

Introduction

This workshop brought together representatives from across the Dundee Partnership and from the Scottish Government to analyse and discuss some of the feedback on the Dundee Annual SOA Report for 2009-10 supplied by analysts within the Scottish Government.

The main aims were to highlight the main issues arising from the 2009-10 report in order to inform reporting on 2010-11; to examine the challenges faced by the Dundee Partnership in reporting on the performance indicators used in the Single Outcome Agreement; and to highlight some of the positive aspects of the 2009-10 report.

Attendance:

Denise Patrick	Assistant Statistician, Scottish Government
Chris Newson	Scottish Government
David Milne	Head of Best Value & Performance, Scottish Government
Peter Allan	Community Planning Manager, Chief Executive's Department
Rory Young	Senior Policy Officer, City Development
Jill Brash	Senior Planning Officer, Chief Executive's Department
Kerstin Jorna	Senior Information Officer, Social Work
Bill Findlay	Corporate Planning Officer, Chief Executive's Department
Marie Dailly	CLD Manager, Leisure & Communities
Shaun McKillop	Detective Chief Inspector, Tayside Police
Bryan Harris	Senior Community Planning Officer, Chief Executive's Dept
Martin Tait	Community Safety Manager, Tayside Fire & Rescue
Liz Kay	Community Safety Manager, Leisure & Communities
Phyllis Easton	Health Intelligence Manager, NHS Tayside
Sheila McMahon	Team Leader, Leisure & Communities
Tony Jenkins	Senior Planning Officer, Chief Executive's Department
David Matthews	Planning Officer, Chief Executive's Department
Paul Davies	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, Chief Executive's Department

An initial broad summary of the Scottish Government perspective was given to start the workshop off. This was based on analytical feedback of Dundee's SOA Annual Report provided earlier in the year. In summary the main messages:

- Highlighted the need for metadata, including reasoning behind use of local sources over national sources and explaining any revisions to indicators/data.
- Welcomed the strategic nature of the report
- Found that the existence of the Delivery Plan was a very useful document for working in the short to medium term, with its focus on intermediate outcomes and indicators

From this starting point, a more detailed point by point look was taken at the responses by analysts to the eleven Outcomes in the Dundee City SOA. A summary of the discussion and action points is given below. The points raised by Scottish Government representatives have been italicised.

Outcome 1: Dundee will be a regional centre with better job opportunities and increased employability for our people

General Comment: *Raw counts, i.e. the number of people, have been used in the SOA and reports. These could be better given as a rate, i.e. the number of people per 10,000 population, to enable more meaningful comparison over time regardless of overall population change.*

Overall Job Numbers: Discussion took place around the merits of using a National rather than Local data source. *National Statistics Source (the Business Register and Employment Survey - BRES) could be seen as reinforcing the quality of the data but there may be benefits to using a local source as long as the choice to use it was properly explained.*

BRES is relatively new and the discontinuity in the data is seen locally as an issue. In addition, the latest BRES data is from 2009 which is somewhat out of date in relation to the changing economic climate of recent years. Instead, other more current National data has been used e.g. the number of people on benefits. This is unlikely to be changed, but further discussion to take place internally. In addition, the local data source is a survey carried out annually (diminishing resources may impact on this in the future). This means data is only one year behind i.e. 2010 data is available in March 2011. *The reasoning for using this data source was recognised but does need to be explained within the report.*

% of the working age population in employment: *Definitions relating to this need to be updated to reflect the change in the women's state pension age.*

% of school leavers in positive and sustained destinations: *A recommendation was made that the follow up survey be used rather than the initial survey. The former looks at destinations 9 months after the end of the academic year rather than 3 months.*

Number of active enterprises: *The baseline and targets for this relate to a previously used data source. The mismatch needs to be corrected and figures updated to reflect the new data source.*

Outcome 2: Our people will be better educated and skilled within a knowledge economy renowned for research, innovation and culture

