



Future Generations Leadership Academy

Meet the Participants
2023 - 2024





The Future Generations Leadership Academy Participants 2023-2024

The Future Generations Leadership Academy is a visionary leadership programme led by the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, Derek Walker.

Our commitment is to support and inspire Wales' future leaders in their journey to achieve the aspirations of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

As we embark on our third year, we have another impressive group of ambitious and dedicated 18-30 year olds who we are so excited to be working with and supporting on their leadership journeys.

We are delighted that this year we have individuals from a variety of organisations across Wales including Welsh Government, Transport for Wales, Principality and the Urdd.

Participants also come from a diverse range of different backgrounds, enabling a range of perspectives to be brought to the group, enriching the experience of the academy.

We have already had our first residential, which took place in Aberystwyth in September and it was great to meet with the group and mark an inspiring start to the academy programme.

We hope you enjoy reading about each of our academy members in this document who are going to learn so many new skills, make a lasting impact, and **create a better tomorrow.**

Korina Tsioni

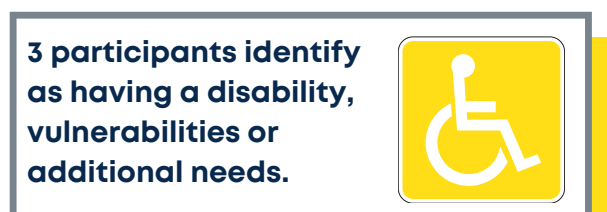
Programme Lead: FGLA



FGLA 2023/24, launch event in Aberystwyth, Sept 2023



Our 35 Participants



Meet the Team



Jonathan Tench

Director: Well-being Economy and Programmes

Jonny thinks Wales is going to change the world – by showing how it is possible to fight social inequality and climate change all at the same time. He is a Welsh speaker.

He leads the team's international work, private sector engagement and the Future Generations Leadership Academy.

Jonny has previously worked in international roles on sustainable development for Unilever and Oxfam. Jonny is a member of Cardiff's Technicolour choir and will try and sign you up to the choir if you like musicals.

Continue onto page 4 to find out more about the academy participants.



Korina Tsioni

Programme Lead: FGLA

Korina is our Future Leaders Changemaker and focuses on the [Future Leaders Academy](#).

Korina is passionate about equity, equality, diversity and inclusion and loves art! She runs a world music events business on the side, aiming to unify and celebrate different cultures in Wales, and she runs and performs in a folk band, too!

Korina spends most of her free time exploring with her dog, or seeing friends, or cooking.



Zuzana Kalinova

Future Leaders Academy Support

Zuzana is our newest member on the team at the Future Leaders Academy.

Zuzana is very interested in engaging young people in the conversation around their future and decision-making.

She loves to play the guitar and sing in her free time, as well as reading and listening to a variety of podcasts. She also adores walks in nature, dancing, live gigs and spending time with her friends.



Meet this year's academy!



**Website Designer and
Digital Marketer**

Ali Al-Anbaki

Ali is a tech enthusiast and studied laboratory analysis during his time at university before realising he'd prefer to dive into the digital world, creating cool websites and working on digital marketing projects.

He is deeply passionate about the technology industry, especially the fascinating revolution of AI. He's also found a calling in helping others, particularly refugees and asylum seekers, and volunteers for the charity Oasis Cardiff. He likes to express himself creatively through painting, photography and writing articles and poems. In his free time, you'll often find him having a kick about with friends or playing for his team, Grange Albion.



**Policy, Research
and Partnerships
Senior Officer
End Youth
Homelessness Cymru**

Shaun Bendle

For the past two years, Shaun has led on the Equal Power Equal Voice partnership mentoring scheme for Disability Wales. This scheme is a cross-equalities intersectional programme which aims to get individuals from underrepresented groups into decision-making roles within Wales. Shaun has also taught at an undergraduate level at Cardiff University. Shaun will soon be starting a new role at End Youth Homelessness Cymru.

