

Inquiry into the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Awareness and understanding of the Act and its implications.

- Understanding of SD varies within WCBC and across partners and this has meant having to continually bring colleagues up to speed and spend time to stop them drifting back to BAU.
- After an initial burst of interest when the Act was introduced, overall awareness and the confidence to try new things has often plateaued, often crowded out by resource and capacity pressures, legislative overload, consultation fatigue, plus external distractions such as austerity, Brexit and Covid 19.

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

- Sustainable Development is a mindset that by now should be at the heart of how we work across the Welsh public sector. Doing things better shouldn't require more resource.
- The excellent Essentials guide should be at the forefront of every Ceo or Leaders daily reading. The fact that it isn't shows that WG hasn't adequately supported the implementation phase of the legislation.
- The PSBs provide the opportunity to develop real and rich partnership working, but it has taken a pandemic to create the space to urgently focus on what our communities need from public sector organisations in the future.
- We are building a systems leadership approach across Wrexham and Flintshire PSBs, working jointly on our COVID response to build resilient communities.
- North Wales PSB organisations tried to use short term RPB funding from Welsh Government to install water fountains, to build regional well-being but were unable to navigate separate procurement, legal and planning processes. This message is fed back to WG repeatedly and yet funding programmes continue to be uncoordinated, fragmented and not aligned to the ways of working.

Support provided to public bodies by the Future Generations Commissioner.

- On the whole, support from the Commissioner's office is good – they produce plenty of tools and techniques and insight.
- It would be useful if there was an office in North Wales to build capacity on the ground – the current set up is very Cardiff-centric, although the current use of virtual technology has helped with this.

- The Commissioner produces far too many reports and recommendations, a period of reflection and breathing space would be useful – less is more

The leadership role of the Welsh Government.

- WG has often been a key part of the problem – too slow to adapt to the ways of working, and to integrate policy announcements, funding, timetables.
- Whilst WG has been slow in sharing examples of good practice it is starting to adapt and embrace digital platforms, such as Zoom and Teams.
- There has been too much legislation, competing for the same space – FGA, SSWBA, socio-economic act.
- WG needs to streamline requirements on the public sector, and reduce duplication and overload – there needs to be more discussion with local authorities about what will work, before another statutory requirement is issued

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

- Short term nature of funding, especially where projects have to be delivered in a matter of months.
- All regulators need to be consistent – Estyn and CIW are not guided by the ways of working
- As well as sharing best practice, Audit Wales needs to have more confidence and more teeth to point out where progress isn't happening.

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

- Co-create a compelling vision with people of Wales.
- Involvement and engagement rather than tried and tested online consultation
- Use data, evidence, intelligence, futures
- Promote a systems leadership approach across Wales.
- A little less conversation – reduce the volume of research, reports, consultations and competing visions