

Future Generations Newsletter

September 2023



Foreword



1 - Derek Walker, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

Over the last six months our team have been working hard on **Our Future Focus**, taking us all over Wales listening to the views of hundreds of people and organisations.

We have been seeking to answer the questions:

- what are the key challenges facing future generations?
- what do future generations need public services and others to do in response to these challenges?
- what is the role of our office in supporting the changes we need?

We have been analysing all that we have heard and have been continuing to involve people in shaping our draft strategy throughout the summer and we are now finalising the detail around this. We believe the strategy will be framed around five core missions, including tackling the climate emergency and nature crisis, and a number of 'exploration areas' we would like to look at within those wider missions.

As part of this work, the team and I also visited the Centre for Alternative Technology in Machynlleth. Our visit included a variety of sessions and training including eco-literacy training with Paul Allen and his team on CAT's Zero Carbon Britain research, and team discussions on our future work priorities.

The location and venue were the perfect spot for these discussions and a great opportunity to connect with people and organisations including:

- Councillors and cabinet members from Ceredigion Council and Powys County Council
- Dyfi Biosphere Reserve
- Dulas Engineering
- Arts Council for Wales
- Aberystwyth University

- Co-production Network

Diolch yn fawr to CAT for hosting us and those who joined us to help shape our planning!

We are looking forward to launching the detail of this work in November, showcasing how we'll be working to support Wales to take action now for our future generations and proving **Cymru Can** secure a better life now and for generations to come.

Keep an eye out in our communications and on our website [here](#) for more information about our draft strategy.

