



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Tueddiadau'r Dyfodol Future Trends

Summary Progress Report – October 2017

1. Activity since Publication of Future Trends Report in May 2017

Since the publication of the initial Future Trends Report in May, officials have been focussing on engaging with internal and external stakeholders in terms of raising awareness of the report and listening to their needs to be able to most effectively incorporate future trends into policy planning. The key specific activities undertaken are listed below.

Developing links across the UK

Links have been made with other devolved administrations, with a series of meetings held with the Scottish Government forecasting team and the planned attendance of the UK Heads of Horizon Scanning group in December, where officials will discuss our Future Trends Report.

Early development of a Future Trend 'Resource'

Officials have built up an initial Future Trends resource using the Objective Connect system. Relevant Future Trend related reports are being sourced (including more local area information from stakeholders) and it is intended that the public sector use this as an early 'repository' for collated Future Trends information, specifically in the short term to help develop Wellbeing Plans. The Future Generations Commissioner has now joined us in promoting this growing resource to Public Services Boards (PSBs) through their formal advice and consultation on the Wellbeing Plans.

Support for PSB Wellbeing Plans

Given the timescales involved for PSBs developing Wellbeing Plans, engagement and support for PSBs in terms of incorporating and assessing Future Trends has been a priority. Officials have developed a light methodology that will guide PSBs in terms of how Future Trends can shape Wellbeing Plan interventions. This methodology has been shared and further developed with the Future Generations Commissioner and PSBs to ensure

that it is useful. This work is being joined up with the wider guidance and support offered through the WG Local Government team to ensure consistency.

2. Next steps for officials:

- Pursue options for attracting a PhD student to help further develop the future trends resource;
- Pursue options to encourage an open 'symposium' style input from academics, as well as public and third sector practitioners, to Future Trends development.
- A small programme management steering group will be established responsible only for the effective operation of the programme. This small group will comprise Welsh Government officials and representatives of the Future Generations Commissioner's office, and the Welsh Local Government Association. We may also include academic representatives on the group.
- Knowledge Analytical Services working with the Future Trends team will continue to update the Future Trends Report data from all available sources, on an 'as and when' basis to ensure that the report remains a 'live' document.
- The community of users of the Future Trends material will continue to contribute to the on-line repository of data sources.
- The Future Trends team will continue to support Public Services Boards in their work to incorporate Future Trends in their Well-being Plans. This will not only enable Well-being Plans to better reflect any potential impacts to well-being from the interactions between future trends, but will also enable Welsh Government to gain a more detailed picture of the future trends affecting Wales at the regional level.