Shaun completed his undergraduate and masters degree at Swansea University, in Politics and Public Policy respectively. and was involved in both the youth political and trade union movements. Shaun is also the founder and manager of the social media education and news factchecker account 'That's Devolved', which focuses on media inaccuracy around reporting on devolved matters. He also plays 5-a-side football, is a member of a book club, and spends too much time in the cinema.



**Assistant Project
Manager
Arup**

Emmeline Brooks

Emmeline lives in Chepstow and works at Arup as a Town Planner. She has worked at Arup for the past six years after completing her master's degree in International Planning and Development in Cardiff University. She really enjoys her work and has a particular interest in strategic policymaking. Outside of work, she is in a choir and is part of a book club.

Her real passion is travel and exploring different places. Emmeline studied Spanish as part of her undergraduate degree and spent a year living in Madrid. She always looks forward to visiting Spanish speaking countries and having the opportunity to test herself!



**Masters graduate
and research
assistant
Cardiff Council**

Yusra Chaudhary

Yusra is from Cardiff and has recently graduated from a masters in International Relations from Cardiff University.

She currently volunteers at the Welsh Centre for International Affairs for Climate Cymru and is a board member and member at Grange Pavilion Youth Forum. She also created a social media campaign during her gap year raising awareness around menstruation, especially focusing on stigma and taboo in diverse communities, raising awareness about period poverty and creating safe spaces on social media for individuals to share their own period stories. Yusra was awarded the Plan International Young Change Maker award for her campaign.

Yusra's hobbies include photography, art and reading. She enjoys reading fiction and poetry.



**Policy Officer
EYST**

Jainaba Content

Jainaba is a Policy Officer at EYST for the All-Wales Engagement programme. She is also a roller derby skater and is passionate about diversity in STEM due to that being her academic background.

Her dream is for Wales to have a biotechnology ecosystem that promotes innovation. Jainaba enjoys improving processes, finding new ways to improve the way we work and helping people become the best versions of themselves. Jainaba is also hoping to develop her managing risks and uncertainty skills and improving her persuasive communication skills.



**Assistant Project
Manager
Transport For Wales**

Georgia Cope

Georgia Cope works as an Assistant Project Manager for Transport For Wales on the Core Valleys Line Transformation programme where she started as an apprentice nearly four years ago. From the Valleys, she finds it very rewarding to see the works being done on the railway to benefit the communities.

Outside of work Georgia loves to keep herself busy by getting outdoors, staying active, running, hiking and walking her dog Pebble. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, trying new restaurants, meeting for tea and cake and travelling to new places.



**Leadership
Development Manager
Welsh Government**

Molly Dacey

Molly joined Welsh Government straight from school through an apprenticeship and has spent most of her career working in leadership development.

She has a passion for equality, diversity, people practice and Welsh culture. Molly lives with her husband and dog and you'll often find her reading a book or listening to a true crime podcast.



**Project Coordinator
TreeSisters**

Rhia Aysha Danis

Rhia has several years experience in human rights, forced migration, and environmental justice movements. She is a board member at Refugee Youth Service, a Climate.Cymru Ambassador, and most recently was selected by UN Women to act as delegate for the 67th Commission on the Status of Women. She has worked at grassroots and international NGOs including SolidariTEE, WWF-UK, and the United Nations.

Currently, Rhia is a Project Coordinator for a restoration charity working with indigenous communities across Colombia, Uganda and India.



**Digital Communications
Officer
Welsh Government**

Ffion Davies

Ffion Davies is a digital communications officer for Welsh Government, working on a variety of exciting campaigns. Ffion is the lead for the Women Together Network period dignity pilot, providing free emergency period products across the Welsh Government estate.

After running a vintage clothing store Ffion developed a passion for fashion sustainability. In her spare time, Ffion enjoys upcycling clothing and spending the weekend browsing charity shops. Ffion also enjoys spending time outdoors and surfing in the fresh Welsh sea.