General Comment: *Considerations relating to BRES and changes in retirement age relating to Outcome 1 above also apply to Indicators within Outcome 2.*

Number of people with severe literacy and numeracy problems attending provision: *This was seen as more of an Output measure rather than an Outcome, and could fit better within the Delivery Plan than in the SOA. Literacy and Numeracy are proving hard to measure at a National level and so likely to also be difficult locally.*

Discussion took place on whether an Indicator relating to destinations of those participating in Literacy & Numeracy programmes would be appropriate. Marie Dailly and Tony Jenkins to discuss wording of Indicator, which may make use of the database shared with Dundee College as a data source. *The Indicator chosen should reflect a strategic priority for the city.*

Geographical data might also be made use of based on the Geographic Overview of Lifelong Learning Data (GOLLD) pilot. This might help provide an outcome focussed indicator and / or help with targeting of services.

Outcome 3: Our children will be safe, nurtured, healthy, achieving, active, respected, responsible and included

Educational tariff score for S4 pupils: *The target for this wasn't seen as a stretching target given the low baseline and while a desired direction of travel is useful, a quantified end target should be given.*

Reduce the number of offences committed by children & young people in Dundee: *More detail on what is being recorded could be useful as well as a quantified*

end target. The indicator needs to be able to show progress being made. With the Scottish Government focusing more on diversionary approaches to youth justice, narrative on this would be welcomed. At present, however, services in Dundee aren't sufficiently joined up to enable full reporting on this.

Looked after children: An additional indicator looking at the outcomes of this group could be useful and a baseline is now available from a new report '[Educational Outcomes for Scotland's Looked After Children 2009/10](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/06/23123831/0)' (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/06/23123831/0>) which contains statistics obtained from linking looked after children's data provided by local authority social work services departments with educational data provided by schools, the SQA and SDS. The report covers exclusions, average tariff score and destinations of looked after children by local authority. A challenge with this would be in setting appropriate targets as only one data point is available. Until additional data points are available, a desired direction of travel might be used.

Child Protection: An indicator should be included (currently noted as TBA), possibly from the online database. One example to consider is the number of referrals reaching case conference within 21 days (although it could be argued that is below the 'waterline' in terms of outcomes focus). The indicators used by other Local Authorities varies. One example is the number of children on the child protection register, but while this monitors the situation it's not clear whether the desire is for an increase or decrease and may be influenced simply by the level of resourcing. Social Care & Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS) should also be brought into discussions on what indicators are appropriate.

An alternative could be for child protection to be covered in the report via a narrative which would highlight both progress and the difficulties of linking child protection with an outcomes focus. The Scottish Government would then look for progress to be measured via the Intermediate Outcomes in the Delivery Plan.

Outcome 4: Our people will experience fewer health inequalities

Gap in healthy life expectancy between those in the most deprived areas and the Dundee average: The data for this is only updated every five years and so not appropriate for the timescale of an SOA. It could be better to use Life Expectancy as this is updated annually for a rolling three year period. *With regard to this, some concern was raised as to whether we could measure local areas (including Community Regeneration Areas). The National Records for Scotland (NRS), previously the General Register Office for Scotland, publish the life expectancy figures at LA level. Data for smaller geographies (such as CRAs) can be requested and may be possible subject to population size. To request the data, please email NRS: customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk. They will need you to confirm the datazones that make up each CRA in the city.*

Gap in all cause mortality in those aged under 75 in the most deprived areas and the Dundee average: Feedback indicated that no data was given for deprived areas and that this data is generally not available from a national source. It would be expected that this data be provided in future. Discussion highlighted that data available through NHS Tayside is used, that is able to map postcodes to datazones and aggregate data to cover the required areas. There is an awareness that any closing of the gap might be due to an increase in mortality in non-deprived areas and this is also being monitored and could therefore be reported.

