

Slide 1



InterCap
DEVELOPTOGETHER.EU

Developing capacities together:
European CSO-university networks for
global learning on migration, security
and sustainable development in an
interdependent world

SustainNET 17 November 2020
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Exploring...
**Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development
and the SDGs**

This presentation was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of CARDET and its project partners and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union. [InterCap project number: CSO-LA/2017/988-136].

Logos: European Union, CARDET, OXFAM, DIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP, WISE, ZAVOD GLOBAL, Kopin, ICU, kmop, WUS, Euro training, and others.

InterCap Project, and links to free resources

<https://developtogether.eu/en/>

Webinar

- Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development
- Introduction to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- UK Government level engagement with the SDGs
- Local Level examples

Acronyms

SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals; Global Goals

PCD / PCSD: Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development

DfID: Department for International Development

FCO: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (up to 2020)

FCDO: Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (from 2020)

CSO: Civil Society Organisation

NGO: Non-Governmental Organisation

ONS: Office for National Statistics

VNR: Voluntary National Review (2019)

SD: Sustainable Development

ESD: Education for Sustainable Development

Goal 17 - Partnership for the Goals

Target 14: Enhance Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development

The screenshot shows the website for Goal 17, 'Partnership for the Goals'. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for 'THE 17 GOALS', 'ACTION', 'NEWS', 'RESOURCES', 'BUSINESS', and 'SCHOOLS'. Below the navigation, there are four target cards. The second card, 'TARGET 17.14 ENHANCE POLICY COHERENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT', is circled in red. The other three cards are: 'TARGET 17.17 ENCOURAGE EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS', 'TARGET 17.16 ENHANCE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT', and 'TARGET 17.18 FURTHER DEVELOP MEASUREMENTS OF PROGRESS'. Each card includes a brief description of the target.

TARGET 17.14 ENHANCE POLICY COHERENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.

TARGET 17.17 ENCOURAGE EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS
Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.

TARGET 17.16 ENHANCE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.

TARGET 17.18 FURTHER DEVELOP MEASUREMENTS OF PROGRESS
By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries.

19 targets in Goal 17.

PCSD is target 14.

Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development


The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

What is PCSD?

'Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development is an approach to integrate the dimensions of sustainable development throughout domestic and international policy-making.' (OECD)

What is it not?

... contradictory policies, not sharing goals across all decision makers, silo working.



OECD Recommendation on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development

<https://www.oecd.org/gov/pcsd/oecd-recommendation-on-policy-coherence-for-sustainable-development.htm>

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organisation that works to build better policies for **better lives**.

Policy Coherence for Development is a complicated term for a very logical concept. It is about making sure that one policy or action does not contradict another.

It is easy to point out where PCD does not happen, particularly at a national level.

For example, when the department for Trade and Industry make deals, that cause other countries to damage wildlife habitats, and so, contradicting statements about extinction of species. Another example is where local housing policies allow developments on the edge of towns, but you need a car to get to the shops to buy bread. One policy (meeting housing needs) not taking into account other goals, such as limiting car use. But in this example, it seems obvious that two parts of government should be listening to each other.

The diagram tries to show this. On the right the 3 segments include purposeful policy integration.

However, this then has to be communicated, and that means involving other departments or stakeholders (for example public transport). Finally, in order for policies to be coherent, they have to be monitored to ensure that they continue to be coherent.

Definition of PCSD

UK definition, 2018, Intercap Forum

The 2018, a working definition of PCSD was created:

1. **A unified approach**, based on the understanding that we live in an interconnected world, with finite resources, and a belief in all humans being equal;
2. **Joined up thinking** and action around an agreed set of values in the ecological, social and economic spheres, applied local to global. These include freedom, justice, democracy, human rights, and equality;
3. **Minimising contradiction and building common ground** by taking into account the voice of stakeholders and all affected communities.

This the definition of PCD from 2018, drawn up in a similar forum. I have highlighted key phrases.

