



# Cymru Can: Future Generations Newsletter



## Foreword



1 - Derek Walker, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

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Picture the youngest person you know.

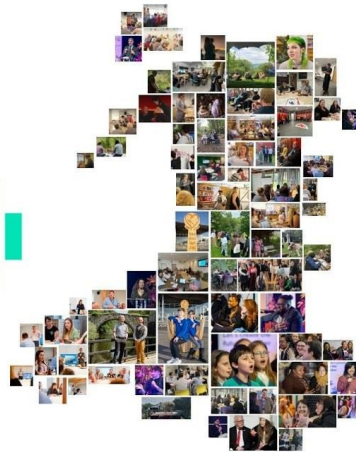
Now picture the quality of life you'd want them to have over the next 50 years - how will the things you do today make that good life a possibility?

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Today, on Tuesday the 14th November 2023, my team and I are publishing [Cymru Can – our new strategy for 2023 – 2030](#), which represents a new approach to the role.

Summarising the approach my team and I intend to take over the next seven years, Cymru Can outlines our **vision, values** and **purpose**, and details the **five integrated missions** my team and I are putting our energy behind until 2030.

The strategy also outlines **how** we're going to achieve our vision, the next steps and how everyone can be a part of Cymru Can.



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*The five integrated missions which will be our focus for the next seven years are:*

***Implementation and Impact***

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- We will make it our mission to ensure the Well-being of Future Generations Act is applied effectively and with ambition in a way that improves the lives of the people of Wales now and in the future.*
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***Climate and Nature***

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- We will make it our mission to ensure all Welsh public bodies achieve their net zero and nature positive goals by 2030. As a result, public bodies are leading action on climate change including adaptation, in a way that reduces inequalities and maximises the benefits to people and communities across Wales.*
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***Health and Well-being***

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- We will make it our mission to facilitate a transformation in the way we keep people healthy, with a greater focus on prevention and the long term. As a result, public bodies are working together to tackle the root causes of ill health and addressing health inequalities.*
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## *Culture and Welsh Language*

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- We will make it our mission to reinforce the positive impact of cultural well-being. As a result, public bodies are making the urgent changes needed to promote culture and creativity, enhance the fabric of communities and promote multi-culturalism and the Welsh language.*
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## *A Well-being Economy*

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- We will make it our mission to help transition Wales to an economy that puts people and planet first. As a result, governments at all levels, communities and businesses are making this happen.*
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2 - [Implementation and Impact](#)



3 - [Climate and Nature](#)



4 - [Health and Well-being](#)



5 - [Culture and Welsh Language](#)



6 - [A Well-being Economy](#)

We also identified topics, themes or systems that connect all our missions, such as the **food system**, **artificial intelligence** and **digital**, which we will explore in more detail.

This approach is also anchored in our statutory powers and duties to advise, monitor and review. Across all of the missions we will: Increase the provision of expert advice in a way that focuses on delivery, while recognising the pressures public bodies are facing.

- Monitor progress and highlight where this isn't sufficient.
- Increase the number of targeted reviews to assess implementation of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

- Review future trends, such as AI, and help Wales to prepare its response.
- Spotlight the Well-being of Wales report (the national indicators and milestones) to inform public bodies on how we are collectively progressing towards the well-being goals and where we need to change.

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### *What's next?*

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The Well-being of Future Generations Act is about improving lives now, next year, in 25, 50, 100 years into the future – and more. As we seek to rebuild the system today, we must do it in a way that helps everyone's tomorrow. It's a challenge, but an essential one, and the benefits will be huge for each and every one of us.

Whether you work for a public body, run a business, are part of the voluntary sector, an elected representative, or are someone who simply wants change, we can all be part of the solution to improve lives in Cymru.

I would also like to take the opportunity to say **diolch yn fawr iawn** to everyone that has been involved in creating Cymru Can.

Cymru has come a long way and there will always be new challenges, but I know my team and the community of changemakers across Wales are ready to act today for a better tomorrow in every action, big and small.

