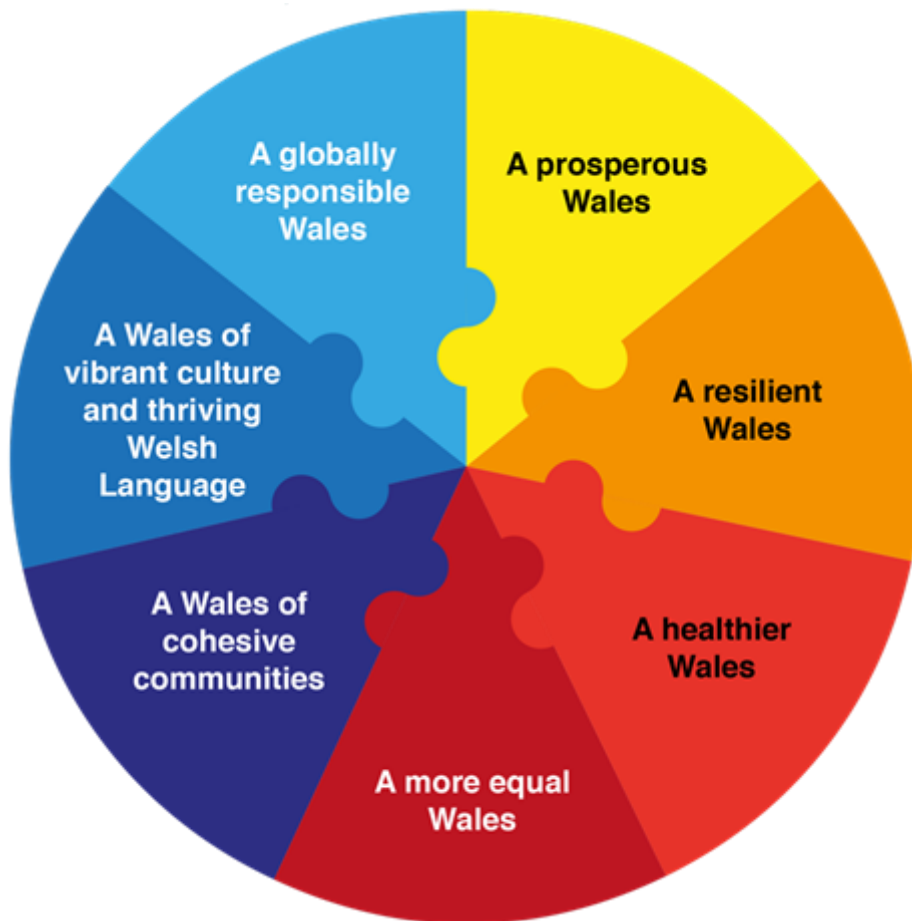


# The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, representing a real step change in what our public services deliver for people and communities.



It will make the public bodies listed in the Act think more about the long-term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach.

This will help to create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future.

*Figure 1: The 7 goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) 2015 Act*

To make sure public bodies are all working towards the same vision,

the Act puts in place seven well-being goals (figure 1).

## Which public bodies does the Act include?

- Welsh Ministers;
- Welsh local authorities;
- Welsh local health boards;
- Public Health Wales NHS Trust
- Velindre NHS Trust;
- Welsh National Park Authorities;
- Welsh Fire and Rescue Authorities;
- Natural Resources Wales;
- The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales;
- The Arts Council of Wales;
- The Sports Council of Wales;
- The National Library of Wales;
- The National Museum of Wales.

The Act places a requirement on 44 devolved public bodies to set and publish well-being objectives that are designed to maximise their contribution to achieving each of the well-being goals, and they must take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives. The public bodies must work to the Sustainable Development Principle, which introduces five ways of working which set out how we all need to change.

The five ways of working are:

**Long Term** - balancing the needs of today with those of future generations.

**Prevention** - focusing on early intervention and early action rather than just reacting to problems.

**Integration** - aligning public body's efforts in relation to each other's well-being goals and objectives.

**Collaboration** – working together towards well-being objectives.

**Involvement** - involving people who reflect the community in the area where the public body operates. This should include micro-communities as well as macro communities.

In each local authority area there is a requirement to establish a formal Public Services Board (PSB). There are four statutory members; the local authority, Fire and Rescue Service, Local Health Board and Natural Resources Wales.

The Public Service Board will invite other public services from their area to join the board, which will include Welsh Ministers, representations from Police and Probation Services, and third sector representatives, as well as wider representations from public bodies such as Public Health Wales, National Parks, Museums, Sports and Arts Councils, and Community Councils and Higher and Further Education Institutions, among others.

It is then required within the Act to assess the well-being of their area. When carrying out this assessment there is a duty for the PSB to consult widely. This assessment will then inform the well-being plan, against which the PSB will report progress annually.

## **The Role of the Future Generations Commissioner**

The function of the Commissioner is as the guardian for the interests of future generations in Wales. The Commissioner's role is to advise, encourage and promote the way public bodies work towards the well-being goals, striking a balance across all seven goals. This includes monitoring and assessing the way in which those public bodies are considering the five ways of working.

The Future Generations Commissioner, Sophie Howe, said:

“We have big ambitions for improving the well-being of future generations in Wales and are leading the way with our Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. This is an opportunity to showcase our nation as a serious participant in this international agenda. The United Nations has said of our Act: “What Wales is doing today we hope the world will do tomorrow. Action more than words is the hope of our future generations”

“It rightly celebrates what Wales has achieved and we should be rightly proud. The legislation gives us the words, but now we have the challenge of putting these words into action.”

The Commissioner is also required to produce a Future Generations Report a year before each assembly election. The purpose of this report is to provide an assessment of the improvements public bodies should make in order to set and meet well-being objectives in accordance with the sustainable development principle.

## **Further information**

[The Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) 2015 Act](#)

[Animation about the legislation](#)

[The Wales We Want](#)

[The Essentials Guide](#)

[The Office of the Future Generations Commissioner](#)