Sustainable Development Goals** that it also contributes to
- **Outcomes** and evidence on what is being achieved as a result

What do you think are the key issues, challenges and opportunities we have in achieving this Goal and the related UN targets and what evidence is there to support your view?

What actions or next steps do you think Scotland should take in response to the key issues, challenges and opportunities you have highlighted?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **What action** you think is needed
- The **timeframe for the action** (e.g. immediate, medium or longer term)
- What possible **barriers exist** to taking effective action
- What will **help this action happen**

What, if anything, should Scotland stop doing to improve delivery of this Goal? (For example, this could include specific approaches, policies, projects, funding streams, attitudes)

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GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy



We would encourage you to **consider your response in light of the SDG targets** for this indicator – see [Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy](#) – and also the **initial assessment of Scotland’s performance in the discussion paper published alongside this call for evidence.**

Please tell us how well you think Scotland is progressing towards achieving this goal and related targets: What is your view of the evidence we have on this Goal, and what does your experience tell us about progress on this Goal?

What do you think are the significant programmes, actions, strategies, and policies currently in place to help deliver this Goal in Scotland (of any scale) and what have they achieved?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **Name** of the programme, policy or action
- **Partners** involved in it
- **SDG target(s)** it contributes to
- **Links with other Sustainable Development Goals** that it also contributes to
- **Outcomes** and evidence on what is being achieved as a result

What do you think are the key issues, challenges and opportunities we have in achieving this Goal and the related UN targets and what evidence is there to support your view?

What actions or next steps do you think Scotland should take in response to the key issues, challenges and opportunities you have highlighted?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **What action** you think is needed
- The **timeframe for the action** (e.g. immediate, medium or longer term)
- What possible **barriers exist** to taking effective action
- What will **help this action happen**

What, if anything, should Scotland stop doing to improve delivery of this Goal? (For example, this could include specific approaches, policies, projects, funding streams, attitudes)

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GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth



We would encourage you to **consider your response in light of the SDG targets** for this indicator – Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all – and also the **initial assessment of Scotland's performance in the discussion paper published alongside this call for evidence.**

Please tell us how well you think Scotland is progressing towards achieving this goal and related targets: What is your view of the evidence we have on this Goal, and what does your experience tell us about progress on this Goal?

What do you think are the significant programmes, actions, strategies, and policies currently in place to help deliver this Goal in Scotland (of any scale) and what have they achieved?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **Name** of the programme, policy or action
- **Partners** involved in it
- **SDG target(s)** it contributes to
- **Links with other Sustainable Development Goals** that it also contributes to
- **Outcomes** and evidence on what is being achieved as a result

What do you think are the key issues, challenges and opportunities we have in achieving this Goal and the related UN targets and what evidence is there to support your view?

What actions or next steps do you think Scotland should take in response to the key issues, challenges and opportunities you have highlighted?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **What action** you think is needed
- The **timeframe for the action** (e.g. immediate, medium or longer term)
- What possible **barriers exist** to taking effective action
- What will **help this action happen**

What, if anything, should Scotland stop doing to improve delivery of this Goal? (For example, this could include specific approaches, policies, projects, funding streams, attitudes)

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GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure



We would encourage you to **consider your response in light of the SDG targets** for this indicator – Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation – and also the **initial assessment of Scotland’s performance in the discussion paper published alongside this call for evidence.**

Please tell us how well you think Scotland is progressing towards achieving this goal and related targets: What is your view of the evidence we have on this Goal, and what does your experience tell us about progress on this Goal?

What do you think are the significant programmes, actions, strategies, and policies currently in place to help deliver this Goal in Scotland (of any scale) and what have they achieved?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **Name** of the programme, policy or action
- **Partners** involved in it
- **SDG target(s)** it contributes to
- **Links with other Sustainable Development Goals** that it also contributes to
- **Outcomes** and evidence on what is being achieved as a result

What do you think are the key issues, challenges and opportunities we have in achieving this Goal and the related UN targets and what evidence is there to support your view?

