



Comisiynydd  
**Cenedlaethau'r  
Dyfodol**  
Cymru

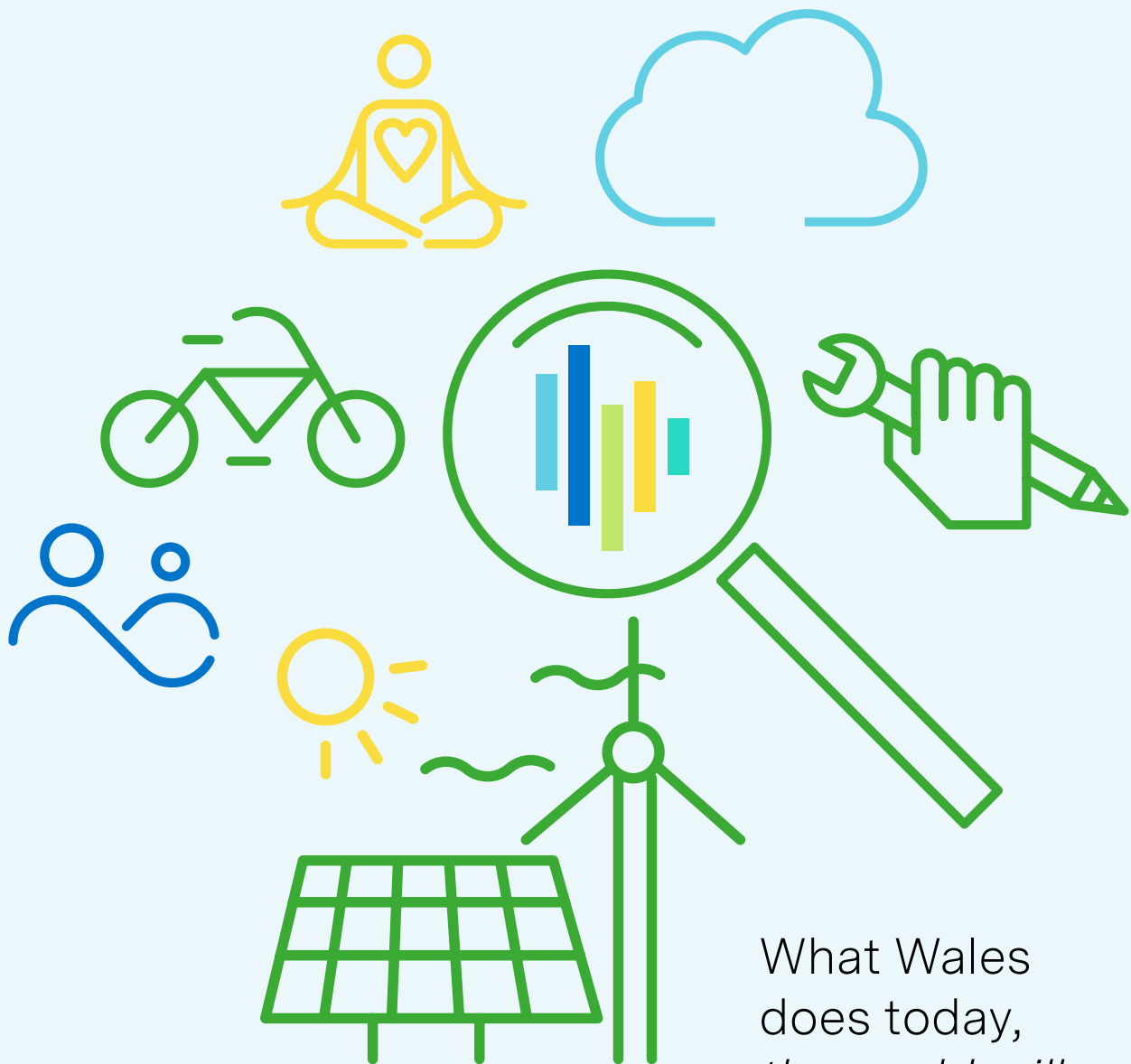
**Future  
Generations**  
Commissioner  
for Wales

# Future Generations

Commissioner for Wales

Annual Report 2017-2018

## at a glance



What Wales  
does today,  
*the world will  
do tomorrow*

# Future Generations

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# at a glance

Secured changes to **new transport (WELTAG) guidance**

Reformed Planning Policy Wales  
**16 PSB's**  
have Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) as a priority in their local well-being plans

Advised Welsh Government on **strategic budgeting**

Challenged Welsh Government on **£1.4bn** for M4 relief road.