**Textile designer,
researcher and
educator**

Ophelia Dos Santos

Ophelia Dos Santos is a Welsh textile designer, researcher and educator based in Cardiff. Viewing the world through textiles, Ophelia's work considers the relationships between fabric, culture and communities. By patching together discarded scraps, she aims to open and inform dialogue around climate justice and equality, and the over-consumption and waste of the modern-day fashion industry.

Collaborating with communities, Ophelia focuses on skill sharing as a powerful tool to explore the complexities of climate change, driving participation and action. Facilitating workshops with local charities and organisations, she demonstrates how simple embroidery techniques can be used to mend and reinvent fabric.



**Executive Officer
Cyngor Gwynedd**

Osian Elis

Osian is an Executive Officer in the CEO's office at Cyngor Gwynedd, and works mainly with the Corporate Director (deputy CEO) on performance management, strategy and policy-making. Prior to his current role, Osian was a Graduate Management Trainee on the council's graduate scheme, during which he rotated between the Economy and Community, Highways and Municipal, and Corporate Support departments. This included developing the council's new highway maintenance policy, as well as managing an urban regeneration project as part of the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site.

He holds BA and masters degrees in History from the University of Oxford (Jesus College), and is currently studying part-time for a masters of Public Administration (MPA) at the University of York. Mae Osian yn rhugl yn y Gymraeg.



**Communications
Manager
North & Mid Wales
Trunk Road Agent**

Llinos Evans

Following successes in social media and event marketing with a global start-up, Llinos took on a rapidly growing role as communications manager, where she oversaw communications strategy in the USA & UK, integrated marketing, product launches and media planning across all channels.

She joined the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent in 2020 and leads on communications for Traffic Wales - the Welsh Government's traffic information service. Her current role involves consolidating and growing its brand identity, with an aim to establish it as the recognised body for trustworthy, comprehensive and bilingual information about motorways and trunk roads across Wales.



**Business Change
Manager
Health Education
and Improvement
Wales (HEIW)**

Emma Garland

Emma is a Business Change Manager in the NHS at Health Education and Improvement Wales. She has previously been a city councillor and worked in local government. Her roles have always been about how organisations can work together to improve services. And within the Future Generations Academy, she is keen to learn more about the Well-being of Future Generations Act's ways of working and how she can implement these.

In her spare time, Emma is an event volunteer and fundraiser for a local charity. She also enjoys travel and Zumba.



**International Officer
Urdd**

Luned Hunter

Luned is originally from Dyffryn Nantlle in North Wales. After living in Cardiff for five years, she has recently moved back to North Wales. In 2021, Luned graduated from Cardiff University with a first class honours in BSc Econ Politics and Modern History. Luned worked as a 'Student Champion' at the university, representing student voices on different aspects of the university.

Luned joined the Urdd as an International Projects Assistant, assisting the Urdd with the annual Peace and Goodwill Message and attending international visits. Since September 2023, Luned now works as the Urdd's International Officer, continuing to support its international projects and ambitions. Luned enjoys working directly with young people as part of her work, with a passion for ensuring that the projects provide life-changing experiences for young people and opportunities for them to use the Welsh language.



**Press Office
Welsh Government**

Alys Jones

Alys works in press at Welsh Government. She started her career as a communications assistant before moving on to social media. As a Cardiff University Journalism, Media and Culture graduate, she's interested in public relations, news and politics. She can usually be found listening to podcasts about any or all of these things.



**Assistant Operations
Manager - NWAS Lead
Betsi Cadwaladr,
University Health
Board**

Athena Jones

Athena Jones is the Assistant Operations Manager for the North Wales Adolescent Adolescent Service which is BCUHB's Tier 4 Specialist CAMHS Inpatient Service in North Wales. Her role involves overseeing the operational delivery of the service, ensuring that processes run smoothly and leading on service improvements.

Away from her desk, Athena enjoys playing netball and participates in her local league. In her downtime, Athena enjoys learning about self-development and spending with her family.



