



Future Generations August 2021 Newsletter



Foreword



1 - Sophie Howe, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales - 25 August 2021

Under the Act, my role as Commissioner is to be the guardian of future generations. One of the ways I fulfil this role is by ensuring that public bodies and those who make policy in Wales think about the long-term impact of their decisions.

"If the roots of a tree are rotten, the tree will never grow."

Inspired by this quote, a large part of my work has been focused on influencing and changing Wales' ways of working at a high level. I have focused time and energy on the things that affect the whole system, aiming to ease the burden on public bodies and erase the barriers they face from the top down.

I am pleased to say that I have now been able to temporarily allocate a Point of Contact within my team to public bodies covered by the Act in Wales. This is a trial approach, to gauge the resource and capacity we have to respond to what public bodies need from my team.

Public bodies have said to me that having a dedicated person they could speak to in my team would help them implement the Act. I have wanted to help a broader range of organisations and individuals for some time, but the fact I have a small team and, during the last year, have recognised other pressures put on staff within public bodies, has made establishing these relationships a challenge.

But now more than ever, considering the impact of COVID-19 and of climate change, public bodies and those working on the ground need support to ensure they are implementing the Act to improve well-being and solve some big challenges we face in Wales. This was also recommended in the recent Senedd Public Accounts Committee report '[Delivering for future generations: the story so far](#)'.



Since taking up my post, I've provided [advice and assistance](#) to public bodies through a range of techniques:

- Hosting 'Live Labs' with organisations on applying the Act to challenging topics, such as with Cwm Taf Public Services Board on the issue of Adverse Childhood Experiences and with Welsh Government's Housing Department on placemaking and a vision for the future of housing in Wales.
- Giving detailed advice on policy that impacts those working on the ground. For example, Welsh Government policies like WeTAG, Planning Policy Wales, Procurement, the Affordable Housing Review.

- Publishing reports and [resources](#) including our Future Generations Frameworks, [Art of the Possible](#) 'Simple Changes' and 'Journeys', [bite-sized and accessible versions](#) of our Future Generations 2020 Report and [case studies](#) of good practice in Wales.
- Sharing targeted and personalised recommendations with public bodies regarding progress towards their well-being objectives.



ACE Support Hub
@acehubwales

Following

Great work being done with [@futuregenymru](#) [#LiveLabFG](#) excited to see the outcomes from such an innovative approach!



Future Gen Cymru @futuregenymru

Day 3 #LiveLabFG @CharlotWaite starts the day reflecting on barriers all entrenched in our positions - how do we teach the need to go beyond the barriers of our job, how expertise is keeping us in siloes.

1:39 AM - 11 Jul 2019

1 Retweet 7 Likes





> **Planning Policy Wales**
Edition 11 | February 2021



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government





Transforming how we move around in Cardiff

Some of Cardiff's most significant challenges relate to air pollution, high levels of congestion and obesity. Cardiff Council has chosen to address these challenges in a joined-up way through their well-being objective 'Cardiff grows in a resilient way'. They have set out to 'lead a transformation of Cardiff's public transport system, alongside promoting more active forms of travel'. Their efforts to promote active travel have been integrated with work on health to ensure that the solutions they come up with unlock multiple benefits and contributes to some of the Council's other well-being objectives.



Rediscovering our valleys

The Valleys is an area rich with natural assets and community spirit, but this has been consistently overshadowed by its industrial heritage and the deprivation that this left behind. The Valleys Regional Park initiative, set up by the Valleys Taskforce, celebrates the Valleys' vast and beautiful landscape by combining nature with community spirit and economic development. Using the natural landscape to educate people about climate issues, while ensuring livelihoods are maintained and skills are taught across the area, the project has helped those on the ground in Wales think long-term, collaborate with stakeholders and involve communities to get the most out of the unique and valuable Welsh landscape.



- Providing dedicated and personal advice to Public Services Boards on their well-being assessments and well-being plans.

Going forward, **my intention is to ramp up the support and advice given** to public bodies and Public Services Boards in line with the recommendations of the Senedd Public Accounts Committee.

Initially, the Points of Contact within my team will be working with staff in the public sector across Wales to build consistent and constructive relationships with each organisation. We will be learning more about their approach to using the Act, their well-being objectives, finding out what they're doing well already, what barriers they face, and answering questions they have.

Each [point of contact](#) has been assigned public bodies on a regional basis but will also be speaking to organisations covering all of Wales. They are:

- Alice (Change Analyst) - North Wales and Arts Council of Wales
- Huw (Change Maker Support) - West Wales and Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
- Emma (Change Maker Support) - Mid and South West Wales
- Colleen (Change Maker Support) - South East Wales, Natural Resources Wales and Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales
- Sam (Change Maker Support) - Gwent, National Library for Wales, Sport Wales, Public Health Wales

I hope this approach will help to create change and momentum locally, build stronger links between my team and the organisations covered by the Act, reveal more fantastic case studies and champions of the Act, help to build a movement of change and improve well-being for the people of Wales.