Advised Natural Resources Wales **on improvement to environmental permitting**

Advised city deals on **health, energy and connectivity**

There were **15,927** new visitors to our website (website created March 2017)

Influenced **£5bn** of the rail franchise

**Changed NHS** planning framework

Website visitors came from France, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, USA

Over 200 letters in 2017-2018  
80% of letters related to bodies covered by the Act

Advised Welsh Government on **£90 million** Housing Innovation Grant

Art of Possible programme with **12 different organisations**

Supported the **Permanent Secretary** to challenge Welsh Government policies

Contributed **£60** a month on our Fair Trade Honesty Shop

**345** well-being objectives set by public bodies

**300** councillors trained

Brought in **£650k** additional resources

**28%** of staff are Welsh speakers

**250** public sector leaders attended our Unconference

**New approach** by the Wales Audit Office to assess public bodies

# at a glance

**Sophie Howe**

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

I know that reading annual reports isn't for everyone - you'd probably rather be riding your bike, visiting your Nan, clearing your own work e-mails or doing your weekly shop (ideally in local small businesses). But if you want to know at a glance what I've been doing this year you can find out here.



REPORT

If you want further information on any of this work, you can click through each section and there's always the option of reading the full report if you're really interested.

Acting as an advocate for the interests of future generations is a big and important task.

I have set out four ways that I will do it during my term through working with a wide range of people and organisations.



*“ We should embrace innovation and accept that in doing so we must be less risk averse. Government, public bodies and those who audit them must encourage well managed risk taking. ”*



# Purpose 1

## Highlight the big issues, challenges and opportunities facing future generations

### This year I have:

Set priority areas to focus my work over my seven-year term. These are: housing, energy, transport, skills, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and different ways to keep people well, such as social prescribing. I did this following conversation with a range of people and organisations.



**Challenged the Welsh Government** on their proposals to spend £1.5bn on the M4 relief road - I don't believe that this is in the interests of future generations.

**Helped the Welsh Government** to revise the way in which they assess transport plans in future (the WelTAG guidance). As a result, Welsh Government have changed the way they do this, ensuring that new transport schemes support the seven well-being goals.

