

Local Government and Communities Committee

Consultation of the Scottish Parliament on the Scottish Government's Revised National Outcomes

Submission from the National Adult Learners' Forum

Having consulted the national adult learners' forum on the new national outcomes we are pleased to see more balanced and positive wording used in them. We like the use of language that is inclusive and attempts to support those most disadvantaged. Regarding the specifics of the three new outcomes you've asked for feedback on:

1. *We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe*

We consider resilience skills a critical element of adult learning programmes aimed at building confidence, self-esteem and contributing to wellbeing. Therefore, we'd like to propose a change to the wording to read resilient, empowered and safe as the inference on reading the current outcome suggests resilience is restricted to the safety aspect of community.

2. *We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally*

We like the idea of this but recognise that there are some hurdles to overcome re the wealth sharing opportunities. However, power sharing and equality need to be balanced in this regard by adding equity to the equation as we have significant legislation that governs equality but this is not sufficient to change the way people work or engage with others currently.

3. *We grow up loved, safe and respected, so that we realise our full potential*

We feel that this outcome is loaded and theoretically could limit potential rather than develop it. We think that the use of loved will make measuring this outcome difficult and whilst we know that safe and respected can be measured the subjectivity of the word loved doesn't sit well with realising potential.

With regards to the consultation by Scottish Government on this, we'd like to see a broader set of perspectives included in the development of national outcomes in the future. We have an ageing population, we have significant numbers of people who are isolated or do not take part in groups and we have a further group of the population who require reading and writing support, therefore we need to ensure that the whole of Scotland feels that they know about them not only those who use social media, or the internet.

We have produced a short film that links the role of adult learning to the main outcomes to make the consultation feel real to those people involved in the adult learners' forum and adult learning. The vast majority of whom have had poor

experiences of their initial education and are looking for support, encouragement and skills development to help them change their own outcomes.

The links between adult learning and the outcomes we have considered are as follows:

1. We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy

Adult learning:

Runs programmes that develop enterprising skills

Develops the skills of adults to continually adapt and change to work environment

Provides opportunities to see the world as interconnected

2. We are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally

Adult learning:

Promotes the rights of adults to take part in learning through the International Adult Learners' Charter

Improves the opportunities for disadvantaged communities to become involved in a global rights movement through CONFINTEA

Works with the European adult learners' network to develop new ways to engage those most marginalised in lifelong learning

3. We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally

Adult learning:

Helps improve social mobility

Closes the gap between the middle classes and the poor by creating social networks

Creates social capital with support from NGO's by creating learner led projects

4. We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered and safe

Adult learning:

Works with communities to develop confidence and creativity leading to empowerment

Delivers community courses to address safety concerns

Works with adult learners to have their voices listened to and acted upon

5. We grow up safe, loved and protected so that we can realise our full potential

Adult learning:

Works with communities to support adults to learn about their children and their needs

Develops family learning opportunities where parents and children learn together

Helps support children's education by giving parents the tools to understand their learning

6. We are well educated and able to contribute to our society

Adult Learning:

Provides opportunities for those who've had poor experiences of their initial education to re-engage with learning

Provides first steps for people with ACE's to become involved in education

Ensures that adults have the confidence and ability to plan their future learning and involvement in society

7. We have thriving and innovative businesses with quality jobs and fair work for everyone

Adult Learning:

Provides opportunities for adults to develop creativity and entrepreneurial skills

Gives adults the skills needed to progress through work and career

Supports business to offer employee development opportunities

8. We are healthy and active

Adult learning:

Introduces new foods and recipes to adults to improve their diet

Supports adults to learn about the benefits of exercise and find exercise that suits their live and lifestyles

Delivers resilience courses that support positive mental health

9. We enjoy and protect our environment

Adult learning:

Introduces adults to the challenges of supporting recycle, re-use, re-purpose

Builds knowledge and understanding of the environment and climate change

Encourages local growing and community garden programmes

10. We are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are enjoyed widely

Adult learning:

Gives poor and disadvantaged adults with opportunities to participate in arts based programmes

Engages communities in cultural exchanges and learning

Opens up the world for adults a world of creativity

11. We respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination.

Adult learning:

Supports understanding of human rights

Promotes positive attitudes that address gender imbalance and inequality

Creates opportunities for cultural exchange