



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WALES AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

2019

Supplementary Report to the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Voluntary
National Review of progress towards the
Sustainable Development Goals 2030



Comisiynydd
Cenedlaethau'r
Dyfodol
Cymru

Future
Generations
Commissioner
for Wales

Foreword

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out an ambitious agenda for transforming the world for people, planet and prosperity. We share this ambition in Wales and we are committed to making our contribution to the goals.

As we look back on progress since the SDGs were agreed in 2015, we should reflect on the actions we took in Wales to prepare us for Agenda 2030.

In 2015, the National Assembly for Wales made a historic decision to change the course of Wales onto a more sustainable path by passing the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. This reflected the tireless effort by people from across Wales to strengthen the way in which Wales's future is shaped. It reflects Welsh society's commitment to a better quality of life for both current and future generations.

We built consensus around a number of shared well-being goals for the future which are integrated and indivisible; these reflect the four dimensions of sustainable development – our economy, our society, our environment, and importantly for Wales, our language and culture.

We engaged and mobilised people across Wales through a national conversation on the 'Wales We Want in 2050'.

We extended our historic obligations to promote sustainable development to 44 public bodies, legislating for sustainable

development to be the central organising principle of each organisation.

We established the world's first statutory independent Future Generations Commissioner for Wales to be an advocate for the long term and to support decision-makers in Wales.

We brought together local government with other key players in statutory partnerships, Public Services Boards, to carry out sustainable development at the local level.

We made it clear that sustainable development is about working differently – for Wales this means looking to the future; integrating the four dimensions of sustainable development; collaborating to find and deliver more sustainable solutions; preventing problems from occurring or getting worse; and finding new ways to involve people in the decisions that affect them so that they have ownership of the solution and ownership of the future.

We are doing things differently in Wales.

But we know that changes to legislation are only as good as the implementation. Since 2015, the context in which Wales achieves these ambitions has changed significantly but the framework provided by the Act gives us a strong platform to deal with these complex challenges and uncertainties in a more coherent and sustainable way.

Since 2015, our sustainable development legislation has stimulated both action and discussion about how we transform Wales into a more sustainable nation.

This Welsh Supplementary Report is our record of progress so far. It is framed through our seven well-being goals because these both translate the SDGs into the Welsh context, and articulate our nation's contribution to the SDGs. The report is a timely opportunity to reflect on progress in Wales, as we move towards 2020. It will be five years since both the SDGs and our own well-being goals were agreed and five years since the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act received royal assent. Next year we will see the first legally required Future Generations Report for Wales prepared and published by the independent Future Generations Commissioner for Wales. This will give us an independent view of progress under the Act.

Wales is different because sustainable development is the central organising principle that shapes what it does and how it works. This Welsh Government will make decisions in the interests of both current and future generations, and draw on the talents of everyone to enable our nation to flourish. The National Assembly for Wales was the first parliament in the world to declare a climate emergency and the Welsh Government has accepted the Committee on Climate Change recommendation to increase Wales' emissions reduction target to 95% by 2050. The Welsh Government takes Wales' global responsibilities seriously and we are committed to doing everything in our power to meet them.

As we approach the fifth anniversary of the Act, we are seeing significant benefits as a consequence. But culture change takes time and the greatest benefits may not become apparent for

some time to come. We recognise that we still have more to do to fully embed the Act within Welsh Government and across the public sector; working in partnership with civil society, we are committed to delivering on the aspirations in the Act. We hope this report and our contribution towards the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development can help us measure where we are on this journey, and help highlight where further work is needed.

We are grateful to those who attended the Sustainable Development Goals Summits earlier this year, and the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales and members of the 'Wales and the Sustainable Development Goals' working group that helped shape this supplementary report.



Mark Drakeford AM

First Minister of Wales



Jane Hutt AM

Deputy Minister and Chief Whip

A View from the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

Wales is a small nation with an ambitious vision. Through our approach to sustainable development, we have showcased our commitment to improving the well-being of people and planet for future generations.

This Supplementary report to the UK Voluntary National Review is an exciting addition; highlighting the progress Wales has made in meeting the UN SDGs and our very own Well-being of Future Generations Act.

My role as Commissioner is to support and challenge public bodies in their implementation of this ground-breaking legislation. When the Act was passed, the UN famously said that ‘what Wales does today, the world will do tomorrow’ – and many corners of the world now look to the example we set here in Wales when it comes to sustainability.

Internationally, our way of doing things is continuing to inspire and impact change. Our membership of the Network of Institutions for Future Generations (NIFG) has been instrumental in developing a methodology of sharing best practice between fellow member countries such as Israel, Hungary, Norway, Finland, New Zealand and Canada.

Professor Jonathan Boston from Victoria University, New Zealand, described our legislation as ‘remarkable in terms of its breadth, its coverage and ambition. There’s nothing quite like it anywhere else in the world at this point. I am enormously impressed with the amount of work the Commissioner’s team has done in a very short space of time.’

The eyes of the world are now on Wales to deliver, and it is true that the effectiveness of our legislation and our approach to meeting the SDGs will be in the changes we see to people’s well-being.

We are three years into the implementation of the Act and four years into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and it is apparent to me, that ways of working are changing, the status quo is being questioned, and business as usual is deemed no longer fit for purpose.

From the transformational changes – the rewriting of Planning Policy Wales in alignment with our approach to sustainable development, the declaration of a climate emergency, the commitment to 100% emissions reduction by 2050, the new focus on the foundational economy and the adoption of a definition of prevention across Government to track spending priorities – to the small but no less significant changes taking place across local authorities and national bodies; people in Wales are responding to the challenges for the future, today.

My role as Commissioner is unique and not without its challenges. Striking that balance between support and challenge has not always been easy; especially in the first years. Many are anticipating major changes overnight, but the realities are far slower when it comes to reshaping paradigms and ways of working that are generations deep.

It’s fair to say that during my first few years, I haven’t shied away from challenging the Welsh Government and the rest of the public sector when I have felt progress has been too slow or

where old habits and ways of working fail to reflect the sustainable development principle.

For example, evidence has shown there is a lack of understanding of the goal of ‘a resilient Wales’, with objectives and steps set by public bodies focusing on low carbon energy and transport, instead of supporting healthy functioning ecosystems.

Likewise, evidence shows limited understanding of the goal of ‘a globally responsible Wales’, and many of the objectives set around the ‘prosperous Wales’ goal fail to go beyond employment and GDP. The goals of ‘a healthier Wales’ and ‘a more equal Wales’ are generally well understood, but there is still potential for public bodies to think broader and more holistically about all aspects of our economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being.

In the coming years I will be focusing my attention on how the Government will redirect resources to address the climate emergency, including: the actions they must take to reverse ecological decline, how we must improve the way we plan, design and build houses and communities and ensure that the infrastructure we rely on is fit for a low-carbon future.

I will also focus on the changes needed so that we are directing resources from healthcare systems based purely on treatment to a system which focuses on prevention, and on ensuring we have a system of lifelong learning which positions current and future generations to thrive in the economy of the future.

I think it’s clear to see within this report, that the Act gives permission to those working in Wales, who see there is a better

way of doing things. We have a long way to go and we have set our benchmark high with our ambitious vision, but nothing worth doing was ever easy, and future generations are depending on us.

Sophie Howe

Future Generations
Commissioner for Wales



Acknowledgment

Sustainable Development Goals Summits



Wales and Sustainable Development Goals Working Group



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Section A | Introduction

Introduction

In 2015 the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted 'Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. The plan lays out 17 Sustainable Development Goals which aim to mobilise global efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development by 2030 world-wide, ensuring that no one is left behind.

In the same year, the National Assembly for Wales passed the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015* to provide stronger governance for the long term in Wales. The Act enshrined Wales' historical commitment to sustainable development and lays out seven well-being goals for a more sustainable Wales.

Four years on from these historic commitments the UK Government has submitted a Voluntary National Review report to the United Nations. To supplement this, the Welsh Government has worked with the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, stakeholders and through the 'Wales and the SDGs' working group to prepare a 'Wales Supplementary Report' to provide consolidated and additional content on the different approach taken by Wales to sustainable development.

This report considers progress towards Wales' well-being goals (Section 2) and progress in the means of implementation (Section 3).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

[The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.



The 2030 Agenda itself consists of 4 sections:

- (i) a political Declaration
- (ii) a set of 17 sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets
- (iii) Means of Implementation
- (iv) a framework for follow up and review of the Agenda through Voluntary National Reviews by UN Member States.

UK Voluntary National Review 2019

The UK's first Voluntary National Review (VNR) sets out clearly and comprehensively collective efforts on the Goals since their adoption in 2015. It covers domestic and international work on all 17 Goals, with a focus on the domestic. It has been produced through collaboration with and input from the devolved administrations of Scotland and Wales and the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

Wales 2019 SDG Stakeholder Summits

In January 2019, the Welsh Government with the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales held two Stakeholder Summits in Cardiff and Llandudno bringing people from the public and private sector, higher and further education, and civil society together to see how Wales is contributing to the 2030 Agenda with its own well-being goals as part of the UK Voluntary National Review 2019 and how we can intensify efforts for sustainable development and the Global Goals. This work fed in to the UK VNR report. A summary of these events can be found [here](#). During the event there was a strong call for Wales to tell its own story in addition to the UK VNR.

Sustainable Development in Wales

The policy and institutional framework for sustainable development in Wales was firstly framed by the founding legislation of devolution in the Government of Wales Act 1998 where there was a duty to promote sustainable development through a scheme. The Well-being of Future Generations Act from 2015 (WFG Act) strengthened this framework considerably through a comprehensive approach to sustainable development.

Key highlights in Wales' Sustainable Development Journey

1998	One of the first nations in the world to have a constitutional duty on sustainable development
2000	The 1 st Sustainable Development Scheme – <i>Learning to live differently</i>
2002	Chair of the session at Johannesburg that founded the global Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (now Regions4SD)
2002	Co-developer and founding signatory of the Guateng Declaration
2004	The 2 nd Sustainable Development Scheme – <i>Starting to Live Differently</i>
2008	World's First Fair Trade Nation

2009	One Wales: One Planet – The 3 rd scheme which committed to a ‘One Planet Nation’ and recognised global environmental limits.
2011	Welsh Government’s Programme for Government which committed to legislate for sustainable development and create an independent sustainable development body
2012	Sustainable Development Bill : White Paper
2013	Active Travel (Wales) 2013 - to set Wales on a path to an ‘active travel nation’.
2014	Founding signatory to the Compact of States and Regions
2014	The ‘Wales We Want in 2050’ – A national conversation about Wales’ future to inform the goals for legislation.
2014	Future Generations Bill introduced into the National Assembly for Wales
2015	Safeguarded an area of forest the Size of Wales

2015	National Assembly for Wales passes ‘The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015)
2015	Planning (Wales) Act 2015 which includes a statutory purpose for sustainable development as defined in the WFG Act
2016	Appointment of the first Future Generations Commissioner for Wales – Sophie Howe
2016	National Indicators for Wales laid before the National Assembly for Wales – 46 to measure Wales’ progress
2016	Environment (Wales) Act 2015 – which includes climate change targets, biodiversity duty and sustainable management of natural resources set in the context of the WFG Act
2017	Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 – includes a focus on obesity and Health Impact Assessments.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – stronger governance for the long term

The [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) provides a comprehensive approach to sustainable development that mirrors the Agenda 2030 framework and drew from best practice around the world at the time. It lays out seven well-being goals for Wales, which address the four dimensions of sustainable development in Wales (environmental, economic, social and cultural), places legal duties on public sector bodies and establishes the world's first Future Generations Commissioner for Wales.

Defining sustainable development

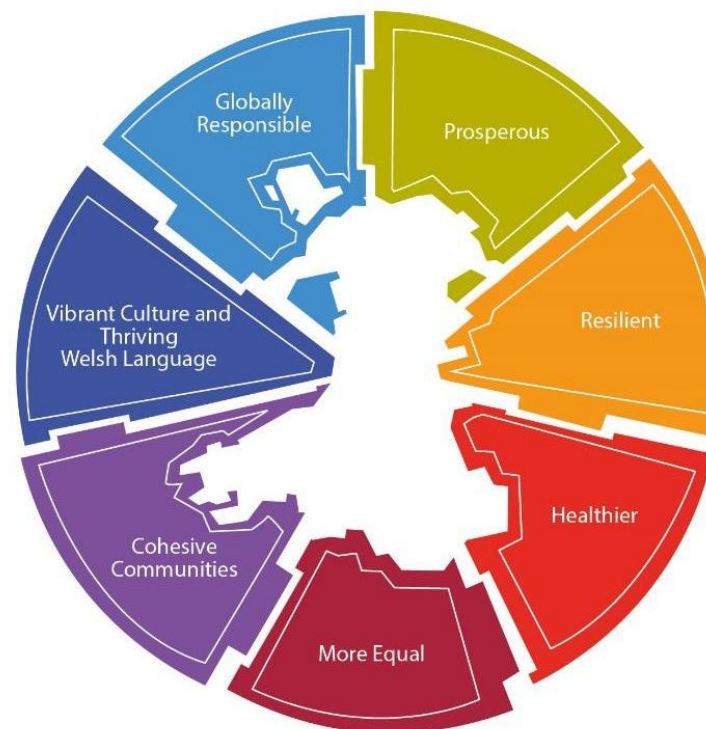
In Wales, sustainable development is the process by which we reach the goal of sustainability. The Act provided an opportunity to legislate and provide further detail on what sustainable development means. The WFG Act therefore provides a general definition as follows:-

“sustainable development” means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals

S.2 of the Well-being of Future Generations Act

The two key parts of this definition concern the focus on sustainable outcomes – the seven well-being goals, and sustainable decision making – through the sustainable development principle. The [sustainable development principle](#)

put the Bruntland definition into Welsh law and is now a fundamental part of how public bodies and public services boards must now operate.



In this Act, any reference to a public body doing something ‘in accordance with the sustainable development principle’ means that the body must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”

S.5 of the Well-being of Future Generations Act

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 establishes seven well-being goals for Wales. These articulate and translate the 17 Sustainable Development Goals into goals for Wales. These articulate a vision for Wales that reflects the four dimensions of sustainable development in Wales

- A prosperous Wales**
An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.
- A resilient Wales**
A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and

- ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).
- A healthier Wales**
A society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.
- A more equal Wales**
A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).
- A Wales of cohesive communities**
Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language**
A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.
- A globally responsible Wales**
A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

The **Sustainable Development Principle** includes five ways of working that public bodies are required to take into account when applying sustainable development.

These are:

- Looking to the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;
- Taking an integrated approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their well-being objectives;
- Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them;
- Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions;
- Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring.

In recognising the importance of local partnerships for sustainable development the Act establishes **Public Services Boards** for each local authority area in Wales who will assess the state of its area and agree a Local Well-being Plan.

The **Future Generations Commissioner for Wales**' role is to act as a guardian for the interests of future generations in Wales, and to support the public bodies subject to the Act to work towards achieving the well-being goals.

The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales has a range of actions they can carry out including advising, promoting awareness, and carry out reviews and making recommendations.

The Commissioner will also publish a Future Generations report one year before each National Assembly for Wales election. This will contain the Commissioner's assessment of improvement public bodies should make.

The **Auditor General for Wales** is also part of the changes to the institutional framework for sustainable development in Wales as it has a legal power carry out examinations of the public bodies to assess the extent to which a body has acted in accordance with the sustainable development principle in certain circumstances.

In recognition of the need to understand the challenges that Wales a '**Future Trends Report**' for Wales must be published every 5 years. There is a legal requirement in preparing this report to take account of any action taken by the United Nations in relation to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This is the first legal duty of its kind which refers to the SDGs.