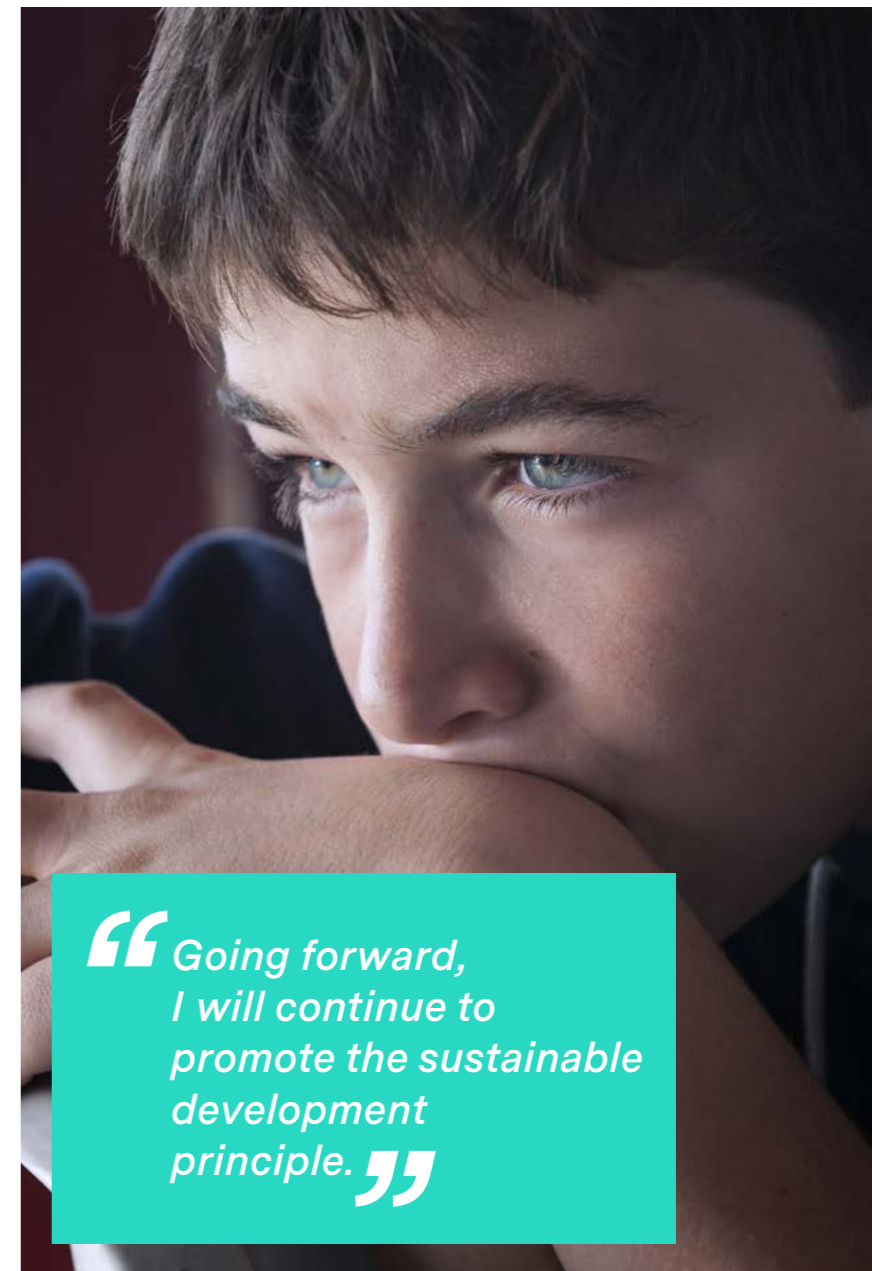
**Made sure that the Welsh Government reflects** the Well-being of Future Generations Act in its plan for decarbonisation - meeting the target it has set of an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050.

Given evidence to an Assembly Committee review of low-carbon housing and challenged the Government to make sure that the Well-being of Future Generations Act is used to assess applications to the £90million Housing Innovation Grant.

Helped to establish a hub which provides advice to public bodies on how to tackle Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and directly provided public bodies with advice on this. This has led to 16 of the 19 Public Service Boards making ACEs a priority in their local well-being plans.

Responded to hundreds of letters and contacts from the public and taken up two specific areas they have raised with me where I have determined they represent broader systemic issues:

- **Environmental permitting** - I have worked with the Government and Natural Resources Wales to identify how the system can be improved.
- **Planning** - I have worked with the Government to re-write Planning Policy Wales; the document which provides the overarching context for planning in Wales. This has resulted in a major shift to reflect the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.



*“Going forward, I will continue to promote the sustainable development principle.”*



## Purpose 2

# Support and challenge public bodies to think about the long-term impact

### This year I have:

Produced a [Future Generations Framework](#) to provide guidance to public bodies and others on the application of the Act. This has been used by many organisations including Transport for Wales, Anglesey County Council and those involved with the City Deals.



Provided detailed advice to 19 public services boards and public bodies on well-being objectives and local plans, which has supported them to set the right objectives.

Continued to meet with the public bodies covered by the Well-being of Future Generations Act and provided advice to 11 on specific policies and projects which has changed the ways they are developed and delivered. These include:

#### Procurement

Public bodies in Wales spend over £6 billion each year on buying goods, services and works. I provided evidence to an Assembly Committee on how this spending could do more to benefit our communities, economy, environment and culture, and be more globally responsible. As a result, the Cabinet Secretary Mark Drakeford AM has initiated a review.