Minimising Contradiction = the real world; we may not be able to achieve full coherence; however, full coherence should be the default goal, and contradictions only remain for as long as absolutely necessary.



The 17 SDGs, with their many targets, from 2015 to 2030.
We are now in the 'Decade of Action'.

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>


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A pen, an everyday object. I want us to think about how the SDGs can impact on everything in our lives. To which goal(s) might this everyday object be linked, and how strongly?

UK Government: where do the SDGs fit?

2015: Signatory to SDGs (Cameron)
Response – Agenda 2030 – *delivering the Global Goals*



2018:

- Single Department Plans: some mention, specific departments
- DfID leadership
- Gathering data for Voluntary National Review (VNR); role of ONS

2019:

- VNR
- Updated Department Plans: all mention the SDGs
- National Survey set up and carried out

2020:

- No update to Department Plans: *is this important?*
- Demise of DFID: *is this important?*
- Survey not yet published: *is this important?*

Agenda 2030: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agenda-2030-delivering-the-global-goals>

See Document:

2018 & 2019 summary of UK Government embedding the SDGs in Department Plans

Also

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/sustainable-development-goals-how-is-the-uk-performing/#:~:text=The%20Department%20for%20International%20Development,efforts%20to%20implement%20the%20SDGs> (2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-development-office>

The Voluntary National Review (UK, 2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uks-voluntary-national-review-of-the-sustainable-development-goals>

Devolved Nations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Frameworks• Audits mapped SDGs to the framework• Reported on SDG progress, in addition to the 2019 UK VNR <p>Scotland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ESD entitlement (<i>Vision 2030</i>, 2014)• Monitored through school inspection framework (pending)• ‘...better PCSD could be achieved by developing policy ‘screening’ tools and mechanisms to be used by all Scottish Government directorates to assess policy coherence and consider trade-offs and synergies between the policies in question and other sustainable development outcomes’ and a ‘systematic information exchange mechanism’, to improve policy coordination.’	<p>Wales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brundtland definition of SD embedded in planning: ‘Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.’ (1987) <p>Northern Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3-year closure (2017-2020)• Mapping exercise by the civil service• CSOs take the lead

Wales

Brundtland Commission (World Commission on Environment and Development) 1987

https://www.futuregenerations.wales/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Wales-_-SDGs-_-VNR-_-Supplementary-Report-for-Wales-_-Version-10.1-Final-w-cover-ENG.pdf

Scotland – on PCSD

https://www.intdevalliance.scot/application/files/7615/8860/4671/Improving_Policy_Coherence_in_Scotland_PRINT_version_May2020.pdf

Scotland and the Sustainable Development Goals - A national review to drive action. July 2020. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotland-sustainable-development-goals-national-review-drive-action/> (see particularly pages 219 and 220)

On education for Sustainable Development:

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/self-evaluation/vision-2030-report-concluding-report-of-the-learning-for-sustainability-national-implementation-group/>

Northern Ireland: mapping the SDGs to the *Programme for Government*:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/united-nations-sustainable-development-goals>

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/united-nations-sustainable-development-goals-mapped-programme-government-outcomes-and-indicators>

<https://www.nicva.org/article/delivering-the-un-sustainable-development-goals-what-role-for-the-ni-voluntary-and-community>

What do we learn from this information so far?

Positive SD activity in the devolved nations:

