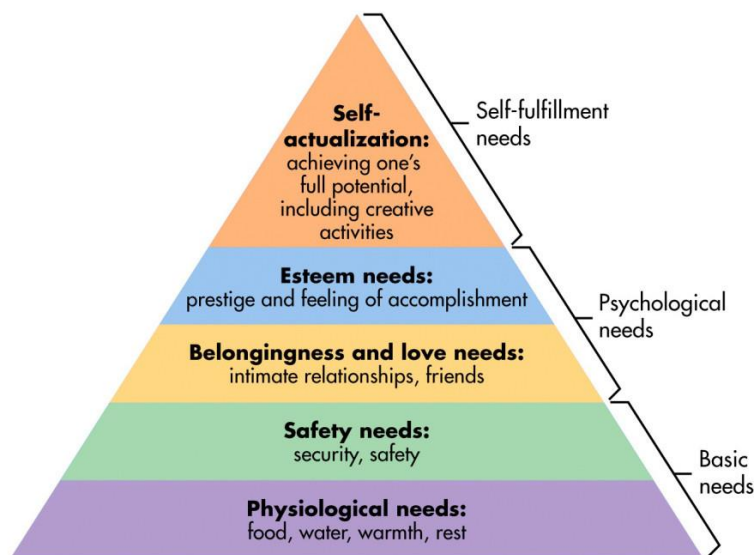


Describe the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and consider how it might aspire to improve the social and cultural well-being of Wales.

The aim of this essay is to describe The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and consider how it may inspire to improve the social and cultural well-being of Wales. This will be achieved by examining a range of sources including the internet and government articles. This essay will begin to do this by looking into the historical content beginning with Maslow's hierarchy of needs (1943), followed by how these needs were met throughout history in a variety of ways. This essay will then move on to discuss the Beveridge Report (1942) and the creation of the Welfare State. Once this is achieved the essay will move on to explain the gender role changes since the 1950's and note different types of care and include how the costs of care have impacted families. Finally, the essay will finish by giving a detailed description of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and how it aspires to improve the social and cultural wellbeing of Wales.

Maslow's hierarchy of needs is a theory based on five stages of human needs, also known as the hierarchy of needs (Mcleod, 2018). Maslow first introduced his theory of the hierarchy of needs in 1943 when he wrote a paper 'A theory of human motivation' (Cherry, 2018).



This image shows Maslow's hierarchy of needs (Mcleod, 2018).

Maslow believed in order to gain self-fulfilment needs you must first gain the basic human needs which include food, water, warmth and rest. You must also gain psychological needs such as friends and intimate relationships. (Mcleod, 2018). Although, the order in which you

fulfil these needs is not set but instead can change depending on external circumstances or individual differences (McLeod, 2018).

These basic needs were met throughout history in a variety of ways, the first being the Elizabethan poor law in 1601, reliefs of this law included, the ill to be admitted to hospitals, orphans to be taken to orphanages and the poor to be put to work in workhouses or taken to poor houses. The law states that poor parents and children were responsible for each other, this meant that elderly parents had to live with their children. Therefore, everyone in need was looked after at the expense of the parish which was the basic unit of the poor law and there was a limited amount. Although, no mechanisms were put in place, therefore the act was inconsistent (Bloy, 2002).

Leading on to the 1770's when there was a boom in workhouses as they housed nearly 100,000 people. Poor people were lodged in single sex 'wards' to do certain tasks such as sewing clothes. Many workhouses provided an education, health care and clean clothes whilst some were unclean and overcrowded (White, 2009). This was followed by The Napoleonic war in 1815 which increased taxes to fund the war causing many men and women misery, food prices went skyrocketing, there was mass unemployment with economic struggles forcing many men to sign up for the army life, with only a few men being paid the family wage. This put more struggles on to families causing people to be more dependant on the state (Mather, 2014). Shortly after in 1834 a new Poor Law was introduced, this involved a system which was the same across the country. The law reduced the cost of looking after the poor, took beggars of the streets and ensured the poor were put into workhouses to support themselves (The National Archives, n.d).