#### The South Wales Metro and Rail Franchise

I provided advice to Transport for Wales to develop their vision and specification of how the new Metro and Rail Franchise will operate. This included: how they develop local jobs, skills, training and supply chain opportunities; involve transport users; and take positive action on environmental issues

such as air pollution and carbon emissions. I also connected them with TriMet, who have developed a best practice Metro System in Portland, Oregon in order to learn from their work. This advice informed their procurement process and improved what they are expecting the new operator to deliver.

#### City Deals

I have secured a commitment from the Cardiff Capital City Region to work closely with my office to ensure that the Well-being of Future Generations Act is applied to their regeneration plans. Both Cardiff and Swansea Bay City Deal are using my Future Generations Framework in their work.

#### Welsh Government's strategic budgeting

I have advised the Government on where their budget process needs to improve next year in order to better apply the Well-being of Future Generations Act. Alongside this I have challenged them to agree a definition of 'prevention', which they will use to monitor how much money they are spending on preventative services. This definition is currently being developed for use in next year's budget round.

#### Working with the Permanent Secretary

I have also worked with Shan Morgan, the Welsh Government's Permanent Secretary, in supporting this internal change, which has included contributing to staff events, and developing a set of questions which will be used by her to test new policy proposals.

#### NHS planning framework

To help the NHS to set plans which align with the Well-being of Future Generations Act, I have worked with them to help revise their planning framework with a particular challenge on long-term and preventative approaches. It now requires much further detailed consideration of how the Act is being applied.



*“ I have also put in place my strategy to carry out my duty to monitor and assess the extent to which the well-being objectives are being met by public bodies. ”*

# Purpose 3

## Working with others to drive the change needed

### This year I have:

Worked with the Wales Audit Office to assess the real progress public bodies have made and to inform their approach to audit, trying to make sure that it drives good outcomes not a tick-box response. We have agreed to work together to meet our different but complementary duties under the Act. The Auditor General for Wales has said that my involvement has “helped changed the nature of the audit process”.



Worked with Welsh Local Government Association to provide training for over 300 newly elected councillors.

**Set up my Art of the Possible Programme** – a collaborative programme working with, and co-funded by, 12 different organisations across Wales to explore and explain the practical implications of public services maximising their contribution to the well-being goals. This is in its early stages but is developing practical advice and support for public bodies to use.

**Piloted an approach to Live Labs** I want to develop a method which will enable public bodies to ‘walk through’ an issue and learn how to apply the lens of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. I am piloting this approach with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, looking at the issue of childhood and maternal obesity and outpatient services.

**Began establishing a Cloud of Innovators** This will be a network to connect future generations champions and innovators in their field e.g. academics, practitioners, people with lived experiences, who will be equipped and willing to advise and assist public bodies to develop new ideas and solutions to meet their well-being objectives.

**Highlighted the work Wales is doing across the world** There is a huge amount of interest in our groundbreaking legislation and many countries are interested in developing a similar model. Through chairing the international Network of Institutions for Future Generations, we have informed policy and campaign work on future generations in the Netherlands, Australia, Finland, Spain, New Zealand and Hungary.

**Worked with other Commissioners** Other Commissioners sit on my advisory panel. I have worked closely with the Children’s Commissioner for Wales, Sally Holland, to develop a toolkit which will help councils and schools embed children’s rights and sustainable development in their work.

*“We aim to inspire them and provide practical examples of how they can meet the well-being goals”*



# Purpose 4

## Walking the Talk - being the change we want to see in others

### This year I have:

Ensured that the five ways of working set out in the legislation are reflected in the way I run my office. In particular, my approach to working collaboratively has not only involved hundreds of different organisations in my work but has also brought additional staff resources of £650k over the last two years

I have also contributed to each of the seven well-being goals including:

#### A Prosperous Wales

- I am a Living Wage employer.
- I am working with Cardiff and Vale College to recruit an Apprentice for the office in a support role.
- I have provided opportunities to secure practical work experience for a number of students through paid placements. These have contributed to our work on City Deals, my review of public correspondence and analysis of the 345 well-being objectives.
- I support small local businesses, for example, through cleaning and catering contracts.
- I encourage my team to innovate and share good ideas, for example, our Digital Innovator has developed a very popular weekly tech bulletin 'Abby's Apps'.