What actions or next steps do you think Scotland should take in response to the key issues, challenges and opportunities you have highlighted?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **What action** you think is needed
- The **timeframe for the action** (e.g. immediate, medium or longer term)
- What possible **barriers exist** to taking effective action
- What will **help this action happen**

What, if anything, should Scotland stop doing to improve delivery of this Goal? (For example, this could include specific approaches, policies, projects, funding streams, attitudes)

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GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality



We would encourage you to **consider your response in light of the SDG targets** for this indicator – Reduce inequality within and among countries – and also the **initial assessment of Scotland’s performance in the discussion paper published alongside this call for evidence.**

Please tell us how well you think Scotland is progressing towards achieving this goal and related targets: What is your view of the evidence we have on this Goal, and what does your experience tell us about progress on this Goal?

We have shown throughout this response that the inequality is still prominent in Scotland, despite policy responses that have attempted to redress them. Children and young people from more deprived backgrounds are more likely to be overweight or obese than those living in more affluent communities when they enter school and throughout their childhood³⁶. We know these factors are associated with poorer health outcomes later in life³⁷.

We have also shown in this response that children from more deprived backgrounds experience disadvantages in terms of cognitive development at the age of 3 and that this widens by the time they start school³⁸. Differences in learning ultimately are reflected in a persistent poverty related attainment gap.

The inequalities we experience in Scotland are systemic and challenging. To make lasting progress will require sustained and focused action over time, We do however believe that focusing on the actions we have identified throughout this response will support the Scottish Government in this regard.

What do you think are the significant programmes, actions, strategies, and policies currently in place to help deliver this Goal in Scotland (of any scale) and what have they achieved?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **Name** of the programme, policy or action
- **Partners** involved in it
- **SDG target(s)** it contributes to
- **Links with other Sustainable Development Goals** that it also contributes to
- **Outcomes** and evidence on what is being achieved as a result

As discussed previously in this response Children in Scotland has recently commenced a participative research project with children and young people in Glasgow and Dundee exploring the impact of community on health, wellbeing and inequalities. We hope the project will provide clear recommendations for local and national decision makers on how to make progress towards tackling health inequalities. More information about this project can be found [here](#).

What do you think are the key issues, challenges and opportunities we have in achieving this Goal and the related UN targets and what evidence is there to support your view?

³⁶ https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2018-09/soch_2017_uk_web_updated_11.09.18.pdf

³⁷ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/long-term-monitoring-health-inequalities-december-2018-report/>

³⁸ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/growing-up-scotland-changes-child-cognitive-ability-pre-school-years/pages/3/>

What actions or next steps do you think Scotland should take in response to the key issues, challenges and opportunities you have highlighted?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **What action** you think is needed
- The **timeframe for the action** (e.g. immediate, medium or longer term)
- What possible **barriers exist** to taking effective action
- What will **help this action happen**

What, if anything, should Scotland stop doing to improve delivery of this Goal? (For example, this could include specific approaches, policies, projects, funding streams, attitudes)

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GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities



We would encourage you to **consider your response in light of the SDG targets** for this indicator – see [Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable](#) – and also the **initial assessment of Scotland’s performance in [the discussion paper published alongside this call for evidence.](#)**

Please tell us how well you think Scotland is progressing towards achieving this goal and related targets: What is your view of the evidence we have on this Goal, and what does your experience tell us about progress on this Goal?

What do you think are the significant programmes, actions, strategies, and policies currently in place to help deliver this Goal in Scotland (of any scale) and what have they achieved?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **Name** of the programme, policy or action
- **Partners** involved in it
- **SDG target(s)** it contributes to
- **Links with other Sustainable Development Goals** that it also contributes to
- **Outcomes** and evidence on what is being achieved as a result

What do you think are the key issues, challenges and opportunities we have in achieving this Goal and the related UN targets and what evidence is there to support your view?