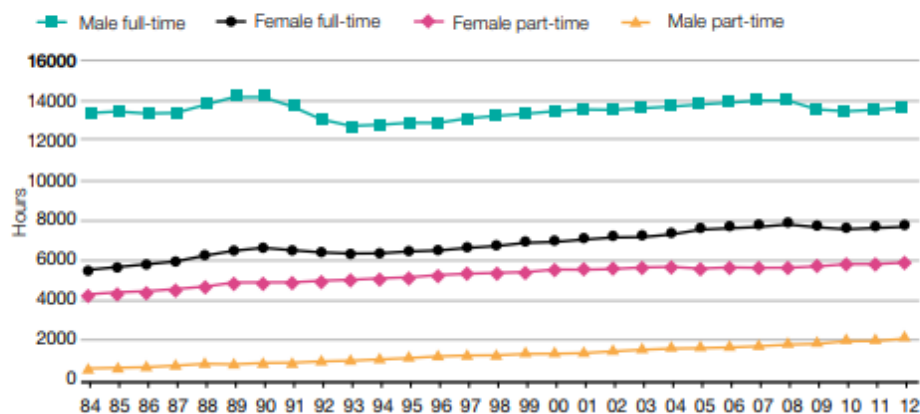
This was then followed by the 1929 Local Government Act, which was to introduce government structure by transforming the responsibility of care of the poor to the local authority public assistance committees (PAC's). The law enabled authorities to take over workhouses and infirmaries as hospitals, and those who could afford to pay for treatment were charged. For those who could not afford treatment it was given for free. This act was one of the main factors in the establishment for the NHS (Policy Navigator, 2018).

As a result of WW2, the welfare state was formed (Open learn, 2006). The creation of the welfare state came from the Beveridge report created by Sir William Beveridge. The Beveridge Report was originally named 'the social insurance and allied services report' but was published the Beveridge Report (Holborn, 2017) in December 1942 (The National archives, n.d). The

Beveridge Report formed the blue prints for the welfare state (Holborn, 2017). The Beveridge report highlighted the '5 Giants' which were listed as the cause of poverty Ignorance which was caused by lack of education, Squalor which was caused by poor housing, Idleness which was caused by lack of jobs and disease which was caused by inadequate health care provision. Sir William Beveridge believed that these '5 Giants' stood in the way of social progress (BBC, 2018). The Beveridge Report created recommendations for a system that would be comprehensive, this means covering all problems of poverty. Universally meaning it would be available for all, contributory as it would be paid from wages, non-means, for example it was for everyone even if they were unable to pay and compulsory as all workers had to contribute (BBC, 2018). Addressing these '5 Giants' led to the formation of the welfare state under a labour government (BBC, 2018). The welfare state introduces the 1946 National Insurance Act, the 1948 National Health Act (NHS) and the 1945 Family Allowance Act (Field, 2010).

Since the 1950's the gender roles have changed drastically. In the 1950's Townsend created a picture of how care was provided in ongoing family life, and made it defined that the responsibility fell with the women (Bytheway and Johnson, 2008). Up to the 1970's the female and male roles were quite defined (Bardy, 2014), as women were expected to run the household (Marling, 2018) and make meals and look after the children (Bardy, 2014); it was considered natural and appropriate (Marling, 2018); whilst men went to work and provided financial resources for the family (Marling, 2018). During the last 60 years women have been involved in the work place a lot more with taking a broader occupational role, from nurturing jobs such as nursing to more industrial occupations such as industrial roles. Many social movements have helped towards this with movements such as the feminist movement and the equal opportunities legislation (Hind, 2015). The male role has changed drastically, as in recent years men take a more active approach in the household life by staying home from work life and looking after the children, whilst their partners thrive in the workplace (Bardy, 2014).

Figure 5.1 Trends in employment by hours worked and sex, Great Britain 1984–2012



This chart shows the amount of people aged 16-24 in employment and how many hours are worked (Park, and Bryson, et al, 2013).

The focus shifted from state responsibility to personal responsibility, with the help of Margaret Thatcher in 1987 when she stated that there was not a thing such as society only individuals and that individuals should look after themselves before others (Skyminds, 2007). In 1995 the carers (recognition and services) Act come about giving carers a legal stance (Bytheway and Johnson, 2008) There are two different types of care, these are formal care and informal care. Formal care includes those who get paid for the care they provide, such as nurses. Informal care are those who provide care and do not receive payment, such as family (Lai, 2003). Up to the 1970's the women's role was to be the informal caregiver (Bardy, 2014) but in recent years the roles have changed as more organisations are involved in providing care in care homes, at home and in hospitals (carehome, 2018). Some people in society have more responsibilities than others when it comes to care, for example parents are classed as caregivers as they care for their children, where as people who care for the elderly sick, and people with mental health would have more responsibility (better health, 2015).

