



## Future Generations Newsletter July 2022



## Foreword

Over the past 12 months, public services boards (PSBs) have been working hard to prepare and publish their local assessments of well-being. These assessments look at social, cultural, economic and environmental issues we're facing now and considers how they might play out in the future.

**Given the unprecedented challenges we've faced over the past couple of years, I want to acknowledge the commitment PSBs have demonstrated in working together to prepare their assessments.**

Between January and April 2022, [I analysed these assessments and provided individual feedback](#) to all 14 PSBs in line with my statutory duties as Commissioner.

While there is no statutory requirement or ask on me to provide an overview of all the well-being assessments, my team have prepared two short summaries outlining some of the key strengths and challenges observed through our analysis.

They provide snapshot of well-being in Wales from the perspective of the PSBs and a sense of the issues they are grappling with to improve their local areas.

**What did the 2022 draft well-being assessments tell us about how Public Services Boards (PSBs) have considered policy topics across Wales?**



**Policy - PSBs demonstrated strengths in:**



Acknowledging the impact of the pandemic in exacerbating existing inequalities in Wales.



Showing greater understanding of the climate and nature emergency with PSBs recognising the need to increase their ambition.



An increased acknowledgement of the important role green and blue spaces play in people's health and well-being.



Making clearer connections to respective growth and city deals across a range of areas such as energy, the economy and skills.



Increasing their understanding and coverage of cultural well-being.



Improving their consideration of the wider determinants of health.

**What did the 2022 draft well-being assessments tell us about how the PSBs have been working to improve well-being in their areas?**



**Process - PSB strengths and areas of progress:**



Prepared detailed assessments in unprecedented times.



Better use and incorporation of future trends information (overall).



Explored topics in an integrated manner and made connections across the four dimensions of well-being.



Some PSBs demonstrated strong examples of involving their communities.



Collaboration, particularly where regional approaches are being taken (e.g. Gwent, West and North Wales).



Critical engagement of data drawn from a wide range of local, regional and national sources.

You can read the summary reports and their findings below:

- [Illustrative summary](#)

- [Summary report](#)

**It's clear from my team's analysis there is progress in the knowledge and appetite from PSBs to understand and tackle the big challenges facing us in Wales.**

For example, PSBs are demonstrating a greater understanding of the climate and nature emergency and recognising the need to increase their ambition. And I'm reassured by some of the collaboration I'm seeing, particularly where regional approaches are being taken in areas such as North Wales, West Wales and Gwent.

**However, there are some challenges that remain.**

**What did the 2022 draft well-being assessments tell us about how PSBs have considered policy topics and themes across Wales?**



**Policy - challenges remain in how PSBs consider:**



The longer-term impact of the pandemic and cost of living crisis on communities.



The future climate risks at the local level across Wales. Analysis of this was mixed.



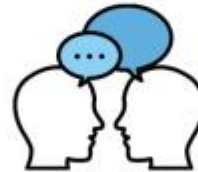
Making direct links between housing, fuel poverty, health and decarbonisation.



The future of work and what skills Wales might need in detail.



Concerns relating to unpaid care in Wales, a significant challenge exacerbated by the pandemic.



The longer-term trends relating to the Welsh language and what this might mean for local communities.

## What did the 2022 draft well-being assessments tell us about how the PSBs have been working to improve well-being in their areas?



### Process - challenges remain in how PSBs show:



Connection to key national policies such as 'Planning Policy Wales', 'Llwybr Newydd' and 'Beyond Recycling'.



Reflection on how to build upon the collaboration and initiatives that arose during the pandemic.



How they're embedding and mainstreaming longer-term thinking into well-being planning.



How they involve 'seldom heard voices'.



A better reflection of the diversity of people and communities across Wales.



Reflection on the learning from the first well-being assessments in 2017 (this was limited, overall).

For example, connections are not being made by all PSBs to some of Welsh Government's key policies such as 'Planning Policy Wales', 'Llwybr Newydd (The Wales Transport Strategy)' and 'Beyond Recycling'.

And while we've seen an improvement in how PSBs use and incorporate future trends information into their assessments, there is still much to do to embed and mainstream longer-term thinking and action into well-being planning, particularly when responding to the challenges facing us in the here and now.

### **Next steps: well-being plans**

Well-being assessments are significant because they're the foundation from which PSBs (and other local and national organisations) work together to agree the action needed to improve well-being in local areas across Wales. This action is then set out in a well-being plan, with the next iteration due to be published by PSBs in May 2023.

