

Department for the Economy
Equality Unit
Corporate Governance, Planning and Equality Branch
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02 April 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

Consultation on the Draft Equality Scheme, Draft Audit of Inequalities and Equality Action Plan, and Draft Disability Action Plan (2016-2021)

The Carnegie UK Trust welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Consultation on the Draft Equality Scheme, Draft Audit of Inequalities and Equality Action Plan, and Draft Disability Action Plan (2016-2021). The Trust works to improve the lives of people throughout the UK and Ireland, by changing minds through influencing policy, and by changing lives through innovative practice and partnership work. Our [Strategic Plan \(2016-2020\)](#) takes a holistic approach to wellbeing and outlines our work as focusing on '[Enabling Wellbeing](#)'; '[Flourishing Towns](#)'; '[Fulfilling Work](#)'; and '[Digital Futures](#)'.

Evidence Base

The Carnegie UK Trust has been actively involved in promoting wellbeing in policy since the establishment of the first [Carnegie Roundtable on Measuring What Matters in Scotland](#) in 2010. Since 2011 we have published [case studies](#) of how governments and civil society organisations measure wellbeing in France, the USA, and Canada; made recommendations on [next steps for the Scottish National Performance Framework](#); funded a [policy assessment tool](#) which uses wellbeing indicators to critique policy proposals; set out steps for developing a [wellbeing framework in Northern Ireland](#); produced [guidance on wellbeing frameworks for cities and regions](#); convened an [international roundtable discussion on the successes and challenges of developing high-level strategies based on wellbeing and translating this to policy action](#); and developed a UK-wide programme on the [Enabling State](#) which explores public service approaches which give citizens and communities more opportunity to shape the services that they receive and to contribute to their own wellbeing. Our project [Embedding Wellbeing in Northern Ireland](#) is providing financial and in-kind support to Community Planning Partnerships in the local authority areas of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council; Derry and Strabane District Council; and Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council to implement a local wellbeing outcomes approach through their Community Plan.

Honorary President: William Thomson CBE
Chair: Sir John Elvidge
Joint Interim Chief Executive: Jennifer Wallace/Douglas White

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Registered Charity No: SC 012799 operating in the UK
Registered Charity No: 20142957 operating in Ireland

Co-Production and shared leadership in community planning

The Trust recognises the importance of action planning on inequalities and disability for the wellbeing of citizens in Northern Ireland. The Trust believes that the long-term nature of Northern Ireland's Community Plans presents an opportunity to take a strategic approach to developing policies on inequalities and disability. With the current scope of the Department for the Economy's draft action plans until 2021 and the Community Plans setting the strategic direction of local authorities and their partners until 2030-2035, the Trust encourages engagement with Community Planning colleagues in the respective local authorities to ensure a co-ordinated and consistent approach to equalities and disability policy across Northern Ireland in the long-term.

The Trust's Embedding Wellbeing in Northern Ireland project is designed to support project participants to overcome challenges in delivering their Community Plan which they have identified as a priority. The project participants have indicated their interest in receiving support on extending co-production in the delivery of their Community Plans, and facilitating shared leadership within the Partnerships and outwith their formal structures across sectors and levels of organisation. In commissioning this direct support, the Trust will be supportive of the role of the Community and Voluntary Sector in Community Planning, and the requirements of engaging with and involving Section 75 groups.

Data visualisation and communication in community planning

In the [Expression of Interest process](#) to take part in the Trust's Embedding Wellbeing in Northern Ireland project, the identification, analysis, use, visualisation and communication of data in Community Planning was identified as a challenge by the eleven Community Planning Partnerships.

The Trust is supporting the three Embedding Wellbeing in Northern Ireland project participants in the development of effective visualisation and communication of the data in their Community Plans. The Trust's [international research](#) on wellbeing frameworks has found that one way of ensuring wellbeing measures get traction in the policymaking process is to ensure there is broad-based support by developing an effective communication and dissemination strategy. Communicating effectively about wellbeing is also a key part of gaining popular support and building media interest in scrutinising progress. During a study visit to New York, the participants were interested in the data visualisations used by Measure of America for their report [A Portrait of New York City](#), and expressed a desire to develop something similar for their public reporting and communications.


The Trust is therefore exploring ways in which to support the project participants to communicate their Statement of Progress in Community Planning effectively to ensure that citizens are informed as to if progress against delivery of the Community Plan has improved, been maintained, or stalled. The Trust is seeking to [commission a hackathon](#) to bring together members of the eleven Community Planning Partnerships with statistical, policy and communication responsibility to work together, discuss and develop possible prototypes of the Statement of Progress. In exploring the forms of visualisation which citizens find most informative and engaging, and delivered across which platforms, this project will take into account the needs of Section 75 groups.

The Trust would be pleased to work with the Equality Unit in the development and delivery of these projects supporting co-production, shared leadership, and data communication in Community Planning, and to share the learning on how local government and its partners can be supported to involve and communicate effectively with Section 75 groups.

Concluding remarks

We hope that you find these comments helpful. We would be delighted to speak with you further on our experiences in Northern Ireland and internationally. If you would like to discuss our response or would like to find out more about our work please contact me via email at lauren@carnegieuk.org or by telephone on 01383 721445.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren Pennycook". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lauren Pennycook
Senior Policy and Development Officer
Carnegie UK Trust