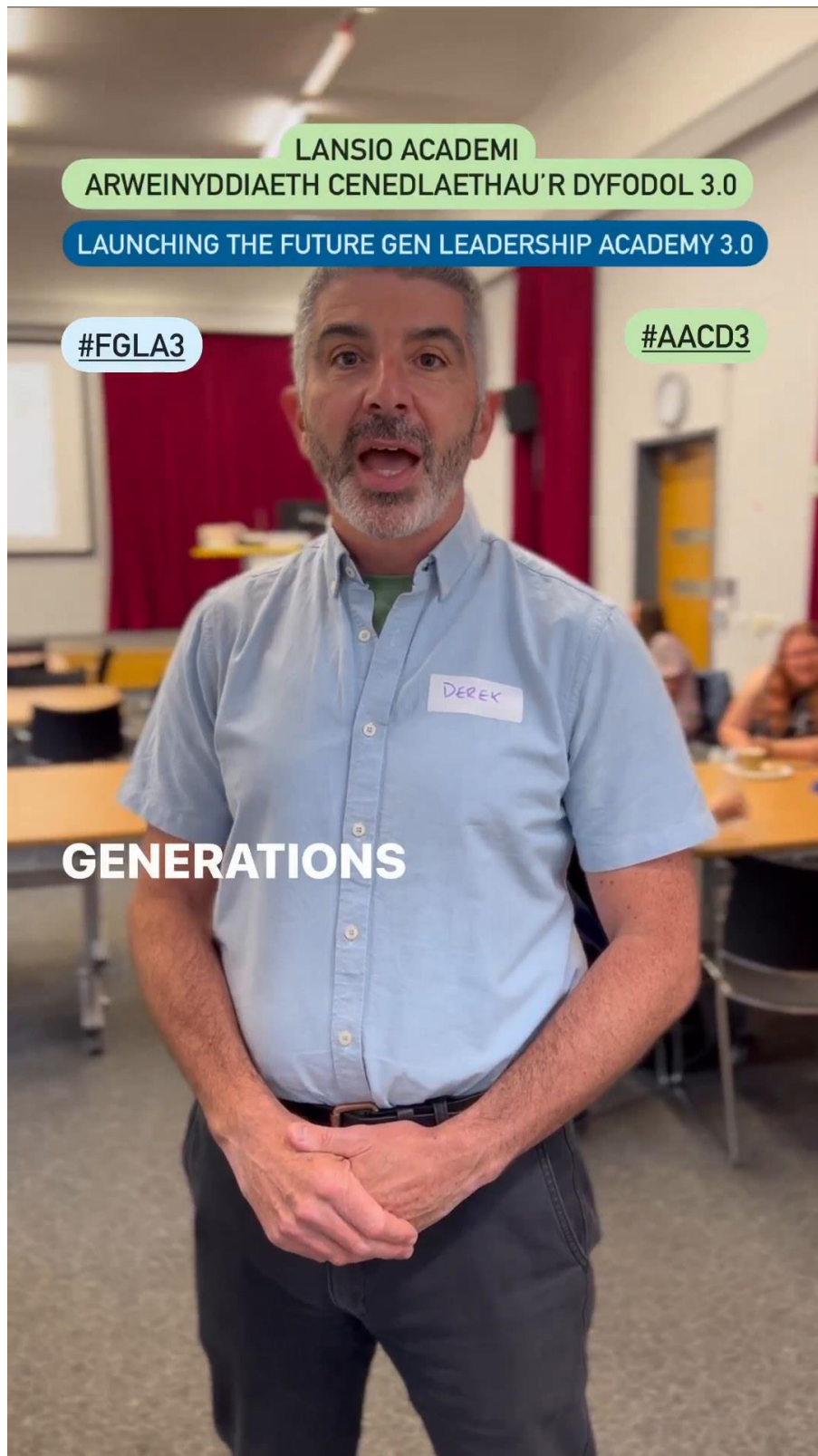




In September, I was also pleased to launch the third cohort of the Future Generations Leadership Academy in a two-day residential event in Aberystwyth.

The new participants convened at Aberystwyth University to discuss what they'll be learning and doing for the next seven months as part of the Academy, make connections and discuss their leadership journeys so far.

We were delighted to have recruited 34 young people, aged 18-30 years old, from a variety of roles, sectors, backgrounds and skillsets. The inspiring and enthusiastic group of people includes three disabled people; a high percentage of women (70%), including trans women, and 20% are people from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background. More than a third of people are from North and West Wales, and two people have caring responsibilities.



<https://sway.office.com/HkJqfOfCtFuem9PA#content=p0JTShqTa3qlwY>

The diverse group of participants were also joined by 13 excellent speakers who discussed and presented on the seven well-being goals through a variety of lenses including:

- A Globally Responsible Wales and Size of Wales' work to make Wales a deforestation free nation

- The importance of a real living wage and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis from Cynnal Cymru
- Aber Food Surplus presenting on their work to reimagine the food system in Wales and work towards a 'thriving food culture and community'
- Ensuring A Resilient Wales and world with a focus on nature and people's connection to it with WWF Cymru

I am looking forward to watching the progress of these young leaders over the next seven months and beyond and believe they will soon be flying the flag for the the Act everywhere they go.

For more information on the Academy, [visit our website](#).

Get to net zero by 2035?

In a recent letter to Chairs and Chief Executives of public bodies that come under the Well-being of Future Generations Act, public bodies have been asked to come forward with their most ambitious ideas to tackle climate change and help us get to net zero more quickly in Wales.

The request comes after an independent group, [Wales Net Zero 2035 Group](#), chaired by former environment minister Jane Davidson, was established under the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru coalition agreement.

The group is tasked with identifying 10-year pathways to net zero in Wales which would bring our net zero goals forward from 2050 to 2035, and currently has a call for evidence open for submissions.

The group is also aiming to build a picture of **where** we want to be by 2035 and clearly set out the steps required to get there. Public bodies are being asked to provide evidence of their expected emissions reductions along with any known costs of their proposals.



Grŵp Herio Cymru
Sero Net 2035
Wales Net Zero 2035
Challenge Group



2 - [Wales Net Zero 2035 Challenge Group](#)

The wider work of the group is being framed around five opportunities:

- How could Wales feed itself by 2035?
- How could Wales meet energy needs by 2035 whilst phasing out fossil fuels?
- How could Wales heat and build homes and workplaces by 2035?
- How could people and places be connected across Wales by 2035?
- What could education, jobs and work, look like across Wales by 2035?

It is intended that the pathways and steps identified through this work will be put to the test in Spring 2024 through a series of public engagements, in partnership with organisations who would like to help test the conclusions.

If your organisation hasn't yet responded to the challenge, I would encourage you to send your ideas over by **October 30th**. You can submit your evidence in two ways:

- by using the online portal
- by emailing the group secretariat at stan.townsend@wcpp.org.uk

Movement for Change

In September, my team spoke to two people about their work and how they're working to make a Wales fit for future generations.

We spoke to Mererid Velios, a Place Manager from Vale of Glamorgan Council, about their work on the 'Barry Wayfinding' project and how they're involving local people and communities.

Barry Wayfinding Project

Working within the Regeneration department of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, much of what Mererid does involves improving the public realm for the benefit of residents and businesses.

Mererid works with a range of colleagues from across the Council's departments including Town Centres, Active Travel, and Planning; further integrating their approach to providing services across the Vale.

One of her current projects is '[Barry Wayfinding](#)' - a scheme to install pedestrian map signs and fingerposts across the town centre areas of Barry, including Barry Island.

