

# Flourishing Towns

## Time for Towns

Based on our range of policy and practice work on towns to date, we've set out a new agenda for UK towns to support the development of vibrant, innovative and empowered town communities. Our Searching for Space report examines the main policies and initiatives designed to improve outcomes in places across the UK and Ireland. Through our Turnaround Towns project we've examined international examples of towns that have successfully gone through a transformation process, and shared this learning with stakeholders in the UK.

## Twin Towns

Our domestic town twinning initiative brings together towns across the UK and Ireland that share similar characteristics and challenges to exchange learning and develop projects to boost economic and social prosperity.

## USP and UWP

With a consortium of partners, we're continuing to develop [www.usp.scot](http://www.usp.scot), a data platform that allows people to compare and contrast information on almost 500 Scottish towns. We're also in the early stages of developing a new data platform to improve the understanding of and evidence base about Welsh towns, in partnership with Welsh Government.

## Test Town Legacy

Through our Build Your Own TestTown guide and online portal we will be sharing our learning and supporting towns and organisations across the UK to deliver their own independent pop-up enterprise TestTown initiatives.



#TurnaroundTowns

#AffordableCredit

# Fulfilling Work

## Affordable Credit

The question of how to make affordable credit available to people who cannot access mainstream credit is a complex and contested public policy issue. Led by our Affordable Credit Action Group, we're supporting new solutions with a focus on identifying sustainable alternatives to the commercial high cost credit market.

## Work and Wellbeing

We've published data that tracks trends in work and wellbeing, contributing to an evidence base for action across a raft of issues to deliver more fulfilling work for many more people.

## Measuring Job Quality

In partnership with the RSA, we have convened a short-life working group to develop a framework for measuring job quality in the UK. The 2017 Taylor Review suggest an outcome that "all work should be fair and decent with realistic scope for development and fulfilment", and recommends the Government should identify a set of metrics against which it can measure

success in improving work in order to track progress against this outcome or goal.

## Living Wage Places

We're working with the Living Wage Foundation and the Poverty Alliance to develop and pilot a Living Wage Places model in different localities across the UK.

## Making Procurement Work

We're working with the North East Child Poverty Commission and the Institute for Local Governance at Durham University to explore and develop how public procurement models can be leveraged to deliver better fulfilling work outcomes for workers.

## Impact of Brexit

The Trust has published analysis of the impact of Brexit on Digital and Fulfilling Work, each written by an independent expert, to serve as a starting point to a wide range of public policy issues that can inform the Trust and others on possible next steps and priorities for our thematic areas after Brexit. We will publish analysis with a specific focus on towns later in 2018.

The Carnegie UK Trust works to improve the lives of people throughout the UK and Ireland, by changing minds through influencing policy, and by changing lives through innovative practice and partnership work. The Carnegie UK Trust was established by Scots-American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie in 1913.



# Current Work

In 2018, the Trust remains committed to improving wellbeing for people in the UK and Ireland with particular regard to people who are disadvantaged. We're in the third year of our 2016–2020 strategic plan, running policy and practice projects in the four areas you find in this leaflet. As a modern operating trust, we have a role both to influence ideas and policy and to be active in testing and delivering real-life solutions – all with the aim of improving people's wellbeing. This leaflet provides an overview of our current projects – more information can be found on our website.

# Enabling Wellbeing

## The Power and Place of Kindness

Kindness is at the very heart of our wellbeing. This work explores the importance of places and opportunities to connect, and the intrinsic values underpinning our interactions and relationships.

We are currently running three linked projects:

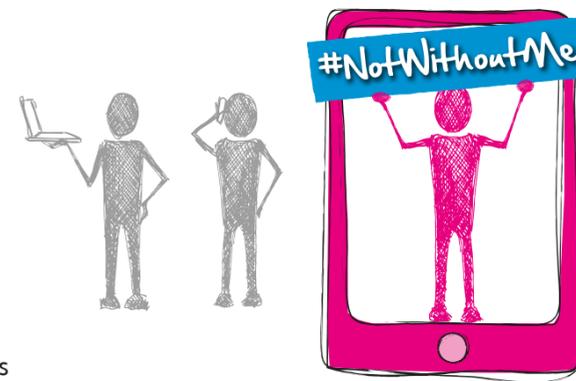
- The Place of Kindness involves a partnership with North Ayrshire Council to undertake a further set of demonstration activities focused on kindness, to support the local authority's work to tackle poverty.
- The Power of Kindness takes these conversations to a strategic level, through a series of roundtables led by Carnegie Fellow Julia Unwin to understand what needs to change in public policy to promote kindness across the UK.
- The Kindness Innovation Network is an action learning programme that brings together a network of people with an interest in kindness to share ideas and learning, test new ideas, and collaborate around kindness.

