Manifesto for the Future

October 2020

Recommendations for political parties standing in the 2021 Senedd Elections
Prepared by the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
"Let's Create the Future Together"

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The 2021 Senedd Elections provides Wales with the opportunity to create the future we want. It’s also a significant election, as it allows 16 and 17 year olds the opportunity to vote for the first time.

We are living through difficult times. From the devastating loss of lives, pressures on public services, isolation from loved ones and the potential for long-term damage to the economy, jobs and livelihoods. Never has the need to think and plan for the future been so relevant. Many of the findings and recommendations in this document seek to highlight how we can do that better. In every crisis there are two phases: the first where you respond and the second where you learn. To be successful you must have both.

In May 2020, I published my statutory report - The Future Generations Report (The Report), which sets out the progress made by public bodies towards meeting their duties and my expectations under the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

The content of The Report is drawn from my involvement with over 5,000 individuals and organisations in Wales.

The Report sets out the recommendations public bodies should adopt in setting their well-being objectives and in making policy decisions on a range of priority areas, in order to maximise their contributions towards the national well-being goals.

“When politicians fail to look beyond the next election – or even the latest tweet – they are neglecting the rights of future generations.”

Roman Krznaric

This document includes the key recommendations I believe political parties should consider within their manifesto work. The full Future Generations Report (and its recommendations) should be read in conjunction with this document. The recommendations highlighted within this Manifesto contribute towards achieving all seven well-being goals.
Technology has helped to keep people healthier for longer and advancement in genomics helps us predict and prevent illnesses before they occur.

Housing in Wales is a basic human right. Our homes are energy-efficient, with more generous space standards and adaptable interior structures, and are resilient to climate change.

Technology is integrated throughout our homes, making our lives easier, especially for those with additional support needs. Our overall health and well-being is improved because of this better housing, and our communities are more vibrant and cohesive.

Culture, the arts, and recreational sport are a part of all of our everyday lives; helping to enrich us and keep us well. The Welsh language is thriving, with over 1 million people in Wales speaking Welsh daily.

Our planning system allows for green space, renewable energy generation and water management, allowing our natural habitats to thrive. Biodiversity in Wales is flourishing, and everyone has access to green space.

Through a place-making approach, planning is no longer seen as something that stops at the border with another local authority, and the system is integrated.

In terms of our waste, we have moved from a model of use and disposal to one where we reduce, repurpose, recover and regenerate in new ways to create new products.

Join the movement for change and commit to creating a better Wales for current and future generations. #OurFutureWales

Our younger generations are calling out the failures of past decisions, and sadly, often decisions in the continuing present that fail to take into account their futures – embarrassing, perhaps, but necessary. And with youth movements building across the world, alongside a reduction of the voting age here in Wales, policymakers can no longer ignore issues relating to future generations.

With your help and commitment this is a glimpse of what Wales could be like if we achieved the well-being goals.

- The lifelong learning curriculum means people continue learning new skills, relevant for their rapidly changing world.

- Our businesses, public services, voluntary sector and government have worked together to achieve the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and Wales is a zero-carbon country.

- We have replaced our traditional health system with a holistic wellness service. We still have hospitals, A&E and centres for treatment of accidents and disease, but the major focus is on prevention and keeping people well.

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A Green Recovery

In May 2020, I published a 5-point plan on the areas Welsh Government should consider investing and prioritising as part of its green recovery post COVID.

In this very challenging context I urge political parties to act boldly to create a better future using an approach to economic stimulus that supports green jobs, prevents poverty and inequality and addresses the climate and nature crisis.

Many areas which are key to the zero-carbon transition are shown to also have significant potential to kick-start the economy following lockdown – these include insulating homes, investment in clean energy, low carbon heating and transport, tree planting, habitat and peatland restoration along with continued focus on skills and lifelong learning.

Recommendation 1
Invest in nature and prioritise funding and support for large-scale habitat and wildlife restoration, creation and connectivity throughout Wales.