The aim of the project is to show residents and visitors easy travel routes with clear walking distances to encourage more people to walk to their destinations, explore Barry on foot and visit local shops and attractions.

Map signs will include relevant details of crossing points and steps to ensure wheelchair users can also be confident to use the wayfinding system.

Historically, the town of Barry was developed with three "nodes" or districts linked to the docks at different locations, helping residents feel connected to their local areas and communities.

However, thousands of new residents living in the newly developed Waterfront area feel cut off from the town centre by the railway line. Mererid and her colleagues wanted these residents, as well as Barry Island visitors, to know what Barry has to offer and decided to develop a useful 'mind-map' of Barry's different areas.

Aligning their project with the Well-being of Future Generations Act and its well-being goals has included:

- Working closely with local Welsh speakers to create a fully bi-lingual signage system. There was even an opportunity to create a new Welsh name, as the group preferred to translate Marine Lake to Llyn y Delyn rather than Llyn Morol, since the lake is known for being harp-shaped.
 - Interesting local history facts surfaced during this process, for instance, the translation 'Highlight/Uchelolau'. 'Uchelolau' is not in fact the combination of 'uchel' (high) and 'golau' (light), rather the 'olau' is plural for track/way so a better translation might have been 'Ridgeways'.



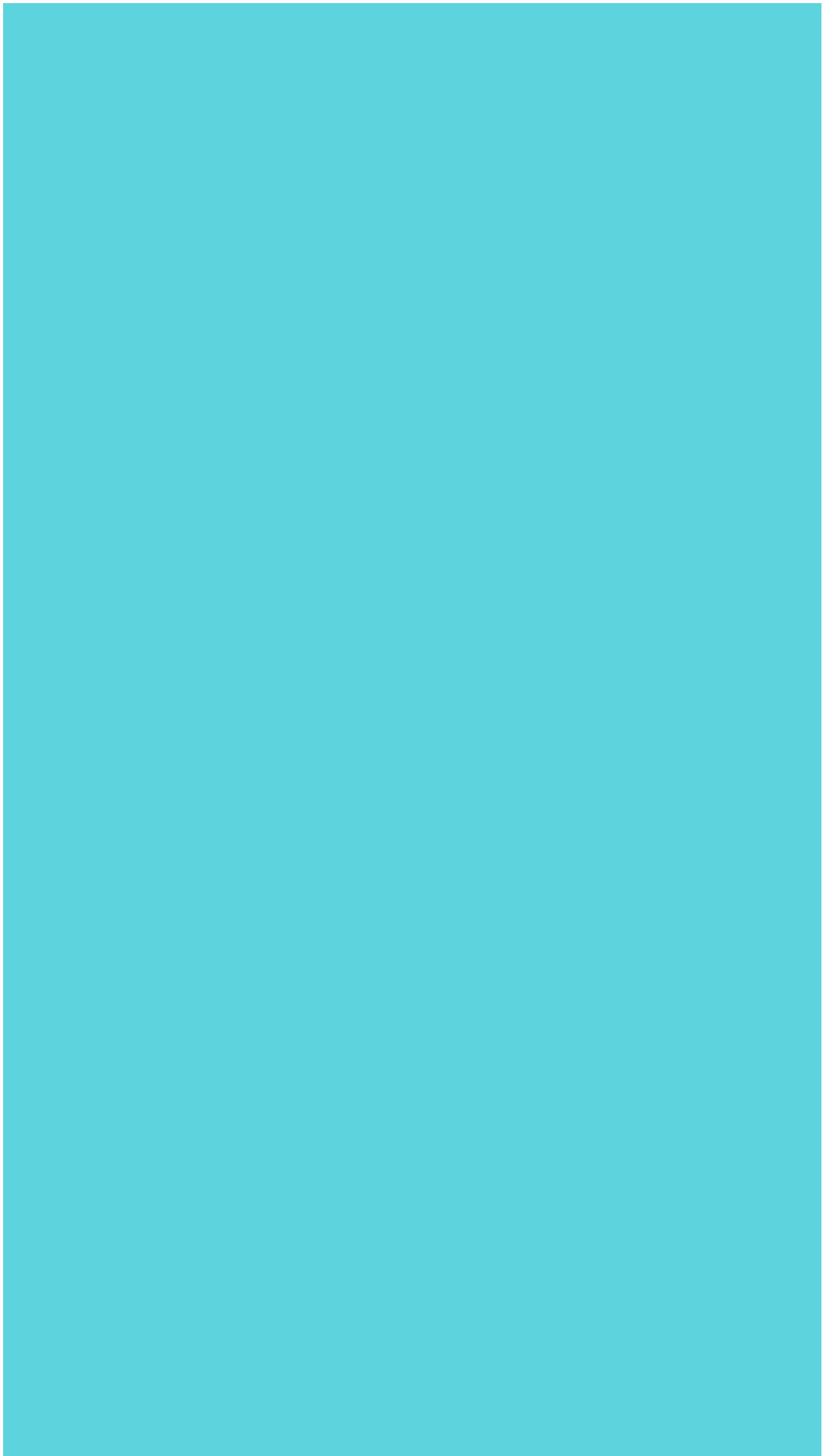
3 - © City ID

- Appointing a specialist mapping and wayfinding company to work with them to design three types of signs: a directional sign (like a fingerpost) a connector sign (narrow map to guide you along your way) and an explorer sign (large square format map that gives a good overview of the area). They considered many elements when designing the signs including:
 - The route network – where would the signs be most useful, and are they connecting places?
 - The signs’ design and how they look – do they contribute to a sense of place and community?
 - How they’re made – are they sustainable, and how long will they last/can they easily be maintained and fixed?
- Mererid also involved the local community through:
 - In-person public consultation events at the Memo Arts Centre with several members of the design team discussing and collating feedback
 - A [webpage on Participate Vale](#), Vale of Glamorgan’s dedicated involvement and consultation website
 - Outreach activities including a history ‘walk and talk’, a creative storytelling walk aimed at parents with very young children, and a film-making workshop with local teenagers

“I wanted to know what information residents thought should be included on the Barry Island maps through a QR code. What did they want visitors to learn about their area...”

The varied demographics of each group gave me an excellent range of ideas for QR code pages, from the myth of St Baruc, the history of the railway, coast wildlife information, to fun beach games and more!”

Mererid Velios



My team also spoke to Kyle Jamie Eldridge, a councillor from Abergavenny who is working to ensure local authorities across Wales better support families with understanding their children's' rights.

This is what he had to say...