General Comment on data availability: Special Requests have been made by the Research & Information Team, seeking datazone level information but the information

has not been forthcoming. How can this be addressed? *In response, Denise stated that her department can be contacted for assistance / liaison on these matters. Demand from Local Authorities, outlining the business case, may help the data to become available.*

The Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) are also difficult to get data from - again Denise's department should be contacted as they coordinate data requests to DWP and HMRC across the SG to ensure the delivery of data meets SG requirements. If CPPs require data and are having difficulty obtaining it from DWP/HMRC, it may be possible for the data to be included as part of the SG forward plan of requests if there is a strong business case. Being able to get information from DWP is seen as increasingly important due to the current and ongoing welfare reform.

Outcome 5: Our people will have improved physical and mental wellbeing

Proportion of children in P1 with a healthy BMI: *The definition of this indicator needs to be reviewed to fit with the data presented in terms of healthy / high / low BMI.*

Average score of adults on the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS): *There are local concerns regarding the reliability and sensitivity of WEMWBS for use as an indicator, though the short version of the questionnaire has been included within the DP Social Survey to provide annual data (and link in with being an Equally Well test site). It was also discussed that mental health and mental wellbeing are reliant on many other aspects of the SOA implying that a direct measure may not be required.*

The full WEMWBS question set is included in the Scottish Health Survey which is designed to provide data at national and health board levels, although data should be available for Dundee City council area every four years – a report looking at using SHES data at LA level is available from: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/scottish-health-survey/SHESSubGeographyPaperV2> . The Scottish Government's National Performance Framework (NPF) attempts to measure the wellbeing and success of Scotland by tracking progress on a range of measures as published on Scotland Performs. The Office for National Statistics are developing new measures of societal wellbeing and the SG are working with ONS to ensure that any UK wide measures developed are cohesive with the NPF and don't confuse users.

General Comment on WEMWBS: *Locally this has not proved to be very useful in isolation. It is unclear at what level it is useful as it doesn't show up much difference / variation in scores and it is currently unknown what difference is statistically significant. An offer was made for information to be shared with the Scottish Government to help inform any wellbeing indicator(s) developed nationally. This was welcomed, with Julie Ramsay being the relevant Scottish Government contact and Rory Mitchell the contact at NHS Health Scotland.*

Harm caused by alcohol & substance misuse (aggregate data indicator): *This was an aspirational indicator that has proved difficult to implement and may or may not actually be a valid measure. It was also to include the impact on children affected by substance misuse. In terms of reporting, a narrative could be useful, covering the range of measures from within the Delivery Plan that show the change over time.*

An alternative could relate to alcohol related crime, on which Tayside Police do have information on a range of crimes but a decision would need to be made on what is counted and whether it would show a decrease in harm. The action plan for the Focus on Alcohol project could also be useful to look at when determining what indicator should be used.

From a national perspective, the local menu includes 'rate of death due to alcohol related disease' as a suggested indicator but it was felt that this only shows a small part of the picture.

Outcome 6: Our people will receive effective care when they need it

Number of clients with complex needs receiving care at home: *A full definition of the indicator is to be included, along with metadata relating to it such as frequency, type and source of information. In addition, numeric targets need to be set.*

Outcome 7: Our communities will be safe and feel safe

Reduce Crime (groups 1-4): *Explanation is required as to why only groups 1-4 are reported on. This should be included in the narrative showing the reasoning behind this indicator and to justify how it has been defined. By way of explanation, group 5 crimes are often generated through police activity and as well as having a knock on effect on figures for groups 1-4, also vary depending on the level of resources allocated.*

Figures should be reported as the number per 10,000 population to allow change over time to be measured independently of population change and it was also noted that figures for groups 1 and 2 would be overshadowed numerically by groups 3 and 4. A breakdown of the figures is to be included to address the latter point.

