

The background features a series of diagonal stripes in shades of blue, teal, and yellow. Interspersed among these stripes are various organic, pill-shaped elements in the same color palette. In the top right corner, there is a small, stylized graphic of a cluster of dots and lines, resembling a molecular structure or a network diagram.

Future Generations Leadership Academy

Meet the Participants 2025 - 2026



Meet the Team



Heledd Morgan

Director: Implementation and Impact

Heledd is our director responsible for our core mission, making sure the Well-being of Future Generations Act is applied effectively and with ambition by public bodies across Cymru. Heledd works with organisations to help them change practice and culture, meet the duties of the WFG Act and share their impact.

Heledd is from Carmarthenshire originally and speaks fluent Welsh. She now lives in Cardiff, where she enjoys walking in nature and spending time in the local community.



Korina Tsioni

Programme Lead: FGLA

Korina is our Programme Lead and focuses on the [Future Generations Leadership Academy](#). An experienced programme manager, she started as a maths teacher, trained as a JNC level 7 youth worker and completed an MA in applied anthropology.

Korina has studied music and dancing since a young age, and in her spare time organises music projects and multicultural events. She is passionate about creating safe spaces for all and accessible platforms where people can learn from each other.

On a quieter day, you can find Korina in nature with her dog, or at home cooking or gardening.



Rebecca Leyla

Future Leaders Academy Support

Rebecca is our Future Leaders Academy Support. She is passionate about intercultural dialogue and creating sustainable long-lasting change that will make our world kinder.

In her free time, Rebecca loves to cook for her community in Cardiff, especially recipes from her Iranian heritage, and cares for her pet tortoise called Champorado.

Rebecca also works for the Welsh Centre for International Affairs (WCIA) in partnership with Academi Heddwch Cymru, and is a consultant for both "Walking the Talk" with Restless Development and for WEN Wales.



The Future Generations Leadership Academy Participants 2025-2026

Welcome to the fifth round of our Leadership Academy programme, ran by the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales.

I am writing this note, in anticipation of tomorrow's event, where I am meeting an exceptional and diverse group of 30 young leaders across Wales. All of you!

Together this year, we will understand the Well-being of Future Generations Act in depth and we will sharpen our leadership skills, making our communities, our places of work, and our world a better place. This is an annual programme, that I design and deliver, with my small but miraculous team, with a lot of care, thought and reflection. The curriculum focuses on the 7 well-being goals of the WFG Act, as well as the 5 ways of working, which are all embedded in the way we deliver the course, and the way we interact internally and externally.

On an annual basis, I work with a number of sponsors and funders, from the private, public and voluntary sector. These are the employers of some of you, our participants, and these partnerships are maintained throughout the academic year and beyond.

We do not say goodbye at Graduation. Our graduates join the Alumni network, an active group of 150 young leaders today, working across all fields and areas in Wales. The organisations they are connected to, also take part in the networking events and opportunities, and groundbreaking collaborations come to fruition exactly because of our Alumni members being so brilliant and staying engaged.

The course is being adjusted on a yearly basis, with continuous development opportunities for everyone involved, including Alumni members, sponsors, partners and wider networks. This year we will regularly publish updates on the Academy and Alumni's extraordinary achievements in our Cymru Can Newsletter. Please make sure you sign up by emailing contactus@futuregenerations.wales.

Very important things are about to happen this academic year, as you will have the opportunity to shape the course, as much as you will learn from it.

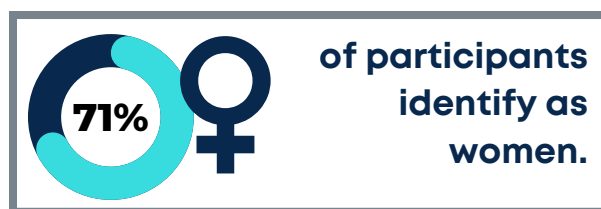
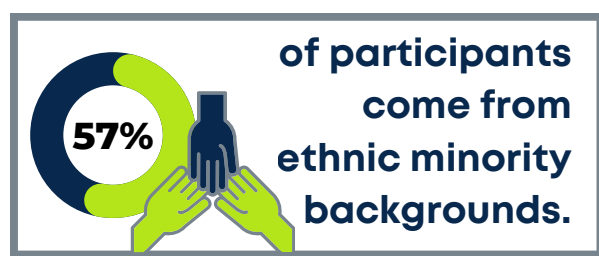
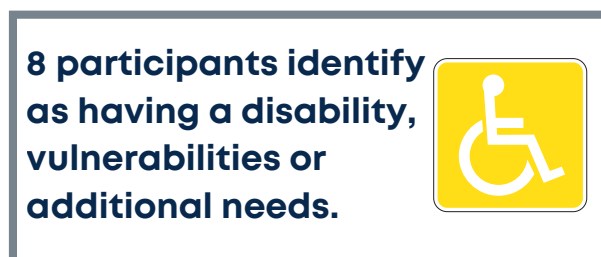
Keep an open mind and a respectful approach and make the most of it. Enjoy!

