



**GIG
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WALES**

**Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Bae Abertawe**

**Swansea Bay University
Health Board**

Cadeirydd/Chair: Emma Woollett

Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive: Tracy Myhill

**gofalu am ein gilydd, cydwelthio, gwella bob amser
caring for each other, working together, always improving**

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg ac yn y Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Dyddiad / Date: 23rd November 2020

Nick Ramsay MS

Sent via email:

SeneddPAC@Assembly.Wales

Response to the Senedd's Public Accounts Committee review of the Barriers to the successful Implementation of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

1. Awareness and understanding of the Act and its implications.

The Board has participated in Board briefings and received reports on WBFGA and the Health Board's response to the Act and therefore has a reasonable level of understanding of the Act and its implications. The work of the former Wales Audit Office and the study into the Health Board's response has also ensured that the Board understands its role and responsibilities.

Awareness and understanding across the rest of the organisation is inconsistent. In certain areas for example environmental services, travel, mental health and early year's services there is a good level of understanding and commitment towards implementation. Also, within procurement, capital planning, public health; strategy and workforce and OD the requirements of the Act are well understood and acted upon. For some of the more acute secondary care services, understanding is based more upon individual's knowledge, rather than departmental awareness.

The Act is complicated and very broad, for example the 7 goals and 5 ways of working. Therefore, the broader understanding may be that it is primarily focused on environmental issues and children's services, and would not understand the organisation's responsibility in terms of a more prosperous or more resilient Wales for example.



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**Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Bae Abertawe yw enw gwelthredu Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University Health Board is the operational name of Swansea Bay University Local Health Board**

2. The resources available to public bodies to implement the Act and how effectively they have been deployed.

A small amount of funding has been made available to Local Authorities to coordinate Public Service Boards, however, this was removed for this year due to COVID, and it is unclear if this will be made available again. The Health Board also makes a small financial contribution to support the running of each PSB of which it is a member. No resources have been made available to the Health Board to support implementation of the Act.

The Act should be a core part of each organisation's/person's role, although it needs to be recognised that it takes time to build this kind of knowledge, skills and expertise within and across organisations. The Health Board has no dedicated capacity or support to do this.

The Health Board has been in Targeted Intervention until recently. Whilst we have an agreed Organisational Strategy and Clinical Services Plan, we have not been able to develop an Integrated Medium Term Plan for several years, rather submitting annual plans within a strategic context. This has meant that much of our focus has been on ensuring essential short term improvements. Our escalation level has now been reduced to Enhanced Monitoring, and we plan to refresh our Organisational Strategy and Well Being Objectives. We will use this as an opportunity to further consider how we can embed the Act across all that we do.

3. Support provided to public bodies by the Future Generations Commissioner.

The Commissioner's Office is small, however their role in terms of supporting implementation is not always clear. The Commissioner's Office produces many helpful reports and links to evidence which could be adopted, and more practical support opportunities would be welcomed.

The enforcement role should be as a last resort, following support and advice.

4. The leadership role of the Welsh Government.

Welsh Government refer to the Act in guidance, policy and other documents however:

- There is potential for policy guidance issued by Government to more clearly reflect the Act, and to clearly set out the consistency and alignments across Government Departments.
- Accountability and performance management arrangements with WG could better reflect the Act.
- Funding distribution doesn't necessarily support implementation of the Act, for example the short term nature of annual budgets, even when organisations have an Integrated Medium Term Plan in place. However, examples of routing funding – such as Transformation Funds – through Regional Partnership Boards, which bring a system wide focus on services, better reflect the spirit of the Act and should be considered more broadly.



5. Any other barriers to successful implementation of the Act (e.g. BREXIT, COVID, etc.).

BREXIT is a potential barrier with reference to:

- Healthier Wales: disrupted supply chains for medicines and PPE.
- Vibrant culture and language: restricted movement, economic issues, reduced social activities and the impact on Mental Wellbeing, tourism and NHS staff diversity.

COVID is a potential barrier with reference to:

- Economic Impact and uncertainty.
- The protracted response reducing resilience and increasing vulnerability
- The protracted response increasing fatigue, contempt, unrest and negative attitudes which reduce community cohesion.
- Further disadvantaging the most vulnerable.
- Globally responsible Wales; reserving resources to serve ourselves and others doing this also.
- More equal Wales: issues of inequality in delivering medicines and PPE particularly at a national level.

6. How to ensure that the Act is implemented successfully in the future.

- Ensuring the Act is front and centre of all WG policy and legislation.
- Direct funding, or a proportion of funding, is clearly dedicated to supporting implementation.
- WG performance management and accountability reflect the Act.
- Education about the Act is extended through schools, universities and professional training bodies.
- Provision of practical support to embed the knowledge, skills and experience required to implement the Act, this could include support in the short term with capacity building.
- Broaden the range of organisations to drive implementation and receive direct resource to support this beyond only that of Local Authorities.

Yours sincerely



Professor Tracy Myhill
Chief Executive