Wales can do it, Cymru Can, and we must use the Well-being of Future Generations Act more effectively to make meaningful, yet urgent, change.

A Wales that truly serves everyone. **Cymru Can.**

Find the full strategy, **Cymru Can**, on our website [here](#) alongside accessible versions and our methodology report detailing the process.



## Cymru Can – who's who?

Our seven-year strategy for driving positive change in Wales for now and for the future won't be possible without the growing movement for change – the people and ideas striving to meet the ambitions of the Well-being of Future Generations Act as well as those whose stories highlight the need for better implementation and impact of our well-being goals.

Here is a [short summary of some of the people](#) and projects that appear in our video, [Cymru Can](#), in order of appearance.

*Diolch yn fawr* to everyone in Wales for all your hard work in putting the WFG Act into action and for always advocating for a better Wales for current and future generations.

**Restore the Thaw** is a landscape project aiming to restore nature networks in and around the River Thaw in the Vale of Glamorgan, connecting local wildlife, landowners and the community with the land. From tree planting to an upcoming river festival and free sessions on water testing to identifying fungi, the project involves local people in solving the challenges that wildlife faces in its natural habitats and already has over 100 volunteers.

**Samantha Egelstaff** co-founded **Llanrwst Flood Action Group**, in the wake of devastation to her community by 2020's Storm Ciara. The group produced a powerful poem: Ymgodi o'r Gaeaf / Emerging from Winter, with our Poet in Residence, 2021-2022, Taylor Edmonds. Read by Ysgol Bro

Gwydir pupils, it highlights the plight of flooding upon our communities and the collaborative effort to protect them. Samantha is also part of our 2023 Future Generations Changemaker 100.

**Natalie Evans** is Campaign Co-ordinator working within the four Trussell Trust foodbanks within Rhondda Cynon Taf, where her volunteering team involves people with lived experience of food poverty. Natalie is currently running a campaign aiming to secure free school meals for all children with no recourse to public funds.



*7 - Restore the Thaw*



*8 - Samantha Egelstaff*



*9 - Natalie Evans*

**Esther** is a foodbank volunteer who is currently studying project management at university. The mum-of-three, including 10-year-old **Samuel**, moved from Nigeria to Treforest in 2020 and is one of thousands of people with no recourse to public funds, living in RCT. The NRPF condition prevents a person subject to immigration control from accessing a range of welfare benefits except in a very limited number of cases. This condition means many people with NRPF are forced to use food banks. Over the course of one year, the four foodbanks within RCT have fed 1173 people with NRPF, 529 of them are children.



**Ophelia Dos Santos** is a member of our Future Generations Leadership Academy, is a textile designer, researcher and educator, and founded **Decoded Climate**, climate action led by Black, Brown and underrepresented Welsh people.

**Alex Galleozzie** is a fourth year apprentice electrician at **Merthyr Valley Homes**, who joined their Brighter Futures scheme and later secured an apprenticeship to become a fully qualified electrician. Alex carries out electrical installation duties on a daily basis, and his projects have included Merthyr Valleys Homes' recent Honeysuckle Close development in Gurnos, where a total of six Passivhaus units were installed. The sustainable homes are designed for longevity and high performance and are energy efficient and low carbon.



*10 - Esther and Samuel*



*11 - Ophelia Dos Santos*



*12 - Alex Galleozzie*

Working for the Good Practice Exchange Team (GPX) at **Audit Wales**, **Alex Swift** from Newport, South Wales, creates podcasts and helps run events to share unique ideas and good practice from across Wales. Alex is also on our Future Generations Leadership Academy.

**Awel Aman Tawe (AAT)** is a community energy charity in the former coal valleys of South Wales co-founded by **Emily Hinshelwood and Dan McCallum**. AAT have set up the two largest renewable energy co-ops in Wales which are backed by more than 1,500 people via community share offers with a hundred solar sites including schools, community buildings and businesses. Dan and Emily are part of our 2023 Future Generations Changemaker 100.

