

Well-being of Future Generations Act

Briefing for Conwy and Denbighshire Local Service Board

What is it?

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It will formalise the need for public bodies listed in the Act to think more about the long-term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach.¹ This report summarises the requirements of this Act and outlines considerations and recommendations for Conwy and Denbighshire Local Service Board (LSB).

What is our desired approach?

The Act formalises in statute good practice which can already be evidenced across the two county areas, however it provides opportunity for further developments. Conwy & Denbighshire LSB has already agreed its aspiration for a single plan across both counties. Given the new statutory link to the Local Authority political cycle, both Councils will aim to publish their new Corporate Plans at the similar time as the Conwy & Denbighshire Well-Being Plan, ensuring systemic links between the plans.

The recommendation is, therefore, that the Conwy & Denbighshire Well-Being Plan is published by October 2017. See proposed timetable below:

Timetable

2015	
Sept	Welsh Government consultation on the Statutory Guidance
2016	
Feb	Guidance published.
Apr	Commencement of Act New Public Services Board (PSB) is formed (replacing the LSB) in line with the governance arrangements required to fulfil the FGA.
Jul	Future Trends Report, to be published by WG. Compare both counties needs assessments with the future trends report.
Sept – Dec	Consult on our needs assessment(s) and what we think are the joint and local priorities.
2017	
Feb	PSB publishes its own Assessment of Local Well-being (informed by consultation), sharing it with Welsh Ministers, the Commissioner, Auditor General and Scrutiny.
May	Local Government Elections
May–Sept	Draft and consult on Conwy & Denbighshire’s Well-Being Plan.

¹ For more information, [read the Essentials Guide](#).

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Oct Publish Conwy & Denbighshire's Well-Being Plan

What is different?

All decisions must be understood in the context of the Sustainable Development Principle and how that applies to each of the Well-being Goals; i.e. are the needs of the present being met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?

There are seven Well-being Goals, which are:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales

We must consider the long-term economic, social, environmental and cultural impact of our decisions. Our understanding of 'long-term' will vary depending on the issue, but generally speaking 'long-term' is understood to be 35 years, taking us to 2050.

It should be a uniform approach, and not another process or tick-box exercise.

The Sustainable Development Principle

Each public body, specified in the Act ([Part 1, section 6](#))², must carry out sustainable development. In this Act "sustainable development" means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.

There are five things (known as the governance approaches) we need to consider to be able to demonstrate that we have applied the Sustainable Development Principle:

- **Long term:** The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.

² For the purposes of this Part and Part 3 of this Act, each of the following persons is a "public body"—

- (a) the Welsh Ministers;
- (b) a local authority;
- (c) a Local Health Board;
- (d) the following NHS Trusts—
 - (i) Public Health Wales;
 - (ii) Velindre;
- (e) a National Park authority for a National Park in Wales;
- (f) a Welsh fire and rescue authority;
- (g) the Natural Resources Body for Wales;
- (h) the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales;
- (i) the Arts Council of Wales;
- (j) the Sports Council for Wales;
- (k) the National Library of Wales;
- (l) the National Museum of Wales.

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- **Prevention:** How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.
- **Integration:** Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.
- **Collaboration:** Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.
- **Involvement:** The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

Each public body has a duty to meet the requirements of the Act in its own right and, if they are a member of the [Public Services Board \(PSB\)](#), they must also deliver the requirements of the Act in the context of a local well-being plan.

The Good News

Both counties are already doing some of what the Act requires:

Denbighshire:

- Denbighshire has a Wellbeing Plan and its Assessment of Local Needs is a live website that is continually updated.
- Under the auspices of the Wellbeing Plan, Denbighshire is trialling an approach to community engagement called *People to People*. The aim is to create a space for people to think about and share their vision of their community and contribute to a plan to achieve their vision.

The main output from the People to People initiative is a new Community Plan. It will include:

- a proper assessment of assets, needs and challenges for the community (built in the first instance by the Needs Assessment group, capturing intelligence from existing plans but informed through the project by the community engagement),
- a vision for Corwen which has been developed by the (informed) community and
- a list of actions to achieve that vision which will be undertaken by the community but also, where necessary, the public sector.