What actions or next steps do you think Scotland should take in response to the key issues, challenges and opportunities you have highlighted?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **What action** you think is needed
- The **timeframe for the action** (e.g. immediate, medium or longer term)
- What possible **barriers exist** to taking effective action
- What will **help this action happen**

What, if anything, should Scotland stop doing to improve delivery of this Goal? (For example, this could include specific approaches, policies, projects, funding streams, attitudes)

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GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production



We would encourage you to **consider your response in light of the SDG targets** for this indicator – see [Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns](#) – and also the **initial assessment of Scotland’s performance in the [discussion paper published alongside this call for evidence](#)**.

Please tell us how well you think Scotland is progressing towards achieving this goal and related targets: What is your view of the evidence we have on this Goal, and what does your experience tell us about progress on this Goal?

What do you think are the significant programmes, actions, strategies, and policies currently in place to help deliver this Goal in Scotland (of any scale) and what have they achieved?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **Name** of the programme, policy or action
- **Partners** involved in it
- **SDG target(s)** it contributes to
- **Links with other Sustainable Development Goals** that it also contributes to
- **Outcomes** and evidence on what is being achieved as a result

What do you think are the key issues, challenges and opportunities we have in achieving this Goal and the related UN targets and what evidence is there to support your view?

What actions or next steps do you think Scotland should take in response to the key issues, challenges and opportunities you have highlighted?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **What action** you think is needed
- The **timeframe for the action** (e.g. immediate, medium or longer term)
- What possible **barriers exist** to taking effective action
- What will **help this action happen**

What, if anything, should Scotland stop doing to improve delivery of this Goal? (For example, this could include specific approaches, policies, projects, funding streams, attitudes)

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GOAL 13: Climate Action



We would encourage you to **consider your response in light of the SDG targets** for this indicator – see [Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts](#) – and also the **initial assessment of Scotland’s performance in [the discussion paper published alongside this call for evidence.](#)**

Please tell us how well you think Scotland is progressing towards achieving this goal and related targets: What is your view of the evidence we have on this Goal, and what does your experience tell us about progress on this Goal?

What do you think are the significant programmes, actions, strategies, and policies currently in place to help deliver this Goal in Scotland (of any scale) and what have they achieved?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **Name** of the programme, policy or action
- **Partners** involved in it
- **SDG target(s)** it contributes to
- **Links with other Sustainable Development Goals** that it also contributes to
- **Outcomes** and evidence on what is being achieved as a result

What do you think are the key issues, challenges and opportunities we have in achieving this Goal and the related UN targets and what evidence is there to support your view?

What actions or next steps do you think Scotland should take in response to the key issues, challenges and opportunities you have highlighted?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **What action** you think is needed
- The **timeframe for the action** (e.g. immediate, medium or longer term)
- What possible **barriers exist** to taking effective action
- What will **help this action happen**

What, if anything, should Scotland stop doing to improve delivery of this Goal? (For example, this could include specific approaches, policies, projects, funding streams, attitudes)

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GOAL 14: Life Below Water



We would encourage you to **consider your response in light of the SDG targets** for this indicator – see [Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources](#) – and also the **initial assessment of Scotland’s performance in the discussion paper published alongside this call for evidence.**

Please tell us how well you think Scotland is progressing towards achieving this goal and related targets: What is your view of the evidence we have on this Goal, and what does your experience tell us about progress on this Goal?

What do you think are the significant programmes, actions, strategies, and policies currently in place to help deliver this Goal in Scotland (of any scale) and what have they achieved?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **Name** of the programme, policy or action
- **Partners** involved in it
- **SDG target(s)** it contributes to
- **Links with other Sustainable Development Goals** that it also contributes to
- **Outcomes** and evidence on what is being achieved as a result

What do you think are the key issues, challenges and opportunities we have in achieving this Goal and the related UN targets and what evidence is there to support your view?