**Manager
Yr Atom (Welsh Centre
in Carmarthen)**

Caryl Jones

Caryl Jones is the Manager of Yr Atom, a Welsh Centre in Carmarthen. Day to day, her responsibilities include looking after the building and the tenants, planning and hosting Welsh language events and working with numerous partnerships to ensure successful events in Carmarthen town for children and adults of all ages.

Caryl previously worked as a primary school teacher in Carmarthenshire and in 2020, she taught at Ysgol y Gaiman, Patagonia. In her free time, she enjoys walking and exploring new places.



**Local Authority
Inspection Manager
Care Inspectorate
Wales**

Chloe Jones

Chloe lives in South Wales with her husband and dog Maeve. She is a registered social worker with experience in children's and adults services. Chloe now works as an inspection manager for Care Inspectorate Wales inspecting social services in Wales.

She has a particular interest in social justice and advocacy and is the dedicated organiser in her group of colleagues and friends!



**Executive Support
Officer
South Wales Police
and Crime
Commissioner's Office**

Leah Jones

Leah works at the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, where she provides assistance to the Chief Executive, writes reports, coordinates and commissions briefings, manages correspondence, and contributes to various high-level meetings. Prior to this, Leah worked in the Private Office at the Senedd. She arranged and coordinated inward and outward international visits for parliamentary delegations and supporting the Presiding Officer. She is currently halfway through a Politics and History undergraduate degree at the Open University.

Leah is originally from north Wales and is a fluent Welsh speaker, and now lives in Cardiff. She loves being active and has found her passion for olympic weightlifting and CrossFit. Outside of work, she also enjoys going to gigs, playing guitar, and watching true crime documentaries.



**Wellbeing and Student
Experience Officer
University of South
Wales**

Louise Jones

Louise works at the University of South Wales as the Wellbeing and Student Experience Officer. As part of the Early Intervention and Prevention Team at the university, Louise organises free social activities for students which include circuit training, walk and talk, coffee mornings and yoga. Louise is passionate about well-being, in particular student well-being, and the importance and benefits of exercise, and as a result obtained her gym instructing qualification to lead fitness sessions herself at the university.

Louise's hobbies include running at local park runs, weightlifting and travelling. Louise has joined the academy to build on her leadership skills and discover how to successfully lead others to improve their physical and mental health.



**Specialist Advisor
Natural Resources
Wales**

Lowri Jones

Lowri is a Specialist Advisor for the Flood Risk Assets Group within Natural Resources Wales. She leads on improvement projects to ensure NRW stays at the forefront of asset management. She provides specialised technical guidance, helps develop processes, and collaborates with various teams and third party organisations to contribute to NRW's work creating a more resilient Wales for future generations.

In her day to day role she writes policies and procedures, most notably the development of the Flood Risk Asset Management System. She also works closely with operational teams and other teams to write guidance for asset management, inspections, maintenance and data quality.



**Head of Government
Business (Economy)
Welsh Government**

Daniel Minister

Dan was born and raised in Swansea where he developed a love of history from his storytelling grandparents. After studying History & Politics at Oxford, he became the Roosevelt Scholar at Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he specialised in transatlantic migration. Following a brief spell as a librarian, he joined the Civil Service Fast Stream which saw him posted to roles in Cardiff, Belfast and London. Dan currently leads the Economy briefing unit at the Welsh Government.

He can usually be found drinking coffee, at the gym, and researching his family tree (though not necessarily at the same time).



**Deputy Bill Manager
Welsh Government**

Sean Moses

Sean is based in Pontypridd in the South Wales Valleys, and works as a Deputy Bill Manager at Welsh Government, currently focussed on transport. Before this he worked as a Policy Advisor at the UK Statistics Authority, and as Head of Monitoring at the political monitoring company Newsdirect Wales. He studied Ancient History & Archaeology, and Welsh Government & Politics, at Cardiff University.

Sean is passionate about tackling climate change, and believes Wales can truly be a global leader and pave the way for larger countries to address this most pressing of issues.



