

Minutes of the Third Steering Group Meeting
2pm Thursday 20th October 2016
Boardroom, McAuley House

Present: Name	Department / Organisation
Dr Tracy Power (Chair)	NISRA
Brian Green	NISRA
Dr Jos IJpelaar	NISRA
Claire McCann	NISRA
Alan Beggs (standing in for Heather McKee)	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Aidan Campbell	Rural Community Network
Dr Paul Caskie	DAERA
Dr Stephen Donnelly	Dept. for Economy
Joe Frey	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Claire Hood (standing in for Michael Gallagher)	Derry City and Strabane Council
Simon Hookham	Equality Commission
Karen McCullough (standing in for David Hughes)	Dept. of Education
Sharon McNicholl	Belfast City Council
Louise Scullion	Causeway Coast & Glens Council
Bill Stewart (standing in for Dr Eugene Mooney)	Department of Health
Andrea Thornbury	NICVA
Apologies:	
Teresa Canavan	Rural Development Council
Glyn Capper	Dept. of Justice
Michelle Crawford	Dept. of Communities
Liz Loughran	Dept. for Infrastructure
Freda Magill	Ulster Farmers Union
Karen McCoy	Southern Health Trust
Tom Reid	Dept. for Infrastructure
Joe Reynolds	The Executive Office

(i) Welcome and introduction

Tracy Power opened the meeting, welcomed everyone present and initiated introductions.

(ii) Minutes and Actions from Last meeting



Minutes - second meeting of NIMDM 20

Tracy Power asked if members were content with minutes from the previous meeting and updated the group on the actions. In respect of the final action, the group agreed that the term 'deprivation' should not be changed as it is a well known and accepted term.

(iii) Draft Consultation Document



NIMDM 2017 - Consultation Document

Brian Green gave an introduction to the consultation document, outlining that it was still very much in draft form, with more work to be done in terms of making each of the proposed indicators explicitly clear and getting Departments to sign off the various lines presented throughout. He explained the layout of the document and the important role that the domain expert groups had played in terms of shaping the proposals for the various indicators in each of the domains which Jos Ijpelaar would take members through. Tracy Power invited members to submit any comments on the 'scene setting' material in the draft document following the meeting, in the interests of time.

Action: Any questions or comments should be returned by the group by correspondence by 28th October.

Jos Ijpelaar took the group through the main changes of each of the domains.

Income

Jos Ijpelaar informed the group about the new database from DfC which will give information on household income. It is proposed that, using this, the Income Domain will measure the proportion of households below 60% of the NI median income. The three recommendations from the NIMDM10 that were assigned to the Income Domain Expert Group would be addressed by inclusion of the proposed new indicator.

Paul Caskie welcomed this change to the domain as he felt it was a more reliable measure of deprivation. The group discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the change. Simon Hookham questioned if housing costs should be taken into consideration.

Brian Green advised that while the database in question was still under development, the team was hopeful that the required indicator data will be available. Should it not be available in time for the update, the domain will go back to being based on benefit data and/or small area income estimates.

Employment

Jos Ijpelaar explained that it was hoped that the new DfC database would also be used to enhance the employment domain. In addition to the 2010 indicator measuring the proportion of people on specific benefits, a new indicator will be added based on people who are not in receipt of those benefits, who have not made tax contributions or completed a self assessment. This would provide a proxy for 'Hidden Unemployment' and include a number of people who were not included previously.

Stephen Donnelly cautioned that particular care would have to be taken in respect of the handling of students in this additional indicator.

Action: Deprivation team to investigate how students will be treated in the new indicator.

Aidan Campbell queried whether there was a chance that people who are receiving more than one benefit could be double counted. Jos Ijpelaar reassured members that this is unlikely as each person will have a unique identifier and will be included if they receive one of the selected benefits.

Action: Deprivation team will insure that there is no double counting of people receiving more than benefit.

The group discussed issues around people leaving an area to find jobs, either to another part of NI or across the border. Jos Ijpelaar reminded the group that there was a recommendation relating to population decline, which would be discussed later in the meeting.

Action: Deprivation team will investigate data on people working across the border.