**Ann MacGarry** is a retired sustainability educator who has worked with the Centre for Alternative Technology and Size of Wales. She is a councillor on Machynlleth Town Council - the first town in Wales to declare a climate emergency in 2019. Ann is also the Vice Change of Ecodyfi – a not for profit organisation that has been fostering and supporting a greener economy and community in the Dyfi valley and the UNESCO Dyfi Biosphere area for more than 20 years.



*13 - Alex Swift*



*14 - Emily Hinshelwood from Awel Aman Tawe*



**The River Music Project** is a multicultural participatory music and visual arts project based in the heart of Riverside, Cardiff which was founded by **Nick Lewis**. The project provides inclusive arts opportunities for people of all ages and supports musicians and artists from diverse communities to promote greater understanding of each others' music while developing their own art. **Julie Gordon** is a singer, song writer and artist based in Riverside, who contributes to the project's Caribbean Forum, celebrating her own cultural roots in a gospel reggae ensemble.

**Nelly Adam, AKA Queen Niche**, is a consultant, public speaker, humanitarian activist and spoken word artist from Cardiff. Nelly fights for equality and justice for all, with a dream to empower future generations to use their voice and find their niche.

**Yusuf Ismail** is the co-founder of **UNIFY**, a Welsh creative studio with a mission to make the creative industry in Wales more inclusive and accessible. One of UNIFY's latest pieces (seen in the video) is a collaboration with Cardiff Council and the UK Home Office, as part of a Safer Streets campaign that seeks to tackle violence towards women and girls by making our streets safer. Unify transformed a neglected underpass surrounded by busy roads opposite Cardiff Castle, having lighting installed and brightening the tunnel via a celebration in paint, of women who make and enjoy music.



16 - Julie Gordon, The River Music Project



17 - Nelly Adam, AKA Queen Niche



18 - Yusuf Ismail

**The Centre for Alternative Technology, CAT**, is an educational charity based in Machynlleth, dedicated to researching and communicating positive solutions for environmental change. The team speaks to government and campaigners about policies that would help create a zero carbon Britain, provides postgraduate degrees and short courses in all aspects of sustainability, and hosts a wide range of schools, colleges, community groups and other organisations, providing skills, knowledge and inspiration to help people take action on climate change and biodiversity.

**Ruth Fabby MBE**, from Dolgarrog, is a playwright and short story writer with a record of advocating for disabled and deaf people's inclusion in the creative industries. For three years, she worked as Artistic Director at two national award-winning disability arts organisations and championed the importance of disabled people's rights as human rights and articulates the links between art and social change. Ruth Fabby is on our 2023 Future Generations Changemaker 100 list.

**Sam Hickman** is a singing harpist, showgirl, comedienne, storyteller, theatre producer, composer and writer, known for her performances at venues ranging from The Moon on Womanby Street to Wales Millennium Centre and Sherman Theatre. She's also a keen gardener, allotment holder and sewer. She's passionate about sustainable practices, community building and active travel.



19 - The Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT)



20 - Ruth Fabby MBE



21 - Sam Hickman

**Câr-y-Môr**, Wales' first community-owned, regenerative seaweed and shellfish farm, is an example of how people wanting to change the world are using the WFG Act to challenge and break down barriers. The community benefits society based in St David's, Pembrokeshire used the Act to appeal a short-term marine license. The appeal was successful and now they have a 20-year license to produce sustainable Welsh seaweed and farm native oysters and mussels off the coast at Ramsey Sound.



22 - Câr-y-Môr

## Our Future Focus

The work to develop [Cymru Can](#) began in March 2023 as I started my role as the second Future Generations Commissioner for Wales. The team and I began the process of reviewing work priorities and undertaking further research and involvement to inform our new strategy and named the process '[Our Future Focus](#)'.

Spanning eight months, we followed a five-step process (our five 'camau'), using the ways of working set out by the Well-being of Future Generations Act, to help us try and understand what our role should be in making transformative change happen.