**All-Wales Public
Service Graduate
South Wales Fire
and Rescue Service
and Hafod Housing
Association**

Melusi Moyo

Mel is an All-Wales Public Service Graduate on secondment to South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and Hafod Housing Association. His role revolves around supporting both organisations' transition towards a low-carbon future working to protect the environment, reduce organisational carbon emissions, and promote biodiversity across South Wales.

Mel is passionate about politics and football. In his spare-time he's a qualified football referee at development, academy, and Sunday leagues levels – but his work gives him a nice break from all the shouting.



**Project Support Officer
Swansea City Council**

Esther Obafemi

Esther is a young professional with a deep commitment to reducing health inequalities and enhancing the well-being of underserved populations. Born and raised in Nigeria, she is multilingual with the ability to communicate in three languages. Esther studied a Bachelor of Science in Physiology, then gained two years of valuable clinical experience which motivated her to study a masters degree in Public Health and Health Promotion at Swansea University. Currently, Esther serves as a Project Support Officer within the Tackling Poverty Service at Swansea City Council. Her role involves contributing to organisational plans and objectives, and offering strategic support to the welfare rights department.

Esther dedicates herself to volunteering, traveling, attending dance classes, and connecting with new people. She has a profound love for languages and is currently expanding her linguistic skills by learning Welsh.



**Product Manager
Centre for Digital
Public Services**

Lauren Power

Lauren is currently working as a Product Manager with the Centre for Digital Public Services. Her focus is working towards a future talent pipeline for Wales, specifically within digital, data and technology roles. She does this by focusing on two products: apprenticeships and an attraction, recruitment, and retention campaign across Welsh public sector. Lauren applied for the Future Generations Leadership Academy because she loved the ideology behind the Act and wanted to learn more about the five ways of working and how she can incorporate this internally.

Lauren loves the outdoors and hiking with her flat-coated retriever, Dewi. If she has time (and the weather allows it) she also loves kayaking off the Pembrokeshire coast.



**Football Services
Executive
Football Association of
Wales**

Saffron Rennison

Saffron is a Football Services Executive in the Football Association of Wales. In her role she engages with grassroots football clubs across the county helping with queries, registering and transferring players and creating competitions. This department's close working relationship with grassroots clubs creates a focus towards the sustainability of football in Wales.

With her background in Politics and International relations she hopes to be able to use this to diversify and help promote gender equality in football. Her work as a referee empowers her to not only increase participation of female officials and those from ethnic minorities, but also create a better environment for all matchday referees.



**Customer
Experience Team
Principality
Building Society**

Caitlin Rodrigues

Caitlin started working at Principality Building Society in 2019, joining the contact centre after graduating from university. She currently works within the Customer Experience team, where she manages customer feedback surveys and champions the voice of the customer. Additionally, she serves as the chair of Principality's Race, Ethnicity and Cultural Heritage (REACH) colleague network. The network provides colleagues with a safe space to discuss race-related issues and supports the organisation in creating a more diverse and inclusive workplace environment.

Outside of work she's started rowing and enjoys going to the pub.



**Team Support & Welsh
Translation
Administrator
The Office of the
Future Generations
Commissioner for
Wales**

Cara Rogers

Cara joined the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales after completing a MscEcon in Welsh Government and Politics from Cardiff University following her time studying Geography at Aberystwyth University. After an insight into the public policy sphere, her dissertation focused on promoting national identity, while looking at policy networks, Welsh language policy and the inter-relationship between the third sector and national-level policies.

Cara is passionate about the Welsh language and culture within Wales and tries to incorporate this passion into her everyday work.



**Cabinet Office
Delivery Manager
Welsh Government**

Rohan Roy

Rohan was raised in Somerset by a Welsh mother and Indian-English father, often visiting his family in Gwynedd. Both sides of his family were politically active, and Rohan pursued a degree in Politics and International Relations at the University of Sheffield. After graduating, he joined an internship programme in Brussels, helping raise the presence of Yorkshire universities in the UK. On moving back to the UK, Rohan became a Policy Advisor to the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, primarily working on Brexit-related trade issues. At the same time, he studied in a Master's programme on Global Political Economy, focussing on the politics of development and climate change.