In Wales, the measurement framework for sustainable development is set out through the Well-being of Future Generations Act. This mechanism ensures that Welsh Ministers are monitoring progress towards the seven statutory well-being goals through 46 **National Well-being Indicators** for Wales and **Annual Well-being of Wales** report. These measure the sustainability of Wales.

Work is also underway to set milestones for Wales against the national indicators where Welsh Ministers consider they would assist in measuring the progress towards the well-being goals.

In 2017 Wales developed an online tool map Wales well-being goals and national indicators to the 17 SDGs. demonstrating that there is good coverage across the goals. This can be found [here](#) and in Appendix 2.

A Sustainable Wales | Architecture

What (World)	Sustainable Development Goals																
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
What (A sustainable Wales)	↕ Well-being goals for Wales ↕																
	A prosperous Wales			A resilient Wales			A healthier Wales		A more equal Wales		A Wales of cohesive communities			A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language		A globally responsible Wales	
Progress	National Indicators and Milestones																
Making it happen	Sustainable development and well-being duty on public bodies (well-being objectives)																
Who	Individual well-being duty 44 Public Bodies								Collective well-being duty Public Services Boards								
How	Sustainable Development Principle																
	Long term			Prevention			Integration			Collaboration			Involvement				
Greater Transparency	Better information																
Examinations	Auditor General for Wales Examination																
Supporting the change	Future Generations Commissioner for Wales																
	Long-term			Advice			Review			Monitor			Future Generations Report		Advisory Panel		

Section B | Progress in Achieving Wales' Seven Well-Being Goals

The following chapters provide progress against the seven well-being goals for Wales.

A Prosperous Wales

An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

National Well-being Indicators

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40	41	42
43	44	45	46			

Sustainable Development Goals



A Prosperous Wales

Wales's Economic Action Plan draws on levers to grow the economy, spread opportunity, reduce inequality and promote well-being. The Plan is focused on a common purpose to work with business and others to grow the economy inclusively and spread opportunity. It includes:

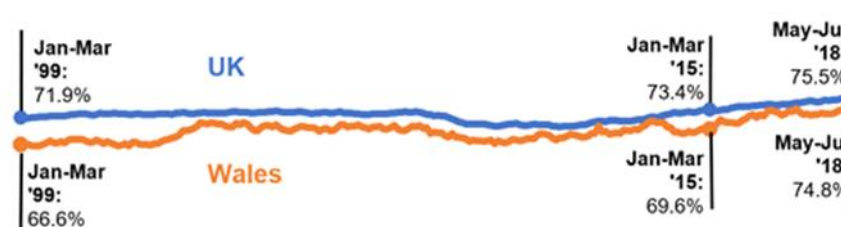
- Promoting, encouraging, and delivering responsible practices through the Economic Contract.
- Delivering public investment with a social purpose by channelling financial support to those businesses who share the same values, and are investing for the future through the Government's Calls to Action.

The Economic Contract is the centrepiece of Wales's Economic Action Plan, and frames the reciprocal relationship between government and business to drive public investment with a social purpose. It requires businesses seeking investment to demonstrate a commitment to inclusive growth, fair work, a focus on health, skills and learning in the workplace and decarbonisation. The Plan has four distinct themes: providing an individualised approach to employment support, underlining the responsibility of employers to support staff, closing skills gaps and preparing for a radically changing labour market.

Data Picture: Employment rates

Figures show a big improvement in the employment rate in Wales over the period since devolution, with an employment rate of 74.8% for the period May to July 2018.

Employment rate for population aged 16 to 64: 1999 to 2018



Source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket>

Employability

Wales's Employability Plan sets out how people can be supported to increase their skills and ensure a coherent pathway for them to enter and progress in employment. Wales' employability programmes, Jobs Growth Wales, ReAct, CfW, CfW+ Parents, Childcare and Employment, and others have supported tens of thousands of people into work over the last decade.

Working Wales is the all-Wales employability advisory service which provides individualised advice and guidance to support people into Employment.

Wales' childcare offer provides eligible working parents with 30 hours of government-funded early education and childcare for three and four year olds for up to 48 weeks a year.

Activity snapshot

Four housing organisations in Blaenau Gwent (Linc Cymru, Melin Homes, Tai Calon and United Welsh) with Blaenau Gwent Council, Wales Coop Centre and Coalfields Regeneration Trust have joined up to look at [opportunities to work together to support SMEs](#). Almost 90% of businesses based in Blaenau Gwent are very small firms with a workforce of under nine people. They are aiming to understand the assets housing associations bring to the foundational economy of Blaenau Gwent and identify where greater collaboration between housing associations and others could build foundational economy opportunities.

Fair Work in Wales

The latest figures show that average disposable income per head in Wales is £15,835ⁱ, around 80 per cent of the overall UK value. Wales is committed to eliminating the gap in working age unemployment, and economic inactivity rates between Wales and the UK average, within 10 years. The Employability Plan sets out the steps that Wales will take to help people into the right jobs and equip them with the right skills to progress. It builds on the community employability programmes, which will provide intensive mentoring and

support to both engage participants and address the complex barriers to employment experienced by those furthest from the labour market.

Wales strongly supports measures that increase household income, and continues to promote the adoption of the Foundation Living Wage across the public, private and voluntary sectors. The Welsh Government has been accredited as a Living Wage employer since 2015 and the NHS in Wales has paid the living wage since January 2015. Local Authority pay scales start from above the Foundation Living Wage level.

Ensuring fair work for all is a key focus of Wales' efforts. In 2019 Wales' independent Fair Work Commission reviewed a range of legislative, economic and other levers to help make Wales a more equal, fair and just society. The Commission reported in May and the Welsh Government is considering the report.

Action to effective learning

Wales is delivering positive educational results for children and young people to the end of compulsory schooling, at 16 years old. Results have been improving, with the percentage of pupils achieving five secondary school grades A*-C including maths and English / Welsh rising from just over 4 out of 10 pupils in 2007 to 6 out of 10 pupils in 2016.

In 2018, for the Foundation Phase and Key Stages 2 to 4, girls' achievement was higher than boys. (Statistical Release January 2019). This figure is reflected at the tertiary level with 17% more women than men receiving undergraduate qualifications in Wales in 2017/18ⁱⁱ and more likely to be in apprenticeship programmesⁱⁱⁱ

‘Education in Wales: Our national mission’ pulls together the educational reforms needed to secure the effective implementation of Wales’s new curriculum. It calls upon international best practice, and the education performance expertise of the global Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The ‘four purposes’ for the new curriculum link directly to the Global Goals. They seek:

- Ambitious, capable learners ready to learn throughout their lives.
- Enterprising, creative contributors ready to play a full part in life and work.
- Healthy, confident individuals ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.
- Ethical, informed citizens ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.

Play in Learning

All 3 and 4-year-olds in Wales are entitled to early education via the Foundation Phase nursery programme. The Foundation Phase is built on learning through play, as evidence shows that this is a powerful tool which can help children to develop and extend their language and communication skills. Around 6 in 10 pupils aged 4 are at a stage of development in maths, language, literacy and communication in English that would be consistent with, or greater than, their age according to the framework. Around 9 in 10 pupils are within one stage of development consistent with their age.^{iv}

Additional learning needs

New legislation for additional learning needs (ALN) has been adopted in Wales for children and young people aged 0-25 as part of a wider transformation programme.

Under the new system, planning will be flexible and responsive, skilled professionals will identify needs and deploy strategies to help learners overcome their barriers to learning, with the focus on the learner. These reforms have been designed collaboratively with stakeholders having a key role in their development.

Technical, vocational and tertiary education

The Flexible Skills Programme provides direct intervention where an employer’s growth is being constrained by a skills gap. From April 2018 to March 2019, the programme supported 61 employers to assist them in achieving their workforce development needs. This is believed to have improved skills levels of 4000 employees.

Wales’s Apprenticeship programme raises the profile of ‘on the job’ training and is on track to create 100,000 apprenticeship employment opportunities by 2021, ensuring a focus on growth sectors to boost productivity levels in STEM and technical sectors.

Data Picture: Working-age population with level 4 qualification or above

The qualification profile of the Welsh population has been improving over time. The proportion of the working age population qualified to Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW) or above has increased from 28% in 2008 to 37% in 2017.^v In terms of the highest qualifications held by the working-age population females are more likely to hold qualifications at Level 4 or above (higher education or equivalent level (40 per cent of females, compared to 35 per cent of males).

Percentage of the Welsh working-age population (aged 18 to 64) who have a level 4 qualification or above: 2008 to 2017



Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

Activity snapshot

Rhonddfa Cynon Taf employment pathway supports people to develop skills in line with growth sectors and the needs of local employers, and providing opportunities including Apprenticeship and Graduate schemes, work experience and placements at a variety of level. These include university internships, to providing opportunities for young people leaving the Care of the Council through the 'Care2work' and 'Step in the Right Direction' programmes

Procurement

The Community Benefits policy uses public procurement to create jobs and provides training for people facing disadvantage. It encourages community engagement as a contract requirement to support community initiatives particularly in deprived communities. By April 2019, 536 public procurements had included Community Benefits requirements that have created 2,477 employment opportunities, 1,132 apprenticeships and 103,743 training weeks for Community Benefit recruits.

From September 2018, eligible first-time undergraduates receive support to help fund their day-to-day living costs during term time, regardless of where in the UK they study. A finance package for Postgraduate Master's study has been introduced, similar to that which is available for undergraduate study. Improved support will encourage more people to qualify at this level, developing their skills and careers.

Activity snapshot

To support efforts by volunteers across Wales to create a prosperous country and vibrant place to live – a new digital volunteering platform. Volunteering Wales has been established. Hosted by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action this new system allows volunteers to find opportunities, and log their hours and skills gained from volunteering. More than 3000 organisations already use the platform.

Scientific research

In 2013, Wales had 0.14% of the world's researchers yet produced 0.3% of the world's published articles, citations of research articles produced in Wales make up 0.49% of the global total, and 0.7% of the top 1% most highly cited papers. This evidences the efficiency of Welsh research, its impact and the world-leading nature of a significant proportion of outputs.^{vi}

In Wales, the Sêr Cymru programme supports over 160 high quality researchers with £100 million in funding. It works with leading scholars in Welsh universities, increasing the success of Welsh research and the technological, medical and environmental capabilities of the country. Through attracting world leading researchers to tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges, Wales also ensures that this programme is inclusive, ensuring that a minimum of 40% of its Sêr Cymru researchers are female, and requiring all researchers to undertake unconscious bias training.

Activity snapshot

The UN Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Cymru is part of an international UN-led network, facilitates collaboration across Welsh Universities to research, develop and promote a greater understanding of sustainability and well-being of current and future generations. It is central to co-developing the sustainable 'Wales we want'. RCE Cymru is a community guided in part by the Welsh Universities' Future Generations Group (HEFGG).

Low carbon energy

Wales's Low Carbon Delivery Plan^{vii} sets out the ambition for low carbon electricity to become the main source of energy in Wales. Affordable and low carbon energy is a key objective to achieving prosperity in Wales. Approximately 22% of total electricity generated in Wales in 2017 was from renewables.^{viii} Wales is a net exporter of electricity; the electrical generation potential from renewable energy installations in 2017 was estimated to be equivalent to 48% of Welsh electricity consumption.^{ix}

In Wales, it is expected that overall power demand will increase as a result of growing electrification of transport. From 2022 electrification will see bi-mode and tri-mode trains introduced on the South Wales Metro's Core Valleys Lines operating entirely from overhead electric power supplemented by batteries. The electrification will be powered by 100% renewable energy, with at least 50% sourced in Wales, meaning services will be entirely emission free. To ensure future demand can be met, significant investment is needed in energy generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure.

Wales also has a target for 1 GW of renewable energy capacity in Wales to be locally owned by 2030; and an expectation for all new renewable energy projects to have at least an element of local ownership from 2020. In 2018, Wales held a call for evidence on the benefits of, and challenges in, increasing locally-owned energy generation and delivering the 1 GW local ownership target. It demonstrated that increasing local ownership of energy generation within Wales is likely to increase prosperity.^x

Activity snapshot

Based in Wales, Shotwick Solar Park is the largest solar park in the UK at 72.2 Mega Watts (MW). It has a private wire connecting it directly to Shotton Paper Mill, offsetting roughly one-third of its annual electricity demand and saving 22,500 tonnes of carbon per year. It also has a grid export capacity of 50 MW. The site was developed by British Solar Renewables, We-Link Energy and Compton Group and is now owned by Foresight Group.

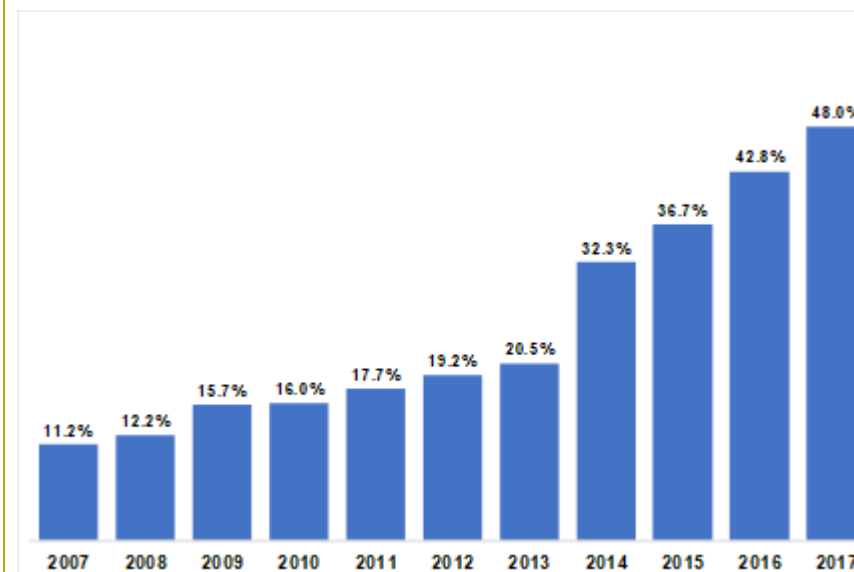
Regional and local energy planning is being taken forward to accelerate the deployment of renewable generation in Wales. The installation of renewable energy generation capacity has increased in pace with the capacity of technologies such as solar panels more than doubling from 2014-16, and onshore wind capacity showing a 50% increase.^{xi}

The Welsh Government has commissioned evidence on the potential resources in Wales for onshore and offshore wind and solar resource and is considering the implications of this work for spatial planning and infrastructure.

Data Picture: Renewable Energy Capacity

The equivalent of 48% of electricity consumption in Wales was generated from renewable sources in 2017, an increase from 37% in 2015. This continues the long-term trend since 2007.

Growth in the percentage of electricity generated from renewable sources in Wales: 2007 to 2017



Source: Energy Generation in Wales, 2016

Wales is taking advantage of its marine natural resources. Wales has established two demonstration zones, which provides test bed opportunities for wave and tidal stream

devices. This industry has the potential to offer a global solution to decarbonising energy generation. It is already providing economic opportunities in deprived coastal areas in Wales.

Wales has called for its public sector to be carbon neutral by 2030. This requires large scale delivery of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects within the public sector. The Welsh Government considers carbon impact when allocating capital funding. All new health and education buildings funded through Welsh Government capital are designed and built to maximise energy efficiency. Funding is conditional on projects being designed to achieve an A rating on EPCs, as well as an excellent accreditation under the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Methodology to demonstrate sustainability.