What actions or next steps do you think Scotland should take in response to the key issues, challenges and opportunities you have highlighted?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **What action** you think is needed
- The **timeframe for the action** (e.g. immediate, medium or longer term)
- What possible **barriers exist** to taking effective action
- What will **help this action happen**

What, if anything, should Scotland stop doing to improve delivery of this Goal? (For example, this could include specific approaches, policies, projects, funding streams, attitudes)

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GOAL 15: Life on Land



We would encourage you to **consider your response in light of the SDG targets** for this indicator – Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss – and also the **initial assessment of Scotland’s performance in the discussion paper published alongside this call for evidence.**

Please tell us how well you think Scotland is progressing towards achieving this goal and related targets: What is your view of the evidence we have on this Goal, and what does your experience tell us about progress on this Goal?

What do you think are the significant programmes, actions, strategies, and policies currently in place to help deliver this Goal in Scotland (of any scale) and what have they achieved?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **Name** of the programme, policy or action
- **Partners** involved in it
- **SDG target(s)** it contributes to
- **Links with other Sustainable Development Goals** that it also contributes to
- **Outcomes** and evidence on what is being achieved as a result

What do you think are the key issues, challenges and opportunities we have in achieving this Goal and the related UN targets and what evidence is there to support your view?

What actions or next steps do you think Scotland should take in response to the key issues, challenges and opportunities you have highlighted?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **What action** you think is needed
- The **timeframe for the action** (e.g. immediate, medium or longer term)
- What possible **barriers exist** to taking effective action
- What will **help this action happen**

What, if anything, should Scotland stop doing to improve delivery of this Goal? (For example, this could include specific approaches, policies, projects, funding streams, attitudes)

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GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions



We would encourage you to **consider your response in light of the SDG targets** for this indicator – Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies – and also the **initial assessment of Scotland’s performance in** the discussion paper published alongside this call for evidence.

Please tell us how well you think Scotland is progressing towards achieving this goal and related targets: What is your view of the evidence we have on this Goal, and what does your experience tell us about progress on this Goal?

Our response in relation to progress towards Goal 16 in Scotland will relate mainly to children and young people’s involvement in decision making processes. Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child identifies that children and young people have a right to have a say in matters that affect them and for adults to listen to them. As a signatory to the convention, the UK government, and its devolved parliaments, must ensure it considers how they ensure these rights are available to all children in Scotland.

Children in Scotland believes that involving children and young people in decision making processes is essential for supporting strong institutions. It ensures that Scottish Government and other key agencies can respond effectively to the needs of children and young people.

We believe that Scotland is making some progress towards ensuring that children and young people are included in decision making processes. In 2018 Children in Scotland published research for the Scottish Government exploring the Impact of Children and Young People’s Participation in Policy Making³⁹. The report assessed the impact of 6 examples of children and young people’s engagement in policy making and provided a series of recommendations about how Scotland could improve these processes.

Children in Scotland was a national partner in the Year of Young People 2018 (YOYP). YOYP aimed to inspire Scotland through its young people, celebrating their achievements, valuing their contribution to communities and creating new opportunities for them to shine locally, nationally and globally. YOYP provided an opportunity for children and young people to be involved in decision making locally and nationally. They also had the opportunity to organise events and celebrate their lives, identities and achievements. Children in Scotland believes that YOYP was a hugely positive experience for children and young people across the country. Whether it has managed to achieve lasting change for the lives of children and people will become apparent as time progresses.

One positive example of lasting change could be provided by the Scottish Government’s planned Strategic Participation Framework, which aims to ensure a more co-ordinated approach within public services to engagement with children and young people. We are also working with partners including Together (Scottish Alliance for Child Rights) and the Children and Young People’s Commissioner for Scotland to encourage the Scottish Government to meet its commitment to incorporating the UNCRC into Scots Law.

What do you think are the significant programmes, actions, strategies, and policies currently in place to help deliver this Goal in Scotland (of any scale) and what have they achieved?