Korina Tsioni
Programme Lead





Our 31 Participants



Continue onto page 4 to find out more about the academy participants.



Meet this year's academy!



Shahinoor Alom

The King's Trust
Government Affairs Manager

Shahinoor is a dynamic public affairs professional with a background in education, youth work, and government relations. After earning a degree in Economics, he began his career as a school teacher before diving into politics and advocacy. He now serves as Government Affairs Manager at The King's Trust and Deputy Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Wales. Shahinoor is passionate about social justice, youth empowerment, and building inclusive communities through policy and partnerships. Outside of work, he's a sports enthusiast who's always up for football, cricket, or any outdoor adventure that gets the heart racing. He cares deeply about serving others, especially advocating for young people, by championing justice, dignity, and opportunity through policy, advocacy, and community.

What do you care about?

"I care deeply about serving others, especially advocating for young people, by championing justice, dignity, and opportunity through policy, advocacy, and community."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"If I had leadership powers, I'd do my best to engage and involve marginalised communities - listen and learn and then empower. Role model hard work, integrity and honesty so that we can work toward a society built on those values."



Meet this year's academy!



Ethylle Bering

Pobl Group

Customer Engagement Facilitator

Ethylle is committed to inclusive community development and youth empowerment. She has worked across the private, public and third sectors, focusing on equity, engagement and social impact. Through roles in arts, housing and public health, she supports communities to shape services that reflect their lived experiences and aspirations. She also contributes to initiatives that promote access, representation and wellbeing across communities, using insight and collaboration to support positive change. She is an associate trustee for Newport Live and an independent member of Sport Wales' Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

What do you care about?

"I am passionate about cultivating environments for growth through community development, ethical leadership and structure personal progress. I care deeply about individuals' potential, mutual respect and building pathways that balance discipline, empathy and innovation."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"I would embed transparency into decision-making, simplify access to support and dissolve barriers between corporate structures and the arts to spark innovative, socially driven change."



Meet this year's academy!



Tatiana Bodnar

Urban Foundry

PhD Student

Tatiana Bodnar is a second year PhD student studying grassroots, and local urban regeneration initiatives in town and city centres of South Wales at Swansea University. Previously she finished her MSc in Sustainable Urban Planning at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden where she helped co-found Fluke – an urban collective interested in playful co-creation of public space. She's from the suburbs of Baltimore, USA.

What do you care about?

"I'm passionate about making more livable and playful cities and towns that allow everyone to become co-creators of urban space."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"I'd make more citizen assemblies engrained in the ways of working!"



Meet this year's academy!



Kate Breeze

Amgueddfa Cymru

Youth Engagement Administrative Officer

Kate is currently working for Amgueddfa Cymru, a network of seven museums and one collections centre located across Wales. For the last three years, Kate has been based with the Engagement team which supports the ways that people get involved with Amgueddfa Cymru. Since 2024, Kate has also enjoyed supporting Translation and has been involved in externally-supported projects between Amgueddfa Cymru and other partner organisations.

As well as heritage, Kate has worked in various engagement roles across Wales' culture and performing arts sector. She has a BA in Welsh and is now currently undertaking an AMA with the Museum Association. I am passionate about sustainability and love to discover more about how we work towards a greener future. Art and art history, heritage, the Welsh language, photography and being out in nature also just bring me so much joy and creativity.

What do you care about?

