



Future Generations December 2022
Newsletter



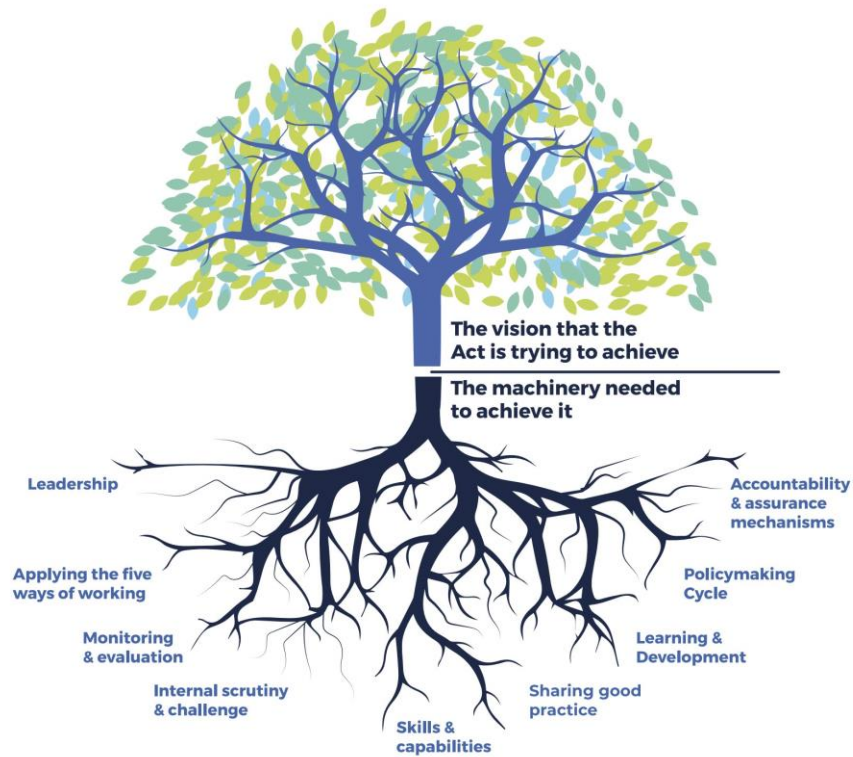
Foreword

A government fit for future generations

As the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, I want to ensure the world leading Well-being of Future Generations Act is used to its full extent.

That means encouraging and supporting public bodies to make policy decisions which are sustainable and positively impact on the day to day lives of current generations and those yet to be born. And it doesn't just matter **what** policies are created. **How** we develop policies is important too. The behind-the-scenes machinery that goes into creating policy is often overlooked, but essential, to applying the well-being goals.

As one of the greatest cultural change programmes the Welsh public sector has ever undergone, to apply the Act successfully, the internal workings of public bodies **and** their workforces must be promoting and enabling the sustainable development principle.



So *how* can I ensure they're doing this?

This year I've used [my Section 20 powers to review how Welsh Government are implementing the Act](#). Practically speaking, this means I've interviewed a range of people from Welsh Government, looked at their documentation and reviewed their processes, policies and decisions.

In line with the ways of working, I've worked collaboratively with Welsh Government on this review. This has been incredibly positive as we've been able to address some of the issues we've been finding immediately, rather than waiting until the end of the review.

So, what did I find? Earlier this week I published my final report highlighting current practice and areas for improvement on **how** Welsh Government embed the Act into its machinery of government.

