

# Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

What I did in 2017-2018



This is an Easy Read version of Future Generations Commissioner for Wales' **Annual Report 2017-2018**

**September 2018**

# How to use this document



This is an easy read version. The words are easy to read and understand.

You may need support to read and understand this document. Ask someone you know to help you.

Some words may be hard to understand. They are in bold blue writing. They have been explained in a box below the word.

If the hard word is used again it is in normal blue writing. You can check what the hard words mean on page 24.



Where the document says I, this means **Sophie Howe, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales**. For more information contact:

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This document was made into easy read by **Easy Read Wales** using **Photosymbols**.

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# About this document

## The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales



My name is Sophie Howe. I am the **Future Generations Commissioner for Wales**.



It is my job to look after **future generations**.



**Future generations** are the people who live in Wales in the future. It is our children and grandchildren.



In 2016 a new law started in Wales. It is called the **Well-being of Future Generations Act**. I call this the **Act** for short.



The **Act** says **public bodies** must think about how what they do might affect people in the future.



**Public bodies** are organisations that give services to the public. They have money from Welsh Government to run. But they are not part of Welsh Government.



I help **public bodies** think about **future generations** when planning and making decisions.

## This report



This is a short report about all the work I did in 2017-2018.



There is a longer version of this report. But I know not everyone likes reading long reports. So I wrote a short version.



Looking after **future generations** is a big and important job. I have set out 4 things to focus on to help me and my team do this job:

1.

Big issues and challenges.

2.

Supporting and working with **public bodies**.

3.

Working with others to make change happen.

4.

Being a good example of the change we want to see.



This report says what work has been done on these 4 things in 2017-2018.

# 1. Big issues and challenges

## My work

I set out what I will focus on over the next 7 years. I will focus on:



- Housing.



- Energy.



- Transport.



- Skills.



- Keeping people well.



- **Adverse childhood experiences.**

**Adverse childhood experiences** are bad things that happen to you when you are a child. They can have a bad effect on your life as an adult.





## New road

I asked **Welsh Government** to explain their plans to spend 1 and a half billion pounds on a new road.



The aim of the road is to lower the amount of traffic on the **M4**. But I do not think this is the best thing for **future generations**.

## Transport plans



I helped **Welsh Government** change the way they check their transport plans.



They will now make sure transport plans help us achieve the **well-being goals**.



The **well-being goals** come from the **Well-being of Future Generations Act**.

The **well-being goals** are a list of things that will help make Wales a better place to live in the future.



## Lowering carbon levels



**Carbon** is a gas that is bad for our **environment**.

The **environment** is where we live. It includes the land, the sea, the air, and everything that lives in and on it. For example: plants, animals and fish.



I made sure **Welsh Government** think about the **Act** in plans for lowering **carbon** levels.



I made sure **Welsh Government** think about the **Act** when giving money to people for housing that does not give off a lot of **carbon**.

# Adverse Childhood Experiences



I helped set up a centre for advice and information on [Adverse Childhood Experiences](#).



The centre will help [public bodies](#) deal with [Adverse Childhood Experiences](#).



It has had a good impact so far. 16 [Public Services Boards](#) have now chosen to focus on dealing with [Adverse Childhood Experiences](#). This is very good for well-being.



[Public Services Boards](#) were set up in each area of Wales. They make sure work is being done on the [well-being goals](#).



I have listened to people and spoken to them. They have told me about lots of issues. Because of this I am working on things that are important to them.

## 2. Supporting and working with public bodies

### Future Generations Guide



I wrote a guide for **public bodies** and others. It gives advice about how to follow the **Act**.



It has been used by lots of organisations including:



- Transport for Wales



- Cardiff and Swansea City Deals



- Anglesey County Council.

## Advice



I gave advice to 19 **public services boards** and **public bodies**. This helped them write their well-being plans.



I gave information to a special group at the **National Assembly** on spending. I told them how they could spend money in a way that would be better for people and for Wales.



Because of this a review has started to look into spending.



I also helped **Welsh Government** better think about the **Act** in their plan for spending. I got them to look closely at how much they spend on services that stop problems happening. Or getting worse.



I gave advice to **Transport for Wales** on their plans for the railways. I helped them think about:



- Creating local jobs.



- Chances to develop staff skills and training.



- Using local businesses.



- Involving people who use the railways.



- The **environment**.



And I worked with the **NHS** to improve how they write plans. This will make sure they think about the future when writing plans.

### 3. Working with others to make change happen



I have worked with the **Wales Audit Office** to check how well **public bodies** are doing. And to make sure their work helps **public bodies** get good outcomes.



I have helped the **Welsh Local Government Association** give training to over 300 new councillors.



