

# New Decade, New Approach

## A renewed opportunity to improve wellbeing in Northern Ireland

The Carnegie UK Trust has supported governments and civil society organisations in Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England to promote wellbeing in policy for over a decade.

We welcome the New Decade, New Approach Deal and the renewed commitment to put wellbeing at the centre of the Programme for Government. While recognising the significant work done to get to this point, we believe Northern Ireland has the potential to go further. In this briefing, we set out priority actions for the Northern Ireland Executive in order to realise this ambition.

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Put the outcomes based approach on a statutory footing - enshrining wellbeing in law

We support the Executive's plan to take forward the outcomes approach through the new Programme for Government. Wellbeing outcomes were enshrined in legislation for local government in 2015; the time is now right for the outcomes based approach to be placed on a statutory footing for all public services. This would recognise the progress made by local government and Community Planning partners and signal a long-term change in approach to the planning and delivery of public services.



The Executive should provide mechanisms to facilitate partnership working both horizontally and vertically. This would ensure that Community Planning is empowered and resourced to deliver. This Duty to Cooperate should be extended to include the delivery of all public services, supporting the Programme for Government.

Legislate for a Duty to Cooperate, requiring agencies and tiers of government to work together

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Ensure that the Programme for Government is formally recognised as the collective responsibility of all Ministers

To maintain the momentum and commitment to the wellbeing approach, the Executive should put in place methods for monitoring the delivery of commitments made within the Programme for Government. It is important that all Ministers are accountable for the delivery of the outcomes based approach.



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The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer a comprehensive set of targets to improve societal wellbeing by 2030. Scotland and Wales have integrated these goals within the Scottish National Performance Framework and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2014. Northern Ireland should also take the next step towards the SDGs.

Ensure that Northern Ireland Executive policies and practices fully align with the Sustainable Development Goals

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Link the programme for government outcomes to the budget process



In taking forward a wellbeing approach, a more considered approach to budgeting will be required. There is general agreement that current budget silos are hampering efforts to improve wellbeing. Transforming budget decisions from departmental silos to an outcome based approach will take time, but we would welcome an indication of support for this direction of travel.



The Executive should consider new, varied and engaging ways to communicate with the public about the Programme for Government. The Community Planning Partnerships are increasingly trialling different tools and delivery mechanisms in communicating their Statements of Progress to citizens. Utilising this learning and using innovative and varied methods will ensure that the public remains informed and engaged.

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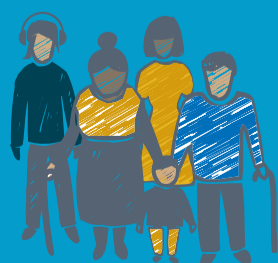
Communicate with the public proactively and imaginatively

Deliver the use of Citizens Assemblies on Wellbeing



We welcome the inclusion of citizen engagement mechanisms in the New Decade, New Approach deal. Other jurisdictions have found that this approach can transform decision-making. It is important that this work feeds into the Executive's understanding of the wellbeing outcomes that the citizens of Northern Ireland want and their views on how best to achieve these outcomes.

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The community and voluntary sector should co-deliver and manage public services. With a new Executive, there is a renewed opportunity to forge relationships and new ways of working with the sector.

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Co-deliver and co-manage public services with the community and voluntary sector