Increase the percentage of those who state that fear of crime has no effect on their quality of life: *Reporting makes use of the Police Public Perception Survey (PPPS) which is more detailed and provides a larger sample size than the Scottish Household Survey (SHS). As the PPPS is a published data set, a link to it should be included in the report.*

General Comment on use of local figures: *The Community Safety Partnership makes use of local police and fire & rescue figures which are both current and regularly tracked. This was agreed as an appropriate use of figures but the use of a different data source to that originally specified, would need to be explained. As the figures are published, a hyperlink to these could be included in the report to enable anyone seeking more detail to access it easily.*

The DP Social Survey is seen locally as not being very useful for Community Safety due to the questions being asked. However, the Survey is due to be reviewed and there is an opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions that could make it more useful in this regard.

General Comment on National Surveys: *From 2012 onwards there are changes to the main SG population surveys as part of the Long Term Strategy for Population Surveys in Scotland (2009-2019). The strategy is designed to improve the way the surveys are run and to increase the availability and use of survey data, both at a national and local level. For example, on the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) the more efficient design will enable headline SHS statistics to be reported annually at local authority level, but there will be a slight reduction in the precision of the estimates. Full details about the changes being made to each survey are available from: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/About/Surveys>.*

Using the 'Harmonised Core' questions in all SG surveys and combining the data from each survey into a 'pooled sample' will provide improved estimates for these questions. Details of the questions included in the Harmonised Core are available from: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/About/SurveyHarm>

The best way for Local Authorities to influence the questions asked in the main SG population surveys is to register an interest in the 'Population and Household Surveys' topic on the ScotStat register (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/scotstat/Intro>) and by doing so you will receive notification of future consultations/reviews to the surveys. CPPs can always feedback comments directly to each SG survey manager. Contact details available on the websection for each survey – links can be found via:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/About/scotlandsurveys>

At a national level, data linkage is being focussed on as part of the Census alternatives work and to capitalise on the opportunities for integration and linkage of datasets to improve the value of statistical information, but there are legal and ethical issues, along with public perception of the appropriateness of such work, that also need to be considered.

Outcome 8: Our people will experience fewer social inequalities

% of children living in households dependent on out of work benefits or child tax credit more than the family element: *This is a key indicator and it may require a more ambitious target to be set. Locally it has been hard to get information from DWP at Community Regeneration Area level and Denise will check whether this is available via the tabulation tool.*

% by which Average Household Income in Dundee is less than the Scottish average: *The source of data reported was not previously included and should be in future, along with the relevant metadata. The data source used was CACI Paycheck which may be more reliable than other data. It is based on census data and includes information down to postcode level.*

*The Scottish Government has some experimental data from the SHS on the proportion of households in relative poverty which is available at Local Authority level. The data are undergoing further quality assurance work so should not be treated as official statistics; so at this stage it may not be appropriate to include within SOAs. The SHS data can be accessed from:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Social-Welfare/IncomePoverty>*

% of population in the most deprived datazones relative to the Scottish population: *An alternative indicator to this one is 'the number of people who are income deprived', with the aim being to reduce the rate (i.e. number per 10,000 population).*

Outcome 9: Our people will live in stable, attractive and popular neighbourhoods

% of Social rented housing stock passing the Scottish Housing Quality Standard: *This is seen as a good indicator for inclusion, data for this indicator may be available annually at Local Authority level from 2013.*

Outcome 10: Our people will have high quality and accessible local services and facilities

% of Resident satisfaction with access and quality of local services and facilities: *The averaging of different service scores from the DP Social Survey may act to hide differences and different respondents will also place a different weight on the importance of the range of services asked about. These different services should be covered individually within the Delivery Plan.*

Other Local Authorities look at specific services in their indicators and / or ask for an overall view with a 'how satisfied are you with services' question. This may be worth adding to the DP Social Survey as part of the review.

