



Response to Advice from the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

[The Oxford Martin 'Now for the long-term'](#) report shows global and national future trends that we all need to react to in carrying out sustainable development.

- We are aware of the report. We have drawn on information for trends and issues. Relevant information will be provided to each Action Area group, and we will consider the recommended approaches set out in the report.

For instance, your draft delivery plan includes actions around procurement and I am aware the Council is part of the work my office are doing with [Value Wales](#) to pilot new approaches to procurement in the context of the Act.

- The Council is part of the pilot work with Value Wales. This work and any findings will be highlighted to other PSB organisations and will also be considered by Action Area groups.

Alun Davies AM [announced funding for growing bilingual small businesses](#) recently to increase visibility of Welsh in our communities

- We are aware of the funding to support the use of Welsh within small businesses and will promote this in our work with local businesses.

Your draft actions include seeking to ensure the goods and services you procure are sustainable, low carbon and ethically responsible. You may find Forum for the Future resources useful in this respect.

- We are aware of the Forum for the Future resources and these will be highlighted to be considered by relevant Action Area groups.

The Welsh Government recently published [carbon emission levels subdivided by Local Authority](#).

- We are aware of this information and it will be considered as a potential local indicator. The information will be considered in detail as part of our work on asset management which includes carbon reduction.

[The Closing the Circle](#) report on the circular economy and the Welsh Environment is a useful report by Constructing Excellence in Wales, giving practical examples in where the public sector can look to minimise waste and resources in future projects. You can also take inspiration from some of the projects mentioned in the recent [Constructing Excellence Awards](#), such as the Active Classroom. Having a consideration of how 'green' these buildings are, both in terms of energy efficiency and sustainable construction, is a quick win for you as a PSB. [The Wildlife Trust in Wales report into green infrastructure](#) outlines how green infrastructure delivers a wide range of proven, tangible, and cost-effective economic, social and environmental benefits. [The Design Commission for Wales](#) also has case studies and resources on design that focuses on users, maximises energy efficiency and has been shown to significantly improve patient recovery in health. In each of these areas my office can connect you to these people and organisations who may be able to assist you as you develop your work.

- Reducing resource consumption is a key element running through all our work, and will be important for every Action Area. The relevant practical examples highlighted in the report will be given to the appropriate Action Area group. Information will also be considered in detail as part of our work on asset management which includes carbon reduction and resource efficiency.

The [Welsh Government National Assets Working Group](#) captured some Welsh examples that you might wish to explore, but there are many national organisations promoting better use of publicly owned land and assets, such as [Shared Assets](#), [Nurture Development](#) and [Locality](#), with the aim of encouraging communities to thrive.

- We are aware of the NAWG and its work, in particular the Asset Collaboration Programme Wales. This information will be considered in detail as part of our work on asset management which includes carbon reduction.

Other PSBs seeking to create organisational change through their objectives include [Torfaen](#), who are looking at [organisational development](#) in the context of the Act, [Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire](#) and you may wish to engage directly with them to share ideas and learning, again my office is happy to connect you if this is helpful.

- Our “enablers” include [Enabler 1 – Communications](#), [Enabler 2 - Working differently](#) and [Enabler 3 – Procurement](#). We will consider the information from the highlighted work as part of this work.

The costs of the worst start in life are enormous, both to the individual's life and to public services. [Late intervention services for young people are estimated to cost England and Wales £17bn per year](#) (£6bn on child protection and safeguarding, £5.2bn on crime and anti-social behaviour, £3.7bn on youth economic inactivity, £680m on school absence and exclusion, £610m on child injuries and mental health problems, and £450m on youth substance misuse). Prevention is at the core of this objective and I would advise that your organisations recognise it is part of all of their responsibilities to prevent poor outcomes.

Alyson Francis, Director of the ACE Support Hub, has also recently worked with my office to write to you outlining that ACEs are not another thing to do, but an opportunity to reconsider how we deliver services together that make sense for the families receiving them. [The ACE Support Hub](#) could also act as a central place for PSBs to share practice, as almost all of the PSBs in Wales have discussed early years, children and ACEs in their draft objectives and steps.

- One of our 5 Action Areas (Action Area 1) is the “best start in life”. This information and links will be passed on to the group working on this action area.

This example [‘Why poor people don’t plan long-term’ provides](#) an insight into the barriers people face in overcoming inequality and the case studies [contained in this report by Locality](#) demonstrate the financial and social costs of not taking this holistic and preventative approach to people’s lives.

