

Outcomes Framework for Culture and Sport – Summary

The benefits of developing an outcomes framework

Culture and sport, perhaps now more than ever before, must demonstrate the contribution the sector makes to better outcomes for individuals, communities and places.

Local Government Association (LGA) working with partners, Sport England, Arts Council England, English Heritage and the Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers Association (CLOA), has developed a web resource to provide guidance for councils and their partners on how to create a local outcomes framework for culture and sport.

The framework will help you:

- measure and evidence the difference your service makes and its contribution to local
- priorities
- make the case for continued investment of public money
- demonstrate to other organisations why they should be working with you
- influence the commissioning process
- focus business and service plans on the priorities for your area
- communicate the value of culture and sport to opinion formers and decision makers
- promote improvement by identifying what works in delivering better outcomes.

Anyone working in the culture and sport sector can use the toolkit, but local authority heads of service may get the most out of it.

The elements of the outcomes framework

The outcomes framework has four elements:

- an outcomes triangle
- a logic model
- sources of evidence
- a set of performance indicators.

The outcomes triangle gives an overview of how culture and sport contribute to local priorities, either overall or under a specific policy theme such as strong communities. It shows the different levels of outcome that culture and sport contribute to.

The logic model illustrates the main links between service activities and local outcomes. It shows understanding of the benefits of culture and sport to individuals, communities and places, and how these in turn contribute to the achievement of intermediate and overarching strategic outcomes.

The evidence section underpins the outcomes triangle and the logic model. It lists the sources of local and national evidence that best demonstrate the contribution of culture and sport to the outcomes.

The set of performance indicators is how you measure the contribution of culture and sport to the outcomes.

[How to create your own framework](#)

Set aside time to you create your outcomes framework, we suggest you break this down into five stages.

[Stage one: decide your overall approach](#)

You can create your own outcomes framework across the whole of culture and sport or just one specific area such as libraries.

First decide whether you want to cover all the outcomes your service contributes towards or focus on a particular theme such as strong communities, children and young people, or the economy.

Also consider whether you want to focus solely on the work of your organisation or whether it would be beneficial to work with others.

[Stage two: create an outcomes triangle and logic model](#)

Everything you need to help you create your own framework is on the LGA Knowledge Hub (<https://knowledgehub.local.gov.uk/home>)

The tools include example outcome triangles, logic models, evidence lists and sets of performance indicators, and downloadable templates you can use if you want to.

Stage three: review the evidence

You will find examples of national and international evidence on the website for each policy theme; you can use these alongside any local quantitative or qualitative data.

There are also links to searchable evidence databases to help you find further examples.

Stage four: select your performance indicators

Identify a small number of PI's for each level of outcome. Draw on available data from existing sources within your local council and elsewhere wherever possible.

Stage five: finalise and use your framework

Once your framework is complete, develop and implement a plan for communicating it internally amongst colleagues, with councillors or board members and externally to stakeholders and partners.