

A report on well-being and progress



April 2025

How to use this document



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Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what all the words in blue mean on **page 44**.



Where the document says **Act**, this means the [Well-being of Future Generations Act \(Wales\) 2015](#).



Where the document says **we**, this means the **Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales**. For more information contact:

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About this report



The **Future Generations Commissioner for Wales** works to make sure the people who live in Wales now and in the future, are safe and healthy.



This report helps people know what to do to make life better for everyone.



We have based this report on our 5 **missions** from our **Cymru Can strategy**.



Missions are the 5 different issues we are focusing our work on until 2030.



This report looks at how things are going in Wales right now.



And then talks about each **mission**, and what needs to be done next to tackle the challenges we face.



How things are going in Wales



- 230 thousand homes could flood in the future. This number might double in 100 years.



- Air quality is better than it was in the 1970s. But it is still bad for people's health and nature.



- Wales has very little nature left. 1 out of 6 types of animals and plants might disappear.



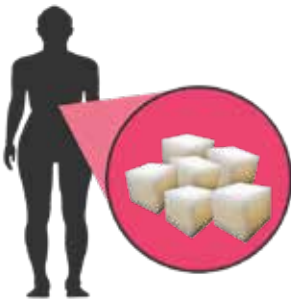
- In 2025, many people spend the last 20 years of their lives being ill.



- A lot of people in Wales have **diabetes**, which can be prevented by healthy eating and exercise.



NHS Wales spends £1 out of every £10 they have on **diabetes**.



Diabetes is an illness where the body has trouble using sugar properly.



- More people are overweight or **obese**. More people have mental health problems.



Obese means having too much fat in your body. It can cause health problems like **diabetes**, stroke or arthritis.



- Wales has more older people than other parts of the UK. About 2 out of 10 people are over 65.



- People felt less happy and more worried in 2023 than in 2022.



- About 3 out of 10 children in Wales live in **poverty**.

Poverty means they do not have enough money to meet their basic needs.



- 3 out of 10 people felt they can help make decisions about where they live. This is better than before.



- 7 out of 10 people do arts and cultural activities. But some people do it more than others. This depends on their age, health, money, and education.



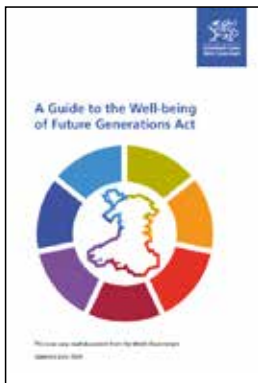
- More adults did sport 3 or more times a week in 2023.



- About 2 out of 10 people in Wales had low income between 2021 and 2023, after paying for housing.

Our missions

Implementing the Well-being of Future Generations Act



Mission: Make sure the Act is being followed and works well.

What we have learned:



- The public sector supports the **Well-being of Future Generations Act**. They want to do good things for the future.



- Fewer people trust **public bodies**. This will get worse if people feel they cannot speak up and are not included.



Public bodies are organisations that run **public services** in Wales. For example, local councils, health services, national parks and fire and rescue services.



- **Public bodies** and **Public Services Boards** are not always using their **well-being objectives** to guide their work.



Public Services Boards are groups of people from different organisations in each area of Wales. They bring different **public bodies** and organisations together to work on shared problems.



Well-being objectives are the aims **public bodies** must set to make Wales safer and healthier for people.



- Welsh Government has set up lots of different partnerships and groups without a clear long-term plan. This means many **Public Services Boards** are not working well. They do not have enough help.



- Leaders and people who make decisions in Wales need to change what they are doing. This will make sure the **Well-being of Future Generations Act** works and improves the future.



What should happen next:



- The Welsh Government should check if the **Act** is working well. They should ask people in Wales what they think.



- The Welsh Government must make it easier for people to work together and get things done.



- **Public bodies** must train their workers to understand and use the **Act** well.



- **Public bodies** must talk to people more to build trust and listen to their ideas.

Climate and Nature



Mission: Support all Welsh **public bodies** to meet their **net zero** goals by 2030.



Net zero means reducing the harmful gases we put in the environment.

We do this by:



- Lowering the amount of harmful gases we release into the environment.



- Finding ways to clean harmful gas from the air.

What we have learned:



- Everyone needs to work on **climate change** and helping nature. But not all **public bodies** have this in their aims.



Climate change is big changes in the weather. For example, places getting warmer, wetter, or drier. These changes cause things like storms to get worse, flooding and wildfires.



- The goal of **net zero** by 2030 has helped. But many **public bodies** worry they will not reach this goal. They need more help.



- Wales has not set a goal to improve **nature recovery**.

Nature recovery is the process of rebuilding and improving nature.



- **Public bodies** are not thinking enough about **climate change** and nature when they make decisions.



- Communities need to help make decisions about climate and nature.



- There is not enough money to reach climate and nature aims.



What should happen next:



- The Welsh Government should make a new law to help nature recover by 2026. This would protect nature and help more animals and plants grow by 2050.