Climate mitigation

The Welsh Government Energy Service has invested over £60m of zero-interest loans across the public sector in Wales between late 2015 and early 2018 and also supported the delivery of a further £27.5 million of energy and energy efficiency projects, where finance was secured from alternative routes. The carbon savings within the current carbon budget period alone is estimated to be close to 53,000 tonnes. The service is on track to deliver business case targets of 2.5m tonnes of total CO2 savings from measures installed and will save the public sector over £650m in avoided energy costs over the life of the assets installed.

Many businesses are already maximising the cost-saving opportunities of clean growth. Decarbonisation is a clear and consistent thread throughout the Economic Action Plan (EAP), featuring strongly in Wales's approach for delivering direct

support for businesses, including through the Welsh Government's Economy Futures Fund. To access direct financial support through the Economy Futures Fund, Welsh Government tests businesses' attitude to managing and lowering their carbon footprint, whilst decarbonisation forms one of five Calls to Action designed to target future proofing investment.

Modern Slavery

The 'Ethical Employment in Supply Chains – Code of Practice' sets out 12 principles to drive actions on issues such as supply chain transparency, the National Living Wage and eradication of modern slavery. In its first two years 173 organisations signed up to the Code.

Transparency in Supply Chains (TISC) is a centralised database that gives access to Modern Slavery Statements posted by suppliers. Sponsored by the Welsh Government, the site acts as a step towards eradicating modern slavery in supply chains.

Activity snapshot

The NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP) is an independent organisation owned and directed by NHS Wales which provides products and services to the NHS in Wales. NWSSP has signed up to the CoP Commitments developed an Action Plan and appointed its Director of Workforce & Organisational Development as an Ethical Employment Champion.

The Wales Anti-Slavery Leadership Group provides strategic leadership for tackling modern slavery in Wales and to provide the best possible support for survivors, co-ordinating

collaboration across devolved and non-devolved partners and third sector organisations, maximising opportunities for multi-agency solutions to tackle slavery. The Anti-Slavery Training Programme delivers a wide range of courses across Wales. The training is approved by Wales's National Training Framework and in 2018 in Wales over 10,000 people were trained. Raising awareness of slavery is leading to an increase in the number of reported cases. The numbers of people referred onto the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) have increased year on year from 34 referrals in 2012 to 251 in 2018.

Sustainable practices

The ecological footprint of Wales provides an assessment of the total environmental burden associated with Welsh consumption. If everyone in the world were to consume the same as the average Welsh citizen, the bio-capacity of just over 2.5 planet Earths would be required to provide sufficient resources and absorb the wastes. The Welsh Government's goal to achieve 'One Planet Living' within the lifetime of a generation requires a reduction of the impacts of Welsh consumption by approximately two thirds.^{xii}

Wales uses a range of measures to influence sustainable behaviours. Good sustainable procurement practice is promoted through the 10 principles of Wales Procurement Policy Statement to maximise the impact of the £6bn annual public procurement spend in Wales. As a result, Wales-based suppliers won 52% of this annual expenditure in 2018, up from 35% in 2004.

The Sustainability Risk Assessment (SRA) ensures sustainability is addressed at the planning stage. The SRA is required for all procurements over £25k and is used to identify

and mitigate sustainability risks and to maximise sustainability opportunities.

Activity snapshot

Merthyr Furniture Reuse furniture previously sent for Energy from Waste (EfW) will be reused or recycled. Dealing with our materials in this way provides a more sustainable use of raw materials, and re- using/recycling of used furniture items is a more cost efficient means of treatment. This project will also provide lower cost furniture to householders within the County Borough

Visit Wales has developed a number of programmes and tools over recent years aimed at helping destinations as well as individual businesses become more sustainable. Cadw, Wales's historic environment service has been actively integrating 'best practice' towards carbon reduction both across the properties in the care of Welsh Ministers and the wider historic environment.

In 2011 Wales became the first country in the United Kingdom to introduce a minimum charge of 5p on all single use carrier bags. The policy has resulted in a significant reduction in their use. In 2018, the Landfill Disposals Tax (Wales) Act, ensures the environmental cost of landfilling waste is identified and encourage greater prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery of waste. The tax is paid when waste is disposed of to landfill and is charged by weight. The Act includes provisions for charging tax on unauthorised disposals of waste, creating a financial deterrent for people seeking to dispose of waste illegally.

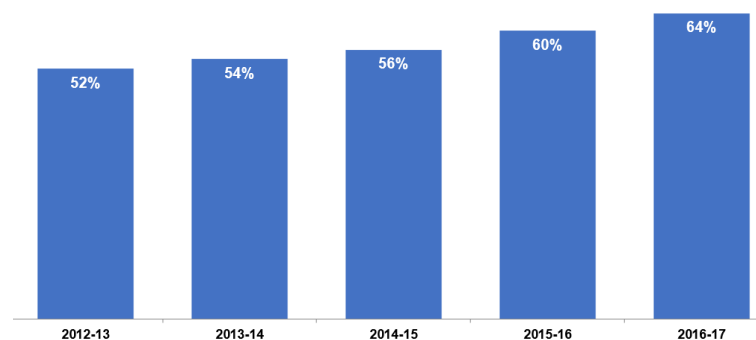
Wales's waste strategy "[Towards Zero Waste](#)" sets out how Wales will deal with waste in a way that produces benefits for not only the environment, but also for the Welsh economy and peoples' well-being in Wales.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 sets the strategic landscape for Wales's transition to a more circular economy. A new Resource Efficiency Strategy and Circular Economy Route map will be consulted on later this year, detailing next steps towards zero waste by 2050.

Data Picture: : Household Recycling

Increased recycling is instrumental in achieving Wales's aim of becoming a zero-waste nation. Wales is the third best household recycling nation in the world, as local authority recycling rates rose from 60% in 2015/16, to 64% in 2016/17.

Percentage of local authority municipal (household and non-household) waste prepared for reuse, recycled or composted: 2012-13 to 2016-17



Source: WasteDataFlow, Natural Resources Wales

Activity snapshot

The 'Construction for Future Generations' Initiative in collaboration with Constructing Excellence in Wales and the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner, will require beneficial changes to custom and practice and full adoption of the principles of the circular economy in order to respond to the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. In the future the sector will act as if it were a named organisation under the Act thus enhancing sector outcomes to support achievement of the wellbeing goals.

Wales has also made significant progress in recent years in reducing the amount of food unnecessarily thrown away. Wales was the first country in the UK to introduce a landfill allowances scheme to reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill. 99% of households in Wales can access weekly food waste collections, diverting large amounts of waste away from landfill. Figures show a reduction of household food waste in Wales of 12% per person between 2009 and 2015

A Resilient Wales

A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).

National Well-being Indicators

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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Sustainable Development Goals



A Resilient Wales

Frameworks for conserving ecosystems

Wales covers a land area of 2,078,224 hectares^{xiii}, which supports agricultural industry and provides homes to a variety of wildlife. Wales's natural resources underpin its well-being and its prosperity, health, culture and identity. With legislation, it has embedded biodiversity and natural resource management into policy, to adopt more sustainable ways of managing our natural resources and decrease Wales's ecological footprint, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 ensures natural resources and ecosystems are resilient and can provide benefits now and for the future.

However, progress has been slow. The State of Natural Resources Report^{xiv}, produced by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), the national environmental body in Wales, highlights that, despite some positive trends, biological diversity is declining, and no ecosystem in Wales is currently showing all the attributes of resilience, which is impacting its ecosystems to provide benefits.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the [Sustainable Management of Natural Resources](#) policy reflects Wales's commitment to the management of natural resources in a proactive, sustainable and joined-up way. Such ways of working are aligned with achieving the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 goals and objectives.

The Natural Resources Policy sets Wales's priorities for the sustainable management of natural resources. These include: delivering nature-based solutions; increasing resource efficiency and renewable energy; and taking a

place-based approach. Through this, Wales is ensuring that the national priorities for sustainable management of natural resources also inform local delivery.

Area statements will help coordinate NRW's work and the work of others, to build the resilience of ecosystems and enhance the benefits they provide for people. They bring together data, information and ways of engaging others to help better understand the state and trends of natural resources in an area, the pressures on them and their benefits.

The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales seeks to engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision-making at all levels. It works to safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management, and increase the resilience of Wales's natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation.

Activity snapshot

Brecon Beacons National Park Ambassador Schools is a programme to support schools within and around the National Park in making the most of the outdoors for learning. It gives pupils and teachers a chance to take what they learn in the classroom out into the environment, giving pupils valuable hands on experience.

Woodland and Peatlands

The Woodlands for Wales strategy outlines the commitment to bring more Welsh woodland into management, expand its cover and increase its resilience so they can deliver more benefits to the people of Wales. In the past it adopted a target of planting 100,000 hectares of trees between 2010-30. Planting rates in the first seven years of that period have only been a fraction of the required 5,000 hectares per year. However, Wales aims to increase tree planting to at least 2,000 hectares per year, and will increase this to 4,000 hectares as rapidly as possible. Wales is developing an outline of the First Minister's vision of a national forest. A national forest could accelerate reforestation and unlock major economic and environmental benefits.

Activity snapshot

Plant! is a collaborative programme between Welsh Government, the Woodland Trust and Natural Resources Wales was launched in 2008 and aims to plant a tree for every child born or adopted in Wales since then. To date, over 320,000 broadleaf trees (over 147 hectares) have been planted across Wales. From 1 April 2014 the commitment was extended to plant an additional tree in Uganda for every child

The total area of peat soil in Wales is approximately 90,995 hectares (4.3%).^{xv} Drainage, land use change, inappropriate grazing, burning and air pollution have all damaged and degraded Welsh peatlands. Whilst the latest evidence shows some positive trends in relation to Welsh peatlands, over 70% of peatlands were estimated to have been modified and in

degraded condition.^{xvi} This has negatively impacted their ability to deliver a range of ecosystem services.

Wales continues to invest in tree planting and peatland, recognising the well-being benefits they provide, and committed to increase the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry sink in Wales by the year 2030 by reducing carbon loss from peatlands and building carbon stores within biomass.

Activity snapshot

Wales's Sustainable Management Scheme programme is funding a range of projects which include a peatland element, chief among which is the Snowdonia National Park led Realising the Natural Capital of Welsh Peatlands project. This project has a very broad remit with on-the ground restoration; and, developing applications for PES support through the Peatland Code mechanism.

Manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems

Water is one of Wales's greatest natural assets and an integral part of Welsh culture, heritage and national identity.

Wales's marine and coastal environment supports social, business and conservation interests, from the UK's only coastal National Park in Pembrokeshire, the UK's first coastal Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Gower), to the world renowned Menai Strait in North Wales which is home to Halen Mon Anglesey Sea Salt. It is therefore vital it remains protected and well-managed.

Working with Welsh and other UK stakeholders, Wales is currently developing strategic planning policies in the first

ever [Wales National Marine Plan](#) covering the inshore and offshore areas. Taking a 20-year view, it provides guidance for all decisions which affect the marine area. It aims to manage increasing demands for the use of the marine environment; support the sustainable economic development of marine sectors; and incorporate environmental protection and social considerations into decision-making. As such, it supports coastal communities at the local level and drives national economic growth in a sustainable way.

The UK Marine Strategy sets out how Wales will achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status on a six-year cycle. It outlines key strategic targets and, more specifically, its ambitions for delivering GES in Wales, which are set out in the programme of measures. By taking these actions, the Welsh marine environment will continue to remain productive and resilient for future generations. To better understand the health, condition and resilience of its seas, Wales is also working with partners to develop a prioritised and affordable marine biodiversity monitoring programme.

Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution

Wales aims to make a leading contribution to the UN Clean Seas campaign. In 2017, a diverse range of conservation organisations and NGOs, such as Keep Wales Tidy and the Marine Conservation Society, came together to form the Clean Seas Partnership, which worked together to develop the Wales's first Marine Litter Action Plan. The Plan has been designed with prevention, collaboration and long-term solutions as its core principles and it sets out positive actions to help reduce and prevent litter from entering the marine environment and will support the achievement of Good Environmental Status.

Activity snapshot

The marine area was a key theme in Wales in 2018 with: **“Year of the Sea”** as the national theme for tourism, the 30th anniversary of the Blue Flag Award in Wales, the 25th Anniversary of the Marine Conservation Society Beach Clean-up and Cardiff's hosting of the Volvo Ocean Race which drew attention to marine pollution.

Sustainable fisheries

A commitment to marine ecosystem resilience will be a key consideration in shaping future fisheries management policy for Wales, creating a framework which protects and secures benefits from sustainably managed fish stocks.

Wales intends to improve long-term sustainable fishing measures by: reducing sector fragmentation; giving fishers greater management responsibility over the coastal environment; and improving sector organisation and representation. The Welsh Government is developing a Fisheries Evidence Plan with work underway to assess the current state of the scientific knowledge for Wales's most important commercial species and stocks.

The biological, ecological and fisheries data gaps identified through this plan will be addressed through surveys, assessments and analysis. The Welsh Government is working with the fishing industry to explore these issues in more detail and will review what initiatives are put in place to deliver long-term sustainable fishing that does not negatively affect the marine environment.

Although the emergence of new unfished areas is unlikely due to Wales's long history of fishing, it is possible through natural circumstances or climate change that new stocks may become abundant in coming years. Planning will focus on improving the economic strength of the Welsh fishing industry, the long-term sustainability of key shellfish stocks and, over time through the negotiation of a greater share of stocks, diversification into other established species.

Conservation of coastal and marine areas

There are 139 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Wales, covering 69% of Welsh inshore waters and 50% of all Welsh waters, far exceeding the 10% target. Given the extensive coverage, Wales is committed to delivering a well-managed network of MPAs and is focussed on maintaining and improving the condition of the network. To enable this, MPA management is steered by an agreed long-term vision and objectives under the 'Marine Protected Area Network Management Framework for Wales 2018-2023'. Annual Action Plans provide strategic, prioritised actions for delivery by management authorities with statutory responsibilities in relation to MPAs. Wales has recently established a Task and Finish Group to identify potential Marine Conservation Zones in the Welsh inshore and offshore areas that can address a small number of gaps in ecological coherence within the MPA network. It will continue to fulfil this commitment by using the combination of powers available through the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the various Regulations implementing the Birds and Habitats Directive.

Activity snapshot

The Angel Shark Project Wales is gathering data to better understand the status and ecology of the Critically Endangered Angel shark, once common in Welsh waters and across the western British Isles. 'Dive for Angels' surveys will use citizen science divers and snorkelers to collect data in key areas. Collaboration with fishers and public outreach will encourage sightings reporting and guidance for fishers to safely release these protected species if accidentally caught, will help better understand how many Angel sharks use Welsh waters and where they are found. The 'History of Angels' research project will gather and capture Wales' rich maritime heritage and connection to one of the world's rarest sharks.

Climate policies

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 sets a target of at least an 80% emissions reduction in 2050 with a carbon budgeting framework with five yearly reporting cycles. In 2020, the Welsh Government will bring regulations to the National Assembly to increase the existing 2050 target to 95% and change

Wales's interim targets and carbon budgets as necessary. In December 2018, the National Assembly for Wales passed regulations for interim targets (for 2020, 2030 and 2040) and Wales' first two carbon budgets. Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales Delivery Plan, was launched in March 2019 which sets out how Wales will meet its first carbon budget (2016-2020). The Plan sets out 100 policies and proposals, broken down by all portfolios, which demonstrate collective

Cabinet commitment to accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy in the years ahead. The National Assembly for Wales declared a climate emergency in May 2019 and the Welsh Government is reviewing the 2050 target following developments in climate science.

