

SIAA Response to the Local Government & Communities Committee

National Outcomes for Scotland

April 2018

SIAA is a membership organisation that has the overall aim of ensuring that Independent Advocacy is available to any vulnerable person in Scotland. Independent Advocacy safeguards people who are vulnerable and discriminated against or whom services find difficult to serve, empowering people who need a stronger voice by enabling them to express their own needs and make their own decisions.

- What do you think about the changes to the National Outcomes?

We welcome the revised National Outcomes and the fact that they have been framed by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) is incredibly positive.

We believe that the ultimate objectives should be the fulfilment and protection of human rights and a responsibility to the care and protection of the planet. We believe it is crucial for the outcomes to be underpinned by a human rights based approach (i.e. the PANEL principles) which should be upheld, implemented and reviewed by public bodies that carry out public services.

In order to realistically achieve inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe communities, a human rights-based approach would be a good way of tackling intersectional inequalities. It is important to recognise that individuals can experience multiple inequalities and barriers and priority needs to be given to the realistic reduction of inequality across the board.

We have concerns about what the outcomes will look like in practice (one concern in particular relates to children in care), and how the outcomes will be measured. We welcome the aspirational approach but ask for a National Implementation Plan that ensures that the National Indicators are realistic, meaningful and engaging for all individuals in Scotland and provides greater clarity around how these outcomes will be measured and to what timescale.

The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA) is Scotland's national membership body for advocacy organisations. The SIAA promotes, supports and defends independent advocacy in Scotland. It aims to ensure that independent advocacy is available to any person who needs it in Scotland.

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