Recommendation 2
Invest in better ways to connect and move people through improving digital connectivity, active travel and public transport.

Recommendation 3
Develop an economic stimulus package that leads to job creation and supports the decarbonisation of homes.

Recommendation 4
Invest in skills and training to support the transition to a better future, creating new greener jobs.

Recommendation 5
Invest in the industries and technologies of the future, and support for businesses that will help Wales to lead the low carbon revolution and lock wealth and jobs into local areas with investment in the foundational economy.
A Resilient Wales
Responding to the Climate and Nature Emergency

Our natural environment, (on land and at sea) is vital for our well-being. Wild and natural landscapes sustain us; they give us clean water to drink and fresh air to breathe, they store carbon and protect our homes from flooding, and they can help make us happy and healthy. Nature gives us the foundations for our economy, energy system and our food and farming. We are in the midst of an ecological and biodiversity crisis on par with the climate emergency. We know that 60% of species are in decline.

Urgent action is needed to drive delivery at scale and pace to reverse nature's collapse and reverse the climate crisis.

Fundamental reform is needed to help manage the transition to sustainable land management and food production systems, driving sustainable supply chains and a food system that delivers healthy, affordable and sustainable food for all.

Recommendation 6

Be transparent in showing the carbon impact of all Government policies and spending decisions.

Recommendation 7

Invest in responding to the Climate and Nature Emergency. Commit to increasing spend year on year.

Recommendation 8

Develop a food system strategy for Wales linking together all parts of the food system from farm to fork.

Recommendation 9

Establish nature recovery targets on land and sea including the completion of the protected site network.

COVID-19 is the warm up act for the bigger crisis facing future generations; climate and nature emergency. It’s important that as we enter the recovery period of one crisis, that we don't lose sight of future challenges and the necessary financial and policy actions we must make to prevent them.

Funding should be allocated to increasing the pace of developing the national forest of Wales and in nature restoration including in towns and cities where it could be designed to assist with social distancing.
Green spaces on the doorstep

During the COVID-19 lockdown, communities have valued the local outdoors. However, not everyone has been able to enjoy and have access to green spaces. We know that such spaces can increase positive mental health, boost biodiversity and promote pride in the community.

Recommendation 10

Ensure people can access natural green space within 300 metres of their home.

Recommendation 11

Commit to greening your communities by delivering 20% tree canopy cover in every town and city in Wales by 2030.

Recommendation 12

Require green infrastructure to be delivered as part of every new development and Welsh Government funded schemes such as school improvement, community and health facilities etc.

Everyone in Wales should be able to live in a healthy, wildlife-rich natural world, and have a voice in helping shape how they can access and use outdoor spaces.
A Healthier Wales
A National Wellness System

Our NHS is constantly battling crises due to the care needed for our unhealthy population and the strain this puts on services. We need to shift the system to prioritising keeping people of all ages mentally and physically well, to enable them to live healthy and fulfilled lives. To deliver this, we need to develop a national wellness system which is an approach to keeping people well and focused on the wider determinants of health.

This needs leadership from Government with a specific Minister for Prevention who will coordinate preventive activities across Government, have access to a specific budget for integrated prevention policies and monitor how other departments are taking a preventative approach in their policy areas.

As shown by the diagram, the World Health Organisation Health Equity status report shows us what areas matter the most to reducing health inequalities. The next Welsh Government should set out a clear plan for investing in these areas are part of a national wellness system.

- 25% is about Living Conditions,
- 19% is about Social and Human Capital,
- Only 10% is about Health Services,
- 7% is about Employment and Working Conditions.

Recommendation 13

Establish a National Wellness System to improve the nation’s health and reduce demand on services.

Recommendation 14

Appoint a Minister for Prevention and top slice budgets to spend on preventative policies.
A More Equal Wales
Reducing existing and future inequalities

Welsh society is unequal. But current inequalities could be exacerbated if some future trends and scenarios play out in the wrong way. Automation could impact women’s jobs and incomes if we let it take its course or could provide opportunities for people to have a better work-life balance. The aging population could decrease the availability of jobs for young generations and could increase demand for care on women who could increasingly find themselves sandwiched between caring for children and older relatives. Climate change could hit the poorest hardest if we don’t ensure there is a just transition to a low carbon Wales.

