

Dear James Dornan MSP,

Consultation on how to achieve community wellbeing

The Carnegie UK Trust welcomes the Local Government and Communities Committee's Inquiry into what affects 'community wellbeing' and its call for ideas on its future focus. As an organisation, the Trust does not feel that we are best placed to submit our response via the primarily citizen-focused 'Your Priorities' tool, but is pleased to provide the Committee with a short response.

The Trust works to improve the wellbeing of people throughout the UK and Ireland, by changing minds through influencing policy, and by changing lives through innovative practice and partnership work. We focus on policy and practice which promotes community and societal wellbeing – that is, living well together.

We believe that wellbeing should be the defining goal of government, as is outlined in the National Performance Framework (NPF), as well as provide a framework to define and measure shared outcomes. Over the past decade, we have seen Scotland's wellbeing approach grow and develop, and we have been proud to be part of that story. Going forward, the Trust advocates for a closer alignment between the NPF and community wellbeing. Scotland's wellbeing approach, laid out in the NPF, can be used to develop a local holistic framework for supporting community wellbeing, linking to the Single Outcomes Agreements, and bringing together many of issues that people have mentioned on the 'Your Priorities' tool – such as support for early years, social prescribing, environment, tackling poverty and social isolation.

As part of the refresh of the National Performance Framework in 2018, the Trust, with Oxfam Scotland and Children in Scotland, carried out discussions with citizens at all ages and stages across Scotland. When we asked people, 'what sort of Scotland do you want to live in?' a range of themes came out as important to people for a good life, however, education, equality and community were valued consistently highly by all groups. From discussions about jobs and employment, to the environment, to good quality health care, to integrated transport, the interconnectedness of the conversations about different aspects of wellbeing was clear.

Our research and experience emphasises the need to shift from silos to working together, and to community ownership and management. We have found that kindness in public services and developing place-based solutions for towns are important, but often over looked, areas of public policy.

Given the interdependent nature of people's priorities and the need to integrate services and support, we urge the committee to use a holistic wellbeing lens to bring together people's various priorities for a sustainable future. We also ask that it continues to prioritise engaging with communities: giving citizens a say in what the Scottish Government is working toward and engaging them with the National Performance Framework.

We hope that you find these comments helpful. If you would like to discuss any of our work further, please contact me on pippa@carnegieuk.org – we would be pleased to hear from you.

Pippa

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