



Future Generations Newsletter January 2024



Foreword



1 - Derek Walker, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

We are in the toughest financial situation in Wales since the start of devolution and our crucial public services are at crisis point.

Welsh Government's latest budget constraints come at a difficult time, in a period of polycrisis, including climate change, biodiversity loss, pandemics, the rising cost of living, and conflicts, which together are having a significant, immediate, and detrimental impact on the lives of the people in Wales.

Our public services play a huge role in supporting people to live a good quality of life, and future generations will have to rebuild what we stand to lose in cultural, social, economic and environmental well-being if this cycle of cuts on cuts continues.

We cannot forget or underestimate the importance of our local and national services – from libraries providing our most vulnerable people with warmth and connection in the energy crisis, to our schools improving education around a preventative approach to health and well-being to ensure our current and future generations have long healthy lives. We must do all we can to preserve these lifelines.

Welsh Government is under immense pressure as a result of the funding settlement they have received from the UK Government but I'm also concerned their latest draft budget fails to take sufficient account of the long-term.

For the last few years, the Future Generations Cymru team have [scrutinised Welsh Government's draft budget](#), and year on year we have identified the risk that Welsh Government is not getting to the root causes of issues.

We need a strategy for shifting our spending from reactive to preventative, sooner rather than later. If not, we will likely see further increases in pressure on services in the future, bringing them to unsustainable levels.

It's time for a radical transformation in how we plan and deliver services.

Some local authorities across Wales are already starting to re-assess including:

- Several councils are using involvement tools and asking their local residents to input on budget decisions.
- Vale of Glamorgan Council's Our Future Transformation Program maintains their ongoing work to reshape the way in which services are delivered, ensuring they operate as efficiently as possible, while also investigating creative ways to best serve our residents.
- With the support of the Powys Public Services Board, the draft budget has also led Powys County Council to re-assess how they deliver services and has improved integration with other services.

In this time of budget challenges, it is important we avoid short-term, sticking plaster solutions as we know this will only serve to store up future problems for our already depleted public bodies including our National Health Service.

Instead, we must continue to follow the direction of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. We must continue to take forward our commitments to current and future generations to remedy the root causes of problems, not just the symptoms, for a better future for everyone.

Using the Act, we need more creative solutions to halt the decline of our vital public services and properly invest in a [preventative health system](#) that keeps people well, now. [Cymru Can](#).

Embed:</iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/h-MiyyhMEQ4?si=5bMZq1R31Kh6G0ph" title="YouTube video player" frameborder="0" allow="accelerometer; autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; gyroscope; picture-in-picture; web-share" allowfullscreen></iframe>

Refresher sessions: Well-being of Future Generations Act

Are you...

- Trying to be more sustainable and looking for a way to up your game on making a difference for current and future generations?
- Wanting to create practical change but it feels harder than it should?
- Applying the Well-being of Future Generations but looking for a quick refresher to keep you on track?

Over the next six months, Welsh Government and Academi Wales are jointly running hour-long 'top-up' sessions on the Act, with support from our team and Audit Wales Good Practice Exchange.

Suitable for beginners and experience practitioners, the top-up course provides one hour of experiential learning and will bring you up to date with some of the latest behavioural science you can apply, in practical and effective ways, to deepen your understanding and application of the Act.



The initial course dates are:

- Tuesday 13th February at 2pm (Bilingual)
- Monday 11th March at 2pm (Welsh)
- Friday 19th April at 10am (Bilingual)
- Thursday 6th June at 9.30am (Welsh)
- Tuesday 25th June at 9.30am (Bilingual)

Electronic registration for the courses will be set up shortly but, in the meantime, please e-mail sustainable.futures@gov.wales to register your attendance.

Meet our Future Leaders Academy

The Future Generations Leadership Academy is our visionary leadership programme created to support and inspire Wales' future leaders in their journey to achieve the aspirations of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

We are now more than halfway through the third membership of our Academy; the participants are an impressive group of ambitious and dedicated 18–30-year-olds who come from a variety of organisations across Wales including Welsh Government, Transport for Wales, Principality Building Society and the Urdd.

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

Here are just a few of the incredible participants taking part in this year's programme:

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 TreeSisters, a restoration charity working with indigenous communities across Colombia, Uganda and India.

Osian Ellis

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 supported the development of the Council's new highway maintenance policy and managing an urban regeneration project.



2 - Rhia Aysha Danis



3 - Osian Ellis

He holds BA and MSt 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.

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 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 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 their 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.



4 - Luned Hunter



5 - Melusi Moyo

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.

