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Dyfodol
Cymru

Future
Generations
Commissioner
for Wales

Easy Read

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

What I did in 2018 to 2019



This is an easy read version of the **Future Generations Commissioner for Wales' Annual Report 2018-2019**

September 2019

How to use this document



This is an easy read version. The words and their meaning are easy to read and understand. You may need support to read and understand this document. Ask someone you know to help you.

Some words may be hard to understand. These are in **bold blue writing** and have been explained in a box beneath the word. If the hard word is used again it is in **normal blue writing**. You can check what it means on page 23.



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This document was made into easy read by **Easy Read Wales** using **Photosymbols**.

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About this report

The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales



My name is Sophie Howe. I am the **Future Generations Commissioner for Wales**.



It is my job to look after **future generations**.

Future generations are the people who live in Wales in the future. It is our children and grandchildren.



In 2016 a new law started in Wales. It is called the **Well-being of Future Generations Act**. I call this the **Act** for short.



The **Act** says **public bodies** must think about how the things they do now might affect people's **well-being** in the future.



Public bodies are organisations that get money from Welsh Government to run services for people in Wales.



Well-being is anything to do with your health and happiness.



I help **public bodies** think about **future generations** when planning and making decisions.



This is a short report about all the work I did in 2018 to 2019.

What I did this year



This year I was very happy to see that **public bodies** are thinking about the Act when making decisions.



They are taking action to make people's **well-being** better.



More **public bodies** and organisations have asked me for advice. 183 groups asked me for help. Including:

- Housing associations
- Universities
- Charities



We were able to support many of these groups with training and advice.



This report is about work we have done on the 7 most important issues.

The 7 most important issue are:



1. The skills people will need in the future



2. Housing



3. Planning what we build in Wales



4. Keeping people healthy and well



5. **Adverse Childhood Experiences**

Adverse Childhood Experiences are bad things that happen to you when you are a child. They can have a bad effect on your life as an adult.



6. Transport



7. Using less **carbon**.



Carbon is a gas that is bad for the **environment**.

The **environment** is where we live. It includes the land, the sea, the air, and everything that lives in and on it. For example: plants, animals and fish.

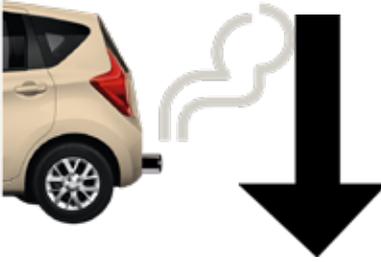
1. The skills people will need in the future



We need to think about what kinds of jobs we will have in Wales in the future. And give people the skills they need to do them.



When we think about this we should think about how we want Wales to be in the future.



For example, we should give people skills to work in jobs that help lower the amount of **carbon** we use.



We should also make sure that everyone has the same chances to get new skills. And we should always think about people's **well-being**.



I am working with **Cardiff Business School** to write advice. It will say what **public bodies** should do to make sure their staff have the right skills.



We held a workshop to talk about these issues. We invited young and old people.



We gave Welsh Government advice about **digital technology** and skills.

We use **digital technology** to get and share information. For example the internet.

2. Housing



I helped Welsh Government to think about how they give money to housing projects.



They agreed to think more about the **Act** when they are making decisions.



I also worked with the **Affordable Housing Review Panel**.



I asked them to think about people's needs in Wales. And what people's needs will be in the future.



For example we will have more old people in Wales in the future. Because people are living longer. And not having as many children.



The **Affordable Housing Review Panel** wrote a report about what they thought. I helped with parts of this. They agree with the **well-being goals** in the **Act**.



The **well-being goals** come from the **Well-being of Future Generations Act**.



The **well-being goals** are a list of things that will help make Wales a better place to live in the future.



This year, I will focus on giving advice to help **public bodies** meet these **well-being goals**.



I will also work with a group that tries to make the homes we already have waste less energy.

3. Planning what we build in Wales



I worked with Welsh Government to update their planning documents. This is important because people use these documents when they plan to build things.



It is important that all **public bodies** and organisations understand what the Act says they have to do.



So I have worked with lots of planning organisations like **Planning Aid Wales** and **Planning Inspectorate for Wales**.



I helped them think about the **Act** when they make decisions. Or give advice about what people can build.



Because of this the **Planning Inspectorate** have said no to some building work. Because it would not help us to meet our **well-being goals**.

4. Keeping people healthy and well



I have given Welsh Government advice on how to work with health services. Now and in the future.

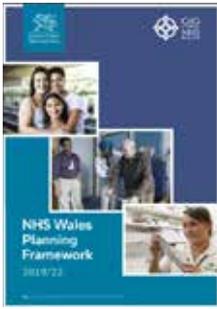


Health boards and organisations write plans. These include all the things they want to do in the next few years.