Here's a summary of my overarching findings:

- 1. The Act and the extent to which it has been embedded in the DNA of Welsh public policy development and delivery continues to be world leading.*
 - 2. The reach of the Act, enthusiasm and commitment for what it aims to achieve has extended beyond those organisations who are covered by the legislation.*
 - 3. Its success to date has resulted more from leadership and commitment than embedded processes.*
 - 4. Clear leadership, continual communication and constant review will be needed for Welsh Government to move successfully to the next phase of implementation.*
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Findings:

In the Methodology section below, I have set out the structure of this review around three key features – **People and Culture**, **Process** and **Public Sector Leadership**. These are the findings that were identified during this review in each of the three features:

<p>People and Culture</p> 	<p>Process</p> 	<p>Public Sector Leadership</p> 
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. There is a sense of pride and enthusiasm in this world-leading legislation, but there is some discrepancy between the level of enthusiasm and commitment and a detailed understanding of application.2. There is a plethora of learning materials around the Act – while some material is good, the government should seek to better understand what works and build on innovative approaches being adopted in some parts of government.3. There are concerted efforts to embed long-term thinking across government, but the need to respond to multiple crises and capacity are often seen as barriers to civil servants fully applying this way of working.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. The Act is driving changes in the ways policies are being developed, designed and implemented but it is not yet being consistently applied in a way which embeds all aspects of the Act, or across the whole organisation.5. There are a range of accountability mechanisms to provide Ministers and senior colleagues with assurance that the Act is being embedded and implemented in how the government works, but they are not all utilised effectively.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">6. There is untapped potential for Welsh Government to work with the Welsh public sector and beyond to deliver the Well-being of Future Generations Act to mobilise, promote good examples, create resources, and share learning.

Going forward, I've recommended to Welsh Government that they continue to take action to continually improve how the Well-being of Future Generations Act drives its work and in doing so, publish a plan, setting out the improvements they will make, which address the findings and areas of improvement outlined in this Section 20 Report.

For the full findings of the report, my full recommendation for Welsh Government and the executive summary, visit our website [here](#).

As part of the review, my team has also worked with Welsh Government and other stakeholders to develop a Maturity Matrix to help all organisations interested in applying the well-being goals assess where they are on their journey towards sustainability.

I hope other public bodies and organisations both inside and outside of Wales will be encouraged to develop their own commitments to sustainable development and work towards protecting the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

While there are areas for improvement which require Welsh Government's attention, I am assured that Wales' ground-breaking Well-being of Future Generations Act is having impact and influence across Wales and the world.

For more information and examples on how the Act is acting today for a better tomorrow and improving lives in Wales, visit futuregenerations.wales/impact-of-the-act



GALWAD: A story from our future

Earlier this year, GALWAD was launched.

A story-telling project inspired by the Well-being of Future Generations Act brought creatives from across Wales together to ask: how might we tell more powerful stories to create an emotional connection to the future?

We asked Claire Doherty, Collective Director of GALWAD to explain how the project came together and the impact it's had since September.



What if we were able to feel the future as powerfully as we do the past?

Just imagine if our future was not simply another country inhabited by strangers, but heard and felt in this present moment as if turning a street corner or listening to a phone message. Might we feel the impact of our actions in the present more keenly, if we could see, hear and touch the future? Would we recognise the seeds of change more clearly?

Inspired by the Well-Being of Future Generations Act, GALWAD was a new kind of story for our times. The project harnessed Wales' expertise in broadcast and digital media, theatre and sustainability and the lived experience of communities in Merthyr Tydfil, Swansea and Blaenau Ffestiniog, and brought those creative talents to bear on one of the most urgent questions of our age: *how might we tell more powerful stories to create an emotional connection to the future?*

The story itself was fantastical – a crack in time enabling the future to contact us for just seven days and at its heart, the journey of a teenager who has glimpsed the future and must make the decision of what to reveal. This drew on the richest of Welsh time-travel tales from Islwyn Ffowc Elis' Welsh language novel '*Wythnos yng Nghymru Fydd (A Week in Future Wales)*' to Morgan Parry's National Eisteddfod Lecture '*2050: A Week in the Future*' and, of course, *Doctor Who*.

Where GALWAD took a new step was to ground a vision of the future in the lived experience of contemporary Wales, bringing that future roaring into our present through a real-time, distributed storytelling technique across social and broadcast channels.

