

Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee, 4 February 2021 Assessments of Local Well-Being: update note

Issue

The Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG Act) requires Public Services Boards (PSBs) to produce a Well-being Assessment, providing an analysis of the state of well-being in the area that the PSB covers. The findings and analysis are important because they will have an impact on the type of objectives the PSB chooses for its well-being plan.

The first well-being assessments were published in 2017 and the next round of assessments will be due for publication by May 2022.

Update

Expectations

In brief, the expectation is that the next cycle of well-being assessments will be a comprehensive assessment of local well-being, in line with the WFG Act and the statutory guidance ([SPSF3 guidance](#)). We understand that teams are stretched at present, but there would be inherent risks to well-being from taking a 'light touch' approach.

Welsh Government and the Future Generations Office are considering how best to communicate their joint expectations as well as offer advice and support on learning from the last cycle of assessments. We will provide an update to PSBs in the coming weeks.

We recognise the challenges locally in making sense of the complex requirements on the same organisations to produce similar assessments and plans under different national legislation. Revisiting the statutory guidance is a good place to start, but we emphasise that there is complete local (or regional) flexibility over how PSBs (plus RPBs and other partnerships) organise themselves to produce these assessments, plans and how they deliver them.

Support

Last summer, officials circulated a survey to PSBs, and those involved in supporting them, to gather feedback on the type of support that they would find helpful in the preparation of the assessments.

A Task and Finish group has established made up of a selection of PSB coordinators, Welsh Government officials and colleagues from Data Cymru to specifically look at the next round

of well-being assessments and the type of support WG might be able to provide to support PSBs. This is proving to be a really useful and effective way of engaging with PSBs around the assessment process.

Welsh Government provides a package of national support to PSBs as well as targeted support through regional funding. This funding is to encourage collaborative working, aiming to achieve consistent approaches and avoid duplication of effort. It isn't to programme fund activities or deliver Welsh Government activity.

The funding criteria is adapted each year to reflect what the PSBs will be working on over the coming year. For instance, the criteria for the grant in 2021-22 is aimed at assisting the PSBs as they carry out their well-being assessments.

Additional support for PSBs in preparing their assessments include:

- Continuing to run the national network meetings, topic focused webinars and online meetings through 2021 with other organisations and networks, building on the 'involvement' and 'long-term' events held in November and December 2020.
- Running a Future Generations Xchange event in March 2021 to share best practice and demonstrate the impact of PSBs.
- Using the network meetings, bulletins, online webinars and other means to share good/best practice on themes such as 'data analysis', 'community involvement' and 'futures and long-term'.
- Offering regular 'drop-in clinics' to offer advice (including commissioning analysis of wellbeing data), test ideas, and clarify requirements on the well-being assessments and well-being plans
- Preparing a core data set, through Data Cymru, containing approximately 75 indicators that would be used by most, if not all, PSBs as part of the well-being assessments
- Preparing a data catalogue, through Data Cymru, which will identify data and information not readily accessible e.g. from public bodies named in the Act and other national organisations such as Sport Wales, Arts Council of Wales, National Museum of Wales, Police Services and Commissioners. Data Cymru could then support and simplify the data requests to avoid overwhelming those sources
- Working with the Welsh Government team leading on the Future Trends Report to ensure alignment and integration between your work and theirs, as it develops.
- Providing funding on a regional basis to support delivery of well-being plans and preparation of well-being assessments. Terms and conditions have been expanded for the coming year.