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For more information on the project, please visit www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/thenevotingwellbeing/ or contact Lauren Pennycook, Senior Policy and Development Officer, at laurenp@carnegieuk.org.

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Introduction

For the Carnegie UK Trust, wellbeing, put simply, means living well. Societal wellbeing means everyone having what they need to live well now and in the future. More than health and wealth, it includes longer-term considerations like the environment as well as things that matter most directly to people in their here and now like having friends and loved ones, the ability to contribute meaningfully to society and the ability to make choices about our own lives. It is measured internationally, nationally and locally through the three pillars of material conditions, quality of life and environmental sustainability.
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The Trust convened an independent, external Advisory Group to provide strategic oversight and direction to the project. The Advisory Group includes representatives from the Northern Ireland Executive, the Northern Ireland Audit Office, the Office of National Statistics, civil society, and key stakeholders from the wellbeing and outcomes context, including the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, the Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, the Department for Communities, the Department for the Economy, and the Northern Ireland Equality Commission.

The project Advisory Group recommended that the Trust support the Community Planning Partnerships working in the local government context of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council; Derry City and Strabane District Council; and Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council. The Community Planning Partnerships well-placed to share learning on improving local wellbeing outcomes across Northern Ireland and the UK and Ireland more widely.

Co-production and shared leadership:

After a year of reflecting on their experiences to date, the remaining three participants were receiving support from the Trust on facilitating co-production and shared leadership within and without their formal partnership structures in delivering their Community Plans.

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Co-production and shared leadership:

After a year of reflecting on their experiences to date, the remaining three participants were receiving support from the Trust on facilitating co-production and shared leadership within and without their formal partnership structures in delivering their Community Plans. The Trust defines co-production as a way of working which recognises people as assets; includes the perspectives, skills and expertise of people from across society and from the communities and partners with whom they work; and empowers them to take on roles as co-designers and change agents which facilitate people’s inclusion in society. From co-commissioning through to delivery, two-year project, the Trust has commissioned the Advisory Group to provide input and support to the project participants to deliver projects designed to improve wellbeing in communities. From cross-jurisdictional learning symposiums to workshops; to learning from these meetings with the wider Community Planning network.

The support being co-designed with the project participants to ensure that it is both strategic for the decision-makers in the Community Planning Partnerships and relevant to the practitioners working to deliver projects designed to improve wellbeing in communities. From cross-jurisdictional learning symposiums to workshops; to learning from these meetings with the wider Community Planning network.

The first peer-to-peer learning event hosted in November 2018 was on the challenges the project participants are experiencing in planning, working, and delivering on their Community Plans to date. The Trust has built into the project a peer-to-peer support model in which the project participants can learn much from each other.

The project participants working to improve wellbeing outcomes with sources of external information and support. The virtual network is designed to allow users to share information of general interest to improving wellbeing outcomes; and also to take part in dedicated discussions around particular outcomes; challenges; opportunities; and ways of working online, and to take these offline.

The project participants undertook a second study visit to Wales with members of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Wales has enabled Wales to improve the wellbeing of citizens.

Next steps:

As part of our commitment to share learning from the project, we are evaluating not only the impact of our specific intervention with the project participants but also the impact of an external, independent organisation supporting local government with financial and in-kind support; the impact of such an organisation playing a convening role between place-based partnerships and with external stakeholders to leverage additional support; and the impact of support for peer-to-peer and international policy learning.

Throughout the duration of the project, the Trust will continue to promote the importance of Community Planning in improving local wellbeing outcomes; and to convene groups of key stakeholders who can provide sources of support to our colleagues in Northern Ireland, Wales, and the wider public sector. The Trust will continue to work with our colleagues in Northern Ireland and Wales. Representatives of the three Community Planning Partnerships project participants were provided with the opportunity to engage with Welsh policymakers and politicians, and to find out how the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has enabled Wales to improve the wellbeing of citizens.

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After a year of reflecting on their experiences to design, co-delivery; and overcome challenges, and learning from their counterparts in other jurisdictions of the UK and beyond, the project participants are receiving support from the Trust on facilitating co-production and shared leadership within and outwith the formal partnership structures in delivering their Community Plans. The Trust defines co-production as a way of working which recognises people as assets; includes the perspectives, skills and experiences of all – from our immediate colleagues to our unusual friends; supports people to meaningfully participate; and through this public engagement and change agents which facilitate people’s inclusion in society. From co-commissioning through to the project’s final evaluation, the Trust has commissioned Community Places to support the project participants on integrating co-production into public services and offering citizens a different – more inclusive, enabling – platform of the data in their Statements of Progress, effective visualisation and communication hackathon and use of data and evidence in Community Planning. The Trust supported NILGA to pilot a training platform for elected members, the use and presentation of data and evidence in Community Planning. Firstly, the Trust supported NILGA to pilot a training platform for elected members, and the use and presentation of data and evidence in Community Planning. Secondly, the Trust hosted a number of successful super-regional workshops; and the development of the training and template materials to support co-production and shared leadership within and outwith the formal partnership structures made available to the other Community Planning Partnerships in Northern Ireland at the end of 2020, on completion of the project.

The project participants undertook a second ‘study visit to Wales’ with members of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, given the similar duties placed on local partnership structures to improve local wellbeing outcomes. Representatives of the three Community Planning Partnerships project participants were provided with the opportunity to meet with policymakers and politicians, and to find out how the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has enabled Wales to improve the wellbeing of citizens.

As part of our commitment to share learning from the project, we are evaluating not only the impact of our specific intervention with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, of an external, independent organisation supporting local government with financial and in-kind support; the impact of such an organisation playing a convening role between place-based partnerships and with external stakeholders to leverage additional support; and the impact of support for peer-to-peer and international policy learning.