³⁹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/impact-children-young-peoples-participation-policy-making/>

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **Name** of the programme, policy or action
- **Partners** involved in it
- **SDG target(s)** it contributes to
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YOYP

As we have discussed above the Year of Young People 2018 was a year-long celebration of the contributions of children and young people in Scotland. Children in Scotland was a national partner in the project along with Young Scot, Scottish Youth Parliament and YouthLink Scotland. 500 children and young people signed up to be YOYP ambassadors, with representatives from every local authority in Scotland. The year was also shaped by Communic18, a group of 25 children and young people who designed the year and were a steering group for the activities.

YOYP had 6 key themes;

- Education
- Participation
- Equality & Diversity
- Health and Wellbeing
- Culture
- Enterprise & Regeneration

Children and young had opportunities to influence local and national decision making across these 6 areas. It saw children and young people lead on projects and deliver events across the country.

As we have discussed above, YOYP had many key successes. We believe more work is needed from the Scottish Government to ensure that children and young people continue to be meaningfully heard in decisions that affect them now that we have moved beyond 2018.

Strategic Participation Framework

The Scottish Government is currently in the process of developing its Strategic Participation Framework. The Strategic Participation Framework aims to support a more co-ordinated approach to the participation and engagement of children and young people in Scotland.

The development of the framework has 4 key strands;

- Research
- Digital
- Resource
- Strategic

The framework is still in the early stages of its development. However, Children in Scotland see this as a positive step towards ensuring that children and young people are meaningfully involved in decisions that affect them.

Children in Scotland project work

Children in Scotland conducts a range of project work to ensure children and young people are heard in decisions that affect them and to support stronger institutions. We have made reference to some of these projects throughout this response.

The GTCS project on Professional Teaching Standards aimed to ensure that the standards reflected what children and young people felt were the qualities that made a good teacher.

We worked with 591 children and young people across to support the development of the new Professional Standards for Teaching.

In 2018 Children in Scotland, with Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights) supported the development of a *Children and Young People's Panel on Europe* to ensure that children and young people's voices were heard about Brexit. The Panel engaged directly with Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitution, Mike Russell MSP and the Scottish Government's Standing Council on Europe to ensure that the Scottish Government were able to respond to the views of children and young people. The panel produced a [report](#) with recommendations for the Scottish Government and the UK Government on the topics of EU funding, Opportunities to work, study and travel, The economy, trade and jobs and Rights. The recommendations can be used as we continue through the process for the UK to exit the EU.

Our *First Minister's Question Time: Next Generation* project delivered in partnership with YouthLink Scotland gives children and young people the opportunity to ask questions to the First Minister. The project is co-produced by a design team of 10 children and young people from across the country. The first event was in September 2018 and filmed by STV. The second is scheduled for April 2019. The participants asked questions on a range of topics including mental health, homework, inclusive education, and youth homelessness. The first event is available to watch [here](#).

Children in Scotland also have an internal children and young people's advisory group, *Changing our World*. Changing our World works to ensure that Children in Scotland reflects the needs of children and young people and works in ways that are inclusive and focused on child rights. Changing our World developed their own call as part of our [#25Calls](#) project. Their call focused on ensuring children and young people can have easy access to good mental health support.

What do you think are the key issues, challenges and opportunities we have in achieving this Goal and the related UN targets and what evidence is there to support your view?

Children in Scotland sees a range of opportunities and challenges in relation to supporting children and young people to be more involved in decision making processes. Together's State of Child Rights report (2016) concluded that while there was evidence of levels of participation and engagement increasing in Scotland, this was not evenly distributed, and it still tended to be older young people and those from more advantaged backgrounds who tended to get most opportunities⁴⁰.

In terms of the nature of participation into policy making, our study of participation case studies similarly found increased recognition of the value of engaging with children and young people in policy making. However, it also identified barriers

⁴⁰ <https://www.togetherscotland.org.uk/pdfs/TogetherReport2016.pdf>

which limited the influence that children and young people were able to have. These included adequate levels of funding, methodologies, timescales, feedback cycles⁴¹.

