



Future Generations March 2022 Newsletter



Foreword



As a Nation of Sanctuary, Wales must ensure refugees arriving from all over the world receive a welcome.

This month the military invasion of Ukraine has seen scenes unfold in Europe which have shocked and appalled the world. We are witnessing a humanitarian crisis which is worsening by the day.

Images of families from Ukraine trying desperately to get to safety, taking only what they can carry as they make their way to a completely unknown future are truly heart breaking. Along with the overwhelming desire to help these people, the awful events in Ukraine also raise the question of how we treat refugees of war. It is a devastating issue which impacts on current and future generations globally and it's imperative we do everything we possibly can to help those that have been put in such a perilous situation.

I fully support the Welsh Government's £4 million package of financial and humanitarian aid to the Ukraine. I urge the UK Government to ensure fleeing Ukrainians see the United Kingdom as a safe haven where they will be welcomed, regardless of whether they already have family here in the UK.

I also echo the call by Filippo Grandi, the UN's High Commissioner for Refugees, for access to safety for all, regardless of their legal status, nationality and race as well as access to asylum for those who want to seek asylum.

As a Nation of Sanctuary, Wales needs to ensure that refugees arriving here from all over the world find us a welcoming nation and one which helps them practically to rebuild a life here.

Wales has an important part to play, as does the whole world, in recognising displaced people as refugees and advocating for them to be offered the same protections.

We have a goal to be a [Globally-Responsible nation](#) under the Well-being of Future Generations Act, and while asylum policy sits with the UK Government, our nation can demonstrate our commitment to that goal.

Many public bodies and other organisations across Wales have already taken action to show their solidarity with Ukraine and as individuals there is also much we can do such as supporting the Disasters Emergency Committee's (DEC) Ukraine appeal.

The DEC has highlighted that at least 3 million people have fled their homes to escape the conflict in Ukraine with heavy fighting, shelling and air strikes across the country having had devastating consequences for civilians. DEC charities and their local partners are in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries providing food, water, shelter and medical assistance.



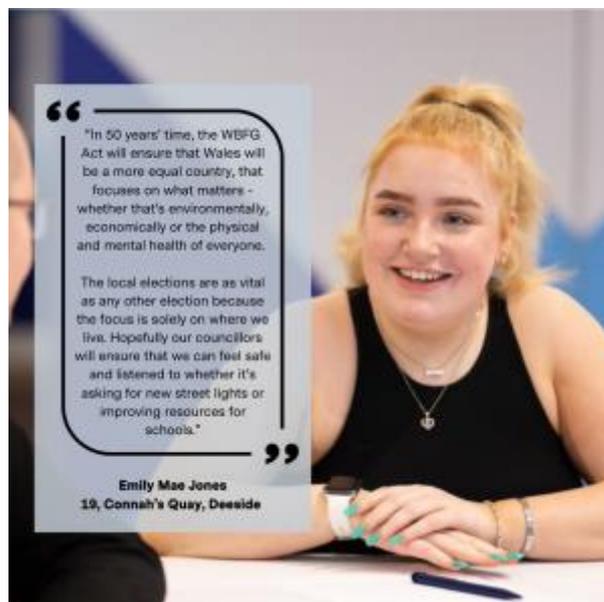
Since the launch of the appeal, Wales has raised over £9.2 million (and £200 million at UK level).

This is such an amazing achievement and shows how passionately the Welsh public feel about supporting Ukraine. As a result of this support DEC Member charities on the ground are setting up centres to support refugees, meeting their basic needs, and supporting their resettlement.

To read more about their appeal and how you can support the work visit the DEC website [here](#).

You can also check your local council website for details on how to support the effort/access support. Newport Council and Denbighshire Council are just some of the councils who have shared useful resources, [here](#) and [here](#).

Future Generations Commissioner and The Democracy Box launch a Manifesto for the Future.