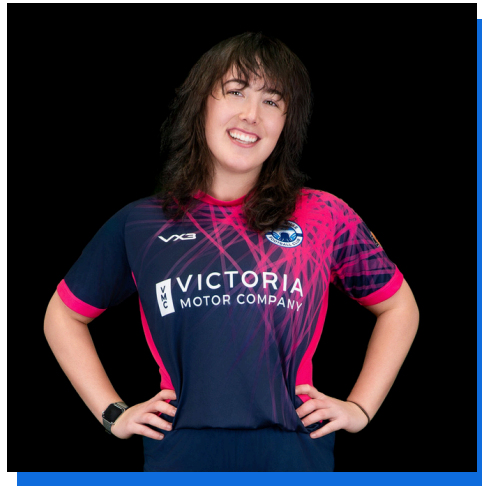
"I am passionate about sustainability and love to discover more about how we work towards a greener future. Art and art history, heritage, the Welsh language, photography and being out in nature also just bring me so much joy and creativity."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"I would love to channel my passions and interests into a project where I can engage and work with like-minded people to create something that improves lives or leaves a positive mark on the world."



Meet this year's academy!



Nanci Brown

Sport Wales

Administration Officer

Nanci is an Admin Officer at Sport Wales, based at the National Centre, where she supports bookings, reception, and customer service on a day-to-day basis. In this role, she enjoys being part of a team and contributing to a positive, welcoming experience for visitors. Nanci values being personable, curious, and always ready to try something new. Outside of work, she enjoys playing football and tennis, discovering great coffee & food spots, and watching films. She's excited to be part of the course, connect with new people, and build her confidence and skills in a supportive environment.

What do you care about?

"If it involves a football pitch, a well-stocked kitchen, a dog walk, or a movie night, I'm probably already there (with snacks and a strong opinion on the plot)."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"If I had leadership powers, I'd start by making sure everyone felt heard and valued. I'd encourage open conversations, plenty of teamwork, and maybe even introduce "walking meetings" with dogs, because good ideas often come with fresh air and wagging tails."



Meet this year's academy!



Marie Chan

Cardiff Metropolitan University

Assistant International Student Advisor

Marie serves as an Assistant International Student Advisor at Cardiff Metropolitan University, where she plays a vital role in supporting international students through their academic and personal transitions. With a deep commitment to enhancing the international student experience, Marie focuses on creating empowering environments that enable all students to flourish and achieve their full potential. Through the Future Generations Leadership Academy, Marie seeks to develop expertise in stakeholder engagement, institutional change, coalition building, and campaign strategy to amplify her impact. Beyond work, Marie enjoys cafe-hopping, nature walks, cooking, and discovering new cities and destinations.

What do you care about?

"I care about creating and ensuring equal access to opportunities, particularly for young people from marginalized backgrounds who face systemic barriers."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"I would significantly increase investment in the youth sector, with particular focus on expanding access to modern foreign language learning and creating more cultural exchange opportunities."



Meet this year's academy!



Danyelle Dinapoli

Social Care Wales

Fitness to Practice Officer

Danyelle is working as a Fitness to Practise Officer for Social Care Wales. Danyelle's role is to ensure that individuals are receiving care and support from social care workers who have demonstrated their fitness to practice. Prior to joining Social Care Wales Danyelle completed her Masters in Cognitive Neuroscience at Swansea University.

Outside of work Danyelle is a sport enthusiast, playing Rugby at elite level and turning her hand to CrossFit when her schedule allows. Danyelle is enthusiastic about diversity and building community via sport.

What do you care about?

"I care about creating inclusive spaces where diversity is genuinely valued and represented. I am passionate about empowering young people to speak out on matters that shape our future."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"I would facilitate diversity of voices in decision-making, ensuring those voices reflect realities and futures for those which decisions will have real life consequences."



Meet this year's academy!



Geraint Edwards

Sport Wales

Relationship Officer

Geraint works in the Relationship Management team at Sport Wales, linking with all of the Welsh sports National Governing Bodies and creating the Regional Sport Partnerships. He has always worked in the sport sector, from his first job as a lifeguard at 16. He has grown up in, and currently lives in the Rhondda. He likes to be active in his free time, spending it mountain biking, walking and paddleboarding. He also likes watching sport, mainly the Welsh Football team, Swansea City and the Kansas City Chiefs.

What do you care about?

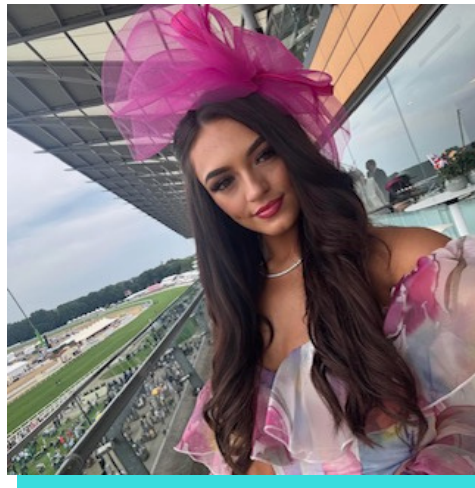
"I'm passionate about ensuring people are able to access opportunities to be active, with all of the health and social benefits that brings. Particularly within communities that face additional barriers and lack certain opportunities."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"Within my own sector, I would look to increase funding into sport, ensuring everyone who wants to has the opportunity to be active. Wider bigger powers? Help tackle inequality and improve the opportunities available for people in the communities that need it in Wales."



