A Wales of Cohesive Communities
Journey Checker

What is a Journey Checker?

Journey checkers explain what is possible for organisations to achieve on their 'journey' of contributing to the well-being goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act. They set out the steps that public bodies should take at different stages on their journey, from making simple changes to leading the way.

It is important that the journey checkers are viewed as a set, as many steps have impacts and benefits across goals and topics. The set of journey checkers will evolve over time and the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner will use them to check the progress of public bodies in meeting the duties set out in the Act.

Journey checkers do not have to be linear: in some circumstances a 'simple change' or 'being more adventurous' action may be more appropriate than leading the way; whereas sometimes progression from a simple change through to leading the way can be seen as a cumulative process.

Each journey checker includes steps at three stages:

Making Simple Changes	Being More Adventurous	Leading the Way
- These steps should be quick and easy to implement, low cost and low risk; - They are 'low hanging fruit', steps that have been taken and tested by others and have a low risk of failure; - They mobilise and involve people, aligning the agendas of different departments; - They are steps that can take place within your own organisation as a good place to start.	- These steps involve stepping out of a 'business as usual' mindset and acting to change how things are currently done; - They will signal early progress to wider change; - They will involve taking well-managed risks and creating a culture of ambition; - As well as the steps your organisation can take, these steps will also be about how you can enable other organisations to change.	- These steps are part of systemic, transformational change to how things have always been done; - They will require reallocating and pooling resources, and time to put changes in place. - Above all they will require collaboration with other organisations and sectors. - These steps are innovative, inspirational and collaborative, putting the Act into practice across larger portfolios to achieve the Wales we want for future generations.

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In the Well-being of Future Generations Act, this goal is defined as "Attractive, safe, viable and well connected."

Positive relationships and kindness are at the heart of cohesive communities. We are increasingly living in a world where people lead more isolated and atomised lives – where opportunities to meet neighbours and people different from 'us' is more difficult.

Cohesive communities need strong anchor institutions - including development trusts, social enterprises and town/community councils - who work locally and have a long-term commitment to the area they serve.

Residents in cohesive communities have a strong sense of pride in place - a feature of this is often places where there is ownership and management of community assets.

ENABLERS
Achieving this goal is more likely to happen when:
- Public bodies create the best conditions to help communities do what matters to them;
- Public bodies embed 'what matters' to people conversations into how they work;
- There is creative use of key funds and local budgets;
- There are community anchor organisations which can give a voice to local people, hold assets and build resilience;
- There is support for community leaders, activists, entrepreneurs and volunteers.

DISABLERS
Achieving this goal is less likely to happen when:
- Public bodies work in silos and don't take 'place-based' approaches to what matters to people;
- Funding opportunities are short term and fragmented;
- Public bodies take a deficit view of communities, focusing on perceived weaknesses and ignoring strengths;
- There is a general weakening of the public realm;
- Public bodies talk about involvement and co-production but don't invest in doing it properly.

Individuals are able to play an active life in their communities

Defining the Issue	Simple Changes	Being Adventurous	Leading the Way
Positive relationships and kindness are at the heart of well-being. We are increasingly living in a world where people lead more isolated and atomised lives – where opportunities to meet neighbours and people different from 'us' is more difficult. Citizens have skills, lived experience, energy and commitment. Finding ways of unlocking these is critical.	☐ Encourage communities to organise local events that bring people together – an easy, cheap and effective example is the Big Lunch. ☐ Make it easy for residents to volunteer their time and skills. ☐ Encourage residents to set up Kindness Networks to build individual and community resilience. ☐ Suggest active residents use Community Mapping tools to help them to focus on where they can best make a difference in their communities. ☐ Make sure that information bout key funds and community funding pots are available and easy to access to help citizens make good make things happen in their communities. In particular make sure there is funding to help bring communities together - food culture, sport and green projects are always popular.	☐ Encourage GP practices to take part in social prescribing projects to enable local people to join active and supportive networks in their communities. ☐ Check to see if Time Credits schemes operate in your area – if they do explore partnership opportunities to enable citizens to play an active role in their communities ☐ Tap into projects that support community leaders, activities, entrepreneurs ☐ Be open to start conversations with community members and organisations about how underutilised assets owned by the public sector (e.g. land, green space, buildings) could be owned and managed as community assets.	☐ Learn from development trusts and Town and Community Councils who share Community Development Support teams to work long term with communities. ☐ Get inspired by local authorities and cities that have embedded Participatory Budgeting at scale and over time. ☐ Understand strengths and assets in communities by developing areas based community asset maps – on and off line – easily updated by pubic bodies, non profits and citizens.

