



Discussion Summary

What kind of Scotland do we want to see?
Responding to the National Outcomes Review
23rd May 2023

About

Children in Scotland's Voices Forums bring together the diverse knowledge, skills and experience of our members to seek solutions for the most pressing issues affecting children in Scotland today.

Our May 2023 Voices Forum focused on the review of the National Outcomes. The session gave our members an opportunity to share what they are seeing in their work, tell us about areas they believe should be changed and to input directly into our response to the consultation.

Lesley Thomson, the Engagement Lead for the National Performance Framework Unit, presented on the National Outcomes, the wider Framework and what the Government hope to achieve. Ben Thurman, Senior Policy Officer for Carnegie Trust UK presented on their work campaigning for a wellbeing economy in Scotland and their aspirations for the Framework.

Key themes and issues discussed (1/2)

- Our members welcomed the review of the Outcomes in light of the changes and challenges experienced by everyone in Scotland over the last 5 years and want to ensure that they are as meaningful and impactful as possible.
- Attendees welcomed the dedicated outcome regarding children and the engaging design of the Outcomes.
- Members suggested additions to the current set of Outcomes. One member pointed out that there are several Outcomes measuring health but no mention of children and young people with disabilities and what they need to thrive.
- In addition, members would like to see wellbeing-specific outcomes and indicators to be included throughout each of the Outcomes.
- Several attendees voiced that the Framework would be improved by the Scottish Government publicising who they had already contacted for information or engaged with during a particular review stage. This would be helpful as those with an interest in supplying information could identify potential gaps in information or data submitted.

Key themes and issues discussed (2/2)

- Several participants highlighted their concerns regarding how children's rights have been explained and justified in discussion surrounding the Framework. They felt that there was too much focus on children being considered as they are future adults, rather than being acknowledged as holders of inalienable rights themselves.
- It was evident from the discussions that organisations use the Outcomes and Framework to varying degrees. Some organisations use it for funding applications, whilst others include it in their training to staff. Some of our members pointed out that the Framework might seem too high-level for some groups who are more likely to relate their work to more specialist structures such as The Promise. In addition, third sector organisations have to adhere to project outcomes set by project funders for funding applications and reports.
- It was suggested that for the National Outcomes and wider Framework to have more effect, there needs to be greater accountability and reporting against the indicators. Organisations need to be supported to be able to measure their work against the indicators.

Key evidence identified

- [Carnegie Trust UK's National Performance Framework Next Steps](#)

Next steps

Children in Scotland will use this evidence as part of our response to the Scottish Government's public consultation on the National Outcomes and continue to make use of opportunities to amplify its membership's work and views.