Climate adaptation

Wales has just consulted on its second Adaptation Plan. Wales's first Climate Change Adaptation Delivery Plan sits within the Climate Change Strategy for Wales. Published in 2010, it laid the foundations for a significant step towards a resilient Wales. Since 2010, Wales's achievements have included the publication and implementation of strategies to address flood and coastal erosion risk management, completion of impact assessments to understand the effects of climate change in the historic environment, and the implementation of a heat-wave plan for Wales.

A Healthier Wales

A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood

National Well-being Indicators

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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Sustainable Development Goals



A Healthier Wales

In Wales, the ability to live healthy lives is central to overall wellbeing for Welsh people. It filters through inter-connected aspects of people's lives, including the ways in which people grow, learn, work, interact and age.

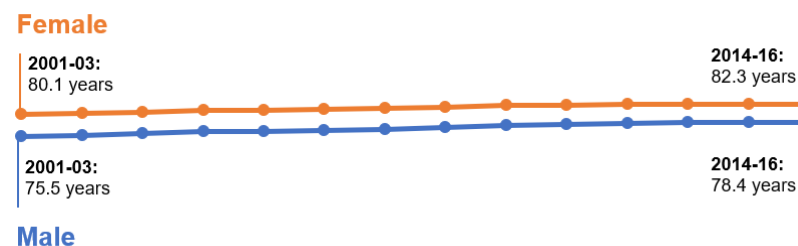
Most adults report good overall health, with 70% saying they were in good or very good health in the National Survey for Wales 2017-18. However, people born into deprived families will have shorter healthy life expectancy. This is reflected in the healthy life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived areas of Wales.

The complex and interrelated causes of health inequalities needs a combination of approaches to tackle them. Action on inequalities is a key feature of a broad range of policies and programmes, including upstream actions to help people cope, targeting actions to address unhealthy behaviours, and improving access to healthcare.

Good health and well-being depends on more than provision of good health services. This principle is driven forward through Wales's long-term plan for health and social care, 'A Healthier Wales'- a long-term future vision of a whole-system approach to health and social care, including greater emphasis on health promotion and preventative approaches.

Date picture: Life Expectancy

Life expectancy has risen by 2.8 years for men and 2.2 years for women since the period 2001 to 2003, with the gap between male and female life expectancy closing. A girl born in Wales between 2015 and 2017 could expect to live to her 82nd birthday while a boy could expect to reach his 78th.



Source: Well-Being of Wales Report 2017/18

Activity snapshot: Destination NHS

A dynamic collaboration between Pembrokeshire College, Hywel Dda Health Board and Swansea University launched ‘Destination NHS’ in September 2017. The initiative is aimed at local Welsh students aged 16-18 and aims to provide ambitious career opportunities in the health services including an offer of 100 hours work experience.

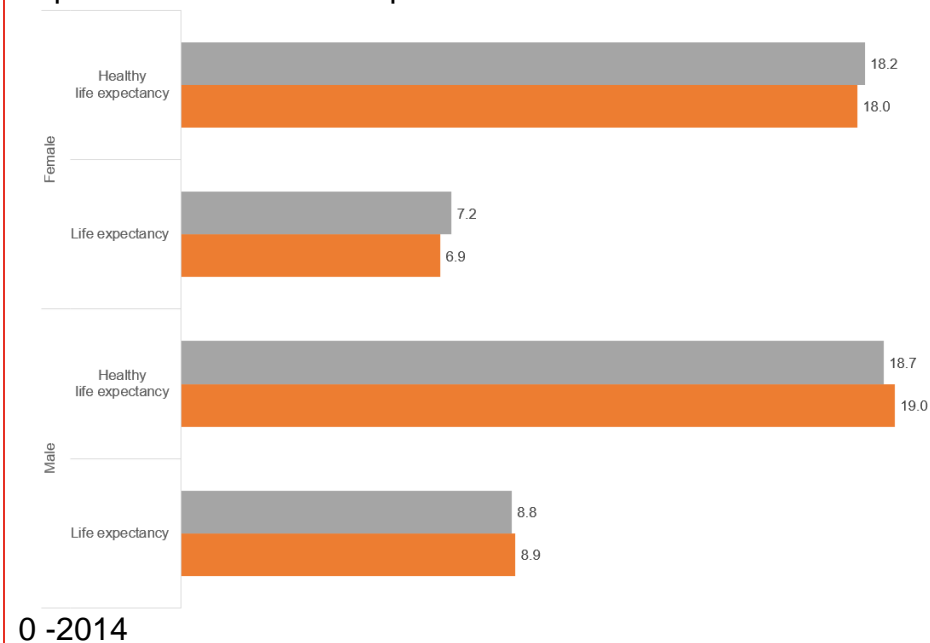
Well-Being and Healthy behaviours

Obesity is a leading public health concern in Wales. Almost a quarter of adults and 12.4% of children are obese.^{xvii} The causes of obesity are complex and personal. ‘Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales’ will set out Wales’s ambitions to prevent and reduce obesity in Wales, with a focus on leadership, creating healthy environments and settings, and providing the opportunities and inspiring people to achieve and maintain a healthy body weight.

Date picture: Healthy Life Expectancy

In 2010 to 2014, healthy life expectancy (years in good health) for males in the least deprived areas was 18.7 years more than for those in the most deprived, and for females it was 18.2 years more.

Healthy life expectancy difference between most and least deprived: 2005- 2009 compared to 2010-2014



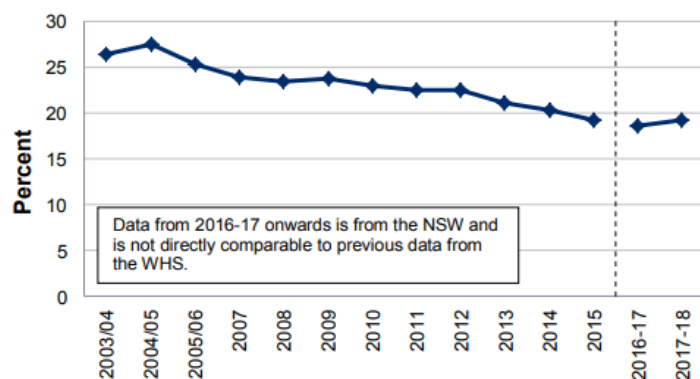
[Smoking rates](#)^{xviii} and Smoking-attributable mortality have decreased. However, tobacco is still the leading single cause of premature death in Wales and a major contributor to health inequalities, at around one in every six of all deaths in people

aged 35 and over.^{xix} In order to help smokers give up, all smoking cessation services are accessed via a single contact point, '[Help Me Quit](#)'.

The Data Picture: Estimated Smoking Prevalence (Persons aged 16+)

The percentage of adults who self-reported smoking decreased steadily from 27.0% in 2004/05 to 19.9% in 2015. There was little change in smoking rates between 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Percentage of adults who reported being a current smoker by year (current placeholder chart)



Source: Well-Being of Wales Report 2017/18

In 2017, a reduction in the number of adults drinking over the weekly guidelines was reported, at 18%, down from 20% in 2016.^{xx}

One of the key achievements for Wales is the passing of the [Public Health \(Minimum Price for Alcohol\) \(Wales\) Act 2018](#). Minimum pricing is a targeted measure, which aims to reduce hazardous and harmful levels of drinking.

There were 185 deaths from drug misuse in 2017, a decrease of 4% from 2016.^{xxi} Prevention is at the heart of the Welsh substance misuse strategy '[Working Together to Reduce Harm](#)'. The services on offer are aimed at all individuals and families, particularly those who are most disadvantaged.

Activity snapshot: DAN 24: Wales Drug and Alcohol Helpline

[DAN 24: Wales Drug and Alcohol Helpline](#) is a free and bilingual telephone helpline providing a single point of contact for anyone in Wales wanting further information and / or help relating to drugs and / or alcohol. The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and assists individuals, their families, carers, and support workers within the drug and alcohol field to access appropriate local and regional services.

Results from the first [Welsh Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACEs\) study](#)^{xxii} show that suffering four or more harmful experiences in childhood increases the chances of high-risk drinking in adulthood by four times, being a smoker by six times and being involved in violence in the last year by around 14 times. The Welsh Government has, therefore, prioritised the tackling of ACEs and has supported Cymru Well Wales to establish an Support Hub to tackle the negative impacts of ACEs.^{xxiii}

Teenage conceptions

Teenage conceptions reached a record low in Wales in 2016 and have fallen dramatically since 2008. The rate for those aged under 18 has more than halved over the last decade^{xxiv} to 24.3 in 2015 and 20.2 women under 18 in 2017.^{xxv}

Older People

Over the next 20 years, the percentage of over 65s in Wales is set to increase from around 20% to around 25% of the entire population. The population aged over 75 in Wales is also projected to increase from 9% of the population in 2014 to around 13% in 2030.

Activity snapshot: 'Care Home As and Talk' (CHAAAT)

'Care Home As and Talk' (CHAAAT) is a Volunteer Service whereby retired NHS staff are employed as volunteers to visit older and vulnerable people in care homes to ask them about their care experiences. It highlights how the involvement principle of the Act is being put in place which in this instance better the mental health of the services recipients. The CHAAAT service designed by older people and their relatives aims to make the care home experience of our elderly better and provide them with a friendly face to discuss issues and concerns.

This trend will lead to a greater demand on health services over time. For example, the total number of people in Wales aged 65 and over who are predicted to be admitted to hospital because of a fall, is set to rise from 14,415 in 2015 to around 25,500 by 2035. The number of those receiving residential

services, and who are aged 65 and over, is also set to increase from 11,305 in 2015 to 22,500 by 2035^{xxvi}.

Wales has a vision to be a dementia friendly nation that recognises the rights of people with dementia to feel valued and to live as independently as possible in their communities, investing £10 million a year on action to support individuals with dementia and their families^{xxvii}.

Mental Health

In 2016-17, there were 8,723 admissions to mental health facilities in Wales, a decrease of 6% from 2015-16.^{xxviii} ['Together for Mental Health' strategy](#) aims to improve the mental health of everyone in Wales and the lives of people using mental health services, and their carers and their families, through a range of support, from helping people to feel better and manage their own mental health to services for people with severe, long-lasting mental illness.

Activity snapshot: Tata Steel Wales

Tata Steel Wales have pledged to safeguard and promote the physical, mental and social well-being of our employees.

As part of [The Zero Harm](#) initiative - at their Trostre site in Wales, they were involved in a Sir Gar Project, a pioneering cardiovascular screening project, in collaboration with the local NHS health board and Wales Public Health. The project identifies, those most at risk of cardiovascular disease and takes steps to help them. Their partnership has been awarded a prize for excellence in improving health and well-being.

Air pollution mortality

A 2017 report published by Public Health Wales estimated the equivalent of 1604 deaths of people aged 30+ years were attributable to PM_{2.5} and an estimated equivalent of 1108 deaths to NO₂ each year.^{xxix} Wales has taken a proactive approach to tackling air quality and the main air pollutants hazardous to health have been steadily declining since the 1990s.^{xxx}

Wales is improving air quality through a £20 million Air Quality Fund, a draft Clean Air Zone Framework, and temporary speed restrictions on some roads to tackle emissions hotspots. The Clean Air Wales Programme seeks to reduce the burden of poor air quality on human health and the natural environment and achieve compliance with European and domestic legislative air quality obligations.

Activity snapshot: Village Bakery

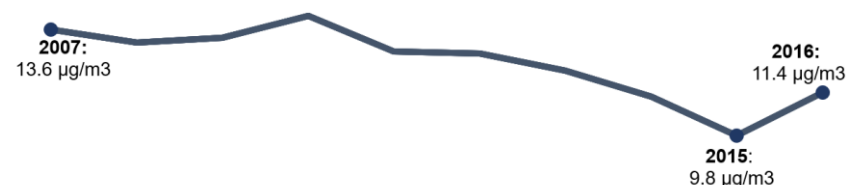
One of Wales largest food suppliers - the **Village Bakery** based at Wrexham Industrial Estate has established spectacular four-storey high “living wall” of evergreen plants at its new offices, as part of its eco-friendly approach in an attempt to contribute towards a healthier environment in Wales. The wall includes a rainwater harvesting system, which in turn feeds a **hydroponic** irrigation system to water the plants. Studies have shown that living walls can improve

air quality in urban areas and can reduce harmful pollutants by more than 40%.

The Data Picture: Air Quality

Air quality in Wales has greatly improved since the 1970s due mainly to statutory emissions controls and a decline in heavy industry. However, pollution from other sources such as transport, agriculture and domestic heating has become more of a concern.

Average nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations in µg /m³



Source: Air quality: StatsWales

A More Equal Wales

A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).

National Well-being Indicators

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Sustainable Development Goals



A More Equal Wales

Achieving a more equal Wales is a priority for the Welsh Government who has brought in specific equality duties for public bodies to better perform and demonstrate their compliance with the UK Public Sector Equality Duty. The regulations place duties on the devolved public sector, including the Welsh Government, covering equality impact assessments, publishing and reviewing Equality Objectives and Strategic Equality Plans, engagement, pay differences, procurement, reporting arrangements and equality and employment information.

In March 2016, the Welsh Government published refreshed Strategic Equality Objectives setting out its commitment to promote equality and inclusion. It is currently reviewing these and taking into account the findings of the *Is Wales Fairer? 2018* report, published by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission.

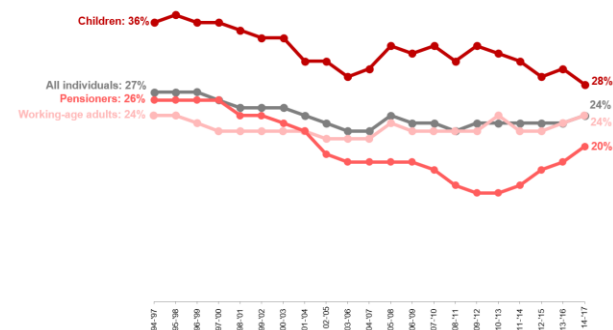
Tackling all forms of poverty

Welsh Government is committed to doing all in its power to tackle poverty and inequality. Relative poverty in Wales has remained steady for over a decade and is highest amongst children. Over the longer term there has been a large reduction in the rate of poverty for pensioners. However, in recent years this has begun to increase. The poverty rate is much lower for pensioners than other age groups (20% for pensioners, (24% for working-age adults and 28% children).

Relative income poverty is a measure of income inequality, not a direct measure of living standards. There are fewer people estimated to be in material deprivation than in relative income poverty.^{xxxi} Wales has focused relentlessly on the root causes of poverty - giving children the best possible start in life and helping people into sustainable jobs.

The Data Picture: Relative Income Poverty

Percentage of all people, children, pensioners and working-age adults living in relative income poverty in Wales: 1994 to 2017



Source: Households Below Average Income, Office for National Statistics, Annual Well-being Report 2018, Welsh Government

Child Poverty

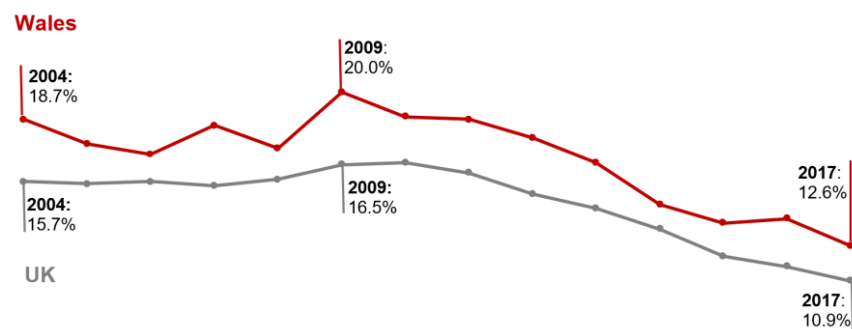
Children are the population group most likely to be in relative income poverty, with the latest data showing that 29 per cent

were living in income poverty.^{xxxii} The **Child Poverty Strategy** underlines the importance of a preventative approach to tackling child poverty, focussing on early years and employability.

