

Feedback on the Health and Social Care Outcomes Framework



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Thank you for attending the briefing event on the Health and Social Care Outcomes Framework. We would like your feedback on three key questions. To help you answer these questions, summary documents for all of the indicators are attached

1. Are there any key priorities that you feel are not covered by the indicators?

We are happy to see plans to measure the outcomes of health and social care measures in Wales and for the opportunity to contribute to these measures. We do, however, believe that the indicators need some major revisions to be fit for purpose. We are somewhat disturbed by what seems to be a strong focus on individual responsibility and behaviour modification that we do not think is appropriate for these outcomes.

The Welsh Government has committed to embedding the social model of disability into its policies. This means accepting a framework that sees disability as a result of structural factors, rather than something 'wrong' with the person themselves. The purpose of policy based on the social model of disability must thus be to remove societal barriers to people's wellbeing, not to put the responsibility to change circumstances on individuals.

It is worth pointing out that this standpoint is not just a political choice it is also supported theoretically and empirically through work on social inequality. There are complex and multiple determinants to good health and wellbeing¹ and these outcomes should take a balanced view with more attention given to socioeconomic factors, physical environment and access to services.

While individual health behaviours play their role in wellbeing and should find a place in these outcomes, we believe that they have been given far too much weight here, to the detriment of other determining factors.

We understand that part of the reason there is this strong emphasis on personal responsibility is that it may seem that these are achievable and measurable goals. It may seem that social and health care can affect these changes better than changes to socio-economic or other environmental circumstances.

However, we urge you to try and develop measurements that actually reflect the success of health and social care measures, even if these are harder to measure.

We urge you to look at this in particular in relation to indicator 1 (Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth). The goal of raising people's life expectancy in Wales is a laudable one. But, in order to do that we need a more honest look at what impacts the things that negatively or positively impact someone's health. There should be factors in here that are focused on reducing poverty, building mental capacity, and getting appropriate support when people need it.

We also ask you to revisit indicator 10 (Supporting People with a Long-Term Condition to Work) to include all disabled people into this indicator. It is here where the social model of disability should have an impact not just on the indicator itself, but also on the language you use.

¹ For an overview see here: <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/determinants-of-health#:~:text=The%20determinants%20of%20health%20include,person's%20individual%20characteristics%20and%20behaviors.>

We positively note the indicator 4 (Supporting children to remain with their families). We believe that this is an important indicator, especially as it relates to parents who have a learning disability. We suggest that the guidelines currently being developed by Welsh Government on best practice for working with parents with a learning disability are included here as a strategic link.

We would like to offer a few alternative indicators to track outcomes for health and social care.

1. Reducing restrictive practices

Welsh Government has committed to reducing restrictive practices in social care settings. In 2022 they published the Reducing Restrictive Practices Framework² that lays out a path to achieving this. Social care always has as its purpose to enable people to have dignified and liberated lives. Measuring the success of this framework could have a great impact of achieving this goal.

2. Reducing health inequalities

We know that people in Wales experience significant inequalities both in health outcomes and access to health care. Outcomes vary significantly depending on ethnic background, disability and geographic location within in Wales. Measuring the closing of those health gaps would be a good indicator of overall good healthcare provision in Wales.

3. Improving transition to adult services

Many young people with a learning disability (and other young people in contact with social care) find that support that they had when they were children falls away when they enter adulthood. We would like to see an indicator that shows continuity of care and support for young people. This indicator will mean improvement itself, but it also reflects on the general integration and connectedness of the health and social care system in general.

4. Uptake of health screenings

You mention prevention as an important principle you base your work on. The uptake of screenings, including annual health checks for people with a learning disability, would be a good indicator to measure this goal.

² <https://www.gov.wales/reducing-restrictive-practices-framework-html>

5. Ending homelessness and extreme poverty

In 2021 Welsh Government proposed an Action Plan on ending homelessness in Wales³. Unhoused people will often have especially high support needs. Monitoring the success of a policy to end homelessness will be a good indicator to assess how well social care does at engaging with some of the most vulnerable populations in Wales.

2. How would you like the Framework to be used so that it improves integrated working?

3. From your review of the summary indicator documents, outline any further priority actions that could have a significant impact on improving the indicator? (Please provide details of any supporting evidence and identify which indicator your action relates to).

Would you like to participate in the ongoing development of the Framework?

Yes

No

If yes, how would you like to be involved?

Participate in a working group

Kept informed by an e-mailed newsletter

³ <https://www.gov.wales/ending-homelessness-wales-high-level-action-plan-2021-2026>

**Please send your completed feedback form to
hss.performance@gov.wales by 17 January 2023**