- The Locality Report will be passed to Enabler 3 – Procurement. This group will be looking at buying locally and supporting local supply chains.

The [New Economics Foundation](#) work on investing in children might be helpful, which highlights the need to address both material well-being and external circumstances – such as housing, poverty, and schooling – as well as psychosocial well-being and inner resources.

I would also advise you to use the knowledge gathered by Public Health Wales on the [First 1000 days](#) of a child’s life and the benefits that can be realised from investing in the early years to determine what steps you can take now to improve the well-being of our future generations.

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A [2013 review carried out by the London School of Economics for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) found that children in lower-income families have worse cognitive, social-behavioural and health outcomes. [The ‘Mums and Babies in Mind’](#) project in England has given a focus to local leaders to create a pathway across sectors that provide expectant and new mothers with the right support at the right time.

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Alyson Francis and I are also on the panel of the [Good Practice Exchange Wales webinar on understanding ACEs](#) on the 7th November, which may be helpful to you in considering your steps for this objective.

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There are some good examples of projects that seek to bring people together to learn new skills, socialise and build their resilience in later life, like [Men's Sheds Cymru](#), happening across Wales that the PSB could encourage and support. [Solva Care](#) also demonstrates innovative initiatives that focus on the needs of the community first and integrate services to improve well-being.

- We are aware of the Men's Shed Cymru project and have several schemes operating in Caerphilly. We have researched the Solva Care scheme and this will be fed into Action Area 4 – Safer, Resilient Communities.

With the long term national target set out in [Cymraeg 2050](#), contributing to this goal by providing opportunities to use Welsh, encouraging the growth of the language and promoting it as a life skill would help people in reaching their potential.

- We are aware of the Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers. This will be taken into account in all our work.

You may find the [Arts Council for Wales' strategy](#) useful, which outlines some of the benefits involvement in creative activity can have on the health, cohesion and skills of the population.

- We will review the information in the Strategy and identify how it can best be incorporated into the work to deliver well-being in Caerphilly county borough.

The [Cultural Commissioning Programme, funded by Arts Council England](#) seeks to help commissioners of public services understand how they can improve outcomes by integrating arts and cultural activities into a range of services, including mental health and wellbeing, older people and place-based commissioning.

- The New Economics Foundation Report will be passed to Enabler 3 – Procurement. This group will be looking at how we can maximise the community benefits from the money we spend.

The [Nudged 'Behaviour Change is a Team Sport'](#) report found getting people together increased exercise patterns. [The Natural Resources Wales' 'Actif Woods'](#) project is an example of getting people outside, protecting their environment and enjoying the positive effects on health and well-being

- Increasing the use of the natural environment for both health and to raise awareness of its value forms a key part of Action Area 5 – Protect and enhance the local natural environment. We are aware of the Actif Woods programme and will consider the approach as part of the work.

The future of employment and how we see 'work' is changing; the [Future of Work report](#) predicts that 65 percent of the children who are now starting school will find themselves working jobs as adults that don't even exist yet. And, according to [McKinsey](#), technology could automate 45 percent of the tasks people are currently paid to do. Your well-being assessment identified that the majority of the population in Caerphilly are employed in manufacturing – an industry that will become more automated in the future.

- This information will be provided to Action Area 2 – Volunteering & Apprenticeships. However a Regeneration Strategy for the county borough is currently being finalised, and the PSB have agreed that Cardiff Capital City Deal issues will be dealt with on a regional basis rather than directly through the PSB.

A [recent report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) highlights the value of the social economy in creating jobs, strengthening skills and employability. It follows that the skills we will need in the future will clearly be different to what we need now. As this recent [World Economic Forum](#) blog quotes: "I believe in a future where the point of education is not to prepare you for another useless job, but for a life well lived." What life skills might your children need to make it in Caerphilly in the future? The Future of Work report suggests project-based work is likely to become more widespread, with skills like creativity, connectivity, communication and problem-solving being far more important than specific knowledge. The Caerphilly Youth Forum echoed these comments, which is in line with [the Prince's Trust recent Results for Life report](#), which explored how teamwork, communication and confidence are as valuable to young people entering the workplace.

- We are aware of this research and studies. Whilst supporting young people will cut across the whole of the Well-being Plan, this work will be highlighted to Action Area 2 – Volunteering & Apprenticeships.