The Data Picture: Children in workless households

In Wales there was a decrease in the percentage of children living in workless households from 2015 (13.7%) to 2017 (12.6%), and a significant fall from a peak of 20% in 2009. In 2017, 27.2% of children in Wales live in a household where at least one (but not all) adult works, and 60.3% live in a household with all adults in work.

Percentage of children living in workless households in Wales: 2014 to 2017^{xxxiii}



Source: Annual Well-being Report, 2018 – amended for 2015 period

Flying Start supports more than 36,000 children under 4 and their families each year in some of Wales most disadvantaged communities. The **Families First** programme aims to bring

about a change in prevention and early intervention services for children and families. Wales is developing **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)** aware public services which can take a more preventative approach to tackling ACEs and mitigating their impact through improving the resilience of children and young people.

Older people

There are over 100,000 pensioners living in poverty in Wales. Over the longer term there has been a large reduction in the rate of poverty for pensioners^{xxxiv} however, in recent years this increased slightly. Wales is co-producing a Strategy for an Ageing Society with the Older People's Commissioner for Wales and older people which adopts a rights-based approach that promotes equality and social justice.

Disability

The employment rate among disabled people aged 16-64 was 45.2 per cent in 2018, which is lower than among people who are not disabled, leading to a disability employment gap of 35.1 percentage points. This gap has remained stable in recent years^{xxxv}. Across all disabled people the disability pay gap in Wales in 2010-11 was 4.3 per cent, whilst by 2015-16 this figure had risen to 13.3 per cent^{xxxvi}. The new Right to Independent Living Plan will be published in 2019.

The **Communities for Work (CfW)** programme has supported disabled people into training and work by helping them overcome barriers to employment. **Action on Disability: The Right to Independent Living'** will ensure improved access to help, advice and services for disabled people in Wales.

In-work poverty

Underemployment and in-work poverty is a challenge, with many in short-term insecure and low paid jobs. Over half of working-age people living in poverty in Wales live in working households.^{xxxvii}

Valuing unpaid care and domestic work

Wales is committed to supporting unpaid care givers. The delivery of enhanced rights for all carers is enshrined in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. A new Ministerial Advisory Group for Carers was created in 2018, to bring together the public and third sectors to explore the issues and solutions, of the concerns of carers of all ages and genders.

Welfare reform and fiscal policy

Responsibility for the policy development of welfare reform is not devolved. Wales does not have the resources available to fully address the impact of these changes. However, it continues to mitigate, where possible by providing additional funding to support those most affected. Additional investment has been made in frontline advice services to ensure co-ordinated, cost effective provision and there has been additional funding for the Discretionary Assistance Fund (DAF) providing crisis payments for people experiencing an emergency and one-off payments to support people to live independently. Other initiatives include the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) for those on a low income and the free school meals programme.

The Wales Centre for Public Policy is exploring the case for the devolved administration of certain aspects of the benefits

system and looking at where things might be done differently in Wales.

People in Wales benefit from services outside of direct welfare income that improve people's lives (known as a "social wage"). These include the education maintenance allowance for those in further education; free transport for over 60's; free prescriptions; and free school breakfasts.

Food security and good nutrition

Research shows that in Wales, some people are reporting food poverty: the 2016-17 National Survey for Wales reported that 1% of households had received food from a food bank in the last 12 months.

The Keep Wales Tidy programme works with ten Eco-Schools in deprived areas to develop food growing. This work has lasting important food poverty benefits and will encourage children of all attainment levels to develop practical skills.

Welsh initiatives to help improve nutrition include:

- The School Milk Subsidy Scheme aims to increase consumption of milk products by school children.
- All children at primary schools maintained by a local authority can have a free breakfast at school, if provision is available.
- Free school meals are available to eligible pupils who attend school full-time.

Activity snapshot: Welsh Food Poverty Network

The **Welsh Food Poverty Network** has been set up to bring together key charities and local authorities in Wales. The Network's aim is to engage stakeholders in the food poverty agenda in Wales and provide learning about the activities of the Food Poverty Alliance Wales.

Activity snapshot: FareShare Cymru

Supported by Welsh Government, **FareShare Cymru** is based in the outskirts of Cardiff and works with charities and community organisations across South East Wales. Volunteers are key to FareShare Cymru's success to help alleviate food poverty and food waste in the region.

Fuel poverty

The recently published headline estimates for fuel poverty in Wales suggest that 12% of all households in Wales are living in fuel poverty.^{xxxviii} The installation of energy efficiency measures to more than 50,800 homes in Wales via the Warm Homes Programme has been a contributing factor to the significant reduction in the levels of fuel poverty since 2008. The new fuel poverty estimates will inform a new plan to tackle fuel poverty due to be published in 2020.

Gender

The gender pay gap has continued to narrow and is now one of the lowest levels on record in Wales. But women are less likely than men to be in good quality employment^{xxxix}. As across the rest of the UK, employment rates in Wales are lower for women than for men – 70.6 per cent for women and 78.9 per cent for men in July 2018^{xl}. Economic inactivity rates are higher for women (26.7 per cent) than men (17.6 per cent)^{xli}. The pay gap based on median full-time hourly earnings stood at 6.3 per cent in 2017, down from 7.9 per cent in 2016. For part-time employees in Wales, women are paid 7.0 per cent more on average than men.

The Data Picture: gender pay gap

These gaps do not take account of factors such as education levels and experience which vary across the genders and which will affect earning levels.

Gender pay difference in full-time hourly pay: 1997 to 2016



Source: Annual Well-being Report (2017-18) – Slide 7

Chwarae Teg's Gender Policy Review looked at what is done well, identify what can be improved, and looks at examples from

Governments around the world to learn from their models and practices. The roadmap which will be delivered as part of the Phase 2 activity will set out what needs to be done to achieve gender equality in Wales with a focus on equality of outcome.

Activity snapshot: WEN Wales

The Welsh Government funded [WEN Wales](#) is a vibrant network of over 1,000 organisations and individuals committed to making Wales a safer and fairer place for women and girls. Their work is underpinned by the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Welsh Government is tackling gender stereotyping around STEM— addressing gender equity in all our STEM-related funding training, physics teachers in gender-inclusive teaching methods and funding specific computer-coding workshops to engage and motivate girls. Wales’s STEM Cymru 2 programme aims to encourage more young women to progress into engineering careers. To date, over 3,000 young women have engaged with the programme^{xlii}.

In 2019 Welsh Government outlined its approach to supporting women entrepreneurs and published a good practice guide for business support organisations on how best to engage with women who are setting up or already running their own business.

Activity snapshot: Sport Wales

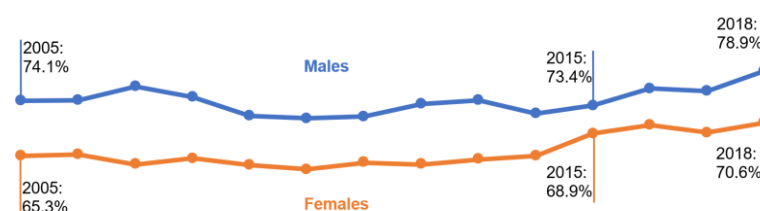
Sport Wales introduced a Board Diversity Policy Position and have improved gender parity since 2011 of their own Board from 15% to 50% (2017) female members.

Welsh Government has announced capital and revenue funding to provide suitable dispensers and period products in all schools in Wales and in Further Education establishments. The Welsh NHS is also providing period products via Health Boards.

The Data Picture: Employment Rates

As across the rest of the UK, employment rates in Wales are lower for women than for men – 70.6 per cent for women and 78.9 per cent for men in July 2018

Employment rate (percentage of the population age 16-64) by gender and year: 2005 to 2018 (rates for May to July)



Source: Welsh Well-being report

Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV)

VAWDASV is a fundamental violation of human rights, a cause and consequence of inequality and has far reaching consequences for families, children and society. The **Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015** is intended focuses the public sector on the prevention, the protection of victims and the support for those affected by such issues.

The five-year national strategy lays out how Welsh Government will implement the Act and includes challenging the attitudes that underpin VAWDSV and the support that will be put in place for prevention, protection and support. This includes a commitment to challenge cultural attitudes which can underpin these traditional harmful practices. Welsh Government are doing this with national campaigns, working with and supporting specialist BME violence against women services.

Activity snapshot: Live Fear Free

[Live Fear Free](#) is a Welsh Government website, providing information and advice for those suffering violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. This is primarily a helpline for those suffering with domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people

Data from the 2011 Census shows, of those in employment in Wales, men from the Black African (58 per cent), Other Black (53 per cent) and Other White (52 per cent) ethnic groups were

most likely to work in low skilled jobs. For women the most likely were White and Black Caribbean (71 per cent), Gypsy or Irish Traveller (70 per cent) and Bangladeshi (69 per cent).

Non-white ethnicity is linked with a greater likelihood of relative income poverty. Children and working-age adults who were living in households where the head of the household was from a non-white ethnic group were more likely to be in relative income poverty compared with those where the head of the household was from a white ethnic group.

The [All Wales BAME Engagement Programme](#) is a BAME engagement project, funded by the Welsh Government, working with partners and other stakeholders, and led by the Ethnic Minorities & Youth Support Team (EYST). Through engagement with organisations, community groups and BAME people across Wales they have identified four main priorities for action:

- representation of BAME people in public and political life;
- employment and socio-economic inequality;
- tackling racial inequality in schools; and
- tackling racist incidents, hate crimes and structural racism.

Engagement remains essential. The Wales Race Forum meets at least twice a year, chaired by a Minister, and wider engagement through regional forums and other mechanisms is a key aspect of EYST's work. Highlighting the contributions of BAME people to Welsh life is also important and the Welsh Government supports both Black History Month and annual Windrush Anniversary celebrations across Wales.

Activity snapshot: All Wales BAME Engagement Programme

The [All Wales BAME Engagement Programme](#) is a BAME engagement with partners and other stakeholders, and led by the Ethnic Minorities & Youth Support Team Wales project, funded by the Welsh Government, working.

The Diversity in Democracy Programme supports people from diverse backgrounds to become more involved in local democracy and consider standing for elected office.

Activity snapshot: Festival of Friendship Refugee Event

In late 2018, United Welsh Housing Association held its first Festival of Friendship Refugee Event aimed to bring together numerous people from the community of Splott from various ethnicities and backgrounds. The event targeted people of all ages with a number of events including pop-up coffee shop and face painting etc. The event provided an opportunity to help signpost people to organisation that could help refugees adapt to life in Wales.

LGBTQ

Latest estimates show that 2% of the Welsh population identify themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans^{xliii}.

There are strong LGBT community organisations and activity to support and celebrate LGBT communities, including the rapidly growing annual Pride events in Cardiff and other parts of Wales. Nevertheless, LGBT people continue to experience high

levels of discrimination and victimisation and homophobic crime, including in workplaces. One in six of all recorded hate crimes in Wales are judged to have been related to sexual orientation, while many other crimes and incidents go unreported.

Stonewall's research on Trans issues found that one in eight trans employees (12%) have been physically attacked by a colleague or customer in the last year; half of trans people (51%) have hidden their identity at work for fear of discrimination, while a quarter of trans people (25%) have experienced homelessness.

Stonewall Cymru has been awarded grant funding over 3 years 2017-20 to act as the representative body for LGBT people in Wales. This includes working with the Welsh Government and other public bodies to ensure the views of LGBT people are heard. As part of this funding, Stonewall Cymru has established a Transgender Engagement Officer post to work within trans communities at a grass roots level around Wales to hear their voice and campaign on their behalf.

In 2018 the UK Government consulted on potential changes to the Gender Recognition Act. The consultation received a very large response and the outcome is still awaited. The Welsh Government will take account of this when reviewing our Transgender Action Plan, which was published in 2016.

Hate Crime

The number of hate crimes reported in Wales has nearly doubled since 2012/13, to 3,370 in 2017/18. There has been a focus on encouraging hate crime reporting and in part this increase may reflect greater confidence in reporting hate crimes.

Wales funds a Hate Crime Reporting and Support Centre, managed by Victim Support Cymru, which provides support to victims of all categories of hate crimes and incidents. Funding for this service has increased and, in addition, a new grant fund has been established for organisations working with BAME communities at risk of hate crime, reflecting the extent to which these communities are affected. This new grant is in addition to Welsh Government's existing Equality and Inclusion Funding Programme, which works across many strands of equality including race; gender; disability; Gypsies, Roma & Travellers; LGBT+; refugees and asylum seekers as well as hate crime^{xiv}.

The Wales Victim Response Pathway operates across all of Wales and incorporates the use of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference process for survivors of domestic abuse. It is a victim-focused information sharing and risk management meeting attended by all key agencies, where high risk cases are discussed.

A Wales of Cohesive Communities

Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities

National Well-being Indicators

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40	41	42
43	44	45	46			

Sustainable Development Goals



A Wales of Cohesive Communities

This Goal highlights the need for people to feel safe in their community. In 2016/17, the National Survey for Wales showed that 73% of people felt safe after dark, whether at home, walking in their local area, travelling by public transport or travelling by car. Around 80% of people felt safe walking in the local area or travelling by public transport, while 97% felt safe both being at home and travelling by car.^{xiv} In addition to the 440 police personnel enforcing law and order across Wales, as part of their focus on making communities safer. Wales provides specific funding to support an additional 500 Community Safety Officers.

The National Survey for Wales, also asked people to what extent they agreed or disagreed that they belong to the local area; people in the area from different backgrounds get on well together; and people in the area treat each other with respect. In 2016-17, 50% of people agreed with all three statements while around 70% agreed with any one statement.

To support community cohesion eight Regional Community Cohesion Teams work across all 22 Welsh local authorities. These work at a strategic and local level to break down barriers to inclusion and integration across marginalised groups; support migrants, refugees and asylum seekers during the integration process; and tackle discrimination, hostility, tensions and extremism.

Wales's National Planning Policy is designed to ensure that planning decisions will improve the lives of both current and future generations and ensure that the planning system contributes towards sustainable development. Wales is

developing a National Development Framework (NDF), a 20-year national spatial plan for Wales to coordinate the planning of homes, facilities and infrastructure sustainably.

Activity snapshot: Welsh Centre for International Affairs (WCIA)

The [Welsh Centre for International Affairs](#) (WCIA) is working with primary and secondary schools across Wales to use peace as a tool to improve school outcomes.

Ongoing support is offered to schools as they embed peace in the school ethos and take social action in their school and community. The programme specifically, improves skills in critical thinking, team work, problem solving and communication, at the same time as reducing bullying, discrimination, racism and negative behaviours in schools. The project has reduced records of negative behaviour; increased involvement in pupil voice (up 300%); increased engagement in assemblies; and social action taken in the community e.g. fundraising for a project for refugees. Since 2016 the Peace Schools Scheme has reached 10,000 pupils and 15 schools in Wales.

Access to safe and affordable housing for all

Wales's homelessness legislation has prevented 21,500 households from becoming homeless between April 2015 and

December 2018.^{xvi} It is also on target to bring 5000 empty homes back into use.

Wales's innovative housing programme has invested in new models and approaches to high-quality, near-zero-carbon affordable homes. Nearly 800 houses are under way and due for completion.