Meet this year's academy!



Emiah Ellis

Welsh Government

Pay and Rewards Team

Emiah is excited to join the academy to learn more about how the well-being of Wales can be improved. With a background in Pay and Reward, Emiah enjoys working on projects and working with others. Emiah has recently completed her apprenticeship within the Welsh Government studying Business Administration. Emiah is enthusiastic about growing skills and making the most of this opportunity. When not focused on HR she likes to travel and spend time with friends. Joining FGLA is a chance for Emiah to take the next step in her journey and connect with others who share similar goals.

What do you care about?

"I am passionate about ensuring my generation enjoys a good quality of life, and I am motivated to contribute to positive change that supports this goal. I am also excited to develop my own skills in the process. I care deeply about learning new skills that help me grow and contribute to my community."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"If I had leadership powers, I would focus on creating opportunities that empower people, especially my generation, to overcome challenges like the rising cost of living and the difficulty of buying a home. I'd work to make housing more affordable, improve support for the NHS, and strengthen healthcare services. Listening to diverse voices would be a priority to ensure fair decisions that reflect real needs. I'd also tackle broader issues like education and mental health to build a stronger, more supportive community where everyone has a chance to thrive."



Meet this year's academy!



Fatiah Fashina

EYST Wales

Youth Support Worker

Fatiah is a recently completed sixth form student. Fatiah is a passionate and determined young girl who takes pride in her identity (Yoruba Nigerian) and puts in all effort to complete all tasks assigned to her to the best of her ability. Fatiah can be an introvert and an extrovert sometimes. She loves listening to music, watching films, eating, sleeping, and cleaning while she is by herself. Aside from that she is a team player who plays and enjoys sporting activities as her hobby but most importantly she likes to impact people positively in any way she can.

What do you care about?

"Most passionate about improving the lives of youth and assisting youth to equip themselves with basic life skills, to own themselves and be the best they can in any way possible."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"Reduce inequality and encourage youth to speak up for themselves and own themselves."



Meet this year's academy!



Jessica Giles

Principality Building Society

Senior Customer Insight Analyst

Jessica is a Senior Customer Insight Analyst at Principality Building Society, specialising in turning complex datasets into actionable insight, storytelling with data and ensuring decisions made are based on fact rather than instinct. She delivers regular data literacy training sessions to the organisation to give colleagues at every level the opportunity to upskill and stay up to date on various data topics, choosing topics as requested to ensure sessions are relevant to what's most on people's minds (such as AI and machine learning, hypothesis testing, and data visualisation). In her free time, she enjoys hiking and karaoke nights with friends. I care about making data less intimidating for those with a non-technical background, and empowering everyone to feel comfortable discussing data and technology as these topics become increasingly present.

What do you care about?

"I care about making data less intimidating for those with a non-technical background, and empowering everyone to feel comfortable discussing data and technology as these topics become increasingly present."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"I would break down barriers to data literacy, giving everyone the opportunity to gain the baseline understanding needed to engage meaningfully with data conversations and make data-driven decisions."



Meet this year's academy!



Meg Griffiths

BALOR

Founder, Marketing Executive & Social Media Strategist

Meg is a freelance creative marketing executive, content producer and social media strategist based in rural Wales. She founded BALOR, a creative marketing agency supporting purpose-driven brands, venues, and entrepreneurs with impactful storytelling, social media, and digital campaigns. With a background in science, enterprise and a passion for helping others grow, Meg works across the private and third sectors, blending strategic, data-driven thinking with a strong sense of community. She's passionate about mindset, experimentation, and creative problem-solving. Through the FGLA, Meg hopes to explore new ways to embed sustainability and equity into her work while connecting with like-minded changemakers across Wales.

What do you care about?

