Suggested New Outcome - Programme for Government 2016-2021

"We respect, value and protect our older people."

Context

The document contains no specific reference to older people, or the changing demographics of Northern Ireland over the span of this Programme for Government. It also does not mention the Active Ageing Strategy, despite the fact that (after being launched in January 2016), the AAS will overlap with the Programme for Government, to 2021.

By contrast, the document contains 20 mentions of the specific term 'young people', and the 14th outcome is exclusively focused on younger people – 'We give our children and young people the best start in life'. It contains 6 commitments under 'The Role of the Executive' and 20 Indicators where progress will contribute towards the achievement of this outcome.

Therefore COPNI would recommend that a further, additional outcome should be added to the PfG framework that would specifically focus upon older people: *"We respect, value and protect our older people."* In line with the current draft structure, this could be included without affecting other outcomes.

As the new Programme for Government has moved to an outcome based model, it is imperative that any new outcome is supported by relevant indicators that will show if progress is being made. COPNI analysis has shown a number of the Indicators do not properly include older people, or do not presently have supporting data available. Therefore, Indicators COPNI suggest which should include older people, or which are already being gathered, and which we expect to be updated during the term of the Programme for Government, are outlined for review and consideration.

Suggested 'The Role of The Executive'

This section is included for all the outcomes in the draft PFG Framework, and outlines at a general level how the Executive will contribute towards achieving the outcome.

'We will make a contribution by':

- Supporting and promoting better health among older people.
- Promoting positive attitudes towards older people.
- Supporting safe, secure environments for older people to live in.
- Promoting opportunities for older people to be economically and socially involved, and not isolated.

- Promoting opportunities for older people to increase their income security and supporting them from falling into poverty.

Suggested Indicators

Indicator	Data Controller / Owner	Note: Measurement (frequency & availability)
Percentage who reported their general health as good over the last twelve months (by age)	DHSSPS, Health Survey NI	Runs every year, last data published November 2015 – 2014/2015 results
Disability Free Life Expectancy, Healthy Life Expectancy (at 65)	DHSSPS, Public Health Information and Research Branch	Published biannually. Results for 2011-2013 published in October 2015. Would need to make request for relevant data at 60.
Percentage achieving Chief Medical Officer's recommendations for physical activity, by age	DHSSPS, Health Survey NI	Published in 10 year age bands – 55-64 band overlaps age group COPNI would want – would need to request breakdown. Runs every year, last data available for 2013/2014
Do you have any long-term health problems, illness, disability or infirmity?	NICOLA Project	The NICOLA project completed Wave One of fieldwork this year and is generating results, preparing for Wave Two. The Personal Interview is conducted every two years and the health assessment every four years, meaning there would be new data available during this PFG term. The project surveys people aged 50+ but request could be made for breakdown by age
Percentage of respondents experiencing mobility difficulties	DHSSPS, Health Survey NI	Published in 10 year age bands – 55-64 band overlaps age group COPNI would want – would need to request breakdown.
How often do you have contact with any of your children/other relatives/close friends	NICOLA Project	
Percentage of respondents involved in groups, clubs and organisations	NICOLA Project	
Percentage of respondents with caring responsibilities	DHSSPS, Health Survey NI	Runs every year, last data published November 2015 – 2014/2015 results.

Indicator	Data Controller / Owner	Note: Measurement (frequency & availability)
How often do respondents feel lonely	NICOLA Project	
In Employment - Receive the recognition I deserve for my work	NICOLA Project	
Relative low income percentages for population groups (after housing costs)	Households Below Average Income Report – Department of the Communities	Report updated annually, 2013-2014 data published September 2015. Gives data for pensioners and those of working age so would need to make request for age breakdown
Percentage of those in fuel poverty, by age	NIHE, House Condition Survey	*Is being conducted in 2016 for the first time since 2011,data is likely to be available in 2017. But only likely to be conducted again in 2021 at the end of the PFG term – with results in 2022*
Percentage living in decent homes, by age	NIHE, House Condition Survey	*Is being conducted in 2016 for the first time since 2011,data is likely to be available in 2017. But only likely to be conducted again in 2021 at the end of the PFG term – with results in 2022*
Percentages at risk of becoming a victim of any household or personal crimes	DOJ, NI Crime Survey	Operates annually, 2014/2015 finding published in February 2016
Percentage of respondents worried about becoming a victim of crime	DOJ, NI Crime Survey	Operates annually, 2014/2015 finding published in February 2016
How often do you find you have too little money to spend on what you feel you and your household's needs are?	NICOLA Project	
Employment Rates of older people (by age)	NI Labour Force Survey	Published quarterly, the tables for February – April 2016 were published on the 15th June 2016. Data is published in 50-64 and 65+ bands, but COPNI has successfully requested a breakdown by 60 and over before. This would address the disparity that in the consultation document, employment data only covers 64 year olds

Indicator	Data Controller / Owner	Note: Measurement (frequency & availability)
Essential Skills enrolments and qualifications (by age)	Department for the Economy – published annually	The data partially contained in 56-65 and 66-75 age bands, but COPNI has requested the data for 60 and over before. Relevant data in the consultation document was restricted to younger age groups
Enrolments at higher and further education institutions	Department for the Economy – published annually	Data is publically available for 'over 25's', however, last year COPNI was able to successfully request 5 year age breakdowns from what was then the Department for Employment and Learning.

Notes

There are Indicators within the Attitudes to Older People module in the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey, which is conducted every few years, most recently in 2014. Answers to some of the questions posed in that survey would also make suitable Indicators for this Outcome, such as:

- Do respondents think older people are treated better or worse according to their age?
- Are people are treated with more respect as they get older?
- Do you think society recognises the contribution that many older people are able to make? and the percentage who think the
- Do the authorities do all they should for older people?

However, as COPNI referenced in our response to the public consultation exercise on the Active Ageing Strategy, this module is commonly conducted every few years, and there is no certainty it would be even conducted once during the term of the Programme for Government.