Activity snapshot: Rough Sleeping Action Plan

Developed with organisations including **Shelter Cymru** and members of **Rough Sleepers Cymru**, the [Rough Sleeping Action Plan](#) covers a range of activity, supporting people to engage with services and get off the streets as quickly as possible.

Activity snapshot: Conwy Council

Conwy Council, working with Glan Clwyd Hospital have located a housing officer into the hospital's "Step Down Team" in order to identify and address housing and homelessness issues that may otherwise prevent a patient's discharge from hospital, and lead to bed blocking

Access to safe and sustainable transport systems

Wales is committed to providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable, transport systems. The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 is transforming walking and cycling infrastructure and encouraging behaviour change. An

investment of £2 million is being made in electric vehicle charging points^{xvii} in Wales.

Delivery of the South Wales Metro is underway transforming how people travel around the region by providing faster, more frequent and joined-up services.

Activity snapshot: Transport for Wales

Transport for Wales is a wholly-owned, not-for-profit company providing support and expertise to Wales's transport projects, driving forward Wales's vision of a high quality, safe, integrated, affordable and accessible transport network. As part of a comprehensive investment package, a new and cascaded rolling stock will be introduced over the next few years and will be much more environmentally friendly than the existing fleet. Transport for Wales will deliver the South Wales Metro, which will also inform the rollout of the model across Wales in North East and South West Wales¹.

In 2017-18, almost half of all bus journeys in Wales were by older or disabled pass holders. Older and disabled persons may travel for free on bus services throughout Wales. Since 2015 younger people aged 16 to 18 have received one-third fare discounts on bus fares. This was extended in 2018 to include 19 to 21-year-olds throughout Wales.

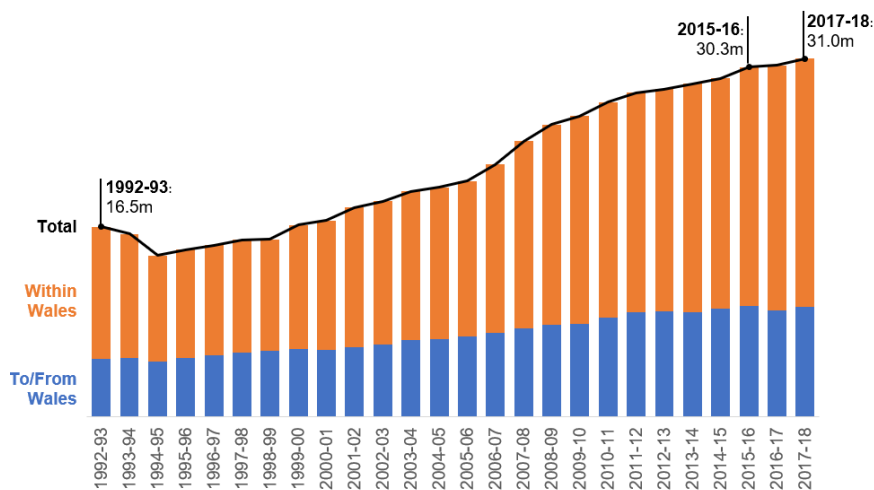
Wales provides strategic direction and funding to partners to deliver education and engineering **road safety interventions** across Wales through the Road Safety Capital & Revenue Grants, and funding to Trunk Road Agents. There has been

good progress made against Wales's targets for casualty reduction in the whole population and amongst young people, with a 25% reduction for all people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents and a 41% reduction in young people compared with the 2004-2008 average.^{xlviii}

Data Picture: Rail Passenger Journeys

The number of rail passenger journeys in Wales increased in 2017-18. There were 31.03 million rail passenger journeys which either started or ended in Wales in 2017-18, an increase of 1.9% when compared to the previous year. Over two-thirds (69%) of these journeys were within Wales. (Source StatsWales)

Rail passenger journeys to/from and within Wales: 1995-96 to 2017-18



The Superfast Cymru broadband project (2012-2018) fundamentally transformed the digital landscape in Wales. Since 2013, the availability of superfast broadband across Wales has doubled. The project has provided access to over 733,000 premises^{xlix} across Wales that would not have been reached through market-led commercial deployment.

Improving resilience to disaster

The Wales Resilience Forum and Local Resilience Forums connect local and national stakeholders working on preventing, handling and recovering from catastrophic incidents, adapting in response. 'Community Information on Risks in Wales' provides information on the range of emergencies that could occur, and suggestions on what the general public and wider community can do.

Flood Risk Assessment Wales, 2019, estimates 245,118 properties are at risk of flooding in Wales. This includes 117,100 at high risk, 44,668 at medium risk and 83,350 at low risk from all sources.

By 2021 Wales will invest over £350 million in flood and coastal erosion risk management activities around Wales. In 2019, construction work will start on coastal risk management works as part of a further £150 million programme of investment over three years across Walesⁱ. The Coastal Risk Management Programme allocates funding for schemes to reduce risk to over 18,000 properties through projects to repair, replace and create new coastal defence systems.

A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

National Well-being Indicators

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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Sustainable Development Goals



A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

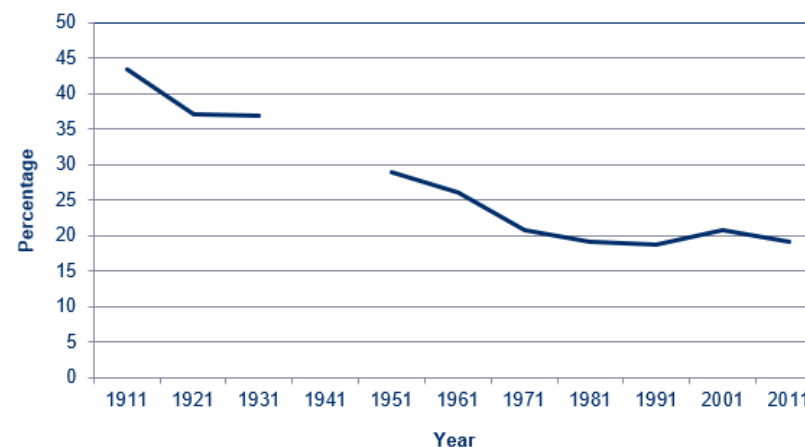
Welsh is an official language in Wales and an integral part of Wales's culture and heritage. It is promoted and facilitated by the Welsh Language Commissioner. In 2011, there were approximately 562,000 Welsh speakers. Wales's ambition, as set out in *Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers*, is for a million people to be able to speak Welsh by 2050. The strategy addresses the need to ensure the viability of Welsh-speaking communities as places that facilitate the use of Welsh in every aspect of life.

Surveys indicate that the proportion of people reporting to have some ability in Welsh has increased slightly over the past decade. Information about the differences between the Census and the APS can be found in this statistical bulletin presenting results on the Welsh language.

The education system is increasing the number of people able to speak Welsh to one million by 2050. Bilingualism gives more opportunities for people, helping to reduce inequalities of opportunity. In 2017/18, 22% of 6-7-year olds were assessed in Welsh first language, which will ensure that they become bilingual.ⁱⁱ *Cymraeg 2050: One Million Welsh Speakers* will increase this to 40% by 2050. The work of Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and the National Centre for Learning Welsh, will increase the availability of post-compulsory education provision in Welsh and ensure that everyone in Wales can develop the language. To facilitate this growth, £51 million of funding will go towards Welsh-medium education.

Data Picture: Welsh Language

Percentage aged 3 or over able to speak Welsh, 1911 to 2011:



Figures will be updated once the next UK census is complete

Source: Well-Being Report of Wales

The National Centre for Learning Welsh offers free Welsh lessons to refugees to introduce people to Welsh language culture and life as well as to support community cohesion in partnership with the Welsh Refugee Council in Cardiff and in partnership with the Red Cross in Newport. There are also opportunities to learn the language informally at social gatherings.

Activity Snapshot: Fusion Programme

Fusion is a programme that concentrates on helping Welsh communities experiencing economic disadvantage. These communities traditionally face barriers in accessing culture and heritage, and the benefits they can bring. Between 2015 and 2017, over 5,000 people took part in Fusion activities, working with local authorities, heritage sites, theatres, schools, museums, archives and libraries among others to help over 100 people gain a qualification, created over 300 volunteering opportunities and supported more than 1,500 pupils to do better at school.

Sport Participation

The National Survey for Wales reports in 2017/18 59% of people participate in any sport or physical activity but only 32% participate in sporting activities three or more times per week^{lii}. Sports Wales is the national organisation responsible for developing and promoting sport and physical activity in Wales and work alongside key partners to support and deliver sporting opportunities across Wales. In partnership with Welsh Government, Sport Wales and Public Health Wales, 17 projects will benefit from the £5.4 million Healthy and Active Fund. Each project contributes to the strengthening of community assets and enabling people adopt healthier lifestyles. The projects selected seek to reduce inequalities in outcomes and barriers in a variety of ways.

The new £5 million investment for sports facilities in Wales demonstrates a commitment to boost delivery on facilities that support an active Wales. It is also the first phase of investment following recommendations that emerged from the review of sport facilities undertaken earlier this year.

Heritage

The historic environment sits at the very centre of our cultural identity as a nation. It tells the story of Wales's place in the world, from its early beginnings to its role at the heart of the making of the modern world.

Wales is home to 3 UNESCO world heritage sites: the Castles and Town Walls of Edward I in Gwynedd (Caernarfon, Conwy, Beaumaris and Harlech), as well as Pontcysyllte aqueduct and canal, are based in North Wales, while Blaenavon industrial landscape is situated in South East Wales.

The museums of Wales play a critical part in both preserving Welsh oral and written history, its monuments and its heritage and in sharing the excitement of their stories locally, nationally and international

Museums, archives and libraries in Wales will benefit from nearly £1 million Welsh Government capital funding to develop and enhance their facilities and services.

Wales's Cultural Heritage contributes to the economic vitality. It stimulates tourism and makes a Wales a unique place for inward investment and a special place in which to live and work. The Priorities for the Historic Environment of Wales plan outlines how significant historic buildings, parks and heritage sites are to the Welsh economy.

In 2016, an estimated £963 million and over 40,000 jobs were contributed to the Welsh economy in the heritage sector, alongside tourism and construction. In 2017, there were 1.8 billion Tourism Day Visits⁷⁸ (TDVs) in Great Britain, of which 100 million (6 per cent) were in Wales. The total expenditure from TDVs in Wales in 2017 was over £4.3 billion.^{liii}

Tourism plays its part in helping to build a national identity and awareness in Wales and beyond. These activities deliver direct economic benefits, whilst also supporting people and businesses to drive prosperity and promote and protect Wales's place in the world.

Arts

The Arts Council for Wales promotes equalities as the foundation of a clear commitment to reach more widely and deeply into all communities across Wales and uses imaginative collaboration to strengthen the capability and resilience of the sector, enabling creative talent to thrive.

In 2017/18 the National Survey for Wales reported 75% of people attended or participated in arts, culture or heritage activities at least 3 times a year.

Activity Snapshot: NoFit State Circus

Admiral Insurance and NoFit State Circus have developed model of corporate investment to support cultural activity for staff well-being and the growth of the cultural economy. This sponsorship partnership – used cultural tools to support staff well-being in a private business, and in doing so supporting a local cultural business.

Over 500 schools and 12,000 learners have taken part in the Lead Creative Schools project and the All-Wales Arts and Education Programme provides opportunities for schools to work with artists and cultural organisations to enrich teaching across the curriculum.

Activity Snapshot: Night Out

Night Out is an Arts Council of Wales scheme that takes away the financial risk of bringing professional shows to community venues in Wales. They provide funding, tickets, advice and recommendations for great shows

Activity Snapshot: Swansea Cultural Framework

Swansea Council has used the legacy of bidding for the UK City of Culture to develop a Cultural Framework for working with its partners. They have a creative writing course for refugees which has been recognised as highlighted by European partners in the United Cities and Local Government network as a model of good practice

The importance of the arts for the benefit of health and wellbeing is fast becoming widely accepted. In May 2017, the Director of the Baring Foundation said that Wales 'leads the world' in arts for older people. The Arts Council has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Welsh NHS Confederation, and work closely with Public Health Wales and with participants in the Cross Party Group on Arts and Health in the National Assembly.

A Globally Responsible Wales

A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being

National Well-being Indicators

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Sustainable Development Goals



A Globally Responsible Wales

The Welsh Government's forthcoming international strategy will aim to present Wales to the world as a 'Creative Next Generation Nation'. The International Strategy will be founded on a clear set of values which will help to present Wales's face internationally – including a commitment to sustainability and future generations, the promotion of the principles of Fair Work and a fundamental belief in the fact that Wales will achieve more to tackle some of the major challenges of our age - digital technology, tackling poverty and inequality, taking on environmental challenges and climate change, through working together across territorial boundaries.

Wales is an outward-facing, globally-trading nation that believes in promoting and protecting Wales's place in the world, recognising Wales's responsibilities on the world stage and promoting fair and ethical trade.

The Welsh Government's strategy will include a focus on Promoting Wales' global responsibilities through the Wales for Africa programme and by demonstrating Wales's approach to global citizenship.

Capacity-building

The Welsh Government funded Hub Cymru Africa and the Wales for Africa grants scheme provide advice, training, support and small grants to the hundreds of groups in Wales working in partnership towards the Global Goals in Sub Saharan Africa. The Wales for Africa Grant Scheme is a flagship initiative of the Welsh Government's Wales for Africa programme. The scheme enables community groups and organisations in Wales to access funding for small-scale

projects that contribute to Wales' delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and deliver benefits to Wales and Africa. The programme supports people in Wales to take action on poverty in Africa.

Activity Snapshot: Fairtrade School Uniforms – schools across Wales

Whilst Welsh children are in school, too many children in poor countries are picking cotton in the fields to make school uniforms for them to wear. Many of the people who grow cotton and work in factories making clothes are paid a poverty wage, have no rights, are forced to work overtime, and can suffer abusive threats from supervisors.

Specifying that school uniforms are made from Fairtrade cotton in ethical factories is one way that schools can make a difference. Fairtrade standards forbid child labour, pay a fair price for cotton and also provide a Fairtrade premium to be invested in communities in developing countries.

Nine schools across Wales now have Fairtrade uniforms supplied by Koolskools including Welshpool Church in Wales Primary School, Ysgol Esgob Morgan in St Asaph, St Bernadette's in Cardiff and Neyland Community School in Pembrokeshire.

Global education

Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) is delivered throughout compulsory education in Wales. A 2014 review discovered that pupils' understanding of the key concepts of sustainable development and global citizenship develops appropriately as they progress through school and is secure for each of the seven themes for ESDGC.

Wales's new curriculum takes a transformational approach that embeds ESDGC throughout the curriculum through an international dimension, aiming to develop pupils to be ethical, informed citizens.

The 70+ members of the Wales Alliance for Global Learning, including third sector organisations, LEA representatives and individual practitioners, have continued to deliver high quality ESDGC, drawing in funding diverse sources and, importantly, from Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Core. Funding is under pressure and no longer having access to European funding will exacerbate these problems.

Wales's International Education Programme provides individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute in a global community, with elements of the project relevant to ESDGC, ESDGC teacher training and Wales-Lesotho teacher placements.

Migration and mobility of people

Responsibility for asylum and immigration rests with the UK Government rather than the Welsh Government. However, the successful integration of refugees and asylum seekers requires concerted effort on the part of the Welsh Government, Welsh public services and Welsh communities.

Wales has an ambition to be a Nation of Sanctuary, and the Nation of Sanctuary – Refugee and Asylum Seeker Plan' captures a range of actions to improve the lives of people seeking sanctuary in Wales, that can help reduce inequalities, increase access to opportunities and enable better relations between communities.