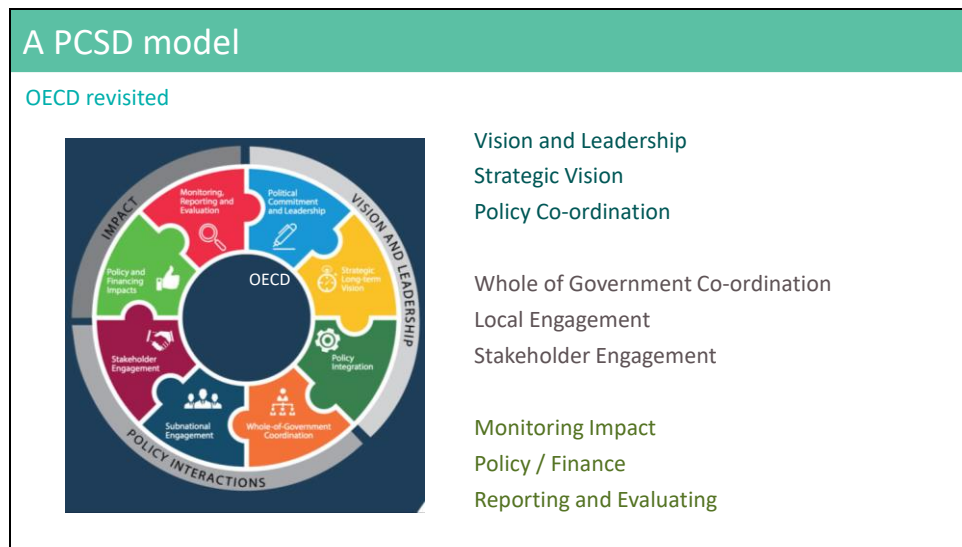
1. Wales: using a defining statement to guide monitoring and progress
2. Scotland: Leadership; educating rising generations; prioritising PCSD
3. Northern Ireland: the importance of CSOs

But

1. England: lacks its own agenda on SD
2. Despite high level speeches (July 2020) and the Environment Bill...
3. The SD focus is subsumed under UK-wide issues - Brexit, Covid-19, immigration, security. Demise of DfID.

What is needed?

Leadership, Principles, Inclusion, Monitoring, Accountability



OECD Recommendation on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development

See earlier slide for link

Office for National Statistics and SDGs

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/articles/sustainabledevelopmentgoalstakingstockprogressandpossibilities/previousReleases>



ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/articles/sustainabledevelopmentgoalstakingstockprogressandpossibilities/previousReleases

Home > Economy > Environmental accounts > Previous releases

Sustainable Development Goals in the UK: progress on monitoring and reporting data Articles

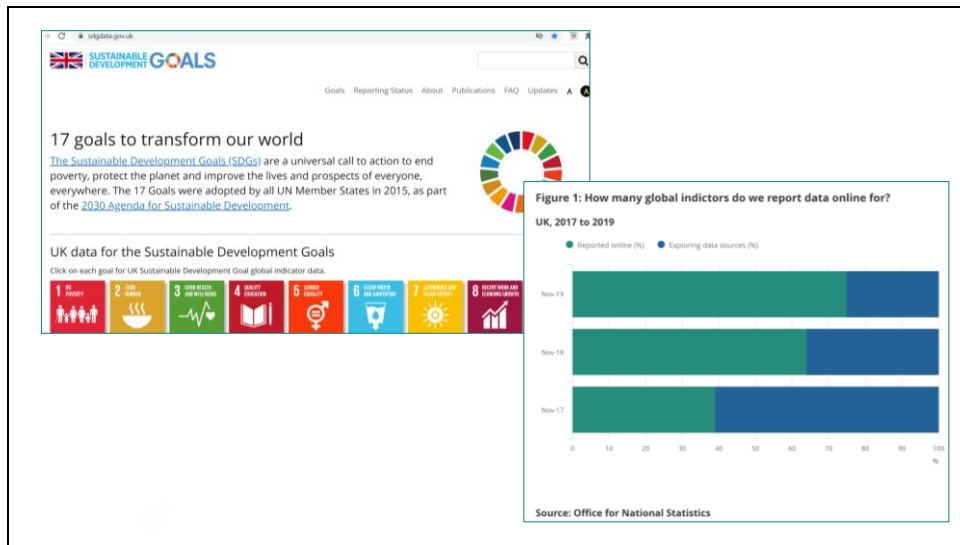
Sustainable Development Goals in the UK: progress on monitoring and reporting data : November 2019
Released: 7 November 2019

Sustainable Development Goals in the UK, an update on progress : November 2018
Released: 6 November 2018

