

Surveillance and reporting on the health and wellbeing of children and young people

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The 2014 Children and Young People (Scotland) Act refers in a number of places to the SHANARRI definition of wellbeing: that children should be safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, respected, responsible and included. This definition is also intended underpin the reporting on child wellbeing by a variety of public sector organisations. Local experiences have suggested that without central guidance, reporting on the wellbeing indicators will be highly variable, with no clear agreement on what validated and responsive measures of wellbeing should be reported upon in order to monitor changes at the level of the population of children, or to monitor constituent groups within it such as looked-after children and young people. This would represent a missed opportunity.

The SDsPH have consistently offered to develop such a set of indicators which could then inform consistent reporting and surveillance of wellbeing across organisations and across time periods. ISD is supportive of the development of an agreed reporting framework for child wellbeing. Public health consultants have agreed to work with Scottish Government colleagues in order to agree a set of indicators for wellbeing reporting.

The specific action plan for delivering this indicator set will be shared with SDsPH in due course.

Recommendation

SDsPH are asked to note and approve this approach in principle.

SDsPH are asked to note progress on this initiative through the existing "Group Reports" mechanism.