Movement for Change - Youth Voice

The Well-being of Future Generations Act is legislation of the people of Wales, for the people of Wales and the generations still to come.

Central to achieving the seven well-being goals in the Act, is the diverse movement of organisations today campaigning on and delivering projects that meet the Act's aspirations. Many of them have contributed to the work of my Office over the past five years, helping shape my work and our recommendations. We refer to this wider movement as the '[Movement for Change](#)' and in our previous newsletters, we've featured a few organisations whose work is contributing towards the Act to highlight their great work.

*But to truly understand the growing movement for change in Wales, we need to hear the voices, opinions and experiences of young people. In this month's newsletter, we wanted to shine a light on some of these experiences and highlight how they're making a difference in Wales - below are articles written by **Kate from the Youth 7 (Future Leaders Network)** and the **Youth Climate Ambassadors** on their work, passions and vision for our future Wales.*

Kate, Youth 7

"As part of the Future Leaders Network, I attended the G7 Youth Summit in Cornwall.

My involvement in the Youth 7 (Y7) was to bring agriculture to the forefront of the argument, to consider the issue interwoven with the topics of climate and environment.

From being a Welsh born and bred farmer's daughter, my entire family have had to change the way they farm to deal with the climate crisis. Agriculture will always be an important part of Wales' communities and should be at the heart of our response to the climate emergency. Instead of adopting unfriendly practises, we should consider how farming can give back to nature.

My lack of in-depth knowledge could have stopped me from understanding my worth within something like the Y7, but my 'simple story' which many had never heard before carried agriculture into the final [Communique](#). **By challenging the delegates through the process, their view of what**

was practical to ask of the farming community changed, simply because I had observed the world around me.

To avoid Wales diverting from its heritage and making it harder for young farmers to enter the business as the generations did before them, my vision for the future of farming is to make farming on smallholdings profitable and to slowly transition to a more sustainable way of working that rewards a farmer's income.

Not only would this lead to the well-being goal of a more globally responsible Wales, but it would lead to improvements of all of the goals by having for example small rural communities becoming more resilient and prosperous.”



2 - Kate, Y7

The Youth Climate Ambassadors for Wales

“The [Youth Climate Ambassadors for Wales](#) are a group of 15, passionate young climate activists who are facilitated by Size of Wales and The Welsh Centre of International Affairs.

An organisation powered by young people, we aim to amplify the youth voice and empower accessible and inclusive climate action from all levels - whether you are acting as an individual, as a business or as a world leader.

Climate change will impact us all and will affect every aspect of our lives. Through our work with the Youth Climate Ambassadors for Wales, we want to ensure that everyone is brought along on the climate journey - into an era of a ‘Green Revolution’ which will protect our planet and future generations.

As an organisation, our vision for Wales' future is a country where:

- climate action is accessible to all
- decision makers are informed and understand climate change
- key acts to protect the environment are passed including banning single use plastic, creating and reaching a reforestation plan by 2025, making 'Climate Refugee' a viable status and creating a curriculum that informs and empowers the next eco-literate generation who act in a climate conscious way

Our members worry a lot about what the future will hold - with CO2 emissions still rising and ecosystems being destroyed. However, being a part of the Youth Climate Ambassadors for Wales has given us hope: together we can create change and shape a future where we can thrive.

We see the Well-being of Future Generations Act as a really important law because it requires current decision-makers to consider future impacts and generational accountability of their actions.

Within the Youth Climate Ambassadors for Wales, we ensure our work embeds the seven well-being goals. Through encouraging increasing emissions labelling; recognising 'climate refugee' as a legitimate status, restoring peatlands and a reforestation plan; and encouraging plant-based diets and climate education we're achieving the goals of: A Globally Responsible Wales, A More Equal Wales, A Prosperous Wales and a Healthier Wales.

"I hope in the future Wales is not just surviving but thriving, and that there will be demonstrable system changes holding the biggest polluters accountable whilst empowering individuals to make climate conscious choices which are accessible to all."

Molly, Youth Climate Ambassador

The science and climate solutions are there, to transition completely to renewable energy and governments have the power to protect precious ecosystems.

That's why we're excited for COP26. This will be a prime opportunity for countries across the world to take urgent and necessary action to halt climate change. We must act now."



Are you a young person passionate about ensuring a prosperous, healthy and equal Wales for our current and future generations?

Are you working (individually or as a group) to leave the world a better place than we found it?

Do you have an important story to tell?

We want to highlight your good work and experiences. Get in touch with Hollie, our Communications Support Officer, on how you're contributing to the Movement for Change in Wales via hollie.leslie@futuregenerations.wales.