Government must seek to address existing societal and institutional inequalities whilst ensuring they prepare for the future – making policy now which seeks to reduce future inequalities.

To do this the civil service and public sector workforce must value diversity and real life experience – make a point of recruiting people who have experience of the care system to develop policy on children in care, attracting people from rural communities to develop agricultural policy or bringing entrepreneurs in to work on policy on skills.

Recommendation 15

Set out a plan for responding to future trends* in ways that reduce inequalities rather than perpetuating them.

*such as increasing automation, our ageing population and climate change

Recommendation 16

Set challenging targets for recruitment of women, Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and disabled people across the public sector.

Recommendation 17

Create Race Equality Strategy to tackle the inequalities experienced by Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities in Wales.

Coronavirus has highlighted inequalities in society and had a "devastating" impact on the poorest communities in Wales, according to the Senedd Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee. There is a great need for us to understand the impact future challenges could have on various demographics in Wales.
14% of Welsh adults have experienced four or more adversities during their childhood. They are far more likely to develop life-limiting diseases and health-harming behaviours, suffer from poor mental health be a victim or perpetrator of domestic abuse or end up in the criminal justice system. We can stop the cycle of ACEs by intervening earlier but currently there is no clear, overarching national strategy targeting ACEs, early intervention and prevention. There seems to be a plethora of initiatives and groups operating across Wales with little monitoring, integration and collaboration.

National Strategy for Early Intervention

Recommendation 18

Make tackling childhood adversity a priority and set out a national strategy to empower all key public services to deliver effective, sustainable and evidence-based early intervention.

Recommendation 19

Make school exclusions a thing of the past.

The NSPCC helpline has responded to over 22,000 contacts from people worried about a child between April and June 2020. This is an increase of a third on the 3 months prior to the pandemic restrictions.

Welsh Women’s Aid report there have been spikes of up to 49% in contacts to the Live Fear Free Helpline during the pandemic. The helpline provides support for all forms of Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV). In regards to children – the helpline noted a 54% increase in contacts from survivors experiencing abuse who disclosed that they had children in quarter 1 in 2020.

Much like the exposure of inequalities, Covid is likely to further expose the fragility in our systems for preventing and responding to ACEs.

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How many adults reported each ACE in 2017?

For every 100 adults in Wales, 50 had at least one ACE and 14 had four or more
A Globally Responsible Wales
A globally responsible citizen

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on all of us – a global issue we perhaps feel more immediately and keenly than other threats like the climate and nature emergencies because no one has escaped the effects. As global issues increasingly impact our lives, it is vital people are given ample opportunities to fully understand them, and how they link to one another.

They need to be able to develop the skills and confidence to navigate through the impacts of global issues and work together to make a positive difference. This is especially important for young people who have had their education, future plans and lives interrupted by COVID-19 without having sufficient opportunities to influence the huge decisions that are impacting their futures. If Wales truly hopes to build back better, and to be ready for future challenges and opportunities, a nation of eco-literate, global citizens will be essential.

Recommendation 20
Establish a national vision for Wales to become the most eco-literate and globally responsible nation in the world.

The people of Wales should be supported to have the knowledge and skills to identify how what we do here in Wales impacts the rest of the World, so that they can make decisions that have a positive impact, or at the least, do no harm.

This means an education and skills system which ensures young people of Wales understand the impact of their behaviour has on the rest of the world, and do the right thing.

It means that everyone, through school, work or public life, should be given opportunities to develop their knowledge about global issues, in relation to areas such as natural resources, trade, democracy, peace, solidarity and climate change.