Individuals are able to play an active life in their communities

	Defining the Issue	Simple Changes	Being Adventurous	Leading the Way
		☐ Make it easy for residents to start up Parc Run in their communities - especially by funding the modest one off, upfront registration fees. ☐ Support local people to start and get involved in Dementia Friendly Communities - everyone benefits from being part of a community that looks out for each other.	☐ Explore the potential to use local budgets - starting with modest community funding pots - as Participatory Budgeting experiments – to involve residents and community groups in making decisions about what is important. ☐ Learn from organisations that have used culture and the arts to bring communities together. ☐ Explore ways of connecting locally run foodbanks which provide essential support to families in desperate situations – with empowering networks of support.	

Individuals are able to play an active life in their communities

Evidence / Examples

- Big Lunch network supports hundreds of Big Lunches to happen each year across Wales.
- Cardiff and Newport Kindness networks have been learning from Kindness Scotland and the work of the Carnegie Trust.
- Parc Run. Residents in Aberdare worked with Rhondda Cynon Taf Council to get their Park Run started really easily.
- Dementia friendly towns – include Brecon where there are great examples of intergenerational support
- Big Lottery Awards for All fund are easy to access community key funds.
- Arts Council Night Out Scheme makes it easy to use community venues and put on local creative events
- Space Saviours – is a collaboration between United Welsh, Newydd, V2C, Tai Calon Housing Associations to help communities bring unloved land back into use.
- Vale of Glamorgan Community Mapping toolkits have been used by residents to help shape community projects across the county.

- Transition Town Network
- Social Prescribing practice in GP clusters in Rhondda Cynon Taf and Cardiff
- Participatory Budgeting examples in Blaenau Gwent using Home office funding (2014)
- Swansea City of Sanctuary
- Sustrans pilots - designing traffic out of communities to increase neighbourliness and well-being – Rhondda Cynon Taf and Bridgend
- No Fit State/United Welsh partnership
- School for Social Entrepreneurs / Lloyds TSB programme of support to community leaders.
- Tempo time credits schemes embedded in schools

- Llanelli Town and Community Councils delivering community development support across the Llanelli area
- Planed - supporting communities with community participation, representation well-being, entrepreneurship, skills and entrepreneurship
- Participatory Budgeting Scotland – Dundee - £1million plus each year
- Participatory Budgeting – Paris – 5% of city budget.

Active Connected Communities

Defining the Issue	Simple Changes	Being Adventurous	Leading the Way
Over 80% of journeys are made in cars. This is damaging to health, causes pollution, contributes to accidents, social isolation and reduces employee productivity. Active, healthy travel possibilities protect and enhance green space, are safer for children and increase social interactions between people in communities	☐ Public bodies should promote active travel. ☐ There should be a choice of cycle routes - including routes which avoid highly polluted areas. ☐ Support car sharing and car clubs. ☐ Provide electric vehicle charging points in workplaces, commercial developments and residential areas. ☐ Support community transport schemes – especially in rural areas. Including volunteer led sharing schemes.	☐ Start annual car free days in cities and towns - to encourage pedestrians, cyclists and use of public transport. ☐ Pilot street play in car free streets – using legal duties to close streets.	☐ Encourage public sector organisations to show leadership by developing a Staff Healthy Travel Charter – and then roll it out to other organisations. ☐ Adopt Bike Hire schemes and learn from examples where it has been successful - especially Cardiff.

Active Connected Communities

Evidence / Examples			
	☐ Community Transport Association case studies ☐ Cardiff and the Vale - Moving Forward - Healthy Travel for All in Cardiff and the Vale ☐ Cardiff Electric Vehicle charging point – guidance leaflet.	☐ Car Free Day Cardiff and Paris ☐ 7 Street Play pilots in Cardiff 2018	☐ Next Bike - one of the most successful bike hire schemes in UK

