

Rights and Responsibilities

Letter of advice

Dear Madam,

In this letter I am going to demonstrate an awareness of human rights including children's rights and responsibilities in contemporary Wales, based on current policy and practice. I am going to indicate my understanding of rights in terms of the social justice arena, and in a variety of contexts and situations and demonstrate an awareness of barriers and issues that may arise. I am going to show my understanding of key legislations in Wales regarding adults and children's rights and safeguarding and finally, organise my knowledge and learning through the use of a range of information sources including ICT, and present my work at an appropriate level.

According to the Welsh Government, there are currently 22 local authorities in Wales that follow the implementation of The Local Government Act 1994. According to The Future Generations Commissioner in Wales there are currently 19 public services boards within Wales. Whilst cross-checking, it has come to my attention that there is a lot of confusion with so many different boards implementing different things.

My suggestion to you is that we put all these implementations into one Act to make it less confusing for myself and the public.

Wales is a country proud of its culture and its heritage. To keep future generations thriving they have put many policies in place which need to meet the requirements of The Wellbeing of the Future Generations Act (2015) Wales.

Wales put 'The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act' in place to acknowledge the challenges that Wales has securing prosperity for future generations. It was put in place in 2015 but has been spoken about since 2012. The legislation outlines plans of how the nation wanted Wales to look by 2050 and what the priorities should be. The goals of the Act is said to be 'sustainable development, the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the wellbeing goals'- words by the National Assembly, Wales (2015).

The goal is to keep Wales Vibrant and full of culture, even with the tourists that come from all around the world every year, and keep the welsh language thriving. The legislation was put in place to keep Wales a society that promotes and protects its culture, heritage, language and encourages people to participate in the arts, sports and recreation.

The wellbeing of future generations Act has five ways of working, these are, firstly, long term which is the need to balance short term needs with the ability to meet long term needs.

Secondly, prevention which is how acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may be useful in helping public bodies meet their objectives. Next is interrogation, which is considering how the objectives or those of different public bodies as well as the impact on the wellbeing goals themselves. Next, Collaboration which is working with the help achieve the objectives and finally involvement which is ensuring they involve people that reflects the diversity of their area and have an interest in achieving the wellbeing goals.

Now, going forward, to improve this act and take Wales forward there are four cross cutting strategies that would help deliver the promises of the WBFJ. The strategies include prosperous and secure living, a healthy and active life, for everyone to be ambitious and constantly learning, and finally, that everyone is connected and stays united.

I am writing to inform you, the chairman of Swansea City council about the strategies that are included in the well being of future generations act, which was introduced in 2015, and furthermore give some suggestions to improve this act and improve contemporary Wales. I am writing to you about this topic as it has come to my attention that this is the only act of its kind in Swansea and after doing some research within my university degree course I have discovered there could be some areas that could improve.

After the Act was passed initially in 2015, it was introduced with only 4 strategies that could deliver all the promises made, and I believe there could be a lot more ways to improve this. I have a personal interest in making Wales a better place for residents and tourists and the upcoming generation as I am proud to be Welsh and proud of its culture as it is full of beautiful landscapes, such as places like Gower and Brecon Beacons. These beautiful landscapes alone attract thousands of tourists a year. According to Welsh Government, in 2017, The Snowdon Summit Visitor Centre saw a 40.7% increase in visitors during 2017, and many other natural beauty spots figures looked similar. Having said all this, I urge you to carefully read my letter as I have looked into ways to improve the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act in great details and think some of these adaptations could potentially drastically improve the future for future generations in Swansea. Following the four cross cutting strategies , in 2015 after passing the Act, The Swansea Council Public Service Board was set up and they integrated eight different projects into the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

Although this Act was put in place to make Wales a better place for upcoming generations, it is important to create age-friendly communities. Swansea Council, alongside The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act could adapt their current policy to make sure not only the upcoming generations are looked after, but also the older generations. After looking at how surrounding areas have implemented this, I have found places such as Master have shut public essential areas, such as toilets, as they do not want to spend the money or time on the upkeep of them. As a result of this, many public toilets in many surrounding areas have shut which makes going out for older generations that little bit more anxious and difficult. To avoid this, I suggest Swansea Council set up a small funding scheme alongside the Future Generations Act to fund essentials like public toilets and to help all generations living in our local area.

