



Future Generations Newsletter

December 2023



Foreword



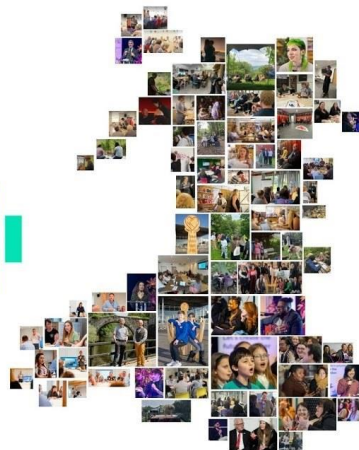
1 - Derek Walker, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

Last month, on the 14th of November, we launched our new vision, purpose and strategy for 2023 – 2030, [Cymru Can](#).

Cymru Can summarises the approach we intend to take over the next seven years towards achieving this vision and sets out our five missions:

- [Implementation and Impact](#)
- [Climate and Nature](#)
- [Health and Well-being](#)
- [Culture and Welsh Language](#)
- [A Well-being Economy](#)

The response to the five new missions in the strategy has been really positive, and many organisations have already shown their support for ensuring that together, **Cymru Can**.



How can you get involved and support us to ensure that Cymru Can?

The aspirations in Cymru Can require a collaborative approach to implementation, we cannot do it alone! We are currently in the process of developing more detailed plans for each of our five missions, and mapping key stakeholders to involve further.

To achieve our five missions, we'll need to collaborate widely and involve people across sectors, across Cymru and that will include:

- Seeking out and valuing independent expertise, lived experiences and diverse voices.
- Understanding our unique role in tackling complex issues.
- Sharing learnings, amplifying the messages of others and advocating together where necessary. Listening to what people tell us about what's working, what needs to change and where we're best placed to help that happen.
- Promoting Wales' place on the world stage.



In the meantime, there are a number of more immediate ways that you can get involved.

Can you help share the Cymru Can message and brand?

- Cymru Can is a brand that others can use to get involved in the movement for positive change in line with the WFGA's well-being goals. Cymru Can belongs to all of Cymru and is bigger than the Future Generations Cymru team, so please do use #CymruCan when communicating the impact of your work.

Do you have a good story to tell?

- The Cymru Can approach is already making change in Wales and we are keen to hear more about 'green shoots', examples where the WFGA is being implemented to make bold

transformative change. Even if you're not a public body covered by the WFGA, we'd love to hear about how your organisation is making relevant positive change.

Does one or more of the five missions in Cymru Can link with your own organisational purpose or activities?

- We're inviting contributors to write a guest blog over the next few months (500-600 words) in response to our new strategy and about how Cymru Can links with their work – please let us know if you would like to discuss this further.
- Our first blog is from **Eleri Williams from Building Communities Trust** where she explores the link between community resilience and inequality. Read the full blog further on in this newsletter.

If there's any way that we can further help you be a part of the Cymru Can movement, please let us know, you can email us at contactus@futuregenerations.wales.

The detail of how we will deliver each of our five missions will be included in a three-year routemap from 1 April 2024. We'll review our approach as we go, involving others to make sure that we are always achieving the biggest impact we can within our resources to improve the well-being of people in Wales now and for generations to come.



Decarbonising Future Generations Cymru

We are happy to say we are moving closer to having our first organisational carbon reduction plan in place.

We've spent the summer involving the team in conversations around what we can do as an office and as individuals to reduce our carbon footprint and we are now working to set out actions in a three-year plan.

The World Health Organization has identified climate change as the greatest health threat facing humanity, not only impacting our health but also the health of the planet and we recognise the urgent need to act together now to reduce the impact of a changing climate on the environment, and on our physical and mental health and well-being.

Our own carbon reduction plan will focus on some of our biggest sources of emissions such as our energy use, waste and transport. As our biggest emissions, we are committed to focusing most of our attention on these issues.

In developing our plan, we are deciding on ideas and actions for 2024-2027 which will range from small policy changes to some big decisions including whether we choose to fly to important international events.

As a primarily remote team we understand we cannot capture all of our team's emissions based only on our office space so we're exploring how to do more outside the office too.