Ultimately – if the pilot proves effective - every community in Denbighshire would have one of these and they would inform our Well-being Plan and public sector partners' Corporate Plans going forward. In short, these Community Plans would be the foundations of strategic planning going forward. This kind of approach is good practice and meets the requirements of the Act.

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Early learning from this pilot is the challenge of appropriate involvement across all relevant partners.

Conwy:

- Conwy's Corporate Plan is outcome focused and most of the WCFG Act Principles can be aligned to the Corporate Plan outcomes.
- Conwy produces an annual *Key Drivers* report, providing a picture of the key social, economic, environmental and political drivers to be considered by Conwy County Borough Council when producing strategic plans. There is also a research website which holds key statistics for the county. Work is currently ongoing to ensure that the Council is ready to meet the needs assessment requirements for both the Social Care Act and the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.
- Conwy has a Sustainability Strategy, this was initially published in 2012 in response to Welsh Government Sustainable Development scheme 'One Wales: One Planet.' The strategy set out 7 principles and aims to demonstrate how the decisions of Conwy corporately are impacting on sustainability within the county. Conwy CBC established a Sustainability Forum to support this strategy. Currently the strategy is under review to ensure the commitments remain aligned to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and are within financial capabilities.
- The Strategic Equality Plan is currently being reviewed.
- Conwy has an Engagement Strategy and Community Involvement Database to record and share community feedback. There is now much improved analysis of complaints to ensure lessons are learned.
- The new integrated Performance Management software, CAMMS will enable better links to be made between strategic plans and there is potential to purchase another module to cater for partnership working.

In preparation for the Act, Conwy CBC have also begun,

- Developing an impact assessment process to assess the impact of policies and projects / programmes against the authority's sustainability principles. Training on the new process will be provided to relevant staff.
- Reviewing and updating a number of our strategic plans, including our community plan – One Conwy. The revised version will evidence how the 8 outcomes within the plan are aligned to the WFG goals. Likewise reference will be made in future reviews of the Corporate plan.

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Recommendations

	Impact	Recommendation
Public Service Boards	<p>The Act establishes that each Local Authority area in Wales is required to have a PSB. However the Act allows for the creation of a joint PSB, comprising of two or more authorities.</p> <p>Two or more public services boards may agree to merge if they consider it would assist them in contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals. But boards may merge only if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) the same Local Health Board is a member of each board seeking or being directed to merge, and(b) no other Local Health Board is a member of any of those boards.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Propose that Conwy and Denbighshire continue with their joint arrangement and merge to become the Conwy and Denbighshire Public Service Board.
Membership	<p>Members must include: the LA (Leader/Mayor and head of the authority's paid service designated under section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (c.42)); LHB (Chair/Chief Officer or both); NWFRA (Chair/Chief Officer or both); Natural Resources Wales (CE). The quorum of a public services board meeting is all of its members.</p> <p>The PSB must invite the following to participate: Welsh Ministers, Chief Constable for the area; Police and Crime Commissioner; Probation Services; at least one body representing voluntary organisations. Others can be invited as appropriate. These will be known as 'invited participants' not 'members'</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. PSB members to be identified and a workshop to be delivered in February 2016 in readiness of an inaugural PSB meeting in April 2016.

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PSBs can invite partners who carry out public functions.³

The new PSB must be established by July 2016, and it must hold its first meeting within 60 days of being established, chaired by the local authority.

The new LA map for Wales may affect the new PSB, but not until 2020.

Meetings

Mandatory meeting after the date of each ordinary election held under section 26 of the Local Government Act 1972 (c.70) (election of councillors).

Terms of Reference

To be agreed by the PSB at its first meeting. The aim of each PSB is to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of its area in accordance with the sustainable development principle.

The ToR must cover, in summary, the procedure to be followed at meetings; a schedule; procedure for inviting partners; proposals for establishing sub-groups; procedures for resolving disagreements between members; anything else considered to be appropriate.

ToR must be reviewed at its mandatory meetings following an election, as above, and at any time deemed necessary.

Sub-groups of PSB

Must include at least one member of the PSB, and any invited participant or partner.

3. The new PSB should map any current sub-groups in each county.

³ A community council; Public Health Wales; a Community Health Council; a National Park authority for a National Park in Wales; the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales; an institution in the further education sector or the higher education sector; the Arts Council of Wales; the Sports Council for Wales; the National Library of Wales; the National Museum of Wales.