“Our voices as young people are so important because we are the future, so we should speak up about issues in order to shape the best future for us to inherit.”

Young people in Wales have sent a strong message **ahead** of this year's local elections of what is needed:

- Better access to mental health services
- Affordable green travel and
- Action to tackle climate injustice and the nature emergency.

With just five weeks until Wales goes to the polls, my office has launched [Manifesto for the Future: Our Local Elections](#), which has been developed with young people across Wales.

In partnership with [Omidaze Productions](#), my team is developing [The Democracy Box project](#) which is exploring how young people can creatively inform and engage all generations about our democracy. As part of the work, and the Act's guidance that public bodies including Welsh Government should involve a range of voices in their decision-making, we have been collaborating with The Democracy Box young co-creators, a group of young people aged 16-26, born or based in Wales.

The new manifesto contains 52 key recommendations – proposing a bold package of measures tackling the climate and nature emergencies in a way that also promotes well-being and alleviates the cost-of-living crisis. Recommendations have been made with the help of young people, many of whom will be voting for the first time on May 5.

Recommendations include:

- Investing in nature and prioritising funding and support for large-scale habitat and wildlife restoration, creation and connectivity.
- Introducing free public transport for young people in Wales.
- Supporting measures to address fuel poverty, including retrofitting of local housing stock.
- Supporting non-medical initiatives known as 'social prescribing' (e.g. sport, volunteering, cultural activities) to boost health and well-being within communities.
- Acting in line with the Welsh Government's Nation of Sanctuary principles and demonstrate how local key services and provisions like transport, education and housing will support this vision.



It's vital that young people have an opportunity to shape their future, that politicians listen to them and use the Well-being of Future Generations Act to create the Wales we all want. People in Wales currently face a huge number of challenges including the rising cost-of-living, high levels of income and health inequality, fuel poverty, mental health and social isolation.

Now is the time for local authorities address these challenges in ways that bring about well-being benefits to everyone. For example, making access to public transport easier, investing in fuel efficient homes, improving access to green spaces. With smart policy-making, the problems of both the present and the future can be addressed at the same time, and making these connections is vital.

The tragic scenes in Ukraine and the ongoing climate and nature crises provide a difficult backdrop for these elections but remind us of the role that our communities and democratic institutions can play in striving for a better world for future generations.

[“The Well-being for Future Generations Act is vital in ensuring that decision makers pave the best possible path for us to take over. Wales is the only country in the world to have this act in place which makes me proud to be Welsh!”](#)

[“I will be able to vote for the first time in the upcoming local elections and it is crucial that young people like me get to the polls and have our say because it is the most direct way to have your voices heard.”](#)

The Democracy Box podcast series is one of many ways the young co-creators are creatively re-telling the story of our democracy so that everyone can understand and participate.

You can listen to the first two of six brand new Democracy Box podcast episodes which have been created through this new partnership and focus specifically on increasing awareness and understanding of the Act. The first two of six bilingual episodes feature a look-ahead to May 5th local elections and are available on Apple and Spotify.

Hosted by The Democracy Box co-creators Lloyd Mann, 17 (from Monmouth), Olivia Winter, 17 (Dinas Powys), Katherine Rees, 24 (Swansea) and Rhys Alexander, 18 (Cardiff), and in conversation with young members of my team they explore their understanding of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, what a manifesto is and the importance of voting.