- Cam 1: Reviewed previous approaches, used futures techniques to shape our thinking and formed an Advisory Group to regularly review our work and be 'critical friends'
- Cam 2: Involved a variety of individuals and sectors through events in partnership with Changemakers, established a **Community Partnership Scheme** and published a survey with **Miller Research**
- Cam 3: Analysed data collected through our research, involvement and public correspondence
- Cam 4: Developed Theories of Change with Urban Foundry and sought critical feedback
- Cam 5: Published our work in a variety of formats





We tested our thinking along the way, and, through evidence, analysis, and data, we've gathered a wide range of information that's informed the approach we now call **Cymru Can**.

For more information on Our Future Focus and how we involved people across Wales in creating Cymru Can – our work strategy and missions, read our [Methodology Report](#).

## Get involved

A strong theme that emerged from the [Our Future Focus involvement exercise](#), was the vital importance of involving a wide range of people from different backgrounds and communities in co-creating solutions to the challenges we all face.

People told us that they often feel that their voices are not heard, there are insufficient opportunities for them to get involved or they are involved too late in a decision-making process. Also, they told us that there is an insufficient link made between what organisations are told and the changes they make as a result.

Through our core mission in Cymru Can - [Implementation and Impact](#) - one of the things we'll focus on is action to improve the way that public bodies implement the five ways of working, including involvement. We will shine a light on best practice, highlighting gaps and convene change-makers who are challenging the status quo. We'll also continue to focus on how we improve our own implementation of the five ways of working as a team, learning from others and sharing this learning as we go.

In 2021 we published '[Communities and Climate Change in a Future Wales](#)' in partnership with Public Health Wales and FLiNT. One of our recommendations was that policy makers need to involve those groups who stand to be most affected by climate change, to ensure that action taken as a result, does not deepen existing inequalities.

The up-coming Climate Conversations are an opportunity to enable broader involvement in how we collectively respond to climate change in Wales.

### **Climate Conversations**

To support [Wales Climate Week 2023](#) (4-8 December), a programme of [Climate Conversations](#) will be held with the aim to encourage national, regional and local conversations with community groups, individuals and workers throughout Wales on how we can tackle climate change in a fair way.

Wales Climate Week 2023 coincides with Welsh Government's consultation on a new Just Transition Framework and the purpose of the Climate Conversations will be to involve a diverse range of people, ensuring views are heard from as many people as possible to support the consultation.

Welsh Government is offering support (including funding to cover reasonable costs) for organisations interested in hosting Climate Conversations with their own networks.

Find more information on how to apply to host a Conversation on their website [here](#). The deadline for submitting new applications is **4th December 2023**.



**Wales Climate**

**Week 2023**



4-8 December

# Join the Climate Conversation



✦ **ENGAGE** ✦





### **Get involved with Cymru Can: be part of the Movement for Change**

Delivering the ambition behind our new strategy, [Cymru Can](#), will be a collaborative effort, ensuring that we work in an integrated way, embedding a long-term, preventative approach and involving a diverse range of people and organisations.

The next steps of this work will be to join forces with organisations and changemakers who can help us in achieving the maximum impact possible.

Engaging with Public Services Boards and public bodies, at all levels, will be vital, including close co-operation with organisations that also support Cymru in achieving the Act, like Audit Wales, Welsh Government, Academi Wales and the Welsh Local Government Association. We also recognise the role that the huge network of town and community councils play.

Public services don't exist in isolation – a key component of Cymru Can is continuing to work with the voluntary sector, community groups, the business sector, higher and further education, research

institutions, think-tanks and with fellow commissioners, who understand what works and, between them, hold levers for change.

In taking forward Cymru Can we will:

- Seek out and value independent expertise, lived experiences and diverse voices.
- Understand our unique role in tackling complex issues.
- Share learnings, amplify the messages of others and advocate together where necessary.
- Listen to what people tell us about what's working, what needs to change and where we're best placed to help that happen.
- Promote Wales' place on the world stage.

The [involvement and co-production](#) that led us to *Cymru Can* will underpin our work going forward, including as we prepare for the next Future Generations Report 2025.

If you're interested in any of our five mission areas, please get in touch to discuss how we might work together. You can email us at [contactus@futuregenerations.wales](mailto:contactus@futuregenerations.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:

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

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