

Briefing Paper: National Performance Framework

Introduction

The Scottish Government launched the first National Performance Framework (NPF) in 2007. The framework set out in its purpose and outcomes its aim to measure national wellbeing beyond Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Experience had shown using only GDP as a measurement failed to provide a true reflection of the wellbeing of a nation. Economically a county could be thriving, but were people healthy, educated and happy?

The first NPF had sixteen national outcomes, supported by a range of economic, health, social and environmental indicators, used to measure progress towards achieving the overall aim. Locally alignment to the NPF was through Single Outcome Agreements.

The NPF was not meant just for the Scottish Government but provided direction for all public services and began the shift towards using an outcomes based approach.

Ten years after the first NPF the Scottish Government began a review of the National Outcomes for Scotland. Crucially this review was undertaken within the context of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 which embedded in legislation places a statutory duty on Scottish Ministers to consult on, develop and publish a set of national outcomes, and regularly and publicly report progress towards these outcomes and review them at least every five years.

Fundamental to this review was this consultation with the public, practitioners and policy makers on what kind of Scotland they would like to live in. Carnegie UK Trust supported this exercise, producing the following report <https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/publications/what-sort-of-scotland-do-you-want-to-live-in/>

As well as review of the outcomes themselves, this exercise provided opportunity to look at the Framework in its entirety, reflecting on the style in which it was presented, the language used, and the national indicator set for each outcome

If you want to find out more about the journey to the revised document, have a look <http://nationalperformance.gov.scot/>. This briefing paper will provide a summary of the revised NPF, focusing on its relevance to us, working within community planning/safety.

The National Performance Framework - 2018

Following consultation and parliamentary debate, the revised National Performance Framework was published in June 2018.

Although we may not know it – all of us working in public services are responsible for supporting delivery of the NPF. All of us, delivering a public function have a duty to pay regard to all national outcomes – reflecting them within plans and strategies. The NPF describes how *our* actions will improve the quality of life for the people of Scotland (which it's worth remembering includes us!)

Briefing Paper: National Performance Framework

So, what is the purpose...

- *'To focus on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through sustainable and inclusive growth'*

This purpose is underpinned by values which, not only describe the approach which the Scottish Government and the wider public service sector are to take but also the principles Scotland shares as a nation:

- *We are a society which treats people with kindness, dignity and compassion respects the rules of law and acts in an open and transparent way.*

Think back to the consultation exercise – this reflects the Scotland people said they wanted.

The revised NPF has eleven national outcomes, which the Scottish Government believe:

- Better reflect the values and aspirations of the public, expert stakeholders and Ministers
- Improved the alignment with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, and with other Scottish Government Frameworks, such as Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights and Scotland's Economic Strategy
- Simplify the language and presentation of the NPF
- Allow the Scottish Government to better track progress in reducing inequalities, promoting equality, and encouraging preventative approaches

The revised NPF represents the SG commitment to ensuring the SDG is part of what it does in Government. Interestingly Scotland was one of the first countries to publicly commit to the UN's SDG's. Each of the 17 SDG's is mapped against NPF National Outcomes.

Briefing Paper: National Performance Framework

The eleven National Outcomes are:



There are 81 national indicators to track progress towards the Purpose and National Outcomes – the detail of these and further information on the NPF can be found on the Scottish Government website <http://nationalperformance.gov.scot/>

The Approach

The delivery of the National Performance Framework is dependent upon collaboration and partnership working; with everyone working together to deliver progress against agreed outcomes. The Scottish Government acknowledges that for some organisations this requires a shift in culture, systems and practice. However equally, it acknowledges that at Local Government and Community Planning Partnership level, organisations already work together to deliver joint outcomes (think Local Outcome Improvement Plans). They are looking to learn from local government and work nationally to support partnership working.