"I care deeply about equity, creativity, and helping others rise. I am passionate about empowering underrepresented voices, inspiring young people to take bold action, and using storytelling, strategy, and self-expression to build something bigger than myself; a world where everyone feels seen, valued, and unafraid to be who they are."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"If I had leadership powers, I would create inclusive spaces where marginalized voices and young creatives feel valued and supported. I'd champion equity and social justice, using my platform to fight inequality and inspire kindness. I would empower entrepreneurs to embrace their authentic selves and take bold risks, leading purpose-driven creative projects that spark positive change. Above all, I'd build communities that nurture creativity, growth, and connection, helping people believe in their potential and live boldly without fear."



Meet this year's academy!



Megan Griffiths

CRISIS

Volunteering, Involvement & Events Lead

Megan is the Volunteering, Involvement & Events Lead at Crisis, where she supports people to connect with meaningful opportunities and helps shape inclusive volunteering practices. A committed Welsh speaker and long-standing volunteer herself, Megan has contributed to a wide range of charities over the years, championing community involvement and equality. She is also a trustee for SCVS, where she brings insight into engagement, governance, and the power of local action. Megan is passionate about building strong, connected communities and ensuring that everyone has the chance to take part and make a difference. I'm passionate about creating community-led volunteering opportunities that are inclusive, accessible, and empower people to support one another.

What do you care about?

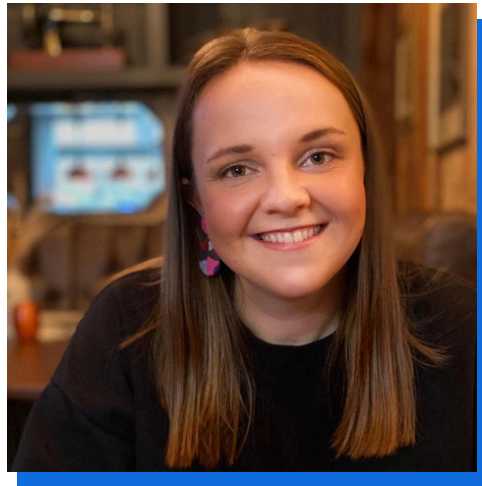
"I'm passionate about creating community-led volunteering opportunities that are inclusive, accessible, and empower people to support one another."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"I'd work to remove barriers to participation, making sure volunteering and support services are accessible, inclusive, and shaped by the people who use them. I believe in collaborative leadership—listening first, acting with purpose, and creating space for others to thrive."



Meet this year's academy!



Manon Gwynant

Pontio

Creative Practitioner and Deputy BLAS Coordinator (Freelance)

Manon is a creative practitioner who works in the world of theater and literature across North Wales. She is passionate about creating change through the arts and making them accessible to all. An element of this work is the establishment of the charity Troedio Tonnau (Riding Waves), which offers a creative and safe space for young people who have experienced the death of a close family member across Gwynedd and Anglesey. Her work also includes writing plays and poems, directing, developing projects and engaging with the community, and she hopes to bridge this work with her role at the Academy.

What do you care about?

"I am passionate about fair opportunities for all and the need for those who lead to be aware and to listen to those on the ground. I also feel that there is a lack of long-term vision across sectors, specifically in the arts, and that there is a need to work to ensure funding and long-term visions in order to ensure the prosperity of the arts and other sectors."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"Ensure that the Welsh language is central and prominent in all sectors and policies, try to close the gap between those who are extremely rich and those who are extremely poor, and give the arts the status and respect it deserves."



Meet this year's academy!



Jacob Kemp

The Mining Remediation Authority

Regional Project Manager

Jacob is a Regional Project Manager of the Public Safety and Subsidence department in the Mining Remediation Authority. The focus of his work relates to matters associated with coal mining legacy issues across South Wales and South West England. I care about ensuring that sustainable and low carbon solutions are implemented within the construction industry and that innovation in this sector is advanced to create a more impactful future.

What do you care about?

"I care about ensuring that sustainable and low carbon solutions are implemented within the construction industry and that innovation in this sector is advanced to create a more impactful future."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"I would push for a greater focus on the increasing impact that climate change has on the frequency and severity of natural disasters. Looking at improving innovation and development of prevention, mitigation and adaptation measures."



Meet this year's academy!



Aman Lather

Public Health Wales

Practitioner

Aman is currently working as an Associate Practitioner in Microbiology at Public Health Wales, where he plays a key role in diagnostic testing and quality assurance. With a BSc (Hons) in Biomedical science and passion about public health, sustainability, and systems that serve future generations, Aman is particularly interested in the intersection of science, data, and policy. He recently presented a sustainability-focused business idea at a Business Wales bootcamp and is now exploring how data science can help tackle real-world health and environmental challenges.

