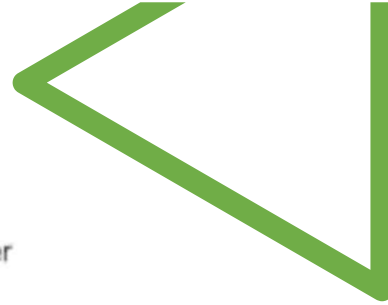




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for Wales



# Legislating for Future Generations

**Marie Brousseau-Navarro**

Deputy Commissioner and Director for  
Health

Office of the Future Generations  
Commissioner for Wales

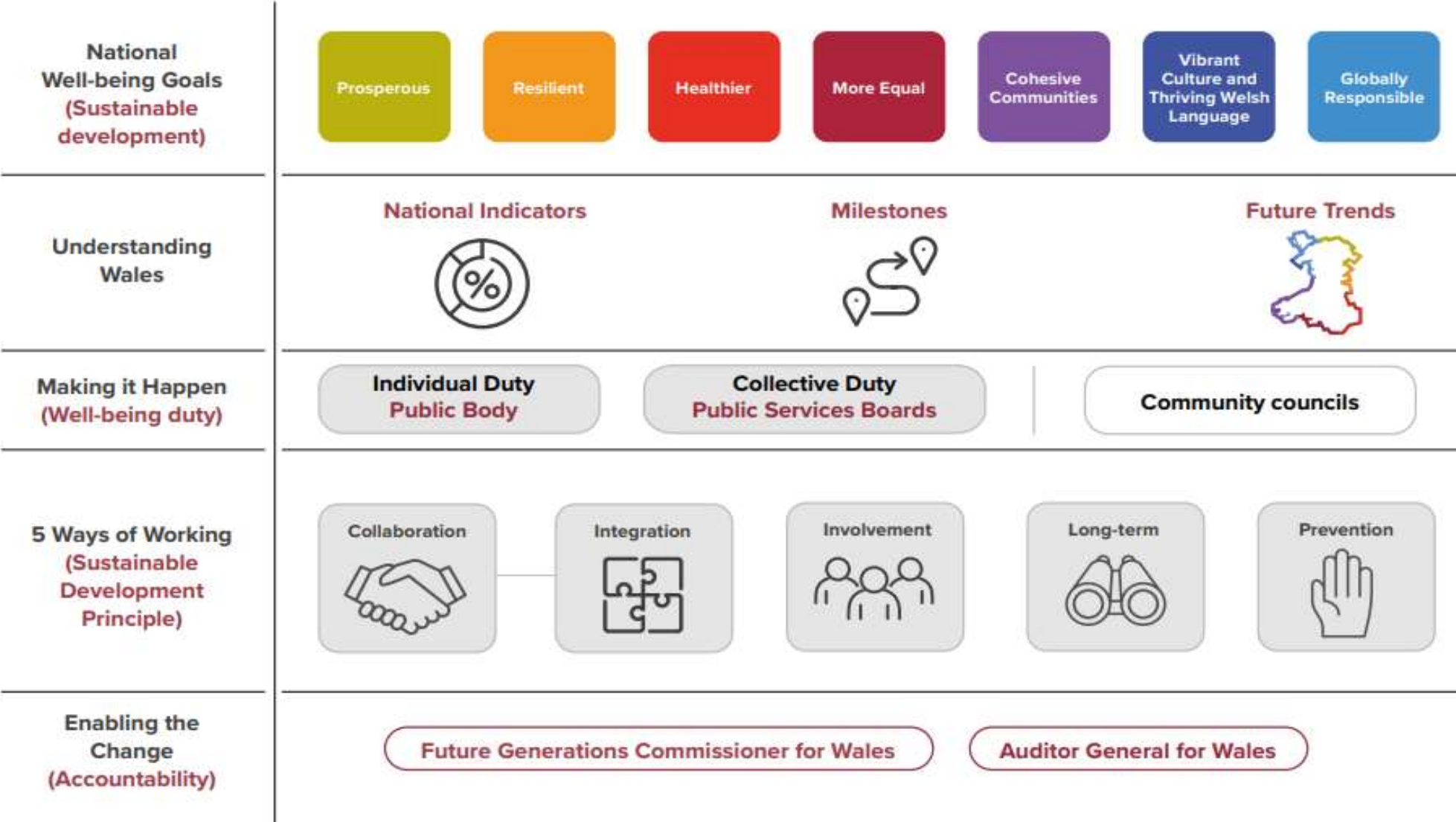




# Countries inspired

- **Gibraltar** has passed legislation which mirrors the Act. Sustainable Development and Future Generations Commissioner appointed in 2018.
- **Ireland** Foreign Minister Simon Coveney committed to considering having its own Future Generations Act after a successful meeting in Wales.
- Lord Bird and Caroline Lucas MP are looking to introduce a **UK Future Generations bill** and to building political support around it.
- In September 2021, **Scotland** announced it was joining Wales and appointing a Future Generations Commissioner.
- In September 2021, the **UN** Secretary General endorsed a proposal for a Special Envoy for Future Generations.
- Talks are ongoing to establish a Well-being of Current and Future Generations Act in the **United Arab Emirates**.
- **Italy** has a young people's coalition seeking to establish a Future Generations Commission.

# The Well-being for Future Generations Act Architecture



# The legislation

## THE DUTY

Public bodies **must carry out sustainable development.**

which 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.



## THE HOW

"...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)

In order to do that the public body **must take account of** the 5 ways of working.



"There are 5 things that public bodies need to think about to show that they have applied the sustainable development principle." WG website



## 7 Well-Being Goals

### Prosperous

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.

### Resilient

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).

### Healthier

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.



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WELL-BEING OF  
FUTURE GENERATIONS**

### More Equal

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

### Globally Responsible

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.

### 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.

### Cohesive Communities

Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.

# The legislation



## THE WHAT

"take action ... aimed at achieving the well-being goals." (part of the general duty to carry out SD) s.3

Specific duty s.5

"The action a public body takes in carrying out sustainable development must include—  
(a) **setting and publishing objectives** ("well-being objectives") that are designed to **maximise its contribution to achieving each of the well-being goals**, and  
(b) **taking all reasonable steps** (in exercising its functions) to meet those objectives."



# The 5 ways of working

## Long Term



Aims to ensure:

- We are not sleepwalking into the future
- We are balancing short-term needs and long-term considerations
- The decisions of today do not have to be undone tomorrow

Aims to address:

- Short-term priorities
- Consideration of short-term risks only
- Fear of the uncertainty of the future

## Prevention



Aims to ensure:

