



The Identification and Utility of Datasets to Support Outcome Agreements

Summary

COMMISSIONED BY THE IMPROVEMENT SERVICE

August 2007

Summary

This report has identified the relevant datasets to support the development of outcome agreements for local authorities for the 5 strategic objectives of the Scottish Government. These are wealthier and fairer, healthier, safer and stronger, smarter and greener.

The following is a summary list of all the datasets examined in the report by strategic objective. Information on the relevance to local authorities of the datasets and if the datasets can be broken down at council level is provided. Comments are also made about some datasets that would support councils in setting outcome targets but are available only at a national level and not at a local authority level.

Please be aware that this summary provides a list of all the datasets examined. Further information on them, including links or details of where to find them, is available in the main report at:

http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/index2.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=2135&Itemid=732

1. A Wealthier & Fairer Scotland

The following is the list of datasets taken from section 1 that will allow councils to set and monitor outcome targets to *“enable businesses and people to increase their wealth and more people to share fairly in that wealth.”*

Relevance to Local Authority

One of the main priorities for local authorities is to provide support for those most socially and economically excluded in the community. Data that provides councils information on the strength/weaknesses of the local economy and the relative prosperity/deprivation of the local community is vital. Datasets such as the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) identify small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across all of Scotland in a fair way and allow councils to effectively target policies and funding on local area concentrations of multiple deprivation.

Availability at a local level:

All of these datasets can be viewed at individual local authority level and provide a wealth of measures for councils to develop outcomes that will tackle deprivation and encourage economic activity.

- Number of Registered Enterprises in Scotland and their Total Scottish Employment and Turnover by Local Authority Area (March 2006);
- Number of Registered Enterprises by Employee Size Band and Sector (March 2006);
- Number of Registered Enterprises in Scotland and their Total Scottish Employment and Turnover by Local Authority Area and Sector (March 2006);
- Number of Business Sites of Registered Enterprises by Local Authority Area, Sector and Employee Size Band of Site (March 2006);
- Local labour market indicators by Unitary and Local Authority (April 2006 to March 2007);
- Net annual household income by marital status of Highest Income Householder (*Please refer to Section 3.2 for an explanation of issue of measuring total household income page 7*);
- Net annual household income by sex of Highest Income Householder;
- Whether respondent or partner has a bank or building society account by local authority;
- Whether respondent or partner has any savings or investments by local authority;
- Number of cars available to household for private use by local authority;
- Access to the internet by local authority;
- Whether respondent or partner has any savings or investments by local authority;
- Use of credit to borrow money in the past 12 months by local authority;
- Whether anyone in household needs regular help or care by local authority;
- Economic activity by local authority; alone at night by local authority;
- Construction of Number of Dependents of Income Support/Job Seekers Allowance Claimants Index;
- Average Number of Benefiting Families and Annual Entitlements in Each Local Authority 2005-2006;
- Number of data zones moving into and out of the 15% most deprived in the overall *SIMD* 2004 and *SIMD* 2006;
- Percentage of the total population who are income deprived in the *SIMD* 2006, by local authority area.

Measures identified in section 1 that are deemed important, but that are not available at local authority level are as follows:

- The Department of Work and Pensions Child Poverty measure is available at the Scotland-wide level but due to the size of the sample, not available at local authority level. It should be noted, however, that a request had been made by the Scottish Executive in the past to the DWP to collect and provide such data. While Child Poverty measures at council level are gathered to support distribution in the *Green Book*, some work may have to be done to harmonise this measure with the DWP indicator (see section 4.1);
- As noted in section 3.2, measures of total household income in Scotland are problematic. The measure from the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) is the best current data for councils seeking to use this as a measure of prosperity/deprivation. However, the SHS recognises this as an issue and is looking to resolve the problem.

Collection of Data

All of the information for the datasets listed above is collected from a variety of public sector bodies at a national level.

2. Health Data Sets:

Relevance to Local Authorities

Although there are many factors relating to health that local authorities do not have and cannot expect to have any influence over, there are other factors which clearly do. The data sets that are listed below cover the main aspects of health – particularly those relating to diseases particularly prevalent in Scotland, and covers data sets relating to the behavioural factors that can affect the two main killers in Scotland – heart disease and cancer. Local authorities are heavily involved in influencing these behaviours such as proportion of participation in sport, healthy eating promotion, smoking cessation programmes etc. Being able to track the success or otherwise of these programmes, and their impact on health is particularly important and relevant for local authorities

Availability at a local level:

The following are the list of data sets that were identified as being available at a local authority level.