ONS

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/articles/sustainabledevelopmentgoalstakingstockprogressandpossibilities/previousReleases>

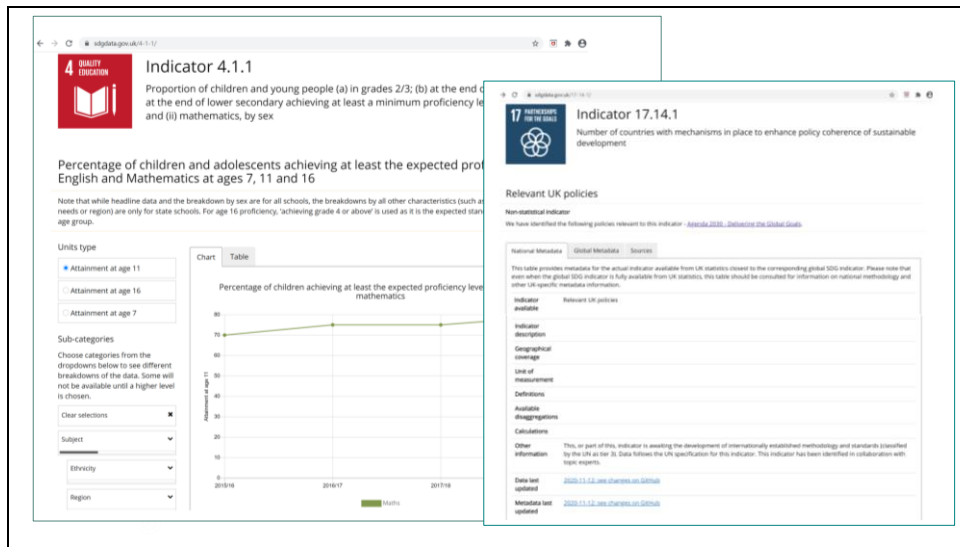
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75% reporting achieved (2019) = 182/244 indicators

<https://sdgdata.gov.uk/>

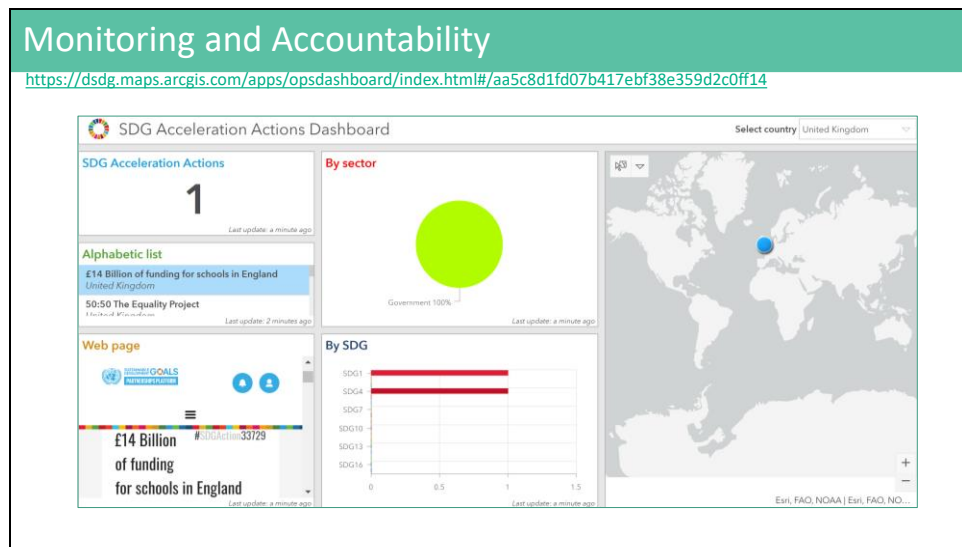
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<https://sdgdata.gov.uk/4/>