I recently commented on the work of city regions in response to Dr Mark Lang and Professor Terry Marsden's recent report ["Re-thinking Growth: Toward the Well-being Economy."](#)

- We are aware of this study. Dr Mark Lang has been involved in our work at Lansbury Park which will be part of Action Area 4 – Safer, Sustainable Communities.

I would advise each of your organisations commit to the [National Principles for Engagement and Participation Cymru](#) can support your officers in gaining the skills vital for effective and meaningful involvement.

- Caerphilly County Borough Council, Caerphilly LSB and several PSB member organisations have endorsed the National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales.

Most people will only get involved in something that directly impacts them, their family or the place where they spend time and, often, this can lead to much bigger outcomes - shown by the work that ['Nurture Development'](#) do around Asset Based Community Development. [Co-production Network Wales](#) could help you to identify and engage community leaders that can help you to deliver benefits for the community.

- We are aware of the Co-production Network Wales and will explore the potential for working with them on the delivery of the Well-being Plan.

The [Centre for Regeneration Excellence Wales](#)' 'Deep Place' study in Tredegar gives evidence on how an understanding of place can have multiple benefits on well-being and you are embarking on the results of your own ['Deep Place' study in Lansbury Park](#), which has the potential for real change. Your learning as a PSB of applying the Act in practice will be useful across Wales and beyond.

- We would be happy to share the learning from our work in Lansbury Park with other organisations and areas across Wales.

Your support team will be aware of "[Monmouthshire Made Open](#)", an example of an online platform that has anticipated how people might contribute to improving their area in the future, with opportunities to share ideas, ask the community, start a project and seek volunteers or resources. Matthew Gatehouse, working with Monmouthshire PSB, would be able to share their learning with you on establishing this website.

- We are aware of this work. It will be considered as part of our enabler work on communications and working differently

Flooding affected homes and businesses last year in the county and well-being assessments show how flooding affects people's well-being long after the event. Expected annual damage to residential [properties is estimated to be £22 million](#), so understanding how different weather events impact on communities is crucial to prevention.

- Flooding and climate change adaptation issues will be covered by Action Area 4 – Safer, Resilient Communities. This Action Area will include an element of geographically focused work. Flooding has only been identified as an issue in one of our communities.

[Zero Carbon Britain's recent 'Making it Happen'](#) report sets out what responsibilities we all have to future generations to acting on climate change now.

- Climate change mitigation issues will be considered by Enabler 4 – Asset Management. Adaptation issues will be covered by Action Area 4 – Safer, Sustainable Communities

Involving people in the running of their community can have a positive effect on improving perceptions (and realities) of community safety and help to make the local environment more resilient. [NESTA has a guide](#) to working with communities to tackle climate change, including the 'Big Green Challenge', where participants changed their lifestyles to reduce their carbon footprint. Projects such as ['Rainscape' through Dwr Cymru](#) suggest ways that we can all mitigate the effects of floods, and an extreme example includes [the Isle of Eigg in Scotland](#), where the community are having a positive impact on their environment by introducing renewable community energy schemes, building sustainable businesses and improving biodiversity. I would encourage you to use the asset of Town and Community Councils,

as working with community councils, the third sector and other networks can help you to understand how best to engage people and encourage behaviour change focused on place. [WCVA produced wider information](#) on how the third sector play a role in contributing to the Act including resources on the seven well-being goals.

- Climate change mitigation issues, including the shift to renewable energy, will be considered by Enabler 4 – Asset Management. Adaptation issues will be covered by Action Area 4 – Safer, Resilient Communities. We acknowledge the importance of working with local communities and the third sector and this is fundamental to our approach.

Last year, the National Assembly for Wales Environment and Sustainability Committee produced '[A Smarter Energy Future for Wales](#)', with 19 recommendations for how Wales could transform its approach to energy. More recently, Smart Energy GB have produced a report on '[A Smart Energy Future for Rural Areas](#)', giving examples and case studies of rural areas across the UK who are making that transition. You may find this [seminar](#) from the National Assembly for Wales' Research Service and the Learned Society for Wales, provides insights from the leading energy experts in Wales and their thoughts on the future of renewable energy in Wales. [The Policy Forum for Wales](#) keynote seminar takes place on the 7th December this year, with a focus on priorities for energy policy, growing the sector in Wales and increasing investment in renewables.

- Asset management including energy reduction and promoting renewable energy is part of Enabler 4 – Asset Management