



Future Generations Newsletter April
2022



Foreword

Future Generations Leadership Academy: Not your typical programme

Engineers, feminists, marine biologists, artists, students, graduates, retail workers, environmentalists, civil servants, lawyers and many more, made up the latest brilliant cohort of 32 young, diverse Welsh delegates to our Leadership Academy.

The Future Generations Leadership Academy is most definitely not the sort of programme where you get your certificate and say goodbye.

Our participants will be invited to join our Alumni network – to shape the movement of change for future generations and continue to work with us to drive the change that Wales needs to transform itself into a well-being nation.

The Future Generations Leadership Academy involves young people aged between 18-30 from across the public, private and voluntary sectors – and trains them in the Well-being of Future Generations Act and in developing their leadership skills.

Earlier this month, the latest intake met in Wrexham, to learn how public bodies are putting into practice this ground-breaking legislation.

Public bodies and key stakeholders from across North Wales were invited to join the session and present on how they support and implement the Well-being of Future Generations Act. Engineers,

feminists, marine biologists, artists, students, graduates, retail workers, environmentalists, civil servants, lawyers and many more, made up the latest brilliant cohort of 32 young, diverse Welsh delegates.

Each delegate brings something different to the table and we have been so excited to learn from and challenge each other to do better for our people and our planet.

The programme encourages the cohort to put into practice the skills that they are learning, within their own organisation, sector or community, via a Well-being of Future Generations Action Plan. Which is supported by my own team of Change Makers.

Academy participants Ffion Mitchell, 25, of Wrexham, and Nirushan Sudarsan, 22, of Cardiff, said they learnt an incredible amount from the North Wales sessions.

Ffion, 25, said: "It was our first opportunity to meet one another face-to-face, we welcomed numerous speakers from councils and other public bodies across North Wales, as well as co-production, leadership and language experts.

As a Wrexham local, I was also incredibly proud that the retreat took place here, showcasing just one pocket of what North Wales has to offer."

Nirushan, 22, said: "The Academy has been a great opportunity to connect with other future leaders across Wales to learn and champion the Well-being of Future Generations Act. Being the World's first nation to introduce this legislation, we have the unique opportunity to not only think about future generations but make an active and practical difference now so we can build a better future for all.

"I hope to continue building relationships with others in the cohort and using the principles of the Act in Reverse Mentoring sessions and learn more about the mechanisms of the legislation to apply within spaces that I'm a part of."

We'll be sharing the academy's stories over the year so watch this space for more details! You can read more about the 2021-2022 cohort [here](#)

A big thank you also to all our sponsors and partners, without whose unwavering support the Leadership Academy would not be possible. You can see the full list [here](#). Diolch, thanks for helping develop young leaders for a better tomorrow.



Spotlight on a Public Body: Swansea Bay University Health Board donates beds to help those in need



“It is likely that people including children who are living without a proper bed to sleep in or who are sleeping on floors or sharing single beds will encounter health problems.

“Having a new bed of their own will help them get a good night’s sleep and support their health and wellbeing. Amanda Davies, Swansea Bay UHB Service Improvement Manager.

It was truly heartening to hear the news that hundreds of brand-new single beds and mattresses which were urgently procured for the Covid-19 field hospitals in Swansea Bay will now be donated to people who really need them.

It very much shows the Five Ways of Working, particularly that of Prevention, in action.

As the health boards explain, the unused beds will be given free of charge to families and people who have been homeless, or who may be struggling to afford the beds they need.

Beds will also be offered to refugees, including people arriving in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot from Ukraine.

Swansea Bay University Health Board is now working with local partnership agencies to help identify families and refugees in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot who could benefit.

And an appeal is also going out to health board staff to donate spare new pillows and single duvets, and freshly laundered or new single bed linen in good condition.

The field hospital beds were only meant for short-term use in an emergency. They are unsuitable for main acute hospitals or community NHS or health settings, as they were not designed for permanent use. The basic beds lack the pedals and motors needed to raise and lower patients, so were not built for long-term clinical use.

However, the beds are more than robust enough for every day domestic use and come with waterproof mattresses and head and foot boards.

595 beds are currently available for donation to communities.

Sally Bloomfield, Project Lead for Bay Field Hospital said:

“The field hospital beds were there in case we needed them, and it is fantastic that because of vaccinations and other measures put in place during the pandemic we have not had to use them.