Agreeing this collective action is the next step for PSBs. Along with Welsh Government and other organisations, my office will be working closely with PSBs to help ensure the objectives and steps they develop are both appropriate and ambitious to help improve well-being and drive change across Wales.

### **Graduation of the 2022 Future Generations Leadership Academy**

In June, a diverse group of 32 young leaders aged 18-30 from across Wales' public, private and voluntary sectors graduated from our [Future Generations Leadership Academy](#) (FGLA).

Over the last 8 months, these young people have been participating in the programme which trains them in the Well-being of Future Generations Act and in developing their leadership skills – the programme included modules on:

- leadership development
- learning how to influence others
- leadership in a bilingual country
- reverse mentoring prominent Welsh leaders





---

"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."

***Nirushan Sudarsan, Cardiff, 22***

---



I've been delighted to welcome engineers, feminists, marine biologists, artists, students, graduates, retail workers, environmentalists, civil servants, lawyers and many more, to make up this year's cohort.

The Academy is a crucial part in our movement for change and is developing the leaders of the future who go on to be champions of the Act. I am blown away by their innovation and their refreshing outlook on the vision of a future Wales, and I take much inspiration from their stories.

They are already champions of future generations - there is no need to persuade them, I am preaching to the choir. What we need to do is harness their power, their voices and their kindness, listen, and act on what they are telling us.

I was pleased to welcome many prominent leaders to the graduation ceremony including Welsh Government Permanent Secretary, Andrew Goodall; Cardiff University's Community Gateway Partnership Manager, Ali Abdi; Wales Millennium Centre's Artistic Director, Graeme Farrow; and many more, to celebrate the cohort's achievements.



---

“It is exciting to see the talent, commitment and passion of the Future Generations Leadership Academy – I am inspired by the potential for these future leaders to ensure Wales's public bodies, businesses and voluntary sector organisations can help us all achieve Wales' well-being goals.”

*Andrew Goodall, the Welsh Government's Permanent Secretary*

---



The ceremony also included panel discussions with the participants, sponsors and partners on their favourite experiences, their learnings and what they're taking from this back to their own organisations and communities.

The young leaders will now join the Future Generations Leadership Academy Alumni network and continue to help shape my work. So far, the opportunities have included speaking opportunities at

international conferences such as COP26 and One Young World, as well as memberships to boards and political committees. Members of our alumni have also been feeding into Westminster's Future Generations Bill.

My team will continue to facilitate leadership, engagement and networking opportunities for participants around the Well-being of Future Generations Act, and several public bodies have arranged sessions with the alumni already.

Thank you to all of those who [attended the ceremony](#); those who supported our young leaders over the last 8 months; and those who sponsored the programme to ensure young people from all across Wales have the opportunities to shape our future.

You can find out more about the Leadership Academy on our website [here](#).



---

"The Future Generations Leadership Academy has been an incredible experience so far. I hope to make better connections across Wales. Meeting everyone face-to-face was fantastic - the opportunity to take inspiration from others during networking opportunities and creating new partnerships. I loved hearing the real challenges other sectors face and the importance of co-production. I've learnt so much about how I work and my leadership style which will be invaluable for me going forward."

*Sabiha Azad, Cardiff, 26*

---

## Spotlight on a public body: Vale of Glamorgan County Council

---

*With the soaring prices of food and rising fuel costs, more people than ever are having to make the difficult decision of putting food on the table or paying the bills.*

*Poverty costs the UK health system £29 billion a year and the effect of food poverty is all-encompassing. Children suffer especially with disruption to their education, health issues and social isolation.*

*Across Wales, the Trussell Trust said that from March 2021 to March 2022 it gave out 131,232 emergency food parcels, including more than 48,500 parcels for children.*

*So, what are we doing about it? Here's how Vale of Glamorgan Council in collaboration with The Big Fresh Catering Company is working to address these issues.*

---



Last month Welsh Government announced that Reception pupils will be given school meals without charge from September, with pupils in the next two year groups joining them in April.

But the Vale of Glamorgan Council in partnership with [The Big Fresh Catering Company](#) is [accelerating this process](#). They will be offering free school meals to all three year groups from the start of the new school year – September 2022.

The Big Fresh Catering Company provides school meals for partner schools and operates a commercial catering service and a bar and café at Penarth Pier Pavilion. While they operate as a commercial entity, their innovative business model also means all surplus is returned to schools or used to sustain the business itself.