What do you care about?

"I care deeply about creating healthier, more equitable communities through science, data, and sustainability. He is passionate about using microbiology and public health to protect both people and the planet."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"If I had leadership powers, he would build systems that prioritise long-term well-being—ensuring access to clean water, preventative healthcare, and education, especially for underrepresented communities. He would lead by listening, empowering others to shape a fairer, more sustainable future."



Meet this year's academy!



Georgia McCarthy

Pobl Group

Repairs Planning Supervisor

Georgia is currently working as a Repairs Planning Supervisor in the social housing sector, leading a team of schedulers who manage reactive day to day repairs and emergency works for Pobl properties. With over seven years of experience in housing, Georgia has a background in neighbourhood management and a deep commitment to improving services for customers. She is passionate about delivering efficient, people focused solutions and creating systems that work better for both customers and teams. Known for her drive for continuous improvement, Georgia is dedicated to making a meaningful difference in the lives of those living in social housing.

Outside of work, Georgia loves reading, and all things outdoorsy! I care about making a meaningful impact in housing. Everyone should have access to safe, affordable housing and feel heard, valued, and supported.

What do you care about?

"I care about making a meaningful impact in housing. Everyone should have access to safe, affordable housing and feel heard, valued, and supported."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"Easy - End homelessness!"



Meet this year's academy!



Eben Muse

The British Mountaineering Council
Policy Officer (Wales)

Eben Myrddin Muse is a policy professional, translator, researcher, writer and campaigner from Dyffryn Nantlle. He works for the British Mountaineering Council's access and conservation team and Greener Edge Sustainability, and is an ambassador for the Campaign for National Parks. His writing has appeared in The Welsh Agenda, UKClimbing, The Great Outdoors, Caught by the River, and as a Country Diarist for The Guardian. He enjoys rock climbing, running, baking sourdough, trespassing, and has recently started bird watching at the little wild places around his home in Splott, Cardiff. I'm passionate about connecting people with nature, building a culture of stewardship, and creating a resilient future in which can all thrive together.

What do you care about?

"I'm passionate about connecting people with nature, building a culture of stewardship, and creating a resilient future in which can all thrive together."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"I'd try to convince people to take the nature crisis seriously, before it's too late."



Meet this year's academy!



Lois Owumi

BAME Mental Health Support (BMHS)

Project Manager

Lois is a Project Manager at BMHS, and the founder of EPI-Tech, transforming people's journey to transition into tech especially those from underrepresented backgrounds. With experience across health, education, and tech sectors, she's passionate about building inclusive systems that empower communities. She also mentors children with SEND and is committed to creating accessible learning environments for all. A graduate of Swansea University, Lois uses her leadership skills to support young people, advocate for equity, and drive long-term change. Outside work, she enjoys volunteering, mentoring, supporting people's career development and building communities where everyone has a chance to thrive. I care about building a system where underrepresented people have equal access to leadership, opportunity, and impact, thus promoting inclusivity. I am also passionate about using education and my skills to ensure mental health awareness continues to be priority in Wales.

What do you care about?

"I care about building a system where underrepresented people have equal access to leadership, opportunity, and impact, thus promoting inclusivity. I am also passionate about using education and my skills to ensure mental health awareness continues to be priority in Wales."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"I would redesign systems to remove structural barriers and ensure everyone regardless of background has access to education, mentorship, and career opportunities that empowers them to grow in their chosen path."



Meet this year's academy!



Lois Patel

Welsh Government
Senior User Research

After seven years in research consulting, Lois joined the Welsh Government in 2025 to pursue a purpose-driven career in the public sector—one focused on creating meaningful impact and improving people's lives. Her experience spans both private and public sector organisations, where she applied mixed-method research and human-centred design principles to tackle complex challenges. She also has a degree in Economics. Embed human-centred design as a golden thread running through all public services

What do you care about?

"Early intervention and prevention."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"Embed human-centred design as a golden thread running through all public services."



Meet this year's academy!



Zoë Paterson

Greening Maindee
Gardener

Zoe is a community-focused environmental advocate based in Newport, with a strong interest in sustainability, creative reuse, and place-based action. She volunteers with ReMake Newport, Greening Maindee, and the Jean Genies project, supporting local initiatives that champion circular economy values and community resilience. This summer, Zoe is leading workshops on natural dyes for plant fibres, exploring the connections between craft, ecology, and low-impact living. Through the Future Generations Cymru 5.0 programme, she's excited to connect with others working toward a greener, fairer future for Wales. I'm passionate about using creativity to inspire connection with the natural world, and believe that sustainable practices can heal both people and the planet.