Having Access to Key Well-being Services

	Defining the Issue	Simple Changes	Being Adventurous	Leading the Way
	Cohesive communities need strong foundational services to be successful - including gas, electricity, water, broadband, housing, health, care, education, housing, food, retail, transport, culture etc. Financial inclusion advice and support is needed to ensure people have their basic needs met and is a vital contribution to local economies.	☐ Maximise the opportunity for local social enterprises, development trusts , coops and housing associations working in foundational economy sectors. ☐ Increase access to credit union and other community development finance initiatives. Public bodies can support these key organisations by enabling staff to save through direct from payroll.	☐ Support local enterprise facilitation too enable local businesses (profit and non profit) to contribute to local economic development. ☐ Nurture the development of community energy schemes ☐ Housing association use of Can Do toolkits to procure housing related services. ☐ Innovative use of social investment funding streams – e.g. social investment bonds.	☐ Embed procurement strategies that enable locally based SMEs to play a full part in local economies ☐ Ensure that local economic action plan priorities include developing key foundational sectors – energy, water, clean air, food, housing and transport.
Evidence / Examples		☐ Credit unions network and Money Line	☐ Sirolli enterprise facilitation networks ☐ Foundational Economy pilots in Swansea, Blaenau Gwent and social care. ☐ Awel Aman Tawe community energy social enterprise ☐ WCVA Social Growth Funds	☐ Learn from community wealth building innovation approaches in Preston, Barcelona and Cleveland Ohio.

Community Anchor Organisations

Defining the Issue	Simple Changes	Being Adventurous	Leading the Way
Cohesive communities need strong anchor institutions - including development trusts, social enterprises, housing associations and town/community councils - who understand local communities and have a long term commitment to the area they serve. Ownership and management of community assets is vital.	☐ Public bodies grant easy leases for low risk land/buildings to communities ☐ Support existing community based regeneration organisations who nurture community assets and promote well-being.	☐ Transition Towns that nurture sustainable community based projects. ☐ 'Meanwhile' use by communities of public and private assets. ☐ Public bodies supporting communities with the transfer of asset that matter to local people. ☐ Housing Associations leading the development of mixed use sites - including community facilities. ☐ Public bodies funding cross silo community anchor organisations that are building social capital and delivering on a wide range of well-being objectives.	☐ Scottish development trusts who have maxed the Scottish Land Reform Act 2003 – Community Right to Buy opportunities. ☐ Town centre regeneration programmes led by Housing Associations. ☐ Coordinated community development work across town and community council areas.

		Community Anchor Organisations		
Evidence / Examples		☐ Monmouth Council – community growing possibilities on council owned land.	☐ Planed. ☐ Ebbw Vale Institute. ☐ United Welsh – Caerphilly Miners. ☐ CREW – 'Meanwhile Use' Report. ☐ Locality (previously Development Trust Association) – support on governance, business planning, financial resilience, collaboration, management of assets and community engagement.	☐ Coastal Housing Association - Cultural Quarter investment. ☐ Scottish Government Community Right to Buy case studies. ☐ LLanelli Town and Community Council collaboration to deliver community development support.

Housing and Cohesive Communities

Defining the Issue	Simple Changes	Being Adventurous	Leading the Way
Good quality, well designed, mixed developments that include affordable housing is one of the foundations of cohesive communities. Living in poor quality homes is bad for health and well-being. Empty/poor quality housing can blight a local community. When people lose their homes it has catastrophic consequences for health and well-being.	☐ Green space improvements – where residents can shape the future of unloved space. ☐ Estate improvements – where residents are able to influence the design and delivery of improvements.	☐ Pre tenancy support to young tenants. ☐ Homelessness prevention work. ☐ Mixed tenure developments with community facilities. ☐ Support to elderly home owners to remain in their homes for as long as possible.	☐ Cooperative housing. ☐ Housing with Care Schemes for older people. ☐ Work to tackle empty homes. ☐ Live/work housing. ☐ SMART housing. ☐ Passive House/zero carbon home.

Housing and Cohesive Communities

Evidence / Examples			
	☐ Space Saviours. ☐ Cartrefi Conwy estate improvement case study. ☐ Job and training support to community members - delivered in partnership with local housing associations.	☐ Mi Pad – pre tenancy support to young people. Charter Housing Association. ☐ Care and Repair Cymru. ☐ Developments that incorporate key community assets – for example Caerphilly Miners/United Welsh; Lysaght Institute/Linc Cymru. ☐ Llamau homelessness intervention programmes.	☐ Wales Coop - Housing Coop programme. ☐ CiH and CHC housing award applicants.