Nevertheless, it is clear that the Year of Young People offered opportunity for children's views to be highlighted in an unprecedented way, such as through our own FMQT Next Generation project for example. It will be important to ensure that progress made in 2018 is sustained into the future.

What actions or next steps do you think Scotland should take in response to the key issues, challenges and opportunities you have highlighted?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **What action** you think is needed
- The **timeframe for the action** (e.g. immediate, medium or longer term)
- What possible **barriers exist** to taking effective action
- What will **help this action happen**

The best opportunity to make progress towards achieving meaningful engagement with children and young people across public services will be full incorporation of the UNCRC into Scots Law, as this will enshrine their rights in statute. A commitment to incorporation has been made by the Scottish Government, and child rights organisation view it as imperative that this is taken forward within this parliamentary term.

Alongside this, Children in Scotland believes that the development of a Strategic Participation Framework will help begin to tackle issues relating to the variable quality of participation work, as identified above. These developments should be matched by suitable levels of funding, to enable children and young people's participation to be meaningful.

What, if anything, should Scotland stop doing to improve delivery of this Goal? (For example, this could include specific approaches, policies, projects, funding streams, attitudes)

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⁴¹ <https://childreninscotland.org.uk/scottish-government-participation-project-2017-18/>

GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goals



We would encourage you to **consider your response in light of the SDG targets** for this indicator – see [Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development](#) – and also the **initial assessment of Scotland’s performance in the discussion paper published alongside this call for evidence.**

Please tell us how well you think Scotland is progressing towards achieving this goal and related targets: What is your view of the evidence we have on this Goal, and what does your experience tell us about progress on this Goal?

What do you think are the significant programmes, actions, strategies, and policies currently in place to help deliver this Goal in Scotland (of any scale) and what have they achieved?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **Name** of the programme, policy or action
- **Partners** involved in it
- **SDG target(s)** it contributes to
- **Links with other Sustainable Development Goals** that it also contributes to
- **Outcomes** and evidence on what is being achieved as a result

What do you think are the key issues, challenges and opportunities we have in achieving this Goal and the related UN targets and what evidence is there to support your view?

What actions or next steps do you think Scotland should take in response to the key issues, challenges and opportunities you have highlighted?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- **What action** you think is needed
- The **timeframe for the action** (e.g. immediate, medium or longer term)
- What possible **barriers exist** to taking effective action
- What will **help this action happen**

What, if anything, should Scotland stop doing to improve delivery of this Goal? (For example, this could include specific approaches, policies, projects, funding streams, attitudes)

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4. Further examples and case studies

The links across the SDGs are often complex and our actions and policy decisions can create trade-offs and synergies across different goals.

Do you have any example to share that illustrate the links between the different SDGs?

The UK Government VNR is likely to include a number of case studies which highlight particular activities, policies, legislation or initiatives which are significant, insightful, innovative and effective.

If you have a case study you think would be appropriate for this, please provide a brief outline below (or provide a link to an online summary if one exists).

Consent for publication

Scotland's SDG network would like to publish responses to this exercise (excluding personal contact information you may have provided) on <https://globalgoals.scot/> upon completion.

Please indicate if you consent to publication of your response in full, in part (please specify) or not at all.

If you have any questions regarding the handling of your data or publication of responses, please contact nationalperformance@gov.scot

- I consent to publication of my response IN FULL (excluding contact details)
- I consent to publication of my response IN PART (please specify below)
- I DO NOT CONSENT to publication of my response

If you would like only part of your response to be published (for example, for commercial confidentiality reasons), please specify which parts you DO and DO NOT wish to be published below.

Thank you

Please send your completed survey, along with any attachments, to nationalperformance@gov.scot

Your response will help to inform our overall approach to delivering the National Outcomes and SDGs in Scotland and our input into the UK Government VNR.

If you have any questions or concerns about this survey, please contact nationalperformance@gov.scot