Some of the ideas we are considering for our carbon reduction plan include:

- Working with our office landlords at Tramshed Tech in Cardiff on things like LED lighting, green electricity tariffs and the potential for renewable energy and EV charging.
- Developing a new travel and subsistence policy based around the Welsh Government's sustainable travel hierarchy.
- Updating our policy on flying and embedding a culture for active and healthy travel into the way we work and support our staff as signatories of the Healthy Travel Charter Level 2.
- Exploring how we can address our digital footprint through reducing the amount of data we store on servers and how we use digital communications platforms.
- Offering the opportunity for our team to take a voluntary pledge to decarbonise in their day to day lives, by buying second hand, eating less meat or switching to a green energy tariff.





One of the key challenges with a plan of this kind is the need to have useful and measurable data. As we have worked through the things we'd like to do as a team we've been figuring out how to collect data that will let us monitor and track our progress.

There are no simple answers to a lot of this work and we are having to make the best estimates that we can, with a view to improving our data collection methods over time.

We look forward to sharing our carbon reduction plan in the new year so keep an eye out on our social media pages and in our newsletter for more information.

If you'd like to learn more about what we're currently doing as a team to improve well-being and reduce emissions, [visit our website](#) and read our [previous newsletters](#).

How others are working to measure and reduce the carbon impact of their organisation

Public Health Wales' Health and Sustainability Hub have recently published a research report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and a shift to more agile working on their carbon footprint.

Their research was around the sustainability of switching to home working and looked at their four key emission areas (procurement, travel, business/site and homeworking). They identified key priority areas where they could make a real difference to reduce their carbon emissions including:

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- Reducing unnecessary business and commuting travel emissions and revising internal policies to make it easier for staff to make sustainable travel choices
 - Increasing the proportion of energy sourced from green/renewable tariffs
 - Providing guidance to staff to help reduce home working emissions
 - Continue to work with our supply chain to better understand the emissions associated with goods and service delivery and how to reduce
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The findings and key recommendations of their study will be used to inform ongoing discussions around implementing more sustainable future ways of working and support their net zero ambitions.

Read the full research report and relevant infographics on their website [here](#).

If you're interested in how you can reduce your organisational emissions, you may also be interested in Public Health Wales Health and Sustainability Hub's range of e-resources including the '[Cutting our carbon emissions](#)' infographic and the '[be the change](#)' e-guides.

Cymru Can Strengthen Community Resilience

The first in our series of guest blogs responding to Cymru Can, we have **Eleri Williams** from **Building Communities Trust** on community resilience and inequality, and what can be done to ensure that Cymru Can achieve well-being for people now, and generations yet to be born, no matter where they live in Cymru.

Place-based inequality across Wales is leaving an increasing number of people at risk to the effects of the climate emergency, reducing their exposure to nature and excluding them from accessing the things they need to stay physically and mentally well.

Pioneering community assets research identifies where this sustained inequality is happening across Wales, and what needs to happen next.

[Building Communities Trust](#) (BCT), whose mission is to enable residents to build on the strengths and talents within their communities and take action to make their areas even better places to live, recently published [two distinct but linked indexes](#).