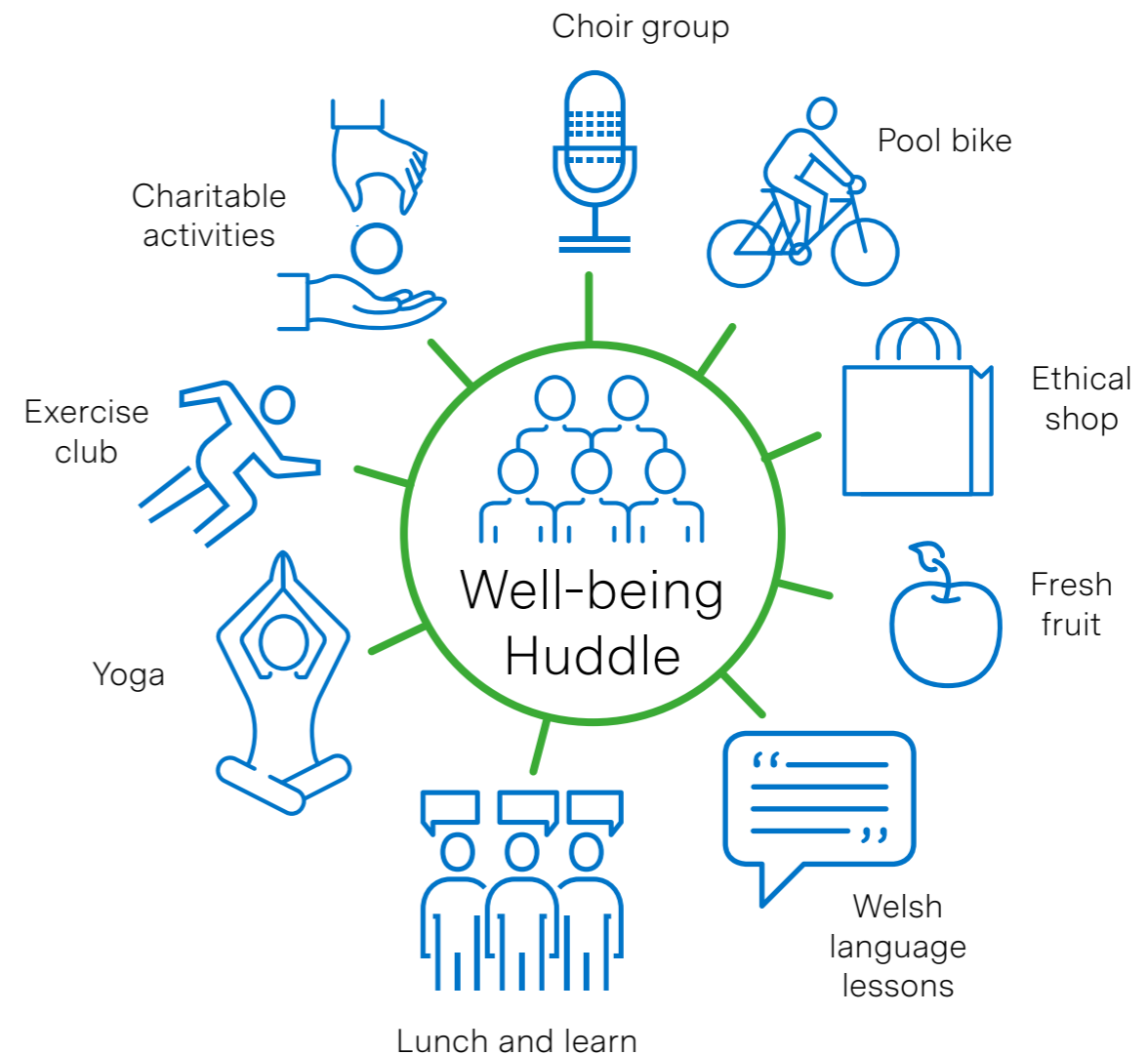
#### A Resilient Wales

- Established a baseline of my office's emissions including: tracking modes of transport to work - preliminary data shows that over three quarters of my team routinely travel to work by public transport or active travel.
- Committed to off-set my emissions by making donations to relevant charities.

