



# Future Generations Newsletter June 2023



*1 - Derek Walker and the Academy alumni*

## Foreword



*2 - Derek Walker, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales*

Over the past few months, my team and I have been very busy reviewing our approach and involving people in setting our new work priorities - [Our Future Focus](#).

My team and I have met with a very broad range of stakeholders, groups and organisations to gather their views including public bodies, third sector representatives and businesses. The purpose is to explore what the big issues facing current and future generations are, and what my office should be doing over the next seven years to facilitate collective action and transformative change.

Earlier this month we held a series of regional in-person events hosted by people on our [Future Generations Changemaker 100](#) list who helped us reach out via their networks.

- We worked with Nina Ruddle (Wrexham University) to host an event in St Asaph with support from Ken Perry (Do Well) and the North Wales Policy Network
- Ali Abdi (Community Gateway Partnership Manager at Cardiff University) hosted an event in the Grangetown Pavilion, Cardiff
- We joined Dawn Lyle and Zoe Antrobus from 4theRegions for their Changemaker Dinner in Swansea
- Marten Lewis and the team at Bluestone convened local groups and networks in Narberth



We also held two online events this month with changemakers from across Wales to provide a cross-sector, collaborative space for people to share their experiences and views.

Discussions from the events were productive, open and informative. Feedback from attendees showed that they found it useful to come together, especially in cross-sectoral settings to consider the 'big-picture'.

We still have some events in the pipeline including sessions in equality and culture as well as another regional changemaker event with [Aber Food Surplus](#) in [Aberystwyth on 17th July](#).

My team and I are also continuing to meet with individuals and groups and attending networks and forums that are already happening to make sure that we are going to people where they already are.

In order to ensure that we're hearing from people who might not normally get their voices heard in policy making, we are also establishing a number of partnerships with community anchor and voluntary sector organisations. These partnerships will help us reach out and work co-productively with a diverse range of people from different backgrounds and communities.

A few of these organisations include Beacons Cymru, Fair Treatment for the Women of Wales (FTWW) and Yr Orsaf.



The conversations we are having have been informative and rich, pointing towards some of the challenges facing future generations, as well as to some of the opportunities and solutions.

Increased involvement of people across Wales in having a say over the shape of this future is emerging as a strong theme, as is the urgency of change needed in many areas and the opportunities to build on the green shoots of change happening now to tackle climate change, the nature emergency and continued inequality in Wales.

Over the next months, we will be collating and analysing what we have heard and combining those findings with the results of Our Future Focus survey (which is soon to close) to generate a theory of change which will underpin our work for the next seven years.

The survey is tailored to be specific to you and the 'hat you're wearing'. So, whether you're a public body representative, a business interested in the Act, or an activist who's campaigning for a better future for those not yet born, we want to hear from you.

**The survey closes in less than a week, on Monday 3rd July 2023.**

For more information on this work and to complete our survey, [visit our website](#).



## Reflections from our Leadership Academy alumni

Earlier this month, alumni from our Future Generations Leadership Academy met at [Black Mountains College](#) in Talgath, Brecon, to connect, think and share ideas for Our Future Focus.

Among the attendees were **Jia Wei Lee** (Student Engagement Officer at Cardiff University) and **Sabiha Azad** (Participation Officer at the Children's Commissioner for Wales). Here's what they had to say about their trip...

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### *Our Future Focus – involving everyone*

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The Future Generations Leadership Academy Alumni visited Black Mountains College to discuss Our Future Focus amongst nature. Black Mountains College is a visionary college which focuses on the challenge of today – on how to build a fair and just society within safe planetary boundaries. It explores sustainable practices that do not restrict us but helps us interact with nature and learn from it.

Humankind unfortunately has a history of over-exploitation. We need to rethink our relationship with not only nature but with each other to see the change we want to see not just for us, but for those who have not been born yet. The Academy Alumni had the opportunity to walk among the space and capture parts of nature that represent our journey and internally reflect to drive us forward.

Beginning in Talgath, we embarked on a walk through the Brecon Beacons National Park. As we walked, questions were posed including the different ways of learning. Discussion around this topic included how traditional learning methods such as lecture-based lessons can be inaccessible and could often create hostile and non-interactive environments, negatively impacting future learning.



As we stopped to rest and recuperate, we noticed the symbiosis and mutualism between nature and humans - from coppicing to encourage new growth of old, strong, resilient trees; to how the forest balances out with the farmland, with all its wildlife threaded around it, and alongside it.