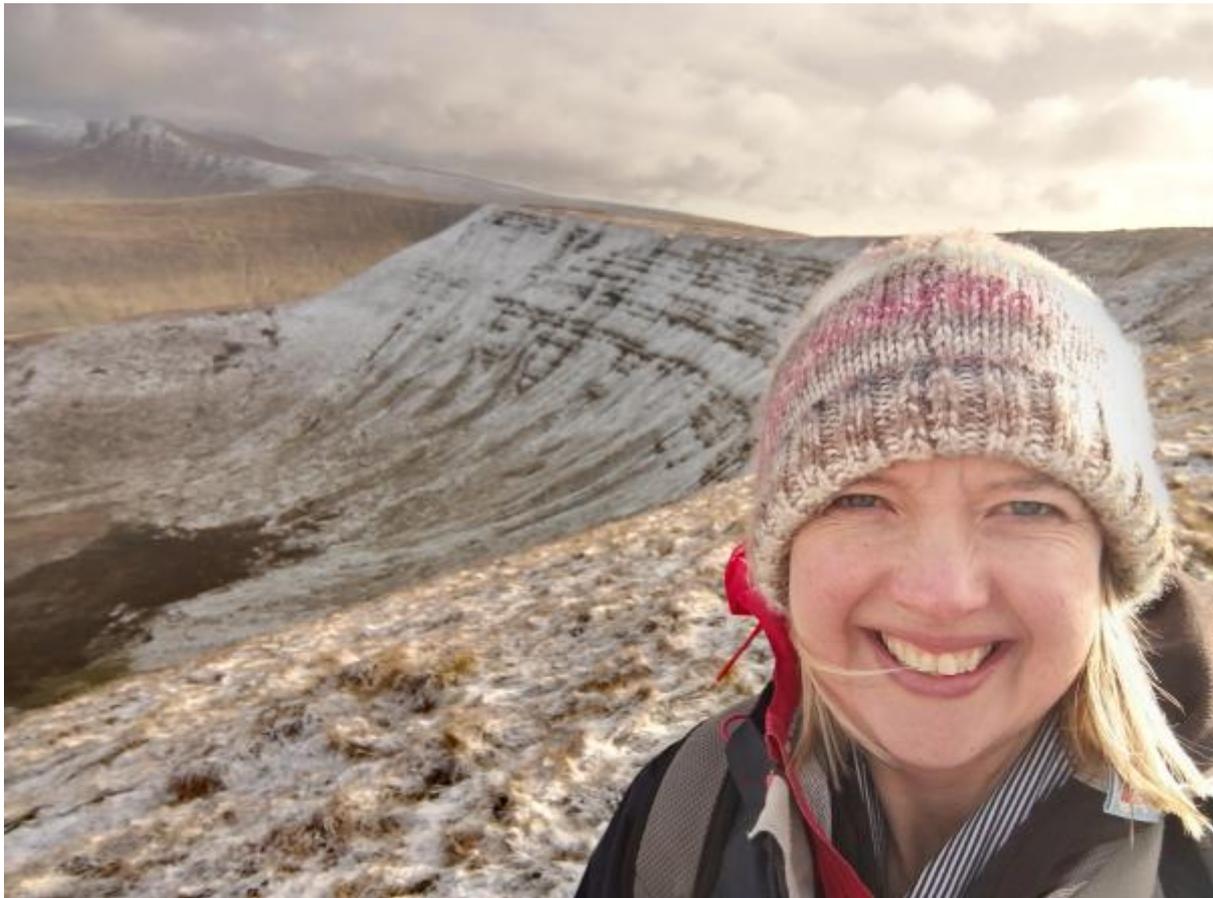
The partnership has also commissioned three new music tracks and videos from the young co-creators celebrating and explaining the Act. The first of these [Where Will We Be](#), was written and

performed by Saskia Pay, 27, from the Vale of Glamorgan, and and Blank Face aka Josh Whyte, 24 from Cardiff.





Movement for Change



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 our Office over the past five years, helping shape what we do and our recommendations to government and public bodies.

We refer to this wider movement as the 'Movement for Change' and in this month's newsletter, we wanted to shine a light on some of the organisations and networks that are part of this diverse ecosystem of change makers.

This month my team talked to Casia Wiliam, [GwyrddNi](#) Community Communications Officer, about their work in Gwynedd on climate change.



CREU • CYMUNEDAU • GWYRDD
GWYRDDNI
COMMUNITY • CLIMATE • ACTION



“If we were to work differently, what could be done in communities to take local action on climate change?”