There are commitments to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers can access health services throughout their asylum journey; are provided with information and advice to allow them to integrate into Welsh society from day one; are prevented from becoming destitute and can access educational opportunities. The plan has been endorsed by the United Nation's High Commissioner for Refugees.

Activity Snapshot: ChangeMakers

ChangeMakers is a global citizenship project which has been delivered since 2012 by partners including Welsh Centre for International Affairs, Fair Trade Wales, Oxfam Cymru, Christian Aid, CAFOD and the Centre for Alternative Technology. ChangeMakers develops young people as global citizens. In the two years since 2016 for which data is available, the programme has focused on the global topic of refugees and asylum seekers, working with seven schools and 119 ChangeMakers. ChangeMakers have delivered peer learning to over 4,000 of their peers, raised awareness in their communities, and schools have started the journey to become Schools of Sanctuary, all led by ChangeMaker students. Participating schools have embedded the topic into their curriculum and increased their confidence in teaching this topic.

Leave No One Behind

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) envisages “a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination”. It is grounded in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and international human rights treaties and emphasises the responsibilities of all states to respect, protect and promote human rights. There is a strong emphasis on the empowerment of women and of vulnerable groups such as children, young people, disabled persons, older persons, refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants.

People, young people and children are important to The *Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011* is landmark legislation incorporating the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Welsh Law. The UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People, and the Principles on Older Persons are both integrated through Welsh Law into the functions of local authorities. The Welsh Government will commission research to examine further incorporation which will be complete by the end of 2020.

Wales is in an excellent position to progress toward implementation and integration of SDGs through policy and action on human rights. This is consistent with the international pledge to “*Leave no one behind*” and the statement by the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (March 2019 E/C.12/2019/1), that human rights should be the bedrock of Agenda 2030 and progress toward meeting the SDGs.

Examples of activities in Wales

There are many examples in Wales of activity in support of the ‘Leave No One Behind’ values under the SDGs. Here are a few examples:

SDG1: No Poverty

The Welsh Government is committed to introducing the socio-economic duty to promote prosperity and tackle inequality. Wales has also appointed an independent Fair Work Commission to make recommendations on how to encourage and promote fair employment practices with a view to making Wales a fair work nation.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

The [Welsh Food and Fun/Bwyd a Hwyl programme](#) supports schools in areas of high deprivation to provide a nutritious breakfast, lunch, education about healthy eating and wider enrichment activities. In 2018, approximately 2,500 learners benefited across 56 schools. The aim of the scheme is to address issues like food insecurity, holiday learning loss and social exclusion.

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

In Wales, the 2025 Movement was formed in 2015 to support people living in areas of higher deprivation in North Wales who are likely to live 11 years less than those in other areas. Its

mission is to end avoidable health inequalities by 2025. Membership has grown to over 300 organisations and people.

SDG4: Quality Education

In Wales, the way children and young people (aged 0-25 years) with additional learning needs are supported is being transformed. This includes legislative reform, workforce development, a focus on person centred practice and a shift in culture.

SDG5: Gender Equality

The Welsh Government launched the Gender Equality Review on International Women's Day 2018. As part of Phase 2 of the Review, Welsh Government has published its vision for gender equality in Wales, and has developed principles for a feminist Welsh Government.

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

All water companies in Wales now offer Social Tariffs.

SDG7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Welsh Government's Warm Homes programme delivers action to support people on low incomes struggling to meet the cost of their home energy needs, including those in or at risk of fuel poverty.

SDG8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Wales is driving inclusive growth through maximising impact on the foundation sectors such as food, housing and energy and through a model of Regional Economic Development better attuned to tackling disparities amongst different parts of Wales.

SDG9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Digital Communities Wales is delivered by the Wales Co-operative Centre and supports a partnership of organisations that are working with digitally excluded people.

SDG10: Reduced Inequalities

In Wales, the Equality and Inclusion funding programme, provides strategic support for local, regional and national organisations working in the areas of gender, disability, Gypsies, Roma and Travellers, refugees and asylum seekers, sexual orientation and gender identity, race and hate crime.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

In July 2016, Wales set up the Ministerial Taskforce for the South Wales Valleys to bring economic development to the area to ensure it is not left behind.

SDG12: Responsible Consumption and Production

In 2016, Wales enacted the 'Environment (Wales) Act', to plan and manage Wales' natural resources in a more proactive, sustainable and joined-up way.

SDG13: Climate Action

Welsh Government will establish a climate just advisory group to explore how the transition away from a fossil fuel based economy to a low carbon future could impact on Welsh industries and the communities, to collectively develop measures to decarbonise to a low carbon economy that is fair and maximises well-being opportunities for all.

SDG14: Life below water

The Welsh Government arranged for the alignment of the Community Advice and Listening Line, a mental health helpline

for Wales, to send referrals to the Fishermen's Mission in Wales, helping those facing uncertainty in the fishing industry and providing practical care to fishermen and their families.

SDG15: Life on land

Over £300,000 is being invested in a new forestry apprenticeship pilot in Wales. Forests and woodlands provide a range of career opportunities which require highly specialised skills such as tree felling, pruning, coppicing, wood chipping and re-planting.

SDG16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

The Wales Victim Response Pathway operates across all of Wales and incorporates the use of the Multi-Agency Risk

Assessment Conference (MARAC) process for survivors of domestic abuse.

SDG17: Partnerships for the goals

The Wales for Africa programme supports people in Wales to take action on poverty in Africa by funding and building projects that support learning, the exchange of skills, joint working and tackling climate change.

Section C | Progress in Working in a Sustainable Way

Section C | Progress in Working in a Sustainable Way

Wales has an enabling policy, legislative and institutional framework for sustainable development and since 2015 has been working to realise the benefits of sustainable development through the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and other supporting legislation and policy frameworks. The following are reflections that have come through the work to prepare this supplementary report and existing reports from stakeholders.

Vision

The vision for a sustainable Wales has been formalised through the Well-being of Future Generations Act and its seven well-being goals. Securing this in law enables the discussion to move on from definitions to how to deliver a more sustainable Wales. This does not mean that sustainable development is not still a contested concept but through the duties in the Act and the establishment of an independent Future Generations Commissioner for Wales it moves the discussion into how organisations work in a more sustainable way.

There has been a translation of this vision from the whole of Wales level to community level through the objectives and actions by public bodies subject to the Act in collaboration with their partners.

Political Commitment

Political commitment to sustainable development has been a long-standing feature of devolution in Wales; this resulted in agreement in the National Assembly for Wales in 2015 of the

Well-being of Future Generations Act and its seven well-being goals for Wales.

The First Minister for Wales and the wider Cabinet are wholly committed to embedding the Act across Welsh Government and leading the way on sustainable development.

The National Assembly for Wales has endorsed the Act through its work and recommendations to the Welsh Government with expectations for the Government to use the Act and its sustainable development framework to inform areas such as the budget process and integrated impact assessments.

Public Support: Wales We Want

In March 2014, Michael Sheen, award-winning Welsh actor and UNICEF supporter, launched a year-long national conversation with people and communities in Wales discuss the Wales about what they want to leave behind for their children and grandchildren, to create a Wales that they want by 2050. 'The Wales We Want' Conversation was set within the context of the United Nation's global Conversation of 'The World We Want'. It engaged nearly 7000 people across Wales through their communities and groups (in addition to contributions via social media, postcards and online) and tested different approaches to engage people. A key feature was the recruitment of Futures Champions whose role has been to take the Conversation forward, becoming advocates for future generations and raising the issues affecting their groups, communities, and organisations.



Whilst 'The Wales We Want' engagement event was not a formal consultation on the provisions of the forthcoming Act, it provided an opportunity for the people and communities of Wales to engage in a national conversation about the development path for Wales and to influence public debate around the long-term challenges that people in Wales identify with.

In the National Conversation about the future of Wales, climate change was considered the single most critical issue facing future generations, alongside giving children the best start in life, the role of communities, global environmental limits, diversity and inequality, democracy and culture. The recent Climate Change strikes and protests highlights how critical this global issue is for the people of Wales.

As well as informing the emerging well-being goals with the issues that people felt were critical for future generations, the National Conversation discovered that a sense of responsibility and ownership of the long-term goals and their achievement was important to the people of Wales. It also reinforced the WFG Act's position that each well-being goal should not be viewed in isolation but need to be actioned as part of the whole and should set a common vision and focus for collective leadership, with action at all levels and in all sectors.

International Support

As the first and only country in the world to legislate for well-being and the SDGs, Wales has a unique story to share with other countries. By combining the best of international practice with Welsh values, the WFG Act has raised the profile of Wales internationally, with countries, such as New Zealand and Canada, who recognise the importance of placing well-being at the heart of government policy.

"I have been truly amazed and proud at the reaction of organizations, governments and individuals across the world towards the WFG Act and how it continues to inspire and impact change internationally." Sophie Howe, The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"

Our Future Wales

To build on the successes of 'The Wales we Want' conversations, and to deliver on the aspirations of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, the Future Generations Commissioner launched 'Our Futures Wales' in Spring 2019, to give communities the opportunity to feed into her Future Generations Report and shape the conversation about what we want to happen. Our Future Wales gives organisations, groups and individuals across all sectors in Wales the opportunity to debate the issues that matter to them as well as support and inform a collective manifesto, on the eve of local and national elections.

Our Future Wales community events are running from June 2019 until November 2019 and the Commissioner's People's Platform is up and running for people to share your stories and ideas. This story-gathering platform gives the opportunity for people across Wales to share their experiences, thoughts, challenges and solutions on the Commissioner's main areas of focus and more broadly.

Stakeholder Engagement

WFG Act Stakeholder Groups

Along with the wider public engagement, a wide range of sector stakeholders from public service and civil society were engaged during the development of the WFG Act. In September 2012 the then Commissioner for Sustainable Futures, on behalf of the then Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, convened reference and implementation groups of stakeholders to inform the ongoing development of the WFG Act and its statutory guidance. This approach to engagement provided stakeholders the opportunity to share their experiences of trying to embed sustainable development in organisational settings, helping make the WFG Act relevant across a broad sector.

'All Together'

In 2018 the Welsh Government and stakeholders (led by WWF Cymru) held workshops to develop a shared understanding of how Welsh Government operates under the Well-being of Future Generations Act can be seen, as understood and recognised by third sector stakeholders. This open engagement approach is influencing future plans for engagement between the Welsh Government and stakeholders.

SDG Stakeholder Summits

The SDG Stakeholder Summits provided the opportunity for stakeholders from across public and private sectors, civil society and Higher and Further Education to come together to discuss Wales's approach to the SDGs since the enactment of the WFG Act. The delegates saw the Voluntary National Review as an opportunity to unite people together, and were keen to develop a uniquely Welsh approach to how we engage, formally and informally, with people, communities and across different sectors. There is a call to grow Wales' networks and

develop effective infrastructure and digital platforms to create a movement to work on the SDGs and the well-being goals.



“applying the well-being goals and ways of working] has helped us articulate the difference this will make - the potential to do more and just how much influence and impact we have on people, communities, local economy” Housing Association SDG Stakeholder Summit Delegate

Working with Business

The Future Generations Commissioner has formed a strategic partnership with Business in the Community Cymru. They are the Prince's Responsible Business Network in Wales – a business-led membership organisation made up of progressive businesses of all sizes from all over Wales who understand that the prosperity of business and society are mutually dependent. Working in collaboration with the Welsh Government Business Wales, the partnership aims to harnessing the collective energy and drive of the private, third and public sectors towards a more

sustainable and socially responsible Wales and work on potential approaches for doing this.

Multi-Sector Stakeholder Forum

The immediate focus of activity following 2015 was on those public bodies subject to the Act and the establishment of Public Services Boards. The SDG summits and the work on the VNR in Wales have shown a desire for greater mobilisation of wider civil society and business but that the infrastructure to both capture progress across Wales, and engage in strategic review needs further work.

The Welsh Government is strengthening its involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and exploring the potential for a re-invigorated involvement of civil society and the potential for a stakeholder forum, to drive forward the next chapter of Wales' sustainable development journey.



Activity snapshot | Welsh Council for Voluntary Action

Through Welsh Government grant funding, WCVA the national membership body for the third sector in Wales produced resources including factsheets, webpages, an animation and workshop to engage civil society with the Act and to help organisations demonstrate, or step up, their contributions to its Goals. The resources are now highlighted on the website of the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner. The 'All you need to know' webpage on the Act is one of the most frequently visited on WCVA's website and receives on average more than 500 views per month.

WWF Cymru is funding Cynnal Cymru and WCVA to provide a review of third sector engagement with WFG Act and practice from other counties implementation of SDGs to provide recommendations for how the sector can support the proposals for Welsh Government's multi-sector stakeholder forum.

Feasibility

The Act was designed to make sustainable development the central organising principle of public bodies, so that 'sustainable development' was not considered an 'add on'. The intention was to minimise the burden on public bodies of doing things differently by embedding the change in what they were doing. A cost analysis was carried out to understand the impact on bodies to implement the Act.

In his 2018 report, the Auditor General for Wales outlined some of the challenges faced by public bodies in implementing the Act.

I do recognise and appreciate the range of internal and external challenges that make implementing new legislation difficult. However, there is a risk that for some, the Well-being of Future Generations Act is perceived as ‘another thing to do’. Unless those bodies and individuals adopt a mind-set where they see sustainable development as an approach that can help them address major budget and service challenges, rather than an additional burden, they will be unable to make the most of the opportunity the Act affords

Auditor General for Wales, 2018

There have also been examples of how the Act has been used in legal decisions which are placing the legislation and sustainable development into the spotlight.

Evidence

Understanding progress is a key part of the post implementation approach in Wales. The WFG Act establishes many formal mechanisms that allow for progress to be assessed and lessons to be learned. In addition stakeholders are also using the WFG Act to carry out their own evidence in order to influence decision makers.

A ‘game-changer’ for future generations?

In 2017, WWF Cymru conducted research and analysis provides insight on the implementation of the WFG Act by Welsh Government. The research identified some pockets of good practice, but found that the approach to the Act was inconsistent across Government activity. Since this reflection on the first year of implementation, Welsh Government has continued to invest in developing the capacities and capabilities of staff and lines of accountability, with the establishment of a

director-led oversight and enabling group, which reports directly to Welsh Government’s Board.

A particularly strong message ...is that we, in the public sector, have to find new ways to involve people in the early stages of policy development and delivery planning.

(Shan Morgan, Permanent Secretary Welsh Government)

Pointers for action included the lack of visibility of change and progress in Government; the need for a ‘whole of government’ response requiring sustained effort and strong leadership; procurement; policy integration; improving capacity and capability; and demystifying ‘black box’ decision making. The Government will be working with stakeholders on a ‘Route Map for Change’.

Future Trends Report

Wales’s Future Trends Report is an important first foundation in building capability and improving understanding of the long term. The report identifies key social, economic, environmental and cultural trends that are likely to impact on Wales sustainability. The report is a first step to build a continually improving resource, developing the accessibility of the material and the ability of the public sector to use it well. Welsh Government is working with the wider public sector, academia and with other interested stakeholders to develop the resource. As the WFG Act requires that the work of the United Nations under the Sustainable Development Goals is considered in preparing this report, the VNR and Welsh Supplementary Report will inform the next statutory report in 2021/22.

One Year On: (Auditor General for Wales)

In 2018 The Auditor General for Wales reported on their assessment of how public bodies in Wales have responded to the Act. He acknowledged that Public bodies support the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and are taking steps to change how they work. The report recognises that all public bodies are on a learning path to deliver legislation that is bold, ambitious and aims to drive a long term cultural change in public services, resulting in better outcomes for the people of Wales.