In order to achieve this goal, Welsh Government must commit to bringing this to life in how they use sustainable materials in the construction of our schools, hospitals and public infrastructure, in how they source foods and other goods and services and how they take a fair and ethical first approach to all public procurement and all spending decisions.
A Welcoming Wales

For Wales to establish itself as a Globally Responsible Nation, we must ensure that Wales engages in ethical supply chains, uses its fair share of the earth’s natural resources, adapts to climate change, works to make Wales a welcoming place for everyone, makes the right financial decisions and educates others on the importance of global responsibility. Wales needs to significantly reduce its ecological footprint so that it lives within planetary boundaries. This is essential for the survival of future generations. A key component of this is ensuring our supply chains are fair, ethical and sustainable.

The majority of public sector pension funds continue to invest almost £1 billion each year in fossil fuels which is not sustainable in light of the climate and nature emergency and incompatible with the declarations of many public bodies.

As a result of climate change the World Bank has estimated that 143 million people will be displaced by 2050. Wales has a duty to not only address our contribution to climate change but also support those impacted by it, by recognizing and offering them the same protections offered to refugees currently.

Recommendation 21

Set clear ethical guidelines for public sector pensions in Wales including commitments to divest from all sources of harm, fossil fuels, pollutants, goods driving, deforestation oversees and arms.

Recommendation 22

Building on the Nation of Sanctuary, recognise people who are displaced in the context of disasters and climate change as refugees and advocate for them to be offered the same protections offered to refugees.
A Prosperous Wales
The Future of Education

COVID-19 has exposed the challenge of cultural change within the education sector and the distance yet to be travelled if the Curriculum for Wales 2022 is to be implemented effectively. It seems that responding to the challenges of the pandemic has exposed weaknesses in the current education and qualification system and flaws in the plans to deliver the new curriculum.

Schools struggle to deliver adequate online learning. According to a study by University College London’s Institute of Education, a fifth of pupils in Wales during lockdown are doing no school work at all while the vast majority, 63.4% are doing between one and four hours a day. Only 15% are doing more than four hours a day.

Estyn has found consistently low standards in ICT in schools – in 2018/19, only four in ten primary schools had ICT that was rated ‘good’ or ‘better’ and only a quarter of secondary schools. Standards of ICT are far lower than literacy and numeracy across the board.

There are also missed opportunities to incentivise business through Welsh Government support packages to provide support to schools, bringing in their relevant area of expertise on, for example, digital learning or the green economy.

Recommendation 23
Establish a national vision for lifelong learning.

Recommendation 24
Establish and fund a shared national mission for education bringing in the skills of business, third sector, community activists, older people and the youth services sector to be a core part of delivering the requirements of the new curriculum.

Recommendation 25
Establish an education levy to fund this approach and broader implementation of the new curriculum.

We need a national vision for education and lifelong learning, providing people with the life skills to live well in cohesive communities, secure decent work and improve their health.

Future generations will need to keep learning to meet technological, ecological and demographic challenges of the future - helping us to reduce inequalities, prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences, seek to halt climate change, biodiversity loss and become a successful Wales of the future.
The changes in the new curriculum are positive and significant and will require everyone in Wales to play their part. The Government should support teachers by establishing a coherent approach to engaging businesses, communities and voluntary organisations across Wales, as well as youth services to be a main stream part of curriculum delivery.

Additional resources will be required to fund the coordination and delivery of this; to put youth services on a sustainable footing and to support training and development of teachers and to roll this approach across lifelong learning. This could be funded through an education levy.

**Recommendation 26**

**Introduce assessment based qualifications at age 16 that focus on diversity and are centred around pupils and not exams.**

The way children and young people are currently taught to pass exams will not provide them with the skills and knowledge to meet future needs.

We must rethink qualifications at 16 and explore new ways of assessing young people in ways which contribute to their wider well-being and wider life prospects.
The world of work is changing and employment is becoming more precarious. Our welfare system is failing to keep up with these trends. Consequently more than one in five people in Wales (23% of the population) currently live in poverty, which is the highest level of all UK nations. Furthermore the proportion of working age people living in poverty was 23% in 2017/18, according to the Office for National Statistics.