## The Enabling State

Our Enabling State programme began in 2012 with the aim of describing the paradigm shift that is transforming the UK welfare state to an enabling state. This shift is characterised by a recognition that traditional 'top down' approaches can no longer solve the complex social problems that we face as a society. The state needs to play a more facilitative and enabling role which empowers individuals and communities to have more control over their personal wellbeing and our collective wellbeing as a society. We continue to carry out research into the enabling state, through surveys and policy analysis, to promote evidence-informed policy making.

## Understanding Wellbeing

We're leading advocates for wellbeing frameworks that allow governments at all levels to meaningfully measure social progress for citizens. We've worked internationally with the OECD, and gathered evidence on wellbeing frameworks from across the globe. In the UK, we've supported the Scottish Government on the ongoing development of the National Performance Framework, and set out steps for developing a wellbeing framework in Northern Ireland. Our three-year project in Northern Ireland offers significant financial and in-kind support for up to three Community Planning Partnerships to implement a wellbeing outcomes approach.



## Evidence in Policy

We'll continue to explore how we can better share evidence about what works in social policy and practice across sectors and across borders. We've been exploring how to take forward the steps set out in our Scottish Approach to Evidence discussion paper, published in partnership with the Alliance for Useful Evidence, and have re-run our Evidence Exchange survey to update our understanding of how policymakers and practitioners across the UK access and use evidence, including co-produced evidence.

## Better Way

We're working with Civil Exchange and the Esmeé Fairburn Foundation to support a cross-sectoral network of social activists. The network is dedicated to improving services and building stronger communities and will enable people to share ideas and build a growing movement for change.

## Citizen's Rising

We're pleased to continue to support The Wheel to work with cross sectoral partners to realise a new vision for citizen empowerment and greater participative democracy in the Republic of Ireland.

## Governing England

We're working with the British Academy on 'Governing England', a multi-disciplinary project which seeks to address some of the key issues relating to emerging debates about English devolution and governance in the context of a changing Union.



#PlaceofKindness

# Digital Futures

## #NotWithoutMe

We're working to test and promote effective approaches to digital inclusion for vulnerable young people, exploring innovative engagement techniques and supporting professionals to develop their practice.

## Carnegie Library Lab

We're promoting innovation and leadership in public libraries through a development programme that offers a unique opportunity for public library staff to deliver an innovative project, take part in mentoring and networking activities and engage in a bespoke online learning programme.

## Data Privacy

We're working with partners including CILIP and Newcastle Libraries to understand and develop how public libraries can help individuals make informed decisions about their online privacy. We're also developing new research on what citizens think about online privacy and how they manage this in practice.

## Digital Exclusion

Building on our legacy of digital inclusion research we're carrying out research projects to examine how citizens navigate information and manage their privacy and security online; and exploring the real-life practical benefits for citizens of key public services being transformed by digital technology.

## Engaging Libraries

Working in partnership with the Wellcome Trust, we're supporting fourteen innovative public library projects across the UK to pilot creative and imaginative public engagement projects on health and wellbeing.

## Balancing Privacy and Public Benefit

In partnership with Involve and Understanding Patient Data, we are exploring how government, civil society and advocacy groups make sense of, and balance, the potential risk and reward of data sharing across public services.

## Future of Libraries

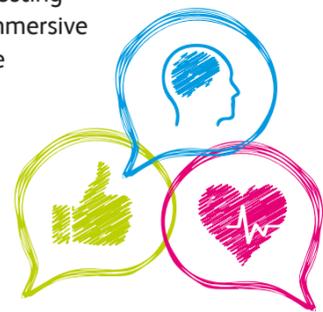
We're working to communicate the contribution that public libraries make to wellbeing and key policy goals through our research and advocacy publications, Shining a Light and Speaking Volumes.

## Digital Public Services

The British Library, supported by Arts Council England and the Carnegie UK Trust, is leading on the development of a single digital presence for public libraries. A single digital presence could provide public libraries with the opportunity to revisit their core mission and make tailored offerings to meet the needs of individual users opening up new opportunities for services and users alike.

## Hackathons

Our Libraries Hackathon project will continue to work with the library sector and wider public services to demonstrate the potential for innovation and to share learnings and practical guidance for hosting and running immersive and alternative service design events.



#EngagingLibs