"My name is Kyle Jamie Eldridge and I am a Councillor for Abergavenny Town Council and Llantilio Pertholey Community Council. In the daytime, I am a student of Business and Management at the University of South Wales Newport City Campus.

The question why I do what I do is perhaps one of the most difficult questions a person can ask themselves; what contribution do I have as a councillor – particularly as a neurodivergent individual - on the well-being of residents and Wales at large?

I guess what I do is help people have their voices heard and ensure I am representing them effectively, whether they live in Abergavenny or beyond.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act has been useful in the shaping of my work because it provides a stable foundation of the things that need to be considered when making fundamental practical change.

It helps ensure my work as a councillor is working towards a Wales that is more globally responsible, prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, of cohesive communities, and of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.

While attending a number of training sessions hosted by Cardiff Youth Council in partnership with UNICEF in November 2022, I was involved in a discussion around how local authorities, Cardiff Council in particular, provide children's rights education to parents.

Children have rights and it's important that families are informed of what these rights are, including:

- rights to education and health care
- the right to play
- the right to family life
- the right to be kept safe

To my surprise, not enough is being done to educate parents about their child's' rights. Most parents are not well informed and are also unsure of where to go to find more information or advice.

While the Welsh Government have formally adopted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, we need to tell people what this means in their daily life on a direct effective basis.

Inspired by this, [Wales' baby bundle pilot](#) and [Scotland's successful baby box scheme](#), I thought of the following idea:

"Local authorities provide:

- *a basic pack of documents, such as the United Nations Convention 'On The Rights Of A Child', in English, Welsh and Easy Read formats*

- a leaflet on local authority services near resident; and
- a letter from Welsh leaders on the importance of children's rights

which are accessible to all, helping families understand what rights children have."

"Giving parents the knowledge they need about their children's rights is the easiest way to ensure every child across Wales is treated fairly. It's a no-brainer."

Lloyd Mann, Member of the Welsh Youth Parliament (2018-2021)



Positively, I have supported Cardiff Council to adopt this idea via their registry office.

They are planning to include information on children's rights and Early Help services on offer in their birth registration packs, supplied to new parents when they register the birth of their baby in the Cardiff Register Office.

Given the potential scope of this idea and the promise it has for children now and in the future, I'm working to ensure all 22 local authorities in Wales adopt this idea.

If you're interested in supporting this work, you can find more information and sign the Senedd Cymru petition here: ['To ensure all parents of newly born children receive information about children's rights directly'.](#)"

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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