- Taken steps to reduce carbon emissions from travel including purchasing pool bike for attending local meetings.
- Installing video conferencing and holding meetings via Skype and FaceTime.
- Switched our electricity provider to Ecotricity to provide us with 100% renewable energy. Going forward the electricity used in my office will not come from fossil fuels.

#### Waste:

- Reduced the amount of printing done by staff.
- Implemented a strict Reduce, Re-use, Recycle policy. To date I have only purchased 4 items of furniture from new for our office. The vast majority was obtained through upcycling sources and charity shops limiting the need to buy new - this not only supported local charities but saved £17,019 and 2.24 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.
- Composted and recycled my office waste.
- Banned single use plastic cups from the office environment.



**A Healthier Wales**

- A self-organised weekly running/exercise lunch time club.
- A weekly early morning yoga class funded by the participants.
- Fruit Time – ordering fruit on a daily basis so we get our five a day.
- Mindfulness training session delivered.
- Week of activities around Mental Health Week led by one staff member.

**A More Equal Wales**

- Support working parents through anytime anywhere working policy.
- Pay awards reflect a high increase for lower paid staff.
- This year's annual report will be produced in British Sign language and easy read versions

**A Globally Responsible Wales**

- Tea, coffee and sugar used in the office are Fair Trade certified. I have introduced a Fair Trade honesty shop which contributes on average £60 a month to supporting a local ethical business and international farmers.
- We have developed understanding of the impact of using Fair Trade by hearing directly from Fair Trade coffee producers from Uganda and India about the impact of the Fair Trade movement on their lives.

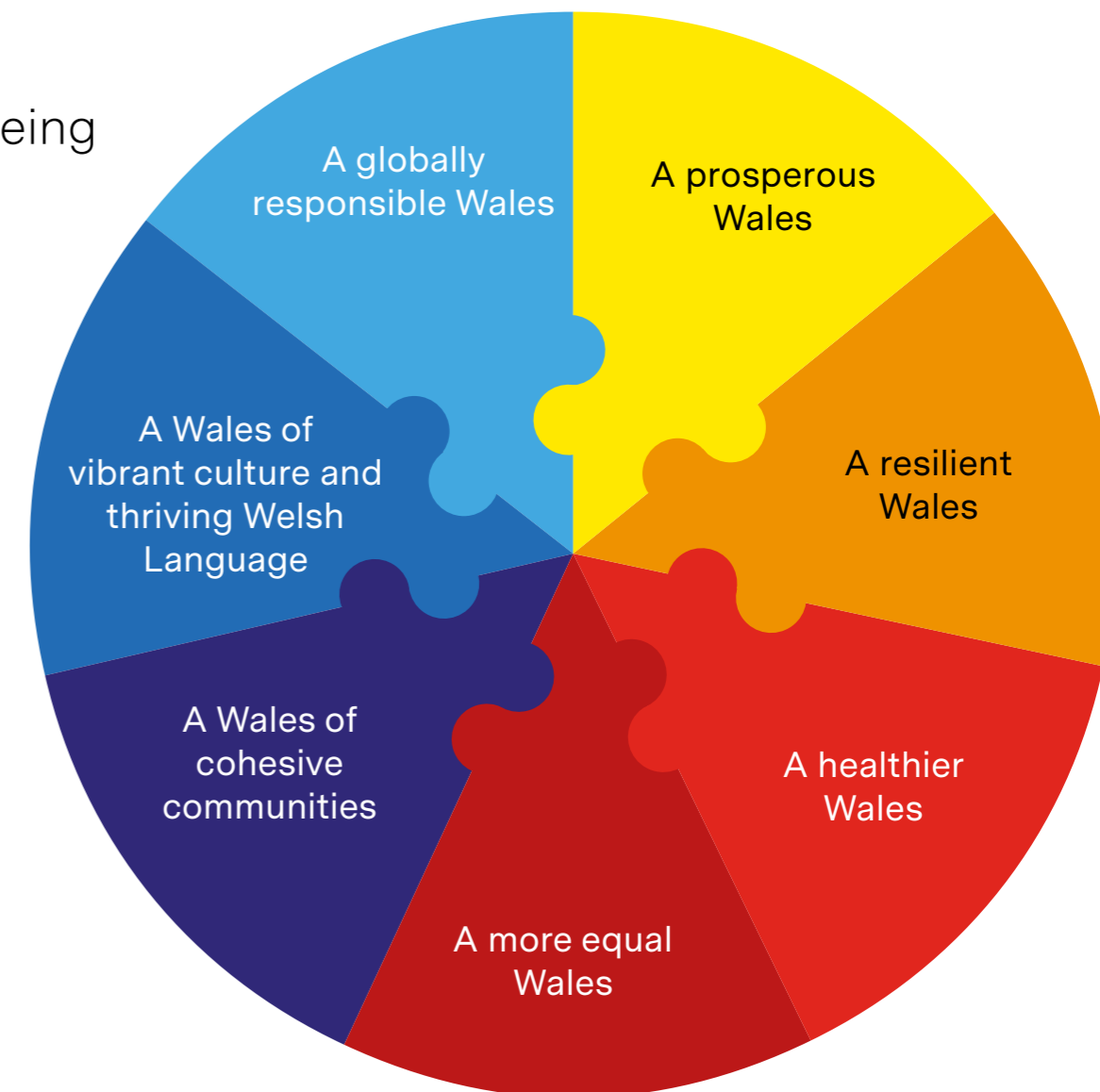
**A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language**

