

Local Government and Communities Committee

Consultation of the Scottish Parliament on the Scottish Government's Revised National Outcomes

Submission from Cyrenians and Cyrenians SCCR

(Please note this response includes the views of SCCR, funded by the Scottish Government Children, Young People and Families Early Intervention Fund CYPFEIF and ALEC Fund Grant)

CONTEXT

The Scottish Parliament Local Government and Communities Committee is seeking views about the updated National Outcomes for Scotland. (Deadline 11 April 2018)

The National Outcomes are used as broad policy aims for the Scottish Government and are updated every five years. The outcomes are part of National Performance Framework, a broad set of indicators and targets which cover a range of economic, health, social and environmental areas.

There are 11 outcomes overall, but the committee is considering three of the new outcomes:

- ***We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe***
- ***We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally***
- ***We grow up loved, safe and respected, so that we realise our full potential***

The previous outcomes are listed below.

National Outcomes for Scotland - 2016 Refresh

1. We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.
2. We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people.
3. We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation.
4. *Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.*
5. *Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.*
6. *We live longer, healthier lives.*
7. *We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.*
8. *We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.*
9. We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.
10. We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.

11. We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.
12. We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.
13. We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity.
14. We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.
15. Our people are able to maintain their independence as they get older and are able to access appropriate support when they need it.
16. Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

<http://www.gov.scot/About/Performance/scotPerforms/outcome>

CONSULTATION

The Scottish Parliament Local Government and Communities Committee have asked:

What do you think about the changes to the National Outcomes?

What do you think of any new Outcomes?

What do you think about the Scottish Government's consultation on these changes?

RESPONSE

What do you think about the changes to the National Outcomes?

Cyrenians welcome the review of the National Outcomes, and the opportunity as a society to take account of changes to the needs of our communities and citizens. We believe this refresh will help to ensure equitable access to opportunities for all who live in, and visit, Scotland. As an organisation Cyrenians are working towards a Scotland in which those who have experienced severe and multiple disadvantage experience fair access to opportunities; and that our aspirations to be a 'kind, confident and outward looking nation' where people are 'free from poverty in all its forms' provides support to people in ways that take account of individual need and choice, promoting dignity and demonstrating respect for each person's unique journey.

There are 11 Outcomes (in total) instead of the previous 16.

- Previous National Outcomes 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 have been removed; these refer specifically to success, best start, health, inequalities and life chances with reference to young people, children and families.

The 11 outcomes are less age and family specific making them more universally applicable but thereby possibly diminishing the emphasis on more vulnerable groups. Given that the most vulnerable in our society as often those experiencing difficulties in accessing services to promote good health, education, housing and acceptable income levels we are concerned that the more generic National Outcomes could result in diluted service provision for those experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage.

- The change in language around the outcomes is more positive and aspirational. The simplicity of the language also means that a larger part of the population will relate to the outcome statements and therefore be more familiar with them.
- Of the 11 outcomes the only one we feel would benefit from more clarity is 'We are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are enjoyed widely'. This seems to conflate creativity, diversity and culture in a way that hasn't been as carefully considered as the other 10 Outcomes. Could this be an opportunity to divide this into 2 Outcomes and have a total of 12?
- We fully support the Purpose of 'increased well-being, and sustainable and inclusive economic growth' and the Values of a society that 'treats all... with kindness, dignity and compassion'.
- **The following National Indicators already inform our work:**

Cyrenians

Improved mental wellbeing

Eradicate food poverty

Reduce alcohol related hospital admissions

Reduce the number of individuals with problem drug use

Improve people's perceptions about the crime rate in their area

Reduce reconviction rates

Reduce underemployment

Improve people's perceptions of the quality of public services

Reduce crime victimisation rates

Improve the responsiveness of public services

Reduce the proportion of individuals living in poverty

Reduce children's deprivation

Increase the number of new homes

Increase the proportion of young people in learning, training or work

Improve support for people with care needs

Reduce emergency admissions to hospital

Increase satisfaction with housing

Improve access to green space

Improve social capital

Reduce loneliness

Promoting children's voices and the quality of their relationships

Increase visits to the outdoors

SCCR Cyrenians (Funded by the Scottish Government)

Improve knowledge exchange from university research

Improve levels of educational attainment

Improve the skill profile of the population

Improve access to suitable housing options for those in housing need

Improve children's services

Improve self-assessed general health

Improve mental wellbeing

Widen use of the Internet

- **We believe that our work also has a secondary impact on the following National Indicators:**

Increase physical activity
Reduce premature mortality
Improve the quality of healthcare experience
Improve digital infrastructure
Improve people's perceptions of their neighbourhood
Supporting public services to treat people with dignity & respect
Promoting influence over local decisions
Reduce relative poverty after housing costs
Reduce wealth inequalities
Reduce unmanageable debt

What do you think of any new Outcomes?

Cyrenians, including SCCR Cyrenians (Scottish Government CYPFEIF and ALEC funded):

1. We welcome the addition of the new Outcomes which very broadly tackle some of the issues facing our target groups. The language of 'sharing opportunities', 'communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe' and growing up 'loved, safe and respected' demonstrate a recognition of the importance of equality, kindness and support in serving young people, their families and the next generation.
2. These aims sit well within current governments frameworks for GIRFEC, SHINARI and the Curriculum for Excellence and will need to clearly include ACEs, Trauma and recognition of issues regarding LGBT Youth, Autism Awareness and Educational support. Outcomes need to take account of and be informed by other developing policies including the work of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group, The Road to Recovery refresh, and Welfare Reform.

What do you think about the Scottish Government's consultation on these changes?

Dissemination

As an organisation with Scottish Government Funding it would be useful to be aware of any potential changes to National Outcomes as we feel responsible for delivering a number of the National Indicators that underpin Government policy and strategy objectives.

Timing

Wider circulation of the consultation process would have been productive. Being made aware of it sooner would certainly have allowed us to consider our responses in more depth. As an organisation we only became aware of the Consultation two

days before the scheduled deadline for views to be submitted, through a Tweet sent out by @SP_LocalGovt on 5 April 2018.

Going forward

A clearly defined, transparent process for informing a wider range of organisations of consultations, reviews and changes to existing policy would be helpful. An emailing list that informs third sector organisations with Scottish Government funding of proposed changes would ensure wider reach and greater opportunity to engage in consultations.