Throughout the duration of the project, the Trust will continue to promote the importance of Community Planning in improving local wellbeing outcomes, and to engage key stakeholders who can provide sources of support to our colleagues in Northern Ireland. This includes through policy learning, workshops, blogs and social media content to inform and inspire wider Community Planning network, throughout the project’s progress which presents a key opportunity for policymakers and practitioners working to improve wellbeing outcomes in North America.

The project encourages cross-jurisdictional policy learning to support policymakers and practitioners to learn from international experiences of success, and challenges, in improving wellbeing outcomes. The Embedding Wellbeing in Northern Ireland project participants took part in a study visit to New York in October 2018. The study visit comprised an international seminar on wellbeing in Northern Ireland and a stakeholder engagement day with those who are involved in measuring local wellbeing outcomes in New York. The international seminar celebrated and reflected on the progress made in improving wellbeing outcomes in New York, and the event featured the views of senior politicians and stakeholders on the progress made in promoting local wellbeing outcomes, with members of the Department for Communities and their own communities on the process of measuring and improving local wellbeing outcomes. The project participants also discussed their experiences from projects measuring and improving local wellbeing outcomes in Santa Monica; Toronto; Vermont and New York City, as part of our commitment to international policy learning.

Next steps

As part of this opportunity to provide support and as a legacy of our work on improving wellbeing outcomes at central government level, the Trust’s Embedding Wellbeing in Northern Ireland project was developed to offer significant financial and in-kind support for up to three Community Planning Partnerships to implement a local wellbeing outcomes approach. The project is designed to support the participating Community Planning Partnerships to overcome challenges which they have identified as a priority as they seek to deliver their Community Plans. As part of an Open Expression of Interest process, the local authorities were asked to commit to the principles of openness, partnership working, ownership of all – from our immediate colleagues and outwith the formal partnership structures – to diffuse power to place-based partnerships and with external stakeholders to leverage additional support; and the impact of support for peer-to-peer and international policy learning.

The Trust convened an independent, external Advisory Group to provide strategic oversight and direction to the project. The Advisory Group includes representatives from the Northern Ireland Executive, the Northern Ireland Audit Office, the Prime Minister’s Delivery Unit, the Office of National Statistics, civil society, and key stakeholders from the wellbeing and outcomes community based outwith Northern Ireland. The Advisory Group recommended that the Trust support the Community Planning Partnerships working in the local communities of Armagh City and Craigavon Borough Council; Derry City and Strabane District Council; and Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council. The partnership structures are well-placed to share learning on improving local wellbeing outcomes across Northern Ireland and the UK and Ireland more widely.

Co-production and shared leadership

The support is being co-designed with the project participants to ensure that it is both strategic for the decision-makers in the Community Planning Partnerships and relevant to the practitioners working to deliver projects designed to improve wellbeing in communities. From cross-jurisdictional learning symposiums to workshops; and learning modules, the Trust will be supporting local policymakers and practitioners to explore what is working in other local areas. While our direct support is available to the three project participants, three Community Planning Partnerships working in the local areas. While our direct support is available to the project participants, the Trust supported NILGA to pilot a training platform for elected members, and the development of the training and template materials to support co-production and shared leadership within and outwith the formal partnership structures made available to the other Community Planning Partnerships in Northern Ireland at the end of 2020, on completion of the project.

At the same time, the Centre for Effective Services will be providing support on how to share leadership within, and outwith, partnership structures – to diffuse power and decision-making abilities; to maximise collective impact; and to improve wellbeing outcomes which are greater than the sum of the partners’ parts. Both ways of working are integral to Community Planning in Northern Ireland following transformational local government reform. The project has engaged, in total, 1200 participants over three years to discuss common challenges, and commit to reporting out to their counterparts in other Community Planning Partnerships across Northern Ireland. The project participants will be supported to share the learning generated with the wider Community Planning network.

The first peer-to-peer learning event hosted in November 2018 was on the challenges the project participants are experiencing in developing their own Peer-to-peer support – a challenge highlighted by all Community Planning Partnerships in their Expressions of Interest to take part in the project. Further to the peer-to-peer learning event, the Trust developed support on two strands of work on the use and presentation of data and evidence in Community Planning. Firstly, the Trust supported NILGA to pilot a training platform for elected members, and the development of the training and template materials to support co-production and shared leadership within and outwith the formal partnership structures made available to the other Community Planning Partnerships in Northern Ireland at the end of 2020, on completion of the project.

The project participants were provided with an online platform to connect policymakers and practitioners working to improve wellbeing outcomes with sources of external information and support. The virtual network is designed to allow users to share information of general interest to improving local wellbeing outcomes; and also to take part in dedicated discussions around particular outcomes; challenges; opportunities; and ways of working online; and to take to share learning.

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Ireland. The Advisory Group recommended community-based projects outside Northern Ireland, civil society, and key stakeholders project. The Advisory Group includes strategic oversight and direction to the external application.

From their Chief Executive and Chair of the local authorities were asked to commit to deliver their Community Plans. As part of Community Planning Partnerships to well-being outcomes approach. The project was developed to provide leadership within, and outside, the local areas. While our direct support is available to the other Community Planning Partnerships in their Expressions of Interest to take part in the project. Further to the peer-to-peer learning event, the Trust supported NILGA to pilot a training programme in at least one local area. We are receiving support from the Trust on improving local wellbeing outcomes in Santa Monica; from projects measuring and improving wellbeing in Northern Ireland.

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Next steps

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