Health

Sharon McNicholl questioned whether child dental extractions is still a reliable indicator as there was data published suggesting that the number of children registered with a dentist has decreased. It was pointed out that the expert group did not feel that there would be any issues with this data, but the deprivation team would look into it.

Action: Deprivation team to investigate data relating to child dental registrations.

Andrea Thornbury asked if self-harm would be included in the mental health indicator in any way.

Action: Deprivation team will investigate the availability of data relating to self-harm with the possibility of including it in the mental health indicator.

Bill Stewart advised that the methodology for calculating Potential years of life lost is outdated and should be changed to reflect the change in life expectancy. Jos IJpelaar explained that the expert group had looked into this and data had shown that the change in methodology did not cause a significant change in the domain. The expert group had agreed that as this is an update the methodology did not need to be changed. Members felt that there was merit in the Deprivation team meeting with Bill to discuss the matter more fully.

Action: Deprivation team will meet with Bill Stewart to discuss the methodology of measuring potential years of life lost.

Simon Hookham questioned if there is merit in incorporating information on social care in the community, for example, as part of a treatment program for people with dementia.

Action: Deprivation team will investigate the availability of data relating to social care in the community.

Tracy Power queried the status of sub-domains. Jos IJpelaar responded that the intention is to make all indicator data publically available in agreement with the data suppliers. This would mean that sub-domain scores and ranks will also be made available, thus providing users of deprivation measures to tailor the available data to their uses. The group agreed to label the proposed mental health sub-domain as a combined mental health indicator.

Education

The main point is that Key stage 2 and 3 indicators will be omitted from the domain due to data quality/coverage. Adult literacy will cover those aged 25 to 64 in accordance to the change in retirement age.

Proximity to Services

Libraries, primary and post primary schools will be added to the list of services in this domain. Public transport times will also be collated for each of the services, which was welcomed by the group.

Action: Deprivation team will change the wording of the indicators to make it clear that there are two separate indicators.

The group discussed the 2010 recommendation around the change in the name of the domain to 'Access to Services'. The group felt that a question should be added to the consultation to ascertain stakeholder views on whether the domain should be regarded as Proximity to Services or Access to Services.

Action: Deprivation team will put a question into the consultation regarding whether the Domain should be Proximity or Access to services.

Living Environment

The group discussed the changes in the domain and questioned why there were no indicators around play parks/ green spaces or air quality. Jos IJpelaar explained that these issues had been investigated by the domain expert group and they found that the data did not meet the indicator principles. Joe Frey asked for 'properties without central heating' to be removed from the indicator on energy efficiency, as nearly all dwellings have central heating.

While the inclusion of a Broadband indicator was welcomed by the group, there was some discussion around the domain that it should be included in (ie the Living Environment Domain or the Proximity/ Access to services Domain. Members felt that it should be moved to the Proximity/ Access to services Domain, with users being consulted on the matter.

Action: Deprivation team will move broadband indicator to the Proximity to Services Domain and ask a specific question about this in the consultation.

Crime

There are no proposed changes to the indicators in the Crime Domain.

Non-domain specific recommendations

The group discussed the non-domain specific indicators. Aidan Campbell was interested in what the deprivation team were planning to do in relation to population decline. Brian Green explained that the deprivation team will look at the whole area of population decline before making a proposal on how/ if it could be included.

Having worked through each of the seven domains, Steering group members acknowledge the good work that had been undertaken by the deprivation team and each of the seven domain expert groups.

(iv) Next Steps

Brian Green outlined that the draft consultation document will be updated to reflect today's discussion, making the indicators more explicit, clearing relevant text with Departments and streamlining the methodology material regarding the combining of indicators.

The consultation is planned to be launched on 14 November, with public events in late November/ early December. Responses to the consultation will be analysed after the consultation period closes on 22 January 2017. While the consultation is underway, the deprivation team will initiate work to collect the data associated with the proposed indicators and pin down the detailed methodology for combining indicators within domains.

(v) AOB

None.

(vi) Date of next Meeting

The next meeting will be planned for mid March 2017, where the main agenda point will be the responses to the Consultation.