- The Welsh Government should make a plan to use land well to grow food, build homes, and protect nature. They should also make a guide for local decisions.



- The Welsh Government should help people work together to clean and protect rivers.



- The Welsh Government should give Natural Resources Wales more power to stop **pollution**.



Pollution is when bad things get into the air, water, or land. For example, car fumes, litter or sewers emptying into rivers or the sea.



- The Welsh Government should help **public bodies** find money to help nature and stop **climate change**.



- The Welsh Government should ask the Welsh Revenue Authority to use money from fines for harming the environment to help nature.



- **Public bodies** must protect nature when they manage land, buildings, and roads.



- The Welsh Government, **public bodies** and **Public Services Boards** should help local energy projects.



- **Public Services Boards** should check climate risks in their communities every 5 years. **Public bodies** must put what they find in their plans.



- By 2028, the Welsh Government, **public bodies** and **Public Services Boards** must make sure they do **not** buy things that harm forests or people's rights.

Health and Well-being



Mission: Support making changes to the way we keep people healthy. Focus on stopping issues early on.

What we have learned:



- **Public bodies** have different health aims. They are not using all their chances to make health better for everyone.



- Health and social care in Wales focuses on fixing urgent problems. It does not focus on long-term health or stopping health problems before they start. People agree stopping problems is important, but **public services** do not spend enough money on it.



- **Public bodies** are learning to work together. This helps follow the **Well-being of Future Generations Act**. But they do not do it enough. This makes it harder to make health better for everyone.



- Inequality in Wales is getting worse. People living in **poverty** are more likely to have bad health.



- **Health and care systems** are still hard to understand. This does not help people when they are ill or need taking care of.



What should happen next:



- The Welsh Government should use the **Marmot Model** to help make health more equal.

The **Marmot Model** says that things like where people live, how much money they have, and their jobs all affect their health. It says we should make things fairer so everyone can be healthy.



- All public sector organisations and **public bodies** should focus on stopping health problems before they start.



- The Welsh Government should make a plan to stop more people being too overweight in 5 years. And to lower the number of overweight people in 10 years.



- **Public bodies** and **Public Services Boards** should work together to help people stay healthy and make things fairer.



- **Public bodies** and **Public Services Boards** should check for the biggest health inequalities and make plans to fix them.



Culture and Welsh Language



Mission: Make sure **public bodies understand the importance of **culture**.**



Our **culture** is our shared traditions, behaviours, history, and language.

What we have learned:



- Money for **culture** is often the first thing the government cuts when they look at spending. But **culture** helps stop people getting ill, helps the **economy** and nature, and makes things more equal.



The **economy** is the way people spend money and the way people make money.



- **Culture** and Welsh language must be important to all **public bodies** and **public services**. This will help them grow. But this is not happening yet.



- **Public bodies** are not using **culture** and the arts enough to help communities.



- People being left out makes it hard to have long-term well-being. **Public bodies** need to try harder to build communities where everyone feels included.



What should happen next



- The Welsh Government should make a new law to protect **culture** in Wales.



- The Welsh Government should give communities the right to buy local buildings and land they care about.



- The Welsh Government should make a job in government to look after culture, arts, and sport.



- All **public bodies** should help staff use more Welsh at work.



- **Public bodies** and **Public Services Boards** should follow the Placemaking Wales Charter. This is a plan to make places better to live in.



- **Public bodies** should make a plan with workers and the voluntary sector to help people volunteer.



A Well-being Economy



Mission: Make sure Wales has an **economy** that puts people and the planet first.

What we have learned:



- The Welsh Government's plan for the **economy** and local plans need to match the **Well-being of Future Generations Act**.



- **Public bodies** need to make paying the **Real Living Wage** and giving workers at least 16 hours of work a week a top priority.



The **Real Living Wage** is more than the standard Living Wage. It is a fair amount of money for people to live on.



- The way leaders in Wales think about the **economy** is getting better. By helping **social enterprises**, more communities can keep money local.



Social enterprises are businesses that help people or the planet instead of just making money.



- Wales can create more **green jobs**, but we need to work on the skills people need.



Green jobs are jobs that help rebuild or protect the environment.



- Wales uses up resources like wood, water and energy too quickly. This means we will not have enough for the future. Wales can make more jobs in fixing and reusing things.



- Wales cannot reach its well-being goals only through **public bodies**. Business must also change.



- **Public bodies** not ready to use **artificial intelligence** well or to handle problems it can cause.



Artificial intelligence is computers that can think and solve problems like people.

What should happen next:



- The Welsh Government should help businesses pay the **Real Living Wage**.



- The Welsh Government should check that businesses they help follow fair work rules. Including paying the **Real Living Wage**.



- The Welsh Government should make the **social business sector** twice as big by 2035.



The **social business sector** is businesses that help people and communities.



- The Welsh Government should make a Co-operative Development Hub to help **co-operative businesses** grow.



