

**ABUHB Response to the Senedd’s Public Accounts Committee consultation on “Barriers to the successful implementation of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015 (WBFGA) and how it might be successfully implemented in future”.**

To support and govern the embedding of the principles of the WBFGA, the Health Board has established a Pan Health Board WBFGA Programme Board which has a number of key work streams including:

- a “Community of Practice Group”, focused on sharing best practice from inside and outside of the Health Board
- a Climate Change Network, - focused on progressing the Health Board’s ambitions around Climate change.
- a WBFGA - Self Assessment Process to build understanding and knowledge around the Act
- Work with key strategic programmes such as Clinical Future, Value Based Health Care and the new “Connect” weight management service, to embed the principles of the Act.
- In Nov 2020 the Health Board alongside the other Gwent public service Partners introduced a Healthy Travel Charter, which will commit the Health Board to specific targets around sustainable travel for staff.
- Having the WBFGA as a key foundation for articulating the business case for change within Gwent as part of ABUHB’s Director of Public Health annual report for 2019 “Building a Healthier Gwent”

<b>Barriers to successful implementation of the WBFGA</b>	<b>Opportunities for improvement</b>
<p><b>Effectiveness of the communications around the principles of the Act with the Public.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Whilst the Act has some traction within Public Sector organisations it has yet to become relevant to the majority of the Public. Therefore, where organisations are engaging the public to help shape their decision making, articulating the importance of the Act as a key driver in shaping any change remains a challenge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Clear WBFGA messaging from Welsh Government around the importance of the Act and its strategic importance in shaping the “Wales We Want.”</li> <li>● Consideration could be given to a WBFGA Citizen Panel to support communications around the principles of the Act with the Public, Public bodies and PSB’s.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Availability of resources to implement and embed the principles of the Act.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There have been limited additional resources to implement and embed the Act allocated to Public Bodies. This significant change programme has</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Consideration to be given to challenge/change funds to facilitate public service collaboration, problem solving and innovation on Wales’s most significant challenges.</li> </ul>

<p>largely been funded through resources allocated to specific organisations such as Public Health Wales and Future Generations Commissioner rather than at the local level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The performance management framework set by Welsh Government for HB's needs to more closely align to the WBFGA. The current focus on short term outputs, quantitative information and processes inevitable dictates how Health Boards prioritise and marshal their resources</li> <li>• The current approach and time frames (3 years) around the Integrated Medium Term Planning (IMTP) and annual reporting framework and Welsh Government feedback on these, does not necessarily provide the imperative that would help HB's focus on the Act in its Planning for the longer term.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring that the National Delivery Framework reflects the principles of the Act. This should go beyond a mapping exercise to genuinely considering the appropriateness and completeness of the measures to show progress in delivering the Act.</li> <li>• The WG Guidance and subsequent review of IMTP's should provide an opportunity for HB's to show how they are using the principles of the Act to deliver their well-being objectives.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Leading by example</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a concern is that the Act does not always have primacy in Welsh Government policy/decision making. This then follows that WG targets and resourcing allocation does not clearly support the sustainable development within Public sector organisations.</li> <li>• Lack of Strategic alignment with the WBFGA within WG has resulted in the Act not having the profile that it requires to deliver the big changes. This is also compounded by other competing legislation such as the Social Services &amp; Well-Being Act seeming to have higher priority often with specific resources allocated to them to aid with implementation.</li> <li>• Strategic long term decisions such as those around infrastructure reference the Act to demonstrate strategic alignment – however the criteria that facilitates options and choices that follow on from this strategic positioning do not sufficiently prioritise the Act.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater focus by Audit Wales and Future Generations Commissioner on how key policy is developed within Welsh Government and if this process promotes the principles of the Act early in the policy development process.</li> <li>• Greater scrutiny on Welsh Government's budget setting and how this helps underpin the principles of the Act.</li> <li>• Clearer set of national standards/criteria – around development and assessment of Business cases to ensure the Act is fully integrated and valued early in the decision making process.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lack of a fully integrated approach to public services</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Audit Wales proposed Regional/Inter organisational approach to assessing how the WBFGA has been applied is welcomed – however the approach should also consider</li> </ul>

	including Welsh Government when undertaking this work.
<p><b>Contextual Barriers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covid-19 – Responding to the immediate priorities around this pandemic have required the Health Board to focus on responding to the incident. However, the requirement to respond to the incident quickly has demonstrated that the Partners within Gwent have worked effectively and collaboratively to design and implement services such as the new Gwent Test Trace and Protect service.</li> <li>• Brexit – Whilst the issues around Brexit have taken a back stage to Covid-19, they still present the Health Board with ongoing challenges such as those around sustainability of European health supplies chains and the long term sustainability of the workforce.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The social and economic challenges anticipated post Covid-19 pandemic along with climate change means that the Act is more relevant and important now than ever. The Health Board looks forward to working with Welsh Government, Gwent Public Services and communities in Gwent to learn and apply the lessons from the pandemic and having a renewed approach to implementing the Act.</li> </ul>