Wales to the World - the World to Wales

- **Doing the Small Things at One Young World**

Last month the Commissioner and five young Welsh Ambassadors virtually attended One Young World's 2021 Summit in Munich, aiming to inspire more countries to adopt Wales' WFG Act in their aim to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We're pleased to see support for the Act outside of Wales, with campaigns in the UK ([Today for Tomorrow](#), a cross-party campaign powered by The Big Issue) and in Italy (campaign, led by Matteo Pascale and the youth organisation Yezers, calling for an Italian Future Generations "Guardian") to adopt Welsh style legislation to promote the interests of future generations.

In her keynote address the Commissioner discussed Wales' transition to a well-being and sustainable economy and how it is achieving the SDGs through the Act. She also called on young people around the world to *"take the vision of the Act and put pressure on your elected officials, friends and family, institutions to make the big changes"* and to become the *"Future Generations Commissioners of your own nations"*.



- **Reflections from One Young World**

To reflect on their experiences from One Young World, our delegates have written short blogs on their involvement and participation in the Summit. Read snippets below, or read the full blogs on our **website** soon.

Advocating for Future Generations – Kate, Office of the Future Generations Commissioner

On the final day of the One Young World summit, the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner held a workshop for young delegates across the world. I was honoured to chair the event as part of the Welsh One Young World delegation.

The aim of the workshop was to educate and inspire One Young World delegates about the vision of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, highlight the history of the act, how it works, and the progress Wales has made towards achieving the United Nations's Sustainable Development Goals.

My experience at One Young World – Joshua, Future Generations Leadership Academy Alumni

When I think about the problems that we have here in Wales: tackling poverty, climate change and the rural/urban divide, I'm always interested in how we got here and how we change course. That isn't always easy, but individuals paving the way often start a movement through their words and action. In attending One Young World, I saw that.

Whilst I was aware of the problems others faced globally, One Young World opened my eyes to problems that I had never heard described in such a personal way. I went to One Young World with a promise to myself and to Wales, as a member of the Welsh Delegation, that I would learn about

something that I had never looked at before, to open my eyes to the adversity that others have faced, and to think about how we can do more, not just in Wales, but internationally too.



- **Academi Wales Summer School**

Every year at FGC we aim to send representatives from our office to Academi Wales' Summer School – this year Pep (Change Analyst - Correspondence, Legislation and Policy), Eleri (Change Analyst) and Najma (Team Support Officer) attended the virtual programme.

[Inspired by their experiences and learnings from Summer School they've co-written a blog. Read about their favourite speakers and what they took away from the programme.](#)

'How did you arrive?' and 'What did you bring with you?' were the two questions that we were asked as soon as we (virtually) arrived at this year's Academi Wales Summer School.

All three of us would have probably responded with different words but they would have been much in the same vein – we arrived with our minds empty and ready to learn. We brought with us curiosity for what the next three days would entail, and desire to develop new skills.

This was a very different experience to the usual Summer School – we bonded through texting rather than conversation, we were sat in front of a screen instead of in a hall and, at the end of the day, we slept in our own beds rather than the accommodation provided by University of Wales Trinity Saint David – but the results are still the same: we met new people, we listened to inspiring speakers, and we got a better understanding of the Welsh public service.

We heard a lot of differing views on leadership and the way out of the COVID-19 pandemic, and all of the speakers tried to provide insight developed through their own experiences. Funnily enough, all three of us seemed to be drawn to the same workshops and masterclasses – those who spoke of the future, equality and kindness, which probably comes with the territory of where we work.

Two speakers stood out to us in particular with their unparalleled ability to inspire and challenge at the same time – **Uzo Iwobi**, who spoke about equality, privilege and dreaming audacious dreams, and **Byron Lee** who talked about compassion enabling us to see the world in colours.

So, how did we leave Summer School? What did we take away with us? We left with excitement and the need to act – we took away an aspiration to dismantle unequal systems and instil compassion everywhere we go. We have shared our impressions and thoughts with the FGC team and all three of us are now devoted to a new mission: **help everyone around us see in colour and dream audaciously.**

Our latest work and resources

- **We're recruiting 2 new roles – work with us!**

Are you a Welsh speaker with a passion for detail and supporting others? **You could be our next Team Support Administrator!**

Or are you a visual story-teller, full of innovative ideas with a passion for finding new ways to communicate important and sometimes complex messages? **You might be interested in our Content Creator position!**

Find out more about the roles on our website:

- [Team Support Administrator](#) - closing date 6th September
- [Content Creator](#) - closing date 3rd September


We will also be advertising 2 additional posts to support our work in relation to Universal Basic Income and local well-being assessments. Keep an eye on our social media and [recruitment page](#)!