For the last ten minutes we were encouraged by Natalia Ernstman, a lecturer from the Black Mountains College, to "*listen, absorb and just be with nature... Find something from nature that really speaks to you, something that represents why we are all here.*"

After a tour of the Black Mountains College campus, we were joined by the Future Generations Commissioner, Derek Walker, to discuss how the office has been working with everyone to ensure the next seven years' areas of focus are not only *informed* by citizens across Wales, but truly *involve* them.

The previous Commissioner, Sophie Howe, helped to build momentum around the Well-being of Future Generations Act and it's great to see Derek Walker carrying on this legacy by committing to maximise his approach and impact across all of Wales going forward.



We were also joined by Petranka Malcheva, Change Maker at the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner, who introduced many of us to futures thinking methodologies, including the Three Horizons Method. These futures approaches support long-term thinking and work to involve stakeholders in a new, meaningful way.

Thinking about the future can help us build resilience and ensure we can adapt as our future evolves. It can also develop agency and bring people together to create a shared vision of the future.

As part of the day, we shared our views and thoughts around Our Future Focus. Some of the Alumni's thoughts from the day included:

- *"We need to get institutions to live and breathe the Act, they need to co-produce solutions with the experts – the community members."*
- *"Public bodies struggle with HOW to implement the Act. More support is needed to navigate the legislation to ensure we get buy-in from all, not just senior leaders."*
- *"The goal is for equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) specific roles to become obsolete; equality needs to be everyone's business."*

But ultimately, a common view from us all was that we want to see real action for change!



## We're recruiting - ARAC Members

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*Are you passionate about finding new solutions to sustainable development and working with others to improve well-being across Wales and the world?*

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We're seeking to appoint five individuals to join our Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee (ARAC) to provide assurance and advice on the governance of our Office.

The closing date is noon on Thursday 29th June – in two days!

We need people who can see the big picture, act with integrity and role model inclusive behaviours. For the full list of the specific skills, we're looking for and more information on the responsibilities of the role please visit [our website](#).