In line with their not-for-profit ethos, none of the company directors are salaried and the Council, as the only shareholder, has not drawn any funds from the company. Instead, money is invested back into:

- supporting schools and community projects e.g. outdoor dining areas, well-being initiatives, new learning programmes
- better quality ingredients
- sponsoring community groups such as football teams and arts clubs



---

"We are delighted that provision for the latter two year groups will be available significantly earlier than in other parts of Wales due to the excellent performance of the Big Fresh Catering Company.

Times are hard at the moment, with energy, fuel and food prices all increasing and many facing food poverty. Hopefully this can go some way to easing the pressure being felt by families and help ensure that no child goes hungry while in school."

*Cllr Rhiannon Birch*

*Vale of Glamorgan Council Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language*

---



The Big Fresh Catering Company is committed to meeting Welsh Government nutritional standards and has created allergen-free menus, increased vegan and vegetarian options and more meals made from scratch.

In June they took part in [‘Eat Them to Defeat Them’](#), a national catering competition which challenges school catering teams to “make veg the hero of lunch” and promote healthy eating through innovative lunch meals.

Tracey Smart (Kitchen Manager) and Shirley Curnick (Catering Assistant) at Palmerston Primary School, a partner school, “put in an impressive performance” and reached the [Hall of Fame!](#)

In line with the Vale of Glamorgan Council’s [Project Zero initiative](#) which aims to make the organisation carbon neutral by 2030, The Big Fresh Catering Company also operates a no single-use plastic policy.

Councillors believe that the “benefits schoolchildren receive from the project are immeasurable” with catering only one aspect of Vale of Glamorgan Council and The Big Fresh Catering Company’s great work.



Similar programmes are being run across Wales including:

- [Well-Fed](#), a partnership between Flintshire County Council, ClwydAlyn Housing Association and Can Cook which offers fresh meal options to the youngest children, older people and everyone in between.
- As a result of the pandemic [Caerphilly County Borough Council](#) started working in collaboration with local supplier Woosnam Dairies, Castell Howell Foods and WR Bishop to supply milk, bread, fresh fruit and vegetables and other food staples to schoolchildren and families as part of their free school meals programme.
- The School Holiday Enrichment Programme, [Food and Fun](#) is an award-winning multi-agency programme which provides good quality meals, nutrition skills, sports education and enrichment activities to children living in areas of need in Wales. Piloted in Cardiff in 2015, it is now being rolled out across Wales overseen by the WLGA and supported by Food Cardiff.



## 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 **Najma Hashi**, our Change Maker Support on International and the Future Generations Leadership Academy.*

---



### **When did you start with the office?**

March 2020! Definitely not an ideal time to start a new job but everyone in the office was so lovely and welcoming, which made it all so much easier!

### **What are your current priorities?**

I support the delivery of the [Future Generations Leadership Academy](#) and the current cohort just graduated! It's been incredible to see the participant's knowledge of the Well-being of Future Generations Act grow, as well as their confidence and leadership skills – I'm super excited to see the development of the Alumni Network too.

I also support on the delivery of the [Commissioner's international relations](#) agreement with Welsh Government which is a great opportunity to showcase the Well-being of Future Generations Act on an international stage and promote Wales as a Globally Responsible nation.



**What changes have you noticed over the years?**

It's been great seeing the awareness of the Act grow, especially internationally! Many countries come to us wanting to understand the Act and how they can develop their own.

**What has been your proudest moment?**

The success of this year's Future Generations Leadership Academy. It's the first time I've been involved in a project like this, and all the way from recruitment to graduation, it's been such a learning experience!

Also speaking at the Ireland-Wales Inter-ministerial Forum with the First Minister and the Irish Foreign Minister was a great experience!



**What has been your biggest piece of learning in your time with the office?**

People really want to do the right thing. It's easy to feel disillusioned and to feel like progress isn't being made in the grand scheme of things, but my time at the office has allowed me to realise individuals and organisations are truly looking to make real progress on issues such as climate change and equalities. We have the Act as a brilliant framework in Wales to address these issues too.

**What advice would you give to new team members?**

Just immerse yourself! It can definitely be overwhelming at the start as there's so much to get your head around, but just dive in and keep asking questions!

**One word that sums up your time at the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales:**

Roller-coaster!



## 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/](http://futuregenerations.wales/) / [futuregenerations2020.wales](http://futuregenerations2020.wales)

[contactus@futuregenerations.wales](mailto:contactus@futuregenerations.wales)

@futuregencymru