The cost of care homes has a major financial impact on families whose elderly relatives live in care homes, with more than 1,000 people having the local authority taking them to court over unpaid costs (Ellis, 2018). At least 166,000 people are in debt from the cost of care homes and the council is struggling to help with fee's and moving elderly people with dementia to lower costing homes due to funding (Ellis, 2018). The local authority is also struggling to pay proper

wages to staff, leading it to become difficult to hire and maintain staff who can provide the best care (Ellis, 2018).

In 2015, there was a Welsh move considering future well-being for all in Wales leading to the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (Welsh Government, 2015). The Act was brought in because Wales was facing a deal of challenges, then, now and in the future including poverty and inequalities. To give current and future generations a chance at a good quality of life, we need to think about the impact of our actions in the future (Welsh Government, 2015). In the late 1980's a vision of sustainability was created with only three dimensions, these included economic growth, social inclusion and environmental balance. The Our Common Future Report, otherwise known as the Brundtland Report (1987) included these three dimensions to be used in local, national and global development strategies. Later on the dimensions expanded to four dimensions by adding cultural, as it was believed culture determined how we act (United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), 2010). The Act is about improving the social, cultural, environmental and economic well being of Wales by making the (Welsh Government, 2015) 44 public bodies listed (Caerphilly Public Service Board, no date) in the Act, think about the long-term and by working with individuals and communities to prevent problems (Welsh Government, 2015). To make sure everyone included in the act is working towards the same goal, the Act put in place seven well-being goals, these include: a globally responsible Wales, a healthier Wales, a prosperous Wales, a resilient Wales, a more equal Wales, a Wales of cohesive communities and a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. The public bodies in the act also need to think about the impact their decisions make on people living in Wales now and in the future (Caerphilly Public Services Board, no date). The Act also includes a future generations commissioner for Wales. The role of the commissioner is to act as a guardian for the interests of our future generation, as well as assisting public bodies included in the act achieve their well-being goals set out by the Act. The Well-being of Future Generations Act is underpinned by four pillars of sustainability, where two concentrate on social and cultural development (Welsh Government, 2015).

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 includes an equality plan which has eight objectives, these objectives link to mental health, education, accessible advice resources, reducing poverty and improving living conditions (WCVA, 2017). The Act believes in order to achieve cultural wellbeing a society needs to promote and protect the culture, heritage and Welsh language and encourage people to participate in the arts, sports and recreation (WCVA, 2017). The Act also believes that an important characteristic of Wales is its culture, whilst the

Welsh Government recognises the importance of culture and language to the communities and individual's wellbeing, it has put in place a five-year strategy to increase the number of people speaking Welsh; their vision includes a million Welsh speakers by 2050 (WCVA, 2017).

Third sector organisations help people to experience the Welsh language by welcoming learners, providing opportunities for people to practice Welsh and celebrate traditions which are associated with the language, as well as the language (WCVA, 2017). The wellbeing of future generations (Wales) Act (2015) states that a cohesive community gives everyone a role and recognises what people have to offer whilst building relationships. The current plan is focusing on seven areas, these are hate crime, modern slavery, inclusion of travellers, immigration tackling poverty, mainstreaming, cohesion and tension managing (WCVA, 2017). The aims of the act include well-connected communities who can fulfil their potential no matter their background or circumstances and for a society where peoples physical and mental well-being is pushed to the maximum (Welsh Government, 2015). The Welsh Government has also signed up for United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to protect children's (under 18) rights no matter their ethnicity, gender, religion etc (Welsh Government, 2015).

In conclusion this essay has described The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and considered how it might aspire to improve the social and cultural well-being of Wales by beginning with Maslow's hierarchy of needs (1943) and how these needs were met throughout history in a variety of ways. This essay then focused on The Beveridge report (1942) and the creation of the Welfare state, followed on by explaining the gender role changed since the 1950's, whilst noting different types of care and how the costs of care have impacted people. This essay then finished off with a detailed description of The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and how it aspires to improve the social and cultural wellbeing of Wales. There are obviously many advantages that are highlighted in this essay, such as the formation of the Welfare state leading to the 1948 National Health Act (NHS) which is universal (Field, 2010), how more males are staying at home to look after the house and children as the females thrive in the workplace leading to them being more equal (Bardy, 2014), and how The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 aspires to improve the social and cultural wellbeing of Wales by protecting the culture and encouraging new learners to the Welsh language, and by trying to build cohesive communities by focusing on the seven areas and also including the equality plans eight objectives (WCVA, 2017). However, there are some disadvantages for example how the costs of care homes are having a major financial impact on families whose elderly relatives reside in care homes (Ellis, 2018). On the other hand, this essay

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has highlighted that Wales are trying to improve the future well-being for all in Wales with The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (Government, 2015).

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