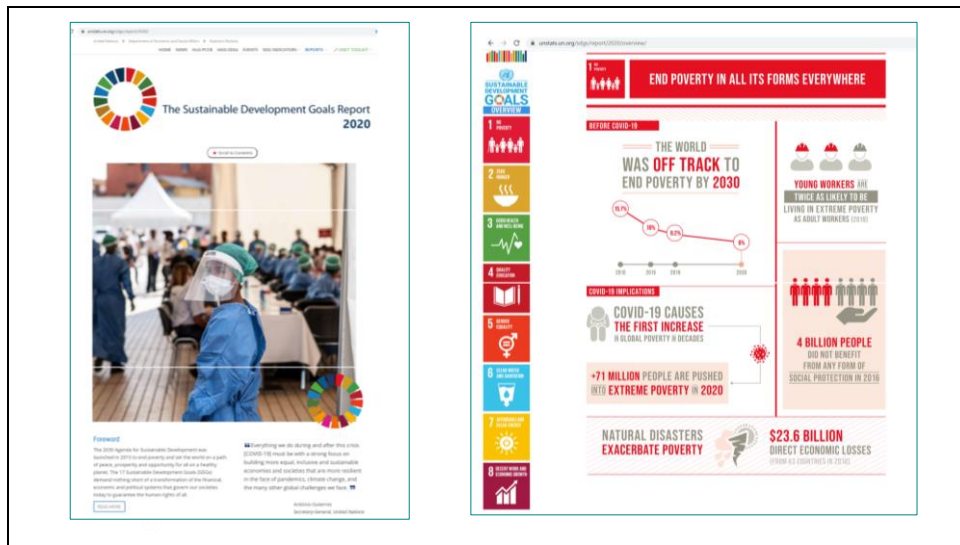
The UK Office for National Statistics produces reports on the targets for each of the 17 goals. There is still an issue of not having enough data: For example, girls in education is one that can be measured in the UK quite easily. However, the one for PCD (17:14) has no data at all, because there is no international / national framework for what they are looking for – how do you measure coherent policies?

<https://sdgdata.gov.uk/17-14-1/>



<https://dsdg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opdashboard/index.html#/aa5c8d1fd07b417ebf38e359d2c0ff14>

UK presents actions on the UN Dashboard – filter by country to see what they are showcasing.



Annual report from the UN on progress for the SDGs.
This report takes into account impact of the first wave of Covid-19

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/>

United Nations on meeting the SDGs: Report for 2020

'The *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020* brings together the latest data to show us that, before the COVID-19 pandemic, progress remained uneven and we were not on track to meet the Goals by 2030.

- **Some gains (2015-2019) were visible:** the share of children and youth out of school had fallen; the incidence of many communicable diseases was in decline; access to safely managed drinking water had improved; and women's representation in leadership roles was increasing.
- **At the same time (before Covid-19),** the number of people suffering from food insecurity was on the rise, the natural environment continued to deteriorate at an alarming rate, and dramatic levels of inequality persisted in all regions. Change was still not happening at the speed or scale required.

Now, due to COVID-19, an unprecedented health, economic and social crisis is threatening lives and livelihoods, making the achievement of Goals even more challenging ... There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has shaken the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* to its very core.' (pages 2&3)

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/>

Each year the United Nations produce a report on the SDGs. They draw on data provided by participating governments. The 2020 report had data that was gathered in 2019, and is different to other reports, as it captures the pre-covid data, but also the early stage of Covid-impact data. The picture was not positive, even before Covid.

The United Nations *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020 (June)* comments: COVID-19 has had...

- *A negative impact:* resources redirected; most vulnerable affected; children have missed education; serious impact on mental health; issues of waste management.
- *A positive impact:* climate clear up, as human activity decreased; greater local focus; new ways of working.



Local Level: starting out with the SDGs in St Helens

Councillor Hattersley,
Thatto Heath Ward

... proposed that the Council adopt, publicise, apply, audit, and monitor the SDGs within all Council activity.

This example shows the importance of a local champion who understands what may be achieved and how it may benefit their area.