I started the **Art of the Possible Programme**. It is a project about how public services can help with the **well-being goals**. I am working with 12 different organisations on this.



I am setting up a network of **future generations** experts. The network will help **public bodies** think up new ideas and ways to meet their well-being aims.





I have helped other countries improve their policies and work on **future generations**. They include:

- Netherlands
- Australia
- Finland
- New Zealand.



I am working with other Commissioners in Wales. For example, the **Children's Commissioner**. We have written a toolkit to help councils and schools think about children's rights and the future in their work.



## 4. Being a good example of the change we want to see



The **Well-being of Future Generations Act** also sets out 5 ways of working.



I have made sure I use the 5 ways of working in the way I run my office.



I have also been helping the **well-being goals**. Here is a list of what I have been doing for each goal.



**Goal 1 a prosperous Wales. Where everyone has jobs and no one is very poor.**



- I am a living wage employer. This means I pay people the amount they need to live on.

- I am working with **Cardiff and Vale College** to get an **Apprentice** in our office.



An **apprentice** is a person that learns the skills of a job whilst working and getting paid.



- I support local business. For example I use local cleaners and caterers.



- I have given students the chance to have a paid work placement.



- I ask my staff to share good ideas to help others.



## Goal 2 a resilient Wales. Where we are ready and have plans for things like floods.



- I am keeping an eye on the impact my office has on the **environment**. And also how my staff travel to work. Many of them use public transport or walk.



- I am using things like **Skype** to hold meetings over the internet. This helps lower the amount we need to travel.



- I will make donations to charities that help the **environment**.



- We are now using electricity from renewable energy. This means it does not run out and it is not bad for the **environment**.



- We print fewer things and we recycle. This means we reuse waste. We also no longer use plastic cups.



### **Goal 3 a healthier Wales. Where everyone is healthier and are able to access health and well-being services and activities**



- We have a staff running club to help us keep fit in our lunchtimes. And a yoga class in the mornings.



- We have fruit every day.



- We do things to look after our mental health.



### **Goal 4 a more equal Wales. Where everyone has an equal chance in life.**



- We make it easier for parents to work for us. We let staff work at times that suit them. And in places that suit them.



- Our pay is fair. We make sure lower paid staff have good pay.



- We are giving our annual report in British Sign Language and easy read.



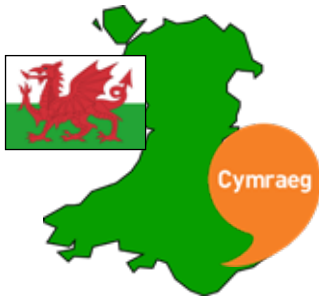
**Goal 5 a Wales of cohesive communities. Where communities can live happily together.**



- We are working on supporting volunteers.



- We are raising money for a homeless charity in Cardiff.



**Goal 6 a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Where we have lots of chances to do different things. And where lots of people can speak Welsh.**



- 1 in 4 members of my staff speak Welsh. 12 members of staff are learning Welsh.



- I have organised weekly Welsh language lessons for staff.



**Goal 7 a globally responsible Wales. Where we look after the environment. And think about people around the world.**



- We use Fair Trade tea, coffee and sugar. This means workers in other countries are paid a fair price for these things.



- We have learned from Fair Trade coffee farmers in Uganda and India. They have taught us about why Fair Trade is important to them.



# How my work has made a difference



Helping make Wales a better place for the future is a big job for me and my small team.



But we have done a lot of good work this year. We have:



- Got people talking about important issues.



- Got **Ministers**, the **Government** and important organisations to promise to think about **future generations**.



- We have helped change the way **public bodies** work.



- Got people to make every day changes to help achieve the **well-being goals**.





We have lots more to do. I am looking forward to working with people next year to make change happen.



If you want to get involved in our work or if you want more information please contact us.



We also write a newsletter every month. Please let us know if you would like to get this:



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Sophie Howe  
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

# Hard words

## Adverse childhood experiences

Adverse childhood experiences are bad things that happen to you when you are a child. They can have a bad effect on your life as an adult.

## Apprentice

An apprentice is a person that learns the skills of a job whilst working and getting paid.

## Carbon

Carbon is a gas that is bad for our environment.

## Environment

The environment is where we live. It includes the land, the sea, the air, and everything that lives in and on it. For example: plants, animals and fish

## Future generations

Future generations are the people who live in Wales in the future. It is our children and grandchildren.

## Public bodies

Public bodies are organisations that give services to the public. They have money from Welsh Government to run. But they are not part of Welsh Government.

## Public Services Boards

Public Services Boards were set up in each area of Wales. They make sure work is being done on the well-being goals.

## Well-being goals

The well-being goals come from the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

The well-being goals are a list of things that will help make Wales a better place to live in the future.