



Generations Working Together

Review of the National Outcomes: Generations Working Together Consultation Response

Generations Working Together submitted a response to the review of National Outcomes in June 2023, which closed in October 2023. GWT has only answered the Questions within the bill that it feels it has the knowledge and expertise to contribute to.

What, if anything, would you change about the National Outcomes?

When considering potential changes to the National Outcomes within the National Performance Framework (NPF), one area that could be enhanced is the integration of intergenerational practices. Intergenerational approaches can bring numerous benefits to Scottish society, promoting social cohesion, mutual understanding, and inclusive communities. These benefits aren't just of value to participants; rather they create wider benefits for the staff/volunteers, the workplace and the wider community. Here are some suggestions for embedding intergenerational principles and ideas within the National Outcomes:

- Intergenerational Well-being Indicators: Introduce specific indicators that assess the well-being and quality of relationships across different age groups. These indicators can measure intergenerational connections, social integration, and shared learning experiences, providing a holistic understanding of societal well-being. The existing indicators for measuring outcomes for children and young people (Child social and physical development, Child Wellbeing and Happiness, Children's voices etc.) are metrics that can all be enhanced through more and greater intergenerational relationships. Therefore a more explicit recognition of the value of intergenerational connections will help to improve this data, and will offer clearer explanations for positive outcomes.

- Cross-Cutting Goals: Emphasise intergenerational goals across various outcomes within the NPF. By highlighting the impact of intergenerational approaches in areas such as health and social care, education, community empowerment, and sustainable economic development, the NPF can demonstrate the importance of intergenerational collaboration in achieving multiple policy objectives.

- Education and Lifelong Learning: Recognise the value of intergenerational learning within the education system, and lifelong learning initiatives. Incorporate intergenerational learning methods and projects into curriculum frameworks, as currently supported by Education Scotland as part of the Generations Working Together pilot intergenerational primary school module, and encourage intergenerational activities in community-based learning settings. This can foster empathy, knowledge exchange, and skill development across generations. An extensive and growing body of documented evidence highlights the growth in children's confidence and sense of wellbeing, increase in confidence and resilience in learning.

Generations Working Together is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), charity number SC045851.

- *Social Inclusion and Age-Friendly Communities: Foster age-friendly communities that actively promote intergenerational connections and engagement. This can combat social isolation, reduce loneliness (in all ages), enhance well-being, and create a sense of belonging across generations.*

- *Research and Data Collection: Support research and data collection on intergenerational practices and their impact on well-being, and measure this against the above recommended indicators. Encourage the inclusion of intergenerational dimensions in surveys, studies, and evaluations to better understand the benefits and challenges of intergenerational approaches. This can inform evidence-based policies and interventions.*

Why would you make these changes?:

By incorporating these changes into the National Outcomes, the NPF can recognise and prioritise the importance of intergenerational practice, fostering connections, understanding, and cooperation among different age groups. This would ensure that Scotland's policies and actions align with the promotion of intergenerational well-being and contribute to the creation of a more inclusive and harmonious society. In an ageing population, so often characterised by loneliness, social isolation and generational division, this has never been more important.

Complete this sentence: "I would like to live in a Scotland that..."

I would like to live in a Scotland that values intergenerational connections, where people of all ages come together, learn from one another, and contribute to inclusive communities. A Scotland where intergenerational principles are deeply embedded in our policies, education system, and social fabric, promoting understanding, social cohesion, and a sense of belonging across generations. A Scotland where age is not a barrier but a bridge, where every individual, regardless of their age, is respected, empowered, and given opportunities to thrive. I envision a Scotland that embraces the richness of intergenerational experiences, harnesses the wisdom and energy of all its citizens, and works together to create a brighter and more socially cohesive future for generations to come.