“But now we have an opportunity to ensure they can still be used for people who really need them.”

Amanda Davies, Swansea Bay UHB Service Improvement Manager said:

“There is a real opportunity now to make a positive difference to the lives of many Swansea Bay residents facing adversity, and also refugees arriving here for sanctuary.

“The cost of living is rising significantly and we know that more people within our communities are facing financial hardship.

“It is likely that people including children who are living without a proper bed to sleep in or who are sleeping on floors or sharing single beds will encounter health problems.

“Having a new bed of their own will help them get a good night’s sleep and support their health and wellbeing.

“What we do now to address bed poverty within our communities will positively impact upon the wellbeing of our future generations.”

Sally added:

“We also realise that if someone is finding it difficult to afford a bed, then they will likely need support to dress it too. So we are asking our staff to help if they can, by donating spare bed linen that we can hand out with the beds as a complete package.”

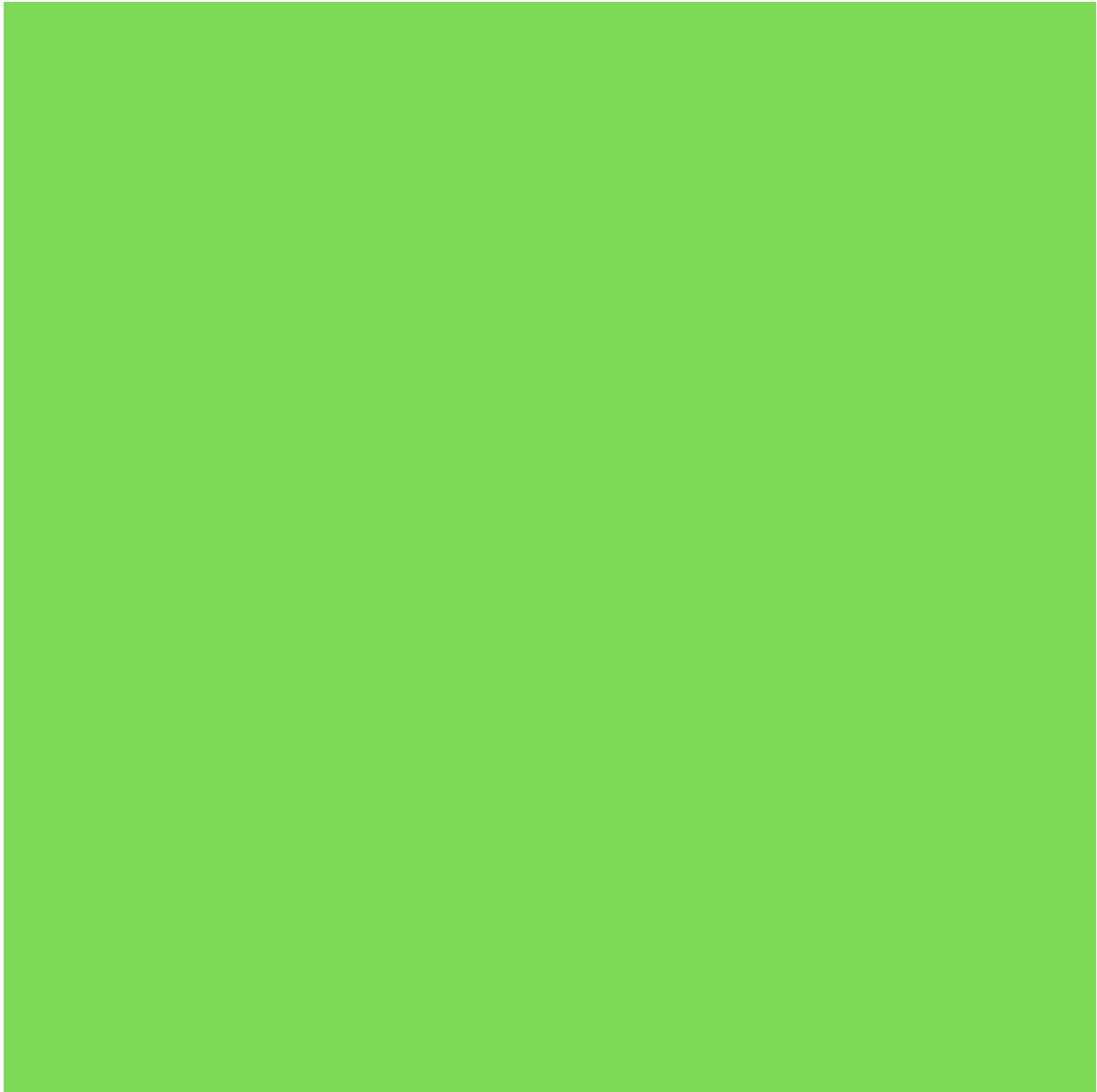
The health board is working with Swansea and Neath Port Talbot local authorities and the two councils for voluntary services in Swansea Bay, who can identify potential families to receive the beds on our behalf.

