



We are at a time when many governments are re-thinking their role in improving wellbeing. Old solutions based on professional and service silos are poorly equipped to deal with the problems of the 21st century. Local government, close to the people it serves, is particularly important in finding solutions to these problems.

Wellbeing is a term that encapsulates economic, social, environmental and democratic outcomes. Using a wellbeing framework that brings in all these elements of social progress helps us to have a conversation about the kind of society we want to live in. Our research shows it helps partners work together to improve the lives of individuals and communities.

In Northern Ireland, the Executive has shown leadership in embedding a wellbeing and outcomes-based approach in the draft Programme for Government. The current political situation and recent reform at local government level presents a significant opportunity to align ambitions for the economy, environment, communities, public services, and future generations with the approach taken to improve wellbeing at a local level.

Local authorities and their partners are now responsible for Community Planning in Northern Ireland – identifying the long-term priorities for improving wellbeing of local districts and their residents; community cohesion; and local quality of life. Community Planning provides a mechanism for local planning which brings together the work of all local government stakeholders and service providers and reflects

and complements the outcomes in the draft Programme for Government. While in line with outcomes for Northern Ireland as a whole, the economic, social, and environmental outcomes sought in the Community Plans reflect the challenges, opportunities, and circumstances in the local authority districts.

However, independent analysis commissioned by the Carnegie UK Trust has confirmed that while all of the Community Plans have, to varying degrees, adopted both the language and substance of the wellbeing agenda and the outcomes model, there is an opportunity to provide effective and tailored support to the Community Planning Partnerships to address challenges in implementing their Community Plan.

Northern Ireland is at a critical point in its development, with many supporting new local approaches. The challenge is to move from policy rhetoric into reality.



Our History on Improving Wellbeing

The Carnegie UK Trust has developed a strong reputation as an advocate for wellbeing frameworks which allow governments to measure social progress for citizens in a meaningful way 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 with the OECD**;
- 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**, exploring public service approaches which give citizens and communities more opportunity to shape the services that they receive and to contribute to their own wellbeing.

To help bridge the gap between wellbeing and outcomes at regional and local government levels, the Carnegie UK Trust is offering significant financial and in-kind support for up to three Community Planning Partnerships in Northern Ireland to implement a wellbeing outcomes approach.

Expressions of Interest to take part in the three-year programme are invited from all Local Authorities. The Trust is offering to provide support to Community Planning Partnerships to overcome challenges in implementing their Community Plan which they have identified as a priority, such as gathering appropriate data which links their activities to the outcomes; measuring progress towards the outcomes; communicating their work effectively; and aligning their work with the draft Programme for Government.

A peer-to-peer support model will be developed to allow the Community Planning Partnerships to learn from each other and that of international best practice in addressing similar challenges. The Community Planning Partnerships will come together at least three times over the duration of the programme to share their experiences in implementing their Community Plan, and to allow this learning to be captured for other Community Planning Partnerships in Northern Ireland.

An independent, external project Advisory Group will ensure that the policy learning is relevant to equivalent community planning organisations in other jurisdictions of the UK and Ireland.

Embedding Wellbeing in Northern Ireland



Over £350,000 investment



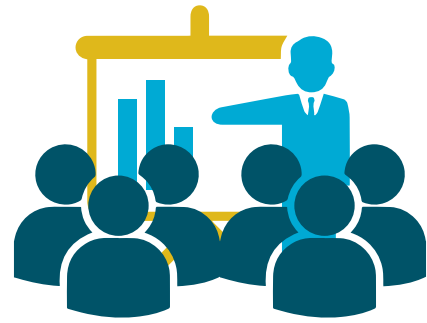
11 Local Authorities invited to apply



1 independent, external Advisory Group



3 year programme



3 peer to peer learning events



Study visits to Local Authorities outside Northern Ireland that exemplify best practice



Support for up to 3 Community Planning Partnerships

Advisory Group



Aideen McGinley (Chair)
Trustee, Carnegie UK Trust



Derek McCallan
Chief Executive, Northern Ireland
Local Government Association
(NILGA)



Colm Bradley
Director, Community Places



Majella McCloskey
Senior Manager, CES Belfast Office,
Centre for Effective Services



Paul Braithwaite
Programme Leader,
Building Change Trust



Pamela McCreedy
Local Government Auditor,
Northern Ireland Audit Office



Siobhan Carey
Chief Executive, Northern Ireland
Statistics Agency



Joanne McDowell
Northern Ireland Director,
Big Lottery Fund Northern Ireland



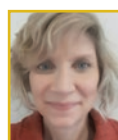
Kieran Donnelly
Comptroller and Audit General,
Northern Ireland Audit Office



Aongus O'Keefe
Programme Leader,
Inspiring Impact NI



Katrina Godfrey
Director of the Programme for
Government and Executive Support,
Northern Ireland Executive



Dawn Snape – Assistant Director,
Wellbeing, Inequalities, Sustainability
and Environment (WISE) Division,
Office for National Statistics



Nancy Hey
Director, What Works Wellbeing



Jennifer Wallace
Head of Policy, Carnegie UK Trust



Helen Johnston
Senior Policy Analyst, National
Economic and Social Council



Louise Warde-Hunter
Deputy Secretary Department for
Communities, Northern Ireland
Executive

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For more information on the project please visit
www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/theme/enabling-wellbeing/
or contact **Lauren Pennycook**, Senior Policy and Development
Officer, at lauren@carnegeuk.org. Follow **@CarnegieUKTrust**
and the hashtag **#NIwellbeing** on Twitter for project updates.