- We are not tackling the root causes of issues
- Enable early intervention to prevent issues from occurring or getting worse
- Escape the constant cycle of firefighting

Aims to address:

- Reactive nature of most decisions
- Isolating symptoms of issues from root causes

## Involvement



Aims to ensure:

- People are involved in the decisions that affected them
- Diversity of a population is well reflected
- Transparency of decision-making

Aims to address:

- Decisions being made behind closed doors
- Certain groups being involved often, while others' voices remaining unheard
- Deteriorating public trust in government

## Collaboration



Aims to ensure:

- Public bodies are working together to tackle common issues
- Public sector is working with other sectors
- Pooling of resources and efforts

Aims to address:

- Silo working
- Duplication of work by different organisations
- Missed opportunities to work together for greater impact

## Integration



Aims to ensure:

- Different priorities work in harmony
- Impact on all goals is considered
- Well-being objectives and steps are seen as a set
- Impact on other organisations is considered

Aims to address:

- Siloed working
- Unintended impacts happening in different parts of the organisation
- Considering only individual and not cumulative impacts of decisions.



# Where the Act should be applied

The Act should be applied in **everything public bodies do**. The statutory guidance points to specific areas, common to all public bodies where implementation can have the biggest initial impact. These are the 7 corporate areas of change:

Corporate  
planning



**Financial  
planning**



Workforce  
planning



Risk  
Management



Performance  
Management



Assets



Procurement





# Understanding connected issues

## **‘Overwhelming and terrifying’: the rise of climate anxiety**

Experts concerned young people’s mental health particularly hit by reality of the climate crisis



### CLIMATE CHANGE

**Explained: Why civil rights and protecting the planet go hand-in-hand for environmental justice**

DEUTSCHE WELLE

Published : September 16, 2021 13:20 IST

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[cenedlaethaurdyfodol.cymru](http://cenedlaethaurdyfodol.cymru) | [futuregenerations.wales](http://futuregenerations.wales) | [@futuregenymru](https://twitter.com/futuregenymru)



# Case study: Greener Grangetown

Targeted active travel at communities in poorest health



Cleaned and greened unwelcoming concrete spaces

Collaboration with Arup, Dŵr Cymru and Natural Resources Wales



Removes 40,000m<sup>3</sup> of rainwater/year from the sewer network

Sustainable drainage system used to improve existing riverside cycle-footpaths



# The legislation

## WHO

### **Public Bodies and Public Services Boards** **Devolution boundaries - only public sector**

#### Criteria:

- Funding: The authority is over 50% public funded;
- Impact on Well-being: The authority undertakes functions or activities that impact on the economic, social and environmental well-being of Wales or their local area;
- Functions: The authority has strategic functions;
- Auditable: The authority is an 'auditable public authority' as defined in Schedule 7 of the GOWA 2006.