There is a desperate need for an overhaul of the system which takes people out of poverty and supports their well-being more broadly. A basic income could provide this. Supporting basic income alongside a reduced work week could have multiple benefits to individuals - improve mental health, provide opportunities for them to become more active, volunteer, explore lifelong learning and pursue hobbies or new business ideas.

Finland UBI trial showed improvements to people's well-being and are now considering a four day working week to boost productivity and cut carbon emissions. One study found that if we spent 10% less time working, our carbon footprint would reduce by 14.6%, and if we cut the hours we work by 25% our carbon footprint would decline by 36.6%.

The next Welsh Government should work with the other UK nations to achieve this.
Applying economic growth (or GVA) as the main measure of success is outdated. A YouGov poll has found eight out of ten people would prefer the government to prioritise health and well-being over economic growth during the coronavirus crisis, and six in ten would still want the government to pursue health and well-being ahead of growth after the pandemic has subsided.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act requires our Government (and other public bodies) to apply a well-being lens to all their decisions but the Government must go further in showing how they are doing this, working with other progressive Governments through the Wellbeing Governments Alliance.
A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language
Despite the culture sector facing challenges during lockdown and in the near future, I have been encouraged at the way creative practitioners have supported their communities i.e dancing on the doorstep with the elderly, theatre masterclasses with young people or virtual choir sessions with the lonely.

Through establishing a Creative Participation Income, there are opportunities for public services to work closer with creatives beyond COVID-19 to address a range of societal issues including town and city centre regeneration.

Creative thinking will be needed to reset Wales post COVID. Welsh Government's decarbonisation strategy 'A Low Carbon Wales,' includes little reference to the role that culture and cultural professionals have to play in the battle against climate change and the nature crisis.

Any future action, aimed at behavioural change to tackle the climate emergency and nature crisis, should take cultural interventions into account and should work in collaboration with the cultural sector to inspire positive change.
A Wales of Cohesive Communities
**Connecting people**

**Recommendation 33**

**Create 20 minute neighbourhoods to ensure people can access key services closer to home; creating healthier, greener & happier communities.**

This means strong, well connected neighbourhoods where people live within a 20 minute walking or cycling distance of key everyday services, and prioritising mix-type development which combines housing, transport links, public services, workplaces and recreational facilities.

**Recommendation 34**

**Make broadband a critical public service.**

We have seen an increase in home and remote working as a result of COVID-19. It is now more important than ever that Welsh Government deliver to make broadband available to all, because if they do there will be multiple benefits including the potential for people to relocate to Wales, stay in Wales and reduce the need to travel, resulting in fewer carbon emissions.
Planning Policy Wales 10 is intended to ensure that the planning decisions taken in Wales are going to improve the lives of current and future generations.

It sets out the concept of 'placemaking' which is described as: "a holistic approach to the planning and design of development and spaces, focused on positive outcomes. Placemaking adds social, economic, environmental and cultural value to development proposals resulting in benefits which go beyond a physical development boundary and embed wider resilience into planning decisions."

We need funding for community programmes in Wales to be embedded in a coherent way. All partners should be making investments in community services which mirror the placemaking approach, which will be setting out the planning and design of community infrastructure.
Homes for Humanity

Recommendation 36

Make housing a human right.

"The right to housing should be defined as the right to live in a home in peace, security and dignity, and include security of tenure, availability of services, affordability, habitability, accessibility, appropriate location and cultural adequacy."

Human Rights Council

Such a right would underpin a number of the wider benefits outlined throughout the Future Generations Report that bringing an end to homelessness would have, to health, to community cohesion, to equality and to prosperity.
Prioritising how we move

Recommendation 37
Set a national target for modal shift to enable people to adopt low carbon modes of travel.

Recommendation 38
Introduce free public transport for young people in Wales.

Recommendation 39
Allocate at least 50% of capital transport spend on improving bus and train services.

During the lockdown period, we have seen many more people walking and cycling to make everyday journeys. It’s important to provide people with the confidence to continue walking and cycling and avoid returning to pre-COVID travel patterns.

