Implementing the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act

Legislation to make sustainable development the central organising principle of the Welsh Government and public bodies in Wales

1998
Government of Wales Act
s.121 Sustainable Development

2006
Government of Wales Act
s.79 Sustainable Development

s.60 Well-being

2015
Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act
What led to the Act

- Short term thinking, not thinking about the long term
- Working in policy and organisation silos
- Separate solutions to common problems
- Greater awareness of connections between issues (environment, economy, society)
- Needs of whole populations
- Long term trends and challenges
“The Wales We Want” - National Conversation

- Informed the development of the WFG Act
- Almost 6,500 individuals took part
- Over 100 conversations across Wales
- Around 1,000 responses (reports, videos, postcards, drawings and surveys)
- Supported by Welsh actor and UNICEF supporter, Michael Sheen
Emerging messages

Responses to:
‘Which single issue do you think is the most critical? Please select one’?
Four ‘pillars’ of well-being

• Social
• Economic
• Environmental
• Cultural
Wales’ well-being goals
For the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
## 5 Welsh Ways of Working

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Long-term</th>
<th>We plan for the <strong>long-term</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prevention</td>
<td>This means we are able to spot challenges earlier and take <strong>preventative action</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Integration</td>
<td>We realise that all things are inter-connected, so we set and meet our well-being objectives in an <strong>integrated</strong> way</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collaboration</td>
<td>By taking an integrated approach, we realise the value of co-operating and <strong>collaborating</strong> with others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Involvement</td>
<td>This leads us to <strong>involve</strong> our communities, service-users and staff</td>
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Accountability and Reporting

- Promote the sustainable development principle
- Monitor the extent to which well-being objectives set by public bodies are being met
- Make recommendations to public bodies about meeting well-being objectives
- Provide advice to public bodies and public services boards
- Publish a Future Generations Report, a year before an Assembly election, on improvements public bodies need to make to achieve the well-being goals

Sophie Howe, Future Generations Commissioner

Adrian Crompton, Auditor General
Localising the 2030 Agenda

- Integration of SDGs into national visions, programmes, strategies and activities
- National target setting
- Establishment of institutional mechanisms
- Engagement of stakeholders
- Reporting, on a voluntary basis
Successful HiAP Governance:

- Providing an authorising environment from highest level of government, political and executive leadership – as well as leadership at all levels of hierarchy
- Leveraging decision making structures
- Creating an environment for cultural change in practices and ways of working
- Leadership that looks outwards, encouraging dialogue, supports experimentation and innovation
- Developing a clearly articulated and shared vision

*Taken from ‘Progressing the Sustainable Development Goals through Health in All Policies, Case studies from around the world’*
Progress – Welsh Government

- Planning
- Resources (Budgets & Staff)
- Legislative requirements (Well-being Objectives / Future Trends Report)
Progress: Public Bodies (44 organisations)

- Have published well-being objectives (in well-being statements)
- Are delivering their well-being objectives, using 5 ways of working
- Wales Audit Office has found that:
  
  o “Public bodies support the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and are taking steps to change how they work"
Progress: Public Services Boards - PSBs (19 collaborations)

- Assessed local well-being in their local areas
- Have published local well-being plans and objectives
- Are delivering their plans, using 5 ways of working
- Themes have synergy with PHW Long Term Strategy, including:
  - Early years
  - Adverse childhood experiences
  - Air quality; Climate change
  - Healthy lifestyles; Healthy workplaces
  - Community cohesion; Social prescribing
  - Sustainable transport
Enablers

- Legislation
- Political leadership
- Multilevel Leadership
- Support of key stakeholders
- Public participation and ownership
- Connection between public bodies and communities
- Tangible frameworks
- Existing evidence and tools (e.g. HIA)
Role of the Health and Sustainability Hub

1. Supporting PHW to implement the WFG Act and be an exemplar organisation

2. Supporting PSBs to maximise their potential to improve health and well-being

3. Developing and building on strategic links with stakeholder organisations, across different sectors, to maximise the potential of the Act

4. Providing specialist Public Health support and advice to the Future Generations Commissioner, Auditor General and Welsh Government

5. Supporting PHW’s environmental sustainability approach
United Nations’ resources to support the global goals (SDGs)

Designed to encourage ‘action’ in our everyday lives

Source: UN in collaboration with Project Everyone
Contributing to Wales’ well-being goals

- No public awareness campaign in Wales on WFG Act
- Opportunity to target ‘individual-level’ behaviour change
- 44 public bodies in WFG Act – large audience
- Aim to encourage behaviour change in our working lives
Resources to support Wales’ well-being goals – ‘Be the Change’

- Conceived by the Health and Sustainability Hub
- A developing ‘movement / campaign’ to encourage and support staff to ‘Be the Change’ to contribute to Wales’ well-being goals
- ‘Sustainable steps’ designed for ‘action’ in the workplace
‘Be the Change’ resources

• ‘Cue-Card’ on the ‘five ways of working’ sustainably
• e-posters on the ‘essentials’ of the Act, and a range of environmental sustainability issues of global concern
‘Be the Change’ e-guides

- A developing ‘sustainable steps series’ to bring ‘alive’ the well-being goals
- Present actions which can be completed in the workplace by all staff
- Are ‘tailored’ to supporting organisational policies and services
Topics of the ‘Be the Change’ e-guides

• Organising sustainable meetings and events
• Reducing waste to improve carbon footprints
• Creating equal workplaces
• Supporting eco-systems and their biodiversity
• The role of arts, culture and (Welsh) language for mental health and well-being
• Sustainable procurement

*These guides are published/in development
‘Be the Change’ action days

- Themed days of activity to encourage and support staff to model a specific behaviour; being the change!
- Broad scope for activities as they are aligned to Wales’ well-being goals
Sustainability Improvements for Teams (SIFT)

• SIFT is an iterative, **participatory workshop** that is designed to help teams embed sustainable development into their everyday practice.

• It encourages teams to review where there is current experience or expertise, where this can be enhanced and shared with others, and where this can be applied further to implement improvements.

• It has been designed by Public Health Wales in collaboration with Kingston University London to help to support the delivery of the seven well-being goals in the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
What is the SIFT workshop?

The workshop consists of the following sections:

1. The Well-being of Future Generations Act
2. Literature and resources review
3. Discover – teams identify where they are currently using each of the five ways of working
4. Dream and delve – teams are encouraged to step away from history and current restrictions to identify possible improvements
5. Design – teams specify outcomes and measures to define an action plan.
6. Next steps – teams commit to testing their improvement idea, reviewing their results and revisiting the SIFT workshop to put into place the ‘test and learn’ approach
To do:

• Support and sustain Large Scale Change

• Advance research and advocacy supporting Sustainable Development

• Long Term thinking, planning, decision making

• Spectrum of responses – share and learn with others