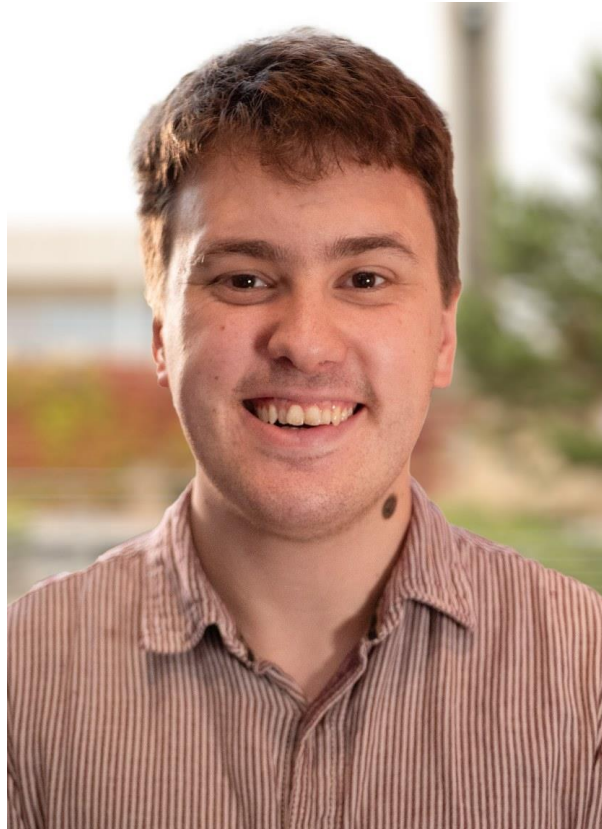
Shannen Stocker

As a Senior Programmes Officer for Stonewall, 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.



6 - Shannen Stocker



7 - Alex Swift

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

Alex Swift

Working as Communications and Engagement Support Officer for the Good Practice Exchange Team (GPX) at Audit Wales, Alex Swift 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.

The full list of Academy participants and their stories are available in our [‘Meet the Participants’](#) guide.

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

Gwent Public Services Board surveys – share good practice

To get a good picture of positive action that is happening across Gwent, **Natural Resources Wales and the Gwent Public Services Board** (PSB) are sharing public surveys asking organisations and community groups what they are doing to help tackle the climate and nature emergencies and ensure everyone has the same economic chances.

The surveys aim to find out which community groups, organisations, businesses, and public bodies in Gwent (Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen) are funding, planning or delivering projects to tackle these issues.

- [Gwent Climate and Nature survey](#)
- [Working to address economic inequalities in Gwent survey](#)

Deadline: Wednesday 7 February 2023

The survey results will help Gwent PSB to build a plan to celebrate and build on successful projects that are happening across Gwent. This could be through linking projects across the region, replicating successful projects, sharing great ideas or building on learning from past projects and the good practice demonstrated by current ones.

The surveys are open to anyone with an interest in improving well-being across Gwent.



Supporting victims of domestic abuse

This month the [Home Office announced](#) that domestic abuse victims will be given up to £2,500 to help them escape their situation under a new government scheme.

The £2 million fund was built on a pilot scheme funded by the Home Office and delivered with Women's Aid last year, which helped more than 600 people get to safety.

Nearly [three-quarters of domestic abuse victims](#) said the spiralling cost of living crisis had stopped them from escaping their abusive partner or made it trickier for them to flee, and Public Health Wales found employers need to do more to support women experiencing violence and domestic abuse, which worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Domestic abuse is everyone's business and as part of our vision for a better Wales, we offer a support package for employees affected by it, including paid leave and financial support.

For more information on what we're doing to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse, visit [our website](#).

Sustainable Steps Wales - Green Careers

The National Lottery Community Fund want to help young people (aged between 16 and 30) in Wales into green careers – careers that reduce carbon emissions, restore nature and help us adapt to our changing climate.

They're looking for organisations who will work together to plan and deliver projects that help young people:

- develop their confidence
- teach them new skills – this could include social and technical skills
- get work experience and placements which could lead to longer-term opportunities.

Their aim is to encourage diversity in green careers and will be funding partnership projects that focus on supporting young people with disabilities and/or young people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Funding size: £20,001 up to around £3,000,000. Projects should be around 5 years.

Total available: £10 million

Application deadline: Expression of interest form by 5pm on Tuesday 30 April 2024.



There are two application stages including submitting an expression of interest form including information about your project with request for a development grant (stage one) and the full application where you can apply for up to around £3,000,000 (stage two).

For more information on the **Sustainable Steps Wales - Green Careers fund**, please visit The National Lottery Community Fund's website [here](#).

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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