What do you care about?

"I'm passionate about using creativity to inspire connection with the natural world, and believe that sustainable practices can heal both people and the planet."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"If I had leadership powers, I would bring people together through creative initiatives that help them feel more confident in unfamiliar environments, especially in nature. I'd focus on helping others discover their creativity and build confidence through hands-on, sustainable experiences."



Meet this year's academy!



Vincent Sheldrake

Carmarthenshire County Council

Service Improvement Analyst

Vince is a Service Improvement Analyst at Carmarthenshire County Council working in performance and transformation. He is researching a dissertation on the Future Generations Act as part of an MA in Professional Practice. A committed new speaker of Cymraeg, Vince aims to improve access and awareness for learners, with a focus on stories and stewardship. Believing in the power of the public sector to create a better and bolder Cymru, he is excited to explore the Act's vision and impact. Reversing the dangerous and deepening rise in inequalities. Aggressive austerity measures and the eye-watering rate of child poverty are unacceptable and unnecessary.

What do you care about?

“Reversing the dangerous and deepening rise in inequalities. Aggressive austerity measures and the eye-watering rate of child poverty are unacceptable and unnecessary.”

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

“I would work to create a culture of change that is based on consultation with communities and real collaboration between the public and third sector.”



Meet this year's academy!



Rosie Thurston

The Wales Air Ambulance Charity

Project Management Office & Welsh Language Lead

Rosie works as the Project Management Office and Welsh Language Lead, dividing her time between strategy and project work, and leading Welsh language and cultural initiatives. She is passionate about the sense of community in Wales and champions meaningful engagement with its diverse communities. Outside of her professional life, Rosie serves as a town councillor and Chair of the local Business Forum, working to improve life for those who live and work in the area. A dedicated mother to a four-year-old, Rosie is driven by a desire to help create a more sustainable and equitable future for this generation and others to come.

What do you care about?

"I'm passionate about the Welsh language and believe everyone should have the right to speak their mother tongue. I've led sector-wide recognised initiatives in this space, and it means a lot to me that my daughter grows up proud of her language and heritage."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"I would embed long term thinking into how we make decisions - especially within larger corporations. I believe ALL organisations should be held accountable for their impact on environmental, cultural and economic sustainability. Leadership means recognising that our actions today shape the world that future generations will inherit, and it's our duty to ensure that legacy is a positive one."



Meet this year's academy!



Cara Walker

Wales Millenium Centre
Intern

Cara is an Artist from Cardiff. Her practice revolves around the everyday through material to people. Using found objects, paint and life Cara explores contemporary social disparities. She has recently finished teaching Art in New York at Camp Junior, a summer camp set up for young people in the Bronx. She is currently in her 2nd year of a BA Fine Arts at Manchester School of Art. Going into her 3rd year she is beginning a Placement at the Wales Millenium Centre in Cardiff.

What do you care about?

"I am passionate about accessibility to the arts and the necessity for creativity within our lives. Specifically, how arts is taught within education. Who teaches the arts? And whose stories are we telling? People fuel my passions, I am intrigued by social hierarchies and politics."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"I realised about myself that I enjoy putting a lot of small things into a bigger composition. I realised I am good at seeing many small problems and finding a bigger solution. If I had leadership powers I would understand and realise key issues by speaking to the people. I'd be guided by their response and begin tackling these issues long term- with a focus on education and upskilling."



Meet this year's academy!



Dr Lucia Watts

Natural Resources Wales

Specialist Advisor Climate Risk and Adaptation

Lucia is a Specialist Advisor in Climate Risk and Adaptation at Natural Resources Wales where she works to increase the resilience of the organisation to climate change. She is committed to building a resilient future for people and nature, through bringing together climate data and lived experiences to guide adaptation action.

In her spare time, Lucia loves spending time outdoors in nature, running and surfing. She enjoys spending time with her friends, especially on the beaches of the Llyn Peninsula and when it occasionally rains in North Wales, she likes to stay home playing music and practicing embroidery.

What do you care about?

"I care about creating a sustainable and resilient environment for nature and people to thrive in. I hope that through my work and life I can inspire action for adaptation to climate change."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"Make access to nature, renewable energy and environmental education available to all. Implement universal basic income, and stricter targets for adaptation and mitigation to climate change."