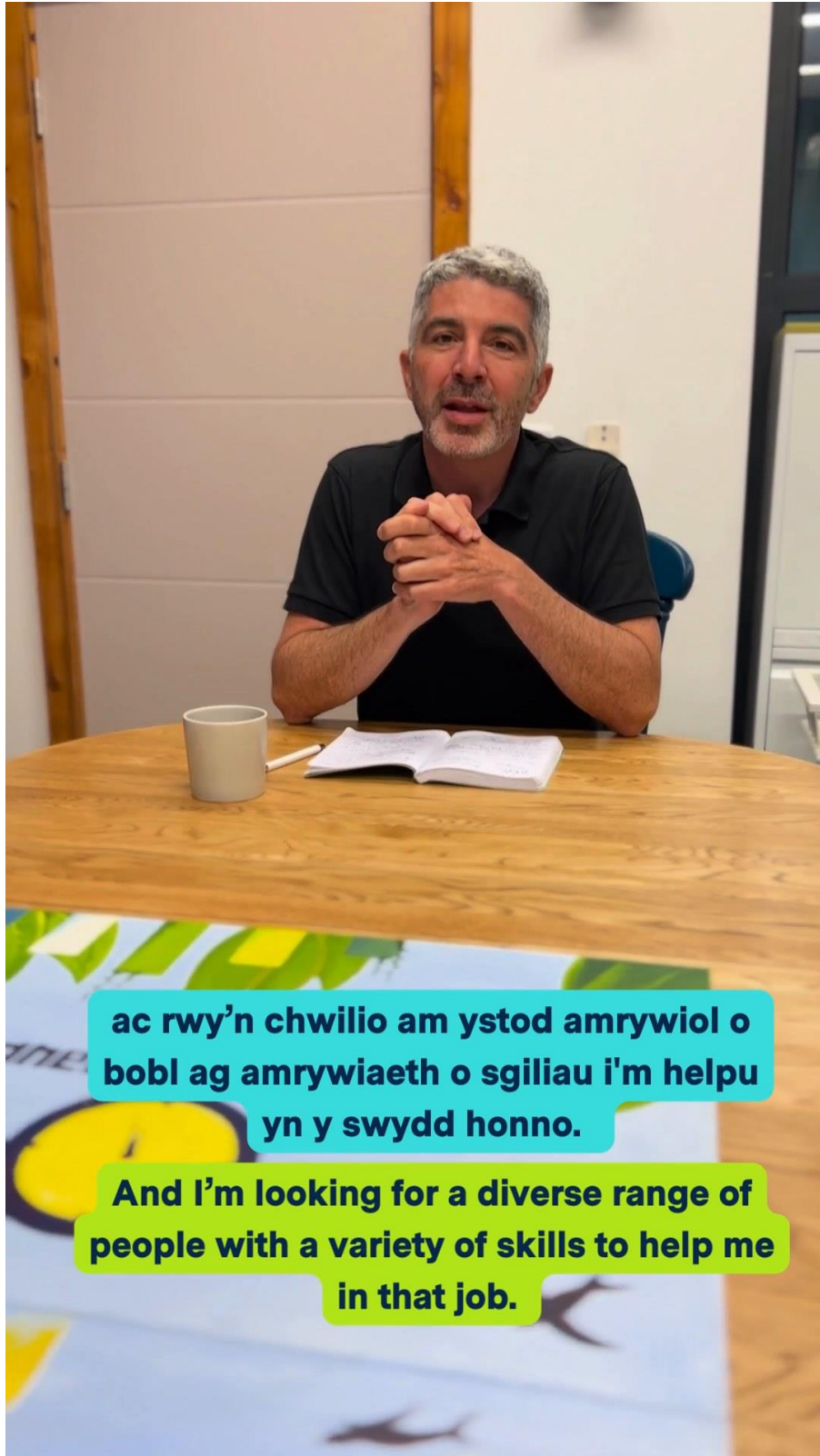


We encourage applications from people in the following groups to apply:

- Racially diverse backgrounds
- Living with a disability / disabilities

Alongside this recruitment, we are offering five two-year trainee positions, working with Pathway to Board and the alumni of our own Future Generations Leadership Academy.

[Apply now to join our team and support us to act today for a better tomorrow!](#)



**ac rwy'n chwilio am ystod amrywiol o bobl ag amrywiaeth o sgiliau i'm helpu yn y swydd honno.**

**And I'm looking for a diverse range of people with a variety of skills to help me in that job.**

<https://sway.office.com/XrFmBrQ9Ci6IDUe6#content=ExFvq6Hjl4waah>

## Future generations at the heart of global policy

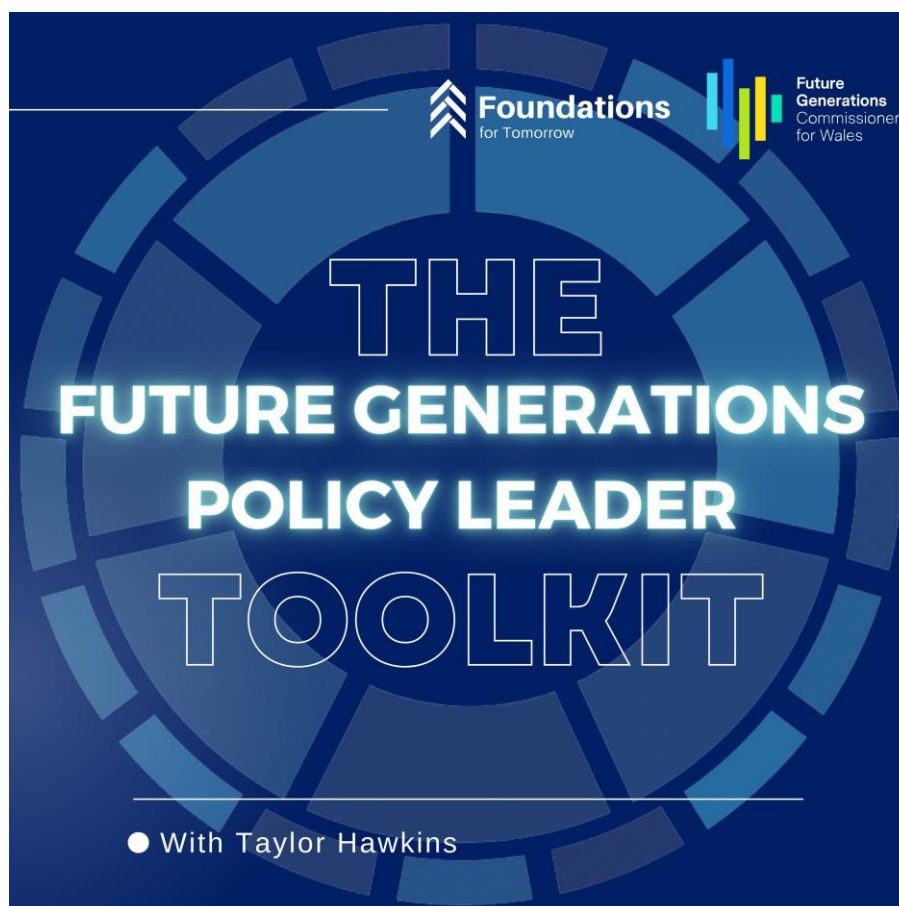
While Wales is unique in legislating to protect our future generations' well-being, there is appetite for this approach across the World.