Because of the advice I gave many organisations included the **Act** in their plans. The organisations were:

- Powys Teaching Health Board
- Public Health Wales
- Aneurin Bevan
- Cwm Taf
- Cardiff & Vale University Health Boards
- NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership.



The **NHS Planning Framework 2019-22** also talks about **future generations**.



For example it says health services should not wait until people are ill to deal with the problem. Instead they should focus on how to stop people from getting sick in the future.



These are all good things. But I think Welsh Government can do more to meet the aims of the **Act**.



When choosing health projects to give money to Welsh Government should think about how the project will affect **future generations**.



Welsh Government could also give more money to health projects that try to improve the **well-being** of **future generations**.

5. Adverse Childhood Experiences



It is important that people who work in public services understand **Adverse Childhood Experiences**.



Last year, I worked hard to tell more people about **Adverse Childhood Experiences**. I worked with **Public Service Boards** to do this.



Public Services Boards are set up in each area of Wales. They make sure work is being done on the **well-being goals**.



The **Adverse Childhood Experiences Hub** is helping public services to change the way they work. To understand and help more people with **Adverse Childhood Experiences**.



This year I will work with **Cwm Taf Health Board** to test out new ideas.



We will look at new ways to improve **well-being** for people with **Adverse Childhood Experiences**.

6. Transport



Welsh Government had to decide whether to spend over £1 billion on a new road.



The aim of the road was to lower the amount of traffic on the M4 motorway.



I worked with different groups that study transport. We did not think Welsh Government should build the new road.



We said this in the **Transport Fit for Future Generations** report.



The advice we gave helped Welsh Government to decide not to build the new road.



The **Act** says how **public bodies** should improve transport. They should:



- Lower the amount of **carbon** let off



- Make sure transport is **accessible**

Accessible means easy to find, get to and use.



- Help make our air cleaner



- Help people to travel in an active way. Like walking or cycling



I am worried that the people writing transport advice for Welsh Government are not working with the **Act**.



I have made it clear that if they write a plan without using the **Act** they will need to start again.



Even though this needs to improve a lot of things are also going well.



Welsh Government chose a company called **Keolis Amey** to run Welsh train services.



The company have said they will run the service in a way that works towards **well-being goals**.



I have worked with **Transport For Wales** and **Keolis Amey** to support them to do this.

7. Using less carbon



Carbon is a gas that is bad for our **environment**. It is causing **climate change**.



Climate change is what happens when the world warms up because of the gases we use. It means we have more dangerous weather events like floods and storms.

In 2018, I said Welsh Government should:



- Think about the **Act** in plans for lowering **carbon** levels.



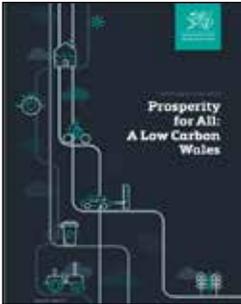
- Work more quickly to lower the amount of **carbon** we use.



- Think about the **Paris Agreement**. This was when 196 countries agreed a limit on how much the world can warm up.



Welsh Government agreed that we should use less **carbon**. And put it as a goal in their plan called **Prosperity for All**.



I also gave Welsh Government advice about their **Plan for a Low Carbon Wales**.



And said that we need to put much more money towards fighting **climate change**.

Setting an example around the world



Wales is still the only place in the world that has the **Act**.



I have spoken at a meeting of the **United Nations** in **New York**. And the World Government Summit in the **United Arab Emirates**.



Because of this the **United Arab Emirates** has written a **well-being** plan based on our **Act**.



I am also working with governments in other countries like:

- New Zealand
- Netherlands
- Gibraltar
- The UK

Looking forward



If you would like to be involved our work please get in touch using the information on page 2.



We also write a newsletter every month. Please let us know if you would like to get this.



We have lots more work to do. I am looking forward to working with people next year to make change happen.



Sophie Howe

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

Hard words

Adverse childhood experiences

Adverse childhood experiences are bad things that happen to you when you are a child. They can have a bad effect on your life as an adult.

Carbon

Carbon is a gas that is bad for the environment.

Climate change

Climate change is what happens when the world warms up because of the gases we use. It means we have more dangerous weather events like floods and storms.

Digital technology

We use digital technology to get and share information. For example the internet.

Environment

The environment is where we live. It includes the land, the sea, the air, and everything that lives in and on it. For example: plants, animals and fish

Future generations

Future generations are the people who live in Wales in the future. It is our children and grandchildren.

Public bodies

Public bodies are organisations that get money from Welsh Government to run services for people in Wales.

Public Services Boards

Public Services Boards were set up in each area of Wales. They make sure work is being done on the well-being goals.

Well-being

Well-being is anything to do with your health and happiness.

Well-being goals

The well-being goals come from the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The well-being goals are a list of things that will help make Wales a better place to live in the future.