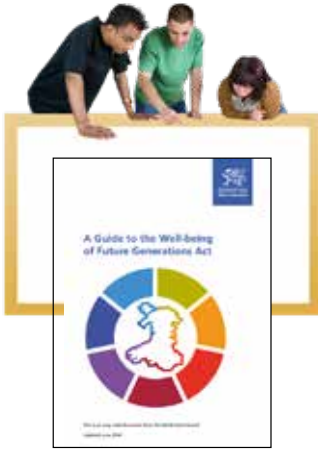
Co-operative businesses are businesses that work together for everyone's good.



- The Welsh Government should make sure people have the skills to help make a fair, green **economy**.



- The Welsh Government should check how **artificial intelligence** affects **public bodies** now and in the future. They should make a plan to use it in the best way.



- The Welsh Government, **public bodies** and **Public Services Boards** must use the **Well-being of Future Generations Act** in all economic plans.



- By 2027, all **public bodies** must plan to pay the **Real Living Wage**.



- The Welsh Government and **public bodies**, including our health care services, should make sure every community has a place to fix and reuse things by 2035.



Food



Mission: Make sure everyone in Wales can get local, healthy, food they can afford.

What we have learned:



- People in Wales want more to be done so they can have local, healthy and affordable food.



- Wales does not have a long-term food plan. The rest of the UK does.



- Food and healthy eating are not in most **public body** plans.



- Not everyone in Wales can get local, cheap, healthy food. **Public bodies** can help by changing how they plan, advertise, buy, and give out food.



What should happen next:



- The Welsh Government should make a plan to make sure everyone can buy and get healthy food.



- The Welsh Government should give free school meals to all children up to age 16.



- The Welsh Government should teach all children about healthy eating.



- Every council should work with Local Food Partnerships and **Public Services Boards** to make a food plan. Welsh Government should make sure the Community Food Strategy gives long-term help.



- The Welsh Government and **public bodies** should make sure school meals have at least 2 portions of vegetables. The vegetables should be grown locally and at the right time of year. Councils should join the **Welsh Veg in Schools programme**.



- **Public bodies** should have less unhealthy food in places like schools, hospitals and care homes. They should stop advertising unhealthy food.



- The Welsh Government, **public bodies** and Health Boards should give low income families vouchers for fruit and vegetables.



Money for the future



The Welsh Government should spend more money on stopping problems before they happen.



The Welsh Government should plan how they spend money earlier. And tell **public bodies** how much money they will get earlier.



Public bodies must link their spending to the **Act's** national well-being goals.

Planning for the future



The Welsh Government should make a plan for the future of people working in Wales' public sector.



Public bodies should plan for the long-term and include communities.



Each **public body** should have a **Futures Champion**. This person will focus on long-term thinking and be part of our Hwb Dyfodol - a group of people who are interested in thinking about our future.

How you can get involved



The **Well-being of Future Generations Act** is for everyone in Wales.



We want to help **public bodies** use this law in the best way.



If you want to get involved, you can:

- [Join a free training session to learn more about the Act.](#)
- [Join Hwb Dyfodol, our futures hub.](#)
- [Learn about our Future Generations Leadership Academy.](#)
- [Sign up for our newsletter.](#)



If you work in a **public body**, you can:



- Find out your organisation's goals and think about how your work can help.



- [Complete our Ways of Working Journey Checker.](#)



Find out more



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Hard words

Artificial intelligence

Artificial intelligence is computers that can think and solve problems like people.

Climate change

Climate change is big changes in the weather. For example, places getting warmer, wetter, or drier. These changes cause things like storms to get worse, flooding and wildfires.

Co-operative businesses

Co-operative businesses are businesses that work together for everyone's good.

Culture

Our culture is our shared traditions, behaviours, history, and language.

Diabetes

Diabetes is an illness where the body has trouble using sugar properly.

Economy

Economy is the way a country makes and spends money.

Marmot Model

The Marmot Model says that things like where people live, how much money they have, and their jobs all affect their health. It says we should make things fairer so everyone can be healthy.

Missions

Missions are the 5 different issues we are focusing our work on until 2030.

Nature recovery

Nature recovery is the process of rebuilding and improving nature.

Net zero

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Obese

Obese means having too much fat in your body. It can cause health problems like diabetes, stroke or arthritis.

Pollution

Pollution is when bad things get into the air, water, or land. For example, car fumes, litter or sewers emptying into rivers or the sea.

Public bodies

Public bodies are organisations that run public services in Wales. For example, local councils, health services, national parks and fire and rescue services.

Public services

Public services are services public bodies deliver. For example, local councils, the NHS, police and fire and rescue.

Public Services Boards

Public Services Boards are groups of people from different organisations in each area of Wales. They bring different public bodies and organisations together to work on shared problems.

Poverty

Poverty means they do not have enough money to meet their basic needs.

Social business sector

The social business sector is businesses that help people and communities.

Social enterprises

Social enterprises are businesses that help people or the planet instead of just making money.

Well-being objectives

Well-being objectives are the aims public bodies must set to make Wales safer and healthier for people.