Activity snapshot | Health Sustainability Hub

Public Health Wales's Health and Sustainability Hub's has developed a 'Be the Change' campaign which takes its lead from the UN Sustainable Development Goals and has been tailored to a Welsh context for all staff across public services. It offers helpful tips on how staff can take 'sustainable steps' to reduce their negative impacts and maximise the positive impacts on the well-being goals, as well as make the links to their own organisational support services and policies. The Health and Sustainability Hub has also developed a workshop accessible to all staff to help them understand and implement the sustainable development principle or the 'five ways of working' enshrined in the Well Being of Future Generations Act.



Well-being in Wales: the journey so far (Future Generations Commissioner for Wales)

Since April 2017, councils, health boards, national parks, fire and rescue services, Welsh Government and national organisations, such as Natural Resources Wales and Sport Wales, have been working towards a collective 345 objectives. Well-being in Wales: the journey so far' report outlines what the organisations have said they will do in this first year and provides advice on how they can best demonstrate they are taking effective steps to meet their objectives.

Inquiry into Public Service Boards

In 2017 the [Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee](#) agreed to undertake an inquiry into public service boards and the developing of well-being plans in Wales, as part of its work on poverty in Wales. Details of the inquiry can be found [here](#)

Auditor General for Wales 2020

In spring 2020 the Auditor General for Wales will produce his first all-Wales report under the Act. The Auditor General is entirely independent of the Welsh Government, and he will lay his report before the National Assembly for Wales. The report is expected to draw together the Auditor General's findings from his individual examinations of the 44 public bodies specified under the Act, which have been designed to assess the extent to which each of those bodies are applying the sustainable development principle.

Our Future Wales

In April 2020, the Future Generations Commissioner will produce Wales's first Future Generations Report as one of her

duties in the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The report will include information on the progress to date and on what should happen in the future, providing advice on improvements public bodies should make in order to set and meet well-being objectives to improve the economy, society, environment and culture of their area most efficiently under that law.

Measurement

To understand what progress Wales has made towards achieving the seven well-being goals, Welsh Ministers have set 46 national indicators. The nation's yearly progress is reported in the annual Well-Being of Wales Report. The report was first launched in September 2017.

Work is also underway to set milestones for Wales under the National Indicators which will show expectations of what the indicators should show at certain points in the future.

Reflections on measuring progress

In reflecting on the work to develop Wales' National Indicators for Wales to measure the seven well-being goals there are some key challenges and lessons for other countries, nations and regions to be aware of:

- 1. A focus on sustainable outcomes** – It was critical from the outset to find indicators that measured outcomes not just performance outputs.
- 2. Balancing subjective and objective** - If we really want to understand whether people consider themselves to be “safe” or living in “cohesive communities” then it is important to understand people’s perceptions and subjective opinions.
- 3. Integration** – Reflecting the integrated nature of the well-being goals and avoiding ‘silos’ in how we measure.
- 4. Involvement and collaboration** – Through asking ‘How do you measure a nation’s progress?’ in consultation and engagement with stakeholders.
- 5. Reporting annually** - *Through an Annual Well-being Report with scope to give a particular focus on some aspects every year, such as in 2018 with a focus on children’s wellbeing.*
- 6. Publication as official statistics** - *The importance of publication of measures of progress by the Chief Statistician of the Welsh Government in line with the UK Code of Practice for Statistics, with the content and methods being independent of Ministers.*
- 7. Telling the story** - *Our focus was on producing clear narratives which would tell the story of progress against the seven well-being goals.*

Section D | Conclusion

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The UK Voluntary National Review and Supplementary Report has provided an opportunity to take stock of progress, building on the ongoing review mechanisms built into the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, including the annual [Well-being of Wales](#) report. It has highlighted where progress has been made and also recognised that there are areas of further work needed. The areas of action that are being taken forward in Wales are detailed in Section B and Section C which address our contribution to the SDGs as well as the means of implementation.

On **engaging** people in the sustainable development agenda in Wales, the VNR process has shown the interest in the sustainable development agenda here in Wales and has provided an excellent opportunity to re-engage stakeholders four years after the SDGs were agreed and the WFG Act was passed. There is a renewed appetite for the involvement and engagement of civil society in accelerating efforts to achieve Wales' seven well-being goals. In recognition of this, the Welsh Government is strengthening its involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015; we are exploring the potential for re-invigorated involvement of civil society and the potential for a stakeholder forum, to drive forward the next chapter of Wales' sustainable development journey. This will form part of a wider piece of work looking at the most effective ways of involving people and communities in the shaping of Welsh Government policy and delivery. The Welsh Government declared a climate emergency in April to galvanize action across Wales, and as part of our approach to involvement, the

Climate Just Advisory group will advise Government on the transition away from a fossil fuel-based economy, so that it is grounded on fairness, and equity, leaving no-one behind.

On **data**, this report has drawn heavily on our statutory annual Well-being of Wales Report which provides a valuable snapshot of life in Wales, giving a wide ranging picture of well-being outcomes from life expectancy, the economy, poverty, biodiversity to the arts. Given the lessons we've learnt from the last report, we propose to focus in 2019 on producing a shorter update on progress against the goals, and what latest data are telling us about the well-being of Wales, rather than producing another comprehensive annual well-being report. A full annual well-being report is a major exercise and we propose that we publish the full and comprehensive update every 4-5 years to a timetable that best meets the needs of users and aligned with other requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

On **financing** the SDGs in Wales, the Act is starting to effect change in the way that decisions are made and the budgets needed to implement those decisions. This is part of embedding sustainable development as our central organising principle. The Welsh Government has focused efforts in on decarbonisation and prevention, with the latter resulting in an agreed multi-layered definition that aims to help drive different discussions on budgets in future years. On public procurement, the Welsh Government is committed to working closely with stakeholders to co-develop a new Procurement Action Plan for Wales which clarifies the future operating model and embeds

the WFG Act, maximising procurement spend in Wales to help achieve the seven well-being goals for Wales.

In **reviewing** where Wales is on its sustainable development journey, the reports to be prepared and published by the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales (Future Generations Report) and the Auditor General for Wales (examinations of public bodies) will both be laid before the National Assembly for Wales in 2020; they will provide a legal mechanism to take stock on the implementation of the Act. In advance of these reports, work will be taken forward to look at how else Welsh Government best reviews and evaluates the implementation of the Act and its impact on Wales becoming a more sustainable nation.

In **looking to the future**, strengthening the capacity and capability of decision makers to think about the longer term means providing the space and evidence to inform decisions. We will be building on the Future Trends resource to facilitate discussions on the key trends affecting the priorities for Wales, and offer training and support on building futures work into policy making. Work is also underway to set milestones for Wales under the National Indicators.

It has been challenging in feeding into the VNR report to capture Wales' achievements beyond government and to rigorously **review** and reflect on our progress towards achieving the goals. To capture the learning from the process, the Wales and the Sustainable Development Goals Working Group that has supported the drafting of this report will be convened again to reflect on the process. This will allow Wales to be in a better position to give a more comprehensive account of the actions taken by the people; communities; public and third sector organisations; and businesses across Wales in the next VNR.

We want to **share the lessons** of our different approach in Wales in legislating for sustainable development. We will continue to build on our international networks to bring 'Wales to the World' but also the 'World to Wales', with the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales playing a key role in this. As well Wales learning from others, we believe there is much that others can learn from our approach in Wales; ten of the key features of our learning are summarised below.

LEARNING FROM WALES

One. Recognise the role of culture as a fourth dimension of sustainable development

Recognising the role that culture plays in Wales, there was a strong push from Civil Society and politicians to fully recognise culture as a fourth dimension of sustainable development.

Two. Translate the SDGs at the appropriate level by mobilising people to own nationally specific goals

One of the main challenges set by Agenda 2030 is how to translate universal global goals to people and communities. Wales has taken a distinctively Welsh way of responding to this challenge by identifying and legislating for seven well-being goals which translate the UN SDGs into what matters for Wales.

Three. Focus on sustainable development as an organising principle and avoid the 'add on'

Wales' learning since 1998 has shown the risk of sustainable development being seen as an 'add-on'. It needs to be mainstreamed and embedded to change what organisations focus on and how they work – this means it

must be seen as the central organising principle. Securing the Bruntland definition in Welsh law was essential to this.

Four. Establish an independent voice and advocate for sustainable development

Wales has long recognised and valued the importance of an independent voice on sustainable development as an integral part of the sustainable architecture in Wales. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 therefore established the world's first statutory Future Generations Commissioner.

Five. Ensure global responsibility is an essential part of the debate and architecture

In recognition of the role that Wales, a small country can play in an inter-connected world, the seventh Welsh well-being goal focuses on the how the actions taken by the Government and public bodies within Wales considers whether what they do will make a positive contribution to global well-being.

Six. Move the discussion on from definitions to practical action

Many of the sustainability challenges that places face are driven by decisions that are short-term, reactive, silo focused, with lack of involvement of people and partners.

Seven. Build in mechanisms to look to the future

In recognising the importance of intergenerational and intergenerational equity the Act established a regular 'Future Trends Report' to help decision makers in Wales better understand the economic, social, environmental and

cultural trends affecting Wales now and in the future. This supports organisations in delivering the 'long-term' way of working and helps to inform discussions and policy development about options and choices for the future.

Eight. Bringing partners together at the local level

In recognition that many organisations can make sustainable development happen on the ground, the Act establishes local partnerships called [Public Services Boards](#) (PSBs) to support joined up planning between local authorities, the national environment body ([Natural Resources Wales](#)), the Local Health Boards, and the fire and rescue authority.

Nine. The role of Audit

In recognition of the role of Audit in sustainable development the Act places a duty on the Auditor General for Wales who may carry out examinations of the public bodies and to report to the National Assembly for Wales.

Ten. Mobilising action from civil society and business

Civil Society in Wales was a critical catalyst in driving forward what was possible to legislate for, and continues to play an important part in driving action in communities.

Appendix A

National Indicators for Wales										
Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Goal 5	Goal 6	Goal 7				
A Prosperous Wales	A Resilient Wales	A Healthier Wales	A More Equal Wales	A Wales of Cohesive Communities	A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language	Globally Responsible Wales				
The way in which we are measuring progress										
National Well-being Indicators for Wales				1	2	3	4	5	6	7
01	Percentage of live single births with a birth weight of under 2,500g					●	●			
02	Healthy life expectancy at birth including the gap between the least and most deprived					●	●			
03	Percentage of adults who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours					●	●	●	●	
04	Levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO2) pollution in the air			●	●	●				●
05	Percentage of children who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours					●	●	●		

06	Measurement of development of young children	●			●	●	●	
07	Average capped 9 points score of pupils, including the gap between those who are eligible or are not eligible for free school meals	●			●		●	
08	Percentage of adults with qualifications at the different levels of the National Qualifications Framework	●		●	●			
09	Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked (relative to UK average)	●						
10	Gross Disposable Household Income per head	●		●	●			
11	Percentage of businesses which are innovation-active	●	●					●
12	Capacity (in MW) of renewable energy equipment installed	●	●			●		●
13	Concentration of carbon and organic matter in soil	●	●					●
14	The Ecological Footprint of Wales	●	●					●
15	Amount of waste generated that is not recycled, per person	●	●			●		●
16	Percentage of people in employment, who are on permanent contracts (or on temporary contracts, and not seeking permanent employment) and who earn more than 2/3 of the UK median wage	●		●	●			●
17	Gender pay difference	●			●			
18	Percentage of people living in households in income poverty relative to the UK median: measured for children, working age and those of pension age	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

19	Percentage of people living in households in material deprivation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
20	Percentage of people moderately or very satisfied with their jobs	●		●	●			
21	Percentage of people in employment	●		●	●			
22	Percentage of people in education, employment or training, measured for different age groups	●		●	●	●		
23	Percentage who feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area				●	●		●
24	Percentage of people satisfied with their ability to get to/ access the facilities and services they need			●	●	●		
25	Percentage of people feeling safe at home, walking in the local area, and when travelling			●	●	●		
26	Percentage of people satisfied with local area as a place to live		●	●		●	●	
27	Percentage of people agreeing that they belong to the area; that people from different backgrounds get on well together; and that people treat each other with respect		●	●	●	●	●	●
28	Percentage of people who volunteer					●	●	●
29	Mean mental well-being score for people			●	●			
30	Percentage of people who are lonely			●	●	●		
31	Percentage of dwellings which are free from hazards		●	●	●	●		

32	Number of properties (homes and businesses) at medium or high risk of flooding from rivers and the sea		●	●	●	●	●		
33	Percentage of dwellings with adequate energy performance	●	●	●					●
34	Number of households successfully prevented from becoming homeless per 10,000 households	●		●	●	●			
35	Percentage of people attending or participating in arts, culture or heritage activities at least three times a year			●	●	●	●		
36	Percentage of people who speak Welsh daily and can speak more than just a few words of Welsh					●	●	●	●
37	Percentage of people who can speak Welsh					●	●	●	●
38	Percentage of people participating in sporting activities three or more times a week		●	●	●	●	●		
39	Percentage of museums and archives holding archival/heritage collections meeting UK accreditation standards						●	●	
40	Percentage of designated historic environment assets that are in stable or improved conditions		●				●	●	
41	Emissions of greenhouse gases within Wales	●	●	●					●
42	Emissions of greenhouse gases attributed to the consumption of global goods and services in Wales	●	●	●					●

43	Areas of healthy ecosystems in Wales	●	●	●		●	●	●
44	Status of Biological diversity in Wales	●	●			●	●	●
45	Percentage of surface water bodies, and groundwater bodies, achieving good or high overall status		●	●		●	●	●
46	The social return on investment of Welsh partnerships within Wales and outside of the UK that are working towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Further Information

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. If we are to collectively achieve these well-being goals we need a way of measuring progress so that we can all see if, for Wales as a whole, things are getting better. That is why the Act places a legal requirement on the Welsh Ministers to set national indicators. Whilst the indicators are set by Welsh Ministers they reflect the whole of Wales and will enable us to understand the contribution made by all.

The 46 national indicators published and laid before the National Assembly for Wales in March 2015 are to be read with the national indicators technical information document (*How to measure a nation's progress – National Indicators for Wales: Technical Document*, March 2016) published by the Welsh Government.

Many national indicators will help tell a story of progress against more than one of the well-being goals, to help you navigate these links we have, for communication purposes, highlighted a potential set of links between national indicators and well-being goals. This table has been prepared for communication and discussion purposes only and should not be considered as inferring a direct or indirect technical or legal link between the indicators and well-being goals.

Appendix B

Agenda 2030 Wales and the Global Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



Wales

National Well-being Indicators for Wales

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
01			●							●							

33	Percentage of dwellings with adequate energy performance	●		●				●				●	●	●				
34	Number of households successfully prevented from becoming homeless per 10,000 households	●		●						●	●						●	
35	Percentage of people attending or participating in arts, culture or heritage activities at least three times a year			●						●	●							
36	Percentage of people who speak Welsh daily and can speak more than just a few words of Welsh										●							
37	Percentage of people who can speak Welsh										●							
38	Percentage of people participating in sporting activities three or more times a week			●		●				●								
39	Percentage of museums and archives holding archival/heritage collections meeting UK accreditation standards				●						●	●						
40	Percentage of designated historic environment assets that are in stable or improved conditions				●						●	●						
41	Emissions of greenhouse gases within Wales			●				●		●	●	●		●				
42	Emissions of greenhouse gases attributed to the consumption of global goods and services in Wales			●				●		●	●	●		●				
43	Areas of healthy ecosystems in Wales			●			●		●			●		●	●			

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