- 28% of my team are proficient or fluent Welsh speakers and twelve colleagues are learning.
- I have implemented weekly Welsh language lessons for beginners and for advanced speakers who wish to improve their confidence levels.

**A Cohesive Wales**

- A policy to support volunteering is being developed.
- Recognising the problem of homelessness in Cardiff City Centre our team have chosen to raise money to donate to homelessness charities and shared their reflections on this issue in a blog.

Our well-being goals



*“Our pool bike was an inexpensive second-hand purchase from Cycle Training Wales which meant we were upcycling as well as supporting a local social enterprise. All the accessories were donated by Sustrans or members of staff. Staff use it to travel to meetings, saving time using other means of transport. Going to meetings by bike also offsets the carbon footprint incurred by travelling by car or public transport.”*

Clare Johnson,  
Stakeholder Officer





# What impact has all this had?

My annual report sets out how I have used my powers in 2017 – 2018 - it is a David and Goliath task for me and my small team as we are encouraging a big change in 44 public bodies and the 19 public services boards.



As a result, we have successfully:

- Framed debate and got issues on the agenda** (for example, in relation to preventative approaches, adverse childhood experiences, the M4, environmental permitting, city deals and through correspondence from the public).
- Encouraged commitments from Ministers, Government and others** (for example regarding procurement, NHS planning, the Permanent Secretary and the tender for the South Wales Metro).
- Secured procedural change in how public bodies go about things** (for example, in relation to auditing, monitoring and assessing the Act, with the Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG) and the NHS plans).
- Affected policy change and commitments in a range of organisations** for example, Planning Policy Wales and the well-being objectives (published by public services boards). We have also influenced the decarbonisation agenda particularly the Welsh Government's Low Carbon Delivery Plan.

- Influenced practical behaviour change in others and my team.** (for example, as a result of my Future Generations Framework; the many partnerships in the Art of the Possible; training for new councillors; public correspondence; health organisations and the pilot Live Lab).

There's a lot more to do and I'm looking forward to working with people next year (2018 – 2019) to drive that change. If you would like to get involved or want more information (I now publish a regular newsletter) get in touch.

Here's a link to my [Accountability Report](#) and [Financial Statement](#).

**Sophie Howe**  
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