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Administrative Support	Must be provided by the local authority.	4. Current arrangements to continue.
Overview and Scrutiny	LA arrangements must be in place for the PSB. Members of PSBs can be called upon to attend and recommendations must be sent to Welsh Ministers, the Commissioner and the Auditor General for Wales.	5. Confirm scrutiny arrangements.
Assessment of local well-being	<p>The PSB must publish an assessment of local economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in its area as a whole, to include (in brief) community and area analysis of well-being in PSB areas; predictions of likely future trends in economic, social, environmental and cultural Well-being; reference to national indicators. It may include an assessment of equality; vulnerable populations; the needs for care and support (SSWB Act) etc. The PSB must take into account UK report on climate change; sufficiency of nursery education, childcare sufficiency, play opportunities, assessment for the purposes of SSWB Act, CSP assessment (including substance misuse, reoffending).</p> <p>The assessment must be consulted upon with specified groups as a minimum.</p> <p>Denbighshire's needs assessment website is a live entity being continually updated. All partners have a role that they can play here, and it will be to their benefit when it comes to shaping service delivery or applying for funding.</p> <p>Conwy CBC have been involved in the WG working group which is drafting the Code of Practice for producing the Needs Assessment as part of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. This has helped Conwy keep abreast of what the</p>	<p>6. Denbighshire to continue to populate its live needs assessment. Partners to support the activities that must take place to fulfil the statutory requirements. Conwy will continue to update the research website and will consider the most efficient way to support both WFG Act and the SS Act.</p> <p>7. PSB to consider the Commissioner's future trends report (likely to be published in July 2016).</p>

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requirements will be for the authority.

Conwy CBC has also been reviewing the different requirements for a needs assessment for the Social Services Act, the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, Building Resilient Communities and Tackling Poverty programme and corporate strategic planning. Officers are starting to scope out what work is required for each assessment so we can prevent any duplication and coordinate our work appropriately.

Well-being Plan

The PSB's well-being objectives to meet the well-being goals must be published in a local Well-being plan. PSBs must consider the impact of the objectives on each public body and consider any detrimental impacts one objective might have on another.

PSBs must engage and consult, collaborate and deploy resources in a way that contributes to each other's objectives, preventing problems occurring or getting worse.

The plan may include the well-being objectives undertaken by one or more members of the PSB, and/or a combination of invited partners.

There must be an explicit connection between the Well-being Plan and the Well-being Assessment, with timescales, an outline of steps to be taken, an annual report and an assessment of how well the last plan went (link to SSWB Act).

We must seek the advice of the Commissioner and take account

8. Publish a joint Conwy & Denbighshire Well-Being Plan in October 2017

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of the Commissioner's report. The draft plan must be consulted upon with specified groups as a minimum.

Amendments can be made to published plans, but we must consult specified persons.

The Commissioner For Sustainable Futures has commented favourably on Denbighshire's Well-being Plan. Notwithstanding any lessons learned from the current plan, this model should be considered for continuation in the future PSB's well-being plan.

Annual reports to be published no later than 14 months after publication of the local well-being plan.

City, Town and Community Councils

Where for the three preceding years prior to the local well-being plan T& CC's have had a gross income/expenditure of at least £200k, the T&CC must take steps to meet the local well-being objectives and must publish an annual report on progress.

9. Each county to identify the community councils that will become subject to the Act and consider how to involve them with the PSB.

Culture change

Partners, staff and Member awareness of the SD Principle and Well-being Goals is important. The PSB will need to take a leadership role in championing the sustainable development principle.

10. February 2016 workshop to assess the LSB's preparedness for the Future Generations Act; and to develop an action plan and risk register.

The Act is intending to create a new strategic framework for the public sector that thinks in the long-term, that legitimises questions about the needs of future generations and that considers the resilience of people and places.

A presentation given about lessons learned to date by early adopters is very specific about the SD principle: the journey we

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	need to make is from <i>justifying</i> how what we do affects SD to using SD to <i>shape</i> what we do.	
Sustainable Development Charter	The Sustainable Development Charter has become a requirement for some funding streams (e.g. the Arts Council for Wales).	11. Partners to consider signing the Sustainable Development Charter.

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