**Comparison of LEAP &Outcomes Frameworks**

*LEAP picks up the golden thread in the community. Outcomes Frameworks pick up this thread and run them through to the higher level outcomes. As such, they offer distinct but complementary approaches.*

**Purpose**
This brief compares the Learning, Evaluation and Planning [(LEAP)](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/12/05101807/2) framework and [Outcomes Frameworks](http://www.healthscotland.com/OFHI/index.html) which have been produced by NHS Health Scotland so that individuals can get a better understanding of these two approaches.

**Overview**

1. the approaches are consistent – they both focus on the need to be clear about outcomes, the outputs, processes and inputs required to achieve them and the indicators that will be used to assess whether they have been achieved.
2. the approaches are distinct but complementary in a number of ways.

**What are they?**

**1. LEAP:** It is a framework that supports us to plan more effectively; identify and evidence the changes that we hope to make; learn from our experiences and work in partnership with one another.

There are 6 steps in the LEAP framework:

1. Step 1: What difference do we want to make?
2. Step 2: How will we know we made a difference?
3. Step 3: How will we go about making the difference?
4. Step 4: How are we making sure it is happening?
5. Step 5: Have we made a difference and what are the lessons we have learned?
6. From step 5 back to step 1 - renewing the cycle: What will we need to do now?

**2. Outcomes Frameworks:** are resources to help you link what you do (activities) with what you want to achieve (outcomes).

An outcomes framework is made up of different "tools".

1. Outcomes triangle
2. Logic models
3. Results chains.

**How do they differ?**

1. Because LEAP is a resource to support health improvement in community settings, it focuses much more on creating the infrastructure and processes ***in*** communities and/or on ***involving*** communities, to support health improvement.

This is based on the principles that strong communities and community involvement are key ingredients of successful strategies to promote health and well-being. This is also recognised in the Outcomes Frameworks. For example, the [logic models](http://www.healthscotland.com/OFHI/MentalHealth/logicmodels/MH_LM3.html) for mental health improvement include a number of outcomes relating to strong communities and the corresponding benefits for the individuals within them. These are modelled both as factors affecting mental health and wellbeing, and as means of empowering communities and individuals to change behaviours that affect health. The difference is that in logic models these are one of a number of ‘intermediate’ outcomes that affect health and wellbeing. The role of third sector organisations in achieving them is one ‘contribution’ modelled alongside the contributions of other sectors to health improvement. In summary, LEAP ‘explodes’ one element that appears in a logic model, i.e. outcomes related to strong communities, and sets out in detail the process by which community-led and/or community-based approaches can be implemented to promote these outcomes and in so doing promote health and well-being.

b. This means that many of the outcomes in LEAP relate to the creation of the structures and processes that would support health improvement in community settings. In contrast, the outcomes frameworks focus more on the behaviour changes and health consequences that strengthened communities are more likely to achieve. As mentioned under a., the outcomes frameworks recognise the importance of stronger communities, but they do not major on them because they are not solely tools for supporting health improvement in community settings.

c. Because Outcomes Frameworks are less focused on community settings and take a broader cross-sectoral view, they specify in more detail the contribution of different sectors and the different ‘levels’ of outcomes that each sector contributes to. This is not to say either approach is ‘better’ they are just different for different purposes.

d. the focus in the outcomes frameworks on intermediate outcomes and the contributions different sectors make to these, reflects the purpose of the frameworks, which is explicitly related to the [National Performance Framework (NPF).](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/13092240/9) The NPF increasingly expects partners to demonstrate a ‘golden thread’ running from the services delivered to:

* the short-term outcomes of these services (or sometimes the outputs due to the absence of outcome data)
* the intermediate and higher level outcomes that partners are trying to achieve and that they sign up to in their SOAs.

**Useful links**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/12/05101807/2>

<http://www.healthscotland.com/OFHI/>