- Life expectancy at birth
- Life expectancy at 65 yrs
- Standard Mortality Ratios
- Limiting Long Term Illness Index
- Annual average cancer registrations by site of cancer
- Annual average cancer registrations rates (per 100,000 population)
- Annual deaths from cancer
- Annual deaths by coronary heart disease
- Smoking rates amongst adults
- Hospital admissions due to alcohol misuse
- Annual deaths by alcohol related illnesses
- Sport participation rate
- Suicide rates
- The % of the local authority population prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis

Data Sets identified as important in terms of profiling health, but not available at local authority level include:

- Obesity levels amongst children and adults; currently available at national and local health board level

Collection of Data

All of the above data is collected and published nationally, with local authorities themselves having little or no input in the collection or collation of the data.

3. Safer and Stronger

Relevance to Local Authorities

In many Citizens' Panel and household surveys conducted at a local authority level – the issue of community safety is usually identified as of paramount concern by respondents. Crime levels, and the fear of crime in the local area are often highlighted as priority issues needing addressed. How local authorities respond to these issues with their community planning partners is therefore important, and having the necessary data to allow local authorities to profile the extent to which their local authority area is becoming more or less a safer place to live is equally important.

Availability of Data at a local level:

The following are the list of data sets that were identified as being available at a local authority level.

- The number of Non - sexual crimes of violence, and clear-up rate
- Index of Non - sexual crimes of violence (based around a Scottish av. of 100)
- Rate of Non - sexual crimes of violence per 10,000 population
- The number of Crimes of indecency, and clear up rate
- Index of Crimes of indecency (based around a Scottish av. of 100)
- Rate of Crimes of indecency per 10,000 population
- The number of Crimes of dishonesty and clear up rate
- Index Crimes of dishonesty (based around a Scottish av. of 100)
- Rate of Crimes of dishonesty per 10,000 population
- The number of crimes of Fire - raising, vandalism, etc and clear up rate
- Index of crimes of Fire - raising, vandalism, etc (based around a Scottish av. of 100)
- Rate of Non - Fire - raising, vandalism, etc per 10,000 population
- The number of other crimes and clear up rate
- Index of other crimes (based around a Scottish av. of 100)
- Rate of other crimes per 10,000 population
- Rate and index of crimes involving serious assault
- Rate and index of crimes involving offensive weapons
- Rate and index of crimes involving domestic housebreaking
- Rate and index of crimes involving vandalism
- Rate per 100,000 population for domestic abuse incidents
- Reconviction rates
- Number of offence referrals to the Reporter in each local authority area in each of the 3 years (youth crime)
- Children Referred to the reporter on offence grounds as a Percentage of Population in each local authority area in each of the 3 years
- Children Referred on Offence Grounds and as Persistent Young Offenders in each local authority area in each of the 3 years
- Household Experience of Neighbourhood Disputes
- Household Perceptions of Safety
- % of individuals reporting an incident to the police
- Extent to which individuals' quality of life is affected by crime
- Road accidents by local authority area and severity of accident
- Road accident casualties by local authority area and severity

Data Sets identified as important in terms of profiling crime, but not available at local authority level include:

- Number of fatal and non-fatal casualties from fires,
- Numbers of accidental and deliberate fires,
- Number of fires where a smoke detector was/ was not in operation

Currently this data is available for the national and brigade area level.

Collection of Data

All of the above data is collected and published nationally, with local authorities themselves having little or no input in the collection or collation of the data.

4. A Smarter Scotland

The following is the list of datasets taken from section 4 that will allow councils to set and monitor outcome targets for education.

Relevance to Local Authority

One of the key tasks of local authorities is the provision of educational services for preschool, primary and secondary education. As such, the role of educational datasets is to measure performance and to inform and help shape policy in this area.

We have raised the issue of early intervention to support children entering primary school with reading and writing with an approach in Virginia offered as an example, where nearly 20% of children required some assistance. The development of a dataset in this area may help local authorities more effectively target and support children requiring help. There are also some issues for councils setting targets for children at the 5-14 stage, as the datasets provide data for councils biannually and there are questions over the size of the sample that raise questions about the robustness of the data at council level.

In terms of outcome targets for secondary children, it is clear that in England many councils are targeting the improvement of educational attainment for those children from the poorest backgrounds. To enable councils in Scotland to set and measure

similar outcome targets, datasets are required that allow issues of deprivation to be included in the national educational datasets. We raise this issue in the report and argue for the inclusion of such criteria to assist councils be included in the national educational datasets.

In terms of further education (FE), while councils do not provide such services, performance and educational achievement of the local population can be seen as a useful proxy measure of the relative prosperity/deprivation of an area.

