

What are the next steps for the National Performance Framework?

The Carnegie UK Trust began our work on measuring wellbeing with a high-level Roundtable on Measuring What Matters in Scotland in 2010. 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. The question now is what can Scotland do to take forward wellbeing for the next ten years?

1

Rename the framework

The name, the National Performance Framework, is a relic of the origins of the framework as an internal document. It is not the best way to describe a framework that is owned by the people of Scotland, nor is it a title that engages people. A simple fix would be to rename it the National Progress Framework.



Within Scotland, the central tenets of public sector reform were set out in the Christie Commission, and are often referred to as the Scottish approach. While meaningful to some, this language can be opaque. The concepts of prevention, outcome focus, integration and localism can be referred to as a wellbeing approach – language which transcends sectoral and national boundaries. This communicates better, internally and to the world, the way of working expected in Scotland.



Be clear, the Scottish approach is a wellbeing approach

2

Link the framework to the budget process

There is too little attention paid to how the framework and ways of working link to budget decisions. This leads to accusations of rhetoric over reality. Scotland needs to shift the money towards the things we know will improve our collective wellbeing. New Zealand is leading the way here – Scotland should aim to leapfrog.



Away from the centre of government, it isn't clear how a service provider or a community group is meant to contribute to the NPF outcomes or indicators. Many are confused about how Local Outcome Improvement Plans fit in the new framework. The Scottish Government should explain our wellbeing approach as the golden thread between programme and population outcomes: laying out a theory of change with specified indicators.



Explain what it means for different parts of the 'system'

5

Clarify the links between productivity, inclusive growth and wellbeing

We know that people join the conversation at different points along a continuum from productivity to inclusive growth to wellbeing. Because of this, the Scottish Government varies the language it uses which can, at times, feel at odds with the overall vision for wellbeing. If these concepts are expressed as part of a theory of change it will clarify their distinctiveness and links.



The report on Scotland's wellbeing is a welcome step forward, but it did not capture the imagination of the public. More attention needs to be paid to communicating in innovative and modern ways with citizens so that they can benefit from the costly data that is gathered about them, and on their behalf.



Focus more on communicating with the public

6

Tell a story

Wellbeing frameworks are full of numbers. But the story of how change was made, or what got in the way, is equally as important. We need to hear more stories of what people did differently to inspire others. We need to hear about the times when people joined the dots between different outcomes and indicators, and did creative things as a result.



7

To read more about our work on wellbeing visit:

www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/theme/enabling-wellbeing