It has said that organisations supporting refugees, including people coming from Ukraine, are also welcome to apply for beds. (The health board is not able to receive bed requests directly from individuals.)



1 - Caption: l-r Sally Bloomfield, Bay Hospital Project Lead, Brenda George, Domestic Services, and Kelly John, Bay Field Hospital Site Manager, with some of the available beds.

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 fabulous Corporate Hero Helen Nelson who joined the team in 2016.



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

I was transferred into the office from [Cynnal Cymru - Sustain Wales](#) at the start in April 2016. I had been working with Peter Davies and Welsh Government to help develop the Well-being of Future Generations Act, so, it was a great opportunity to be part of this new set-up. I was transferred with three other colleagues from Cynnal, and I remember the day in early 2016 when we managed to work out that it was Sophie Howe that had been appointed to the new role of Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, before it was announced.

I was heavily pregnant when I was transferred and had 7 months maternity leave during that first year. Sophie was very supportive and this approach of well-being in work and supporting parental/caring responsibilities is a big feature of her leadership approach.

One of the first pieces of work I undertook was an involvement project to develop the new Commissioner's strategic plan and policy priorities. We did a lot of engagement, listened to what people said and, of course, Sophie brought her own perspective and ideas. This established the mission for Sophie's term which we still work to now:

1. Highlighting and acting on the big issues facing future generations
2. Supporting public bodies to implement the Act
3. Being part of, and building a movement for change around the Act
4. Walking the talk - being the change that we want to see in other

- What changes have you noticed over the years?

A lot has changed in six years. Forming, storming, norming and performing as they say!

At the beginning there was a lot of settling in, personality dynamics as people got used both to each other and the powers and duties of the legislation.

The structure of the organisation changed quite dramatically about 18 months in where we made it a 'flatter' in terms of hierarchy, introduced Change Makers and my own role changed too, to what is now Corporate Hero. This is a great post, meaning I have a helicopter view of the organisation to help it operate effectively; join the dots; ask awkward and challenging questions; focus on impact; anticipate and solve issues; and take a lead on corporate governance. I really enjoy it.

I've gone from a role I was uncertain about at the beginning to feeling trusted at all levels of the organisation, being a part of the leadership team and knowing that I can support colleagues and get involved wherever I think help or a steer is needed.

- What has been your proudest moment?

Being bold in how we take forward the legislation and the Commissioner's duties. Sophie is not one to shy away from calling out the bad and show-casing the good. She's been strong in how she's promoted the legislation, to all corners of Wales and the World. She has a laser focus of knowing what to go after in terms of policy, and what tactics will have an impact. The announcement by the Government not to go ahead with the M4 Relief Road in June 2019 after Sophie and others gave evidence against it, was a big milestone and showed that decision-makers were taking the Act seriously.

- What is your foremost hope as the work of the office continues into the future?

Sophie is in her last year of her seven-year term and a new Commissioner will be appointed by the Welsh Government in early 2023.

My foremost hope is that the well-being of future generations approach increases its reach across public bodies in Wales. I want to see public bodies getting it, and schemes that bring multiple well-being benefits (economic, environmental, social and cultural), being scaled up and supported over the long-term. In particular, I want to see the recommendations that we made in [Chapter 2](#) of the Future Generations Report taken forward.

We've created a lot of resources, and I'd like to see the Office continue to help public bodies enable change, on issues like land use planning, housing, transport, regeneration, energy and public procurement.