Furthermore, after looking into making sure all ages were thought about after imposing the act, three main points were picked out as being essential to keeping Wales a thriving community. These are having enough money to live and pay for essentials, good health and a good health system in case anything was to happen and finally, good relationships and a network of people around you to look after and care for you if ever needed. Although all of these components are very necessary in someone's life, it is hard to set out a specific plan to ensure people can have good relationships with other people etc, as this is entirely down to personal choice. It is my suggestion in writing this letter, that as it is so difficult to monitor this with its own campaigns, to

implement it into the Wellbeing Of Future Generations Act to create an awareness of helping one another and protecting people's physical and mental health all around Wales.

Swansea is surrounded by areas of natural beauty and has many lovely little villages and a small city centre, with areas stretching as far down Gower as Llangennith.

It is in yours, Swansea City Council, to keep Swansea and all our surrounding areas, like Gower clean so it will bring tourists from all over the world into our area to support local upcoming businesses so we can fund young people and families. This, in turn, will support The Future Generations Act and will also bring money into our economy and community and will also bring money into our area from tourists, to fund things like community toilets, put lifeguards on our beaches and support the local upcoming economy.

Although the Act was put in place to support the upcoming generations in Wales, it is important to look after all ages in our community. To create and maintain an age-friendly community, I suggest Swansea Council make it a priority to stay committed to helping the community, by, for example, providing constant access to public toilets with regular maintenance and cleaning unlike places like Borough and Masteg who have shut toilets and consequently losing money for their local economy. I suggest this is reviewed monthly to begin to see which areas need the most maintenance. Please get back to me and let me know what you think of the time frame of the reviewing?

An issue that could be improved or even resolved with The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, is the factor of rurality. Swansea is largely rural with Gower being home to a large percent of people living on the Peninsula. Gower largely has one road going through the middle with smaller roads going off into the villages. Many young people who live here may find it hard to get to places like school or work. As a result of this, I suggest making buses more frequently and making fares for younger people cheaper so it makes it more accessible for young people to get jobs and stay connected. Please review this and let me know your thoughts.

The creation of the Future of Generations Act in Wales has a clear vision for the future of Wales with many legislations that will definitely improve the future of Wales for its upcoming generations. However, is it clear from the concerns I have talked about in this letter that the objectives and legislative requirements are not yet met. Within local authorities, like Swansea Council, there are many inconsistencies within the legislation that need to be reviewed and changed to achieve the goal we are looking for.

Whilst doing research, it has come to my attention that over 50% of people who should be attending meetings to discuss things like The Future Generations Act do not attend. I must ask, why is this and what can we do to change this?

Thanks for taking the time to read my letter. I hope many of my ideas help The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act in the future as I put a lot of time and effort into trying to gather information and ideas to make Wales, particularly Swansea, a better place to live and hopefully see it thrive in the future.

Yours truly,

Kylie Richards

References

City and county of swansea (2020) Swansea. Public Service Board [online]

Available: www.swanseacouncil.gov.uk Accessed: 1/7/20

Future Generations Commissioner of Wales (2019) Public Services Boards. Available:

www.futuregenerations.wales/publicservices.co.uk Accessed: 1/7/20

City & County of Swansea Board. Available: www.democray.swansea.gov.uk Accessed: 1/7/20

Local Government Wales Act (2020). Available: www.welshlegislations.gov.uk Accessed: 1/7/20

Newsfeed Cymru: Why public toilets brigend could force Carwyn Jones to resign? Available:

www.newsfeed-why-public-toilets-in-brigend-could-force-carwyn-jones-to-resign.com Accessed: 1/7/20