### **Public Bodies**

Welsh Government  
Local authorities  
Local Health Boards  
National Parks  
Fire and Rescue  
National (Natural Resources Wales, Arts Council, Sports Council, National library, etc.)

Currently 44 PBs but List soon to grow with the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill

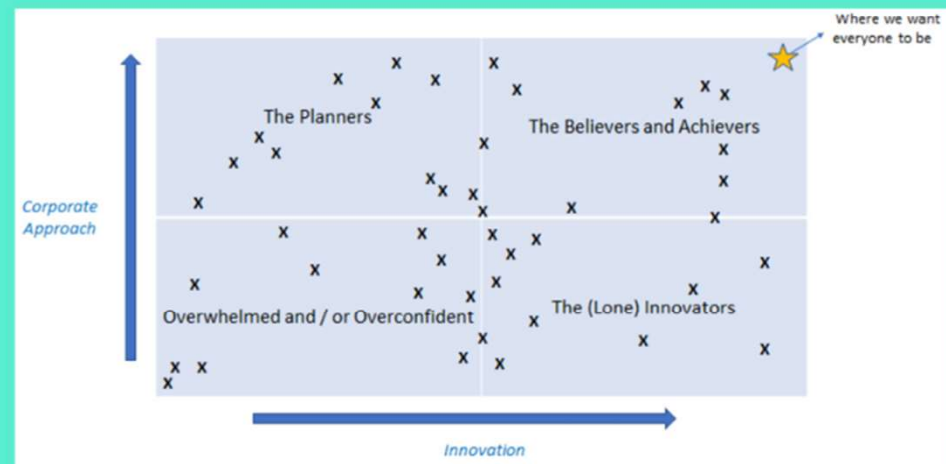




# How public bodies are applying the Act

Most public bodies are making progress on implementing the Act but in different ways. In the next phase, they need to apply the Act across all of its aspirations and legal requirements.

We have split them into different categories based on where we see their progress:



## Key Findings

Every public body is doing something differently in response to the Act, but not all approaching it in the same way

There has been a marked change in political commitment to the Act and in resulting policy decisions but there is some lag in the system



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# Maturity Matrix for the implementation of the Well-being of Future Generations Act

Future Fit  
Governance

futuregenerations.wales

## Maturity Matrix:

The table below details the different key elements which can be used to deepen the implementation of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015. Each bullet point is a pointer to identify where current practice sits on the maturity matrix and everything on the right-hand side of this, constitute advice on the next steps the organisation can take to become even more sustainable and to further embed the well-being Act and help us achieve the national well-being goals of Wales.