The world-building of our story-world in 2052 was led by Minority Report production designer Alex McDowell and Experimental Studio with communities across Wales and a network of community partners. 120 world-builders each imagined their own distinct versions of the social, economic and cultural consequences that might result from a 1.8 degree rise in global temperatures, producing a resource of ideas, characters and propositions about life in Wales in 2052. 400 Welsh creatives then set about bringing the story to life through TV drama, live performance, and digital shorts.



The resulting production unfolded in real-time over just seven days from 26th September to 2nd October 2022, across social media channels, digital platforms, S4C Clic and broadcast live on Sky Arts on

Sunday 2nd October. This distributed form of storytelling meant that the characters and plot of the story were experienced by over 2.7m viewers, reaching 5.4m people in 149 countries.

As a project that explored a more equitable, sustainable future impacted by mass migration and climate change, we knew the project itself must be led by a commitment to radical inclusion and sustainable practice in the process of making. GALWAD set out to change how projects of this scale are made and by whom, through inclusive casting, tri-lingual scripting, accessible formats, community engagement, and collaborative processes of co-creation. This is challenging work, requiring trust and empathy and most importantly, a shared commitment to working differently across sectors.

The finale broadcast live from Blaenau Ffestiniog featured [an impassioned speech](#) written by Owen Sheers and delivered by the lead character, Efa, who spoke to this moment from the perspective of 30 years' time:

“The greatest changes weren’t in the climate, they were in us.

Ynom ni.

Yn y ffordd y gwelwom bethau, a shift in our perception - about the nature of our values and the value of nature.

How the tale we’d been told of growth and growth and growth with no accounting for the cost - the true cost to us - wasn’t growth at all, just death.

We saw, and just in time, that instead of living at the end of everything, we could be living at the beginning of something instead.”

The advice of organisations such as Centre for Alternative Technology and Climate Outreach and community partners such as CellB, Merthyr Leisure Trust and EYST, helped us ground a vision of the future in the seeds of a more sustainable and equitable future today.

You can explore GALWAD, from behind-the-scenes footage, schools’ resources, toolkits and the full catch-up of films, [here](#). You can also discover the People’s Newsroom articles, pieces written by citizen journalists with their insights from the GALWAD programme [here](#).

GALWAD was produced by Collective Cymru led by National Theatre Wales and co-commissioned with Creative Wales and was part of Unboxed: Creativity in the UK. With funding from Welsh Government and UK Government.



Holocaust Memorial Day

[A More Equal Wales](#) is one with a society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances.

It also means recognising we all have a part to play in standing up to hatred, challenging prejudice and speaking out against identity-based persecution.

That's why next year we're sharing some of the **Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT)**'s resources in the hope that you'll join us in marking **Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD)** on **27 January 2023**.

HMD is held on 27 January annually and is a day for everyone to remember the millions of people murdered in the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution, and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur.

This year's [theme](#) is Ordinary People. It highlights the **ordinary people** who let genocide happen, the **ordinary people** who actively perpetrated genocide, and the ordinary people who were persecuted.

We are all **ordinary people** today who can be extraordinary in our actions. **Ordinary people** are the ones who drive HMD, who lead on community commemorations, who support and encourage everyone around them to take part in remembrance and education projects.

Show your support for HMD in January by marking the day. This could be as simple as writing a social media post and sharing resources to raise awareness – here are some free resources you can use:

- [Social media graphics](#) including [Welsh graphics](#)
- Collection of short [films](#) and [life stories](#)
- [Blog template](#) and [MP/MS letter template](#)
- [Event resources](#) including free posters, booklets and more

The HMDT are also encouraging organisations to [light their building in purple](#) from 4pm on 27 January.

If you decide to show your support and mark the day, let the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust know on their website [here](#) so that your efforts can be recorded.



#HolocaustMemorialDay 27 January



Nadolig Llawen!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Thank you to all the incredible people and organisations we have worked with this year and over the past seven years of my term.

I'm really looking forward to shining a light on some of these people and organisations, before I leave at the end of January, so please stay tuned in to hear all about them!



Comisiynydd
**Cenedlaethau'r
Dyfodol**
Cymru

**Future
Generations**
Commissioner
for Wales

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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