Measuring Progress

The Scottish Government NPF webpage (<http://nationalperformance.gov.scot/>) is the place to go for information on how it intends to measure performance against

Briefing Paper: National Performance Framework

national outcomes/indicators. This includes an 'Interactive Data Dashboard' which contains all the data held for each indicator. It isn't quite finished yet, but it will show all the breakdowns for each indicator, and they will be available for download. As someone who isn't analytically minded, I am conscious as to how I describe this, so I would suggest you go and have a look! I looked at the indicator - 'crime victimisation' and found interesting the comparison for age range – could this help us target our work? Do national figures mirror your findings locally?

Community Safety

The most relevant outcome for us who work in community safety is:

- We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe

This revised outcome brings together the previous 'safer' and 'stronger' outcomes and reflects the recognition that in order to deliver community safety effectively consideration needs to be given to fostering the wider social conditions which impact upon it. Social conditions mean such things as social networks, personal relationships, social participation, community cohesion and empowerment.

The indicators for this outcome include:

- Perceptions of local area
- Loneliness
- Perceptions of local crime rate
- Community land ownership
- Crime victimisation
- Access to green and blue space
- Places to interact
- Social capital

For those working locally, it is essential to think about how (if) these indicators are reflected within our own LOIPS/Community Safety Plans/strategies. Or even in the first instance what does being inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe mean to your local communities?

At our recent AGM, Elinor Findlay (Building Safer Communities, Scottish Government) described key aspects such a community could look like, this included somewhere...

- People feel safe, that they belong, and they can trust others
- Communities are fair and inclusive
- People have sufficient income to lift them out of poverty
- Everyday relationships and kindness
- Well planned neighbourhoods with accessible facilities, public services and community planning spaces
- Thriving private and social enterprise sector
- Infrastructure links to employment opportunities (e.g. affordable and accessible public transport links)

Briefing Paper: National Performance Framework

Summarising an inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe community is one which functions well socially, physically and economically.

Just looking at the range of issues and themes in this list (and Elinor suggested loads more!) highlights the breadth of issues community safety encompasses. As a community safety practitioner there is very little you can't legitimately get involved in! Sometimes the far reach of community safety is daunting, it can be difficult to know where to start, or where is best to exert your influence.

So what could you do next:

- Raise awareness of the National Performance Framework among your local CSP or CPP – find out what if anything, local community safety/planning colleagues are doing in response to its launch
- If you aren't already, be part of the discussions on the delivery of your LOIP, find out if there is a theme or outcome most aligned to community safety – for example... in Fife it is the outcome to delivery 'Thriving Places', East Dunbartonshire has a Stronger and Safer Communities outcome. Have a look at http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/documents/community_planning/loip-stocktake-emerging-findings-may2018.pdf for more information on LOIPS
- Review your own plans/strategies and make links to the NPF, I would be surprised if themes aren't similar, are there uses you can make of the indicators to help measure what you are doing locally? Can they help benchmark local progress against national progress? For example, 'Perceptions of Local Crime - percentage of people who think crime in their area has stayed the same or reduced in the past two years' - do people in your area feel the same or differently than the Scottish average – if it is different, is it worth exploring why?
- Is there an emerging issue, you think relevant to community safety but you can't get organisations to come together - use the NPF as a tool to improve collaboration and partnership working.
- The NPF is another means to support the delivery of public service reform, it recognises the necessity of giving communities (and councils) a democratic voice. You can support this by using the information from the Scottish Household Survey to find out how safe your residents feel or take it a step further and do some local engagement. This could follow on from the point above – is there something emerging you want to learn more about
- The outcome 'inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe' is part of the justice vision – bringing together the policy areas of community justice and community safety... for me this link is an obvious one, and in many Local Authorities there is joined up delivery of both but it is worth reviewing delivery and governance in your area - are there two partnerships working towards the same outcomes?

Finally

Briefing Paper: National Performance Framework

As always here at SCSN we are keen to support our members so please get in touch with any questions or comments (including feedback on the report itself – has it been helpful?) on Twitter @SCSN2 or via email – Tricia.Spacey@scsn.org.uk