## Processes



Long-term					
Key Elements of Implementation	No change or no evidence of implementation	Simple change	More adventurous	Owning Ambition	Leading the way
<b>Clear vision of the desired future.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Short-term thinking, less than 5 years.</li><li>No long-term thinking in processes and strategies.</li><li>No road map or theory of change to the end ambition or long-term vision.</li><li>No consideration of intergenerational fairness in processes.</li><li>Governance and corporate structures do not consider future trends that can impact the organisation.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>5 to 10 years vision.</li><li>Processes recognise the value of thinking long-term but no process for application or review.</li><li>Act as seen to the roadmap and vision for the future.</li><li>Governance systems consider limited future trends directly impacting the organisation.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>10 to 20 years vision.</li><li>Underline the value of the long term in policy decisions, for example around budget and in communications.</li><li>Act as the framework for future thinking.</li><li>Governance systems consider how all department future trends impact the organisation directly or indirectly.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>25+ vision.</li><li>Value of long-term underlined through case studies.</li><li>Value of balancing short-term and long-term needs applied routinely.</li><li>Regular review of outcomes and milestones in collaboration with others.</li><li>Assessments of intergenerational fairness in corporate strategy policy and decisions.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>25+ vision with multiple timelines and scenarios designed in collaboration with others.</li><li>Value of balancing short-term and long-term needs applied routinely.</li><li>Regular review of outcomes and milestones in collaboration with others.</li><li>Intergenerational equity and fairness is a core consideration in all policy and decision-making.</li><li>Governance systems are adapted to the complex and volatile world; they measure and track new demands, achievements, and expenditures of governance.</li></ul>
<b>Strong and easily usable future trends and future tools like scenarios.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No register of main trends.</li><li>No evidence of use of future tools or consideration.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Register of national trends sent to staff but limited to organisational aim.</li><li>Limited use of future tools and scenarios.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Register of national trends with narrative about impacts for the organisation and region.</li><li>Discussed with teams and departments.</li><li>Strategic future tools and scenarios used in policy design and operationally.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Register and narrative developed in collaboration with partners and includes local trends and milestones.</li><li>Discussed individually and in teams.</li><li>Use of the register mapped, and good practice evident.</li><li>Strategic future tools and scenarios used routinely.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Register is only the starting point and signposts to multiple sources of information tailored for departments and teams.</li><li>Good practice and learning regularly included and updated as part of the future trends register.</li><li>Tools available on different future techniques and use of alternative future scenarios.</li></ul>
<b>Resourcing future works and application, i.e. training.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No funding.</li><li>No training.</li><li>No communication on need for future thinking.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Limited funding.</li><li>No training.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Funding to develop tailored trends register, narrative and training.</li><li>Training on using trends, building scenarios and horizon scanning provided for some key individuals to address risks.</li><li>Communication strategy reinforces future thinking.</li><li>Consideration of future skills but no plan yet.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Funding to develop trends register and narrative in collaboration with partners.</li><li>Future thinking and long-term awareness included in induction training, and training available for a wide range of future.</li><li>Continuous communication strategy reinforces future training and highlights new opportunities to staff.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Funding available to develop knowledge and application of varied future techniques by all teams and relevant individuals.</li><li>Individuals and teams trained on the different future techniques.</li><li>Future skills trends and needs are considered as part of employee selection and evaluation systems.</li><li>Future skills included in Governance Strategy that co-ordinates action on organisation skills and appointments.</li><li>Resource allocation responds to potential long-term risks and opportunities.</li></ul>
<b>Tools to embed future consideration in strategy and decision making.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lessons from the past are still main influence.</li><li>Processes address only current needs and priorities.</li><li>No or little evidence that trends are considered in policymaking.</li><li>Future measures only based on short-term targets or outcomes.</li><li>Future techniques and scenarios not included in involvement and partnership work.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Leadership helps develop uncertainty in future thinking.</li><li>Processes include some reference to future trends e.g. in well-being assessments.</li><li>Limited use of future techniques but not consistent.</li><li>Some success measures are long-term.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Processes ensure long-term impact, priorities and future needs are well understood and considered alongside short and medium-term needs.</li><li>Register and other future tools taken into account and horizon scanning undertaken in most policy making and decision making.</li><li>Long-term success measures discussed, reviewed and agreed collaboratively.</li><li>Future metrics or future based questions are included in involvement processes and work with local communities.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Processes drive and ensure consistent use of varied and creative future techniques, of current and future needs, trends and pressures.</li><li>Future trends and scenario considerations directly embedded and consistent in policy and decision making.</li><li>Success measures stretching longer term, beyond one generation ahead.</li><li>Processes ensure horizon scanning is done in collaboration with others.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Processes embed long-term outcomes and actions, improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in the long term and ensure adequate balancing of short, medium and long-term needs.</li><li>Future tools and techniques drive policy and decisions making cycles, above individual policy design.</li><li>Multi-generational long-term success measures.</li><li>Future work is co-designed with partners and communities.</li></ul>

• <https://www.futuregenerations.wales/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/S.20-Maturity-Matrix-English.pdf>

# WHY DOING THIS?

## The scale of unborn generations

Looking 50,000 years into the past and 50,000 into the future – assuming that the twenty-first century's birth rate remains constant – all human lives ever lived are far outweighed by all those yet to come

The dead  
100 billion

● The living  
7.7 billion

Unborn  
generations  
6.75 trillion

Based on UN estimate that average births per year in the twenty-first century will stabilise at 135 million

Graphic: Nigel Hawtin



From *The Good Ancestor: How to Think Long Term in a Short-Term World* by Roman Krznaric. Graphic design by Nigel Hawtin.

The future is unstable for 6.75 trillion people

"Our greatest responsibility is to be good ancestors" Jonas Salk

"we have to do more with the future, because the future is always being postponed." (Lord Bird)