- **Wales needs to explore paying everyone a basic income – open letter to First Minister**


Alongside UBI Lab Cymru, Women's Equality Network (WEN) Wales, and Chwarae Teg we're urging Mark Drakeford to expand his plans for a Wales Universal Basic Income (UBI) trial by taking a Care Leavers Plus approach - a wide-ranging pilot which includes children, the employed, the unemployed and pensioners, as well as care leavers.


As part our call for a Universal Basic Income, we spoke to people from across Wales who shared their experiences - Phillip Easton from Penrhiwceiber *who said* Universal Basic Income *would be 'life-changing' for people in his area* and Lani Driver, co-founder of UBI Lab Wrexham, works full-time in a job she's not sure will exist in the future. Read their full stories in our press [release](#).

 **What's a care-leavers plus approach to UBI?**

 A universal basic income (UBI) is where a government pays every individual a set salary, regardless of their means. A care-leavers plus approach is a UBI pilot that covers:

-  • Young people leaving care – there are 600 care leavers in Wales each year.
-  • A geographical pilot that includes children the employed, the unemployed and pensioners.

 This is so we can collect evidence on how a Universal Basic Income would impact Wales if it were introduced tomorrow.





What's possible with a UBI for Wales

A universal basic income could...



Improve economic security, provide a cushion for those impacted by COVID and/or automation and help mitigate against the increasingly precarious nature of work.



Provide support to older people and people shouldering caring responsibilities.



Provide opportunities for creative development e.g through volunteering or creative placements.



Give more people the resources to undertake education.



Remove the stigma surrounding benefits as everyone receives payment regardless of economic status.

“Universal Basic Income isn’t about giving people money, it’s about giving them opportunities. Opportunities for a better home life, better mental health, more time to do the things that make somewhere a place people want to live in.”

Taylor Edmonds, our Poet in Residence, has also written a powerful new poem, **Reconsidering Future**, that imagines a Wales in the future where ‘everyone is paid enough to truly live’, in support of a full Universal Basic Income pilot.

UBI Lab Cymru have also created a Welsh Parliament [petition](#) in support of this work, calling on Welsh Government to Design a Care Leavers Plus Universal Basic Income pilot that includes a range of people. Show your support and sign the petition [here](#).



- Cardiff & Vale enhancing biodiversity – latest case study

Have you read our latest case study on how Cardiff and Vale University Health Board is working to increase biodiversity and address the climate and nature crises, while also improving the mental health and well-being of their staff, patients and community?

They are finding new and bold ways to address the challenges facing our current and future generations and contribute to the vision of the Act - read more about their work [here](#).

You can find all of our case studies which demonstrate how the Act is being implemented on the ground across Wales on our website [here](#).



4 - [Cardiff and Vale University Health Board enhancing biodiversity](#)



5 - [Addressing the climate and nature emergencies](#)

- **Addressing the climate and nature emergencies – bite-sized resource**

Since publishing our Future Generations 2020 report last year, we've been working to create short and targeted products for key sectors and professions within public services in Wales with the most relevant ideas and recommendations for them.

Find our latest bite-sized resource on 'Addressing the climate and nature emergencies' on our website [here](#) with versions for:

- Welsh Government
- public bodies

- local authorities
- Private sector

What's happening in Wales?

- **Delivering Well-being with Doughnut Economics for Wales event**

What is "doughnut economics" and how does it relate to the Well-being of Future Generations Act?

[Register now](#) to hear the Commissioner, Kate Raworth and Katherine Trebeck (Co-founder of WEAll) discuss this issue at WEAll's event on 'Delivering Well-being with Doughnut Economics for Wales'.

Tuesday, September 14 at 11am - don't miss out!

- **Rural Wales Youth Survey**

What is it like living in Rural Wales as a young person? Do you think that you'll be living in Rural Wales in five years time?

Aberystwyth University and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) have created a survey to find out more about the experiences, ambitions and concerns of young people in Rural Wales - you can find the survey [here](#).

- **EYST vacancies – 3 new roles!**

Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team Wales (EYST), charity supporting ethnic minority young people, individuals and communities across Wales are recruiting 3 roles for their work including:

- All Wales Engagement Programme Manager (full time, fixed term till March 2022)
- All Wales Engagement Policy Officer (full time, fixed term till March 2022)
- Race Alliance Wales Project Officer (part time / job share, fixed term till January 2022)

Find out more about the roles and how to apply on their website [here](#).

Contact Us

Want to catch up on previous issues of the newsletter? You can find them on our website [here](#).

For more information get in contact here:

futuregenerations.wales/ futuregenerations2020.wales

contactus@futuregenerations.wales

@futuregencymru

Please note the office is currently closed and the best way to contact us is via our email address above.



Comisiynydd
**Cenedlaethau'r
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Cymru

**Future
Generations**
Commissioner
for Wales