This was the question behind the founding of GwyrddNi. And this brought six social enterprises in Gwynedd together to apply for National Lottery funding to come up with the idea of creating a brand-new climate change action organization in Gwynedd.

The six social enterprises in question are: Rural Energy Developments in Caernarfon, Ynni Llŷn in Pen Llŷn, Cwmni Bro in Bro Ffestiniog, the Ogwen Partnership in Dyffryn Ogwen, Yr Orsaf / Griffiths Shop in Dyffryn Nantlle and Cyd Ynni in Dyffryn Peris, with GwyrddNi staff employed by DEG.

The aim was to set up a movement that would bring people together in the five areas (all the above except Caernarfon), to learn about climate change and a wide range of ways to respond and take up

this challenge, before deciding on a local Climate Action Plan. The second part of the work will be to implement the plan and achieve the ideas of the communities.

After much research into the different ways in which this could be done, GwyrddNi Community Facilitators decided that Community Assemblies are the best forum for implementing this in our communities here in Gwynedd, areas that have a tradition of coming together in a rugby club, at a gig, in a chapel, for a coffee morning or on a walk.





In mid-March this year an official invitation to register an interest in joining a Community Assembly was sent to all residents of these areas, and people (over 16) will have until **Monday 18 April 2022** to register.

You can also do this on the GwyrddNi website, so if you live in a GwyrddNi area visit: <https://www.gwyrddni.cymru/en/taking-part/>

After the deadline, 50 people will be selected in each area to attend the assembly to represent the wider community, to begin the exciting work of co-creating a Climate Action Plan to ensure a healthy and happy future for communities. Every effort is made by the GwyrddNi crew to ensure that the 50 reflects the area in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, educational background and views on climate change. This is an opportunity for everyone - not just people who care about climate change. For it to work it needs the support and voice of the whole community.

Then, after hearing from guest speakers of all kinds, both local and further afield, and from a variety of fields and industries, the 50 will have the opportunity to start thinking and discussing what kind of activities, plans or projects to take action on change climate that worked in their area.

At the heart of it all will be the well-being goals and well-being ambitions of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, protecting what is important to everyone living in the communities including a healthier and globally responsible Wales (in reducing carbon emissions), a resilient Wales and a

Wales of cohesive communities (our work will strengthen communities in bringing people together), a prosperous Wales (green jobs , local, sustainable), a more equal Wales (everyone will have a say in this process and the plans will be considered by all the community) and a vibrant Welsh culture with thriving Welsh language (there will be a prosperous future for the next generation of these Welsh speaking strongholds when acting locally on climate change). DEG has already won numerous awards for how its work meets the requirements of the law, including the Sustainable Academy Awards and received high approval from the Sustain Wales Awards three years on the trot.



It's important to note that GwyrddNi is about facilitating the job - we're here to bring people together, to do the organizing, to do the administration and the shovel work, but the residents of Pen Llŷn, Bro Ffestiniog, Dyffryn Nantlle, Dyffryn Ogwen and Dyffryn Peris will be fully responsible for the content of each area's Climate Action Plan."

As Nina Bentley, Green Facilitator at Bro Ffestiniog explains:

"The most important thing in all of this is the voice and opinions of the communities; GwyrddNi is here to co-ordinate and facilitate but the people of these areas will decide together what they would like to see happen locally to tackle climate change, to ensure a healthy, prosperous and positive future for future generations."

For more information or to contact the GwyrddNi group visit [GwyrddNi](https://www.gwyrddni.cymru/en/taking-part/) or to register an interest in joining an assembly in your area (Pen Llŷn, Bro Ffestiniog, Dyffryn Ogwen, Dyffryn Nantlle or Dyffryn Peris) visit <https://www.gwyrddni.cymru/en/taking-part/> or follow on social media.