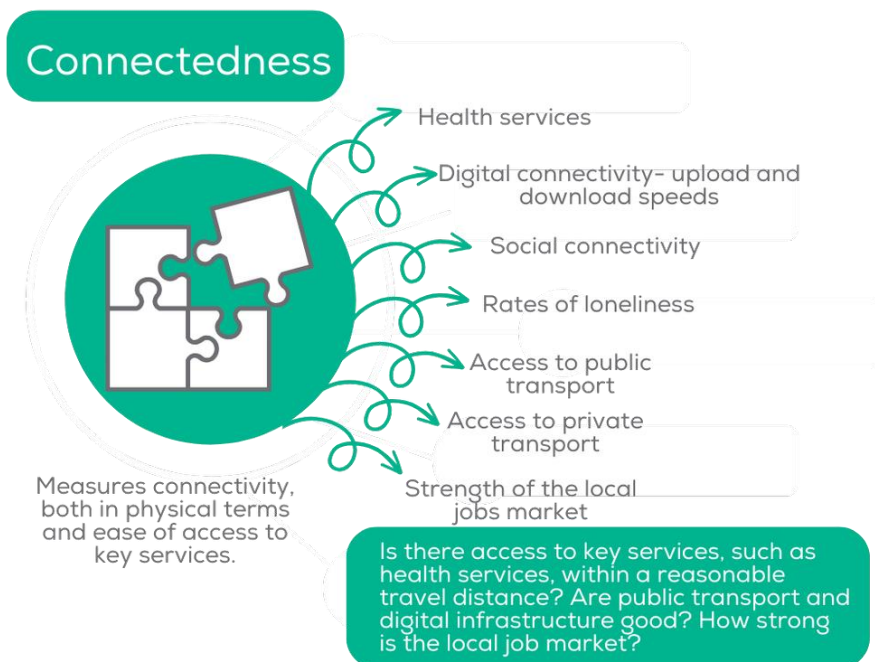
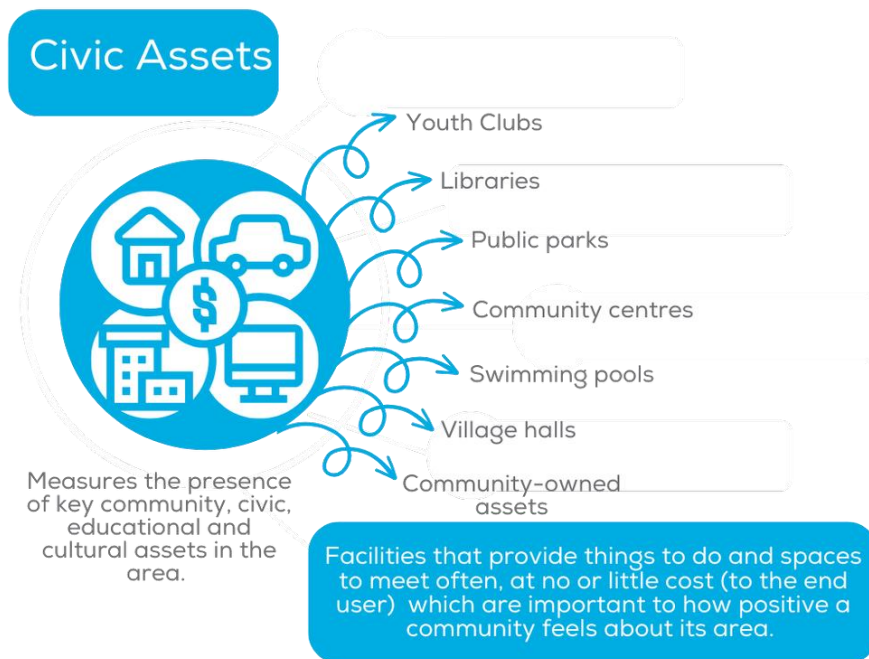
As part of the Wales Community Assets Index, every small area in Wales was mapped, scored, and ranked according to the presence of community assets (for example community shops, pubs and venues), and broader community resilience.

The data shows that sustained place-based inequality exists in Wales, with 102 small areas categorised as 'Less Resilient' due to the dual challenge of limited provision of community infrastructure in addition to high levels of socio-economic deprivation.

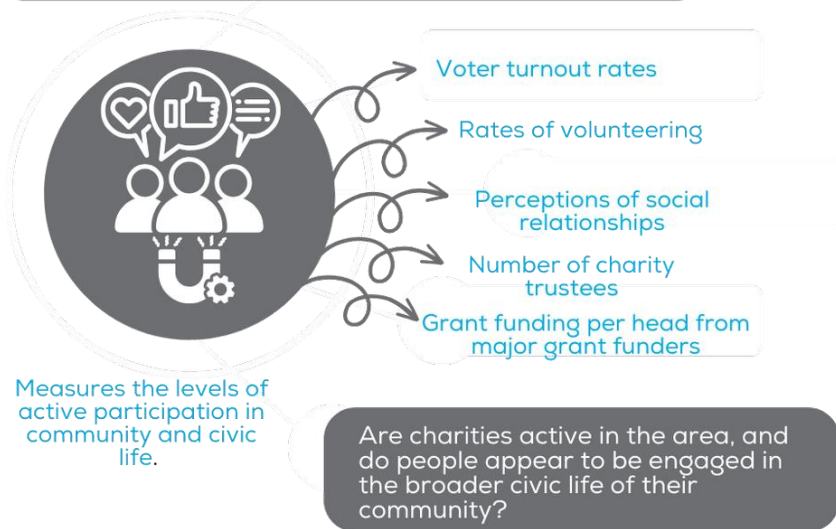
The indexes bring together 20 indicators including human and social, built and environmental, as well as economic measures. This results in a comprehensive assessment of community infrastructure and participation for the entirety of Wales – meaning we can identify discrete actions and responses suitable for small areas and their varied circumstances. This will facilitate informed cross-sector collaboration to support community resilience as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act, helping communities to pre-empt and respond to challenges in the short and longer term.

