

# Children's Wellbeing and the Scottish Budget



An introduction to the children's wellbeing budget research project.

## The Project

Children in Scotland is working with the Carnegie Trust UK and Cattanach to raise awareness of what a robust wellbeing approach to the Scottish budget would entail, with a focus on the first 1001 days of a child's life.

The project will undertake desktop research complemented by strategic interviews to:

- Explore the layers of root causes that undermine children's wellbeing
- Set out the importance of a government budget that provides for investment rather than tackling symptoms of, for example, deprivation
- Examine the expected benefits of a wellbeing budget and how to design the budget accordingly

Key areas of attention will encompass international best practice and ways to harness the National Performance Framework (NPF) to link government expenditure to interventions and preventative spend that improve children's wellbeing. It will take an upstream (root cause) perspective and discuss why a life-stages approach to outcome-based budgeting underpins the attainment of a wellbeing economy.

## The Opportunity

In light of NPF evidence that the wellbeing of children in Scotland is not improving fast enough, the goal of this project is to support a potentially transformational ambition for a Scottish children's wellbeing budget.

The 2021 Scottish budget is seen as a way to signal the commencement of an ongoing process to align spend in order to advance children's wellbeing, including linking the NPF to budget design: the project is about understanding what this longer-term process needs to encompass and to support its implementation.

## The Team

This work is commissioned by:

- Jennifer Wallace, Carnegie UK Trust
- Sophie Flemig, Cattanach
- Jackie Brock, Children in Scotland

They have invited Dr Katherine Trebeck to carry out the research and report preparation.

## The Timeframe

A two-page interim briefing note is expected in autumn, with the final report delivered in February 2021.



## The Contact Point

It is hoped that this work will be of value to a range of policy actors – from government to civil society. We welcome your ideas and suggestions – in particular in regard to:

- How to make this project as useful as it can be to policy processes, budget design and implementation?
- Key people to speak with?
- Existing work that should inform the research?

Please contact [katherine@wellbeingeconomy.org](mailto:katherine@wellbeingeconomy.org)