Availability at a local level

All of these datasets can be viewed at individual local authority level and provide a number of measures for councils to develop outcomes that will “expand opportunities for Scots to succeed from nurture through to life long learning ensuring higher and more widely shared achievements.”

Strategic Objective 4, Scottish Government

- ATTAINMENT SUMMARY OF P2-S2 PUPILS FOR ENGLISH READING IN SCOTLAND BY AUTHORITY: BY JUNE IN 2002/03 - 2003/04 SCHOOL YEARS;
- ATTAINMENT SUMMARY OF P2-S2 PUPILS FOR ENGLISH WRITING IN SCOTLAND BY AUTHORITY: BY JUNE IN 2002/03 - 2003/04 SCHOOL YEARS;
- ATTAINMENT SUMMARY OF P2-S2 PUPILS FOR MATHEMATICS IN SCOTLAND BY AUTHORITY: BY JUNE IN 2002/03 - 2003/04 SCHOOL YEARS.
- Scottish Survey of Achievement: Supporting Evidence: 2006 Scottish Survey of Achievement (SSA) Social Subjects (Enquiry Skills) and Core Skills. The SSA is the annual national survey of pupils' attainment in the Scottish 5-14 curriculum at P3, P5, P7 and S2.
- National and Authority level information on the cumulative attainment of National Qualifications by all pupils in publicly funded secondary school;
- Scottish schools addresses as per September 2007, roll figures and teacher numbers (FTE) as per September 2006 (available at local authority level);
- School Meals dataset Feb 2007 (available at local authority level);
- Exclusion Historical Dataset: Historical dataset of local authority level information 1999/2000 to 2005/2006 (available at local authority level);
- School contact details and rolls, FTE numbers of teachers and urban/rural classification, as at September 2006 (available at local authority level);
- Numbers of pupils by stage as at September 2006 in primary, secondary and special schools in Scotland (available at local authority level);

- Primary school class sizes in Scotland as at September 2006 (available at local authority level);
- Numbers of pupils and teachers for years 1975 to 2006 (available at local authority level);
- Attendance & Absence in Scottish Schools 2005/06, Attendance, authorised and unauthorised absence and temporary exclusions, by school (available at local authority level).

Measures identified in section 4 that are deemed important, but that are not available at local authority level are the following 3 datasets that relate to Higher and Further Education. As noted, this information is provided at institutional level and not by local authority:

- Statistics Publication 'Students in Higher Education at Scottish Institutions 2005-06;
- All students by institution, mode of study, level of study, gender and domicile 2005/06;
- INFACT Dataset.

As noted above, councils would find it useful in setting outcome targets to have educational attainment at secondary level broken down by deprivation criteria.

Ease of Local Collection

All of the information for the datasets listed above is collected from a variety of public sector bodies at a national level.

5. A Greener Scotland

The following is the list of datasets taken from section 5 that will allow councils to set and monitor outcome targets to 'improve Scotland's natural and built environment and the sustainable use and enjoyment of it.'

Relevance to Local Authority

Recycling and waste management has been an increasing issue for local authorities in recent years. The datasets below should assist councils in working towards the increasingly tough national targets in these areas.

In terms of measuring carbon and ecological footprints in councils, there has been no datasets available in order to set local outcome targets. However, the work towards developing new datasets by the WWF and SNIFFER should greatly assist councils in setting outcome targets in these areas. However, some caution should be applied to the WWF dataset when it is available, as the dataset about to be released is based upon data collected in 2001.

Availability of Data at a local level

The following are the list of data sets that were identified as being available at a local authority level

- Number of tonnes per household that was used for recovery of heat, power and other energy sources (and % of total)
- Total number of tonnes of household waste collected that was incinerated and the ash recycled (and % of total)
- Total number of tonnes of household waste collected that was composted by the authority (and % of total)
- Total number of tonnes of household waste collected that was disposed of by other recycling or recovery methods (and % of total)
- Tonnes of municipal waste arising in each local authority area
- Total amount of waste recycled (and % of total waste arising)
- Air quality – measured by nitrogen dioxide concentration
- Air quality – measured by PM concentration

As noted above, datasets to measure carbon footprinting at council level are just coming on stream from the WWF and SNIFFER. Sensible evaluations of these datasets should be applied to assess their utility for setting outcomes when they are available.

Collection of Data

All of the above data is collected and published nationally, with local authorities themselves having some input in the collection or collation of the data, for example both data published by the Accounts Commission and SEPA are based on returns made by local authorities themselves. Air quality data is based on readings from sites within local authority areas.