The Invest Local Programme facilitated by Building Communities Trust is an example of investing in community resilience at a local level. The programme supports 13 communities across Wales to guide their own investment in a range of community facilities and activities, from saving community centres at risk of closure, building new parks and multi-use games areas, to supporting and setting up clubs and activities for local people.

Anecdotal evidence tells us that community assets are vital not only for individual's well-being, but also for community well-being, which is a broader collective measure of well-being including how much people participate in their local area.



Active and Engaged Community



The Wales Community Assets Index and the Wales Community Resilience Index, now provide quantitative evidence in support of this.

The research shows that communities with fewer places to meet, a less engaged and active community and poorer connectivity to the wider economy, experience lower levels of well-being both socially and economically compared to communities possessing more of these assets.

Community resilience and consideration of place-based inequality will need to be at the heart of delivering Cymru Can.

Places with lower resilience are likely to be more at risk to the effects of climate change, have less access to nature and be less well-equipped to engage in preventative approaches to health.

They enjoy less access to the community infrastructure that supports cultural well-being and may have the most to gain in the shift to a well-being economy.

To strengthen community resilience now and in the long-term, BCT is recommending that:

- *Welsh Government distribute resources based on resilience as well as deprivation and ensure, through stronger guidance or legislation, that communities have a simpler process to take over key community facilities.*
- *Welsh Government develop mandatory guidelines to ensure all future housing developments are “future proofed” with good transport access and minimum provision of community assets, like a community centre.*
- *Welsh Government create a ‘Community Wealth Fund’ using the new wave of money to be released under 2022’s Dormant Assets Act, to build community resilience across Wales.*

By creating a supportive environment for community action and sustainable community assets – which in the long-run save public money and contribute to the prevention agenda – we strengthen community resilience for tomorrow and beyond.

By investing in community resilience we can ensure that Cymru Can.

Halfway through our Academy

We are officially halfway through the third membership of our Future Generations Leadership Academy!

Since September, the Academy has come together four times online to listen to speakers from a variety of sectors and have engaged in a number of opportunities including taking part in an event in Swansea with the Clintons, speaking on podcasts and media interviews, and joining panel discussions including Wales Climate Week.

This month we held a residential two-day event where they came together in Tŷ Pawb, Wrexham. The participants heard from a fantastic group of 16 speakers who delivered interactive sessions on the five ways of working, the implementation of the Act in North Wales and its challenges and benefits, and sessions on Empathy and Leading Change.

The Academy members also worked together on five ways of working scenario tasks and undertook more training on how to implement the Well-being of Future Generations Act in their own work and Action Plans.

All of the sessions and experiences the Academy participate in have been designed and delivered based on the participants' preferences, needs and involvement.



2 - Academy 3.0

And our Leadership Academy Alumni have also been busy over the last year:

- Two of our Alumni spoke at an event hosted by Cwm Tag Morgannwg UHB on the future of health
- One Alumnus joined Amgueddfa Cymru's Board as a Trustee
- Two Alumni were on the judging panel for Cymbrog's first Tomorrow's Changemaker Hackathon which enabled the next generation of young people to confidently take on tomorrow's climate-changed world

- Another Alumnus presented the Well-being of Future Generations Act to the Welsh Government Treasury department
- One Alumnus joined Derek on the Hiraeth podcast to discuss the impact of the Act and what's next for our office
- Five of our Alumni attended One Young World 2023 in Belfast
- Two Alumni joined our Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee as trainee members

Many of our Alumni also supported and fed into the Our Future Focus work including participating in events, like our Cultural roundtable in Wrexham, feeding in their own views for consideration and delivering sessions on their experiences and action plans.

In the new year, we will be preparing for Academy 3.0's graduation and exploring what's next for the programme. For more information on the Academy please visit [our website](#) or email Korina.tsioni@futuregenerations.wales.



3 - Alumni attending One Young World



4 - Two Alumni joining our ARAC

Nadolig Llawn a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!

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

***Diolch yn fawr** to all the incredible people and organisations we have worked with this year who have supported Our Future Focus and Cymru Can.*

*We look forward to continuing our collective efforts in 2024 to improve and safeguard the well-being of current and future generations in Wales – **together, Cymru Can.***



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 / futuregenerations2020.wales

contactus@futuregenerations.wales

@futuregencymru



Comisiynydd
**Cenedlaethau'r
Dyfodol**
Cymru

**Future
Generations**
Commissioner
for Wales