I believe that working with partners and creating a movement, or a palpable sense change around the Act, is key. [The Future Generations Leadership Academy](#) is great as it's a way of building constructive links with public services leaders, young people and others. There's a lot of good stuff happening cross sector, across Wales which needs to become the norm.

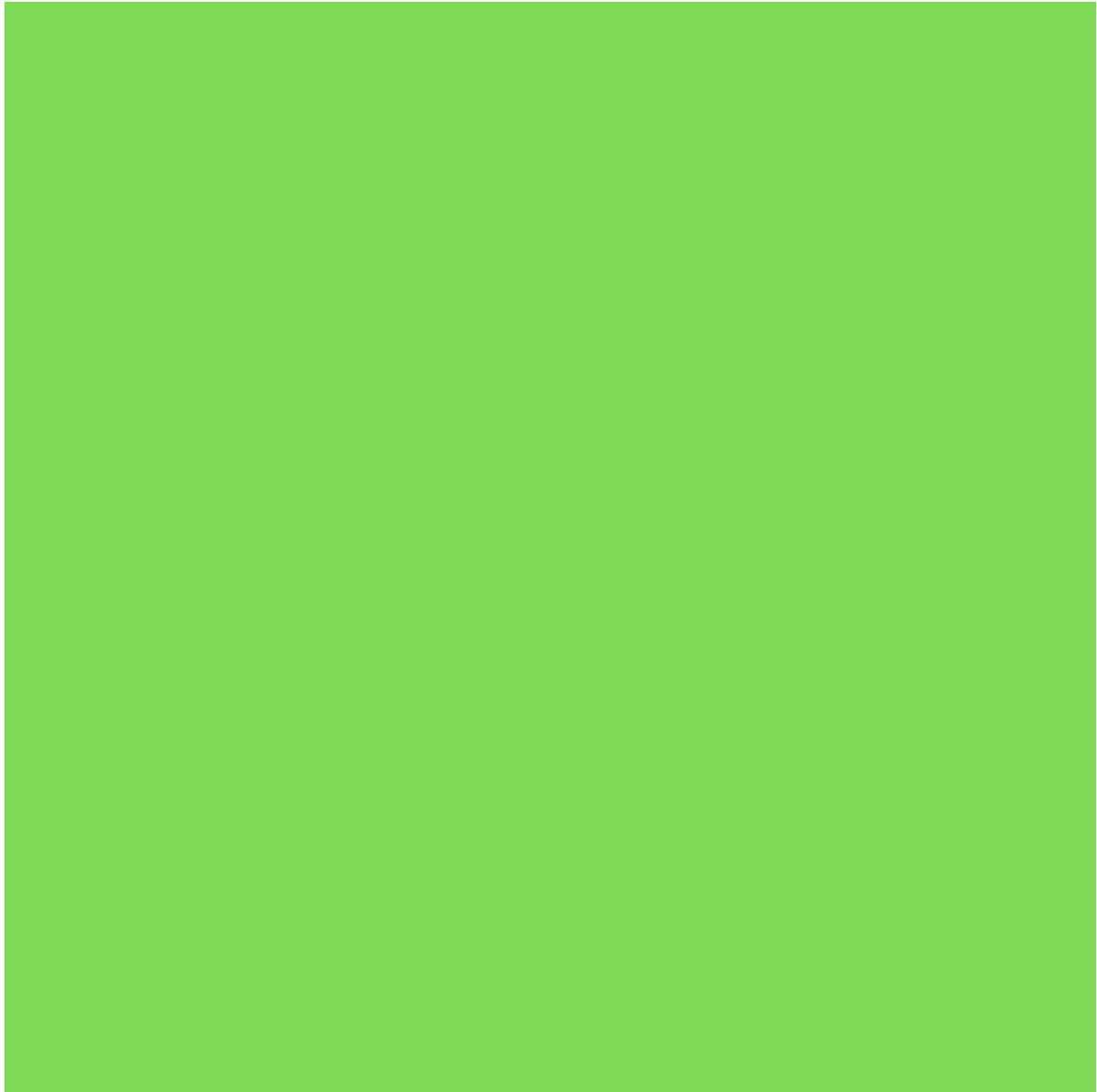
- What advice would you give to new team members?

Be yourself, work hard, take breaks, don't hesitate to ask.

- One word or a phrase that sums up your time at the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales:

I've loved it!

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:

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



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