



Development of a Well-being Framework for Ireland

Stakeholder and Expert Group Minutes

4th Meeting: Friday, 4th June 2021 @ 11am. Online via Zoom

Attendance: Seán Ó Conláin, Mike Hogan, Dessie Robinson, Philip Hamell, Sinead O’Flanagan, Paul Donnelly, Liam Delaney, Geriant Ellis, Colette Bennett, Jennifer Symonds, Emma Kerins, Martin Quigley, Clodagh Harris, Helen Johnston, Denis Duggan, John Sweeney, Lena Jacobs, Keith Sweeney and Caroline Barrett from CSO.

Apologies: Edgar Morgenroth, and Emily Whelton

Secretariat: Larry O’Connell, Niamh Garvey, Anne-Marie McGauran, Elaine Kennedy & Laura Browne

1. **Minutes of last meeting:** Agreed
2. **CSO presentation on a demonstration model for a well-being dashboard**

Keith McSweeney and Caroline Barrett presented a demonstration model for a well-being dashboard developed by the CSO, which has also been presented to the Inter-Departmental Working Group. The model is indicative of how dimensions and indicators (once agreed) can be presented in an interactive dashboard. The dashboard will be intended for the public, with the CSO PX Stat system available for expert users. The dashboard is planned to be launched in autumn, before the Budget, but the indicators can be changed, added and/or replaced in the future.

The landing page is a well-being ‘information hub’, which will have different pages linked to it that will correspond to the dimensions that will be agreed for the well-being framework. A section called “how are we doing?” will include an infographic for each dimension. Another chart will use a traffic lights system to show where some indicators are getting better, some are staying the same and some have gotten worse. The infographic will need to be manually updated every year, but the rest of the stats on the dashboard are linked to PX Stat and so will automatically update.

Points raised in discussion included:

- The importance of including psychological well-being data, in particular for children and young people. Good quality mental health data is provided in the Irish Health Survey, but to get similar data for under 18 years would require a dedicated survey. The Health Behaviour in School Age Children survey used by UNICEF, the PISA and GUI surveys may be additional source to draw on.
- Acknowledging the need for simplicity at the highest level of the dashboard, different parameters and subcategories are important for understanding the different dimensions of well-being. The importance of the dashboard enabling people to drill down into the data.



Interest in the extent to which for example local authorities or different government departments may be able to interrogate the data. CSO emphasised that the dashboard would have the public as the primary audience, with policy makers using the PX Stat system that is currently accessible.

- Potential need for the dashboard to be suitable for a policy-literate ‘middle audience’ in between the general public and policy-makers, who the dashboard could cater to with a slightly more comprehensive dashboard (for example enabling the user to explore more than one dimension or variable at a time). The constituency dashboard on the Oireachtas website was given as an example of a useful interactive website enabling different variables to be explored.
- Trade-offs between different dimensions are also important to understand – is there scope for an overall composite index? How might individuals use the dashboard to weigh up the trade-offs between different areas for wellbeing? There may be potential to include questions on trade-offs in future surveys or a pulse survey on people’s views of trade-offs.
- For environmental quality, three sub indicators seem too few to adequately capture. The final dashboard will need to balance both breadth and depth, and it will be open to change over time.
- The group could provide further feedback on the dashboard as it evolves over time.

3. Discussion on the draft report

The draft report was presented and further feedback from the group was welcomed.

Points from the discussion included:

- Overall welcoming of the latest draft
- Further emphasis on how the report and the initiative will drive change - data is just one part, and the report should be more explicit in the final chapter on how the well-being work will move us towards well-being in practice.
- The report rightly emphasises the need for stakeholder buy-in, but it could emphasise that a collective sense of ownership is needed. Wider consultation should be multistage and involve different modes of consultation.
- The importance of accountability, and recognising that policies can have negative impacts on well-being and the need to identify and address these.
- The importance of emphasising the need to engage with hard to reach groups, whilst also recognising that some groups feel that they are consulted a lot but with little changing as a result – the importance of the results of consultation being taken on board.
- Access came up as important in the consultation - the psychological dimension of well-being is very important: the importance of drilling down into data and/or asking people if they feel included.
- The findings of this consultation could be shaped by the recent context – further survey and research is important over time.



- Well-being is an opportunity as a whole-of-Ireland approach – this could be reflected more in the report.

4. Final meeting: thank you to the Stakeholder and Expert Group

Larry O’Connell thanked the group for their useful inputs to the well-being consultation over the course of the four group meetings.