Meet the Team

Each month we will be publishing a Q&A with a member of my team who will share their insights into their time with my Office. This month it's our fantastic Lead Change Maker Heledd Morgan who started back in 2017.



When did you start with the office and what was the first piece of work you did in your new role?

I started working in the Future Generations Commissioner's team in January of 2017 - initially on secondment from my role as Partnerships Manager with Rhondda Cynon Taf Council. I had long since been a passionate advocate of the Act in its development, so coming to work here was a dream come true.

In my previous role, I was working on the first well-being assessment for Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil when I joined the team, which is a once-every-five-years task to help the Public Services Board understand their area and set well-being objectives and steps that will have the maximum benefit. So, it was quite funny to go from 'working on the ground' to working with the Commissioner and team to provide her advice and feedback on the Public Services Board well-being assessments across Wales!

How has the team changed over the years?

The make-up of our team has changed a lot in the five years I've been part of it. As a team, we try to 'walk the talk' of the Act in everything we do, so we have collaborated with lots of other organisations to welcome in secondments and work placements. For example, our [Art of the Possible partnership project](#) involved a range of organisations that brought people into our team on secondment that offered different perspectives, knowledge and networks.

Similarly, our [Future Generations Leadership Academy](#) gives young leaders from a variety of organisations and sectors an opportunity to learn more about the Act and apply it to their work. This has meant our team has expanded and contracted over the years and we've welcomed lots of friendly new faces, as well as wishing people well as they move on and go forth to spread the spirit of the Act elsewhere! It's one of our missions to build a movement for change and working with others is a positive way of doing that.

What has been your proudest moment?

There are honestly too many proud moments to list! On a daily basis, I am really proud of the work our small, dedicated and passionate team do. When the Act was introduced in 2015, the UN said "*What Wales is doing today, the world will do tomorrow.*" And I am so proud that we receive global interest from New Zealand, the United Arab Emirates, Germany, Finland, Australia, Gibraltar, Scotland, USA, the Republic of Ireland...many, many places, in the work that we do here in Wales and a desire to copy it. At the moment, the UK Government are taking a Well-being of Future

Generations Bill through the House of Commons. Let's hope every country has a Well-being of Future Generations Act and a Future Generations Commissioner one day.

What has been your biggest piece of learning in your career with the office? What advice would you give to others?

I've learnt a lot and continue to learn most days in our team from my fantastic colleagues inside our organisation and the brilliant people we draw on to help us outside the team too! Probably my biggest piece of learning is that it's all connected. So often, we work to our own specialisms and can't see the bigger picture, whereas the Act's ways of working and the well-being goals try to help us see things from different perspectives and in a more rounded way. Doing one thing inevitably has a knock-on impact (good or bad!) on another. We try to show how people have used the Act to broaden their understanding and, very often, have achieved great things beyond their original intention by doing so! The Act makes me step outside of my comfort zone, outside of my usual knowledge and we try to help other people do the same and show this in the [advice we give](#) and [case studies](#) we publish.

How has your role changed your personal life?

I have always counted myself as someone who cares about the environment, but I have learnt so much more about the impact of my actions since working with the Commissioner and our team. Some examples of the changes I have made include: I haven't owned a car for 18 months now - I walk everywhere and I am lucky to live in a city with good public transport links. If we do get a new car, it will be an electric vehicle. I am very mindful of my purchases; for example, I tend not to buy new clothes or furniture and I shop at a zero-waste store for food to avoid using plastic packaging where possible. I also try to eat fruit and vegetables that are in season, I have cut down on eating meat and I try to buy ethically sourced, Fair Trade products. I have made numerous swaps with cosmetics and beauty products to try to reduce my impact on the environment and, if I buy gifts, I try to make sure they're locally made and sustainable. We all make an effort to buy from companies that promote equality and fairness. Our whole team share good news stories and swap hints and tips to help each other along and it's just another way we try to 'walk the talk' of the Act!

One word which sums up your time to date at the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales:

Inspiring!

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.