Global policy-makers want and need guidance on exactly **how** this long-term, holistic approach could be achieved.

Which is why, in response to the [growing global movement](#) calling for governments and parliaments to embrace future generations approaches, we worked with [Foundations for Tomorrow](#), a youth-driven Australian not-profit advocating for the advancement of future generations policy, to develop and launch the **Future Generations Policy Leader Toolkit**.

Designed to be digestible, while bringing cutting-edge policy thinking to the fingertips of policy leaders around the world, we developed the Toolkit to help global changemakers embrace a more long-term approach to policy-making and understand how to implement future generations thinking in their policy, legislation and processes.

[Free to access online](#), the Toolkit draws on global experiences and practice, from Wales and beyond, and covers everything from the fundamentals of future generations concepts through to the key challenges and implementation considerations.



3 - [Future Generations Policy Leader Toolkit](#)

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“The decisions we take today will have an impact for generations to come.

If we are to solve the range of crises facing our people and planet, we must collectively embrace new mindsets and behaviours.

Across the world, parliamentarians and politicians are calling for resources and support to understand and implement future generations throughout policy and practice.”

*Derek Walker, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales*

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The online toolkit is also accessible through [ten podcast episodes](#) hosted by Taylor Hawkins, Managing Director of Foundations for Tomorrow with guests from across the world.

The toolkit will run until the Summit of the Future in September 2024, with the ambition to equip and empower as many leaders as possible to be proactive advocates for future generations policy.

Find more information on the [Future Generations Policy Leader Toolkit](#) and the [growing global movement of future generations approaches](#) on our website.

## Meet the Team Q&A – Hollie

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Each month, we'll be publishing a Q&A with a member of our team who will share their insights into their time with the office.

This month it's Hollie Leslie, a long-standing team member who's been with us for almost five years, who's worked across a range of teams and projects - and is [responsible for the newsletter](#).

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

I started with the Office back in September 2018 as an Apprentice. I've been in a few roles since then, including Team Support Officer and Communications Support Officer, and have had the opportunity to be involved in lots of different workstreams.

**What are your current priorities?**

As the Correspondence and Communications Officer, I'm responsible for creating our monthly newsletter, responding to correspondence we receive from the public and others, and [developing case studies on good practice](#).

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

It's been really inspiring to see the amount of people who are advocates for the Act and its principles increase over the years. Despite a tough few years, people have only become more passionate to work for a better future.

And I suppose an obvious recent change was Derek Walker joining the team as our new Future Generations Commissioner. It's been great to have him at the helm and I'm really looking forward to working with him for the next seven years.

**What has been your proudest moment?**

As my 'first real job', I've been very lucky in this office to have been part of some really rewarding projects.

I'd say some of my proudest moments though have been receiving heartwarming feedback from contributors of the newsletter and case studies.

Hearing from changemakers from across Wales on how helpful and appreciated our work is has really made me proud of what we do as an office.

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

I've learnt a lot during my time with the office, especially since I wasn't completely aware of the Act before joining, but my biggest learning has probably been around how everything is connected.

You cannot look at issues in isolation and you cannot work in isolation if you want to solve the issue.

It can be incredibly overwhelming when you think about it too much but having a good team around you who also want to make a positive difference definitely helps!

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

I hope we will continue to involve people in our work and collaborate on issues that are important to our current and future generations' well-being.

I also hope that we take any learnings from the last seven years to forge an even stronger path forward.

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

Not everyone works and thinks the same way, and diversity of views, backgrounds and insights is key to achieving true, lasting change.

So don't underestimate the impact **you** can have and what **you** bring to the table.

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

Slightly cheating as it's two words but I'd say, organised chaos!

## 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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