Meet this year's academy!



Bex Wheeler

Welsh Government

Net Zero Policy Manager

Bex is a Net Zero Policy Manager in the Welsh Government, and they have spent the last year working on tackling climate change through developing decarbonisation policies. When not working, Bex is a keen artist and photographer and has recently taken up aquascaping (the craft of arranging aquatic plants, rocks and wood within an aquarium). Their axolotl, Bonks, has newly joined the family. I'm incredibly passionate about the environment and conservation. I love spending time in nature, watching Attenborough documentaries (especially regarding trees), and taking photos of the natural world.

What do you care about?

"I'm incredibly passionate about the environment and conservation. I love spending time in nature, watching Attenborough documentaries (especially regarding trees), and taking photos of the natural world."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"I would lead on regulating industrial fishing to allow the coral reefs to recover, set ambitious national targets for biodegradable and fully recyclable packaging, and drive a systematic overhaul of the education system to ensure it caters to the full spectrum of neurodiverse needs."



Meet this year's academy!



Katie Williams

Transport for Wales
Assistant Project Manager

Katie began her career at Transport for Wales in 2019 as a Project Management Apprentice. Since then, she has progressed to the role of Assistant Project Manager within the Transport Planning & Development Team.

Throughout her career, she has supported the delivery of a wide range of transport planning projects across Wales, including the proposed enhancements to Caerphilly Interchange. She is currently working with the TfW Active Travel Team to deliver a programme of secure cycle hangars at stations and housing associations. This work highlights her strong commitment to sustainable transport and improving access to active travel for Welsh communities.

What do you care about?

"I am passionate about contributing to the development of a sustainable and reliable transport network in Wales especially by encouraging behaviour change that gets more people cycling and enjoying active travel. Alongside my professional work, I serve as Chair of Young Rail Professionals (YRP) Wales for a second term and was nominated as YRP Volunteer of the Year for 2024–2025. Through this role, I aim to inspire and support the next generation of railway talent."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"If I had leadership powers, I'd focus on making it easier and safer for everyone in Wales to choose sustainable public transport. My goal would be to help build a transport system that works for everyone, especially future generations to come."



Meet this year's academy!



Menna Williams

Arts Council of Wales

Grants and Access Officer

As a Grants & Access Officer at Arts Council of Wales, Menna gets to experience daily how good policy can protect and promote culture and remove barriers for creative people. She studies MA Arts Policy and Management at Birkbeck College, University of London and received the Lorraine Lim Prize in 2025 for her essay on Indigenous cultural memory and its relationship with arts policy. Menna hopes to positively impact cultural policy for communities and heritage protection. She is a keen poet originally from Rhondda Cynon Taf and currently resides in Flintshire. I care about the protection and promotion of cultural heritages, and culture as a human right for every human being.

What do you care about?

"I care about the protection and promotion of cultural heritages, and culture as a human right for every human being."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"I would reimagine public bodies as more co-operative organisations, so that bodies take on more of a facilitator role and power dynamics are rethought."



Meet this year's academy!



Sasha Yilmaz

Welsh Government

Head of Crime and Justice

Sasha is the Head of Crime and Justice in the Welsh Government. Sasha leads a branch of 9 staff and heads up a vast portfolio of work including, but not limited to; youth justice, adult justice and policing for Wales. As justice is not yet devolved to Wales, Sasha works closely with key UK Government departments like the Ministry of Justice, His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service and the Home Office, to ensure the distinct Welsh landscape is captured. Sasha also works closely with Welsh Government Ministers responding reactively to political concerns with a focus on justice and community safety in Wales.

What do you care about?

"Very passionate about creating equal opportunities for all (in work and life!) - it's important to keep the ladder out, for others to follow. In particular, I'm a vocal ally for the LGBTQIA+ community and I'm passionate about advancing trans rights, because trans rights are human rights."

What would you do if you had leadership powers?

"I'm currently in a senior leadership position in Welsh Government. Outside of my day-to-day role, I act as a D&I champion, organising Directorate sessions with key-note speakers, to raise awareness about important issues. It's crucial to me that I build a positive and inclusive culture, which encourages respectful challenge through the creation of psychological safety, to ensure we can continue improving. I welcome the opportunity to continue my progression in the Welsh Government, with a view to maintaining a commitment to equity and inclusion at more senior levels."

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