Outcome 11: Dundee will have a sustainable environment

Per capita CO₂ emissions in the local authority area: *Metadata for the new information source needs to be included and it would be useful for a quantified target to be set. It should also be noted that the historical data is updated/revised each year and this should be reflected in reports.*

% Growth in waste arisings: *Clarity is required as to whether the growth percentage is from the baseline figure or from the previous years figure. In addition, a direction of travel target may be more appropriate for this indicator i.e. to reduce the rate of growth.*

Tonnes of municipal waste sent to landfill: *Data on this indicator is not recorded on SNS but a very similar indicator on Local Authority Collected Biodegradable Municipal Waste sent to landfill is. Is the latter what has being reported on? Reporting needs to be clear regarding the source and what is being reported on.*

Additional Items

Trends: *These have been usefully presented showing baseline, progress targets and end targets. The trend arrows are useful for clearly showing progress.*

It may be useful to include more of a time series of data and also to explain the date terminology e.g. does a given date represent the latest date of information, or the reporting date?

Baseline and target changes: *Where the definition of an indicator has changed, this needs to be explained along with the impact on the baseline and target being used.*

Early Intervention & Prevention: *Guidance on this is looked for, and will be discussed by COSLA in the near future. More information should become available in September / October. The Scottish Government is keen for an increased focus on preventative spend.*

Indicator Menu: *Four of the indicators on the menu don't have supporting data available at Local Authority level on the standard Local Outcome Indicators data report accessed through the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics portal (SNS, www.sns.gov.uk). This is currently being looked at, and in many cases is because of improvements being made to the data supplied through SNS. It is hoped that Local Authority level data can be made available through SNS shortly for the indicator where this is possible.*

Data Updates: *SNS data has frequently been found to be out of date leading to use of e.g. NOMIS for more current statistics on the labour market. The updating of SNS relies on information from the data providers, but any out of date indicators should be reported to the Scottish Government who can then request updates by data loaders. It is worth noting SG Labour Market colleagues are now loading the latest labour market data to SNS and a standard SNS labour market report is now available to replace their monthly economic profiles. The labour market report is available from the Standard Reporter on the SNS website under Theme Reports:
<http://www.sns.gov.uk/Reports/ThemeReport.aspx>*

Metadata: *The intention of Dundee Partnership to publish an 'Indicator Metadata Report' is welcomed and will help provide users with a better understanding of each indicator and the quality of the data.*

Target Setting

Denise Patrick gave a presentation, covering the 'ideal world' reasoning behind how and why a target is set. This looked at scoping, gathering baseline data and setting the target, as well as the different forms of target that can be set. Monitoring progress against targets was also covered.

A number of points came out of the presentation including:

- *Mention of the 'Improving Local Outcome Indicators Project'*
- *A need for questions that are asked to be comparable over time*
- *The ability to compare with other Local Authorities needs to be taken into account*
- *A time series of data may be needed prior to setting a target in order for the target to be sensible*
- *Stretching targets are desirable, but should not be overused*
- *All data collection needs to be documented and data published*
- *Additional analysis of data may be useful, without necessarily needing to be published*

Following the presentation various points were discussed and are summarised below

Work & Enterprise: Performance against targets in this area can be skewed by external influences. At the Delivery Plan level, outputs from the Employability Plan were used alongside the various Inputs available e.g. available budget and information from a consultants forecast when setting targets. The decrease in available funding limited the stretch targets that could be aimed for in an attempt to find the right balance.

Community Safety: A Strategic Assessment is used to look forward to the next two years for target setting, and also helps to influence Local Community Planning Partnerships. This assessment is not available nationally as not all Local Authorities carry it out. In some cases, a 'sustaining' target may be the best that can be achieved given decreasing resources. Even where resources remain the same, the desire to shift resources to early intervention / prevention may impact on targets set for the short to medium term, with a view that longer term progress will be made through the additional work on early intervention / prevention.

COSLA is to hold discussions on changes to the Concordat which may increase the prescriptive nature of some items.

Public Perception: *This needs to be taken into account when setting targets as 'badly failing' to meet targets will have an impact on public perception of how well their Local Authority is doing.*

The Whole Picture: *The indicators 'above the waterline' don't give the whole picture. The Delivery Plan is a good tool and some of the information from this may need to be incorporated into reporting on the SOA by way of explanation of progress.*