The motion recognises the importance of data to drive action forward. The motion was accepted by the Council, unanimously.



It is vital that all levels of government work together and the Council believes that local government is a key component to successful implementation of the SDGs.

Council notes that in 2019 the cross-party Local Government Association unanimously adopted a motion recognising the vital role that councils could play in planning, implementation and monitoring the UK's progress on meeting the ambitions of the Agenda 2030.

Therefore, this council resolves to:

1. Create a tracking document wherein the Council can monitor progress on the SDGs and map the targets that are relevant to the borough's priorities, using the LGA and UKSSD Sustainable Development Guide.
2. Formalise our commitment to the SDGs by following and adhering to the tracking document in subsequent policy making.
3. Ensure that all council reports and policy papers include an SDG assessment, indicating which goals will be met by the adoption of the recommendations within the reports.
4. Lobby central government for them to recognise the vital role local government must play in terms of the planning, implementation and monitoring in local areas, and fully resource councils to do that work, to deliver the UK's progress on meeting the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda.

<http://moderngov.sthelens.gov.uk/documents/s108371/Submitted%20by%20Council%20or%20Hattersley.pdf> for the Motion.

The debate can be seen here:

<http://moderngov.sthelens.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=116&MIId=7453>
(relevant section: 1:03 – 1:23 of the recording is the relevant section.)

Local Level: a thematic approach in Huddersfield

Air Quality: focusing on an issue

- Leadership of Barry Sheerman
- All relevant sections of town planning and government address the issue
- Impact assessments made
- Stakeholders involved
- Action plans created
- Monitoring processes set up

[Good Food Nation, Scotland]

Sustainable Town

<https://www.huddersfieldsustainabletown.co.uk/>

Air Pollution project

<https://kirkleestgether.co.uk/2019/11/13/our-plan-to-tackle-air-pollution-approved/>

Good Food Nation

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/good-food-nation-proposals-legislation-consultation-analysis-report/pages/3/>

See also Barry Sheerman’s work on Policy Connect – cross party action.


<https://www.policyconnect.org.uk/about-us>

Conclusions

Policy Coherence: is not yet a priority. I think it has to be the leading principle.

1. Needs leadership / champions
2. Needs principles so there is something to cohere to
3. Needs time and full involvement of all stakeholders
4. Needs commitment to stick to the principles
5. Needs appropriate methods, to monitor it
6. ... and Data, to hold government and local authorities accountable

An Opportunity to restart the agenda?



The screenshot shows the UK COP26 website. The main banner features the text '01-12 NOV 2021 GLASGOW COP26 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY' on a dark blue background with a green and white marbled pattern. The website header includes navigation links for 'UK PRESIDENCY', 'THE CONFERENCE', 'PRE-COP26', 'NEWS', and 'TOGETHER FOR OUR PLANET'.

'...better PCSD could be achieved by developing policy 'screening' tools and mechanisms to be used by all Scottish Government directorates to assess policy coherence...

and

...systematic information exchange mechanism, to improve policy coordination.'

<https://www.ukcop26.org/>

Text from the Scotland PCSD report:

https://www.intdevalliance.scot/application/files/7615/8860/4671/Improving_Policy_Coherence_in_Scotland_PRINT_version_May2020.pdf

Letter to Boris Johnson

[UN Global Compact Network UK](#)

In June 2020, UKSSD and UN Global Compact UK reiterated the need to commit to the SDGs, and for action to be coherent with the aims of sustainable development.

It stated:

'Together the 17 Goals provide us with an internationally agreed framework, which also works at national, regional, and local levels, alongside and reinforcing existing plans and commitments.

They enable Government to work cross-departmentally and with stakeholders to create programmes and policies that are coherent with the needs of our economy, society, and environment both domestically and internationally.'

<https://www.ukssd.co.uk/build-back-better> (a link to the letter is on this webpage)

Liverpool World Centre

- **Development Education Centre**
- **Centre for TEESNet**



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