In 2022 he joined Welsh Government, where he has enjoyed merging his interest in politics with his Welsh family history. In his spare time he climbs and (tries to) surf.



**Presenter, Actor,
Writer & Content
Creator**

Bablu Shikbar

Presenter, content creator, facilitator and writer, Bablu likes to embody all of his titles through his life motto "laugh, learn and inspire". His videos range from comedy skits to interviews and he also hosts a motivational series on his platforms called "Monday motivation" targeted to help and motivate people. With experience in the media industry via companies like Radio Platform, ITV and Now In A Minute Media, he also extensively worked with other organisations such as The Prince's Trust and Coleg Gwent.

Bablu is passionate about creative and digital industries and is enthusiastic about creating content, such as Radio Platform Presents, that inspires others and speaks to his generation. Being an active figure in his community is really important to him which he strives to reflect in his work through representation, storytelling and entertainment. Radio Platform Presents is a chance for young creatives a platform to express themselves, learn something new, and network amongst other like-minded people.



**Supply Chain Manager
Transport For Wales**

Georgia Smith

Georgia is a dedicated professional currently in a Supply Chain Manager role at Transport for Wales. She has experience in procurement, supply chain, purchasing and logistics within various industries including Rail, Aerospace and Defence. She is dedicated to perpetual growth, actively pursuing personal and professional development.

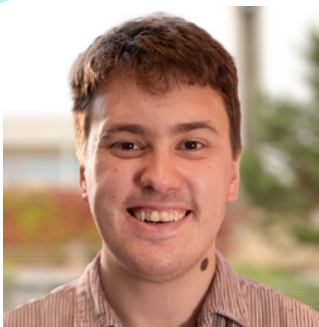


**Senior Programmes
Officer
Stonewall**

Shannen Stocker

As a Senior Programmes Officer, Shannen works with a wide range of organisations across Wales, the UK, and globally, to embed LGBTQ+ inclusion within the workplace, to deliver empowerment training on LGBTQ+ inclusion, and champion LGBTQ+ rights. Shannen has long been committed to the fight for equality, serving as Allies Lead for the LGBTQ+ staff Network in a previous role, with responsibility for building allyship resources and initiatives to empower and educate.

Shannen completed a masters in History at Cardiff University, where her studies echoed her commitment to equality, working with the voices of working class women in Wales. Outside of her work, Shannen spends as much time as possible in the theatre.



**Communications and
Engagement Support
Officer
Audit Wales**

Alex Swift

Working for the Good Practice Exchange Team (GPX) at Audit Wales, Alex creates podcasts and helps run events with the purpose of sharing of unique ideas and good practice from across Wales. Outside of work, he is a keen music enthusiast, often going to gigs or writing about music for local publications.

Being autistic, Alex is particularly passionate about neurodiversity activism, and protecting spaces where people can find welcoming communities, or access support. Alex wants to use his position as a future leader to champion these community assets and work for greater dignity for neurodiverse and disabled people, in all aspects of our lives.



**Producing Coordinator
National Theatre
Wales**

Joshua Whyte (aka Blank Face)

With a BSc in Computer Science, Josh, known as Blank Face, melds technology and music in captivating ways. Recognised within the Black History Youth Awards Wales for Creative Industries, Josh is a dynamic innovator. He's not just an artist but a creative producer, collaborating on projects with the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales and with international performances, more than 200,000 music streams, and accolades in Buzz Magazine and The Big Issue. Josh is currently a producing coordinator at National Theatre Wales and his expertise shapes the arts landscape.

Also as co-founder of Nxtnow Music, Josh empowers emerging artists and bridges music and technology. His journey continues on the Future Generations Leadership Academy, where he envisions a more sustainable arts economy in Wales.



Let's
change the
future
together.