Temporary transport and travel measures should be extended to disincentivize the use of cars.

Commuters and residents have valued cleaner air during lockdown - and political parties should take further steps to ensure more sustainable modes of travel are available.

The current Welsh Government target of getting 10% of people cycling once a week by 2026 is unambitious. Following decades of investment, the modal share of cycling in the Netherlands is around 27% of all trips with 24% of the Dutch population cycling every day.

Implementation of the Active Travel Act is lacking. Despite the Act being introduced in 2013, levels of walking and cycling in Wales have stagnated or declined over the last 6 years.
Living Well

Recommendation 40

Encourage innovation in developing intergenerational housing and communities.

Recommendation 41

Require all publicly funded housing developments to be carbon neutral.

Future generations need to see Welsh Government working with all housing bodies to commit to decarbonising existing stock, ensure all new homes, regardless of tenure, are carbon neutral and ideally carbon positive, and all new homes are only built if they are resilient to the impact of present and future climate change.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act gives permission to local authorities, developers and Welsh Government to think creatively about how our communities are designed - including finding innovative ways to bring generations together.
Governing for Future Generations
Diversifying public policy development

Recommendation 42

Introduce a ‘Real Life Fast Track’ programme within the Civil Service and Public Sector to involve broader perspectives and experiences in policy development.

Recommendation 43

Make knowledge and expertise on the interests of future generations a key requirement of at least one post on every public sector board.

In order to bring a variety of skills, perspectives and experiences to the public services of the future, Welsh Government should work with public bodies to introduce a ‘Real Life Fast Track’ programme, seeking to recruit people who are experts on their own lives.
There is a lack of long-term vision regarding the kind of government and public services we need in a future Wales. A long-term vision for the public services of 2050 in Wales is needed, taking into account future trends, potential scenarios and setting out how public services can respond to these in a way which will best meet each of our national well-being goals.

The public services of the future need to be collaborative with multidisciplinary teams connected but not tied to organisations, bringing skills together to solve complex problems.
Wales needs to co-produce ideas but also to consistently co-work on implementation in order to avoid an implementation gap.

The OECD have identified the United Arab Emirates' 'Ministry of Possibilities' one of the most significant innovations in Government in the last year.

The world's first virtual ministry brings together the 'brightest and best' from national and local government teams, private and voluntary sectors to apply design-thinking and experimentation to develop proactive and disruptive solutions to tackle critical issues.

A similar model in Wales could build on the social partnership model in development and should have a specific remit not just policy development but on purposeful implementation of policy across Wales.
Further work needs to be done across Welsh Government to ensure every department understands and is using the agreed definition for prevention and preventative spend. Despite a number of programmes which have prevention as a core principle it is not clear how preventative approaches are being applied consistently across Government or within departments.

Every Welsh Minister must demonstrate how they are applying the definition of prevention in their portfolio but there is a need for coordinated and focused action across cabinet level to fund and deliver major preventative interventions.
Procuring for the Future

Recommendation 48

Provide clear guidance and leadership to other public bodies on how they are considering and applying the Well-being of Future Generations Act in their procurement activities.

Public bodies in Wales spend over £6 billion each year procuring a range of goods, services and works; this represents nearly a third of total devolved Welsh annual expenditure, and it is estimated that over the next decade Welsh public services will spend over £60 billion.

Government should demonstrate leadership in ensuring it maximises contribution to all well-being goals as part of all public procurement and spending decisions to support local employment, skills and training opportunities, fair and decent work, the foundational economy and local supply chains, reduce our impact on the environment, protect biodiversity, reflect the diversity and culture of all our communities and encourage greater ethical and global citizenship.
Manifesto for the Future

You can find the full Future Generations Report with all the recommendations and findings on our website or if you are viewing this document electronically you can be directed to the report by clicking here.

I would also encourage you to take a look at the work created by young people who have set out their ambitions for Wales, as part of the work to support the Manifesto for the Future. You can find a link here.

For all queries please email contactus@futuregenerations.wales.